



The archipelago of Cyclades includes hundreds of islands and islets that host a rich flora with more than 1,760 plant species and subspecies. Andros Island is the northernmost island of Cyclades, receives the most rainfall and presents a unique habitat composition and special flora comprising of 1,046 wild plants.

The majority of the plant species of Andros are relatively widespread in insular and continental areas of the Mediterranean region. However, two categories of plant species are of particular interest.

- Species with limited geographical distribution in Greece, most of which are found on Aegean islands, some of them extremely rare and endangered, e.g. the endemic in the Aegean *Galanthus ikariae*, *Campanula sartorii*, *Hypericum delphicum*, *Hypericum cycladicum*, *Trifolium andricum* and *Scilla andria*.

- Species mainly distributed in central and northern Europe, for which Andros constitutes the southernmost (or one of the southernmost) area(s) of occurrence. Most species of this category usually grow in wet and shady habitats, along the numerous streams flowing through Andros. They most likely colonized

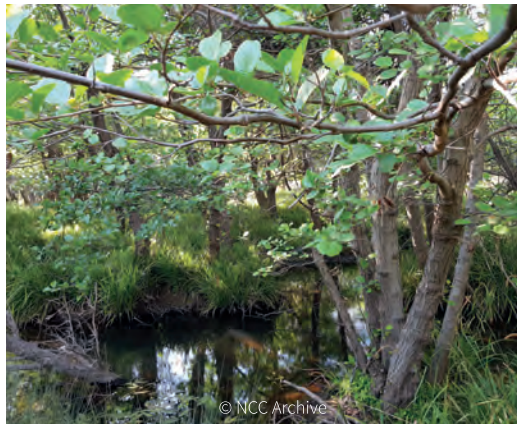


Andros Island during earlier geological periods, when the climate was colder than nowadays. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are tree species belonging to this category, while plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) form extensive riparian forests only in Andros among Cyclades islands.

# EFFORTS TO RESCUE THE ALDER FORESTS OF ANDROS ISLAND

The valleys leading to Vori and Lefka bays host the most extensive alder forests on Andros, while small patches are found along streams in other parts of the island. They host a particularly high diversity of plants and numerous mushroom species.

Unfortunately, about 40% of the alder forests of Andros have been destroyed or degraded in recent years.



In the frame of the LIFE Andros Park project, planting for the restoration of the destroyed-degraded parts of the alder forests is carried out, as well as small-scale anti-fire, anti-erosion, anti-flood and anti-grazing interventions for the protection of alder forests from the main pressures they are under. At the same time, ex situ conservation of plant and mushroom species found in alder forests is implemented by including them among the exhibits of the Botanic Garden (to be created at the Agadaki Estate of Kaireios Library), and by their long-term maintenance/storage as living cultures, seeds or dried

specimens at the Agricultural University of Athens.

The LIFE Andros Park project aims to implement actions to significantly restore and improve the conservation status of the alder forests of Andros, as well as of the marine species Mediterranean Monk Seal, Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's Gull within the Natura 2000 sites of Andros Island. The ultimate vision of these efforts is to establish a holistic management of Andros Natura 2000 sites with the support and active involvement of the local community and key stakeholders.



ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS



ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ  
ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ (ΙΝΙΑΦΟΚ)  
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑΣ ΣΥΜΠΡΟΣΦΕΡΣ - ΑΝΑΠΤΗ



ΚΑΙΡΕΙΟΣ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗ



The LIFE Andros Park project (LIFE16 NAT/GR/000606) is implemented with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union.

