



Hellenic Society
for the Protection
of Nature

WILDLIFE CRIME IN GREECE: THE ROLE OF NGOs

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HIPPOCRATES
2500 YEARS

*«...And turning around him
with open palms
he sowed mulleins, crocuses, bellflowers...»*

Odysseus Elytis
Axion Esti, Genesis, 92-93



Biodiversity in Europe and in Greece for specific groups of organisms
(Legakis & Maragou 2009, Bilz et al. 2011, Dimopoulos 2018, Hellenic Ornithological Society 2015, BISE, Birdlife International).

TAXA	Number of species in Europe	Number of species in Greece
Vascular Plants	c.20000	5837 (> 29%) (1103 endemics)*
Mammals	184	115 (> 60%) (2 endemics)
Birds	533	c.450 (85%)
Reptiles	151	64 (> 40%) (9 endemics)
Fishes of sweet water	546	154(c.30%) (83 endemics)

*the total number of Greek species and subspecies of plants is 6705 (1491 endemics)

So in Greece the biodiversity of species of plants and animals is enormous.

In this way, our country constitutes one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in Europe, while simultaneously constitutes the most important hotspot for endemism in Europe and in Mediterranean.



Testudo marginata



Veronica oetaea



Papilio alexanor

Due to the environmental conditions many of our plants resort to the production of secondary metabolites which are natural substances that may serve as medicines, aromatic essences, insect repellents, food preservatives, etc. and used for that purposes by the ancients, apart from all their other common uses.

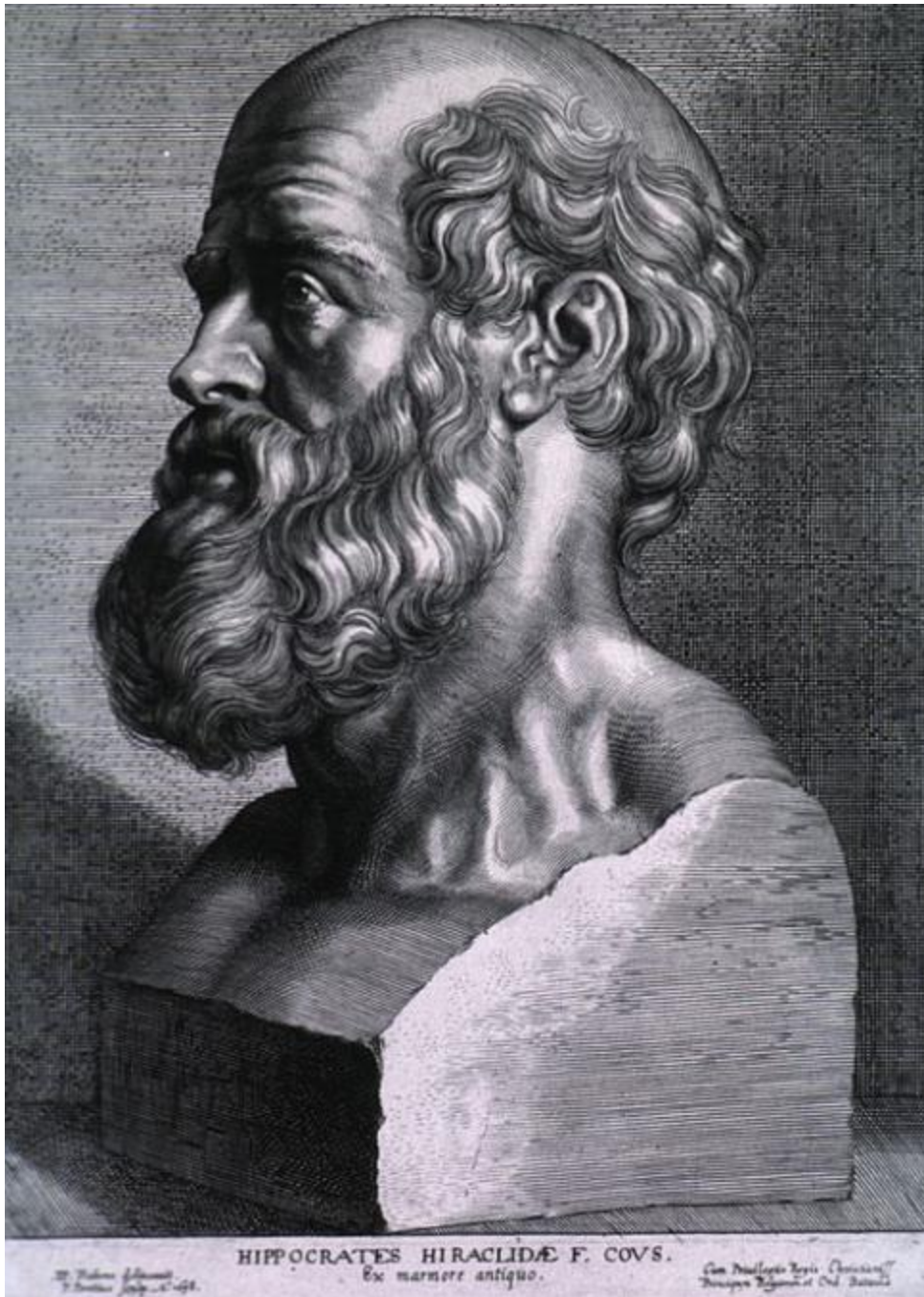
Hippocrates

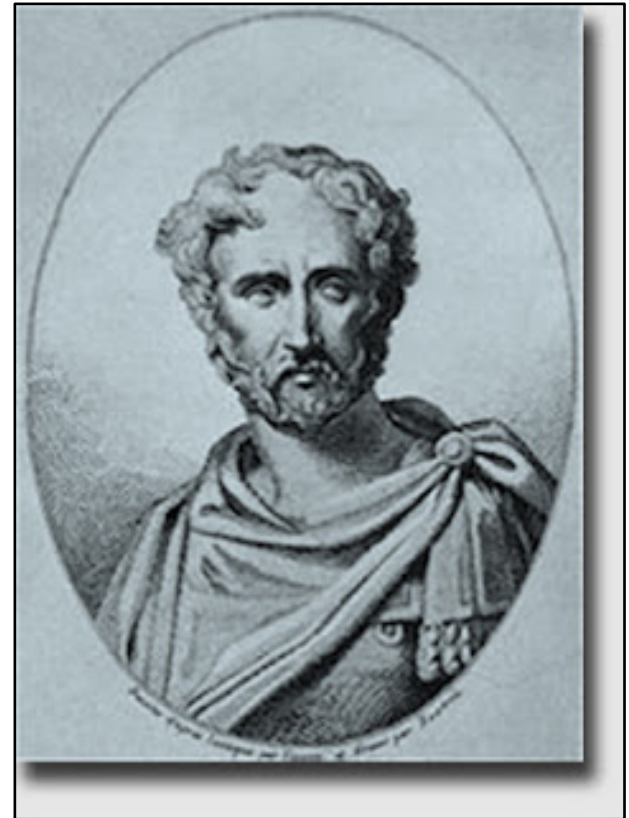
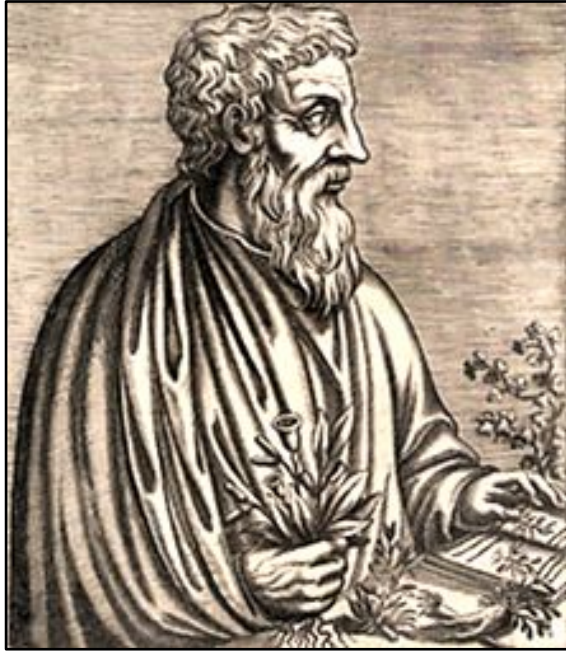
(Kos 460 BC - Larissa 377 BC)

The father of Medicine

*“Ηγεμονικότερον πάντων
η φύσις” = “Nature is the most
dominant ruler of all”*

Already in Hippocrates’
writings almost 300
medicinal plant species
are mentioned.





Pedanios Dioscorides (40-90 AD, *"De Materia medica"*)

Claudius Galen (129-199 AD, many writings)

Gaius Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD, *"Naturalis Historia"*)



Galen and Hippocrates on the front page of a book about medicine written by Justus Cortnumm, edited in Lipsia in 1677 by Georg Heinrich Frommann.

Vovoussa, E Zagori, N Pindos sierra



The complicated structure of secondary metabolites is difficult to synthesize in the laboratory.

Despite the growth in the field of synthetic chemistry, we are still dependent on plant sources of secondary metabolites.

In current days, many plant taxa are in danger because of overcollection.



ARTEMIS



HERA



Origanum dictamnus

Dittany of Crete



Dapper (1703)

**Directive 92/43/EEC, Annex II
BERN
PD 67/81**



Sideritis syriaca subsp. *syriaca*
Cretan mountain tea
Endemic in Crete

Sideritis euboea
Endemic in Euboea island



GREEK MOUNTAIN TEAS

5 of them are Greek endemics:

Sideritis clandestina with 2
subspecies,
S. euboea,
S. raeseri subsp. *attica*,
S. syriaca subsp. *syriaca*

GREEK MOUNTAIN TEAS



Sideritis scardica
Olympus mountain tea



Sideritis perfoliata subsp. *perfoliata*

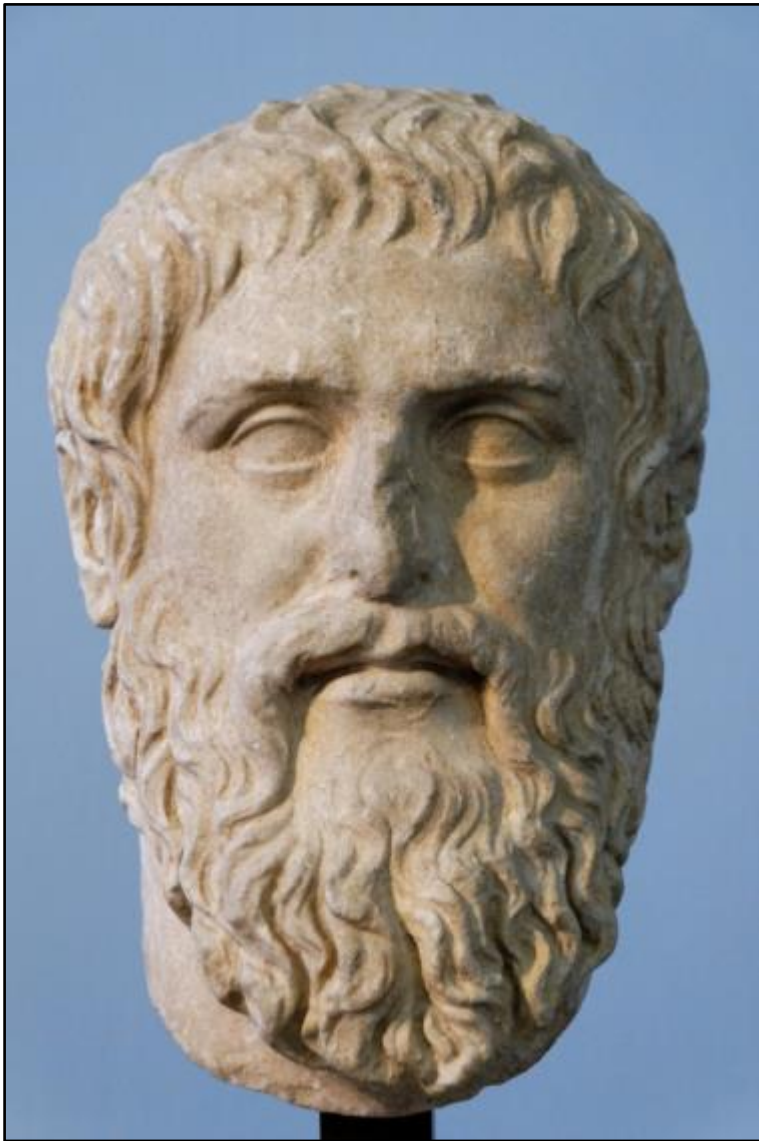
Ancient use of plants for:

- ✓ Heat.
- ✓ Food and its preparation through heat.
- ✓ Creation of weapons, tools, furniture, cookware, chariots.
- ✓ Creation of boats.
- ✓ Structural material.
- ✓ Medicine, perfumes.
- ✓ Fabric, colors.
- ✓ Melting metals.
- ✓ Baking clay objects.



(Δελαβίνιας 2011)

Wood = “Υλη” = Material, Matter



Plato describes the destruction of the forests in Athens (Kritias 111,b-d).

Plato
427 – 347 BC

Capparis spinosa (caper bush) is used as edible and medicinal from ancient times





***Muscari comosum* (tassel hyacinth)**
edible and medicinal from ancient times

ENDEMIC IN GREECE



Centaurea raphanina* subsp. *mixta

Paeonia clusii subsp. *rhodia* is endemic in
Rodos island



PAEONIES

***“As quickly as white milk with rennet thickens
likewise the blood in the wounds of Ares became
because of Paeon’s herbs”***

Homer’s *Iliad* (5.902)

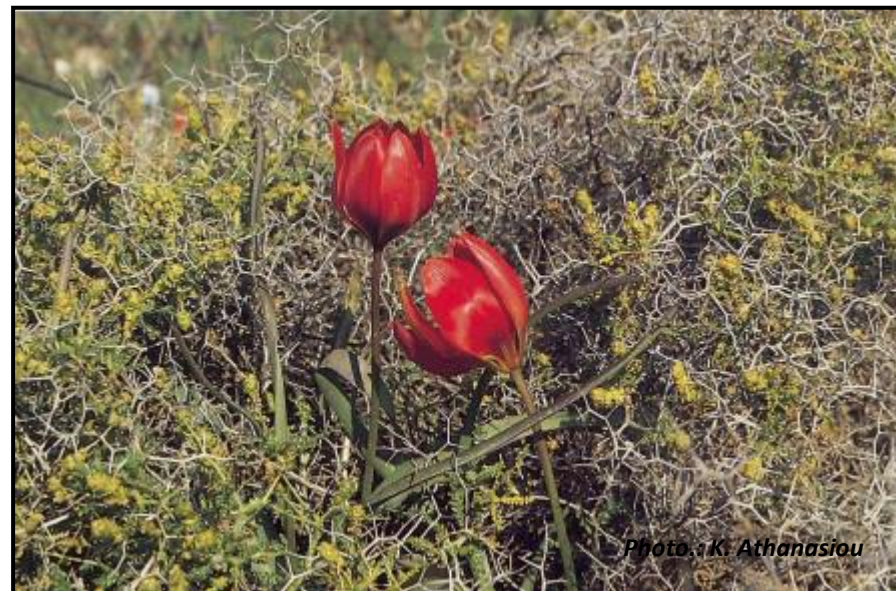


Paeonia mascula subsp. *hellenica* is
endemic in Greece

Tulipa bakeri , endemic in Crete



Tulipa goulimyi, endemic in S Greece



TULIPS

Tulipa doerfleri,
endemic in C Κρήτη





Sternbergia lutea

CITES

Cyclamen graecum



Did ancient Greeks protect nature?

In ancient Greece laws used to forbid logging on sacred forests and ordered that animals would run free inside them.

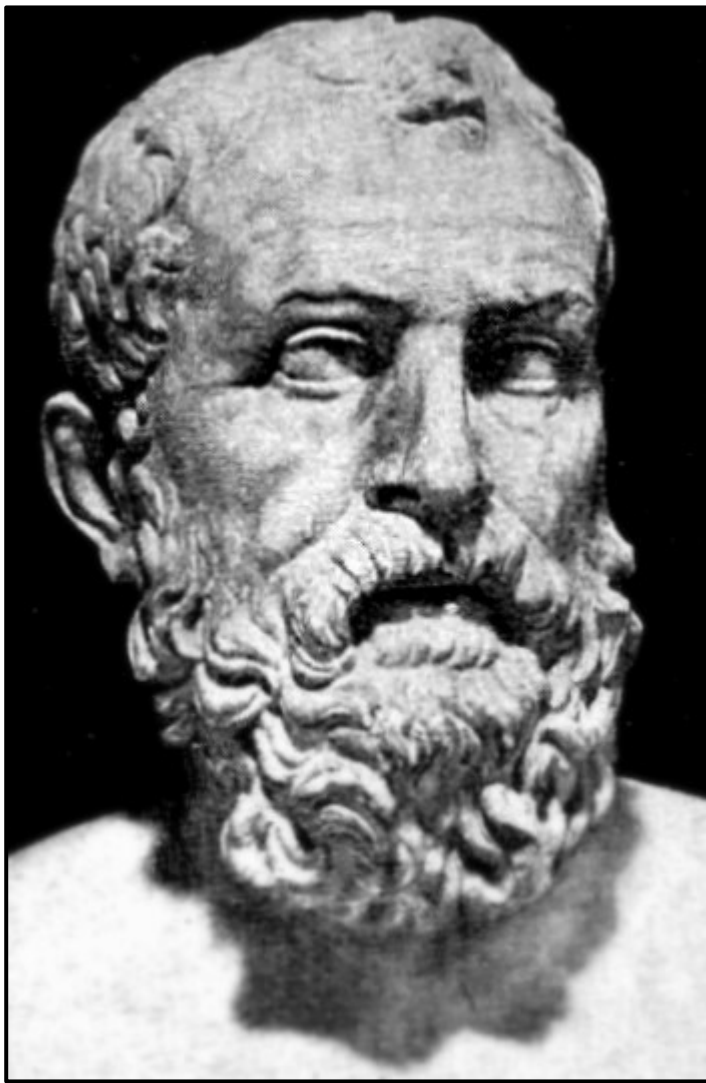
For those who did not obey the law, the price was high, about 50-100 “drachmae” (the usual salary reached 0,30-1 “drachma”).

SACRED FORESTS  **TODAY'S PROTECTED AREAS**

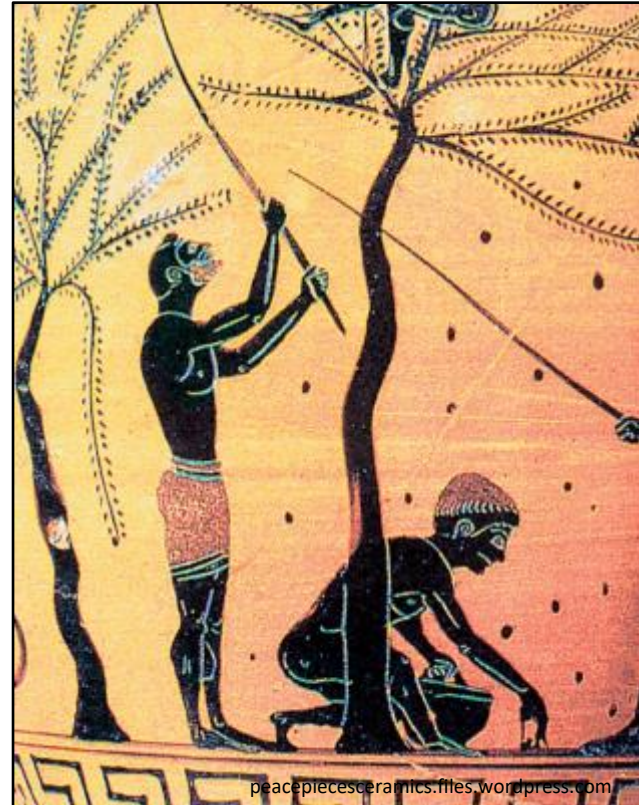


Erysichthon's Myth

In Hellenic thought, where man, nature and gods create harmony, its destruction leads to “Υβρις” = Disrespect, causing “Νέμεσις”= Divine Punishment



Solon
639 – 559 BC



Prohibition of cutting more than two olive trees of each olive grove annually.

In many districts it was forbidden - even besides the sacred forests - to cut more than two trees per owner (Gouta 2009).

What happens in modern Greece?

There are a lot of laws concerning the protection of nature and wildlife.

Unfortunately this legal framework is complicated and not sufficient enough.

Few examples:

- The Presidential Decree 67/81 still has to be updated as the law 3937/2011 orders.
- The directives of many local forestry authorities allow the collection of a half or one kilo of rare aromatic / medicinal / apiarian plant species for personal use per person per day!
- Other forestry authorities have not yet announced any directive!

Sometimes the state is the one who breaks the law!

The always existing problem is that there is no control of the enforcement of the laws.

Are we out of order?

588 cases of trafficking of 145 Greek endemic plant species (32 endangered in national and international level) via internet by 73 nurseries in Germany, England, French, USA, Canada, Australia etc. (Menteli 2014)

Nagoya Protocol 2010

Signed by 193 countries which had accepted the CBD 1992 (in Greece validated by the law 2204/1994)

A relevant European Law was established.

It is time to vote a Greek Law as well.

- The legislation and the control for the enforcement of laws and regulations are duties of the State.
- The NGOs, dealing with the protection of wildlife have their own role to prevent wildlife crimes.



Hellenic Society
for the Protection
of Nature

The HSPN is actively involved in the following key areas:

- Environmental interventions.
- Raising awareness among the public on environmental issues.
- Environmental education with five networks Nature conservation projects.
- Nature conservation projects.

✓ Environmental interventions

- Interventions with the public services and with various governmental agencies regarding violations of national or European environmental regulations and laws, or serious threats to the environment.
- Interventions pushing for environmental legislation.

✓ Raising awareness

Raising awareness among the public on environmental issues, laws and regulations in many cases, like through the Blue Flag Programme.



Since 1992 the HSPN has been the national operator of the Blue Flag, a Programme which is aimed at ecological management of beaches, marinas and tourist boats.

Protection of sea daffodil which grows only in sandy beaches



Pancratium maritimum



✓ Environmental Education

The HSPN is the national operator for three International Programmes implemented by Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE):



It also operates two national Programmes:



✓ Nature conservation projects



LIFE project "ForOpenForests" :
Management of forests and forest openings for the conservation of biodiversity at species, habitat, and landscape level in two Natura sites:
"Ethnikos Drymos Oitis" (GR2440004),
"Oros Kallidromo" (GR2440006).



Environmental education



Trampling by vehicles

Nevropoli

Pressing charges against those who crossed by vehicles a temporary pond (priority for conservation habitat in the E.U.).

✓ Nature conservation projects



ICON = Interactive Conservation Platform for Orchids
Native to Greece -Turkey

- Promoting the cooperation between Greek, Turkish and German NGOs for the protection of wild orchids in Turkey.
- Creating an innovative powerful common – awareness /educational tool.

Ophrys tenthredinifera



Anacamptis pyramidalis

PhotoQT. Lytras

*Himantoglossum
robertianum*



Photo: CEE Lavriou

Ophrys speculum



PhotoQT. Lytras

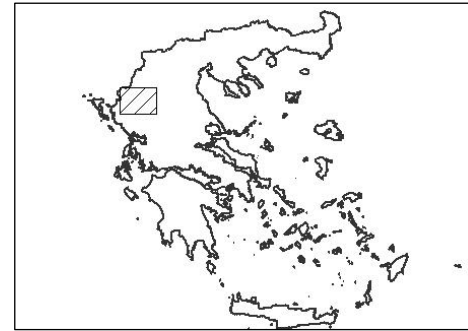
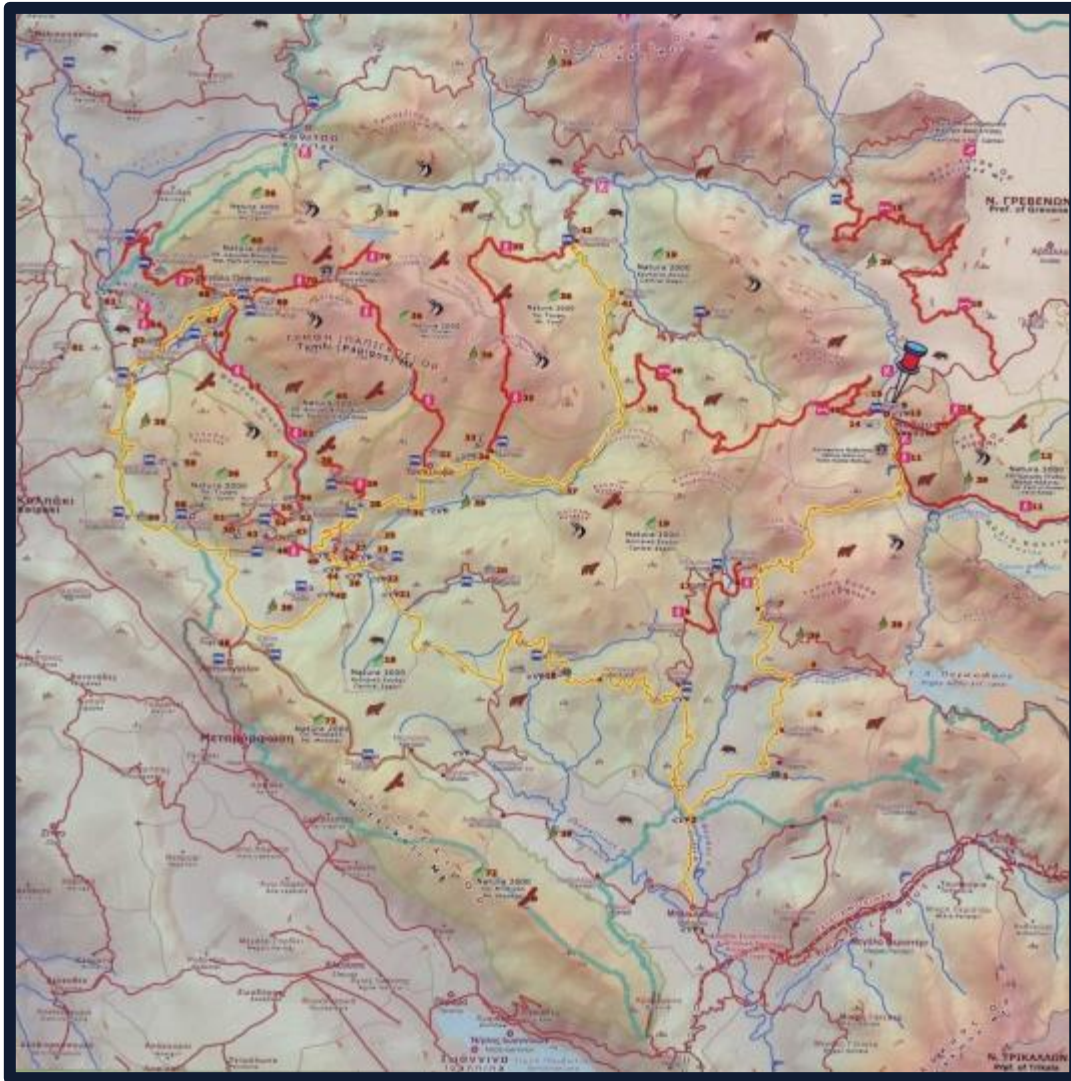


Intervention regarding effective protection of *Orchidaceae*.
Report the salep trafficking in Greece

Salep is a traditional construct.

It is created through the pulverisation of dried bulbs of different species of spontaneous orchids.

Their systematic collection may lead to the gradual distinction of orchids from the ecosystems.



VOVOUSA

- is located in N Pindos sierra
- is crossed by Aios river
- belongs to the villages of E Zagori region
- is within the largest Greek protected land area (Natural Park of N Pindos)
- has very high ecological & aesthetic value



Prevention of the diversion

**Promotion of mountainous
ecosystems**

**Protection of mountainous
ecosystems**

**Advocating sustainable
development**



Reason
announcement of Aaos
river diversion by the
government

**VOVOUSA
FESTIVAL**

Goals

**Organized by
locals since 2013**

**Since 2014 our NGO
participates in this and carries
out its Vovousa project**

2015



labeling



2016

Field walks and workshops

2017



2015



2016



Education and training of locals

2017



2016





Hellenic Society
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of Nature

Ευχαριστώ πολύ!

Köszönöm szépen!



HIPPOCRATES
2500 YEARS

Grazzi!

Thank you!

Hvala!

