



Introduction of CYCLADES LIFE to the society of Gyaros

An uninhabited island with a very heavy history rich in biodiversity, a common endeavor between an NGO, Scientists, the State and local stakeholders, unique for Mediterranean standards. This is the *recipe* of the CYCLADES LIFE project which will be presented on Friday 19th June 2015 at 20:00 at the Sailing Club of Syros in Ermoupolis with central speaker the WWF Greece's CEO Demetres Karavellas. See the invitation [here](#).

The aim of CYCLADES LIFE is the creation, together with the societies of Andros and Syros, of an innovative model Marine Protected Area in the broader area of Gyaros, based on ecosystem based management and marine spatial planning, which will respect both the environment and humans. In this effort, *for a living sea*, WWF Greece is the Coordinator and is working together with MO:m, the Ministry of Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy, the Decentralized Administration Authority of the Aegean, the Development Corporation of Cyclades SA, Harokopio University and Tethys Research Institute.

“For our organization, the project CYCLADES LIFE constitutes the flagship of a greater effort to protect the marine environment not only on a national but also on a Mediterranean level as well” stated Demetres Karavellas. And continues “Since the establishment of our organization in Greece 20 years back, we work for the harmonical co-existence of humans with nature. From the remote area of Evros, to the Ionian Sea and Crete we work together with local communities to protect species that are threatened with extinction. The CYCLADES LIFE project is being implemented at the heart of the Aegean and signifies the need to intensify our efforts for the protection of the marine environment which goes hand in hand with sustainable development”.

From the project's kick off, a number of Actions have been implemented. The most important Mediterranean Monk Seal population in the Mediterranean, that lives and breeds in Gyaros, is being constantly monitored. Gyaros, is currently the best mapped marine Natura 2000 area and according to the avifauna studies that are being carried out on the island, an unknown Yelkouan shearwater colony lives on the island. For more on the project's actions see www.cycladeslife.gr/en.

For more information:

Maria Livanou, CYCLADES LIFE communication. Mobile: 6944 634461, m.livanou@wwf.gr

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