



LIFE-Stymfalia Statement

Promoting Business & Biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites through joint actions and public-private sector partnerships

The participants of the International Workshop held in Athens on 9 June 2017 and at Stymfalia on 10 June 2017, in the context of the LIFE-Stymfalia project run by Piraeus Bank in partnership with the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation, the Municipality of Sykyonion, OIKOM Ltd, The Society for Protection of Prespa, and Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving

Acknowledge that:

- Natura 2000 sites, as natural hosts of significant biodiversity and ecosystems, are the National Natural Capital, as well as an invaluable asset for the European Union.
- In addition to safeguarding their conservation values Natura 2000 sites can provide a broad range of socio-economic benefits, providing they are managed in a scientifically sound manner.
- Public funding for managing Natura 2000 sites is unlikely to be sufficient and mobilization of private sector investment is therefore also needed to scale up overall financing for biodiversity from a range of sources.
- Innovative financing mechanisms operating in the EU can generate new opportunities for the public and private sector in managing biodiversity in Natura 2000 sites.
- Conserving biodiversity and ecosystems and managing Natura 2000 sites can spur business opportunities in a win-win mode.
- The finance sector in the EU is showing a growing interest in contributing to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Investing in biodiversity and ecosystems outside Natura 2000 sites also helps strengthening the coherence of the network, and should be seen as a priority.



Agree that:

- National, regional and local authorities, Natura 2000 managers, NGOs and businesses should collaborate in exploring and forming comprehensive strategies to support joint business projects and initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems in Natura 2000 sites.
- Local communities need to be informed of such opportunities and associated benefits so that they are supportive of business initiatives that favour biodiversity and ecosystems in Natura 2000 sites.
- It is important for the private sector to assess and address its impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and to stimulate private sector investment in nature.
- The finance sector could play an instrumental role in supporting business opportunities with a positive social and environmental impact, such as renewal energy sources, responsible agriculture, ecotourism, green infrastructure and innovation, in Natura 2000 sites and beyond.
- Good practices should be disseminated, networks created and synergy with existing platforms and initiatives pursued to further promote business and biodiversity.

And encourage all stakeholders to move beyond the perception that Natura 2000 sites are a burden to development and to recognize them as opportunities for promoting sustainable business that favours biodiversity and ecosystems.