



WILD FOR NATURE

Creative mapping competition Competition description

We want to see nature through your own eyes, but also through your other senses! Go out into nature, activate your senses and practice your observation skills!

Choose an Important Bird Area and go explore it. **Make a map inspired by whatever excites you!** Forget maps as you know them, make a map out of your experiences in nature and share it with us! What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel? Examine nature: the shapes, the patterns, the colours, the textures, the light and shadows, the sounds, the contrasts in textures and shapes, there is so much to see, to hear, to experience...

To help you get started... Which are the Important Bird Areas and what makes them important?

The Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are an international network of areas that are vital for the conservation of threatened species, endemic species or species that depend on specific habitats for their survival. The aim of this network is to ensure that birds have areas all over the world that are suitable to breed, to spend the winter or to stop along the migratory flyway. To identify these areas, standardized and strictly scientific criteria are used to ensure the protection and management of these areas for the benefit of birds, wider biodiversity and people.

Knowing which these areas are and their value is the first step towards our participation in their protection. There are 34 Important Bird Areas in Cyprus, covering about 3,100 square kilometres of wetlands, forests, scrub and agricultural habitats, inland as well as coastal areas and peninsulas, from the sea level to the highest peaks of the Troodos Mountains. Characteristic among these areas are Machairas Forest, Akrotiri Peninsula, Troodos Forest, Cape Greco, Oroklini Lake, Larnaka Salt Lakes, Pentashoinos and the Kato Paphos Lighthouse area. For some of these areas we have prepared for you an "information sheet" with some basic information that will help you explore.

What else do you need to know to take part in the competition?

Study the Code of Practice, to make sure that your presence in nature is not a disturbance or threat to the wildlife. Also study the rules and regulations of the competition before you start working on your creation. It is important for you to know that we accept submissions until **30 March 2018** and that all submissions must be accompanied by the submission form.

After the competition we will organize an exhibition to highlight the winning but also the most interesting entries, inviting the public to enjoy them! At this event the lucky winners of the competition will be awarded!

You can find all the information about the 'wild for nature' competition here: wildfornature.birdlifecyprus.org

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

We hope you will 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 is the most visible animal group in our island!

For more information please contact:

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