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ACTION PLAN- GREECE



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Live on the island (2nd Phase)

Action plan including activities and metrics related to the second phase of the program

ACTION PLAN

For the island of Syros, we design an action plan for environmental interventions and implementation of educational programs aimed at the protection and sustainability of the environment.

To design an action plan for environmental interventions and implementation of educational programs on the island of Syros, we considered the following factors:

1. **Analysis of the environmental situation:** We started with a detailed analysis of the environmental challenges facing Syros. This analysis included assessment of gas and water status, biodiversity conservation, tourism sustainability and other important environmental aspects.
2. **Defining strategic goals:** Based on the analysis of the environmental situation, we defined specific strategic goals for the improvement of the environment in Syros. Goals may include reducing greenhouse gases, protecting ecosystems, improving water quality, and other similar priorities.
3. **Environmental Interventions:** Develop specific proposals for environmental interventions that will help achieve our goals. These interventions may include promoting the use of renewable energy sources, developing waste recycling and incineration programs, protecting coastal zones, and other actions that promote ecological sustainability.
4. **Educational programs:** Design educational programs that will increase public awareness of environmental issues and promote sustainable behavior. These programs can include educational seminars, information campaigns, environmental clean-up events and other activities that encourage public participation.
5. **Collaboration with local actors:** Seek collaboration with local actors, such as local authorities, non-governmental organisations, businesses and schools, to implement the action plan. Working with other stakeholders can enhance your efforts and ensure greater impact and effectiveness.
6. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Maintain a monitoring system to evaluate the progress of the action plan. Evaluate the results of environmental interventions and educational programs and adjust your actions accordingly for optimal results.

The above action plan is a general approach and must be adapted to the specific needs and challenges facing Syria. It is also important to consider the participation and support of the local community for the success of the project.

Below are some general ideas and measures we consider:

1 . Development of sustainable tourism:

- Promotion of a tourism that respects the environment and local culture.
- Strengthening the promotion of the ecologically sensitive areas of the island.
- Encouraging tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices and provide information to visitors on environmental protection.

2. Protection of the coastal zone:

- Implementation of programs for the cleaning and maintenance of beaches.
- Promotion of recycling and reduction of plastic waste.
- Protection of marine organisms and aquatic ecosystems through the implementation of restricted fishing areas or marine protected areas.

3. Promoting sustainability in everyday life:

- Raising awareness of the population through educational campaigns for proper waste management, energy saving and the use of renewable energy sources.
- Support the creation of community gardens and waste collection systems.
- Promote the use of transport with less greenhouse gas emission, such as the use of bicycles and the improvement of the public transport system.

4. Strengthening environmental education:

- Implementation of education programs for children and youth in schools, with an emphasis on sustainable development and environmental protection.
- Organizing events, seminars and educational tours for the general public, in order to raise awareness of environmental issues and the need for action.

5. Protection of biodiversity:

Development of programs to protect natural ecosystems and wildlife, with an emphasis on the protection of endemic species and vulnerable ecosystems.

Promoting the creation of protected areas and parks where visitors can enjoy nature respectfully and without causing harm.

For the successful implementation of the action plan, close cooperation between local authorities, society, businesses and educational institutions is required. Also, continuous monitoring and evaluation of measures is important to ensure effectiveness and adapt to new challenges that may arise.

Cooperation with local bodies - Local self-government

Cooperation with the local government is vital for the successful implementation of an action plan for environmental interventions and educational programs in Syros. Local government has an important role in promoting environmental policies, making decisions and interacting with the local community.

To work with our local government, we start these steps:

1. **Contact:** We Contacted local government officials, such as the Mayor, deputy mayors or environmental department heads. We explained our goals and the importance of working with the local government to improve the environment in Syros.
2. **Joint meeting:** We Organized a joint meeting with local government representatives to discuss environmental challenges and opportunities for cooperation. During the meeting, we presented our action plan and hear the opinions and suggestions of the local government.
3. **Advisory committee:** We proposed the creation of an advisory committee that will include representatives from local government, the local community, academia and civil society actors. This committee will meet regularly to discuss and coordinate environmental initiatives and educational actions.
4. **Funding:** Consider available sources of funding to implement the action plan. Discuss options for joint funding applications and leveraging available programs and resources.
5. **Promotion and implementation:** Work with local government to promote and implement environmental interventions and educational programs.

We help as organisation to inform the public, mobilize resources and promote local community involvement.

Cooperation with the local government is essential for the effective implementation and sustainability of your programs. Open communication, coordination and cooperation will help you achieve your common goals for the protection of the environment in Syros.

Environmental education examples of program implementation

Environmental education is an important means of raising people's awareness and consciousness about environmental issues and promoting sustainable behaviour. There are many examples of environmental education programs that we plan to implemented in Syros. Some of these include:

1. **Visits to natural ecosystems:** Organize excursions and visits to local natural ecosystems such as beaches, wetlands or forests. During visits, present information about the biodiversity, ecology and threats facing these ecosystems. Especially the NATURA park of Northern Syros, a protection area with the European **Programm NATURA**.
2. **Clean-up campaigns:** Organize clean-up campaigns on beaches, streets or other areas with an environmental problem. Assign teams to collect litter and raise awareness about the importance of a clean environment. **ECO -MARATHON**.
3. **Seminars and training programs:** Organize **seminars and training programs** for local residents, students or other interested groups. We will invite experts to talk about topics like sustainability, recycling, energy conservation and other environmental topics.
4. **Creative activities:** Organize creative activities such as painting, building from recyclable materials, making gardens, etc. These activities teach recycling, sustainability and love for nature.

5. **Natural Guides:** Train volunteer local residents to act as natural guides for visitors to Syros. Guides can provide information about the island's history, environment and biodiversity. **Working with ESC program inviting international Volunteers.**

These are just a few examples of environmental education programs that we can be implemented in Syros in **short and long terms**.

It is important to adapt the programs to the needs and priorities of the local community and to work with local actors for their successful implementation.

Application in primary and secondary schools training

Environmental education in primary and secondary schools is an effective way to inform and encourage students to develop sustainable behaviors and understand the importance of environmental protection. Some ideas for implementing environmental education programs in schools include:

1. **Curriculum integration:** Integrate topics related to the environment and sustainable development into the curriculum. This can be done in subjects such as biology, geography, chemistry, physics, but also in interdisciplinary subjects. Provide information, exercises and activities that encourage students to think and act environmentally.
2. **Extracurricular activities:** Organize field trips to natural places and environmental points of interest, such as beaches, habitats, renewable energy sources, etc. During the field trips, we can organize field studies, expert talks, and educational activities that enhance environmental awareness.

Educational programs and games: Develop educational programs and games that focus on environmental issues. You can use interactive games, such as educational apps on computers or mobile phones, to help students learn about sustainability, recycling, energy, and other environmental topics. **We have created the Education Tool "I walk the paths of my island – I discover my self"**

Educational Theater activities in schools, we have created from years and we work with specific methodology.

3. **Community actions:** Encourage students to participate in community actions related to the environment. They can organize recycling campaigns, participate in area clean-up actions or develop innovation projects that promote sustainability and sustainable development.
4. **Collaboration with external agencies:** Work with local environmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts to provide educational support and experiences to students. You can invite visitors for talks, workshops and field trips, or organize student visits to local environmental organizations.

These are some examples of environmental education programs that can be implemented in primary and secondary schools. It is important to adapt the programs to the particularities of the school context and to work with teachers and school administration for their effective implementation.

Promoting sustainability in everyday life

Promoting sustainability in everyday life is vital to protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. Some ways we can promote sustainability in everyday life are as follows:

1. **Save energy:** Turn off lights when not in use, use energy-saving bulbs or LEDs, and turn off electrical appliances when not in use. You can also invest in renewable energy sources such as solar or wind systems.
2. **Recycling and incineration:** Separate your waste into different categories for recycling, such as plastics, paper, glass and metals. Also, you can reduce the use of single-use plastic items and prefer recyclable products. Additionally, look for waste incineration facilities to reduce the burden on landfills.
3. **Sustainable transport:** Prefer using public transport, cycling or walking over private car use when possible. If you need to use a car, you can combine your commute, drive economically and join car sharing programs.
4. **Conscious consumption:** Choose products with sustainable materials and waste reduction, such as products with space-efficient packaging or recyclable packaging. Try to reduce water and energy consumption when buying and using products.
5. **Strengthening nature:** Participate in volunteer activities aimed at protecting and developing the natural environment, such as planting trees, cleaning homes, and preserving wetlands.

Protection of biodiversity

Protecting biodiversity is critical to maintaining the ecological balance and well-being of our planet. Some measures that can be taken to protect biodiversity are:

1. **Create protected areas:** Identify and protect areas of high biodiversity, such as national parks, protected areas and dying areas. This will ensure the preservation of natural ecosystems and the species that depend on them.
2. **Sustainable farming:** Adopt farming methods that respect the environment and biodiversity, such as organic farming and avoiding the use of harmful pesticides. Promote crop diversity and the preservation of traditional agricultural varieties.
3. **Conservation of natural habitats :** Protect natural habitats , such as wetlands, forests, uplands, etc. and underwater habitats. These habitats provide shelter and food for many species and help maintain biodiversity.
4. **Avoiding illegal hunting and trading:** Combating illegal hunting , fishing and trading of wild animals and plants. These activities pose a serious threat to many species and reduce biodiversity.
5. **Awareness and education:** Increase awareness and education about the importance of biodiversity among all age groups. Implement educational programs and integrate environmental education into school curricula.

These are some examples of measures that we can be taken to protect biodiversity. It is important that we work together as a society to ensure global biodiversity protection and sustainable development.

Development of sustainable tourism

Developing tourism in a sustainable manner is vital for the preservation of the environment, the protection of culture and the well-being of local communities. Below are some guiding principles for the development of sustainable tourism:

1. **Respect for the natural environment:** Promote the conservation and protection of the natural beauty, biodiversity and natural resources of the destination. Implement measures to reduce the environmental impact of tourism, such as restoring tourist areas, promoting sustainable transport and waste management.
2. **Reciprocity and cooperation with the local community:** Include local agencies and residents in the decision-making process and planning of tourism activities. Develop programs that allow the local community to benefit economically from tourism, promoting local entrepreneurship and creating jobs.
3. **Promotion of culture and local heritage:** Recognize and protect the cultural heritage and local tradition of the destination. Promote the culture through events, local festivals and experiential experiences for tourists, without causing a negative impact on the authenticity of the culture.
4. **Strengthening the local economy:** Boost the local economy by supporting local businesses, local producers and local crafts. Favor the purchase of local products and services, thereby promoting local employment and sustainable development.
5. **Tourist awareness:** Educate tourists on the importance of sustainable behavior and promote footprintless tourism practices.

Provide information about local culture, natural beauty and ways to protect them, as well as guidance on reducing resource consumption and environmental impact.

Sustainable tourism seeks the balance between tourism development, environmental protection, social welfare and cultural preservation. Achieving this balance requires cooperation between stakeholders, residents and tourists, as well as a management strategy that takes into account the sustainability and protection of the destination's resources.

Protection of the coastal zone:

Coastal zone protection is critical to maintaining the coastal ecosystem, protecting biodiversity and ensuring the sustainability of coastal areas. Below are some measures to protect the coastal zone:

1. **Beach Conservation:** Promote beach cleanliness and pollution prevention. Implement cleanup and waste management programs, as well as rules to protect sand, plants and marine species.
2. **Sustainable use of the coastal zone:** Implement regulations to preserve the coastal zone and limit undesirable activities. Prohibit the construction and construction of buildings in sensitive coastal areas and promote the restoration of coastal ecosystems.

3. **Marine life protection:** Implement measures to protect marine species and marine ecosystems. These may include establishing marine protected areas, establishing restrictions on fishing and marine activities, and raising visitor awareness of the importance of marine protection.
4. **Enhance coastal vegetation:** Avoid deforestation and diversion of coastal vegetation. Develop reforestation and restoration programs, encouraging the growth of endemic plants and endangered species.
5. **Awareness and education:** Inform visitors and local residents about the importance of coastal protection and promote sustainable behaviour. Organize educational programs, events and steering measures to raise public awareness of the threats facing the coastal zone and ways to protect it.
6. **Sustainable Coastal Activities:** Develop and promote sustainable coastal activities that respect the environment. These may include eco-hikes, water sports, marine species viewing and environmental tours, with an emphasis on sensitizing and educating participants about coastal ecology.

These are some measures that can be taken to protect the coastal zone. Cooperation between local authorities, communities, businesses and visitors is important to achieve sustainable tourism and ensure coastal protection.