

## Protected species



### Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonora*)

Greece is the most important country for the conservation and survival of the Falcon, since it hosts during breeding season over 85% of the world population of the species.

Length: 0.40 meters

Wingspan: 1 meter

Distribution: SE Africa and Madagascar, the Mediterranean islands

Greek population: 12.500 couples



### Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)

Typical eagle species in the Mediterranean area, Bonelli's Eagle stays throughout the year in Greece. Breeds in several Aegean islands and the Peloponnese.

Length: 0.70 meters

Wingspan: 1.60 m

Distribution: NW Africa and the Iberian peninsula east to North Indochina and South China

Greek population: 100-140 pairs



### Mediterranean Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*)

The Mediterranean Shag is a subspecies endemic to the Mediterranean basin.

Length: 0.75 meters

Wingspan: 1 meter

Distribution: islands and rocky shores of the Mediterranean

Greek population: 1.000 to 1.200 pairs



### Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*)

Audouin's Gull is a gull species, native to the Mediterranean, easily recognizable by the deep red beak and black legs.

Length: 0.50 meters

Wingspan: 1.30 meters

Distribution: Mediterranean Islands

Greek population: 350 to 500 pairs

## THE PROTECTED AREA | NATURA

Andros, central and southern parts, islets and coastal marine zone



## Become a volunteer of Life Andros program!

Do you want to join the group, participate in various activities and help to protect the environment and biodiversity of the island?

Contact us at  
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**Life Andros**  
a project for life



## What Is Life Andros?

The project "Life Andros" aims to immediate measures to **protect and conserve 4 bird species** in the Special Protection Area (SPA) of Andros island, with parallel actions including promotion of local traditional elements, raising public awareness and active involvement of local society in protecting the natural environment.

Life Andros is being implemented by the **Municipality of Andros** in cooperation with the **Hellenic Ornithological Society and NCC Ltd.** The program is funded by the **European Union (75%)**, while the rest 25% comes from national funds provided by the **Ministry of Environment (Green Fund)**. The overall objective is to establish a well structured, effective, socially acceptable and economically viable **Management Scheme for the SPA**.

## The protected area

The project area is the **established NATURA 2000 site of the island (SPA)**, which includes inland and coastal terrestrial habitats as well as coastal marine areas on the Andros island and the surrounding islets.

The area hosts **182 breeding pairs of Eleonora's Falcons** (*Falco eleonora*), **2-3 pairs of Bonelli's eagle** (*Hieraetus fasciatus*), **over 60 pairs of Mediterranean Shag's** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*) and **25-30 pairs of Audouin's Gull** (*Larus audouinii*)

## The problems

In summary, the problems relating to the conservation of the natural environment of the island and specifically to the protection of the project bird species, are the **decline and abandonment of traditional agricultural practices** and the **degradation of coastal wetlands**, the **lack of management planning** for the SPA, the **lack of suitable nesting habitats** for the protected species, **climate change** that threatens food availability and quality of foraging habitats and the **degradation of the primary seabird foraging areas**.

Also, another major problem is the **lack of information and awareness** about the threats and conservation of the target species and their habitats, as well as the importance of the European Natura network.

## Project actions

According to Life Andros project, a Management Plan for the SPA will be developed, as well as studies and action plans for the protection of the area and the protected species

Project actions include:

- **creation of artificial nesting sites** for islet nesting bird species
- **revitalization of traditional farming practices**, cultivation of **traditional crops** and bird friendly farming practices
- **revitalization of operation of traditional pigeon towers**
- **installation of seagrass-friendly moorings** in target seabird primary foraging grounds
- **protection and restoration of coastal wetlands**, as well as cleaning and signing of **traditional footpaths** leading to them
- **extensive and well-focused public awareness campaign** throughout the project
- **production of a documentary film** about the project areas and species, which will be promoted to various tv stations and other mass information media
- **the project exhibition and information center** is situated in Korthi, as well as the **Wildlife First Aid Center**



## Natura network

Natura 2000 network is a **European network of protected areas**, which host natural habitat types and species, that are important at a European level.

The goal of the network is to ensure the **long-term survival of the most valuable and threatened species and habitats** of Europe.

The Natura Network does not prohibit activities within its limits. The philosophy of the network is that **man and nature must coexist**.

The activities that take place within Natura network must be **sustainable and in harmony** with the natural environment.

This implies that a large number of activities within the network are possible, such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

