



World Biodiversity Day has been celebrated since 1993 based on a United Nations resolution. In addition, **Croatia also celebrates Nature Protection Day on the same day.**

Biodiversity is the variety of different forms of life on earth, including the different plants, animals, micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystem they

form. Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variety of life on earth. It comprises variability within species, among species, and of ecosystems. It also refers to the complex relationships among living things, and between living things and their environment. Biological diversity is often understood in terms of the wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms, but it also includes genetic differences within each species — for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock — and the variety of ecosystems (lakes, forest, deserts, agricultural landscapes) that host multiple kind of interactions among their members (humans, plants, animals).

What is the main cause of biodiversity loss? The diversity of all living things on our planet has been declining at an alarming rate in recent years, mainly due to human activities, such as changes in land use, environmental and nature pollution, and climate change. The loss of biodiversity threatens the entire living world on the planet, and its disruption leads to disharmony, disrupts the survival of many species, ecosystems and ultimately threatens human health. The awareness of the importance of biological diversity as a global wealth of enormous value for future generations is spreading more and more, but despite this, the number of species is significantly decreasing due to certain human activities, and that is why we need to act now!



The theme of Biodiversity day 2023 is: "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity"



The ecological network Natura 2000 is one of the basic mechanisms of nature protection in the European Union. It is a European network of areas important for the conservation of endangered species and habitat types. It covers certain areas with the aim of preserving and achieving a favorable state of wild species of birds and their habitats, other wild species of animals and plants and their habitats and



habitat types, particularly important for the European Union and the Republic of Croatia.

The ecological network of the Republic of Croatia covers 36.73% of the land territory and 15.42% of the coastal sea, which makes up 29.64% of the total area of the Republic of Croatia. The ecological network in Krapina-Zagorje County covers 10% of the territory, in Zagreb County 12.94% and in the area of the city of Zagreb 13.5%.



The biodiversity of Croatia is extremely rich, both in flora and fauna. Many plant and animal species are protected as endemic, endangered or extremely rare and are threatened with extinction. Many of them are present in the area where gis Road The biodiversity of Croatia is extremely rich, both in flora and fauna. Many plant and animal species are protected as endemic, endangered or extremely rare and are threatened with extinction. Many of them are present in the area where Egis Road Operation Croatia operates, and only a few are: Bats (Chiroptera) and spiders (Troglohyphantes excavatus) – inhabitants of the



underground world of caves in our area; Viper (*Vipera ammodytes*) as a not very desirable neighbor, and beaver (*Castor fiber*). Representatives of the plant world: *Fritillaria meleagris*, Croatian iris (*Iris croatica*) etc.

It is up to us to protect the nature, habitats and ecosystems around us so that the richness of the biodiversity of our environment remains preserved for future generations.