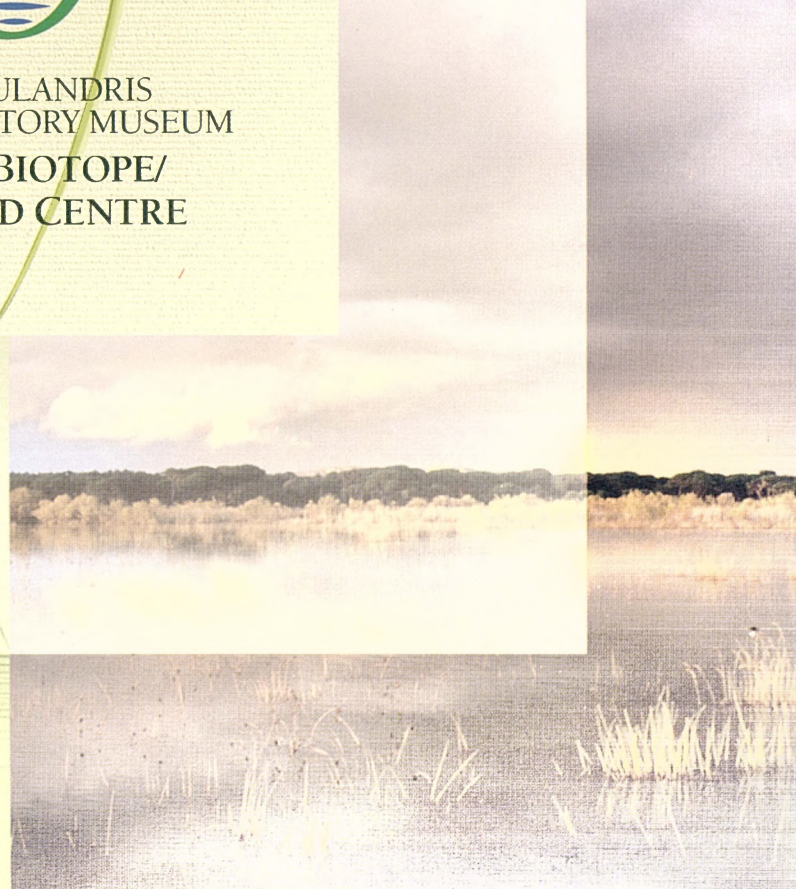
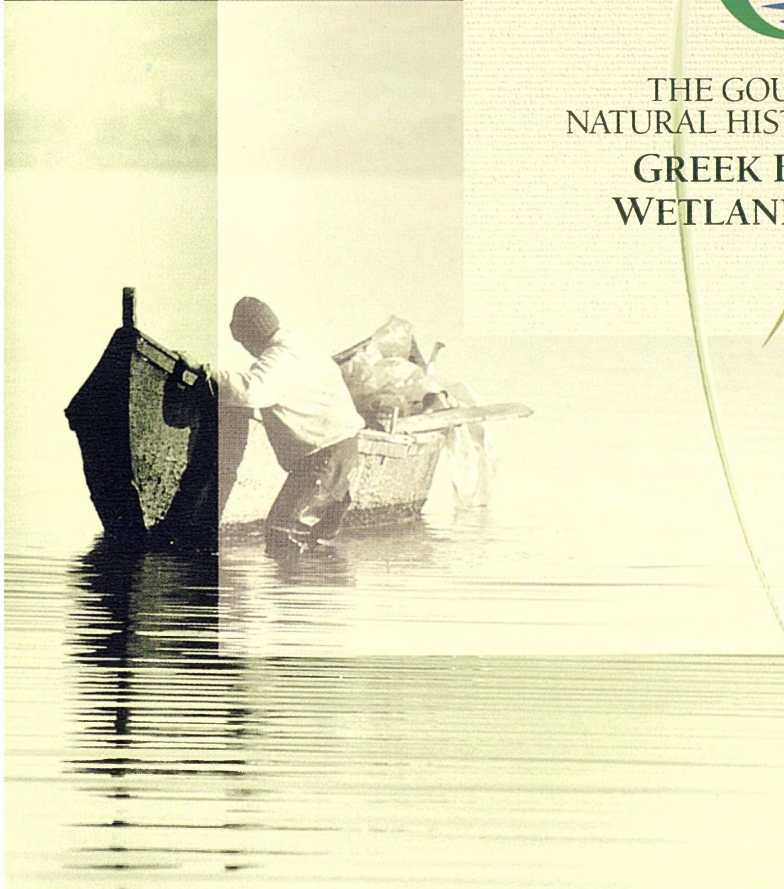




THE GOULANDRIS
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
**GREEK BIOTOPE/
WETLAND CENTRE**





ROOTS & ORIGIN



TEXT PREMISES - PHOTO PERIJA MILONIS

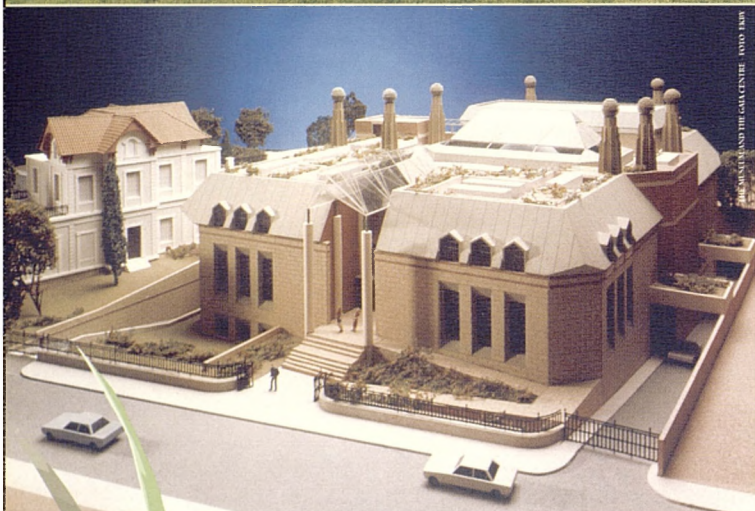


PHOTO SHAW AND THE GAVACENTRE - PHOTO FARKS

The Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (or EKBY by its Greek initials) has its roots in the Goulandris Natural History Museum. The Museum was established in Athens in 1964 as a non-profit institute for research, public awareness, information and education in the conservation of the natural environment.



EKBY has adopted the policies and nature conservation principles of the Museum.

It was established in 1991 by the Museum with European Community and Hellenic Ministry for the Environment funding and the support of the WWF-International and other organisations. EKBY is based at Thermi, close to the city of Thessaloniki, where its facilities are located.

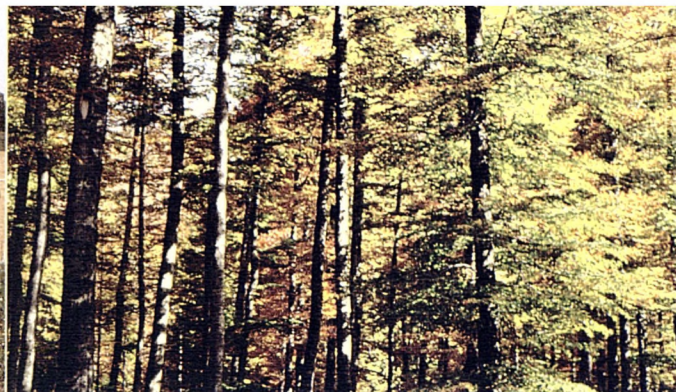


Niki Goulandris del.

Rosa canina



Niki Goulandris del.



NETWORK OF COMMUNICATION & COLABORATION

The idea to establish EKBV originated in 1989 in the context of a project on the "Conservation and Management of Greek Wetlands: Strategy and Action Plan" which was supported by WWF, the Laboratory of Ecology of the School of Agriculture (Aristotle University), and IUCN. Since its establishment, EKBV has developed a wide network of communication and collaboration both nationally and internationally and utilised and initiated opportunities of partnership in actions falling within its objectives. It supports other organisations undertaking projects in the same field, and helps to co-ordinate these projects whenever possible.

EKBV cooperates closely with:

- government services and local authorities, particularly those responsible for the management of biotopes and especially wetlands,
- educational and research institutes in Greece and abroad,
- pertinent services of the European Union, the Ramsar Bureau and agencies participating in international projects,
- non-government environmental organisations.

In addition, it is actively involved in the MedWet initiative which aims at the conservation and wise use of the Mediterranean wetlands.



EKBV'S SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION APPROACHES

In Greece EKBV has pioneered the development of the following concepts/procedures for the conservation and management of renewable resources:

- functions and values of natural ecosystems
- positive interactions between natural and man-made ecosystems
- inventorying natural ecosystems
- mapping natural habitats
- monitoring and management of coastal zones
- use of objective criteria to identify wetlands
- wetland hydrology
- wetland restoration and rehabilitation
- approaches to save irrigation water in order to relieve pressure on natural wetland habitats
- preparation of management plans for protected areas
- use of constructed wetlands in waste-water treatment
- planning, implementation, and evaluation of training project methods in public awareness campaign.
- methods in public awareness campaigns.



OBJECTIVES

EKBY's overall objective is to promote the sustainability of renewable natural resources in Greece and in the rest of Europe and the Mediterranean region.

The specific objectives are:

- To advance scientific knowledge.
- To monitor the initiation and evolution of activities related to agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry, transportation, housing, and tourism which may harm natural ecosystems, and to contribute to the sustainable performance of these activities.
- To provide scientific and technical information and consultation, especially to the Greek government and to collaborating environmental agencies in the European Union.
- To raise public awareness of the natural, economic and cultural values of wetland, marine, coastal and terrestrial systems and encourage a positive attitude to them.
- To promote education and training in the sustainable development and management of renewable resources.
- To provide the competent authorities with documented arguments for policies and laws leading to sustainable development as well as with services relevant to the wise management of natural resources in actual field conditions.





F I E L D S O F A C T I O N



EKBY is active in the following fields:

Natural areas management

Preparation of specifications and supervision of management plans. Elaboration of management plans, restoration studies and support for their implementation.

Scientific and technical information

National information archives for natural areas.
National information archives for sustainable development of renewable natural resources

Applied research

Research oriented towards addressing management problems.

Training

Assessment of training needs and planning, and implementation of projects to train managers and users of natural resources.

Public awareness and education

Planning and implementation of awareness projects regarding the values of the natural environment and the benefits from sustainable development. Planning and implementation of environmental education projects.

Advice and consultation

Provision of scientific information and advice to the Greek Government, local authorities and the private sector. Close collaboration especially with the Greek Ministries for the Environment and Agriculture.

Implementation of specific projects

Planning and implementation of specific projects and missions.



STAFF & INFRASTRUCTURE

EKBY is governed by a Managing Board chaired by Mrs. Niki Goulandris. It is staffed with experts on ecology, natural resources' management, hydrology, phytosociology (wetland, marine, and terrestrial), GIS and mapping, environmental science, environmental education, and project management; their work is supported by experienced administrative personnel. EKBY's own 1200 m² building is on a plot of land provided by the Farm of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The building offers space for offices, library, lecture/exhibition hall, etc. Equipment includes computer networks, digitisers, scanners, plotters, etc. It uses GIS software, and specialised data storage and processing programmes. Field equipment includes off road vehicles, GPS instruments, etc.



FOTOS: EKBY/S. MILIONIS



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