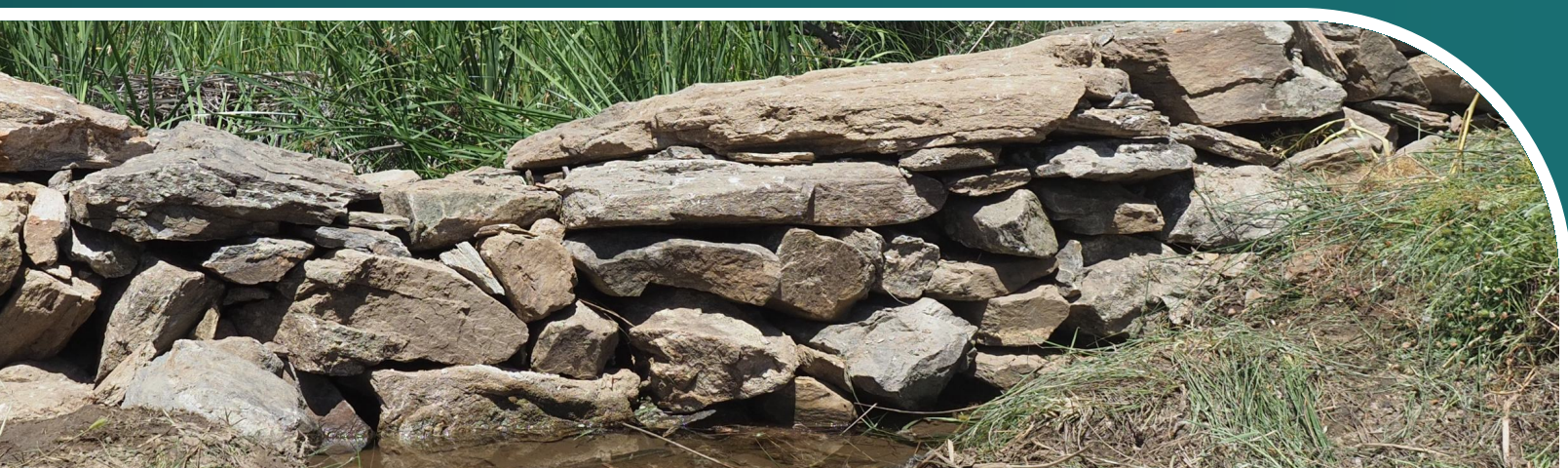




TRADITIONAL STONE CHECK DAMS... SOLVING MODERN WATER PROBLEMS?

How 34 stone check dams are helping Paros, Greece, fight drought and boost biodiversity.





TOO LITTLE WATER, TOO MUCH PRESSURE

Like many Aegean islands, Paros faces long dry periods, rising temperatures, and growing water demand , especially from tourism.



When it finally rains, the water often disappears too quickly.

The goal? Slow it down, soak it in, and store it underground.



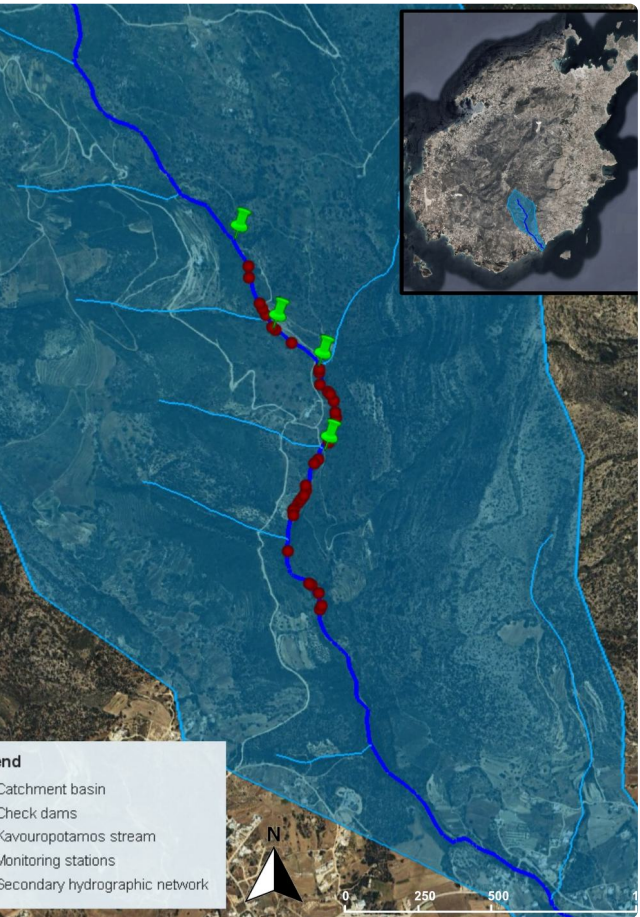
REVIVING TRADITION WITH 34 CHECK DAMS

In 2021, a pilot study launched the construction of 34 traditional stone check dams.

WHY IT WORKS:

These structures slow water runoff and form small "ponds", allowing water to recharge the aquifer and benefiting plants and animals.



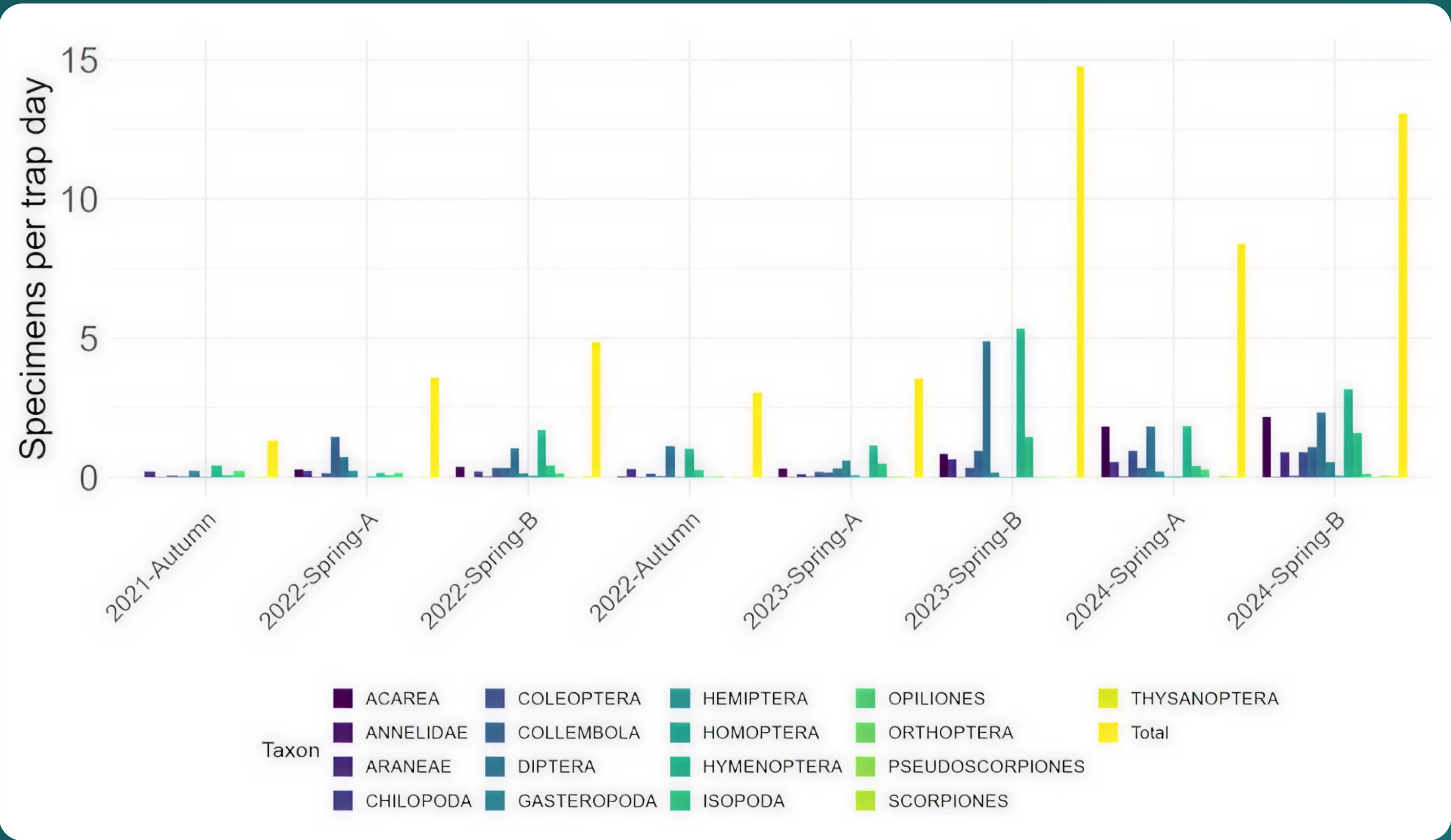


TRACKING WATER AND SPECIES

To measure what really changes, researchers are monitoring:

- **Water:** surface levels and soil moisture at three different depths.
- **Life:** terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates, amphibians, and vegetation changes via field work and remote sensing

EARLY SIGNS OF SUCESS!



Biodiversity rise: monitoring shows a positive effect on local invertebrates.

Water storage: the check dams form small "ponds", benefiting both surface water and groundwater

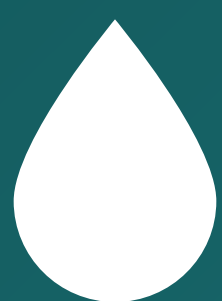


SMALL STRUCTURES, BIG IMPACTS



Community support & replication:

Widely supported by local stakeholders, check dams structures are seen as a practical solution to reduce drought and flood risks, with strong interest in scaling them up.



Ancient is modern: traditional techniques may be, in some cases, the most sustainable tools for climate adaptation.