

16TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERNATIONAL **CEMAT**
SYMPOSIUM AND 12TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF
THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

16^E SYMPOSIUM INTERNATIONAL **CEMAT**
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE ET 12^E RÉUNION
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE DES ATELIERS POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE
DE **LA CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE DU PAYSAGE**



**Vision for the future of Europe
on territorial democracy**

*Landscape as a new strategy for
spatial planning: another way
to see the territory involving civil society. . .*

**Visions pour l'Europe du futur
sur la démocratie territoriale**

*Le paysage comme nouvelle stratégie de
l'aménagement du territoire : une autre manière
de voir le territoire en impliquant la société
civile. . .*

Proceedings / Actes

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Thessalonique, Grèce, 2-3 octobre 2012

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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
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Proceedings / Actes



*16th Council of Europe International CEMAT Symposium
and 12th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops
for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention*

**Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy:
Landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning.
Another way to see the territory involving civil society...**

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territoriale : le paysage comme nouvelle stratégie
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Symposium and Meeting organised by the Council of Europe – Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division – in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Greece, within the context of the Work Programme of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning – CEMAT / CoE and of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.

Statements in their original language as presented at the meetings. The opinions expressed are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

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Symposium et Réunion organisés par le Conseil de l'Europe – Division du patrimoine culturel, du paysage et de l'aménagement du territoire – en coopération avec le Ministère de l'environnement, de l'énergie et du changement climatique de la Grèce, dans le cadre du Programme de travail du Comité des hauts fonctionnaires de la Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe des Ministres responsables de l'aménagement du territoire – CEMAT / CdE et de la Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe sur la Convention européenne du paysage.

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The Greek Landscapes

Les paysages grecs

Chairs

Mr Costis HADJIMICHALIS

Professor, Department of Geography, Harokopio University, Athens

Mr Theano S. TERKENLI

*Associate Professor, Department of Geography,
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Understanding modern Greek landscapes

Mr Costis HADJIMICHALIS

Professor, Department of Geography, Harokopio University, Athens

Thank you very much. I am happy to have been invited. I would like to thank you for the invitation. It is a great pleasure for the city, and a pleasure for Dimitris Fatouros to chair the session.

That is something that the Greek colleagues understand a bit more.

I would like us to talk about this topic, that is, about understanding landscapes, because when we talk about the relationship between landscape and space, spatial planning, the colleagues before me already spoke about that and analysed it. For us here in Greece, where the discussion about landscapes as a key element of spatial planning arrived much later than in other European countries, I think it is necessary to make some things clear.

I will start with what I would call the five basic difficulties. The first difficulty regards the fact that the prevailing views on landscape in Greece reward and showcase only “beautiful” landscapes, the “unique” ones and, more particularly, the ones related to “tourism”, in other words. The second difficulty is the ideological use of the landscape which alludes mostly to 19th century romanticism still going strong in our days, through which its “Greekness” that is showcased, the landscape’s characteristic element. The third one is “authenticity and representativeness”. What does the Greek landscape represent? The islands, the sea, nature are prevalent as a perception and that is where it ends. The fourth difficulty is the stereotypical approach which exists and is not confined to Greece alone: that landscapes become important as soon as they entail historicity, for example, as soon as they include monuments or are related to the past. And the last difficulty is the one colleagues before me brought up, I will not elaborate, it has to do with the negative economic and social situation in our country and throughout Southern Europe, in which, I am afraid, talking about landscapes may be considered an unnecessary luxury or even an obstacle with regard to any private or State “development” projects. So, this alternative kind of understanding that we wished for in an effort to overcome this four difficulties and, taking the fifth one into consideration,

was what we tried to apply in a research programme and in a book which was published recently and deals with a wide range of landscapes which we analysed and studied all over Greece: a range in which we included not only landscapes which are in need of protection, or must be analysed, but the remaining ones as well which are important when it comes to spatial planning. Obviously, we have the countryside, the traditional housing settlements, the urban centres such as Thessaloniki, the mountain ranges, and the biotopes. But we also included, and that is where the importance of spatial planning is to be found, a series of landscapes which a conventional approach would either reject or conceal: such as the problem of the arbitrarily built housing in Keratea in Attica. We also included the widespread interventions of technical works, even the industrial installations, and, last, the densely built neighbourhoods and, of course, the greenhouses and wind turbines.

In that approach there is no difference between “important” and ordinary landscapes, between “beautiful” and “ugly” ones. In fact, when the landscape is interrelated with spatial planning, it is uniform and that is where the essential intervention of a spatial approach lies. We tried to do that at the Lavreotiki Peninsula, in Attica where, through a series of analyses which are very well known in landscape methodology, here on this map I am giving you an example with the field of visibility three main roads have, we ended up with a typology of the landscape’s units as they resulted not only from our own analysis and our on-site research but also from a thoroughly systematic recording of the inhabitants’ perceptions and impressions.

A very well-known Greek sociologist, Stathis Damianakos, has detected a very interesting characteristic of Greek society which differs from Western thought, a regime of blurry boundaries and multiple channels which he called, and not accidentally at that, “hybridisation”. It entails the interrelation and the continuum between rural and urban space, the fluidity among categories of professions, the retreat of the contrast between local/national society and the emergence of new global contrasts.

I believe that Damianakos’ observations are very useful in understanding the characteristics of landscapes in Greece, a particularly inherent characteristic, as seen in these images from Acharnae with the full involvement of the land uses and the instability in the relation between urban web and

countryside but also as seen in the peri-urban landscapes in Thessaloniki where urbanisation walks alongside farm production and neglect. All of those things are found together in the same place, at the same time, so that the intervention and the interrelation of spatial planning in terms of the landscape acquires the crucial significance we all want to heed.

According to geographic theory, landscapes are grouped and that is what our approach involved, with three basic materials. The first one regards the natural processes of landscapes (e.g., the natural cycle of water; the climate; volcanic activity in Greece which produces a landscape of particular importance, here we have a landscape from Nisyros, and here one from Santorini, the lava landscape). The second materiality is the biological and living production of the landscape (the flora – here is an ordinary forest map of Grevena, the protected biotope of Dadia, home to the last Black Vultures of Europe). And, needless to say, the most important materiality, in my opinion, is the social processes which transfigure the landscape. It is the toil and human labour which have been integrated into the landscape, which produce this living reality around us. It is the buildings and the housing clusters and, of course, surface mining which, in Greece, where there are considerable lignite reserves, and where it is very important, it creates a series of environmental impacts.

The result of those natural processes is stamped, as it is known, on the peninsula's natural terrain. This diversified geological composition comprises a relevant constant of long duration which, again, has four sub-categories. One category is the mountainousness. 70% of Greece is mountainous over the 600-meter mark. The second one is the small plains, the small size of the flat areas, whose additional differentiation from the rest in Europe is that they do not have rivers of a constant flow. The third one is the great number of islands: there are 2,500 islands out of which 252 are inhabited. The last one is the extensive length of the coastlines. We have 15,000 km of coastline whereas Africa, which is 230 times larger than Greece, has a length of coastline barely 1.8 times greater than ours.

This intense breakdown into mountains, hills, small plains, ravines, islands, and coastline has given rise to a peculiarity that is characteristic of Greek landscapes. It is something which is always unexpected, hidden; it is not immediately perceptible to the observer. It is what we call the constant

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Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS

Nancy NUTTALL-BODIN

presence of what is “across”. Few are the cases in Greece when we do not have an open or closed horizon, across the sea where no land mass is visible. This element of what is “across”, we believe, constitutes one of the fundamental characteristics of landscapes in Greece; differentiates them from the ones in Europe; and, obviously, it is not restricted to Greece alone, it refers to the geomorphology and organisation of the Mediterranean basin. We have checked on that through certain cartographic depictions of visibility from some very central points. On the left, we see a map from the mountaintop of Olympus, at a radius of 200 km. The red areas are areas which are visible, and on the right, from the temple of Poseidon at Sounio.

Another all-important characteristic of landscapes in Greece is the high degree of biodiversity. A recent study showed that 57% of the lands in Greece are characterised by a high Nature Value indicator, in other words, high biodiversity, a percentage which is one of the highest in Europe. That biodiversity does not entail the protected areas only, in other words, it does not entail areas which are under Natura protection, national parks, like Kerkini you saw yesterday. It is biodiversity which spreads in areas under cultivation, areas where there is livestock breeding, that is to say, in areas which have an ordinary land use. In other areas, such as Crete, the presence of endemic plants sharply sends biodiversity spiking upward and Crete, in relation to its size, has one of the highest percentages of endemic plants in the Mediterranean. The same goes for biotopes, we saw Dadia with its Black Vultures a little while ago, and Prespes Lakes where we have analysed the landscape zones into three altitudes; and, of course, the rocky islets of the Aegean which are not included in the 2,500 islands I told you about, but comprise one of the most precious biotopes in our country.

Social processes and the human presence over time, in turn, structure the last two groups of characteristics that I would like to present to you. The first one is a relatively known concept. It has to do with the historicity and constancy found in many landscapes and is related always to places which are fortified, plains which are fertile. This continuation of myth and of history appears particularly sharply in the names of places. Place names are quite characteristic of a landscape each time and here is Feneos which is repeatedly cited by Pausanias. It is still there, produces

approximately the same products and, naturally, it has the same name. However, this historicity has many times created a collective imaginary situation between locals and visitors over the landscapes in Greece which is often used to shut the landscape off from its development. And that is because, apart from historicity and constancy, the landscapes in Greece as it happens everywhere are characterised by cuts, drops, and changes. And this challenge at historicity creates another visual angle of the landscape, one that could be anchored on the view that landscapes are temporary, even the geological ones. They constitute a “simultaneity of stories-so-far” as prominent geographer Doreen Massey would say.

The second category of social characteristics regards that which we call capitalistic development in our country. Within a time period a little shorter than the span of two generations, the country has gone through all the stages of social, economic development which took other areas three or four generations to go through. Traditional localities were replaced and co-exist with new, uniform models of land exploitation, structures, and showcasing of cities.

This unequal development led to two trends. On the one hand, we see variety and differentiation in some landscapes. On the other, we create on-going trends of uniformity and homogeneity. By that, I mean variety and differentiation, is particularly obvious in historical urban landscapes, traditional housing settlements but also in cultivations, especially in the semi-mountainous areas, in areas of multifunctional farming and, of course, in biotopes. On the other hand, we have found dynamic trends of uniformity and homogeneity, which are mainly the result of modern interventions after the 1970's.

Here, well-known examples are the uniform cultivation practices in areas of intensive farming and the countryside home, something that is particularly well-known to everyone. And, also, needless to say, at least to the Greek colleagues, and we should explain it at some point to the foreign colleagues, there is building activity everywhere in Greece on four stremmata of land without a rational regulation on land uses. The above are the result of practices by private parties like this one here of arbitrary land-turned-building lot on Antiparos; but also by municipalities and by the State such as the licenses issued at Zakynthos and Iraklio.

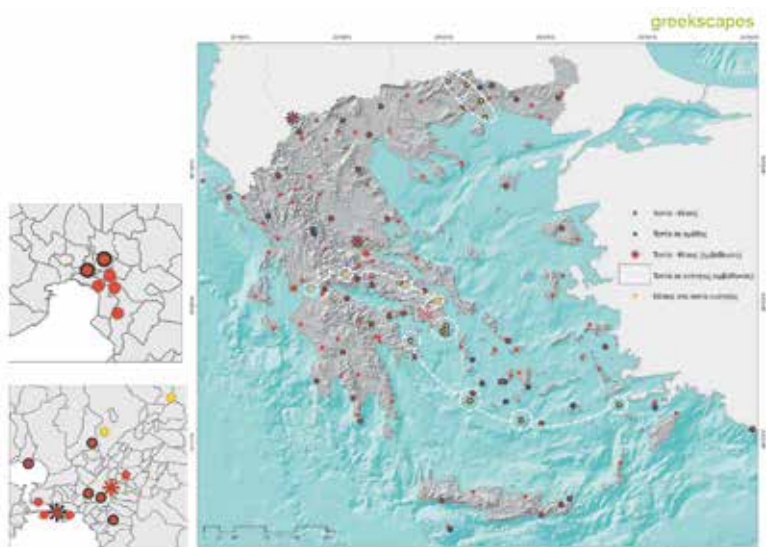
I left for the end two cultural and political issues which regard landscapes more broadly, not only those found in Greece. A culture which is integrated in a landscape stems from spatial-social practices and from the labour of many generations and it constitutes a collective good, it is an inextricable part of “the commons”. So, it functions as collective, symbolic capital and includes not only the memories and the symbolisms but also all the contrasts and conflicts those contain.

So, there are emerging problems of crucial importance today in Greece, which has begun this very serious effort of integrating the landscape in spatial planning and, of course, undergoes the dire straits of today’s crisis. The first problem: whose collective memory will we celebrate or preserve by protecting a landscape? Whose sense of aesthetics will emerge at the top? And finally, who are the guardians of the landscape? Is it the locals alone? Is it the community alone? Does consultation resolve all those conflicts? The cases of the conversion of the historical battlefield of Marathon at Schinias into a Rowing Centre at the time of the Olympic Games; the threatened installation of wind turbines along the Island of Ikaria; the hotels and golf courses at Kavos Sidero in Eastern Crete; and, last, the sale of the rocky islets in order to reduce public debt are, sadly, indications that those who evaluate landscapes and those who act on the landscapes in Greece, in no way do they bother to protect the symbolic capital.

The second problem is that as the landscape constitutes a unique capital, a symbolic one, it creates profits, it creates revenues. It is a kind of an oligopolic rental fee which is appropriated by the one who is exploiting the symbolic capital, exactly as it happens with the monuments, the works of art, and even the wine appellations of origin. Those who usually stand to gain from unique capitals are business engaged in tourism as is the case at Delphi. Accessing the view of the unique landscape of Amfissa’s olive groves, the area’s symbolic capital and the result of the labour of generations of growers, is made possible only through the tourist shops and hotels lining the road of Delphi. The revenue and the rental fee from the landscape’s view is that which is appropriated mainly by the inhabitants, not the inhabitants and the visitors, but the tourist trade businessmen.

Those examples, and that brings us to my conclusion, stress that understanding contemporary landscapes in Greece, together with the

institutions which will organise our co-existence with the landscapes, lead to multi-faceted conflicts. The negative circumstances do not predispose one as to what the support policies for landscapes may be. Sadly, we have government announcements about fast-track development of various protected areas, reneging within the framework of spatial and city planning, changes in the agencies protecting the areas, and all that points towards a negative direction. It will take, therefore, on the one hand, a progressive institutional framework for the landscape which will be implemented without compromise or hypocrisy and, on the other, it will necessitate that citizens be on the alert to mobilise and that the landscape be integrated as a collective good into what is being contended by the claims.



Οι θέσεις των 134 τοπίων της αρχικής έρευνας και οι κατηγορίες προσέγγισης. Location of the 134 landscapes studied



Αναβαθμοί στη Σίφνο • Terraces, Sifnos island



Κάρπαθος, Όλυμπος • The vernacular settlement Olymbos, Karpathos island



Η πλατεία και ο άξονας της Αριστοτέλους στη Θεσσαλονίκη • Aristotelous



Βελούχι

Velouchi mountain



Τα στενά του Νέστου • Nestos river ecological landscape

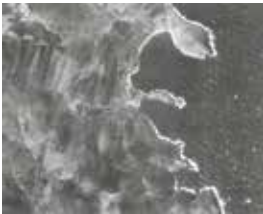


“Πανόραμα” Κερατέας

Η εξέλιξη των αυθαιρέτων

“Panorama” Kerateas
(near Athens)

The development of
illegal and self-generated
settlements



1950



1999



2009



Γέφυρα Ρίου – Αντίρριου και Κορινθιακός κόλπος • The Rio-Antirrio bridge
and the Corinthian gulf



Α.Η.Σ. Αγ. Δημητρίου, Πτολεμαΐδα • Lignite power station, Ptolemais, Kozani

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Κυψέλη • Kypseli, Athens



Δυτική Θεσσαλονίκη • West Thessaloniki



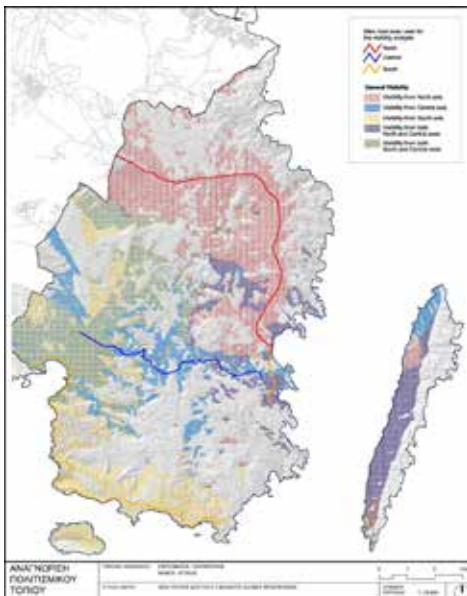
Θερμοκήπια Ιεράπετρας • Glass houses intensive agriculture, Ierapetra, Crete



Ανεμογεννήτριες στην Ανατολική Κρήτη • Wind power mills, East Crete



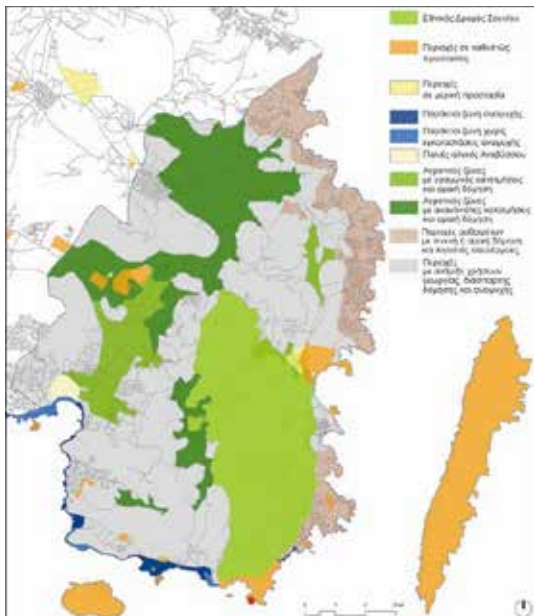
Βιομηχανική Περιοχή Κιλκίς • Kilkis industrial area, Central Macedonia



Χερσόνησος Λαυρεωτικής
με Μακρόνησο και Νήσο
Πατρόκλου.

Γενική ορατότητα από
τους τρεις βασικούς
οδικούς
άξονες προσπέλασης
του Λαυρίου
κόκκινο: ο βόρειος άξονας
μπλε: ο κεντρικός άξονας
κίτρινο: ο παραλιακός άξονας
ανάμειξη χρωμάτων:
ορατότητα από δυο ή τρεις
άξονες

Landscape visibility,
Lavreotiki peninsula, near
Athens. The three colors
show visible areas from
the three main roads



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Οι ενότητες και οι τυπολογίες τοπίων της Λαυρεωτικής όπως έχουν προκύψει από την ανάλυση και την επιτόπια έρευνα.

Landscape typology in Lavreotiki peninsula (near Athens) after analysis of landscape characteristics and field work.

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Τα υβριδικά τοπία στις Αχαρνές: ανάμειξη χρήσεων και τύπων αστικών ιστών, ασάφεια ορίων με την Πάρνηθα, συνεχείς αλλαγές • Hybrid landscapes at Acharnes, a peripheral urban area in Athens.



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Υβριδικά
αστικά
τοπία στη
Δυτική
Θεσσαλονίκη
με ανάμειξη
χρήσεων γης

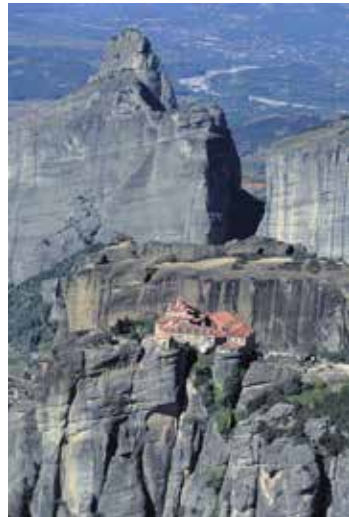


Hybrid urban
landscapes at
West
Thessaloniki
with mix land
uses

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Φαράγγι Βίκου • Vikos gorge



Μετέωρα • Meteora



Γεωλογικός χάρτης της Νισύρου και οι κεντρικοί ηφαιστειακοί κρατήρες
Volcano geomorphology and volcanic landscape, Nisiros island



Γεωτοπίο με στρώματα από λάβα στη Σαντορίνη • Lava landscape,
Santorini island



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Το λιβάδι της Νάξου: η περιορισμένη αντοχή του αγροτικού τοπίου
The Naxos pasture: an agricultural landscape under threat from tourism

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Τοπίο της υπαίθρου στη Μάνη • Mani rural man-made landscape



Κέντρο Κομοτηνής • Komotini town center

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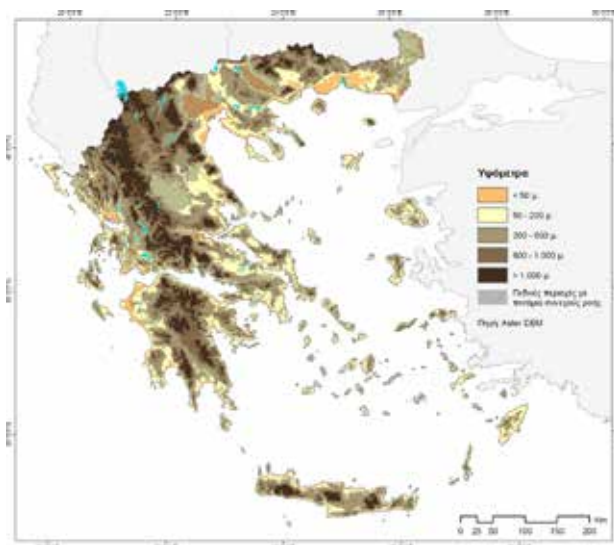
Κέρκυρα • Corfu historical town



Ναύπλιο • Nafplio,
historical center

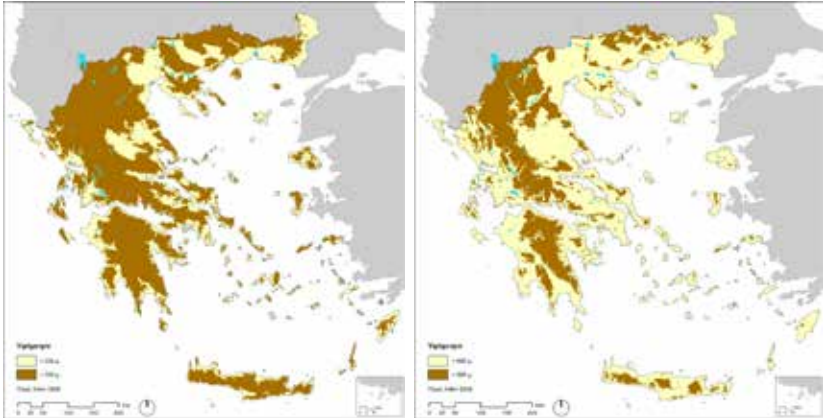


Λιγνιτωρυχεία Πτολεμαΐδας • Open lignite mines, Ptolemais, Kozani



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Τα χαρακτηριστικά του φυσικού ανάγλυφου • Greek relief characteristics



Τα μεγέθη των πεδινών περιοχών έως 200μ υψόμετρο και πεδινών και ημι-ορεινών περιοχών -οροπεδίων έως 600μ υψόμετρο • Sizes of plains bellow 200 m and plains plus plateaus until 600 m

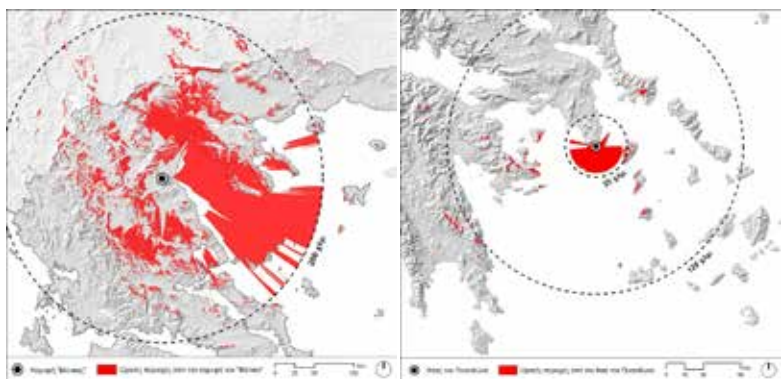


Οι ακτές στις εκβολές του Αχελώου και η ομώνυμη Λουρονησίδα
Coast line along the river mouth of Acheloos river and barrier beach



Κωπαΐδα και στον ορίζοντα ο Ελικώνας • Koropaidi plain and Elikonas mountain in the horizon

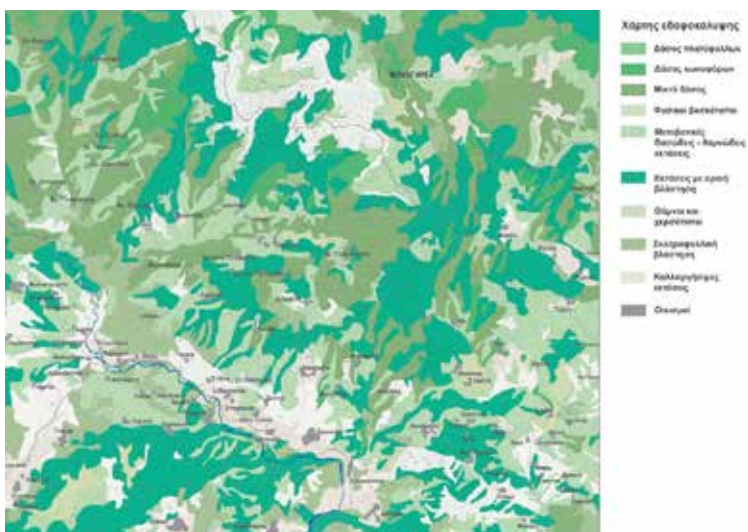
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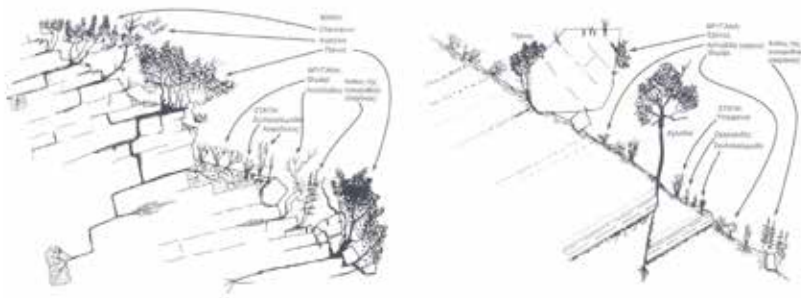
Η δυνητική ορατότητα περιοχών από τον Όλυμπο (Μύτικας 2.918μ) και από το ναό του Ποσειδώνα στο Σούνιο • Visibility from Olympus mountain (2.918m) and from cape Sounion's Poseidon Temple



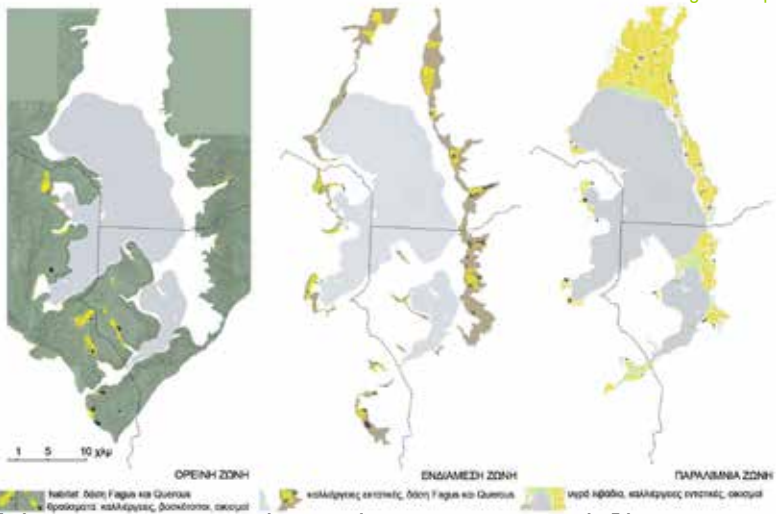
Περιοχές Υψηλής Φυσικής Αξίας • High bio-diversity areas



Οικολογία τοπίου: εδαφικάλυψη κεντρικής περιοχής ποταμοκοιλιάδας Νέστου
Landscape ecology: land coverage, central area of Nestos river basin

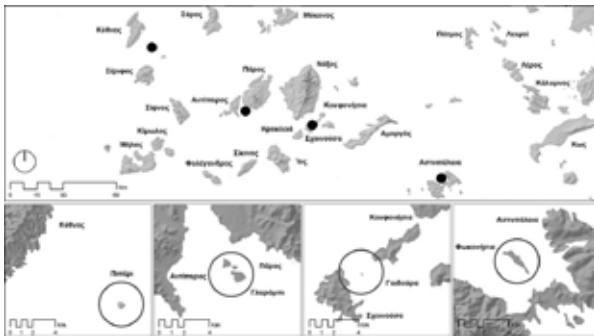


Ενδημική βλάστηση στην Κρήτη • Indigenous vegetation in Crete
Source: Rackham, Moody, 2008.



Πρέσπες, τα χαρακτηριστικά του τοπίου σε τρεις υψομετρικές ζώνες

Prespes lakes: landscape characteristics in three altimetric zones



Small rocky
Aegean
islands and
their fragile
ecological
landscape



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Ο Όλυμπος και τα Τέμπη κατά Α. Ortelius, 1590 • Olympus and Tempe after Ortelius, 1590



Στάνες στο Βροντερό των Πρεσπών • Stockyards at Vrontero, Prespes



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Πλατεία Μιαούλη, Ερμούπολη • Miaouli sq, Hermoupolis, Syros island



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Η πλατεία Τρεις Εκκλησιές στη Χώρα της Αμοργού
Three churches sq, Chora, Amorgos island



Το χωριό Κύκνος και καπνοχώραφα, Πομακοχώρια • Kyknos village and tobacco fields, Pomak's land, Thrace



Αναβαθμοί
στη Θηρασιά
Terraces at Therasia,
across Santorini



Το Δέλτα και οι βάλτοι στα πεδινά του Νέστου • Nestos delta and wetland landscape



Ο Θεσσαλικός κάμπος στην Καρδίτσα και το χωριό Φράγκο
Thessaly plain at Karditsa and Frago village



Η χιλιοκτισμένη Μύκονος • Dense tourist urbanization, Mykonos island



Αντίπαρος

Antiparos island



Λαγανάς Ζακύνθου
Laganas, Zakynthos island



Μάλια Ηρακλείου
Malia, Heraklion, Crete



Το μουσουλμανικό χωριό Γαλάνι στα πεδινά του Νέστου
The muslim village Galani, plains of Nestos river



Το τοπίο από τους Δελφούς προς τον Ελαιώνα της Άμφισσας και την Ιτέα
Delphi landscape towards Amfissa olive grove and Itea

HADJIMICHALIS, C. (2014),
Understanding modern landscapes in Greece,
[12th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention \(and 16th International CEMAT Symposium\) on “Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: Landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning”](#)
Thessalonica, Greece, 2-3 October 2012
Proceedings: Council of Europe, [European spatial planning and landscape, No 99](#)
pp. 45-77.

Reference to the Project “Greekscapes”

<www.greekscapes.gr>

- **"Greekscapes:** a 'bird's eye view atlas of Greek landscapes"
- Main objective of the specific program was the mapping and representation of landscapes that may not have aesthetical, tourist, environmental or ecological value, however they reflect the human and economic activity, the social structuring and the special characteristics of each place, being, at the same time, integral parts of modern Greece. Based on the aerial photographs, the research team compiled scientific texts, performed fieldwork, took photographs and created maps and diagrams.