

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



The full agenda and the many actions of the SPA Management Committee

Project Life's Special Protection Area (SPA) Management Committee started and continues operating with fast pace and a full agenda. Project Life is realized by the Municipality of Andros with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union.

The committee includes representatives from the Municipality of Andros, the Ministry of Environment, the South Aegean Region, the Port Authorities, the Police, the Fire Department, the Forestry Department, the Fishermen Association, the Volunteer Forest Firefighters and the Ornithological Society and its objective is solving any problems that arise within the Special Protection Area, like protecting Posidonia and the fish stock, free grazing, fires etc.

It was decided that the committee should place special emphasis on informing all interested parties (all involved government and civilian professional bodies) about the laws that cover every kind of activity within the SPA (agriculture, livestock farming, fishing etc.). As far as free grazing is concerned, all prevention and information actions will take place with the coopera-

tion of the Municipal Committee for Unattended Livestock (that had been invited and participated to the meeting) and the Regional Unit of Andros, the Department of Agricultural Economy, the Forest Service of the Aegean Decentralized Administration (Andros' Forestry) and the Fire Department.

Finally, as part of the project's actions for the surveillance of protected areas of Andros, the project's boat and team members participated, on the 4th of June, in an



overnight operation with Andros Port Authorities against a case of illegal fishing.

After several hours of searching, the project's boat was able to find the motorized plastic boat, abandoned and without any identification, in an isolated cove, 700 meters north of Plaka beach. The Port Authorities found in the boat a spear gun, a system of underwater lighting, diving suits and masks, catch collection bags, a refrigerator and 52 fishes.

Life project realizes a wide and detailed surveillance program for all protected areas of Andros, both on land and sea, in cooperation with all competent authorities, aiming in a gradual transition towards a permanent system for the management and control of these areas.



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LIFEANDROS exhibition opens on the 18th of July in Chora



As part of the project's communication actions and in order to make LifeAndros project known to as many people as possible, an exhibition will operate in Chora from Monday the 18th of July until Sunday the 4th of September, where visitors will be able to get acquainted with the project and its actions.

Visitors of the exhibition, which will be hosted in Empeirikion High School, will have the opportunity through photographic material to get acquainted with the island's environment, the infirmary for injured birds, the wetlands and the four rare bird species that are protected by the project. Also, they will have the opportunity to watch the 30-minute long documentary "Protecting the nature in Andros", which was sponsored by the Life project and promotes the natural beauty of the island. During the exhibition, members of the Life project team will be answering queries and questions from the visitors.

This same exhibition was successfully presented last year in Batsi.

In the mean time, Life project's team continues the presentation of the project to associations and societies of Andros that have their headquarters in Athens. Thus, on Saturday the 9th of April, the project was presented in the lecture hall of Andros' Society "To Korthion" at 19 Digeni Akrita street in Athens. The presentation was also attended by members of the Cultural Association of Strapourgies, Lamyra, Mesathouri and Ipsilou villages "Agios Nikolaos".



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Successful reopening of three dovecots

Pigeon breeding was very popular in Andros for hundreds of years, as it is shown by the various abandoned dovecots that are found in every corner of the island – especially on its central and south part.

Pigeons were less frequently used for their meat and more for their manure.

With time and the limiting of agricultural activities to a minimum, pigeon breeding gradually reduced and nowadays, there are but a few functioning dovecots on the island.

This fact was one of the many reasons for the reduction of the main food resource of the Bonelli's eagle, which mainly feeds on pigeons.

Life project restored and reopened three dovecots in the areas where Bonelli's eagles feed and filled them with pigeons.



This action is considered a total success, as the pigeons were able to adjust to the area, to create nests and started reproducing in satisfying rates. Also, the dovecots are being unceasingly cared for by the Life project team. In this way,

it was possible to solve the problem of Bonelli's eagles and other big preying birds feeding, without big fluctuations in the pigeon populations, that remain stable due to satisfying reproduction rates.

Joint Action of Life projects for the Eleonora's falcon

Life project Andros (ANDROSSPA), which is realized by the Municipality of Andros with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union, realized in 14-17 of April 2016, a joint action with Life project ElClima.

In particular, the Andros Life project's boat "Kalypto" visited the islets of Andros and the Small Cyclades islet cluster, where the project realizes actions for controlling the population of terrestrial predators and for constructing artificial nests in order to improve the breeding conditions of the Eleonora's falcons.

Eleonora's falcons nest on the Aegean islets late in the summer, taking advantage of the autumnal movements of migratory birds, with which



falcons feed their chicks. The climatic change has already started influencing the species

Joint Action of Life projects for the Eleonora's falcon

▶ and the need to limit human pressures and to provide appropriate nests for the falcons that inhabit the Aegean islets, is of vital importance for the falcon's preservation and protection. Eleonora's falcons are an emblematic species for the Aegean, as this is the habitat of 85% of the global population.

The head of Life Andros project, Mr. Isidoros Nikolaou, stressed: "Our excellent cooperation with Life ElClima project on the Small Cyclades islets, gave the opportunity to both teams to increase their experience and knowledge on issues of common interest. Our coordinated actions truly boosted the operational capacity of both teams, a fact that will benefit both projects".

Life Andros project is in its final year, concluding a cycle of actions for the Eleonora's falcons

of Andros' islets. These actions have had great positive influence on the falcon's reproductive success, through the use of artificial nest for improving the natural nesting habitats of the birds and the cleaning of the islets from rats, which in turn led to the recovery of vegetation and the decrease of death rates for eggs and chicks. Life ElClima project is realized in 7 areas all over the Aegean, from Limnos to Karpathos and Gramvousa, where there will be actions both for improving Eleonora's falcons nesting habitats, and for providing appropriate habitats for migratory birds.

The two projects with these actions will provide the species with the appropriate conditions to be able to survive, as best as possible, the climatic change that is in progress and is expected to intensify in the years to come.

Life project's boat helps in cleaning the seabed in Batsi

Life project's boat participated in the seabed cleaning for the port of Batsi, which was organized by the Port Authorities of Andros and was concluded on Sunday the 12th of June.

Life project's boat participated in the cleaning after the request of the port authorities and these activities were part of the wider actions of the project for the protection of Andros island environment. The seabed cleaning was realized by a group of Port Authority executives, a team of twelve volunteer divers – members of the non-profit organization of non-professional divers "TITHIS", the speedboat "KALYPSO" that belongs to the Municipality of Andros with the head of Life project Mr. Isidoros Nikolaou,



the volunteer from Andros network

Mr. Dimitris

Petsas who handled a tow track and several volunteers that helped in gathering trash.

While hauling trash from the seabed the team found:

- One (01) metal bed mattress
- One (01) accumulator (battery)
- Rescue fireworks
- Seventy four (74) plastic bags
- Metal manhole covers
- Clothes
- Twenty eight (28) plastic cups



- One (01) anchor
- Furniture (two (02) metal chairs – one (01) plastic table)
- Fishing nets
- Forty two (42) aluminum cans
- Three (03) tires
- Smoking items (cigarette packets – cigarette ends – lighters)
- Electrical equipment (one (01) switchboard – cables)
- One (01) barrel
- Thirteen (13) glass bottles
- Many pieces of ropes