

« Drystone terraces of Lesvos islands, Greece»

Anastasia Dalaka

Laboratory of Biogeography and Ecology

Department of Geography

University of the Aegean

The Laboratory of Biogeography and Ecology of the Department of Geography, University of the Aegean has started a study on the terraces for agriculture of two islands of the Aegean archipelago, Lesvos and Samos.

This study encompasses detailed mapping of the terraced areas of the islands, considering: land use type; typology of terraces and methodology of building; terrace abandonment and effects on supporting walls, plant diversity and vegetation. All information collected from remote sensing and extensive fieldwork is inserted into a data base specifically made for this purpose.

This presentation will summarize the geographical distribution of terraces on one of the islands (Lesvos) and will highlight the major characteristics of the lesvian terraces, as mentioned above (i.e., land use, typology of terraces and supporting walls, abandonment, in relation to physical and natural characteristics of the areas concerned) and try to evaluate the lesvian landscape on the basis of terraces as the major human intervention.