



ACTION PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE UP TO 2030

SUMMARY

For Bodossaki Foundation, good environmental conservation is a fundamental prerequisite for the country's sustainable economic life, for social well-being and for public health. Closely linked to the Action Plan for Public Health in the 21st century, which was presented in March 2022, the Action Plan for Environment and Climate aims at encouraging a universal social and political alliance for environmental conservation and climate stability.

As pointed out in the action plan, access by all people to a healthy environment is an institutional obligation and a commitment, under the global commitments of all countries worldwide. Ultimately, however, the conservation of the natural environment and of biodiversity, as well as the attainment of climate stability, are the foundations of social prosperity, public health and financial viability.

The Action Plan is organised in seven main sections, which focus on the major environmental challenges currently facing our generation and expected to also face the next one:

1. Climate stability
2. Conservation of biodiversity
3. Clean air
4. Healthy soils and clean waters
5. Circular economy and conservation of natural resources
6. Human health and the state of the environment
7. Active Civil Society



Each section presents the existing data and puts forward guideline proposals for improving the country's performance and achieving a coherent and effective environmental and climate policy. Viewed in their entirety, these proposals form a package of cross-cutting reforms, aimed at unlocking the country's best forces for a climate-neutral and ecologically sustainable future. It should also be noted that the close link between good environmental conditions and human health is highlighted and discussed in all sections.

The Action Plan for Environment and Climate captures a “snapshot” of the state of the environment in Greece today and concludes with proposals for cross-cutting reforms that will help achieve the desired levels of environmental conservation. A focal point of the working group's discussions, as well as a declared wish of Bodossaki Foundation, is to showcase Greece as a leading innovator in highlighting good practices for tackling major environmental problems, by enhancing scientific research, making environmental data openly and publicly available, and promoting the meaningful and active engagement of society.

In the final section, the action plan puts forward 10 cross-cutting reforms, expected to contribute to the formation of a coherent and effective national environmental policy. The proposed reforms are organised based on the pillars that are essential for such a scope, namely:

the *scientific*, the *political*, the *social*, the *institutional* and the *financial* pillar.

The main horizontal proposals of the action plan are the following:

1. Holding of two debates in the Parliament annually, at the level of party leaders, on the country's progress in all environmental protection areas, on the degree of achievement of the sustainability indicators and on the progress made towards climate neutrality.
2. Establishment of an independent environmental authority to strengthen the mechanism of environmental inspections and the verification of compliance with the environmental laws and regulations.
3. Completion of spatial planning and abolition of off-plan construction.
4. Sound legislation, with emphasis on simplicity, clarity, scientific documentation of the regulations introduced, and broad and transparent consultation.
5. Establishment of a National Environment Agency, which may evolve from existing relevant public institutions. This Agency will be vested with increased responsibilities for covering all areas of environmental protection and climate change, as well as the scientific contribution in the public dialogue with the data that are necessary for informed decision-making.
6. Establishment of a network of local environmental quality observatories and public disclosure and availability, using open databases, of all data on environmental quality and the lifestyle and financial activities' footprint on natural ecosystems.
7. Establishment, backed by cross-party consensus, of an enhanced framework for consultations and for achieving the effective engagement of society in the decision-making process.
8. Development of a framework for environmental education, which will highlight the experiential familiarisation with nature and with environmental technologies.
9. Establishment of a system of “green” indicators, which will be presented annually as part of the State Budget.
10. Clear shift of public investment policies to supporting climate-neutral activities with low environmental footprint.

