

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Gymnasium of Kaisariani Athens, Greece

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“From Our Roots to the future”

1<sup>st</sup> Mobility

ies La Aldea De San Nicolas,  
Spain



Environmental report

Human Acts  
versus  
our landscape

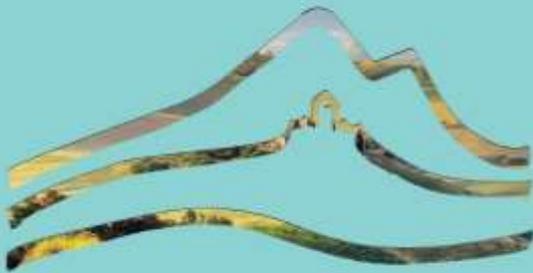


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Landscape...

...according to the European Landscape Convention (2000), landscape means an area whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors.

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE  
CONVENTION



CONVENTION  
EUROPÉENNE DU PAYSAGE

<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>  
<http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropennedupaysage>



# Landscape...



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...has both natural and cultural value.



# Landscape...



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....as a reflection of European identity and diversity, is our vibrant natural and cultural heritage.



# Landscape...



... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human wellbeing.



# Landscape...



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- ▣ ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.»



European Landscape Convention, Preamble

# Landscape alteration: case 1

## Lake Koumoundouros, the ancient lake of Rites, is located in the West Attica



# Lake Koumoundourou is already designated a wildlife refuge.

Lake hosts remarkable birdlife, according to recent recordings and documentation by a work of the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Inland Water Institute (ELKETHE).

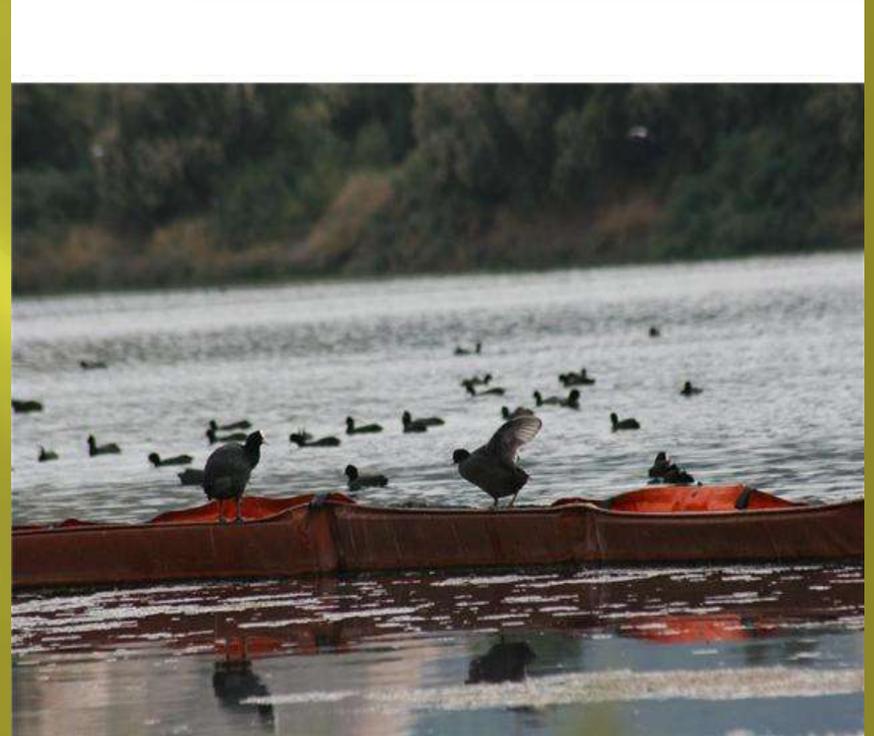
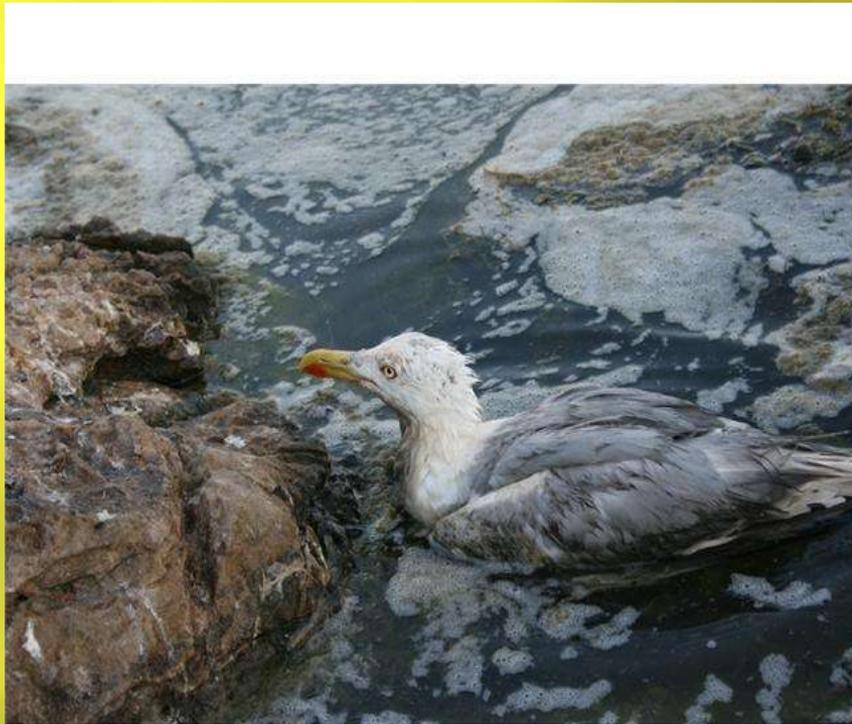


# Lake Koumoundourou and biodiversity

Research has focused on the entire fish pond of the lake but has focused on an endemic species of fish belonging to the genus *Aphanius*, which is of great ecological interest and of particular interest to the biodiversity.



# Unfortunately, Lake Koumoundourou is a highly degraded ecosystem



# Landscape alteration produced by human activity

80 YEARS BEFORE, THE AREA  
AROUND THE LAKE WAS  
ONCE LARGELY RURAL AND  
SUPPLIED ATHENS WITH  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.



TODAY IN 2020 BECAUSE OF  
ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE  
SEA AND THE RAIL  
NETWORK, IT WAS HEAVILY  
INDUSTRIALIZED



# Problems

- ▣ very aggravated small ecosystem
- ▣ high sediment toxicity from refinery oil leakage
- ▣ Massive fish deaths
- ▣ The system warns of an imminent, irreversible environmental disaster.



## LANDSCAPE ALTERATION: CASE 2 THE FIRE IN MATI

A series of wildfires in Greece, during the 2018 European heat wave, began in the coastal areas of Attica in July 2018



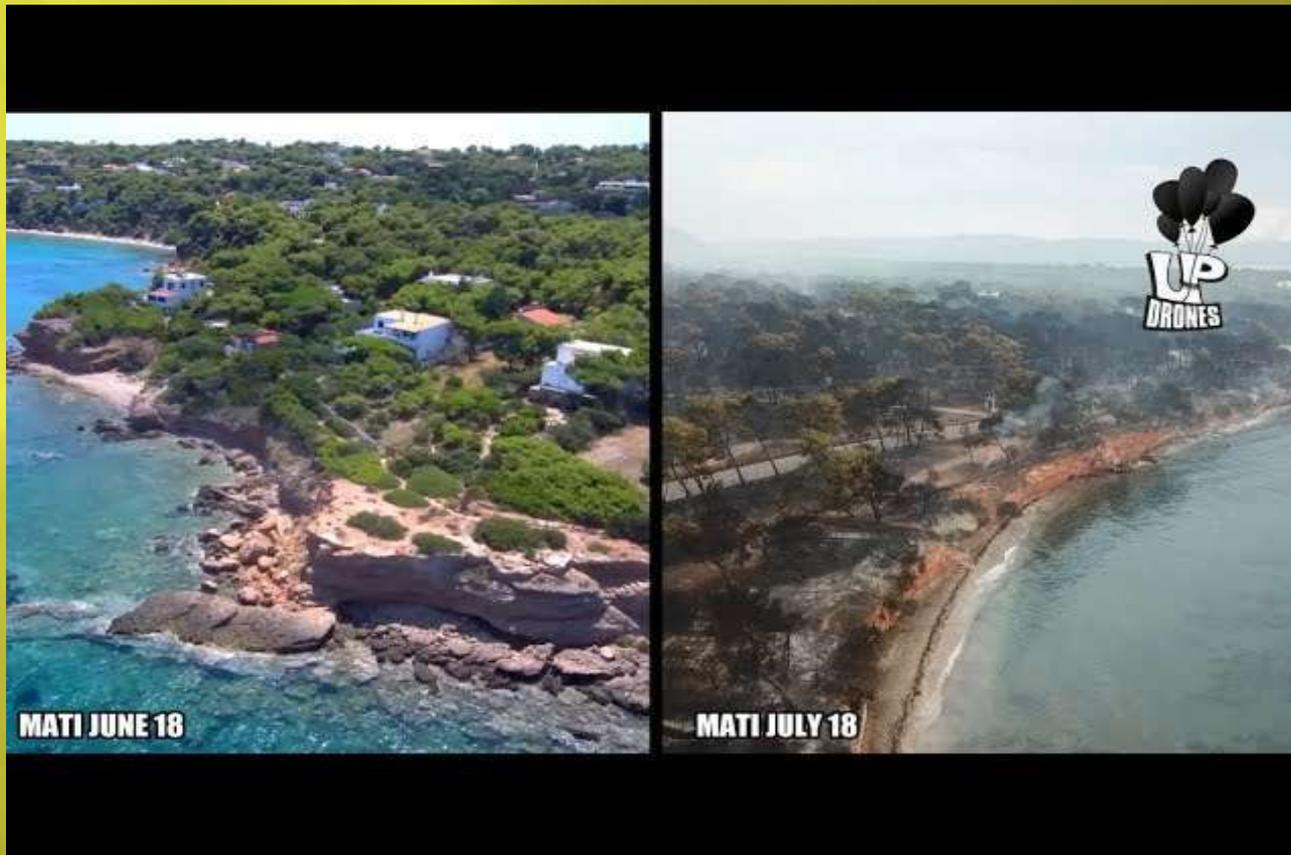
THE FLAMES WERE SO INTENSE THAT THEY TRAPPED AND BURNED PEOPLE INSIDE THEIR HOUSES, CARS, OR A FEW METRES AWAY FROM THE BEACH.

102 PEOPLE WERE CONFIRMED DEAD



The arson investigative department of the Hellenic Fire Service concluded the fire was probably started due to wood being burnt.

A 65-year old resident of the area was charged with manslaughter, **causing criminal harm through negligence.**



A video obtained from a home security camera by the newspaper Kathimerini, showed that a fire started near houses at 4:41 p.m. and quickly spread **due to the wind.**



Professor of fires and climate change Johann Georg Goldammer said that the main cause of the deadly and devastating fire in Mati was **“the alteration of the natural landscape and land-use change”**



# Landscape Alteration: case3

## THE AESTHETIC FOREST OF KAISARIANI



# The *Aesthetic Forest* of Kaisariani

is located on the  
West side of Mt.  
Ymittos in Attica.



During the World War II , the forest was completely barren



it was created from scratch.

The forest, now admired  
by many, did not  
preexist



# Reforestation

Extensive reforestation efforts, aimed at providing a harmonious entity where nature and culture coexist.



# In Mt. Ymittos and Aesthetic Forest of Kaisariani

there are about 700 recorded species of plants from all over **Greece.**



# We found out

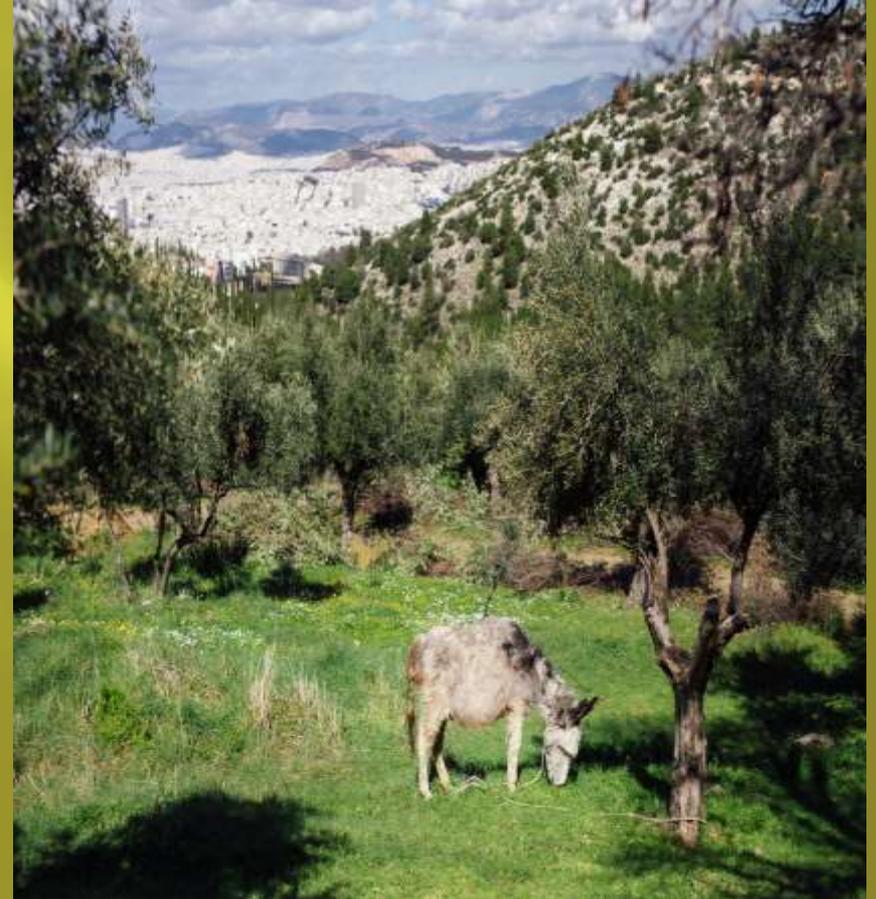
**The aromatic plants**  
sprout abundantly,  
depending on the  
season.

It has pomegranates,  
walnuts , locust trees  
and wild pear trees.



# Mt. Immitos

has 104 bird species out of the 444 that Greece has in total. **It's a paradise for bird watchers.** It has foxes, hedgehogs, badgers and many hares. It has also a forty-year-old donkey, Vangelis.



Our team climb up the forest of  
Imittos and unfortunately....

we face ugly and unacceptable images with  
massive garbage



We did a research and found out that a waste transfer station of up to 2 tons is operating without authorization!



# Mt. Ymittos receives intense pressure from the residential expansion around it.



Το Γεωοικολογικό διαίτημα για την προστασία του Υμηττού στο σχέδιο της κερδοσκοπικής αναρρύθμισης!



## Landscape Alteration: case 4

### Sounio Cape

A 60-meter-high rock, at the southernmost point of the city, where the last to see when you leave by boat from Athens or where you first meet when approaching the city.



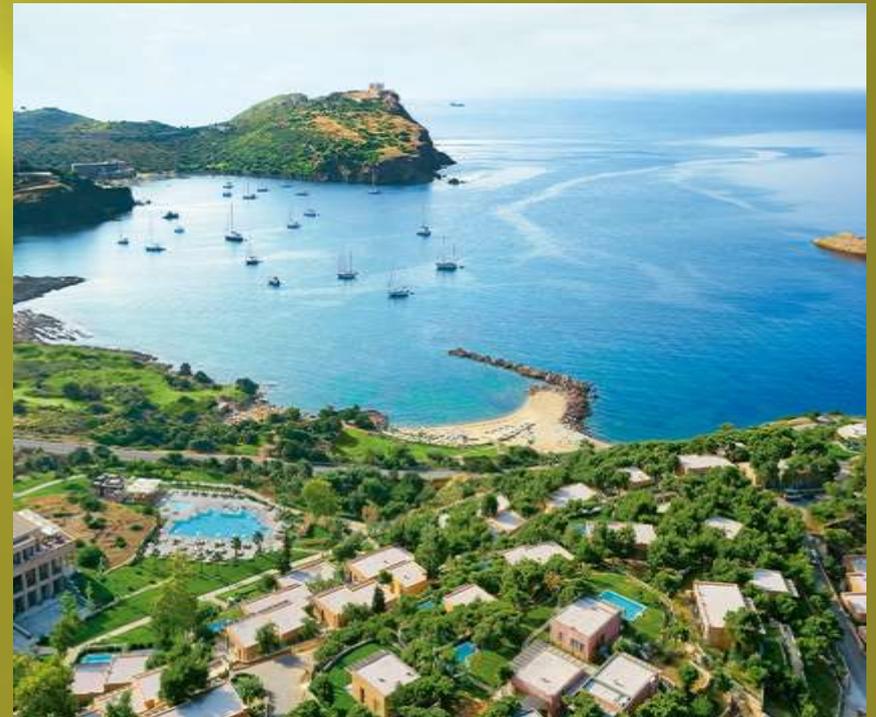
There is no better place than that, for a temple dedicated to the ancient god of the sea , Poseidon.



# Cape Sounio – a monument of natural and cultural heritage



The temple area is protected, but the surrounding area has been altered by human creations.



# Landscape Alteration: case5

## The Marathon dam

It is constructed in the 1920s. Being the biggest dam construction at the time in the Balkans, it became an iconic marker of Athens's modernization and of Greece's modernist project for controlling and taming nature.



Marathon area and the whole basin is a protected area of natural beauty



# Marathon Lake is a significant wetland ecosystem

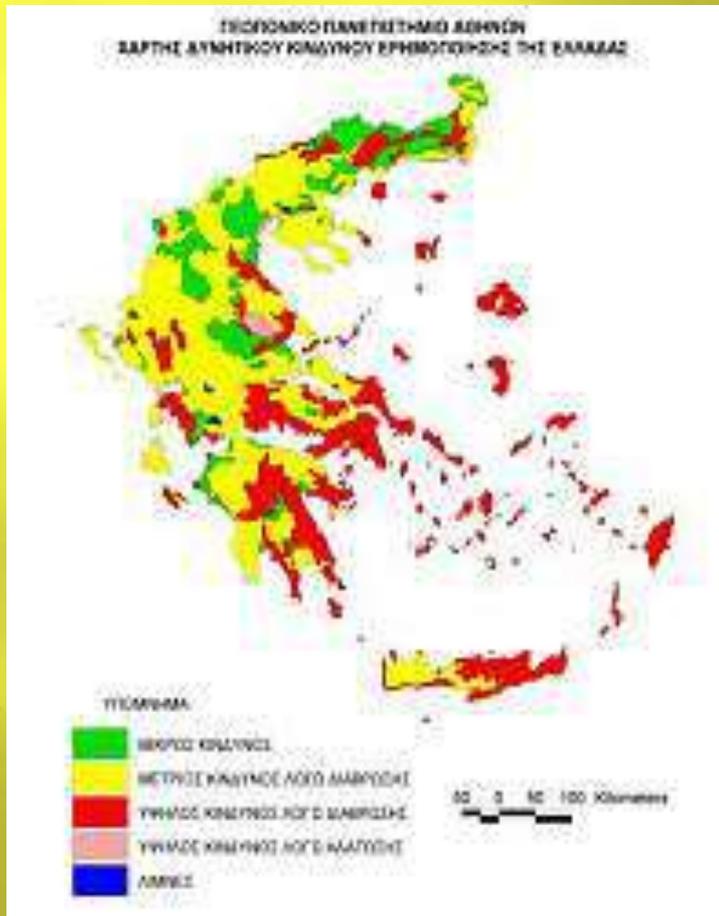


We did a little research and we found out that, in 2020, after 100 years from the dam construction



- ▣ The configuration of the wider area due to the dam construction is unquestionable, with **significant variations in land uses**, which in combination with the **fires that have occurred**, increase the **risk of soil erosion**.

# Map of areas in high risk of Desertification in Greece.



Marathon basin is in the high risk desertification zone due to erosion in the area

# Protecting the environment

is not just a  
problem for  
politicians,  
scientists or  
some experts.

It's a matter  
for us all



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# We believe that

- ▣ Education at all levels,
  - ▣ The media,
  - ▣ Social and ecological organizations,
  - ▣ and local government,
- as carriers of organized and planned environmental education,  
can form **environmentally responsible citizens**



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# For the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage

We believe that

it is very important to understand that

human is not the center of creation

but a link in the chain of life.



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Thank you for watching!!!  
The Greek Erasmus+ team

