

Jurassic Tech Committee

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Topics

Topic: The continuous development of technologies to clone extinct species.

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Introduction to the committee

- The Jurassic Tech Committee is a fictional body inspired by the scientific and governmental frameworks that would realistically be in charge of de-extinction research in the real world. For the purposes of this conference, the JTC functions as a special sub-committee of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), that would regulate and advise on the development of species cloning technologies.
- In real life, bodies such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) oversee policies on biodiversity, genetic resources, and conservation. The JTC mirrors these structures, combining scientific advisory power with policy-making authority.
- Powers and Responsibilities
 - Reviewing and advising on proposals for extinct species cloning projects.
 - Establishing international safety and biosafety protocols for genetic research facilities.
 - Recommending policy frameworks for the containment, release, and commercialization of cloned species.
 - Facilitating cooperation between member nations, private entities, and scientific institutions.
- The JTC operates as an advisory and regulatory body. It cannot unilaterally enforce national laws, nor can it physically halt research underway within sovereign borders. Its authority depends on the political will of its member states and the cooperation of private actors.
- As of April 2026 (conference date), the JTC convenes in an atmosphere of urgency. Recent leaked documents from InGen Corporation have revealed that Phase III of the "Genesis Project" , a long-running initiative to clone Cretaceous-era and other extinct megafauna has progressed far beyond what was disclosed to member nations. Three cloned specimens of Velociraptor antirrhopus and two juvenile Triceratops horridus

have been successfully gestated and are currently housed in a secure facility on Isla Sorna (Site B).

- Simultaneously, a separate private consortium operating out of Southeast Asia has announced a partnership with a major pharmaceutical company to pursue mammoth de-extinction for potential pharmaceutical and agricultural applications, raising immediate concerns about commercialization and containment.

Topic Overview

Topic: The continuous development of technologies to clone extinct species.

- De-extinction is the process of reviving species that have gone extinct and has moved from the realm of science fiction into legitimate scientific discourse. Technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), and advances in ancient DNA recovery have made it theoretically possible to reconstruct the genomes of recently extinct species, and even to approximate the genetic makeup of animals extinct for tens of thousands of years.
- This topic asks delegates to grapple with a central tension: while the technology promises extraordinary possibilities from restoring lost biodiversity to advancing medicine it also poses unprecedented risks. Key questions include who controls the technology, who bears responsibility when something goes wrong, and whether humanity should exercise the power to "undo" extinction at all. The committee must balance scientific ambition with ecological responsibility, commercial interest with public safety, and national sovereignty with the need for global governance.

Suggested Tools for Further Research, Documents of Significance, and Guiding Questions

Key Events and Timeline

- 1984 First successful extraction of ancient DNA from a quagga (an extinct African equid) is reported by molecular biologists at the University of California, Berkeley.
- 1990 InGen Corporation (fictional) is founded by Dr. John Hammond, acquiring rights to amber-preserved insect specimens containing dinosaur DNA. Isla Nublar and Isla Sorna are leased from the Costa Rican government.
- 1993 The Isla Nublar Incident. Jurassic Park suffers a catastrophic containment failure resulting in deaths, property destruction, and escape of cloned dinosaurs. The facility is shut down. The international scientific community calls for a moratorium on advanced cloning research.
- 1996 Real world: Dolly the sheep is cloned via SCNT by the Roslin Institute (Scotland), proving mammalian cloning from adult somatic cells is possible. Public debate over cloning ethics intensifies globally.
- 1997 The Isla Sorna Incident. Cloned dinosaurs from Site B are confirmed to be alive and breeding in the wild. InGen is acquired by Masrani Global Corporation.
- 2003 Real world: The Pyrenean ibex (bucardo) becomes the first species to be "de-extincted" via cloning, though the cloned individual survived only seven minutes.
- 2015 Jurassic World opens on Isla Nublar. A genetic hybrid species, the Indominus Rex, is created by InGen scientists. A second catastrophic containment failure results in park evacuation and the escape of multiple species.
- 2018–2025 Continued international debate over de-extinction governance. Real-world projects including the Woolly Mammoth Revival (Colossal Biosciences) and the Thylacine restoration project receive substantial private funding. Multiple biosafety incidents in unlicensed facilities reported in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.
- 2026 The JTC is convened. InGen's Genesis Project documents are leaked. The committee must act.

Documents of significance

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992 The foundational international treaty on biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources.
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2000 (supplementary to the CBD) Addresses the safe transfer, handling, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from biotechnology.
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 2010 Governs access to genetic resources and the fair sharing of benefits arising from their use.
- IUCN Guidelines for De-extinction Projects, 2016 A policy framework from the International Union for Conservation of Nature addressing the ecological and ethical criteria for de-extinction initiatives.
- UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" Relevant for framing biodiversity loss as a development issue (SDG 15: Life on Land).
- InGen Corporation Internal Biosafety Charter (fictional), 1989 The private biosafety protocol under which InGen operated its cloning facilities, frequently cited in post-incident investigations.
- The Barbasol Accord (fictional) A fictional bilateral agreement between InGen and the Costa Rican government establishing jurisdiction over Isla Nublar research operations.

Guiding Questions

- What international legal framework should govern the creation, containment, and potential release of cloned extinct species, and which existing treaties can serve as a foundation?
- How should the committee balance the potential conservation benefits of de-extinction against the risks of ecological disruption and biosafety failures?
- What role, if any, should private corporations (such as InGen) have in the development and commercialization of de-extinction technology, and how should they be held accountable?
- How can the principle of national sovereignty be reconciled with the need for binding international oversight of cloning research?

- Should different standards apply to cloning recently extinct species (e.g., the thylacine, extinct ~90 years ago) versus deep-time species (e.g., dinosaurs, extinct ~66 million years ago)?
- What ethical obligations do states and corporations have toward the cloned organisms themselves do de-extincted animals have rights or protections?

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