

Habitat

Coastal dunes with Juniperus species are widespread along the sandy coasts of 8 countries

of Southern and Western Europe, mainly on Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines. In Greece, it can be found in 16 Natura 2000 sites mainly in the South, the Aegean islands and Crete. This rare and beautiful habitat has been classified as a "priority habitat" (code 2250*) by the 92/43 Habitat Directive which means types of habitats in danger of disappearance of which the Community has a particular responsibility for their conservation.

The two Juniperus species growing in this habitat are Juniperus macrocarpa and Juniperus phoenicea. The presence of other shrubs and herbs adapted to grow in such an unfavorable environment forms another aspect of interesting vegetation.





Threats

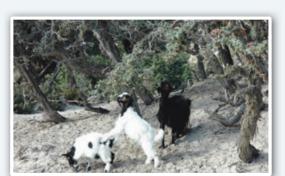
Over the last decades, coastal dunes with Juniperus spp. have

been subjected to severe anthropogenic pressure and are mainly threatened by uncontrolled tourism growth, lack of public awareness, forest fires, grazing and littering.

The above-mentioned threats in combination with the restricted natural regenaration of the Juniperus spp. and climate change which is expected to affect all natural ecosystems, confirmed the need to undertake concrete conservation and management actions in order to protect and to ensure the long-term sustainability of this priority habitat.



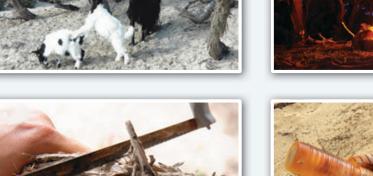














Dear visitors, the following practices would minimize the negative impact on the environment and maintain the natural beauty of the habitat.



Don't cut juniper tree branches. Even if they seem dry, do not cut tree branches for firewood, as these branches allow sand trapping encouraging further dune formation.



Collect your rubbish. If you've carried it in, carry it out. Don't burn or bury rubbish, and if you come across other people's rubbish, do the environment a favor: take it with you and dispose it correctly in the appropriate rubbish bins.



Walk on established paths. To prevent damage on vegetation and to reduce soil erosion, please, walk on established paths, where possible.



Avoid lighting fires. Juniper is not a fire-resistant species and it does not regenerate after fire. Do not light fires; there is always a risk of fire. In case of emergency call 199.



Respect your fellow visitors and the local community. Keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid disturbing others, respect the privacy, cultural heritage, habits and traditions of local community.

Upon leaving, take with you your experiences and memories. Leave behind **ONLY** your **footprints**!

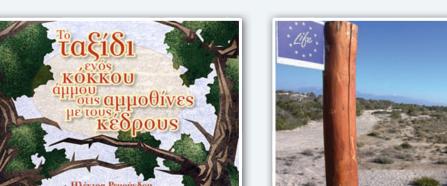
Project **JUNICOAST** is a European project implemented in the framework

of the LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity program. JUNICOAST aims to promote and enable the long term conservation of the coastal dunes with Juniperus spp. habitats in Greece by consolidating a knowledge base for its protection, restoration and monitoring, by halting present natural and anthropogenic threats and implementing actions for its protection and restoration.

The project includes

- **9** preparatory actions investigating the biotic and abiotic factors that influence the habitat structure and quality
- **8** concrete conservation actions targeting the main natural and anthropogenic threats
- 7 public awareness and dissemination actions and
- **6** project **operation** and **monitoring actions**





A journey on coastal dunes with Junipers — Fairy



unicoast

Creation of embryonic dunes





Enhancement of *Juniperus* natural regeneration



Main path delineation

Ενημέρωση επισκεπτών

On-site environmental education campaign



www.junicoast.gr - info@junicoast.gr Budget: 1.501.210 € - E.C. Finance (LIFE): 75% - Co-finance: 25% Duration: 56 months (January 2009 – August 2013) Contact: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Of Chania (MAICh), P.O. Box 85, Chania, Crete, 73100, Greece Tel.: +30 28210 35000 (x577), Fax: +30 28210 35001







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