LIFE ForestLife
"Building cooperation, developing skills and sharing knowledge for Natura 2000 forests in Greece"

Petros Kakouros,
Project manager - Forester PhD

Forests and Natura 2000 in Greece

Forests and forest land cover — 50%

Greek forests in Natura 2000 — 40%

Forest cover of Natura 2000 — 60%

NATURA 2000

NATURA 2000

Δασική βλάστηση της Ελλάδας

- Ελάτη
- Κυπάρισσος
- Οξιά
- Ερυθρελάτη
- Πεύκη χαλέπιος
- Πεύκη μαύρη
- Δρύες
- Θαμνώνες

42% 58%
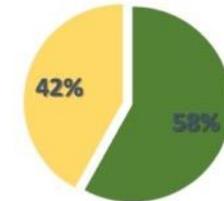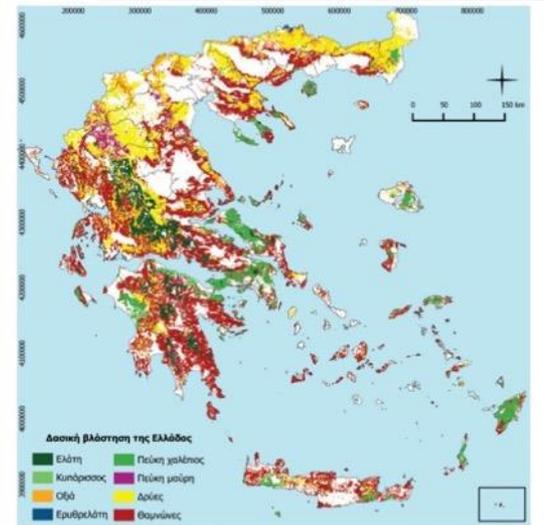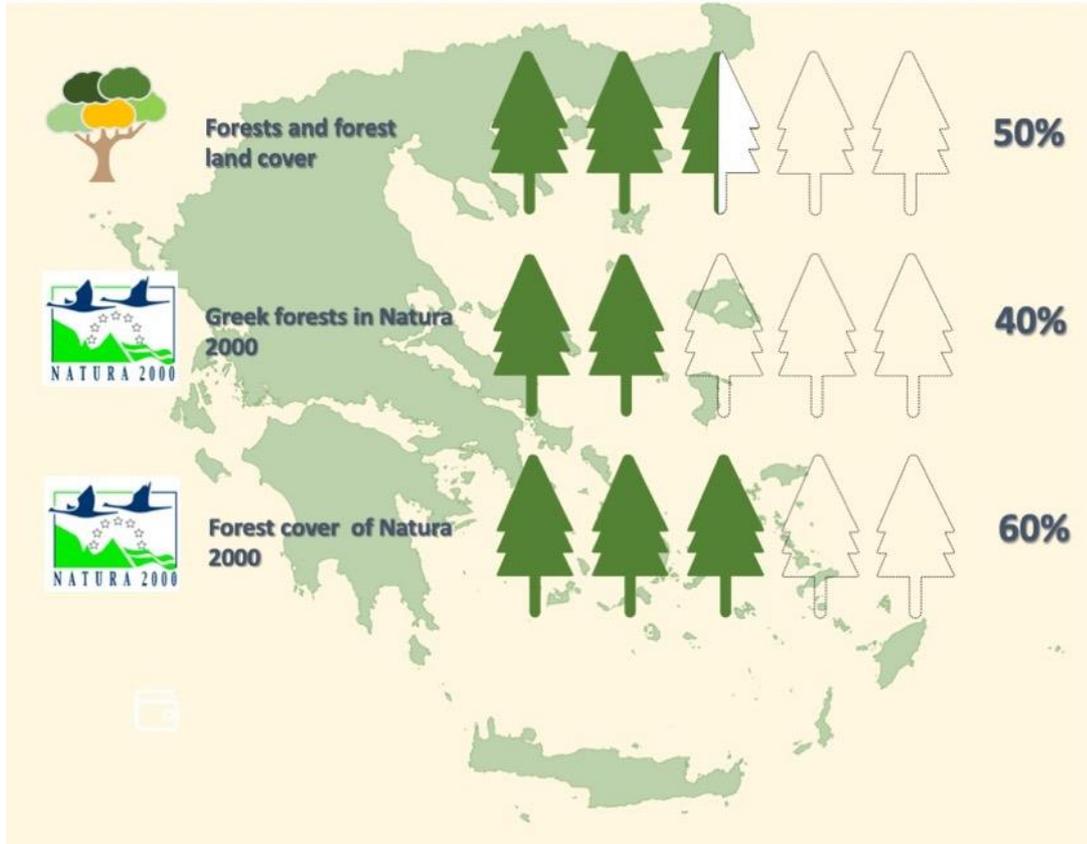
50 habitat types with woody vegetation
35 other habitat types

Forest management and biodiversity conservation in Greece

- In Greece, for all state and non-state forests a forest management plan must be submitted for review and approval by the competent local State Forest Service. No logging or other economic activity is allowed without an approved MP.

- MP's contain specific information in a prescribed form that every forest manager is obliged to follow.

- Management planning is obliged to proactively avoid any degradation of biodiversity and to adopt certain conservation or restoration measures if necessary. Special measures are obligatory for the conservation of birds.

Training and information needs

During the 2014 Mediterranean Biogeographic Seminar (Thessaloniki, Greece) the following shortcomings were identified affecting good governance to this direction:

- Weak dissemination of guidance and knowledge regarding the special management needs of forests included in Natura 2000 sites.
- Lack of assistance for cooperation between the stakeholders of management of forests included in Natura 2000 sites.
- Lack of skills of forest related target groups.
- Weak information of visitors regarding the impacts of forest recreation.

Needs assessment: method

The assessment was based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods.

- Online questionnaire reached more than 1000 recipients.
- 268 replies representing almost all regions and target groups.
- Shortages were covered with 43 interviews and 14 focus groups in 29 locations of the country.
- Weak information of visitors regarding the impacts of forest recreation.

Needs assessment: target groups

- Forest service personnel
- Other state services involved
- Scientists and teaching personnel
- Private consultants
- Other non-state (NGO, etc.) organisations
- Non-state forest owners
- Forest cooperatives
- Resin collection cooperatives
- Wood processing sector
- Visitors

Greek Forest Community (GFC)

Needs assessment: results 1/2

Assessment of access to information (1=Very weak-5=Excellent)
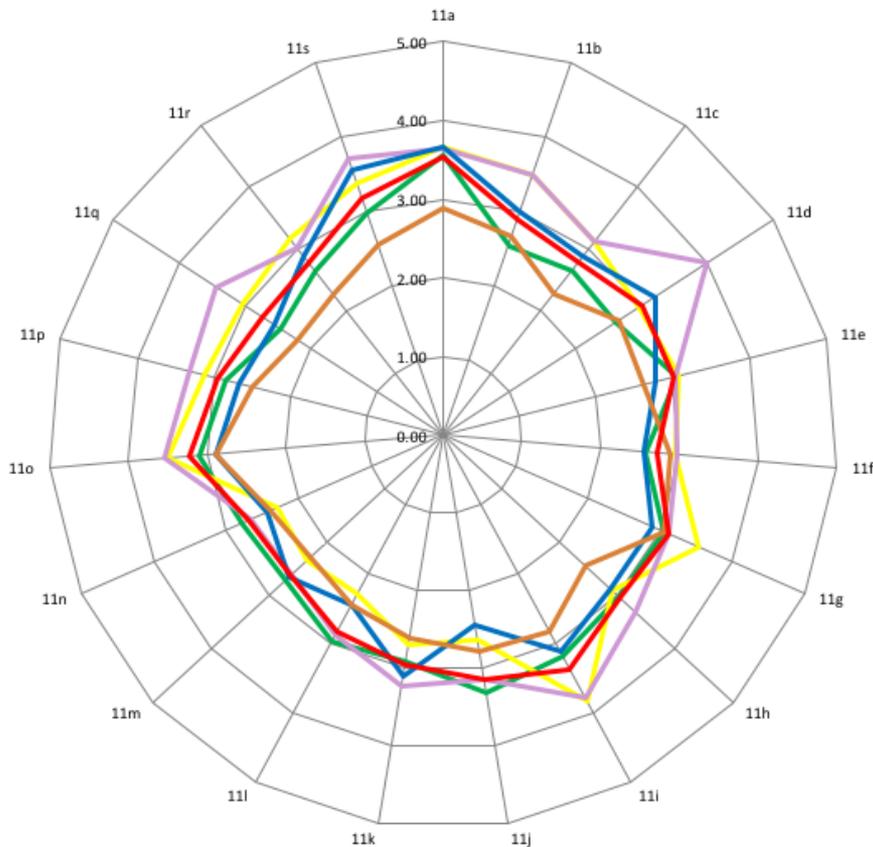
Legend:
- Forest service
- Management bodies
- Researchers
- Other pub. Authority
- Other
- All participants

11a: Policy and law, **11b**: National reports, **11c**: Technical reports, **11d**: Scientific publications, **11e**: Guidelines on forest management, **11f**: Visitor management guidelines, **11g**: Visitor guides, **11h**: Forest geospatial data, **11i**: Other geospatial data, **11j**: Forest cadastral, **11k**: Other maps, **11l**: Databases with forest data, **11m**: Results of projects related to forest management and nature, **11n**:Ongoing projects related to forest management and nature, **11o**: Organisations working on forest management and nature, **11p**: Researchers, **11q**: Funding, **11r**: Job announcements, **11s**: Events announcements.

Needs assessment: results 2/2

Means of communication and exchange of information: current preferences

Legend:
- Forest service
- Management bodies
- Researchers
- Other pub. Authority
- Other
- All participants

Categories: Telephone, Email, Web communication, Social Media, Person 2 person, Training meetings, Conferences workshops
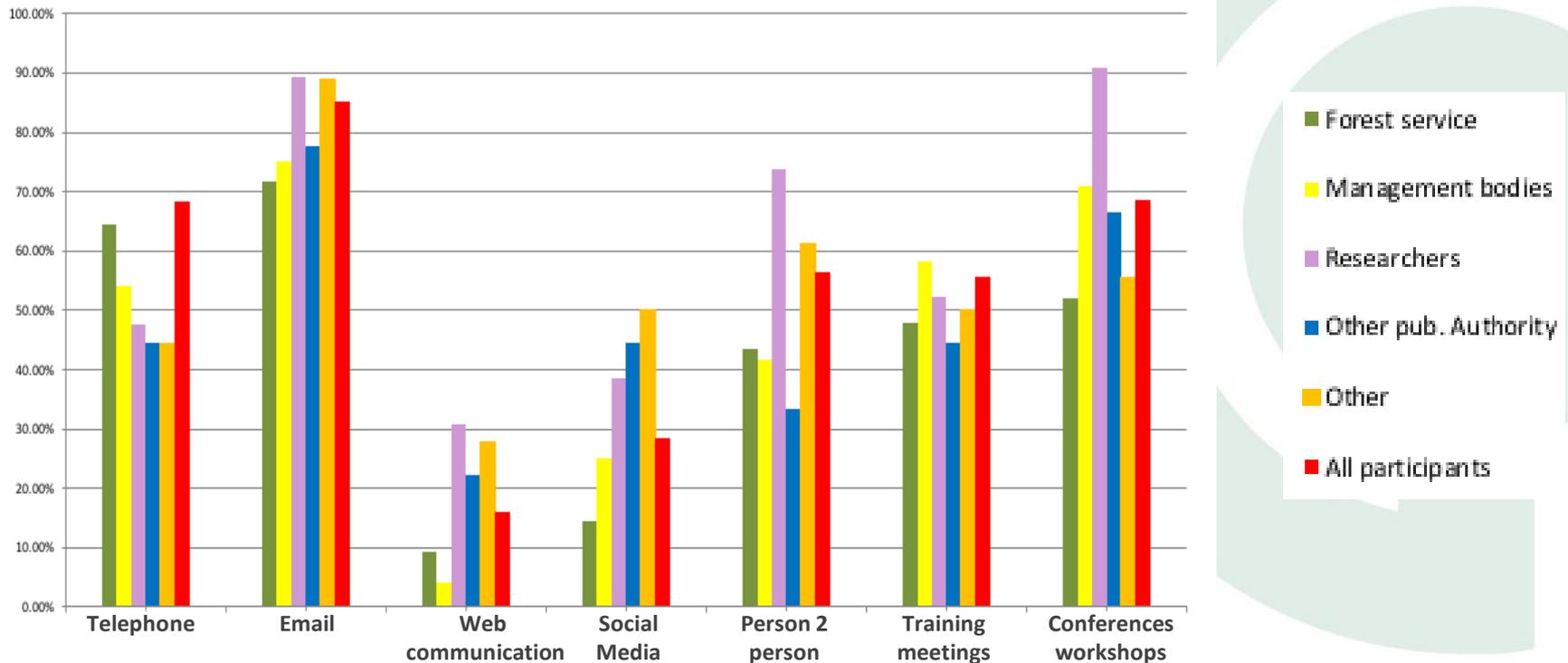
Needs assessment: Key outcomes

a)   Insufficient knowledge even on key issues related to Natura 2000, along with entrenched perceptions regarding prohibitions and restrictions arising from the inclusion of an area in the Natura 2000,

b)   Significant need for dissemination of scientific knowledge and experience from the implementation of good forest management practices in Natura 2000 sites in Greece,

c)   Special interest for best practices, especially in the fields of biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change

d)   Increasing need for reliable and easy access to geodata and databases regarding Natura 2000.

Response to needs

Need

Tool

1. Dissemination of guidance, best practice and knowledge regarding the special management needs of forests included in Natura 2000 sites

   → Collaboration Platform for Forests (CPF)

2. Foster the development of skills of forest related target groups through training

   → Training seminars/webinars

3. Fast access to basic forest information, promotion of Greek forests

   → Development of web-based app for smart mobile devices

Collaboration Platform for Forests (CPF)

Collaboration Platform for Forests (CPF)

CPF e-library:
archive material/forest management history
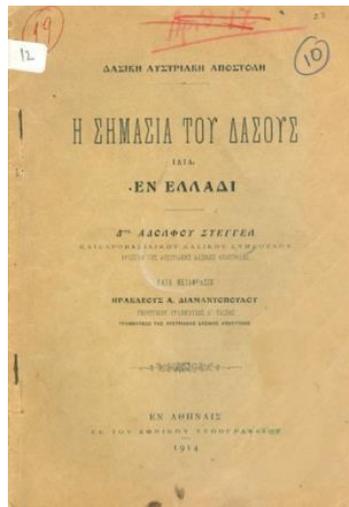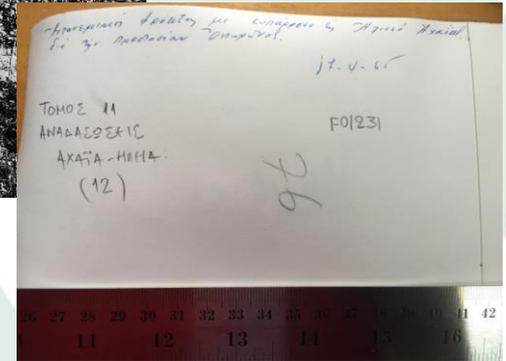
Web-based app for smart mobile devices

Contents
a) Basic information about the flora and the fauna of selected Greek forests
b) Monuments
c) Useful visitor information
d) Greek forests e-book by S. Dafis
e) Access to CPF
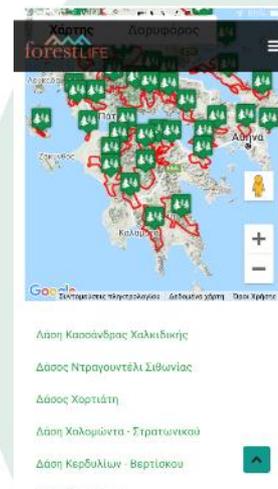
- Easy update of information
- Open architecture

ForestLife presence in web

Promotion, information, Communication

- **Project' s actions and progress**

- **News and current issues for nature, forests, research, funding etc.**

- **Multimedia**

- **Events**

>1800
>150 reach/post

> 21.500 unique visitors

385 followers
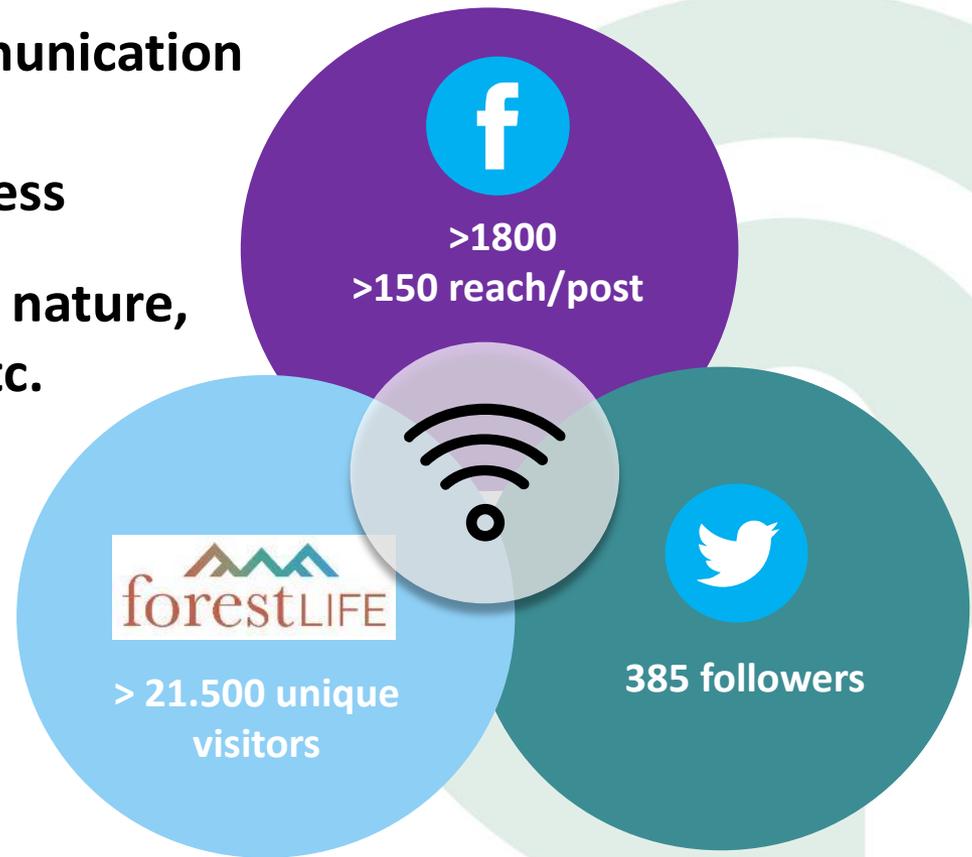
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forestLIFE
BUILDING COOPERATION, DEVELOPING SKILLS
AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE
FOR NATURA 2000 FORESTS IN GREECE

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Thank you for your attention

Petros Kakouros
petros@ekby.gr

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