

For more information about the project please contact:

Ηρώ Λυρατζάκη / Soufiana Dodoouli

37 Kalamitsiou Street, 15477 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 3429911

Fax: +30 210 3429938

E-mail: [lyrac@med-land.org](mailto:lyrac@med-land.org) / [dodoouli@med-land.org](mailto:dodoouli@med-land.org)

med-land

cultural values of Mediterranean wetlands

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos  
The project is co-funded by The MAVA Foundation

### purpose

Understanding, documenting and thus strengthening the links between inhabitants and visitors in the Mediterranean Basin and its rich natural environment in wetland sites is the purpose of the project.

This would lead to increased social pressure for the conservation of the sensitive wetland sites in the region currently under great pressure from urbanisation and other unsustainable development activities. In addition, it would enhance the interest in wetlands of visitors in the Mediterranean, thus providing additional income to local communities.



### objectives

Three main objectives have been defined:

- Disseminating the current knowledge on cultural actions in Mediterranean wetland sites.
- Monitoring the development of these actions, drawing conclusions from them and advising on their future development.
- Increasing the capacity of integrated management of both natural and cultural aspects in the region.



### activities planned

To achieve the above objectives, the following actions are planned:

- Making available the work carried out up to now through the final editing and publication of a book on the cultural aspects of Mediterranean wetlands.
- Follow-up and critical analysis of developments in the 21 selected wetland sites through questionnaires and site visits whenever required and dissemination of the results in printed and electronic form.
- Organisation of a Pan-Mediterranean Workshop on incorporating cultural aspects in the management of wetlands and editing of its proceedings. The participants will be on the one hand experts in nature conservation and in cultural aspects and on the other persons responsible for wetland management from the 21 sites identified up to now.
- Establishment and maintenance of an interactive website on Mediterranean wetland sites and on their cultural values. This will be the main tool in maintaining a network of concerned and responsible experts from around the Mediterranean and in encouraging exchange of experience and views, as well as transboundary co-operation wherever feasible.

### expected results

- Publications:
  - *Action for culture in Mediterranean wetlands* (in English and in French).
  - *Strengthening action for culture in Mediterranean wetlands* (in English).
  - *Workshop Proceedings Nature and culture in Mediterranean Wetlands* (in English, CD-ROM).
- Mediterranean workshop with approximately 30 participants, held in Prespa Lakes on 23-27 September 2009.
- Web site established and operating.

### time schedule

Three years, from July 2007 to June 2010.

### funding sources

The project is co-funded by the MAVA Foundation.

### mission

To contribute to a harmonious relationship between Anthropos (Mankind) and Nature, by working on the interface between the two, particularly in the Mediterranean region, through research, action and public awareness.

### objectives

- Developing an integrated approach to the management and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage.
- Promoting the comprehension and application of sustainability, especially in the use of natural resources.
- Encouraging a better understanding of the inextricable relationship between cultural and natural values.

### organisation profile

Med-INA is a non-profit organisation, legally established in Athens, Greece, in September 2003. Director of Med-INA is architect, planner and environmentalist Thymio Papayannis; head of its Scientific Secretariat is archaeologist Aphrodite Sorotou.

### priority areas

The priority areas of Med-INA include the following:

#### Cultural values of wetlands:

In the framework of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971) and of its MedWet Initiative, Med-INA has been working in incorporating cultural values in the management of wetlands, through a project which analysed 21 Mediterranean sites. The results led to a CD-ROM *Action for Culture in Mediterranean Wetlands* (presented at Ramsar COP9 in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2005), and a book with the same title (in English and French). Work is continuing in implementing Ramsar Resolutions VIII.21 and IX.19, which concern the cultural values of wetlands. In the Prespa area, Med-INA has been assisting the Society for the Protection of Prespa to establish a documentation and research centre, dedicated to the relationship of human beings and nature.

#### The Delos Initiative:

The Delos Initiative has been developed in order to investigate the possibilities of synergy in the conservation of the spiritual / cultural and natural heritage of protected natural areas in technologically developed countries. It has been developed in the framework of the Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas (CSVPA), within the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN/WCPA). Med-INA has introduced the concept of this initiative, ensures its co-ordination (in collaboration with Josep-Maria Mallarach, Spain) and hosts its web site. The work currently focuses on an analysis of sacred natural sites in Australia, Finland, Greece, Japan, Russia, UK and USA. Two workshops were held, in Montserrat Monastery (Catalonia, Spain) in 2006 and in Ouranopolis (Mt. Athos, Greece) in 2007.

#### Landscape research:

Since its establishment, Med-INA has shown a great interest in landscape issues, as they provide the appropriate framework for an integrated management of the cultural and natural heritage. Participation in the technical work and meetings of the European Landscape Convention, in the Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape (PECSRL) and contributions regarding landscape issues to various journals are few examples of the Med-INA research work regarding landscapes, especially in the Mediterranean. A workshop on the management and conservation of Greek landscapes was organised by Med-INA in Athens, in May 2009.