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GENERAL DIRECTORATE DIRECTORATE OF MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS SECTOR B Management Unit of Samaria National Park & the Protected Areas of Western Crete Tel.: +30 2821045570

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## SUBJECT: OPENING OF THE NATIONAL PARK OF SAMARIA & VISITING HOURS FOR THE YEAR 2022

TO:

Whom it may concern

## Initial operating period for the year 2022

We inform you that, based on the Decision No. 5508 / 28.04.2022 of the General Director of N.E.C.C.A., for reasons of visitors safety (occurrence of rock falls in the upper part of the route and maintenance work in progress), hiking inside the Samaria National Park for the period from Sunday **01 May 2022 until Tuesday 03 May 2022** will be allowed **only for the lower part of the route** and for a length of up to 2km - from the southern entrance (Agia Roumeli outpost), to the rest place "Christ". From Wednesday 04 May 2022, and if there are no further safety reasons, the National Park will be accessible from both entrances for the entire route.

## Visiting hours

Based on the same Decision, the visiting hours of the National Park, in general, for the year 2022 are as follows:

a. entrance is allowed from 07:00-13:00, for visitors who will cross the entire route (Xyloskalo-Agia Roumeli or Agia Roumeli-Xyloscalo) or a part of it.

b. the entrance is allowed from 13:00 - 15:00, only for visitors who will move exclusively in the first two (2) kilometers from the north or the south entrance and specifically in the routes "Xyloskalo - rest area Neroutsiko", and "Agia Roumeli - rest area "Christos".

c. in any case the visitors must exit the National Park by 18:00 at the latest.

It is reminded that hiking is allowed only along the main path. Visitors must comply with the Regulations and opening hours, the contents of the information signs and the national COVID-19 safety regulations.

Crossing the path requires good physical condition. The public is informed that there is no possibility of immediate medical assistance for any incident.

If the weather or other natural conditions, at any day and time, change to such an extent that they may raise safety issues for visitors and / or employees and / or the area, NECCA may decide on individual emergency arrangements or a complete ban on visitors entering and crossing.

## THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

**Antonios Barnias**