



## **BIOPROSPECT** Conservation and sustainable capitalization of biodiversity in forested areas















### The Project

## **BIOPROSPECT:** Conservation and sustainable capitalization of biodiversity in forested areas

"INTERREG Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020"

Priority axis 2. Environment

**Thematic objective 6**. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

**Budget** 1,104,565 euros

Implementation period: 2017-2020

Seven partners across BalkanMed area





co-funded by the European Union and national funds of the participating countries

#### Partnership



Democritus University of Thrace Department of Forestry and Management of
the Environment and Natural ResourcesSpecial Account for Research Funds (DUTH)Greece



Municipality of Vrapcisht- Republic of North Macedonia



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki-Special Account for Research Funds - Department of Economics (AUTH)-Greece



Cyprus University of Technology (CUT/TEΠΑΚ)-Cyprus



Business and Exhibition Researches and Development Institute (IEE)-Greece





Institute of Applied Biosciences – Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (INAB/CERTH)-Greece



Maliq Municipality-Albania



## Background of the project

Bioprospecting  $\rightarrow$  exploration of biodiversity  $\rightarrow$  resources of social and economic value

Assessing of the value of forest biodiversity and services can provide powerful and much-needed arguments to leverage additional protection for natural ecosystems which are important for sustainable development. In the decision making process related to the forest resources management, two key-aspects must be taken into account:

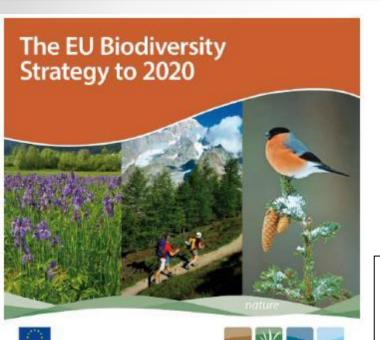
- the economic value of the benefits provided by ES (provisioning, regulating and cultural services) and
- > the spatial distribution of these benefits.

Economic valuation is one of the main priorities of "EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020" (Act. 5) that stresses the importance of mapping ecosystems and their services, assessing the economic value of such services, and promote the integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level by 2020.

Forests and woodland cover around 40% of EU's land area and are home to much of the European biodiversity



#### Biodiversity Strategy 2020





The European Commission and Council adopted in 2011 the **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020** (European Commission, 2011), which also implies the time lines to meet the Aichi targets of the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD, 2010).

Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and globally

#### Target 2

Maintain ecosystem services and restore ecosystems

#### **Action 5**

Map and Assess Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) in the entire EU territory; economic valuation; develop natural capital accounts

This knowledge base will support the Green Infrastructure Strategy (European Commission, 2013b), and the establishment of ecosystem capital accounting.

#### **EU Forest Strategy**



The present EU Forest Strategy was adopted in 2013 (European Commission, 2013a). In common with the previous EU Forestry Strategy (European Commission, 1998) and EU Forest Action Plan 2007–2011 (European Commission, 2007), the Forest Strategy focusses strongly on sustainable forest management and the multifunctional nature of forests delivering multiple ecosystem services.

The role of ecosystem services from forests is recognised for overall economic and social development, especially in rural areas.

Priority 2 (forests and climate change) and 4 (forests and environment) emphasize the role of forests in these sectors. "Protection efforts should aim to maintain, enhance and restore forest ecosystems' resilience and multi-functionality as a core part of the EU's green infrastructure, providing key environmental services as well as raw materials."



#### Nature legislation

The EU Nature policy comprises the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, indicating the EU target species and habitats that are to be protected while establishing the EU-wide Natura 2000 network under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, and combines both the areas designated under the Birds Directive as the ones designated under the Habitat Directive. Member States have a legal obligation to manage Natura 2000 sites and achieve favourable conservation status for those habitats and species within their borders

- Sites of Community Importance (SCI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

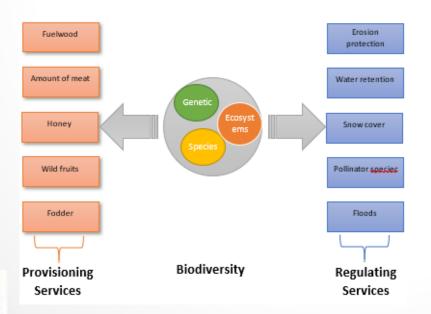
26 000 protected sites that make up one fifth of the EU's land area



#### Biodiversity and Ecosystem services

#### Biodiversity is essentially the variety of life on earth

**Biodiversity** can be defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources, including inter alia terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity-CBD- 1992: Article 2).











#### Ecosystem services?

"The <u>conditions</u> and <u>processes</u> through which natural ecosystems and the species that make them up, <u>sustain</u> and <u>fulfil human life</u>"

(Daily 1997, Natures services)

"The <u>benefits</u> human populations derive <u>directly</u> or <u>indirectly</u> from ecosystem functions" (Costanza et al. 1997)

"The contribution that ecosystems make to <a href="https://www.new.numer.com/human well-being">human well-being</a>"
(CICES)









co-funded by the European Union and national funds of the participating country

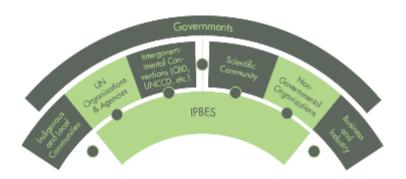
#### Local to Global













Ecosystem services are the relative contribution of natural capital to human well-being, they do not flow directly. It is therefore essential to adopt a broad, transdisciplinary perspective in order to address ecosystem services.



#### Forest Provisioning services











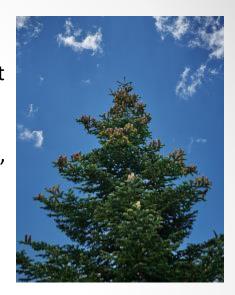
- Reared animals and their outputs
- ➤ Wild plants, algae and their outputs
- Wild animals and their outputs
- Water Surface water for drinking
- Ground water for drinking
- Materials Biomass
- ➤ Fibres and other materials from plants, algae and animals for direct use or processing
- Materials from plants, algae and animals for agricultural use
- Genetic materials from all biota
- Water Surface water for non-drinking purposes
- Ground water for non-drinking purposes
- Plant-based resources



#### Forest Regulation and Maintenance service

Maintain production under climate variability and protect crops against extremes Local shade cover, soil fertility and moisture, wind breaks, water infiltration

Regulate base flows (dry seasons), peak flows (intense rainfall), and stabilize soil (landslide risks) Cooling effect through increased evaporation and cloud cover Influence on precipitation: water pumping and rainfall recycling Regulate temperature and water for resilient urban settlements Services: Shading, evaporative cooling, rainwater interception, storage and infiltration









#### Forest Cultural services



- Experiential use of plants, animals and landscapes in different environmental settings. And physical use of landscapes in different environmental settings
- Scientific, educational, heritage, cultural, entertainment and aesthetic
- Symbolic and sacred and/or religious
- Existence and bequest



### Overall concept

#### **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES-BIODIVERSITY-ECONOMIC VALUATION-MANAGMENT**

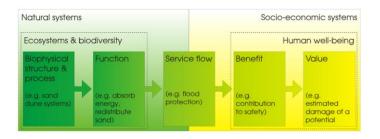
Review current situation on various ecosystem services supported by biodiversity over forest protected areas



Develop manual and guidelines for capitalization and dissemination



Develop operational economic models for valuation of forest protected areas





Develop actions plans and roadmaps



Demonstrate with specific interventions, i.e. improve forest-river interconnection and water flow regulation in peri-urban forest



Apply the ecosystem-related methods and tools in all participating countries



#### Aim and objectives

Aim of the project is to explore and document the bioprospects of forested protected areas and the ways of sustainable capitalization as a mean for their wise management and conservation

**SO1**. Provide operational tools for the conservation of forest biodiversity through economic valuation and sustainable capitalization



**SO2**. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits

**SO3**. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area



#### **Pindos National Park**





Northern Pindos National Park was established in 1966 and is considered one of the most important protected areas for the conservation of mountain biodiversity and ecosystem integrity on a national level. Pindos is located on the Northwestern part of Greece. It extends in an area of 1,969,741 m2 and is the largest protected forested region in Greece.

The protected area includes two National Forestseleven areas listed in the European Network of Protected Areas as "NATURA 2000" sites.

The Park is managed as "Environmental Park" and "Wildlife Resource" since it is home to a large number of interesting species of flora and fauna that display high diversity.

A total of 68 villages exist within the area of the Northern Pindos National Park and 14 on its boundaries.



#### **Municipality of Vrapcist**





Vrapcisht Municipality is located in the northwest of the Republic of North Macedonia, on the slopes of the Shar Mountains, 580 meters above sea level and is a rural municipality bordering the north with Municipality of Bogovinje, east and southeast of the Municipalities of Gostivar and Municipality Brvenica, while from west to the municipality of Restelica (Republic of Kosovo).

The municipality consists of fifteen villages. Most of the villages are in boundaries with the forest but the access to the forest is limited. The forest consists of very attractive tourist sites and picnic areas where tourism can be developed.



#### **Troodos National Forest Park, Cyprus**





The National Forest Park (NFP) of Troodos is located at the center of Troodos range that extends from the northwest to the southeast part of Cyprus and covers an area of 9,009 ha. The lowest part of NFP of Troodos with an altitude of 700 m and the highest is Chionistra (or mount Olympos) peak at 1951 m. The area of the NFP of Troodos is dominated by forest ecosystems in pure or mixed formations. Troodos N.F.P. hosts the largest number of plants, compared to any other area of Cyprus, but also the largest number of endemic plants. It has been designated as one of the 13 «Plant Diversity Hot Spots» in the Mediterranean.



#### Protected Area of Rodopi-Zapadni, Bulgaria





Rodopi – Zapadni is the largest Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in Bulgaria and one of the largest in Europe. The SCI includes immense coniferous and mixed forests. The area is almost unpopulated. Around Trigrad, interesting rock formations are found. The SCI also includes some valleys with significant Mediterranean climatic influence (Eurocontinental Upper Meso-Mediterranean climate according to Rivas-Martinez): rivers Vucha, Kanina, Bistritza, Dospatska.



#### Maliq Municipality, Albania





Maliq's mixed forest is located in the village of Drithas of the commune of Libonik, Korça district, near Maliq town, 813.5 m above sea level. It has 45 ha. A semi-natural mixed forest, consisting of poplar, willow, lime tree, pine and spruce. It is a remnant of the former forest that covered the swampy and temperate northern part of the Korça hills. The maximum tree height is 22.7 m, the maximum diameter is 80 cm. There are scientific, educational, biological, aesthetic, didactic and tourist values. To go to the monument you have to follow the road from Libonik to Drithas and hence to the Maliqi forest.



SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 1. Provide operational tools for the conservation of forest biodiversity through economic valuation and sustainable capitalization

Balkan-Mediterranean BIOPROSPECT

#### Manuals and guidelines for:

Deliverable. 3.6.1 Stakeholders engagement and public participation in the economic valuation of biodiversity

BIOPROSPECT: Conservation and austainable capitalization of biodiversity in forested areas.

- Map and Assess Ecosystems and their Services
- 2. Map and Assess genetic pools
- 3. Economic valuation of ecosystem services
- 4. Sustainable capitalization of provisioning, regulative and cultural services
- 5. Stakeholders engagement and public participation in the economic valuation of biodiversity

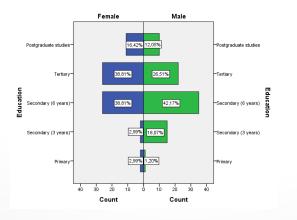
# SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 1. Provide operational tools for the conservation of forest biodiversity through economic valuation and sustainable capitalization

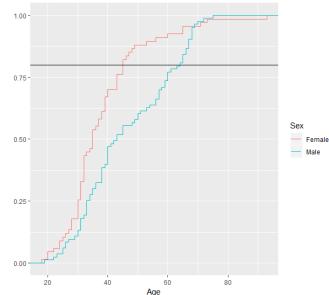
- Officially monetary valuation guidelines ( i.e. Official Government Gazette FEK B 2980).
- Willingness to pay (WTP) for the services associated with biodiversity and for the genetic resources in the National Park of Northern Pindos and to quantify their importance.

Socioeconomic characteristics of 250 visitors and 150 residents and the

econometric tool of interval regression

The same approach in other countries as well







## SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 2. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits



27th International Exhibition KAVALAEXPO 2019 :presenting the project goals and results as well as distributing BIOPROSPECT branded memorabilia.



84th Thessaloniki International Fair:presenting the project goals and results as well as distributing BIOPROSPECT branded memorabilia



## SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 2. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits



Info-day in Limassol, Cyprus by the Cyprus University of Technology



Municipality of Vrapcisht, Republic of North Macedonia: Reaching out to stakeholders through workshops and mobilizations



## SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 2. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits



Municipality of Vrapcisht, Republic of North Macedonia: «Informing and mobilizing stakeholders and social partners in the forested area of Municipality of Vrapcisht with the aim of optimally supporting the ecosystem and the value of its services»



Stakeholders mobilization, Municipality of Maliq, Albania























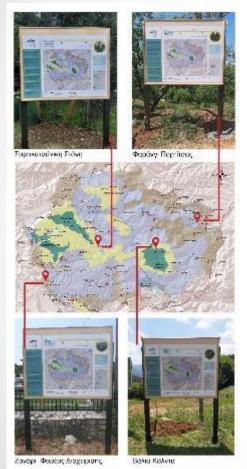










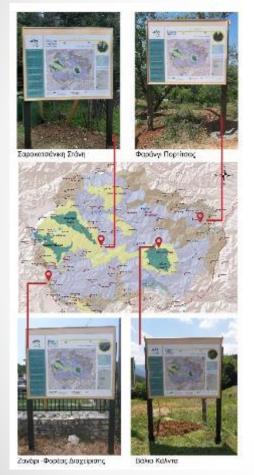
































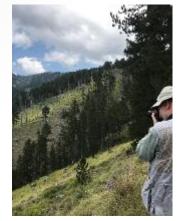






















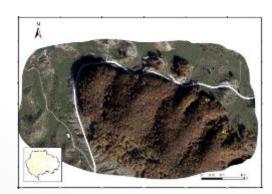


SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 2. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits

Approx. 20% of the budget for



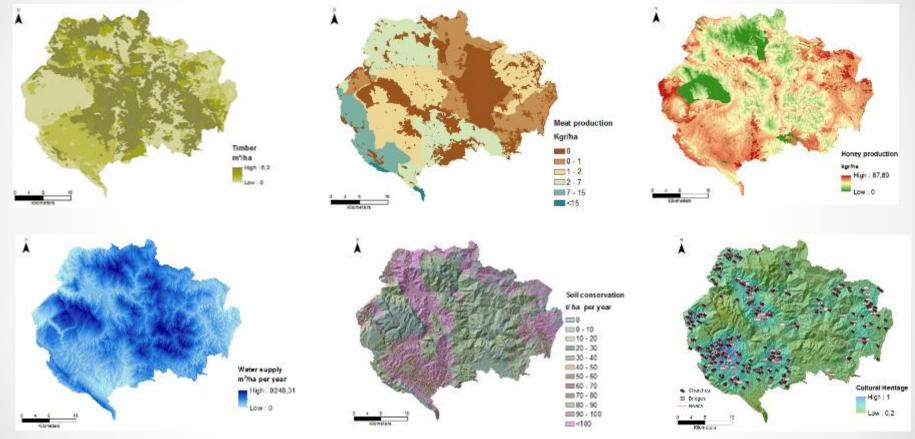




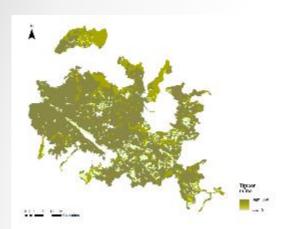


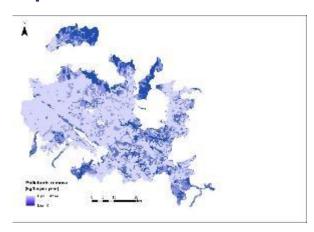


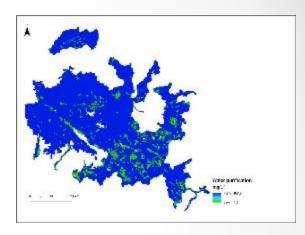
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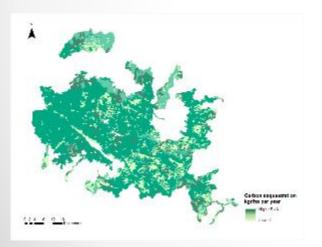


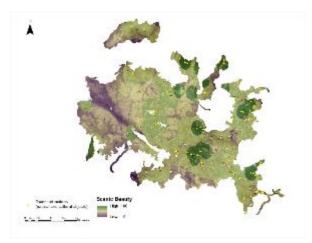


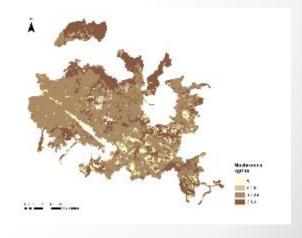




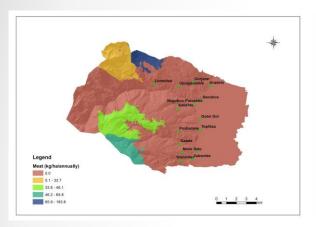


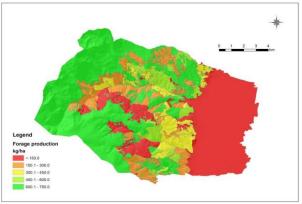


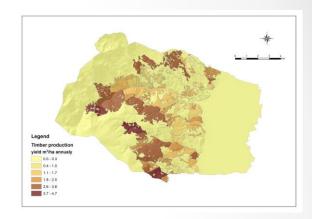


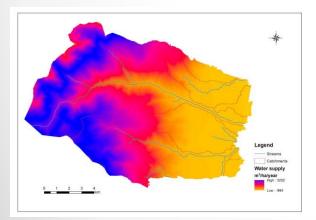


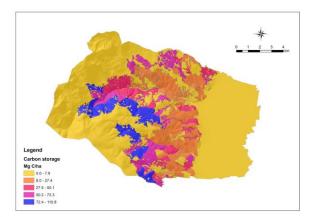


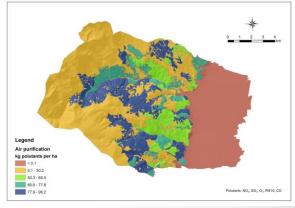








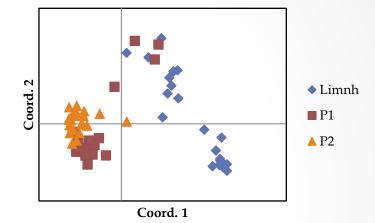


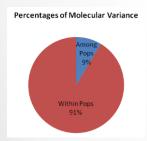


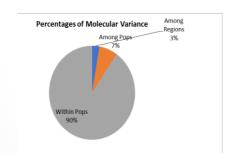


## SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 2. Demonstrate the operational application forest economic valuation and capitalization benefits Principal Coordinates (PCoA)

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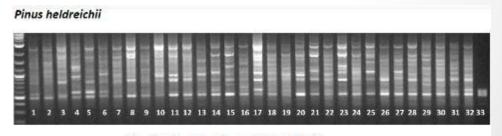


Figure 9. ISSR analysis of Pinus heldreichii (UBC 807)

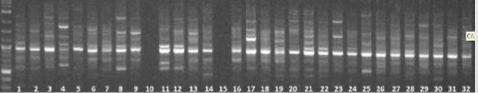


Figure 10, ISSR analysis of Pinus heldreichii (UBC 811)



SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area





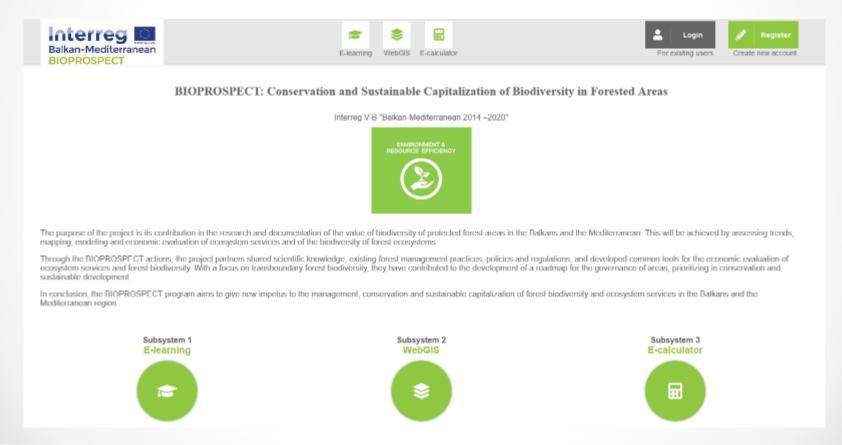






"Live" demonstrations of application of DNA marker technologies for evaluation of genetic diversity in forested areas

SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area





SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area





Balkan-Mediterranean





SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area



# SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area

Πίνακας Περιεχομένων

Κατάλ	ογος πινάκων8	3.2.8	«Κεντρικό Ζαγόρι και Ανατολικό Τμήμα Όρους Μιτσικέλι» GR2130011	
Κατάλογος εικόνων		3.2.9	«Όρος Τύμφη (Γκαμήλα)» GR2130009	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		3.2.10	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
1	Εισαγωγή			
2	Περιγραφή της περιοχής μελέτης11	3.3 ενδιασ	Επιτόπια καταγραφή κυριότερων πιέσεων μετά τις συναντήσεις με τους κυριότ φερόμενους φορείς	
2.1	Γενικά		Υλοτόμηση και χρήση βαρέως τύπου μηχανημάτων εντός της προστατευόμει	
2.2	Αβιοτικό Περιβάλλον για το σύνολο του Πάρκου			
2.2.1	Γεωλογία	3.3.2	Παράνομη ρίψη απορριμάτων	
2.2.2	Κλίμα και υδρολογία	3.3.3	Ανθρωπογενείς δραστηριότητες	5
2.3	Βιοτικό Περιβάλλον για το σύνολο του Πάρκου	3.3.4	Έλλειψη σχεδίου ορθολογικής διαχείρισης της θόσκησης-Αλλαγές στις δοσιακές πρακτικές κτηνοτροφίας	
2.4	Πανίδα		Πιέσεις από τουριστικές δραστηριότητες	
2.5	Κοινωνικά και οικονομικά στοιχεία για το σύνολο του Πάρκου		Αγροτικές δραστηριότητες	
		4	Άξονες δρασεων	
2.6 Περιγραφή ανά NATURA σύμφωνα με το τρέχον τεύχος των Ειδικών Περιβαλλοντικών Μελετών που εκπονούνται στη χώρα28			Προστασία και ανάπτυξη στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Βόρειας Πίνδου μέσω της βελτιωμ	
2.6.1	«Βασιλίτσα» (GR1310001)		προστάσια και αναπτυξή στο Ευνικό παρκό Βορείας Πίνοου μέσω της ρεπτιώμ αιοποιησης της οικοσυστημικών υπηρεσιών και της βιοποικιλοτήτας	
			Υφιστάμενα χρηματοδοτικά εργαλεία για τη βελτιωμένη, αειφόρο κεφαλαιοπο	
2.6.2	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Πίνδου (Βάλια Κάλντα - Ευρύτερη Περιοχή» (GR1310003) 30	της οι	κοσυστημικών υπηρεσιων και της βιοποικιλότητας	5
2.6.3	«Όρος Μιτσικέλι» (GR2130008)31	7.2.1	Πράσινο Ταμείο	5
2.6.4	Περιοχή Μετσόβου (Ανήλιο - Κατάρα» (GR2130006)32	7.2.2	Πρόγραμμα Δημοσίων Επενδύσεων 2014 – 2020	
2.6.5	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Βίκου - Αώου» (GR2130001)32	4.2.3	Πλαίσιο Δράσεων Προτεραιότητας για το Δίκτυο Natura 2000	
2.6.6	«Κεντρικό Τμήμα Ζαγορίου» (GR2130004)33	4.2.4	Προγράμματα ΕΣΠΑ Προγραμματικής Περιόδου 2014 – 2020	
2.6.7	«Κορυφές Όρους Σμόλικα» (GR2130002)34	4.2.5	ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΑ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ (ΠΕΠ)	
2.6.8	«Κεντρικό Ζαγόρι και Ανατολικό Τμήμα Όρους Μιτσικέλι» (GR2130011)	4.2.6	Προγράμματα Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας προγραμματικής περιόδου 2014 – 20	20 6
2.6.9	«Όρος Τύμφη (Γκαμήλα)» (GR2130009)36	4.2.7 Kowa	Προγράμματα CLLD/ LEADER: Τοπική Ανάπτυξη με Πρωτοβουλία Τοπικών τήτων	. 6
2.6.10	«Όροι Όρλιακας και Τσούργιακας» (GR1310004)36		Το Χρηματοδοτικό Μέσο για το Περιβάλλον LIFE	
2.6.11	«Βάλια Κάλντα και Τεχνητή Λίμνη Αώου» (GR1310002)37	4.2.9	HORIZON 2020 – Το Πρόγραμμα Πλαίσιο της ΕΕ για την Έρευνα και την	
3	Κίνδυνοι που υφίστανται για τη βιοποικιλότητα και τις οικοσυστημικές υπηρεσίες	Кагиоторіїа		
	38	4.2.10		
3.1	Γενικά	5	Σχέδιο δράσης για την βελτιωμένη, αειφόρο κεφαλαιοποίηση της βιοποικιλό	
3.1.1	Απειλές για τα είδη προτεραιότητας διατήρησης της πανίδας		ον οικοσυστημικών υπηρεσιών	
3.2	Περιγραφή πιέσεων και απειλών ανά NATURA	5.1	Άξονες και προτεινόμενα μέτρα	
3.2.1		5.2	Οριζόντια μέτρα και διοικητικές δαπάνες για το σύνολο της περιοχής του Εθνικ ου Βόρειας Πίνδου	
	«Βασιλίτσα» GR1310001	5.3	Μέτρα και διοικητικές δαπάνες για κάθε περιοχή Natura	
3.2.2	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Πίνδου (Βάλια Κάλντα - Ευρύτερη Περιοχή» GR131000344	5.3.1	Αναμενόμενα αποτελέσματα	
3.2.3	«Όρος Μιτσικέλι» (GR2130008)44	5.3.2	GR 1310001 Βασιλίτσα	
3.2.4	«Περιοχή Μετσόβου (Ανήλιο – Κατάρα)» GR213000644	5.3.3	GR1310003 Εθνικός Δρυμός Πίνδου (Βάλια Κάλντα - Ευρύτερη Περιοχή)	
3.2.5	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Βίκου - Αώου» GR213000144	5.3.4	GR2130008 Όρος Μιτσικέλι	
3.2.6	«Κεντρικό Τμήμα Ζαγορίου» GR213000444	5.3.5	GR2130006 Περιοχή Μετσόβου (Ανήλιο – Κατάρα)	
3.2.7	«Κορυφές Όρους Σμόλικα» GR213000245	5.3.6	GR2130001 Εθνικός Δρυμός Βίκου - Αώσυ	

5.3.7	GR2130004 Κεντρικό Τμήμα Ζαγορίου8
5.3.8	GR2130002 Κορυφές Όρους Σμόλικα8
Ανατο	Πίνακας μέτρων για τη διατήρηση της ορνιθοπανίδας στις Ζώνες Ειδικής τασίας του Εθνικού Πάρκου Βόρειας Πίνδου (GR2130011 Κεντρικό Ζαγόρι και λλικό Τμήμα Όρους Μιτσικέλι/GR2130009 Όρος Τύμφη (Γκαμήλα) /GR1310004 Όροι τικας και Τσούργιακας/GR1310002 Βάλια Κάλντα και Τεγνητή Λίμνη Αώου)
5.4 οικοσ	Πρόσθετα ειδικά ανά είδος μέτρα που δεν συνδέονται με συγκεκριμένα υστήματα ή οικοτόπους
5.4.1	Αναμενόμενα αποτελέσματα για τα στοχευόμενα είδη του Εθνικού Πάρκου9
6 βιοπο	Επίδραση του Σχεδίου Δράσης στη βελτιωμενη κεφαλαιοποιηση της οικιλοτητας
	Επίδραση των οριζοντίων μέτρων στη βελτιωμένη κεφαλαιοποίηση της ικιλότητας και στις οικοσυστημικές υπηρεσίες στο σύνολο της Περιοχής του Εθνικού ου Βόρειας Πίνδου
6.2	Επίδραση στη βελτιώμενη κεφαλαιοποίηση της βιοποικιλότητα και τις
	υστημικές υπηρεσίες ανά περιοχή Natura 200010
6.2.1	«Βασιλίτσα» GR1310001
6.2.2	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Πίνδου (Βάλια Κάλντα - Ευρύτερη Περιοχή» GR1310003 10
6.2.3	«Όρος Μιτσικέλι» (GR2130008)
6.2.4	«Περιοχή Μετσόβου (Ανήλιο – Κατάρα)» GR213000611
6.2.5	«Εθνικός Δρυμός Βίκου - Αώου» GR2130001
6.2.6	«Κεντρικό Τμήμα Ζαγορίου» GR2130004
6.2.7	«Κορυφές Όρους Σμόλικα» GR2130002
	Κεντρικό Ζαγόρι και Ανατολικό Τμήμα Όρους Μιτσικέλι GR2130011 /GR2130009 Τύρνη (Γκαμήλα) /GR1310004 Όρου Όρλιακας και Τσούργιακας/GR1310002 Βάλια α και Τεγντή Λμινη Αώου)
6.3 συγκε	Επίδραση στη βελτιωμένη κεφαλαιοποίηση ειδών που δεν συνδέονται με κριμένα ουκοσυστήματα ή οικοτόπους
7 πόρο	Οδικός χάρτης για την κατάρτιση ενός καθεστώτος πληρωμών για τους υδατικούς υς12
7.1	Γενικά
7.2	Τα συστατικά των καθεστώτων πληρωμών
7.3	Λίστα ελέγχου: δημιουργία δομής πληρωμής στο Εθνικό Πάρκο Βόρειας Πίνδου . 13
8 βιοφι	Μεθοδολογία παρακολούθησης της καταστασησ της βιοποικιλοτητασ μεσω συκης μεταβλητης και μεθοδων τηλεπισκοπησησ13
9	Μεθοδολογία παρακολούθησης εφαρμογής μέσω δεικτών
ВІВЛІ	ΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΕΣ Αναφορές
ПАРА	PTHMA
	τυξη ερωτηματολογίου για την συλλογή απόψεων για τις τοπικές ανάγκες από τους ικόμενους φορείς διαχείρισης των περιοχών

SPECIFIC OBJECTINE 3. Integrate economic valuation in operational management of forested areas and policy initiatives of Balkan Mediterranean area

Balkan-Mediterranean

- ➤ 4 different Action Plans / Country
- 2 different Roadmaps / scale

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Table of Contents					
List o	f diagrams8				
Forev	vord9				
Execu	ıtive Summary10				
1	Ecosystem services				
2	Methodology and methods				
3	Municipalities and biodiveristy capitalization				
3.1	The study area - Municipality of Vrapchisht20				
3.2	Description of the natural and man-made environment:				
3.3	Aim and specific objectives of the Action plan27				
4	Institutional framework for biodiversity conservation28				
4.1	National legal framework for biodiversity protection29				
4.2	International legal framework for biodiversity protection				
5 urbai	Strategy and Action plan for sustainable capitalization of biological diversity in peri- a forest in Municipality of Vrapchisht33				
5.1	Importance of the Action plan				
5.2	Description of activities for realization of the Strategic goals34				
	Valuation of the economic dimension of the project using BIOPROSEPT tools and arative value assessment (existing-after the implementation of interventions) – Process of tionalization				
6	Process for monitoring the implementation				
7	Literature45				
8	Annexes49				
8.1	Annex 1 LIST OF NATIONAL POLICIES49				
8.2	Annex 2 LIST OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS AND PLANS50				
8.3	Annex 3 RATIFIED CONVENTIONS51				
8.4	Annex 4: Meetings with stakeholders				
	Meeting on knowledge transfer from project "Mapping and valuation of ecosystem ess" towards effective and efficient project "Action plan development for the improved versity capitalization in the pert-urban forest of Vrapchishi"				
8.4.2 for the	Meeting on Stakeholders' information and consultation process on Action plan development e improved biodiversity capitalization in the peri-urban forest of Vrapchisht54				
biodi	Meeting on consultation process with the representative of the Municipality of Vrapchisht process of Monitoring and implementation of the Action plan development for the improved versity capitalization in the part-urban forest of Vrapchisht				
844	Meeting on stakeholders' final consultation for the proposed activated framed in the Action				

plan development for the improved biodiversity capitalization in the peri-urban forest of Vrapchisht59





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