

Feasibility Study

Summary

The Feasibility Study for the Management of the Special Protection Area (SPA) is part of the Management Plan for the Andros SPA, which is being elaborated under LIFE10 NAT / GR / 000637: Management of the Special Protection Area of Andros to achieve the desired conservation status for four priority species, *Falco eleonora*, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. The four-year Life project aims to implement conservation measures for the immediate protection of the four priority species in the Andros SPA and at the same time seeks to establish a well-structured, effective, socially acceptable and economically viable Management System for the SPA, able to coordinate the activities of competent authorities and implement the necessary SPA management to achieve and maintain the desired level of conservation of priority species in order to implement it in full scale.

The area of the project is the newly established SPA "Andros: Central and South, surrounding islets and coastal Marine Zone", GR4220028, which includes inland and coastal terrestrial habitats as well as coastal areas in Andros and the surrounding islets. The SPA hosts 182 breeding pairs of *Falco eleonora*, 2-3 breeding pairs of *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, over 60 breeding pairs of *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and 25-30 breeding pairs of *Larus audouinii*. Conservation management actions to improve breeding and feeding habitat of these species will be specified by the SPA Management Plan which will create direct and indirect and long-term benefits for local populations of target species. At the same time, the awareness-raising and communication campaign of the program will have an impact on the perceptions of the local community and visitors about the SPA and Andros natural environment.

The Feasibility Study prepared under Action A3: "Development of a feasibility study for the management of the Andros SPA" is complementary to the A1 Action (Development of a Management Plan for the Andros SPA). The purpose of this Action is to present proposals to the SPA management scheme as described in the Management Plan (action A1), the responsibilities of the management scheme, the way of financing and the cost of its operation.

Based on the existing institutional framework, the study proposes the establishment of a Special Organization for the Management of the SPA by the Municipality of Andros through an agreement, and staffing this scheme based on a small and flexible organization chart and ensuring its financial sustainability by exploiting a wide range of funding opportunities which will allow the long-term management of the SPA without the need to depend on significant public funds.