



Surveillance and monitoring are the necessary tools for assessing the conservation status of a habitat type, for recording its trends, and for evaluating the pressures operating on it. The information collected is necessary so as to identify potential problems, plan management actions, and measure the effects of conservation efforts. **In nature conservation**, monitoring is the main scientific tool used in drawing conservation strategies for assessing land-use impacts, but also for evaluating the effectiveness of management measures applied.

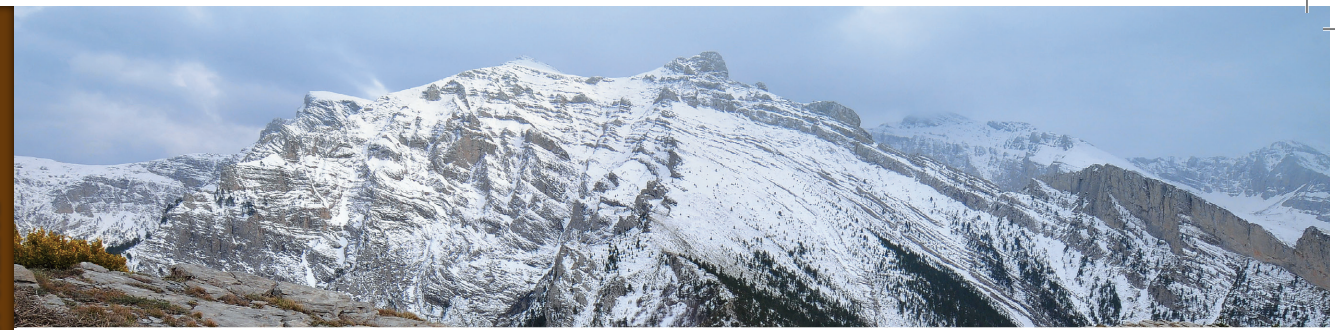
This handbook describes **the methodological framework developed and implemented for the first time in Greece in the period 2013-2015** (for the purpose of compiling the national report on the implementation of the Directive 92/43/EEC for the 2007-2012 period). This framework was founded on an integrated and standardized bottom-up approach to monitoring and assessing the conservation status of habitat types. The implementation of this approach included field work that collected baseline reference data. More specifically, **9867 locations were studied and for each location a standardized sampling protocol was completed** for assessing the conservation status of habitat types (8520 locations inside sites of the Natura 2000 network, and 1347 locations outside Natura 2000 network). This volume of data is now the scientific basis for adequately managing the natural habitat types, the species, as well as the entire Natura 2000 protected areas in order to conserve the biodiversity of Greece, which is our National Natural Capital.



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