**Call for Expression of Interest (EoI)**

1. **Name of the organisation and country - The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History**
2. **PIC number - 999901609**
3. **Individual(s) to be involved in the proposal development**

| **Name** | **Position** | **contact email** | **Experience** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tamar Dayan | Prof. of ecology and chair of SMNH | dayant@tauex.tau.ac.il | Robert Raynor Chair for Environmental Conservation Research; established and leads the Steinhardt Museum as a National Research Infrastructure |
| Yaela Golumbic | Senior researcher and head of citizen science (CS) research | yaelago@tauex.tau.ac.il | Participated in several horizon projects, has vast experience in citizen science (CS), stakeholder inclusion, education and communication research |

1. **Content Contributions**
   1. **Tasks or activities**

**WP3** – Contribute to modernizing the taxonomic backbone, ensuring its compatibility with open science principles and FAIR data, using Living Atlas architecture currently implemented in the Israel Center for Citizen Science (ICCS) and compatible with GBIF. **WP4 -** Cataloging and curation of existing community models for sound and image based species identification, towards creation of a general registry. **WP5** – We propose the Israel Taxonomy Initiative (ITI) as a platform for taxonomy training, networking and linking with other CETAF institutes. Via ongoing collaboration with DEST, we suggest building a training program for professionals, students and citizen scientists at different levels of proficiency. Finally we propose a case study of the use of species identification guides for training the public in taxonomic identification of species. **WP7**- Lead participatory stakeholder processes, workshops, and engagement events to map, analyze, and address ethical, legal and social challenges. **WP9** - Develop collaboration channels with land management, conservation governmental and nongovernmental organizations. **WP10** - Organize a series of networking events and interactive workshops to strengthen connections with the CS community, enhance communication between taxonomists, CS practitioners, and the public, and raise awareness of taxonomy’s role in generating FAIR data.

* 1. **Expected outcomes**

**WP3** – Proof of concept for connecting locally managed taxonomic backbone with enhanced EU-Nomen infrastructure. **WP5** - 1. A series of taxonomy workshops and courses in Israel and collaborating European countries aimed at developing taxonomic skills of researchers and students and the general public 2. Standardized training framework for beginner taxonomists. 3. Blueprint and guidelines for developing user-friendly species identification guides for CS training programs in taxonomy. **WP4 -** Compilation of a wide survey of existing models and approaches. Development of an assessment framework and a sharing mechanism to allow widespread use of the curated models. **WP7** – Report on ethical stakeholder engagement for inclusive taxonomy practices, addressing ethical & legal challenges and approaches to engaging diverse stakeholders in taxonomy-related activities. **WP9 -** Engagement Strategy with stakeholder from the science-policy interface. **WP10** - Development of a knowledge-sharing framework that connects taxonomists with CS initiatives, facilitating collaboration, resource exchange, and capacity building

* 1. **Impact and the innovation**

Our activities will drive innovation by prototyping a modernized taxonomic backbone at a regional level, and its implementation in a Living Atlas architecture. We will expand taxonomic training to specialists and non-specialists alike, integrating academic activity and CS, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. By guiding participatory stakeholder processes we will ensure inclusive, responsible, and sustainable engagement, involving diverse stakeholders and highlighting ethical practices and legal considerations. These efforts will create long-term knowledge transfer mechanisms, strengthening taxonomy, conservation, and policy. The proposed programs will promote exchange of knowledge and proficiency between Israel and Europe, and will enable researchers access to ecosystems of interest.

1. **Resources committed**
   1. **Expertise and experience**

The Steinhardt Museum is a university based National Research Infrastructure and one of Israel’s most visited museums. Its team numbers almost 300 scientists and professionals who provide professional taxonomic support to diverse agencies and operate a large biodiversity dataset. It also operates three applied policy-relevant research centers in cooperation with several agencies that conduct most of Israel’s commitment to Biodiversa+ and are part of other Horizon projects (MERLIN, REGACE). Additionally, it operates the Israel Taxonomy Initiative that has already conducted > 40 courses with international experts, including in partnership with DEST. It established and leads the Israel Center for Citizen Science.

* 1. **Expected in-kind contribution**

Living Atlas platform & CS infrastructure, Salaries of researchers on this proposal, Organizational support for workshops, training, education and science communication

* 1. individuals who will be **involved in the project**

| **Name** | **Activity** | **Potential role** | **Linked expertise** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tamar Dayan | Heads the museum, involved in science and conservation policy | Research and action at the Science-Policy interface | Led the establishment of the Steinhardt Museum; chair of the National R&D environment committee; took part in two Horizon projects, significant experience at the science-policy interface |
| Yaela Golumbic | Participatory and CS, science communication | Researcher of public engagement, stakeholders workshops, training | Participated in several Horizon projects, head of CS research in ICCS, Research on inclusion practices and public communication |
| Tomer Gueta | Ecology data scientist, CS | Data science and taxonomic backbone development | Developer of the Living Atlas architecture within ICCS |
| Ronit Justo-Hanani | Biodiversity regulation and policy, EU invasive species regulation | Researcher on policy and legal aspects | Invited member: UN Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services |
| Zafrir Kuplik | Taxonomy, biodiversity | Researcher, Lecturer | Researcher and lecturer on Taxonomy and Biodiversity. collaborated in DEST courses. |
| Liron Goren | Taxonomy, biodiversity | Researcher, Lecturer, developer of international taxonomy courses | Researcher and lecturer on Taxonomy and Biodiversity. collaborated in DEST courses. |
| Hezi  Resheff | Ecology AI and data science | Researcher; AI models and data science | Background in AI and data science in Ecology, actively working on species identification from sound. Experienced with online machine learning platforms for Ecology research (AcceleRater). |
| Ilil Pratt | Education and communication | Support for education and science communication | Head of science education and communication section |

1. **No**
2. **No**