

EKBY

Linking man to nature



THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
GREEK BIOTOPE/WETLAND CENTRE



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of enormous natural wealth*04

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The Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre came into being as the maturing of an idea –an idea born from fieldwork, in the laboratory, in the classroom, in ministerial offices, in the offices of journalists, environmental agencies and the EU.

In its organisation the Centre has adopted the method of collective endeavour, and followed the fundamental principle of Angelos and Niki Goulandris: hard work and absolute dedication to conservation of the natural and cultural heritage. The experience it has gained through its successes, and its mistakes, allows the Centre to look forward to making an even greater, more comprehensive contribution to the citizens of Greece, of Europe and of the other countries of the Mediterranean.

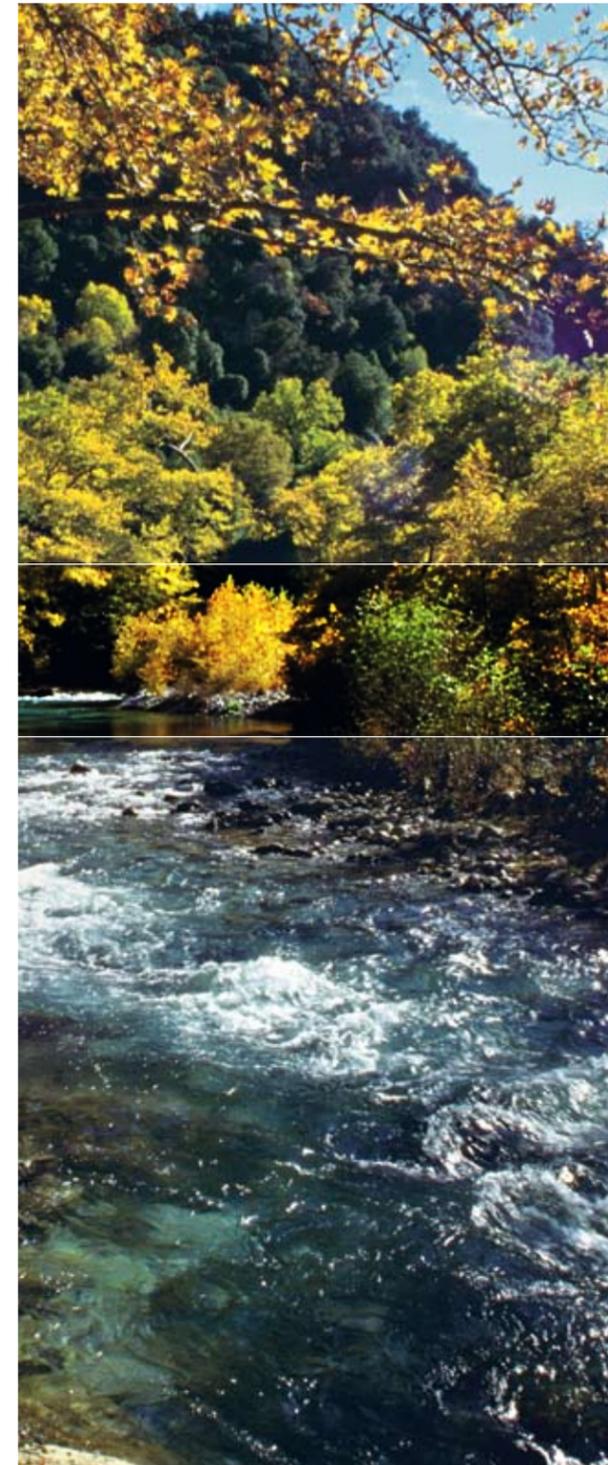
P.A. Gerakis

*Emeritus Professor of Ecology, AUTH
Chairman of the Executive Council of EKBY*

Like any living and growing organisation, as it matures, EKBY has acquired greater self-confidence, knowledge and experience, without ceasing to strive for change and improvement. Today, faithful to its guiding principles, it seeks to adapt to new challenges and constantly changing social conditions, confident that it will continue in the future to offer its services with the same consistency and reliability, working to the same high standards, continuing to assist in the conservation and sustainable management of the natural environment.

Spyros Dafis

*Emeritus Professor of Silviculture, AUTH
Member of Executive Council of EKBY*



In 1991, the Goulandris Natural History Museum decided, at the recommendation of the European Commission and the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, to create in Greece a special body to promote the conservation and sustainable management of renewable natural resources. The Museum can look back with pride at the foundation of the Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (or EKBY by its Greek initials). Through its network of selected associates, EKBY has become a bright example of excellent organisation, responsibility and significant results.

I feel it incumbent on me to praise the efficiency, remarkable rate of growth and scientific authority, which EKBY has shown in its many areas of activity –scientific, managerial and advisory. These qualities have earned the Centre the respect of all administrative levels in the ministries with which it collaborates, and have secured warm appreciation for its work from the European Union. I very much hope it will continue successfully in its work of saving the natural landscape and wildlife of Greece.

Niki Goulandris

INTRODUCTION

A small country of enormous natural wealth

Located on the frontier of three continents, Greece enjoys remarkable natural wealth, with some of the greatest biodiversity in Europe and the Mediterranean.

The flora of Greece, one of the richest in Europe, includes more than 6,000 plants, many of them endemic, rare or threatened with extinction.

The fauna of the country comprises some 30,000-50,000 species (European, Asian and African) –a high part of them endemic to Greece.

For such a small country, Greece has a very wide variety of ecosystems, from the semi-desert systems of south-eastern Crete to the cold-climate forests of Scots pine, birch and Norway spruce, on the Rhodope mountain range. These ecosystems, despite human influence, have largely retained their features almost intact.

It is rare to find a Mediterranean or European country, which has retained such a large biodiversity, so close to original natural conditions.



The natural landscape of Greece has been the nursemaid and educator of the Greeks –nurturing and protecting them, teaching the people how to conduct themselves, stimulating their philosophical inquiries. It has formed the background to the growth of Greek civilization.

Almost unchanged over the centuries, the features of the Greek natural landscape continue to shape the future of the country. Their conservation and wise use should be the primary objective for our society.



EKBY: THE FOUNDATION



A milestone in the history and conservation of the Greek natural landscape was the International Workshop on Greek Wetlands, held in Thessaloniki in April 1989, which marked the completion of two years spent in preparation of scientific studies by the Ecology and Environmental Protection Laboratory of the School of Agriculture of the Aristotle University, the World Wildlife Fund and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The proposals made at that Workshop were then presented during 1989-1990 to hundreds of representatives of institutes, ministries, environmental organisations in four Greek cities. Many of the proposals influenced state policies. The first to be promoted by the Ministry for the Environment was the creation of the Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (EKBY), the task of founding which was assigned to the Goulandris Natural History Museum.

And so the EKBY was set up, as an autonomous body under the auspices of the Museum, in 1991, with its head offices in Themi and with funding from the European Union, the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment and the World Wildlife Fund.

The overall objective was to create an organisation that promotes the sustainable management of renewable natural resources in Greece and other areas of the Mediterranean basin and Europe.

The Centre's specific objectives are as follows:

- To strengthen the scientific basis on renewable natural resources.
- To monitor the genesis and progress of human activities in the sectors of agriculture, silviculture, fishing, energy, industry, transport, housing, leisure and tourism which might damage the natural environment, and to take actions to redirect these activities in the direction of sustainability.
- To act as a provider of scientific information.
- To raise public awareness of the natural, economic and cultural values of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- To promote education and vocational training in sustainable development and management of renewable natural resources.

- To provide well-documented views and arguments to the competent authorities in order for them to introduce and implement policy measures and laws promoting sustainable development, as well as services related to the sustainable management of renewable resources.

EKBY took its first steps under the guidance of Professor P. A. Gerakis, Chairman of the Executive Council and first Director of the Centre, and Professor S. Dafis, Scientific Consultant and Chairman of the Scientific Committee. Luc Hoffmann and Thymios Papagiannis made key contributions. The Centre was rapidly staffed with the necessary personnel, acquired equipment and premises within the Campus Farm of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. These premises, covering 1200 sq. metres, include a library and reading room, conference room, offices and working areas, student work areas, etc.

From the very beginning the Centre's work earned respect and support from the Greek state, the European Commission, the Greek and foreign academic communities, and environmental organisations in Greece and abroad.

Today, remaining faithful to its principles and values, staffed by experienced and specialised personnel, with state-of-the-art equipment and well-stocked archives, the Centre is doing substantial and innovative work in inventorying, mapping, managing, restoring and monitoring of renewable natural resources. It generates knowledge, provides information, raises public awareness of the need for wise use of resources; it promotes education and training; it submits thoroughly documented proposals. It participates in European organisations and networks and in supranational initiatives for the conservation of nature. It consistently supports policies, which are in line with the principle of sustainability.

EKBY: THE MISSION



From the moment it was established, EKBY was committed to intervention through actions that conserve the natural wealth of Greece and focus on the alleviation of factors that constrain conservation efforts. Constraints such as a frequent lack of strong political will, inadequate information, a lack of expertise in some areas, the fragmentary incorporation of the environmental dimension in development policies and the continuing low level of environmental awareness among the general public.

In working in this direction EKBY has made use of the full range of established methods, procedures, approaches and innovations, while also opting to promote applied research, information, education, policy measures, management in practice and coordination of actions.

EKBY: THE ACTION



EKBY's activities focus on ecosystems: their characteristics –the soil, water, plants and animals and their relationships with humans.

They aim at their **conservation** and sustainable **management**.

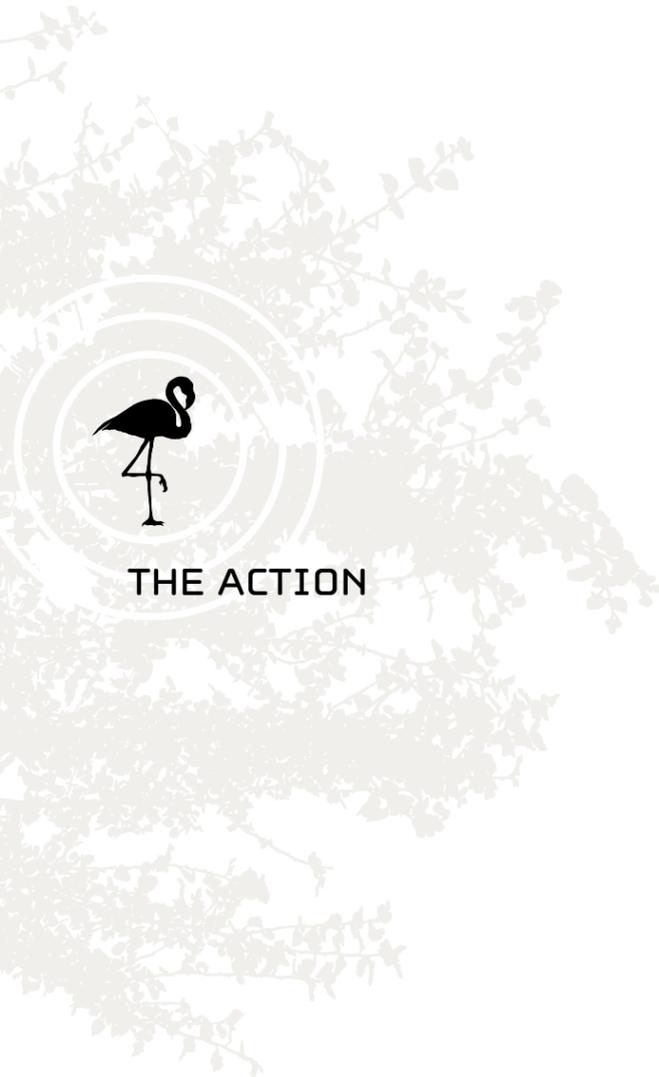
Action planning for the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems rests on **scientific knowledge**.



A basic tool in the planning of any interventions is the **communication** and consultation with interested parties, to enhance the planning process and achieve consensus.

Monitoring is used to check the implementation of the measures being taken, their efficacy and the state and trends of the ecosystems.

In the long term, **raising awareness** of the values of ecosystems, their benefits and the need to conserve them, will define new systems of values to achieve a harmonious relationship between man and nature.



EKBY AND KNOWLEDGE

The challenges

On publication of the Habitat and Bird Directives, the EU Member States proceeded to set up the NATURA 2000 Network, intended to conserve habitats and their indigenous species. The first step in founding the Network was to identify the areas that meet the inclusion criteria.

Conducting an inventory of areas –as a key instrument in their conservation and sustainable management– has been the first concern of most countries around the world and is promoted by the Ramsar Convention and by regional initiatives, such as the MedWet Initiative. Particular emphasis is laid on the methods followed, to allow easy, ongoing updating of records and presentation of information.

According to the Water Framework Directive, a good status of waters should be achieved in the European Union by 2015. The first step towards the implementation of the Directive is to record the ecological quality of waters and to keep monitoring them over time.

Improving knowledge and developing technological options in the areas of sustainable development and of the influence of climate change on ecosystems is a key priority of the Research and Development Programme of the European Union.

EKBY

Coordinated the work of identifying the NATURA 2000 sites in Greece and provided the scientific expertise necessary for mapping the habitats in these areas.

It conducted a full census to identify the wetlands of Greece – the first major undertaking by the Centre, and the first comprehensive census project on Greek wetlands. The experience acquired was used to inventory wetlands in other regions of the Mediterranean, incorporating new technologies and methods for collecting, processing and interpreting data. The effort continued with participation in the creation of an Internet system for the organisation of data on wetlands throughout the Mediterranean.

The Centre cooperates with European partners in establishing common methods and approaches for assessing the ecological status of water bodies and contributes to the collection and evaluation of information required for implementation of the Water Framework Directive in respect to the quality of surface waters.

It participates in European research on the use of contemporary technology in the assessment of the state of the natural landscape, evaluation of wetland functions and values and assessment of the impact of climate change on wetlands.

It handles data on the Greek natural environment and provides information to policy implementing agencies.



THE ACTION

EKBY AND CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

The challenges

Biodiversity is currently being diminished at a dramatic pace, between 50 and a 100 times more rapidly than is natural. The world leaders, in the Sustainable Development Summit in Johannesburg in 2002 pledged to significantly reduce this rate of biodiversity loss by the year 2010.

The Habitat and Bird Directives and the NATURA 2000 Network are cornerstones of the EU environmental policy. Attaining their objectives is a major challenge in the fight to conserve biodiversity.

Management of protected areas involves a continual quest for more effective ways of reducing the threats to the natural world and increasing the benefits these areas offer to mankind. Taking account of interests, uses and the pressures involved, into the planning of management is required if we are to conserve biodiversity and make prudent use of natural resources.

According to the Water Framework Directive, the management of water and land resources in each river basin will need to prevent further downgrading and contribute to the protection and improvement of the state of aquatic ecosystems, and the terrestrial ecosystems dependent on them.



Quantification of the interaction of the water and land resources of a river basin and its biota is one of the first steps in any attempt to achieve sustainable management. Considerable assistance is to be provided by up-to-date scientific tools capable of simulating water management plans and allowing us to evaluate their possible impacts.

Over the last few decades much concern has been expressed by the scientific community over the impact of use of water, land and genetic resources, both on the broader environment and on the resources themselves.





THE ACTION



EKBY

Contributes to the drafting of a national strategy and action plan for biodiversity; works to conserve threatened species, proposing measures which are already being implemented –for example at lakes Cheimaditida and Zazari– and contributes to enhance biodiversity, by conducting projects like the restoration of the forests on Mt. Athos.

Participates in the establishment of management authorities for protected areas and helps to support their operation, preparing specifications and guidelines for management and monitoring.

Coordinates efforts to assess the conservation status of habitats and species of Community interest in Greece.

With the consent of the local community, it implements actions to restore, promote and develop in a sustainable form a number of protected areas, like the palm forest at Vai on Crete, the riparian forest of the river Nestos and the Kalohori lagoon.



Studies the environmental flow requirements of natural ecosystems and briefs the competent agencies. For the lakes and rivers of Macedonia and Thrace, it recommends minimum water levels and flows.

It recommends targets and measures to restore dried up wetlands like the former lakes of Karla and Askourida, as well as to rehabilitate existing ones such as lakes Doirani and Cheimaditida and the lagoons of Drana and Kalohori.

It works on promoting wise water use, with the use of new methods and technologies to minimize the impact of agriculture.

It gathers and organizes hydrological data and uses simulation and water resource management tools. This allows, for example, prediction of the effects on a wetland from changes in the land use in its river basin, changes in methods of irrigation, the construction of a dam upstream, the diversion of a river or a reduction in rainfall. In the case of the river Strymon it studied the crop composition of the river basin to assess irrigation needs and developed a hydrological and hydraulic model of the river basin to simulate various methods of irrigation and their effects to the river features.

It transfers expertise in aspects of sustainable management of water resources through cross-border collaboration projects. It works with government agencies and scientific organisations in Albania, the former Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, preparing joint studies and organizing meetings and training courses.

It cooperates with the mechanisms of the Ramsar Convention in conserving Mediterranean wetlands and contributes to the implementation of international agreements on the natural environment.



THE ACTION

EKBY AND COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING

The challenges

The unwise use of natural resources by the modern human society is creating an urgent necessity to incorporate the principles of sustainability into everyday practice. Nature is demanding that we take action; demanding knowledge and sustainable management. There is a need for well informed, aware citizens which will support bold decisions to curb the degradation of the natural world and conserve the ecosystems, so that these can continue to support human communities and economies.

In European legislation participatory procedures in environmental management have been made a real right of the citizen and a duty on the state. The Aarhus Convention recognizes the citizen's right to information and to express an opinion on plans, measures and programmes involving the environment.

The Water Framework Directive devotes one of its clauses to the importance of informing the public and to public consultation. Article 14 lays down a detailed framework for conducting participatory procedures and directs the Member States to encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in implementing the Directive, mainly in the preparation, review and updating of management plans.

Environmental education is now established as one of the most important tools in international educational systems, with a general recognition that young people are the best investment in the building of a society which will safeguard and manage wisely the natural resources of our planet.

EKBY

Informs the public for the values of natural ecosystems; motivates people in their conservation and sustainable management.

Designs and implement interpretation plans and other projects to promote regions of special natural value and to exploit their potential for recreational activities.

Provides opportunities for the sustainable development of protected areas –planning, establishing and supporting infrastructures for information, dissemination and visitor management.

Promotes participatory planning for management of protected areas.

Supports environmental education programmes, providing advisory support, drawing up guidelines, producing educational material, participating in thematic networks, training staff.

Analyses training needs, designs and implements projects for training stakeholders involved in protected areas management.

Provides information and advisory support to public services, local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Trains students in sustainable development of renewable natural resources.



EKBY: THE COLLABORATIONS



EKBY was founded as a result of broad cooperation among public authorities, environmental organisations and the scientific community. And since then the idea of cooperation has impregnated all the activities of the organisation. Thus EKBY cooperates with:

Public agencies

It is an advisor to the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, collaborates with its departments in issues related to the management of the natural environment and the ecological quality of surface waters.

It implements Hellenic Aid international development cooperation projects with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It assists the Ministry of Education in promoting environmental education and education for sustainability.

It participates in Ministry of Employment actions to train scientists in natural environment issues.

Its scientific research forms part of the country's overall research programme, supervised by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

It contributes to sustainable development actions run by the Ministry of Development and by the Regional Authorities.

It engages in discussions with the Ministry of Rural Development and Food on forest conservation issues and sustainable agricultural practices.

It contributes to sustainable development actions run by local authorities.

Research and educational institutions

It cooperates with Greek research institutions like the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and the National Foundation for Agricultural Research.

It cooperates closely with universities, including the University of Athens (Biology Dept.), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Depts. Of Agriculture, Biology, Forestry, Education) and the University of Patras (Biology Dept.).

It develops collaborations with universities and research institutions in Europe like the Bucharest University (Romania), the Centre for Environmental Research (Germany), DHI-Danish Hydraulics Institute (Denmark), Danube Delta National Institute for Research & Development (Romania), Environment Satellite Data Centre (Sweden), Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (Finland), Free University of Amsterdam (Holland), German Aerospace Centre (Germany), Imperial College at Wye (UK), Joint Research Centre-Ispra (Italy), Klaipeda University-Coastal Research and Planning Institute (Lithuania), National Museum of Natural History (France), Royal Holloway University of London (UK), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden), University College London (UK), University of East Anglia (UK), University of Rennes (France), University of Salzburg-Department of Geography and Geoinformation (Austria), University of Tartu-Institute of Geography (Estonia), University of Utrecht (Holland).

Greek and foreign environmental organisations

EKBY holds consultations with environmental organisations in Greece and cooperates with international organisations such as Wetlands International, IUCN-World Conservation Union and the WWF (International, Greece, Italy, Mediterranean).

European Commission, Ramsar Convention, Organisations involved in transnational projects and initiatives

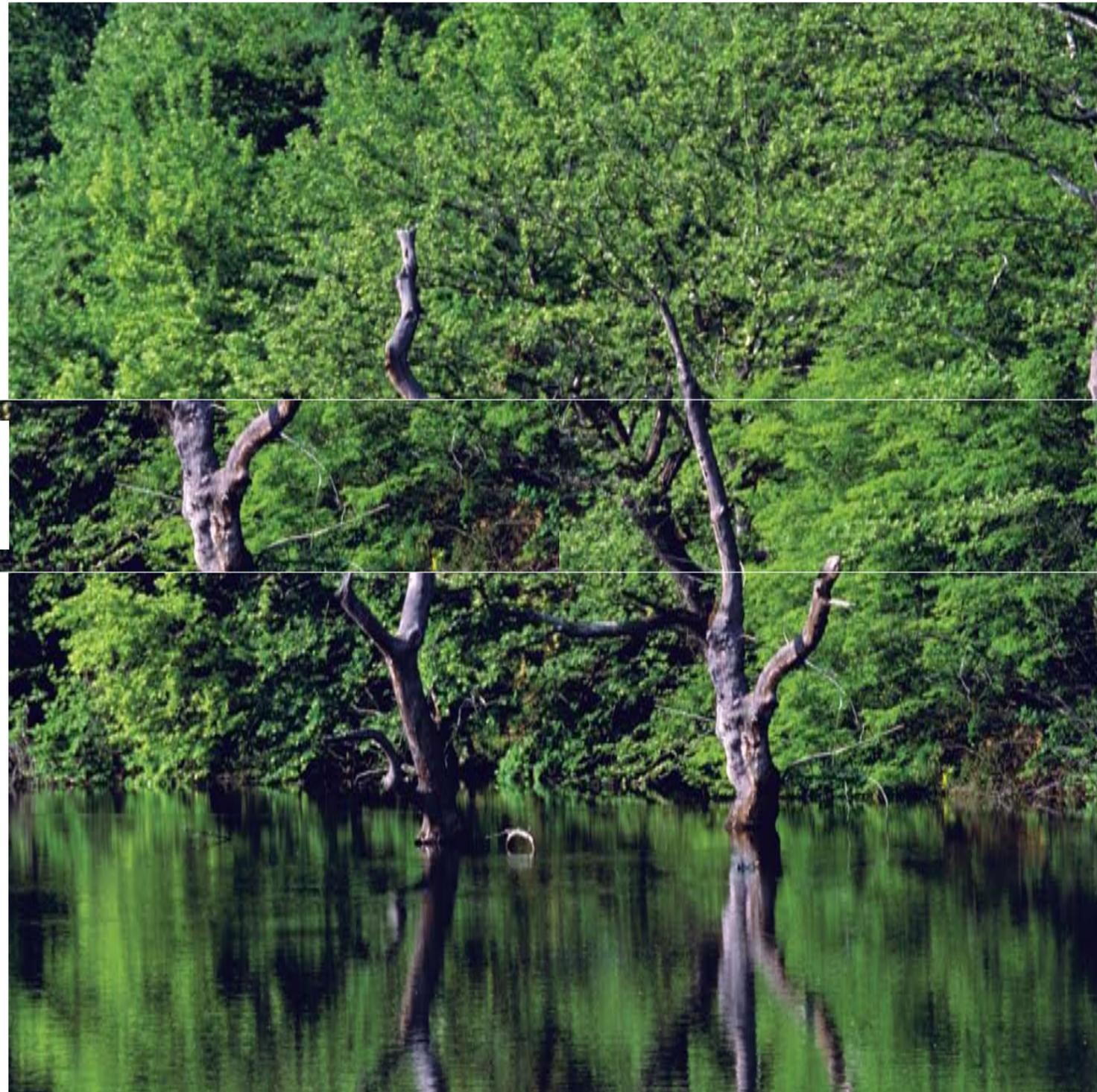
As National Reference Centre for Nature it cooperates with the Topic Centre for Biodiversity, of the European Environment Agency.

It participates in the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the European EUROSITE network.

It participates in the MedWet Initiative for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands under the aegis of the Ramsar Convention.

It cooperates with Mediterranean wetland centres such as the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (France), the SEHUMED-Centre for the Study of Mediterranean Wetlands (Spain), the ICN-Institute for the Conservation of Nature (Portugal) and the ARPAT-Agenzia regionale per la Protezione Ambientale della Toscana (Italy).

**EKBY: PRIORITIES
FOR THE FUTURE**



Assessment of changes to ecosystems –including the alterations resulting from non-sustainable human activity, and global climate change and documentation of policies and measures to avert degradation of ecosystems.

Halting the loss of biodiversity.

Ensuring adequate quantity and suitable quality of fresh water for both human use and ecosystems requirements.

Wide-ranging transfer of knowledge of complex functions and multi-dimensional values –social, economic and environmental– of natural ecosystems, as well as the sustainable practices which must be introduced.

EKBY: THE PROJECTS



More than 165 projects, small and large, attest to EKBY's determination to improve knowledge, to provide conservation and sustainable management for ecosystems, to offer training, education and public awareness-raising of the need to protect natural resources.

Some examples of EKBY'S projects

Improving knowledge

Inventory of wetlands: Inventory of Greek wetlands as natural resources, in association with the Ministry for the Environment. Updating and enriching the national wetland database. Mapping of Greek wetlands using the MedWet method. Inventory of Albanian wetlands. Proposals to implement remote sensing in inventory of wetlands and development of modern tools for the management of environmental information.

Technical coordination of MedWet Information and Communication Network for sustainable development of water ecosystems (Project: MedWet-Reseau CODDE).

Inventory, identification, assessment and mapping of habitat types, flora and fauna in Greece (Directive 92/43/EEC): Creation of scientifically documented directory of areas meeting the inclusion criteria for the NATURA 2000 Network (Project: LIFE Nature, in association with the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food).



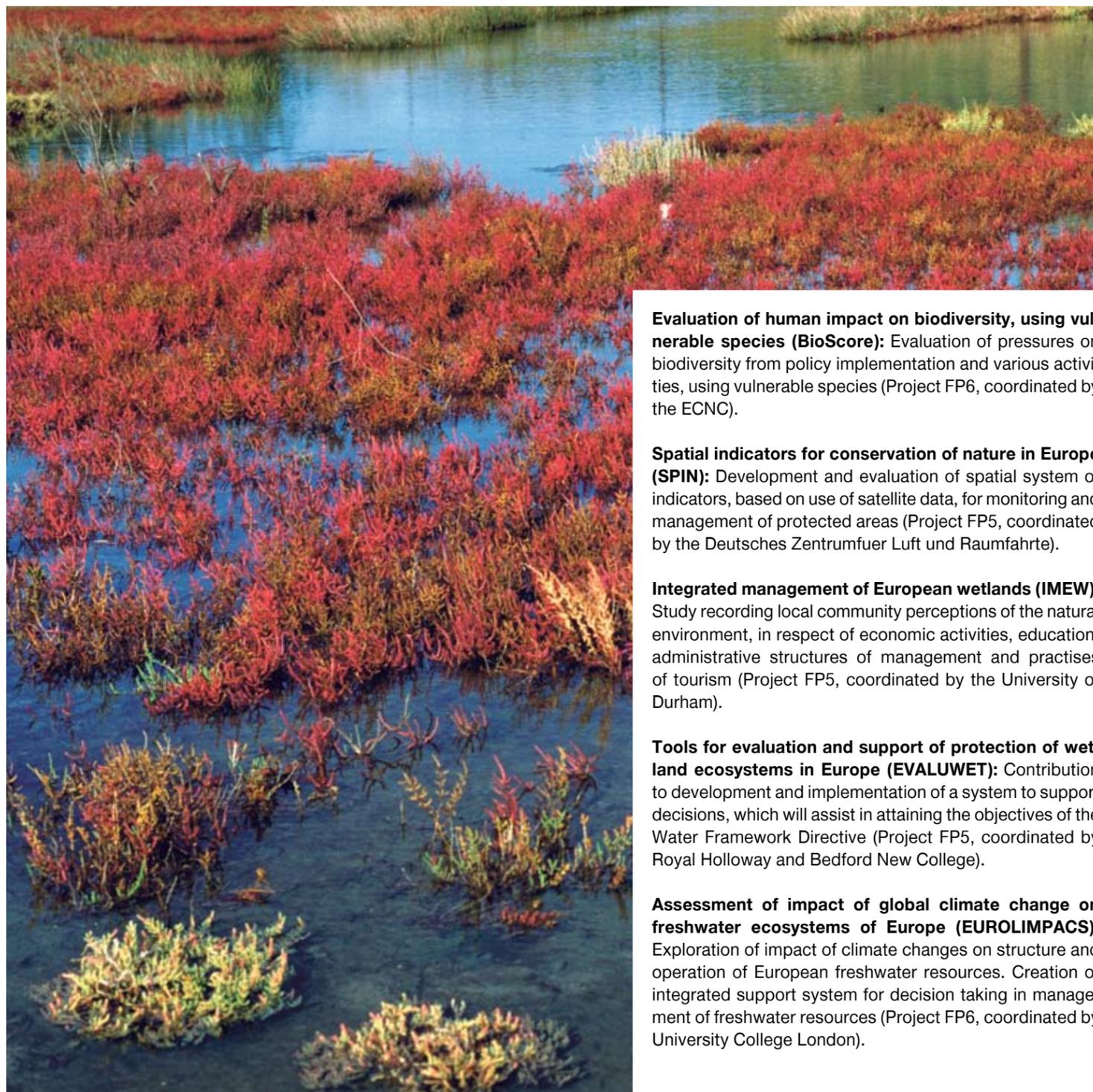
Identification and description of habitat types in areas of natural conservation interest: Scientific coordination of a project to map habitat types in Greece (Ministry of Environment project).

Supplementary data for the database of NATURA 2000 sites: Amendments to National Directory, based on recommendations of Seminars on Mediterranean Biogeographical Region (A Ministry of Environment project).

System for Hydrology using Satellite Images to Regulate Hydrological Simulations (SHYLOC): Development of a system for identification and calculation of the area of a water surface from satellite images, to feed data into hydrological simulation (Project FP5, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre).



THE PROJECTS



Evaluation of human impact on biodiversity, using vulnerable species (BioScore): Evaluation of pressures on biodiversity from policy implementation and various activities, using vulnerable species (Project FP6, coordinated by the ECNC).

Spatial indicators for conservation of nature in Europe (SPIN): Development and evaluation of spatial system of indicators, based on use of satellite data, for monitoring and management of protected areas (Project FP5, coordinated by the Deutsches Zentrum fuer Luft und Raumfahrt).

Integrated management of European wetlands (IMEW): Study recording local community perceptions of the natural environment, in respect of economic activities, education, administrative structures of management and practises of tourism (Project FP5, coordinated by the University of Durham).

Tools for evaluation and support of protection of wetland ecosystems in Europe (EVALUWET): Contribution to development and implementation of a system to support decisions, which will assist in attaining the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (Project FP5, coordinated by Royal Holloway and Bedford New College).

Assessment of impact of global climate change on freshwater ecosystems of Europe (EUROLIMPACS): Exploration of impact of climate changes on structure and operation of European freshwater resources. Creation of integrated support system for decision taking in management of freshwater resources (Project FP6, coordinated by University College London).

Conservation - Management

Management plan specifications: Drafting guidelines for management plans for NATURA 2000 sites (Ministry of Environment project).

Coordinated actions for management of coastal zone of Strymonic Gulf: Showcase project for integrated management of coastal zones (Project: LIFE Environment, in association with the Fisheries Research Institute).

Conservation and management of sites of community interest in Greece (Directive 92/43/EEC): Preparation of special management plans for selected areas in NATURA 2000 Network, information campaigns and monitoring guidelines (Project: LIFE Nature).

Conservation measures for the Vai palm forest, Crete: Conservation and rehabilitation of the palm forest, regulation of tourist activities and promotion of sustainable tourism, environmental interpretation (Project: LIFE Nature, in association with Panayia Akrotiriani Monastery and Lasithi Forest Service of Region of Crete).

Rehabilitation of coppice *Quercus frainetto* woods (9280) and *Quercus ilex* woods (9340) to high forests: Rehabilitation of 1,250 acres through inversion thinning of coppice *Quercus frainetto* and *Quercus ilex* woods (Project: LIFE Nature, Beneficiary: Holy Community of Mt. Athos).

Restoration and promotion of riparian forest of River Nestos: Restoration of natural vegetation and highlighting of values of riparian forest. Creation of environmental parks, organisation of information infrastructures (Project funded by countries of European Economic Area, in collaboration with the Regional Authority of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace).

THE PROJECTS

Determining of methodology and preparation of specifications for evaluating areas and for their characterization as Special Protection Areas for birdlife: Preparation of specifications and pilot application in 10 regions (Project: Operational Programme 'Environment' 2000-2006).

Exchange of expertise for promotion of joint planning of management of regions of special ecological importance, on the mountain range of Rhodope, in the spirit of Directive 92/43/EEC: Scientific coordination of actions (INTERREG project run by Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi).

Technical Consultant supporting implementation of projects included in Measure 8.1 of the Operational Programme 'Environment' and whose final beneficiaries are the Management Authorities of the protected areas (Project: Operational Programme 'Environment' 2000-2006).

Restoration of wetlands: Design of model for re-creation of the former lake Karla. Plans for restoration of the dry lagoon of Drana and contribution to the restoration of lake Mavrouda. Identification of projects for the restoration and conservation of the Kalohori lagoon. Definition of required interventions for the protection and restoration of the functions of lakes Cheimaditida-Zazari and promotion of their implementation in collaboration with the Prefectural Authority of Florina and other organisations in the context of a LIFE Nature project. Definition of required interventions for the re-creation of the former lake Askourida in the Prefecture of Larisa. Scientific publication on the restoration of Mediterranean wetlands.

Scientific support for the preparation of texts on national strategy and action programmes for the wetland resources of Greece, the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable management and development of agricultural resources (Ministries of Environment and Rural Development and Food).

Evaluation of wetland functions and values of cross-border lake Doirani and proposals for restoration interventions: Assessment of functions and values of lake, preparation of management proposals (HELLENIC AID project, with the NGO BIOECO as a local partner).

Transboundary cooperation according to the Water Framework Directive: Transfer of technology and exchange of experiences with scientists in the Former Yugoslavia (HELLENIC AID project).



Cross-border cooperation for management of surface waters in run-off basin of River Aaos/Vjosa: Identification of pressures, mapping of protected areas, organisation of Geographical Information System, proposal for management guidelines, identification of statutory framework for water resources in Albania (HELLENIC AID project, with ECAT Tirana being the local partner).

Greek-Turkish cooperation in strengthening protection and management of wetland resources: Monitoring of biological parameters in selected lakes and issuing a guide on water monitoring (HELLENIC AID project, in association with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Nomos and Physis and the Middle East Technical University).

Management of water resources to minimize impact on water ecosystems from agricultural practices in the Strymon basin: Design of hydrological simulation system and monitoring system, evaluation of functions, recording of agricultural practices, assessment of volume, cost and prices of use of water, formulation of alternative management proposals, in accordance with the agro-environmental policy of the European Union (Project: LIFE Environment, in association with the Prefectural Authority of Serres, the Serres Development Enterprise and the Association for Protection of Lake Kerkini).

Development of systems and management tools for the water resources of the Water Areas of Western Macedonia, Central Macedonia, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace: Gathering hydrological data on electronic data bases and geographical information systems. Definition of hydrological balance on the level of the river basin. Recording of current and future water needs. Recording the state of natural environment. Development and implementation of original water resource management systems (Ministry of Development project).

Greek-Bulgarian cooperation to strengthen protection and management of natural resources: Use of cutting-edge technology for conservation and management of water resources in river Strymon basin. Planning for conservation and promotion of Rhodope (HELLENIC AID project).

THE PROJECTS



Communication - Public Awareness - Education - Training

AMPHIVION: 16-page bi-monthly journal, issued since 1993, providing information on natural resource conservation issues.

Printed and audiovisual publications: Creation of some 60 leaflets and 41 posters. Issuing of publication titled «Greek Wetlands». Creation of CD-ROM on Greek wetlands.

Environmental Education: Production of educational material (The coastal zone, Lakes Volvi and Koroneia, Lake Kerkini, Lakes Cheimaditida and Zazari, The protected areas of Cyprus, etc.). Planning and organisation of seminars on environmental education, staff training, support to school programmes. Participation in thematic networks (e.g. River Aliakmon).

Cross-border cooperation and exchange of expertise for the use of educational technology in environmental education: Study of existing situation in environmental education in cross-border region of Greece and former Yugoslavia. Creation of educational material, further training of teachers and dissemination of results (INTERREG project).

Environmental interpretation infrastructure projects: Creation and organisation of Museum of Fishing Vessels and Equipment at Moudania. Planning and creation of Visitor Centre at Nestos Riparian Forest. Planning and Creation of Lake Doirani Museum. Planning of Grevena Eco-Museum, Natural History Museum of Vitsa, Museum of Olympus National Park, Moudros Maritime Museum, Lakes Cheimaditida and Zazari Information Centre, Avdera Information Centre. Planning and construction of eco-trails at Olympus and Rhodope protected areas.

Joint approaches to planning the promotion of ecologically vulnerable areas in Rodope: Preparation of a plan for promotion of destinations of natural and aesthetic interest in Rhodope. Exchange of expertise, actions for promotion and publicity, production of printed and audiovisual material (INTERREG project by the Prefectural Authority of Drama-Kavala-Xanthi).

Development of infrastructures for promotion and interpretation of environment at lake Doirani and increasing business capacity of local community: Plan for promotion of destinations of natural and aesthetic interest at lake Doirani, enrichment of Lake Doirani Museums, improving capacity of staff to organize and operate information infrastructures (HELLENIC AID project).

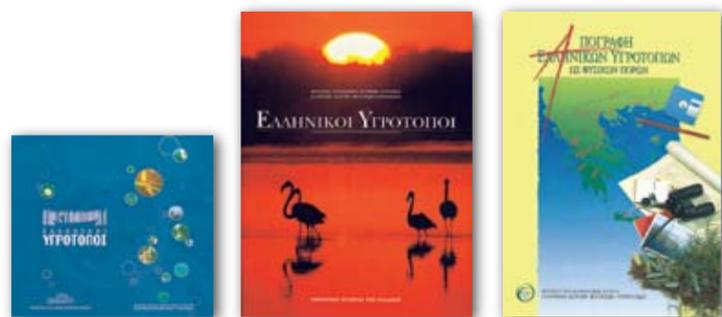
Dissemination of scientific and technological information and awareness-raising in natural environment and water issues: Organisation of exhibition titled «Water. Drops of knowledge», organisation of conference on «Natural ecosystems and water», production of printed and audiovisual publications, promotion and publicity actions (Project: HERMES-OPEN DOORS of General Secretariat of Research & Technology).

Development of open system for acquisition and certification of professional qualifications in environmental protection sector: Production of training material in aspects of management of protected regions (EQUAL project).

Vocational education in aspects of inventorying of wetlands using new technologies: Training actions in Serbia (HELLENIC AID project).

Strengthening operational capacity to conserve wetland ecosystems in Albania (ALWET): Transfer of expertise in inventorying wetlands. Production of educational package on inventorying wetlands using up-to-date tools. Running of courses and education of instructors (Project: LIFE Third Countries, Beneficiary: ECAT-Tirana).

EKBY: THE PUBLICATIONS



Scientific articles, studies, books, briefing papers, leaflets and posters, more than 500 in number, present a full picture of the knowledge and results generated by the work of the Centre. They offer a channel of communication between the organisation and the wider audience in Greece and abroad.



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