



CASE STUDY ON PUBLIC PARTICIAPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION- MAKING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE DRAFT BILL ON BIODIVERSITY IN GREECE



METHODOLOGY THE GREEK OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

- OpenGov.gr was initiated by the Prime Minister's Office in October 2009
- It serves the principles of transparency, deliberation, collaboration and accountability
- It includes three initiatives:
 - Open calls for recruitment of public administration officials
 - Electronic deliberation
 - □ Labs OpenGov



Electronic deliberation

- Every piece of draft legislation or policy initiative by the government are posted in a blog prior to their submission to parliament.
- Citizens, organizations can post their comments, suggestions and criticisms article by article.
- A consultation report based on all comments is prerequisite for the submission of the draft bill to parliament



Statistical Information

October 2009-October 2012

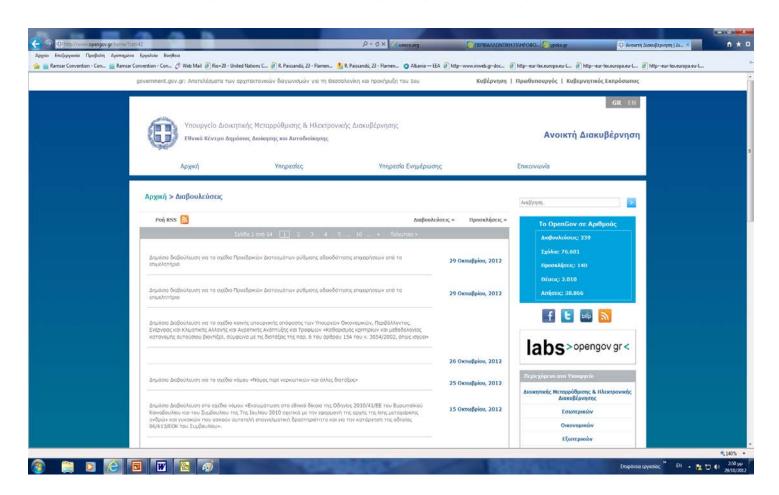
Total Number (15 Ministries):

239 Legal Acts and 76.601 Comments

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change:

54 Legal Acts & 11.257 Comments

OPENGOV.GR





Legal framework for the Protection of the Environment

Law No. 1650/1986 on the protection for the environment.

This Law provided the basis for the protection of the natural environment. Its provisions aimed at the institution of fundamental rules and the establishment of criteria and methods for the protection of the environment.

Necessity for the draft bill on biodiversity

 A rich biodiversity characterizes Greek land due to topography and climatic conditions

But

- Lack of effective protective measures
- Lack of scientific knowledge
- Environmentally damaging development

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Key objectives of the Law (1)

 Recognition of biodiversity as valuable, irreplaceable, national capital of great importance

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- Sustainable management
- Effective conservation of biodiversity



KEY OBJECTIVES (2)

- Effective application of international and EU legislation
- Incorporation of biodiversity issues in planning other policies
- Adequate knowledge of status of species and ecosystems
- Better organization of the national system of Special Protected Areas (SPA)
- Conservation of habitats, flora and fauna rare or threatened



KEY OBJECTIVES (3)

- Effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the legal framework
- awareness in society about the importance of biodiversity conservation



How is the public notified

- Press releases of the Ministry for the Environment,
 Energy and Climate Change
- Articles in newspapers and special magazines, econews on television programs
- Official ministerial documents (for co competent authorities)



Information provided - Accessibility

- The draft bill
- All comments are accessible to everyone

 Citizens, NGOs, research institutes, professional associations, enterprises, scientists, practically anyone can submit a comment



"Taking due account"

- 305 comments were submitted article by article
- All of them were evaluated by the group of legal and environmental officers that prepared the draft bill
- A consultation report was written including all comments, grouped by article

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Incorporation into the draft bill (1)

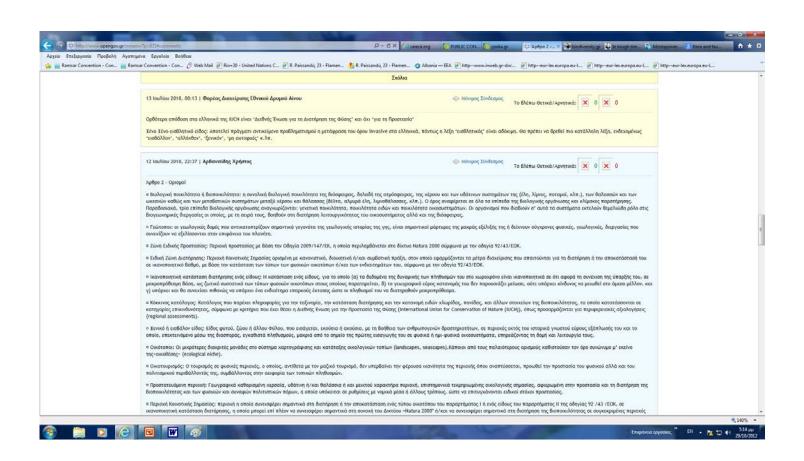
- Art 2: definitions are improved
- Art 3 -8: areas of eco development are included in national parks
- Art 9: regarding natural areas protection and management: the non creation of Tourist Development Areas is removed

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Incorporation into the draft bill (2)

- Art 10: significant flora and fauna species, the establishment of seed banking is considered
- Art 11 protection of endemic biodiversity: GMO'S for nutrition and agricultural purpose
- Art 14: new article the environmental biosafety, added after public consultation
- Art 20: socio economic conditions will be taken into account for the reduction of biodiversity degradation

Sample of Comments





Challenges & Weaknesses

Challenges

<u>Weaknesses</u>

Balancing Conflicting Interest

Large Amount of irrelevant Information

Accessibly to public consultation process only for internet users

