

Prof. Tamar Dayan – short bio – June 2024

Tamar Dayan, the founding Head of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Israel National Center for Biodiversity Studies, is a Professor of Zoology and the Robert Raynor Chair for Environmental Conservation Research at TAU. A graduate (with honors) of TAU in the Life Sciences, Zoology, and Archeology, she conducted post-doctoral research at Florida State University with Daniel Simberloff and at Harvard University with Steven Jay Gould. A Rothschild, Fulbright, Weizmann, Alon and Bruno Fellow, Prof. Dayan conducts research in community ecology, evolutionary ecology, conservation science, and zooarcheology. Her ecological research demonstrated the role of competition in structuring ecological communities and in affecting body size evolution, resolving a longstanding controversy. Additionally, she studied the role of the diel niche axis in the evolution of activity patterns at the ecological and evolutionary scales, opening a heretofore overlooked field of research with implications for both community ecology and conservation. Much of her conservation work is multidisciplinary, combining ecology with planning and different aspects of the social sciences. Among other activities, she has served as the Head of TAU's Institute for Nature Conservation Research; Chair of Israel's UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Committee; Chair of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Protection of Nature (SPNI); member of the Board of Directors of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and Chair of their Scientific Committee; and as member of the National Council for Research and Development and Chair of the Council's Environment Committee. Prof. Dayan received prizes from the SPNI in recognition of pathbreaking research and from the Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Science for Lifelong Contribution to conservation in Israel.