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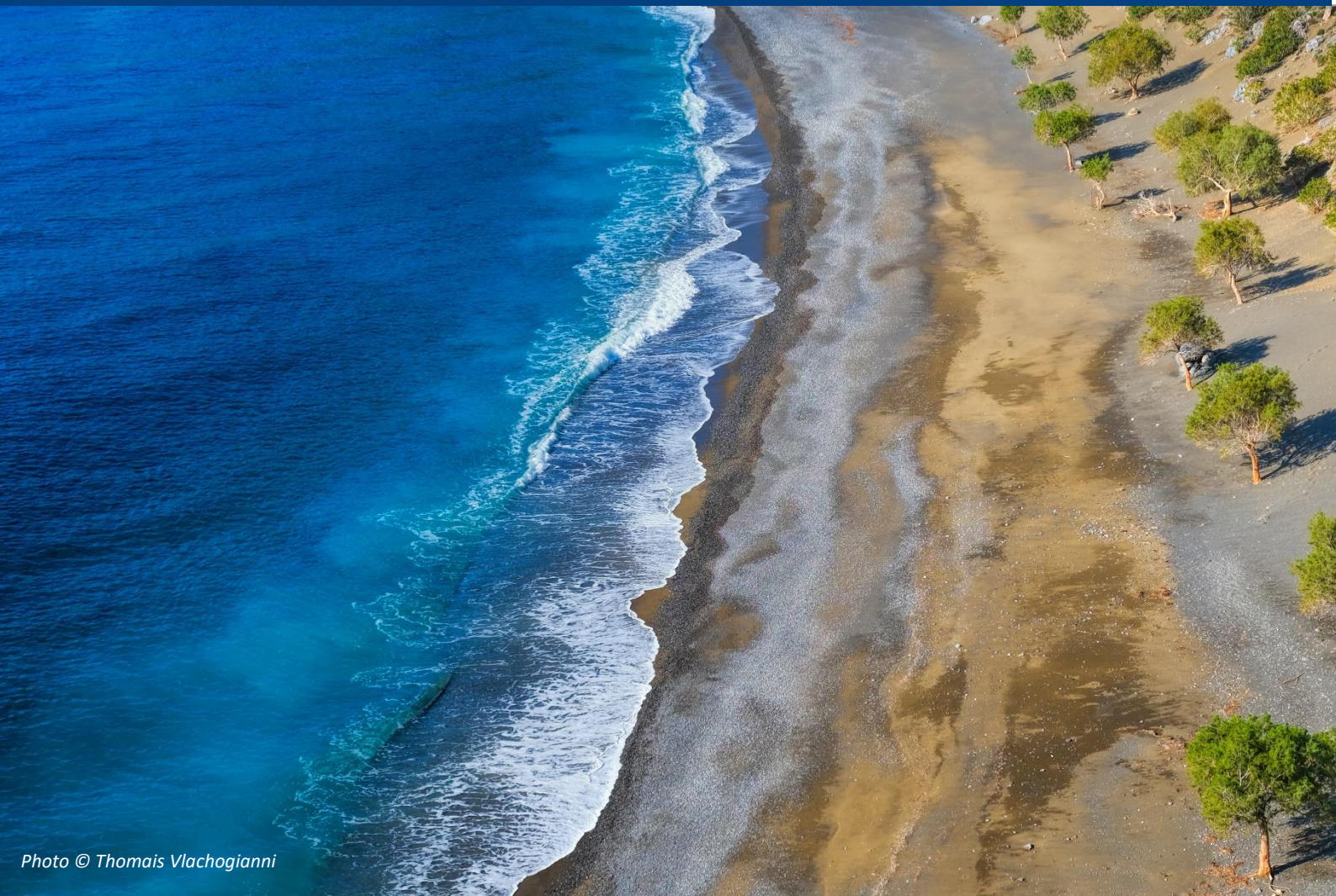
# Tackling Marine Litter in Asterousia Biosphere Reserve: Findings and Recommendations

## Stakeholders Workshop

**28 June 2023**

Municipality of Phaistos, Moires

Organized by MIO-ECSDE and the Local Management Committee of Asterousia



# Tackling Marine Litter in Asterousia Biosphere Reserve

## Stakeholders Workshop

### The framework

The stakeholders' workshop is implemented within the framework of a one-year-long project entitled "Monitoring marine litter and generating fit-for-purpose data through a participatory science approach in Asterousia Biosphere Reserve" funded by UNESCO and the abrđn Charitable Foundation. The project entailed actions focused on improving the marine litter knowledge base and evidence in the Biosphere Asterousia Reserve, strengthening its management plan with tailored-made marine litter prevention and mitigation measures and innovative solutions, educating and engaging local communities (in particular youth) in generating fit-for-purpose marine litter data through a participatory science approach.

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE, project coordinator), together with the Local Management Committee of Asterousia & Heraklion Development Agency, the Mediterranean Education Initiative on Environment and Sustainability, the Hellenic Marine Research Centre, the University of Crete and its Museum of Natural History, sought to provide a concrete showcase of how community-based research can deliver the "Science We Need for the Future We Want", within the context of the UN Ocean Science Decade and the Ocean Literacy Framework.

### The stakeholders' workshop: aim & target groups

The aim of the workshop is to involve stakeholders in a collaborative, co-creative, and participatory environment to discuss the results and findings of the participatory science campaigns carried out in the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve. The workshop will identify, shortlist, and validate innovative marine litter prevention and mitigation measures that can be included in the Biosphere Reserve's Management Plan. The objective is to encourage cooperation among participants to create effective and sustainable solutions for addressing marine litter in the area. Ultimately, the workshop aims to establish consensus on the most promising and scalable measures that should be implemented in the Biosphere Reserve, contributing to a shift away from a throw-away society and towards a paradigm that can achieve litter-free oceans and seas.

The workshop targets BR managers/practitioners; local socio-economic stakeholders including associations, cooperatives, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations with special emphasis on the involvement of youth groups; foundations; businesses (in particular in the tourism and fisheries sector); educators; public authorities and citizens.

### The organizers

The workshop is organized by MIO-ECSDE in close cooperation with the Local Management Committee of Asterousia & Heraklion Development Agency, within the framework of the project entitled "Monitoring marine litter and generating fit-for-purpose data through a participatory science approach in Asterousia Biosphere Reserve" funded by UNESCO and the abrđn Charitable Foundation.



# Tackling Marine Litter in Asterousia Biosphere Reserve

## Stakeholders Workshop

### The Workshop's Programme

Time	Title
17.00-17.30	<p><b>Welcome &amp; opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Theano Vrentzou Skordalaki, Chairperson, Local Management Committee of Asterousia</li> <li>• Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, Regional Governor of Crete</li> <li>• Mr. Gregorios Nikolidakis, Mayor of Phaistos</li> <li>• Mr. Eleftherios Kokolakis, Mayor of Gortyna</li> <li>• Mr. Manolis Kokosalis, Mayor of Archanes-Asterousia &amp; President of the Development Agency of Heraklion</li> <li>• Mr. Jonathan Baker, Head of Science unit at UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe</li> <li>• Prof. Michael Scoullou, President of the Hellenic Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO, UNESCO Chair on Management and Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean at the UoA &amp; MIO-ECSDE Chairman</li> <li>• Dr. Michalis Promponas, Environmental Scientist, University of Crete and the Museum of Natural History of Crete</li> <li>• Dr. Thanos Dailianis, Marine Biology Researcher, Hellenic Center for Marine Research</li> </ul>
17.30-18.15	<p><b>A community-based research project on marine litter in the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve: methodological approach, results and findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, Environmental Chemist &amp; Ecotoxicologist, Senior Programme/Policy Officer, MIO-ECSDE</li> </ul>
18.15-19.30	<p><b>Identifying and shortlisting marine litter prevention and mitigation measures to be included in the Management Plan of the Asterousia BR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Michael Scoullou, UNESCO Chair on Management and Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean at the UoA &amp; MIO-ECSDE Chairman</li> </ul> <p><i>Facilitated discussion</i></p>
19.30-20.15	<p><b>Showcases of best practice initiatives aiming to prevent and mitigate marine litter in Crete and the Mediterranean</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Iro Alampei &amp; Prof. Michael Scoullou, MIO-ECSDE/MEDIES</li> <li>• Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE</li> <li>• Ms Gina Bily Kraft &amp; Mr. Konstantinos Manidakis, Association of Volunteer Firefighters and Environmental Protection of Asterousia</li> </ul>
20.15-21.00	<p><b>Stakeholder pledges to prevent and mitigate marine litter in the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants</li> </ul>
21.00-21.15	<p><b>Live performance of the song "Save the Sea"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Eva Hillered, Grammy-nominated, Swedish Singer-Songwriter</li> </ul>
21.15	Networking & light dinner

# "Towards Ocean Literacy: Building an Evidence-based Management Plan for Marine Litter in the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve



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