



**INTERREG V-A COOPERATION PROGRAMME**  
**GREECE – BULGARIA 2014 – 2020**

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Reinforcing Protected Areas Capacity through an Innovative  
Methodology for Sustainability

– **BIO2CARE** –

*(Reg. No: 1890)*

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Protected Areas and legal framework: An Introduction

by Helena Hadjicharalambous (PhD)



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- Protected Area (PA) - Definition
- Necessity & Legal bases of nature protection: Historical background
- The IUCN PAs Categories
- Main features of PAs
- The role of PAs, in modern times
- The Institution of PAs in Greece

### ➤ Protected Area (PA) - Definition

«A **protected area** is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values» (IUCN Definition 2008)

## ➤ Necessity & Legal bases of nature protection: Historical background

### The need to protect...

...specific habitats, species and regions, begins with the realization of the continuing degradation of the natural environment and the disturbance of the ecological balance.

## Historical background

- 1.122 B.C. – China: Decree for the protection of a forest
- 252 B.C. – India: Decree for the protection of animals, fish and forests
- Ancient Greece and Rome - Sacred groves, dedicated to deities, with absolute protection status
- 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. – Venice: First natural reserve in the western world, for the protection of deer and wild boars
- End of the Middle Ages / Renaissance: natural prey shelters
- 14<sup>th</sup> century – Europe: absolute protection of European Bison and the Tarpan (wild horse)

## Historical background - 2

- 1853 – France: First natural reserve of modern times (Fontainebleau beech forest)
- 1872 – USA: Yellowstone National Park area
  
- 1970: The most important steps towards protection of areas and their species
  - 1971: Ramsar Convention «... *on Wetlands of International Importance...*»
  - 1973: CITES Convention «... *on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ...*»
  - 1976: Barcelona Convention «... *for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ...*»
  - 1979a: Bonn Convention «... *on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*»
  - 1979b: Berne Convention «... *on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats*»
  - 1979c: European Directive 79/409/EEC «*on the conservation of wild birds*»
- 1990: Important steps continue...
  - 1992a: Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro)
  - 1992b: Directive 92/43/EEC – Natura 2000 network

## Protected area management categories (IUCN 2013)

- Ia-Strict Nature Reserve: ... *to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphical features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values ... reference areas for scientific research and monitoring ...*
- Ib-Wilderness Area: ... *usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition ...*
- II-National Park: ... *large natural or near natural areas ... to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide ... spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational, and visitor opportunities ...*
- III-Natural Monument or Feature: ... *to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature ... generally quite small protected areas and often have high visitor value....*

## Protected area management categories (IUCN 2013) - 2

- IV-Habitat/Species Management Area: ... *to protect particular species or habitats and management reflects this priority ... they need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats ...*
- V-Protected Landscape/Seascape: ... *the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant, ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value ...*
- VI-Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources: ... *conserve ecosystems and habitats together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems ... most of the area in a natural condition ... a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management ... low-level non-industrial use of natural resources...*



### Main features of Protected Areas

- Clear characterization and delimitation by legally binding permanent text
- Clear and fair governance system
- Defined protection objectives
- Sufficient size
- Approved management plan, subject to evaluation and review
- Monitoring and evaluation program that supports adaptive management
- *In situ* measures for the conservation of biodiversity (or even geo-diversity and landscape)
- *In situ* measures for habitat management

## Modern role of PAs

- Biodiversity conservation
- Upgrading the quality of life
- Support the local development, as a public social good and a tourist good by:
  - They aim at sustainable tourism development, through participatory processes, based on the given institutional frameworks, the agreement of expert scientists and with respect for man and the environment.
  - They demand actions that respect the scales and sizes of the local community, support the local population and create new standards of regional development.
  - They may have a comparative advantage for tourism development with high quality standards.

## The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece

- 1938: designation of the first National Parks (Olympus and Parnassos), based on Law 856/1937 "On National Parks"
- 1938-1986: National Parks, Aesthetic Forests, Preserved Monuments of Nature, Wildlife Refuges, Controlled Hunting Areas, Landscapes of Special Natural Beauty
- 1986: Law 1650 "*On environmental protection*"
  - Area of Absolute Nature Protection, Nature Protection Area, National Park, Protected Physical Formations and Landscapes, Eco-Development Areas
  - Management bodies of protected areas
  - Procedure for the designation of a PP:
    - Special Environmental Study preparation & drafting of Presidential Decree (PD)
    - Consultation and Finalization of PD plan
    - Signing and publication of the PD in the Government Gazette

## The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece – 2

...from National Parks to Natura 2000 Network

1992: Directive 92/43/EEC

- Natura 2000 Network
- Special provisions for the conservation of species and habitat types
- Integration of the Special Protected Areas (SPAs) of Directive 79/409/EEC (currently Directive 2009/147/EE).

1999: Law 2742 – Management Bodies

- PD/1999 GG 960 D' - Establishment of Management Body of National Park of Zakynthos
- PD/2000 GG 395 D' - Establishment of Management Body of National Park of Schinias-Marathonas
- L. 3044/2002 (GG 197 A', art. 13) – Establishment of 25 more MB

## The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece – 4

...from National Parks to Natura 2000 Network

2011: Law 3937/2011 on the conservation of biodiversity modifies and partially complements the Law Framework 1650/1986, proposing:

- the establishment of a National System of Protected Areas
- the maintenance of Greek biodiversity through the institutionalization of monitoring and protection tools, special provisions for the protection and maintenance of endemic biodiversity, but also special regulations for invading foreign species
- maintaining natural ecosystems and preventing their degradation
- scientific research and social information and participation

## The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece – 3

...from National Parks to Natura 2000 Network

Law 3937/2011 on the conservation of biodiversity,

- incorporates Natura 2000 sites in national protected areas, designating them as habitat and species protection areas, ie as areas subject to management to ensure adequate conservation of protected habitats and species,
- establishes horizontal regulations for Natura 2000 sites
- establishes the obligation to draw up management plans
- modernizes and specializes the framework for the complete protection of biological wealth and the fulfillment of Community obligations for the Natura 2000 Network

## **The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece – 5** ...from National Parks to Natura 2000 Network

2018: Law 4519 Management Bodies of Protected Areas (FDPPs) and other provisions:

- Legal form of FDPPs, public benefit legal entities under Private Law (NPID)
- Local competence
- Composition of Board of Directors
- Staffing of the FDPP
- Functional issues

## The Institution of Protected Areas in Greece – 6

...from National Parks to Natura 2000 Network

**2020:** Law 4685 modernizes environmental legislation, focusing on the following:

- Facilitation of environmental licensing - Reduction of RES licensing time
- Adoption of a new model of protected area management:
  - Organization of Natural Environment and Climate Change (OFYPEKA)
  - Natura 2000 area zoning - Protection Degree improvement per Protection Zone in each Natura area (4 protection zones are introduced, activities are suggested depending on the character of each protection zone)
- Dealing with forest maps and housing densities
- Extension of the fee of the plastic bag to all plastic bags, with the aim of tackling plastic pollution
- Cuts to solve the waste management problem in many parts of the country



## ➤ 446 Natura 2000 sites

➤ Total cover (excluding overlaps)  
58,773.2 km<sup>2</sup>

✓ 62% terrestrial cover (36,184 km<sup>2</sup>)  
of the country's total terrestrial  
area

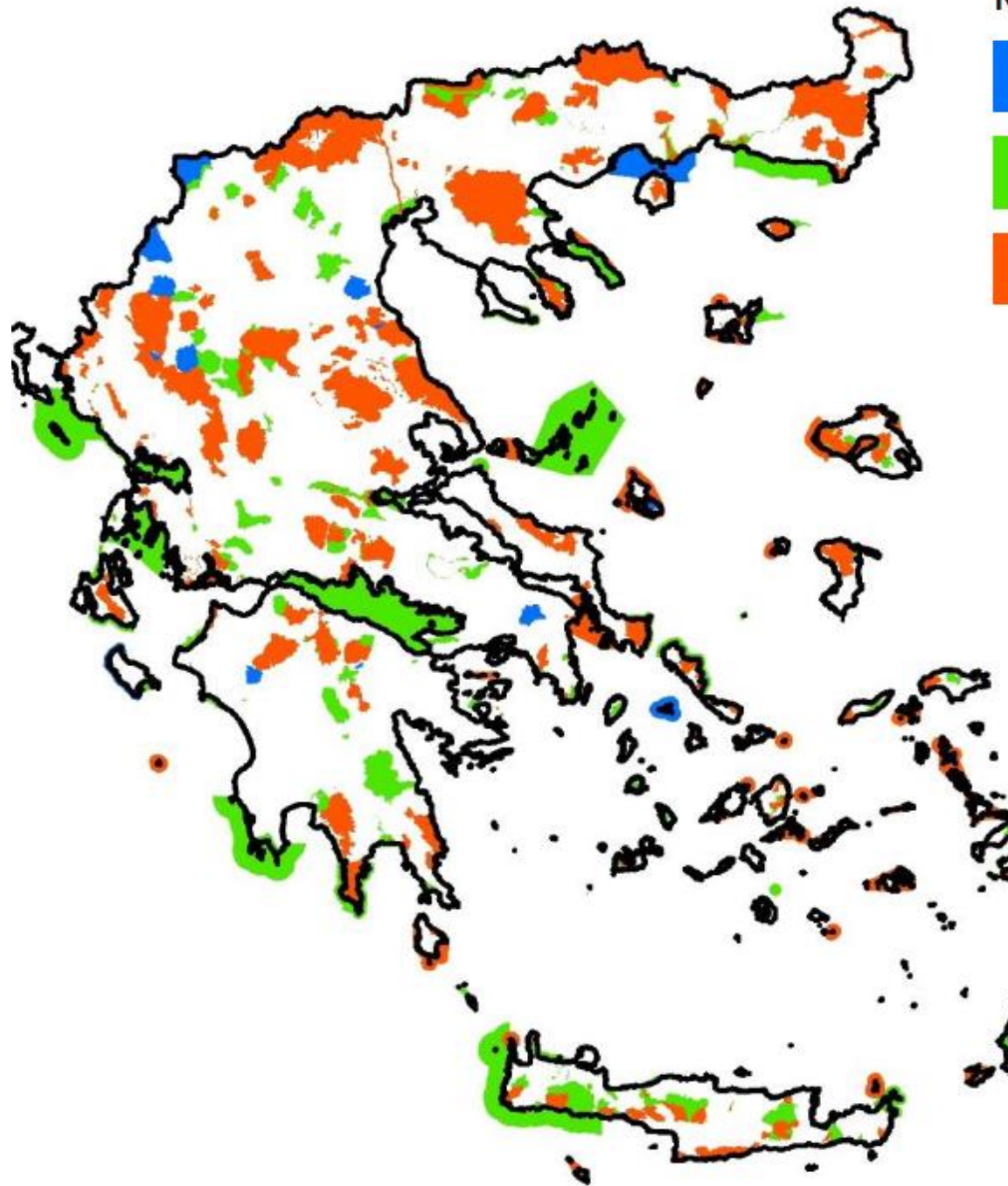
✓ 38% marine cover (22,589 km<sup>2</sup>)  
of the country's total marine area

➤ Three site categories

✓ Special Areas of Conservation /  
Sites of Community Importance  
(SAC/SCI) for the protection of  
habitat types and flora and fauna  
species (Directive 92/3/EEC)

✓ Special Protected Areas (SPA) for  
the protection of birds (Directive  
2009/147/EC)

✓ Sites that are both SAC/SCI and  
SPA (both Directives)



### ➤ Suggestions for further reading:

- ✓ <http://repository.biodiversity-info.gr/browse?type=type&order=ASC&rpp=20&authority=5> (κεφάλαια 1.5 & 2)
- ✓ [http://www.ekby.gr/ekby/el/EKBY\\_PP\\_el.html](http://www.ekby.gr/ekby/el/EKBY_PP_el.html)
- ✓ [http://www.ekby.gr/ekby/el/EKBY\\_Natura2000\\_el.html](http://www.ekby.gr/ekby/el/EKBY_Natura2000_el.html)
- ✓ <http://biodiversity-info.gr/index.php/el/greek-nature-and-biodiversity/protected-areas>
- ✓ <http://biodiversity-info.gr/index.php/el/nature-and-biodiversity-map>
- ✓ [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/news/archives/2014/01/news\\_20140203\\_03\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/news/archives/2014/01/news_20140203_03_en.htm)
- ✓ <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>
- ✓ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/30018>