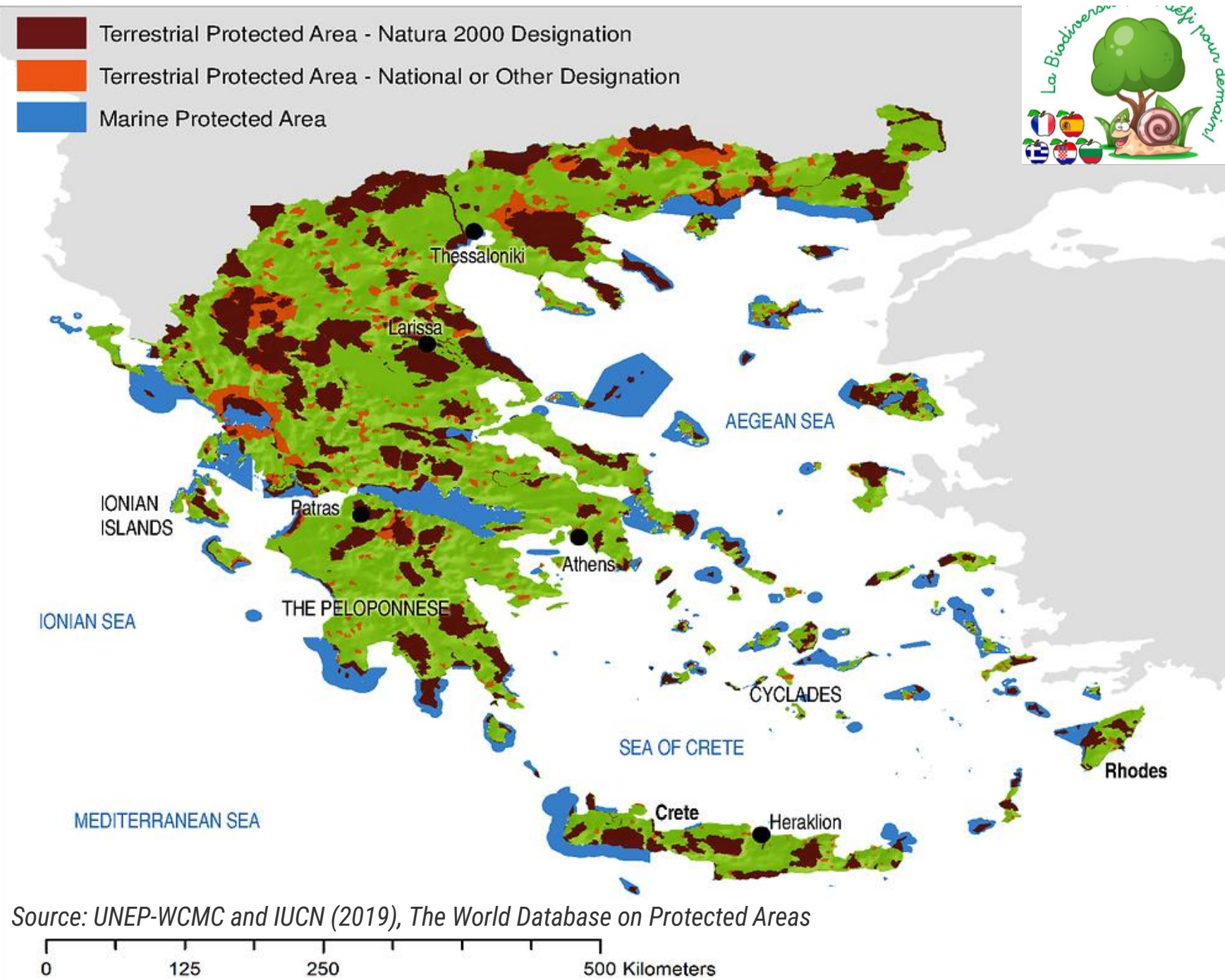


GR – P24 activity

# Protection of animal species in our forests







Greece is small but rich country, with 3,500 marine species, 23,000 species of terrestrial animals, and 5,800 recorded species of terrestrial plants.

Endangered species are living organisms that are threatened with extinction in the near future.

The *World Conservation Union* works to protect endangered species worldwide and divides endangered species into three categories.

- critically endangered species,
- endangered species and
- vulnerable species.





The national parks are rich in biodiversity, such as the *Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park* in Evros the home to 36 of the 38 European birds of prey.

Millions of migratory birds stop at Greece's island and mainland wetlands to quench their thirst, thus many of these species are endemic.

At the same time, we have

- in the Ionian, the *Caretta-Caretta turtle*,
- in the Aegean the Mediterranean seal (*Monachus monachus*)
- and in the Mediterranean waters the *sperm whale*,
- many species of *dolphins*,
- as well as the *tiny porpoise*, which lives exclusively in the waters of Thrace.





Also,

- *the brown bear (Ursus arctos),*
- *the wolf (Canis lupus),*  
*the otter (Lutra lutra)*  
*and*
- *the wild goat*  
*(Rupicapra rupicapra*  
*balcanica)*

live in the Greek  
mountains.

All of the above make up  
the rich life of our country.





However, the threats facing the above species due to ecological and climate change are many and there is an immediate threat of their extinction. We humans must strengthen protection actions and interventions for the benefit of nature and society.

In Greece,

- the organization *WWF Greece* is active for the protection of endangered species.
- the organization *Arktouros* is active for the protection of the bear, the wolf, the otter and the wild goat.
- for the protection of the sea turtle, the Association for the Protection of the Sea Turtle "*Archeleon*" is active.
- The **Red List of Threatened Species** is a list created and maintained by the "*World Conservation Union*". This organization observes the evolution of flora and fauna worldwide. In 1996 the first list was published, which is constantly growing. Nowadays it exceeds 15,000 species under threat of extinction.

*Source: [wwf.gr](http://wwf.gr), [arcturos.gr](http://arcturos.gr), [archelon.gr](http://archelon.gr)*