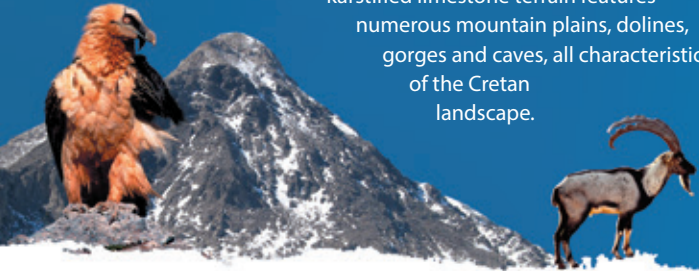


MOUNTAINOUS AND INLAND SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

Crete's main characteristic is its three mountain massifs (the Lefka Ori, Psiloritis and Dikti), consisting mainly of limestone ranges with a variety of habitats and high biodiversity. The heavily karstified limestone terrain features numerous mountain plains, dolines, gorges and caves, all characteristic of the Cretan landscape.



The above mountain chains are covered with relatively sparse forests of Calabrian pine (*Pinus brutia*), cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), prickly-oak (*Quercus coccifera*) and maple (*Acer sempervirens*) up to an altitude of 1,700m. Near the peaks the dominant vegetation is mountain phrygana, while precipices and gorge sides are covered in crevice plants (chasmophytes), most of which are species endemic to Crete. Vegetation is different on the lower ranges in the island's central and eastern sections. The most characteristic instance is that of the Asterousia Mountains, Thrypti, Orno and the Siteia Mountains, where the northern slopes are dominated by phrygana, and the southern ones by sparse pine forest.

In turn, maquis vegetation is heavily present alongside phrygana on the lower mountains of west Crete, involving strawberry tree (*Arbutus* spp.), lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus*) and other Mediterranean species, as well as groves of prickly-oak (*Quercus coccifera*).

The fragmented geological relief running the length of the island has created a significant variety of habitats favouring bird fauna (120 species). These are home to rare birds of prey such as the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). They are also important resting and feeding sites for many migratory species.

Rare endemic and narrow-endemic invertebrates are encountered throughout the island. Scattered populations of the wild mammals (35 species), reptiles and amphibians (15 species) living on Crete are distributed over middling and low altitudes.



INSULAR, COASTAL AND WETLAND AREAS

The coastal and wetland areas established in the NATURA 2000 Network are entirely different in appearance. Low rocky expanses covered mainly in phrygana alternate with long beaches (ideal nesting sites for *Caretta Caretta* Loggerhead sea turtles), dominated by saline resistant plant species, which occur on the sandy coasts. The steep limestone cliffs are home to numerous chasmophytes, many of which are endemic, while sea caves even provide a refuge for Mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*). The rivers in the west and torrents in the east create estuary zones of varying sizes, rich in aquatic riparian plants, ideal for hosting of rare waterbirds, as well as characteristic habitats such as forests of Cretan palm (*Phoenix theophrasti*).

Crete's satellite islands are of considerable aesthetic and biological value. Alongside typical Greek and Cretan plant species, they are also home to legally protected North African species. Significant habitats found on most islands include the groves of juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) growing on sandy and rocky beaches, as well as the expansive



Posidonia beds (*Posidonia oceanica*) surrounding their shores. 12.75% of the global population of Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*) breeds on their rocky cliffs.

THREATS TO NATURA 2000 AREAS IN CRETE

The most serious threats faced by NATURA 2000 protected areas in Crete differ from place to place. In the main, these are desertification due to overgrazing and wildfires, poaching, rampant road building, the indiscriminate siting of major investments (e.g. industrial scale renewable energy parks), illegal building, urbanisation and mass tourism, particularly in coastal areas.

The Lefka Ori is the sole NATURA 2000 Network site on Crete with a Management Body. None of the Management Plans produced by organisations on Crete have yet been implemented. Most need updating, while conservation and protection efforts frequently run up against pressing population and development demands.

The project is funded by Priority Axis 7: "Sustainable Development and Quality of Life in Crete Region" in the 2007-2013 Operational Programme for Crete and the Aegean Islands, within the terms of the approved project "Development and Promotion of the NATURA 2000 Network Areas in Crete", ERGORAMA Integrated Information System Project Code 380448, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and national funding.

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*Nature sculpted
by time*

Be part of it, protect it!

Development and Promotion of the NATURA 2000 Network in Crete



Operational Programme for Crete and the Aegean Islands
Co-financed by Greece and the European Union

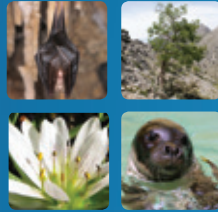


NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The need to create a network of nature protection areas in the European Union arose when it was established that many flora and fauna species were going extinct, and numerous habitats faced degradation and deterioration. The immediate aim of the NATURA 2000 Network is to promote environmentally friendly development, while also guaranteeing economic progress for society and biodiversity conservation, without jeopardising employment and prosperity.

In Greece, the NATURA 2000 Network includes 419 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), as arising from the implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC, which establishes Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for habitats, wild fauna (excluding birds) and naturally occurring flora, and Directive 2009/147/EC (amending Directive 79/409/EEC), which establishes Special Protection Areas (SPA) for avifauna. The network covers 27.2% of dry land in Greece and 6.1% of its territorial waters; the 53 areas found on Crete cover 30.6% of the island's total area.

NATURA 2000 Network in Crete



| REGIONAL UNIT OF HERAKLION | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---|----------|------------|
| A/A | CODE | CAT. | NAME | HECTARES | PR. HAB.** |
| 1 | GR4310002 | SAC | Giouchtas-Farangi Agias Eirinis | 716 | |
| 2 | GR4310003 | SAC-SPA | Nisos Dia | 1,188 | |
| 3 | GR4310004 | SAC | Dytika Asterousia (apo Agiofarango eos Kokkino Pyrgo) | 2,651 | 9370 |
| 4 | GR4310005 | SAC | Asterousia (Kofinas) | 16,174 | 1120, 9370 |
| 5 | GR4310006 | SAC | Dikti: Omalos Viannou (Symi-Omalos) | 3,940 | 3170 |
| 6 | GR4310009 | SPA | Krousonas-Vromonero Idis | 7,877 | |
| 7 | GR4310010 | SPA | Oros Giouchtas | 4,119 | |
| 8 | GR4310011 | SPA | Koryfi Koupa (Dytiki Kriti) | 1,993 | |
| 9 | GR4310012 | SPA | Ekvoli Geropotamou Mesaras | 685 | |
| 10 | GR4310013 | SPA | Asterousia Ori (Kofinas) | 2,864 | |

| REGIONAL UNIT OF LASITHI | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------|---|----------|------------------------|
| A/A | CODE | CAT. | NAME | HECTARES | PR. HAB.** |
| 11 | GR4320002 | SAC | Dikti: Oropedio Lasithiou, Katharo, Selena, Kراسi, Selakano, Chalasmeni Koryfi | 34,007 | |
| 12 | GR4320003 | SAC | Nisos Chrysi | 546 | 2250, 6220 |
| 13 | GR4320004 | SAC | Moni Kapsa (Farangi Kapsa kai gyro periochi) | 974 | |
| 14 | GR4320005 | SAC | Oros Thryptis kai gyro periochi | 8,529 | |
| 15 | GR4320006 | SAC | Voreioanatoliko akro Kritis: Dionysades, Elasa kai Chersonisos Sidero (Akra Mavro Mouri-Vai-Akra Plakas) kai thalassia zoni | 13,073 | 1120, 1150, 6220, 9370 |
| 16 | GR4320008 | SAC | Nisos Koufonisi kai paraktia thalassia zoni | 805 | 1120, 6220 |
| 17 | GR4320009 | SPA | Voreioanatoliko akro Kritis | 3,760 | |
| 18 | GR4320010 | SPA | Lazaros Koryfi-Madara Diktis | 13,158 | |
| 19 | GR4320011 | SPA | Dionysades Niso | 532 | |
| 20 | GR4320013 | SPA | Farangi Selinari-Vrachasi | 2,313 | |
| 21 | GR4320014 | SPA | Notiodytiki Thryptis (Koufoto) | 1,617 | |
| 22 | GR4320016 | SPA | Ori Zakrou | 3,914 | |
| 23 | GR4320017 | SPA | Nisos Koufonisi, gyro nisides kai nisides Kavalloi | 480 | |

| REGIONAL UNIT OF RETHYMNON | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|--|----------|------------|
| A/A | CODE | CAT. | NAME | HECTARES | PR. HAB.** |
| 24 | GR4330002 | SAC | Oros Kedros | 4,700 | |
| 25 | GR4330003 | SAC | Kourtaliotiko farangi-Moni Preveli-Evryteri periochi | 3,643 | 1120, 9370 |
| 26 | GR4330004 | SAC | Prassano farangi-Patsos-Sfakoryako rema-Paralia Rethymnou kai Ekvoli Geropotamou, Akra. Lianos Kavos-Perivolia | 13,121 | 1120, 6220 |
| 27 | GR4330005 | SAC | Oros Idi (Vorizia, Geranoi, Kali Madara) | 39,913 | |
| 28 | GR4330006 | SPA | Soros-Agkathi-Kedros | 8,129 | |
| 29 | GR4330007 | SPA | Kourtaliotiko farangi, Farangi Preveli | 7,595 | |
| 30 | GR4330008 | SPA | Prassano farangi | 1,122 | |
| 31 | GR4330009 | SPA | Oros Psiloreitis (Notiodytiko Tmima) | 10,632 | |

Priority habitats (**):

1120: Posidonia beds (*Posidonia oceanica*), **1150:** Coastal lagoons, **2250:** Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* spp., **3170:** Mediterranean temporary ponds, **5230:** Arborescent matorrals with *Laurus nobilis*, **6220:** Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the *Thero-Brachypodietea*, **9370:** Palm groves of *Phoenix*.

Representative species in Annex II, Council Directive 92/43/EEC (* priority species):

Plants: *Androcymbium rechingeri**, *Anthemis glaberima**, *Bupleurum kakiskalae**, *Cephalanthera cucullata**, *Convolvulus argyromasos**, *Hypericum aciferum**, *Nepeta sphaciotica**, *Phoenix theophrasti*, *Silene holzmannii**, *Woodwardia radicans*, *Zelkova abelicea*.
Mammals: *Capra aegagrus*, *Monachus monachus**, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Myotis blythi*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Rhinolophus blasii*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.
Reptiles / Amphibians: *Caretta caretta**, *Mauremys rivulata*, *Zamenis situla*.

Representative species in Annex I Council Directive 2009/147/EC (* priority species):

Birds: *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila fasciata**, *Aythya nyroca**, *Calonectris diomedea*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Falco biarmicus**, *Falco eleonora**, *Falco naumanni**, *Falco peregrinus*, *Gypaetus barbatus**, *Gyps fulvus*, *Ichthyophaga audouinii**, *Neophron percnopterus**, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis**, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, *Sylvia ruepellii*, *Tringa glareola*.

| REGIONAL UNIT OF CHANIA | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|--|----------|------------------------|
| A/A | CODE | CAT. | NAME | HECTARES | PR. HAB.** |
| 32 | GR4340001 | SAC | Imeri kai Agria Gramvoussa-Tigani kai Falasarna-Pontikonisi, Ormos Livadi-Viglia | 5,781 | 1120, 2250, 3170 |
| 33 | GR4340002 | SAC | Nisos Elafonisos kai paraktia thalassia zoni | 272 | 3170 |
| 34 | GR4340003 | SAC | Chersonisos Rodopou-Paralia Maleme | 8,797 | 1120 |
| 35 | GR4340004 | SAC | Elos-Topolia-Sasalos-Agios Dikaos | 7,352 | 6220 |
| 36 | GR4340005 | SAC | Ormos Sougias-Vardia-Farangi Lissou mechri Anydrous kai paraktia zoni | 3,040 | 1120 |
| 37 | GR4340006 | SAC | Limni Agias-Platanias-Rema kai Ekvoli Keriti-Koilada Fasa | 1,212 | |
| 38 | GR4340007 | SAC | Farangi Therissou | 4,978 | |
| 39 | GR4340008 | SAC | Lefka Ori kai paraktia zoni | 53,364 | 1120, 3170 |
| 40 | GR4340010 | SAC | Drapano (Voreioanatolikes aktes)-Paralia Georgioupolis-Limni Kourna | 4,511 | 3170, 9370 |
| 41 | GR4340011 | SAC | Fre-Tzitzifis-Nipos | 1,218 | 5230 |
| 42 | GR4340012 | SAC | Asfendou-Kallikratis kai paraktia zoni | 14,023 | 1120, 9370 |
| 43 | GR4340013 | SAC | Niso Gavdos kai Gavdopoula | 6,291 | 1120, 2250, 3170, 6220 |
| 44 | GR4340014 | SPA | Ethnikos Drymos Samarias-Farangi Thryptis-Psilafi-Koustogerako | 13,980 | |
| 45 | GR4340015 | SAC | Paralia apo Chrysoskalitissa mechri Akrotirio Krios | 2,203 | |
| 46 | GR4340016 | SPA | Meterizia Agios Dikaos-Tsonoura-Vitsilia Lefkon Oreon | 6,875 | |
| 47 | GR4340017 | SPA | Chersonisos Gramvoussas kai nisides Imeri kai Agria Gramvoussa, Pontikonisi | 2,840 | |
| 48 | GR4340018 | SPA | Nisida Agioi Theodoroi | 82 | |
| 49 | GR4340019 | SPA | Farangi Kallikratis-Argouliano Farangi-Oropedio Manika | 4,233 | |
| 50 | GR4340020 | SPA | Limni Agias (Chania) | 67 | |
| 51 | GR4340021 | SPA | Chersonisos Rodopou | 2,920 | |
| 52 | GR4340022 | SPA | Limni Kourna kai Ekvoli Almyrou | 200 | |
| 53 | GR4340023 | SPA | Notiodytiki Gavdos kai Gavdopoula | 1,564 | |