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Encyclopedia of Life – a project where every single species is important

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One of the biggest challenges is to make the discovery and recognition of new species fun again. New generations need new ways to learn. *“We have to think – how can we make such experiences enjoyable to younger generations today?”* says Studer, who believes that EOL and NatureGate are both tools that can encourage young people to get interested in biodiversity. *“The first step is to know what you are looking at, how species live, where they live, whether you have a chance to see something new. Without such help, nobody can get started.”*

EOL so far has content aggregated for about 10% of the 1.9 million species known to science, so there is still plenty of work to do before all known species have significant content on the EOL website. The initiative will not be able to succeed without international interest and cooperation. Though the documentation process is very important, education is also needed. EOL is searching for suitable partners with innovative educational tools and ideas about how to make such work fun, and how to support and motivate students and other citizens to contribute – and maybe even discover new species themselves!

It is of the utmost importance to get the public interested in issues such as biodiversity and sustainability. EOL and NatureGate both work according to the shared principle that it is vital for people to understand both the significance of biodiversity, and how they can help to protect it.

Read more about EOL: <http://www.eol.org>

Visit the new EOL Learning and Education site: <http://education.eol.org>

About Marie Studer: http://education.eol.org/who/our_team