

Samaria Greece



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)

Organizations

Management Body of the Samaria National Park and
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (CIHEAM-
MAICH)

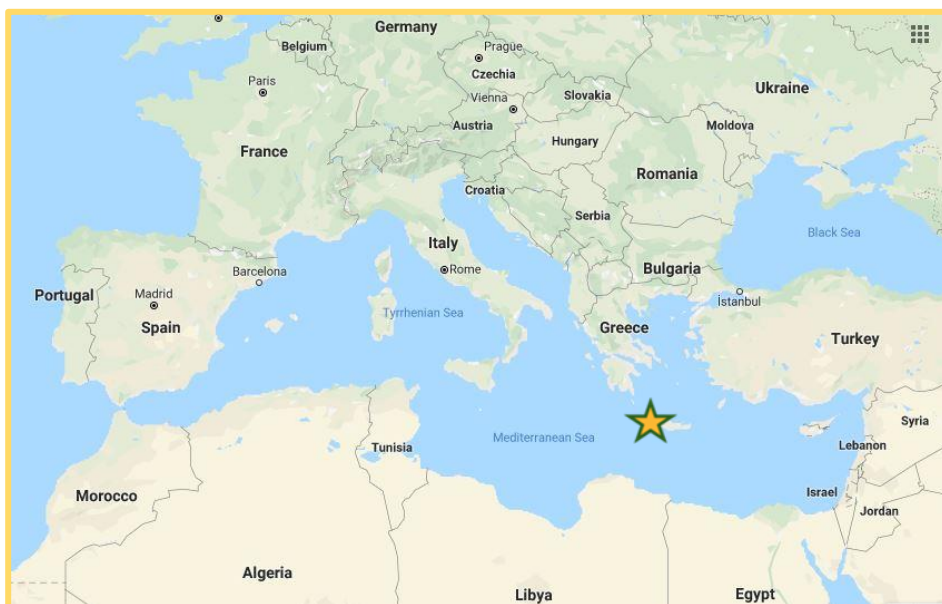


Threats

- 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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