



WILD FOR NATURE

Creative mapping competition Information for educators

'The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes'
Marcel Proust

BirdLife Cyprus is announcing the competition **'Wild for nature'**, for children, teenagers, young people and students aged 9-25 years old (categories 9-14, 15-18 and 19-25). The aim of the competition is to encourage children, teenagers and young people to take a fresh look at nature, activating their senses and using their observation skills to do a creative mapping of a natural area.

For the **creative mapping**, participants are encouraged not to limit themselves to the sense of sight, as experiencing nature is enriched when **activating more senses**, like for example hearing and touch. What could be a source of inspiration? Different patterns and colours on rocks and feathers, the way the light hits foliage, the shadow of the leaves and how it moves in the wind, how the rustling of leaves differs in different areas, the contrasts in textures and shapes, the melodic call of a bird, how a landscape changes as the sun moves during the day, among so much more...

To take part in the competition, participants are asked to **select a natural area in Cyprus which is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and to map it**, reflecting in their creation their impressions, elements, feelings, memories, experiences and anything else that inspires them from this area. In Cyprus there are 34 IBAs which are key areas for the conservation of a total of 44 species and three groups of bird species: migratory raptors, wintering waterbirds and characteristic species of the Mediterranean ecosystem. The species that are included are recorded in Cyprus in significant numbers at EU, regional (European) or global level, or a combination of the above and are mainly species that are considered of immediate priority for conservation action within the EU.

We call on students in primary education, teenagers and young people, students of secondary and higher education (public and private) in the arts, architecture, photography, graphic arts and multimedia disciplines, and not only, students of fine art schools as well as anyone with artistic inclinations. You can contact BirdLife Cyprus for further information on the areas your students have selected.

The competition is officially launched on Saturday 4 November 2017 at an open event organized by BirdLife Cyprus and it concludes on **Friday 30 March 2018**.

All information on the competition, such as rules and regulations, code of practice, submission forms, “information sheets” for some of the 34 IBAs etc., are available at wildfornature.birdlifecyprus.org

We wish for you and your students to have beautiful experiences of exploration and discovery in nature! The experience becomes even more rewarding when you start recognizing different species of wildlife, such as birds, which are the most visible group of animals on our island.

After the end of the competition, we will organize an exhibition to showcase the winning entries as well as the most interesting submissions inviting the public to enjoy them and discover the varied manifestations of the natural world through the diversity and creativity of the youthful way of looking. At this event the lucky winners of the competition will be awarded. Among the supporters of the competition are CITY, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, CYTA and the shops Mona’s Art, Get Out and AWOL.

Who are we?

BirdLife Cyprus is a non-governmental, non-profit registered organisation (NGO) aiming for the protection of wild birds and their habitats. The vision of BirdLife Cyprus is an island with healthy ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, where people actively safeguard nature for a sustainable future. BirdLife Cyprus has offices in Nicosia comprised of specialized scientific staff. To get informed about BirdLife Cyprus and its work: www.birdlifecyprus.org

For more information please contact:

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