

**Protection et valorisation des  
patrimoines insulaires**

**Protection and promotion of island heritage**

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# **Agricultural landscape heritage**

## **The traditional *mandras* of Lemnos Island**



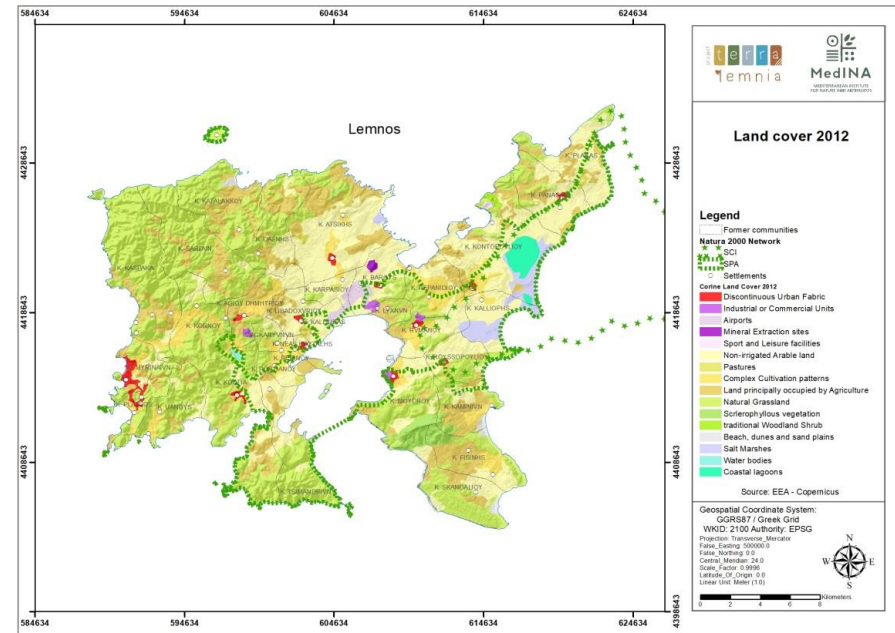
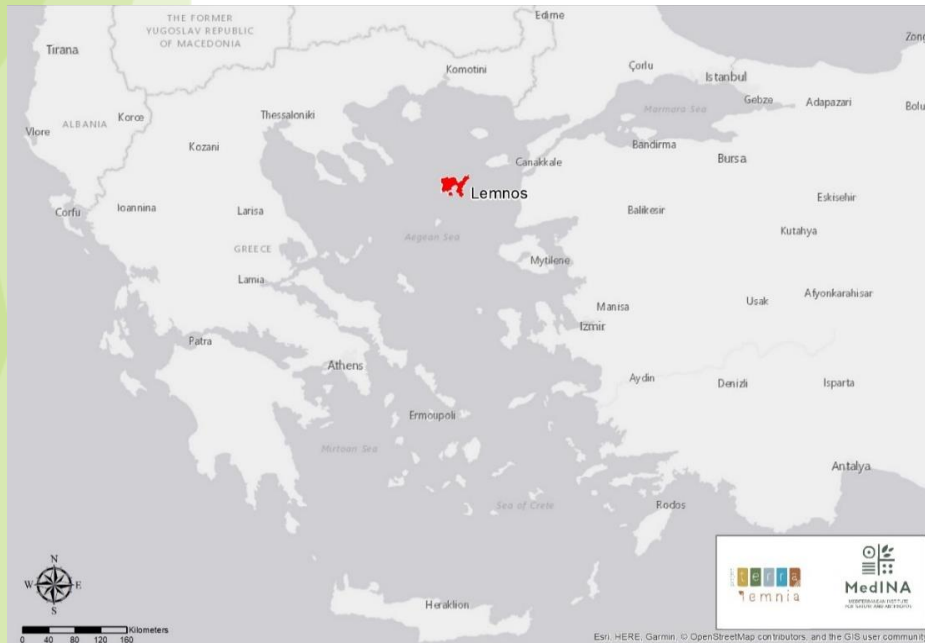
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**Terra Lemnia project – Part of MAVA 2017-2022 Mediterranean Strategy Outcome M6**

# Le contexte / The context (1/4)



## Lemnos Island in a few figures

- ✓ North Aegean Sea (isolated)
- ✓ Medium-sized (8<sup>th</sup> largest Greek island); 480km<sup>2</sup>, 260km coastline
- ✓ 17,000 inhabitants today (emigration in post-war period)
- ✓ Extensive lowland plains and coastal wetlands; large Natura 2000 sites
- ✓ Important agricultural centre since the antiquity
- ✓ Primary sector still very significant (rain-fed arable crops, vineyards, stockbreeding)
- ✓ Increasing, but still manageable, tourism pressures

## Le contexte / The context (2/4)



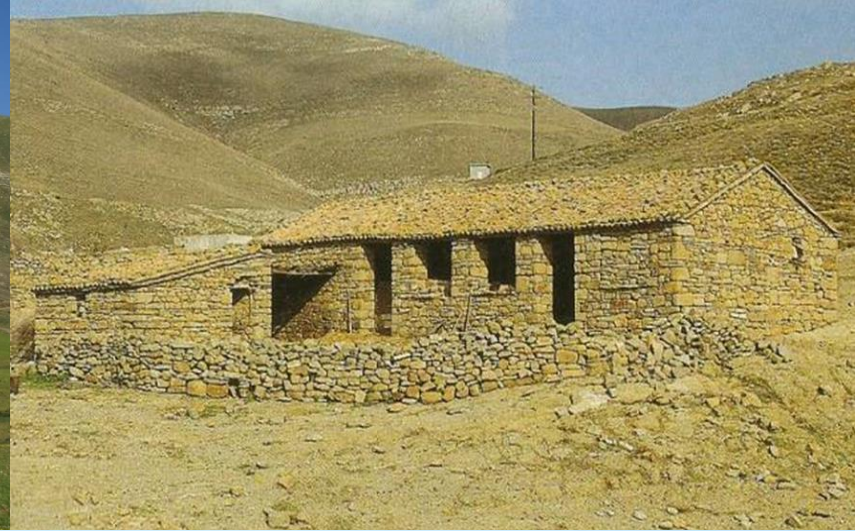
### **Landscape character, natural and cultural heritage:**

- ✓ Landscape diversity, important agro-ecosystems and agro-biodiversity
- ✓ Continuous human habitation since prehistoric times → Rich (agri)cultural heritage, shaping local tradition and identity
- ✓ Mixed crop-livestock land use system → Characterised by / organised around the traditional *mandras* → Dominant landscape feature

# Le contexte / The context (3/4)

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**The traditional *mandras* of Lemnos...**



**... shape the landscape of the island**



# Le contexte / The context (4/4)

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## Main challenges:

- Land abandonment / intensification of farming practices
  - Abandonment of traditional *mandras* and replacement with cheap, metal, constructions
- Land degradation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss and desertification
- Landscape degradation, loss of character and vernacular architecture
- Loss of Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Overall loss of appreciation for the land

# Le projet et les actions sur le patrimoine

## Project and activities on heritage (1/3)

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### **Framework and general objectives of the Terra Lemnia project:**

- **3 +2 year duration (2017 - 2022)**
- **Part of MAVA's Mediterranean programme on Cultural Landscapes**
- **Implemented by six partners, coordinated by MedINA**
- **Build a common vision for sustainable development of Lemnos Island**
- **Support traditional (extensive / low input) agro-pastoral practices that benefit biodiversity, shaping landscapes of high ecological value**
- **Traditional *mandras*: Dominant element of Lemnos' agro-pastoral system**

# Le projet et les actions sur le patrimoine

## Project and activities on heritage (2/3)

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### **Specific objectives for conservation and promotion of traditional *mandras*:**

#### **1. Physical restoration actions:**

- **Create a modern animal shed in traditional style: 2019**
- **Upscaling actions (model studies for animal sheds of various sizes): 2020 ++**
- **Complementary actions (investigate potential to renovate a traditional *mandra* as small creamery and/or eco-tourism facility): 2019 ++**
- **Institutional framework (lobbying at national and local / regional level)**

# Le projet et les actions sur le patrimoine

## Project and activities on heritage (3/3)

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### **Specific objectives for conservation and promotion of traditional *mandras*:**

#### **2. Valorisation and awareness raising actions:**

- **Field recording of traditional *mandras* & Creation of online platform : 2019 +**
- **Photo exhibition & Video documentation (life in the *mandra*): 2019**
- **Inscription in the national register of Intangible Cultural Heritage: 2019 +**



# Mise en œuvre et acteurs impliqués

## Implementation and actors involved

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- ✓ **Initiative of the Terra Lemnia project, based on previous efforts of local project partners**
- ✓ **Seeking to create a wide partnership between:**
  - **The main Terra Lemnia partners (MedINA, “Anemoessa”, Agricultural University of Athens): Project-based and voluntary involvement**
  - **Public authorities (local / regional level): Co-funding potential**
  - **Public authorities (national level): Institutional support**
  - **Local farmers & Farmers cooperatives: Main beneficiaries of all actions**

# Résultats & enjeux persistants

## Results & remaining challenges

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### **Overall impacts and effectiveness:**

- **Effort still in progress, no measurable impacts yet**
- **Benefits expected in multiple scales (socioeconomic, cultural, environmental)**
- **Benefits directly or indirectly linked to the restoration of traditional *mandras***

### **Environmental impacts:**

- **Contribution to mitigate land abandonment → expected positive effects on soil erosion and desertification**
- **Positive biodiversity impacts for species that depend on extensive farming practices and/or traditional dry-stone constructions**

### **Socio-economic and cultural impacts:**

- **Direct, multiple-scale, support to the practitioner community**
- **Promoting and enhancing an integral part of the local identity, economy and character → Contributing to eco-tourism and local economic development**
- **Awareness raising and visibility (island community level and beyond)**

# Enseignements

## Lessons learned

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### **Les points positifs / The positive points**

- ✓ A long term, constant learning, process
- ✓ Gradually building the vision and conveying the message to wider audiences
- ✓ Refining the approach and tools, building the knowledge base
- ✓ Finding new partners and forming coalitions

### **Les points négatifs / The negative points**

- A sometimes very long process, creating disappointment and frustration
- Frequent changes in public administration don't allow commitment on a long-term vision for local development
- Non-flexibility of funding instruments and prevailing practice undermine prospects for creative, out-of-the-box, solutions
- Low organisational capacity and limited awareness; need for continuous argumentation and lobbying

**Merci pour votre attention**  
**Thank you for your attention**

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