

NISYRIAN
DIALOGUES

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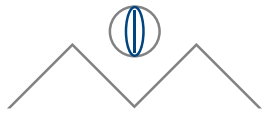


Photo: Robert Šramo

*Environmental Protection
and Sustainable Development
of small islands* **16-19
June**

Challenges & Geopolitics of Green Transition

An initiative by



GEORGIOS M. MIHALOS FOUNDATION
SUSTAINABILITY OF NISYROS

In cooperation with



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
& CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCY

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The 'dialogue' starts here

Starting this year, the "Nisyrian Dialogues" will be a biennial International Symposium on Nisyros. The momentum is ideal, and so is the location.

The "Georgios M. Mihalos Foundation" NPO brings world-class stakeholders, politicians, diplomats, scientists, religious leaders, artists and more, to the World's first Symposium in a place where awe-inspiring might and glory is visible to the bare eye, on the verge of an active volcanic crater, in the Nisyrian caldera. Addressing climate change and sustainability.

The first "Nisyrian Dialogues" Symposium aims to explore the challenges of achieving successful environmental protection and sustainable development of the remote small islands in Greece, and specifically how geoparks and protected areas can become tools for development and growth.

Our symposium seeks to create an example that can inspire many other similarly situated islands around the world to advance the causes of sustainability, and craft innovative, alternative, but still profitable touristic models.

Themes of the 1st 'Nisyrian Dialogues' include:

- The Green, Just and Sustainable Development of small islands

- The Green Transition of Nisyros and the advantages deriving from joining the GR-eco Islands Initiative
- UNESCO's Geoparks and Protected Areas as Growth Tools
- The candidacy of Nisyros to join UNESCO's Global Geopark Network
- The co-existence and interaction of Touristic and Agricultural activity
- The role of Greece in global environmental developments and the discourse about the future of the planet

This border island, an active volcano that emerged two hundred thousand years ago, has been inhabited since the Neolithic era. This carries a strong symbolism of human-nature symbiosis. Therefore, it is the ideal scenery to ignite a creative and productive 'Dialogue' regarding sustainability, biodiversity, and explore the possibilities of creating a better future.





The venue

Located in the south Aegean Sea, the island of Nisyros lies between the islands of Kos and Rhodes. Nisyros is not just a volcanic island; it is itself the volcano.

According to Greek Mythology, the island was created during the Battle of the Giants (Gigantomachy). Poseidon, while pursuing the giant Polyvotis, detached an enormous piece of land from the island of Kos and launched it against him, crushing and trapping him below it. Since then, when the giant roars from the bowels of the earth the island trembles.

Historically the island was created 160,000 years ago after great eruptions. Today's caldera was formed by two eruptions 25,000 and 20,000 years ago. The first mention of the island comes from Homer's Iliad, where he mentions that Nisyros participated with a ship in the expedition against Troy (circa 1180 B.C.).

Above the island's capital stands the strong basalt walls of the ancient acropolis, built in the 4th century B.C.

Nisyros, due to its volcanic nature, is in most part a moonscape, which gives it its unique character, making it the ideal Aegean hideaway.

An open geological museum and a vibrant natural laboratory; an island that emerged from cooling magma, a fact that is still shaping topographic, faunal, and floral diversity and uniqueness.

A unique place where one can come to admire and study, teach and be taught, about the most intensive activities of our planet.

The island's volcanism, its geomorphology and its biodiversity have offered Nisyros a candidacy for UNESCO Geoparks.

Secluded and unique, by choice of man and nature

This hidden treasure of the Aegean lies well off the beaten track; The atmosphere on the island has remained untouched; one can feel back in time when strolling in the labyrinth paths of the villages enjoying the endless horizon and the dark blue sea crashing against its rugged shores covered with black basalt stones.

The familiar sense of the unreal

Visiting Nisyros is a unique experience. There are numerous craters around the caldera. Today one can hike along the rim of each and every one of them, admiring the yellowish sulphuric soil and the pinkish red volcanic stones while venturing into the caldera. The locals, out of pride and awe have given names to them. The three most prominent of them:

Stephanos, Alexandros and Polyvotis. Some say that doing so, will pacify them and suspend their might.

When descending into the moonscape of the enormous crater Stephanos, one may experience a feeling of delving into the unknown. A sense of walking on a yellow-streaked, ashen planet, with bubbling pits, enormous cracks, and a powerful odor of sulphur, creating a peculiarly familiar experience of the unreal.

A unique venue, and a globally powerful symbol

The volcanic scenery touches the human psyche in an unmatched way; it symbolises nature's dominance and the need for man to accord with it. That is why it has been chosen to become the ideal venue for the biennial symposium 'Nisyrian Dialogues'.

***This is what Nisyros is about:
A living symbol of the choice of man to harmoniously live in places where Mother Earth expresses its might the most. It will be a first to hold a 'dialogue' in such a place.***



GEORGIOS M. MIHALOS FOUNDATION
SUSTAINABILITY OF NISYROS

We seek to create a framework to spur creative thinking through discussion and disseminate reflections and innovative proposals on the definition and the implementation of public policy, public and private development. By cooperating with local authorities and by reaching out to the Central Government and global organisations, we strive to shed light on international events and geopolitical issues under the scope of green transition and sustainability

Dear friends,

The Georgios M. Mihalos Foundation for the Sustainability of Nisyros NPO was founded in 2021 and aspires to be an international center for exchange of views on environment, cultural heritage and sustainability.

This idea for my ancestral remote island of Nisyros, is being implemented along with close friends, who share my vision for the advancement and sustainable development of the island and are now the members of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Nisyros. A unique place. Island and volcano. Natural beauty and culture. At the edge of the Aegean. On the barren line. Still, where man, land and sea found a fertile corner to grow.

The Foundation's aim is to protect and promote Nisyros' natural and cultural heritage, to make them a subject of international reflection and research within the context of sustainable development.

To highlight the island's local characteristics, displaying every element of its uniqueness, aiming to protect its natural environment and promoting the well-being of its inhabitants.

To enrich the public debate by creating a politico-economic content with views, thoughts and reflections, to be of use to the academic and scientific communities, decision-makers, public opinion makers, representatives of civil society and political leaders, thus contributing to education and creating new business opportunities, for the region's environmentally sustainable development making Nisyros an attractive location for settlement and relocation.

The creation of an international center for exchanging views and fruitful dialogue on issues of environment, cultural heritage and sustainable development, with the volcanic island of Nisyros at its core, arose from a personal need. It's a way of expressing gratitude to my father, after whom the foundation is named. My father deeply respected this place on earth, its every corner, every path and every stone.

The five-year Memorandum of Cooperation, signed by Georgios M. Mihalos Foundation NPO and the Organization for Natural Environment and Climate Change (NECCA), is catalytic in achieving the goal of promoting all actions highlighting the island's unique volcanic environment and emphasizing local community growth and development.

Panagiotis (Peter) G. Mihalos
Founder & President

