



16 ΣΕΠ. 2016



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ
ΑΥΤΟΤΕΛΕΣ ΤΜΗΜΑ
ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ**

Ταχ. Δ/ση: Μεσογείων 119
Ταχ. Κώδικας: 10192 Αθήνα
Πληροφορίες: Ν.Μυλωνάς
Τηλέφωνα: 2106969811
FAX: 210 6969512
E-mail: vouli2@prv.ypeka.gr

Αθήνα 15-9-2016

Αρ. Πρωτ. 884

Σχετ. 885

ΠΡΟΣ: Βουλή των Ελλήνων
Τμήμα Ερωτήσεων

ΚΟΙΝ.:

1. Βουλευτή κ. Κεγκέρογλου Β.
2. Βουλευτή κ. Κεφαλογιάννη Γ.
3. Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού & Αθλητισμού

ΘΕΜΑ: «Απάντηση σε Ερωτήσεις»

**ΣΧΕΤ: α) Η με αριθμό πρωτ. 7011/14-7-2016 Ερώτηση
β) Η με αριθμό πρωτ. 7018/14-7-2016 Ερώτηση**

Σε απάντηση των (α), (β) σχετικών Ερωτήσεων που κατατέθηκαν στη Βουλή των Ελλήνων από τους Βουλευτές κ.κ. Κεγκέρογλου Βασίλειο και Κεφαλογιάννη Γιάννη αντίστοιχα, επισυνάπτουμε:

1. Το υπ' αρ. πρωτ. 36250/1129/29-7-2016 έγγραφο της Δ/σης Προστασίας Βιοποικιλότητας Εδάφους και Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων/ΥΠΕΝ από το οποίο προκύπτει ότι εγκρίθηκε η Ειδική Περιβαλλοντική Μελέτη της περιοχής Λευκών Ορέων, ενώ το σχετικό Σχέδιο Π.Δ. βρίσκεται στο στάδιο της διαβούλευσης.
2. Το υπ' αρ. πρωτ. 352/21-7-2016 έγγραφο του Φ.Δ. Εθνικού Δρυμού Σαμαριάς από το οποίο προκύπτει ότι ο Φ.Δ. σε συνεργασία με την οικεία Δ/ση Δασών απέστειλε αναλυτική απάντηση στη Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή για τα Αποθέματα της Βιόσφαιρας της UNESCO και θα είναι σε συνεχή συνεννόηση τόσο με το ΥΠΕΝ όσο και με την ανωτέρω Επιτροπή.

Το ΥΠΕΝ θεωρεί τις ανησυχίες των κυρίων Βουλευτών εύλογες και δικαιολογημένες και καταβάλλει προσπάθειες για την επίλυση ενός ακόμα χρονίζοντος - επί πολλά έτη - προβλήματος που αφορά στην ελλιπή θεσμική θωράκιση των περιοχών της χώρας που τελούν υπό καθεστώς προστασίας.

Ο ΑΝΑΠΛΗΡΩΤΗΣ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ

ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΤΣΙΡΩΝΗΣ

Συνημμένα:

- Το υπ' αρ. πρωτ. 36250/1129/29-7-2016 έγγραφο (σελ. 2)
- Το υπ' αρ. πρωτ. 352/21-7-2016 έγγραφο (σελ. 18)

Σελίδες απάντησης: 1

Σελίδες συνημμένων: 20

Σύνολο Σελίδων: 21

ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ

ΑΔΑΜΙΔΟΥ ΕΛΙΣΑΒΕΤ





**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΥΓΚΡΟΤΗΣΗΣ
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ Δ/ΝΣΗ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ
Δ/ΝΣΗ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΒΙΟΠΟΙΚΙΛΟΤΗΤΑΣ,
ΕΔΑΦΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ ΑΠΟΒΛΗΤΩΝ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΒΙΟΠΟΙΚΙΛΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΠΡΟΣΤΑΤΕΥΟΜΕΝΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΩΝ**

ΚΑΤΕΠΕΙΓΟΝ - ΒΟΥΛΗ

Αθήνα, 29/7/2016

Α. Π. 36250/1129

ΠΡΟΣ: Γραφείο Κοινοβουλευτικού
Ελέγχου - ΥΠΑΠΕΝ

Μεσογείων 119, 101 92, Αθήνα

ΥΠΟΨΗ: Ν. Μυλωνά

Ταχ. Δ/ση: Πατησίων 147
Ταχ. Κώδικας: 112 51
Πληροφορίες: Δρ Χ. Βερβέρης
Τηλέφωνο: 210 8645125
FAX: 210 8662024

ΘΕΜΑ: Οι υπ. αριθ. 7011 και 7018/ 14-7-2016 Ερωτήσεις των Βουλευτών Β. Κεγκέρογλου και Ι. Κεφαλογιάννη

ΣΧΕΤ: Το με αρ. πρωτ. 884/18-7-2016 έγγραφό σας (α.π. ΤΒΠΠ 36250/1129/19.7.2016).

Σε απάντηση των εν θέματι ερωτήσεων που κατατέθηκαν στη Βουλή από τους ανωτέρω Βουλευτές σχετικά με την Περιοχή των Λευκών Ορέων Κρήτης, η Υπηρεσία μας, και σε ό,τι την αφορά, σας γνωρίζει τα εξής:

Μετά και από συνάντηση με τον Πρόεδρο της Ελληνικής Εθνικής Επιτροπής ΜΑΒ, καθηγητή κ. Σκούλλο, εγκρίθηκε η ΕΠΜ της περιοχής των Λευκών ορέων με την α.π. 36130/1119/18.7.2016 Απόφαση της ΓΓ του ΥΠΕΝ και το σχετικό σχέδιο ΠΔ βρίσκεται ήδη στο στάδιο της διαβούλευσης σύμφωνα με τη διαδικασία που προβλέπεται από το αρ 6 του Ν 3937/2011 (ΦΕΚ 160^Α/31.3.2011) αλλά και τις απαιτήσεις της Οδηγίας 92/43 ΕΟΚ για την προστασία των περιοχών του Δικτύου Natura 2000.

Σε ό,τι αφορά τη ζωνοποίηση στο βόρειο τμήμα του Δρυμού, Ο ΦΔ έχει ετοιμάσει μια προτεινόμενη λύση με δύο εναλλακτικές η οποία βρίσκεται στο στάδιο τελικής επεξεργασίας, και η οποία θα ενσωματωθεί στο υπό διαβούλευση σχέδιο ΠΔ. Μετά την ολοκλήρωση του ΠΔ, θα υπάρξει νέο Σχέδιο Διαχείρισης κατά τα προβλεπόμενα απ το αρ 8 του Ν 3937/2011 (ΦΕΚ 160^Α/31.3.2011) και το οποίο θα λαμβάνει υπόψη τα κριτήρια της Στρατηγικής της Σεβίλλης για τα αποθέματα της βιόσφαιρας.

Τέλος, σας ενημερώνουμε πως δεν υπάρχει κάποια σημαντική εξέλιξη για την ένταξη της Σαμαριάς στα άλλα δύο δίκτυα της Unesco (Γεωπάρκα και ΜΠΚ).

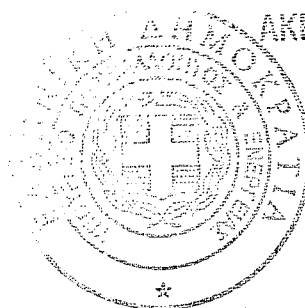
Είμαστε στη διάθεσή σας για κάθε περαιτέρω διευκρίνιση.

Ο ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗΣ


Εσ. Διανομή:

1. Χρονολογικό Αρχείο ΔΠΒΕΔΑ
Χρονολογικό Αρχείο ΤΒΠΠ
2. Δρ Χ. Βερβέρης

Ι. ΜΑΧΑΙΡΑΣ



ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ


Μαρία Λιακατά

**ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ
ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΔΡΥΜΟΥ ΣΑΜΑΡΙΑΣ**

Χανιά, 21 - 07 - 2016

Αρ.πρωτ. 352

**ΝΟΜΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΟ ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ
ΚΟΙΝΩΦΕΛΟΥΣ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΑ**

Ταχ. Δ/ση: Παλαιά Εθνική Οδός Χανίων -
Κισσάμον, φανάρια Αγίων Αποστόλων

Χανιά

Πληροφορίες: Μπαρνιάς Αντ.

Τηλ.: 28210 - 45570

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e-mail: info@samaria.gr

website: <http://www.samaria.gr>

ΠΡΟΣ: Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας

Αυτοτελές τμήμα Κοινοβουλευτικού

Ελέγχου

Ταχ. Δ/ση: Μεσογείων 119

Ταχ. Κωδ. 10192 Αθήνα

Τηλ. 210 - 6969506

Fax: 210 - 69 69512

Email: vouli3@prv.ypeka.gr

ΘΕΜΑ: Απάντηση σε ερωτήσεις

ΣΧΕΤ: οι με α.π. 7018/14-07-2016 και 7011/14-07-2016 ερωτήσεις των Βουλευτών κο. Κεφαλλογιάννη Ιωαν. και Κεγκέρογλου Βας.

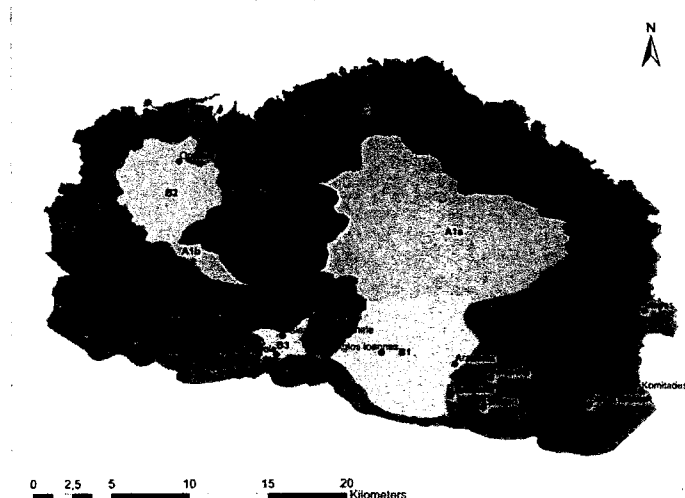
Σε συνέχεια των σχετικών εγγράφων σας ενημερώνουμε ότι η UNESCO στο πλαίσιο της απονομής διακρίσεων σε τρεις κατηγορίες περιοχών (πολιτιστικά αποθέματα, αποθέματα της βιόσφαιρας, γεωπάρκα) παγκοσμίως ενδιαφέροντος διενεργεί αξιολογήσεις οι οποίες καταλήγουν σε προτάσεις βελτίωσης της λειτουργίας τους.

Κατά την τελευταία αξιολόγηση που αφορούσε στον Εθνικό Δρυμό Σαμαριάς (απόθεμα της βιόσφαιρας) κατέληγε αντιστοίχως σε προτάσεις βελτίωσης της λειτουργίας του αποθέματος.

Ο Φορέας Διαχείρισης του Εθνικού Δρυμού Σαμαριάς σε συνεργασία με τη Διεύθυνση Δασών Χανίων απέστειλε την 14/04/2015 αναλυτική απάντηση (επισυνάπτεται) στα θέματα που έθετε η Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή (Advisory Committee) για τα Αποθέματα της Βιόσφαιρας της UNESCO.

Η Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή, με ακόλουθη επιστολή της (SC/EES/MB/16/5864/114/1/22-02-2016) κάνει δεκτές τις θέσεις του ΦΔ, πλην μίας, η οποία αφορούσε σε ένα σημείο σχετικό με την άμεση επαφή του πυρήνα της προστατευόμενης περιοχής (Core) με τη μεταβατική ζώνη (C - πράσινο στον χάρτη)

Χάρτης. Ζώνες προστασίας, σύμφωνα με το υπό έγκριση ΠΔ της ΕΠΜ Λευκών Ορέων



Η Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή ζητά περαιτέρω στοιχεία για το θέμα αυτό τα οποία θα πρέπει να έχουν κατατεθεί μέχρι την 30/09/2016.

Ο ΦΔ ξεκίνησε άμεσα επεξεργασία επί του θέματος ώστε να αποσταλεί μέχρι την ως άνω προθεσμία, πλήρως τεκμηριωμένη απάντηση στα θέματα που θέτει η Συμβουλευτική Επιτροπή.

Το σχέδιο απάντησης αποτελεί στον τρέχοντα χρόνο αντικείμενο εξέτασης από τα στελέχη του ΦΔ και το Διοικητικό του Συμβούλιο και κινείται στους εξής άξονες:

1. Τεκμηριώνει την ορθότητα της υφιστάμενης πρότασης ζωνοποίησης η οποία έχει προκύψει από εκτεταμένη πολυετή επιστημονική έρευνα και έχει δοκιμαστεί και κριθεί ορθή και επιτυχής τόσο στο πλαίσιο δράσης του Φορέα Διαχείρισης όσο και στο αντίστοιχο της Διεύθυνσης Δασών.
2. Προτείνει, σε περίπτωση επιμονής της Συμβουλευτικής Επιτροπής για μη επαφή του Πυρήνα με την ζώνη Γ, τουλάχιστον δύο εναλλακτικές λύσεις ώστε να και η πρόταση της Συμβουλευτικής Επιτροπής να ικανοποιηθεί και να μην προκληθούν αλλαγές στο υφιστάμενο σχέδιο ΠΔ σε βαθμό. Το τελευταίο σημείο τίθεται με σκοπό να μην απαιτηθούν χρονοβόρες διαδικασίες για την τροποποίηση του ΠΔ με την συνεπακόλουθη καθυστέρηση (της ήδη επί μακρόν αναμενόμενης) υπογραφή του ΠΔ.

Σε κάθε περίπτωση, προ της οριστικής αποστολής της εν λόγω απαντητικής επιστολής, θα προηγηθεί διαβούλευση επί αυτής με το αρμόδιο γραφείο του ΥΠΕΝ και την Ελληνική Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Αποθέματα της Βιόσφαιρας.

Θα είμαστε στη διάθεση σας για κάθε πληροφορία και διευκρίνιση.

Για το ΔΣ του ΦΔ Εθνικού Δρυμού Σαμαριάς

**Ο Πρόεδρος
Δρ Πέτρος Λυμπεράκης**

ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΑΦΟ

MARIA

CHAMOURIKOU

Digitally signed by MARIA
CHAMOURIKOU
Date: 2016.07.21 12:23:56
+03'00'

Εσωτερική Διανομή

- Χρον. Αρχείο

Συνημμένο

- Το με α.π. 375/14-04-2015 έγγραφο του Φορέα Διαχείρισης προς τον Πρόεδρο της Ελληνικής Εθνικής Επιτροπής για τα ΜΑΒ/UNESCO

ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ



ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ
ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΔΡΥΜΟΥ
ΣΑΜΑΡΙΑΣ

Χανιά 14/04/2015

Αρ. Πρωτ.: 375

ΝΟΜΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΟ ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΟΥ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ
ΚΟΙΝΩΦΕΛΟΥΣ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΑ

Ταχ. Δ/ση: Π.Ε.Ο. Χανίων-Κισσάμου,
Φανάρια Αγίων Αποστόλων,
Κάτω Δαράτσο

Ταχ. Κωδ.: 73100, Χανιά

Πληροφορίες: Περουλάκη Ελπίδα

Τηλ.: 28210 – 45570

Fax: 28210 – 59777

e-mail: info@samaria.gr

website: <http://www.samaria.gr>

ΠΡΟΣ: Καθ. Μιχάλης Σκούλλος
Πρόεδρος της Ελληνικής
Εθνικής Επιτροπής για τα ΜΑΒ/UNESCO,
ΜΙΟ-ESCSDE, Μεσογειακό Γραφείο Πληροφόρησης
για το Περιβάλλον, τον Πολιτισμό &
την Αειφόρο Ανάπτυξη
Ταχ. Δ/ση: Κυρρήστου 12
10556, Αθήνα
e-mail: scoulllos@mio-ecsde.org

ΚΟΙΝ.: 1. ΥΠΑΠΕ
Δ/ση Προστασίας Βιοποικιλότητας, Εδάφους &
Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων
Τμήμα Βιοποικιλότητας & Προστατευόμενων Περιοχών
Ταχ. Δ/ση: Πατησίων 147,
11251, Αθήνα
2. Διεύθυνση Δασών Χανίων
Ταχ. Δ/ση: Χρυσοπηγή, 73100, Χανιά
e-mail: dasichan@apdkritis.gov.gr

Θέμα: "Απάντηση στις προτάσεις της Συμβουλευτικής Επιτροπής σχετικά με την 2^η

Περιοδική Αναφορά του Αποθέματος της Βιόσφαιρας της Σαμαριάς»

Σας διαβιβάζουμε την παρούσα επιστολή, η οποία συντάχθηκε σε απάντηση των προτάσεων του Συμβουλίου των Αποθεμάτων της Βιόσφαιρας, που περιλαμβάνονται στο υπ' αριθμ. SC/EES/MB/5864/514-28-04-2014 έγγραφο του Διευθυντή του Τμήματος Οικολογικών Επιστημών και Επιστημών της Γης, του Προγράμματος «Άνθρωπος & Βιόσφαιρα» της UNESCO και διαβιβάστηκε στο Φορέα Διαχείρισης Εθνικού Δρυμού Σαμαριάς (ΦΔ-ΕΔΣ) από τον Καθηγητή Σκούλλο Μ., Πρόεδρο της Ελληνικής Εθνικής Επιτροπής του Προγράμματος ΜΑΒ/UNESCO.

Παρακαλούμε για τις ενέργειές σας,

-Ο-

ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΦΟΡΕΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ
ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΔΡΥΜΟΥ ΣΑΜΑΡΙΑΣ

ΔΡ. ΛΥΜΠΕΡΑΚΗΣ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ



Address: Palia Ethniki Odos Chanion-Kissamou,
Fanaria Agion Apostolon, Kato Daratso
73100, Chania, Crete, Greece
Information: Elpida Peroulaki
Tel.: +30 28210 – 45570
Fax: +30 28210 – 59777
e-mail: info@samaria.gr
website: <http://www.samaria.gr>

Chania 14/04/2015

Ref. No. : 375

To: Prof. Michael Scoullios
Chairperson
Greek National Committee for
MAB/UNESCO, MIO-ESCDE
Mediterranean Information Office for
Environment, Culture and Sustainable
Development
Address: 12 Kyrristou Str
10556, Athens, Greece
Tel.: +30 210 – 3247490
Fax: +30 210 – 3317127
e-mail: scoullios@mio-ecsde.org

Notification: 1. YPAPE

**Directorate of Protection of Biodiversity, Soil &
Waste Management
Biodiversity and Protected Areas Department**
Address: 147 Patision Str

11251, Athens, Greece

Tel.: +30 210 – 8623020

Fax: +30 210 – 8662024

2. Forest Directorate of Chania

Address: Chrisopigi, 73100, Chania
Crete, Greece

Tel.: +30 28210 – 84200

Fax: +30 28210 – 87898

e-mail: dasichan@apdkritis.gov.gr

Subject: “Respond to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the 2nd Periodic Report of Samaria Biosphere Reserve”

This letter was written in order to respond to the recommendations of the Council, which were included in the ref. no.: SC/EES/MB/5864/514-28-04-2014 letter of the Director of the Division of ecological and Earth Sciences, of the MAB/UNESCO Programme, which was submitted to Samaria National Park Management Body (Samaria NP-MB) by Prof. Michael Scoullios, Chairperson of the Greek National Committee for MAB/UNESCO.

Before examining the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, we would like to say that it is very important for the Samaria National Park to preserve its place within the MAB Network, which will secure and strengthen the successful management of the protected area, both at local and at national level.

We hope that the Council will take into account the progress that has already been made in the protection of the Biosphere Reserve and the administrative and financial problems that the Management Body faces, which were already mentioned in the Periodic Review.

Furthermore, we believe that it would be very constructive if a scientific expert consultant of the MAB Programme could visit Samaria National Park and attend a meeting with all the relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Environment, Management Body, Forestry Service, Municipalities, Regional Offices, Representatives of local businesses, etc) to plan future actions that could be applied in the protected area to strengthen the conservation of the Biosphere Reserve.

Addressing specific points of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

- **Revise the zonation in order to entirely protect the core area by a buffer zone**

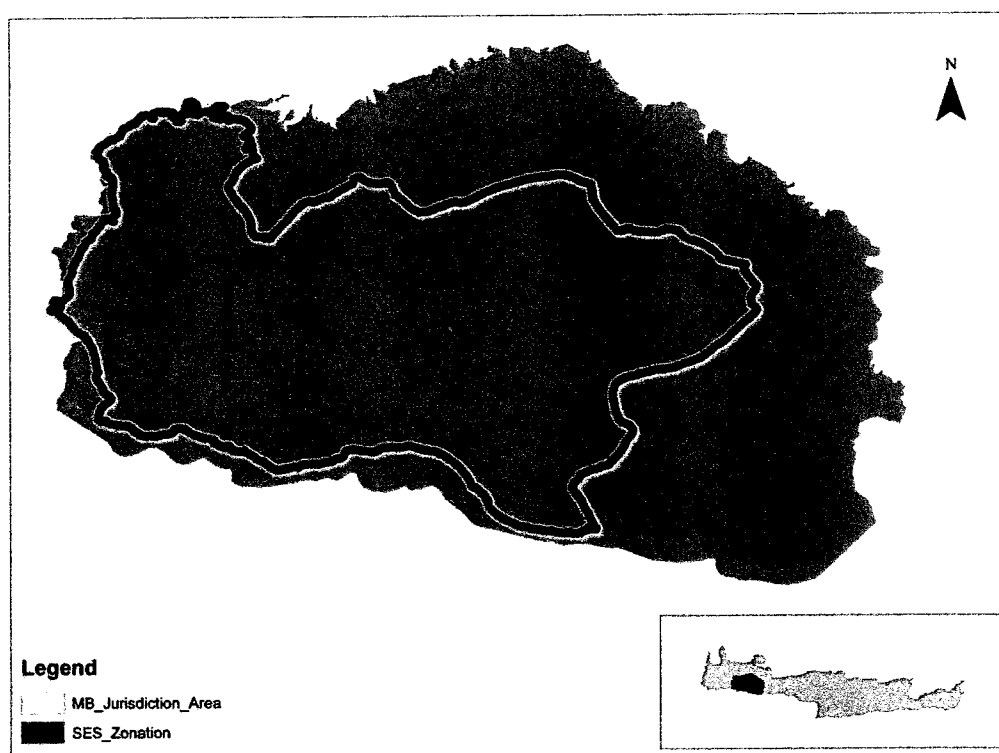
Background of the zonation of Samaria (Lefka Ori) National Park

As it was mentioned in the Periodic Review submitted in 2013 (p.3, 10), the area of the Samaria National Park has been expanded.

Samaria Gorge was declared a National Park in 1962 with a Royal Decree (R.D No. 781/1962). The National Park covers an area of 4850 ha. In 1981 Samaria Gorge was declared a Biosphere Reserve of the UNESCO MAB Program. The 1981 designated area had only one core zone and no buffer or transition zone.

Samaria National Park Management Body was set up according to Law 2742/1999, article 15, as added to by article 13 of Law 3044/2002, and practically its operation began in 2008. In Law 3044/2002, the jurisdiction area of the Management Body was also determined (24.594 ha). The borders of the protected area were set without further explanation of the protection objectives with no provisions for zonation (See Figure 1).

Figure 1-Borders of the National Park according to Law 3044/2002 and to the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori (2009).



However, the final borders of the National Park will be finally and officially determined after the approval of the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori, and consequent approval and signing of its accompanying Presidential Decree Draft.

More specifically, according to the Greek legislation, the declaration of protected areas is accomplished through a Presidential Decree, following the proposal of the Minister of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, and in accordance to a Specific Environmental Study, which justifies the importance of the protected area and proposes protection measures.

The Specific Environmental Study for the area of Lefka Ori was compiled and finalized in 2009. This study proposes a further expansion of the borders of the Park, which now covers an area of 58.484 ha (See Figure 1).

The Specific Environmental Study for Lefka Ori was set for public consultation prior to its finalization (e.g. the management body, municipalities, NGOs, regional authorities, the forestry service participated in the procedure). After that it was sent to the Ministry of Environment for examination and final approval.

The approval of the Specific Environmental Study due to bureaucracy reasons was delayed and then in 2011 a new environmental law was put into force, Law No. 3937/2011 "Biodiversity Conservation and other provisions". This meant that the Draft Presidential

Decree which was included in the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori should be revised in order to incorporate the new law in its context.

After a period of conflicting decisions it was finally decided that the revision should be done by the staff of the Management Body. This procedure concluded in December 2014 and the revised presidential decree draft is currently examined by the Ministry's services as to be sent for approval and signature from the President of the Hellenic Republic.

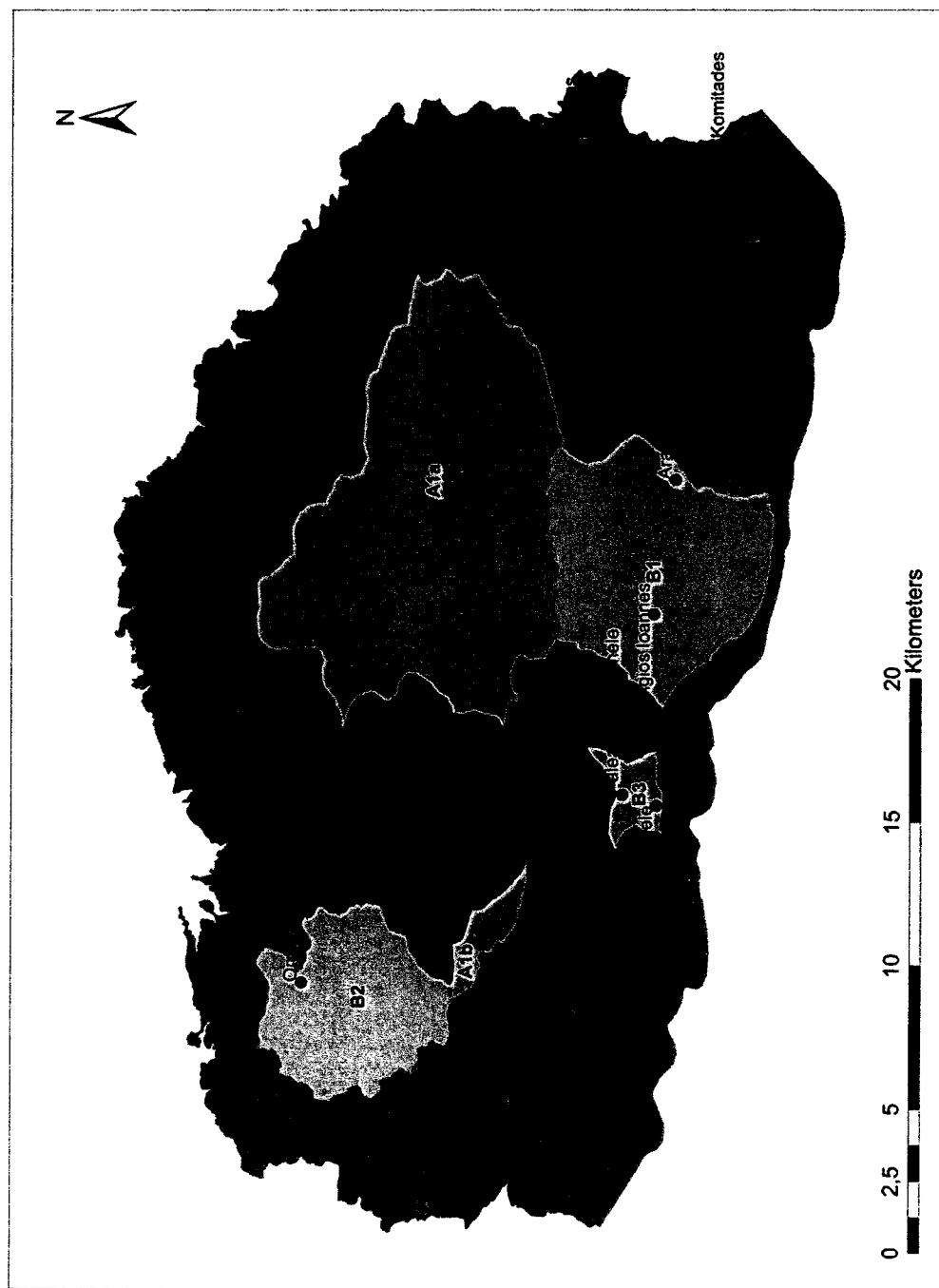
Current zonation of the Samaria National Park as seen and documented in the current Specific Environmental Study

Lefka Ori is an area which has received several national and international awards. This means that when it comes to divide the National Park in different protection zones, it is essential to try to comply not only with the Greek and European legislation, but also to take into consideration the commitments towards international conventions and networks such as the MAB Network. It is also essential to combine the different protection objectives and rules with the presence of humans in the area and to try to direct the economic activities in a more sustainable scheme (which is also one of the fundamental principles of the Biosphere Reserves). So, considering all the above as well as the different landscapes and the distribution of protected species in the protected area, the National Park was divided in distinct management zones.

The zonation covers the entire area of the Natura 2000 site and includes:

- A Nature Protection Zone (Core Zone), which is the current Biosphere Reserve slightly expanded
- Species-Habitats Conservation Zone (Zone A1)
- Ecological Landscape Conservation Zone (Zone A2)
- Traditional Landscape Management Zone (Zone B)
- Natural Resources Management Zone (Zone C)

Figure 2-Zonation of the National Park according to the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori (2009) & human settlements.



Biosphere Reserve Zonation

The new National Park has the appropriate size to serve the three functions of a Biosphere Reserve (conservation, development, logistics). However, the zonation in fig.2 shows that there are more than the three protection zones required for a Biosphere Reserve.

In the Periodic Review, we grouped the five different categories of conservation zones of the Park in 3 categories, in order to follow the required zonation and objectives of the MAB Programme. So, we proposed to refer to the Nature Protection Zone as the Core Zone, to zones A1 & A2 as the Buffer Zone and to zones B & C as the Transition Zone. The Nature Protection Zone is indeed the Core Zone of the National Park. The division of the other zones into two categories (Buffer & Transition) was done by separating the areas with human presence and the areas where no human settlements are found (see fig. 2). Due to the presence of villages in Zone B, there are some economic activities practiced, so it was thought that it fitted better the characterization of the transition zone as this is described in the Seville Strategy (The Biosphere Concept, p.2) *“area or area of co-operation which may contain a variety of agricultural activities, settlements and other uses and in which local communities, management agencies, scientists, non-governmental organizations, cultural groups, economic interests and other stakeholders work together to manage and sustainably develop the area’s resources”*.

In order to expand the protection of the core zone, and considering the comments of the Advisory Committee we could include Zone B in the buffer zone and exclude it from the Transition zone, since although it has human presence, the activities practiced there are mostly of a traditional character, and there are also provisions for environmental education, recreation, ecotourism and research, which are some of the activities allowed in the buffer zone of a Biosphere Reserve (*“the buffer zone usually surrounds or adjoins the core areas, is used for cooperative activities compatible with sound ecological practices, including environmental education, recreation, ecotourism and applied and basic research”*). More specifically, in zones A1, A2, and B the activities allowed can be summarized in Table 1. It can be seen that most of the activities allowed in zones A1 & A2 are also allowed in zone B. Some differences are due to the different landscapes of the region (e.g. in Zone A1, no forests are found, or zone B has a (country) provincial road network). In addition in Zone B there are provisions for the practice of agricultural activities and for small manufacturing units for local products. However, the agricultural activities in the National Park are limited, due to the mountainous character of the area. Only pastoralism is important (~53% of the working population). On the secondary sector only 8% of the working population of the Park is involved. The people who live in settlements in Zone B are very few (approximately 240).

Table 1-Allowed activities in the core zone as well as in zones A1, A2 and B of Samaria National Park according to the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori (2009)

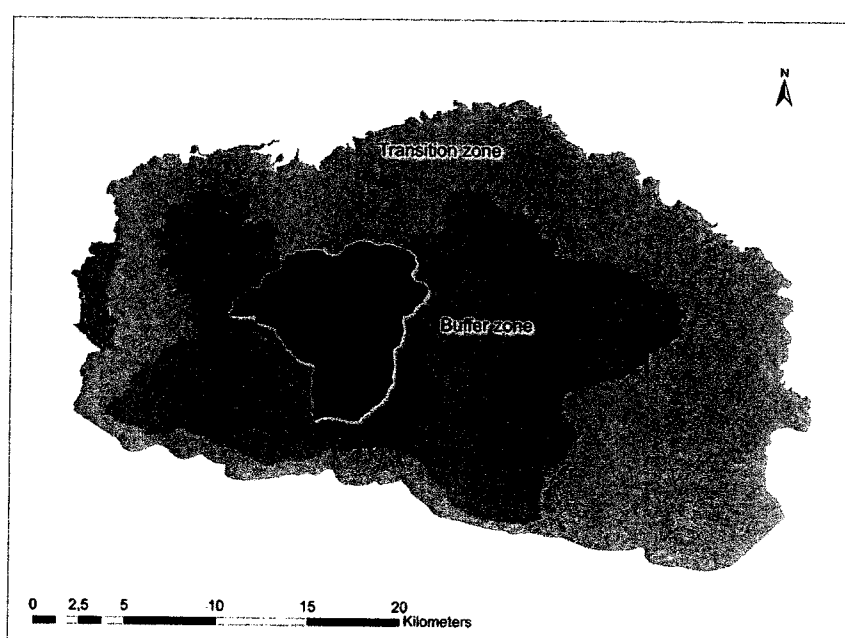
ALLOWED ACTIVITIES	Can. 2009	2009-12	2009-12	2009-12
PROTECTION ACTIONS: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & WORK				
Scientific research	+	+	+	+
Monitoring of the ecological parameters	+	+	+	+
The construction of infrastructure for the management and protection of the area	+	+	+	+
Maintenance/excavations at the historical and archeological sites	+	+	+	+
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE				
The use and maintenance of already existing roads (no use of asphalt).		+	+	
The use of cars for transfer on existing roads.				+
The moving of cars outside the existing road network is permitted only in cases of emergency, or for protection actions.				+
Works for the improvement and maintenance of the current road network.				+
PRIMARY SECTOR				
Free grazing of an extensive character, according to the current provisions.		+	+	+
The restoration of the "mitata" (small building facilities used by shepherds for the support of their activities).		+		
The establishment of new small farm units & the operation and modernization of the existing legal livestock farms.				+
The agriculture, arboriculture, the application of improved agricultural practices, with controlled use of fertilizers and pesticides.				+
The construction and use of facilities for the practice of the above described activities, under the condition that they do not alter the natural environment and landscape.				+
The operation of apicultural units.		+	+	+
FOREST MANAGEMENT				
The removing of herbs, invertebrates and mushrooms, exclusively for the personal needs of the residents.		+	+	+
The collection and removing of fire wood, exclusively for the personal needs of the residents.			+	+

With the broadening of the Buffer Zone by including Zone B in its borders, as it can be seen in fig.3, the core area in most of its perimeter is surrounded by a buffer zone (Zones A1 and A2 and B of Table1), followed by a second, transition zone (Zone C in Table 2).

Consequently the core zone is adequately buffered satisfying the relevant recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

It is noteworthy that despite the pending of the signature of the imminent Presidential Decree, according to Law 3937/2011 the proposed provisions (as of any spatial planning study in areas which lack other specific provisions) have the status of a law.

Figure 3-New Proposed Zonation of the Biosphere Reserve.



Within the borders of Zone C, the following are prohibited:

Table 2- Prohibited actions in Zone C of the National Park according to the Specific Environmental Study of Lefka Ori (2009)

1	The placement of signs (apart from signs for the marking of the borders of the protection zones, road signs, information signs for visitors and signs for construction activities and others as these are determined in the regulations of administration and operation).
2	The moving of vehicles outside the existing road network, with the exception of cases of emergency or protection.
3	Hunting of all animals throughout the year in a distance of 250m from recreation areas. The Management Body, however, can amend the applied terms and

	regulations.
4	The drainage of natural wetlands.
5	The degradation of areas where <i>Zelkova abelicea</i> grows.
6	The change in land uses from traditional cultivations to large scale intensive cultivations.
7	The destruction of characteristic forms of parting the parcels.
8	The alteration of the landscape by large scale infrastructure works.
9	The legal existing activities are allowed to continue.
10	The construction and operation of quarries, apart from those serving the local needs, and which do not alter significant geological formations and the landscape.
11	The deposition of excavation products, and the degradation of the ecosystems or elements of the traditional agricultural landscape.
12	The construction and operation of landfills.
13	The alteration or degradation of dolines and of the priority habitat 6220* - <i>Thero-brachypodietea</i> .
14	The installation of electrical power stations from renewable energy sources (RES) connected to the main grid of the island. RES systems to cover the energy needs of the existing legal facilities are excluded.
15	The collection of aromatic plants and particularly of <i>Sideritis syriaca</i> . Collection to cover the needs of the locals is allowed.

There are also specific terms and restrictions for building activities.

In conclusion, the new proposed zonation of the Biosphere Reserve is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3- Revised Proposed zonation of the Biosphere Reserve

Size of terrestrial Core Area(s)	4,887 ha (Nature Protection Zone: Gorge of Samaria)
Size of terrestrial Buffer Zone(s)	22,806 ha (Zones A1, A2 & B)
Size of terrestrial Transition Area(s)	30,791 ha (26,239 ha terrestrial land & 4,552 ha of sea) (Zone C)

It should be noted here that the intention of the MB is to use this zonation only for the communication with the MAB Secretariat and Network. There is no current planning to change the zonation proposed in the Specific Environmental Study for the declaration of the National Park. We hope that the Council of the MAB Programme will consider accepting this request as practically the protection sought by the Network is achieved.

- **Send to the Secretariat a copy of the revised management plan with a zonation in concordance with the criteria set by the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

Zonation in concordance with the criteria set for Biosphere Reserves

As it was already mentioned the Biosphere Reserve of Samaria is also a National Park, and thus we cannot conduct two different Management Plans (one for the zones of the Biosphere Reserve and one for the zones of the National Park). This means, that when a new Management Plan is conducted, it will still refer to the same 5 different protection zones as the previous one. According to the Statutory framework of the BRs, a BR should recognize: "a buffer zone or zones clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area...". In this context, the core zone of Samaria (Lefka Ori) BR, is surrounded by 3 clearly identified buffer zones (A1, A2 and B) and one transition zone (C).

Management Plan of Samaria

According to the Greek legislation, Management Plans are approved with a joint Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy and of the other relevant Ministers, and are valid only when the protected area has been officially declared with a Presidential Decree.

Management Plans define the direction and the priorities in the implementation of measures, actions and work needed for the effective protection and management of the protected areas. They also contain Action Plans, where the necessary measures, actions, work, projects, their time frame, phases, estimated budget, and funding sources, are specified. Moreover, Management Plans have a 5-year duration and are valid until the new ones are approved, even if their reference period has elapsed.

In the case of Samaria (Lefka Ori) where the declaration of the National Park has not been finalized yet, it is obvious that the existing Management Plan although it was used by the MB as a useful management tool, it was not mandatory.

In 2008, when the preparation of the Management Plan began (it was finalized in 2009), the intention was to have the study completed in order to submit it for approval immediately after the approval of the Specific Environmental Study.

However, this did not happen. The existing Management Plan has a duration from 2009-2014. This means that the MB will have to either ask for funding for the compilation of a new Management Plan or conduct it with its current personnel. This will be decided by the Board of Administration. In any case, we do not expect to have a new officially approved Management Plan until September 2015. The MB is waiting for the results of the ongoing extensive monitoring activities (due December 2015) which will provide the necessary knowledge for the compilation of a new Management Plan including a series of Action Plans for specific habitats and species. As soon as a new Management Plan is finalized we will send a copy to the MAB Secretariat.

However, as it was already mentioned, a management plan is valid until the new one is approved. The current Management Plan, is in concordance with the criteria set by the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The objectives and management approaches set in the current Management Plan (Table 4), which were already mentioned in the periodic review (p.25), refer to both the protection of the environment and the support of local development.

Table 4 - Management objectives & approaches suggested in the MP of Lefka Ori

Management Objectives	Management approaches
Achievement of a satisfactory conservation state, recovery or restoration of habitat types	Sustainable management of pastoralism
	Maintenance of the flexibility of the ecosystems of Lefka Ori against climate change
	Recording and assessment of the present conservation state of the structure and functions of habitats – Establishment of a long-term monitoring system
Achievement of a satisfactory conservation status of important flora species	Additional conservation of genetic material of important species of the area
	Organisation of the existing information on the flora of Lefka Ori
	Recording and assessment of the conservation status – systematic monitoring of flora species
Achievement of a satisfactory conservation status of important fauna species	Improvement of the reproductive success of <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> , <i>Gyps fulvus</i> , and <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
	Reduction of the mortality of important birds of prey
	Recording, assessment, and systematic monitoring of terrestrial and sea fauna species
Sustainable management of natural resources	Fire protection measures
	Conservation of the hydrographic processes at Lefka Ori
	Recording and monitoring of the anthropogenic pressures and assessment of their impact
	Conservation of the productivity of the natural grazing areas for the maintenance of pastoralism – rational management of alpine meadows and grazing lands
	Recording/Monitoring of natural resources
Conservation of the rational operation of the National Park and of the implementation and effectiveness of the Management Plan	Patrolling and guarding
	Monitoring of the implementation of the proposed actions
	Promotion of the cooperation with local stake-holders

Development of mild tourism	Creation of the favorable conditions for ecotourism development
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The actions completed so far by the MB (see p. 27-29 of periodic review), mostly focus on the monitoring and conservation of species and habitats, but they more or less refer to all the above mentioned objectives. Furthermore, public awareness and environmental education actions are also practiced - information campaigns at schools, workshops - meetings – conferences, design, production and dissemination of promotional material, implementation of voluntary programs (see p. 63-71 of periodic review).

Moreover, the MB is currently operating pilot actions in order to support the development function of the BR, e.g.:

1. Pilot issuing of a quality certificate for the businesses inside the protected area (restaurants, hotels, products, tourist agencies, trade businesses) (<http://www.samaria.gr/%CF%83%CF%8D%CE%BC%CF%86%CF%89%CE%BD%CE%BF-%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B9%CF%8C%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%84%CE%B1%CF%82/>)
2. Development and certification of an ecotourism package of activities, through the pilot action "A snorkel on the mountain", of "Mediterranean Experience of Eco-Tourism" (MEET), ENPI Med (<http://www.medecotourism.org/>)
3. Data collection and analysis for the profile of the visitors of the National Park through questionnaires
4. Support of alternative tourism (support of the organization of extreme trail bicycle races, archery contests, extreme run contests, etc)
5. Support as an external local consultant the work of projects implemented in the BR by Universities and Research Institutions with both conservation and sustainability objectives (e.g., SylvaMED, REVERSE, COBWEB)
6. Information and guiding signs at several mountain paths have been placed, in order to support the development of alternative tourism activities.

It is in the intention of the MB to include in the next funding period studies for tourist management, as well as for agricultural and pasture management. The results of these studies will help the MB to design mechanisms to monitor and manage the most important economic activities in the National Park in a sustainable scheme with the cooperation of the local people. These studies will also help the development of pilot training programs for farmers.

- **Consider the participation of representatives of local communities and private sector in the coordination and management structure of the biosphere reserve structure**

In general, the management of the BR is strongly related to the needs, priorities and challenges posed by the local population, which is the final "addressee" of the MB's actions.

As it was mentioned in the periodic review (p. 53), the Boards of Administration of the MBs of Protected Areas in Greece are appointed with a Ministerial Decision. Their composition is specific and it is described in the State Law 2742/1999, and in related Regulations of operation.

The Board of Administration of Samaria National Park Management Body consists of 11 members and includes representatives of the main stakeholders with an interest to the protected area (such as 2 scientist experts, 1 representative of the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, 1 representative of the Ministry of Development, 1 representative of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food, 3 representatives of the adjacent municipalities, 1 representative of the Decentralized Administration of Crete (Dpt. of Chania), 1 representative of the NGOs, and 1 representative of the Region of Crete).

The local communities are represented by their mayors or aldermen.

Moreover, the meetings of the Board of Administration are open to the public, so anyone who wishes is welcomed to attend them, without of course, a vote right, but their opinion will be heard, be evaluated and recorded at the minutes.

Furthermore, as it was already mentioned in the periodic review (p. 53) the MB organizes certain meetings with local communities to listen their needs, in order to prioritize the actions that will be included in the next management plan of the protected area.

The pilot issuing of a quality certification for the businesses within the borders of the BR is already in place, and during the first months of its implementation there are meetings with the private sector in order to optimize the criteria and its implementation.

- **Finalize the establishment of a research and monitoring programme for the habitats and landscapes of the biosphere reserve**

The monitoring programme of the important environmental elements of the BR is currently in full operation. For the monitoring of abiotic parameters, there are four meteorological stations recording weather data in the BR. As far as it concerns the monitoring of habitats and species these are implemented according to the actions involved in the project "Protection and Preservation of the Biodiversity of the National Park of Samaria (Lefka Ori)", (2010-2015), which were described in the periodic review (p. 27-28).

The monitoring of habitats and species is at the moment implemented by the scientific teams of the contractors of the specific sub-projects. However, there were specific terms in the contracts and thus the scientific personnel of the MB assist the scientists on the field, in order to be trained on the different protocols used, and continue the monitoring process, after the end of contracts in 2016. So the establishment of the monitoring programme is going to be permanent.

To sum up, regarding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

- The borders of the buffer and transition zone have been changed. The size of the new zones is given in Table 3. The map and GIS files are also included in the attached CD. In the text above, background information about the zonation of the protected area (both National Park and Biosphere Reserve) is given, and it is explained why the proposed zonation for the Biosphere Reserve is fully consistent with the Advisory Committee's recommendations .
- It is not expected to have a new Management Plan until the end of 2015. The Management Body will send a copy of the new Management Plan when it will be conducted and officially approved by the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy. It should be noted that the new Management Plan will refer to the protection zones of the National Park. However, there will be provisions so that the management targets set will be in concordance with the criteria set by the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- The local communities are represented in the Board of Administration of the National Park by their mayors or aldermen. Moreover, the meetings of the Board of Administration are open to the public. Finally, the pilot issuing of a quality certification for the businesses within the borders of the BR is already in place, and during the first months of its implementation there are meetings with the private sector in order to optimize the criteria and its implementation.
- The monitoring programme has been established and it is going to be permanent.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification you may require with respect to the above mentioned subjects,

Samaria National Park Management Body

Dr Petros Lymberakis
President of the Board of Administration