

Beschermde gebieden

Since 1937, Greece has begun to recognise areas exhibiting high ecological interest (forests, wetlands, etc) and to put them under special protection. The initial measures taken to this end consisted in the absolute protection of natural areas, banning all human activities.

Gradually, these measures were broadened, incorporating the protected areas into the surrounding environment and closely associating their conservation with the sustainable use of natural resources.

- Preserved natural monuments

This category includes individual trees or clumps of trees of outstanding botanical, paleontological, aesthetic, historical and cultural value, as well as areas of great ecological, paleontological or geomorphologic interest. The relevant legislation was enacted under the forest code. Today the designated preserved natural monuments amount to 51 and cover a total area of 16,840 hectares. Most monuments occupy just a few square meters. In total, the land area covered corresponds to 0.12% of the country's territory, while 21.32 hectares are in marine environment.

List of Preserved Natural Monuments

- Marine parks In Greece there are two marine parks protected under law: the National Marine Park of Alonissos-Northern Sporades (1992) and the Zakynthos National Marine Park (1999)

- Wetlands of international importance These are included in the International Convention of Ramsar (1971) signed by Greece and ratified by virtue of Legislative Decree 191/74. There are 10 wetlands on Greek territory listed below:

Name
Prefecture

Amvrakikos Gulf
Aetoloakarnania, Preveza, Arta

Axios-Loudía-Aliakmon Delta
Thessaloniki, Imathia, Pieria

Evros Delta
Evros

Kotychio Lagoon
Ilia

Lake Mikri Prespa
Flórina

Lake Vistonís, Porto Lagos, Lake Ismarís (Mitrikou) and Messis lagoons
Rodopi, Xanthi

Lake Koronia and Lake Volvi
Thessaloniki

Messolonghi Lagoon
Aetoloakarnania

Nestos Delta and adjacent lagoons
Xanthi

For more detailed information, contact:

-Greek Biotope & Wetland Centre – The Goulandris Natural History Museum

-Hellenic Ornithological Society

- Protected areas These are included in the European Natura 2000 Network pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC “On the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora”. The designated biotopes amount to 234 approximately, of which 52 have been characterised as specially protected areas for the conservation of wild birds under Council Directive 79/409/EEC. Some of these areas are given below:

Name
Prefecture

Artificial Lake Kerkini
Serres

Lake Tavropos (Plastira)
Karditsa

Dadiá-Lefkimmi-Souflí Forest
Evros