



**Parnonas S.A.**  
*Organization for Local Development*

Spanish CAP Network Exchange of Experiences  
“LEADER Cooperation”  
Transnational Cooperation Project  
**“Living in Biosphere Reserves”**

**Seeking partners**  
under the local program LEADER within  
the framework of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

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Co-funded by  
the European Union



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD



Cap Strategic Plan  
**2023-2027**



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2. Mount Parnonas – Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve.  
Definitions
3. Main objective of the project
4. Planned activities
5. Expected duration
6. Profile of the partners sought, including priority countries or regions for cooperation



## Project promoter / leading organisation The Organization PARNONAS S.A.

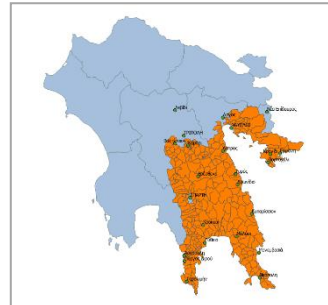
- PARNONAS S.A. was established in 1995 under the form of the Société Anonyme.
- In 2020 was converted into a Local Government Development Organization and operates as a special purpose company of local authorities in the Region of Peloponnese (pic 2).
- As a Local Action Group (LAG) implementing local LEADER/CLLD strategy in Eastern Peloponnese (pic 3) and interterritorial/transnational cooperation projects.
- Main activities: implementation and management of national and co-financed projects and programs, the provision of technical support services to local authorities and regional bodies, the preparation of studies and programs of development projects and services for local authorities and other public bodies, the development of environmental protection activities, the implementation of social policy actions and promotion actions.



pic 1



pic 2



pic 3



**Parnonas S.A.**

*Organization for Local Development*



# Mount Parnonas – Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve. Definitions



unesco

Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

## Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

Home About MAB Our impact World Network of Biosphere Res



## What are biosphere reserves?

Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

### Core areas (3)

They comprise a strictly protected zone that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation

### Buffer zones (2)

They surround or adjoin the core area(s), and are used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.

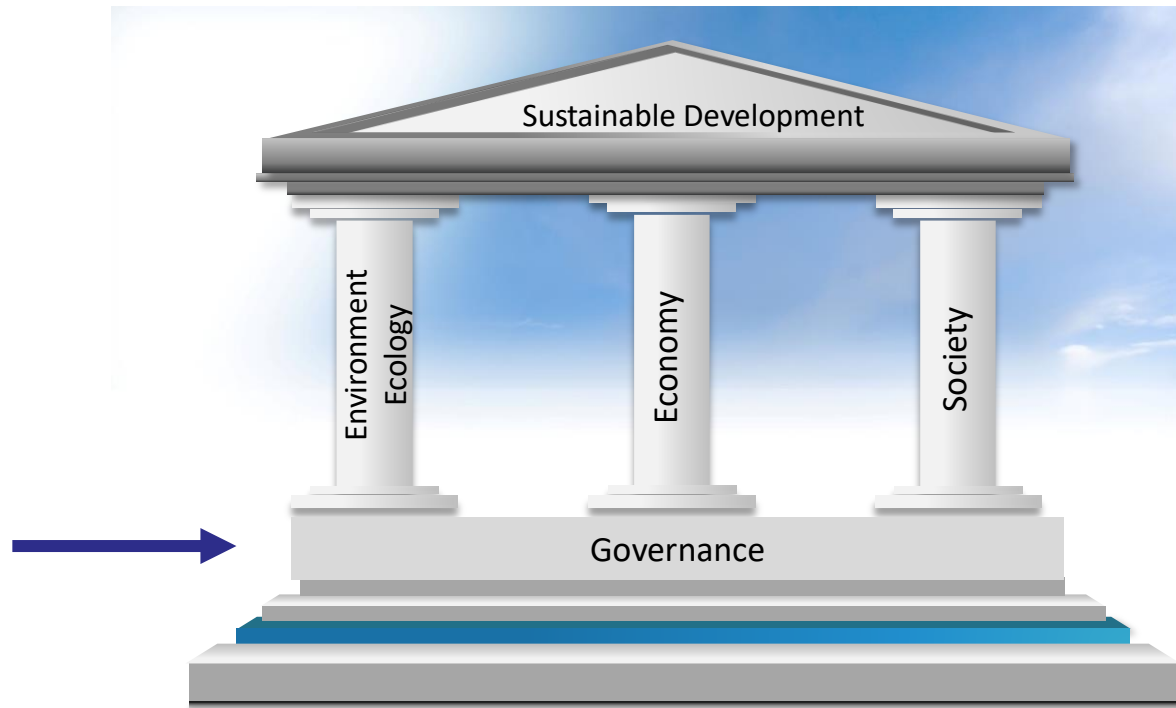
### Transition area (1)

The transition area is where communities foster socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human activities.

These three functions are pursued through the Biosphere Reserves' three main zones



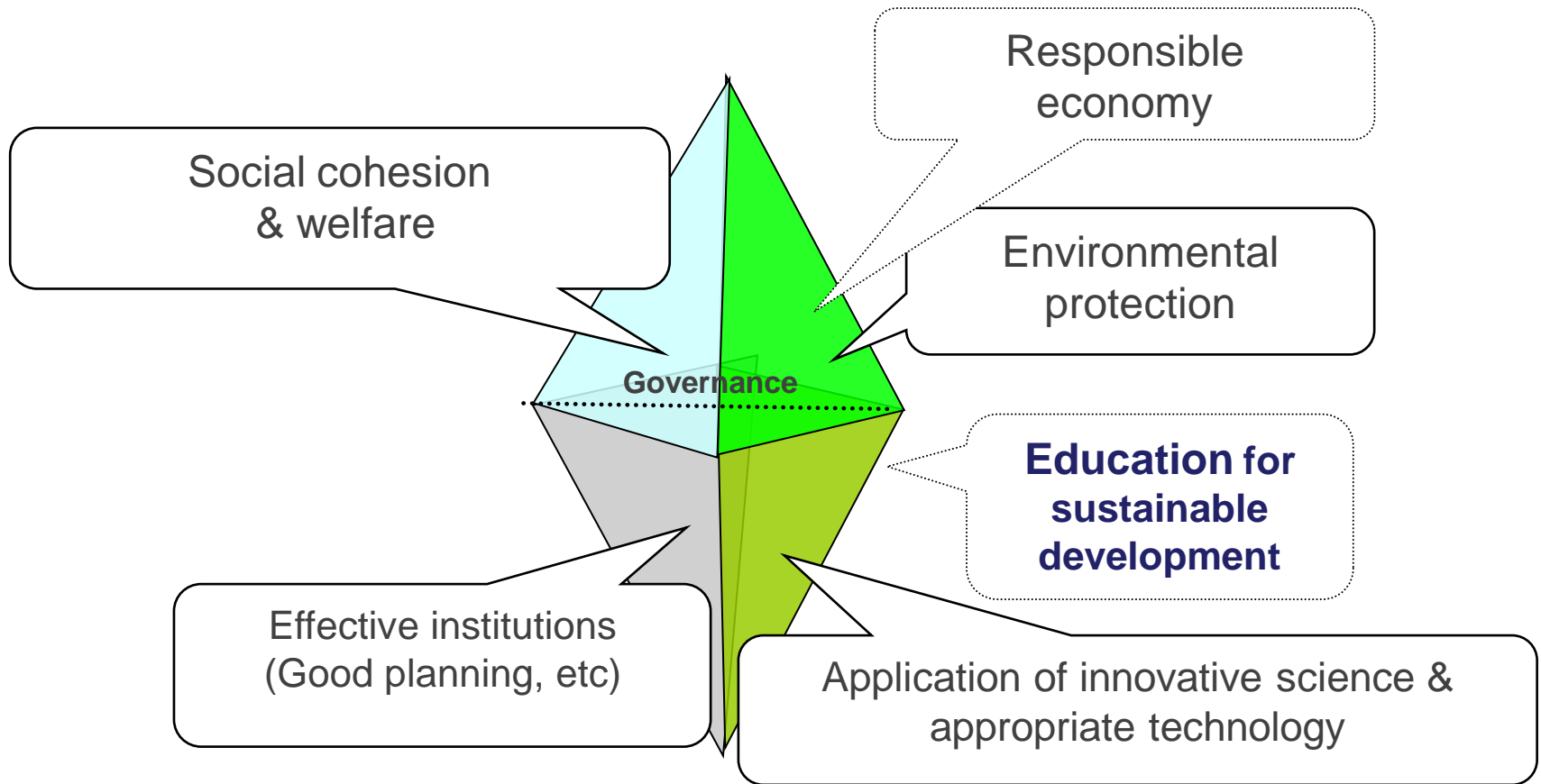
# The notion of Sustainable Development



UNESCO Thessaloniki Conference on Environment and Society, 1997



## To obtain Sustainable Development we need:

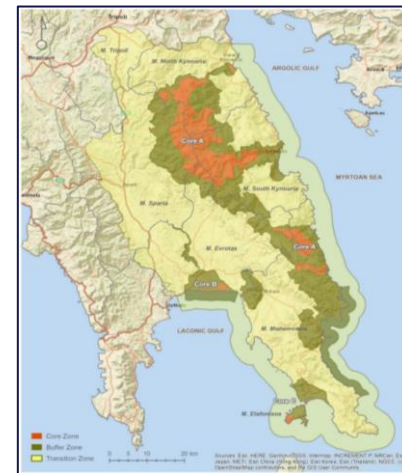




# Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve

After the initiative and long-term effort of PARNONAS S.A. the area "Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas", was declared as Biosphere Reserve and joined the network of Biosphere Reserves (BRs) of the UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserves (MaB) program, on September 27, 2025.

The documentation and recognition of the area was based on the unique natural environment (fauna, flora), numerous monuments of history and culture, elements of intangible cultural heritage (local dialect, weaving), branded agricultural products, historical monasteries, geological formations, numerous traditional settlements and the bodies and associations of local society.



Map of the BR "Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas"



# Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve

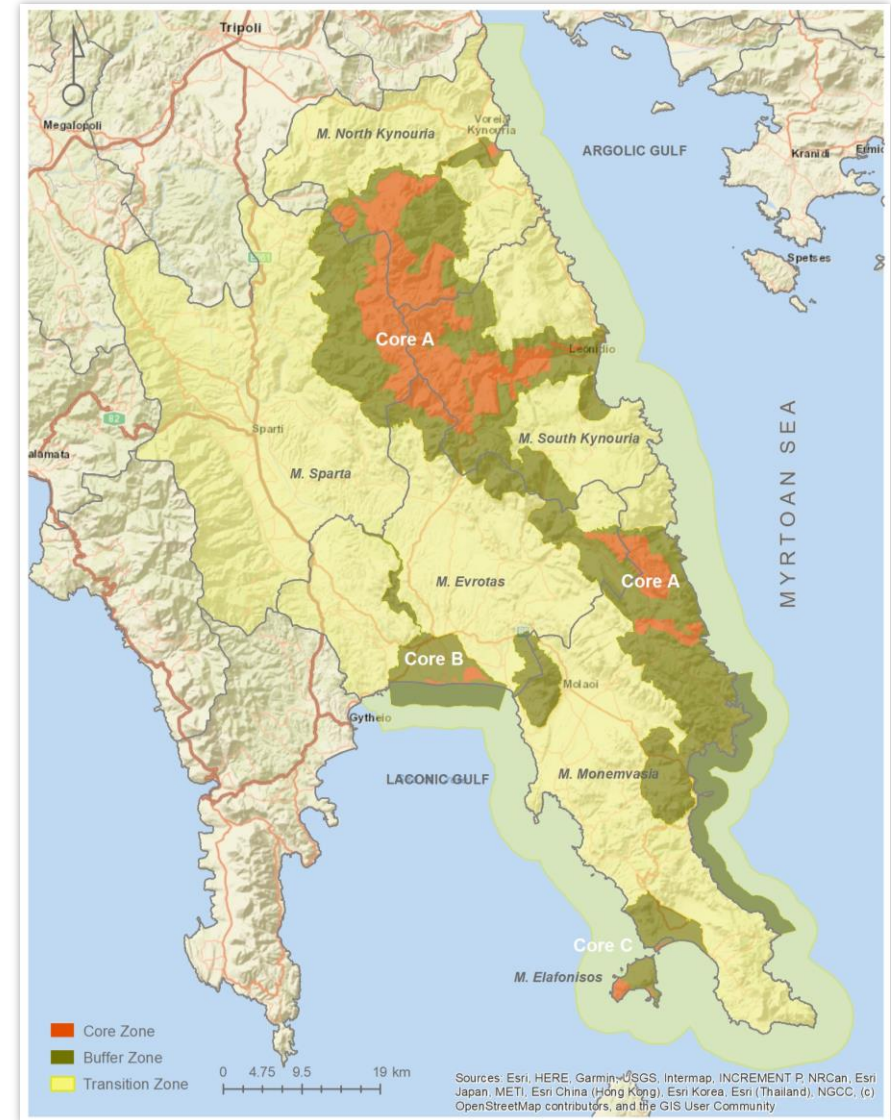


Inscribed in September 2025



**unesco**

Man and the Biosphere  
Programme





# Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve

■ Parnonas S.A., is a LAG and has on its duty the context of supporting the operation of BR Governance System, established the MaB office, which consists of a team of scientific executives with the task of providing technical and scientific support to the Governance System. The MaB Office acts as the Secretariat of the Governance System and maintains communications with all local bodies and stakeholders and disseminates all necessary information.

■ The challenge for Parnonas S.A., based on the MaB Program, is the preparation of a multi-year Management Plan, the securing of financial resources for the implementation of projects and actions that serve the vision of biodiversity conservation, along with the sustainable development of economic activities and the systematic participation of the local community and the collective bodies.



## **HISTORY:**

### **“Value of the Biosphere Reserve in the local community”**

Interterritorial Cooperation Project within the local LEADER/ CLLD program, sub-measure 19.3, Measure 19 of RDP 2014-2020

The purpose of the Cooperation Project was to create the communication tools through the exchange of know-how with the aim of disseminating information to the local communities to integrate the value of the **Biosphere Reserve into the consciousness of the local community in relation to the recognition of the value of the areas during the implementation phase of the Project and in the potential process of their certification as Biosphere Reserves.**

The Cooperation Project was related to the awareness of the local population and the economic and social actors in matters concerning the Biosphere Reserve as well as the possibility of proposing the partner LAGs for the submission of a nomination file to the "Man and the Biosphere Program" (Man and the Biosphere Program - MAB) of UNESCO for the designation of a new Biosphere Reserve in the partner areas.



## HISTORY: "Value of the Biosphere Reserve in the local community"

### Four Partners

1. Parnonas LAG - Project Coordinator
2. Dimosineteristiki Evros S.A.
3. Attica Islands Network LAG
4. Kefalonia & Ithaka Network LAG

Total budget: 237.000,00€

Timetable end: 30-09-2025





## **HISTORY:**

### **“Value of the Biosphere Reserve in the local community”**

#### **JOINT ACTIONS**

##### 1.1. Educational visits

1.1.1. Educational visit to the region of Asterousia in Crete, Greece

1.1.2. Educational visit to the MAB Hiiumaa in Estonia

1.1.3. Educational visit to the MAB Appennino Tosco Emiliano region in Italy

##### 1.2. Joint strategy for Biosphere Reserve areas

#### **LOCAL ACTIONS**

2.1. Support and dissemination of the common strategy

2.2. Educational programs

2.3. Promotion

2.4. Study for the declaration of Biosphere Reserves (concerns Dimosineteristiki Evros SA)

2.5. Design and production of educational material and educational workshops (concerns Parnonas SA)

Duration until **October 2025**



## New TNC project “Living in Biosphere Reserves”



LIVING IN  
BIOSPHERE RESERVES

The main idea is the apprehension of the value of biosphere reserves by local communities, and the networking and cooperation for the integration of the MAB UNESCO label into everyday activities, particularly in environmental protection, activities in nature, sustainable agricultural production, gastronomy, tourism and local cultural events.



## Proposed actions

### A. Joint actions

1. Educational visits - workshops for the exchange of know-how and good practices for beneficiaries (combined with transnational meetings of partners).
2. Action plan for understanding the value of the biosphere reserve and integrating the MAB label into the functioning of local communities (environment, sustainable development, culture). Includes Financial resources for actions related to the Biosphere Reserve, Governance and cooperation at local level - challenges and good practices, Involvement of specific groups of the population (youth, women), Contribution to the identity and recognition / extroversion of the regions.
3. Common internet platform for the presentation of the regions and the activities that received the local MAB label, as a tool for extroversion and attracting aware visitors.



## Proposed actions

### B. Local actions

1. Key action is local information, training and networking of organizations and businesses that understand, support and can utilize the value of MAB certification.
2. In addition, any other actions desired by each LAG partner, based on the level and needs of the local Biosphere Reserve, and depending on its available budget. Indicative local actions:
  - Development of a local management plan through participatory processes.
  - Design and creation of local business networks for the “Made in the Biosphere Reserve” label.
  - Design of environmental interpretation routes using digital applications.
  - Organization of awareness-raising information days.
  - Promotion and publicity.



## Budget and duration

Initial planning for the project budget provides for each partner:

- at least **€30,000** per partner for joint actions,
- the amount each partner wishes for his local actions.

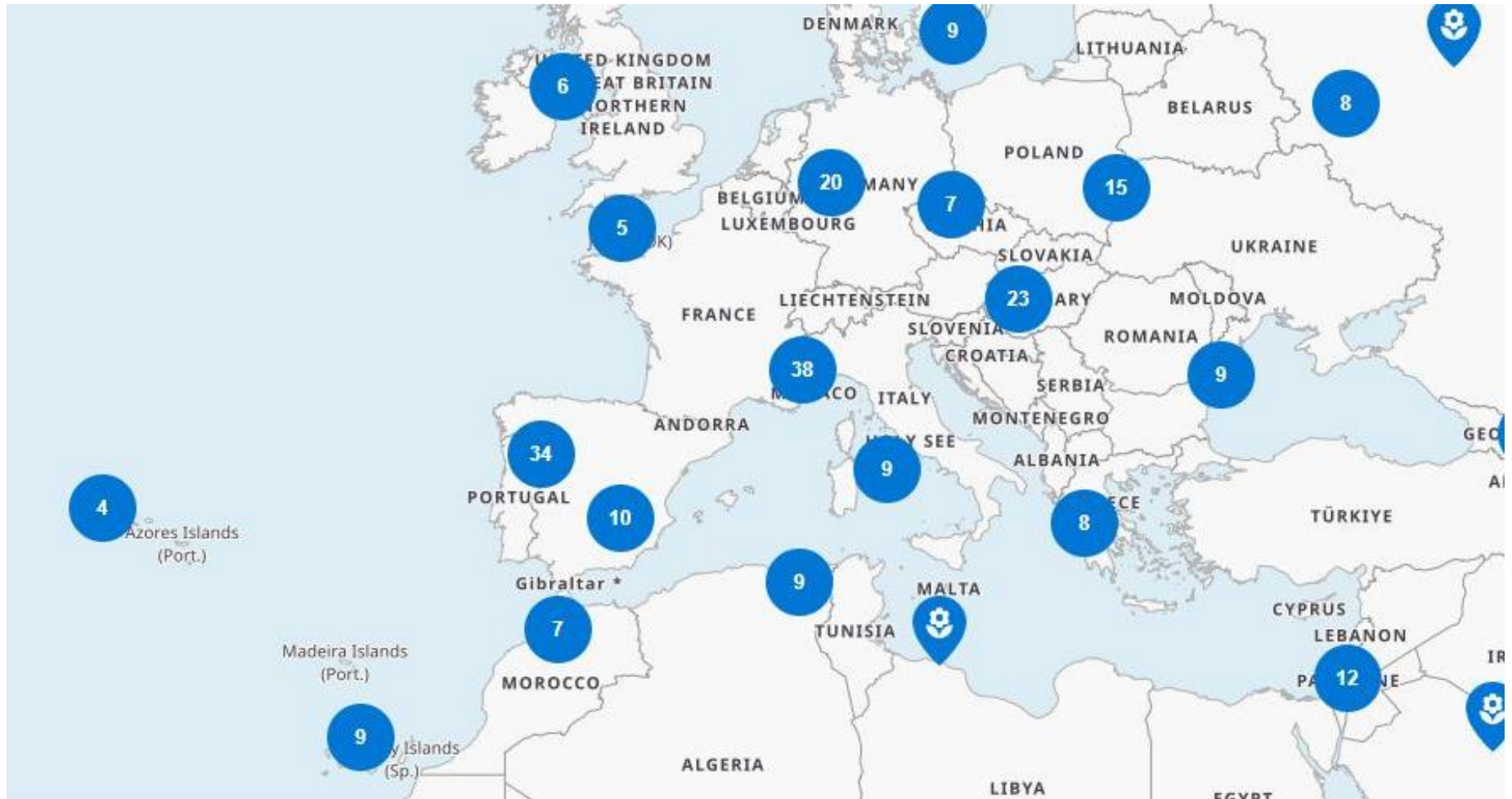
**Duration** of the project: 30 months





# MAB's in Europe and Mediterranean generally

Profile of the partners sought, including priority countries or regions for cooperation





## Greek partnership

Greek partners already agreed to participate:

 Parnonas S.A.-Organization For Local Development, Lead partner, Greece

 Attica LAG, Greece

 Heraklion Development Agency, Greece

 Dimosinetairistiki Evros SA, Greece



## Type of Partners we are looking for:

LAGs in Mediterranean countries which intervention areas have been integrated in the UNESCO World network of Biosphere Reserves in the recent years, or are about to join.



LIVING IN  
BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Thank you  
for your attention!

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**2023-2027**

