

Mo.Na: Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co-Existence



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Mo.Na – A project for monuments in Nature

Santorini, Nessebar, Paphos, Butrint

A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational and economic legacies - all of the things that quite literally make us who we are.”

Steve Berry

During the past months, the earth faced an unexpected crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, through this challenging situation, **Mo.Na** partners managed to proceed with the implementation of the project in step with the planned schedule.

Mo.Na's consortium took immediate measures to overcome any delays, or problems encountered.

The overall Mo.Na “Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” aim is to recognize-analyze and evaluate the protection and promotion of natural resources and cultural heritage across the Balkan-Mediterranean territory, choosing as a main subject the integrated planning and the common management strategies in environments of high interest and preservations value (NATURA 2000, Ramsar Areas etc) in interdependence with regions with a high cultural importance (UNESCO protected areas).

3rd Steering Committee Meeting via Skype

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of Mo.Na "Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence" took place via Skype on the 27th February 2020.

It was organised by the European Center of Byzantine & Post-Byzantine Monuments, Thessaloniki, Greece (LP in the Project) and representatives from all Project Partners, institutions from Albania, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria and external experts participated.

The 3rd SC Meeting focused on discussing the current state of project implementation and expenditures, the next steps to be taken and the partner's contributions.

Partners responsible for each work package elaborated in the implementation of each W.P. and the methodology to be used in their implementation.

Among the topics discussed were habitat mapping, holistic management approach, the development of a study on territorial integrated approach and common policies, the development of brand for the promotion and protection of natural and cultural environment, as well as storytelling activities for multiple target groups.



4th Steering Committee Meeting via WebEx

The Mo.Na partnership hosted a virtual 4th Steering Committee meeting on the 9th July 2020 via WebEx. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions in Europe, the partners met virtually to discuss the project's imminent and future activities.

The 4th SC Meeting focused on discussing the current state of project, the effects of COVID-19 on the implementation, and the necessary contribution by each partner to overcome any delays.

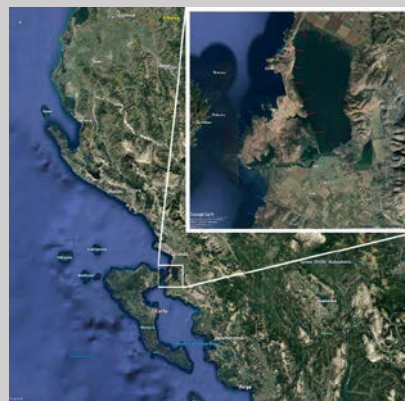
Project Partner 4 - HCMR Pilot Activities

The Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) has started compiling the available data on marine habitats and species of conservation interest in the case study areas of Butrint (Albania), Nessebar (Bulgaria) and Santorini Isl. (Greece). Data collection and reporting has been achieved through literature reviewing and contact with envi-

ronmental experts and stakeholders from each country. The ultimate goal of this action is to locate possible gaps of knowledge, so as to properly design and implement local fieldwork activities within the next months.

The HCMR Scientific Diving Team is currently in the process of carrying out fieldwork activities in Santorini whereupon original information on the presence and ecological status of the underwater biodiversity in this case study area will be collected.

Additionally having received an official permission by the National Agency for Protected Areas in Albania, is in the process of organising fieldwork activities in



Map indicating tentative sites for HCMR fieldwork activities in Butrint case study, Albania.

Butrint and the adjacent Albanian coasts Covid-19 allowing intensive sampling activities (i.e. towed camera surveys and diving transects) in the near future.

HCMR collaborated with the Municipality of Nessebar in order to select original information on the underwater biodiversity of the Nessebar and its adjacent coastal waters.

Restoration of an old nature trail in Kykkos-Panagia Valley



The Department of Forests has undertaken the restoration of an old nature trail, which runs for around 11 km through the Kykkos-Panayia valley. The nature trail is located inside the deep and untapped national forest of Paphos.

The restored trail has followed strictly the old trail path and the work included:

- cleaning the nature trail from obstructing vegetation, stones and soil that has piled up over the years;
- trimming trees that were hanging over the trail path;
- building traditional stone terraces in specific places in order to minimise soil erosion from the flow of minor springs.

It is important to mention that no mechanical means (other than a chainsaw) were used to restore the path so as not to burden the environment. Throughout the period from February until the 15th of March that the restoration work took place, everything was done manually, thereby respecting the surrounding nature and the precious endemic fauna.

Documentary film on water and the Paphos forest



The shootings of the documentary film on the water and the forest took place in Kythrea and Kakopetria by pupils of the N. Smyrni High School. The text was prepared and translated in English.



The Department of Forests is one of the oldest government departments established by the British Colonial Government in Cyprus.

Today, the Department of Forests continues to be responsible for the Management and Protection of forests for social and environmental purposes as well as for recreation. These are first priority objects while timber collection is simply a forest activity for the improvement of the forests where it is required.

The main objects of the new Forest Policy of the Department of Forests are:

- ✚ Sustainable development and conservation of natural resources
- ✚ Expansion of forests through the reforestation of government and degraded private lands
- ✚ Conservation, improvement and promotion of the natural environment and natural inheritance
- ✚ Extending and upgrading the infrastructure for tourist and recreation purposes
- ✚ Development and revival of the villages adjacent to forests
- ✚ Environmental education of the citizens and the creation of forest consciousness

NEXT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

5th Steering Committee Meeting in Cyprus

End of September 2020, Covid-19 allowing

Workshop in Cyprus “Initiatives for natural and cultural management and protection- The Kykkos Forest as an exemplary model”

End of September 2020, Covid-19 allowing

6th Steering Committee Meeting in Nessebar, Bulgaria

Autumn 2020, Covid-19 allowing

Workshop in Nessebar “The sustainable and creative co-existence between natural and cultural heritage: the experience of Nessebar

Autumn 2020, Covid-19 allowing

Workshop in Santorini

Spring 2021

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Mo.Na
Monuments in Nature:
Creative Co-existence

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Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Department of Forests, CYPRUS



National Institute of Cultural Heritage, ALBANIA

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Greek Planners Association

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