



Acronym	EnhanceForMed
Full Title	Enhancing Forest Monitoring Infrastructure in the Mediterranean region for long-term climate-change Impact assessment
Partner(s)	Hellenic Agricultural Organization - DIMITRA Greece (<i>coordinator</i>) University of Patras, Greece
Grant Theme	Pilots of long-term climate impact forest monitoring sites: Providing temporally resolved ecosystem-level information on the effects of climatic drivers on forest structure and function in near real-time
Start Date	May 2025
Duration	18 months
Description	Mediterranean regions face persistent droughts and heatwaves, impacting the environment, society, and economy. Greece, a climate change hotspot, is especially vulnerable, with rising temperatures, reduced precipitation, and more frequent droughts affecting its forests. Assessing climate change impact on trees and forests is key to understanding ecosystem resilience and help decision-makers to implement sustainable ecosystem management and nature-based climate mitigation. The EnhanceForMed project aims to nowcast the health and resilience of key Mediterranean forests in Greece and establish mechanistic links between ground based-measurements and remote-sensing evidence collected with aerial (UAV) and satellite techniques, with the following objectives: • establishing systematic ecohydrological observations at sites within larger monitoring networks (ICP Forests, LTER), including tree-level monitoring and ecosystem-level field surveys (UAVs), • providing real-time data on key ecohydrological processes, • nowcast ecosystem resilience to environmental stressors. To achieve these goals, four strategic monitoring sites have been selected: a fir-dominated mountainous forest in Evrytania, a Mediterranean sclerophyllous forest dominated by <i>Quercus ilex</i> in Varetada (Amfilochia), a mesophytic deciduous forest dominated by <i>Quercus frainetto</i> in Ossa (Thessaly) (all three part of ICP Forests Level II network), and a coastal Aleppo pine forest at the Sani Environmental Observatory in Chalkidiki (part of eLTER). The project will enhance infrastructure at these sites, establishing a standardized ecohydrological monitoring framework for nowcasting Mediterranean ecosystem pulses and assessing their health and resilience to global change and will link ground-based observations with ecosystem-level surveys and remote sensing products.



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