

Curriculum Vitae

MICHAEL VRAHNAKIS

(27 June 2022)



Personal Data

Name/Surname	MICHAEL VRAHNAKIS
Citizenship	Hellenic
Date of Birth	17 October 1964
Status	Member of Academic Staff of the Department of Forestry & Wood and Design Sciences, University of Thessaly Full Professor in «Rangeland Science»
Working address	(a) Dept. of Forestry & Wood and Design Sciences University of Thessaly V. Griva 11, 13 GR-43131 Karditsa GREECE (b) Transition Council of former TEI of Thessaly University of Thessaly GR-41110 Larissa GREECE
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A. Degrees

- B.Sc. from Dept. of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece (1988).
- Ph.D. from Dept. of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece (2000).

B. Academic experience (1996-today)

Pre-graduate studies

Prof. M. Vrachnakis has a long academic experience. He served as member of academic staff in several Universities and Institutes in Greece.

1996 – 2008: Part-time lecturer in (a) Dept. of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, (b) Technological Educational Institute of Kavala, Greece, (c) Technological Educational Institute of Lamia, Greece, (d) Technological Educational Institute of Larissa, Greece.

2008 – today: Member of the permanent academic staff of Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Larissa (2008). Full professor (2017). After structural changes TEI of Larissa was merged with University of Thessaly (2019). Full professor in the Department of Forestry, & Wood and Design Sciences, University of Thessaly (2019).

Pre-graduate subjects: Rangeland Ecology, Rangeland Management, Biodiversity and Assessment of Natural Ecosystems, Agroforestry

Post-graduate subject: Management of Pharmaceutical and Poisonous Plants of Hellenic Flora

Lectures abroad (EU Erasmus+ exchange programme):

- North Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Joensuu, Finland (20-27 February 2011)
- Ingeniería del Medio Agronómico y Forestal, Ingenierías Agrarias, University of Extremadura, Badajoz, Spain (25 February - 02 March 2013, 03-07 February 2020)
- Dept. of Biology and Technologies of Living Systems, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University, Tula, Russia (13-22 June 2016, 29 June - 05 July 2018, 14-22 June 2019)
- Universidade Estadual Do Centro-Oeste (UNICENTRO), Irati, Brazil (15-25 November 2019)
- Armenian National Agrarian University, Yerevan, Armenia (17-22 March 2022)

Lifelong Learning Programmes (LLP) / Summer School:

- Project Triptolemos (LLP), Hellenic Ministry of Education
 - 2014: «Sustainable Entrepreneurship of Milk Production and Processing Units with Emphasis on Product Safety, Quality and Innovation»
 - 2018: «Multifunctional Forest Species Crops»
- Summer School, Society for the Protection of Prespa, Greece 2016: «Management of Silvopastoral Ecosystems»

Post-graduate studies

- Prof. M. Vrachnakis is the founder and director of the M.Sc. programme “*Multifunctional Management of Natural Ecosystems and Bio-economy* (abbr. POLYVIO)” which runs since September 2020 in the Dept. of Forestry, Wood Sciences and Design, University of Thessaly.
- Prof. M. Vrachnakis supervises one Ph.D. student and was in the 3-members Advisory Committee of one Ph.D. which has completed.

C. Research Experience

C1. Laboratory of Rangeland Science and Management of Protected Areas

Prof. M. Vrachnakis is the vice-director of the Laboratory of Rangeland Science and Management of Protected Areas in the Dept. of Forestry and Wood & Design Sciences in the city of Karditsa, Greece. The Laboratory was recently reorganized, upgraded and improved by the provision of new training and laboratory equipment. The Laboratory is fully operational, continuously improving and covering the educational and research needs on Rangeland Ecology, Rangeland Management, Biodiversity, Management of Protected Areas.

C2. Coordination of research projects

From 2008 onwards, Prof. M. Vrachnakis coordinated and supervised as lead researcher of **ten (10)** national and international research projects related to the management of rangeland resources.

Indicatively (5 research projects):

1. **Inventory of riparian forest and pseudo-alpine grassland and forest vegetation in the Prespa Region of Greece and North Macedonia** (01/09/2009 – 31/07/2010).
2. **Recording, Evaluation and Geographic Mapping of Rangeland and Forest Habitat Types of the Natura 2000 Network Areas: "Prespa National Park (GR 1340001)" and "Varnountas Mountains (GR 1340003)** (08/06/2010 – 30/11/2011).
3. **Research on Restoration of Silvopastoral Systems of the EU Priority Habitat Type *9562 Greek Juniper Woods (*Juniperetum excelsae*) by re-Introducing and Organizing Extensified Livestock Husbandry** (22/08/2013 – 30/06/2017).
4. **Special Grazing Management Plan in Rangeland and Forest Habitat Types of the Prespa National Park** (27/11/2015 – 31/01/2016).
5. **Project No. 3: Implementation of Special Environmental Studies and Management Plans of EU Natura 2000 Sites of Western and Central Macedonia** (24/07/2019 – 21/04/2021).

C3. Participation in research projects

From 1996 onwards, Prof. M. Vrachnakis participated as fellow researcher in **twenty-one (21)** national and international research projects related to the management of rangeland resources.

Indicatively (5 research projects):

1. **Rangeland Development of the Zone of Sudanian Savanna of Sokoto State of Nigeria which is Prone to Extinction.** E.U. - STD3 NoT53*-CT.91-0011 (1996).

2. **Husbandry Systems and Sustainable Social/Environmental Quality in Less Favoured Areas.** E.U. - FAIR1. PL95 0481 (1998-1999).
3. **Desertification Risk Assessment in Silvopastoral Mediterranean Ecosystems, (DRASME).** E.U. – IC18-CT98-0392 (1999-2002).
4. **GEORANGE – Geomatics in the assessment and sustainable management of Mediterranean rangelands.** E.U. – EVK2 –2000 – 22089 (2001-2004).
5. **VISTA - Vulnerability of ecosystem services to land use change in traditional agricultural landscapes (2002-2004).** E.U. - EVK2 - 2001 - 000356 (2003).

C4. Rangeland Management and Monitoring Plans

From 1996 onwards, Prof. M. Vrachnakis participated in the accomplishment of in **twenty-eight (28)** national and international Rangeland Management and Monitoring Plans.

Indicatively (5 plans):

1. **Development of a Monitoring System for Floristic Diversity of Rangelands of Protected Area of Grammos Mountain.** Hellenic Ministry of Spatial Planning. (2003-2004).
2. **Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Greece - Development of a Transboundary Monitoring System for the Prespa Park area - Expert Study.** UNDP – GEF Prespa Regional Project (2006-2011).
<http://prespa.iwlearn.org/transboundary-monitoring-system/transboundary-monitoring-system/second-stage-full-study-2008-09/expert-study-development-of-a-transboundary-monitoring-system-for-the-prespa-park-area/>
3. **Recommended Strategic Plan for Maintaining Favourable Conservation Status of Natura 2000 Areas in the Axios Delta in Greece (2009-2013).** Axios Loudias Aliakmonas Estuaries Management Authority, Greece (2009-2013).
<http://www.conservationgateway.org/Files/Pages/recommended-strategic-pla.aspx>
4. **Demonstration of the Biodiversity Action Planning approach, to benefit local biodiversity on an Aegean island, Skyros – Action A.2: Action Plan for Agropastoral Ecosystems.** Project LIFE09NAT/GR/000323 (2012).
http://www.skyroslife.gr/PRIImages/EditorImages/PDF/Agro_Pastoral_Action_Plan.pdf
5. **Contribution of Valonia Oak Silvopastoral Systems in Rural Development and Nature of Western Greece.** Hellenic Ministry of Education (2012-2015).

C5. Publications

A. Ph.D. thesis

Vrachnakis M.S. 2000. Mathematical Models in the Study of Rangeland Vegetation Dynamics, 173 p. Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

B. Publications with Citation Index (according to Science Citation Index και το Conference Proceedings Citation Index του Thomson Reuters Web of Science)

Forty-two (42) publications.

Indicatively (5 recent publications):

1. Antoneli V., M. Pulido, T. de Oliveira, J. Lozano-Parra, J.A. Bednarz, **M. Vrahnakis** and R.G. Marín. **2020**. Partial grazing exclusion as strategy to reduce land degradation in the traditional Brazilian faxinal system: field data and farmers' risk perception. *Sustainability*, 12, 7456, doi:10.3390/su12187456.
2. **Vrahnakis M.**, S. Nasiakou and K. Soutsas. **2021**. Public perception on measures needed for the ecological restoration of Grecian Juniper silvopastoral woodlands. *Agroforestry Systems*, 95: 963-975 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-017-0163-9>.
3. Mamanis G., **M. Vrahnakis**, D. Chouvardas, S. Nasiakou and V. Kleftoyanni. **2021**. Land use demands for the CLUE-S spatiotemporal model in an agroforestry perspective. *Land*, 10, 1097. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10101097>
4. Nasiakou S., **M. Vrahnakis**, D. Chouvardas, G. Mamanis and V. Kleftoyanni. **2022**. Land use changes for investments in silvoarable agriculture projected by the CLUE-S spatio-temporal model. *Land*, 11, 598. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050598>
5. Kokkora M., **M. Vrahnakis** and V. Kleftoyanni. **2022**. Soil quality characteristics of traditional agroforestry systems in Mouzaki area, central Greece. *Agroforestry Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-022-00746-7>.

C. Publications in proceedings of national and international conferences (peer-reviewed)

Thirty-four (34) publications.

Indicatively (5 publications):

1. **Vrahnakis M.S.**, K. Iovi and M.M. Berdeli. **2003**. Management of the pseudoalpine rangelands of the Grammos mountain. *In*: Proceedings of the 3rd Panhellenic Rangeland Congress.
2. **Vrahnakis M.S.**, R. Fanlo and V.P. Papanastasis. **2005**. Effects of goat grazing on maquis-type shrublands. *In*: Proceedings of International Symposium on Animal Production and Natural Resources Utilisation in the Mediterranean Mountain Areas pp. 120-123. 5-7 June 2003, Ioannina, Greece.
3. **Vrahnakis M.S.** and A. Kontogianni. **2006**. Empirical models for forecast of potential production and cover of above ground biomass in relation to climatic parameters in the subalpine rangelands of Mt. Tymfristos, Greece. *In*: Proceedings of the 3rd Panhellenic Rangeland Congress.
4. **Vrahnakis M.S.** and V.P. Papanastasis. **2008**. From range condition to rangeland health: new perspectives in the qualitative assessment of mediterranean grasslands. *In*: Proceedings of the 6th Panhellenic Rangeland Congress.
5. **Vrahnakis M.**, Y. Kazoglou, G. Fotiadis, S. Nasiakou, C. Evangelou and P. Kakouros. **2015**. Incorporating grazing as a restoration tool in priority habitat types. *In*: Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Applied Innovation, Arta, Greece.

D. Books / Technical reports

Eleven (11) publications.

Indicatively (5 publications):

1. **Vrahnakis M.S.** and V.P. Papanastasis. **2004**. Technical Report for a Monitoring System of Floristic Diversity of Rangelands of Protected Area of Grammos Mountain. 54 p. Hellenic Ministry of Spatial Planning.
2. **Vrahnakis M.**, G. Fotiadis and I. Kazoglou. **2012**. EU Habitat Types of Prespa Protected Area. Society for the Protection of Prespa, 103 p., ISBN: 978-618-80029-0-6.

3. **Vrahnakis M. 2015.** Rangeland Science. 229 p. Hellenic Ministry of Education, Kallipos project, ISBN: 978-960-603-207-3.
4. Gündoğan B., B. Binbaşaran Tüzysüzöğlü, A. Özkil, E. Mitrovic, M.C.E. Rizzo, I. Ausiello, **M. Vrachnakis** and Martin Warren. **2019.** Nature Host Guide Book. T. Can and B. Cengel (eds). Nature for Youth and City Project, AGREEMENT n° 2016-2-TR01-KA205-036224. Funded by Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 205 Capacity Building in the Field of Youth. Nature Conservation Centre, Ankara, Turkey.
5. Tsaroucha E.M, Y. Kazoglou and **M. Vrahnakis. 2020.** English for Forestry. Disigma Pbs, Thessaloniki, Greece, ISBN 978-618-202-022-7, 168 p.

E. Book chapters

Nine (9) publications.

Indicatively (5 publications):

1. Kazoglou Y.E., **M.S. Vrahnakis** and G.P. Fotiadis. **2012.** Wet grasslands of Lake Mikri Prespa, NW Greece: decline, restoration, maintenance and monitoring. *In:* S. Collins and G. Beaufoy (eds) *Improving the Targeting, Monitoring and Management of Semi-natural Grasslands across Europe*, Annex 7.2. EFNCP, BCE.
http://www.efncp.org/download/grasslands_report_2012.pdf
2. **Vrahnakis M.S.**, M. Janisová, S. Rusina, P. Török, S. Venn and J. Dengler. **2013.** The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG): stewarding Europe’s most diverse habitat type. - *In:* H. Baumbach (ed.): *Steppenlebensräume Europas - Gefährdung, Erhaltungsmaßnahmen und Schutz.* Erfurt. pp. 417-434.
3. Ambarli D., **M. Vrahnakis**, S. Burrascano, A. Naqinezhad and M. Pulido Fernández. **2018.** Grasslands of the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East and their management. *In:* V.R. Squires, J. Dengler, H. Feng and L. Hua (eds) *Grasslands of the World: Diversity, Management and Conservation.* CRC Press, Boca Raton, US. ISBN 9781498796262.
4. Guarino R., **M. Vrahnakis**, M.P. Rodriguez Rojo, L. Giouga and S. Pasta. **2020.** Grasslands and shrublands of the Mediterranean region. *In:* M. Goldstein and D. DellaSala (eds in chief) “The Encyclopedia of the World’s Biomes”. Elsevier. Book ISBN: 978-012-8160-96-1.
5. **Vrahnakis M.** and Y. Kazoglou. Mountain habitats dynamics under changing grazing management schemes. **2022.** *In:* U. Schickhoff, R.B. Singh and S. Mal (eds) *Mountain Landscapes in Transition: Effects of Land Use and Climate Change*, pp. 575-591, Elsevier, Amsterdam, NL, Book ISBN 978-3-030-70237-3, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-70238-0>.

F. Reports of research projects

Eighteen (18) publications.

Indicatively (5 publications):

1. **Vrahnakis M.S.** and G. Fotiadis. **2009.** Inventory and Assessment of Riparian Forest Vegetation of the Prespa Area of Greece and FYROM with the use of the (i) QBR (Qualitat del Bosc de Ribera / Riparian Forest Quality) Index, and (ii) Riparian Macrophyte Protocol (RMP). Final Report. TEI of Larissa, Society for the Protection of Prespa, 84 p. (+ Annexes).
2. Giannakis, N., D. Bousbouras, D. Argyropoulos, I. Kazoglou, P. Kakouros, D. Saliaris, M. Nalmpantidou, G. Fotiadis, **M. Vrahnakis**, A. Georganta, G. Katsadorakis, Z. Demathas and B. Tsigkas. **2010.** Management Plan of Prespa National Park. Prefecture of Florina, Prespa National

- Park Management Authority.
3. **Vrahnakis M.S. 2012.** Inventory, Record and Evaluation of Reedbed Floristic Diversity of Albanian Micro Prespa Lake. Final Report. TEI of Larissa, Society for the Protection of Prespa.
 4. Fremuth W., S. Shumka, T. Lako, T. Dieterich, L. Shuka, M. Jankovic, O. Duma, V. Male, G. Pausch, M. Quirjo, M. Jungmeier, D. Kitanova, W. Süß, A. Schuschnigg, D. Lütkemöller, J.-M. Jockheck, G. Salja, T. Dimalexis, I. Koutseri, G. Fotiadis, **M.S. Vrahnakis**, S. Giokas, S. Kazantzidis, J. van der Winden, H. Nikolaou, O. Alexandrou, X. Pasoulas and M. Tzali. **2014.** Management Plan of Prespa National Park (Albania). Prespa National Park, 159 pp.
 5. **Vrahnakis M. 2015.** Special Grazing Management Plan of EU Forest and Rangeland Management Types in Prespa National Park. Final Report.

D. Recognition

D1. Bibliographic citations

According to *Google Scholar* the published scientific articles of M. Vrahnakis (date: **23/01/2022**) has **425** citations (h-index: 9, i10-index: 6).

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=v0UPuXgAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra>

D2. Invited speaker

From 2005 onwards, prof. M. Vrahnakis has been invited to participate in numerous national and international workshops and conferences as a plenary speaker.

Indicatively (5 invitations):

- 13^o Meeting of the FAO CIHEAM Sub-network on Mediterranean Pastures and Fodder Crops: The Contributions of Grasslands to the Conservation of the Mediterranean Biodiversity. Plenary talk to the «**SESSION IV: Improvement of Biodiversity and Methods for its Evaluation in Mediterranean Grasslands**», 7-10 April 2010, Alicante, Spain.
- Workshop during 13th International Week of North Karelia University of Applied Sciences «**Department of Forestry and Management of Natural Environment, Karditsa – GREECE: Department's profile**», 23 February 2011, Joensuu, Finland
- Workshop «**Action Plan for Rangeland Ecosystems**», LIFE09NAT/GR/000323 – «*Demonstration of the Biodiversity Action Planning approach, to benefit local biodiversity on an Aegean island, Skyros*», 11 June 2012, Skyros island.
- Workshop during the 10th Panhellenic Agriculture Exhibition «**Agroforestry Systems: An innovative "old" practice for reforming croplands within EU's CAP**», 14 February 2015, Larissa.
- Workshop «**Rangeland ecosystems of Western Macedonia: special characteristics of the rangelands of Krystallopigi**», Agriculture Co-operative - Cereals and Dairy Products, 14 December 2018, Kastoria.

D3. Reviewer in international journals

Prof. M. Vrahnakis has been invited to review numerous manuscripts to be published in international scientific journals.

Indicatively (5 journals):

- *Rangeland Ecology and Management*
- *Biodiversity and Conservation*
- *Land Degradation and Development*
- *International Journal of Environmental Monitoring and Analysis*
- *American Journal of Environmental Protection*

D4. Invitation / Participation in expert groups

- Participation in expert group for the development of ***Adaptive Management System for the Protected Area of Axios, Ludias, Aliakmon rivers***. The group convened in three rounds of workshops and by the Prespa Protected Area Management Authority, the Eurosite, the Foundation for Success, and the Hellenic Ministry of Science and Technology, 4-6 March 2008, Thessaloniki.
- National representative in the group of experts for the development of a ***Transboundary Monitoring System in the Prespa Park Area***. The group convened in two rounds of workshops, the first in Korça, Albania on 20 February 2009, and the second in Struga, North Macedonia, 15 May 2009. The workshops were supported by the Transboundary Prespa Park Authority, the Society for the Protection of Prespa, the Tour du Valat Biological Station, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- Participation in expert group for the development of the 5th Thematic Group for Strategic Planning in the topic of ***Forestry – Climate Change*** of the Special Service for the Management of the Programme "Rural Development of Greece 2007-2013" of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food (October - December 2012), Athens.
- Participation in expert group in the workshop ***Extensive Grazing in Europe – Demands to policy makers to be integrated in the next CAP reform***, 14-15 December, 2012, Hungen, Germany.
- Participation in expert group in the ***Mediterranean Natura 2000 Seminar στο Grasslands/Heaths and Scrubs Working Group***, 25-28 May 2014, Thessaloniki.
- Participation in expert group in the organization of the special Session ***The impact of grazing on soil landforms, water and biota resources” (Section BG2: Terrestrial Biosciences)***, General Assembly 2015 of the European Geosciences Union, 12-17 April 2015, Vienna, Austria.
- Participation as expert in the study visit to Greece of a group of rangeland specialists from Bulgaria, for the exchange of know-how to implement the ***Strategic Plan for management of mountain pastures on the territory of Central Balkan National Park***, 4-5 June 2015, Prespa.
- Representative of the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group and TEI of Thessaly in the Conference of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP), ***Supporting High Nature Value Farming in Europe***, Burren Winterage School 2015, 22-25 October 2015, Corofin (Co.Clare), Ireland.
- Representative of the TEI of Thessaly in the meeting academics and senior executives from China, in the TEI of Athens, 23 October 2015, Athens.
- Participation in expert group in the organization of the special Session ***The impact of grazing on land degradation: Identifying problems, causes and solutions from a global perspective***, General Assembly 2015 of the European Geosciences Union, 23-28 April 2017, Vienna, Austria.
- Contributor to the special issue: ***European Red List of Habitats. Part 2. Terrestrial and Freshwater Habitats*** – 2016, European Commission.
- Invited expert for the project ***Research on Key Technologies of Environmental Monitoring in Qilian National Park***, Academy of Water Resource Conservation Forests in Qilian Mountains, 10-24 September 2018, Zhangye, Gansu Province, China.

D5. Editor / guest editor

Prof. M. Vrachnakis participated in the editorial team of the scientific journals:

(a) ***EDGG Bulletin***, a quarterly journal published by the Eurasian (*ex-European*) Dry Grassland Group (EDGG), an official group of the International Association for Vegetation Science. (<http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm>).

(b) ***Λιβάδι (Rangeland)***, annual magazine published by the Hellenic Rangeland and Pasture Society (<http://www.elet.gr/pages/?cat=5>)

(c) ***Αγροδασικά (Agroforestry)***, six-monthly magazine published by the Hellenic Agroforestry Network (<http://www.agroforestry.gr/pages/>)

(d) Editor of the *Book Dry Grasslands of Europe: Grazing and Ecosystem Services*, 9th European Dry Grassland Meeting, co-organized by the European Dry Grassland Group and the Hellenic Rangeland and Pasture Society in Prespa, Greece, 19-23 May 2013.

Prof. M. Vrachnakis invited and served as guest editor in the editorial team of the scientific journals:

(a) ***Land Degradation and Development***: Special issue on “*The impact of grazing on land degradation: A common problem with many driving forces*”. Editor: Artemi Cerdà, Guest editors: Manuel Pulido (Spain), Valdemir Antoneli (Brazil), Warwick Badgery (Australia), **Michael Vrahnakis (Greece)**.

(b) ***Hacquetia***: Special feature on “*Biodiversity, ecology and conservation of Palaearctic grasslands*”. Editors: Stephen Venn (Finland), Orsolya Valkó (Hungary), Idoia Biurrun (Spain), Jacqueline Loos (Germany), Rocco Labadessa (Italy), **Michael Vrahnakis (Greece)**, Michal Zmihorski (Poland).

(c) ***Land Degradation and Development***: Special issue on “*Grassland Ecosystem Services: Research Advances and Future Directions for Sustainability*”. Editor: Artemi Cerdà, Guest editors: **Michael Vrahnakis (Greece)**, Manuel Pulido (Spain), Yannis Kazoglou (Greece).

D6. Participation in organizing and scientific committees in national and international conferences

Prof. M. Vrachnakis participated in the organization of numerous national conferences.

Indicatively (5 conferences):

- President of the Organizing Committee and member of the Scientific Committee of the 9th European Dry Grassland Meeting, co-organized by the European Dry Grassland Group and the Hellenic Rangeland and Pasture Society, 19-23 May 2012, Prespa, Greece.
- Member of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 10th European Dry Grassland Meeting, organized by the European Dry Grassland Group in 24-31 May 2013, Zamosć, Poland.
- Member of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 11th European Dry Grassland Meeting, organized by the European Dry Grassland Group in 5-15 June 2014, Tula, Russia.
- Member of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the 12th European Dry Grassland Meeting, organized by the European Dry Grassland Group in 23-26 May 2015, Mainz, Germany.

- Chairman and Member of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference, titled “*Networking and Best Practices for Mediterranean Grassland Habitat Types*”, organized in the framework of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process by the Mediterranean Grassland Networking Group, 29-30 May 2015, Prespa, Greece.

D7. Participation in scientific missions

Prof. M. Vrachnakis has participated in two international research missions in

- northern **Nigeria** (27 September - 3 October 1996), within the framework of the European program "**Rangeland Development of the Zone of Sudanian Savanna of Sokoto State of Nigeria which is Prone to Extinction**". E.U. - STD3 NoT53* -CT.91-0011. The purpose of the mission was to evaluate the extension of the Sahara Desert to the savanna and to collect seeds of native species for laboratory testing of their response to various environmental conditions, and
- mainland of **Greece** (July 23 – 3 August 2013) with the aim of collecting seeds of native species (mainly legumes and grasses). The mission was tripartite and consisted of (a) representatives from the Hellenic Bank of Genetic Material, (b) Margot Forde Forage Germplasm Center of AgResearch New Zealand, and (c) International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) based in Aleppo, Syria. The mission was developed with the approval of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food and was coordinated by Profs Michael Vrachnakis and Georgios Fotiadis.

E. Management of organizations

E1. Management of academic units

- From 2008-2010 Prof. M. Vrachnakis was elected **Director** of the 2nd Sector (Sec. of Ecology, Management and Protection of Natural Environment) of the Dept. of Forestry and Management of Natural Environment of TEI of Thessaly.
- From 2012-2015 Prof. M. Vrachnakis was elected **President** of the Dept. of Forestry and Management of Natural Environment of TEI of Thessaly.
- From 2015-2017 Prof. M. Vrachnakis was appointed **Vice-Rector** of TEI of Thessaly responsible for Research.
- From 2017-2019 Prof. M. Vrachnakis was elected as **Vice-Rector** of TEI of Thessaly responsible for Academic Affairs and Student Welfare.
- In 14 December 2017 Prof. M. Vrachnakis was appointed by the Hellenic Minister of Education as member of the committee responsible for the unification of TEI of Thessaly with University of Thessaly. The unification was made in 29 January 2019.
- From February 2019 Prof. M. Vrachnakis is elected member of the Transition Council of former TEI of Thessaly. The Council is responsible for the completion of the pre-graduate programs of ex-TEI of Thessaly.

E2. Governance boards of national and international scientific organizations

Prof. M. Vrachnakis

- was Cashier (2001-2002), Vice-President (2009-2010), and General Secretariat (2011-2012) of the **Hellenic Rangeland and Pasture Society**
- was a founding member and member of its Board of Directors of the **Greek Agroforestry Network** (2013-2014)
- was coordinator and member of the 5-chaired Executive Committee of the **Mediterranean Grasslands Networking Group** of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
- from 24 September 2009 up to 31 May 2019 was member of the 8-chaired Executive Committee of the **Eurasian (ex European) Dry Grassland Group** (http://www.edgg.org/about_us.htm) (1173 members, 66 countries, as of 30 December 2016), an official group of International Association for Vegetation Science (www.iavs.org), as:
 - (a) Responsible (contact person) for the Mediterranean Dry Grassland sub-group (Med-DG)
 - (b) Conference coordinator
 - (c) Policy officer