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iLIFE-TROODOS at a glance

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About the project

The project “Troodos National Forest Park: Promoting natural values and ecosystem services” (iLIFE-TROODOS; LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709) is implemented within the framework of LIFE program of the European Union. The project aims to increase public awareness on the natural values and the ecosystem services of Troodos National Forest Park (TNFP) for which it was included in the Natura 2000 network.

The project started on the 2nd October 2017 and will be completed on the 30th September 2020. The total project budget is 1,313,826 euros, of which 766,125 euros (60% of its total eligible budget) is co-funded by European Union.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Promote public awareness of the general public, towards the need for the protection of the Natura 2000 Network.
- Increase awareness on natural values for which the TNFP was included in the Natura 2000 network.
- Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network, using various means.
- Spread knowledge about the natural values and ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 Network to professional target groups (policy implementers).
- Create and provide toolsets (Mobile Apps, best practices guide, documentary, etc.) regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ecosystem services in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context.

For more information regarding the iLIFE-TROODOS project you can visit the project's website www.ilifetroodos.eu



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Ecosystem services

Services, which are supported by earth's ecosystems and benefit people, are called ecosystem services. The three categories of ecosystem services, all of which are equally important for the health and well-being of people are categorized as (a) provision services, (b) regulating and maintenance services and (c) cultural services.

Troodos National Forest Park

Troodos National Forest Park is located in the heart of Troodos mountain range and was designated as a National Forest Park in 1992, aiming to safeguard its sustainable use and to perpetuate the values and functions of the area: ecological, scientific, recreational, hydrological and economic. The greater part of the Park has been included in the European network of protected areas "Natura 2000", named "Ethniko Dasiko Parko Troodous" (CY5000004), since 2004.

Troodos National Forest Park is an important forest ecosystem, that offers ecosystem services from all three categories. The following ecosystem services have been identified at TNFP:

- 13 provision services: water, food (cultivations, mushrooms, honey, trout, hunting, etc.), raw materials and fuel (wood, resin) and genetic material/biodiversity.
- 12 regulating and maintenance services: regulating climate, water and floods, contribution to the air and water quality, prevention from extreme weather events and soil erosion, pollination, seed dispersal, etc.
- 11 cultural services: provision of recreational opportunities, tourism, inspiration as well as research and education.



Awareness campaign

A well-structured and detailed communication plan was elaborated and included the main techniques employed for the implementation of the information and awareness campaign on the natural values and ecosystem services of TNFP. Starting from spring 2018, two media campaigns per year were implemented. In total, six campaigns were implemented, which included advertisements at all Media, such as: broadcasts of TV and radio spots, broadcasts of animation cartoons in cinema halls, publication of press releases, articles and advertisements in newspapers and magazines. Additionally, the information campaign included: TV and radio presentations, production and distribution of leaflets, outdoor advertising in highways connecting main cities and on public transport means, advertising in Google display network and Facebook, web banners in two Cypriot websites, continuous presence in Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, production of newsletters, promotional material (stickers, notebooks, USBs, luggage tags and pencils), information boards and creation of a website (www.ilifetroados.eu).



Information points at Troodos National Forest Park

Within the framework of iLIFE-TROODOS project, two information points were established, one at “Platania” picnic site and one at Troodos square. Each information point includes eight information panels with pictures and texts and one outdoor touch screen. The touch screen provides: information about the TNFP (biodiversity, ecosystem services, etc.), information about the available recreational activities (Picnic and camping sites, Nature trails, Waterfalls, Cycling routes, Museums and monuments, Churches and monasteries, Environmental centres, Geological routes, etc.), as well as games, like puzzles and multiple choice questions.

It is also possible to search through a general map on information for all above-mentioned points. Moreover, this map shows several points of interest such as banks, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, etc. All points of interest are geotagged and provide the option to navigate via Google maps to the selected point.

The touch screens also include instructions and safety tips for visitors at TNFP, emergency phone numbers, as well as announcements regarding local events, extreme weather conditions, road closures, picnic sites occupancy, etc.

The design and construction of the information kiosk allows every day 24-hour access, throughout the year and it is suitable for wheelchair users.





Photo contest

A Photo Contest with the subject “Troodos, it is in our nature” was organized in collaboration with the Cyprus Photographic Society – Nicosia Branch. The Contest had a duration of one year and aimed to highlight the natural – inherent value of the forest ecosystem of TNFP regarding its biodiversity. Using their photo cameras, the participants were encouraged to “capture” the Park’s natural beauty and show the variety of habitats, flora and fauna species, geology and natural landscapes throughout the four seasons of the year. Sixty-five amateur and professional photographers participated in the Contest (494 photographs were submitted in total). The photographs were evaluated by an independent committee, which was comprised of representatives from the partners of the project and the Cyprus Photographic Society. The nomination of the winners took place during the inauguration of the information point at “Platania” picnic site.

Photo exhibition

Selected photos from photographers that took part at the Photo Contest were exhibited during the Photo Exhibition that “traveled” throughout Cyprus during November 2019–August 2020. The exhibition consisted of 19 photos that were selected with the aim to highlight the biodiversity elements of TNFP and the ecosystem services it provides.



Documentary

A documentary about TNFP was produced within the framework of the Project and is being displayed at Troodos Environmental Information Centre since April 2020. The documentary presents the beauty of TNFP through the four seasons of the year. The geology, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the area are presented to the audience in a simple and attractive way and thus provokes the intense desire to visit, explore and enjoy TNFP. A special reference is made to the villages of the area, the stone-built settlements promoting local festivals as well as aspects of the culture and religious of the area.

The documentary is also available at the project's website and also at the YouTube channel of iLIFE-TROODOS.

Probably the best app for visiting and enjoying Troodos National Forest Park.



The “Troodos National Forest Park (iLIFE-TROODOS)” App seeks to become the ultimate tool for visitors, providing information regarding the biodiversity of the area and the available opportunities for recreation, like: camping and picnic sites, nature trails, cycling routes, accommodation, restaurants, museums, churches, waterfalls, environmental centers, etc. Moreover, the app includes information about the weather, calorie calculator and many other possibilities. All points of interest are geotagged and provide the option to navigate via Google maps to the selected point. The app is available for iOS and Android devices, in Greek and English language.



Scan for Android version



Scan for iOS version

Seek and find: The ultimate treasure hunt app in Troodos!



The "Treasure hunt within Troodos National Forest Park (iLIFE-TROODOS)" App has been created within the framework of the project iLIFE-TROODOS and includes three treasure hunt games, each of which corresponds to a different thematic section: Environmental Route, Cultural Heritage Route and Platania Picnic Site. The first two thematic sections are for adults and the third section for children aged 10 – 15. During the game, the players will have the opportunity to familiarize with the natural areas and infrastructures in the area of TNFP and to acquire knowledge on environmental issues and the cultural heritage of the area. The app is available for iOS and Android devices, in Greek and English language.



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www.ilifetroodos.eu