



The Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa joins the Global Coalition “United for Biodiversity”

On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, called by the UN for this 22 May, the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa is pleased to announce its adhesion to the Global Coalition #UnitedforBiodiversity. Launched by the EU Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevicius, the Coalition calls on all institutions such as museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, universities and research centers to use their connection with the public and the territory to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity protection.

Nature is in crisis, with one million species at risk of extinction. As signatories of the Coalition pledge, we add our voice for nature to 8 other institutions from Italy, such as the Acquario di Genova, Genoa, il Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Firenze, Florence and the Zoo di Napoli, Naples. All of us urge world leaders to take ambitious measures at the CoP 15 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in China this autumn.

For over twenty years, the Museum of Natural History of the University of Pisa has been considering the issues related to the protection of biodiversity in its educational, popular and research activities, in collaboration with other institutions, in its thematic exhibitions, in its social and inclusive activities and in the promotion and enhancement of the territory.

Collected in over four hundred years of history, the Museum's collections represent a cross-section of the past and present biodiversity of our planet, including extinct and endangered species.

The zoological exhibitions dedicated to the main groups of vertebrates have been almost completely renovated in recent years. They are enriched with the reconstruction of some of the natural environments in which animals live and aim to raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and its protection, focusing on the risk of species extinction in nature and the main threats to their survival.

With the largest freshwater aquarium in Italy, thanks to the direct relationship with live animals, the Museum contributes to the knowledge and protection of freshwater ecosystems, both local and beyond. Although freshwater ecosystems represent only a small part of the waters of our planet, they are home to more than 40% of existing fish species.

The Museum full program of temporary exhibitions dedicated to current topics such as plastic pollution in the sea, climate change and conservation of natural habitats, has the dual purpose of focusing attention on the problems caused by human impact and to propose, as in the case of the exhibition "Plastic and us", some good practices related to the environmental sustainability of our lifestyles.

The Museum carries out national and international research projects in the field of herpetology, some of which are linked to the protection of endangered species and the impact of invasive alien species, in collaboration with natural parks and protected areas. Moreover, since 2020, the Museum has been one of the information points of the Tuscan Observatory for Biodiversity (OTB), a structure established by the Region of Tuscany with the task of supporting the Pelagos Marine



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Mammal Sanctuary and the Tuscan network of cetacean stranding and sightings, with the aim of spreading information and good practices.

All this contributes to enrich the cultural and educational offer dedicated to schools of all levels and to the general public, with a particular attention to the most fragile people.

More than 250 institutions and 40 organizations around the world have already joined the Coalition. We are happy to share its objectives and we join the appeal to all interested institutions to support this initiative to join forces to take effective actions to protect our planet.

We invite all the institutions in Italy and beyond that care about the conservation of biodiversity to join this movement at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/coalition/index_en.htm.

Learn more on social media about the importance of biodiversity, the Coalition and the CoP 15 by following the hashtags #UnitiperlaBiodiversità #UnitedforBiodiversity and #CoP15.