

GREECE

Competent authority(ies) for nature & biodiversity: Ministry of the Environment (MINENV): http://www.minenv.gr/1/e100.html
<u>Most recent national/subnational biodiversity strategy/action plan:</u>
<u>Latest review of the implementation of biodiversity strategy/action plan:</u>
<u>Alignment with EU biodiversity plan:</u>
<u>Alignment with EU 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010):</u>
<u>Key sources of official nature & biodiversity information used for evaluation:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Environment (MINENV): http://www.minenv.gr/1/e100.html • Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP): http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=content2&catid=001001002 • Third National Report-Convention of Biological Diversity (2008): http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf • EU Operational Programme for Fisheries Press Release-Greece: http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/18&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN DELIVERY OF OBJECTIVES OF EU BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

A. POLICY AREA 1: BIODIVERSITY IN THE EU

1. To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species.

Natura 2000 sites (terrestrial and marine) (A1.1, A 1.2 & A.1.3)

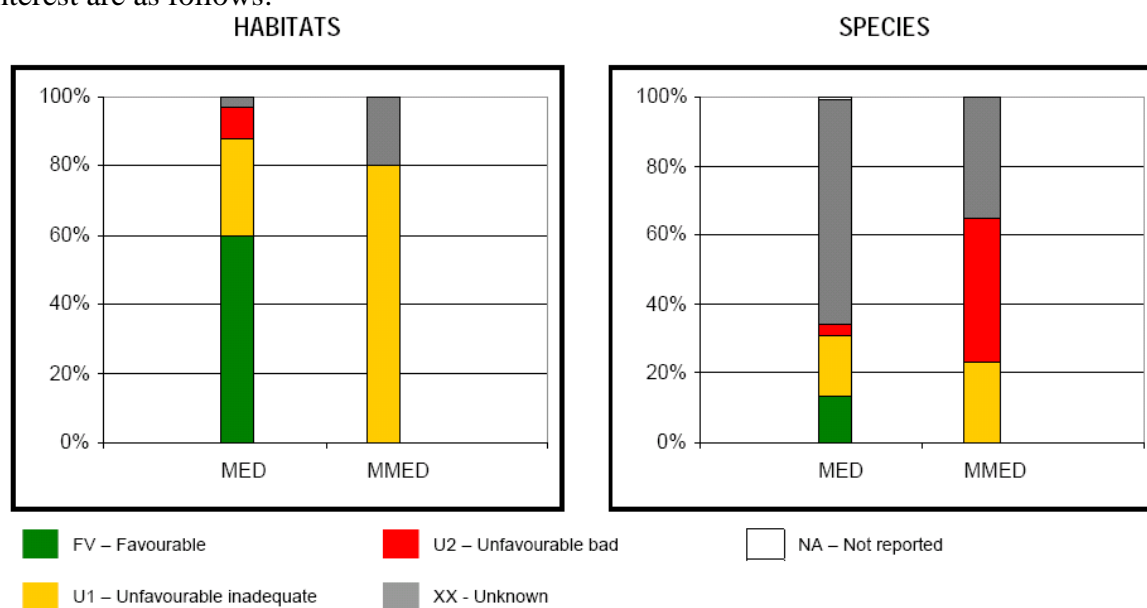
	<i>Number of sites</i>	<i>Area (km²)</i>
Total SCIs/SACs (Habitats Directive)	239	27 641
SCIs/SACs with marine component (Habitats Directive)	102	5 998
Total SPAs (Birds Directive)	163	16 755
SPAs with marine component (Birds Directive)	16	567

Number of SCIs and SACs - Natura 2000 Barometer – June 2008 (Source: European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity based on data supplied by Member State)

Greece was considered, by June 2008, to have achieved a level of sufficiency of 99.1 % for site selection for species and habitat types under Habitats Directive, in its territory. However, only one Natura 2000 site has a completed/agreed management plan, with 95 in development. According to the EC LIFE Programme/Database, under the LIFE Nature programme, there was a total of 17 projects in Greece with an EC contribution of EUR 16 023 103, during the period 2000-2006. In the year 2007, according to the indicative national allocations, projects in Greece received EUR 6 356 000 from LIFE+ funds. Spatial data is available online.

Conservation status assessment (A1.2)

Under the Habitats Directive Greece has one biogeographical region (mediterranean). The results of the first conservation status assessment for species and habitats of community interest are as follows:



Region / Conclusion	HABITATS					SPECIES				
	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Mediterranean	60	28	9	3		13	18	3	65	1
Marine Mediterranean		80		20			24	41	35	
Member State	57	31	8	4		12	19	6	62	1

*The conservation status categories: FV = favourable, U1 = unfavourable-inadequate, U2 = unfavourable-bad, XX = unknown, NA = no evaluation given by MS

Overall assessment of conservation status by biogeographical region (Analysis by the European Topic centre on Biological Diversity based on data supplied by Member State)

Ex-situ conservation (A.1.3)

Ex-situ conservation measures are under development. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food aims at the development of New Gene Bank facilities responsible for the collection, characterization, documentation and long term conservation of 5,000 samples of wild or relatives of the cultivated species throughout Greece. Besides this target, the Greek Gene Bank has under its responsibility the management and protection of 8.000 species that are conserved in its premises and other Institutions of National Foundation of Agricultural Research.

Common bird monitoring (A.1.3)

A pilot common bird monitoring study is carried out by the Hellenic Ornithological Society.

Red Data Book/Lists, National/Subnational Atlases, Action Plans (A.1.3)

Red Data Lists have been taken into consideration for conservation planning in the past, but the information contained in the existent Books is relatively old. Today, the most recent instrument for conservation planning is the implementation report of the Habitats Directive for the period 2000-2006. The information contained in this report, together with the information that will be incorporated in the updated Red Data Books, being under revision with funding from the 3rd CSF and expected to be finalized by 2009, will be used for the identification of species in need of drafting Action Plans, the formulation of a national monitoring programme, the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, the formulation of conservation measures.

2. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU countryside.

Rural Development Programmes (A2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.8):

According to information supplied by the Greece authorities, the Axis 2 budget of the RDP accounts for about 33.8 % of public RDP expenditure (i.e. EAFRD allocations plus co-financing). The majority of Axis 2 funds are focused on agri-environment payments, 17.7 % of EAFRD expenditure (52.5 % of Axis 2 spending). There is also a small allocation of funding for Natura 2000 forest measures (0.2 % of total EAFRD expenditure).

A significant amount of funding is allocated for first afforestation measures on agricultural land (2.8 % of total EAFRD expenditure) or non-agricultural land (0.6 % of EAFRD).

Agricultural genetic diversity (A2.1.11):

The country has set targets for the coming decade regarding plant genetic resources. These include the establishment of a national committee on plant genetic resources, the founding of national research projects on plant genetic resources, the updating and enforcement of the legal framework and the collaboration of plant genetic resources bodies at regional and international levels. According to the country's CBD report, targets have been included in sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. Furthermore, it refers to the implementation of the Council Regulation (EC 870/2004) on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture. The country also states that an active network of farmers that collect, use and exchange old crop varieties called "Peliti" has been established.

Agricultural cross-compliance measures (A2.1.4 & 2.1.10):

Greece has included a number of GAEC Minimum Level of Maintenance measures (as referred to in article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003), that may help to protect biodiversity within farmland habitats. These include minimum stocking density levels for pasture land (which are set at 0.2 LU/hectare for all categories of animal, unless more specific rules exist at regional level). The ploughing of permanent pasture is also prohibited (except in cases where an environmental or archaeological need is demonstrated) and farmers must not destroy terraces, walls, dykes and natural banks bordering parcels.

Afforestation / deforestation policies and biodiversity (A2.1.5):

No response was received from the Member State to the European Commission's questionnaire. In the absence of other readily available data, progress with this target and related actions cannot therefore be evaluated.

Soil protection and biodiversity (A2.2.1):

No response was received from the Member State to the European Commission's questionnaire. In the absence of other readily available data, progress with this target and related actions cannot therefore be evaluated.

Measures to improve the ecological status of freshwaters (A2.3.1):

According to the European Commission's WFD Scoreboard, Greece has met its WFD transposition and reporting obligations with respect to notification (Article 24), inter-calibration exercise and the production of a River Basin Districts Report (Article 3). Furthermore, Greece has finalised the environmental and economic analysis required under Article 5 and has submitted the relevant reports. Revision of the monitoring network, including the development of monitoring programmes for biological quality elements, according to the requirements of Article 8 is underway.

Measures to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity (A2.4.2 & 2.4.3):

In 2006, Greece's emissions of nitrogen oxides were below the ceiling set by the NEC Directive. Sulphur oxides, ammonia and non-methane volatile organic compounds emissions exceeded the targets, but it is expected that the country will meet these ceilings by 2010.

3. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU marine environment.

Good marine ecological status (A3.1a):

According to the Article 17 National Summary for Greece, 80 % of the 'Marine-Mediterranean' habitat types listed in Annex I to Habitats Directive in Greece have an 'unfavourable-inadequate' status. The remaining 20 % have an 'unknown' status. Greece is a contracting party to the Barcelona Convention and therefore has responsibilities under the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Strategic Action Plan for Protection of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO). According to the Barcelona Convention, the Contracting Parties shall, individually or jointly, take all appropriate measures to protect and preserve biological diversity, rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as species of wild fauna and flora which are rare, depleted, threatened or endangered and their habitats, in the area to which this Convention applies. Greece has also drafted its National Report for SAP-BIO, in the frame of preparation of the overall Mediterranean Strategic Action Plan.

The newly adopted EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires the progressive development of certain marine strategies in order to achieve "Good Environmental Status" in all European seas by 2020. Greece is in the process of establishing the appropriate National Plans in order to follow the strict time schedule of MSFD implementation plan.

Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) (A.3.1.b):

A National Report on Coastal Zone Management in Greece was officially submitted to the European Commission on 24 May 2006. The objectives and targets for ICZM are incorporated into the following on-going studies: the Global Framework for the National Spatial plan, the Special Framework for the Spatial Planning of Industry, the Special Framework for Spatial Planning of Renewable Energy, and the Special Framework for Spatial Planning of Tourism. These documents were considered as equivalent to an ICZM National Strategy as reported in the EU ICZM Evaluation Report.

Pollution: Bathing water quality (A3.2)

With 2,055 bathing waters, Greece accounts for about 9.6 % of the reported bathing waters of the European Union. According to the Bathing Water Report for the 2007 season, general bathing water quality in coastal areas remained excellent, though there was a slight decrease from the 2006 bathing season. All the coastal bathing areas complied with the mandatory standards (100 %). Compliance with the minimum standards decreased slightly from 99.7 % in 2006 to 99.5 % in 2007. Compliance with the more stringent guide values decreased from 96.9 % in 2006 to 95.5 % in 2007. All the areas were open for bathing. Ten were not sufficiently monitored.

Ecosystem approaches in Fisheries management measures (A3.3):

Greece has an Operational Programme for Fisheries 2007-2013, but it is not clear if it incorporates the ecosystem approach.

Community and National Financing under European Fisheries Funds (EFF) (A3.4):

The Greek Operational Programme 2007-2013 for Fisheries includes environmentally-friendly measures, including reduction of fishing capacity of the fleet and promotion of environmentally-friendly methods in aquaculture. The majority of the EFF contribution for Greece (37 %) went to Axis 1 'Measures for Adaptation of the Fishing Fleet'. Axis 2 'Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products' received 29 % of the EFF funds and Axis 3 'Measures of Common Interest' received 16 % of the EFF funds. The Operational Programme document itself is only available in Greek so determination of the specific number of environmentally-friendly objectives within each Axis was not able.

Restoration programmes for diadromous species (A3.5.a):

There is no information on whether there are fisheries management plans for diadromous species in Greece.

Fishing Capacity-Decommissioning (A3.5.b):

The EU Member State Fleet Statistics recorded that, between 1999 and 2006, the number of vessels in the Greek fleet declined by 9.9 %. The total tonnage was reduced by 14 % over the same period. The total power declined by 16 %.

According to the EU press release, the Greek Operational Programme 2007-2013 for Fisheries contains measures aimed at the reduction of the fishing capacity of the fleet. The Operational Programme 2000-2006 for fisheries also contained measures for reducing fleet size by scrapping, transferring vessel to a third country, or reassignment of vessel for other purposes.

Action plans and conservation status for marine species and habitats (A3.6):

As a party to the Barcelona Convention, Greece has adopted the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Turtles, within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The objectives of this Action Plan are: (1) the protection, conservation and, where possible, enhancing of the populations of marine turtles in the Mediterranean; (2) the appropriate protection, conservation and management of the marine turtle habitats including nesting, feeding, and wintering areas and migration routes; (3) improvement of the scientific knowledge by research and monitoring.

In addition, five other regional Action Plans have been adopted within the MAP context. These directly concern species conservation for the most threatened and most emblematic species in the Mediterranean. Species included are: monk seal, cetaceans (especially bottlenose dolphin), seabirds such as Audouin's gull, cartilaginous fishes like the great white shark and the saw-shark and marine plants i.e. macrophytes and plant assemblages seen as natural monuments, like *Posidonia* barrier reefs.

The Action Plans adopted in the MAP context described above all include an objective relating to the elaboration and setting up monitoring programmes and monitoring networks for the species in question.

Research and data collection for the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) is carried out through a number of projects almost all over Greece, mainly by MOM-the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal. In the wider area of the National Marine Park of Alonissos - Northern Sporades, the Mediterranean Monk Seal has been monitored since 1990. Specifically in sites with *Monachus monachus*, the implementation of the National Programme for the Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (Archipelagos and MOM, 1996) has been continued. The main target area has been the National Marine Park of Alonissos. In Kimolos – Polyaiagos and North Karpathos – Saria implementation took place with the support of a Life – Nature project. Another Life-Nature project is addressing

mitigation of the conflict between monk seals and fisheries.

Photos sent by local Port Police are also kept. Through a number of projects, NGOs (mainly ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece), are monitoring the most important populations of the Loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta* all over Greece. In sites important for nesting of *Caretta caretta*, actions for the reduction of the intentional and accidental injuries /deaths among loggerhead sea turtles arising from capture in fishermen's nets were implemented through a Life-Nature project. Through this project the existing rehabilitation system (rescue centre and rescue network) was improved and complemented with the opening of two first aid centres at areas where most captures are recorded. Moreover, protection of nests and hatchlings were conducted in southern Kyparissia bay by a Life-Nature project. Similar actions were carried out in Zakynthos National Marine Park (prevention of sound and light pollution, control of activities on the beaches). Incidents of dead, wounded or live marine turtles that have been stranded are also recorded by the Port Police Service of the Ministry of Merchant Marine.

As regards cetaceans, incidents of dead, wounded or live species that have been stranded are recorded with photos sent by local Port Police and are kept in an electronic file by the Port Police Service of the Ministry of Merchant Marine. Environmental NGOS are informed on the incidents respectively. Wounded or dead cetaceans are examined, where possible, by veterinaries of the Prefectures or the Veterinary School of Universities. Further on, Universities, research institutes and NGOs (like the Veterinary School of the University of Thessaloniki, National Centre for Marine Research, Fisheries Research Institute, Rhodes Aquarium of HCMR, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, ARION, Tethys) are collecting data on their own databases. All of the above mentioned bodies do biometric measurements, external examination and take photos. Many of them do also tissue examination. For the strandings per year reported by the port-police an annual report is prepared.

Under the European Monitoring of Habitats, a number of marine and coastal habitats are also monitored in Greece, including: Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp., Coastal lagoons, Embryonic shifting dunes, Estuaries, Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*), and Posidonia beds (*Posidonion oceanicae*).

Aquaculture planning and biodiversity (A3.7):

There is an Operational Programme for fisheries and aquaculture in Greece for 2007-2013. Its plans for Aquaculture (Axis 2) includes the implementation of methods for improvement of positive impacts of aquaculture on the environment; the support of traditional, biological and sustainable aquaculture methods; and the modernization of the fisheries methods in internal waters. The plans for 'Measures for Common interest' (Axis 3) also include management measures for fisheries resources as well as environmental and biodiversity protection.

4. To reinforce compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU.

Biodiversity spending under Cohesion and structural funds:

Under the Cohesion and structural funds, for the period 2007-2013, expenditures foreseen by Greece for Biodiversity & nature protection, amount to EUR 180 000 000. Other relevant areas where Cohesion and structural funds will be allocated are Promotion of Natural Assets (EUR 22 000 000) and Natural Heritage (EUR 32 000 000).

5. To substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes.

Strategies to reduce impacts from invasive alien species (A5.1.2):

No questionnaire response was received from the Member State. However, according to an IEEP study carried out in 2006, Greece has created IAS national/subnational legislation

addressing trade including export and import, and control/eradication. The country prohibits the import of all alien species to be farmed/used as baits, and regulates trade in some alien species through CITES regulations. Furthermore, the Sanitary Committee may decide to control introduced animal species. However, it remains unclear whether a national strategy dealing with IAS has been developed, and whether a national/subnational database has been created.

As regards IAS research, a lot has been done by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) on marine IAS, including the publication of an updated list of marine alien species in Hellenic waters. A network of marine researchers working on marine IAS has been set up under the name ELNAIS including nine research Institutes / Universities and more than 34 Greek scientists currently carrying out relevant research.

As regards terrestrial invasive alien species, research has been carried out by individual researchers, with 21 listed as experts under the project “Delivering Alien Invasive Species for Europe (DAISIE)”

Biosafety measures to reduce impacts from alien genotypes (A5.1.2 & 5.1.3):

Besides having ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Greece has adopted/implemented relevant EU Regulations and Directives including Regulation 1946/2003 on transboundary movements, which implements the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety into EU law. However, in April 2005, Greece notified the Commission of a provisional prohibition for the 2005 and 2006 growing seasons, of the marketing of 17 maize hybrids listed in the common catalogue of seeds. In response to this, the Commission proposed to deny the Greek ban on the basis that the maize varieties concerned do not pose any health or environmental risks. When the Council voted on the proposal, it was unable to act by a qualified majority and consequently the dossier was returned to the Commission for adoption within three months. Despite this, in January 2006, the Greek authorities extended the scope of the ban.

Currently, GMO coexistence is of little relevance to Greek farmers: the government has banned all GM crop events approved by the EU, most regions have declared themselves GM-free, and both farmers and food retailers reject GM products.

Nevertheless, politicians are discussing coexistence regulations. The Greek government has already implemented EU regulations on coexistence and traceability, and detailed rules for their application in agricultural practice are being developed by an expert committee.

B. POLICY AREA 2: THE EU AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

6. To substantially strengthen effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Greece has not yet prepared its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Third National Report to the CBD was prepared in 2008. Greece submitted two thematic reports on Invasive Species (2000) and Forest Ecosystems (2001). Information for national funding for biodiversity conservation is not available. With regard to supporting developing countries, several programmes and projects have been implemented in the framework of the Bilateral Programme of Development Assistance and Cooperation in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development by the Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works. Each project had six or twelve month's duration, aimed at the Mediterranean region, the Balkan countries and the Black Sea. Greece paid their annual contributions to CBD, Ramsar, CMS, World Heritage Convention EAWA and the UNEP Environment Funds.

7. To substantially strengthen support for biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU external assistance.

Funds allocated for biodiversity projects and programmes in developing countries (B7.1.3) and Members State's Overseas Countries and Territories (B7.1.6):

Greece has developed a system with an Inter-ministerial Committee (EOSDOS), chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, providing strategic guidance on its aid programme, and Hellenic Aid (in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) coordinating its implementation. Its bilateral aid programme is focused on 21 priority countries, with a high concentration in the Balkan and the Black Sea region. The country is already considering possibilities for increasing its development aid activity in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Greece's bilateral programme is focused on a limited number of sector priorities, which are in line with its overall objective of poverty reduction.

Annual spending on biodiversity-related bilateral aid in 2006 was EUR 380 000, which amounted to 0.33 % of the total bilateral aid budget.

Integration of biodiversity considerations into development programmes and projects impacts on biodiversity (Action B7.2.2 & 7.2.5):

According to the OECD Development Assistance Committee, given the priority areas for the Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans (i.e. social infrastructure, economic infrastructure and productive sectors), Greece will need to carry out EIAs to identify and minimise potential environmental damage from its funded activities. It remains unclear whether necessary steps have been already taken.

8. To substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The figures for CITES permits for 2005 and 2006 indicate the comparably high level of trade in CITES species. The number of import documents issued in 2005 and 2006 was 639 and 797 respectively. Ten (10) permit applications were denied in 2005 and one (1) in 2006. The number of seizures increased from 8 in 2003/04 to 15 in 2005/06. National capacity was built through hiring of more staff, purchase of technical equipment for monitoring/enforcement and computerisation. In addition, microchip-reading devices were purchased and disseminated to all the regional management authorities for facilitating controls. Advice/guidance and training was provided to the Management Authority, training was provided to the public and written advice/guidance was provided to the staff of enforcement authorities and traders. Greece paid their annual contribution to the CITES Trust Funds.

C. POLICY AREA 3: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

9. To support biodiversity adaptation to climate change.

Progress on Kyoto targets (C9.1.1):

Greece is committed under the Kyoto Protocol and EU burden sharing agreement to restrict its growth in greenhouse gas emissions to 25 % for the period 2008-2012 compared to the base year. In 2005, emissions were 25.4 % above base year levels.

According to recent projections, with existing policies and measures emissions will rise to 34.7 % above base levels in 2010. However, with the additional measures foreseen in the 2nd National Climate Change Programme, which are being implemented, Greece's emissions are projected to be limited to a rise of 24.9 % above base levels in 2010. Greece is therefore expected to just achieve its Kyoto target. The additional measures include further use of natural gas, energy savings in industry and buildings, structural changes in agriculture and the

chemical industry and emission reductions in transport and waste management.

Adaptation measures to increase biodiversity resilience to climate change (C9.4.1 & 9.4.3):

According to its reports to CBD and UNFCCC, Greece does not appear to have specific targets or strategies for climate change adaptation measures for biodiversity. Some general conservation actions relating to protected areas are mentioned in its UNFCCC report, but no specific or additional adaptation measures are described.

From the information provided in its CBD report there is no indication that Greece has undertaken scientific studies of the vulnerability of its habitats and species to climate change.

D. POLICY AREA 4: THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

10. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally.

National research programmes (D10.1):

There is no National programme or sub-programme exclusively dedicated to Biodiversity research in Greece. However, within the context of Environmental and Physical Environment thematic areas of 3 national research programmes, related to human potential in research support, attraction of Greek researchers to be re-established in Greece, and Transnational Cooperation, 20 research projects on the field have been funded within a period of 5 years. In addition, the Third National Report on the Convention of Biological Diversity states that the General Secretariat for Research and Technology funds several projects in the field of environment, including biodiversity. There is not a National forum or network supervised or funded by GSRT, exclusively dealing with Biodiversity.

National Research Policy for the upcoming years (2007-2013) is reflected in the recently published Strategic Development Plan for Research, Technology and Innovation under the 2007-2013 NSR Framework. Biodiversity research is foreseen in two out of 11 National Thematic priorities of the Strategic Development Plan for RT&I, namely i) Agriculture, Fishery, Foodstuffs and Biotechnology, and ii) Environment. In particular, a) utilization of Biotechnology for the study, assessment and conservation of Biodiversity and b) Protection of Biodiversity for the Sustainable use of Natural Environment, protection and considerable use of Ecosystems (especially forestry and marine ones), are explicitly mentioned in the explanatory discussion of the above mentioned thematic priorities, and will be included in future Calls and Initiatives. Moreover, within the new framework, several funding and decision making tools are also foreseen to support policies, especially in Strategic and Sustainable Development thematic fields. In this context, the Biodiversity National policy development and implementation can also be supported.

There are no national forums to ensure that biodiversity outcomes are reflected in biodiversity policy development and implementation in a formal way, although significant outcomes from biodiversity research and information exchange are taken into account. Greece does have a national Clearing House Mechanism supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD Clearing House Mechanisms were designed with three main goals in mind: the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation; the promotion and facilitation of information exchange among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders; and a fully operational mechanism with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners.

E. THE FOUR KEY SUPPORTING MEASURES

1. Ensuring adequate financing

RDP 2000-2006 funding for Biodiversity-related activities (in EUR millions)

Activity	Public expenditure	EU contribution
Agri-environmental measures	400.1	299.9
Allowances in mountain and Less Favoured Areas	955.9	286.0

RDP 2007 – 2013

As regards to the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of natural resources, these priorities are included under axis 2 of the RDP, and the objectives include the preservation of biodiversity and the development of agricultural and forestry systems and traditional rural landscapes, rational management of water quantity and quality and the protection and sustainable management of soil.

This axis has a total public funding of EUR 1 714 908 870 of which the EU (EAFRD) contributes EUR 1 296 518 200.

OP under the European Fisheries Fund:

The Greek Operational Programme 2007-2013 for Fisheries (see section A3.4) includes environmentally-friendly measures, including reduction of fishing capacity of the fleet and promotion of environmentally-friendly methods in aquaculture. However the Operational Programme document itself is only available in Greek so specific number of environmentally-friendly objectives within each Axis, and the amount allocated to them have not been fully assessed.

2. Strengthening EU decision-making

Plans and follow-up to UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (E2.1):

It is not clear whether Greece has any plans for a follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Alignment of national biodiversity strategies with EU (E2.2):

According to the Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008), one of the main axes of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development is the integration of biodiversity into sectors of decision-making. In addition, some sectors have been engaged in including biodiversity concerns into their planning. For example, the national policy for tourism, published by the Ministry of Development in 2000, includes the aim of protection of natural environment through the promotion of ecotourism. The sustainability principle is integrated in the tourism policy through “the development of alternative tourism activities (ecotourism, cultural tourism, sport tourism)”. Moreover, the regional land use and sustainable development plans that have been issued in 2003 and 2004 (through Ministerial Decisions) integrate nature protection concerns into the land use and sustainable development decision-making process. In addition, the application of a number of policies financed from the EC Support Framework (e.g. Common Agriculture Policy) includes axes for the sustainable use of biological resources.

The Greek National Biodiversity Strategy, which is being developed, will take into account to a significant degree the EC Communication on “Halting the Loss of the Biodiversity by 2010 and beyond.”

Effective integration of Natura 2000, Rural development, river basin management and other territorial plans and programmes in support for biodiversity (E2.5):

According to the Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008),

Greece contributes to the formation of the Natura 2000 network, which includes conservation areas designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The selection of sites is based on list of species and habitats types that are considered to be important at the European Level. Greek Natura 2000 sites are estimated to cover more than 21 % of national territory. According to the Law 1650/1986 “for the protection of the environment”, areas of particular importance to biodiversity could be designated as protected areas. The implementation of the Habitats Directive in Greece includes thorough use of the existing Community co-financing instruments, including agri-environment measures, under the Greek rural development programmes as well as the Operational Programme “Environment” included in the Third Community Support Framework 2000-2006.

In the National Strategy for the Sustainable Development (2002) an overall target was set in relation to biodiversity—to reverse the current trends of biodiversity loss and to protect and effectively restore natural habitats. Moreover, in the Strategy for Wetland Resources (1999) targets related to wetlands are also set.

Greece implements the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). CAP has increasingly been adapted to better integrate the high and increasing environmental and biodiversity (nature conservation) concerns of European society, with measures that encompass, on the one hand, environmental requirements integrated into the market policy and, on the other hand, targeted environmental measures that form part of the rural development policy.

The Greek National Profile for the Twelfth Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development (2004) describes the framework produced the preceding year for water protection and sustainable management of water resources, and implementing the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC). The Law 3199/9-12-2003 on water protection and the sustainable management of the water resources introduces an innovative and holistic approach concerning water management that recognizes explicitly the ecological function of water. It also emphasizes the management of water on the basis of river basins. One of the major objectives of the Law is achieving a ‘good ecological status’ for all water resources. With regards to monitoring programmes, the Third National Report for the CBD states that the 27 Management Bodies for Protected Areas are responsible for implementing programmes for the protected items (flora and/or fauna) and for the ecosystem’s function and productivity. For these monitoring programmes, as well as for all habitats types and species of European Community interest, indicators identified by the EC in collaboration with member states for revealing their conservation status will be used (Streamline Environmental Biodiversity Indicators -SEBI 2010 program).

3. Building partnerships

National partnerships for biodiversity including private sector involvement (E3.1):

The Third Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008) describes national measures aimed at promoting partnership for biodiversity within the agriculture and tourism sectors. Measures cover a large field of instruments including both monetary incentives (agri-environment incentives for farmers, tax incentives etc) and non monetary incentives (research, public awareness, education etc). Direct Incentives (in-cash), include incentives to adopt organic crop and animal farming methods (in development); incentives for preservation of extensively grown crops that are threatened by genetic pollution; and incentives to control pollution caused by nitrogen. Direct Incentives (in-kind), include provision of electric fences to beekeepers and the provision of guarding dogs to animal farmers for the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctus*). Indirect Incentives include measures for the conversion of coppice forests to high forests, incentives to promote agrotourism activities, and incentives to promote ecotourism activities.

In addition, the national policy for tourism published by the Ministry of Development in 2000 includes the aim of protection of natural environment through the promotion of ecotourism. The sustainability principle is integrated in the tourism policy through “the development of alternative tourism activities (ecotourism, cultural tourism, sport tourism)”.

4. Building public education, awareness and participation

National/Sub-national public awareness campaigns/initiatives (E4.1):

As reported in the ECNC analysis of the Flash Eurobarometer, 65 % of Greek respondents had never heard of the term ‘biodiversity.’ Of those who had heard of the term, 17 % knew what it meant. A total of 34 % of Greek respondents felt that they were either ‘well informed’ or ‘very well informed’ about biodiversity loss. Of Greek respondents, 61 % had never heard of the Natura 2000 network. Of those who had heard of it, 15 % knew what it was. A total of 72 % of Greek respondents felt that they made personal efforts to protect biodiversity.

According to the Third National Report to the Convention of Biological Diversity, Greece is preparing a communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategy according to the commitments to the Aarhus Convention. Greece has a Clearing House Mechanism in place to improve communication and public awareness of biodiversity issues and to encourage public participation in support of the Convention and in environmental issues in general.

Biodiversity is being promoted through the press, including the bimonthly newsletter AMPHIVION of the Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre. Additionally, public relations and media oriented activities are carried out during significant anniversaries, such as International Biodiversity Day.

Greece has established 18 Environmental Education Centres in various regions of Greece to provide advice and help to teachers on environmental education and the development of relevant projects.

The Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works supported the Management Bodies of protected areas in the production of educational material. Moreover, projects by NGOs with public awareness goals have been supported.

F. MONITORING

Information on national biodiversity indicators is not available. Several terrestrial, freshwater, marine and species monitoring schemes are ongoing in Greece.

DATA SOURCES

A1. To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species:

Member State Questionnaire response

Article 17 report <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>

Natura 2000 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/barometer/index_en.htm

<http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/atlas/viewdata/viewpub.asp?id=2639>

Completeness of N2000:

http://themes.eea.europa.eu/IMS/ISpecs/ISpecification20041007131611/guide_summary_plus_public

Spatial data http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/db_gis/index_en.htm#sites

Common Bird Monitoring <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm-estonia.html>

LIFE expenditure <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

Ex-situ measures (CBD 3rd National Report) <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

A2. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU countryside

A2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.8

Published National Rural Development Programmes (IEEP database 2008)

European Commission unpublished data (2008)

MS questionnaire

A2.1.11

Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

A2.1.4 & 2.1.10

Alliance Environment (2007). Evaluation of the application of cross compliance as foreseen under Regulation 1782/2003. Part I: Descriptive Report - 26/07/2007. Report to the European Commission.

A2.1.5 & A.2.2.1

MS Questionnaire

A2.3.1

WFD Scoreboard http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/transp_rep/scoreboard_en.htm

A2.4.2 & 2.4.3

Greece NEC Directive submission (21 Apr 2008)

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/gr/eu/nec>

A3. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU marine environment

A3.1a

Article 17 National Summary-Greece

<http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=content2&catid=001001002>

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm

http://www.pelagosinstitute.gr/en/pelagos/pdfs/NR_Greece_SAP-BIO.pdf

A.3.1.b

http://www.rupprecht-consult.eu/iczm/iczm_national_reporting_greece.htm

http://www.rupprecht-consult.eu/iczm/iczm_national_reporting.htm

A3.2

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/summary_report_2008.html

A3.3

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/op/greece_el.pdf

A3.4

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/op/greece_el.pdf

A3.5.a

A3.5.b

<http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleetstatistics/index.cfm?lng=en>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/18&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

http://www.alieia.gr/index2_en.html

A3.6

http://www.rac-spa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=106&Itemid=149

<http://hellas.ncsr.gr/nature/mom.html#b2>

<http://www.archelon.gr/eng/wois.htm>

http://eumon.ckff.si/monitoring/monitor_show_wp23-2.php?sid=283&mid=103

A3.7

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/op/greece_el.pdf

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/18&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

A4. To reinforce compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU

A4.

Infoview Data (DG Regio)

LIFE+ 2007 Call for Proposals – DG Environment

LIFE expenditure 2000-2006 – DG Environment

A5. To substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes

A5.1.2

Miller, C., Kettunen, M. & Shine, C. 2006. Scope options for EU action on invasive alien species (IAS) Final report for the European Commission. Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), Brussels, Belgium.

<http://elnais.ath.hcmr.gr/>

<http://daisie.ckff.si/>

A5.1.2 & 5.1.3

European Commission Report on the Implementation of National Measures on the Coexistence of Genetically Modified Crops with Conventional and Organic Farming
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/coexistence/index_en.htm

National legislation

http://www.gmo-compass.org/eng/news/country_reports/

IEEP (2007) Manual of Environmental Policy – the EU and Britain. Maney Publishing, Leeds, the UK (Chapters 7.13 – 14 and 7.22-24)

B6: To substantially strengthen effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services

B6

<https://www.cbd.int/reports/search/>

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

<http://www.cbd.int/convention/parties/contributions.shtml?tab=2&yr=2007>

<http://www.unep-aewa.org/map/parties.htm>

http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_12_e.htm

http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/32_stc_meeting/French/Doc_09_Fonds_Affectation_avec_Annexes.pdf

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/31COM/documents/>

http://www.unep.org/rmu/en/Financing_of_UNEP/Environment_Fund/Table_2007/index.asp

B7. To substantially strengthen support for biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU external assistance

B7.1.3 & 7.1.6:

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crs.

OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_33721_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

B7.2.2 & 7.2.5:

OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_33721_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

B8. To substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services

B8

<http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/reports/biennial.shtml>

<http://www.cites.org/common/resources/reports/pab/05-06Greece.pdf>

<http://www.cites.org/common/resources/reports/pab/03-04Greece.pdf>

<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-07-1.pdf>

C9: To support biodiversity adaptation to climate change

C9.1.1

EC (2007) Communication from the Commission. Progress towards achieving the Kyoto objectives.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/gge_progress.htm

C9.4.1 & 9.4.3

Third National Report to the CBD (2008)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.doc>

Fourth National Report to UNFCCC (2006)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/grenc4.pdf>

D10. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally

A10.1

<http://www.biodiv-chm.gr/>

<http://www.cbd.int/chm/>

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

<http://www.gsrt.gr>

http://www.gsrt.gr/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=4699

E1. Ensuring adequate financing

E1

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/countries/el/fiche_en.pdf

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/481&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

E2. Strengthening EU decision-making

E2.1

E2.2

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

<http://www.minenv.gr/4/41/000/nssd-english-final.pdf>

E2.5

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

<http://www.minenv.gr/4/41/000/nssd-english-final.pdf>

<http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gre66106.pdf>

http://www.minenv.gr/4/41/000/csd12_final%20edition.pdf

<http://www.minenv.gr/1/12/121/12103/e1210300.html>

E3. Building partnerships

B3.1

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

E4. Building public education, awareness and participation

E4.1

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_219_en.pdf

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gr/gr-nr-03-en.pdf>

F1-4. Monitoring, evaluation and review

<http://eumon.ckff.si/>