Location
West of Crete

Description
- Lowland dry evergreen forest
- Size: 58,484 ha
- Altitude: 0 – 2450 m
- Upper limit of forest (tree-line) around 1600 -1800 m

Ecological values
- Landscape diversity featuring a true mosaic of ecological systems including deep gorges, steep/imposing vertical rocks and narrow openings
- Hotspot of biodiversity, flora and fauna, very rich in endemic, vulnerable and rare species
- Presence of 17 terrestrial habitat types of the European Habitat Directive
- Extensive calcareous natural Cupressus sempervirens woodlands

Protection status & conservation actions
- National Park
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Important Bird Area (IBA, BirdLife International)
- Biogenetic Reserve (Council of Europe)
- Natura 2000 site, Special Protected Area (SPA) and Site of Community Interest (SCI)

Threats
- Unsustainable human activities such as resource overexploitation, land use changes and infrastructure development
- Climate change
- Forest fires
- Invasive alien species

Strengths of the site
- Provides vast array of ecosystem services
- Generates income (ticket fees)
- Hosts important natural and cultural values

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