

FIRST RECORDS OF THE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILIAN FAUNA IN THE PROTECTED AREA OF MOUNT PARNONAS AND MOUSTOS WETLAND

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The Project "Protection and conservation of the biodiversity of Mount Parnonas-Moustos Wetland" is part of the framework of the Axis 9, "Natural Environment Protection and Biodiversity" of the Operational Program "Environment and Sustainable Development 2007-2013". The Project implemented by the Management Body of Mount Parnonas-Moustos Wetland presupposes the execution of biomonitoring programs for faunal taxa. Main targets of these programs are the taxa listed in Directives 1992/43/EC (Annexes II, and IV) and 2009/147/EC (Annex I), but also on other important taxa, such as endemics or locally threatened species. The zoogeography of amphibian and reptilian species of the protected area is inadequately known since few studies provide such data. The personnel of the Management Body fulfilling the obligations of the Project, gathered data for various animal groups, including amphibian and reptilian records. Data will be utilized for concluding the faunistic evaluation of a study area and setting the baseline values for comparative evaluation of the habitats' conservation status and species' population trends in the future. Data gathered from April 2011 to May 2012 are presented here. The area of Mt. Parnonas and the adjacent areas include habitats such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, hills with maquis and shrub vegetation, agroecosystems with cultivated fields, and rural areas. Twenty nine different taxa have been recorded in these habitats so far: four amphibian and twenty five reptilian ones. The amphibians include one toad and three frogs, while the reptiles include three turtles and tortoises, twelve lizards and ten snakes. Data regarding the relative abundance were also estimated.