

Management Plan

Summary

The present Management Plan of the Special Protection Area "Andros: Central section, around islets and offshore maritime zone ", code GR 4220028, is being developed within the framework of Action A1 of the LIFE10NAT / GR / 000637 program implemented by the Municipality of Andros for the sustainable conservation - management of the SPA and the priority bird species.

This Management Plan was implemented in two phases: The first includes the recording and evaluation of the current environmental status and proposing zones and conditions for the protection of the area, based on ecological and critical requirements of habitats of the priority species in the SPA, within a framework that will allow the sustainable development of Andros Island. The first phase of the Management Plan required extensive field research, the results of which have been incorporated into the study.

The first phase of the Management Plan was the subject of local consultation under the LIFE program, in order to incorporate the views and attitudes of the local community and the island's stakeholders, in order to make it as more acceptable as possible and therefore realistic. The results of the consultation, together with the additional results from the LIFE research actions have been integrated into the second phase of the Plan Management that includes the identification and mapping of the entire Andros SPA, a detailed SPA management program for the next five years, as well as proposals for the functioning of the SPA management system within the scheme to be created for this purpose by the Municipality of Andros. Also it includes a draft Presidential Decree for the protection of the area.

Together with the Management Plan, the Sensitivity Mapping Study is also delivered, and the following additional studies: the Plan for the Protection / Surveillance of the SPA, the Restoration Plan of the Andros wetlands, the Local Action Plans for target species of the program, Scientific Monitoring Plan of the SPA, the Action Plans for the conservation actions of the program (eradication of rats, control of the yellow-legged gull population, increase the available nesting sites on the islets, establishing seagrass friendly moorings in selected spots and the Feasibility Study.

The wish of the project team is that the Management Plan for the SPA of Andros to become the start of a systematic and efficient management – preservation for the protected area, in a way that will make it a valuable tool for sustainable development of the island, thus contributing to the mitigation of social and environmental consequences during the current economic crisis. Protection of nature can be a tool for the "green growth" that many are envisaging, provided to take advantage of the opportunities presented in this respect. The challenge is in front of us.