



# MedINA

MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE  
FOR NATURE AND ANTHROPOS

## Working at the crossroads of nature and culture

“ Culture is neither static nor related solely to the remains of past civilisations; it evolves and connects humankind’s past with its future. By embracing societal strengths, contemporary attitudes and creativity, cultural responses to environmental change can provide one of our most important strategies when facing the great environmental challenges of today. ”

### *Linking nature and culture*

Since 2003, the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA) has been working towards the harmonious relationship between people and nature. With a focus on four priority areas – the cultural values of wetlands, landscapes, sacred natural sites and traditional practices – MedINA is intensifying its work on integrated approaches to managing and safeguarding environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

Its work aims at contributing to the following broad objectives:

- Encouraging a better understanding of the inextricable relationship between nature and culture.
- Developing integrated approaches for the conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage.
- Identifying, promoting and applying best practices specifically related to the wise use of natural resources and cultural heritage.
- Encouraging greater integration between the complex and interacting components of sustainability, namely culture, environment, society and economy.



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### **Action**

MedINA implements projects which demonstrate the benefits of integrated approaches for the management of natural and cultural heritage, placing emphasis on community involvement and sustainability, primarily, though not exclusively in the Mediterranean region. Commitment, vision, collaboration and capacity building frame its activities and form its core values.

### **Knowledge**

Through involvement in innovative projects, research activities, publications and the organisation of workshops and conferences, MedINA studies, documents and encourages a better understanding of the links between nature and culture.

### **Awareness raising**

With a focus on using appropriate communication strategies, MedINA aims at engaging a wide range of stakeholders from a variety of disciplines related to environmental protection, cultural heritage management, humanities and regional planning, as well as local communities and the general public.

### **Informing policy**

From providing guidance to the Ramsar Convention for the incorporation of cultural values in the management of wetlands to the ratification of the European Landscape Convention by the Greek government, MedINA is active in translating action and best practice into policy.

### **Partnerships and networks**

Forging solid partnerships and creating enduring relationships are at the core of MedINA's work. Among its diverse partnerships, MedINA jointly coordinates the Delos Initiative of IUCN, and is a member of CIVILSCAPE, the Ramsar Culture Network and the Mediterranean Consortium for Nature and Culture. It also works closely with the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, the Mt Athos Holy Community, the MedWet Initiative and the Tour du Valat Institute, as well as the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.



Simonopetra Monastery, Mount Athos

## ***About us***

MedINA was founded in September 2003 as a non-profit organisation based in Athens, Greece. Its main geographical focus is the Mediterranean region, and it has implemented projects in Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia and other Mediterranean countries. Thymio Papayannis, its founder and director, is among the conservation pioneers advocating the value of cultural responses to environmental challenges. The members and advisors of its scientific secretariat come from the fields of environment and sustainability, ecology, forestry, spatial planning, archaeology, anthropology, political sciences and psychology.

## ***To learn more about MedINA's activities***

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