

INTERREG MED PROGRAMME

FISHMPABLUE2 PLUS PROJECT

Act. 3.3 Capacity building
Deliverable 3.3.b “National Coaching Strategy”
Greece
STRUCTURE



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1. INTRODUCTION

This report concerns the coaching and supporting strategy provided by the University of the Aegean to **Samaria National Park** in Greece towards transferring the previously developed “SSF Governance Toolkit” in the Marine Protected Area in the boundaries off the Park, in an effort to enhance governance effectiveness of SSF through participatory processes in decision making (i.e. co-management concept) and to support socio-ecological sustainability of SSF through targeted management actions in the pilot site of Samaria National Park.

2. THE PILOT AREAS MAIN FEATURES

2.1. Pilot area Samaria National Park

Samaria National Park (SNP) encompasses a total area of 558.46 km² and corresponds to the NATURA 2000 site listed in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/2000) under the code GR4340008, being designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) since 2011 [Law 3937/29-3-11 (OJ 60 A)] ([Figure 1](#)). Albeit officially established during 2002 (LAW 3044/2002, article 13), the Management Agency of SNP became functional from 2008 onwards through the employment of the first personnel within the framework of the Project “Management and Operation of Samaria National Park”, Measure 8.1, Operational Program “Environment”, of the 3rd Community Support Framework, 2000-2006. Yet, the governance scheme and the internal regulation of the Management Agency of SNP are described by the National Law 2751/2019. In sort, the Management Agency of Samaria National Park forms a Public entity (supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy) governed by private law and managed by a Management Board. SNP is well known for the White Mountains (2,453 m altitude) where the steepest, tallest and narrowest opening forms the famous Samaria Gorge, that was proclaimed as National Park by the Greek Government in 1962 and a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1981.

The Marine Protected Area (MPA) of SNP covers an extent of 18.44 km² forming a belt shaped zone following the morphology of the coastline ([Figure 1](#)). Sub-division of the MPA to different management zones, including no-take areas, has been put forward only recently and it is under development by the Management Agency of SNP. Thus, there are no special regulations and management measures in effect regarding fisheries, other than those that apply at the National level. The Marine Protected Area of SNP is regularly fished by 6 artisanal small-scale fishers using trammel nets and longlines (medium – scale commercial fisheries are not allowed by National Legislation due to low distance from the shore and depth limitations – Law 4799/2021, article 134). Information on recreational fisheries is not available regarding both the number of fishers and the fishing gears used in the SNP. In general, there is no management plan for small scale

fisheries in the MPA of the SNP, while monitoring activities in the protected area for this activity are lacking.

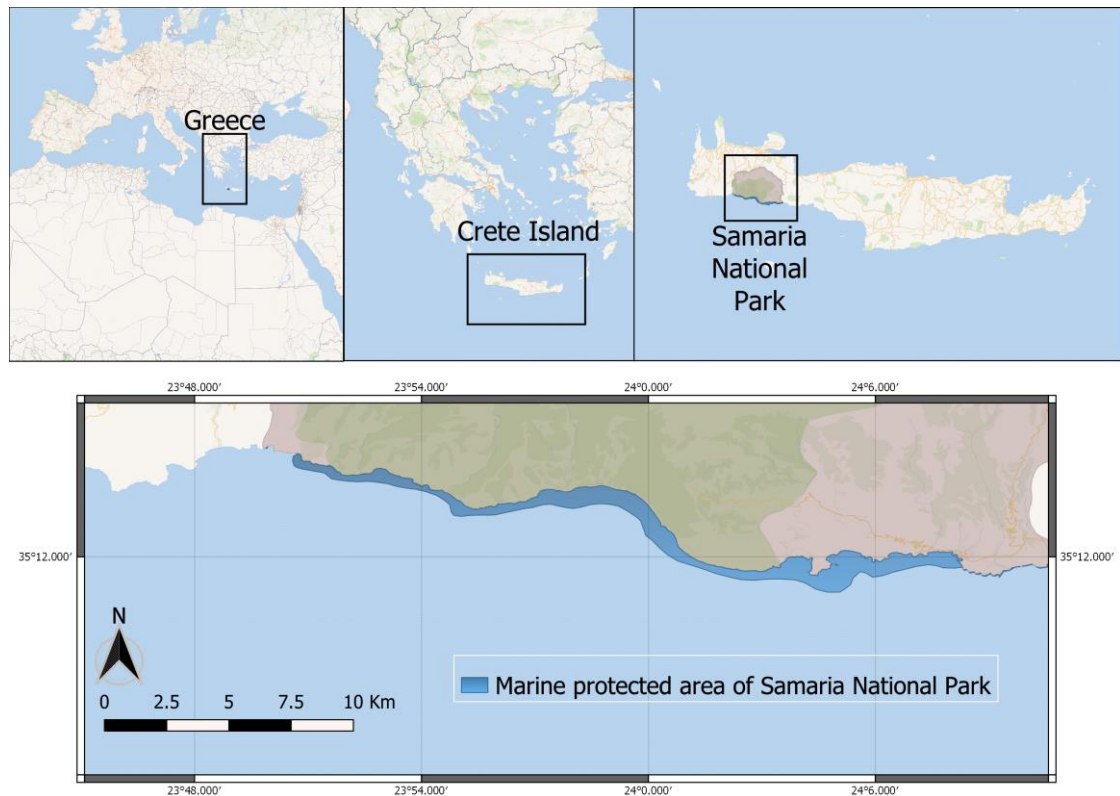


Figure 1. Map of Samaria National Park depicting the Marine Protected Area where the FISHMPABLUE2+ activities will be implemented.

3. THE COACHING STRATEGY

3.1. Creating the Local Governance Cluster and Adopting the “SSF Governance Toolkit”

The National Coaching Strategy at the pilot site of SNP MPA is based on the knowledge gained, the tools developed and the lessons learnt for small scale fisheries management and governance in MPAs during the FISHMPABLUE2 project. Therefore, it aims to guide and train the Management Agency of SNP in implementing the previously developed “SSF Governance Toolkit” in an effort to enhance governance effectiveness of SSF through participatory processes in decision making (i.e. co-management concept) and to support socio-ecological sustainability of SSF through targeted management actions. To meet this objective at SNP, the developed strategy presented here includes both a coaching and a training perspective. As regards the coaching of SNP, the formulated strategy has a two-fold purpose: a) to define the best way in order to support the

establishment of a **Local Governance Cluster (LGC)** for SSF co-management and governance, and b) to assist in selecting and adapting at least one of the management measures of the FishMPABlue2 “**SSF Governance Toolkit**” in SNP. Regarding the training of the personnel of the Management Agency of the SNP, the developed strategy foresees regular Webinars, on-line Meetings and on-spot Training activities (depending on Covid-19 pandemic restrictions) as well as participation in a Summer School (both in classroom and on the field) that will increase the capacity building of the personnel of the SNP in designing and implementing socio-economic-environmental monitoring techniques to assess and improve SSF management effectiveness in MPAs.

The Coaching Strategy for the SNP Management Agency consists of a five step process (Figure 2). The **first step** aims to provide support to SNP to map and identify the key stakeholders that can potentially participate to the LGC. The key stakeholders that have already been identified as candidates to join the LGC are the 6 small scale fishers that operate at the MPA of SNP, the Management Agency of SNP, the Municipality of Sfakia (the biggest village close to the SNP), the local Port Police Authority, and the local Fisheries Department (Directorate of Rural Economy and Veterinary Science, Regional Union of Chania, Region of Crete), as it has been decided through on-line meetings between SNP and University of the Aegean during early November 2021.

The **second step** will focus on initiating the communication of SNP with the candidate stakeholders for the establishment of LGC. Through this step, the candidate stakeholders will be thoroughly informed about the purpose and operation of LGC, as well as, about the possible management measures of the FishMPABlue2 “SSF Governance Toolkit” that can be selected and implemented through the LGC in the MPA of the SNP. The Management Agency of SNP will lead this process under the consultancy and support provided by the University of Aegean.

Then, the **third step** aims to bring together all the candidate stakeholders, though meetings chaired by the Management Agency of SNP (supported by the University of the Aegean), in an effort to set the basis for the formulation of the LGC. Still, during this step, University of the Aegean will provide support to LGC to understand and prioritize the most suitable and feasible measures of the FishMPABlue2 “SSF Governance Toolkit” to be applied in the future and customized to the specific context of the MPA and SSF in the SNP.

Step four aims to provide support on the final selection of the measures of the FishMPABlue2 “SSF Governance Toolkit” to be applied in the future through the LGC as well as the training of SNP (Summer School) on “SSF Governance Toolkit” implementation and on designing and implementing socio-economic-environmental monitoring techniques to assess and improve SSF management effectiveness.

The **last step** concerns the support of SNP by the University of the Aegean to finalize the formulation of the LGC and to take formal commitment bounding all involved parties through a memorandum of understanding regarding the future planning and implementation of the selected measure(s) of the “SSF Governance Toolkit” in SNP. An indicative time plan for the implementation of the five-step Coaching Strategy in the SNP is presented in [Figure 3](#).



Figure 2. The five step Coaching Strategy for creating the Local Governance Cluster, transferring the “FishMPABlue2 SSF Governance Toolkit” and of the integrated monitoring methodologies at the pilot MPA of Samaria National Park (Greece).



**National
coaching
strategy**

SAMARIA NATIONAL PARK

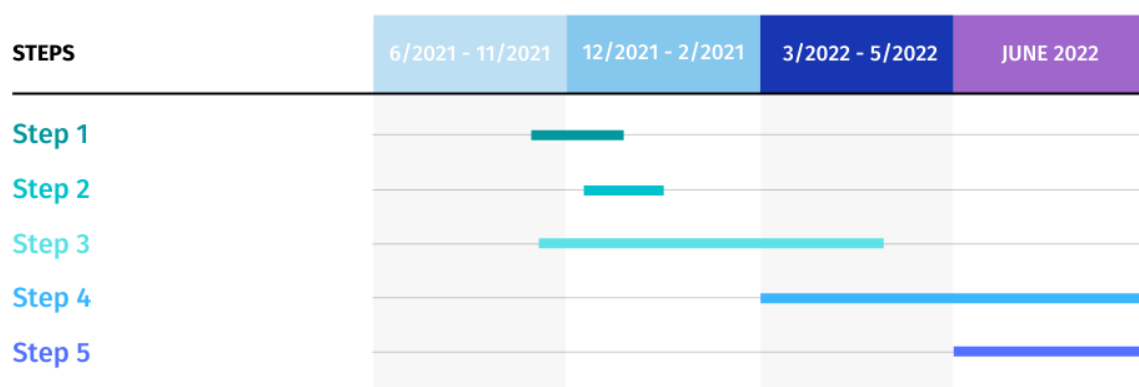


Figure 3. Time plan of the five-step Coaching Strategy for the SNP