Quercus frainetto

Quercus frainetto woods are included in Annex I to the Habitats Directive (Dir. 92/43/EC, code 9280). On Mount Athos they cover around 1.014 ha from the sea level to 1400 m a.s.l. with their largest part located at the southwest of the peninsula.

Quercus ilex

Quercus ilex woods are included in Annex I to the Habitats Directive (Dir. 92/43/EC, code 9340). On Mount Athos they cover around 5.621 ha and are distributed from the sea level up to 1100 m a.s.l. These forests are mainly concentrated at the eastern area of the peninsula.

January 2005

Text
Petros Kakouros, EKBY

Editing
Maria Katsakiori, EKBY

Photos
Photo Archive EKBY
Petros Kakouros
Athanasios Tavridis

Design
earthdesign

LIFE Project

«Rehabilitation of coppice *Quercus ilex* woods (9340) and *Quercus frainetto* woods (9280) of Mount Athos»

Holy Community of Mount Athos

THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
GREEK BIOTOPE / WETLAND CENTRE

Rehabilitation of *Quercus frainetto* & *Quercus ilex* woods OF MOUNT ATHOS

Mount Athos

Mount Athos has stood proud throughout time, a lofty symbol on the peninsula, denoting the Ark of Orthodoxy and Faith, the guardian of our land's history and cultural heritage, the land that devoutly cherishes a priceless part of our natural riches.

The blue sea and gentle coastline, the wild beauty of the ravines and steep cliffs, and the dense green vegetation alongside the monasteries and sketes that seem to hover in mid-air together, compose a representative picture of the timeless and closely knit relationship between man and nature.

A landscape of rare beauty, major ecological significance, exquisite architectural achievements and historical and religious value.

forests' rehabilitation

A dominant and distinguishing feature of the Athonite landscape, the hungarian oak and holm oak forests form an integral part of the peninsula's natural riches.

The Holy Community of Mount Athos and the Holy Monasteries historically recognise the importance of conservation of the ecological and aesthetic values. For this reason launched, in cooperation with the Greek Biotope Wetland Centre, the LIFE-Nature project «Rehabilitation of coppice *Quercus ilex* woods (9340) and *Quercus frainetto* woods (9280) of Mount Athos».

The project lasts from 2003 to 2006 and its main objective is to start up the rehabilitation of coppice forests with hungarian oak and holm oak forests of Mount Athos to high forests.

Additionally to the inversion of forests in Mount Athos, LIFE-Nature project aims also, to the promotion of the inversion through selective thinning to all *Quercus frainetto* and *Quercus ilex* coppice forests in Greece.

selective inversion thinning

The method of selective-inversion thinning has been chosen in order to rehabilitate these forests. It will be applied in 500 ha of forests during the project implementation.

Apart from its main action, which are the selective-inversion thinnings, the project also includes:

- Preparatory actions regarding mapping of these forests.
- Guidelines for the implementation of the selective-inversion thinning.
- Training of forest workers and monks responsible for the management of the forests.
- Establishment of a system to monitor the forests thinned.
- Actions for public awareness and dissemination of results, including creation of a web page and of a video film, publication of a technical guide for the rehabilitation of oak woods through selective-inversion thinnings and one meeting for the presentation of the project.