

## Biodiversity

### Let's save biodiversity

#### What you can do

With small daily actions also we can do something important to preserve biodiversity. Here is some advice:

- Don't buy animals and rare plants or objects produced with tortoise shells, ivory, exotic feathers, shark teeth, fur, coral and shells: often their indiscriminate catching threatens the entire ecosystem where they live.
- Avoid killing organisms with no reason: sport fishing isn't better than hunting!
- Don't deteriorate the environment: a wood full of rubbish kills many more human beings than you can imagine.
- Try to avoid all any energy waste: don't forget that using energy means producing carbon dioxide that has an impact on climate change and therefore on the survival of many organisms.
- Move preferably on foot, by bike and public transport: in this way you will contribute to a cleaner air and will have the opportunity and time to observe better the living beings that live close to you.
- When it's possible favour recycled products: don't forget that trees are cut down to produce paper!
- Don't feed wild animals as you could alter the delicate balance of the food chain and involuntarily cause their death.
- Surely it's exciting looking at a fish as it's eating bread gut from your hands but these animals will never find this type of food in nature as it swells them and often causes mortal diseases.
- Always remember that in every natural environment where you might be, from forest to sea, we are always guests and as such we should respect all life forms, including those which seem most insignificant: for this reason, don't collect flowers that are surely nicer in a meadow than in a vase in your house waiting to die!
- Plan your day on biodiversity: in this way you will have the chance to admire different species and learn to recognize them.
- Try to communicate to everyone close to you respect and love for nature but also everything you have learnt on this issue: we love more easily what we know and it's easier to protect what we love!

#### Biodiversity day

Decide the place where you can spend your observation day: often it's not necessary to cover hundreds of kilometres to find an environment full of life, sometimes, we can unexpectedly make beautiful observations close to home or even in the garden of our own house.

- Dress suitably to the place where you are and comfortably: shoes are very important to walk well, but also pay attention to the colour of your clothes. Many mammals, in fact, can't see red and purple but birds can. A bright-coloured shirt is the best way to avoid seeing animals!
- Bring in your backpack everything you need for your observations: a map of the place, pocket guides to recognize animal and plant species, a compass to guide you, binoculars to look far away, a magnifying glass to observe details, a camera to capture your encounters, a notebook where you can carefully mark your observations, pencils to make sketches of the site and species living in it.
- Keep silent as much as you can: all animals have great sense of hearing, making noise you risk provoking a general stampede.
- Walk slowly: rapid and sudden movements alarm all animals and reduce the chance you might have to make thrilling encounters.
- Keep your eyes open and ears peeled: listen to the sounds made by animals, you will understand where they are and be careful about their movements, in fact, our eyes are attracted by movements and so it will be easier to see a moving bird rather than a still one.
- Look in all directions and use binoculars only after being sure there is something: if you keep using binoculars you risk losing "closer" encounters.
- Fill in your notebook in this way: date, beginning time and end of your field trip, place and climate conditions and a quick sketch of the place where you are; if you know it, write the name of dominant plant species in this place and plant and animal species observed or draw a quick sketch or add a picture for further identification.