



Cedars in Mount Lebanon

PROJECT PARTNERS:

A total of four Universities and four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and Lebanon participate in the project, led by the Laona Foundation for the Conservation and Regeneration of the Cypriot Countryside.

The partners are:

- Laona Foundation (Cyprus)
- Open University of Cyprus
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan)
- German Jordanian University
- Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
- American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
- Mediterranean Institute of Nature and Anthropos (Greece)
- University of the Aegean (Greece)

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The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French (www.enpicbmed.eu).

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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Places matter, they map our lives!

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An EU funded project to develop Landscape Character Assessment, as a tool for the effective conservation of natural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean.



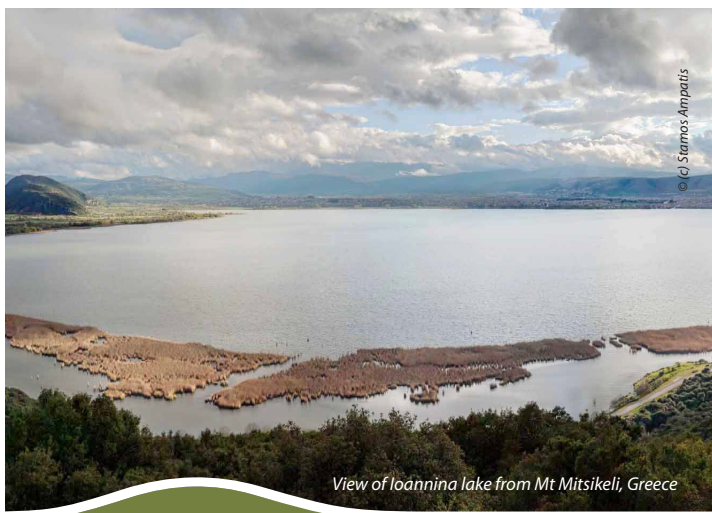
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Project funded by the EUROPEAN UNION





View of Ioannina lake from Mt Mitsikeli, Greece

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Bekaa valley, Lebanon

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Mijub Valley, Jordan

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MedScapes **Places matter, they map our lives!**



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



MedScapes (2014-2015):

An EU funded project to develop Landscape Character Assessment, as a tool for the effective conservation of natural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Landscape results from the interactions of different components of our environment – both natural and cultural – and the way these are perceived and understood by people.

THE PROJECT:

The MedScapes project is a collaboration between Partners from Cyprus, Greece, Jordan and Lebanon.

By developing landscape maps as a land character assessment tool, MedScapes provides support to decision-makers responsible for land use, cultural and natural resource management, and regional planning in the four participating countries, while raising awareness about the character of local landscapes and the natural environments they support.

MedScapes is funded by the [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument \(ENPI\)](#) for initiatives between the EU and other Mediterranean countries. The project started in January 2014 and has a duration of 24 months.

PROJECT AIM AND DESCRIPTION:

The aim of the project is the development of a single methodology for mapping and assessing landscapes in the eastern Mediterranean, to be used by decision makers in resource management and regional planning, and by academic institutions as educational material.

By using landscape maps as a tool of analysis and evaluation, Medscapes will provide support to landscape stakeholders and other interested institutions.

The mapping includes physiographic, cultural, environmental and other landscape elements, contributing to a more holistic understanding of the dynamics generated in different regions, in order to better assess the constantly evolving nature of the landscape and implement suitable management practices.

The project will present new methods for identifying, assessing and conserving key aspects of the landscape character. Furthermore, project activities, including the publication of 'Best Practice Methodology', the development of a 'Community Participatory Process' and 'Decision Support System', the establishment of the 'East Mediterranean Landscape Observatory' and the production of educational material, will help develop and enrich the concept and role of landscape in the East Mediterranean.

MAPPING OUR LANDSCAPES:

Through the project, two levels of landscape mapping will be developed: Level 1 maps at a 1:250.000 scale and Level 2 maps at a 1:50.000 scale and greater detail. These maps cover the whole island of Cyprus and pilot areas in Greece (Epirus district and Lesvos island), Jordan (Mujib, Yarmouk) and Lebanon (Mount Lebanon, West Bekaa).

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The MedScapes project contributes to the protection of the landscape and its ecosystems. It highlights that in addition to its aesthetic value, landscape constitutes an appropriate space-frame, in which to take decisions regarding regional development, regional land use planning and ecosystems management.

In other words, it establishes landscape as an important parameter in decision making. The Risk Tool, developed under the Project, will provide valuable aid to landscape-related plans and development, in terms of comprehensive prediction and prevention of negative effects on landscape character, and on natural and cultural heritage. The training package, developed during the project, will contribute to training and education of university graduates in landscape conservation and sustainable management.

An important innovation of MedScapes is the inclusion of local communities and other stakeholders that play a role in influencing their local landscapes in the decision making process, such as architects, tourism operators, land developers and NGOs.