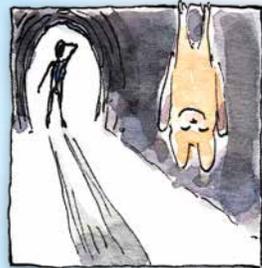
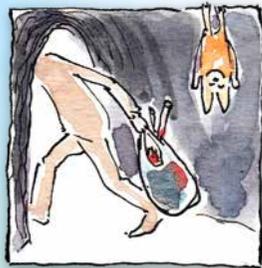


Are you visitors?



Stay close to the entrance and leave the rest of the cave to its inhabitants.

Limit the time you spend inside the cave so that you minimize the disturbance.



Take your trash with you when you leave the cave.

Do not destroy the stalactites, let the other visitors enjoy them as well.



Are you stakeholders?



Dispose of your garbage in trash dumps, not at the entrance of the cave.

Do not pollute or overexploit water streams that end in caves, do not destroy the soil above them.



Do not alter cave entrances, their inhabitants may not be able to adapt.



LIFE GRECABAT (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000522)



www.lifegrecabat.eu ■ www.facebook.com/lifegrecabat

The LIFE17 NAT/GR/000522 - LIFE GRECABAT «Greek Caves and Bats: Management Actions and Change of Attitude» project aims to:

1. Improve, restore and protect 13 caves and other bat roosting sites. Collect scientific data for caves with field trips and advanced monitoring systems.
2. Enhance the legal framework for the protection and management of bats and caves by preparing Action Plans, by marking significant caves and by building small shelters.
3. Change public environmental behavior with seminars, workshops, cave field trips and the publication of good management guidelines.
4. Work together with volunteers to promote citizen science for cave monitoring and the installation of advanced, early warning systems for caves.
5. Raise public awareness with events, publications, TV spots, explanatory signs, learning activities, virtual reality applications etc.
6. Propose and present management methods and practices for wider implementation.
7. Promote environmental tourism by developing and presenting two working hypotheses for implementation by local businesses

The duration of the project is four years (01/09/2018-28/02/2023).

It is 60% funded by the European Commission's LIFE NATURE funding instrument.

It is co-funded by the Green Fund and self-owned beneficiary contributions.

With the support of A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation.

Implemented by: ■ the Natural History Museum of Crete – University of Crete

■ the Hellenic Institute of Speleological Research

■ ATEPE ecosystem management

■ the Ministry of Environment and Energy ■ the Green Fund.



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
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atepe - ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



ΠΡΑΣΙΝΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ
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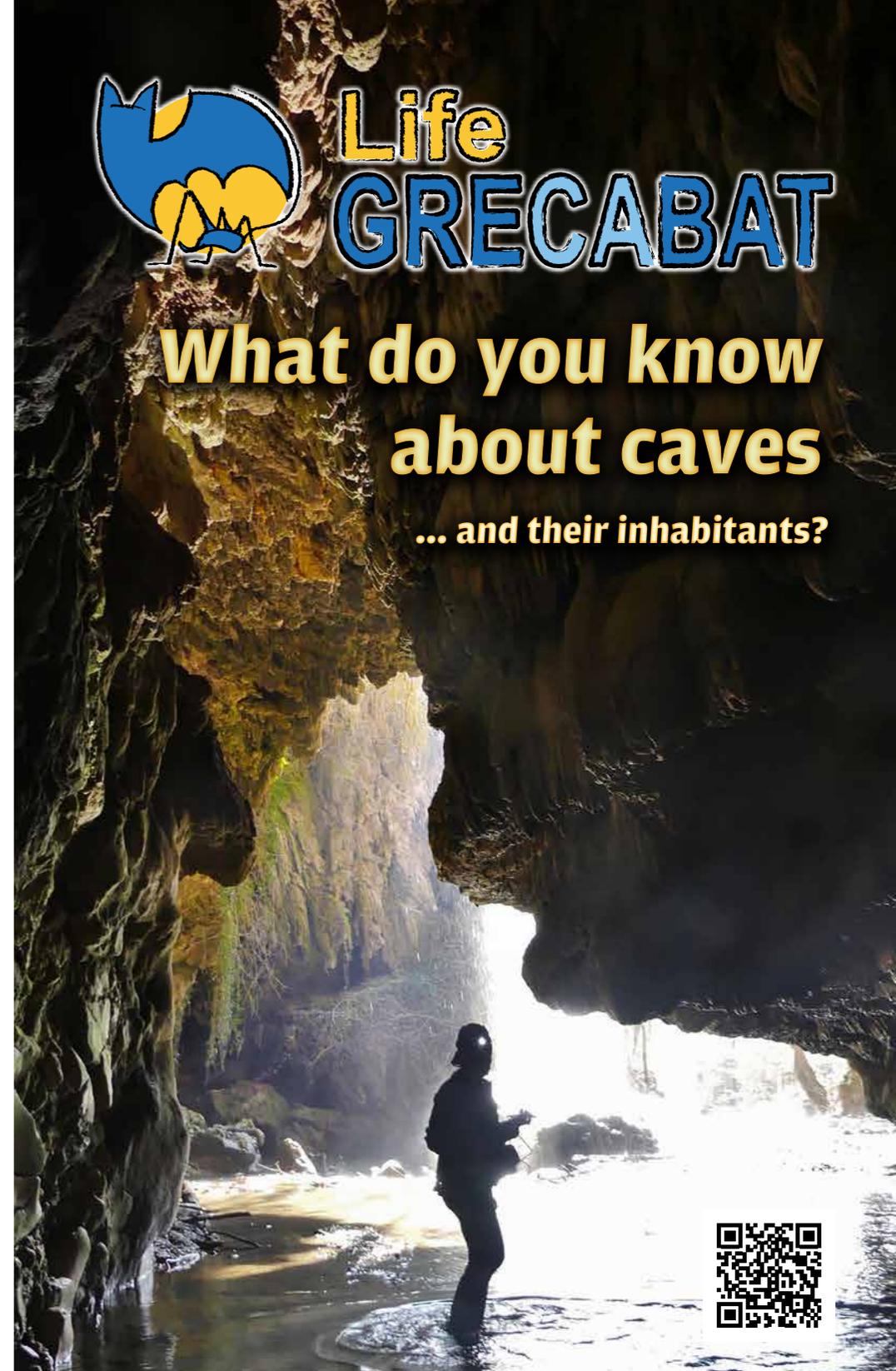
Texts and drawings by Vassili Hatzivassanis ■ Photos by Artemis Kafkaletou-Diez ■ Graphic design by Anis Vidalis



Life GRECABAT

What do you know about caves

... and their inhabitants?



Life GRECABAT



LIFE GRECABAT (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000522)

Cofunded by the European Commission and the Green Fund.

Supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



What do you know about caves?

- Did you know that caves form in limestone?
- Did you know that they are formed by water falling from mountains all the way to the sea...and our glass?
- Did you know they date back hundreds of thousands of years and that the animals that dwell in them are of the same age?
- Did you know that a cave is like a remote island for cave-dwelling invertebrates, which do not fly like bats?



What do you know about bats?

- Did you know there are 1,300 species of bats in the world, each of them with their own habits and needs?
- Did you know that a bat eats hundreds of insects every night?
- Did you know they find their prey using echolocation (sonar) by squeaking and listening to the echo bouncing off from insects and objects?
- Did you know they need dark and secluded shelters to sleep, spend the winter and raise their young?
- Did you know most of them are threatened by habitat degradation and careless cave explorers?



What do you know about cave fauna?

- Did you know that almost 400 endemic invertebrate species live exclusively in one or more caves in Greece?
- Did you know that cave-dwelling invertebrates (beetles, snails, millipedes, isopods, amphipods etc.) have become adapted to live in the dark, having lost their color and eyes, and navigate around by using massive sensory antennae?
- Did you know that none of the cave-dwelling invertebrates can survive outside the caves?
- Did you know that cave-dwelling invertebrates feed on bat guano and dead animal or plant matter?
- Did you know that by altering cave habitats (with lights, opening entrances, trash etc.), we are threatening invertebrates because they can't migrate?

