



BIOFRAG research topic: habitat use of the endangered endemic Cretan Capricorn and impact of domestic goats

The **Agrimi** - the most important mammal is the Cretan Capricorn (*Capra aegagrus-cretica*) which lives in the White Mountains and the Samaria Gorge (the National Park of Samaria) as well as on uninhabited rocky islets of the area. More commonly the male is called 'agrimi' and the female 'sanada'.

Problem: Due to increasing livestock population (goats) the Capricorn population become threatened because of hybridization. As the Capricorn is difficult to locate little is known of their actual habitat use during the different seasons. It is of uppermost importance to get more insight in their behavior and distribution to be able to locate 'contact-zones' with the 'escaped' domesticated goats to be able to manage the situations to prevent hybridization with the goats and save the population.

There are 2 main research questions:
What is the actual habitat use of the Capricorn over different seasons?
How and when do the home ranges of the Capricorn and domesticated goats overlap?

Data: Since spring this year a number of Capricorns are equipped with gps-telemetry to be able to get more insight in their distribution and habitat use. Lots of gps-data will be available for analysis, together with habitat/vegetation change using hyper-temporal NDVI. Livestock management (goat movements) can be analyzed with the help of livestock statistics and farmers interviews.

Fieldwork will be in Crete in cooperation with staff of the University of Crete/Crete National History Museum.

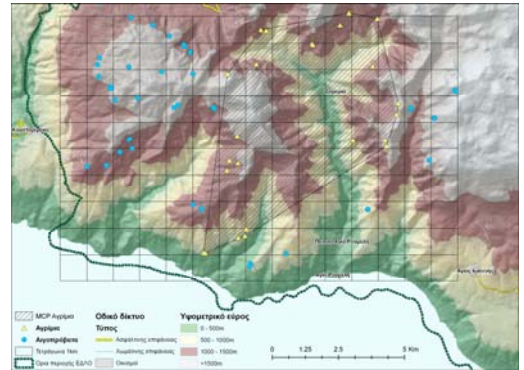
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Cretan Capricorn



Habitat of the Cretan Capricorn and goat locations (yellow and blue dots)



Gps-collars



Tracking Capricorns Tracking data