

The hazel orchards in the village of Polystypos, Polystypos Community Council



The village of Polystypos has a long tradition of hazel orchard cultivation. As this practice has declined in recent years, measures have been taken to support local farmers: old footpaths have been extensively repaired using traditional dry stone construction methods. The project not only contributes to the diversification and to the development of the economy, but also improves environmental awareness, tourism and recreation. By using the traditional techniques of dry stone construction, the farmers have the opportunity to expand their activities through increased accessibility to the hazel orchards, while preserving the beauty of the landscapes and contributing to biodiversity. Local people were involved in every stage of the project: from learning and then using the ancient art of dry stone construction to the reconstruction of the footpaths and tourism facilities. The project has brought back to life a village which had been destined to decline, and is an invaluable example of a way of using natural resources and settings to generate prosperity without sacrificing an area's charm.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project: it is a fine example of a project aimed at revitalising a rural landscape with the support of the population, using local natural and cultural resources and traditional techniques.

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www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Cyprus.pdf
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