



CYCLADES LIFE LAYMANS REPORT

**INTEGRATED MONK SEAL CONSERVATION
IN THE NORTHERN CYCLADES
LIFE12 NAT/GR/000688**





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WHAT IS THE CYCLADES LIFE INTEGRATED MONK SEAL CONSERVATION IN NORTHERN CYCLADES PROJECT

**SPA
NATURA
2000 Code:
GR4220033**

**SCI
NATURA
2000 Code:
GR4220033**

GYAROS NATURA 2000 site

Surface area: 26,114.310 ha

Coastline: 37 km

An uninhabited, arid islet under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Syros

1944-1974

Exile site for political dissidents

1974-2000

Naval target practice range

1979

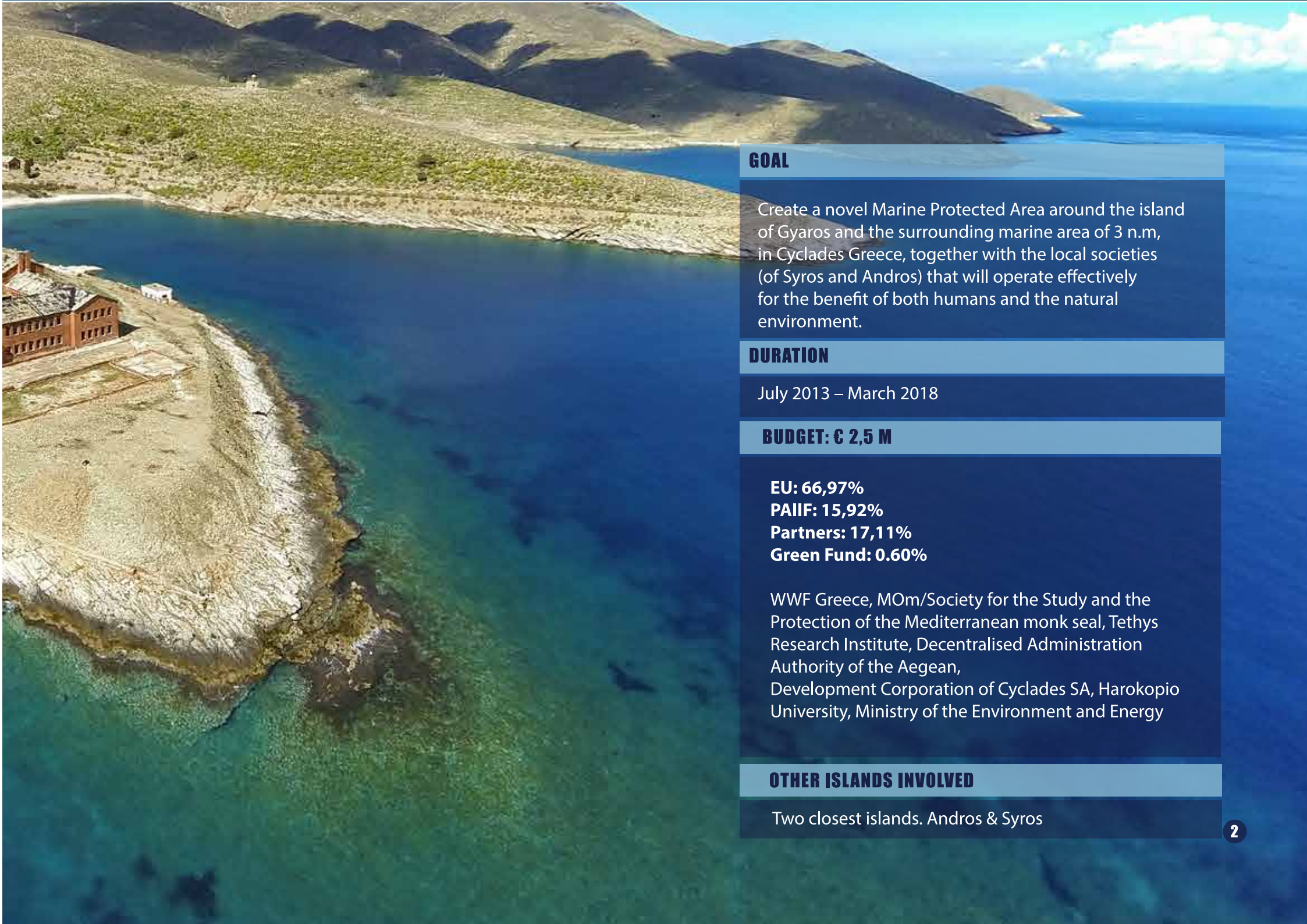
All fishing activities banned around the island (Ministerial Decision 5278/39B/22-01-1979)

2001

Designated as Historic site (Ministry of Culture (law 1680/B/2001) & the Ministry of the Aegean (law 772/D/2001)

2011

Designated as Natura 2000 area (Joint Ministerial Decision 3738/2807/E. 103/1-9-10, 8353/276/E103/17-2-2012)



GOAL

Create a novel Marine Protected Area around the island of Gyaros and the surrounding marine area of 3 n.m, in Cyclades Greece, together with the local societies (of Syros and Andros) that will operate effectively for the benefit of both humans and the natural environment.

DURATION

July 2013 – March 2018

BUDGET: € 2,5 M

EU: 66,97%

PAIIF: 15,92%

Partners: 17,11%

Green Fund: 0.60%

WWF Greece, MOm/Society for the Study and the Protection of the Mediterranean monk seal, Tethys Research Institute, Decentralised Administration Authority of the Aegean, Development Corporation of Cyclades SA, Harokopio University, Ministry of the Environment and Energy

OTHER ISLANDS INVOLVED

Two closest islands. Andros & Syros

GYAROS IS HOME TO

Approximately 12% of the global population of the endangered Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*. Population estimated at 65 animals with a reproduction rate of 9 pups/year.

Posidonia sea beds (*Posidonia oceanica*), a priority habitat (Habitat type 1120) according to the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, cover approximately 10% of the Gyaros sea bottom in depths of 0-40 m.

Coralligenous reefs, priority habitat (Habitat type 1170) according to the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, cover approximately 20% of the Gyaros sea bottom between 30-100 m.

Rare birds of prey that use it as feeding and breeding ground.

Submerged or partially submerged sea caves can be found at the western side of the island. They are the main breeding habitat of the Mediterranean monk seal (Habitat type 8330)





OUR

NOT JUST ANOTHER CONSERVATION PROJECT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL

For the first time in Greece, an MPA would be established through a holistic approach based on the principles of:

- ➔ Ecosystem Based Management
- ➔ Marine Spatial Planning
- ➔ Co-management

VISION

Create a model Marine Protected Area (MPA), together with the local societies that will operate effectively for the benefit of both humans and the natural environment that:



will conserve unique species...



and important habitats...



will support local livelihoods...



will ensure ample fish for all...



will unite people...



will create ideas...



will keep history and culture alive...



will open new horizons
and establish paradigms

DISCOVERING GYAROS

Goal: Establish a scientific base line on the project's area through studies on:

- 🐟 Terrestrial fauna, flora and habitats
- 🐟 Marine priority habitats
- 🐟 Avifauna
- 🐟 Fish populations
- 🐟 Social and economic structure of the area

2014

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**1ST MISSION
FOR THE TERRESTRIAL
FAUNA, FLORA & HABITATS**

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**MAKING THE
ISLAND ACCESSIBLE**

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**1ST ORNITHOLOGICAL
MISSION**

Two joint missions in order to clear the island of dangerous ordnance.

By CYCLADES LIFE WWF Greece team together with the Greek Armed Forces, Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit.

Findings: Over 37 species of avifauna, such as rare birds of prey and sea birds. Discovery of an unknown colony of yelkouan shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*.

By CYCLADES LIFE WWF Greece team, the Hellenic Ornithological Society, Dr. G.Catsadorakis, expert ornithologist.

Findings: Phrygana are dominant. Small patches of Mediterranean temporary ponds, intermittently flowing rivers, arborescent Juniper matorral and pre desert scrub with *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Fritillaria obliqua* subsp. *tuntasia*, endemic coleoptera, spiders and molluscs and the snake *Hierophis vividiflavus* that in Greece is only found in Gyros.

By CYCLADES LIFE WWF Greece team, Natural History Museum of Crete

Findings: More than 50% of the project area is covered with priority habitats. 47% of the sea bottom at depths between 80 m to 110 m is covered with coralligenous formations and 3,5% of the study area is covered by sea grass meadows.

By CYCLADES LIFE WWF Greece field team, the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Physical Oceanography of the University of Patras.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

2ND MISSION FOR THE TERRESTRIAL FAUNA, FLORA & HABITATS

1ST MISSION OF SEA BOTTOM HABITAT MAPPING UP TO 150 M OF DEPTH



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

2014

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

**1ST MISSION FOR
THE STUDY OF FISHERIES
AT THE CORALLIGENOUS
HABITAT AROUND GYAROS**



**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**

**2ND MISSION FOR
THE STUDY OF FISHERIES
AT THE CORALLIGENOUS
HABITAT AROUND GYAROS**



**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**

**3RD MISSION FOR
THE STUDY OF FISHERIES
AT THE CORALLIGENOUS
HABITAT AROUND GYAROS**



**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**

By the Department of
Biology, University of Patras

Findings: In total 45 fish
species found in coralligenous
habitats indicating high
biodiversity and abundance of
fishery resources.

**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**



**SOCIO ECONOMIC
STUDY OF THE SOCIETY
OF SYROS**

Findings: Both societies agree that limiting fishing activity could be perceived as a solution for the protection of the environment and tourism is the key future prospect.

**SOCIO ECONOMIC
STUDY OF THE SOCIETY
OF ANDROS**




**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**

By the Department of Geography,
Harokopio University of Athens.

PROTECTING A UNIQUE NATURAL TREASURE

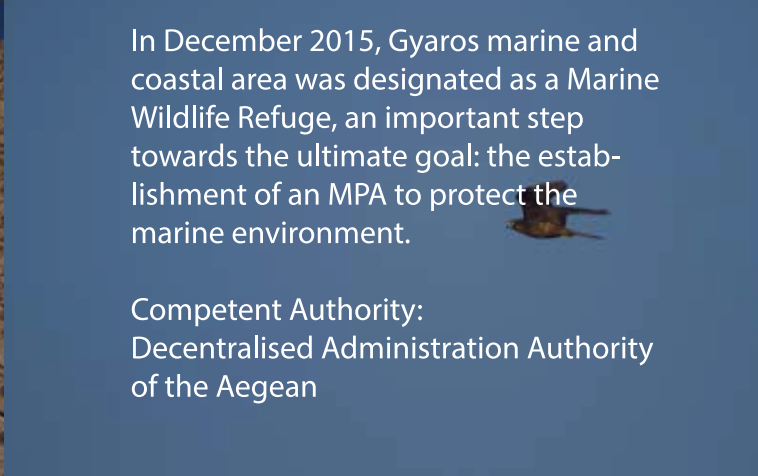
**GYAROS
IS THE FIRST
MARINE WILDLIFE
REFUGE
IN GREECE**

POLITICAL COMMITMENT AT ALL LEVELS



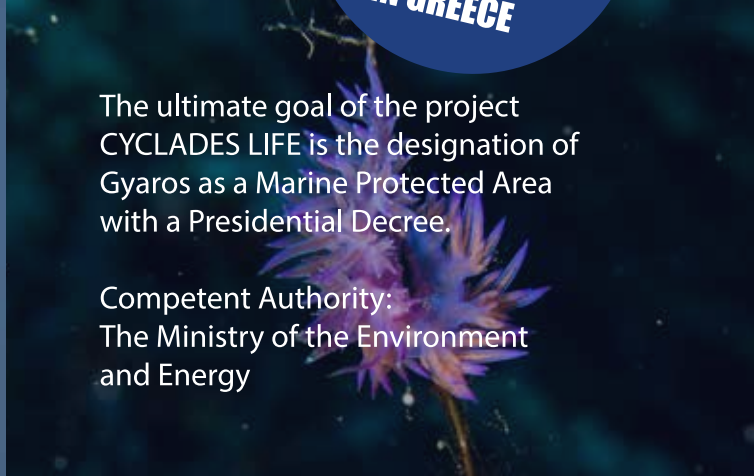
In December 2012, a new Ministerial Decision was issued banning all types of fishing throughout the Natura 2000 site.

Competent Authority:
Port Authority of Syros



In December 2015, Gyaros marine and coastal area was designated as a Marine Wildlife Refuge, an important step towards the ultimate goal: the establishment of an MPA to protect the marine environment.

Competent Authority:
Decentralised Administration Authority
of the Aegean



The ultimate goal of the project CYCLADES LIFE is the designation of Gyaros as a Marine Protected Area with a Presidential Decree.

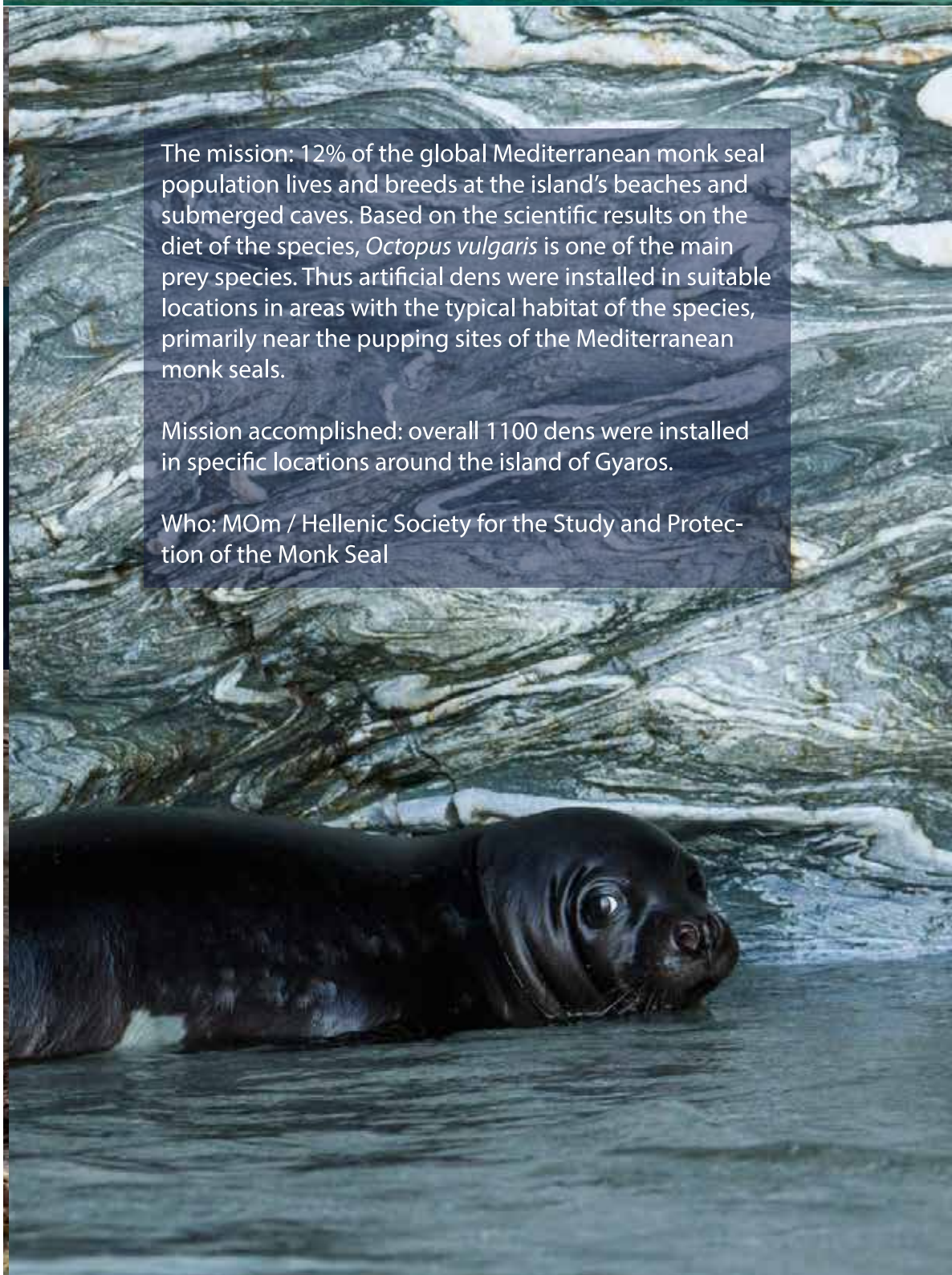
Competent Authority:
The Ministry of the Environment
and Energy

AN ISLAND FULL OF SECRETS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

The mission: Marine debris is considered one of the main threats especially for newborn pups of the endangered Mediterranean monk seal. Beaches and partially submerged caves are essential for the animals that use them to rest and breed. Marine debris that is accumulated in the coastal caves and on beaches, renders the beaches unsuitable for the species and fishing nets that are left abandoned around Gyaros constitute a deadly threat especially for juveniles.

Mission accomplished: Marine debris removed from partially submerged caves, breeding beaches and the sea bottom.

Who: WWF Greece CYCLADES LIFE field team, MOm/Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, local volunteers and sailing clubs



The mission: 12% of the global Mediterranean monk seal population lives and breeds at the island's beaches and submerged caves. Based on the scientific results on the diet of the species, *Octopus vulgaris* is one of the main prey species. Thus artificial dens were installed in suitable locations in areas with the typical habitat of the species, primarily near the pupping sites of the Mediterranean monk seals.

Mission accomplished: overall 1100 dens were installed in specific locations around the island of Gyaros.

Who: MOm / Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal



The mission:

Posidonia sea grass beds are threatened by human related activities. Touristic activities and anchoring constitute the two main threats for both habitats jeopardizing their invaluable ecosystem services. They provide shelter, breeding ground and food for a number of marine organisms.

Mission accomplished:

- ➔ The placement of a series of Posidonia friendly moorings at appropriate locations around the island so as to safeguard the integrity of Posidonia meadows and accommodate visitors.
- ➔ Three underwater trails were designed to promote sustainable tourism in the broader Northern Cyclades area. Two in Gyaros and one in Syros, setting up a network of trails that can be enjoyed by visitors.

Who: WWF Greece CYCLADES LIFE field team, University of the Aegean

The mission: The rocky cliffs of Gyaros offer an ideal home for the endangered sea bird Yelkouan shearwater. During the CYCLADES LIFE scientific expeditions a new shearwater colony, possibly the largest in Greece, is discovered.

Mission accomplished: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WWF Greece, Hellenic Ornithological Society and Nature Conservation Consultants (NCC) to study and assess the status of the colony.

- 👉 April 2015 - joint expedition - Discovery of 75 nests, 23 breeding nests
- 👉 Feb 2016 - joint expedition - Confirmation of the existence of the colony
- 👉 May 2016 - joint expedition - Testing various methodologies
- 👉 June 2016 - Dr. G. Catsadorakis and CYCLADES LIFE field team - Study foraging fields

METHODS

USE OF THERMAL
CAMERAS, RADAR IMAGES,
AERIAL MAPPING OF HABITAT
WITH THE USE OF
CAMERA TAGGING OF ACTIVE
NESTS





PROTECTING THOSE IN NEED



THE MISSION

To build an effective surveillance system that guarantees the protection of the vulnerable species and habitats. A state of the art surveillance system can monitor the area remotely 24/7, acting as a deterrent against violators of the existing legislation. Currently all forms of fishing are not allowed within the 3 n.m area around Gyaros.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

This complex surveillance system is comprised of:

Technical equipment:

- A 7,5 m. inflatable speed boat, "Gioura" allowing the field team to operate in the wider Gyaros area.
- A radar system placed at the top of Gyaros mountain. The system is comprised of a large range marine radar, AIS receiver, solar panels and batteries and a security system.
- A wide range infrared camera linked to the radar system.
- Telecommunications links placed at the mountain top of Syros and DCLAC offices in Ermoupolis. With this equipment, data from the Gyaros radar are transmitted to the Command Center in Syros where it is stored.

Manpower:

- A 3 member guarding team of experienced speed boat operators that patrol the area utilizing all capabilities provided by the surveillance system.

Additional technical expertise:

- An expert consultant in surveillance and security systems providing advice on technical issues for the design and operation of the remote surveillance system.
- An IT specialist providing technical assistance on the design, operation and maintenance on the system's command center and on storing data related to the activities within the project area.
- A number of specialized technicians involving the maintenance of the command's system.

In an effort to consolidate the effective operation of the surveillance system and ensure its long term sustainability an MoU between the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy –Hellenic Coast Guard and the Ministry of Environment and Energy and WWF Greece has been established clarifying the roles and contributions of the 3 bodies in the actual implementation of the surveillance of Gyaros.



GUARDING AT SEA

**241 DAILY PATROLS CONDUCTED
CLOSE TO 550 PATROLLING HOURS
9,500 NAUTICAL MILES COVERED
60 VESSELS RECORDED WITHIN THE
PROJECT AREA, ALL INFORMED
ABOUT THE EXISTING REGULATIONS
45 FISHERY INCIDENTS REPORTED
TO THE PORT POLICE AUTHORITIES**

INSTALLING THE SYSTEM:

**2 WEEKS EXPEDITION.
INSTALLATION SITE AT 500 M ALTI-
TUDE.
NO SHELTER FROM THE SUN AND WIND
NO ROADS OR PATHS
3 VESSELS
1 HELICOPTER
12 TECHNICIANS
3 MEMBER GUARDING TEAM
4 VOLUNTEERS
3,5 TONES OF EQUIPMENT**

WINNING AN AMBITIOUS CHALLENGE

LOOKING BEYOND THE SINGLE SPECIES

ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT IS AN APPROACH TO MANAGE NATURE, THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALL PARAMETERS RELATED TO BOTH NATURE AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM. ABOVE ALL, IT ENCOMPASSES THE VISION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS ESPECIALLY THE LOCAL SOCIETIES BUILDING AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

MSP IS A LONG TERM AND STRATEGIC PROCESS THAT GUIDES US WHERE, WHEN AND HOW HUMAN USES SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT SEA. IT CAN HELP BALANCE COMPETING INTERESTS MAKING SURE THAT SOCIETY BENEFITS WHILE PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

AN ICONIC SPECIES, THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

A small deserted island, 37 km coastline, 12 marine caves

A very important population: 27% of the Greek and 12% of the global population.

Threats at the national level:

- 👉 Habitat deterioration and loss by uncontrollable coastal development.
- 👉 Deliberate killings from fishermen.
- 👉 Accidental entanglement in fishing gear.
- 👉 Diminishing fishing resources.
- 👉 Potential diseases or other random events.

THE HISTORY

2013

Mediterranean monk seals are one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Overall, approximately 600 animals exist in the wild. In 2004, MOM discovered in Gyaros a new important colony of Mediterranean monk seals. Numerous animals were observed but most importantly animals here exhibited their ancestral behavior using both caves and open beaches. Field surveys carried in Gyaros between 2004-2007 revealed 9 coastal caves suitable for monk seals, 4 suitable for resting and pupping and 5 only for resting. In October 2007, researchers recorded inside a single cave 10 newborn pups, the highest number ever recorded together in the Mediterranean.

5 YEARS LATER

MOM throughout the CYCLADES LIFE project regularly monitored and assessed the Gyaros Monk Seal population.

- 👉 Over 44,445 pictures collected by cameras placed inside the pupping caves creating a comprehensive Seal Photo ID catalogue of all distinguishable adult seals.
- 👉 42 identified animals.
- 👉 45 pups born in total.
- 👉 15 infrared cameras placed in caves regularly monitoring the behavior of the animals.
- 👉 Better understanding of the behavior of this iconic species.
- 👉 Annual estimation of basic demographic and reproductive parameters for the Mediterranean monk seal.
- 👉 Approximately 65 animals, annual birth rate 9 pups/year

SPREADING THE WORD: LEARNING, TRUSTING, ENGAGING

THE HISTORY: CAPACITY BUILDING

For the first time in Greece notions such as co-management, ecosystem based management and marine spatial planning were actively introduced and integrated into the establishment of a Marine Protected Area. A number of capacity building seminars, educational and communication activities, exhibitions and events for all (CYCLADES LIFE staff, the broad public, school children and local stakeholders of both Syros and Andros) were organized in order to properly introduce these notions and ensure the active engagement and participation of all directly and indirectly involved stakeholders in the creation of the new Gyaros MPA. Looking beyond the local and regional scope, considerable effort was also invested to disseminate key results to the international conservation and scientific community.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION

Learning about Gyaros and building a sense of pride and ownership to the young generation of Syros and Andros island was a key element of our public outreach activities.

- ➡ 24 direct presentations were conducted in 17 primary schools of Syros and Andros informing 2,249 students and 79 educators of Andros and Syros.
- ➡ 43 creative learning workshops were conducted for the students and educators of Syros and Andros.
- ➡ An exhibition of the artwork created by the primary students was organised in Syros and was attended by more than 600 visitors and primary schools of Syros.
- ➡ More than 250 visitors of Syros attended an exhibition with art work from local youngsters with the techniques of Origami, Street Art and Cartoons dedicated to the Gyaros MPA.
- ➡ A series of educational material was compiled into the "Gyaros Educational Package" that was delivered to all schools of Andros and Syros. The educational package, including the Kids Educational Video, was uploaded to the Primary Environmental Education Department of Cyclades site, providing access to the educational tools for the remaining 79 primary schools of Cyclades and indirectly informing 381 educators and approximately 8,000 students.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

- ➔ 17 specialized seminars covering a variety of issues including MPAs, their legal framework, management and their benefits, heritage interpretation, diving and marine tourism to name but a few were organized in Syros and Andros islands to which close to 600 local stakeholders participated.
- ➔ A series of seminars were specially designed for professional fishermen of Syros and Andros to help them in securing a more sustainable livelihood. Topics included basic elements of marine biology, safety at sea, legal and financial tools for fisheries and pesca tourism.
- ➔ An exchange visit was organized for a group of local stakeholders to a successfully managed MPA, Torre Guaceto, in Italy. Professional fishermen from both islands and a local tourism entrepreneur had the opportunity to talk with their peers and learn first hand about the benefits of a properly managed MPA and its positive impact on local fisheries.

OPEN PUBLIC EVENTS

The goal was to bring the project site and its key natural elements closer to the local communities of the neighboring islands so as to learn and appreciate their value.

- ➔ More than 250 local residents of the broader Cyclades area attended ten public events organized in Syros, Andros, Folegandros, Koufonisia and Mikonos.
- ➔ More than 1,300 people joined a digital event entitled “Discovering Gyaros” that was organized through social media, providing a unique experience of the team’s daily work to participants through live linkages and videos from Gyaros.
- ➔ Approximately 2,000 children and more than 3,500 adults visited the first photographic exhibition that was created to showcase exclusively Gyaros’s nature and history entitled “Gyaros, the isolation of yesterday, a vision for tomorrow”. The exhibition has travelled to Syros, Athens and Thessaloniki.



COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Various above and below the line communication activities were utilized to inform the public about the project and disseminate its key messages and results reaching an overall audience of more than 2 million viewers.

- CYCLADES LIFE website, You Tube, Facebook and Twitter accounts were created to present the actions and progress of the project.
- Information Boards placed in key locations in Syros, Andros and Gyaros ports.
- 5 information banners, 2 flying banners and 6 posters, 9,500 leaflets, 18 press releases, 24 blog stories, 19 e-banners to local and national media, and more than 400 articles have disseminated the CYCLADES LIFE goals, vision and results.
- Production of a short documentary and a number of small videos depicting the project's actions were all promoted through social media channels.
- Numerous interviews in local, national and international TV and radio channels.

CONSERVATION AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

A key objective of all project partners has been to disseminate and present the overall approach of the CYCLADES LIFE project highlighting its integrated nature and its results. In this context, the project's staff:

- Attended 14 international and 6 national conferences/workshops/meetings informing thus more than 8,000 scientists and experts.
- Published 14 scientific publications in established journals consolidating the project's key findings and promoting best practices.
- An e-forum with more than 60 members from 24 different institutions and 5 countries was created in order to facilitate and enhance the direct and cost effective exchange of information and experiences.



GETTING TO KNOW THE SOCIETIES OF ANDROS & SYROS

THE HISTORY

Gyaros, albeit part of the Northern Cyclades complex, is mostly known as a former exile site. The island, is uninhabited and is rarely visited by tourists while its most common users are professional and amateur fishermen and hunters.

THE METHODOLOGY

In order to assess the potential impact of a new MPA in Gyaros to the neighboring societies, a survey was conducted in Syros and Andros islands to understand the social and economic conditions and trends and the public's perceptions on fisheries management and sustainable development and the monitoring of their impact.

- Quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews.
- Approximately 450 questionnaires collected in both Syros and Andros.
- More than 45 local stakeholders interviewed.
- Two focus groups, one in each island. Each one composed of approximately eight to ten local stakeholders.

RESULTS RELATED TO TOURISM, FISHERIES & GYAROS

- Tourism is the driving force of both economies while fisheries despite their social importance have a diminishing role in the economy.
- Amateur fishing is widespread.
- Fishermen in both islands consider that fish stocks are diminishing while the majority believe that fisheries should be better regulated to allow fish stocks to recover.
- The inhabitants of both islands view Gyaros as a potential asset in their region through the development of sustainable tourism activities.





THE CHALLENGE: CO-MANAGEMENT

The experience from nature conservation endeavors around the globe conclude that the active engagement of all directly and indirectly related stakeholders is an imperative and essential element for the effective conservation of the marine environment.

THE HISTORY

Based on Greek legislation, the management of protected areas is under the sole responsibility of a Management Body appointed by the Ministry of the Environment. It is responsible for the overall management of the area (based on an approved management plan), the guarding, the implementation of conservation measures and the monitoring of their impact. The Management Body is governed by a Body of Directors with relatively limited participation of local stakeholders.



THE MISSION

To actively involve and engage Gyaros key stakeholders in the design of the conservation measures for the new MPA.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:

The Consortium of Stakeholders of Gyaros was established with a clear goal, an agreed code of conduct and a common vision. The 15 member Consortium was comprised of professional fishermen of Syros and Andros, the Ministries of Environment and Energy, Maritime and Island Policy and the Ministry of Culture and Sports, NGOs such as WWF Greece and MOm / Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, the Natural History Museum of Crete, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, DCLAC SA, the municipalities of both Syros and Andros, the South Aegean Periphery, the Decentralized Administration Authority of the Aegean and the Chamber of Cyclades islands. The Consortium of Gyaros met 6 times in Syros and succeeded in:

- ➡ Informing all members of all scientific findings related to Gyaros and its conservation requirements.
- ➡ Presenting the existing system of Protected Areas of Greece and the current legal obligations to conserve nature.
- ➡ Setting conservation and local development goals for the new MPA.
- ➡ Developing and designing a plan to support and manage local fisheries by designing a zoning system for the new Gyaros MPA and a set of measures for the conservation and the sustainable development of Gyaros.
- ➡ Building a sense of trust and ownership seminal for the future management of the new MPA.

A VISION EMBRACED AND COMING TRUE BY THE CONSORTIUM OF STAKEHOLDERS OF GYAROS

An Exceptional MPA that:

- 👉 conserves unique species and important marine & terrestrial habitats.
- 👉 supports local livelihoods and ensures ample fish for all.
- 👉 creates ideas, unites people and keeps history & culture alive.
- 👉 opens new horizons and establishes paradigms.





BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In 2013, when the CYCLADES LIFE project began, Gyros was:

- A deserted island only known from its past history as an exile site.
- A site of importance for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal and a newly designated Natura 2000 site but with limited knowledge of the status of its flora, fauna and habitats known only to a few scientists.
- An uninhabited island, an inhospitable destination rarely visited even by the locals of the neighboring islands.
- A rich fishing ground to be avoided for professional fishermen due to its past as a Naval Target Practice.

FIVE YEARS LATER

- An extensive scientific knowledge has been compiled for the island's natural treasures.
- Key conservation actions have been implemented securing the protection of its unique species and important habitats both on land and at sea.
- A state of the art remote surveillance system has been set up that will ensure the effective implementation of the conservation regulations by all users in the long term.
- Specific conservation and monitoring actions are being implemented to conserve the unique species and important habitats of the island.
- A number of infrastructures have been created laying the foundations for the sustainable development of the neighboring islands through low impact tourism.
- All key stakeholders have joined forces into a dedicated body, the Consortium of Stakeholders. Its members have committed to making the CYCLADES LIFE vision a reality.
- A zoning system, with specific management measures, has been designed and agreed by all key stakeholders that aims to keep history and culture alive, conserve unique species, ensure ample fish for all and support sustainable development.

FOR THE NORTHERN CYCLADES

Today, based on the paradigm of CYCLADES LIFE, the broader Northern Cyclades area has entered a new era:

- ➡ The new MPA will be managed based on a concrete and holistic management plan.
- ➡ The operation of the surveillance system has been secured for the next years under the collaboration of the competent national authorities and WWF Greece.
- ➡ The Consortium of Stakeholders will continue its work, actively engaging in the Gyaros MPA management and advising the new Management Body responsible for all protected areas in Cyclades.
- ➡ Specific conservation measures have already been adopted since December 2015, when Gyaros was designated the first Marine Wildlife Refuge of the country. The designation of the site as the Gyaros National Marine Park through a Presidential Decree in the coming months will consolidate its legal protection.
- ➡ A number of new projects are being implemented to monitor key species and habitats and assess the effectiveness in the management of the new MPA.
- ➡ A new hub of fishermen willing to adopt responsible fishing practices in Gyaros and the wider area is being created linking nature conservation with sustainable fisheries thus approaching holistically marine conservation and management.

TOGETHER FOR A LIVING SEA

© WWF Greece

TOGETHER FOR A LIVING SEA

Partners



The project CYCLADES LIFE is implemented by WWF Greece (Coordinator), MOM / Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Decentralized Administration Authority of the Aegean, the Development Corporation of Local Authorities of Cyclades S.A, the Harokopio University of Athens, and Tethys Research Institute.

Co-financiers



www.cycladeslife.gr

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