

**The consultation process for the design and management of the future Gyaros Marine Protected Area has begun**

On Friday the 15th of April 2016, as part of the CYCLADES LIFE project, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Consortium of Stakeholders of Gyaros was held in Ermoupolis, Syros. Representatives from the fifteen key stakeholders and main users of Gyaros island will participate in the consultation process, which is planned to be completed by June 2017, regarding the conservation measures and management of the wider area surrounding Gyaros island.

The Consortium consists of the following stakeholders:

- 1) Ministry of Environment
- 2) Ministry of Culture and Sports
- 3) Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy (Hellenic Coast Guard)
- 4) Decentralised Administrative Authority of Aegean
- 5) Regional Government of South Aegean
- 6) Municipality of Syros-Ermoupolis
- 7) Municipality of Andros
- 8) Development Corporation of Local Authorities of Cyclades
- 9) Professional fishermen of Syros
- 10) Professional fishermen of Andros
- 11) Cyclades Chamber of Commerce
- 12) Hellenic Centre of Marine Research
- 13) Natural History Museum of Crete
- 14) MOM/Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal
- 15) WWF Greece

The goal of the Gyaros Consortium of Stakeholders is that its members formulate jointly and decide upon the conservation measures that will be applied in the wider surrounding marine area around Gyaros area in order to ensure the protection of the area's natural environment and to promote the sustainable development of the neighbouring local societies.

During the meeting, the goal, the objectives, the work plan and the rules of procedure of the Consortium were decided. In the next meetings the conservation measures and the necessary actions for the protection, management and promotion of the wider Gyaros area will be discussed.

As foreseen in the CYCLADES LIFE project, the measures that will be jointly decided by the Consortium will be formulated into a Co-management plan for the new Marine Protected Area that will be designated by the competent state authorities.

The General Secretary of the Decentralised Administrative Authority of Aegean, Dr. Nikos Theodoridis who participated in the meeting stated: *“I am fully satisfied with the first meeting of the Consortium of Stakeholders not only because a complete briefing on the up to date progress was provided, but especially because the attitude of all participants was constructive and consensual, which encourages the open dialogue and will ensure that the necessary decisions will be taken for the full implementation of the CYCLADES LIFE project in favor of the natural environment and of the inhabitants of the Cyclades islands”*. Similarly, the Coordinator of the CYCLADES LIFE project stated: *“In this first meeting the most decisive step was made in order to deal with the conservation of the marine environment of the Cyclades in a different and pioneering way. The Consortium of Stakeholders gives the chances to all stakeholders to participate and jointly design and formulate Gyaros’ future with respect toward its history, its nature, and the neighboring local societies”*.



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**Notes for journalists:**

Find out more about the CYCLADES LIFE project [here](#).

**More information**

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The CYCLADES LIFE project is being implemented by WWF Greece together with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Decentralized Administrative Authority of the Aegean, the Development Corporation of the Cyclades SA, the Harokopio University of Athens, MOM/Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Monk Seal and the Italian Institute Tethys.

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