

1 **SYNERGY OF TECTONIC GEOMORPHOLOGY, APPLIED GEOPHYSICS AND REMOTE SENSING**  
2 **TECHNIQUES REVEALS NEW DATA FOR ACTIVE EXTENSIONAL TECTONISM IN NW PELOPONNESE**  
3 **(GREECE)**

4

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18 **ABSTRACT**

19 In tectonically active areas like NW Peloponnese (W. Greece) the morphogenetic processes are  
20 strongly influenced by the activity of faults, which in many cases cannot be easily traced. In this  
21 paper a multidisciplinary analysis (morphometric indices, neotectonic mapping, geophysical surveys  
22 and remote sensing techniques) is applied aiming to map the unknown (until recently) E-W trending  
23 Pineios River normal fault zone with high accuracy and understand its implications to the evolution of  
24 the very significant ancient territory of Elis, during Holocene. Its activity seem to reflect on the river  
25 flow path frequent changes as well as the nearby shoreline displacements, since we argue that this is  
26 the main reason for the migration of Pineios river mouth for several times during the historical times.

27 The quantification of deformation caused by the fault activity was studied through the application of  
28 proposed morphotectonic indices such as drainage network asymmetry, sinuosity, as well as  
29 mountain front sinuosity yielding that this is a definitely active structure. High slip rates were  
30 calculated reaching the value of 0.48 mm/yr for the last 209 ky (based on already published dating)  
31 whilst this was also verified by applied geophysical methodologies. The fault surface discontinuity  
32 was identified in depth by using vertical electrical resistivity measurements, since the deposited  
33 layers of different resistivity behavior were found clearly interrupted. The layer displacement  
34 increases towards west, reaching the value of 110 meters. The most spectacular landform alteration  
35 due to this surface deformation is the migration of the river estuary from north to south and vice  
36 versa, at completely different open sea areas, during Upper Quaternary and mostly in Holocene. The  
37 sediment transportation path has been altered several times after these significant changes and the  
38 most recent seem to have happened almost 2,000 years ago. The river estuary finally migrated to its  
39 contemporary location at the southern coast -settled on the hanging wall- inducing retrograding of  
40 the northern coast -settled on the foot wall- with rates reaching the order of 0.52 m/yr, as this was  
41 induced by the interpretation of historical and recently acquired remote sensing data.

42

#### 43 **KEYWORDS**

44 morphotectonic indices, fault slip rate, photogrammetry, digital shoreline analysis, vertical electrical  
45 sounding

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#### 48 **1 INTRODUCTION**

49 NW Peloponnese is located at the external part of the Hellenic Orogenic Arc, just a few tens of  
50 kilometers internally from the Hellenic Trench and has been repeatedly suffered damages by large  
51 seismic events and earthquake related geo-environmental phenomena until very recently (June 8<sup>th</sup>  
52 2008, Mw=6.4) (Lekkas et al., 2008; Konstantinou et al., 2009; Feng et al., 2010; Koukouvelas et al.,

2010; Mavroulis et al., 2010; Margaris et al., 2010; Papadopoulos et al., 2010; Mavroulis et al., 2013). The recorded seismic activity at this region is continuous during the entire historical period (Papazachos and Papazachou, 1997) and thus it is important to understand the slip behavior of faults that have already caused or may cause earthquakes in the near future. Pineios fault zone is a tectonic structure that has never been mapped till very recently, as it has never been assigned to any historical earthquake (Mavroulis, 2009). It is located at NW Peloponnese and has drastically affected the Lower Pineios River plain, along which Ancient Elis was developed during the Hellenistic and Roman periods (Kraft et al., 2005). Today, the ruins of Ancient Elis are lying downstream of the modern Pineios artificial dam and its abandonment seems to have been caused by several geodynamic processes, which might be related to the active tectonism of the wider region (Guidoboni et al., 1994). We argue in this paper that the fault activity caused the river estuary relocation and consequently secondary landform processing phenomena have been developed throughout the Pineios downstream broader area during Upper Quaternary (Fountoulis et al., 2011; 2013). The combination of methodologies described in this paper includes tectonic geomorphology analysis, applied geophysics measurements and remote sensing techniques and aims to (a) assess the tectonic activity of Pineios fault zone, (b) provide quantitative information for the degree of the fault activity, (c) clarify the stratigraphic sequence of the layered geological formations underlying the study area, (d) accurately map the fault zone in depth and estimate its displacement, (e) quantify the influence of the active faulting to the coastal environment.

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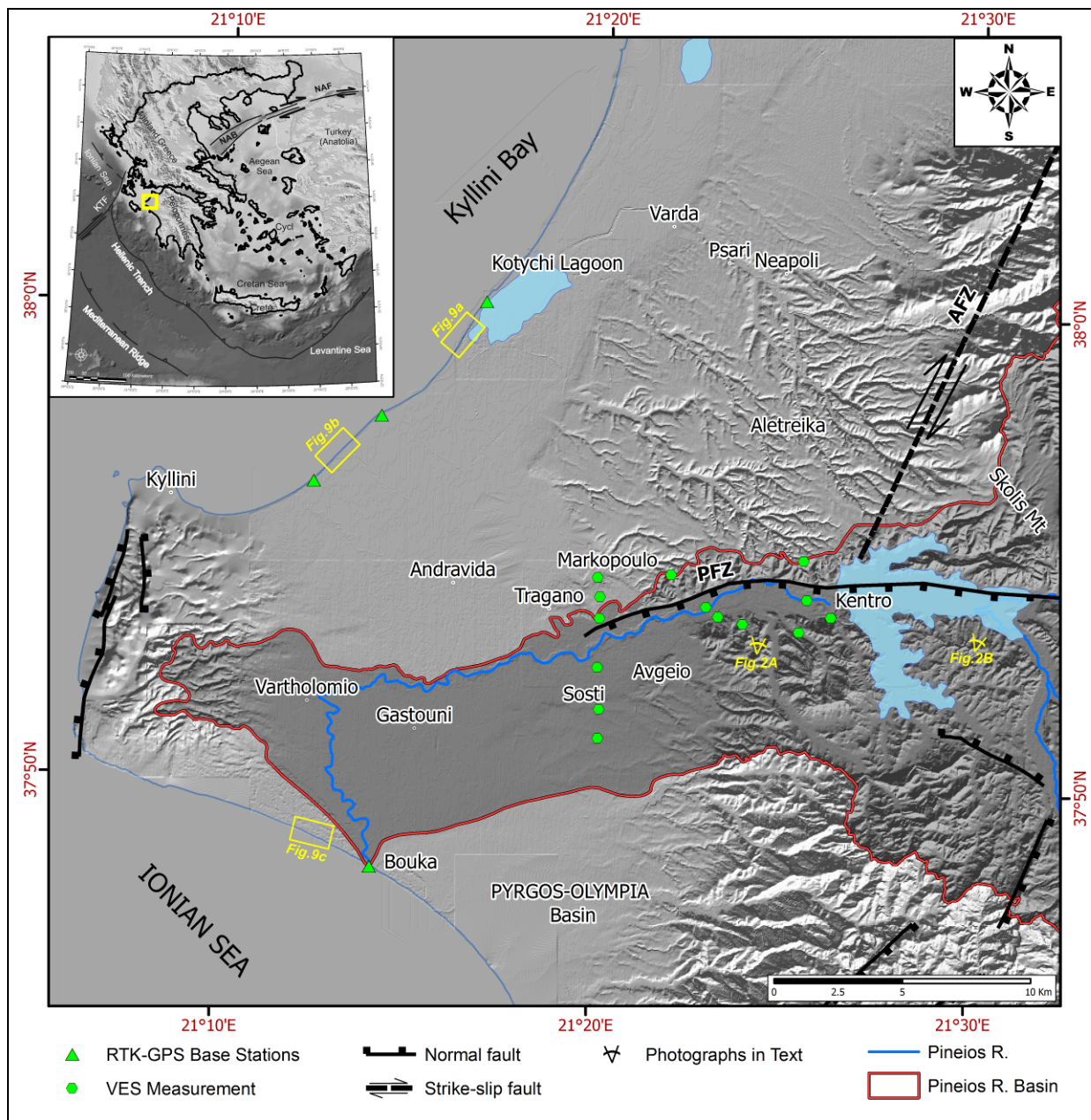
## 74 **2 GEOLOGICAL SETTING**

75 The westernmost part of Peloponnese that is described in this paper is an area with generally low relief (Fig.1) and mostly covered by recently deposited sediments (Kamberis et al., 1993). The post-alpine sequences that have been observed throughout the Pyrgos-Olympia basin are of Pliocene and Quaternary age and lie unconformably on the alpine basement. Their geographical distribution and

79 variety of facies (marine, lagoonal, lacustrine and terrestrial) clearly reflect vertical fault block  
80 movements during the neotectonic period and ongoing active tectonism (Lekkas et al., 1992).  
81 According to already published geological mapping data (Kamberis et al., 1993) and paleontological  
82 findings and analyses (Athanassiou, 2000), as well as  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating of corals found in the marine  
83 terraces of NW Peloponnese (Stamatopoulos et al., 1988), a typical stratigraphic section for the post-  
84 alpine succession may be constructed representing the paleo-environment changes after Pliocene.  
85 More specifically the sediment sequence consists of: (a) lacustrine and lagoonal marls of Upper  
86 Pliocene – Pleistocene, (b) shallow marine sands, sandstones and conglomerates of Pleistocene, (c)  
87 marine calcareous sandstones of Pleistocene, and (d) Holocene alluvial deposits (sands, gravels) of  
88 the Lower Pineios River valley that unconformably overlain the above mentioned formations. The  
89 Plio-Pleistocene molluscan assemblages and the sedimentary facies imply a continuous alternation of  
90 shallow marine waters, brackish and lacustrine environments (Paraskevaidis and Symeonidis, 1965).  
91 The broader region of Pineios valley is already known for the existence of fossil Mammals, as some  
92 Hippopotamus (Thenius, 1955, Symeonidis and Therodorou, 1986) and Elephas (Kamberis, 1987,  
93 Athanassiou, 2000) specimens have been discovered, indicating a pre-existing fluvial-lacustrine  
94 environment. Kamberis et al. (1993) based on deep borehole data proved that the maximum  
95 thickness of this post-alpine sequence exceeds 3,000 meters and unconformably covers the  
96 basement rock pile.

97 The alpine basement comprises of three alpine geotectonic units; thin bedded pelagic sediments of  
98 Pindos unit are found overthrusting neritic carbonates and flysch of Gavrovo-Tripolis unit, which are  
99 also overthrusting evaporites, limestones and flysch of the most external Ionian unit (Papanikolaou,  
100 1984; 1997).

101



**Figure 1.** Index map of the study area at NW Peloponnese. The trace of the studied active fault is illustrated just north of Pineios River. This structure is responsible for a number of landform processes which are described in the text.

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103

## 104 2.1 Regional active tectonics

105 The Ionian Islands and the Gulf of Corinth are included in the most seismic and tectonically active  
 106 regions in Greece (Hatzfeld et al., 1990). NW Peloponnese is the geotectonic junction connecting

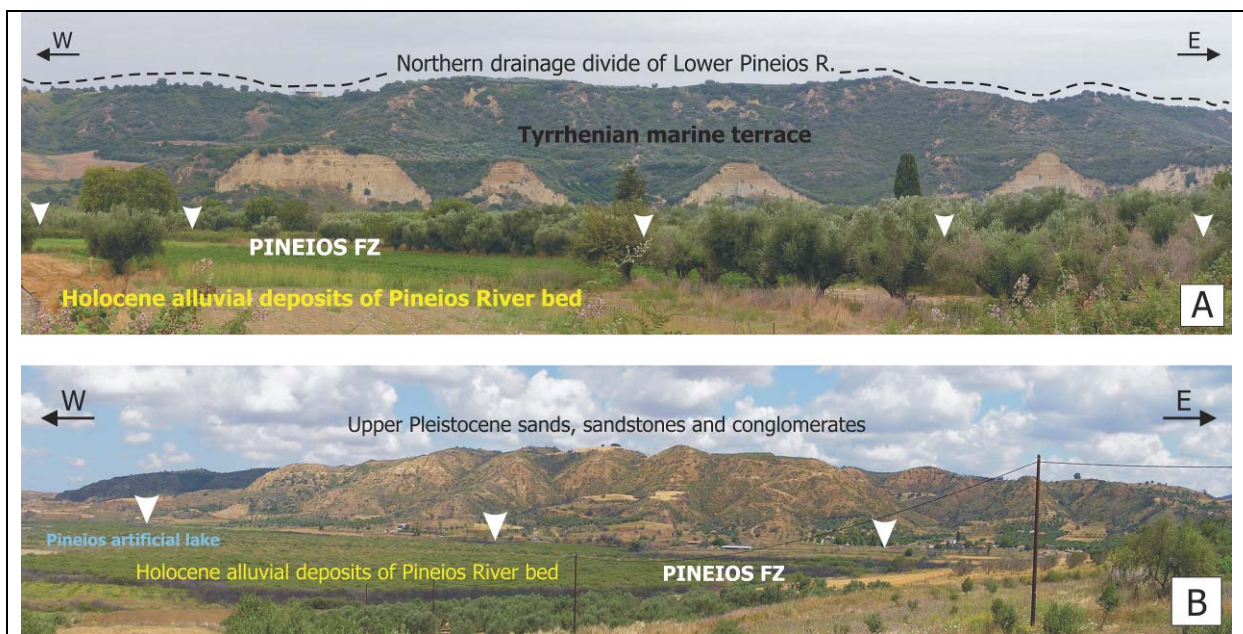
107 those rapidly evolving areas (Vassilakis et al., 2011). The intense tectonic activity is continuous from  
108 Miocene till Holocene (Hollenstein et al., 2006 and references therein) due to its placement at the  
109 external part of the Hellenic orogenic forearc and its proximity to the present day NNW-SSE trending  
110 Hellenic Trench that represents the active subduction boundary between the African and the  
111 European plates. Additionally, the ongoing diapirism of the Triassic evaporites of the Ionian unit  
112 alpine basement is a process which amplifies the geotectonic instability in a non-systematic way  
113 (Underhill, 1988).

114 Several active faults have been mapped and studied during neotectonic surveys; some of these were  
115 active in previous periods (e.g., Pliocene, Pleistocene) whereas a number of them are still active since  
116 Holocene (Mariolakos et al., 1991, Lekkas et al., 1992). The recorded seismicity level, which is  
117 possibly one of the highest in the Mediterranean region (Hatzfeld et al., 1990), confirms the  
118 neotectonic studies, which show that the broader area is undergoing intense tectonic deformation.  
119 According to historical and instrumental records, numerous destructive earthquakes have taken  
120 place in the area since 399 BC, most of which -if not all- were shallow (<20 km) and have been  
121 assigned to high intensities (Papazachos and Papazachou, 1997).

122 The neotectonic structure of NW Peloponnese is characterized by large and independently moving  
123 neotectonic blocks that form grabens and horsts bounded by fault zones, which are either visible or  
124 concealed. These extensional structures trend mainly E-W or NNW-SSE and create a complex matrix  
125 of neotectonic blocks with particular evolution characteristics and relative displacements (Mariolakos  
126 et al., 1985). The sedimentation processes were highly influenced by the dominant neotectonic  
127 regime that is active throughout the deposition imprinted in syn-sedimentary formations  
128 (Papanikolaou et al., 2007).

129 The main neotectonic macrostructure of the study area is the Pyrgos – Olympia post-alpine basin,  
130 which covers an area of 1500 km<sup>2</sup>. The marginal fault zones are clearly discernible and form  
131 impressive morphological discontinuities (Lekkas et al., 1992; 2000; Fountoulis et al, 2007). The basin

132 itself is infilled with post-alpine deposits of Late Miocene – Holocene age, reaching a thickness of  
 133 approximately 3km (Kamberis, 1987).  
 134 The Pineios normal fault zone trace is observed SSW of Skolis Mt and was not identified until very  
 135 recently (Mavroulis, 2009). It is a generally E-W trending structure, dipping southwards. Its surficial  
 136 expression coincides with a slightly degraded but clearly observable morphological discontinuity  
 137 extending eastwards from the northernmost banks of Pineios artificial lake and westwards to  
 138 Tragano village (Fig. 2). The footwall consists of post-alpine formations of Upper Pliocene -  
 139 Pleistocene age overlaying unconformably the paleo-relief developed on the alpine basement. The  
 140 hanging wall consists of the aforementioned post-alpine formations partially covered by the Pineios  
 141 River alluvial deposits.



**Figure 2.** (A) Partial view of the area downstream of the artificial dam towards the Pineios fault zone (Pineios FZ). In this segment the footwall consists of Tyrrenian marine terrace sediments, whilst the hanging wall is covered by Holocene alluvial deposits of Pineios riverbed. (B) Partial view of the area upstream of the artificial dam towards the Pineios fault zone (Pineios FZ). Well-preserved triangular facets are developed on Upper Pleistocene deposits. At both photographs the white arrowheads point at the fault trace.



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143 It is worth mentioning that the post-alpine formations of the footwall form a broad Tyrrhenian  
144 marine terrace consisting of sands, sandstones and conglomerates, which outcrop both northward  
145 and southward of the fault zone for hundreds of square kilometers (Stamatopoulos et al., 1988). The  
146 terraced surface appears as a monocline dipping northwestwards based on the orientation of strata  
147 according to strike and dip measurements during general geological fieldwork (Mavroulis, 2009;  
148 Mavroulis et al., 2010). More specifically, the Pleistocene marine formations of the footwall dip  
149 northwestwards at between 4° and 14° whilst the Upper Pliocene-Pleistocene marine and lagoonal  
150 formations cropping out at the hanging wall dip also northwestwards at between 7° and 30°. These  
151 fossiliferous marine deposits can often be found under a thin cover of reddish sandy and  
152 conglomeratic alluvial deposits.

153 Field work at the Lower Pineios River broader area has revealed enough geomorphic evidence of  
154 recent tectonic activity (Mavroulis, 2009; Mavroulis et al., 2010; Fountoulis et al., 2011; 2013; this  
155 study). The most characteristic diagnostic tectonic landforms associated with Pineios fault zone are  
156 the successive sets of slightly degraded but well-defined and well-preserved triangular facets along  
157 the morphological discontinuity formed by the displacement along the fault zone (Fig. 2). These  
158 tectonic landforms indicate active faulting and normal displacement (Wallace, 1977; Menges, 1990).  
159 They reflect rapid, recent and cumulative uplift, as only such movements can maintain these kinds of  
160 tectonic signatures in a landscape underlain by the lithologies cropping out at this region (porous  
161 marine calcareous sandstones, marine sands, sandstones, and conglomerates, lacustrine and  
162 lagoonal clays). The formation and preservation of such landforms are consistent with rapid recent  
163 uplift, which generally lasts from  $10^3$  to  $10^6$  years (Cotton, 1950; Bull, 1978). Therefore, it is rather  
164 clear that high extensional tectonic activity should be present along this mountain front and  
165 consequently the process of forming the triangular facets is quite recent.



166 It is worth mentioning that there was no indication of triggering any ruptures along the Pineios fault  
167 system trace after the damaging earthquake of June 2008 (Feng et al., 2010; Koukouvelas et al.,  
168 2010; Konstantinou et al., 2011). On the contrary, a significant number of rock falls were observed  
169 along the triangular facets presented here at Figure 2A, as well as liquefactions were found after the  
170 seismic event around the artificial lake (Mavroulis et al., 2013).

171

### 172 **3 MORPHOTECTONIC ANALYSIS OF PINEIOS FAULT ZONE USING MORPHOMETRIC INDICES**

173 Bull and McFadden (1977) introduced the approach of quantitative analysis of the topography for the  
174 evaluation of active faulting. The use of simple ratios serves as a valuable tool for tectonic  
175 geomorphology studies along faulted mountain fronts including landform metrics such as mountain–  
176 piedmont junction sinuosity, percentage of triangular faceting along mountain fronts, longitudinal  
177 river profile analyses and variations of valley floor slopes.

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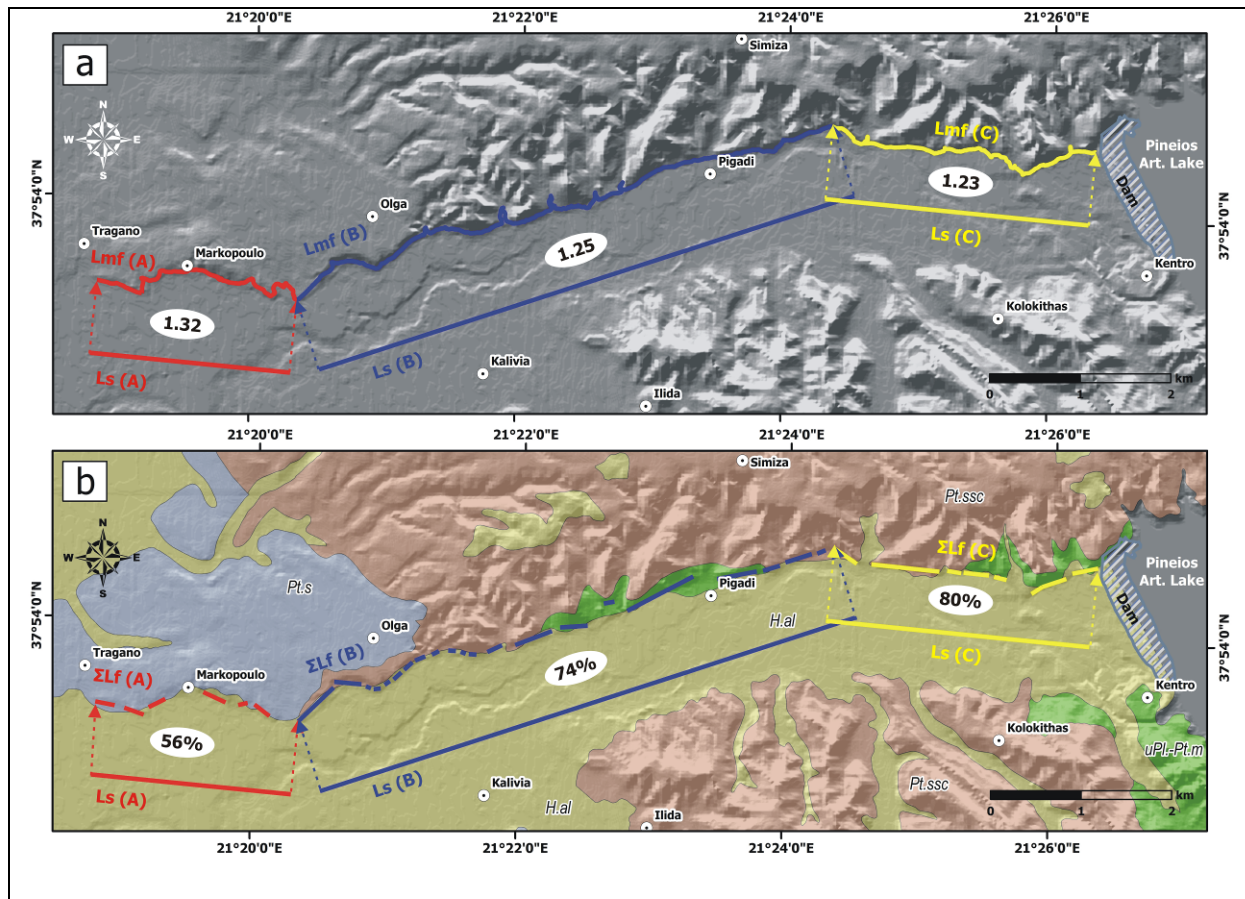
#### 179 **3.1 Mountain – Front Sinuosity ( $S_{mf}$ )**

180 Mountain front sinuosity ( $S_{mf}$ ) is an index of the degree of irregularity or sinuosity along the base of a  
181 topographic escarpment. The utility of this parameter is based on the tendency of active structures  
182 to maintain straight or curvilinear profiles in map view, as contrasted to the more irregular profiles  
183 produced by erosional processes along the base of associated topographic escarpments. Mountain –  
184 front sinuosity ( $S_{mf}$ ) is defined as the ratio of the observed length along the margin of the topographic  
185 mountain-piedmont junction ( $L_{mf}$ ) to the overall length of the mountain front ( $L_s$ ) and is given by the  
186 following equation:  $S_{mf} = L_{mf} / L_s$  (Bull and McFadden, 1977; Bull, 1978). This index has already been  
187 applied in various geologic environments in active regions throughout the world revealing that the  
188 most tectonically active fronts are characterized by values of  $S_{mf}$  ranging from 1.0 to 1.4 (Bull and  
189 McFadden, 1977; Rockwell et al., 1984; Wells et al., 1988; Theocharis and Fountoulis, 2002; Silva et  
190 al., 2003). As pointed out by Wells et al. (1988), this value of  $S_{mf}=1.4$  seems to limit the sensitivity of  
191 this index for the discrimination of any smaller-scale variation of differential uplift that may exist

192 among different mountain fronts. Increasingly larger values of  $S_{mf}$  index ( $>3$ ) are normally related to  
193 fronts with decreasing amounts of tectonic uplift relative to basal erosion or pedimentation in which  
194 the initial range – front fault may be more than 1 km away from the present erosional front (Bull and  
195 McFadden, 1977).

196 The  $S_{mf}$  values depend among others on topography scale. Small-scale topographic maps produce  
197 only a rough estimate of mountain front sinuosity. Therefore, mountain front sinuosity and all  
198 morphometric variables for this study were measured on large-scale topographic maps (1:5,000, with  
199 4m contour intervals) published by the Hellenic Military Geographical Agency (HMGA).

200 Mountain front sinuosity was measured in three segments of the morphological discontinuity just  
201 north of Pineios valley, downstream of the artificial lake and their distinction was based on the hill-  
202 front general direction (Fig. 3). The  $L_{mf}$ ,  $L_s$  and  $S_{mf}$  values for these segments are presented in table 1  
203 whilst the  $S_{mf}$  values are also depicted in figure 3A. The calculated  $S_{mf}$  values range from 1.23 to 1.32  
204 and according to classifications proposed by Bull and McFadden (1977), Rockwell et al. (1984), Wells  
205 et al. (1988) and Silva et al. (2003) the hill front formed by the Pineios fault zone is classified as an  
206 active one.



**Figure 3.** (a) The mountain front sinuosity ( $S_{mf}$ ) values for the three segments of the morphological discontinuity north of Pineios valley are shown in the white ellipses and range from 1.23 to 1.32. According to the classifications proposed by Bull and McFadden (1977), Rockwell et al. (1984), Wells et al. (1988), Silva et al. (2003), Pineios fault zone is classified as an active tectonic structure. (b) The high percentage values (56-80%) of faceting ( $F\%$ ) are clear indicators for the fault activity. (H.al: Holocene deposits, Pt.s: Pleistocene calcareous sandstones, Pt.ssc: Pleistocene sands, sandstones and conglomerates, uPl.-Pt.m: Upper Pliocene-Pleistocene marls.

207

208

### 209 3.2 Percentage of faceting along mountain front ( $F\%$ )

210 The index related to facet development and used in this study is the facet (%) index (Bull, 1978). The

211 facet (%) index is the percentage of a given mountain front with well-shaped triangular facets and is

212 defined as the ratio of cumulative lengths of facets ( $L_f$ ) to the length of the selected mountain front

213 ( $L_s$ ) (Wells et al., 1988). High percentages of faceting along the mountain front indicate its activity  
 214 (Ramírez-Herrera, 1998). The potential difficulties on the application of this morphometric index are  
 215 the systematic definition of individual facet as well as the discrimination between faceted and non-  
 216 faceted sections of a mountain front (DePolo and Anderson, 2000). To avoid these difficulties and  
 217 limitations, topographic maps of 1:5,000 published by the HMGA were also used.  
 218 Percentages of faceting along mountain front (F%) were measured in the above-mentioned three  
 219 segments of the morphological discontinuity developed north of Pineios valley (see chapter 3.1). The  
 220 measured  $L_f$ ,  $L_s$  and F% calculated values for each segment are presented in table 1 and the faceting  
 221 percentages are also depicted in figure 3B. The F% values range from 56% to 80% yielding high  
 222 participation rates of well-defined triangular facets along the hill front of Pineios fault zone and  
 223 indicating its tectonic activity.

224

225 **Table 1:** Mountain - front sinuosity (Smf) and percentage of faceting along the hill front (F%) for  
 226 Pineios fault zone. Segments A, B, C are depicted in fig. 3.

<b>Pineios FZ Segments</b>	<b>Lmf (in m)</b>	<b>Ls (in m)</b>	<b>Smf</b>	<b><math>\Sigma L_f</math> (in m)</b>	<b>Ls (in m)</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F%</b>
<b>A</b>	2926.97	2215.92	<b>1.32</b>	1230.89	2215.92	0.56	<b>56</b>
<b>B</b>	7738.86	6202.62	<b>1.25</b>	4598.71	6202.62	0.74	<b>74</b>
<b>C</b>	3595.13	2921.51	<b>1.23</b>	2340,74	2921.51	0.80	<b>80</b>

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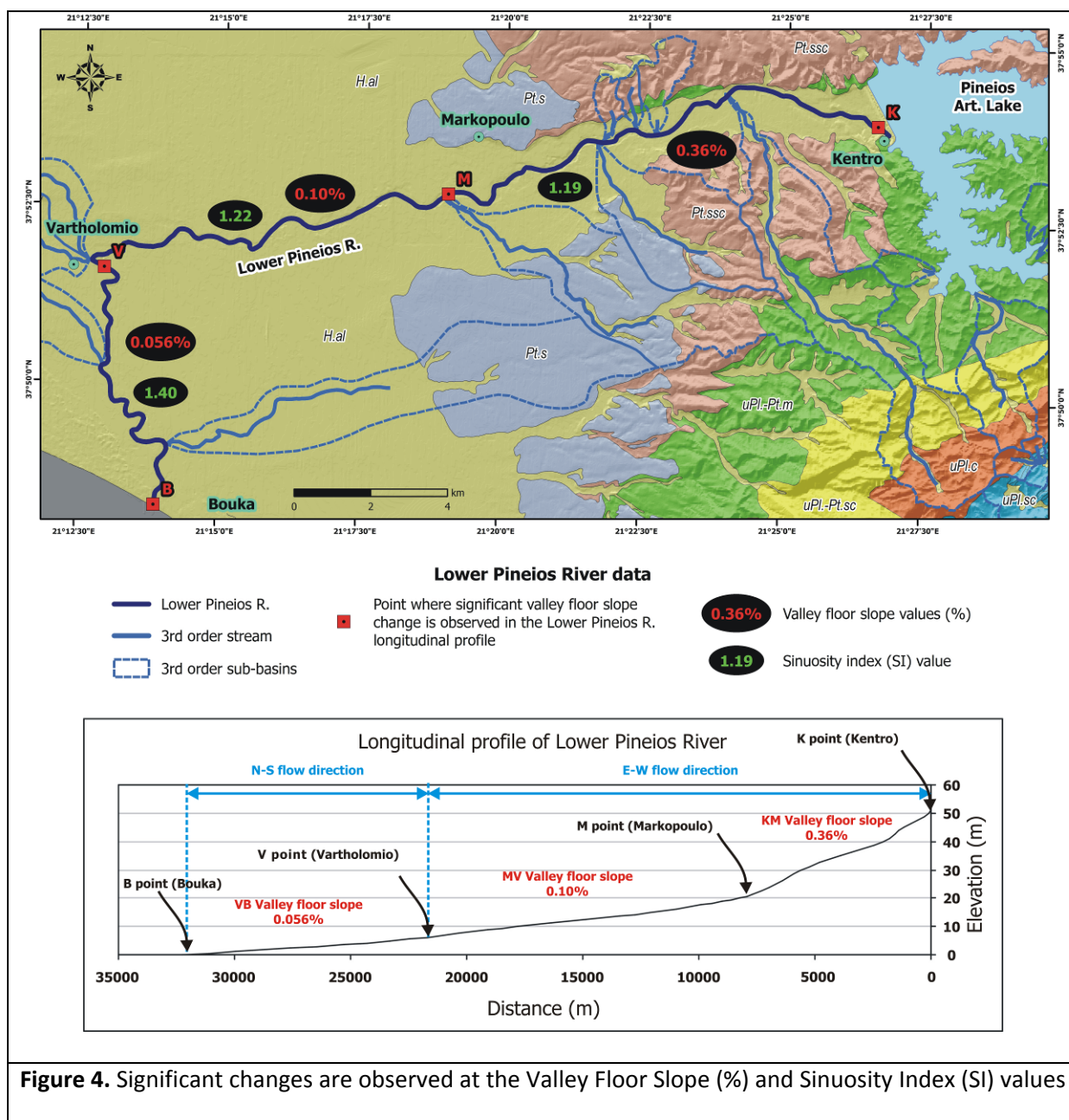
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### 229 **3.3 The alluvial river response to Pineios fault zone**

#### 230 **3.3.1 Asymmetry of the Lower Pineios River network**

231 The river valley flows adjacent to the main Pineios fault zone following an E-W direction, across the  
 232 Pliocene and Pleistocene formations. The activity of Pineios fault zone seems to have caused  
 233 differential vertical motion of several fault blocks accompanied by tilting in a cross-valley direction.  
 234 The tilting of the fault blocks and northward migration of the Lower Pineios River valley has caused in  
 235 turn the asymmetry of the drainage network developed on the hanging wall. Thus, the river shifts  
 236 gradually northwards and flows adjacent and parallel to the northern drainage divide (Fig. 2). This

237 asymmetrical development is clearly reflected on the number, size and order of the tributaries and  
 238 sub basins on either side of the river. North of the 7<sup>th</sup> order Lower Pineios River, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order  
 239 drainage basins prevail, while higher order drainage basins are less common and significantly smaller  
 240 (Fig. 4A). In contradiction, the 3<sup>rd</sup> order drainage basins are much bigger and prevail covering an  
 241 extended area at the left of the main branch of the river downstream the artificial lake. This type of  
 242 asymmetric development of sub-basins yields block rotational tectonism (Cox, 1994; Garrote et al.,  
 243 2006) and is in full agreement with the observations during fieldwork (Mavroulis, 2009).



**Figure 4.** Significant changes are observed at the Valley Floor Slope (%) and Sinuosity Index (SI) values

after the analysis of the longitudinal profile of Lower Pineios River. The 3<sup>rd</sup> order drainage basins prevail covering an extended area south of the 7<sup>th</sup> order Lower Pineios River, while they are less common north of the main branch of the river. (H.al: Holocene deposits, Pt.s: Pleistocene calcareous sandstones, Pt.ssc: Pleistocene sands, sandstones and conglomerates, u.Pl.-Pt.m: Upper Pliocene - Pleistocene marls, u.Pl.-Pt.sc: Upper Pliocene - Pleistocene sands and clays, u.Pl.c: Upper Pliocene conglomerates, u.Pl.sc: Upper Pliocene sands and conglomerates).

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245

### 246 **3.3.2 Longitudinal profile of Lower (alluvial) Pineios River and valley floor slope changes**

247 The information about the longitudinal profile of the Lower Pineios River from Kentro area  
248 (upstream) to Bouka area (downstream, at the contemporary river mouth) was obtained from a high  
249 resolution (2-meter) Digital Elevation Model (DEM), which was constructed after photogrammetric  
250 processing of available aerial photographs. It was segmented into three separate parts, which are (a)  
251 the upstream, (b) the intermediate and the (c) downstream segment respectively (Fig. 4). The  
252 upstream (from point K to point M) segment of the profile corresponds to the E-W trending part of  
253 the Lower Pineios River, extending from Kentro area (upstream) to Markopoulo westwards  
254 (downstream). The valley floor slope of the upstream segment was calculated at 0.36 %. The  
255 intermediate (from point M to point V) segment of the profile corresponds to the E-W trending part  
256 of the Lower Pineios River, extending from Markopoulo (upstream) to Vartholomio area westwards  
257 (downstream). The valley floor slope of the intermediate segment was calculated at 0.10 %. The  
258 downstream (from point V to point B) segment corresponds to the N-S trending and gently sloping  
259 lower course of the Lower Pineios River, extending from Vartholomio area (upstream) to Bouka area  
260 southwards (Pineios River mouth). The valley floor slope of the downstream segment was calculated  
261 at 0.056 %.

262 The observed valley floor slope of the upstream segment of the longitudinal profile (0.36 %) is much  
263 higher than the ones calculated for the intermediate and the downstream segments. More precisely,

264 the average valley floor slope (0.36 %) of the upstream segment is almost 4-fold higher than the one  
265 calculated for the intermediate segment (0.10 %) and almost 6-fold higher than the one calculated  
266 for the downstream one (0.056 %). Furthermore, the valley floor slope of the intermediate segment  
267 (0.10 %) is 2-fold higher than the one calculated for the downstream segment. Based on the  
268 observation of the longitudinal profile (Fig. 4) it can be noted that the M point, where the first  
269 significant change of the valley floor slope is situated, is located in close vicinity to the westernmost  
270 edge of the morphological discontinuity. The V point, where the second significant change of the  
271 valley floor slope is situated, is located very close to Vartholomio area, where the characteristic  
272 southwards bending of the Lower Pineios River course is located. This bending seems to have  
273 tectonic origin, since it is located at the possible westwards prolongation of the Pineios fault zone,  
274 and/or due to diapiric phenomena, as the river valley seems to be diverted by the uplifted Kyllini  
275 peninsula, which is on top of an evaporitic dome (Kamberis, 1987) and bounds the Gastouni graben.  
276 It is rather clear that the subsurface tectonic deformation of the area has been imprinted at the  
277 longitudinal profile and the points where the profile anomalies were observed are the key areas for  
278 extracting conclusions about the area's neotectonic evolution.

279

### 280 **3.3.3 Sinuosity index (SI)**

281 Under certain conditions, alluvial rivers tend to evolve as single meandering channels (Brice, 1964;  
282 Rust, 1978). This behavior is generally influenced by tectonic movements, reflected in river channel  
283 parameters (Zámolyi et al., 2010). It is generally accepted that if a normal fault is down throwing in  
284 the downstream direction, increased meandering is resulted (Ouchi, 1985; Keller and Pinter, 1996;  
285 Holbrook and Schumm, 1999; Bridge, 2005). This process is largely independent of the river size,  
286 once the fluvial system enters the meandering stage. In this way, not only large rivers are suitable for  
287 analysis, but smaller creeks and reaches can also be evaluated, as far as they are essentially free of  
288 human influence. The increasingly use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the higher  
289 quality of elevation data give the opportunity to make river sinuosity calculations a sensitive tool for

290 recognizing neotectonic activity in low-relief areas, as even the smallest changes in the topography  
291 affect the sinuosity of low gradient rivers (Holbrook and Schumm, 1999), providing hints for points of  
292 on-going microtopographic changes. A quantitative measure of the variation of the meandering  
293 pattern is the classic sinuosity index (SI). The sinuosity index of modern river channels was defined by  
294 Leopold and Wolman (1957) as the ratio of the thalweg length to the valley length. Brice (1964)  
295 suggested a slightly modified sinuosity index (the ratio of the channel length to the length of the  
296 meander-belt axis), which has the advantage of allowing for both straight and sinuous meander-  
297 belts. In both studies, an arbitrary value of 1.5 was used to distinguish between low- and high-  
298 sinuosity channels. Although other classification schemes have been described (Schumm 1963), this  
299 value is generally accepted.

300 The SI values for the Lower Pineios River have been calculated using the high resolution DEM derived  
301 from aerial photographs photogrammetric processing. The calculations were made in close vicinity of  
302 the northern and western tectonic boundaries of the Gastouni graben, which are formed by the  
303 active Pineios fault zone and the Kyllini hill. This is the exact same area where the Lower Pineios River  
304 flows and especially along the three segments (see 3.3.2) characterized by different valley floor slope  
305 values derived from the longitudinal profile processing of Lower Pineios described earlier in this  
306 paper.

307 The sinuosity index values as well as the values of the channel length (S - curvilinear distance  
308 measurement along the center of the channel) and the valley length (L - horizontal distance  
309 measured in the thalweg of two cross sections in a linear depression between two adjacent uplands)  
310 are presented in table 2.

311 From upstream (KM part of the profile) to downstream (VB part of the profile), the Lower Pineios  
312 River valley floor slope decreases from 0.36 % to 0.056 %, whilst the sinuosity index values increase  
313 from 1.19 to 1.40. It is reasonable to assume that sinuosity variations along the Lower Pineios River  
314 are related to, or strongly coupled with differential tectonic deformation of the study area  
315 (differential uplift/subsidence pattern) and this is in full agreement with the thickness and the



316 isobaths of the Neogene and Quaternary formations (Kamberis, 1987). Thus, the Lower Pineios River  
317 responds to active faulting by changing its sinuosity (Fig. 4).

318

319 **Table 2:** Sinuosity index (SI) and valley floor slope values calculated for Lower Pineios River. Parts KM,  
320 MV, VB are depicted in fig. 4.

Lower Pineios River part	S (in m)	L (in m)	SI	Valley floor slope (%)
KM	13154	11354	1.19	0.36
MV	11206	9175	1.22	0.10
VB	8930	6340	1.40	0.056

321

322

#### 323 4 UPLIFT RATES OF FAULT BLOCKS AND PINEIOS FAULT SLIP RATE

324 As previously mentioned, the study area consists mainly of a succession of sediments with ages from  
325 Pliocene to Holocene. The  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$  dating of corals (Stamatopoulos et al., 1988) found in the upper  
326 layers of the sequence indicate Tyrrhenian age for all the sampled layers at three complete sections  
327 located on the footwall of Pineios fault zone. The deposition ages were determined as follows: 103 ky  
328 for Psari section (at an elevation of 40-45 m above sea level (a.s.l.)), 118 ky for Neapolis section (at an  
329 elevation of 60-65 m (a.s.l.)) and 209 ky for Aletreika section (at an elevation of 140-145 m (a.s.l.)).  
330 The sampling sites are located north of Pineios fault zone and placed on the same fault block, as no  
331 trace of interruption of tectonic origin is found between them (Fig. 1).

332 According to several publications about the sea level fluctuations since Pleistocene the ages of the  
333 dated samples belong to the oxygen isotope stages 5.3, 5.5 and 7.3 respectively (Shackleton et al.,  
334 1984; Imbrie et al., 1984; Waelbroeck et al., 2002 and references therein). These stages represent  
335 high sea level stands for the Mediterranean Sea (Caputo, 2007) and especially for the western coast  
336 of Peloponnese (Athanasas and Fountoulis, 2013). Consequently, the contemporary sea level is  
337 quite similar to the one during the deposition of the Tyrrhenian strata. In particular, during 103 ka  
338 the sea level was at about -13m (a.s.l.), during 118 ka it was at about -1m (a.s.l.) and finally during  
339 209 ka it was at about -7m (a.s.l.) (Waelbroeck et al., 2002).

340 Taking into account the age of each sample, the sea level changes since Pleistocene and the present  
341 elevation of the sampling sections, the uplift rates for the footwall of the Pineios fault zone were  
342 calculated approximately at 0.26 mm/yr for Psari area, 0.50 mm/yr for Neapoli area and 0.64 mm/yr  
343 for Aletreika area respectively (Fountoulis et al., 2011; 2013). It can be deduced that the maximum  
344 uplift rate (0.64 mm/yr) corresponds to an area (Aletreika) located in close proximity to the fault  
345 zone in contrast to the other areas which are located much further away to the north (Fig. 1). The  
346 differential uplift of the same fault block, containing all three locations, implies a back tilting towards  
347 north. The latter in full agreement with the general rotational block faulting mode of structural  
348 evolution observed during fieldwork in the surrounding area.

349 The uplift rate for the hanging wall was also approximately estimated at 0.16 mm/yr (209 ky at the  
350 present elevation of 40 m (a.s.l.), which is the lowest elevation on the hanging wall that the same  
351 Tyrrhenian layers are cropping out), after considering the sea level during the deposition. It is rather  
352 clear that the uplift rate of the hanging wall (0.16 mm/yr) is much lower even than the lowest value  
353 of the footwall uplift rate (0.26 mm/yr). The difference between the uplift rate of Aletreika (footwall)  
354 and the Pineios River plain (hanging wall) is about 0.48 mm/yr, which corresponds to the actual slip  
355 rate of Pineios fault zone for the last 209 ka. This leads to the conclusion that the overall throw of the  
356 fault is about 100 meters.

357

## 358 **5. GEOELECTRICAL INVESTIGATION**

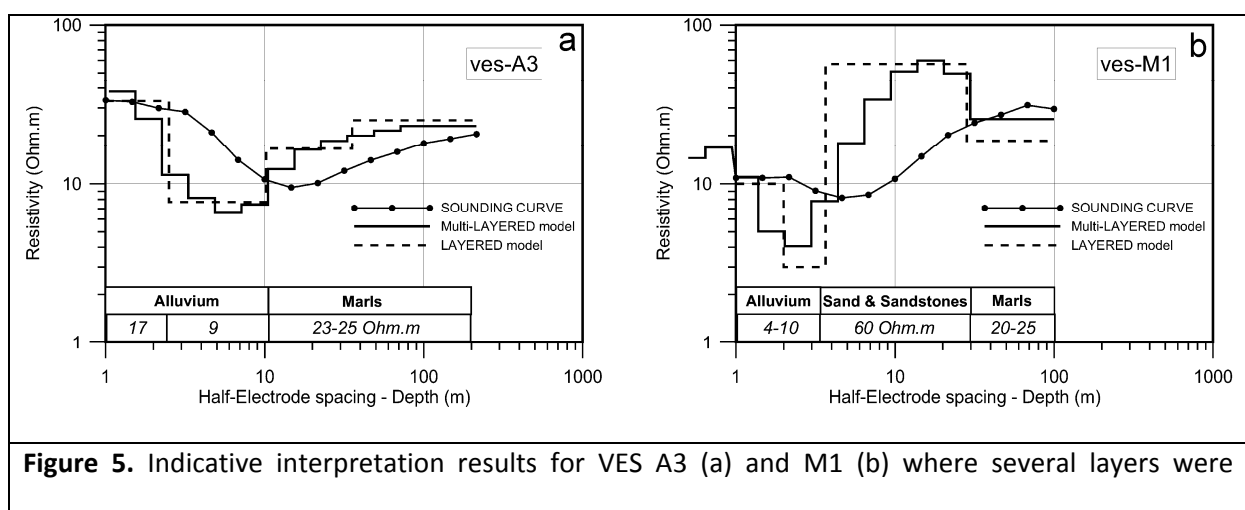
359 A geophysical survey was carried out at the area of Pineios river valley, downstream of the artificial  
360 dam aiming to investigate the layer boundaries between (i) the Holocene fluvial deposits with any  
361 other layer covered by them, (ii) the Upper Pleistocene sandstones with the older conglomeratic  
362 layer and (iii) the Pleistocene conglomerates with the Pliocene lagoonal marls, since this is the  
363 general layer succession described for the broader area (Kamberis et al., 1993). A grid of Vertical  
364 Electrical Soundings (VES) was planned around the area distributed on both blocks as the existence of  
365 a fault zone underneath the Holocene deposits was quite possible. Vertical Electrical Soundings have

366 been applied successfully for the investigation of geological-tectonic structure in other areas  
 367 (Alexopoulos and Dilalos, 2010; Alexopoulos et al., 2001; Papadopoulos et al, 2007; Asfahani and  
 368 Radwan, 2007), sometimes combined also with morphotectonic survey (Asfahani et al., 2010). The  
 369 geoelectrical data acquisition included two “in-situ” resistivity measurements on surface outcrops of  
 370 the geological formations and thirteen vertical electrical soundings for the investigation of the  
 371 geological structure of the area and the possible existence of a fault line at the northern sides of the  
 372 Pineios riverbed (see Fig. 1 for VES site locations or the supplementary kmz file).

373

### 374 5.1 Geophysical-geological calibration

375 In order to calibrate and better evaluate the geoelectrical results, the “in-situ” resistivity  
 376 measurements were carried out (A3 and M1), above known outcrops of the existing geological  
 377 formations. More specifically the selected sites were located above marls (A3) and sands-sandstones  
 378 (M1), applying the Schlumberger array, with maximum AB length equal to 430 meters (Fig. 5). This  
 379 technique contributed to a restrict definition of the corresponding resistivity limits of the most  
 380 important geological formations of the area and especially for the Plio-Pleistocene lagoonal marls  
 381 (Table 3). The interpretation results revealed resistivity values of approximately 20 - 25 Ohm.m for  
 382 the marly layer and 57 - 60 Ohm.m for the Pleistocene Sand, Sandstones and Conglomerates.  
 383 Moreover, the measured resistivity for the alluvium layers revealed values between 9 - 17 Ohm.m.



**Figure 5.** Indicative interpretation results for VES A3 (a) and M1 (b) where several layers were

detected.

384

385 **Table 3.** Resistivity values after the “in situ” geoelectrical measurements.

Geological Formation	Resistivity (Ohm.m)
Upper Pliocene-Pleistocene marls (PlsPt.l)	20 – 25
Sands & Sandstones (Pt.s)	57 – 60

386

387

## 388 **5.2 Acquisition and processing of geophysical data**

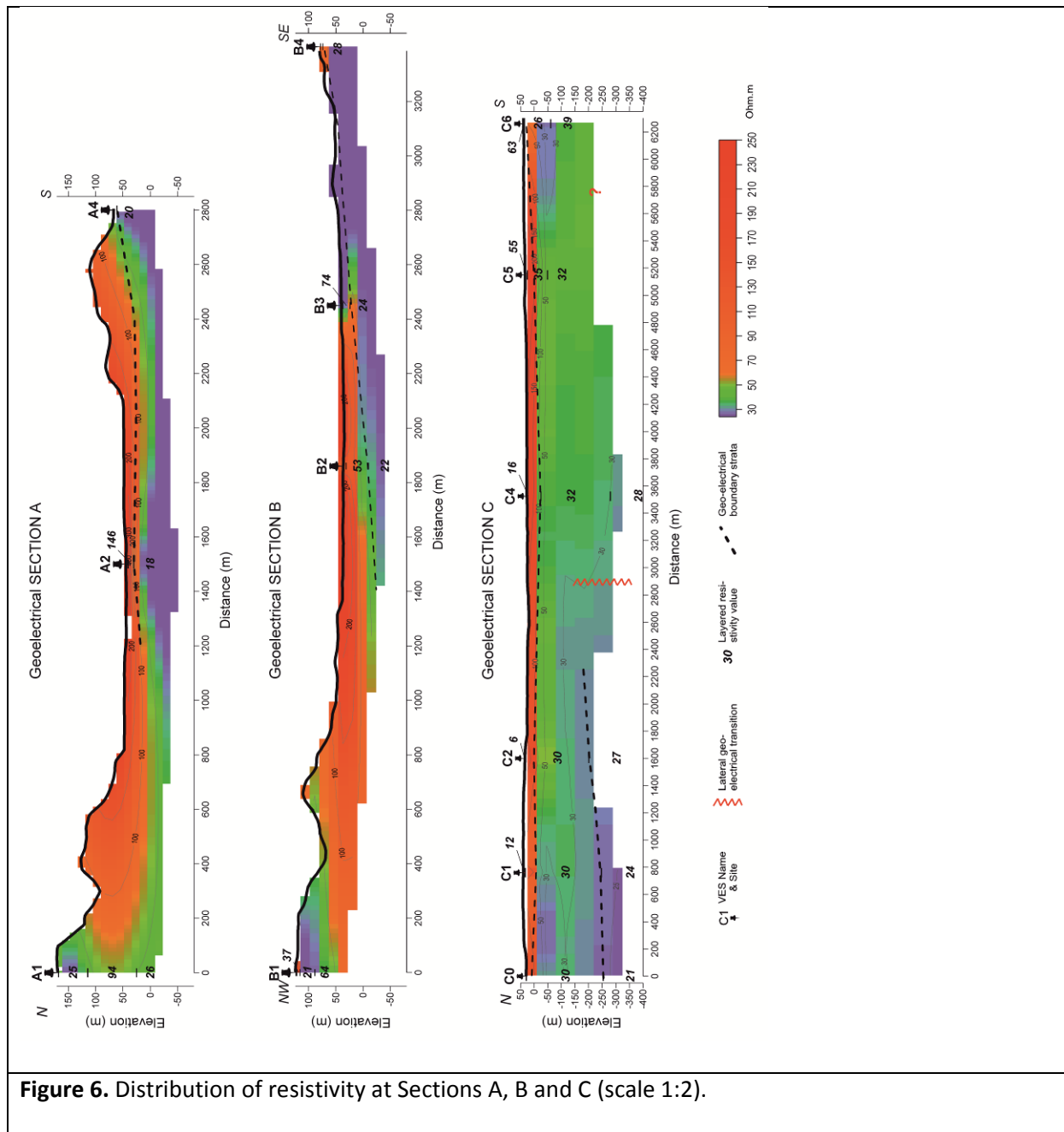
389 The Schlumberger array configuration was used for the conduction of thirteen resistivity soundings,  
390 in order to investigate the stratigraphic structure of the subsurface geological formations, underlying  
391 the study area. The maximum current electrode spacing (AB) reached up to 1,632 meters for most of  
392 the measuring sites, which were distributed along three sections with various directions, aiming to  
393 cross perpendicular the morphological discontinuity developed north of Pineios river valley. Several  
394 kinds of difficulties were met during the current electrode spreading operation, mainly due to the  
395 occasionally steep relief, the residual riverbed but also due to local water pits existence and district  
396 constructions (streets, fences, etc.). The equipment used for the field measurements included an  
397 ABEM Terrameter SAS300C and a Booster 2000.

398 The acquired geophysical data were processed by applying the automatic method of Zohdy (1989),  
399 composing a “multilayer” model. Beyond this, the commercial software package IX1D (v.3.5) of  
400 Interpex, was used in order to come up with the “layered” model. In almost all soundings, a  
401 formation with resistivity values between 20-28 Ohm.m was detected as the geoelectrical basement  
402 (deepest formation), which was evaluated as the Upper Pliocene-Pleistocene marls, based on the “in-  
403 situ” measurements.

404 In order to investigate the lateral inhomogeneity of the geological formations in two dimensions, a  
405 distributed apparent resistivity section was created (Fig. 6). This kind of sections, based on the  
406 processing of original field data without the intervention of processing algorithms, are often used to

407 provide the quantitative results, which illustrate the complexity of the stratigraphic structure. A first  
408 representation is combined and the criteria for the reliability of the applied 1-D geoelectrical  
409 soundings are being set. After the qualitative representation and the adumbration of the subsurface  
410 general structure, two more sections of distributed (true) resistivity were created, based on results of  
411 the multi-layered models using the method described by Zohdy (1989), including the topographic  
412 relief into the processing. Furthermore, the layered sections were created according to the results of  
413 the 1-D processing and led to the calculated geoelectrical models. Afterwards, all the calculated  
414 thicknesses of the geoelectrical layers had been placed at absolute elevations and the subsurface  
415 structure illustrated by the geoelectrical layers was reveals for each section. The most significant  
416 observation was a clearly defined lateral discontinuity at a distance of about 2,900 meters, at Section  
417 C, whilst at Section A, another lateral geoelectrical discontinuity seems to be present at about 750  
418 meters (Fig. 6). Beyond this, the other geoelectrical structure seems to be homogeneously layered  
419 with the apparent resistivity values decreasing in depth.

420

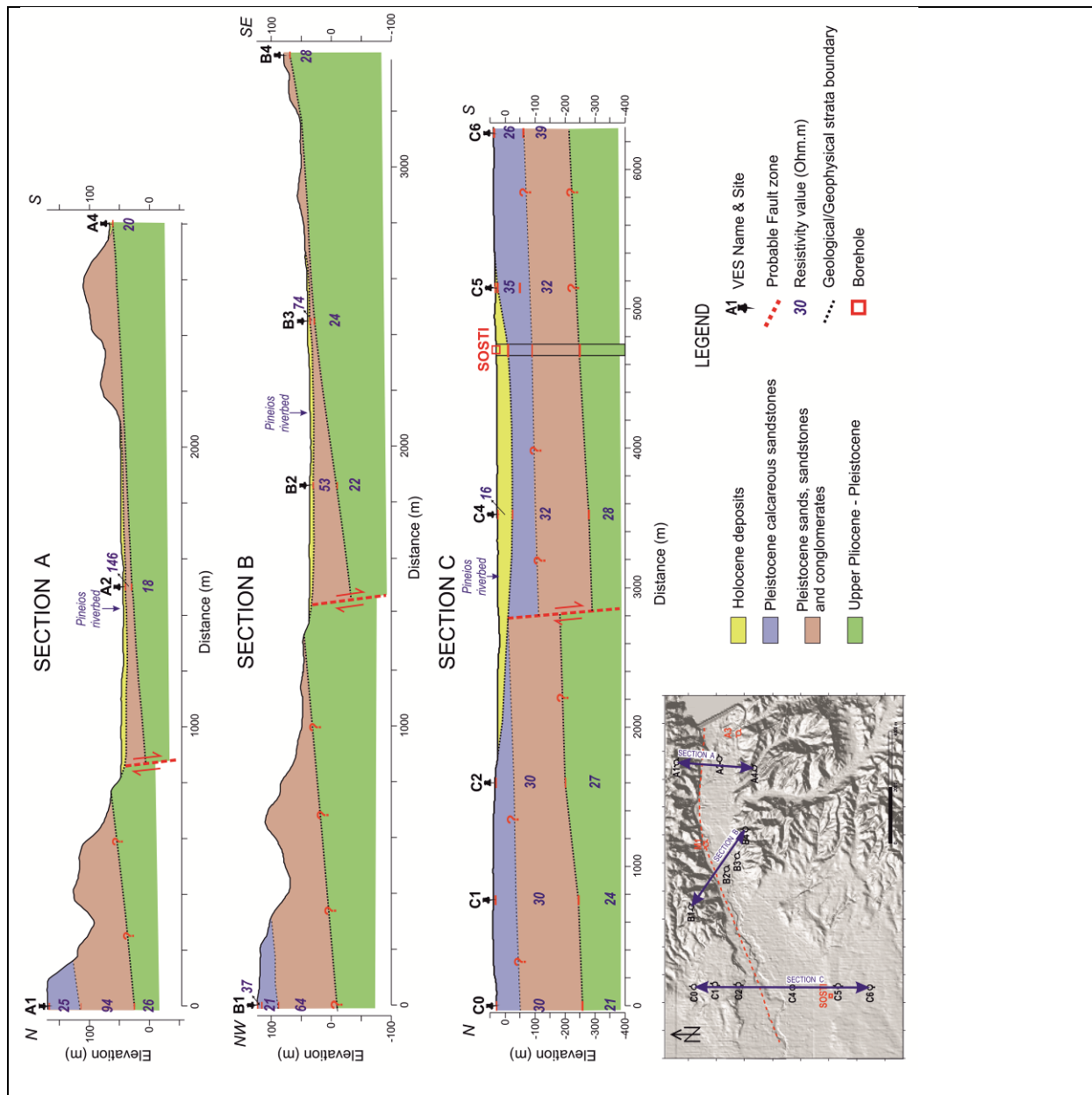


421

422

423 **5.4 Geophysical – Geological Conclusions**

424 The geophysical data acquired from the study area were combined with the surface geological  
 425 observations and the “SOSTI” borehole stratigraphic column by Kamberis et al (1993). The result was  
 426 the compilation of three geoelectrical-geological sections (Fig. 7) crossing almost perpendicular the  
 427 Pineios River valley at various directions.



**Figure 7.** Geological interpretation of the geophysical sections presented at Figure 6 (scale 1:2). The topography is illustrated at the inset map. See figure 1 for the site location distribution.

428

429 At these sections the boundaries between four different geological formations have been observed,  
 430 one of which is the geoelectrical basement of the Upper Pliocene-Pleistocene marls with resistivity  
 431 values of 20-28 Ohm.m, dipping 10° towards NW, which is in agreement with the surface bedding  
 432 measurements (Mavroulis, 2009). The Pleistocene sands, sandstones and conglomerates formation  
 433 (>40 Ohm.m) with a constant thickness of about 100 meters has also been identified overlain the  
 434 marls, at every section. The Pleistocene calcareous sandstones seem to appear at the highest

435 elevations of the northernmost parts of the three sections as well as south of Pineios riverbed at  
436 Section C. It is worth to mention that the resistivity contrast between the latter two formations was  
437 quite low and there were objective difficulties for them to be distinguished, but they were overcome  
438 due to the detailed and accurate field observations along the morphological discontinuity north of  
439 the Pineios River depression.

440 The interpretation of the geophysical sections yielded the lateral discontinuity to a normal fault zone  
441 which is clearly delineated by the interruption of the subsurface layer sequence (Fig. 6, 7) and that is  
442 considered to be the major success of the geophysical survey. The fault displacement, based on the  
443 top surface of the Plio-Pleistocene marls, is growing from east (~60m at Section A) to west (~110m at  
444 Section C) and that is in full agreement with all the surface geological data presented in this study.  
445 The uppermost layer of Holocene deposits show an increasing thickness from east (approx. 10m) to  
446 west (approx. 60m), which is also in agreement with the increasing down throwing of the fault zone  
447 along the same direction.

448

## 449 **6. REMOTE SENSING DATA AND SHORELINE DISPLACEMENT ANALYSIS**

450 The main valley that hosts Pineios River runs almost parallel to the fault zone towards west and this  
451 happens with no interruption for the last 100 kyr, whatsoever (Raphael, 1973). It is the southward  
452 bending downstream that has been changed for the last 2000 years (Kontopoulos and Koutsios,  
453 2010). We argue that its main valley used to flow into the sea by bending northwards somewhere  
454 between Markopoulo and Vartholomio (Fig.1). This dramatic change should have a great impact on  
455 both the shorelines where the river used to flow into the open sea (Kyllini Bay) and its current  
456 estuary to the Ionian Sea. The sediment transportation to both the deltaic areas has been altered  
457 during a quite small transition period and the implications on the coastline must have been very  
458 significant, especially at such relatively low relief estuary areas. The response of the shoreline in  
459 similar cases is always a strong indicator about the sediment transportation change.



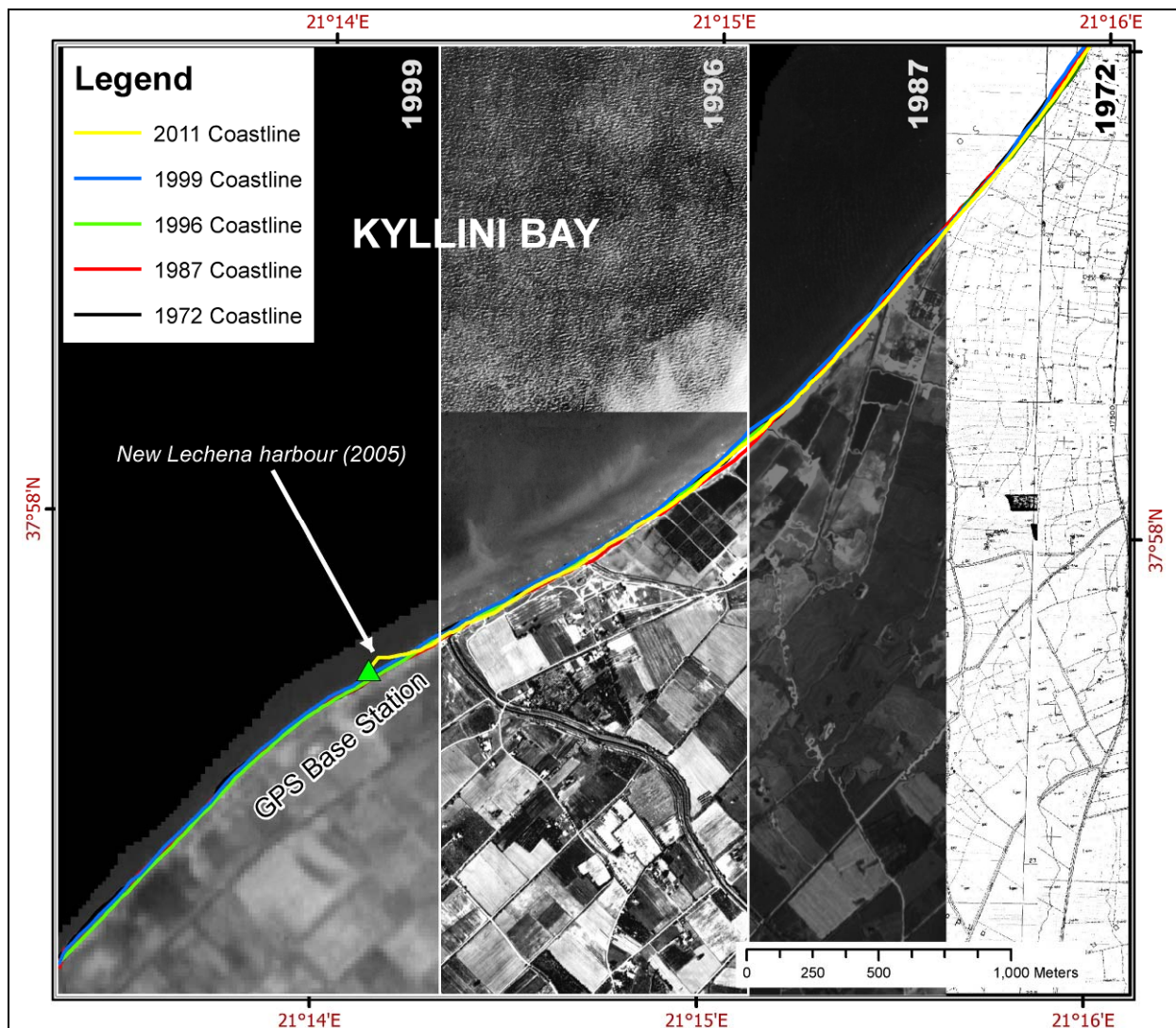
460 Kraft et al., (2005) refer to the existence of the Roman period shoreline several hundreds of meters  
461 offshore the Kyllini Bay and this is in agreement with the initial working hypothesis of this study. We  
462 argue that the northern coast is under severe erosion and keeps retrograding since the southwards  
463 diversion of Pineios River, which have happened around the 5th century (Kontopoulos and Koutsios,  
464 2010). On the contrary on both sides of the new mouth of the river to the south, we expected coastal  
465 progradation as the amount of the transported sediment should have increased, at least till the late  
466 1960's when the dam upstream started operating.

467

### 468 **6.1 Data acquisition and preparation**

469 We used several remote sensing datasets and topographic maps in order to determine whether or  
470 not progradation or retrogradation took place in Pineios former and current deltas during the recent  
471 years. We traced the shorelines at different times in a 40-year-period from early 1970's to 2011 using  
472 (a) photogrammetrically constructed topographic maps at 1:5,000 scale (1972), (b) two datasets of  
473 aerial photos (1987, 1996), and (c) a Landsat-ETM+ satellite image (1999). The traced coastlines were  
474 compared to the present shoreline (2011), which was traced with the use of high accuracy Real-Time  
475 Kinematics differential GPS (RTK-GPS).

476 Initially we collected the available data and created a quite satisfactory time series of images along  
477 the contemporary coastline. The oldest data available were several sheets of topographic maps  
478 acquired from HMGA and their construction was also based on photogrammetry techniques on  
479 previously acquired aerial photographs. We used 42 overlapping air photographs, which had been  
480 acquired during 1987 and generated an ortho-photo mosaic for this year. During this  
481 photogrammetric procedure a high resolution (2-meters) Digital Elevation Model was also produced  
482 and used afterwards for the ortho-rectification of a 15-meter resolution Landsat-7 ETM+,  
483 panchromatic image, which was acquired during 1999. All the data were co-registered with a 1-meter  
484 spatial resolution ortho-photo mosaic created from the photogrammetric interpretation of aerial  
485 photographs acquired during 1996 (Fig. 8).



**Figure 8.** Compilation of the four different types of datasets that were used to trace the historical shorelines. The accuracy varies from 2 to 15 meters depending on the spatial resolution of the data.

486

487 The image time series included mainly panchromatic data and therefore the digital products were 8-  
 488 bit gray-scale images covering most of the study area. By using digital image interpretation  
 489 techniques we traced the coastline in those different periods. The greater challenge was to identify  
 490 the exact places of contact between the seawater body and the onshore landscape and consequently  
 491 increase the accuracy of the measurements. This was made by equalizing the image histogram and in  
 492 some cases applying a threshold value, which was different at every air-photograph, depending on

493 the orientation of the sunlight. The use of the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum for all  
494 the collected remote sensing data provides the homogeneity and objectivity of the methodology.  
495 The data acquisition was completed with topographic survey by using the technology of RTK-GPS  
496 point collection, after establishing four GPS bases along the shore (Fig. 1). The first three of them  
497 were established along the northern coast of the area, covering most of the coast where Pineios  
498 River used to flow in the sea. The fourth station was established at the contemporary mouth of  
499 Pineios at the southern coast. The rover antenna was setup for acquiring easting and northing  
500 coordinates in the Hellenic Geodetic Reference System of 1987 (Greek Grid) projection system, every  
501 50 cm along the shoreline. The accuracy of the present coastline trace was quite high as the  
502 specifications of the equipment (TOPCON HiperPro) claim to get measurements with precision less  
503 than 10mm. The rover antenna was carried either by walking or adjusted on vehicles driven next to  
504 the shoreline where possible. At each case the height of the antenna was measured and imported  
505 into the solution software provided by the manufacturer of the equipment (TOPCON Tools v.7).

506

## 507 **6.2 Digital shoreline analysis results**

508 The collected points were converted into polylines and projected in a Geographic Information System  
509 platform along with the digitized shorelines of the previous years. The best-case scenario would be to  
510 have in our disposal five different shorelines for every place but there were smaller or bigger gaps in  
511 each datasets due to lack of information or objective difficulty to discriminate the land from the  
512 water body during the image interpretation. The combination of all the traced historical coastlines on  
513 the remote sensing data with the RTK-GPS recorded coastline have shown that both the former and  
514 the current delta fronts of Pineios River are divided into various sub-areas characterized by different  
515 type, phase and rate of shoreline displacement.

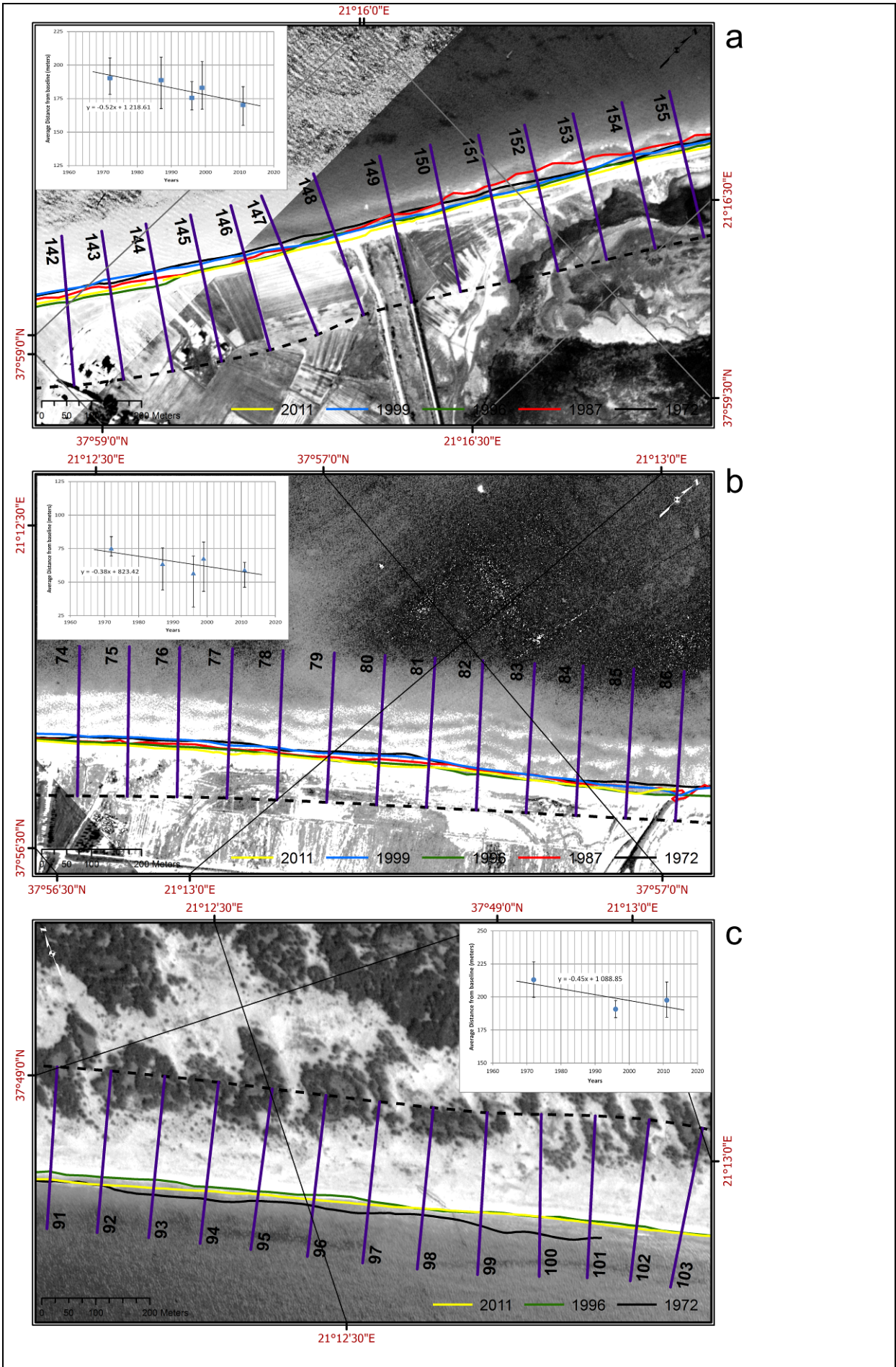
516 We used the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) version 4.2, which is a software extension to  
517 ESRI ArcGIS v.9.3.x published by USGS (Thieler et al., 2009). This extension allows the user to create  
518 several transects perpendicular to a baseline parallel to the contemporary shoreline at a given

519 distance and measure the relative position of any digitized coasts. These measurements can be used  
520 for extracting the rates of change among other useful statistics. We defined the transect distance  
521 every 100 meters along both the north and south coasts and the transect length was 300 meters. A  
522 point is automatically created when each transect intersects with the digitized shorelines and its  
523 distance to the given baseline is measured. A table of statistics containing all the measured distances  
524 is generated after this procedure. We used the statistics focusing along the coastal segments where  
525 we had more than four measurements at each transect.

526 Therefore throughout the total length of 30km of the northern shoreline we used a 13 km segment,  
527 which is quite representative for the northern coast. The results show that this part of the coast can  
528 be divided in three individual areas. The middle part shows a certain pattern of coastal change, which  
529 is strongly affected by a small but significant port (Lechena) which was constructed a few years  
530 (harbor works completed during 2005) before the last RTK-GPS measurement (2011). The other two  
531 areas seem to have the same behavior, which is retrograding with similar rates. In these cases the  
532 eroding rate for the NE part of Kyllini Bay coast is calculated at 0.52 m/yr (Fig. 9a) whilst the SW part  
533 is calculated at 0.38 m/yr (Fig. 9b), which are rather compatible. Both of these rates are consistent  
534 with the published studies (Raphael, 1973; Kraft et al., 2005) that define the historic shoreline during  
535 the late Roman period (~1,550 years BP) several hundreds of meters offshore the contemporary  
536 coast and during the Ottoman period (~400 years BP) somewhere in between. With our  
537 interpretation the submerged Roman shoreline should have been located  $700\pm 250$  meters towards  
538 NW and the Ottoman shoreline should have been located  $190\pm 20$  meters at the same direction,  
539 more or less parallel to the present one.

540 At the southern coastal area no significant human impact has been observed for the last century.  
541 Therefore the 6.5 km of RTK-GPS measurements are quite satisfactory, although due to lack of  
542 remote sensing data we were able to correlate only three shorelines (1972, 1996, 2011) and this was  
543 made possible only for 1km, which is rather decent for such a homogenous geo-environment. The  
544 aforementioned calculation cannot stand by itself as this area is not very large but it can contribute

545 to this study as a supplementary fact. The rate of the coastal erosion is computed at 0.45 m/yr (Fig.  
546 9c) and this value is also compatible with the results computed for the northern coast even if it was  
547 expected to be prograding due to the increase of sediment transportation since the estuary of  
548 Pineios River was relocated. A reasonable explanation is that the amount of expected sediment did  
549 not reach the river's current mouth at least after the dam construction upstream. The latter is in full  
550 operation since 1968 keeping large amounts of eroded materials from reaching the contemporary  
551 deltaic area and the oldest shoreline used for this calculation was traced on 1972 topographic maps.  
552 Therefore, any prograding influence on the present estuary should have been dramatically reduced  
553 after the dam's operation and consequently the coastal erosion prevails.



**Figure 9.** Three of the most representative parts of the northern (a,b) and the southern (c) coast, where transects every 100 meters were used for measuring the rates of coastal change. The insets show the trend of the rate of erosion as a result from measuring the horizontal distance from a baseline.

554

555 It has to be noted that in this approach, it is assumed that every process that contributes to long-  
556 term shoreline changes such as the effect of sea-level rise are included in the historical rate and  
557 remains more or less constant over the time frame of 40 years.

558

## 559 **7. CONCLUSIONS**

560 We combined several methodologies and different kinds of data to prove that there is an unmapped  
561 active normal fault zone trending E-W, crosscutting the area where the artificial lake of Pineios dam  
562 is situated.

563 The geophysical survey verified in depth this tectonic discontinuity between the deposited post-  
564 alpine strata by measuring the resistivity gradation along three sections perpendicular to the south  
565 dipping normal fault zone. The interpretation of the geophysical measurements revealed that the  
566 fault throw is significantly larger at the westernmost segment of the zone, reaching approximately  
567 the order of 110 meters. This is in full agreement with the fault slip rate which has been calculated by  
568 the differential uplift rates for both of the displaced fault blocks that have been participating in this  
569 local tectonic deformation and reaches the order of 0.48 mm/yr for the last 209 ka.

570 The continuous N-S extensional activity of Pineios fault zone for more than 200ky is causing the  
571 relative uplift of the northernmost area and consequently the subsidence of the southernmost block,  
572 along with block rotations towards north. The major impact on the river flow is the migration of the  
573 location of its estuary, which has been relocated from the northern uplifting fault block to the  
574 southern subsiding one. The implications of this relocation are rather obvious on the shorelines and  
575 especially along Kyllini Bay (north) where references for submerged ancient coastlines have been

576 noted. The retrograding rate of this shoreline, which is part of the uplifting fault block, is of the order  
577 of 0.52 m/yr, since sediment material transportation through Pineios River has been suspended.

578

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586

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