

Life Andros newsletter



LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

Management of the SPA site of Andros Island to achieve a Favourable Conservation Status for its priority species



Life Andros agricultural garden

In the most beautiful estate of Agadakis tower in Apaturia, Life Andros, which is realized by the municipality of Andros with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union, started an important endeavor for saving and reviving traditional crops of Andros. In particular, the project created an experimental model agricultural garden, in which seeds gathered from many Andros' villages during 2013-14, are cultivated so that these traditional varieties can be saved.

In the two years of 2013-14, through the project and with the valuable assistance of the Agricultural University of Athens (for which the municipality of Andros is grateful), we visited many villages and recorded local varieties of plants, citrus trees, herbs etc. These visits helped us to record the treasures of Andros' nature and to collect and preserve seeds – always under the specialist advice and recommendations of the Agricultural University. Some of the seeds that were saved (beetroot, celery, and so on), were planted experimentally in Agadakis



estate, in the hope to soon (in the following months) create an agricultural garden which will be used primarily for saving the valuable genetic material, through seed proliferation, and secondly as a model farm, where people can learn about the local varieties of the island and their cultivation. We should stress that the ground in Agadakis estate had been enriched with compost from the composter operating in Andros.

Agadakis estate belongs to Kairios library which granted a small part to Life Andros, for the first stage of cultivation. We should note that the statute of Kairios library states that the library should be involved in the salvation ➔

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and preservation of Andros cultivating varieties. Also, it is important to point that Agadakis Tower could be used as a small conference center, with modern facilities that can host up to 75 people.

The municipality of Andros and Life Andros would like to thank



Kairios library, both for the grant and the valuable cooperation.

Municipality of Andros applies for Life Andros 2

The municipality of Andros has applied for a new Life Andros project, aiming to make this project an important "tool" for the development of the island in two ways:

The increase of quality tourism and the cultivation, production, certification and marketing of trademarked products from Andros. The project, amounting to 2.000.000 euros, is being claimed in collaboration with the Agricultural University, which will be responsible

for coordinating the project, and other partners. The final evaluation is expected on April 2016.

According to plan, the new project will involve all professional farmers, breeders and fishermen who wish to participate by producing quality products. The ecotourism centre that will be established will be responsible for controlling the quality and certifying the products that will then be marketed everywhere in Greece.



The approval of the new Life project will be an important step for the development of ecotourism.



Quarterly Review about Andros Life Project

• Editor in Chief : Giannis Mindrinos

• Articles

Giannis Mindrinos
Isidoros Nikolaou
Tasos Dimalexis
Giorgos Gianissis

• Contact

Municipality of Andros
Life Andros project
Chora, Andros, 84500
Tel: 22823 60200

• Information Center

Life: Ormos Korthion
Tel: 22820 62319
www.androslife.gr
E: info@androslife.gr

• Art director:

A. Kritharoulas www.brightmedia.gr

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“Protecting Andros’ nature”

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Life Andros produced an extraordinary, thirty minute long, documentary that praises the island’s environment and promotes the actions of the project.

The famous British journalist of Discovery Channel, Nigel Marven, who visited Andros to document Eleonora’s falcon reproductive cycle and record the actions of the project, is an important highlight of the documentary. The documentary, also, features the mayor of Andros Theodosios Sousoudis, the former mayor Yannis Glynos, the head of Life Andros Isidoros Nikolaou and father Evdokimos, the abbot of Panachrantos Monastery. The documentary was printed in 2000 dvds and is



A DOCUMENTARY PRAISING ANDROS’ ENVIRONMENT

being screened in different events and the information centre in Korthi, in an effort to acquaint the public with Life project. Already more than 150 dvds, along with the related album, have been sent by the mayor of Andros

Theodosios Sousoudis to the presidents of all societies of the island, to journalists, to Kairios Library, to Kydoniefs foundation, to Basil and Elise Goulandrakis foundation and to many more foundations and associations.

Patrolling for the protection of Posidonia

One of the aims of Life project is to deal with the immediate threats that endanger the most important species in their reproduction and feeding habitats.

The destruction of main feeding habitats, mainly because of human actions, the competition between species for nesting positions and the immediate danger of rats are the basic threat for the Audouin’s gull and the European shag, the two species the project aims to protect.

Important habitats for the sea birds are the Posidonia meadows. These are undersea areas with sea plants that function as a “forest” which

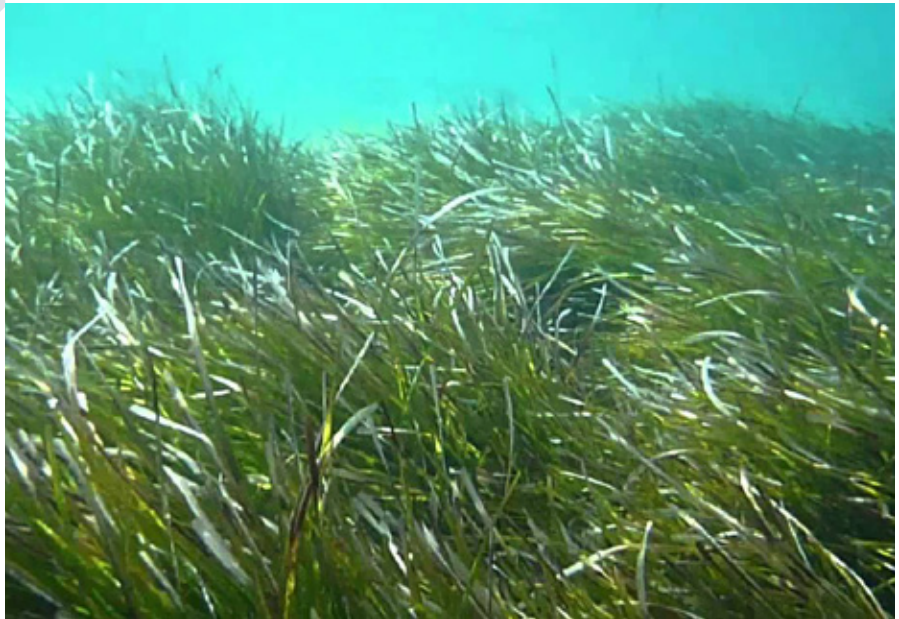


produces oxygen, captures immense quantities of dioxide carbonate and offers large quantities of organic matter from the detached leaves. As a habitat is of utmost importance.

Patrolling for the protection of Posidonia

► It is presumed that in the leaves and roots of Posidonia meadows, an incredibly large number of plants and animals finds protection and food. A fact that is an important indicator for the quality of the water.

These last years the Posidonia meadows have seen destruction, due to wrong tools and methods, reducing the variety and abundance of prey for the sea birds. With the Life project's boat we regularly patrol around Andros and near the main colonies of Audouin's gulls and European shags. These patrols aim to discover possible unlawful activities and advise the offenders of the correct methods of fishing and anchoring. In some cases, if it is necessary, we inform the proper authorities. We found that in some of the main feeding areas (over Posidonia meadows) of the two seabird species protected by Life project, there



was extensive anchoring. Life project acted immediately by placing anchoring buoys in three areas visited by large numbers of tourist or fishing boats. The anchoring buoys used comply with EU directives and national laws. This action is expected to have an immediate impact (5-10% increase) in the reproduction of birds that live in a radius of 3-5 km from Posidonia meadows, which are now protected from uncontrolled anchoring.

Presentation of Life project to the members of Andros Society

As part of the actions for the promotion of Life project and the increase of public awareness, the project had been presented in the Andros Society of Athens, after the invitation of the society's president Mr. Michalis Kapsabelis. Mrs. Eleni Politou, the responsible for the project municipal councilor, explained to the members and friends of the society, the project's goals, as well as how it is being realized. Then, Mr. Isidoros Nikolaou, who is the head of Life Andros project, analyzed the project's actions and results and talked

about the future of the project and the need to continue these actions even after the completion of the project on the 31st of August 2016. Following the presentation, the Society's members watched the thirty-minute long documentary "Protecting the nature in Andros" and had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss about the project. In February the project will be presented to Andros Society of Piraeus, the Society of Gavrion and the Society of Korthi.

