

TRANS TROODOS MOUNTAINS

lighthouses

LIGHTHOUSE: RURAL · FORESTRY



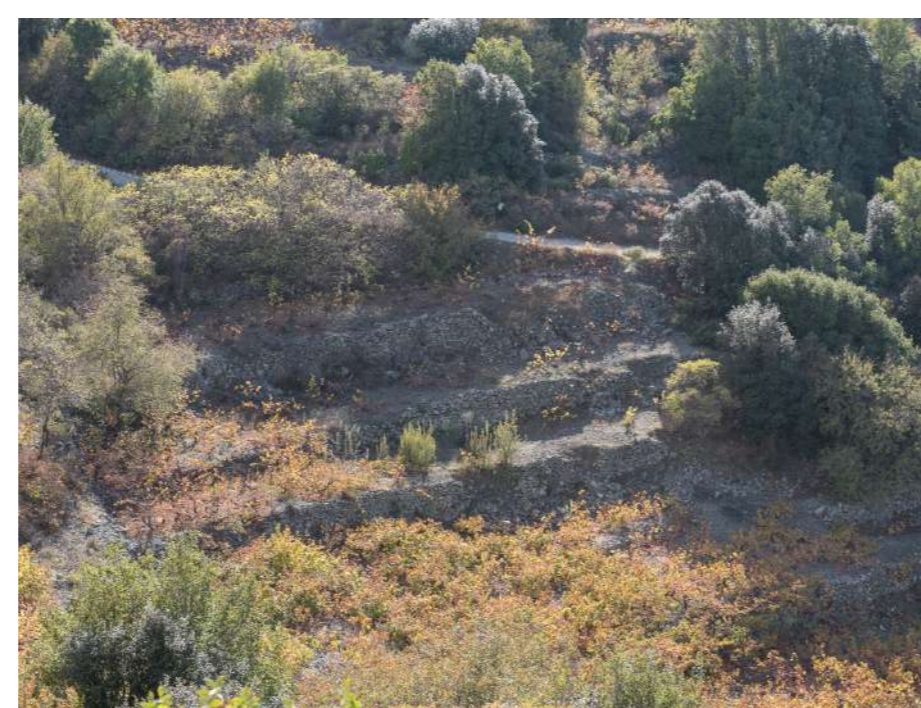
Localization in Troodos Mountains, located roughly in the center of the island of Cyprus. Troodos is the largest mountain range in Cyprus, stretching across a third of the island.



Areal Google Map View of Troodos Mountains and surrounding scenic villages. Delineation of Troodos mountain, Cyprus.



Traditional mountain terraces with grapes.



Semi-abandoned and collapsing terraces – Alona, Troodos.



Soil erosion in collapsing drystone terraces, Agros.



Mountain Terraced Vineyard, Pelendri.



Drystone maintenance workshop following fires, Ora



Drystone maintenance workshop, Alona



Drystone maintenance workshop, Polystipos



Drystone maintenance workshop, Vasa Koilaniou

NBS short description

Communal maintenance of mountain terraces, using local expert knowledge to maintain and transfer the traditional knowledge of dry stone wall construction. The communal terrace construction activities contribute to the reduction of soil erosion, conserve productive agricultural land and maintain the cultural landscape.

Geographic area

Troodos Mountains of Cyprus, rural. The Troodos Mountains are the central mountain massif of Cyprus, covering nearly 30% of the area of the republic. More than 100 small rural communities, whose population used to make a living from agriculture on drystone wall terraces, dot the mountain landscape.

Relevance for the lighthouse

It is an example of a research-initiated activity, adopted by rural communities (and in some cases NGOs), with an effective co-creation of knowledge and community empowerment.

Governance of the case

The research team and a local SME invite the community council to host a terrace construction and maintenance event. The community council identifies local experts and together a location for the event is selected. Events are announced through the community councils in the nearby communities and through Facebook.

Challenges raised during the preparatory meetings

The main concern of farmers and farm managers is agricultural production. Maintenance of drystone terraces is not their first priority. Terrace maintenance requires hard and dedicated manual labor. Many farmers are elderly and agricultural land is slowly abandoned.

Who owns the land?

Agricultural land is privately owned. Many agricultural plots have been abandoned and have been taken over by natural vegetation, often land owners live in the urban areas or abroad.

Related projects with synergies

Our PRIMA REACT4MED Project (Inclusive Outscaling of Agro-ecosystem Restoration Actions for the Mediterranean) focusses on mountain terraces in the Troodos Mountains (2022-2025).

Local partners, associations, initiatives and champions engaged

Rural mountain communities, farmers, vineries, regional farmer coop, SMEs, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (agricultural officers, research and extension).

SDG

