

REPLICATION PLAN

Replication and Transferability Plan for LIFE Natura Themis Project Actions



Deliverable of Action D4:
“Networking with other LIFE
and non-LIFE projects”

LIFE Natura Themis
LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026

Heraklion
April 2021

University of Crete
Natural History Museum of Crete





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UNIVERSITY
OF CRETE

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Photos: ©**UoC-NHMC**

Citation:

Baxevani K., Sbokos J., Probonas M., Petrou N., Pouli S., Maniadaki M., Georgiadis C., Christodouloupoulou S., Nteka H., Nikolakakis E. & S. Palaiologou. Replication Plan of the project LIFE Natura Themis (LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026). University of Crete-Natural History Museum of Crete. Heraklion, 2021.

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LIFE NATURA

THEMIS

Right and
Liability
for the Environment

INTRODUCTION

The LIFE Natura Themis project is a European programme financed by the European Commission's LIFE funding instrument over 69 months (from October 2015 to June 2021). Its aim is to record the scale of environmental crime on Crete for the first ever time, map how effectively the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and wider environmental legislation is being implemented, and investigate the consequences of environmental degradation on socioeconomic life in Crete. In addition, the project attempted to experiment with various tools for maximising the effectiveness of environmental infringement prosecution, to explore and possibly make use of available good practices from other countries within and beyond the European Union, and ultimately to transfer all such knowledge and experience to the bodies and agencies directly involved, to central administration and interested professional groups, as well as to the wider population. The objective of all this work was to highlight the distinctive nature of environmental crimes and their repercussions for everyday life and the prosperity of human societies.

The present Replication Plan is a LIFE Natura Themis project deliverable. Its aim is to highlight the main features of project implementation, the innovative instruments used, and the potential for implementing and replicating them in other areas. The objective is to render the knowledge and experience accumulated over all these years of use to agencies and bodies wishing to tackle environmental degradation via the effective enforcement of environmental legislation.

The LIFE Natura Themis Replication Plan comprises four (4) chapters. In Chapter 1 we analyse the methodology used in drawing up the Plan, and the strategy chosen to relay the valuable knowledge and experience capital accumulated over the many years of this work to the widest possible audience. Chapter 2 sketches out the LIFE Natura Themis project's subject matter, objectives, main actions and accomplishments. To aid better understanding and use of the Replication Plan, we considered it worth including a separate chapter in the text below (Chapter 3) on all the networking activities with other LIFE and non-LIFE projects, as well as with bodies/agencies and networks all over the world related in one way or another with the project objective over the 5-plus years it has been implemented. These contacts yielded knowledge, experience and good practices singled out by us, which we believe would be of use to anyone interested in understanding and tackling this distinct type of crime, which is a blight on modern societies.

Chapter 4 presents the main instruments piloted on Crete for the first ever time in Greece, which we believe could be used and replicated in other regions of Greece and/or other EU states, given the right spatial, temporal and technological adjustments.

Both the environmental information campaign included in our actions and some of the guidelines for successfully implementing it form a separate project deliverable, and are included in the After-LIFE period (2021-2026).





CHAPTER 1

Project Replication and Transferability Plan

Introduction

Beyond successful completion, of course, a basic requisite of LIFE funding instrument projects is that the experience and knowledge arising from proposal implementation should be disseminated more widely, and that the tools trialled in each project should have the potential to be replicated, adopted and transferred to other areas or countries in the European Union.

To that end, a Replication Plan must be created for project partners to highlight the way in which they will make their results known to a broader audience within and beyond the implementation area, both during implementation and after completion.

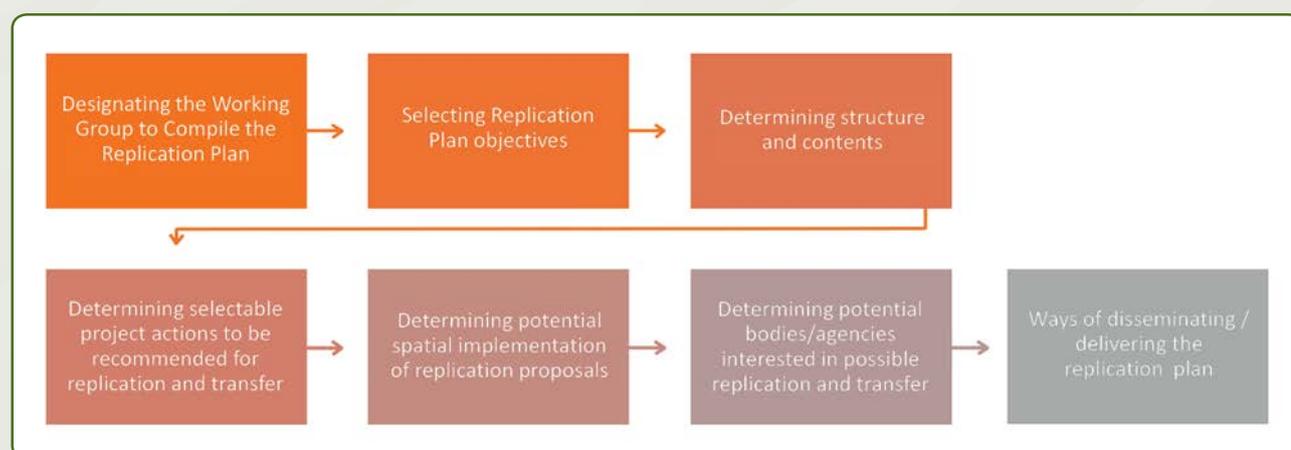
Via this LIFE Natura Themis Project Replication Plan, we want to share the knowledge and experience we garnered through our daily work on the project objective and actions with all those interested in maintaining and conserving Europe's natural environment. We also want to pass on the good practices we came to know and singled out, as presented to us via our contacts and acquaintance with bodies/agencies and programmes actively engaged over the project years in producing, enforcing and evaluating environmental legislation in Greece and abroad.

We hope that these experiences and the practices and methodologies we adopted to bolster implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive will be of use and can be replicated and adopted both in other areas of the country and by other states facing similar environmental crime or compliance situations.

Methodology

In drawing up this Replication and Transferability Plan, we followed Replication Plan compilation models mainly from international bibliography, so as to approach our objective in the best possible way. In other words, we wanted to make the knowledge and experience acquired during the LIFE Natura Themis project implementation period accessible and of use to the administration, state and non-state monitoring mechanisms, environment conservation and protection organisations and bodies and the legal profession in other areas of Greece, as well as internationally.

The methodology followed is outlined in Figure 1:





Designating the Working Group to Compile the Replication Plan

To create the Replication Plan, all LIFE Natura Themis project partners collaborated via their coordinators or the project team members designated by them, contributing their proposals on the plan's design and contents at two (2) Partner Meetings held on 27/05/2020 and 29/09/2020. All executives involved in LIFE Natura Themis submitted their proposals, participated in writing and formulating the text, corrected and commented on its various drafts, suggested improvements to it and committed to disseminating and publicising it both during the project implementation period and after its completion.

Selecting Replication Plan Objectives

The basic aim of the Replication Plan is to make the LIFE Natura Themis project better known, and above all to highlight the instruments created, tested and evaluated as effective and worth replicating both by the project itself and a series of social partners involved. The objective is for our proposals on replicating the instruments developed to be widely accepted and adopted by agencies, public structures/organisations and bodies concerned with environmental legislation and its implementation, environmental crime prosecution, fighting environmental offending, gradually halting environmental degradation, and contributing to the substantial conservation and protection of the natural and human-driven environment.

Determining Structure and Contents

Apart from describing the LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026 – LIFE Natura Themis Project in brief (Chapter 2), the Deliverables Working Group decided to include a chapter in the Replication Plan on the results of implementing the programme's networking activities with other LIFE and non-LIFE projects, environmental lawyer groups, nationwide and European law enforcement agencies, foundations and institutes studying environmental legislation and offending, state agencies and bodies working for environmental conservation etc., given that a large body of expert knowledge and practical experience was acquired via these contacts and collaborations. This knowledge and experience greatly assisted in bringing LIFE Natura Themis to a successful conclusion, and we believe it should be made more widely known not only to experts, but also to interest groups and stakeholders who are unable to access it via other tools publicising the project and its results. Using this chapter, social partners can locate bodies, agencies, institutes, foundations and networks they may wish to contact, which is why they are referred to in detail in Chapter 3.

Determining Selectable Project Actions for Replication and Transfer

In addition to presenting the Good Practices implemented by bodies and agencies in other countries, referred to by way of illustration in Chapter 3, we briefly describe the tools developed as part of LIFE Natura Themis that we consider could be adopted and replicated in other areas of Greece and Europe, as well as internationally (Chapter 4).

The proposed LIFE Natura Themis project actions analysed in further depth in Chapter 4 are as follows:

1. Environmental Law Observatories
2. Geoinformation map for recording environmental offences
3. Smart device application for recording and/or reporting environmental infringements



Potential spatial implementation

The LIFE Natura Themis project implementation area was Crete Region, an island region with a rich natural environment, significant biodiversity and internationally renowned cultural and social capital. At the same time, it boasts a fast-growing economy across all sectors, with tourism taking pride of place. Inevitably, conflictual relationships have emerged between environmental conservation / protection and economic activities, in the absence of any long-term development plan and inadequately enforced spatial planning in the Region.

These conflicts are graphically reflected in the scale of environmental offending recorded and highlighted by LIFE Natura Themis. Ideally, replication of the proposed actions ought to be adopted at state-wide level, covering the entire territory of a given country, though obviously adapted to individual political, legal, social, economic and technological circumstances. Island regions, and those impacted by high industrial output, tourism-intensive countries and/or those with a high number of environmental infringements etc. could gain from adopting some of the actions proposed for replication / reproducibility. Countries showing a low transposition rate of the Environmental Liability Directive (Directive 2004/35/EC) into their national legislation, where administrative and monitoring mechanisms are seriously lacking in staff and resources, and there are pressing needs for rapid development or inadequate environmental information and awareness may well be interested in the LIFE Natura Themis project, the problems it raised and the tools it used in achieving its objectives.

Table 1 shows the EU countries and areas where actions similar to those developed by LIFE Natura Themis could potentially be implemented, bearing the aforementioned criteria in mind.

Table 1: EU countries and areas that could potentially implement the LIFE Natura Themis actions proposed for replication

COUNTRY	AREA
GREECE	ALL REGIONS
CYPRUS	REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TERRITORY
SPAIN	ISLAND REGIONS
PORTUGAL	COASTAL REGIONS
ITALY	COASTAL AND ISLAND REGIONS
MALTA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
BULGARIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
HUNGARY	ENTIRE COUNTRY
LITHUANIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
LATVIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
ROMANIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
SLOVAKIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
SLOVENIA	ENTIRE COUNTRY
POLAND	ENTIRE COUNTRY



Potential stakeholders and target groups involved

The stakeholders that LIFE Natura Themis has worked with on Crete include lawyers, prosecutors, judges, elected and permanent administrative officials and those in monitoring authorities with investigative duties, members of Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS) active on the island, as well as journalists and staff working for local media. The target groups for the information and awareness-raising actions were tourism professionals, primary sector workers, the general population, and Greek and foreign visitors to the island (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Schematic presentation of the stakeholders (brown hexagons) and the target groups (green hexagons) of the LIFE Natura project Themis

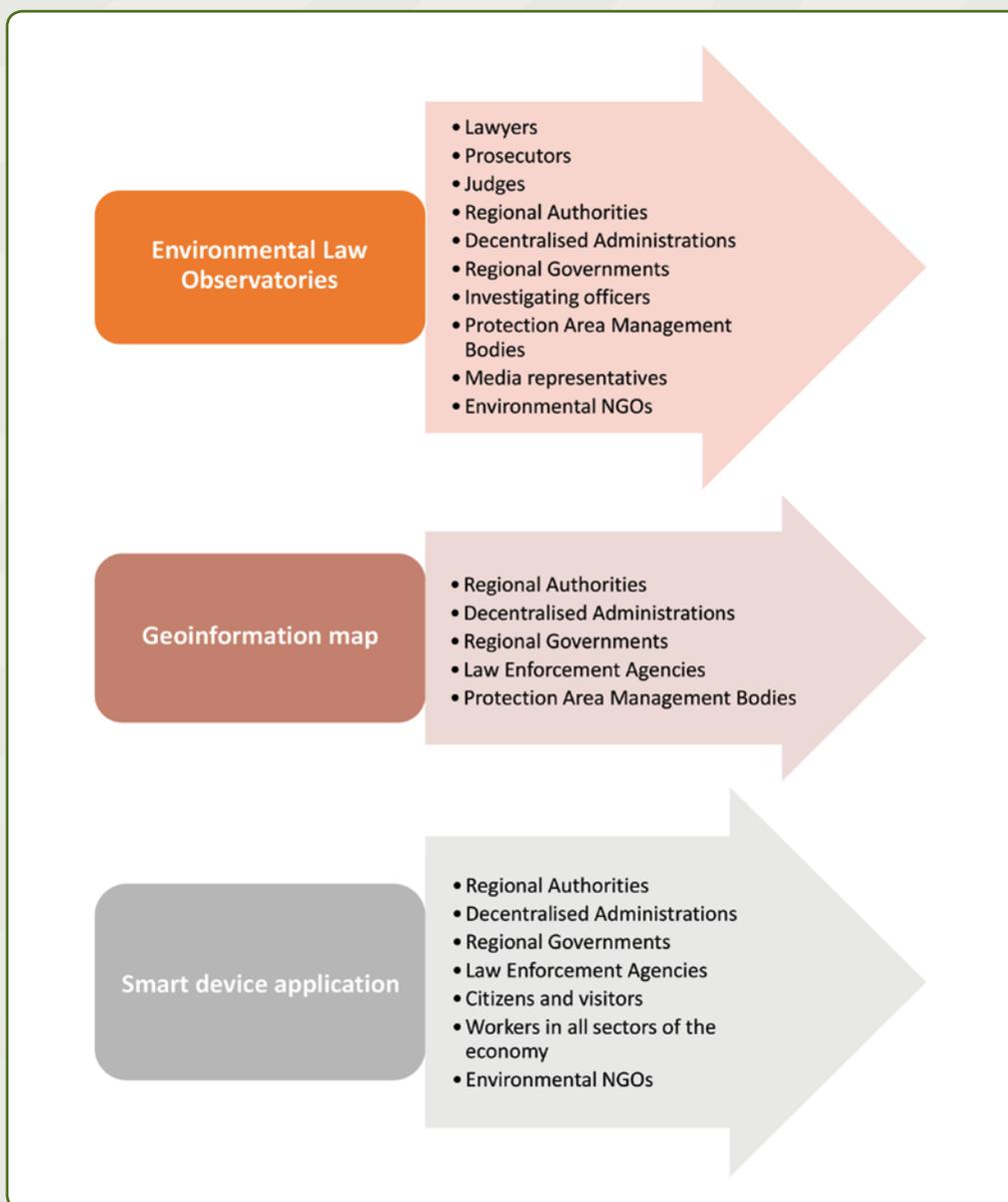


Choosing social partners and target groups and getting them involved is vital for successful implementation of the actions being replicated. Gaining their acceptance and support, combined with a formal or informal commitment from all bodies to work together, assisted by informative, educational and awareness-raising actions boosts the effectiveness of the above tools, ultimately leading to an improvement in the problematic situation those tools are designed to tackle.

Bearing in mind that every area or country faces similar problems, though in an entirely different socioeconomic context, we have roughly sketched out the potential stakeholders and target social groups for each proposed instrument in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3: Summary presentation by action of potential social partners and target groups to be borne in mind by bodies replicating each action.



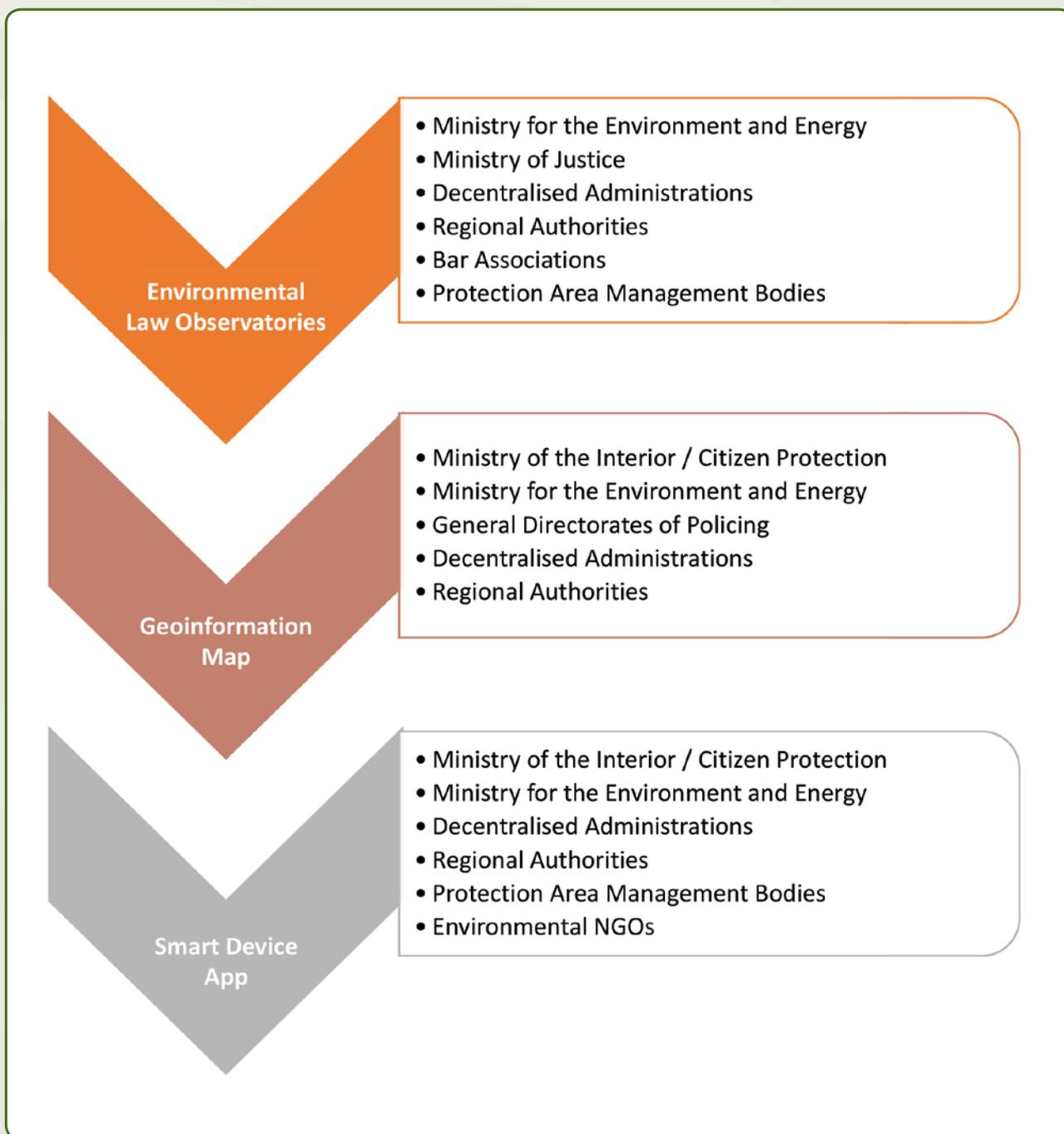
Potential bodies and services for replication and transfer of proposed actions

In determining the potential bodies/agencies that might be interested in and capable of replicating the practices adopted by LIFE Natura Themis, we took into account the experience gained through project collaboration and contacts with local authorities, national authorities and bodies, and also the international relations that developed during the course of the programme (for more detail see Chapter 3).

Figure 4 below presents in brief the potential bodies and agencies capable of carrying out the innovative actions in LIFE Natura Themis, arranged by action. The bodies and agencies appear in order of remit, in the belief that central state co-ordination and implementation is the most suitable and effective recommendation. This is because although the arsenal of Greek environmental legislation may be rich and representative of a series of environmental crimes, such abundance leads to overlapping and the blurring of responsibilities, as emerged in the research carried out by LIFE Natura Themis. These proposals are based on the realities of the Greek state apparatus, and should be adapted or tailored to each country’s political and state conditions.



Figure 4: Potential bodies/agencies for replicating proposed actions in Greece.



Funding sources for replication actions

Replicating the recommended actions from the LIFE Natura Themis project requires funding for the purpose, which may vary depending on which service or agency replicates the tools in question and the geographic area they are to be implemented in. All three (3) actions are generally considered low cost, but stable funding is required to staff, operate and maintain them over time.

By way of illustration, the following potential funding sources are recommended:



National funding

1. State budget for each state/ministry
2. Green Fund and national funds or accounts for environmental actions in general
3. Regional Funds

European funding

1. LIFE funding instrument: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en
2. Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework (PA): <https://www.espa.gr/en/pages/default.aspx>
3. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/
4. European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)-SME https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator_en
5. HORIZON 2020: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>
6. Sources from Heading 1b of the EU Development Strategy for 2019-2024: Cohesion Fund: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2014-2020/funding-programmes/heading-1b-economic-social-and-territorial-cohesion_en and Heading 4: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2014-2020/funding-programmes/heading-4-global-europe_en
7. Internal Security Fund (ISF) funding instrument: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-police_en

Two-way partnerships/projects

1. EU Interreg programme: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/>
2. EU Interreg Balkan-Mediterranean programme: <http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/>
3. EEA and Norway Grants Funding: <https://eeagrants.org/>

Non-Government Organisations (foundations etc.) and other sources

1. United Nations Environment Programme: <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/funding-and-partnerships>
2. Global Environment Facility (GEF): <https://www.thegef.org/about/funding#slide-3>
3. The KR Foundation: <http://krfnd.org/>
4. National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/funding-opportunities/grants/>
5. MAWA Foundation: <https://mava-foundation.org/>
6. Stavros Niarchos Foundation: <https://www.snf.org/el/>
7. Onassis Foundation: <https://www.onassis.org/el/>
8. A.G. Leventis Foundation: <http://www.leventisfoundation.org/el/>



Disseminating / Delivering the Action Plan

To promote the project, its actions and its results, a Communication Plan has been produced and will be disseminated for the After-LIFE period. In promoting the LIFE Natura Themis Replication Plan as widely as possible, introducing our proposals to the largest possible national and international audience, all the partners, collaborating bodies and Advisory Committee members will forward an e-version of this Replication Plan to their associates and professional and social contacts. It will also be posted on the project website and those of Co-beneficiaries, and will be shared with all the organisations, bodies, projects and networks that LIFE Themis Natura worked and networked with over the implementation period (2015-2021).

Networking contacts with new LIFE and non-LIFE projects with similar objectives are scheduled to continue during the After-LIFE period, and all partners have committed to participate in conferences, seminars, round tables, workshops and any other event where they are invited to present the project and its actions, depending of course on available time, financial resources and mobility and meeting capabilities as shaped over recent times due to the course of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have also chosen to send the plan to a large number of national and international agencies, bodies, foundations and networks that we consider it will be of use to. Non-exhaustive lists of agencies, bodies, foundations, professional networks, forums, LIFE and non-LIFE projects etc. to be emailed with this Replication Plan are given in Appendix I. The lists will be added to and expanded as the project continues and after it ends (in the After-LIFE period).



Image 1: Networking visit of the project LIFE Natura Themis to the project LIFE-FORBIRDS in Cyprus, 2017.

CHAPTER 2

The LIFE Natura Themis Project

With the biodiversity, ecology and natural environment of Crete as its principal field of research, also extending to the wider southeast Mediterranean, the University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete has over time been witness to numerous instances of environmental offending. In the context of the partnerships it has built up with local bodies, agencies and Civil Society (SC), the Museum established contact with the Heraklion Bar Association's Environment Committee. Collaboration between us proved to be constructive, as it led to the concept and proposal to implement "Promoting awareness of wildlife crime prosecution and liability for biodiversity damage in NATURA 2000 areas in Crete", the funded project abbreviated to LIFE Natura Themis. This original, innovative plan also brings in the Chania Bar Association, the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy's Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Environmental Liability (MoEE-COIEL).

Project aim and goals

The basic idea behind the programme was to map the following as comprehensively as possible: environmental offending on Crete; how effectively it is monitored and prosecuted; how well the demands of the Environmental Liability Directive are being met (as one of the project's key legal research texts, the emphasis being on NATURA 2000 Network protection areas); whether and to what extent the objectives of allied national environmental legislation are being achieved in Crete Region; and how the remaining national policies and legislation affect the implementation of national and international or European Environmental Law in Greece.

Alongside recording, researching and processing all of the above data –which, as should be noted, was carried out for the first ever time in the country, even if only on a pilot scale– it was deemed necessary to research, record and present practices in other countries associated with effectively implementing the Environmental Liability Directive and Environmental Law, environmental crimes and monitoring and prosecution of them, as well as policies for preventing and dealing with environmental degradation and offending.

The project's key aim was to better acquaint central government, social partners, stakeholder groups and Greek citizens with the conclusions and results arising from processing all of the aforementioned accumulated knowledge and experience. Secondly, our goal was to develop and pilot tools that would be innovative for Greece, potentially contributing to: a) improving the monitoring and prosecution of environmental crimes; b) providing legal and environmental scientific support to state agencies, public and private bodies and administrative groups involved in formulating and implementing environmental plans and policies, whether regionally or nationwide; c) serving as guides in developing innovative modern tools tailored to the needs of the administration and government apparatus in effectively dealing with the ever-worsening phenomenon of environmental offending and degradation in the country.

The ultimate objective of LIFE Natura Themis beneficiaries was to arrive at a tangible improvement in the situation, with a marked reduction in environmental offending as mapped before and during the project implementation period. We hope that the effort, time and financial resources invested in making the scale of the problem understood and galvanizing the state, regional authorities, competent agencies and local societies to tackle the issue effectively have had a positive overall effect and fully achieved our objective.

Main actions

The actions chosen by the project's Beneficiaries can be divided into five (5) general action groups, in line with the submission guidelines for the LIFE programme.

The Preparatory Actions primarily involved the preliminary recording, processing and presentation of environmental crime on Crete from 2010 to 2015, as reflected in the archives of the island's courts, environmental agencies and



law enforcement authorities. Secondly, they involved designing and planning how to implement the information campaign.

The core of the project partners' proposal included: a) piloting the establishment of two Environmental Law Observatories on the island (one in Chania, responsible for Chania and Rethymnon Regional Units, and another in Heraklion, responsible for Heraklion and Lasithi Regional Units); b) creating a pilot Smart Device Application that would enable users to report environmental crimes anonymously; c) carrying out an information campaign across the island by holding workshops, conferences and events; d) educating social partners by holding seminars; e) raising public awareness by drawing on the beneficiaries' contacts and ties with local and national media; and f) disseminating relevant knowledge and information together with the programme's messages by making and distributing printed and electronic information material produced for the purpose.

These key project actions were evaluated by means of two research surveys carried out by the partners. The surveys were conducted throughout the project (at its inception and after the halfway point) so as to map the attitudes and views of the social groups, target groups and the public on the issue dealt with by each action, and the socioeconomic conditions possibly influencing it, as well as possible changes appearing in those stances and views are a result of the programme itself.

The remaining project action categories concerned the implementation of actions promoting and highlighting the programme, in addition to financial and administrative management of it.

Summary results

Relying on the above planning, we worked systematically and consistently throughout the entire LIFE Natura Themis implementation period (October 2015-June 2021); despite the obstacles and problems that may have cropped up over that time, we managed to successfully complete all of the project actions as outlined in our Layman's Report. Some of those results are given in brief below:

1. The scale of environmental offending was mapped for the first ever time in the country's history, in a pilot study carried out on Crete over the five years from 2010 to 2015, by collecting and processing over 1,500 cases officially recorded in the archives of the entire island's courts, agencies and monitoring and law enforcement authorities.
2. The course of environmental crime was tracked via ongoing research in courts, agencies and law enforcement authorities from 2015 to 2020, by recording, processing and publishing the environmental cases recorded and processed by LIFE Natura Themis during the implementation period on the purpose-built geoinformation map created on the project website. Together with monitoring the course of environmental legislation on the national and international level, this task was undertaken by the East and West Crete Environmental Law Observatories, which also acted as intermediaries in promoting and disseminating information to the stakeholders, target groups and local society, in active support of the information campaign. As institutions supporting the enforcement of environmental legislation, we believe the Environmental Law Observatories are one of the two basic instruments that can be used by central and local government, as well as by other areas and countries in reducing environmental offending in the areas they are responsible for. The way they were established and operate is thus included and presented in greater detail in Chapter 4 of this project Replication Plan.
3. The project saw the creation and successful operation of the LIFE Themis Smart Device App, enabling users to file an entirely anonymous report of any incident of environmental degradation they come across in their everyday lives on Crete, in a simple, straightforward manner. Over the 3.5 years the App was in operation (August 2017-April 2021), the administrator (the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature or HSPN) received 253 reports in all, of which 176 were validated and forwarded for investigation and checking by the competent authorities in each area and case. In 2 cases the offender was identified, or a legal case file was prepared, while in 24 instances agencies were able to confirm that the environmental damage had been remedied. Application performance was deemed highly successful; in terms of positive response from users



and agencies we consider it worth adopting as a tool for tackling environmental offending both in other areas of the country and internationally. On that account, the way the Application was created and functioned as the second vital tool in improving environmental crime prosecution is presented in Chapter 4 of this report.

4. All project workers and executives were actively involved as ambassadors of the project within the country and abroad, promoting its actions, accomplishments and results at conferences and forums, research and education institutes, state agencies and monitoring/law enforcement authorities locally, nationally and internationally, professional and scientific networks relevant to the project objective etc. They established a large number of contacts with representatives of LIFE and non-LIFE projects at personal and group level, both via joint project meetings and by participating in events held all over Europe, America and countries elsewhere. This interchange with people struggling, working and fighting to deal with assorted environmental problems that blight humanity in the 21st century generated an enormous volume of information and valuable knowledge capital. Following assessment and processing by the partners' working groups, that capital is presented by way of illustration in Chapter 2 of this plan, in the hope and wish that it may motivate the state, agencies and citizens to undertake further, more effective action to tackle environmental crime in this country and elsewhere.
5. As part of the information campaign, LIFE Natura Themis organised 16 information workshops for the public in a corresponding number of municipalities on Crete, 6 education workshops for members of the security forces and public investigative officials in the island's large towns, 8 training seminars for judges/prosecutors, lawyers, executives and staff in first and second-tier Local Government Organisations, executives and staff in the Decentralised Administration, members of environmental NGOs in Crete and Athens. Furthermore, the programme held 2 national conferences on Crete and 1 international conference in Athens, attracting the interest of experts and the general public alike. Co-hosting the 3rd annual LIFE ENPE conference in Heraklion, Crete, in November 2018, along with the project coordinator, the European Network of Environment Prosecutors, also proved particularly successful. All of the partners organised numerous information events in their local area for officials and the general public, whether presenting the project itself or publicising specific issues it dealt with. They also received a large number of invitations to promote the programme at events organised by other bodies locally, nationally and even internationally.
6. The task of informing others was supported by producing and disseminating scientifically reliable electronic and printed information material, including, among other things: a) 4 technical guides on specialist legal, environmental and general issues for judges/prosecutors, lawyers and administrative officials, investigative staff, and citizens; b) 2 radio and 2 television spots broadcast by local and national Radio and TV stations; c) sending 14 e-newsletters to over 3,000 email addresses of subscribers to the project website; d) 3 volumes of proceedings from the respective conferences held; e) 1 Layman's Report; f) over 250 electronic files of talks, articles and presentations given as part of organising the information workshops, seminars, conferences and other programme events, freely available on the programme's website; g) a series of special printed brochures or publications such as the desk calendar produced by the Heraklion Bar Association in 2016, the HSPN magazine FYSI (NATURE) featuring tri-monthly presentations of the project's actions, the project information brochure and roll-up banners, the After-LIFE Plan and other project reports and deliverables.
7. LIFE Natura Themis' local and national media presence was an integral part of the information campaign, involving the writing and distribution of at least 14 scientific and popular science articles, publication of over 50 press releases and announcements, plus appearances by project team members on over 20 radio and TV programmes or news bulletins at the regional and national level, following invitations from the media. The project itself held 3 press conferences, at the beginning, in the middle and shortly before actions were completed.



Image 2: Presentation of LIFE Natura Themis Application for Smart Devices in a networking event in Cyprus, 2017.

CHAPTER 3

Contacts and networking with European and national projects, national and international bodies and services

Introduction

Although it initially appears to target a specific audience, the object of the LIFE Natura Themis project involves a large number of agencies, bodies, groups and private individuals of varying professional, investigative, social and financial backgrounds. Successfully implementing any project—particularly one with such complex human geography—calls for a strategy activating and connecting the interested parties both with the project itself and with each other. This connecting should lead to closer bonding between the different participants, better communication between them, knowledge and experience exchange, alliance building and, ultimately, the more effective attainment of project goals.

Methodology

Against that background, the University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete in collaboration with the LIFE Natura Themis partners first set out a Communication and Networking Plan both with the programme’s stakeholders and with regional, national and international bodies and agencies, in order to: a) publicise implementation of the LIFE Natura Themis project; b) present the actions and outcomes arising over the course of the project; c) provide information on the actions and outcomes of other similar projects; d) keep working group members’ knowledge up to date; e) follow developments in issues concerning environmental legislation and compliance in other parts of Europe and the world; f) record, process and subsequently make use of good practices highlighted by other bodies and agencies, passing such knowledge on to locally active social partners and beyond.

On another level, the key networking contact groups, bodies, agencies and projects already provided for in the programme proposal were added to via all the partners’ collaboration networks, personal contact between project team members and stakeholders, as well as partners’ personal contacts with other LIFE and non-LIFE programme co-ordinators and project leaders participating in international meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops and visits. There were also direct networking invitations, collaboration agreements signed with specific programmes and research or agency networks involved in implementing the Environmental Liability Directive and environmental legislation in general.

As the LIFE Natura Themis project nears completion, this network has been added to with a large number of contacts established via project information and promotion actions, such as the three conferences held in Heraklion in September 2017 and Athens in November 2018 and on line in June 2021, the eight (8) training seminars and 22 workshops in all, the distribution of electronic and printed programme material, partner participation in national and international conferences held during the project implementation period etc.

Summary description of contacts

In sum, the LIFE Natura Themis project collaborated with the following LIFE and non-LIFE projects:

- LIFE Natura2000 Value Crete – LIFE13 INF/GR/000188
- LifeEiClimA –LIFE13 NAT/GR/000909
- LIFE ENPE –LIFE14/GIE/UK/000043
- ForestLIFE – LIFE14/GIE/GR/000304
- LIFE-FORBIRDS – LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176



- LIFE SKYROSBIODIVERSITY - LIFE09 NAT/GR/000323
- LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija - LIFE14 NAT/MT/000991
- EcoLexLife project - LIFE16 GIE/SI/000728
- LIFE EuroTurtles – LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997
- LIFE+ Meadow Birds – LIFE10 NAT/DE011
- LIFE Euro Large Carnivores - LIFE16 GIEDE/000661
- LIFE Viva Grass - LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189
- LIFE “Cyprus Capacity Building for LIFE – Cyclamen” LIFE14 CAP/CY/000006
- LIFE PRIMED - LIFE17 NAT/GR/000511
- LIFE ForOpenForests - LIFE11 NAT/GR/1014
- LIFE Lynx - LIFE16 NAT/SI/000634
- LIFE GrIn - LIFE17GIC/GR/000029
- LIFE DINALP BEAR - LIFE13 NAT/SI/000550
- LIFE AMYBEAR - LIFE15 NAT/GR/001108
- LIFE SAFE CROSSING - LIFE17 NAT/IT/000464
- LIFE Greek Task Force - LIFE14 CAP/GR/000003 – GR LTF
- LIFE Justice for Nature - LIFE15 GIE/PL/000758
- LIFE Against Bird Crime - LIFE17 GIE/NL/000599
- LIFE APEX – LIFE17 ENV/SK/000355
- LIFE Reason For Hope - LIFE12 BIO/AT/000143
- Project Ancient Cities for Endemic Flora: From Apollo to Athena - A2A
- Copernicus - European Union’s Earth Observation Programme
- ERBFacilityCOST Action (CA16224)

Networking contacts were established during the following events (non-exhaustive list):

- Kick-off Meeting for the LIFE 2014 GIC & GIE projects, Brussels, 28th October 2015
- LIFE Nature Platform Meeting on Wildlife Poisoning, Athens, 19th-20th May 2016
- Meeting on “Action Plan for the biodiversity of Skyros: actions for life”, Skyros, 24th-26th June 2016
- 8th Panhellenic Ecology Conference entitled “150 years of Ecology: Structures, Links, Dynamics and Survival Strategies”, Thessaloniki, 20th-23rd October 2016
- LIFE FORBIRDS on Cyprus project networking meeting, Nicosia, 15th-17th February 2017
- 2017 Annual European Environmental Law Conference, Trier, Germany, 30th-31st March 2017



- 10th Environmental Policy and Management Conference on “Politics and the Environment”, Mytilene, 10th-11th June 2017
- 5th European Environmental Law Forum (EELF) Annual Conference on “Sustainable Management of Natural Resources - Legal Instruments and Approaches”, Copenhagen, 1st September 2017
- LIFE Natura Themis National Conference on “Environmental Liability, Prevention and Remediation: Challenges and Opportunities for Biodiversity Protection in Greece”, 8th-10th September 2017
- GENVAL Experts Evaluation visit to Greece, entitled “8th Round of Mutual Evaluations: The Practical Implementation and Operation of European Policies on Preventing and Combating Environmental Crime”, Athens, 25th April 2018
- Briefing event on the LIFE Funding Instrument, Heraklion, 26th April 2018
- Day conference on the IMPEL Network in Greece, Athens, 3rd May 2018
- “NATURA 2000 Network: Conservation and Sustainable Development”, conference, Chania, 10th-12th May 2018
- IUCN Academy Meeting on Environmental Law, entitled “The Transformation of Environmental Law and Governance: Innovation, Risk and Resilience”, Glasgow, 4th-6th July 2018
- 5th EU-China Conference on Environmental Law, “Green law, economic instruments and environmental crime”, Ghent, Belgium, 29th-30th August 2018
- 9th Panhellenic Ecology Conference, Heraklion, 4th-7th October 2018
- 29th INTERPOL Working Group on Wildlife Crimes meeting, London, 8th-12th October 2018
- LIFE ENPE Project Annual Conference on “Protecting habitats and endangered species in Europe through tackling environmental crime”, co-organised with the LIFE Natura Themis Project, Heraklion, 23rd-24th October 2018
- LIFE Natura Themis Project International Conference on “International Perspectives on Preventing Wildlife Crime”, Athens, 23rd-25th November 2018
- Conference on “The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) in Practice”, Brussels, 29th-30th November 2018
- International day conference on Balkan vultures and their future, entitled “Tackling Threats and Building Network Opportunities”, Messolonghi, 7th-9th December 2018
- 1st European Development Institute Meeting, Tirilye, Turkey, 19th-24th February 2019
- LIFE Viva Grass final event, Vilnius, Lithuania, 27th-28th February 2019
- LIFE ENPE Two-day Workshops on prosecuting waste crime and air pollution, Nicosia, 28th-29th March 2019
- Slovenian LIFE projects networking visit, Thessaloniki, 26th-31st May 2019
- LIFE Greek Task Force Project networking visit, Heraklion, 4th-5th July 2019
- LIFE PriMed networking visit, Thessaloniki, 16th September 2019
- LIFE EcoLEx Project networking visit, Slovenia, 23rd-29th September 2019
- Environmental crime conference on “International collaboration & co-operation in the fight against environmental crime”, The Hague, 28th-30th October 2019.
- Two-day training seminar on plants at archaeological sites, as part of the “From Apollo to Athena” Project,



Antalya, Turkey, 30th-31st January 2020

- Working Group 3 Meeting on Air Pollution, entitled “Prosecuting air pollution crimes”, LIFE ENPE, held online, 12th May 2020
- 31st INTERPOL Wildlife Crimes Working Group Meeting, held online, 25th-27th November 2020

Groups that the partners collaborated with or established personal contacts with on various occasions included:

- Members and representatives of the Cretan Canine Team Against Poison Baits in LIFE09 NAT/ES/000533 “LIFE IAP – After-LIFE project”
- The Schleswig-Holstein Regional Environment Office, Germany
- The INTERPOL Working Group on wildlife crime
- BirdLife Malta
- The European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)
- The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)
- UMASS and MIT, USA
- The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)
- The European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST)
- The Academy of European Law (ERA)
- WWF Bulgaria
- WWF Germany
- BIOPOLITICS NGO
- The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)
- The Rural Crete Observatory
- Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
- The Hellenic Parliament Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection
- The 5th Environment Department, Attica General Police Directorate
- The Cyprus Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- The Naturalis Biodiversity Center
- The University of the Aegean
- The University of Patras
- The National School of Public Administration and Local Government
- The University of Thessaloniki
- The University of Ioannina



Outside Crete, project news and information material was also sent to all environmental NGOs nationwide, to all Protected Area Management Bodies, judge and prosecutor unions and associations, all bar associations in Greece and Cyprus, all Regional and Decentralised Administrations in Greece, institutes of education and other foundations, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and elsewhere.

It is worth noting that at least three (3) opportunities to replicate actions in the LIFE Natura Themis project arose in the course of implementation. Two of these concerned replicating the Smart Device Application, whereby the application was presented and ways of adopting it by two LIFE project coordinators were discussed (LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija - LIFE14 NAT/MT/000991 and ECOLEX LIFE - LIFE16 GIE/SI/000728). The third concerned the Thessaloniki Bar Association setting up an Environmental Law Observatory. Here again, a meeting was held to present the action and technical and organisational details were discussed. Although considerable interest was shown in replicating the two actions, for various reasons neither was replicated by the interested parties, or at least not during the LIFE Natura Themis project implementation period.

The University of the Aegean expressed interest in developing a similar Smart Device Application and setting up an Environmental Law Observatory, for inclusion in a funding submission to the Internal Security Fund call for proposals 2020. Although the application was presented online, its main technical specifications were sent and e-correspondence was entered into with the candidate project partners, in the event the proposal was not submitted. All the same, it may be sent in response to a future call for proposals made by the ISF or other funding instrument.

Outline results of collaborations and contacts

Particularly in regard to networking actions, one milestone in project implementation was our collaboration with the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) and the LIFE ENPE project being implemented by it (LIFE14 GIE/UK/000043). This collaboration proved decisive in broadening contacts and familiarising the European and international legal and environmental world with the LIFE Natura Themis project and environmental law affairs in Greece. Our collaboration culminated in co-organising the 2018 ENPE Annual Conference in Heraklion, Crete, involving co-operation between LIFE ENPE, LIFE Reason for Hope, LIFE Natura Themis and IMPEL.

Participation by LIFE Natura Themis project partners in a series of conferences and workshops held as part of the aforementioned programme (LIFE ENPE), getting to know leading Environmental Law practitioners from Europe, China, Australia, Brazil and other areas of the globe, and exchanging experience and knowhow on environmental law implementation in different countries enriched the working group's knowledge and added to the effectiveness of LIFE Natura Themis actions. At the same time, it lent impetus to further networking actions and contact with other projects or international forums and networks, such as the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST), the Academy of European Law (ERA), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group.

On the other hand, these networking actions promoted LIFE Natura Themis and its innovative activities more widely, as a programme carried out in Greece for the first ever time, highlighting issues of environmental law enforcement and the perpetration, detection, prosecution and legal response to environmental crimes in Greece. Added to the above were issues concerning the socioeconomic repercussions of environmental degradation on communities near and far.

All suitable means were employed to convey the international experiences thus acquired to government ministries, state agencies, local government organisations, monitoring and law enforcement authorities, education and research institutes, environmental conservation and management bodies, environmental NGOs, students and pupils on Crete, plus professional groups and local communities both on the island and in other regions in Greece. The main means were talks and presentations by project group members at various events, articles written for the press and specialist scientific periodicals, reports and briefing letters sent to agencies and bodies, nationwide



Image 3: Co-organising the ENPE Annual General Conference in Heraklion Crete, 23rd-24th October 2018.

distribution of the project's printed and electronic information material, personal contacts with state agencies, public authorities, bodies and foundations, whether targeted or making good use of various opportunities etc.

Some of the knowledge acquired, which we believe is worth promoting and adopting in Greece, too, is presented in the section entitled "Good practices" below. This concerns actions, activities, planning and policies by European and international bodies and agencies in the fight to reduce environmental crimes and degradation.

Interesting actions by other projects and bodies - Good practices

Anti-poaching geolocation transmitters trackers for birds (and mammals)

Best known for their use in biology and animal species research, geolocation transmitters combined with the appropriate monitoring/protection mechanisms and technologically advanced devices at the disposal of law enforcement authorities can be used in effectively clamping down on poaching, and by extension assist in preventing the loss of protected and non-protected species. Satellite monitoring of the threatened Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), a migratory bird, led to the tracking down, arrest and prosecution of an Italian poacher responsible for killing Ibises in 2012. Further information is available on the LIFE Reason for Hope project website (LIFE12 BIO/AT/000143 – "Reintroduction of the Northern Bald Ibis in Europe", <http://waldrapp.eu/index.php/en/en-home>).



Satellite image analysis

Analysing satellite images is an investigation method widely used by the Lombardy Regional Environmental Protection Agency in Italy.

Observation of surface changes and land anomalies via satellite images yields significant information on human activities. Among other things, forests, fires, infilling, use of water and pesticides can easily be investigated by this method. Satellite image interpretation with parallel ground investigation can reveal areas already degraded, deforestation, illegal logging and other environmental crimes, as well as in predicting areas and expanses where such phenomena may appear in the future. All of the above can provide additional assistance to competent agencies and authorities in timely planning to protect areas and avert environmental crimes, as well as in the forward planning of land use and the protection and conservation of protected and vulnerable areas.

Further information at: <http://www.lifethemis.eu/enpeconference2018/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Day-1-1st-breakout-habitats-Sgorbatti.pdf>

Police drones

Unmanned aircraft (drones) are widely used by the Italian police in environmental and wildlife crime law enforcement operations. Using new technologies is just one part of the overall state-level action plan being implemented against environmental degradation in Italy. One of the schemes tackling such crime is the Italian Anti-poaching Plan, which uses both fixed (day and night) surveillance cameras and drones to reach more inaccessible areas, to gather prosecution evidence and finds in support of a full case file. Beyond other considerations, these methods obviate the need to expose law enforcement officers to dangerous conditions and situations.

Further information on the topic is available at: <http://www.lifethemis.eu/enpeconference2018/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Day-1-2nd-plenary-Tedeschi-Marrucci.pdf>.

Environmental Crime Squad

The establishment of a Greek Police Special Squad dedicated to tackling environmental crime (the Environmental Police) is a long-standing demand made by several of the country's environmental NGOs, as well as by government agencies and bodies involved in monitoring and prosecuting environmental crimes. In the context of a LIFE Natura Themis project lecture given at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), the Heraklion Bar Association Coordinator sought a networking meeting with the Massachusetts State Environmental Police during a networking visit to the USA. Although it was not possible to arrange a face-to-face meeting, the Coordinator did manage to speak to agency representatives. As has emerged from other similar contacts made on the issue, setting up such a facility in Greece would be administratively, technically and financially feasible. But doing so calls for political will as well as good planning and coordination.

The mission of the Massachusetts Environmental Police is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through law enforcement, monitoring and effective prosecution in addition to education and public outreach.

Inspired by this networking, an EU member state or, on a local level, the Regional Police Directorate in each region of the country could quite easily set up an "Environmental Crime Squad". Seconding two (2) officers from existing staff (at no additional cost) would suffice to establish a dedicated team. The only requisite would be that they gain more specialist knowledge on a range of environmental, legal and other issues, as well as how to use electronic media and tools (social networks, databases, map and satellite image reading etc.). Having a specialised Environmental Prosecutor would greatly add to the squad's effectiveness.

More information at: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-environmental-police>.



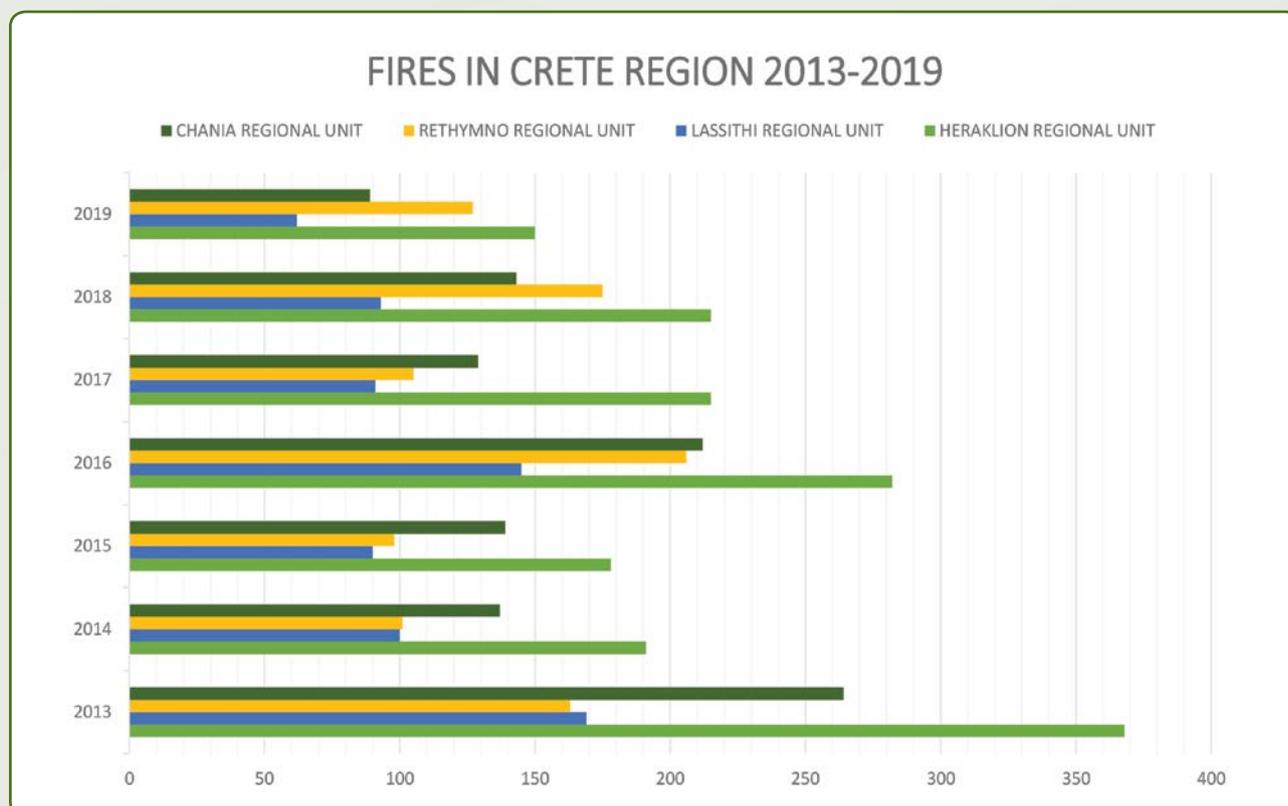
Cross-checking official data

Although the deliberate or even unintentional burning of pastures and scrubland by farmers and stock breeders to improve or create grazing areas may be traditional practice in several Mediterranean countries, doing so is illegal. Since EU subsidies are linked to farm size, cross-checking Fire Service data on fires and arson incidents against the Subsidy Registers held by member state Ministries of Rural Development could easily pick out potential arson suspects, even in forest areas. Files kept by the competent agencies and authorities are now digital, and desktop ready for cross-checking without any need for in situ investigations or monitoring in burned areas. For instance, the Crete Regional Fire Service Administration has implemented the above procedure for over five (5) years. Cross-checking carried out from time to time quite quickly pinpointed farmers or stock breeders suspected of arson, who were then subject to the relevant administrative and criminal sanctions and were removed from the Agricultural Policy Payment Scheme. This has resulted in a marked decrease in fires on Crete over the last seven years, as is evident from the Socioeconomic Study carried out by the LIFE Natura Themis Project in 2020 (Table 2 and Chart 1).

Table 2: Number of fires per Regional Unit in Crete from 2013 to 2019 (Crete Regional Fire Service Administration statistics).

Regional Unit	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
HERAKLION	368	191	178	282	215	215	150
LASSITHI	169	100	90	145	91	93	62
RETHYMNON	163	101	98	206	105	175	127
CHANIA	264	137	139	212	129	143	89
TOTAL	964	529	505	845	540	626	428

Chart 1: Fire trend by Regional Unit on Crete from 2013 to 2019 (Crete Regional Fire Service Administration statistics).





Against Poison Dog Units (APDUs)

These are mixed teams consisting of a handler and a dog specially trained to detect toxic substances, poisoned baits and poisoned animals. In other European countries such teams have already been operating for over 15 years, as units in existing protection and enforcement agencies in protected areas, while in Greece they began operations in 2014, as part of LIFE projects. At present, a total of seven (7) Against Poison Dog Units (APDUs) are operational nationwide, three (3) of which are on Crete. Two of the three subdivisions on Crete have operated in Heraklion and Chania Regional Units since 2017, under the supervision of the 1st Crete and Dodecanese Hunting Federation, being known as the Cretan Canine Team Against Poisoned Baits (CCT APDU). Through their work, they have located and removed **over 850 poisoned baits and over 325 poisoned dead animals** from the countryside. Although locating perpetrators is exceptionally difficult, partly due to the nature of the crime, three (3) arrests have been made since today (April 2021) and a fine and prison sentence has been given in one (1) instance. Beyond these teams' effectiveness in directly reducing wildlife poisoning incidents—by locating and removing toxic substances from the countryside—their presence alone has a decisive impact on informing and raising public awareness on poisoned bait use, while deterring potential future offenders for fear the teams will track them down.



Image 4: The Cretan Canine Team Against Poisoned Baits (CCT APDU) on a joint search by both subdivisions.



Image 5: Two out of the three Against Poison Dog Units of the LIFE Bonelli eastMed project (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000514).

CHAPTER 4

Tools for strengthening environmental crime prosecution and environmental legislation compliance implemented as part of the LIFE Natura Themis project

Introduction

From the outset, the LIFE Natura Themis included the use of new, innovative tools for tackling environmental crime and strengthening law enforcement in its implementation proposal. These were tools developed and put to use for the first ever time in Greece. The project's objective was to try out ideas suggested by environmental legislation and implementation experts, as well as suggestions made by the partners arising from their experience in tackling instances of environmental degradation and offending.

The tools designed, deployed and piloted on Crete were studied and evaluated for their effectiveness. This Replication Plan recommends they be implemented by bodies and agencies in other areas of Greece and/or other countries facing similar environmental law enforcement issues.

In particular, it is recommended that the following LIFE Natura Themis actions be replicated:

- Environmental Law Observatories.
- Geoinformation map for recording instances of environmental degradation and environment crimes subject to legal and administrative proceedings.
- Smart device application for anonymous denouncing/reporting instances of environmental crime/environmental degradation.

A general description of these tools is given below, followed by the fullest possible presentation of technical, administrative and financial design details.

Environmental Law Observatories

As part of LIFE Natura Themis, two (2) Environmental Law Observatories were planned, established and opened on Crete, one in Chania and the other in Heraklion, as support facilities for the Chania and Heraklion Bar Associations respectively.

The East Crete Environmental Law Observatory has operated in Heraklion since November 2016, under the supervision of the Heraklion Bar Association (a LIFE Natura Themis Co-beneficiary), covering Heraklion and Lasithi Regional Units; the West Crete Environmental Law Observatory has operated in Chania since October 2016, under the supervision of the Chania Bar Association (a LIFE Natura Themis Co-beneficiary), covering Chania and Rethymnon Regional Units.

The Observatories are entirely independent in operation and are highly outward-looking, being part of their local Bar Associations rather than state bodies or academic institutions, thus safeguarding their objectivity.

The aim of the two Environmental Law Observatories is to gather evidence on environmental infringements in the Regional Units in their remit, essentially continuing the research that preceded during the preparatory action in the first year of programme implementation (referred to at the beginning of this report).

The research being carried out by them consists in keeping systematic records of decisions by the Criminal Courts on Crete relating to environmental crimes (authorised primary research on files containing sensitive personal data) and the fines imposed in certified instances of environmental infringements, spatio-temporal reporting of information gathered using GIS systems on the innovative project's geoinformation map (see below), and direct dissemination of that information to the general public.



The research carried out to date by the East and West Crete Environmental Law Observatories has led to useful conclusions on the percentage of environmental case deferrals, mean duration from perpetration to trial, acquittal and time-barred percentages for environmental crimes, typology of such crimes etc. Furthermore, it has served to highlight the significance of drawing up the charge sheet, as its completeness greatly impacts the efficacy of environmental crime prosecution.

A significant part of work by the East and West Crete Environmental Law Observatories (ELOs) was dedicated to monitoring the development of European and national environmental legislation, environmental jurisprudence and its evaluation in relation to other jurisprudence directly or indirectly impacting the Environmental Liability Directive. Furthermore, there were instances when the ELO Coordinators made interventions commenting on laws during the consultation stage or submitted improvement proposals on legal texts in collaboration with each Bar Association's informal Environment Committee.

At the same time, the East and West Crete ELOs inform and raise awareness among legal circles in their remit area of developments in environmental legislation, provide legal and administrative advice to citizens and administrative officials on issues concerning the programme's subject matter, organise assorted actions in collaboration with various bodies to raise environmental awareness among participants, and keep communication channels with local society permanently open via local media.

Any Bar Association or state/regional agency or Protected Area Management Body wishing to replicate the above tool for the same specific goal should bear the following in mind:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The East and West Crete ELOs operate in separate spaces within the Heraklion and Chania Bar Association Offices respectively, with their own office equipment.

Accommodation and maintenance costs are zero where ELOs are housed within agency or Bar Association facilities/offices. If they were to operate in their own space, all potential annual maintenance costs (rent, telephone and internet lines, cleaning etc.) would have to be provided for.

The cost of buying office equipment is the average cost for accommodating at least two (2) employees and members of the public. Approximately speaking, depending on the size and population of the region being served, this would require: 2 desks and office chairs, 1 bookcase, a complete waiting room suite or chairs for the public, two workstations with a desktop PC or laptop, a dedicated telephone line and an internet connection.

STAFFING

Ideally, proper operation of an ELO under the auspices of a body or agency calls for the employment of at least two (2) lawyers: one (1) full-time lawyer for office work and one (1) part-time lawyer to carry out research in archives held by courts, the Regional Authority, the Decentralised Administration, Police Departments, Port and Fire Stations etc. The average monthly salary cost of an in-house lawyer in Greece (including insurance contributions, taxes etc.) is €2,000.00.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Conducting research in court archives in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) required the issue of a special free access permit to each court archive separately (Courts of First Instance, Magistrate's Courts, Criminal Courts, Courts of Appeal), granted by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (<https://www.dpa.gr/el>). Subject to alteration, the Data Protection Authority NO LONGER (2021) issues such permits. Instead, the onus for complying with GDPR demands lies with those responsible for data processing, making use of the jurisprudence formulated by the Authority thus far, which is prolific on all issues.

At least in the case of Crete Region, researchers should bear in mind that only a handful of agencies (such as the



Fire Service) have digital archives of incidents. The bulk of research has to be carried out by sifting through and reading all the handwritten files, setting environmental cases aside for recording. As regards the Greek courts in particular, efforts are currently underway to digitise the archives of all courts in Athens, Piraeus and Thessaloniki, though there is no clear timetable for their counterparts elsewhere in the country.

Furthermore, no agency uses distinct classification codes for environmental crimes. To take a typical example, the Greek Police does not have a separate code for environmental incidents.

The basic protocol used by LIFE Natura Themis in recording environmental crimes within or close to NATURA 2000 Network Protection areas includes:

- Regional Unit where the crime was committed (Chania, Rethymnon, Heraklion or Lasithi RU in the case of Crete)
- year the environmental crime was committed
- type of environmental crime committed (according to the LIFE Natura Themis classification protocol, i.e.: Liquid Waste, Illegal Economic Activity, Shoreline Alteration, Marine Environment Degradation, Illegal Building, Arson, Wildlife Crime, Illegal Grazing, Poaching, Illegal Camping, Illegal Wood-cutting, Poisoned Baits, Road Building, Land Degradation, Illegal Quarrying Activity, Water Degradation, Clearing Forested Areas)
- prosecution stage for each case [preliminary investigation, pressing charges, unknown outcome, acquittal, appeal, conviction, time-barred, case dropped (Art. 43, Criminal Law Code), case dropped due to time limitation (Law 4198/12), case dropped due to unidentified perpetrators, environmental damage remedied, fine imposed, scale of fine].

All data gathered are entered into a database for systematic processing (by year, crime type, Regional Unit and prosecution stage). The results and conclusions drawn are published in annual reports by the ELOs, submitted to competent agencies or presented to the media and at events (conferences, workshops, networking meetings etc.) that the LIFE Natura Themis project takes part in.

The above data are also fed into the Geoinformation map Monitoring Environmental Crime on Crete, the innovative LIFE Natura Themis tool presented in the following section.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND ADAPTATION

Operating as they are for the first ever time in Greece, the Environmental Law Observatories have faced certain organisational and operational difficulties. These have been overcome with sufficient effort by all partners, yielding significant knowledge and experience.

Nonetheless, major obstacles that the project could not overcome did arise. The following depend on political will and state intervention, and should be resolved as soon as possible:

- All agencies/bodies should transition to the digital era
- A separate code for environmental crimes should be used by all co-competent agencies/bodies/courts
- The Penal Code should be rationalised, repealing laws and ordinances that “decriminalise” environmental crimes, reduce sentences or lead to them being time limited
- Environmental law should be codified
- A unified digital system for calculating fines should be adopted, and terms and preconditions for their collection should be tightened up
- A single nationwide environmental crime monitoring body should be established
- The Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Environmental Liability (MoEE-COIEL) and the Environmental Inspectors should be strengthened with additional staff, equipment and responsibilities.



Geoinformation map for monitoring environmental offences

The above research conducted by the Environmental Law Observatories is accessible to agencies, bodies and the general public on the project website: <http://www.lifethemis.eu/el/program/deliverables/environmental-crime-map> (Image 7). Via the geoinformation map, users can quickly and easily obtain data on the place, time, type and stage in the legal process of environmental crimes on Crete, with personal data fully respected. This is a truly innovative platform with the potential for additional uses and analyses, which at present fills a major gap in environmental information on Crete, and which could also serve as a model for disseminating such knowledge in the rest of Europe.



Image 6: Illegal construction of a road to a protected habitat. Afrathias, Municipality of Phaistos, 2014.

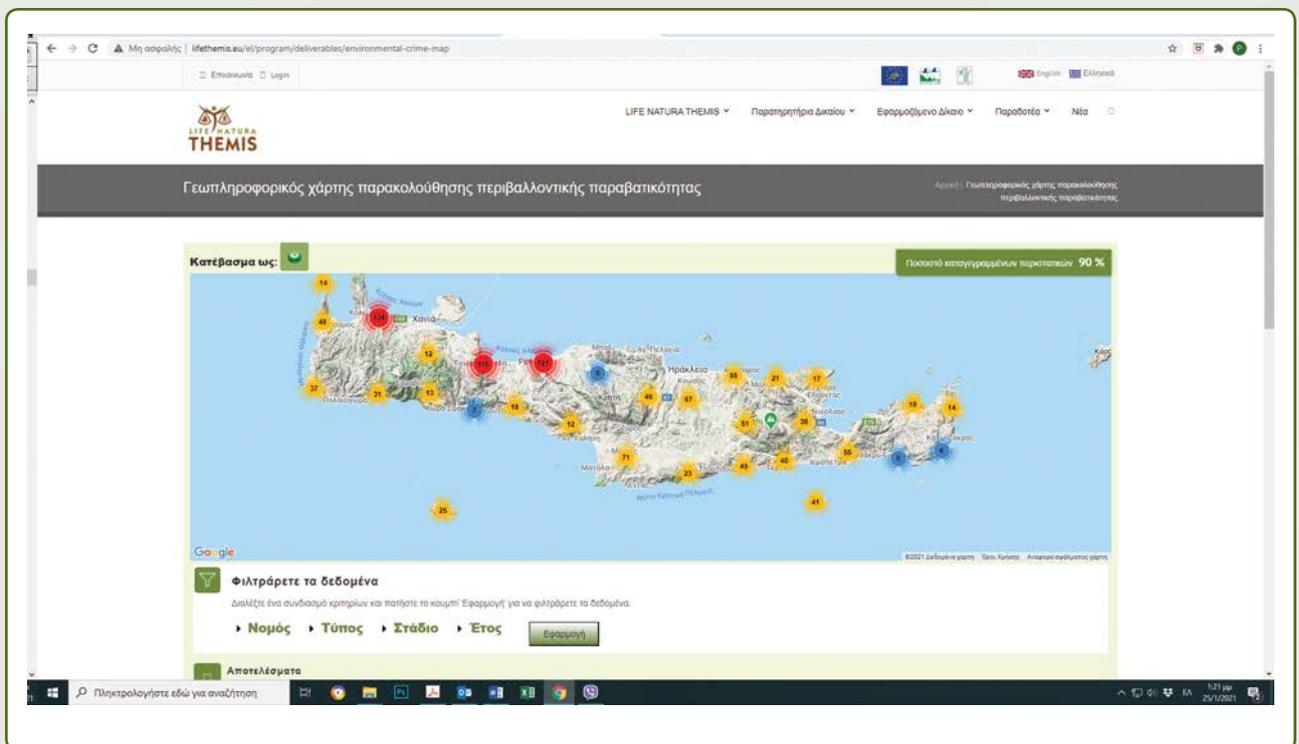


Image 7: The geoinformation map monitoring environmental crime on Crete as it appears on the project website (www.lifethemis.eu).



At the same time, the geoinformation map is an important strategic planning tool. As can be seen in Image 7, the map enables users and government authorities in particular to pinpoint high crime rate zones, e.g. areas where marine environment degradation is common, and thus to institute targeted, appropriate prevention and suppression measures.

The geoinformation map shows prosecutions of crimes against fauna and flora within or close to NATURA 2000 Network Protection Areas, as emerging from research conducted by the East and West Crete Environmental Law Observatories (see previous section).

The prosecution cases officially recorded by the State Prosecutor's Office in each local Court of First Instance only represent part of all actually occurring instances of environmental degradation. It should be noted that if a given government agency is more effective than another, the data provided by it will show higher percentages in its field of activity, without necessarily reflecting a true picture of prosecution for the respective crimes. Notwithstanding the reality on the ground, i.e. crimes recorded versus crimes actually committed, the LIFE Natura Themis group collated and recorded cases officially declared by the competent investigative authorities, aiming for the first ever time to depict, render countable and quantitatively map environmental crime on Crete.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The environmental crime geoinformation map was created using the programme website CMS (Drupal 7). To that end a separate content type was created, for recording data such as area name, regional unit, type, complaint status and geographical location. The Google Maps API is used for location, which enables users updating the database to add or change an existing point on a Google Maps background. Where known, co-ordinates can also be added to the appropriate fields.

At all events, incident location is given approximately, which is one reason why the moderators have limited the map zoom facility. Another more important reason for doing so is to prevent a specific location from being associated with specific individuals, in what could amount to a potential breach of personal data. This limitation arose at the very outset of LIFE Natura Themis project implementation, when all bodies holding and processing files of this kind were required to comply with General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679, dated 27th April 2016.

The default view of incidents is via a Google Maps map showing their positions. At the same time, this information can be viewed as an incident description table, without geographical co-ordinates for the reasons mentioned above.

The cost of creating a geoinformation map is included in the design cost of the host website. If created separately, cost is limited to the mean website building price in a given market (e.g., €3,000.00 - €5,000.00 for the Greek market).

STAFFING

Website and map maintenance, data entry and updating, statistical monitoring, drawing conclusions and making information usable by a given agency or body requires the employment of one (1) part-time employee experienced in website administration, at a mean monthly cost of €1,000.00 (including insurance contributions, taxes etc. Greek case).

In the case of LIFE Natura Themis, inputting data into the geoinformation map was performed by the East and West Environmental Law Observatories, with support from the IT Manager at the University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete. Employment cost in this instance was thus included on the payroll of the ELO for the co-ordinating lawyers, and that of the Special Account for Research Funds of University of Crete (SARF UoC) for the UC-NHMC IT Manager.

Were replication of this action to provide for nationwide data coverage, mapping the entire country, staffing demands would increase exponentially, depending on the number of agencies and bodies contributing data, receiving rate, accuracy and so on.



Our recommendation is that a geoinformation covering the whole country should be replicated, operating as a data entry platform with access rights granted to all agencies nationwide.

A project of that scale clearly calls for full computerisation of all agencies, training for all employees involved, strict adherence to the protocol by all users, and use of the map by the entire state apparatus.

METHODOLOGY

As mentioned above, the data entered into the geoinformation map come from information released by selected public agencies with an investigative remit (the Forestry Directorate, the Police, the Gamekeeping Guard etc.), as well as the courts on Crete. The map is constantly updated, depending on information flow from the agencies to the coordinators. Users are updated on the percentage of received records entered. Unofficial complaints, oral reports and information provided anonymously are not entered. Locations are indicated approximately. All information released is stored in an electronic database at the University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete.

With the geoinformation map, the East and West Crete Environmental Law Observatories have introduced a new technological tool in the prevention and suppression sector. It is an extremely arduous task, depending for its success on quantifiable factors such as recording rate and ELO timing, and unpredictable ones such as access to data and the speed at which public bodies respond. The dynamic nature of the research, involving constant updating of the data that the LIFE Natura Themis statistics depended on, means that the following explanations and provisos are necessary:

- The sole criterion for assigning the research to the Heraklion and Chania Bar Associations was the large number of cases handled by the Heraklion and Chania Courts of First Instance.
- Allocation of cases to East and West Crete is purely administrative in nature. The large volume of data was grouped by origin, i.e. the courts and agencies where they are collected (Chania, Rethymnon, Heraklion and Lasithi). Results were obtained for the sum total of the island.
- The aim of recording and statistical analysis is to better plan monitoring, arrive at qualitative and quantitative estimates of offences and the sentences they attract, predict the perpetration of criminal acts, strengthen inter-agency co-operation between law enforcement authorities and raise awareness in local societies.
- Environmental crimes and infringements were posted without reference to the accused / perpetrator, after checking in the crime archives of investigative authorities and judicial decisions. To safeguard confidentiality and protect the perpetrators' personal data, official permission was granted by the competent Data Protection Authority.
- The prosecution cases recorded in local Prosecutor's Offices only represent part of the true number of environmental degradation cases.
- It goes without saying that recording was carried out without prejudice to the effectiveness of prosecution. Agencies more active in terms of prosecutions will show higher rates in particular fields, without that necessarily reflecting the true rates of the corresponding crimes in relation to others.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS - ADAPTATIONS

The aim of posing ELO research data on the geoinformation map was to launch a new era in enforcement, prevention and suppression. The map may contribute:

- to better plan monitoring,
- to assess criminal acts both qualitatively and quantitatively,
- to predict the perpetration of criminal acts,



- to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement authorities,
- to raise community awareness and prosecute environmental crime more effectively.

If this action were to be replicated by a state agency, as we unreservedly recommend, the geoinformation map would not necessarily have to be accessible by the general public, though if nothing else it would have to be available to any other agency or body working on that particular issue or having responsibility for the monitoring, prosecution and prevention of environmental crimes.

For instance, if the geoinformation map is replicated by a Regional Authority, it will have to be accessible by the corresponding Decentralised Administration, the General Regional Police Directorate, the competent Protection Area Management Body, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy etc. Similarly, if the map is replicated by the Protection Area Management Body, provision will have to be made for data to be accessible by all competent agencies and law enforcement authorities.

As mentioned above, prosecution cases entered in the database only represent part of the true number of environmental degradation cases; it goes without saying that data entry was without prejudice to the effectiveness of each agency in prosecuting. As such, it does not reflect the full extent of environmental crime. Nevertheless, together with other tools it is capable of boosting the effectiveness of monitoring, prosecution and environmental law enforcement.

Ideally, the map could provide technological backup for establishing a nationwide facility for Environmental Crime Prosecution in Greece, as an independent special branch of the Greek Police (the Environmental Police, as a distinct Directorate in the Ministry of the Environment and Energy under the aegis of the Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Environmental Liability (MoEE-COIEL) and/or the Environmental Inspectors and the COIEL, or even as a facility in the new Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), limited to use within areas under NECCA jurisdiction, i.e. NATURA 2000 Network Protection Areas.



Smart devices app

One innovative LIFE Natura Themis action was definitely the LIFE THEMIS smart devices app, created for the project by the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (a LIFE Natura Themis beneficiary, which was the partner responsible for carrying it out). This user-friendly, functional app enables citizens to report or file a complaint anonymously or by name of any incident that comes to their notice which they regard as an environmental violation, infringement or crime. Having photographed the incident, citizens can inform the application administrators by ordinary message, without having to go to the competent authority, thus saving time and money. The report/complaint is evaluated and forwarded to the agencies most appropriate for carrying out a preliminary inspection, investigation, locating the perpetrator, imposing a fine or any other process for which legal or administrative provision is made in regard to the violation in question.

The LIFE THEMIS application is available in two languages, and is being piloted for the whole of Crete. Its effectiveness has been monitored for the entire duration of the project.

It is a user-friendly, functional application available for use with both Android and iOS devices (smartphones, tablets and other smart devices).

The application operates as follows: Having completed installation via Google Play (for Android), the App store (for iOS) or by scanning the corresponding QR codes, users can file a report/complaint using the steps below:

- a. First of all, device location must be enabled. The problem to be reported should then be photographed (up to 4 images).
- b. A relevant comment or text is then written, using possible keywords to outline the violation (e.g. rubble tipping, shoreline alteration etc.) if desired.
- c. The message is sent automatically.
- d. Where internet access is unavailable, the device stores the report locally and sends it automatically when a connection is established.
- e. The site of the violation is automatically entered by the device's positioning system

The application administrators then take over: having received the message/report/complaint, they check it for accuracy and reliability, codify the report by assigning it to the corresponding environmental crime category, identify the competent agency or agencies, forward the complaint accordingly and then monitor how the case progresses and evolves.

All of the above are performed entirely anonymously (if the user wishes), entirely automatically and in real time, thus facilitating matters for citizens as well as for the competent agencies: citizens wishing to respond directly to illegal acts, because they can do so at the least possible inconvenience; and competent agencies, because they are provided with valuable information, such as the precise incident location and photographic documentary evidence, enabling them to act immediately and effectively.

In short, far from being a dead letter, this particular LIFE Natura Themis application empowers each and every one of us to make a substantial contribution to tackling environmental degradation simply by using our mobile phones, safeguarding our anonymity, without causing us undue inconvenience.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The LIFE THEMIS application was developed for ANDROID and iOS so as to cater for the entire range of current devices (mobile phones, tablets etc.). Android Studio was used for the Android app, and Apple XCODE for its iOS counterpart. Quick Response (QR) codes were created for both systems to facilitate users in installing the app on their devices.

The App is supported by a specially dedicated website built using PHP code, communicating directly with the server where each report is automatically recorded in a MYSQL database.

The cost of producing the application, together with building the support website and administrator platform came to €10,000.00, including administrator training, an administrator video guide, an annual upgrade and technical support for the partners throughout the project period. Upgrading the LIFE Themis smart device application to provide geospatial coverage for the entire country would not exceed €5,000.00.

Purchasing and renewing the website name costs in the order of €50.00 annually, while obtaining QR codes came at a one-time payment of approximately €100.00.

Bodies potentially looking to replicate the action should definitely make provision for the cost of promoting the Smart Device Application among citizens. This cost will invariably depend on the tools and promotion media used, and the size of population the agency or body wishes to cover.



Image 8: Illegal waste dumping in a NATURA 2000 area. Tsoutsouros, Municipality of Archanes-Asterousia, 2015.

STAFFING

Bearing in mind that the LIFE THEMIS app only covers Crete Region, and that the campaign promoting it was included in the general project information campaign, one (1) full-time employee was required to receive reports, evaluate them, forward them to the competent authorities, inform users etc. The average monthly wage cost of the employee administering the application as part of the LIFE Natura Themis project is estimated to be €1,800.00 (including insurance contributions, taxes etc.).

If the Smart Device Application is replicated by agencies or bodies with a wider geographical remit and a tailor-made information campaign is adopted to promote it among the general public, complaint volume could theoretically increase, thus calling for a larger number of permanent, full-time staff to administer complaints. Particularly for agencies that operate around the clock (e.g. the Greek Police, the Fire Service, the Coast Guard, etc.), provision should be made for at least two (2) administrators per day, so as to cover at least two shifts.

With regard to staffing demands, a series of factors possibly affecting the number of reports and sending rate should be borne in mind, such as the population of the area covered, the number of active NGOs and informal environment groups or movements active there, the presence and size of industrial and other activities causing disturbance or pollution, local awareness raising, tourism numbers and seasonality etc.



Image 9: Illegal movement of a vehicle in a wetland. Aposelemis, Municipality of Hersonissos, 2011.

METHODOLOGY

The Application uses each device's GPS to store the geographical position accompanying the photograph and, by extension, the associated report. It also uses a compression algorithm for the photograph to reduce its size, making it easy to send via data, as the app is mainly used in locations where a wi-fi network connection is unavailable.

The website database records incident data, photographs documenting it, any user comments and the geographical location of the incident (Image 10).

Administrators can access the database directly via an administration panel, enabling them to forward the report straight to competent agencies via email with the photographs as attachments. It also allows standardised or manually written replies to users, and can automatically compare geospatial data, pinpointing reports near to each other and alerting administrators as to a possible connection between them. Administrators can export the database using the administration panel and, if wished, perform statistical analysis on reports (Images 11a and 11b).

Administrators each have their own individual access code to the panel. Having declared he or she will take on a given report, the administrator checks image quality recording the possible infringement and whether there is a text associated with subject shown, cross-checks the accuracy of the position on the map (using Google maps, Google Earth or other satellite remote sensing means), enters it as valid or not valid and then proceeds to write a report letter including all data.

Which agencies the administrator turns to on each occasion directly depends on the nature of the reported incident and the place where it has occurred.

In addition to the database and the admin panel, the site also has a visitor-viewable side, offering information on the project and the Application and showing reports on a map (Image 12). At present this function has been deactivated to conform with the demands of the General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679, dated 27-4-2016), as new smart device location reporting is usually highly accurate, and there is always the possibility that the potential perpetrator could be readily identified.



Themis

01/01/2020 - 05/03/2021

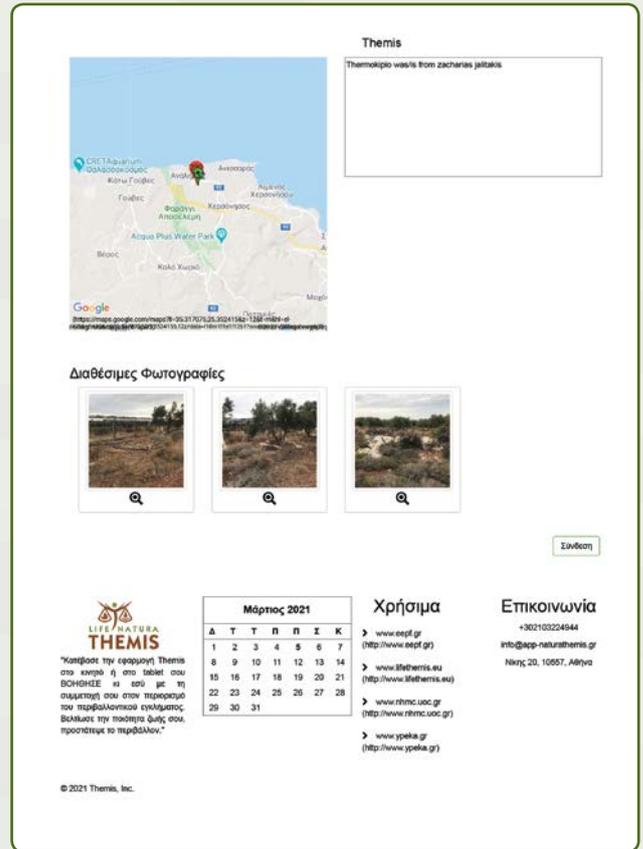
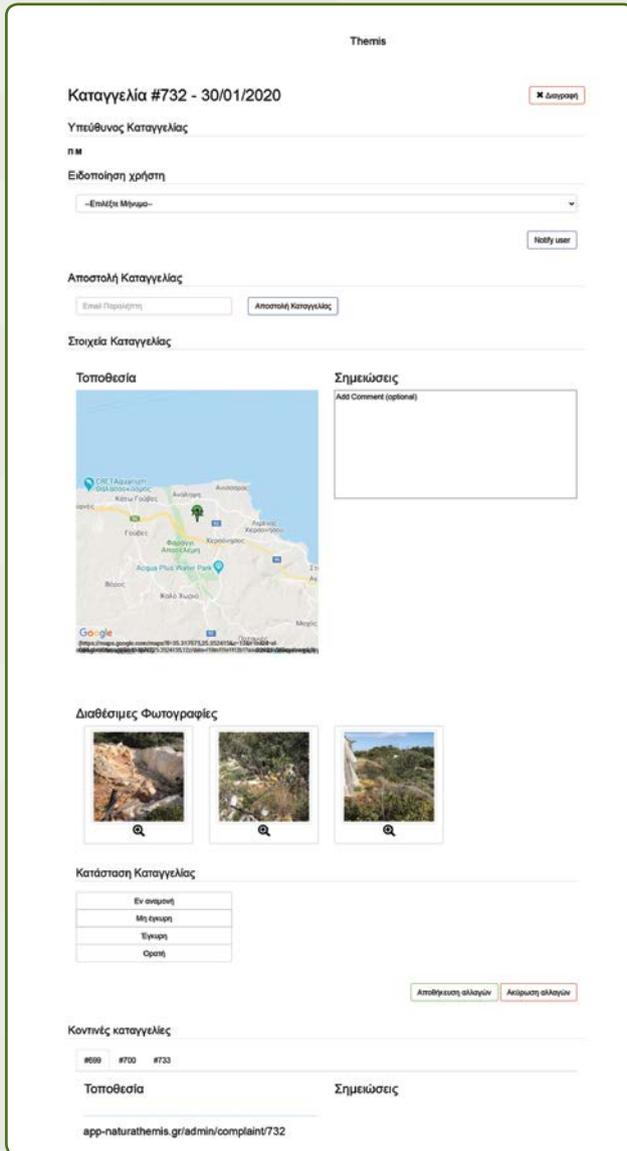
Όλα Εν αναμονή Έγκυρη Μη έγκυρη Ορατή

Δείξε 10 εγγραφές

id	Υπεύθυνος	Ημ/νια	Κατάσταση	Εικόνες	Σημειώσεις	Λεπτομέρειες
738	Χ Γ	16/02/2020	Έγκυρη		Παρατημένο αυτοκίνητο μέσα στη φύση, νότια της λίμνης Κουρνά.	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.328065,24.256813333333337) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/738)
737	Χ Γ	12/02/2020	Έγκυρη		Αλμυρός Ηρακλείο Κρήτης	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.33853361138532,25.066363820806146) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/737)
736	Χ Γ	02/02/2020	Εν αναμονή		Στο δρόμο για τις Μενιές.	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.5351432,24.138919) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/736)
735	Χ Γ	02/02/2020	Μη έγκυρη			 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.432218040825745,23.691468210024496) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/735)
734	Χ Γ	02/02/2020	Έγκυρη		Σκουιδόσποτος - αποστρωμάτριο ζύλων κοντά στα Αρμανάγια.	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.12651633333334,25.172649999999997) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/734)
733	Π Μ	30/01/2020	Μη έγκυρη		Add Comment (optional)	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.31724696579715,25.35123027382533) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/733)
732	Π Μ	30/01/2020	Μη έγκυρη		Add Comment (optional)	 (http://maps.google.com/maps? q=loc:35.31707526048857,25.35241545261297) Λεπτομέρειες (http://app-naturathemis.gr/admin/complaint/732)

id Υπεύθυνος Ημ/νια Κατάσταση Εικόνες Σημειώσεις Λεπτομέρειες

Image 10: The admin panel as viewed on the administrator’s computer.



Images 11a and 11b: Screenshot of the report administration field in the admin panel

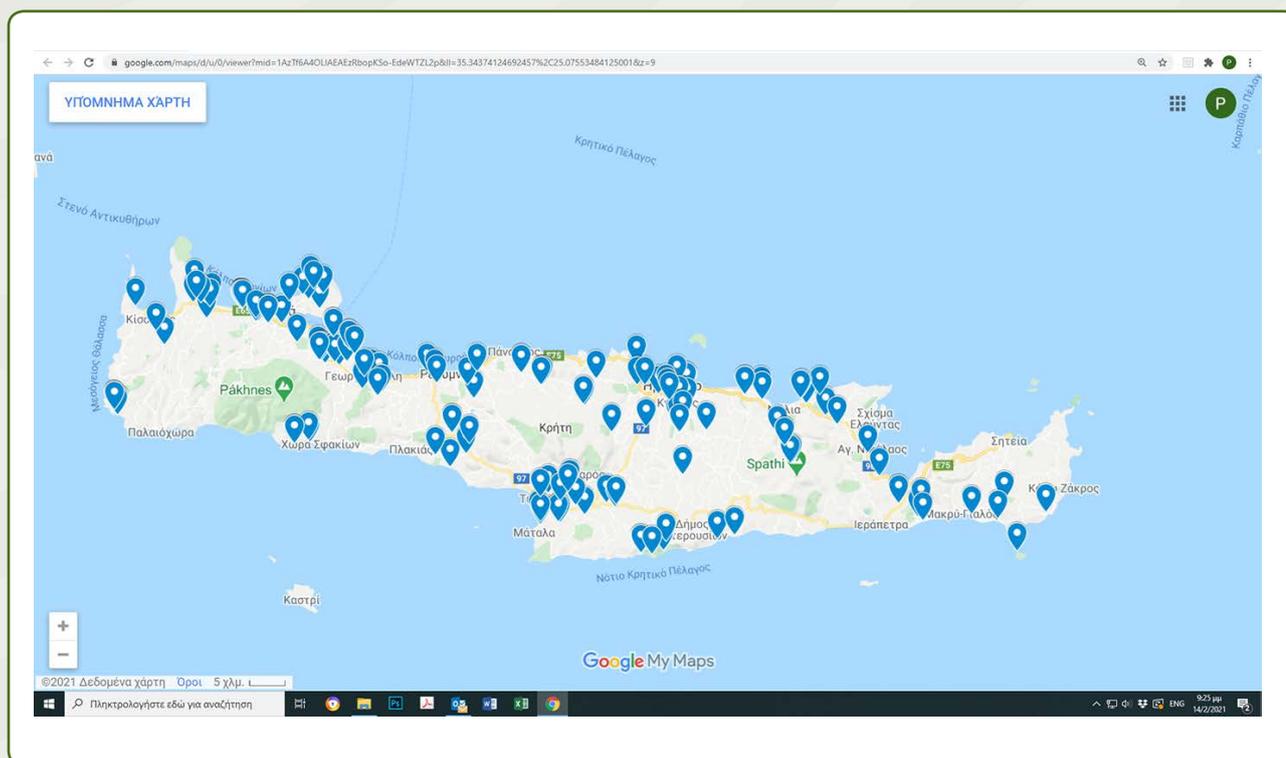


Image 12: Map showing valid reports on the LIFE THEMIS Smart Device Application, activated for Replication Plan writing purposes

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND ADAPTATION

As mentioned above, the LIFE THEMIS Smart Device Application recommended for replication can be used as it stands, by cheaply and easily adapting coverage breadth to the area where it is to be implemented.

Although the application's effectiveness in tackling environmental violations is guaranteed, a number of recommendations could improve performance – not so much of the app, but of how complaints are managed.

In particular, we recommend the following:

- The application should be replicated and operate as part of work by a regional or nationwide law enforcement agency. This would preferably be the Greek Police, as it is an agency that operates around the clock, has a brief covering the entire spectrum of economic and social activity, and can intervene directly to prevent and suppress criminal activity, as well as having the manpower required and the basic logistical equipment needed. It is thus capable of averting potential environmental crime and degradation, making on-the-spot arrests and pressing charges, while also having direct access to all agencies to seek enforcement, administrative or legal backup. The immediacy of intervention and enforcement effectiveness decrease depending on the agency or body wishing to adopt this tool, with Protection Area Management Bodies and environmental NGOs being less likely to make serious use of the LIFE THEMIS app's capabilities.
- Improvements could be made to the admin panel and database in particular, facilitating the administrators in processing, monitoring and performing statistical analysis on reports. To be specific, including one (1) additional field for automatically classifying possible infringements (based on the model used by the LIFE Natura Themis Environmental Law Observatories in recording data from court and agency archives), one (1) additional field for recording replies from agencies and one (1) additional field for report outcome (e.g., environmental degradation restored, fine imposed, perpetrator identified, judicial decision, case dropped, case outstanding etc.) would improve the monitoring of report flow and development, as well as of intervention capabilities and effectiveness in prosecuting perpetrators and restoring environmental damage, and thus in protecting the environment.



As part of their After-LIFE commitments, The University of Crete – Natural History Museum of Crete, the Ministry of Environment and Energy’s Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Environmental Liability (MoEE-COIEL), the Heraklion and Chania Bar Associations and the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature will continue to operate and use the aforementioned actions over the next five (5) years. They will also remain at the disposal of any agency or body wishing to carry out any of those actions, to provide further information and advice on replicating and transferring them elsewhere in Greece or abroad.



Image 13: Illegal abandonment of old vehicles inside the gorge. Mourtzana, Municipality of Platanias, 2018.



Image 14: Arbitrary temporary construction at the site Pontes-Vathi, Municipality of Phaistos, 2015.



Image 15: Remnants of a night party in the wetland of Karteros Municipality of Heraklion, 2013.



Contact details for all partners are available below. Further information on the LIFE Natura Themis-LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026 project and its actions can be found on the project website, at <http://lifethemis.eu/>.

UNIVERSITY OF CRETE – NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF CRETE

Dr Michalis Probonas, Coordinator of the Project

Knossos Avenue Premises, Office C213

GR-71409, Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Tel. +30 2810 393265

E-mail: mprobonas@nhmc.uoc.gr

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY

Mrs Stavroula Pouli, Coordinator for MoEE-COIEL

119, Mesogeion Avenue

GR-10192 Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 213 1513277, 213 1513724

E-mail: sygapez@ypeka.gr

HERAKLION BAR ASSOCIATION

Dr. Jorgos Sbokos, Coordinator of HBA

Theotokopoulou Street 28

GR-71202 Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Tel.: +30 2814 007442

E-mail: observatoryeastcrete@gmail.com, sbokosjorgos@gmail.com

CHANIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Mrs Maria Maniadaki, Coordinator for CBA

Eleftherias Square, Chania Courthouse

GR-73134 Chania, Crete, Greece

Tel.: +30 28210 41179

E-mail: observatorywestcrete@gmail.com, chaniamaria@yahoo.com

HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

Mr Nikos Petrou, Coordinator for HSPN

20, Nikis Str.

GR-10557 Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 3224944, 210 3314653

E-mail: info@eepf.gr, ngpetrou@gmail.com

ANNEX

Non-exhaustive lists of agencies, bodies, foundations, professional networks, forums, LIFE and non-LIFE projects etc. to be sent this Replication Plan

Ministries, competent administrative, control and judicial services for the environment

A/A	CARRIER	CONTACT
1	ASSOCIATION OF GREEK REGIONS	info@enpe.gr
2	ATTICA REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE	perivpeir@patt.gov.gr tm.per.dyt@patt.gov.gr tperivallontos.anat@patt.gov.gr
3	NORTH AEGEAN REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	perivallon@pvaigaiou.gov.gr
4	WEST GREECE REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	dpxs@pde.gov.gr
5	WEST MACEDONIA REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	d.alvanos@pdm.gov.gr d.pxs@pdm.gov.gr
6	EPIRUS REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	p.bolanou-papageorgiou@php.gov.gr
7	THESSALY REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	periv.xorsxed@thessaly.gov.gr
8	IONIAN ISLANDS REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	dnsi_periv_xor_sched@pin.gov.gr tryfonas@pin.gov.gr
9	CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT	dbiom@pkm.gov.gr N.Tsotsolis@pkm.gov.gr
10	SOUTH AEGEAN REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	di.perivalon@pnai.gov.gr dpxs@cycl.pnai.gov.gr
11	PELOPONNESE REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	perivallon@ppel.gov.gr
12	REGION OF CENTRAL GREECE - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	dpehos@pste.gov.gr
13	REGION OF EAST MACEDONIA AND THRACE DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	dphs@pamth.gov.gr
14	CRETE REGION - DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	d.pexws@crete.gov.gr



A/A	CARRIER	CONTACT
15	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY - GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	k.dimopoulos@prv.ypeka.gr
16	MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SPECIFIC LEGAL ISSUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS	ypdipimi@otenet.gr
17	MINISTRY OF CITIZEN PROTECTION-HELLENIC POLICE	kepik@astynomia.gr
18	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY - NSRF STAFF STRUCTURE, Department of Environment	d.koutra@prv.ypeka.gr NikouG@eka.ypeka.gr
19	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY - LEGAL ADVISER OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, URBAN PLANNING, SPATIAL PLANNING AND FOREST	Βασιλική Δούσκα, Επικεφαλής Γραφείου Ν.Σ. 2106430262
20	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF ATTICA, DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	protokollo@attica.gr pexo@attica.gr
21	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF MACEDONIA AND THRACE, DIRECTORATES OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	syntonistis@damt.gov.gr pnikola@damt.gov.gr
22	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF EPIRUS-WEST MACEDONIA, DIRECTORATES OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	grafeiosyntonisti@apdhp-dm.gov.gr gg@apdhp-dm.gov.gr
23	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF THESSALY-CENTRAL GREECE, DIRECTORATES OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	sintonistis@apdthest.gov.gr gdxpp@apdthest.gov.gr
24	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF PELOPONNESE, WEST GREECE AND IONION, DIRECTORATES OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	sintonistis@apd-depin.gov.gr ggdxxpp@apd-depin.gov.gr
25	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF AEGEAN, DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT & SPATIAL PLANNING	gg@apdaigaiou.gov.gr pvadpexo@apdaigaiou.gov.gr
26	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF CRETE, GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SPATIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	ggg@apdkritis.gov.gr x.kargiolaki@apdkritis.gov.gr

Ministries and authorities for the environment of other countries

COUNTRY	MINISTRIES	CONTACT
CYPRUS	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus	registry@moa.gov.cy
SPAIN	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/ministerio/funciones-estructura/organismos-publicos/default.aspx
PORTUGAL	Ministry of Environment and Climate Action	ana.vaz@apambiente.pt
	Environment Office of Portugal	geral@apambiente.pt
ITALY	Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea	pnm-udg@minambiente.it
MALTA	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	adrian-dominic.ellul.1@gov.mt
BULGARIA	Ministry of Environment and Water	edno_gishe@moew.government.bg
HUNGARY	Ministry of Rural Development	info@vm.gov.hu
LITHUANIA	Ministry of Environment	nfo@am.lt
LATVIA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	pasts@varam.gov.lv
ROMANIA	Romanian Ministry of Environment, Water and Forestry	comunicare@mmediu.ro
SLOVAKIA	Ministry of Environment	podatelna@enviro.gov.sk
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenian Environment Office	gp.arso@gov.si
POLLAND	Ministry of Climate and Environment	nfo@mos.gov.pl
CZECK REPUBLIC	Ministry of Environment	info@mzp.cz



Ministries and Justice Services of other countries

COUNTRY	MINISTRIES / JUSTICE SERVICES	CONTACT
CYPRUS	Ministry of Justice and Public Order	registry@mjpo.gov.cy
	Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus	http://www.law.gov.cy/law/lawoffice.nsf/dmllawoffice_gr/dmllawoffice_gr?OpenDocument
SPAIN	Ministry of Justice	prensa@mjusticia.es
PORTUGAL	Ministry of Justice	https://www.portugal.gov.pt/en/gc21/ministries/justice
ITALY	Ministry of Justice	gabinetto.ministro@giustiziacert.it
MALTA	Ministry of Justice, Culture & Local Government	https://justice.gov.mt/mt/Pages/Feedback.aspx
BULGARIA	Ministry of Justice	pr@justice.government.bg
HUNGARY	Ministry of Justice	lakossag@im.gov.hu
LITHUANIA	Ministry of Justice	rastine@tm.lt
LATVIA	Ministry of Justice	pasts@tm.gov.lv , Lana.Maulina@tm.gov.lv
ROMANIA	Ministry of Justice	relatiipublice@just.ro dsc@just.ro
SLOVAKIA	Ministry of Justice	http://www.justice.gov.sk/Stranky/Ministerstvo/Kontakty/Zakladne-kontaktne-informacie.aspx
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Justice	gp.mp@gov.si
POLLAND	Ministry of Justice	kontakt@ms.gov.pl
CZECK REPUBLIC	Ministry of Justice	posta@mzp.justice.cz

Police Services of other countries

COUNTRY	POLICE AUTHORITY	CONTACT
CYPRUS	Cyprus Police	police@police.gov.cy
SPAIN	National Police	https://www.policia.es/_es/index.php
PORTUGAL	National Police	https://www.policiajudiciaria.pt/english/#
ITALY	National Police	https://www.poliziadistato.it/scrivici/message
MALTA	Police	pulizija@gov.mt
BULGARIA	Police	gdnpmvr.bg
HUNGARY	National Police	sajtougyelet@police.hu
LITHUANIA	Police Department	info@policija.lt
LATVIA	National Police	pasts@vp.gov.lv
ROMANIA	National Police	https://politiaromana.ro/ro/contact
SLOVAKIA	Police Force	public@minv.sk
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Interior, Police Department	gp.policija@policija.si
POLLAND	National Police	kancelaria@ksp.policja.gov.pl kancelaria.gabinetksp@policja.gov.pl
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7	Denmark	Ms. Jette Raal Stockholm. E-mail: jerst@mst.dk
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9	Finland	Mr Pekka Harju-Autti. E-mail: pekka.harju-autti@ym.fi
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12	Greece	Mr. George Protopapas. E-mail: g.protopapas@prv.ypeka.gr
13	Hungary	Ms. Ágnes Szijártó. E-mail: agnes.szijarto@am.gov.hu
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15	Italy	Dr Stefania Betti. Email: lifeplus@minambiente.it
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3	LIFE ENPE –LIFE14/GIE/UK/000043	European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment	shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk
4	ForestLIFE – LIFE14/GIE/GR/000304	Greek Biotope-Wetland Centre (EKBY)/ Goulandris Natural History Museum	ekby@ekby.gr
5	LIFE-FORBIRDS – LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus	director@fd.moa.gov.cy , nicolaouharis@cytanet.com.cy
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7	LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija - LIFE14 NAT/MT/000991	BirdLife Malta	dilek.sahin@birdlifemalta.org
8	EcoLexLife project - LIFE16 GIE/SI/000728	TAX-FIN-LEX, pravno-poslovni portal, zalonitvo in izobraevanja, d.o.o.	info@ecolexlife.si
9	LIFE EuroTurtles – LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997	Croatian Natural History Museum	info@euroturtles.eu
10	LIFE+ Meadow Birds – LIFE10 NAT/DE011	Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defense and Nature Conservation Agency (NLWKN)	heinrich.belting@nlwkn-ol.niedersachsen.de
11	LIFE Euro Large Carnivores - LIFE16 GIEDE/000661	WWF Germany	moritz.klose@wwf.de
12	LIFE Viva Grass - LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	zymantas.morkvenas@bef.lt
13	LIFE “Cyprus Capacity Building for LIFE – Cyclamen” LIFE14 CAP/CY/000006	Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus	pkakonitis@environment.moa.gov.cy
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15	LIFE ForOpenForests - LIFE11 NAT/GR/1014	Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature	foropenforests@eepf.gr
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26	LIFE SWIPE Project - LIFE19 GIE/BG/000846	WWF Bulgaria	office@wwf.bg smalic@wwfadria.org akrvaric@wwfadria.org
27	LIFE IP Physis - LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, Department of Environment	estylianopoulou@environment.moa.gov.cy
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32	LIFE-IP INTEMARES - LIFE15 IPE/ES/000012	Fundación Biodiversidad Spain	itorres@fundacion-biodiversidad.es
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38	LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS - LIFE15 GIE/AT/001004	WWF Austria	sturgeons@wwf.at wwf@wwf.at
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43	LIFE Lab - LIFE – Closer to You - LIFE14 CAP/RO/000007	Romanian Ministry of Environment	madalina.cozma.life@mmediu.ro
44	LIFE Good Stream - LIFE Good Stream	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	john.strand@hushallningssallskapet.se
45	LIFE BNIP - LIFE14 IPE/BE/000002	Belgian Agency for Nature and Forests	https://www.life-bnip.be/en/
46	LIFE-IP Natural Course - LIFE14 IPE/UK/000027	Natural Course - The Environment Agency UK	info@naturalcourse.co.uk
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57	LIFE Habitats Calanques - LIFE16 NAT/FR/000593	Regional Agency for Biodiversity and Environment, Provence Alpes-Cote d' Azur	https://www.habitats-calanques.fr/fr
58	GrassLIFE - LIFE16 NAT/LV/000262	Latvian Fund for Nature	https://grasslife.lv/about-grasslife-english/
59	LIFE Urban Storm - LIFE17 CCA/EE/000122	Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia	info@viimsivv.ee
60	LIFEforBgNATURA: NEW HORIZONS - LIFE17 GIE/BG/000371	Green Balkans (NGO)	office@greenbalkans.org
61	LIFE-IP: N2K Revisited- LIFE17 IPE/CZ/000005	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic	jednapriroda@mzp.cz
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64	LIFE Osmoderma 2017 - LIFE17 NAT/CZ/000463	Lithuanian Fund for Nature	osmoderma@glis.lt
65	Reeds for LIFE - LIFE17 NAT/DE/000460	Naturschutzzentrum im Kreis Kleve e.V.	info@nz-kleve.de
66	LIFE 4 POLLINATORS - LIFE18 GIE/IT/000755	University of Bologna	https://www.life4pollinators.eu/en/contact-0
67	LIFE-IP ForEst&FarmLand - LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	krista.tonisson@envir.ee



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70	LIFE ARCPROM - LIFE18 NAT/GR/000768	CALLISTO, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society	lifearcprom@uowm.gr
71	LIFE CLAW - LIFE18 NAT/IT/000806	Parco nazionale dell' Appennino tosco-emiliano	https://www.lifeclaw.eu/en/
72	LIFE WolfAlps EU LIFE18 NAT/IT/000972	Director of the Protected Areas of the Maritime Alps	https://www.lifewolfalps.eu/en
73	LIFE AMPHICON - LIFE18 NAT/SI/000711	Municipality Grosuplje, Slovenia	lifeamphicon@gmail.com
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75	LIFE-IP LatViaNature - LIFE19 IPE/LV/000010	Nature Conservation Agency	ieva.saleniece@daba.gov.lv
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77	LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON - LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804	Green Balkans (NGO)	dpopov@greenbalkans.org
78	LIFE LxAquila - LIFE19 NAT/PT/000414	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves	joaquim.teodosio@spea.pt
79	LIFE PROWHiBIT - LIFE18 GIE/GR/000899 - PROWHIBIT	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece	arontogianni.prv@gmail.com

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1	Interregional Environmental Integration of Waste Management in European Heritage Cities	Sanitation Córdoba (SADECO)- Municipal Company of the city of Cordoba	https://www.interregeurope.eu/intherwaste/
2	Effectiveness of Environmental Urban policies to improve Resources Efficiency	Atlantic Axis of Peninsular Northwest, Association of 35 local Authorities in Galicia & North of Portugal	https://www.interregeurope.eu/eure/
3	Cultural resources in the mountain areas - CRinMa	National Strategic Reference Framework Interreg V-A Poland-Slovakia 2014-2020 The Malopolska Region, Poland	urząd@umwm.pl
4	Innovative Models for Protected Areas: exchange and Transfer - IMPACT	Regional Government of Andalucía	Avenida Manuel Siurot, 50. Sevilla, 41071 Spain
5	Project Ancient Cities for Endemic Flora: From Apollo to Athena - A2A	Association for the Conservation of Antalya Orchids and Biodiversity -CAOB	info@antok.org.tr
6	Copernicus - European Union's Earth Observation Programme	European Commission	support@copernicus.eu
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4	Croatia	Managed by the Ministry of environment and Energy	https://mzoe.gov.hr/
5	Republic of Cyprus	Department of Environment	director@environment.moa.gov.cy
6	Czech Republic	Ministry of Environment	info@mzp.cz
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12	Greece	Ministry of Environment and Energy	secmin@ypen.gr
13	Hungary	Ministry of Agriculture	info@am.gov.hu
14	Ireland	National Parks and Wildlife Service	nature.conservation@chg.gov.ie
15	Italy	Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection	urp@minambiente.it
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17	Lithuania	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	info@am.lt
18	Luxembourg	Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	DIESCHBOURG.Carole@mev.etat.lu
19	Malta	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change	jose.herrera@gov.mt
20	Netherlands	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	J.Sluite@minInv.nl
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24	Slovakia	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	sekretariat@sopsr.sk
25	Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	gp.mop@gov.si
26	Spain	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment	contacto@marma.es
27	Sweden	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	registrator@swedishepa.se

**Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency-Management Units of Protected Areas (ex Management Bodies)**

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4	Messolonghi Lagoon- Akarnanian Mountains Management Body	info@fdlmes.gr
5	Management Body Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon & Monemvasia	info@fdparnonas.gr
6	Olympus National Park Management Agency	info@olympusfd.gr fedolymp@otenet.gr
7	Management Body of Kerkini Lake	info@kerkini.gr
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12	Parnitha National Park Management Agency	info@parnitha.net
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17	Kotychi – Strofylia Wetlands Management Body	fdks@otenet.gr
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23	National Marine Park of Alonissos, North Sporades Management Body	info@alonissos-park.gr
24	Parnassos National Park Management Body	info@parnassosnp.gr fdparnas@yahoo.gr
25	Management Authority National Park of Tzoumerka, Peristeri and Arachthos Gorge	park.tzoumerka@gmail.com
26	Management Body of Schinia - Marathon National Park	info@naturaattica.gr
27	Samaria National Park Management Body	info@samaria.gr
28	Thermaikos Gulf protected Areas Management Authority	fdthermaikou@gmail.com
29	Management Body of Vora-Paiko-Vermio	foreasdiax.bpb@gmail.com
30	Management Body of Protected Areas of Western Macedonia	N/A
31	Corinthian Gulf Management Agency	fdkorinthiakou@gmail.com
32	Management Agency of Evia Protected Areas	N/A
33	South Peloponnese-Kythera Management Body	N/A
34	Management Body of Cyclades Protected Areas	cycladesfd@gmail.com
35	North Aegean Protected Areas Management Body	N/A
36	Management Body of Protected Areas of Central and Eastern Crete	fdppkakritis@gmail.com
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National organizations, institutions and networks for environmental legislation and its implementation

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4	Supreme Court	gram@areiospagos.gr
5	National School of Judges	info@esdi.gr
6	Union of Greek lawyers e-ΘΕΜΙΣ	ethemisethemisethemis.gr
7	Plenary of Greek Bar Associations	http://portal.olomeleia.gr/el
8	Association of Practitioners & Young Lawyers of Athens	eanda.gr@gmail.com
9	Association of Practitioners & Young Lawyers' of Thessaloniki	eandith@gmail.com
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International organizations, institutions and networks for environmental legislation and its implementation

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2	Europol	https://www.europol.europa.eu/
3	European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime	https://efface.eu/
4	Environmental Protection Agency	info@epa.ie
5	European Geoparks Network	http://www.europeangeoparks.org/
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7	The Nature League	Director@luontoliitto.fi
8	Nature and Environment	kansliet@naturochmiljo.fi
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10	German Nature Conservation Ring	info-berlin@dnr.de ; info@dnr.de
11	MTVSZ - Hungarian Association of Conservationists	info@mtvsz.hu
12	Irish Environmental Network	office@ien.ie
13	European Network of Prosecutors of Environment	shaun.robinson@environment-agency.gov.uk
14	European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment- EUFJE	farah.bouquelle@eufje.org
15	European Union Network of the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law IMPEL	info@impel.eu
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17	Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia	bef@bef.lv
18	Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia	info@bef.ee
19	Baltic Environmental Forum Deutschland	info@bef-de.org
20	INTERPOL-Environmental Crime Programme	environmentalcrime@interpol.int
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22	Delta Danube Biosphere Reserve Authority	arbdd@ddbba.ro
23	European Environmental Law Forum (EELF)	secretariat@eelf.info
24	European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST)	https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/

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25	Academy of European Law (ERA)	info@era.int
26	International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)	info@inece.org
27	Environmental Law Institute (ELI)	https://www.eli.org/
28	Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC)	gosling@un.org
29	Latin American Environmental Prosecutors Network	mpambiental@mpambiental.org cappelli@mp.rs.gov.br
30	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)	ccbe@ccbe.eu
31	Convergences	contact@convergences.org
32	European Environment Agency	https://www.eea.europa.eu/
33	United Nations Environment Programme/Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan	https://www.unep.org/uneppmap/
34	University of Cyprus (Department of Law)	chrysok@ucy.ac.cy
35	Cyprus Legal Information Institute (CyLii)	http://www.cylaw.org
36	Network of the presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union	ecretariat@networkpresidents.eu



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LIFE "Environmental Governance & Information": Promoting awareness of wildlife crime prosecution and liability for biodiversity damage in NATURA 2000 areas in Crete"-LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026

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The LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026 project is funded at a percentage of 60% from the LIFE financial instrument "Environmental Governance & Information" of the European Commission/EASME, while a part of the Associated Beneficiaries own funds was covered by the Green Fund.

Φορείς υλοποίησης:



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