

PRESS RELEASE

Munich, 2 June 2021

BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern becomes official supporter of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030

BIOTOPIA is excited to announce joining the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). BIOTOPIA joins hundreds of other institutions that have responded to the call initiated by UNEP for the World Environment Day 2021. This year, this special day, which is celebrated every 5th of June, will officially launch the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier ecosystems are, the healthier the planet and its people. The last decades saw the deterioration of all world ecosystems: human activities have caused the climate crisis and the nature crisis, with now one million species at risk of extinction. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims at boosting actions to restore and preserve our planet, helping to end poverty, combat climate change, prevent a fauna and flora mass extinction, and allow next generations to be amazed and inspired by the beauty of nature while benefitting from its resources. It will only succeed if each one of us plays a part. We need to act now, to make peace with nature and support the changes needed to build back greener, in particular given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. We must take action now to live in a better world for people and the planet in 10 years.

Last year BIOTOPIA was the first organization in Germany to join the Global Coalition “United for Biodiversity”, an initiative of the European Commission, calling on all world museums, national parks, research centers, universities, zoos, aquaria, and botanic gardens to join forces for nature. “With our exhibitions, collections, with our research, education and citizen science programmes, museums are the best ambassadors to inform the public about the dramatic effects of the ecosystem’s degradation and the incredible power of restoration actions”, says BIOTOPIA founding director Prof. Dr. Michael John Gorman. There are currently more than 250 institutions in 51 countries urging world leaders to take urgent and ambitious measures at the crucial COP-15 meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in China this autumn.

Yet COP-15 is not the end of the fight, Prof. Gorman emphasises: “The next decade is the turning point for nature and for all of us. Now is the time for action. By announcing our support to the UN decade on ecosystem restoration today, we want to reinforce our commitment for nature. We pledge to engage our visitors and communities in the common efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, through our programme activities and exhibitions.” BIOTOPIA takes a bold new approach to engaging people with some of the most critical issues of our time. As a new kind of museum for life sciences and environment, BIOTOPIA will aim to explore, question and reconfigure the relationship between humans and other living species.

BIOTOPIA provides a communicative interface for worldwide research and efforts with the goal of restoring balance to our planet. Together with scientists, educational and research

institutions, it searches internationally for solutions to preserve our world for future generations. The goal is to learn from nature and to find interdisciplinary approaches to saving our planet.

BIOTOPIA's citizen science and arts project DAWN CHORUS (www.dawn-chorus.org) invites people worldwide to record and share the morning bird concert, making an important contribution to biodiversity research. Using a new app this allows an unexpected approach while focusing on bird biodiversity through sound.

With internationally renowned speakers, the current online event series ESCAPING EXTINCTION (ÜBER:LEBEN) is dedicated to the topic of how we can save our planet and ensure the survival of humans and other living beings. Discussions will be held on topics relating to all aspects of life and extinction: From climate change to the loss of biodiversity to the origin and handling of future pandemics. UN peace ambassador Dr. Jane Goodall will take part on **June 7th, 6pm CEST** in the free online event "Agents Of Change For A Better Future". Registration: <https://biotopia.net/en/event>.

The BIOTOPIA Lab in the Botanical Gardens of Munich offers a taste of BIOTOPIA, its vision and values. It is a dynamic exhibition space, an event platform and an experimental workshop all at the interface of science, art, design and culture. At the same time, the BIOTOPIA Lab offers an insight into the development process of the new museum. With workshops, raised garden beds, an experimental space, changing mystery objects and special exhibitions as well as interdisciplinary events, it arouses curiosity about the topics of BIOTOPIA and invites people to engage with the current challenges of our time such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and pandemics. By creating a programme for visitors with virtual and in-person events, walk-in activities and workshops as well as informational material regarding biodiversity and ecosystems – with focus on restoration – BIOTOPIA supports the UN Decade.

Find out more about the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [here](#) and have a look at the [Ecosystem Restoration Playbook](#), a practical guide for all stakeholders to engage in restoration actions. Tag your social media posts with #GenerationRestoration and follow the movement!

More information: www.biotopia.net/en/press
<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

Social Media:	#BIOTOPIA	#BIOTOPIALab
	Facebook	@BiotopiaMuseum @BiotopiaLab
	Instagram	@biotopiamuseum
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