

EDITORIAL SCIRES-IT. A SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE BIODIVERSITY OF SEA, SKY AND EARTH: RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Virginia Valzano*

*University of Salento – CEIT, Italy - SCIRES-IT Founder and Editor-in-Chief.

Abstract

This special issue of SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology (vol. 14, 2024) is dedicated to the topics of the Workshop on 'Biodiversity of Sea, Sky and Earth: Research and Technological Innovation', held in the Otranto Castle (Italy) on May 24 and 25, 2024. It contains the contributions of most of the speakers, published in the order of their presentations in the programme.

Keywords

Nature, Research, Technological Innovation, International Biodiversity Day.

This special issue of SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology (vol. 14, 2024) is dedicated to the topics of the Workshop on 'Biodiversity of Sea, Sky and Earth: Research and Technological Innovation', held in the Otranto Castle (Lecce, Italy) on 24 and 25 May 2024.

The workshop, held on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day (2024), was organized by CEIT (Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Technological Innovation for Cultural and Environmental Heritage and Biomedicine) of the University of Salento¹, in partnership with the Municipality of Otranto, the Department of Mathematics and Physics of the University of Salento and the Polytechnic University of Bari. It was conducted in collaboration with the associations 'Italia Nostra Sud Salento', 'Pro Loco Porto Badisco', and 'Associazione Otranto è di tutti', as well as the digital publisher 'CLIOedu'. Teachers and students from Lecce's 'Istituto Superiore "A. De Pace"', and Otranto's 'Istituto Professionale Alberghiero', joined and actively participated in the initiative.

In addition to the speakers and other high-profile experts, political and academic authorities, professors, researchers, students and interested citizens attended the Workshop with great

interest. Special thanks go to the Mayor of Otranto, Francesco Bruni, for his hospitality and his active interest in the initiative's themes.

The session 'Digital Reproductions and Artistic-Visual Activities: from Wonder to Biodiversity Awareness' sparked particular interest and curiosity, especially among young people. Projects, multimedia applications and video-documentaries were presented on *Dante as an ecologist and poet in the world* with Gustave Doré's animated illustrations (Valzano & Zanzotto, 2021), *Nature and Biodiversity in the Divine Comedy* (Valzano, Zanzotto, Romani, & Accogli, 2022), *Otranto Treasures in 3D* (Valzano, 2015, 2019), *The most important animals and the functioning of the marine ecosystem* (Boero, 2023), and *The sea and its inhabitants in 3D* (Rinaldi, 2014).

This special issue contains the contributions of most of the speakers, published in the order of their presentations in the programme.²

The idea of dedicating a special issue of SCIRES-IT to these topics originated at the Workshop and was further reinforced by the recent succession of extreme climate changes which pose an additional threat to Biodiversity, and underscored the urgent need for everyone to

¹ CEIT - Centro Euromediterraneo di Innovazione Tecnologica per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali e la Biomedicina. <http://www.ceit-ottranto.it/>

² Workshop programme: <http://www.ceit-ottranto.it/index.php/notizie/9-notizie/430-giornata-mondiale-biodiversita>

concretely support the implementation of the UN Global Biodiversity Framework and to disseminate it, particularly through open access publications.

Open dissemination and instant sharing of knowledge, activities and research results and data, are essential for the advancement of science and innovation and, in this specific case, for a greater understanding and awareness of the problems related to Biodiversity, increasingly threatened by human activities and climate changes. Radical and lasting cultural change is needed for the preservation of ecosystems, to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, which is crucial for our very survival.

Knowledge and protection of Cultural and Environmental Heritage, ecosystems and biological diversity are among the main objectives of the international scientific journal SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology, which focuses on multimedia technologies in support for documentation, conservation and enjoyment of cultural and environmental heritage.

As stated in its Manifesto, SCIRES-IT is an eco-sustainable, diamond open access journal, which

joins the main principles of the 'Berlin Declaration on Open Access' with the aims of the 'International Convention on Biological Diversity'; for each issue published, an environmental restoration action is carried out in protected areas by planting of local ecotypes of native species.

The journal was founded in 2011 as part of the project "Eco-sustainable Open Access publications", launched in 2009, for the development of open access publishing and for the preservation and restoration of the natural environment.³

The theme with the logo of the 2024 International Biodiversity Day is: 'Be part of the Plan', a call to action addressed to all stakeholders in the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan and to highlight their support also by customising the logo.

The cover of this special issue, therefore, also contains the logo of World Biodiversity Day 2024, customised with the names of the two institutions, CEIT-Salento University and Otranto City, and used in the Workshop programme.

³ CASPUR-CIBER Publishing – Pubblicazioni ecosostenibili:
<http://www.ceit-ottranto.it/index.php/editoria-elettronica/336-caspur-ciber-publishing-home>

REFERENCES

- Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003). Retrieved from <https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>
- Boero, F. (2023). *Gli animali più importanti*. Video-documentario. Retrieved from <https://vimeo.com/870710767/50f21de9de>
- CASPUR-CIBER Publishing – Pubblicazioni ecosostenibili (2009). Retrieved from <http://www.ceit-ottranto.it/index.php/editoria-elettronica/336-caspur-ciber-publishing-home>
- Convention on Biological Diversity (2022). Montreal, Canada. Retrieved from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>
- International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). (2024). 22 May. Retrieved from <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day>
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022). Retrieved from <https://www.cbd.int/gbf>
- Rinaldi, R. (2014). Underwater 3D filming. *SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology*, 4(2), 1-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2423/i22394303v4n2p1>
- SCIRES-IT Manifesto 2011 (2011). *SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology*. Retrieved from <http://www.sciresit.it/about/editorialPolicies#custom-2>
- The Biodiversity Plan. For Life on Earth (2024). Retrieved from <https://www.thenewdivision.world/thebiodiversityplan>
- Valzano, V (2015). *Tesori di Otranto in 3D*. Video-documentario. Retrieved from <https://vimeo.com/383129952>
- Valzano, V., Negro, F., & Lucarella, D. (2019). Otranto Treasure in 3D. *SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology*, 9(2), 17-28. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2423/i22394303v9n2p17>
- Valzano, V., Sartor, G. (2021). Dante as an ecologist and poet in the world. 'Divine illustrations' by Gustave Doré. An open access multimedia project. *SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology*, 11(2), 41-56. DOI 10.2423/i22394303v11n2p41.
- Valzano, V., Sartor, G., Romani, M., & Accogli, R. (2022). Dante's journey in the Botanical Garden. *SCIRES-IT - SCientific RESearch and Information Technology*, 12(1), 67-76. DOI 10.2423/i22394303v12n1p67
- Workshop Giornata mondiale della Biodiversità. Due giorni di incontri dedicati alla Biodiversità di Mare, di Cielo e di Terra, alla ricerca e all'innovazione tecnologica* (2024). 24-25 maggio 2024, Castello di Otranto (Lecce, Italy). Retrieved from <http://www.ceit-ottranto.it/index.php/notizie/9-notizie/430-giornata-mondiale-biodiversita>