

## **#United for Biodiversity**

The Lake Kerkini Management Authority is proud to announce it joins the Global Coalition #UnitedforBiodiversity (United for Biodiversity). Following the announcements of Axios Delta national park and Van Gogh National park in the Netherlands, Lake Kerkini National Park becomes the second official member from Greece and third park in the world represented in the Coalition.

Launched by EU Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevicius on the occasion of the World Wildlife Day 2020, the Coalition calls for strong mobilization of all national research centers, science and natural history museums, botanic gardens, zoos, parks, aquariums and beyond to make their voices heard about the nature crisis. With their collections, education and conservation programmes, these institutions are the best ambassadors to inform the public about the dramatic effects of the biodiversity crisis, science warning us 1 million species are at risk of extinction. The Commission also encourages national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, scientists and individual citizens to play their part.

We need to unite all forces ahead of the crucial UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) that will take place in China in 2021. During CoP 15, the 196 Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity are expected to adopt a new global framework to protect and restore nature, as much-needed as the Paris Agreement focusing on the climate urgency.

The Management Authority Lake Kerkini is responsible for the management and protection of Lake Kerkini National Park and other areas of the Natura 2000 network. More than 300 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, 58 species of mammals, more than 1300 species of plants have been recorded in its area of responsibility. Although the main purpose is to protect biodiversity and its habitats at a local level, the Management Authority recognizes the urgent need for global action to address the environmental crisis holistically. For this reason the Management Authority participates in the Global Coalition #UnitedforBiodiversity, along with other organizations and institutions such as the Central Park Zoo in New York, the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona and others. We invite all our partners and parks in Greece and beyond

to join the movement. Following the CoP15, the focus of the Coalition will be on coordinated actions with tangible impact at bending the curve of biodiversity loss.

Official webpage of the Coalition:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/coalition/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/coalition/index_en.htm)