

BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern | Projektbüro im Botanischen Institut
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PRESS RELEASE

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BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern becomes the 1st official member from Germany and the 2nd Natural History Museum worldwide to join the European Commission Global Coalition [United for #Biodiversity](#).

Speak up for nature: Global coalition “United for #Biodiversity”

We proudly announce that BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern is joining the Global Coalition United for #Biodiversity, as the first official member from Germany. The Global Coalition calls for strong mobilisation of all national parks, research centers, science and natural history museums, botanic gardens, zoos, aquariums, and beyond to unite forces and make their voices heard about the nature crisis ahead of the [UN Biodiversity Conference \(COP15\)](#) in 2021. After the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, BIOTOPIA also becomes the 2nd Natural History Museum worldwide to join the Coalition.

On the occasion of [World Wildlife Day](#) 2020, European Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevicius launched a new global coalition for biodiversity, aiming at gathering 500 institutions by the end of 2020. Ahead of this [World Migratory Bird Day](#), on 10 October, we, together with the first 8 members, including the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco and the Central Park Zoo, and [16 international organisations](#), are supporting the Global Coalition partners' call to world leaders to take ambitious measures to protect nature.

“While climate change dominates the headlines, we face an equally serious planetary emergency in the current biodiversity crash. Museums are trusted institutions, with access to experts, and the opportunity to engage and immerse visitors of all ages, and can play an important role in informing and mobilizing the public around this crisis. As a new museum for life sciences in environment in development, BIOTOPIA is honoured to participate in this vitally important global coalition for biodiversity and we look forward to joining forces with other museums around the world to drive awareness and action on biodiversity.”

Prof. Michael John Gorman, Founding Director, BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern

BIOTOPIA is in development as an innovative museum and forum for life sciences and the environment in Munich, Germany. Recently, we witnessed many global events that made BIOTOPIA's mission – to reconfigure the relationship between humans and other species – more pressing than ever. From the IPBES Global Assessment Report ([IPBES](#)) in 2019 which announced that one million species are under threat of extinction, to the fifth edition of the UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook report, published by the [Convention of Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) or the first [UN Biodiversity Summit this 30th of September](#), action to protect biodiversity is essential to prevent future pandemics and the future of Humanity. The threat to our biodiversity due to human activity has been more apparent than ever. Which is why we all need to take action.

Citizen Science and Arts project Dawn Chorus – BIOTOPIA and Nantesbuch Foundation share data for biodiversity research

BIOTOPIA wants to contribute to an open culture of discussion and introduce the broad civil society to the urgent issues of our time. In the spirit of the Global Coalition, BIOTOPIA in collaboration with the Nantesbuch Foundation and inspired by soundscape ecologist Bernie Krause, has developed the Citizen Science and Arts project '[Dawn Chorus](#)'. In June 2020 Dawn Chorus has been recognized by the UN Decade of Biodiversity.

During the Corona pandemic in spring 2020, the dramatic silencing of human activities that it has caused also made the voices of nature resound on an unprecedented scale. In this unique situation, the idea was born to make the birds' voices heard. People all over the world were asked to record the morning birdsong on their doorstep, to upload the recordings on the platform <http://www.dawn-chorus.org> and to share their experience with others. The public response was overwhelming: Over 60.000 people engaged with the project on social media and we received over 3.500 Uploads and enabled listeners to 'experience' the loss of biodiversity through the medium of hearing.

The local recordings for the Dawn Chorus were mapped worldwide and will be included in a scientific database for biodiversity research. From now on, the Dawn Chorus project will take place annually – next time in May 2021 – and thus provide important comparative data. We are pleased to announce that we are going to share the data of the Dawn Chorus project with the Global Coalition for Biodiversity and make it available to all participating institutions.

Resurrecting the Sublime- the smell of extinction

In our [BIOTOPIA Lab](#) in the Munich Botanical Garden, our platform for public engagement, until the BIOTOPIA Museum opens, we will also dedicate ourselves to the important topic of extinction in April 2021, through exhibiting the installation [Resurrecting the Sublime](#), a work by artist Daisy Ginsberg, in collaboration with scientist Christina Agapakis and smell provocateur Sissel Tolaas, which uses gene editing to bring back the smell of extinct plants from herbarium specimens, along with other exhibits.

Spread the message and participate!

BIOTOPIA's mission is to explore, question and reconfigure the relationships between humans and other living beings. We all need to take responsibility for the future of the environment and encourage citizens and institutions around the globe to share the message through their social media channels using the hashtag #biodiversity2020 and reach out to coalition members for collaboration opportunities. Discover the other organisations which have joined the Global Coalition 'United for #Biodiversity' [here](#).

Visit our websites: <https://biotopia.net/en/>
<https://dawn-chorus.org/>

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