

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY: RED LISTS AND BEYOND"

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2024 RIGA, LATVIA (EU)

**APPLICATION OPEN**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT (MARCH, 2024)

Safeguarding biodiversity remain a topical challenge of our time, thus we would like to announce the upcoming international conference:

**"Safeguarding Biodiversity: Red Lists and Beyond."** This conference will convene from September 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the city of Riga, Latvia.

The conference is organized by the Institute of Biology at the University of Latvia (UL) in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Agency within the framework of the European Union LIFE programme project **LIFE FOR SPECIES (Nr. LIFE19 GIE/LV/000857)**.

**Venue:** UL House of Nature, Jelgavas iela 1

**Aim of this conference** is to share experience, transfer knowledge and best practice on national and regional redlisting and application of the IUCN methodology, conservation of threatened and rare species, as well as development of biodiversity data systems.

We kindly invite experts, researchers, practitioners and students to attend the conference. We will ensure this event to offer a great platform to delve into discussions, explore innovative approaches, and foster collaborations aimed at protecting our planet's unique biodiversity.

**The format of the conference:** hybrid (face-to-face and remotely).



## Topics:

- Biodiversity data systems: storing, analyzing and sharing data (a workshop).
- Species assessments according to the IUCN methodology – approaches, challenges, results.
- Rare and threatened animal species (birds, invertebrates, etc.) - research, conservation, management, and practice.
- Rare and threatened vascular plant, fungi, lichen, bryophyte, etc. species - research, conservation, management, and practice.
- Conservation policy, strategies, and funding of rare and threatened species.
- Innovative methods of study and monitoring of threatened species.
- Communication techniques for enhancing public awareness and support for species protection.

## MORE INFORMATION

**HERE!**

The scientific program will be structured in plenary, oral and poster sessions.

## **Call for abstracts and application:**

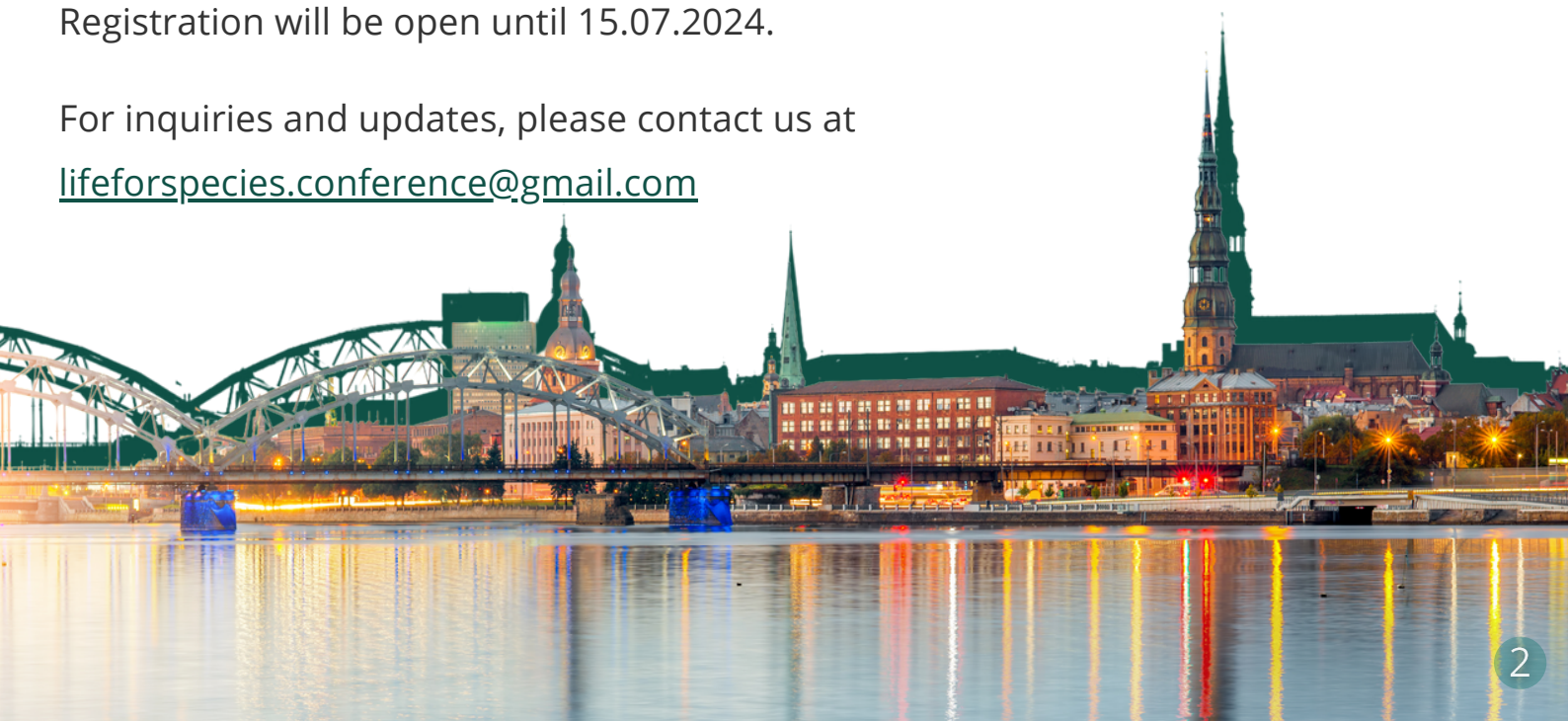
Participants are invited to submit abstracts on research and discoveries relevant to the conference topics and workshop. The abstracts can be submitted by filling out **this application form.**

Abstracts should not exceed 400 words. All abstracts must be in English and should be submitted not later than **by the end of May, 2024**. The authors will be informed about acceptance for presentation (oral or poster) by email until June 30, 2024.

Registration will be open until 15.07.2024.

For inquiries and updates, please contact us at

[liforspecies.conference@gmail.com](mailto:liforspecies.conference@gmail.com)



## Keynote speakers

- **Malin Rivers (UK)** and **Emily Beech (UK)** from Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), Richmond, will present "**Global Tree Assessment – Prioritising conservation action for trees on national, regional, and global scales.**"
- **Christina Biggs (USA)** will present "**Re:Wild's Lost Species program - an initiative committed to halting extinctions and conserving biodiversity.**"
- **Dmitry Telnov**, Institute of Biology, UL (LV), will present "**LIFE FOR SPECIES Project's contribution to the protection of rare and endangered species in Latvia: results, challenges, and next steps.**"

The keynote speaker for the topic "**Innovative instruments for researching and protecting rare and endangered species**" will be announced soon. Additional information on our keynote speakers is included at the end of this announcement.

## Accommodation and Additional Details

Participants are invited to take advantage of a special accommodation offer from the **Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel Riga**. For exclusive room rates, please use the **code "LIFE"** upon checkout (€90 for a single room, €100 for a double room, both with breakfast). The hotel is conveniently located about a 10-minute walk from the event venue and Riga's Old Town.

Additionally, we're happy to announce that a set of exciting excursions will be organized on September 18, 2024, in conjunction with the Nordic Baltic LIFE platform meeting event.

Excursion routes will be revealed when registration opens.



### PARTICIPATION FEE:

Regular fee -

**EUR 0,00**

Accompanying  
person -

**EUR 150**

*The conference is organized by the Project "Threatened species in Latvia: improved knowledge, capacity, data and awareness" (LIFE19 GIE/LV/000857 - LIFE FOR SPECIES) with the financial support of European Commission and the State Regional Development Agency, Republic of Latvia*

*This material is created with the financial contribution of the LIFE programme and the European Union. This publication reflects only authors' view. Neither CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency) nor European Commission are responsible of any use that may be made, or the information contained therein.*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Malin Rivers** and **Emily Beech** (UK) from **Botanic Gardens Conservation International** (BGCI), Richmond, will present on **"Global Tree Assessment – Prioritising conservation action for trees on national, regional, and global scales."**



**BGCI**

Global Botanic  
Garden Fund

### **Biography - Malin Rivers**

Malin Rivers is the Head of Prioritisation at Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). After studying at Imperial College (BSc), University of Birmingham (MSc) and University of St Andrews (PhD), she has devoted her entire career to plant conservation. Malin joined BGCI in 2014, where she is leading the Global Tree Assessment – an initiative to assess the conservation status of the world's tree species. She was the lead author of the publication *State of the World's Trees*, published in 2021, and has also published many scientific articles. In 2023 she co-authored her first book *Rare Trees*. She is also the new chair of the IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group and a member of the IUCN Red List Scientific Committee.

### **Biography - Emily Beech**

Emily Beech is Tree Red List Manager at Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). Emily joined BGCI in 2014 and has been coordinating Red List assessments for the Global Tree Assessment, with a focus on Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific. As an IUCN Red List trainer, she has delivered training in Red List methodology across the world, in English, French and Spanish. She is a member of the IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group, the IUCN Red List Technical Working Group and IUCN National Red List Working Group.

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**Christina Biggs** (US) will present **"Re:wild's Lost Species program - an initiative committed to halting extinctions and conserving biodiversity."**



### **Biography**

Christina Biggs leads Re:wild's Exploration Strategy as well as the Search for Lost Species. She manages searches for the top 25 most wanted list, as well as taxa-specific partnerships around birds, fishes, sharks, and amphibians. Since taking over the Lost Species program, Christina has conceived and launched a geographic Lost Species search model that is currently piloting in several African countries.

Prior to joining Re:wild, she was a senior biologist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where her main areas of research were cephalopod aquaculture and deep-sea invertebrates. She planned and led expeditions aboard ROV-equipped vessels to document and collect previously undescribed species. While employed at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Christina was a member of the Animal Response team that handled U.S. Fish and Wildlife confiscations of illegally trafficked animals. Other projects included annual surveys of the occurrence of tropical fish congregations along the U.S. eastern seaboard, known as Gulf Stream Orphans, in conjunction with the New England Aquarium. Christina is an AAUS research and rescue diver and an avid underwater enthusiast.

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**Dmitry Telnov**, Institute of Biology, UL (LV), **will present**  
**"LIFE FOR SPECIES Project's contribution to the protection of rare and endangered species in Latvia: results, challenges, and next steps."**



### **Biography**

Dmitry Telnov, PhD, is a Latvian entomologist, biogeographer, and conservationist. He is a fellow and vice president of the Entomological Society of Latvia as well as the executive editor of the "Biodiversity, biogeography and nature conservation in Wallacea and New Guinea" book series, as well as a member of the editorial board of the "Latvijas Entomologs", ZooKeys and Tijdschrift voor Entomologie journals. He is primarily known for his taxonomic works on Coleoptera, biogeographic research in the Papuan region and in the Wallacea, and nature conservation activities across the EU and beyond.

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