



LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity

TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMS

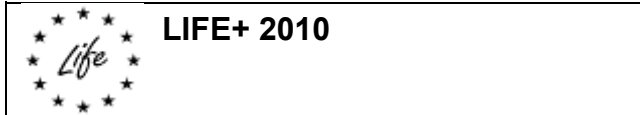
Part A – administrative information

NOTES:

There are 4 sets of LIFE+ "Nature & Biodiversity" application forms: A, B, C (technical forms) and F (financial forms). The financial forms are in a separate Excel file.

While filling in the technical forms A – C, please respect the standard A4 format. Maps illustrating the location of the proposed actions should be presented in annex. Insofar as possible, these maps should be in A4 format but may if necessary be presented in format A3. No formats other than A4 or A3 are allowed.

Whenever several copies of one form 2010-XY needs to be produced, please use the following naming convention per page: 2010-XY/1; 2010-XY/2 etc.



LIFE+ 2010

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE ONLY

LIFE+ 10 NAT/

PROJECT

Project title (max. 120 characters):

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

Project acronym (max. 25 characters): **ANDROSSPA**

The project will be implemented in the following:

Country(ies): **GREECE**Administrative region(s): **SOUTH AEGEAN (NOTIO AIGAIO)**Expected start date: **01/09/2011**Expected end date: **31/08/2115**

BENEFICIARIES

Name of the **coordinating** beneficiary (1): **MUNICIPALITY OF ANDROS**Name of the associated beneficiary (2): **HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**Name of the associated beneficiary (3): **NCC Ltd**

PROJECT BUDGET AND REQUESTED EC FUNDING

Total project budget: **1.805.749 €**Total eligible project budget: **1.805.749 €**EC financial contribution requested: **1.354.312 €** (= 75 % of total eligible budget)

PROJECT POLICY AREA

You can only tick one of the following options:

LIFE+ Nature: Best practice and/or demonstration project contributing to the implementation of the objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (Council Directives 79/409 EEC and 92/43/EEC)

LIFE+ Biodiversity: Demonstration and/or innovative project contributing to the objectives of the Commission Communication COM (2006) 216 final: "*Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond*"

Coordinating Beneficiary Profile Information				
Short Name	ANDROS MUNICIPALITY		Beneficiary n°	1
Legal information on the Coordinating Beneficiary				
Legal Name	MUNICIPALITY OF ANDROS		Legal Status	
VAT No	998239700		Public body	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legal Registration No	3852		Private commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration Date	07/06/2010		Private non- commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal address of the Coordinating Beneficiary				
Street Name and No	ANDROS		PO Box	
Post Code	84500	Town/City	ANDROS	
Country Code	GR	Country Name	GREECE	
Coordinating Beneficiary contact person information				
Title		Function	Project Director	
Surname	MENTZELOPOULOS		First Name	KONSTANTINOS
E-mail address	k.mentzelopoulos@gmail.com			
Department / Service	Consultant to Andros Municipality			
Street Name and No	ORMOS KORTHIOU		PO Box	
Post Code	84502	Town/City	ANDROS	
Country	GREECE			
Telephone No	+30 2282062319	Fax No	+30 2282061419	
Coordinating Beneficiary details				
Year	2011			
Annual turnover	16.218.172,89€	Annual Balance Sheet Total	N/A	
Number of employees	85			
Website	www.andros.gr			
Brief description of the Coordinating Beneficiary's activities and experience in the area of the proposal				

NOTICE CONCERNING COORDINATING BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION:

Please note that the Coordinating Beneficiary in the original LIFE Nature application LIFE10 NAT/GR/000637 was correctly identified as the legally registered Korthi Municipality of Andros Island, Greece. Following the 15 September 2010 submission date of this application to the national authority which subsequently delivered the application to the European Commission, the Hellenic government consolidated many Hellenic municipalities which became effective on 1 January 2011. As a result, the former Korthi Municipality, which was one of three former island municipalities, merged with the other two former Andros Island municipalities (i.e. Ydroussa Municipality and Andros Municipality) to become one consolidated municipality now known as the Andros Municipality which has jurisdiction over the entire island.

This municipal consolidation and merger will not modify, nullify or void any of the executed contracts, executed applications, legal covenants, legal responsibilities or liabilities, or any part of any of the foregoing ("Legal Obligations") of the former Korthi Municipality, including without limitation the LIFE Nature application, because, effective as of the 01-01-2011 date of this merger, the new Andros Municipality automatically became the legal successor-in-interest to all of the national and international, if any, Legal Obligations of the former Korthi Municipality without the necessity of any further action.

Hellenic Law 3852 entitled "The New Municipal Architecture and Decentralized Government – Kallikratis Program" published in the Official Journal of the Hellenic Republic on 7 June 2010 is the legal basis for:

- (i) the Hellenic municipal merger/consolidation action by the national government where, in particular, Chapter A, Article 1, subsection 29.2 states that the Municipality of Andros, based in Andros, is the newly consolidated municipality comprised of the former municipalities of Andros, Ydroussa and Korthi as of the effective date of Hellenic Law 3852; and
- (ii) the automatic assumption by all of the newly consolidated municipalities, including the new Andros Municipality, of all Legal Obligations undertaken on or before 31 December 2011 by the former municipalities that were the subjects of the enumerated mergers/consolidations of which the former Korthi Municipality was one. Specifically, Chapter IA, Article 283 entitled "Final Adjustments", subsection 1 confirms the automatic assumption by the newly consolidated municipalities of all Legal Obligations that had been undertaken by the former municipalities that became the subject of mergers/consolidations.

As a result, the Coordinating Beneficiary for LIFE Nature application LIFE10 NAT/GR/000637 should hereafter be identified as the Andros Municipality, rather than the Korthi Municipality, in all future European Commission and Andros Municipality communications, records and documents related to the LIFE Nature application to accurately reflect the implementation of Hellenic Law 3852 which now governs the legal conduct and financial instruments of such Coordinating Beneficiary.

With full public support, the Korthi Municipality has implemented environmental conservation actions within its jurisdiction which positively impact the project area, provide the Municipality with public environmental education and public awareness experience, and include, without limitation the following:

- 1) The establishment of the Korthi Environmental Education Centre under the auspices of the Hellenic Education Ministry for the benefit of resident and non-resident Hellenic students as well as concerned adults to teach environmental conservation, including the methods and benefits of organic farming, renewable energy sources, sustainable water management and conservation. In 2009, this Centre is hosting educational seminars for 1,470 non-resident and resident students from 42 different schools (39 mainland and 3 island schools) as well as 80 professional primary (high school) teachers, the role of whom at the Centre is to attend environmental education classes and not to serve as supervisors of attending school students.

- 2) The Korthi Municipal participation as a Founding member of the Hellenic Daphne Program, established for the sustainable development of the Greek islands, which includes action programs such as the current development of a sustainable water management program in cooperation with the National Technical University of Athens.
- 3) The tenure of Korthi Mayor Ioannis Glynos as President of the Environmental Committee of the Cyclades Union of Municipalities.
- 4) The active engagement in and promotion of the establishment of alternative energy sources in the Municipality with the cooperation of the private and public sector. [In this context, the Korthi Municipality has organized public awareness events, including the July 2001 conference entitled "Traditional and Modern Methods of Energy Production and Use from Windmills to Wind Turbines".]
- 5) The current installation of a new underground sewer system connected to a sewage treatment facility that will, in addition to its primary function, provide non-potable water to supplement traditional island water supplies. This replaces the previous sewage system that evacuated untreated contents directly into the sea.
- 6) The current development of a recycling management system.
- 7) The completion of a Municipal-commissioned study and ongoing Municipal actions aimed at the scientifically recommended establishment of the Dipotamata River region as a protected area for the purposes of (a) managing and protecting the natural and cultural environment inhabited by threatened species/natural habitat types and historical watermills, and (b) promoting educational environmental awareness to visitors.

The dedication of a portion of an existing Korthi Municipal building, to the establishment of a permanent Project Exhibition and Visitor Center.

For the last 3 year, the Municipality of Korthi has undertaken an initiative to enhance the conservation status of the island and coastal important nature sites, especially for threatened birds, by applying for an integrated LIFE Nature proposal. This initiative motivated regional and local stakeholders towards the conservation of valuable natural sites. Unfortunately, in the previous 2 years the proposals were rejected due to absence of SPA sites in the proposed project area, the situation that changed with the recent declaration of the new SPAs for the region in early 2010.



COORDINATING BENEFICIARY DECLARATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

1. The specific actions listed in this proposal do not and will not receive aid from the Structural Funds or other European Union financial instruments. In the event that any such funding will be made available after the submission of the proposal or during the implementation of the project, my organisation will immediately inform the European Commission.
2. My organisation **Municipality of Andros** has not been served with bankruptcy orders, nor has it received a formal summons from creditors. My organisation is not in any of the situations listed in Articles 93.1 and 94 of Council Regulation 1605/2002 of 25/06/2002 (OJ L248 of 16/09/2002).
3. My organisation (which is legally registered in the European Union) will contribute (add amount) **374.211€** to the project. My organisation will participate in the implementation of the following actions (add action code(s)): **A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, E1, E3, E4**. The estimated total cost of my organisation's part in the implementation of the project is (add amount) **1.033.489 €**.
4. Should one or more associated beneficiary or co-financier reduce or withdraw its financial contribution, my organisation will ensure that a corresponding additional contribution is made available.
5. My organisation will conclude with the associated beneficiaries and co-financiers any agreements necessary for the completion of the work, provided these do not infringe on their obligations, as stated in the grant agreement with the European Commission. Such agreements will be based on the model proposed by the European Commission. They will describe clearly the tasks to be performed by each associated beneficiary and define the financial arrangements.
6. I am aware that my organisation is solely legally and financially responsible to the Commission for the implementation of the project (Article 4 of the Common Provisions).

I am legally authorised to sign this statement on behalf of my organisation.

I have read in full the Common Provisions (attached to the Model Grant Agreement provided with the *LIFE+* application files).

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this proposal are true and the information provided is correct.

At Andros Municipality on Andros.....

Signature of the Coordinating Beneficiary:

Name(s) and status of signatory: **Ioannis Glynos, Andros Municipal Mayor**

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARY DECLARATION (complete for each Associated Beneficiary)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

1. My organisation **HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY** has not been served with bankruptcy orders, nor has it received a formal summons from creditors. My organisation is not in any of the situations listed in Articles 93.1 and 94 of Council Regulation 1605/2002 of 25/06/2002 (OJ L248 of 16/09/2002).
2. My organisation (which is legally registered in the European Union) will contribute (add amount) **17.889€** to the project. My organisation will participate in the implementation of the following actions (add action code(s)): **A1, A2, C1, C2, C7, D5, D8, E1, E2**. The estimated total cost of my organisation's part in the implementation of the project is (add amount) **178.886€**.
3. My organisation will conclude with the coordinating beneficiary an agreement necessary for the completion of the work, provided this does not infringe on our obligations, as stated in the grant agreement with the European Commission. This agreement will be based on the model proposed by the European Commission. It will describe clearly the tasks to be performed by my organisation and define the financial arrangements.
4. For the purposes of the implementation of the agreement regarding this project between the European Commission and the coordinating beneficiary:
 - a) My organisation grants power of attorney to the coordinating beneficiary, to act in our name and for our account in signing the above-mentioned agreement and its possible subsequent riders with the European Commission. Accordingly, my organisation hereby mandates the coordinating beneficiary to take full legal responsibility for the implementation of such an agreement.
 - b) My organisation hereby confirms that we have taken careful note of and accept all the provisions of the above agreement with the European Commission, in particular all provisions affecting my organisation and the coordinating beneficiary. In particular, my organisation acknowledges that, by virtue of this mandate, the co-ordinator alone is entitled to receive funds from the Commission and distribute to my organisation the amount corresponding to our participation in the action.
 - c) My organisation hereby agrees to do everything in our power to help the coordinating beneficiary fulfil his obligations under the above agreement. In particular, my organisation hereby agrees to provide him whatever documents or information may be required, as soon as possible after receiving his request.
 - d) The provisions of the above agreement, including this mandate, shall take precedence over any other agreement between my organisation and the coordinating beneficiary which may have an effect on the implementation of the above agreement between the coordinating beneficiary and the Commission.

I am legally authorised to sign this statement on behalf of my organisation.

I have read in full the Common Provisions (attached to the Model Grant Agreement provided with the *LIFE+* application files).

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this proposal are true and the information provided is correct.

At Athens on.....

Signature of the Associated Beneficiary:

Name(s) and status of signatory: **Apostolos Kaltsis, President of the Board**

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARY DECLARATION (complete for each Associated Beneficiary)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

1. My organisation **NCC Ltd** has not been served with bankruptcy orders, nor has it received a formal summons from creditors. My organisation is not in any of the situations listed in Articles 93.1 and 94 of Council Regulation 1605/2002 of 25/06/2002 (OJ L248 of 16/09/2002).
2. My organisation (which is legally registered in the European Union) will contribute (add amount) **59.337€** to the project. My organisation will participate in the implementation of the following actions (add action code(s)): **A1, A2, A3, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, D1, D2, D4, D5, D6, D8, E1, E2, E3, E4**. The estimated total cost of my organisation's part in the implementation of the project is (add amount) **593.374 €**.
3. My organisation will conclude with the coordinating beneficiary an agreement necessary for the completion of the work, provided this does not infringe on our obligations, as stated in the grant agreement with the European Commission. This agreement will be based on the model proposed by the European Commission. It will describe clearly the tasks to be performed by my organisation and define the financial arrangements.
4. For the purposes of the implementation of the agreement regarding this project between the European Commission and the coordinating beneficiary:
 - a) My organisation grants power of attorney to the coordinating beneficiary, to act in our name and for our account in signing the above-mentioned agreement and its possible subsequent riders with the European Commission. Accordingly, my organisation hereby mandates the coordinating beneficiary to take full legal responsibility for the implementation of such an agreement.
 - b) My organisation hereby confirms that we have taken careful note of and accept all the provisions of the above agreement with the European Commission, in particular all provisions affecting my organisation and the coordinating beneficiary. In particular, my organisation acknowledges that, by virtue of this mandate, the co-ordinator alone is entitled to receive funds from the Commission and distribute to my organisation the amount corresponding to our participation in the action.
 - c) My organisation hereby agrees to do everything in our power to help the coordinating beneficiary fulfil his obligations under the above agreement. In particular, my organisation hereby agrees to provide him whatever documents or information may be required, as soon as possible after receiving his request.
 - d) The provisions of the above agreement, including this mandate, shall take precedence over any other agreement between my organisation and the coordinating beneficiary which may have an effect on the implementation of the above agreement between the coordinating beneficiary and the Commission.

I am legally authorised to sign this statement on behalf of my organisation.

I have read in full the Common Provisions (attached to the Model Grant Agreement provided with the *LIFE+* application files).

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this proposal are true and the information provided is correct.

At Athens on.....

Signature of the Associated Beneficiary:

Name(s) and status of signatory: **Tasos Dimalexis, Manager**

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARY PROFILE (complete for each Associated Beneficiary)

Associated Beneficiary profile information				
Short name	HOS		Beneficiary n°	2
Legal information on the Associated Beneficiary				
Legal Name	HELLENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY		Legal Status	
VAT No	09145013		Public body Private commercial Private non-commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Registration No	032291			<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration Date	05/12/1991			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legal address of the Associated Beneficiary				
Street Name and No	VASILEOS IRAKLEIOU 24		PO Box	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Code	106 82	Town/City	ATHENS	
Country Code	GR	Country Name	GREECE	
Brief description of the Associated Beneficiary's activities and experience in the area of the proposal				
<p>HOS was founded in 1982 and is a non-governmental, nation-wide, non-profit organization – the only one in Greece that deals exclusively with the protection of wild birds and their habitats. HOS is the national partner of BirdLife International in Greece.</p> <p>As a testament to the continuous efforts and contributions of HOS to the protection of Greece's natural environment, the Environmental Protection Award was conferred upon HOS by the prestigious National Academy in 1993.</p> <p>HOS's mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To study and protect wild birds and their habitats in Greece To provide scientific information and data to the Greek government and the European Union To inform, educate and sensitize the public. <p>HOS has undertaken large scale monitoring work on bird populations and has participated actively in the conservation and management of protected areas in Greece.</p> <p>HOS is a member of BirdLife International, the European Environmental Bureau and the European Union of Coastal Conservation.</p> <p>During the last decade, HOS has implemented as a beneficiary or a partner, a significant number of LIFE Nature projects aimed at the protection of priority bird species and their habitats. The experience gained by those projects provides a solid basis, ensuring the proper and effective implementation of the proposed project.</p> <p>HOS was responsible for updating the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Greece and has promoted the designation of the majority of these IBAs to SPA status in collaboration with BirdLife International.</p> <p>HOS is a recognized non-profit organization. This is evidenced by the Society charter, by the HOS inclusion in the Environmental Non Governmental Organizations of the Hellenic Environment Ministry and by the recognition as such by the Hellenic Finance Ministry.</p> <p>HOS has a long term experience in the conservation of birds in the Aegean region, including species population surveys and breeding habitat enhancement, through the control of invasive species and the implementation of habitat management and restoration actions. Since 2005 HOS has been working on Falco eleonora colonies on Andros, and has a very good knowledge of the species conservation problems there.</p>				

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARY PROFILE (complete for each Associated Beneficiary)

Associated Beneficiary profile information				
Short name	NCC		Beneficiary n°	3
Legal information on the Associated Beneficiary				
Legal Name	NCC- Ltd		Legal Status	
VAT No	997721385		Public body Private commercial Private non-commercial	X
Legal Registration No	314571			
Registration Date	29-07-2010			
Legal address of the Associated Beneficiary				
Street Name and No	Gythiou 4		PO Box	
Post Code	GR 15231	Town/City	ATHENS	
Country Code	GR	Country Name	GREECE	
Brief description of the Associated Beneficiary's activities and experience in the area of the proposal				
<p>NCC – <i>Nature Conservation Consultants</i> Ltd is a consulting company recently established by nature experts with long term experience and specialization in applied nature conservation, in Greece and the surrounding region. Members of NCC have coordinated or have contributed in the implementation of more than 12 Life Nature and Life Environment projects within the last 13 years, collaborating with ministries, regional and local public authorities, NGOs and Research Institutes in Greece and abroad. The expertise gained through these projects provides NCC with top level technical capacity and know - how in a number of fields, such as SPA ornithological evaluation and delineation, priority bird species ecological requirements and legal measures adequate for their compensation, protected areas management planning, habitat restoration plans, wetland creation and enhancement plans, control of alien invasive species, bird and biodiversity field surveys, telemetry, GIS and database development for nature conservation and various technical consultations for species restoration and management works. The vision of NCC is to promote biodiversity conservation by providing top level expert advice in the planning and implementation of nature conservation projects and by facilitating integrated conservation approaches and partnerships, with public and private stakeholders, involving also the research community.</p> <p>The role of NCC in the proposed project is to produce high standards SPA Management Plan, species action plans and technical plans for the project concrete actions, propose a viable and realistic plan for the establishment of an SPA Management Scheme for the site, implement the management actions for nesting habitat restoration and enhancement on the islets of the SPA, undertake the project scientific coordination and part of the project monitoring action. Similar roles and tasks have been successfully delivered in previous Life projects, by the members of NCC.</p>				

CO-FINANCIER PROFILE AND COMMITMENT FORM (Complete for each co-financier)

Legal Name and full address on the co-financier	
Financial commitment	
We will contribute the following amount to the project: Euro
Status of the financial commitment	
Signature of the authorised person	
Name and status of the authorised person (obligatory):	
Date of the signature (obligatory):	
Authorised signature (obligatory):	

Not applicable

OTHER PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING

Please answer each of the following questions :

- Have you or any of your associated beneficiaries already benefited from previous LIFE co-financing? (please cite LIFE project reference number, title, year, amount of the co-financing, duration, name(s) of coordinating beneficiary and/or partners involved):

The Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Coordinating Beneficiary have already benefitted from previous LIFE co-financing as hereinafter set forth.

The **Municipality of Korthi** participated as an Associate Beneficiary of:

LIFE99 ENV/GR/000555

Proposed: 1999

Proposed by: Municipality of Andros

Associated Beneficiaries: Municipality of Hydroussa (Andros Island), Cultural Association of Aprovato (Andros Island), Society for the Protection of Andros, Ministry of the Aegean, Prefecture of the Cyclades, and ARIS Hellas SA

Co-financing: 220.325,89 Euros

Duration: 1999-2003

The **HOS** has a long experience in the efficient implementation of Life Nature projects for the benefit of priority birds, and is considered as one of the leading and most credible organizations in this aspect in Greece. The last HOS Life project, for the conservation of *Falco eleonora*, was awarded by the Commission as one of the top 25 Life Nature projects for the period 2007-2008. LIFE projects implemented by the **Hellenic Ornithological Society**:

Title: **Actions for the Conservation of *Larus audouinii** in Greece**

LIFE96 NAT/GR/003221

Proposed: 1996

Proposed by: Hellenic Ornithological Society

Co-financing: 587.000 Euros

Duration: 1997-1999

Title: **Conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus** and *Anser erythropus** in Greece**

LIFE96 NAT/GR/003217

Proposed: 1996

Proposed by: World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF Hellas

Assoc. Beneficiary: Hellenic Ornithological Society

Co-financing: 968.000 Euros

Duration: 1997-1999

Title: **Implementation of Management Plans for Pylos Lagoon and Evrotas Delta, Natura 2000 Sites, Greece**

LIFE97 NAT/GR/004247

Proposed: 1997

Proposed by: Hellenic Ornithological Society

Co-financing: 1.380.000 Euros

Duration: 1997-2000

Title: **Conservation of the *Gypaetus barbatus* in Greece**

LIFE94 NAT/GR/001557

Proposed: 1998
Proposed by: Natural History Museum of Crete
Assoc. Beneficiary: Hellenic Ornithological Society
Co-financing: 989.000 Euros
Duration: 1998-2001

Title: Conservation Measures for *Falco eleonora in Greece
LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091**

Proposed: 2003
Proposed by: Hellenic Ornithological Society
Assoc. Beneficiaries: Natural History Museum of Crete, RSPB, Ministry of Agriculture
Co-financing: 870.278 Euros
Duration: 2003-2007

**Title: Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's Gull in Greece, including the Inventory of Relevant Marine IBAs
LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285**

Proposed: 2007
Proposed by: Hellenic Ornithological Society
Assoc. Beneficiaries: Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Sea, Technical Educational Institution of Ionian Islands, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and Birdlife Portugal
Co-financing: 1.768.442 Euros
Duration: 2009-2012

Title: Demonstration of the Biodiversity Action Planning approach, to benefit local biodiversity on an Aegean island, Skyros LIFE09 NAT/GR/000323

Proposed: 2009
Proposed by: Municipality of Skyros
Ass. Bodies: HOS, Hellenic Society for the Protection of Cultural and natural Heritage, Centre for Sustainable Development
Co-financing: 704.527 euros
Duration: 2010-2014

- Have you or any of the associated beneficiaries submitted any actions related directly or indirectly to this project to other European Union financial instruments? To whom? When and with what results?

The Beneficiaries of this project have not submitted this proposed project or any actions related directly or indirectly to this project to other Community financial instruments.

- For those actions which fall within the eligibility criteria for financing through other European Union financial instruments, **please explain in full detail** why you consider that those actions nevertheless do not fall within the main scope of the instrument(s) in question and are therefore included in the current project.

The project is aiming at management and conservation of the entire SPA on island of Andros with special reference to all its trigger species, which are also priority avian species included in the Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Management and conservation actions of the SPA sites as part of the NATURA 2000 network (action A1-A3, C1-C9, D4, D7, E2) can potentially be financed from the Structural Funds, more specifically through the Operational Programme "Environment – Sustainable Development" 2007-2013. Due to limited programme funds the funding is restricted for interventions in NATURA 2000 sites for the management of which Management Authorities have been formed. However, Andros SPA is not managed by

any Management Authority and no formation of a Management Authority is scheduled for the immediate future. Therefore in practice, the aforementioned Operational Programme cannot be a source of funding for planning and implementation of SPA management and conservation actions in the present project SPA site on Andros. Therefore a formation of a self-sustainable Management Scheme, consisting of prime stakeholders and competent authorities which will be implementing conservation and management of the project SPA on Andros on the basis of a well-defined SPA Management plan through a LIFE Nature project is the only feasible EU financial instrument.

Concerning the possible funding of conservation farming practices through the RDF, so far there have been no cases in Greece of funding bird friendly agricultural practices through agri-environment schemes. Although formally such schemes were introduced 5 years ago as a potential source of funds for the conservation of farmland birds, they were never implemented in practice. During the last 2 years, agri-environment payments have practically stopped and therefore, there is not any realistic potential of launching new biodiversity measures in the foreseeable future.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status: **Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change**

Full address: AMALIADOS 17, GR11523, ATHENS, GREECE

Tel: +302108677012 Fax: . E-mail: giopro@parkotritsi.gr

Contact person (name and function): Jeorgi Nerantzia Ntl Contact Point

Please specify whether, why and how you will support this project:

The Ministry will support the project **Management of the SPA site of Andros Island to achieve a Favourable Conservation Status for its priority species**. The SPA of Andros has been recently re - evaluated by our services and its borders were expanded to include the critical habitats of priority species. The need for management of the site to achieve the Favourable Conservation Status for the priority species, has been identified to be one of the most important priorities for the site. "

The Ministry of Environment is legally responsible for the conservation and management of the SPA site

The Ministry will closely collaborate with the project beneficiaries for the implementation of the project and make every possible effort to maximise the timely and effective implementation of the management actions foreseen. In particular, the Ministry services will supervise the production of the site Management Plan, and ensure that it will be approved, and the actions foreseen will be timely implemented within the project duration. The Ministry will also supervise the procedure for the establishment of the regularly operating Management Scheme for the SPA, to coordinate the conservation of the site.

Through the central and local services the Ministry will make every possible effort to contribute to the project implementation and outcomes.

Signature and date:

11-04-2011



Name and status of signatory: **NEKTARIOS ALEXOPOULOS**
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

This form is **mandatory** for all **LIFE+ Nature and LIFE+ Biodiversity project proposals**. For transnational project proposals, a separate copy must be filled in by the competent nature conservation / biodiversity authority of all participating countries.

Optional: this form may also be used to indicate any other support to the project by important stakeholder bodies, administrative bodies or individuals that may be concerned by the project.

Name and legal status: Fishermen's Union for Southern Aegean

Full address: Korthi Bay, GR-84502 Andros

Tel: 694-537-0512 Fax: 22820-61121 E-mail:

Contact person: Dimitri Zannes, President.

Please specify whether, why and how you will support this project:

My organization will support the project **"Management of the SPA site of Andros Island to achieve a Favourable Conservation Status for its priority species"** because it considers this project of vital importance for achieving a long – term, sustainable and compatible with the local socio-economic conditions, conservation of the valuable assets of the natural heritage of Andros island.

Furthermore, the participatory character of the project approach, as well as the objective of establishing the prerequisite social and financial conditions for the viable management of the Natura 2000 site, are expected to deal with some of the most important obstacles for the sustainable management of the local SPA site.

Signature and date:



30-8-2010

Name and status of signatory:



LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity

TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMS

**Part B – technical summary and
overall context of the project**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

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

Project objectives: The present project aims to implement urgent conservation measures for direct conservation of all 4 priority species in the SPA of Andros Island, Greece. The overall objective is to establish a well structured, effective, socially acceptable and economically viable Management Scheme for the SPA, capable to coordinate the activities of competent authorities within the site, and to carry out the core of the management needed for achieving and maintaining the Favourable Conservation Status of priority species in the SPA and implement its full scale operation

More specifically, this 48 month project aims first to produce basic SPA management tools and infrastructure, with primary being the SPA Management Plan and to form a permanent SPA Management Scheme which will then initiate and implement a full-scale, long-term management of the Andros SPA through implementation of project's concrete conservation actions for direct conservation of Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonorae**), Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus**), Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii**) and Mediterranean Shag's (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii**). The results of these activities are expected to achieve a significant improvement of the conservation status of all 4 project SPA trigger priority species in the SPA of Andros, by implementation of concrete conservation actions to deal with the urgent threats their breeding and foraging habitats are facing. The actions foreseen are in accordance to the guidelines and priorities identified by the European Commission and Birdlife International in the International Species Action Plans for the 4 target species. An extensive public awareness and communication campaign is foreseen to disseminate the project approach and results to the local society, visitors and the general public.

The project area is the recently established SPA site, "Andros: Kentriko kai notion tmima, gyro insides kai paraktia thalassia zoni", GR4220028, which includes inland and coastal terrestrial habitats as well as coastal marine areas on the Andros island and the surrounding islets. The SPA hosts 182 breeding pairs (p) of *F. eleonorae*, 2-3 p of *H. fasciatus*, over 60p of *P. aristotelis* and 25-30p of *L. audouinii*. The concrete conservation actions for the improvement of breeding and foraging habitats in association with the SPA Management Plan will create direct and immediate as well as long-term benefits on the selected local populations of the target species, and public awareness and communication campaigns will have an effect on the entire population and their habitats in the project region.

The project will be implemented by the Andros Municipality, in collaboration with the Hellenic Ornithological Society (Birdlife in Greece) and the nature consulting firm NCC.Ltd. The project is the product of a 3 years consultation for the conservation of the site. In the previous 2 years the proposal was found non eligible for Life funding due to the fact that the site had not yet been declared as an SPA. This obstacle was raised in the beginning of 2010 with the formal delineation of the Andros SPA site. There is a wide local support of the project and high aspirations for the implementation of the foreseen species and habitat conservation actions.

The project partnership involves significant experience and expertise in the implementation of bird conservation projects, Life projects in particular. This experience will be used to tackle with the following conservation problems:

1. Lack of management planning, for the SPA, as well as of any management authority devoted to the conservation of the site

2. Predation of alien invasive species such as Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) on the eggs and nestlings in the island colonies of the target species.
3. Yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*) predation on nests and competition for food with *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*.
4. Lack of suitable nesting habitats for island nesting birds.
5. Reduction and abandonment of traditional agricultural practices on terraces as well as degradation of coastal wetlands causing reduction of insect and bird prey availability and *F. eleonora* foraging habitat degradation.
6. Lack of protection and management of *H. fasciatus* breeding and foraging areas causing, reduced Chukar and pigeon prey availability.
7. Climate change threatening food availability and foraging habitat quality of *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus*.
8. Degradation of primary inshore seabird foraging areas due to human activities such as anchoring resulting in reduced diversity and abundance of seabird prey species.
9. Lack of public awareness of threats and conservation of target bird species and their habitats as well as implementation of Natura 2000 network result in lack of public support and participation in conservation.

Threats and problems described above will be effectively dealt with in a series of actions implemented by the project partnership

Actions and means involved:

- ✓ Elaboration of the SPA Management Plan, operational plans and technical studies for the concrete conservation actions foreseen. These plans include target Species Action Plans, Monitoring, Surveillance Plans and Dissemination Plan, sensitivity mapping, setting up of Favourable Reference Values for the 4 target species populations in the SPA, in order to achieve their Favourable Conservation Status.
- ✓ Production of a Feasibility Study for the SPA management, to identify key parameters for the long term financial viability of the proposed SPA Management Scheme, and propose realistic fund raising scenarios for the Scheme.
- ✓ Management of nesting habitat for the islet nesting bird species including rat eradications in selected colonies of *F. eleonora*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* and to control local populations of *L. michahellis* for mitigation of egg/nestling predation and food competition and to increase breeding success of the target species.
- ✓ Establishment of thickets of native shrubs and bushes and creation of artificial nesting sites for islet nesting bird species, namely *F. eleonora* and *P. aristotelis*, to increase the number of suitable nesting sites.
- ✓ Identification, management and protection of primary marine foraging habitats for *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* and installation of seagrass-friendly mooring buoys.
- ✓ Identification of important terrestrial foraging areas of *F. eleonora*, revitalisation of agricultural fields to increase insect abundance, creation of small ponds and limited-scale interventions of coastal wetland habitats to increase water availability and habitat quality for insects and migratory bird prey availability for *F. eleonora*.
- ✓ Management of Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) and pigeon (*Columba* spp.) populations through local crop cultivation, watering and revitalization of traditional pigeon lofts to increase food availability of *H. fasciatus*.
- ✓ Establishment and pilot operation of the SPA Management Scheme and the SPA surveillance- patrolling programme.

- ✓ Implementation of an extensive and well-focused public awareness campaign on the basis of the SPA Dissemination Plan, targeting various focus groups, for the conservation of the target species as well as the promotion of the Natura 2000 network and protected areas concept on Andros. The campaign will involve environmental education activities, special publications, a documentary, an exhibition, stakeholder meetings, media work at the international, national, regional and local level, information signs, and extensive use of the internet media.
- ✓ Implementation of workshops and formal meetings regarding concrete conservation actions and management of project SPA.
- ✓ The overall project operation will be facilitated through careful and strict project management, and the regular operation of the Project Steering Committee, to monitor project actions and provide guidance for their implementation (coordinating and associated beneficiaries). Project scientific monitoring and networking will assess and enhance the effectiveness of the project actions.

Expected results (outputs and quantified achievements):

- ✓ A well structured and effective project management to ensure smooth and effective project operation and implementation.
- ✓ Production of SPA Management Plan, 4 target species Action Plans, Monitoring Plan, Surveillance Plan, Dissemination Plan and GIS compatible information infrastructure
- ✓ Establishment and pilot operation of the SPA Management Scheme and the Surveillance programme.
- ✓ A complete removal of introduced predators (rats) from at least 5 colonies of *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
- ✓ Yellow-legged gull population control in at least 3 of its colonies on islets around Andros affecting *Larus audouinii*.
- ✓ Construction of at least 200 artificial nests and plantation of 100 endemic shrubs for improvement of nesting site availability for *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
- ✓ Revitalization of at least 10ha of terrace fields, traditional local crop farming and 3 pigeon lofts for the improvement of insect availability to *Falco eleonora*, as well as pigeon and Chukar availability to *Hieraaetus fasciatus*.
- ✓ Creation of 15 wildlife ponds and 5 ha of coastal wetland restoration interventions to improve prey abundance for priority raptors.
- ✓ Installation and promotion of use of seagrass-friendly mooring buoys and delineation of seasonal fishery restriction areas
- ✓ An overall improvement of public awareness among the general public and various focus groups about the conservation of the four target bird species and SPA site on Andros.

Can the project be considered to be a climate change adaptation project?

Yes

No

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA / SITE(S) TARGETED BY THE PROJECT

Name of the project area: ANDROS: KENTRIKO KAI NOTIO TMIMA, GYRO NISIDES KAI PARAKTIA THALASSIA ZONI

Surface area (ha): 22036,80

EU protection status: SPA **NATURA 2000 Code :** GR42200028
SCI **NATURA 2000 Code :** GR42200001

Other protection status according to national or regional legislation:

- 100% of the site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IN06) GR147: Andros Island and surrounding islets.
- 100% of the following Wildlife Reserves (GR95) is included in the site: Megala Vrachia (K659), Steno-Korthiou (K436) and Stenies – M. Ag. Nikolaou (K423)
- There are 3 more Wildlife Reserves on Andros Island, including Oros Charaka (K422), Sinetio (K428) and Kolimbos – Zaganiari (K431).

Main land uses and ownership status of the project area:

Public and private ownership. The land is primarily used for extensive livestock grazing as well as limited traditional cultivation of terraces for livestock fodder. The traditional cultivations of cereals, legumes and vegetables, although nowadays limited, are still balanced.

Scientific description of project area:

The island of Andros differs from most of the other Cyclades as it receives much larger rainfall. As a result, there is a great diversity of habitat and biotopes, most important being the alluvial forest of *Alnus glutinosa*, the *Castanea sativa* woodland and the strands of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba*, which are unique in the Cyclades. Scrub and rocky areas cover most of the site while there are also ravines, temporary streams, ponds and marches. It is also noticeable that the human activities in the area do not have such an impact as in other Greek islands with greater tourism development. The site has a high degree of flora and fauna (especially avifauna) endemism. The rocky coasts and adjacent islets are very important nesting areas for the Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) (>60 p), the Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*) (25-30 p) and the Eleonora's Falco (*Falco eleonora*) (182 p), while Bonelli's Eagles (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*) (2-3 p) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrines*) (2 p) are resident species found in steep gorges and cliffs. The area is also important for seabirds such as the Cory's and the Yelkouan Shearwater and for passage migrants.

Threats include construction of roads and expansion of human settlements, wetland degradation, abandonment of traditional farming practices and recently possible construction of wind farms and related power lines. Disturbance of breeding colonies of seabirds by boats and fishermen is another issue. Scale of threat posed by hunting is currently unknown.

Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species / habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible):

The area hosts 5.3-6.4% of national breeding population of *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and is

considered one of the top 5 breeding sites for the species in Greece. Species important breeding, roosting and foraging areas and habitats during breeding and non-breeding season are in the project area.

The area holds 2.7-4.3% of the national breeding population of *Larus audouinii*. Species important breeding and foraging areas and habitats are located in the project area.

Based on the HOS data wider marine areas of Andros are important foraging grounds for all species of seabirds. The project actions will be implemented in breeding, foraging and roosting sites within the project area as well as those terrestrial and marine areas outside the Natura 2000 site which are directly affecting the populations of the target species in the site.

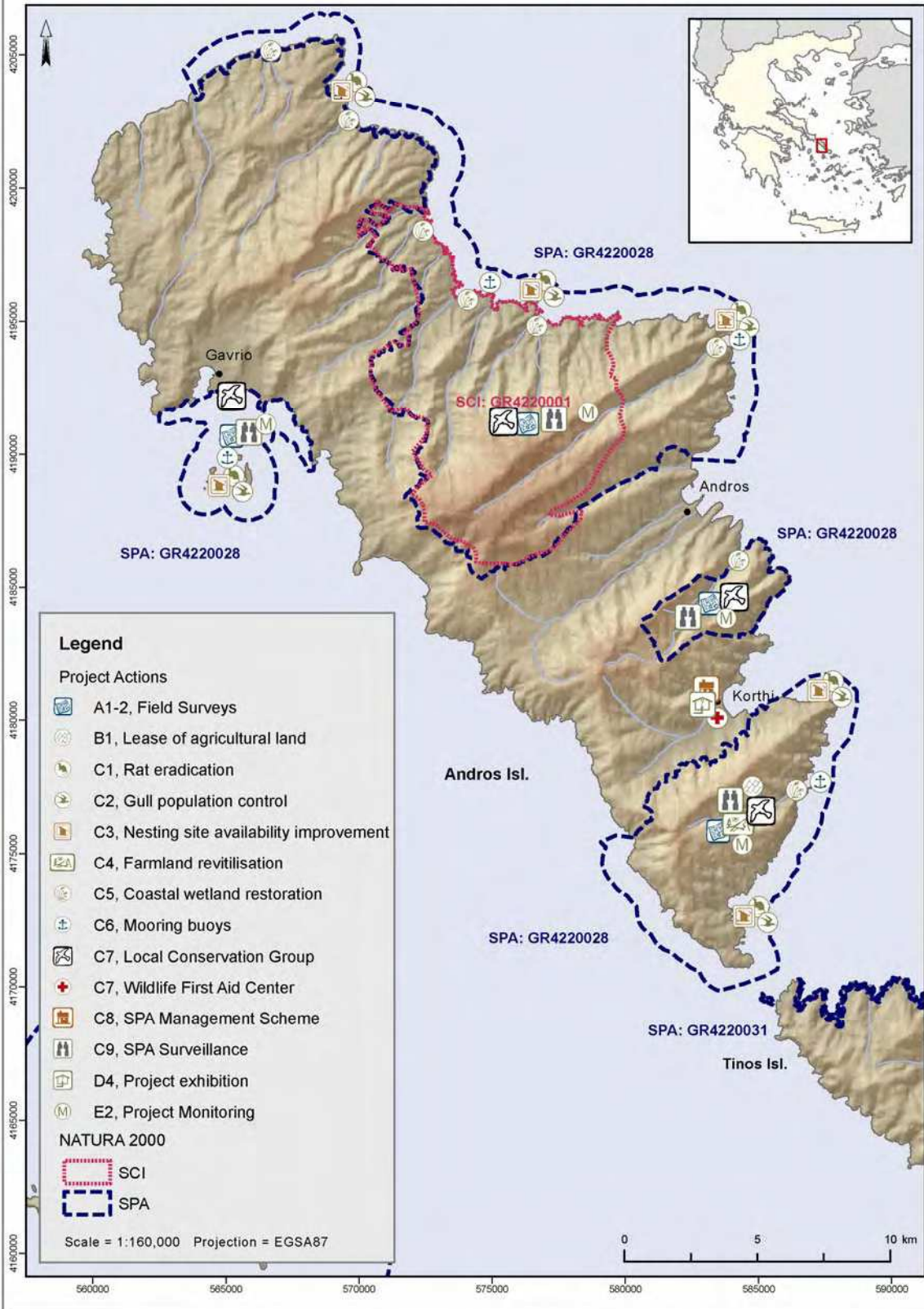
The area holds 1.6% of *Falco eleonora* national breeding population of the species. Species important breeding, roosting and foraging areas and habitats during breeding season are present in the area. The Andros colonies are among the most densely occupied colonies of the species, indicating optimal location concerning migratory passerine availability and space limitations on suitable nesting habitats. These density dependent limitations result in poor breeding success for the species. Indeed, during the LIFE Nature project "Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora* in Greece", LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091 the most important colony on Andros with >100 breeding pairs was exhibiting well below average breeding success, probably due to selection of suboptimal nest sites, due to the high density of breeding pairs.

The area hosts 1.9-3.5% of *Hieraaetus fasciatus* national breeding population, which is resident on the island. Vital breeding, foraging and roosting areas for the local population of the species are located on the island.

Implementation of project's concrete conservation actions, as well as guidelines provided by the SPA Management Plan will provide significant improvement to breeding and foraging habitats and breeding performance of all four target species, thereby improving the species' conservation status in the area.

MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION OF THE PROJECT AREA

GR4220028 - ANDROS: KENTRIKO KAI NOTIO TMIMA, GYRO NISIDES KAI PARAKTIA THALASSIA ZONI



**DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES / HABITATS / BIODIVERSITY ISSUES
TARGETED BY THE PROJECT**

A. Group of species targeted: Birds

Name of the species targeted: Eleonora's Falcon, *Falco eleonora**

Annex of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed: *Falco eleonora* is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC.

Population size: *Falco eleonora* is a migratory falcon breeding in the Mediterranean (Greece, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Turkey, Algeria and Tunisia) and Atlantic islands off the NW coast of Africa (Canary Islands, Morocco). The global population size is estimated at 14,764 to 15,473 breeding pairs (p), with a vast majority 12,360 pairs breeding in Greece⁸. The Greek populations are widely distributed and not localized.

The proposed project targets all populations (breeding and non-breeding) of *Falco eleonora* in the project area of Northern Cyclades with special reference to their breeding, foraging and roosting sites. The total breeding population of the species in the project area is estimated at 182 p, which is equivalent to 1.6% of the Greek population.

All colonies in the project SPA will be the subject of the preparatory actions for concrete conservation actions related to *Falco eleonora*. Concrete conservation actions are expected to have an effect on the majority of breeding and non-breeding populations of the species in the project area as well as on colonies in the wider project region.

Conservation status: The results of the international population census as well as monitoring of selected colonies in Greece within the LIFE Nature project "Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora* in Greece", indicate that the population status in Greece and other Mediterranean countries is stable. It is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and in Annex II of the Bern Convention. It is globally considered as not threatened in the IUCN Red List and as a SPEC 2 in Europe.

Breeding, wintering and/or staging: *Falco eleonora** is a colonial raptor unique among European birds in that it breeds in Autumn (1-3 eggs are laid mainly in late July, young hatch after the 20th of August, fledging in early October). Nesting sites are located on uninhabited islets and rocky coasts in the Mediterranean. By delayed breeding, the species exploits an abundant food source, such as migratory passerines flying over the Mediterranean Sea on their return to Africa. Itself a migratory species, it mainly winters in Madagascar, where it feeds largely on flying insects.

It returns to Europe mostly in late April, but does not commence breeding preparations immediately, although it regularly visits its breeding sites. Until July, it roams widely over larger islands and the mainland, feeding on large flying insects such as beetles, locusts, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, cicadas and flying ants, and only opportunistically on birds.

For this purpose they travel large distances that can exceed 50km, in search of suitable feeding areas, which must consist of sufficient agriculture, forest and wetland areas, rich in insects, to support the population of the colony access to water and quiet communal roosting sites (trees) for overnight stays.

From July onwards, all birds gather around their breeding islets in order to establish territories and nest. Breeding sites need to be safe from human disturbance and terrestrial predators. The falcons keep visiting larger islands to feed on insects, especially on days with no or little wind, when the flow of migrants is low and hunting unproductive. Apart from 2 months during the breeding season (Aug-Sept), when the falcons feed almost exclusively on migratory birds, the insects present crucial food source during the rest of the year (10 months annually), and have a significant effect on the birds' fitness for breeding as well as migration to wintering quarters in Africa. Main threats result in egg losses include rat predation and sun irradiation, which in undisturbed colonies reach up to 25% and 8% respectively. In case of disturbed colonies and due to effects of climate change egg losses, particularly egg losses due to sun exposure are expected to be significantly higher. Climate

change is also expected to affect greatly insect food and water availability in Greek islands, thereby urging for appropriate habitat management securing sufficient food and water supply.

Name of the species targeted: Bonelli's Eagle, *Hieraaetus fasciatus**

Annex of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed: *Hieraaetus fasciatus* is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC.

Population size: Typical raptor of the Mediterranean landscape, *Hieraaetus fasciatus* is a resident species in Greece. Once quite common, it has today a clear southern distribution, nesting on many islands of the Aegean and parts of the Peloponnese, where however it is quite local/scarce, and does not occur in N. Greece, north of Thessaly. Its distribution, in general, coincides with that of Chukars (*Alectoris chukar*) and Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), its main prey species.

The global population of *Hieraaetus fasciatus* is estimated at 1,000 breeding pairs (p). The current Greek population is estimated at 100-140 pairs (BirdLife International 2004) which amounts to 10% of the European population.

The proposed project targets at the entire population (breeding and non-breeding) of *Hieraaetus fasciatus* in the project area of Andros with special reference to their breeding, foraging and roosting sites. The total breeding population of the species in the project area is estimated at 3 p, which is equivalent to 2% of the Greek population.

All nests in the project SPA/SCIs will be the subject of the preparatory actions for concrete conservation actions related to *Hieraaetus fasciatus*. Concrete conservation actions are expected to have an effect on the majority of breeding and non-breeding populations of the species in the project area as well as on the species distribution in the wider project region.

Conservation status: The current population status in Greece and is considered stable although some local declines are known. It is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and in Annex II of the Bern Convention. It is globally considered as not threatened in the IUCN Red List and as a SPEC 3 in Europe.

The main threats for the species in order of significance are direct persecution, habitat degradation/destruction, food shortage and human disturbance. The main threats to its breeding habitat are disturbance and construction close to its nesting sites. Overexploitation and poaching of its main prey species e.g. Chukar partridge and change of human land use in its foraging territory are the major threat to its foraging habitats.

Extensive road construction at remote areas and development of wind farms at southeast Peloponnese and Aegean islands comprise serious threats to Bonelli's Eagle locally.

Additionally, windfarms, power lines and other associated installations planned to be constructed in remote areas, occupied by *Hieraaetus fasciatus* in southern Greece and on islands in the Aegean Sea are expected to cause additional mortality of the species.

Breeding, wintering and/or staging: The Bonelli's Eagle breeds in steep cliffs and rock crevices sometimes just over the sea or in remote gorges away from human settlements. It builds 2-5 or more alternative nests in middle altitude areas that rarely exceed 400m. Nest constructions are quite conspicuous due to their large size (> 1 m height) as some nests are used in successive years. Egg laying takes place in early February although in Crete some early attempts have been recorded in January (25th). Clutch size ranges from 1-2 eggs though 3-egg clutches are not uncommon. Incubation lasts ca. 40 days and the chicks abandon the nest after 2-2.5 months in late May or early June. The juvenile birds remain in the natal territory for a period of 3 months depending on the parents for food at least for the first 3-4 weeks after fledging. Usually young birds are observed in flight along with the parents in the vicinity of the nesting area during June-July. Juvenile dispersal takes place in autumn (Sep-Oct) and young birds spent their first winter in areas that are not used by breeding adults.

Name of the species: Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii**

Annex of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed: *Larus audouinii** is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Population size: Endemic to the Mediterranean basin, where it breeds. During winter and the juvenile period most of the population moves to the Atlantic coast of Africa. Globally it has increased its population size since the 1980's when it was one of the scarcest gulls of the world and it was critically endangered, now estimated to be c. 22.700 pairs. However, it is still considered 'Localized' (BirdLife 2004) as more than 69% of the total population (i.e. c. 15,500 pairs in 2006, Oro pers. comm.) breed in just one colony, in the Ebro River delta, where birds nest on flat sandy areas and salinas. In Greece, from 40 pairs in just 12 colonies during the 1970s the population of the species increased to 700-900 pairs by late 1990s. However, according to latest HOS species census in 2010, the population has decreased to 400-500 pairs. This decrease has been attributed to deterioration of the species breeding and foraging areas during the last decade, urging for immediate conservation actions.

The proposed project targets the entire population (breeding and non-breeding) of *Larus audouinii* in the project area of Andros with special reference to their breeding, foraging and roosting sites. The project area hosts 25-30 p of *Larus audouinii*, a proportion which is equivalent to 6-7.5% of the species national breeding population. The species exhibits large foraging range (up to 160km in the W Mediterranean - source Birdlife Seabird Foraging Database), meta-populations and mobility of colony sites from year to year. According to available results of diet analysis Posidonia beds consist a primary foraging habitats for the species in Greece.

100% of the target population in the project SPA will be the subject of the preparatory actions for the identification of the marine IBAs as well as preparatory actions for concrete conservation actions in order to establish those colonies where the implementation of concrete conservation actions will be most effective and beneficial for the species and its habitats. Concrete conservation actions are expected to have an effect on the whole of the breeding population of the species in the project area. Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) population control will be implemented at the species colony sites and/or any other satellite colony (within or outside the SPA) of the *L. michahellis* which significantly affects breeding performance of *Larus audouinii* colony.

Conservation status: Formerly one of the globally most endangered seabirds, the species is now recovering in the W Mediterranean as a consequence of the protection of its breeding sites and other conservation measures. Colonies in Greece are small compared to those in the western Mediterranean, ranging from 3 to 86 pairs, distributed in 28 locations, separated in geographical regions. During the last decade the breeding population in Greece has decreased from 700-900 b in late 1990s to 400-500p in 2010. The population is thus much localised, making it a vulnerable species. It is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and in Annex II of the Bern Convention. It is globally considered as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List and as a SPEC 1 in Europe.

Breeding, wintering and/or staging: Although an endemic breeder of the Mediterranean, almost the entire Mediterranean population migrates to the coast of West Africa at the end of the breeding season and during the juvenile period. In Greek populations, the species is present in its colonies from March, and by mid to late April, birds have occupied their nesting sites. Hatching starts around the second week of May, while the fledging generally takes place in the first week of July.

Name of the species: Mediterranean Shag, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii**

Annex of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii** is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Population size: The global population is estimated to be less than 10.000 pairs, half of them breeding in the EU (eastern coast of Spain, Balears, Corsica, Sardinia, Tuscany archipelago, Lampedusa, Aegean and Ionian Sea islets). Greece is estimated to hold 1.000-1.200 pairs.

The proposed project area targets all populations (breeding and non-breeding) of *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* in the project area of Northern Cyclades with special reference to their breeding, foraging and roosting sites. The breeding population in the SPA and SCIs in the project region is 178 p, the proportion of which is equivalent to 15-18% of Greek national breeding population and about 1.5% of the global subspecies population and 2.8% of the subspecies EU population (5.300 pairs).

The 100% of the target population in the project SPA and SCIs will be the subject of the preparatory inventories and the identification of the marine IBAs as well as preparatory actions for the concrete conservation actions in order to establish those colonies where the execution of these actions will be most effective and beneficial for the species and its habitats. Conservation actions are expected to have an effect on the majority of breeding population of the species in the project area as well as neighbouring populations. The species is a coastal and benthic feeding, with Posidonia beds consisting on of primary foraging habitats.

Conservation status: Very significant fluctuations in breeding numbers have been recorded from year to year in several Mediterranean colonies. Experts agree that a decline of the population has taken place. The Mediterranean Shag subspecies *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii** is included in Annex II of the Bern Convention and in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The species in general is not considered threatened at a global level by IUCN Red List. In Europe, the species has a favourable conservation status (no SPEC^E), but is concentrated in Europe and its status is considered secure provisionally, because although some populations are declining (UK and Spain), this is compensated by increases in other areas and as a result, the European population is overall stable.

Breeding, wintering and/or staging: The Mediterranean Shag is a subspecies endemic to the Mediterranean basin. The species' reproduction period starts in winter (from January to March or early April) with significant asynchrony in breeding dates between different colonies and different individuals in the same colony, which is due to the experience level of breeding birds, general weather conditions in the particular year as well as the geographic location of the colonies. The incubation period lasts approximately 30 days and the nestlings fledge after about 53 days. Due to breeding asynchrony the *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* breeding period in Greece lasts from January until June. After the end of the breeding season the adults as well as the juveniles disperse over a wider area to use more remote foraging grounds. The recent HOS ring recoveries suggest that dispersion may exceed 200km. At that time small or larger feeding and roosting groups are formed.

CONSERVATION / BIODIVERSITY PROBLEMS AND THREATS

Falco eleonora, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* on the Mediterranean level, in Greece as well as locally in the area of Andros are subjected to different kinds and levels of threats, with variations amongst the species and the sites, but some threats, among the most relevant for their conservation, are common: lack of Management Plan, required infrastructure and implementation of SPA management, insufficient knowledge and protection of their breeding, foraging and roosting sites (in marine, coastal and island environment); disturbance and habitat degradation by human activities; predation or disturbance and habitat degradation by introduced animals (namely rats, cats, rabbits and goats); and loss of quality of their breeding, foraging and roosting habitats are only the most important ones. *L. audouinii* is additionally threatened by predation or competition for food and habitat by Yellow-legged gulls (*Larus michahellis*). *H. fasciatus*, on the other hand, is particularly vulnerable to large construction works such as wind farms and electric power lines, which may cause mortality, especially when installed within species foraging range. The present project focuses on the improvement of the conservation status of the 4 target species in the area of Andros, addressing the most relevant threats and problems listed above. The project will tackle the threats and conservation, as well as biodiversity problems for the target species in accordance with EU International Species Action Plans for the target species, as well as available scientific literature and experience of the partners in the present project. Conservation actions will be further enhanced through project communication and dissemination among general public as well as specific stakeholder groups.

The first step towards effective mitigation of threats described below is effective operation and implementation of the project, to prevent implementation delays or failure to achieve project goals. The cooperation of a well-organized and experienced management team, experienced action coordinators and cooperation with the competent authorities and local stakeholders will ensure smooth project implementation and achievement of project goals. Particularly important is general support of the local community and stakeholders ensuring long-term benefits of the project.

Threat 1:

Name of the threat: Lack of management planning for the SPA and of any management authority devoted to the conservation of the site

Description: An SPA Management Plan is prerequisite for an effective and long-term management and conservation of an SPA, its bird species and their habitats. SPA Management Plan is lacking in a newly designated Andros SPA, resulting in lack of planned and organized management actions.

Additionally, the information regarding distribution, ecology, threats and management of the target species and their critical habitats is dispersed and insufficiently organized, resulting in less effective use of the existing information resources.

The competent authorities are lacking equipment and infrastructure which would allow them to implement management measures in the project SPA.

Finally, as a consequence of all above, the implementation of management measures is lacking or incomplete.

Location: The threat refers the entire project SPA site.

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: A management plan clearly

defines SPA management objectives, priorities and activities, thereby allowing systematic, well-planned and long-term management of an SPA site. It consists a basic tool for management of an SPA, achievement of management objectives and effective implementation of management measures. Lack of a management plan results in inadequate, sporadic, unorganized and vaguely defined implementation of SPA management activities, without clearly defined goals and actions. Setting reference values for target species and their habitats is an integral part of an SPA management plan. Lack of reference values does not allow assessment of management progress and results.

Lack of information infrastructure for management and analysis of data and information does not allow the utilization of existing information resources, thereby making planning, implementation and assessment of management time consuming and significantly less effective.

Competent authorities are lacking infrastructure and equipment which prevents them from starting the implementation of conservation and management measures, thereby making them unable to enforce the legal status that the project SPA possesses. Therefore this lack of capacity affects the entire SPA area, all bird species in it, including the target species.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: The main objective of the project is to initiate a well-planned and effective management of the newly designated SPA on Andros. In order to initiate a well-planned, systematic and effective management of the project SPA, an SPA Management Plan will be produced. This plan will be further enhanced with a production of Monitoring Plan, Surveillance Plan, Dissemination Plan and Species Actions Plans for *H. fasciatus*, *F. eleonora*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*. For these four target species Favourable Reference Values will be establish in order to allow the assessment of the effect of management actions, as well as to achieve the overall objective, which is Favourable Conservation Status of the target species. Additionally, a GIS based Andros SPA Geodatabase will be produced which will incorporate all the information regarding the target species and the project SPA, allowing easy and effective utilization of information, data, guidelines and protocols to plan, prioritize, implement and monitor management activities. In accordance with the SPA Management Plan and as a start-up stage of the implementation of SPA management measures, concrete conservation actions will be planned and implemented, including rat eradication, Yellow-legged Gull population control, increasing the availability of available nesting sites by artificial nests and plantation of endemic plants, revitalization of traditional farming and traditional crop cultivation, revitalization of traditional pigeon raising, enhancement of Chukar populations, restoration of coastal wetlands and creation of artificial ponds, installation of seaweed-friendly mooring buoys, removal or substitution of harmful electric power lines and implementation of systematic patrolling and surveillance of the project SPA. These concrete conservation actions will create immediate benefits to the project SPA, as well as initiate its long-term management after the end of the project.

Threat 2:

Name of the threat: Insufficient knowledge on target bird species

Description: The wider project area has been recognized as an important breeding site for all four target species. In addition to their breeding sites, foraging and roosting sites for the populations of the target species play a vital role for the species conservation. The existing lack of knowledge on the foraging and roosting sites for the important colonies results in the lack of co-ordinated conservation actions and insufficient habitat protection in the terrestrial and marine environment. The main focus of conservation efforts for the *F. eleonora* until now were focused on the protection of its colonies; however, neglecting the more remote areas where falcons feed on

insects also plays a vital role during pre-breeding period, early stages of the breeding period and in post-breeding period, thereby having a strong effect on the vitality of birds during breeding as well as migration. These terrestrial areas should be included in the network of protected areas which presently include primarily colony sites and surrounding areas which are used only during rearing the young by feeding on migratory birds, to ensure overall effective management and protection of the species.

H. fasciatus, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* use large foraging ranges to fulfil their energy demands. Depending on the habitat characteristics of the areas surrounding its breeding and roosting sites, foraging areas and ranges vary among regions. In order to ensure that species' foraging areas are properly protected, managed and restored, foraging behaviour of the local species populations must be assessed, because presently it is still insufficiently known.

Location: The threat refers to the total of *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* marine and coastal distribution and the total of *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* distribution on main islands in the project area (within and outside project SPA).

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: Absence of basic information concerning the distribution and activities of the target species, their foraging grounds, as well as the fluctuations within the population do not allow for the estimation of direct threats, the undertaking of urgent actions and the proper allocation of limited conservation funds.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: *F. eleonora* foraging areas associated with its breeding sites on Andros will be identified and assessed for falcon insect feeding behaviour and habitat use by telemetry and visual observations. These data, which provide information on the distribution, extent and quality of foraging areas of *F. eleonora* during the insect feeding period, will be used to identify most important foraging areas, where concrete conservation actions for the improvement of the species foraging habitat will be implemented to create the greatest conservation benefits to the species. These activities will include revitalization of agricultural fields, traditional crop farming and improvement of coastal wetlands. Wildlife ponds will be created in areas which are frequently used by *F. eleonora* in order to reduce their energy consumption required for fulfilling their need for watering and bathing.

L. audouinii and *P. aristotelis* foraging areas will be assessed with telemetry and visual observations in order to determine their at sea foraging distribution and behaviour to determine their primary foraging habitats. Additionally, primary seabird foraging habitats will be mapped to further enhance the delineation of seabird foraging areas.

Hieraaetus fasciatus foraging areas and patterns will be assessed by on-site visual observations in order to determine foraging range and most important foraging areas on Andros. These data will allow for effective enhancement of Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) and pigeon (*Columba livia*) populations within the foraging range and elaboration of a proposal for sustainable land use through sensitivity mapping within the species foraging range to prevent mortality on power lines and wind farms within the SPA Management Plan. Detailed information on species habitat use on Andros will be provided to the competent authorities for the future update of Wildlife Reserves (KAZ) and Natura 2000 coverage.

Insufficient knowledge regarding the foraging areas of target seabird species prevents effective planning and implementation of their protection and management. Therefore foraging areas will be identified by boat-based and coastal-based observations, as well as telemetry, to provide basis for effective management plan and implementation of concrete conservation actions for the management of most important seabird foraging areas, though installation of mooring bouys and patrolling/surveillance. Finally, all the above-mentioned data will be incorporated in the SPA Management Plan to ensure optimal allocation of effort and funds to particular areas within Andros SPA for effective SPA management and protection.

Threat 3:

Name of the threat: Breeding habitat degradation, predation and competition from alien invasive and pets species

Description: Rats, in particular the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*), are an accidentally introduced alien invasive species on Greek islands. Due to lack of defence mechanisms against rats, eggs and nestlings of *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* are a subject to rat predation, thereby significantly reducing their breeding success. Based on the data collected by the HOS, in the vast majority of islands in the Aegean Sea, including all major colonies of the target species in the project area, rats are present and cause reduced breeding success of the target species.

The Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* is native in Greece, however due to abundant food sources created by human activities (e.g. open rubbish dumps and fisheries discard), the species has become locally superabundant and competes for food and nesting habitats with *Larus audouinii* and may even prey on its nests. Population of Yellow-legged gulls on Andros and its neighbouring islets exceeds 1300 individuals and therefore present a significant limiting factor to *Larus audouinii*'s colonies and their breeding success.

Location: The threat refers the majority of breeding colonies of three target species (in the existing SPA and outside).

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* have evolved to breed on isolated islands and islets without terrestrial predators. Therefore predation reduces breeding success of the species and may even discourage birds from nesting on islands with high level of predation. Apart from direct predation on eggs and chicks, rats reduce the vegetation cover of already scarce island vegetation, thereby reducing the suitable breeding habitat for the target species. Rat predation and the impact on the breeding habitat of the target species is locally high but varies among colonies of the target species and can reach up to 25%. In case rat predation is intensive, birds move to less accessible nesting sites, where they may be exposed to other predators, e.g. raptors.

The Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) is an opportunistic feeder, therefore it competes for food with *Larus audouinii* in the marine environment, thereby reducing the available food supply for the target species. It competes with *Larus audouinii* for nesting habitat and may even prey on its nests. The predation of *Larus michahellis* on *Larus audouinii* chicks may amount to up to 64% of total chick mortality of *Larus audouinii*. *Larus michahellis* predation on the nest is also dependent on general food availability and increases due to food shortages. Improved garbage management foreseen in Greece in the near future may cause drastic increase of predation on *Larus audouinii* nests if the local populations of *Larus michahellis* are not controlled in time. Recent results indicate that *L. michahellis* also prey on eggs and young chicks of *P. aristotelis*.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: Rat eradication operations have been recognized worldwide as the most effective measure to permanently eliminate rats for the conservation of birds threatened by rat predation. Rat eradication ensures that the entire rat population in a particular island is eliminated to the last individual, thereby permanently eliminating the threat of rat predation on the target bird species. However, rat eradication operations must be carefully planned and implemented with full dedication and to full extent to ensure complete elimination of rats, taking into account all the factors which may cause operation failure. Rat eradications will be implemented in at least 5 sites with colonies of target species improving their breeding success. The exact site selection and the extent of rat eradication operation as well as the methods used will be determined after a detailed assessment and prioritization study of the islands and islet in the project area, following a standard protocol which has already been

successfully implemented several times in Greece by HOS through other LIFE Nature projects. The implementation of rat eradication operations will be carried out by an experienced team which has already successfully implemented all previous eradication operations in Greece. The effects of rat eradication operations on the breeding performance of the target species will be monitored in through project monitoring.

Yellow-legged Gull population control operation in at least 3 gull colony will be implemented. Similar operations have already been implemented in other European and Mediterranean countries and the first pilot operation in Greece have already been successfully implemented in 2010 in the framework of the LIFE+ Nature project “Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin’s Gull in Greece, including the Inventory of Relevant Marine IBAs”, LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285. The results and experience of this project will be applied to ensure effective gull population control in the present project. A detailed assessment of colonies of *Larus audouinii*, gull predation and competition as well the feasibility study will be carried out to estimate the extent of gull predation and competition on *Larus audouinii* as well as to select at least 3 colonies of Yellow-legged gulls in which gull control measures will be implemented for the improvement of the breeding success of the *Larus audouinii*. The progress and the effects of gull population control on the breeding performance of the target species will be monitored in through project monitoring.

Threat 4:

Name of the threat: Limited availability of suitable nesting sites in colonies of target species

Description: *Falco eleonora* nests in sheltered sites, which primarily provide protection against sun as well as wind, and are situated under rocks, boulders or vegetation.

Phalacrocorax aristotelis uses caves, covered ledges or thick vegetation facing the sea to make its nests. The number of suitable nesting sites is one of the major factors limiting colony population size of both species. Human activities and interventions, such as tourism, livestock grazing, construction, intentional and unintentional fires and introduction of invasive alien species have caused the reduction of suitable colony sites and the number of suitable nesting sites within a colony which results in birds occupying less suitable and more dispersed nesting sites, thereby affecting their breeding success. In order to increase their breeding performance within limited and discrete colony sites the number of suitable nesting sites within existing colonies should be increased artificially. Consequentially, well defined and concentrated colonies are easier to monitor and protect.

Climate change is an increasing threat to birds and their habitats in the Mediterranean, including *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Prolonged heat waves and reduced rainfall, characteristic of the climate change in the Mediterranean, cause reduction of vegetation cover used to shade falcon’s nests. Increased temperatures accompanied by an excessive sun exposure cause failure of egg hatching in nests which are insufficiently protected against the sun, resulting in significant reduction of breeding success.

Location: The threat refers to the majority of breeding colonies of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (in the existing SPA/SCIs and outside).

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: Both *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* have evolved to become colonial nesting birds, using the advantages provided by colonial nesting for successful reproduction. Availability of suitable nesting sites is one of the major factors limiting the number of breeding pairs in colonial nesting birds. If there are not sufficient suitable nesting sites to support the local breeding population, birds are forced to look for less suitable nesting sites outside the main colony, thereby losing the advantages of the colony regarding the safety of breeding individuals

and nests as well as group foraging strategies. Climatic events, such as prolonged heat waves and reduced rainfall, characteristic of climate change, accompanied by reduced vegetation have already been observed to cause almost complete breeding failure of a particular *Falco eleonora* (Korakas in Northern Sporades 2007, and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (on Pyrgoi on Skyros in 2010) colonies. Excessive temperatures and sun exposure of eggs, due to lack of shade may cause egg hatching failure and loss of entire clutch, thereby decimating breeding success.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: The number of suitable nesting sites in selected colonies of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* will be increased by

(a) planting endemic shrubs (e.g. *Pistacia lentiscus*), which are frequently used in Greece as nesting sites

(b) construction of artificial nesting sites from rocks and/or wood

Plantation of endemic bush vegetation will be a novel intervention which has not been used before in Greece, but all available HOS data on *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* nesting preferences indicate that sites protected by bushes or other permanent vegetation are one of their favourite nesting habitats. Construction of artificial nesting sites has been proven to be an effective method of increasing suitable nesting sites for target species.

Threat 5:

Name of the threat: Degradation of target species primary foraging habitats

Description: Based on the results of previous surveys of *Larus audouinii* in Greece, *Larus audouinii* is primarily a coastal feeder, with the majority of its prey consisting of fish, such as *Boops boops*, *Chromis chromis*, *Mugil* spp. and *Spicara* spp. and other marine organisms which live in shallow coastal waters. Similarly *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* is a known benthic feeder. Additionally, Posidonia (*Posidonia oceanica*) beds are one of the primary habitats for all these prey species providing shelter and a place for spawning as well as a nursery for their young. Therefore coastal and inshore waters together with Posidonia beds are one of the main foraging habitats for *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and the abundance and availability of their food strongly depends on their extent and quality.

Uncontrolled human activities in the project area such as seawater pollution, dredging, trawling, illegal or uncontrolled fishing practices, sailing, speed boating, recreational fishing and hunting, diving, tourism and coastal touristic development cause disturbances, fragmentation, degradation and even destruction to *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* foraging sites. Vessel anchoring in Posidonia beds is considered to be one of major threats to the quality of this habitats, resulting in the fragmentation and deterioration of large beds at popular fishing and tourism coastlines.

Concerning fisheries, the most important problem for coastal feeders such as the 2 targeted project seabirds is not related to overexploitation of fisheries stocks by coastal fishermen but rather to the implementation of illegal practices such as the use of explosives. Intensive fishing by large trawlers is illegally occurring sometimes near the coastline and this is also a major threat for coastal bird foraging habitats.

The island of Andros is not a very popular tourism destination in Greece, although the first domestic tourists used the island from the beginnings of the previous century. However, the proximity of the island to Athens (less than 2 hours by ferry), makes Andros an attractive location of summer housing, especially on the countryside, outside the limits of existing villages. This is an important threat for the island ecosystems in general, especially at some parts of the island such as the coastal zone around the town of Gavrio, but also at the

northeastern part of Andros. Summer housing development has been intense during the last 30 years and as a result, large areas surrounding the main villages suffer heavily from urbanization. This urbanization and the additional population that uses the island in summer months, increase the demand for additional infrastructures, power lines, paved roads and utility networks that are spreading along the summer housing clusters.

Drastic reduction and even abandonment of traditional agricultural practices, pigeon raising, reduction of management and facilitation of water resources and wetlands and uncontrolled goat grazing on Andros resulted in desertification of island agricultural areas and the cease of traditional farming and crop cultivation, resulting in the reduction of abundance of large insects and migratory birds as well as reduction of Chukar and pigeon populations on Andros which present the main prey species for *Falco eleonora* and *H. fasciatus*.

Due to their location in the vicinity of coastline, coastal wetlands are exposed particularly to degradation by illegal housing development and access road construction. Drying out of parts of coastal wetlands, construction and rubbish dumping are only some of the illegal activities which, common coastal wetlands Greece.

Recently a new threat for raptor species is emerging: plans for the establishment of wind farms and solar panel installations in many of the islands hills and ridges have been proposed [source: Regulation Authority of Energy (RAE) (www.rae.gr)], and this may have serious impacts to Bonelli's eagles but also to Eleonora's falcon populations on the island, either due to the wind turbines or due to the associated power lines. The recent designation of the SPA site and hopefully the implementation of the present project proposal, will enable the Municipality to proceed with the elaboration of an SPA Management Plan, which will propose appropriate zoning, restrictions and regulations for the immediate threats, and will also perform a sensitivity analysis and mapping related to major infrastructures such as power lines and wind farms, in relation to SPA qualifying species conservation objectives.

Climate change is an increasing threat to birds and their habitats in the Mediterranean including *Falco eleonora*. This species is threatened by climate change by a series of direct and indirect factors. Direct factors include prolonged heatwaves, reduced rainfall, and reduced water supply. Indirect consequences, which are expected to be major threat to the falcons in the future, include reduced farming, abandonment of particular crop farming, and desertification of farmland, severe decrease of plant biodiversity, reduction of vegetation and insect abundance, destruction of coastal wetlands, changed timing of peaks of insect and bird migration, changes in areas used by insects and migratory birds.

Location: The threat refers to the majority of coastal and inshore marine and terrestrial areas used for foraging *H. fasciatus*, *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (in the existing SPA/SCIs and outside).

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: Uncontrolled human activities, enhanced by lack of planning and implementation of management scheme and result in disturbance as well as degradation or loss of *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* primary foraging habitats. Coastal waters, including Posidonia beds provide protection and shelter to numerous flora and fauna species. Their degradation or destruction causes decrease of abundance and biodiversity of these species and as a consequence affects the availability of *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* prey species. As a result, the seabirds need to invest more effort to reach suitable foraging grounds and to catch their required prey, thereby decreasing the fitness of adult individuals and their capability to rear their young. Decreased food availability for seabirds causes them to spend more time at sea and to catch less prey resulting in scarcer food for nestlings, less time at their nest to protect it and consequentially decreased breeding performance.

Reduced insect and migratory bird prey availability and water sources for *Falco eleonora* on the main islands forces the birds to travel far from their colonies and distribute over large areas, which for a single colony may exceed 1000km². Limitations of food availability in the vicinity of the colonies results in: (a) greater effort that falcons need to dedicate in search of

food and water, (b) greater possibility of insufficient fitness of breeding birds for reproduction, (c) greater possibility of insufficient fitness of juvenile and adult birds for migration to wintering quarters and (d) lack of well defined foraging and roosting areas where the falcons can be effectively protected.

Degradation of coastal wetlands affects directly the quality of *Falco eleonora* foraging habitats there. Illegal human activities that modified the size, composition and quality of wetland habitats directly reduce the abundance of insects and migratory birds, that consist *Falco eleonora* primary prey.

Reduced number of Chukar and pigeons on Andros causes reduced food availability for *H. fasciatus* on Andros, resulting in reduced carrying capacity of the area for the species, increased foraging ranges and exposure to human induced threats, such as electric power lines.

Climate change is expected to have a significant negative effect on the *Falco eleonora* and its habitats. Decreased annual precipitation will cause reduced water supply to the falcons, needed for watering and bathing. Indirectly, a temperature increase of 1-2C° in the Mediterranean is expected to result in reduced insect food and water availability due to decreased crop yields and cultivation, a loss of 50% of plant species, decreased water yields and destruction of coastal wetlands which are vital for insects and migratory birds, which are the primary food sources of *Falco eleonora*. Additionally climate change is expected to affect food availability by shifting the peaks of insect abundance and peaks and routes of bird migration (sources: RSPB, WWF). It is important to note that *Falco eleonora* is ecologically specialized to breed and rear its young in the Mediterranean islands therefore its breeding range cannot move northwards to milder climates in order to avoid

the effects of the climate change. Therefore if *Falco eleonora* fail to adapt to changing environmental conditions and no human interventions are made to improve *Falco eleonora* feeding and breeding habitats, this species may become highly endangered in the decades to come.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: Based on the scientific data collected on target species distribution, activities, habitat use and threats SPA Management Plan and Species Actions Plans for the target species and their habitats will be produced, providing detailed information on the methods, time schedule, personnel and means required for effective management of target species primary foraging habitats. On the basis of these Plans concrete conservation actions will be implemented for the restoration of the aforementioned foraging areas, including revitalization of farming land and traditional farming crops for the improvement for insect, migratory bird, Chukar and pigeon availability for *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus*, restoration of coastal wetlands and construction of wildlife ponds to increase fresh water availability, as well as large insect and migratory bird abundance, restoration and revitalization of at least one pigeon tower to increase abundance of pigeons for *H. fasciatus*, substitution or removal of harmful powerlines to reduce the threat of bird strikes and electrocution to *H. fasciatus*, installation of mooring buoys to reduce Posidonia beds degradation and increase the quality of this primary seabird foraging habitats and finally systematic patrolling and surveillance to record and prevent uncontrolled and harmful human activities and inform habitat users both at sea and on land.

Threat 6:

Name of the threat: Low level of public awareness for the species and habitat conservation

Description: Although different public awareness campaigns have been carried out in the past for the promotion of target species and their habitats, there is little dissemination of this concept among the Greek society especially at the local level. Despite the fact that many human activities touch and concern the sea, there are no awareness initiatives about the targeted species and the essential habitats upon which they depend for survival, regional biodiversity loss and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. New perceptions about the value, use and conservation of the wider area island, coastal and marine area of the project SPA are urgently needed in order to balance the sustainable development of the local communities and coastal/marine species rehabilitation and protection. There is a lack of environmental awareness and education on behalf of resident stakeholders and tourists, and a lack of information about issues such as targeted species requirements, island/coastal/marine conservation and sustainable island development. This situation partly explains the lack of any organised effort towards the effective protection of the SPA sites, hosting important species colonies. Recognition, that the *H. fasciatus*, *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, together with the other priority seabirds and land birds [e.g. Yelkouan (*Puffinus yelkouan*) and Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)] form a valuable asset of the Aegean and Greek natural heritage, providing unique nature tourism promotion opportunities, could prove to be an effective justification to the public opinion about the need for the species' conservation.

Location: The problem refers for entire project area and Greece and its island regions as a whole.

Impact on biodiversity or on the habitat/species targeted: Lack of public awareness results in the absence of any public pressure towards SPA and target species conservation. The targeted priority species as well as nearly all of the threatened species in the site are affected by inappropriate human pressures due to lack of awareness, education and

information which could, along with other benefits, provide stakeholders and visitors with new perceptions of how to conduct their activities in the future in a way that is impact-neutral or less harmful to the environment. A positive perception about the coastal/marine site wildlife conservation values and a sense of pride through deeper understanding and appreciation of the site should result in concomitant positive effects on the targeted species as well as other species and habitats of European Community interest. Since private developments and tourism as well as other human activities can have remarkable effects on discrete and isolated populations of marine species, the actions that deal with this threat are critical for the project's long-term success.

How these problems and threats will be dealt with during the project: Initially, as part of production of the SPA Management Plan, a Dissemination Plan will be produced, elaborating the objectives, activities and means of achieving optimal public awareness and dissemination of information regarding the management and conservation of the project SPA and its priority species. Based on the Dissemination Plan a series of communication, information dissemination and public awareness actions will be implemented in order to support and promote the project and its conservation actions, conservation and management of the project SPA and its target species as well as promoting the concept of Natura 2000 network. These actions will involve: (a) production of information material (leaflets, notice boards, album book, documentary and project layman's report), (b) production and operation of the project website, (c) establishment and operation of one project exhibition at the Andros Municipal Visitor Centre and one mobile exhibition, (d) organization of stakeholder meetings, (e) mass media dissemination and (f) organization of a closing LIFE project conference for the promotion and continuation of the conservation and management effort on Andros and beyond by inviting speakers from the European Commission, local, regional and national governments, members of the Hellenic Parliament.

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE PROJECT AREA
AND/OR FOR THE HABITATS / SPECIES TARGETED BY THE PROJECT**

The HOS has undertaken considerable efforts towards the conservation of the species and island SPA sites of Greece, demonstrating its commitment in promoting conservation measures for the Greek IBA and SPA sites.

Conservation efforts which have already taken place are briefly analysed below

Previous LIFE projects, the actions of which contributed to the objectives of the current proposal, include the project entitled “Actions for the Conservation of *Larus audouinii** in Greece” which was undertaken by HOS during 1997-1999. During the course of the project, warden and public awareness actions were carried out. The LIFE project “Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora** in Greece” was implemented from 2003 to 2007 in 10 Greek SPA sites. The Eleonora’s falcon project greatly improved the HOS capacity to conduct extensive census work and maintain many field teams at the same time for species monitoring. The experience gained by this project will be effectively used in the proposed project, especially actions related to bird surveys and communication with the local society. The HOS is currently implementing a LIFE Nature project “Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin’s Gull Including the Inventory of Relevant Marine IBA, LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285” in 17 SPAs (the Andros site is not included), which shares many common features regarding concrete conservation actions with the present project, namely rat eradication and gull population control operations and mitigation of seabird bycatch. A significant knowhow, experience and methodology which will be acquired will be applied to full extent in the present project. The HOS has also successfully implemented a rat eradication on Ag. Andreas on Tilos, as a subcontractor in a LIFE nature project “Tilos: Conservation of an island SPA” LIFE04/NAT/GR/000101.

INTERREG II: In 2002, HOS participated in a project coordinated by the Ministry of the Aegean entitled “Integrated actions for 12 small islands”. Under the project framework, public awareness material and information signs were produced.

In 2009, HOS has put 4 satellite transmitters to juvenile and adult *Falco eleonora* to study their migration from Andros to Africa and back. A special web page was created at HOS web site to inform the public about the route and timing of falcons migration, and a number of articles were published in national media.

Public awareness: HOS has included the target species in many public awareness events, including documentaries and publications for the birds of the uninhabited islets.

Population surveys: HOS has recently conducted irregular population surveys in certain Greek sites, in the context of other conservation activities. This work has provided information concerning the species distribution that was used for the preparation of the present proposal.

EU ADDED VALUE OF THE PROJECT AND ITS ACTIONS

Improved Conservation Status of Priority Species/Halting Biodiversity Loss:

The present project makes a significant contribution to the European Community efforts to continually improve the conservation status of species/habitats of European Community interest through the measures implemented, the knowledge gained for future application and the benefits resulting from the concrete conservation actions in this project. These actions contribute to the EU aim of halting biodiversity loss.

However, should the project not be implemented, would cause profound and long-term negative effects on the targets species and SPA conservation. More specifically, it is highly unlikely that in the near future an SPA Management Plan and its management authority (e.g. SPA Management Scheme) would be created and put in operation if not through a LIFE project. This would result in lack of coordinated management and implementation of conservation and/or sporadic short-term conservation activities, causing deterioration of target species conservation status. Additionally, lack of implementation of priority direct conservation measures for the improvement of breeding and foraging habitats of the target species would result in further and immediate deterioration of the target species conservation status throughout the project SPA.

Project Data Facilitates the Implementation of the Birds, Habitats, and Environmental Damage Liability Directives:

The project makes a significant contribution to the EU aims of biodiversity preservation and conservation of species/habitats targeted at the EU level, including the project's target species, by

- Implementation of concrete conservation actions for the conservation and management of 4 primary target species with the highest priority of conservation on European as well as national level in a newly designated SPA on Andros , GR42200028, thereby promptly responding to the newly established protected areas on Andros.
- Generation of important scientific data and analyses which will permit the application of important EU Directives, including 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC and 2004/35/EEC (Birds, Habitats and Environmental Damage Liability Directives, respectively). In the absence of accredited scientific data concerning the identification, location (including feeding/breeding areas), range, behaviour and conservation status of EU protected species in the project area which is expected to be collected during the course of scientific project actions, key provisions of the foregoing Directives cannot be effectively applied and enforced with legal certainty and credible evidence from accredited sources, especially in the event of likely, imminent or actual damages to and/or loss of species/habitats resulting from human activities in the wider project area. Accredited scientific data (in the form procured by a LIFE project) is indispensable to support the application and enforcement of the legal provisions of the Directives using three decades of relevant European Court of Justice *stare decisis*. If the project were not implemented, the provisions of these Directives cannot be effectively used to prevent the illegal, unreported and unregulated anthropogenic activities that negatively impact the conservation status of species/habitats targeted at the EU level in the wider project area.

6th EAP Aims Fulfilled:

In addition, the scientific data expected to be generated by this project allows the obligations of the national government as a Member State to be fulfilled for the project area

pursuant to the relevant provisions of the foregoing Directives, thus expanding the effectiveness of the EU environmental conservation investment in actions and programs, including the 6th Environmental Action Programme (1600/2002/EC) which identifies particular Priority Areas of Actions on nature and biodiversity that are addressed in this project: conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment and coasts; halting biodiversity decline; prevention and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species; and conservation of species and habitats with special concern to preventing habitat fragmentation. (Article 6, Section 1)

Project Data Generation for Protected Area Establishment:

The present project contributes to the EU's aim of establishing new marine IBAs and marine SPAs toward the fulfilment of the Natura 2000 network which requires the designation and inclusion of protected coastal, marine and terrestrial areas throughout the European Union territory.

Revitalization of traditional farming practices

Apart from ecological benefits for *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraetus fasciatus* the revitalization of traditional farming practices, traditional crop breeds and operation of pigeon lofts will improve and revive part of a rich Cycladic cultural heritage, which has been neglected during the last decades.

Participation of Socio-geographical Stakeholders beyond the Project Area: Another way in which this project contributes value to the broader species/habitats conservation and related environmental public awareness aims of the EU is based upon the socio-geographical fact that Andros is socio-economically very similar to other Northern Cycladic islands Tinos, Mykonos, Syros, Kythnos and Kea. The stakeholders within this island chain share a cultural identity, important tourism and fishing economies, boat transportation, natural marine resources (upon which the foregoing are based), and common environmental threats of which most stakeholders are unaware and which adversely impact the socio-economic, recreational, and cultural framework of the area.

The islands' activities are thus intertwined: the actions conducted or permitted within one island area, in the present case Andros, often have an impact on the neighbouring islands as well. Therefore nature conservation and management efforts of the present project are therefore expected to have beneficial effects on the wider scale of the Northern Cyclades, particularly taking into account that a number of new Natura 2000 sites have been designated in the area in 2010.

BEST PRACTICE / INNOVATION / DEMONSTRATION CHARACTER OF THE PROJECT

BEST PRACTICE: The project aims to implement of best practice methods for the control of invasive species (rats) and competitive species (Yellow-legged Gulls), the assessment of target species foraging habitats, the management of *Hieraetus fasciatus* foraging habitats and its main prey species, wetland restoration and construction of wildlife ponds for *F. eleonora* and installation of seaweed-friendly mooring buoys.

DEMONSTRATION: Demonstration actions include improvement of *Falco eleonora* nesting habitat and revitalization of traditional farming practices for enhancement of Chukar, pigeon, migratory birds and large insect populations to increase prey availability for *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* and the establishment of viable Management Scheme for the project SPA.

INNOVATION:

EFFORTS FOR REDUCING THE PROJECT'S "CARBON FOOTPRINT"

All office equipment used in the program will be "Energy Star" certified. All desktop computers will be equipped with the "eco-button" technology. Recycled paper will be used for document printing. All documents will be printed on both sides of one paper. All used paper will be shredded and recycled. All of the communication between partners will be conducted via e-mail with the use of secure document technology (Adobe PDF) to limit the use of paper documentation. All records of the LIFE+ project will be archived in electronic form to reduce the use of paper and plastic filing products.

The LIFE+ Nature website will be hosted by AISO.Net or comparable server operated by green technology resulting in substantially reduced carbon emissions.

All of the LIFE+ Nature project office light fixtures will use low energy compact fluorescent light bulbs.

All of the LIFE+ Nature project publications will be available in electronic form through the project's website for viewing by the interested public. Maps, brochures and other information dissemination material will be available for visitors to download to mobile phones and laptops and other portable devices via Bluetooth technology.

All of the relevant LIFE+ Nature project documents and databases including, without limitation, financial records, spreadsheets, scientific research records and documents will be stored on an Internet Storage Service (password protected) for immediate access by the project's partners, project personnel, project auditor and the Commission services thus eliminating the energy consuming data transfer and storage procedures of the paper archived office. The document, however, which need to be stored as paper original e.g. receipts and invoices will be stored in hardcopy. This will also facilitate the conduct of internal and external audits of project records with minimal carbon emissions by providing the option of electronic records inspections in addition to the employment of records by auditors who may have to travel long distances to fulfil these records inspection duties.

All office and field equipment purchases as well as consumables and furniture purchases for use at the LIFE+ Nature project office will be purchased locally or via internet-based vendors to limit the carbon footprint that would be emitted by visiting vendors in their physical business locations which are long distance from the island project office.

**EXPECTED CONSTRAINTS AND RISKS RELATED TO THE PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION AND HOW THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH (CONTINGENCY
PLANNING)**

Potential constraints that could negatively affect the implementation of the project's actions relevant to bird species are:

1. Weather conditions

The hard and unpredictable weather conditions prevailing during winter-early spring make the work at sea and the approach of small islets very difficult. These facts could have implications on the time schedule of the field work implementation of relevant preparatory and concrete conservation actions due to unpredictable weather conditions, causing difficulties in reaching and operating in the project area. In such a case, field work may need to be postponed to a later date during the same year or the following year. To cope with the adverse weather conditions, an all-weather open-sea speedboat/vessel will be used, and a well-trained boat crew and field team will be employed to minimise the risk of potential accident. In any case, project partners have allocated a contingency period in its schedule of actions to allow sufficient time during the four year implementation period to carry out actions postponed due to weather conditions.

2. Opposition of Stakeholders

For such a project, in a recently established SPA site, the opposition of certain stakeholders (livestock keepers, fishermen, developers) could be a problem. However, the long term efforts of the former Korthi Municipality and its successor, the current Municipality of Andros, have resulted in the absence of any significant opposition. Extensive consultation during the last 3 years was implemented, from the time the first unfortunate proposal for Life funding was submitted. From that time onwards, there is a strong consensus in the local society for the conservation of the valuable assets of local nature. The project team will remain alert, during the project implementation to build mutual trust in the transparency of the project aims/actions in an effort to foster stakeholder understanding of the conservation and minimize or obviate any risk to the project. Additionally, a well planned public awareness campaigns are expected to significantly reduce potential conservation opposition.

3. Unexpected delays in certain project actions

The time planning of the project has taken into account the possible delays in critical actions by planning for extra time intervals between interrelated actions to buffer for cases of unexpected delays.

CONTINUATION / VALORISATION OF THE PROJECT RESULTS AFTER THE END OF THE PROJECT

- Which actions will have to be carried out or continued after the end of the project?

Actions which need to be continued after the end of the project include:

- operation of the SPA Management Scheme (action C.8)
- SPA surveillance (action C.9)
- maintenance of artificial nests
- farming of leased agricultural areas for the enhancement of Chukar and pigeon populations (action C.4)
- maintenance and operation of solar electric fencing systems, pigeon lofts, wildlife ponds, Wildlife First Aid Centre and mooring buoys (actions C.4-6)
- operation of Exhibition at Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre (action D.5)
- operation of the Local Conservation Group (action C.7)

- How will this be achieved, what resources will be necessary to carry out these actions?

The main goal of the project is to create organization, management, social and financial capacity for viable and long-term management and conservation of the project SPA. For this purpose a SPA Management Scheme, will be formed and will start its full operation within the framework of the project and will continue after its end. This Management Scheme will comprise of competent authorities, major stakeholders and environmental organizations, which will ensure operational, technical, scientific and financial source adequacy for the continuation of the SPA management, as elaborated in the After-LIFE Conservation Plan. In the relevant action, further details for the future funding of the SPA management are given.

The SPA Management Scheme will make every possible effort to involve private and other EU funds, such as the Structural Funds and INTERREG in future funding for the maintenance of priority actions. The use of funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and European Fund for Fisheries (EFF) will be negotiated with competent national and EU authorities to support selected actions related to the continuation of important activities. The SPA Management Scheme, particularly through participation of local stakeholders will promote local environmentally-friendly agricultural and eco-touristic products which can be partly used for financial support of the SPA Management.

The Municipality of Andros in cooperation with project partners will continue farming of local crops on leased agricultural areas, as well as the maintenance and operation of solar electric fencing systems, pigeon lofts, wildlife ponds, mooring buoys and project exhibition, as part of Municipality core activities. The SPA surveillance, at sea and on land, and operation of Wildlife First Aid Centre, the after-LIFE financially most demanding activity will be financed through financial sources provided by the operation of the SPA Management Scheme. Vital complementary role in SPA Surveillance and operation of the Wildlife First Aid Centre will be provided by the Local Conservation Group on voluntary basis.

The ornithological surveys of the project target species and operation of the Local Conservation Group will continue after the end of the LIFE project a part of a core HOS conservation activities. These activities will be maintained either through the HOS annual budget or through their inclusion in future projects funded either by EU or private donors.

- Protection status under national/local law of sites/species/habitats targeted (if relevant)

The project's SPA as well as the target species are already protected. HOS on the national level and the Municipality of Andros at the regional and local level are already systematically lobbying for the enforcement of the protection status and management.

- How, where and by whom will the equipment acquired be used after the end of the project?

Following the end of the project, all durable equipment acquired by the Andros Municipality through this project will continue to be assigned to the operation and conservation activities of the SPA Management Scheme for the benefit of species/habitats of European Community interest in the project area region.

The office equipment and computers will be used by the SPA Management Scheme for the SPA management, surveillance, monitoring, administration, public promotion and governmental lobbying activities associated with the post project conservation actions. The field equipment, including the binoculars, car, boat and photo/video camera equipment will be used by the SPA Management Scheme and the project beneficiaries (who/which have committed to the implementation of future conservation projects in the wider project area) in conjunction with consultation with visiting scientific experts, conservation promotion with visiting journalists and technical conservation actions.

The project boat will continue to fulfill its intended multi-purpose environmental conservation, boat transportation and, if necessary, rescue use in cooperation with the Port Police during and after the program. Following the project, the Andros Municipality will be financially responsible for the operation and maintenance of the boat until or unless the financial responsibility is expressly (i.e. in writing) assumed by the authorized members of an Andros-based environmental conservation NGO. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this application, this provision concerning financial responsibility for the boat shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of the LIFE+ Nature project.

Concerning the telemetry equipment acquired by the NCC actions, the tracking devices used for the telemetry action will not be retrievable since they will be mounted on birds and become detached after a pre-defined period of time or might break down due to multiple use or weathering.

- To what extent will the results and lessons of the project be actively disseminated after the end of the project to those persons and/or organisations that could best make use of them (please identify these persons/organisations)?

Effective organisation and operation of the SPA Management Scheme will provide a model for an effective, self-sustainable and long-term SPA management. Its organization tools will be at disposal of interested state or private parties to use them in establishment of similar or improvement of existing SPA management schemes elsewhere. The participation of regional and local stakeholders will ensure that the results the LIFE project and SPA Management Scheme will reach target audience on local and national level. The overall promotion of SPA conservation and environmentally friendly human activities is expected to have long-term beneficial influence on and improvement of attitude of local citizens and island visitors.

The deliverables of most of the actions include reports. Thus, the project results will be widely disseminated to competent authorities including the Greek relevant Ministries, the regional and local authorities, the EU, the general public and the scientific community.

A number of scientific presentations and papers will result from the project. The target groups to which the continuation of dissemination activities is foreseen include public authorities (Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change; Ministry for Rural

Development and Food; Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy; Region of Notio Aigaio [Southern Aegean]; Prefecture of Cyclades; Municipalities in the Cyclades; Fishermen's Unions in Greece, and Tourism Unions).

The dissemination of project results, public awareness raising about the need for target species/habitats conservation, and the dissemination of educational material including the project website, will continue after the project and target the same audiences identified in the project in order to maintain the support gained during the project and expand the support base to new members of the general public, governmental authorities and specific stakeholder and/or socio-economic groups such as Andros non-resident property owners, residents, tourists, fishermen, boat owners and local culture associations. Students and teachers from schools in the project area region will continue to be made aware of the project results through the dissemination of project information (i) at the Korthi Municipal Environmental Education Centre (which annually hosts 1,470 island resident and non-resident students from 3 island schools and 39 other schools in Greece and 80 professional high school teachers attending environmental education seminars) and (ii) at regional project area schools through the continuation of the environmental education briefings and activities initiated by the project.



LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity

TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMS

Part C – detailed technical description of the proposed actions

Important note:

- All calculations and detailed cost breakdowns necessary to justify the cost of each action should be included in the financial forms F. In order to avoid repeating the financial information (with the risk of introducing incoherencies), Part C should only contain financial information not contained in the financial forms (e.g. details explaining the cost per hectare).
- All forms in this section may be duplicated, so as to include all essential information.
- Each action described should have a clear indication of its physical target (e.g., action 1 will take place in area "X" and/or will target species "Y"). Whenever this is relevant, the location of these actions should also be identified on one or several maps which must be provided in annex (preferably one map per site). Where feasible, a map of each site should be provided that indicates the location of all the actions taking place on that site.
- Any action that is sub-contracted should be just as clearly described as an action that will be directly carried out by the beneficiaries.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or of action plans

The preparatory actions described below refer to planning and setting up of Management of the project SPA site to achieve Favourable Conservation Status of the priority bird species and their habitats. The preparatory actions include the prerequisite tools for effective and long-term SPA management, including SPA Management Plan, priority Species Action Plans, Monitoring and Surveillance Plans, as well as acquisition of necessary equipment. The competent Ministry of Environment, will closely collaborate and supervise the production creation of the SPA Management Plan and promote the implementation of foreseen actions. Simultaneously, and on the basis of the aforementioned SPA Management Plan, the preparatory actions also include preparatory activities for the implementation of project's concrete conservation actions (action category C) which consist the start-up stage of the project SPA Management.

In summary the preparatory actions for the implementation of the concrete conservation actions will include:

- a) An assessment of islets with colonies of *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and operational planning for rat eradication and Yellow-legged Gull population control operations
- b) An assessment of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus* foraging behaviour and range with visual observations and telemetry for the operational planning and to determine the areas where revitalization of traditional farming practices, revitalization of traditional crop cultivation, revitalization of pigeon razing, coastal wetland improvement and artificial pond construction will be implemented.
- c) An assessment of seabird foraging habitat use by means of visual observations and telemetry to identify the most important foraging areas in the wider project area with special reference to Posidonia meadows and to prepare an operational planning for their protection by means of construction of mooring buoys.

These actions are analysed in detail on the following pages below.

ACTION A.1: Elaboration of the Management Plan for the SPA

Description: This action is the starting point for the integrated and effective management of the SPA sites. It will provide the planning documents to analyse the population status, distribution, habitat requirements and the conservation status of the priority species, and provide detailed guidelines for the adequate management actions to achieve their favourable conservation status. The Management Plan will be integrated with local Action Plans for each priority species, with a Dissemination Plan to reach the stakeholders involved in the SPA management, an SPA monitoring plan, a Surveillance – patrolling plan for the site and a proposal for the structure and function of the Management Scheme that needs to take over the coordination of the management activities within the SPA site. A Geodatabase including SPA monitoring protocols, maps of the distribution and critical habitats for each priority species, and other management related spatial information, will be produced and delivered in the framework of the present action.

A detailed proposal for the establishment of the SPA Management Scheme, identifying principal stakeholders and describing in operational detail the proposed structure, function, organization, set up cost and annual operational cost, as well as potential sources of

funding (elaborating the results of the SPA management Feasibility Study of Action A3), will also be an outcome of the present action. The purpose of these planning documents will be to provide a detailed technical, operational and financial structure that will enable the effective set up of the SPA Management, in the framework of the present project.

The elaboration of the Management Plan will involve 2 phases, the first lasting 12 months and the second the following 6 months. The first phase will involve the technical preparation of the planning documents and will also include field surveys, to fill existing knowledge gaps, for the first 12 months. The second phase will involve an extensive consultation exercise, with public authorities and local stakeholders, to produce widely accepted and realistic planning prescriptions.

The 2 other project preparatory actions (Actions A2 and A3) are going to be implemented in parallel and in close relation to the present action. All the project concrete actions, as well as the dissemination actions are related to the present action, in terms of the operational and management framework of the SPA.

The action will be implemented by the project Scientific Coordinator (7 person-months[PM]) in collaboration with the Project Director (4 PM), the Dissemination Coordinator (2 PM), the Project Ornithologist (1 PM), the GIS/Data Manager (6 PM) and HOS Field Researchers (1,5 PM), Field Warden (2 PM) and external assistance of HOS and NCC Field Researchers, as well as external experts (Zoologist, Agricultural Expert) will also be involved in the preparation of the technical documents and during the consultation phase.

The transportation of field teams and equipment will be carried out with project all-weather vessel and project 4x4 vehicle. All the remaining equipment required for the implementation of the action (i.e. optical and telemetry equipment, GPS, sampling and ringing equipment and consumables) will be acquired in the framework of the present action.

Details for the present action are given below:

The action presents a preparatory stage for a long-term Andros SPA Management and preparatory activities for the implementation of the project's concrete conservation actions. More specifically, the action includes

- (a) the production of the project SPA Management Plan,
- (b) the definition of Favourable Reference Values for each of the 4 target species (*F. eleonora*, *H. fasciatus*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*),
- (c) the production of the 4 target Species Action Plans for the SPA,
- (d) the sensitivity mapping and proposal for sensitivity zones for target species nesting, foraging and roosting sites in regard to major threats,
- (e) the production of SPA Monitoring Plan, SPA Surveillance Plan and SPA Dissemination Plan, and a Geodatabase with thematic maps and protocols for scientific monitoring of implementation of project actions, and
- (f) the production of a detailed proposal for the establishment of the SPA Management Scheme, including description of its structure and function, organisational requirements, set up and operational cost, as well as potential financial resources to support it in the long run.

The initial stage of the present action implementation will consist of the bibliographical compilation of available data on the target species nesting and foraging distribution and ecology in the project area and implementation of additional field surveys to fill the gaps in the existing knowledge in regard to:

- (a) severity of major threats to the primary bird species in the project SPA
- (b) nesting distribution and populations of the target species (*F. eleonora*, *H. fasciatus*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*) in the project area,
- (c) breeding success of the target species and effects of rat predation and Yellow-legged Gull predation/competition on the breeding success

- (d) abundance and distribution of *H. fasciatus* primary prey species (Chukar partridge and pigeons)
- (e) presence, abundance and ecology of rats on islands in the project area
- (f) breeding distribution and abundance of Yellow-legged Gulls in the project area
- (g) presence and abundance of other species of flora and fauna on which concrete conservation actions may have an effect
- (h) foraging distribution and activities of *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* on the island of Andros
- (i) at sea foraging distribution and roosting of *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* in the wider marine area of the project site
- (j) topographical, vegetation and geographical characteristics of breeding and foraging sites
- (k) distribution and extend of target species primary foraging habitats with special reference to agricultural land and coastal wetlands for *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* on land
- (l) major land uses and key stakeholders involved with them within the SPA
- (m) competent authorities and public services involved in the management issues of the SPA
- (n) existing legal, administrative and operational opportunities to be used for the effective conservation of the site.

The above data will be collected through on-site field visits (effects of major threats on breeding, foraging and distribution of the target species, breeding and target species nesting sites, nesting distribution, data collection on rats and Yellow-legged gulls and other fauna/flora, habitat characteristics), visual observations from land and sea for the assessment of foraging/roosting distribution of all four target species (point counts and line transects methodologies for *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* on land, as well as land-based point coastal counts and at-sea coastal census and European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) methodologies for marine foraging distribution of *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*). Additionally radio tracking will be used to assess target species foraging ranges and behaviours.

The data collection regarding visual ornithological surveys (point counts and line transects on land, as well as ESAS and coastal census at sea) of the target species and the Yellow-legged gull will be carried out by the Project Ornithologist and HOS Field Researchers. The field surveys including assessment of island colony and foraging sites and breeding success will be implemented by the Scientific Coordinator, Field Officer, Agricultural expert, Zoologist, with the assistance of NCC Field Researchers that will be hired for this purpose. Visual observations will be carried out by telescopes and binoculars purchased through the present action.

Based on the data collected above an SPA Management Plan will be produced to provide the basic tool and guidelines for the implementation of viable, effective and long-term management of the project SPA by the competent state and local authorities in collaboration with local stakeholders. The Management Plan will include: (A) Description of SPA critical species and associated critical habitats, (B) The evaluation of the conservation status and threats of critical species and habitats, (C) Elaboration of management objectives and actions, (D) Elaboration of the SPA Surveillance Plan for effective SPA surveillance, (E) Elaboration of the SPA Monitoring Plan for the evaluation of management progress and results and (F) Elaboration of the SPA Dissemination plan for the dissemination of information, scientific data and tools.

Sensitivity maps for major threats in regard to breeding, foraging and roosting site degradation and direct mortality of the target species in the project area will be produced. The maps will identify target species critical habitats and their sensitivity of threats (e.g. disturbance by tourism, development, hunting; direct mortality in power lines and potential

wind farms; introduction or super abundance of invasive and competitive species, degradation of critical breeding, foraging and roosting habitat degradation). These sensitivity maps will be directly applied in effective assessment of sites where concrete conservation actions will be implemented. The aforementioned sensitivity maps will be used in compilation of the prescriptions for sustainable land use in the project SPA which will be included in the SPA Management Plan.

In addition to the general SPA Management Plan, Species Action Plans for *F. eleonora*, *H. fasciatus*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* will be produced, to further elaborate management measures required for effective conservation of the target species in the project SPA. The Species Action Plans will consist of (a) baseline information for each species, including distribution, population and ecology with special reference to Favourable Reference Values for 4 project's target species, (b) assessment of threats and limiting factors, (c) aims and objectives with regard to policy and legislation, target species and their habitat conservation, monitoring activities and public awareness (d) detailed plan of actions required in order to achieve Favourable Conservation Status of the target species and critical habitats. Favourable Reference Values for the target species and their critical habitats will be established on the basis of ornithological, telemetry and mapping surveys described above.

A SPA Geodatabase in association with maps in GIS environment will be developed to provide in association with the SPA Management Plan the basis tool for prioritizing, planning, implementation and monitoring of SPA management activities. Apart from all the basic features (SPA primary species distribution, ecology, ecological requirements, critical habitats, threats and associated sensitivity maps, management objectives and actions, and management/monitoring/ surveillance protocols), set by the SPA Management, Monitoring, Surveillance Plans and Species Action Plans, the Geodatabase will allow the present and future manager of the project SPA site to feed in new information gathered through conservation, monitoring and surveillance activities implemented in the Andros SPA through the present project and in the future.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action directly refers to lack of knowledge on the target species and their habitats as well as basic SPA management tools (Threat No. 1), including SPA Management Plan, target species Action Plans, Monitoring and Surveillance Plan resulting in insufficient Andros SPA management and target species conservation. A detailed and comprehensive SPA Management Plan in association with Species Action Plans, Monitoring Plan, Surveillance Plan and sensitivity maps in association with the baseline information of SPA primary bird species and their habitats and major threats are prerequisite for an effective and long-term SPA management as well as its start-up stage implemented through the concrete conservation actions of present project. The data collected and aforementioned Plans produced then allow technical and operational planning and preparations for successful and effective implementation of the project's concrete conservation action, their implementation and their continuation after the end of the LIFE project. Therefore indirectly by providing the basis the SPA management, directly be operational and technical planning of project's concrete conservation actions, the action refers to all the threats addressed by the present project.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the NCC, Andros Municipality and HOS

Expected results: A number of technical documents and a management Plan for the SPA site, describing an integrated, technically and socio- economically sound and efficient framework for the implementation of the long term management of the SPA. These documents include: 1) SPA Management Plan, 2) local Species Action Plans for the 4 priority species, and Favourable Reference Values for each species 3) SPA Monitoring

Plan, 4) SPA Surveillance Plan, 5) Geodatabase, 6) Sensitivity mapping of the SPA in relation to the critical habitats of the 4 species, 7) Dissemination Plan for the management activities 8) a detailed proposal for the establishment of the SPA Management Scheme, elaborating the results of the SPA Feasibility Study (Action A.3) to provide the basis for an effective and long-term management of the project SPA. The plan will clearly establish objectives and actions required to achieve Favourable Conservation Status of the project SPA's critical species. On the basis of the above results and products, an operational plan and technical preparations will be made to ensure successful and effective implementation of the project's concrete conservation actions (Action A.2).

Cost estimation: 96.459€

Personnel: 47.709€ = 18,2 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 8.700€ = fieldwork travel of HOS and NCC field teams. *External Assistance:* 21.500€ = HOS Field Researchers (2 PM at 2400€/PM), NCC Field researchers (2 PM at 2400€/PM) and external experts (Zoologist, Agricultural expert) at 12500€ *Equipment:* 18.550€ = radiotracking equipment and 30 transmitters 8.250€, a desktop computer 2.000€ and GIS software 6.000€ by NCC and a desktop computer 2.300€ by Andros Municipality.

ACTION A.2: Elaboration of the operational plans and prerequisite technical documents for Concrete Conservation Actions

Description: The action will produce operational plans and detailed specifications for all the Concrete project actions and technical plans and documents for the implementation of rat eradication and gull population control operations (Actions C1 and C2), the creation of artificial nest sites for the priority species (Action C.3), for the establishment of ponds (Action C.4), for the wetland restoration action (Action C.5) and for installation of mooring buoys (Action C.6). The results of the present action, in combination with Actions A1 and A3 will provide a sound technical and management framework for the initiation of the integrated management of the SPA site.

The action will last for 6 months and will be implemented during the second half of the first project year, by the project Scientific Coordinator (7 person-months[PM]), in collaboration with the Project Director (2 PM), Islet Management Officer (4 PM), Project Ornithologist (1 PM), Field Warden (1 PM), GIS/Data Manager (1 PM) and Monitoring Officer (1PM). HOS and NCC Field Researchers, as well as external consultants will be involved in the preparation of the technical documents (wetland ecologist, wetland engineer, landscape planner, forester, soil ecologist, plant ecologist).

The data collected during the Management Plan field surveys, will feed the preparation of plans and documents of the present action.

Namely:

- (a) The information on breeding distribution, population size and success of *F. eleonora*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*, the abundance rats and Yellow-legged gulls and their effect on the breeding success of the target species as well as the geographical, vegetation, fauna and topographical characteristics of islets and site sensitivity to breeding habitat degradation in the project area will be used for cost-benefit analysis to determine sites and methods, which will create greatest conservation benefit for given cost, and the operational plan for the implementation of rat eradication (action C.1) and Yellow-legged gull population control operations (Action C.2), as well as the improvement of nesting habitat availability by nest boxes and plantation of endemic vegetation of *F. eleonora*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* nesting site availability (action C.3) and the control of access to the *H. fasciatus* nesting areas. The purchase of required equipment and material, as well as

acquisition of licenses required for the implementation of operations will be carried out in the framework of the present action.

- (b) The information on foraging ecology and primary foraging areas of *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* and site sensitive to habitat degradation will be used to determine sites and methods used for the revitalization of abandoned agricultural land, management of water supply and traditional crop cultivation, as well as Chukar and pigeon population management (action C.4). Potential sites for revitalization of traditional farming practices and pigeon raising towers will be assessed and prioritized in order to lease (action B.1) those where revitalization of farming pigeon raising will be implemented (action C.4). Based on the information gathered on the primary foraging habitats of *F. eleonora* and *H. fasciatus* as well as their prey species (Chukar, pigeon, insect) abundance there, the most suitable crops will be selected for cultivation (action C.4). The quality and degree of degradation of the main *F. eleonora* foraging areas in the coastal wetlands of (Vitali, Ateni, Lefka, Vori, Rozos, Achlia, Dipotamata and Kremides) will be assessed in order to determine sites and interventions for coastal wetland restoration (action C.5).
- (c) The information on foraging ecology and coastal Posidonia meadows primary foraging areas of *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*, sensitive to habitat degradation will be used to determine sites and methods used for construction of sea-weed friendly mooring buoys to prevent degradation of Posidonia meadows by vessel anchoring (action C.6).

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action is prerequisite for the effective implementation of C actions, as it provides the operational and technical planning basis for their execution. As it prepares the field for all the concrete conservation actions, it refers to all the threats identified for the trigger species of the SPA site.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented in collaboration with HOS and Andros Municipality

Expected results: A series of operational plans and technical blueprints and documents for the project concrete actions. Operational Plans will be produced for all C actions. Technical documents and blueprints for action C3, C4 and C5.

Cost estimation: 88.278€

Personnel: 30.078€ = 11,1 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 14.500€ = fieldwork travel of HOS and NCC field teams. **External Assistance:** 36.200€ = HOS Field Researchers (2 PM at 2.400€/PM), NCC Field Researchers (4 PM at 2.400€/PM) and wetland ecologist, wetland engineer, landscape planner, forester, soil ecologist, plant ecologist at 21.800€. **Equipment:** 6.000€ = 2 binoculars by HOS at 1.000€, 2 binoculars at 1.000€, a telescope at 2.000€, cages and traps for rats at 500€, GPS at 500€ and diet sampling equipment at 1.000€ by NCC. **Consumables:** 1.500€ = Sampling and fieldwork material at 1.000€ and 500€, respectively.

ACTION A.3 Elaboration of a feasibility study for the SPA Management

Description: In parallel with the implementation of action A1, during the second half of the first project year, a Feasibility Study for the management of the SPA will be elaborated by the Scientific Coordinator (2 person/months [PM]) in collaboration with experts in environmental economics, protected areas management, ecotourism planning and socio-economic research in rural areas.

The study will last 6 months and will assess the costs for the set up and the regular operation of the SPA Management Scheme, described by action A1. The study will analyse local socio-economic conditions and propose guidelines and ways to fund the management Scheme, after the 2 first years of operation. It will also describe the specifications of a special fund, established to raise resources for the Scheme. Among others the study will assess the feasibility of establishing collaborations with Business and “Green Development” Banking products to support the Scheme. The use of renewable energy opportunities to raise funds, the ecotourism potential of the site, as well as the use of agri-environment schemes for funding part of the cost of management will also be examined. Proposals for fiscal transfers to fund the SPA management and for private- public partnerships will be also evaluated.

The study will provide a detailed fiscal plan for the Management Scheme (Action C.8), and an action plan for fund - raising to support the core part of the SPA Management (basic operation of the Scheme, Surveillance- patrolling programme and species monitoring programme) in the long run. The results of the study will be presented to public authorities and stakeholders, during the Management Plan consultation phase.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The financial planning of the SPA Management is an essential part of any sustainable and integrated site management effort. Therefore, the action refers mainly to threat n 1 but as it deals with a core issue of the SPA management, it is also linked with all the threats identified. Failing to address and fulfil the financial needs of the long term management of the site, would result in the cancellation of the project results and achievements within a few years after the project end.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC

Expected results: A Feasibility Study that will include a detailed fiscal plan for the SPA Management Scheme and an Action Plan for raising adequate funds to support the core of the Protected Area management activities in the long run.

Cost estimation: 17.999 €

Personnel: 2.999€ = 1 PM of Scientific Coordinator project at F1 form rates. *External assistance:* 15.000€ = External experts (environmental economics, ecotourism and socioeconomics)

B. Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights

ACTION B.1: Land lease of agricultural land

Description: A total of 10ha of abandoned agricultural land will be leased by the Andros Municipality within the limits of the municipality and SPA project area. These farming areas will be used for revitalization of traditional farming practices, cultivation of traditional crops and construction of wildlife ponds (action C.4). The Andros Municipality will make contracts with land owners for a long-term land lease starting from the 1st year of the project. The preliminary consultations with the land owner have already taken place and they agree in principle.

The action will be implemented by the Project Director (1 person-month[PM]) and project administration staff.

In the unlikely event of unsuccessful lease of agricultural land, efforts will be made with local land owners to negotiate rights for land revitalization on voluntary basis for a duration of 20 years.

Concerning the pre conditions for the land lease, please see the explanations under each one in the following lines:

1. *The land purchase must be clearly related to the objectives of the project.* It is related to action C4, which is related to the SPA management for increase prey availability for the target species.
2. *The purchase of land shall normally be restricted to lands that are located within an existing Natura 2000 site (see below, section "Site-related conservation actions outside Natura 2000 sites" for possible exceptions).* The land to be leased is within the SPA borders.
3. *The land purchase would contribute to maintaining or restoring the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.* The land to be leased will be used for conservation farming for the benefit of priority species of the SPA.
4. *The purchase is the only or most effective way of achieving the desired conservation outcome.* The lease of land was decided as a pilot measure. If successful, purchase of land could be examined as a future option after the project.
5. *The land purchased is reserved in the long-term for uses consistent with the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The beneficiaries must ensure that the sales contract and/or entry in the land register includes a guarantee that the land is assigned definitively (without time limitation) to nature conservation purposes consistent with the objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. Where both possibilities exist (sales contract and land registry entry), the beneficiaries must use that which offers the strongest long-term protection. Note that with the final report, the beneficiaries will have to submit a copy of the sales contract and/or entry in the land register including the above mentioned guarantee. Should they fail to provide such documents, the corresponding land purchase costs and associated costs will be considered ineligible. For countries where it would be illegal to include such a guarantee both in the land register and in the sale contract, the Commission may accept an equivalent guarantee, provided it offers the same legal level of protection in the long term and complies with the requirement contained in Annex I of the LIFE+ Regulation.* It is not applicable in our case. We will lease the land, through a long-term lease. However the character of the land will not change after the project.

6. *The land must be purchased by one of the official project beneficiaries who is either a well-established private organisation (e.g. nature conservation NGO or other) or a public body with nature conservation tasks, and must remain in his ownership after the end of the project.* The land will be leased by the Andros Municipality.
7. *The proposal must demonstrate that each beneficiary carrying out land purchases has the necessary competence and experience in land purchase for nature conservation, and that the planned target is realistic within the time framework of the project.* The Andros Municipality has a proven competence in handling land and in actively pursuing nature conservation objectives.
8. *If the purchasing body is a private organisation, its statutes must include a provision that, in case of dissolution, the land will be transferred to another legal body primarily active in the field of nature conservation (e.g. another conservation NGO or appropriate public body).* Not applicable in our case.
9. *Evidence must be provided in the proposal that the purchase price is consistent with the current market prices for the type of land and the region concerned.* Relevant evidence has been included in the Annexes.
10. *Evidence must be provided that the land purchased was privately owned prior to the project starting date (exceptions are only possible if duly justified and accepted by the Commission). Purchase of land that has recently been transferred from public to private ownership will not be eligible.* The land to be leased is privately owned from many decades ago.
11. *Land purchased must be the subject of specific restoration and/or active management or restrictions of use that go beyond existing restrictions. The purchase of land that is in excellent conservation status (i.e. that requires no restoration or specific management or restrictions of use) is only eligible if strategic to the objectives of the project.* The land to be leased consists of abandoned agricultural fields in terraces. Their conservation value is far lower now compared to their original use and the project will try to revitalise this original use, for the benefit of priority species.

Reasons why this action is necessary: Important foraging areas of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus* in the project SPA are located in areas which are primarily privately owned. Therefore land must be leased from the owners to ensure that concrete conservation measures for the improvement of target species prey availability (large insects and migratory birds for *Falco eleonora* and Chukar partridges for *Hieraaetus fasciatus*) are implemented within their foraging range.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality

Expected results: At least 10ha of abandoned farming areas on Andros will be leased for a long-term to implemented concrete conservation actions for the improvement of foraging habits of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

Cost estimation: 22.440 €

Personnel: 2.440€, 0,8 PM of Project Director at F1 form rates. *Land lease:* 20.000€, 10 ha at 500€/ha/year (estimated average of current agricultural land lease prices).

C. Concrete conservation actions

ACTION C.1: Islet nesting habitat management: Rat eradication operations

Description: The rat eradication operations will be implemented in all major islet complexes in the project SPA including at least 5 colonies of *Falco eleonora*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and *Larus audouinii* to improve the breeding performance of the target species. The final selection of island and methods used for rat eradication will be based on the results acquired the assessment of island (Action A.2) and will include colonies where the rat eradication operations are feasible and will bring about the greatest benefit for the species. The beneficial effects on the breeding performance of the target species will be monitored through project's scientific monitoring in Action E.2.

Rat eradication and gull control operations will be implemented over a 3 year period (2nd, 3rd and 4th years of the project), using the same methods and expert personnel that have ensured successful rat eradication operations for the improvement of the breeding performance of *Falco eleonora* in previous LIFE Nature project involving rat eradication operations in Greece for the improvement of breeding performance of *F. eleonora*, *P. aristotelis* and *L. audouinii*. In the unlikely event, that preparatory activities for rat eradication operations are delayed, the 3 year implementation period of the present action ensures that the action will be implemented and completed on time and achieving all its objectives.

The rat eradication operations will consist of 2 stages: (1) Baiting and (2) Post-baiting monitoring. Both comprise vital parts of a successful eradication operation. Planning and preparations for the implementation of the eradication operation (i.e. determination of the optimum period and method of baiting and required preparation for baiting and post-baiting monitoring) will be implemented during the preparatory stage of the project by Action A.2. Baiting in selected colonies of the target species will apply similar methods used in the above-mentioned projects. Namely, rat-specific poison bait will be used, delivered by hand-broadcast method and bait stations, where appropriate. This method poses no risk of poisoning of target species as they do not feed on the bait or even poisoned rats. Furthermore, based on experience from previously implemented operations, the risk to other non-target species is minimal if appropriate bait, period and method of baiting are selected. Action A.2 will also focus on the detection and identification of endemic mammalian and reptile species which should not be exposed to the risk of poisoning.

In order to avoid the disturbance of breeding birds, baiting operations in the colonies of the target species will be implemented from late autumn until early spring of the 2nd and 3rd years of the project, when breeding target species have already left their colonies.

Islets will be intensively monitored after the baiting process in order to remove any possible rat carcasses and reduce the risk of secondary poisoning to non-target fauna species as well as to determine the efficiency of baiting by monitoring the presence and activities of rats.

Baiting will be followed by intensive post-baiting monitoring to ensure safe progress of the eradication action which will last to the end of the project in the fourth year. The reason for this is, being that in order to certify that all rats have actually been removed from the particular islets, these islets must be rat-free for at least one rat breeding season, meaning 12 months. Post baiting monitoring will be followed by monitoring of the breeding performance of the target species and general effects and benefits on the ecosystem (Action E.2).

On the Andros target islet complexes where rat eradication operations are planned to be implemented, there are no protected species of mammals or reptiles (source Red List Data

Book of Endangered Animals in Greece, Hellenic Zoological Society, 2009). Additionally no other species of endemic fauna are expected or have been observed in the past to be at risk from the eradication methods applied so far in Greece. Up-to-date the method of rat eradication which is being used in Greece has been successfully applied on 6 islet complexes (11 islets) as part of LIFE Nature projects LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091 and LIFE07 NAT/GR/000285 without any negative effects on non-target species of flora or fauna, as confirmed by post-eradication monitoring in all these projects. The methods are essentially the same as those initially applied on New Zealand and are being widely used with great success throughout the world, including several European countries (e.g. UK, Portugal, Spain, Malta and Italy) since the beginning of 1980s, many of them through LIFE Nature projects. The method includes the application of 2nd generation rodenticide Brodifacoum cereal/wax based bait. Brodifacoum has been the most widely used rodenticide for rat eradication operations on islands, worldwide. There are several aspects of the eradication method which prevent risks to non-target species such as (A) use of bait stations for bait deployment in order to restrict access to rats only, (B) the bait is being removed from bait/stations and the target islets once the eradication has been completed, (C) baits are blue in order not to attract birds, (D) baits contain an extremely bitter substance Bitrex which does not affect bait acceptance by rodents, but repels other species (E), the bait is deployed on a 50m-100m grid that covers the home range of rats but not home range of smaller species, (F) during the eradication process the entire area of the islets is under close monitoring which allows for modification and improvement of eradication method, if needed.

Baiting and post-baiting monitoring on each island will be supervised by Scientific Coordinator (5 person-months[PM]) and Islet Management Officer (9 PM) and implemented in cooperation with the Project Director (1 PM), Project Ornithologist (3 PM), Field Warden (2 PM), Management Officer, Monitoring Officer, 2 field researchers and up to 8 fieldworkers hired for this purpose. Equipment, bait, other material and personnel will be transported by project vessel and vehicle, which will be purchased in the framework of the project. Well trained personnel and all-weather transportation means are vital for the smooth and uninterrupted implementation of baiting and post-eradication monitoring, which, if not correctly implemented, could cause failure of the action. The overall duration of the action is estimated at 3 years (2nd, 3rd and 4th project year). The action implementation is planned to start with acquisition of required licenses, purchase of bait and equipment and construction of bait stations during the spring and summer of the 2nd project year. The deployment of bait stations and rodenticide bait is planned to be carried out during the autumn and winter months of 2012-2013 accompanied by daily monitoring bait consumption and progress of the rat eradication. The project's 4x4 vehicle and vessel will be used for the implementation of the action. Up to 1-1½ months will be required for baiting of the each of the selected islands. Regular systematic post-baiting monitoring following the eradication phase to assess the progress and success of the rat eradication process will consist of 12 field visits to each island over a period of at least 12 months after baiting (1-1.5 years after the start of each eradication operation). Therefore if the action is implemented without delays, the action will finish by the end of the 3rd year of the project. During the last (4th) year the islets where eradication operations have been implemented must be monitored to establish long term effects. In unlikely event of action implementation delays, those will be compensated during 4th year of the project. The cost of the bait, bait stations and relevant field equipment is included in the overall cost of the present action.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action aims at eliminating rat predation on eggs and chicks of *Falco eleonora*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and *Larus audouinii* and at improving their breeding habitat and breeding performance by eradicating all rats from at least 5 colonies of the target species, clearing of rats in up to 100ha of target species' breeding habitat. This action, therefore, refers to Threat No.3. Rat predation has been

recognized as a limiting factor for the breeding success of all three target species as well as numerous animal and plant species on Greek islands.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the NCC, HOS and Andros Municipality

Expected results: The expected results are: the implementation of successful rat eradication operations in at least 2 island complexes covering a total surface area of up to 100 ha which host colonies of *Falco eleonora*, *Larus audouinii* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. This action is expected to have an impact on the breeding performance of at least 20% of the SPA's breeding population of *Falco eleonora*, 100% of the breeding population of *Larus audouinii* and 10% of the breeding population of *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* in the project area.

Cost estimation: 132.135 €

Personnel: 51.535€ = 18,8 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 24.500€ = fieldwork travel of HOS and NCC rat eradication field teams. **External Assistance:** 24.800€ = NCC Field Researchers (4 PM at 2.400€/PM), 8 NCC fieldworkers (6 PM at 2.000€/PM), Management Officer (2 PM at 1.600€/PM) by Andros Municipality. **Equipment:** 5.500€ = 1 laptop at 2.000€, rat eradication equipment at 3.000€ and GPS at 500€ by NCC. **Consumables:** 25.800€ = 15.000€ rodenticides (for 100ha at 150€/ha), 10.800€ bait stations (for 100ha, 8 bait stations/ha, 10 €/ bait station + 35% safety margin)

ACTION C.2: Islet nesting habitat management: Yellow-legged Gull population control

Description: The action involves the control of the local population of Yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*). It will be implemented in order to improve the breeding performance of the islet nesting target species. The rat eradication operations will be implemented in all major islet complexes in the project SPA. The final selection of islands and methods used for gull population control will be based on the results acquired through Action A.2 and will include colonies where gull population control is feasible and will bring about the greatest benefit for the species. The beneficial effects on the breeding performance of the target species will be monitored in Action E.2.

At least 3 islets will be selected for the control operation on *Larus michahellis* colonies in the project area will be implemented during 2nd and 3rd year of the project. The most probable candidate for the operation is island complex of Gaidaronisia where >40% of the local *Larus michahellis* population breeds. If however the assessment of *Larus michahellis* and target species colonies (action A.2) proves that gull population control would be beneficial at other sites too, those will be also included for gull population control. Therefore the action will have an effect on a significant proportion of the entire target species population in the project area. Based on the results of the assessment of available gull control methods and their effectiveness the most probably methods for gull population control are egg-oiling and egg removal, however the final decision on the methods used will be taken after the assessment of suitability of methods for each gull colony separately. In the unlikely event, that preparatory activities for gull operations are delayed, the 2 year implementation period (2nd and 3rd project year) of the present action can be extended to the last (4th year of the project).

The action will consist of 2 stages:

1. Implementation of gull control: Among various methods available, the most suitable will be selected (action A.2) and applied in the present project. The available techniques either aim at limiting adult and immature individuals, or control the population via egg or chick removal. Limiting adults involves eliminating birds (trapping, baiting), physical deterrence (monofilaments to prevent nesting), or modification of the habitat (generally breeding habitat). On the other hand, control at the egg stage implies egg removal, substitution, or sterilization. Special attention will be given to the possible disturbance or risk that could be caused by any of these techniques on other avian species as well as vertebrates in general.

The gull control stage will take place before and during the *Larus michahellis* nesting period, that is, between the beginning of March and the beginning of June during the 2nd and 3rd years of the project.

2. Post-gull control monitoring: Monitoring the effects of the action on the Yellow-legged gull through systematic monitoring of their breeding performance and population size.

The effects of gull control on the breeding performance of *Larus audouinii* and *Larus michahellis*, and the effects on the *Larus michahellis* meta-population will be monitored separately as part of a different action (Action E.5)

The action will be implemented by the Project Ornithologist (3 person-months [PM]) and the Islet Management Officer (8 PM) in collaboration with the Project Director (1 PM), the Scientific Coordinator (1 PM), Field Warden (1 PM), Management Officer (2 PM), Monitoring Officer (1 PM), 2 HOS field researchers and up to 4 fieldworkers hired for this purpose during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of the project. The project's vehicle and the vessel purchased by the Andros Municipality will be used during the implementation of the action.

Reasons why this action is: The action aims at successful implementation of at least 3 gull control operation in colonies of *Larus michahellis* which are suppressing colonies of target species in the project area. This action, therefore, refers to Threat No.3. *Larus michahellis* has been recognized as a competitor, predator and suppressor primarily of *Larus audouinii*, but *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* as well.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the NCC, HOS and Andros Municipality

Expected results: The expected results are: the implementation of at least 3 Yellow-legged gull control operations, having beneficial effects direct effect on 80-100% of *Larus audouinii* population in the area.

Cost estimation: 83.486 €

Personnel: 45.036€ = 16,3 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 10.750€ = fieldwork travel of HOS and NCC gull control field teams. **External Assistance:** 12.200€ = Management Officer (2 PM at 1.600€/PM) by Andros Municipality, 4 NCC fieldworkers (4,5 PM at 2.000€/PM). **Equipment:** 4.500€ = 1 laptop at 2.000€, gull control equipment at 2.000€ and GPS at 500€ by NCC. **Consumables:** 11.000€ = consumables (oil, nets, filaments, etc.) for gull control operations

ACTION C.3: Islet nesting habitat management: Improvement of nesting habitat availability

Description: The present action aims to implement concrete conservation actions for the improvement of breeding habitat of the 3 islet nesting target species.

Construction of artificial nest boxes for *Falco eleonora*

Artificial nest boxes made of natural materials, like stone and wood, will be constructed in selected colony(ies) of *Falco eleonora* which are identified through action A.2 as deficient in nesting sites for the species. Nest boxes with the dimensions of natural nesting sites (50cm x 40cm x 35 cm) under stones, vegetation or in crevices will be constructed to increase the number of available, good quality nesting sites in each breeding pair territory with the natural average of 2-3 nesting sites. The artificial nests will be constructed and deployed in the existing colonies of the Eleonora's Falcon on Andros. The main effort will be put in the site's largest colony on the NE of Andros, but additional artificial nests are planned to be constructed in other accessible colony sites on the N, W and SE side of Andros island. At the colony sites themselves the artificial nests will be located at sites which are lacking the main predispositions of a good quality nesting site in terms of wind and sunlight protection. Nest boxes will provide sufficient sun light in the morning hours and, on the other hand, protect the nest from intense sunlight and prevailing meltemi winds. Nest boxes will be constructed in accessible parts of the colony in order to avoid any risk to the safety of the field workers and to allow for easy monitoring of their use (action E.2). In total, up to 200 nest boxes will be constructed. Construction of nest boxes will be implemented during the non-breeding season (late autumn-early spring) of the 2st and 3rd years of the project to avoid falcon disturbance. Nest cameras will be installed to monitor the occupancy and use of artificial nests.

Plantation of endemic shrubs for nesting of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Evergreen shrubs, namely *Pistacia lentiscus*, and *Capparis spinosa* shrubs will be planted at selected breeding sites of the *Falco eleonora* in order to increase number of suitable nesting sites in their colonies. The selection of sites and technical details for plantation will be determined through preparatory actions (action A.2). Up to 100 mastic cuttings (up to 5 cuttings per territory of a single breeding pair) will be planted in the nesting habitat of the *Falco eleonora*. Plantation will take place from autumn to early spring of the 2nd and the 3rd year of the project, during target species non-breeding season to avoid disturbance. All unsuccessful cuttings will be replaced. Simple watering equipment, consisting of a large water container, and a hose attached to a water pump, will be used to provide a sufficient water supply during the early stages of shrub growth. Cuttings will be watered weekly during the first months.

It is expected to take one growing season to have proof of successful establishment of *Pistacia* cuttings on the project islets. In the second growing season a control will be made and replacement of unsuccessful cuttings, where needed. *Capparis spinosa* is a pioneer shrub species, adapted to poor soils and to rocky habitats. It is a native species that can be easily established to rocky islets. It can grow from seeds and will not need more than one growing season to be established. As is the case with *Pistacia lentiscus*, in the second year additional effort will be devoted in cases where unsuccessful shrub establishment is identified. The positive effects of the action are expected to take place from project year 3 onwards. In case that the establishment of *Pistacia lentiscus* proves to be lower than expected, then in the following years (project years 3 and 4), the effort will mainly focus to *Capparis* shrubs which as pioneer species are expected to have better survival in the harsh islet environmental conditions.

The action will be implemented during the 2nd and the 3rd year of the project by the Scientific Coordinator (3 person-months [PM]) and the Islet Management Officer (5 PM) in collaboration with the Project Director (2 PM), Field Warden (4 PM), Management Officer, and up to 4 four field worker and external assistance for construction of artificial nests that will be hired for this purpose. Transportation of the personnel, equipment and material will be carried out with project car and vessel. In the unlikely event, that preparatory activities for installation of artificial nests and plantation of shrubs (action A.2) are delayed, the 2 year

implementation period (2nd and 3rd project year) of the present action can be extended to the last (4th year of the project).

Reasons why this action is necessary: *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* are phylopatric species; therefore, increasing the number of suitable nesting sites increases the number of individuals that can breed in a colony and reduces their dispersion. Each breeding pair of *Falco eleonora* requires 2-3 good quality nesting sites in their breeding territory, among which they annually choose the one they will use for nesting. On the contrary, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* retain their nesting site if suitable. If the number of nesting sites is insufficient or of insufficiently good quality, (a) the birds which have already established their breeding sites might be forced to choose among less suitable nesting sites and (b) the new pairs which are searching to establish their breeding territories are forced to seek suitable nesting sites in other colonies and areas. It should be stressed that the analysis of data acquired through systematic monitoring of a selected colony of Eleonora's Falcon on Andros during period 2006-2009 indicates that the breeding success of this colony was significantly lower than the breeding success of all 8 other colonies monitored in the framework of a LIFE Nature project "Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora* in Greece", LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091. More specifically the breeding success in the particular colony was 0.30 ± 0.36 in comparison to breeding success in other colonies ranging between 0.42 ± 0.42 and 0.76 ± 0.31 (Xirouchakis et al. 2011, "Nesting ecology and breeding success of the Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonora*) in the Aegean archipelago (Greece)", in press). The reasons for such low success were attributed to human disturbance and nesting site quality. In order to improve the quality and increase the availability of nesting sites artificial nest boxes have been proven an effective means (Dietrich Ristow, Till Ristow, and Michael Wink, 1988, Use of nest box by Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*, Hellenic Orn. Soc. Newsletter 4 – March 1988, p.22-24). In conclusion, significant numbers and high concentrations of breeding individuals on Andros proves that Andros provides favourable breeding conditions for the Eleonora's Falcon. Extremely low breeding success, on the other hand, indicates that not all breeding conditions are optimal particularly those in terms of human disturbance and nesting site quality. The present action is aiming to address and improve latter condition.

Pistacia lentiscus and *Capparis spinosa* are among the most common shrubs on Greek islands and are used by *Falco eleonora* to provide shelter from the sun and wind for its eggs and nestlings. Similarly, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, which require overhead cover of their nesting sites, choose mastic shrub as one of their major breeding habitats. Due to human interventions and grazing on uninhabited islands, the extent of the shrubs has been reduced resulting in the loss of suitable nesting sites for *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, forcing breeding individuals to disperse from the original colonies in search of other breeding sites. Planting of *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Capparis spinosa*, which are preferred plant species for constructing nest sites of Eleonora's Falcon and Mediterranean Shag, will aim at enriching the shrub coverage at colony sites, thus providing additional cover and nesting sites locations to the target species. Despite the present-day presence of these shrubs at colony sites, they might not grow at location which are suitable for the target species (e.g. too far from the coastline, no suitable substrate for nesting site). Additionally these shrubs are among few plants which remain green during hot summers in Greece, thereby indicating their resilience to potential effects of the climate change.

Both artificial nest boxes and mastic shrubs for *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* will provide sufficient nesting sites for local breeding populations of the target species to promote breeding in concentrated colonies, enhancing the benefits of colonial breeding. Well defined and concentrated colonies of the target species also favour their management and protection.

Climate change is expected to affect the quality and availability of *Falco eleonora* breeding sites. Past LIFE projects have proven that when vegetation had dried or lessened due to

hot, dry weather or animal grazing, the nests of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* underneath them exhibited extremely low or zero breeding success. Therefore, human intervention for improvement of their nesting sites is required to prevent decline of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* breeding success.

The establishment of nest boxes and endemic shrubs to provide shelter to breeding target bird species is not expected to be affected by the climate change, as it is by itself a measure to compensate for climate change on the breeding grounds of these species. Both shrub species that will be established are adapted to the arid and windy conditions of Aegean islets and they are not expected to face additional constraints due to global warming. The establishment of the shrubs will be facilitated during the first two years of the project action, by regular watering of the seedlings and cuttings.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the NCC and Andros Municipality

Expected results: Up to 200 artificial nest boxes will be constructed to increase the number of suitable nesting sites for up to 50 pairs of *Falco eleonora* and up to 100 mastic cuttings will be planted in at least 2 colonies of *Falco eleonora* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* which is expected to have an effect on at least 100 breeding pairs of target species.

Cost estimation: 85.078 €

Personnel: 31.178€ = 12,1 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 18.200€ = fieldwork travel of Andros Municipality and NCC field teams. **External Assistance:** 14.200€ = Management Officer by Andros Municipality, 4 NCC fieldworkers. **Equipment:** 13.500€ = 3 nest cameras (at 2.500€/camera) by NCC, 2 500l water tanks at 1.000€/tank, 2 water pumps at 750€/pump and construction equipment for construction and nests and plantation of shrubs (2.500€). **Consumables:** 8.000€ = wooden and metallic materials for 200 artificial nests at 6.000€ and pistache cuttings at 2.000€

ACTION C.4: Management of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraetus fasciatus* foraging habitats: Traditional farming and enhancement of Chukar and pigeon populations

Description: The action aims to improve foraging habitats of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraetus fasciatus* by:

- Revitalization of traditional farming practices, cultivation of traditional crops and bird friendly farming practices in order to improve prey availability for *Falco eleonora* (insects and migratory birds) and *Hieraetus fasciatus* (Chukar partridge).
- Revitalization of operation of at least 3 traditional pigeon towers for the improvement of pigeon prey availability of *Hieraetus fasciatus*
- Construction of small wildlife ponds to improve water availability to prey species of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraetus fasciatus*, as well as to improve water supply for drinking and bathing for *Falco eleonora*.

Based on the operational plan (action A.1) a pilot revitalization of traditional cultivation of terraces by local crops in the Municipality of Andros will be implemented in order to increase large insect, Chukar partridge and migratory bird abundance by provision of cereal food supply, thereby increasing the prey availability to *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraetus fasciatus*. Up to 10ha of deserted fields will be cultivated with local crops in the jurisdiction of the Andros Municipality on land that will be leased by the Municipality (Action B.1) in areas which are used by falcons and eagles for foraging. In the same area, at least 10 wildlife ponds to provide water for insects, migratory birds and partridges as well as for watering

and bathing of *Falco eleonora* will be constructed, operated and maintained. The experience of previous LIFE projects will be used to optimize the efficiency of conservation measures and benefits for *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus*. In order to prevent access of domestic animal *i.e.* goats and sheep to farm land and wildlife ponds, the entire area will be protected with a solar powered electric fencing system.

A small tractor, capable of working in the terrace environment and in steep slopes will be purchased by the Municipality to be used terrace cultivation.

The majority of numerous traditional pigeon lofts on Andros are abandoned. After the identification of primary *Hieraaetus fasciatus* foraging ranges on Andros, at least three pigeon cote will be repaired and put in operation within the foraging range of *Hieraaetus fasciatus*. Pigeons will be bought and introduced to the cote again to provide traditional food source for *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, which has been significantly reduced during last decades. The restored pigeon cote will be located in the vicinity of aforementioned revitalized farming areas and watering ponds in order to provide pigeons with required food and water supply. The continuation of traditional farming and operation of small water ponds after the end of the LIFE project will ensure required food and water supply to pigeons, allowing long-term operation of the pigeon cote.

The management measures implemented in the framework of the present action will not be affected by the climate change. Cultivation of traditional cereal crops does not have a demand for irrigation water, as it is exclusively based on local rainfall. Wildlife ponds will be established off stream of the seasonal freshwater currents of the project site. A number of seasonal torrents exist, which dry up during the summer months. The creation of the wildlife ponds will enable freshwater storage for at least 2 months during the dry summer period, providing thus important habitat for insects, amphibians and birds.

The action will be implemented by the Project Director (2,5 person-months[PM]) in collaboration with the Scientific Coordinator (4 PM), Field Warden (2 PM), Management Officer (2 PM) and 2 field workers that will be hired for this purpose. Seeds and materials required for pond construction will be purchased and agricultural equipment hired and purchased. All transportation of the personnel, equipment and material will be carried out with the project 4x4 vehicle and agricultural equipment hired and purchased for this purpose. The project 4x4 vehicle that will be purchased for this action will be used for the transportation of field teams, equipment and materials for all land- based field activities of all project actions. The action will be implemented during 2nd, 3rd and 4th project year. In the unlikely event, that preparatory activities (action A.2) or land lease (action B.1) are delayed, the 3 year implementation period of the present action ensures that the action will be implemented and completed on time and achieving all its objectives.

Monitoring of implementation of the action as well as its effects on the target species will be carried out through action E.2.

Provided that the farming revitalization, pigeon lofts, electric fence systems and wildlife ponds had already been set and operational through the LIFE Nature project, therefore the maintenance and operational costs are limited, the Municipality of Andros will continue their farming, maintenance and operation of aforementioned facilities and activities after the end of the project as part of Municipality's core activities, supported particularly by a volunteer Local Conservation Group (action C.7).

Reasons why this action is necessary: Changes in agricultural land use have been recognized as important threats to foraging habitats of *Hieraaetus fasciatus* and *Falco eleonora*. Intensive farming during since mid-20th century has made traditional farming and pigeon raising on islands uncompetitive and redundant. Therefore farming areas and associated water supply have been abandoned and neglected, resulting in dramatic reduction of foraging habitats of *Falco eleonora* and *Hieraaetus fasciatus*. Due to

significantly reduced cereal and other crop food availability the populations of chukar and pigeons have been reduced and the migratory birds prefer other areas for refuelling on migration to Africa. Additionally, abandonment of farming and particularly traditional irrigation system has as also reduced number of insect, the main food source of *Falco eleonora* during insect-feeding seasons. Therefore revitalization of traditional farming practices and pigeon cotes is vital for restoration of original food sources of the target species. Additionally, uncontrolled grazing of sheep and goats however could destroy the revitalized field; therefore they need to be protected by electric fence system.

Previous work with Eleonora's falcon, through the Life project «Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora* in Greece» LIFE03 NAT/GR/091 implemented in Greece during 2003-2007, has proved that the species is in need of such habitats both during the egg-laying and chick rearing period, when these ponds are used for watering and bathing but also during the whole breeding and post breeding period, due to the fact that fresh water is scarce in the Aegean environment and large numbers of insects (primary prey for Eleonora's falcons during most of the year except the chick rearing period) are related to these habitats. During the previous Eleonora's Falcon LIFE project such a watering pond was created at the island of Antikythira and has been successfully used by falcons since then.

A positive impact of wildlife ponds to the Bonelli's eagles, through the improvement of the foraging habitat of its prey (chukars and pigeons), is also expected, due to the freshwater scarcity in summer months, the post fledging period for prey species, when bird survival is lowest. Freshwater can be a limiting factor in arid environments and the provision of freshwater habitats during the critical summer period is expected to result in the population increase of prey species.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: Up to 10ha of deserted terraces and farming land will be revitalized for cultivation. At least 10 small wildlife ponds will be constructed, operated and maintained. At least 3 pigeon cotes will be repaired and made operational. At least 2 km of electro-fencing will be established in the borders of the project agricultural fields to exclude goats and other domestic animals. The number of falcons and eagles from the neighbouring colonies using the managed habitat for foraging is expected to increase, reducing energy and time spent in seeking water as well as prey, and foraging thereby increasing their breeding and migration capabilities.

Cost estimation: 138.599 €

Personnel: 18.699€ = 7 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 9.000€ = fieldwork travel of Andros Municipality and NCC field teams. **External Assistance:** 27.100€ = Management Officer (2 PM at 1.600€/PM), Agricultural expert at 5.200€, construction of 5 wildlife ponds at 5.000€ (1000€/pond) and fieldworkers for farming and pigeon raising (3 PM at 2.000€/PM) by Andros Municipality, restoration 3 pigeon lofts at 7.500€ (2.500€/loft). **Equipment:** 59.800€ = lease of agricultural equipment at 6.000€, 5 solar fencing systems at 7.500€ (at 1.500€/system), small agricultural tractor at 14.000€, a 4x4 project vehicle at 14.000€ and laptop computer at 2.300€ by Andros Municipality. **Consumables:** 15.500€ = seeds and agricultural material at 10.000€ (1.000€/ha), pigeon fodder and dead rabbits for *H. fasciatus* at 10.000€ and electric fence wire at 2.000€. **Other costs:** 8.500€ = loft rental for 2 years at 4000€ and car and agricultural equipment maintenance and insurance at 4.500€.

ACTION C.5: Management of *Falco eleonora* foraging habitats: Restoration of coastal wetlands

Description: Andros hosts some of the most important coastal wetlands in the Aegean, but unfortunately they have suffered severe degradation due to overgrazing, hydrological alterations and housing developments. Based on the wetland restoration plan of action A.2, which will assess the restoration potential of the coastal wetlands of Vitali, Ateni, Lefka, Vori, Rozos, Achlia, Dipotamata and Kremides, the present action will implement wetland restoration interventions (earthworks, installation of sluices and other water control structures, creation of earth dams and dikes), to enhance the freshwater retention capacity of the selected sites and restore their hydroperiod. The wetlands will be formally delineated and signs will be put to mark their borders. The action aims to increase prey abundance and availability for *Falco eleonora*, during the egg laying and incubation periods, by restoring the aerial insects breeding grounds on the island.

The objectives of restoration efforts will be to

(A) increase the amount and duration of fresh water inundation in the wetlands during early summer months by means of constructing a series of earth embankments and simple water sluices which will regulate fresh water flow to sea,

(B) increase the open water surface area by restoring the existing and creating of new wetland habitats with depth of 1-1.5m. The soil which will be removed will be used for creation of embankments

(C) creation of off-stream wildlife ponds, along the main seasonal streams of the eastern coast in order to increase *F. eleonora* watering and bathing sites.

Restoration works will take place on public lands. In Greece most of the forest lands, shrublands and wetlands are public and the same holds for Andros. The action will take place at the coastal wetlands of northeastern Andros, within the SPA site. The most suitable sites for restoration will be assessed during the preparatory actions at the wetlands Vitali, Ateni, Lefka, Vori, Rozos, Achlia, Dipotamata and Kremides. The extension of the areas to be restored will be app. 5 ha.

The implementation of the action includes the following activities:

1. earthworks,
2. installation of sluices and other water control structures,
3. creation of earth dams and dikes
4. habitat creation and enhancement at the restored sites

These activities have been included in the external assistance budget category, as they are going to be implemented with external subcontractors.

The cost estimation for the above activities has been based on provisional assessment of the amounts of earthworks, materials, and labour and will be further analysed through preparatory action A2, where analytical technical studies will be elaborated, adjusted to the provision of the Greek legislation for technical works and environmental projects. The official state values of cost per unit of effort have been used for these estimations. This is the only way that a Municipality in Greece can sub-contract such activities. Prices per unit cost have fixed and uniform values, formulated by state agencies according to the market values of materials and labour. During the bid process, the subcontractors may offer a discount in these fixed prices and provide a better financial proposal.

The cost breakdown for these activities has been as follows:

1. earthworks have been provisionally estimated to be 40.000 m³ (an average of 0,8 m of excavations) with a unit cost of 1,15 euros per m³, an overall amount of 46.000 euros.

2. installation of sluices, water tubes and water control structures has been estimated to be 20.000 euros (for 1000 m of plastic tubes of diameter of 200 mm with a unit cost of 12,5 euros/m and 10 sluices (unit cost of 750 euros).
3. creation of earth dams and dikes has a provisional cost of 24.000 (for 15.000 m³, with a unit cost of 1,6 euros/ m³)
4. habitat creation (mainly planting – enhancement of native wetland plants) has a provisional cost of 10.000 euros (2 euros/m²).

The action will be implemented during the 2nd and the 3rd year of the project under the supervision of the Project Director (3 person-months[PM]) in close collaboration with the Scientific Coordinator (2 PM). The project Field Warden (2 PM) and Management Officer (2 PM) will provide assistance. The earth works will be assigned to external subcontractors but will be closely supervised by the project personnel. In the unlikely event, that preparatory activities for restoration of coastal wetlands (action A.2) are delayed, the 2 year implementation period (2nd and 3rd project year) of the present action can be extended to the last (4th year of the project).

Reasons why this action is necessary: Coastal wetlands play a vital ecological role for *F. eleonora* because they provide fresh water for watering and bathing, insects during insect-feeding period and provide stop-over sites for migratory birds during migration season which coincides with the *F. eleonora* breeding season. Therefore improving coastal wetland habitat quality and increasing the amount of fresh water in them is vital for improving *F. eleonora* foraging habitat and prey and fresh water availability. It is expected that in combination with the control of invasive species (action C1) and the provision of artificial nest sites (action C3), the present action can significantly improve the habitat conditions for *Falco eleonora* at the SPA site of Andros.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: The action will restore/create at least 5 ha of coastal wetlands and will establish at least 5 wildlife ponds in conjunction to the seasonal streams of the SPA. Due to large mobility of the *F. eleonora* and its prey it is estimated that the benefits of the action will affect at least 80% of *F. eleonora* population in the SPA population. The wetland restoration action is expected to be implemented in at least 3 of the Andros SPA wetlands. The total area of the wetlands of Andros has been estimated to be app. 20 ha. At least half of this area has been severely degraded in the past. This means that the overall improvement after the implementation of action C5 will be very significant for the whole island, with more than 50% of the degraded sites affected by the action.

Cost estimation: 126.419 €

Personnel: 17.719€ = 6,4 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 5.500€ = fieldwork travel of Andros Municipality and NCC personnel. *External Assistance:* 103.200€ = Management Officer (2 PM at 1.600€/PM), wetland restoration and wildlife pond creation works 100.000€ (<20.000€/ha of wetland)

ACTION C.6: Management of seabird foraging habitat: Pilot installation of seagrass-friendly moorings in target seabird primary foraging grounds

Description: Seagrass-friendly mooring buoys will be placed in major Posidonia bed areas, identified as important *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis* foraging areas (action A.2) and under intense anchoring and mooring pressure by boat users. Selection of sites will be based on their importance/quality as foraging grounds and pressures exerted by boats. Standard types of mooring buoys for anchoring will be used in accordance with EU guidelines and national legislation. At least 20 moorings will be installed, operated and maintained in the important seabird foraging areas of Posidonia meadows in the project area, however their exact number and location will be determined after the initial study. The project vessel will be used for the transportation of field team and equipment.

The action will be implemented by the Municipality of Andros in collaboration external subcontractors and the NCC during the 3rd and 4th year of the project under the supervision of the Project Director (3 person-months [PM]) and Scientific Coordinator (4 PM) in collaboration with the Field Warden (2 PM), and Management Officer (2 PM). The transportation of field teams, equipment and materials will be carried out with the project vessel and vehicle. In the unlikely event of delayed construction and installation of mooring buoys during the 3rd project year, the delays can be compensated during the last (4th) project year, fully achieving action's objectives.

The maintenance of the mooring buoys will be carried out after the end of the project by the Municipality of Andros, as part of its core activities.

Reasons why this action is necessary: Free anchoring and mooring cause erosive pressure on shallow Posidonia beds and consequentially degrades the primary foraging habitat of *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*. In order to mitigate this type of Posidonia bed degradation and its effects on seabirds and other fauna, seagrass-friendly moorings should be included in mooring/anchoring control and Posidonia bed management.

Marine inshore habitats and among those mainly Posidonia beds with its rich abundance of fish are the main foraging habitats for the Audouin's Gull and the Mediterranean Shag in Greece. These Posidonia beds in marine coastal waters on the other hand are exposed to excessive anchoring pressure due to presence of primarily touristic boats during summer months (June-September). Apart from 3 main ports on Andros (Gavrio, Andros & Korthi), there are no other organized mooring/anchoring sites for more than tens and during weekends more than a 100 boats using coastal marine waters primarily for touristic purposes. Most attractive among for those touristic boats are shallow waters (usually in the marine areas in front of Andros coastal wetlands), which provide usually long sandy beaches for tourists and easy and protected anchoring usually on Posidonia beds for their boats. These same marine areas are also being used by the Mediterranean Shag and the Audouin's Gull for foraging, because of the fish abundance on Posidonia beds and nutrient which are being washed into the sea from the coastal wetlands ensuring additional abundance of target species prey fish species. Therefore it is estimated that provision of well defined mooring locations for tourist boats at the sites which are most exposed to Posidonia bed degradation due to anchoring in association with public awareness campaign (actions D.1) would improve (a) the awareness of tourist boat users on the negative effects they might be causing to marine ecosystems by unrestricted anchoring and (b) direct these users to use of mooring buoys instead of anchoring.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: At least 20 moorings will be installed in at least 3 seabird foraging grounds on Posidonia beds with intensive anchoring and mooring pressure by boat users. The quality and fragmentation of Posidonia beds is expected to improve. The habitat affected by the action will exceed 20 ha.

Taking into consideration the present state of knowledge concerning the habitat use and dispersal of the two target species at the SPA of Andros, it is expected that the proposed action will affect at least 20 pairs of *P. aristotelis*, and the entire breeding population of *L. audouinii*. For the first species, which is using foraging sites adjacent to the breeding locations, the action is expected to have a direct impact (a 5-10% improvement is expected) to the breeding success of pairs located in a radius of 3-5 km from the Posidonia habitats affected (the estimate of 20 pairs is based on this assumption). For *L. audouinii* which is using more diverse and larger foraging areas the impact will be less well defined, but it will also be positive, contributing to the improvement of the species breeding performance.

In combination with the public awareness activities, an overall increase in the use of the selected foraging sites by at least 20% is expected for both species, especially during the critical breeding season.

Cost estimation: 47.140 €

Personnel: 15.940€ = 5,8 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 3.000€ = fieldwork travel of Andros Municipality field teams. *External Assistance:* 28.200€ = Management Officer (2 PM at 1.600€/PM), construction and installation of 20 mooring buoys 25.000€

ACTION C.7: Management interventions implemented by the Local Conservation Group

Description: A Local Conservation Group (LCG) will be developed on Andros in order to implement small scale management interventions in the SPA, to deal with the expansion and maintenance of the project management interventions on islets and on the main island and to increase the awareness of the local community on SPA and target species conservation. It will be a group of volunteers in the framework of the IBA Caretaker Network¹ already established in Greece since 2003, by HOS.

The coordination of the LCG will be in responsibility of the HOS Caretaker Network Coordinator who will dedicate a total of 6 months to the project and will be further supported by Field Warden, project Ornithologist and by other departments of HOS (policy, legal, expert, practical).

The LCG will be organized during the first year of the project and act throughout the LIFE project and its operation will continue as part of HOS core activities after end of the project.

The LCG will be trained in monitoring of Andros SPA site, target bird species and their threats, through their participation in the IBA Caretaker Network (including annual seminars, bird identification seminars, participation in Caretaker mailing list), as well as by participating as volunteers in the concrete conservation actions, particularly in planting native plants and shrubs, construction of artificial nests (action C.3), surveillance of the SPA (action C.7), and special training seminars organized in Andros by HOS (at least one seminar each year concerning management and monitoring of birds and habitats). This will give the opportunity to create a group of local people, which will be able to continue

¹ The IBA Caretaker Network is a network of volunteers that undertake mainly monitoring of the state, pressures and response in the IBAs, as well actions in order to prevent threats. IBA monitoring is highly relevant in the context of the European Union Legislation. Under the Birds Directive of the European Union (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) Member States are required to establish a monitoring system covering the spectrum of activities within the Directive. As in Greece no specific methodology has been developed, this network has a major role to play.

conservation actions and monitoring hereafter. The LCG will also inform HOS for threats in the area, in order for the HOS to be able to act in time.

In the framework of the present action, the LCG will implement on volunteer basis, specific management interventions at the project sites and enhancing other project actions by construction of artificial nest boxes for target bird species, erecting information signs, planting native plants and shrubs.

The LCG will also be involved in the day to day operation of the local bird rehabilitation station, a small scale Wildlife First Aid Centre on Korthi that will be dedicated to provision of first aid to injured and orphaned birds. The action will be implemented in cooperation with the ANIMA, Association for the Protection and Welfare of Wildlife, in Athens. A suitable place will be rented to host the First Aid Centre and will be equipped with equipment necessary for provision of first aid to injured birds and raising of orphan chick of the target species. For the latter specially designed cages and kennels will be purchased and constructed where the orphaned chicks will be kept and raised until they fledge and they are released. These cages will also be used for birds with minor injuries. Birds with severe injuries will be sent to the ANIMA rehabilitation centre for further treatment until they recover and are released again on Andros. ANIMA will also have the task of training the Municipality project personnel and the LCG in providing first aid services to birds and in operating the Centre.

A supervision of a veterinarian is obligatory for all wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Greece. Therefore ANIMA rehabilitation centre veterinarian will supervise and assist in the operation of the first aid and Eleonora's Falcon captive raising activities at the First Aid Centre, as part of the assistance provided by ANIMA in the establishment and operation of the Centre. Relevant costs have been included in the "External assistance costs" category, under "Wildlife rehabilitation expert assistance (ANIMA)".

The trial operation of the First Aid Centre will be implemented by the Project Warden (2 person-months) and volunteers from the Local Conservation Group under the supervision of the Project Director. All project field personnel and member of the Local Conservation Group as well as any other local volunteers (e.g. pupils and students) will be trained in first aid methods for birds at a special seminar organized by ANIMA in cooperation with the Andros Municipality on Andros during the first year of the project. The First Aid Centre will be established during the first year of the project when it will become fully operational. The LCG will be responsible for the Centre operation after the end of the project, supported by the Municipality in financial and technical terms.

The LCG action will be implemented by the HOS Caretaker Network Coordinator (6 person-months[PM]) in collaboration with Scientific Coordinator and project Ornithologist (2 PM) during the entire duration of the project. Municipality will purchase binoculars that will be lent to LCG members during their monitoring surveys in the project area.

After the end of the project, the coordination and operation of the Local Conservation Group (LCG) will be implemented by the HOS as part of its HOS Caretaker Network.

Similarly, the operation and financing of the Wildlife First Aid Centre will become part of the core activities of the SPA Management Scheme (action C.8), supported by the LCG..

Reasons why this action is necessary: The LCG action will provide valuable labour to the SPA management, especially for the maintenance and expansion of the management interventions. The LCG will also prove to be useful for the operation of the SPA Management Scheme (Action C.8), especially after the end of the project, being involved in the site surveillance and in small scale interventions. They will also help to increase public awareness of the local people and enhance their active involvement, as volunteers, in the SPA management and conservation. The participation of local volunteers is particularly important because a permanent group of volunteers belonging to local society involved in

the SPA conservation and surveillance actions provides a solid basis for a long-term, low-cost support of the SPA management.

The establishment and operation of the wildlife First Aid Centre will also be greatly facilitated by the LCG. The need for a First Aid Station has been justified by the fact that during the last decade a significant number of injured birds have been sent to the Athens rehabilitation centres. All target species are a subject to injuries, induced by people or naturally and accidents. Even more intense is nestling mortality, which can be attributed to a variety of reasons, from predation by rat or Yellow-legged gulls, malnutrition, abandonment by parents, cannibalism, parasites, etc. An establishment of a Wildlife First Aid Centre is vital for the improvement of the survivorship of adult and young birds and increase breeding success of the target species. This is particularly important in the case of *F. eleonora* which exhibit cannibalism (usually the biggest chicks kills the smallest). It should be noted that during the LIFE Nature project "Conservation measures for *Falco eleonora* in Greece", LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091 the most important colony on Andros with >100 breeding pairs was exhibiting well below average breeding success, due to food shortage that resulted in sibling aggression. On the other hand, urgent provision of first aid to injured *H. fasciatus* has similarly great importance because the loss of each individual is a great loss for the entire local population of the species.

Finally, wildlife rehabilitation proved to be one of the most effective ways to attract general public to actively participate and appreciate the conservation of wildlife and bird, therefore the establishment of the Wildlife First Aid Centre is expected to significantly increase the public awareness regarding the target species and nature conservation.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: HOS will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the HOS, Andros Municipality and NCC and external subcontractor ANIMA, Association for the Protection and Welfare of Wildlife.

Expected results: The formation of a stable group of at least 10 local volunteers that will implement concrete management interventions, focused to birds and SPA and undertake state-pressure-responses monitoring, according to the IBA Monitoring Framework launched by Birdlife International. The volunteers will regularly send to HOS an annual report for the state of the SPA and will timely inform HOS for any threat. Also the group will undertake bird monitoring, using the methodology that will be developed in this project, visiting at least once /trimester specific areas. The local group will be involved in the concrete actions of the project and will offer additional assistance. They will provide the continuation of actions towards conservation of the target species and their habitats in the future. The group will organize 3 field trips annually open to the general public.

The expected results for the First Aid Centre include establishment and operation of a adequately equipped Wildlife First Aid Centre, which will provide first aid to all injured birds found, treat lightly injured birds and raise orphaned nestlings before they are reintroduced back to nature. A significant impact to local awareness for the conservation of the SPA is expected through the participation in the Centre's activities.

Cost estimation: 87.598 €

Personnel: 30.998€ = 12 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel and subsistence:** 8.000€ = travel for operation of LCG. **External Assistance:** 26.600€ = training and assistance in establishment of Wildlife First Aid Centre 9.000€, construction of bird cages and kennels 5.000€ and 12.600€ = rental for 2 years of a house for Wildlife First Aid Centre. **Equipment:** 16.000€ = 1 laptop computer 2000€ by HOS, equipment for Wildlife First Aid Centre 10.000€ (including costs for surgical tools and dishes, one (1) incubator for weak birds and nestlings, one (1) high precision, weighing scale, Infrared lamps for heating, five (5) electric heating pads, two (2) cupboards with drawers for medicines, medical

consumables and equipment, one(1) electric heater (for winter), one (1) air conditioner, table lamps, one(1) stationary small surgical table, four (4) chairs, one (1) table, 10 small, 10 medium and 2 large pet porters.) and 10 binoculars (400€/binocular) by Andros Municipality. *Consumables: 6.000€* = consumables for First Aid Centre.

ACTION C.8: Establishment and operation of the SPA Management Scheme

Description: Based on the results of the SPA Feasibility Study (Action A3) and the Management Plan (Action A1), the project co-ordination team will start from the beginning of the second project year, consultation with local authorities and stakeholders, as well as with the Ministry of the Environment, for the establishment of a local Management Scheme (MS) for the SPA site, with a mission to coordinate the implementation of the management of the site.

The Scheme will be a private, non profit legal entity, with a clear and exclusive objective to coordinate the management of the SPA, in order to achieve the Favourable Conservation Status of the priority species and their critical habitats, in ways compatible with local socio-economic conditions.

The MS will be governed by a Steering Committee, the SPA management Committee, involving representatives from competent authorities (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, forest service, port police), from local stakeholders (farmers, livestock keepers, fishermen, developers, tourism associations), and NGOs (environmental and cultural).

A special fund, devoted to the conservation of the SPA will be established in parallel with the MS, to financially support the implementation of conservation actions in the long run. The fund will be an effort to benefit from the local tradition of donations for objectives of cultural and public interest.

The consultation for the MS will last the whole second project year, in order to achieve the maximum possible local consensus. All the necessary administrative and legal preparatory actions for the establishment of the MS will be carried out by project coordination team. From the beginning of the third year, the legal entity will be established and the operation of the MS will start, in the project coordination offices.

A Management Officer, with proven conservation interest and skills for field work will be contracted for 24 months, to run the day to day work of the Management Scheme and to actively participate in implementation of project management activities (action category C) and especially the SPA surveillance programme. Conservation actions will start immediately to demonstrate to the local society and the public authorities that a significant change is happening in the local conservation scene. The project resources and equipment will be used, and activities such as the erection of signs at sensitive to disturbance sites, such as the areas around Bonelli's eagle nests will be implemented in collaboration with the local forest service. Active involvement in the concrete conservation actions of the project is also foreseen.

Project actions, such as the SPA surveillance, the wetland restoration and the control of invasive and pest species will be continued after the end of the project through the MS, in terms of post project monitoring, maintenance and intervention when needed, in collaboration with the project team and with local authorities. For this reason, the MS employee will participate in the implementation of the respective actions and will be trained by the project personnel in the needs of the post project maintenance.

Furthermore, recurrent management actions, such as the provision of dead rabbits near the Bonelli's eagle nests to increase the nestling survival, will be implemented by MS. Lobbying to central administration for issues related to the SPA conservation and the related local socio-economic conditions, such as the development of agri-environmental schemes to revitalize traditional terraces cultivation will also be among the duties of MS.

The MS will assist the Municipality and local authorities in their actions related to the management and conservation of the SPA, by providing guidance and prescriptions for the implementation of projects and actions within the SPA. It will also assist local authorities in the justification of environmental permits. But the primary duty of the MS will be to actively involve local stakeholders and authorities in the management of the site, through meetings, consultation and participatory procedures.

The MS will be fully operational after the 2nd year of the project until the end of the project. The last project year and after the project it will operate using own resources and the support of the Municipality.

The action will be implemented by the Project Director who will devote 12 person months in the operation of the Scheme. He will collaborate with the Management Office (12 person-months) and Scientific Coordinator (3 person-months).

After its successful initial operation and after the end of the project the SPA Management Scheme will continue its operation as a financially self-sustained body, supported by project partners, national and local competent authorities and key stakeholders.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The establishment of a local Management Scheme is an action related mainly to threat 1 but also deals with all the threats of the site. The lack of any coordination mechanism for management activities within the SPA is one of the important reasons for its deterioration. Together with the preparatory management planning documents, and in parallel to the implementation of the urgent management actions, the establishment of MS will secure the long term and sustainable management of the site, maximising local acceptance and participation in it. Moreover, the SPA conservation fund that will be also established may prove to be a valuable source of income to fund the SPA conservation after the end of the project.

As is the case in Greece, the responsibility of SPA Management belongs to the Ministry of the Environment. Until two years ago, this responsibility was divided between the Ministries of Environment and Rural development, but since 2009, it has become a sole responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. The problem is that this Ministry lacks local branches with the exception of Forest Services which are operating in a Regional context. For the island of Andros the Forest service of Cyclades has only one employee to take care of the whole island. The existing legislation (law 2742/1999) foresees that the management of a protected area can be a task assigned by the Ministry to local authorities, after signing Management Agreements. This is the idea behind actions C8 and C9, the Municipality to take the responsibility to establish an SPA Management Scheme, involving state and local stakeholders with an objective to safeguard the SPA conservation objectives according to the prescriptions of the site Management Plan. The only other alternative for the site would be the establishment of a Protected Area Management Authority, something much less probable for such a site, since only 27 of these Authorities have been established in the country so far (mainly for Ramsar sites and National Parks).

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality in collaboration with NCC and HOS

Expected results: A low cost but fully operational local Management Scheme, dealing with the management of the SPA in the long run, governed by a Committee of representatives of authorities and stakeholders.

Cost estimation: 59.782 €

Personnel: 33.782€ = 11,1 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 6.800€ = travel for operation of SPA Management Scheme. *External Assistance:* 19.200€ = Management Officer (12 PM at 1.600€/PM)

ACTION C.9: Start-up of SPA surveillance-patrolling system

Description: The action includes the initiation stage of implementation of the SPA surveillance-patrolling scheme as defined in the SPA Management Plan and SPA Surveillance Plan (action A.1). The action will include systematic and regular patrolling and surveillance of the entire SPA area (on land and at sea) with focus on primary target species breeding, roosting and foraging habitats of *F. eleonora*, *H. fasciatus*, *L. audouinii* and *P. aristotelis*. The surveillance team consisting of Project Field Warden and project Management Officer will record all the human activities and interventions in the project SPA with special reference to harmful and illegal activities. The surveillance team will (A) inform land/sea users of the importance of the these areas of the project and its actions and provide guidelines of proper conduct in these areas, (B) record and report to local competent authorities *i.e.* Port Police and Forestry Department any illegal or damaging activities and (c) monitor the state of the habitats to establish benefits of concrete conservation actions to target species habitats. The marine surveillance radar on the project vessel will be used to enhance visual monitoring of all human activities in the managed areas.

The action will be implemented from the 3rd trimester of 2013 (September 1st 2013) until the end of the project by the surveillance team consisting (Project Warden (24 person-months) and Management Officer(12 PM)), supervised by the Project Director (6 PM) and supported by the Scientific Coordinator (3 PM). The surveillance and transportation of field teams will be implemented with the project vessel, the project vehicle and field equipment purchased in the framework of the present action. The project vessel and its equipment will be purchase through this action and will be used for transportation of field teams, equipment and materials for all project actions which include work on islets and marine environment. Although the implementation of the action will start during the 3rd trimester of 2013, the field equipment, including project vessel will be purchased during the 1st project semester.

The project vessel is a prerequisite for the implementation of all actions which are associated with the marine and islet environment, namely actions A.1, A.2, C.1, C.2, C.3, C.6, C.9, E.2. Among those actions A.1 and A.2 are scheduled to start at the beginning of the project, while the rest within the 2nd semester of the project. Therefore the purchase of the boat must be done in the very beginning of the project. It should be noted that the purchase of the boat and its equipment as well as mounting all the equipment to reach fully its operational state is a time consuming task and therefore should start immediately after the start of the project.

After the end of the project, the coordination, operation and financing of the SPA surveillance will be one of the core activities of the SPA Management Scheme, supported by project partners, national and local competent authorities and key stakeholders.

Reasons why this action is necessary: Patrolling and surveillance are vital for effective SPA and target species management and conservation, because they provide up-to-date information on the situation and human activities in the SPA and allows the SPA management mechanism to quickly respond to threats to SPA primary species and their habitats. The presence of surveillance teams simultaneously discourages uncontrolled human activities in the area.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality, HOS and NCC

Expected results: The action will establish and start the operation of an effective surveillance and patrolling system will be established to provide the basis for long-term SPA surveillance/patrolling scheme. The surveillance team will perform at least 2 field trip per week during the 3rd and 4th year of the project, covering the total land and marine area of the project SPA.

Cost estimation: 302.940 €

Personnel: 71.940€ = 30,3 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 33.000€ = travel for SPA surveillance. *External Assistance:* 19.200€ = Management Officer (12 PM at 1.600€/PM). *Equipment:* 159.800€ = All-weather speed boat 140.000€, boat equipment (GPS Plotter, Radar, VHF Communication) 7.000€, compact water-proof camera 1.500€, 2 GPS 1.000€, 2 binoculars 1.000€, field laptop computer, 2.300€, car and base VHF communication equipment 1.000€, night vision binoculars 5.000€ (2.500€/device). *Consumables:* 3.000€ = speed boat safety equipment. *Other costs:* 16.000€ = Boat maintenance and insurance

D. Public awareness and dissemination of results

The project dissemination of information utilizes two categories of communication. The first category is the preparation and distribution of project information for the transfer of knowledge and program awareness to a global range of individuals with little or no access to project personnel, partners or site. The second category is the two-way form of communication at public information meetings and through the project website blog and social networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) which provide the opportunity to answer questions, correct misunderstandings and develop a degree of mutual trust in order to demonstrate that the project is worth supporting for the benefit of the project area stakeholders.

One of the biggest threats to the success of a Natura 2000 site, or any protected area, is stakeholder opposition from those who incorrectly believe that Natura 2000 (or other designation such as an IBA) is a form of unnecessary environmental regulation by government that unfairly restricts or prohibits customary business and recreational activities to the detriment of the stakeholders' professional, personal and cultural interests. Natura 2000 critics spread this misinformation to family, friends and neighbours which serves to undermine the project aims, actions and investment. The project's two way communication forms are designed to minimize or overcome this opposition by explaining the need to rehabilitate and preserve priority bird species, other wildlife and habitats in the project area which are indispensable to sustainable tourism in the project area. Therefore, the following dissemination of information actions have been selected for the project.

ACTION D.1: Production of leaflets and album book

Description: A series of communication material will be produced to communicate the project objectives and actions, conservation problems of the target species as well as the role of Natura 2000 network to the general public, specific social groups and local stakeholders. The communication material produced will include:

Leaflets providing concise information on the priority species/habitat types of the project area, featuring the LIFE and Natura 2000 logos, and promoting the conservation aims of the project will be distributed by the Korthi Visitor Centre that hosts the LIFE+ Nature Exhibition. Leaflets will also be distributed at relevant conventions/exhibitions in which the project personnel participate and to hotel managers as well as shipping companies for distribution in the ferries visiting Andros and other organized stakeholder groups. Estimated quantity: 10.000 in Greek/English.

A book written in Greek/English containing approximately 60 pages with text and photographs will provide a description of the project aims and actions as well as information about the species and natural habitat types of the project area, focusing on the project's targeted species. Copies will be distributed by the Korthi Visitor Centre to the Korthi Environmental Education Centre, regional and national authorities, local communities, school libraries, hotel managers and other organized group of stakeholders. Estimated quantity: 2.000 paperback copies in Greek/English.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator (6 person-months[PM]) with the support of the Project Director (1 PM) and Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action will address important, little-known aspects of the species/habitat types of the project area including the value and the requirements of these natural resources; the Natura 2000 network aims and function; and

the project aims, actions and benefits to local stakeholders, visitors, government officials, students and the public at large. The action, especially through the distribution of the more permanent item such as the book, will contribute to the increase of appreciation of (a) the conservation value of the targeted species, the habitats upon which the species depend, the project site in which other species/habitats of European Community interest reside or through which marine species migrate, and (b) the recognized value of the project to the project area and the area stakeholders. The action is targeting students, government officials, media representatives and island visitors.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: Expected results include the widespread dissemination of the project information in various forms; the increased awareness of stakeholders about the Andros Island environment and the Natura 2000 network; the opportunity for the publication of project area related scientific data as well as detailed information about priority species/habitats and conservation efforts in the site.

Attractive, comprehensive and well structured project information material will be produced, including 10.000 copies of project leaflet, 2.000 copies of book, notice boards and layman's report, to increase public awareness with multiple positive effects for the conservation of the target species.

Cost estimation: 32.299 €

Personnel: 6.799€ = 2,5 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates *Equipment:* 4.500€ = High quality photographic camera 2.500€, desktop computer 2.000€. *Other costs:* 21.000€ = Production of 10.000 copies of leaflets 4.000€ and 2000 copies of project books 17.000€.

ACTION D.2: Production of the Project DVD

Description: A bilingual Greek/English 25 minute LIFE+ Nature project DVD will be developed to: (i) present the species and natural habitat types of the project area, (ii) promote the project conservation aims through the presentation of project actions implemented for the benefit of the targeted species and (iii) explain the ethos of the Natura 2000 network establishment under 92/43/EEC. From the 25 minute film, two short bilingual versions approximately 10 minutes in length will be produced to be used in project media activities. Estimated quantity: 2.000 copies of the 25 minute DVD and 1.000 copies each of the two 10 minute DVDs.

The long film will be submitted (i) for consideration to the annual ECOFILMS Greek Festival as well as other international Short Film festivals, (ii) to Greek and other European television stations for broadcast consideration in their documentary schedule together with a LIFE+ Nature project press release; and (iii) to Hellenic, including project area, schools for presentation in classes subject to the approval of the schools' directors. The long film will also be shown as part of the daily operations of the Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre. A trailer of the film will be posted on YouTube.com and it will be promoted through the project's website, blog and social networks such as Facebook and Twitter.

The short film will be distributed to (a) print and radio journalists to facilitate the preparation/submission of an article written by project personnel or a journalist for media publication or the scheduling of radio interviews, (b) television journalists with limited air time, (c) visitors who represent public opinion makers, (d) government officials, including relevant MEPs (Members of European Parliament) and Hellenic national, regional and local officials having jurisdiction over the project area, and (e) eco-tourism operators.

To significantly reduce the cost of the production, most of the shots will be made by project personnel, during the implementation of management actions. For this reason, a high definition semi professional video camera with zoom lenses will be purchased, field personnel will have a training course for using the camera and a multimedia database will be established by the Dissemination Coordinator to store video shots, photos and audio material. In the second project year a sub contractor will be hired to carry out the production of the documentary, using the material of the multimedia database.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator (1 person-months) and supported by the Project Director and Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: This action is necessary because project area stakeholders are not sufficiently aware of (1) the project area biodiversity, including the legally protected species and natural habitat types of European Community interest that inhabit their environment, (2) the current threats to the natural resources which are commonly shared by residents and users of the project area due to the unique characteristics and features of the island environment components, (3) the relationship between the conservation status of the natural resources and the stakeholders' businesses (especially tourism and fishing), public health, culture and recreation, and (4) the measures that can reasonably be implemented by government and individuals to rehabilitate and conserve the regional biodiversity which would benefit regional socio-economic conditions. Increasing the stakeholders' awareness and knowledge of the project area resources, the project aims, the Natura 2000 network ethos, and the relationship between socio-economic and environmental well-being will facilitate the stakeholders' acceptance of the program actions and future environmental conservation projects in the project area.

The target audience of the DVDs includes stakeholders, visitors, resident and non-resident visiting students at the Korthi Environmental Education Centre (which annually hosts 1,470 students from 3 island and 39 non-island schools and 80 professional high school teachers for environmental education seminars), media journalists, government officials and public opinion-makers, and eco-tourism operators.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results:

A project documentary, in three versions one long (25 min) in 2000 copies and 2 short (10 min), in 1000 copies each.

The expected results principally include (1) the improved understanding of the stakeholders as to precisely what valuable biodiversity and natural resources exist in the project area; (2) an explanation to stakeholders of the possible measures that can be taken by stakeholders and their elected government officials to improve the natural environment upon which the stakeholders depend for food, tourism, recreation, culture and transportation; and (3) the stakeholders' comprehension of the range of potential socio-economic benefits of the project and future conservation programs. One important message that the film is expected to convey is that taking care of the natural environment serves, among other factors, as one critical step towards improving the prospect for developing a sustainable tourism industry in the area. Another expected result is that members of the targeted audience will be made aware of or reminded that conservation is becoming an increasingly important issue to the project area stakeholders and which should be incorporated in government policy decision-making, the effects of which can feasibly include the potential expansion of environmental conservation-related vocational choices to students and employment for adults.

Another expected result is that the film production, marketing and distribution will increase European public awareness of the Natura 2000 site located on Andros that is heavily travelled and very familiar to tens of thousands of Europeans who have visited the area but are unaware of the location or purpose of the Special Protection Area. The familiarity of the project area to many Europeans and international travellers facilitates the ability of the project personnel to maximize the project promotion through publicity that might be of less interest to the media if the project area were in an unknown or less travelled European site. In addition, the DVD is expected to generate a pecuniary benefit to project area stakeholders from ecotourism by virtue of the distribution of the DVD to ecotourism operators who are expected to supplement their area promotion with information contained in the DVD for potential tourists who are interested in supporting communities that engage in environmental conservation efforts.

Cost estimation: 26.325 €

Personnel: 1.325€ = 0,5 person-month of project personnel at F1 form rates. *External Assistance:* 15.000€ = production of a documentary. *Equipment:* 9.500€ = 2 high definition video cameras. *Consumables:* 500€ = video consumable material.

ACTION D.3: Production of the Project Website

Description: A bilingual (Greek and English) website will be developed within the first 3 months from the project initiation, with a complete presentation of the project's participants, co-financiers, aims, actions, scientific findings, expected benefits and relevance to stakeholders as well as the public at large. It will be enhanced with photography, video presentations and audio presentations. The website will also include the Project's Blog where news relevant to the project and its aims will be reported on a regular basis. The services of Facebook and Twitter will be used to maintain a direct, two-way communication between the project coordination office and internet visitors, to answer questions and keep visitors informed of project news and events. A searchable directory section of the site will direct visitors to other LIFE projects and international institutions with common environmental and biodiversity conservation aims.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator (3 person-months) with the support of the Project Director, Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The target audience includes resident and non-resident stakeholders, visitors, resident and non-resident students, government officials, media journalists and ecotourism operators. The website is necessary because it is one of the most effective tools to communicate with a large number of individuals, including stakeholders, in diverse locations in order to increase their environmental conservation awareness and gain their support of the project's aims/actions. The project website is the principal form of project communication to non-resident stakeholders who own land as well as businesses and have extended families within the wider project area, and with whom it would otherwise be difficult to communicate about the project to gain their support. The website represents the most current venue for widespread project and environmental information dissemination because it can be updated regularly, thus encouraging new as well as repeat visitors to the site.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality

Expected results: One expected result is that resident and non-resident stakeholders will gain a better understanding of the project actions and the benefits to be gained from the project, including, without limitation, the expected pecuniary benefits to the island

communities from increased eco-tourism which the Coordinating Beneficiary has already been successfully promoting for more than 10 years. The website is expected to attract visitors as well as stakeholders with an interest in learning more about the project area natural resources and the range of ecologically sustainable activities in which visitors can participate (e.g. nature hikes, bird-watching, swimming). The website will also serve as an important source of information to government officials who have jurisdiction over the area and can refer to the site for specific information relevant to their decision-making. Students will benefit from the project's scientific research data published on the website for the preparation of academic assignments. Ecotourism operators, tourists and potential visitors are expected to learn more about the project area and, in many cases, may want to support communities that are investing in biodiversity conservation. The website is also expected to provide project area and project information to journalists during the course of their reporting assignments.

Cost estimation: 23.975 €

Personnel: 3.975€ = 1,5 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *External Assistance:* 20.000€ = creation and maintenance of project web site for 4 years.

ACTION D.4: Project Exhibition at the Andros Municipal Visitor Centre

Description: The establishment of a project Exhibition at the Andros Municipal Visitor Centre will consist of large, permanently positioned panels with accompanying information dissemination features. The Exhibition panels will present photographs and information about (i) the projects targeted species, (ii) the island's biodiversity, natural habitat types and ecosystems, and (iii) the projects aims, actions and benefits. The information dissemination features will include permanent fixtures for the distribution to visitors of project leaflets, field guides, current magazine articles related to the project or regional environmental actions, and educational information provided by project partners, educational institutions and other accredited organizations.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator (8 person-months) with the support of the Project Director and Scientific Coordinator (1 person-month). External subcontractors and workers will be hired for setting up the exhibition material.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The Exhibition visitors will include tourists, media representatives and journalists, visiting government officials, resident stakeholders, non-resident stakeholders (who have family homes, land and/or businesses on Andros Island), resident students, non-resident visiting students and unrelated professional high school teachers who attend the Korthi Environmental Education Centre environmental education seminars (1.470 students annually from 3 island schools and 39 mainland/non-Andros Island schools as well as 80 professional high school teachers), and tour operators. This Exhibition is necessary because it provides a memorable venue which communicates specific avian and coastal environmental conservation information, project information, the names and information about the project participants and private sector supporters which conveys the fact that the project has extensive support from recognizable institutions and organizations. It is also a venue for the distribution of related environmental conservation material, field guides, leaflets, magazine articles featuring the project, and information about the project participants as well as other relevant environmental organizations.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: The expected number of visitors to the Exhibition is estimated to be 2.000 people per year. The Exhibition is expected to provide an active venue for the presentation of information and educational material concerning the project's targeted species as well as the natural habitat types relied upon by the species, the project actions, the project area natural environment, the participating project partners and related environmental conservation information. The Exhibition is also expected to provide a venue for discussions with Hellenic, European and international visitors about the project's aims/actions, regional environmental concerns and conservation actions, public participation in the restoration of the natural environment and the project's relevance to the current aims of developing sustainable development in the wider project area.

Cost estimation: 29.599 €

Personnel: 12.099€ = 4,5 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *External Assistance:* 10.000€ = photographic material 2.000€, production of exhibition panels 8.000€. *Equipment:* 5.000€ = project exhibition equipment . *Consumables:* 2.500€ = consumable material for project exhibition.

ACTION D.5: Production of environmental education material and implementation of environmental education campaign

Description (what, how, where and when): An environmental education kit will be designed and produced. It will focus on the threats and conservation of the 4 priority species and the SPA, the land uses within the SPA and their conflicts with conservation. The kit will consist of teacher and student guidelines for the proposed education activities, printed brochures and protocols for these activities and a CD-ROM on the characteristics and ecology of the target species as well as other biodiversity of the protected area, their significant role in the island and marine ecosystems, their interactions with people, threats and proper conduct to appreciate and protect birds and their environment. The environmental education kit will be specially adapted to needs of environmental education as well as target species conservation in the project area.

The kit will be produced in 150 copies and will also be available on the project's website. After the kit is produced, it will be used in practice by the Korthi Environmental Education Centre to be used and distributed among schools in the region. The Korthi I Environmental Education Centre is annually hosting up to 1.470 students from 3 island schools and 39 non-island schools as well as 80 professional high school teachers who enrol in environmental education seminars. This is an especially important venue for the dissemination of project information to these students and teachers, utilizing products resulting from this action (and the actions of D.2 [Project DVD], D.3 [Project Website], and D.4 [Project Exhibition at the Andros Municipal Visitor Centre]). The project information is transmitted to students in conjunction with related environmental education lesson plans which then forms a cohesive transmission of connected environmental information that makes more of a comprehensive impact on the listener/reader/viewer.

It is important to stress that the present kit will be promoted and put in practice together with other 2 other environmental education kits which have been produced in the framework of previous LIFE project referring to the target species (HOS *Falco eleonora* and Seabird conservation projects), and will play a complementary role covering topics and activities that have not been covered in previous kits.

The environmental education kit will be produced during the first year of the project by the NCC and HOS environmental education staff in collaboration with the Korthi Environmental Education Centre staff and external experts. The application of the environmental education

kits will be a task of the Centre's staff in collaboration with the project Dissemination Coordinator. It will last till the end of the project.

Reasons why this action is necessary (specify the target audience): This action refers to Threat No.6. Environmental education plays a critical role in affecting conservation attitudes of local societies. Improvement of local awareness, especially among children and students, is essential for the conservation of the target species on islands and at sea. It is also vital for the conservation of target species and their habitats that previous efforts in environmental education are continued and reinforced with new environmental education activities, especially those that relate to students' surrounding and familiar environment.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented in collaboration with Andros Municipality and HOS

Expected results (quantitative information when possible): A well-designed and effective environmental education kit accompanied by a CD-ROM in 150 copies will be produced and distributed to schools in Andros and the wider region through the Korthi Environmental Education Centre. The environmental education material will be available through the project website. More than 3000 students from the project region and beyond are expected to participate in the application of the environmental education kit.

Cost estimation: 30.475 €

Personnel: 3.975€ = 1,5 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel:* 2.000€ - travel for implementation of env. Education. *External Assistance:* 8.000€ = HOS, NCC and Korthi Environmental Education Staff. *Other costs:* 16.500€ = production of environmental education kit

ACTION D.6: Stakeholder Meetings for Dissemination of Information

Description: There will be two categories of stakeholder meetings: (1) Andros Island Project Area Stakeholder meetings and (2) Student Stakeholder meetings.

Andros Island Stakeholder Meetings: The project coordination office will disseminate project information to stakeholders to gain maximum support for the project's aims and actions. Therefore, in each of Years 2, 3 and 4 of the project, there will be one stakeholder meeting conducted by representatives of the Coordinating and Associated Beneficiaries on Andros Island.

The first meeting will be devoted to the SPA Management Plan consultation process, presenting the plan and the accompanying documents, the proposal for the SPA Management Scheme and informing for the concrete conservation actions. The second and the third meeting will deal with the progress and results of the project interventions as well as with the management problems of the SPA.

The meeting agenda will include a presentation of the project information materials, project aims, actions and benefits with a question/answer and discussion period following the presentation. The most convenient central location to maximize the public turnout will be selected for each meeting. The invited participants will include, without limitation, local members of the Fishermen's Union of the Southern Aegean, municipal officials and staff, the Environment Department of the Cyclades Prefecture, local port authorities, members of the local culture and professional associations, staff and students of local schools, business owners, local residents and journalists. The number of participants at each stakeholder meeting is expected to be approximately 50 individuals.

Student Stakeholder Meetings: In each of Years 2, 3 and 4, there will be a presentation of the project aims, actions and benefits for students of each of the three Andros island municipal schools. Each presentation will be conducted at the Korthi Visitor Centre by project personnel and any visiting project scientists under the supervision of the individual school teachers or directors. At each presentation, it is estimated that there will be 25-30 participants including teachers and supervisors.

The action will be organised by the Dissemination Coordinator (2 person-months) with the support of the Project Director (1 person-month) and Scientific Coordinator (1 person-month).

Reasons why this action is necessary: The stakeholder meetings are necessary to inform the stakeholders of (i) the biodiversity and natural habitat types in the project area, especially including the project's targeted species, (ii) the value of biodiversity and the contribution that the natural resources make to the project area stakeholders for the island's tourism, agriculture, boat transportation, recreation, and culture (iii) the current state or condition of these natural resources and current threats to their conservation status, (iv) the project actions and other related conservation actions on Andros that are designed to ameliorate the conservation status of threatened species, and (v) the socio-economic benefits to stakeholders of rehabilitating and protecting the natural environment and wildlife species.

Stakeholder meetings provide a unique opportunity for the participants to discuss the issues, express concerns, resolve misunderstandings and rumours that are potentially damaging to the project, and disseminate factual information to enhance project support. The discussions may also alert the project personnel and project partners to engage in appropriate follow-up actions to mitigate or avoid potential problems that may impact the project. The face-to-face stakeholder meetings also provide an opportunity for the stakeholders to evaluate the degree of integrity of the project personnel, partners and actions which has the potential to influence the extent to which the stakeholders will demonstrate patience and/or project support during and after the project.

The target groups for the action are SPA stakeholders, public authorities, the wider public of Andros and students.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: **Andros Municipality** will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality, HOS and NCC

Expected results: The expected result of the meetings is increase stakeholder awareness and knowledge of the project and its aims; to elicit project support from many of the stakeholders. Another expected result of the meetings with the stakeholders who possess varying degrees of personal and professional interest in target species conservation is the initiation of varying degrees of motivation on the part of these stakeholders to consider marine and island conservation during the future course of community and government decision-making, to consider supporting or participating in reasonable conservation measures, and perhaps, for some student stakeholder participants, to consider marine and/or environmental conservation related vocations. At least 150 stakeholder representatives and individuals and 100 students will be informed through these meetings.

Cost estimation: 13.090 €

Personnel: 6.590€ = 2,3 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. **Travel:** 4.000€ - travel for implementation stakeholder meetings. **Other costs:** 2.500€ = cost of meeting halls

ACTION D.7: Mass Media Information Dissemination and Press Releases

Description: Radio, television, newspapers, magazines and internet-based information services will be additional venues for the promotion of project aims, actions and benefits by the project personnel. The project personnel will write regular press releases and articles for publication in Hellenic and European newspapers, magazines and internet-based information services. The project personnel will arrange for radio interviews and television broadcasts of project news and information.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator (6 person-months) with the support of the Project Director and Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: This action is necessary for the dissemination of information to a national, European and international audience with disparate interests. The purpose of this action is to inform the Greek, European and international listening, reading and/or viewing public about (i) the importance of the rehabilitation and conservation of threatened species and habitat types that inhabit Andros Island and are valuable natural resources upon which the project area stakeholders depend, (ii) the project aims, actions and benefits, (iii) the private and public institutions and organizations that are supporting the project which are recognizable to many audience members thus lending additional credibility to the project, and (iv) the interdependent relationship between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Widening Hellenic and European knowledge about the project participants' conservation efforts and investment contributes to informing the public about important issues upon which Europeans are being advised to focus for socio-economic reasons which will be explained through the media presentations. Therefore the action refers to the general public locally, nationally and internationally, as well as to SPA stakeholder groups in Andros and the wider region.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality

Expected results: The mass media exposure targeting Hellenic, wider European as well as international audiences will enable listeners, readers and viewers to become acquainted with the project aims, actions, targeted species and natural habitat types, and expected project benefits to the region. The public is also expected to become better informed about the interdependent relationship among the following issues: wildlife conservation; the socio-economic well-being of stakeholders who are largely dependent upon natural resources for tourism, agriculture, recreation and culture; the current threats to species/habitats; the development of a sustainable SPA management plan; and the health/well-being of project area communities. At least 15 press releases and 5 articles to local and national press will be produced during the project implementation period.

Cost estimation: 11.150 €

Personnel: 7.950€ = 3 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel:* 3.200€ - travel for mass media dissemination

ACTION D.8: LIFE+ Nature Project Closing Conference

Description: Representatives of the Coordinating and Associated Beneficiaries, the Project Director and Dissemination Coordinator will present to the public a one day conference based upon the project genesis, aims, actions, results and benefits. European Commission, local, regional and national government officials and European as well as Hellenic

Parliament members will be invited to speak about the importance and benefits of integrating environmental conservation policies in national, regional and local administrative decision-making, the contribution of the Andros Municipality's pre- and post-project support of regional environmental conservation actions that produce tangible benefits for the Andros Island community.

The project approach of low cost, locally promoted and financially sustainable SPA Management Scheme will be presented and discussed, as an alternative way to deal with the management problems of a number of Natura 2000 sites.

The project's preparatory and concrete conservation actions implemented by the scientific partners, the analysis and results of these actions, the application of this knowledge to future actions, the project benefits to the project area and the project's contributions to the EU scientific data base will also be presented.

Invited participants will also include public opinion steering group representatives such as theologians, political party and civic as well as cultural group leaders. The project DVD will be shown and the project's written materials will be distributed. The media will be invited to attend the conference. An article about the project and closing conference written by the project personnel with photos taken by the project personnel will be distributed to media representatives who are interested in publicizing the conference but are unable to attend.

The conference will be organized by the Dissemination Coordinator (1 person-month[PM]) and the project Director (1 PM), in collaboration with Scientific Coordinator (1 PM) and Project Ornithologist (1 PM).

In order to facilitate the busy travel and business schedules of invited speakers (such as government officials, Hellenic Parliament members and MEPs, civil leaders, etc.) who have very limited time and reside in locations distant from the Andros Municipality on Andros Island, and in order to attract the widest possible media coverage (including television, newspaper, magazine and radio), the one day conference will be held in Athens rather than the Andros Municipality which would necessitate the inclusion of an additional 1-2 days travel time for the speakers and the media if the conference were to be held in Korthi on Andros Island.

Reasons why this action is necessary: This action is necessary because this project is unique due to the diverse groups that support the project aims and actions which are designed to contribute to larger EU aims including rehabilitation/protection of threatened species/habitat types and halting biodiversity loss. This exceptional situation therefore merits the widest possible public attention and well deserved recognition which can be accorded through the structure of a one day conference in a major capital city. In order to organize a conference with invited public officials at the EU, national, regional and local levels along with civic leaders and the project participants, one full day is required to effectively stage the event. The conference venue of Athens was selected because it is easy to access for potential visiting speakers due to its proximity to the international airport and the fact that the capital city is the site of the national governing body, thus potential visiting speakers may accomplish more than one business purpose in a single visit. Athens was also selected because of the existing representation of all major media outlets thus maximizing the potential for media exposure to the public which would not be as extensive if journalists, crew and media equipment were required to undertake additional travel days and financial cost to attend an island conference location.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality, HOS and NCC

Expected results: The expected result is an effective conference that promotes to the public by various methods the larger EU aim of demonstrating the compatibility of

conservation with socio-economic activities in and around island Natura 2000 sites. The project area site associated with tourism, the conference venue located in a major European capital city, the unique project participant composition and the increasingly significant conference topic contribute to the expected public interest and media coverage of this conference that will explain the project, its application to other European communities and its significance to government decision-makers. The expected attendance will be approximately 400 people.

Cost estimation: 19.865 €

Personnel: 8.565€ = 2,8 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel:* 6.300€ - travel to/from conference venue. *Other costs:* 5.000€ = cost of a conference hall

ACTION D.9: Production of notice boards

Description: Notice boards (70 cm x 90 cm) with rounded corners made of 1 mm thick aluminium with screen-printing protected by a UV resistant lacquer describing the project's aims will be positioned at strategic places accessible for easy and maximum viewing by residents and visitors. The boards will describe the project and will feature the LIFE, Natura 2000 and project logos. These boards will be posted by the Andros Municipality at its port, at the Korthi Environmental Education Centre and at other key civic points on Andros Island for viewing. Estimated quantity: 10 in Greek/English.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator with the support of the Project Director and Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action is obligatory under par. 13.5 of the LIFE Common Provisions.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: Expected results include the widespread dissemination of the project information in form of notice boards; the increased awareness of stakeholders about the Andros Island environment and the Natura 2000 network; the opportunity for the publication of project area related scientific data as well as detailed information about priority species/habitats and conservation efforts in the site.

Attractive, comprehensive and well structured project notice boards to increase public awareness for the conservation of the target species.

Cost estimation: 3.825 €

Personnel: 1.325€ = 0,5 person months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *External Assistance:* 2.500€ = production of notice boards.

ACTION D.10: Production of layman's report

Description: A layman's report shall be produced in paper and electronic format at the end of the project. It shall be presented in Greek and English. This report will present the project, its objectives, its actions and its results to the general public. Estimated quantity of hardcopies: 200.

The action will be implemented by the Dissemination Coordinator with the support of the Project Director and Scientific Coordinator.

Reasons why this action is necessary: The production of project's layman's report is obligatory according to 2010 LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Application Guidelines.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: **Andros Municipality** will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: Expected results include the widespread dissemination of the project information in form of layman's report; the increased awareness of stakeholders about the Andros Island environment and the Natura 2000 network; the opportunity for the publication of project area related scientific data as well as detailed information about priority species/habitats and conservation efforts in the site.

Attractive, comprehensive and well structured project layman's report to increase public awareness for the conservation of the target species.

Cost estimation: **2.325€**

Personnel: 1.325€ = 0.5 person months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Other costs:* 200 copies of layman's report 1.000€.

E. Overall project operation and monitoring

ACTION E.1: Overall Project Management

Description: Overall project management and the management of the Municipality project activities will be carried out from the project's office in the Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre.

The three beneficiaries will closely collaborate to ensure the timely and effective project management, in accordance to the present proposal, the time planning and the Life regulation and Standard Administrative Provisions.

The coordinating beneficiary will be responsible for the overall project management, and NCC will be responsible for the scientific- technical coordination of the project actions.

The project implementation team on behalf of the Municipality will consist of 3 full time employees that will be hired for the project with long term contracts. The project coordination will be the task of Project Director (PD), who will be supported by the Dissemination Coordinator (DC) and the Field Warden, as well as by a part-time (75%) Management Officer and a part time (20%) Administration Assistant. An independent financial auditor nominated by the Andros Municipality will verify and approve the project's financial statements to be provided to the Commission services in the project's final report.

The Project Director, will be a person selected to have previous LIFE Nature project management experience preferably with a LIFE-Nature Conservation Management of an Island SPA project and willing to be based on Andros for the 4 project years. He/she will be responsible for the coordination of the implementation of project actions; the Coordinating and Associated Beneficiaries' adherence to project action budgets and schedules; ensuring the timely preparation and submission of the project's reports to the European Commission; the conduct of meetings among the Coordinating Beneficiary, Associated Beneficiaries, and project personnel, including the Steering Committee; ensuring the resolution of project problems and impediments with the active support of all Beneficiaries and project participants; the selection and procurement of the project equipment; also will directly contribute to the implementation of the project field action; regular communication with the Hellenic governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the project area (e.g. Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change, Environment Department of the Cycladic Prefecture, Coast Guard, port authorities, etc.), the Coordinating and Associated Beneficiaries to ascertain the status of project actions and ensure problem resolutions, answer questions and provide project information; and lobbying for the benefit of the project. The Director will be the contact person for the Coordinating Beneficiary in its communications with the European Commission Services. (See also the attached Organogramme.)

The Dissemination Coordinator, will be a communication person with previous Life project experience preferably with a LIFE-Nature Conservation Management of an Island SPA project. He/she, will be responsible for the coordination of all project dissemination activities with the following duties: contributing to the timely preparation of the project's reports to the European Commission; overseeing the timely coordination and implementation of the project dissemination actions and corresponding budget adherence with the cooperation of the personnel of the Coordinating and Associated Beneficiaries; preparing the project website which will include collecting and compiling written articles from the scientific partners about the targeted species, their habitats, current threats, project conservation actions and expected benefits as well as incorporating photographs, the project blog, information about the project partners, relevant video clips and links; the operation of and writing/selecting articles for the project website blog; using social networks such as Facebook and Twitter to promote public awareness about the project and its aims;

conducting research and writing project promotion articles as well as updates for publication in magazines, newspapers, internet-based publications, the project blog and the project website; project photography creation and dissemination; the promotion and marketing of the project website; the arrangement for and submission of the project DVD to eco-film festivals; responding to all inquiries, including public inquiries, and conducting communications with European environmental projects, EU organizations, officials and institutions; weekly project status briefings with the Project Director; the dissemination of project information/project promotion to Hellenic and European radio, television, newspaper, magazine and internet-based information services; project public relations; the establishment and operation of the project Exhibition at the Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre; the organization, including logistics, of all meetings; preparing and maintaining regular project records including copies of all project promotional articles and press releases.

The Field Warden (FW) will be responsible for: the operation, maintenance and repair of all field equipment, including the project vehicle and boat, under the direction of the Project Director. He will be the local field person of the project, responsible for the implementation of the field work of the Municipality's concrete conservation actions, as well as for the SPA surveillance – patrolling action. The FW will also collaborate with the field teams of the associated beneficiaries and assist them in the field transportations.

A site Management Officer (FO) will be contracted for a period of 36 months by the Municipality in the second project year to assist in the SPA patrolling actions and in the establishment of the day to day operation of the SPA Management Scheme. He /she will also assist in the implementation of field activities for the concrete conservation actions.

The part-time (20%) Administration Assistant will be responsible for (1) maintaining in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in electronic form all financial books and records of the project, including, without limitation, (a) the project personnel records relating to taxes/social security contributions/salary payments, (b) records pertaining to the project funding disbursements from the European Commission and co-financiers, and (c) records of all project expenditures such as office consumables, furniture/fixtures/equipment, information dissemination actions, boat fuelling/service/repair, etc.; and (2) the submission of all then-current financial records to the Financial Auditor nominated by the Andros Municipality for prompt review and final certification by the Financial Auditor at the end of the project.

The Technical and Scientific project coordination will be the task of the Scientific Coordinator (SC), a senior member of NCC, with long term experience in the implementation of ornithological research and habitat conservation actions through LIFE projects. This person will be working for the project in a full time basis and will be responsible for the technical studies and operational plans for the project concrete actions, as well as for the SPA Management Plan implementation. The technical supervision of species and habitat management and restoration actions will be the task of the SC. The coordination and reporting of the NCC project actions will also be a task of SC.

The implementation of islet concrete management actions will be the responsibility of the Islet Management Officer, an external expert in the control of invasive species and islet habitat restoration, employed by NCC to work for the project for a total of 31 months. Islet Officer will be a senior researcher, experienced in planning implementation and coordination of general and specialized avian field surveys, e.g. telemetry and specialized management measures e.g. rat eradications. The Islet Management Officer will participate in planning and will be responsible for implementation of NCC survey and management activities (actions A.1, C.1, C.2, C.3, C.7) and will support the implementation of Andros Municipality and HOS field activities.

Field ornithologists will be employed by NCC to assist in the implementation of the islet concrete actions and also in the implementation of the project Monitoring action (E2).

GIS/Data Manager, experienced in data management and GIS, will be employed on part-time bases for the management of data field surveys and SPA management plan and for the production of the Andros SPA Geodatabase (action A.1-2). He/she will also provide GIS data and maps for field surveys. The GIS/Data Manager will dedicate 7 months of his/her time to the project.

A number of external experts (foresters, landscape ecologists, wetland scientists, economists, horticultural scientists, zoologists) will be employed by NCC to provide consultation in the formulation of the project planning documents of actions A.

The Project Ornithologist (PO) will be a member of the HOS scientific staff, working for the project for 17 months in total. He/she will be responsible of the implementation of HOS actions, with special reference to the ornithological surveys and research actions as well as for the project Monitoring action. He will also be the partner coordinator on behalf of HOS, responsible for coordination and reporting of HOS project activities.

The HOS Monitoring Officer will be a senior researcher, experienced in survey and monitoring of birds and habitats. He/she will participate in planning of project field and monitoring survey activities, and will be responsible for the implementation of scientific project monitoring, in collaboration with the NCC field ornithologist (action E.2). The Monitoring Officer will dedicate 11,5 months of his/her time to the project.

HOS field work will be carried out by a field team of up to three field researchers, member of the HOS staff as well as external field researchers. In total they will dedicate 10,5 person months to the project.

The HOS Caretaker Network Coordinator is a permanent member of HOS, who will be responsible for the establishment and operation of the Local Conservation Group (LCG) (action C.5) and will dedicate 6 months of his/her time to the project.

Project Director, supported by the Dissemination Coordinator, the Scientific Coordinator and the Project Ornithologist will form the **Project Steering Committee**, an executive body, which will organize, coordinate, supervise and monitor project actions.

The Steering Committee will ensure the continuing operation of the Project according to schedule and the achievement of the Project aims. The Steering Committee will periodically review and monitor the status of the project actions as well as offer recommendations to any unforeseeable problems that may arise. In practice these responsibilities are carried out by performing the following functions:

- Review the status and schedule of the project actions;
- Provide assistance to the project participants when required;
- Ensure the project's outputs meet the requirements of the project's approved application;
- Resolve any conflicts or disputes that may arise between or among partners and project participants, including reconciling any differences of opinion or approach;
- Reconcile, balance any conflicting priorities in consideration of finite resources;
- Consider ideas and issues raised;
- Facilitate positive communication outside of the Committee regarding the project's progress and outcomes;

The Steering Committee members shall convene biannually in person at the LIFE Nature Project office in the Andros Municipality and be available in the event of any meetings that may be scheduled by European Commission representatives.

The SPA Management Scheme will be a responsibility of the Project Director who will devote to this activity 12 person months during the 2nd and 3rd project years. The Management Officer and Scientific Coordinator will also devote 12 and 3 person months for the same action, respectively.

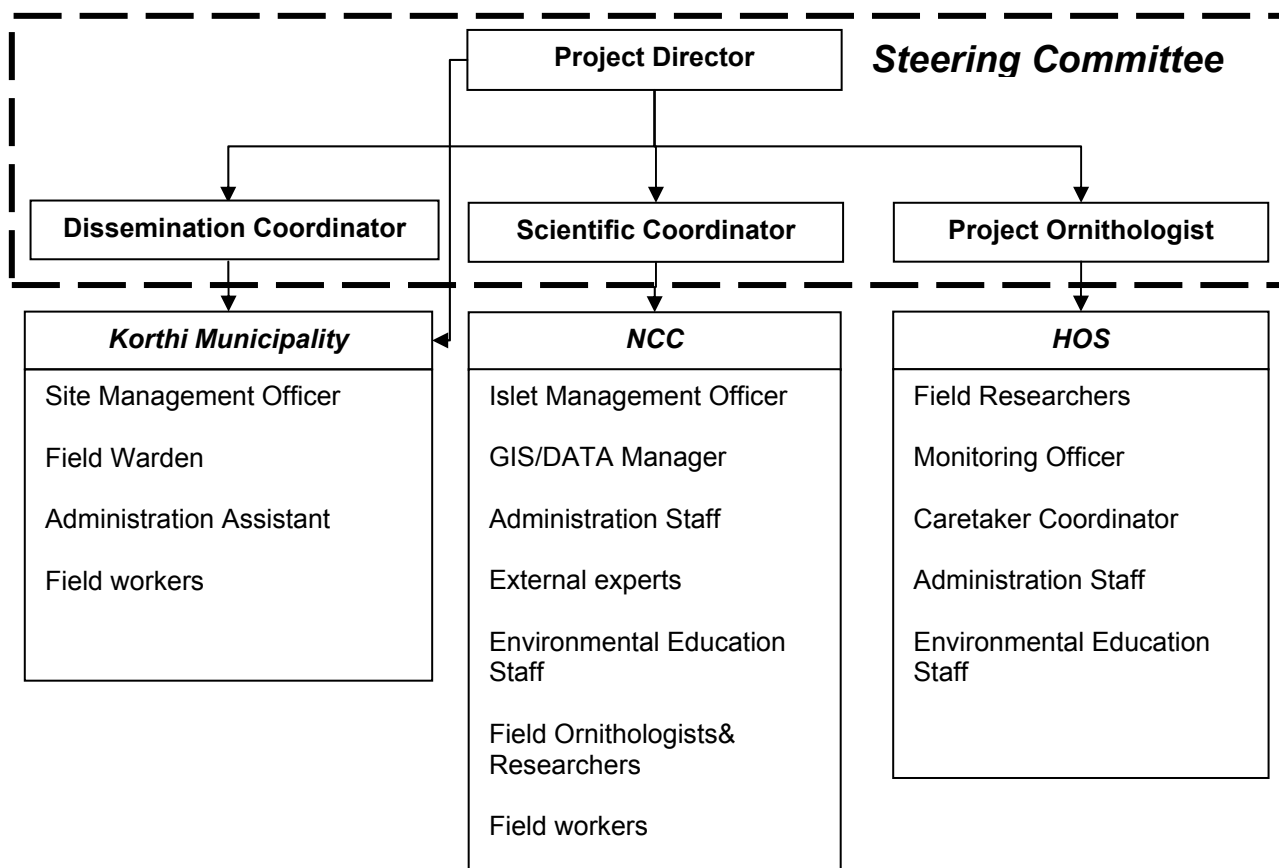
The project surveillance – patrolling action will be implemented by the project Field Warden (24 person months), in collaboration with the Management Officer (12 person months and the Project Director (6 person months), supported by the Scientific Coordinator, Monitoring Officer and Project Ornithologist.

The project financial audit will be assigned to an external auditor. The Financial Auditor will be responsible for the financial records review and certification that all financial records are true and correct and completed in a format prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as well as the LIFE+ Common provisions for submission to the European Commission with the project Final Report.

During the first year of the project, the project equipment will be acquired by the Andros Municipality. The equipment will be purchased on the “best value for money” criteria taking into consideration manufacturers’ guarantees that will be enforceable for the duration of the project. The equipment purchase will include, where available, extended warranty protection with provisions for complete accidental damage coverage and “next day support for end users” or similar provisions to ensure prompt equipment repair or replacement and to avoid or minimize project delays. The equipment will be used and operated by the project personnel for the project administration, for dissemination of project information actions, and for other relevant project actions to be implemented by the Andros Municipality, including, without limitation, scientific networking actions, human activities monitoring/surveillance in the project area, and the transport of scientific/technical experts and technical equipment to and within the project area.

The Coordinating Beneficiary, shall have the financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance and repair of all project equipment, including without limitation, the boat. The project personnel shall have the operational responsibility for the equipment during the project period.

The Coordinating Beneficiary, shall make the project equipment available for all post project actions related to the study and protection of targeted species. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this application, this provision shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of the project.

ORGANOGRAMME

Reasons why this action is necessary: Streamlined project coordination, accomplished by reporting are critical for the effective implementation of the project. The active engagement of the Project partners in the form of a Steering Committee is necessary to ensure the successful completion of the Project.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Andros Municipality will be responsible for overall project management, HOS and NCC will be responsible for the implementation of activities in their domains

Expected results: Effective, well-structured and concrete overall project coordination and coordination of action in responsibility of project partners.

Cost estimation: 117.072 €

Personnel: 76.172€ = Project Director (4,8 PM), Project Ornithologist (2 PM), Scientific Coordinator (1,5 PM), Dissemination Coordinator (8PM) Municipal Administration Assistant (6,7 PM), HOS Administration Staff (2,8 PM) and NCC Administration Staff (5,6 PM)= 31,4 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates; **Travel and subsistence:** 5.100€ = travel for project coordination by HOS and NCC. **External Assistance:** 35.800€ = 7.000€ = External audit and 28.800€ = House rental on Andros for NCC project personnel

ACTION E.2: Monitoring of Project's Performance

Description: Monitoring of the implementation of project actions will include monitoring the progress and results of project actions as well as assessment and evaluation their effects

on the target species and habitats in relation to the pre-project values (action A.2) and Favourable conservation values, set in action A.1. The monitoring indicators and the sources of verification of the proposed project are presented in the table below. Monitoring protocols will be established on the basis of the protocols SPA Monitoring Plan (part of SPA Management Plan, action A.1) Every three months, according to the following table, the monitoring reports, which are going to verify the progress of the project, will be elaborated.

The intensity and seasonality of foraging habitat use will be assessed before and after the implementation of the action, by direct field studies.

The increase in the coverage of Posidonia bed after the implementation of the action will also be assessed through mapping of the extend of the habitat before and after the implementation of the action.

The breeding performance of the two target species will be monitored by field ornithologists, to be used for the assessment although several other factors can affect this critical parameter.

A detailed monitoring plan, based on the SPA Monitoring Plan (action A.1) will be prepared by the Scientific Coordinator and Monitoring Officer, identifying key monitoring issues (objectives, methods, timing, periodicity, human effort needed) and presenting the specific monitoring protocol to be used prior to the initiation of monitoring field work. The action will be implemented by the Monitoring Officer (8 person-months[PM]) and the NCC field ornithologist in collaboration with Project Director (6 PM), Scientific Coordinator (1 PM), Field Warden (3 PM) and Islet Management Officer (5 PM), Project Ornithologist (4 PM). The project vessel and vehicle will be used for the action.

Action	Monitoring Indicator	Means of verification
A.1, A.2	Ornithological surveys: no. Colonies surveyed, no. individuals tracked, no. visual survey field days, ESAS and coastal count mileage, results of surveys	Progress reports, activity reports on site visits
A.1	SPA Management Plan, SPA Monitoring Plan, SPA Surveillance Plan, SPA Dissemination Plan, Andros SPA Geodatabase	Progress reports, activity reports, project deliverables, database
A.3	Feasibility Study for SPA Management	Progress reports, activity reports
B.1	Areas of land leased	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.1	Number of islands and area (in ha) cleared of rats, % of target species affected	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.2	Number of <i>Larus michahellis</i> affected, % of target species affected	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.3	No. of artificial nests constructed, no. of evergreen mastic shrubs planted, % of target species affected	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.4	Area of revitalized agricultural fields (in ha), no. of artificial ponds, no. of falcons and eagles foraging in managed area	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.5	Area of wetlands restored, no. of falcons foraging in managed area	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
C.6	No. of mooring buoys constructed, % of vessels using mooring buoys	Progress reports, activity reports
C.7	No. of members of in the Local Conservation Group, no. field reports	Progress reports, activity reports
C.8	Management Scheme operation	Progress reports, activity reports
C.9	No. of field trips, no. of surveillance protocols filled, no. illegal or harmful activity reports submitted to competent	Progress reports, activity reports

	authorities, % SPA area covered	
D.1	Special publications produced, number of copies	Special publications submitted, progress report
D.2	Documentary produced	Documentary submitted, progress report
D.3	Project webpage operation, no. visitors	Project web page and regular updates
D.4	No. of visitors at Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre	Progress reports, activity reports
D.5	Env. Education kit produce	Progress reports, activity reports
D.6	No. of meetings, public event participants	Progress reports, activity reports, on site visits
D.7	No. of interviews, articles in local media	Progress reports, hardcopy submitted
D.8	No. of conference participants	Progress reports, activity reports
E.1	Progress reports, regular communication with EC and external monitoring team	Progress reports submitted, activity reports, on site visits
E.2	Results of the conservation actions	Progress reports
E.3	No. projects/ organizations/ management bodies contacted	Progress reports
E.4	After-LIFE Conservation Plan	Final Report, After-LIFE Conservation Plan

Reasons why this action is necessary: The action is a requirement for all LIFE+ Nature projects. Moreover, it is necessary for the documentation of the effectiveness of the project's actions as compared to the initial situation, objectives and expected results.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: NCC will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: The flexible processing of all administrative, technical and scientific issues and the timely elaboration of these actions are the expected results.

Cost estimation: 93.196 €

Personnel: 55.096€ = 20,5 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates. *Travel and subsistence:* 22.000€ = travel for HOS and NCC project monitoring field teams. *External Assistance:* 9.600€ = External audit. *Equipment:* 4.500€ = 1 GPS 500€, 1 field laptop computer 2.000€ and 1 telescope 2.000€ by HOS. *Other costs:* 2.000€ = Field and sampling material for project monitoring.

ACTION E.3: Networking

Description: The action involves networking with other LIFE (e.g. LIFE III – “Tilos: conservation of island SPA”) and non-LIFE project, experts, and management bodies of NATURA 2000 sites on national and international level for optimal exchange of information and management tools with the goal to facilitate the existing knowledge and experience in SPA Management and implementation of management and conservation action and to disseminate information, knowledge, experience and tools, produced by the present project. Apart from direct communication project Website and the Closing Conference will further enhance networking.

Project networking will be mainly developed through email and web tools, to reduce the project cost and the carbon footprint. A number of relevant projects in Greece and in Europe will be reached and asked to exchange information with our project. Among others, Birdlife partners in Portugal, Spain, France and Italy, implementing or having implemented Life projects for the Mediterranean Shag, Audouin's Gull, Eleonora's falcon, Bonelli's eagle and marine IBAs identification will be approached. The Royal Society for the protection of Birds (Birdlife UK) with long term experience in SPA and species conservation and management will also be part of the project network. Ongoing LIFE projects in Greece, like the HOS Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's gull project, and the SKYROSBIODIVERSITY project will also become members of the network.

The action will be implemented by the Project Director (1,6 person-months[PM]) in collaboration with Project Coordination, Scientific Coordinator (0,5 PM) and Project Ornithologist.

Reasons why this action is necessary: Networking allow for exchange of information, knowledge, technical tools and experience, thereby optimizing the implementation of the project and dissemination of the results and products.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: **Andros Municipality** will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality, HOS and NCC

Expected results: Project networking is expected to effectively utilize the existing knowledge and experience available in Greece and abroad to optimize implementation of project action. Along with actions for dissemination and public awareness, it is expected to enhance dissemination of project product and results.

Cost estimation: 6.380 €

Personnel: 6.380€ = 2,1 person-months of project personnel at F1 form rates

ACTION E.4: After-LIFE Conservation Plan

Description: An "After-LIFE Conservation Plan" will be developed and presented as a separate chapter of the final report. It will be presented on paper and in electronic format. This plan will set forth the schedule of actions, funding sources and responsible parties to ensure the continuation of the avian species and natural habitats conservation actions that were initiated in the LIFE project during the years that follow the end of the project. This action has zero budget.

In furtherance of the Andros Municipality's ongoing wildlife and habitat conservation activities on Andros, beginning in 2008, the Andros Municipality facilitated the development of BLUEnature, a non-profit non-governmental association, designed to implement wildlife conservation actions as well as ecotourism, sustainable fisheries and renewable energy development in the region. BLUEnature was formally established by its Founding Members, currently has more than 4,000 registered supporters and, as of the date of this application, is awaiting the receipt of evidence of its official national registration.

BLUEnature is predicated on the principal that natural resources are a capital asset which can provide pecuniary benefits to stakeholders and must, therefore, be preserved or enhanced in order to obtain the optimum yield. This, in turn, motivates communities on Andros to protect wildlife species and habitats for their ecotourism, coastal recreation and related industries on which the island communities primarily depend.

To facilitate the BLUEnature conservation aims for Andros Natura 2000 sites, of which the project area is one, BLUEnature has expressly ensured and already commenced the procurement of funds from BLUEnature fund-raising activities exclusively conducted and as expressly communicated to the public for the sole benefit of natural habitat and wildlife species population conservation in Andros Natura 2000 sites, as exemplified by the commitment from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation. Funds sequestration into a separate BLUEnature bank account was conceived in order to provide a mechanism by which publicly-raised funds will be exclusively available and guaranteed for the continuation of wildlife species and natural habitat population conservation actions that are conducted in Andros Natura 2000 sites during European Union or other co-funded programs, such as the EU LIFE Nature program, in order to facilitate continuing yields from original co-funded program investments. The prohibition against co-mingling of such publicly-raised funds with any other BLUEnature funds or assets guarantees that, once raised, such funds will always be available for their intended use.

BLUEnature along with the Andros Municipality will participate in and contribute to the implementation of the Andros SPA Management Plan developed in this LIFE Nature project. As a supplement to the contribution of BLUEnature funds raised for the exclusive purpose of benefiting Andros Natura 2000 sites, such BLUEnature participation and contribution will include the allocation of human resources as well as the available use of any and all BLUEnature equipment. The Andros Municipality will also contribute to the implementation of the SPA Management Plan by making available all equipment procured by the Municipality from the LIFE Nature project as well as any other reasonable and available resources, including human resources, of the Coordinating Beneficiary.

The role of BLUEnature in supporting the continuation of SPA management and in particular the continuation of the SPA management Scheme and the core of site management activities, will be examined in further detail during the preparation of the After Life Conservation Plan.

Reasons why this action is necessary: This action is a requirement for all LIFE+ Nature projects. Moreover, this action is necessary for the continuation of the project's actions after the end of the project and for the assurance of the long term management of the site/habitats/species.

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: **Andros Municipality** will be responsible for the action which will be implemented by the Andros Municipality and NCC

Expected results: The future planning and necessary subsequent conservation steps that build on the actions and results of this project will be presented in a document based upon scientific counsel and recommendations in order to ensure the continuing development of conservation actions on Andros island.

Cost estimation: 0 €

DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the associated action	Deadline
First phase of Andros SPA Management Plan, Species Action Plans	A.1	31/08/2012
SPA Geodatabase	A.1	31/12/2012
Second phase of Andros SPA Management Plan	A1	28/02/2013
Operational Plan for action C.1-C.6	A.2	31/03/2012
SPA Management feasibility study	A.3	28/02/2013
Construction of artificial nests, plantation of endemic shrubs completed	C.3	31/08/2014
Revitalization of traditional cultivation on terraces Wildlife pond constructed and operational Pigeon lofts restored and operational Electric fence systems installed and operational	C.4	31/08/2015
Areas of coastal wetlands restored	C.5	31/08/2014
Mooring buoys installed	C.6	31/08/2015
Wildlife First Aid Centre established and operational	C.7	31/08/2012
Surveillance reports		31/08/2015
Project leaflets	D.1	31/08/2012
Project book	D.1	28/02/2015
Project DVD and 10 min films	D.2	31/08/2014
Website	D.3	31-10-2011
Project exhibition established and operational	D.4	01/04/2012
Environmental education kit	D.5	31/08/2012
Reports of stakeholder meetings	D.6	31/08/2015
Report of the Closing conference	D.8	31/08/2015
Project notice boards	D.9	31/08/2012
Layman's report	D.10	28/02/2015

MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Milestone	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Steering Committee Established and operational	E.1	01/11/2011
Field teams for preparatory actions established and equipment purchased	A.1-2	31/12/2011
Fieldwork for preparatory actions begins	A.1-2	01/01/2012
Website established and operational	D.3	31/10/2011
Project exhibition established and operational	D.4	01/04/2012
Rat eradication operations begin	C.1	01/09/2012
Gull population control operations begin	C.2	01/09/2012
Construction of artificial nests and plantation of shrubs begins	C.3	01/09/2012
Revitalization of agricultural fields and construction of wildlife ponds begin	C.4	01/09/2012
Interventions at wetlands begin	C.5	01/09/2012
Construction and installation of mooring buoys begins	C.6	01/09/2012
Local Conservation Group and Wildlife First air centre established and operational	C.7	01/10/2012
SPA Management Scheme established and operational	C.8	01/09/2012
SPA Management Plan produced	A.1	28/02/2013
SPA Surveillance started	C.9	01/09/2013
Closing conference organized	D.8	01/07/2015

ACTIVITY REPORTS FORESEEN

Type of report	Deadline
Inception Report	31/05/2012
Mid-term with payment request	31/05/2013
Progress Reports n° 1	31/06/2014
Final Report with payment request	31/11/2015

FORM FA**Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA**

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Eligible Cost in €	% of total eligible costs
1. Personnel		591,631	32.76%
2. Travel and subsistence		184,550	10.22%
3. External assistance		448,300	24.83%
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	0	0	0.00%
Equipment	307,150	307,150	17.01%
Prototype	0	0	0.00%
5. Land purchase / long-term lease		20,000	1.11%
6. Consumables		75,800	4.20%
7. Other Costs		70,500	3.90%
8. Overheads		107,818	5.97%
TOTAL	1,805,749	1,805,749	100%

Contribution breakdown	In €	% of TOTAL	% total eligible costs
Requested European Union contribution	1,354,312	75.00%	75.00%
Coordinating Beneficiary's contribution	374,211	20.72%	
Associated Beneficiaries' contribution	77,226	4.28%	
Co-financers contribution	0	0.00%	
TOTAL	1,805,749	100.00%	

Please fill in the forms FC to F7 first. In these forms you are allowed to add lines but you cannot alter the formulae. In this form you are only requested to fill in the amount of the overheads

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

Important note: If the overheads cell appears in red, this means that the budgeted amount is above the maximum permitted 7% of the total eligible direct costs excluding land purchase and the overhead costs themselves.



LIFE +

***Nature and Biodiversity
Environmental Policy and Governance
Information and Communication***

2010 FINANCIAL APPLICATION FORMS

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

NOTES:

Please refer to guidelines for applicants when filling in this form

FORM FA**Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA**

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Eligible Cost in €	% of total eligible costs
1. Personnel		591,631	32.76%
2. Travel and subsistence		184,550	10.22%
3. External assistance		448,300	24.83%
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	0	0	0.00%
Equipment	307,150	307,150	17.01%
Prototype	0	0	0.00%
5. Land purchase / long-term lease		20,000	1.11%
6. Consumables		75,800	4.20%
7. Other Costs		70,500	3.90%
8. Overheads		107,818	5.97%
TOTAL	1,805,749	1,805,749	100%

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Important note: If the overheads cell appears in red, this means that the budgeted amount is above the maximum permitted 7% of the total eligible direct costs excluding land purchase and the overhead costs themselves.

FORM FB

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Breakdown of costs for Actions in Euro (excluding overhead costs)											
Action number	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel and subsistence	3. External assistance	4.a Infrastructure	4.b Equipment	4.c Prototype	5. Purchase or lease of land	6. Consumables	7. Other costs	TOTAL
A1	Setup of SPA Management	47,709	8,700	21,500		18,550		0	0	0	96,459
A2	Operational and technical planning of concrete actions	30,078	14,500	36,200		6,000		0	1,500	0	88,278
A3	Feasibility study for the SPA Management	2,999	0	15,000		0		0	0	0	17,999
B1	Land lease of agricultural land	2,440	0	0		0		20,000	0	0	22,440
C1	Rat eradications	51,535	24,500	24,800		5,500		0	25,800	0	132,135
C2	Gull population control	45,036	10,750	12,200		4,500		0	11,000	0	83,486
C3	Improvement of nesting site availability	31,178	18,200	14,200		13,500		0	8,000	0	85,078
C4	Restoration of traditional farming, improvement of chukar and pigeon populations	18,699	9,000	27,100		59,800		0	15,500	8,500	138,599
C5	Restoration of coastal wetlands	17,719	5,500	103,200		0		0	0	0	126,419
C6	Management of seabird foraging habitat	15,940	3,000	28,200		0		0	0	0	47,140
C7	Local Conservation Group and Wildlife First Aid Centre	30,998	8,000	26,600		16,000		0	6,000	0	87,598
C8	Operation of SPA Management Scheme	33,782	6,800	19,200		0		0	0	0	59,782
C9	Start-up of SPA surveillance-patrolling system	71,940	33,000	19,200		159,800		0	3,000	16,000	302,940
D1	Production of leaflets and album book	6,799	0	0		4,500		0	0	21,000	32,299
D2	Production of the Project DVD	1,325	0	15,000		9,500		0	500	0	26,325
D3	Production of the Project Website	3,975	0	20,000		0		0	0	0	23,975
D4	Project Exhibition at the Korthi Municipal Visitor Centre	12,099	0	10,000		5,000		0	2,500	0	29,599
D5	Environmental Education	3,975	2,000	8,000		0		0	0	16,500	30,475
D6	Stakeholder Meetings for Dissemination of Information	6,590	4,000	0		0		0	0	2,500	13,090
D7	Mass Media Information Dissemination and Press Releases	7,950	3,200	0		0		0	0	0	11,150
D8	LIFE+ Nature Project Closing Conference	8,565	6,300	0		0		0	0	5,000	19,865
D9	Production of notice boards	1,325	0	2,500		0		0	0	0	3,825
D10	Production of layman's report	1,325	0	0		0		0	0	1,000	2,325
E1	Overall project management	76,172	5,100	35,800		0		0	0	0	117,072
E2	Project monitoring	55,096	22,000	9,600		4,500		0	2,000	0	93,196
E3	Networking	6,380	0	0		0		0	0	0	6,380
E4	After-LIFE conservation plan	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	591,631	184,550	448,300	0	307,150	0	20,000	75,800	70,500	1,697,931

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM FC

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Coordinating Beneficiary's contribution					
Country code	Beneficiary n°	Beneficiary short name	Total costs of the actions in €	Beneficiary's own contribution in €	Amount of EC contribution requested in €
GR	1	Andros Municipality	1,033,489	374,211	659,278

Associated Beneficiaries' contribution					
Country code	Beneficiary n°	Beneficiary short name	Total costs of the actions in €	Associated beneficiary's own contribution in €	Amount of EC contribution requested in €
GR	2	HOS	178,886	17,889	160,997
GR	3	NCC	593,374	59,337	534,037
TOTAL			772,260	77,226	695,034

Co-financers contribution	
Co-financer's name	Amount of co-financing in €
TOTAL	0

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F1

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Direct Personnel costs

Beneficiary number	Action number	Type of contract	Category/Role in the project	Calculation =>		C = B/Productive days per month	A X B	% of total direct personnel costs for the project
				A	B			
				Daily rate (rounded to the nearest €)	Number of person-days		Direct personnel costs	
1	A1-2, B1, C1-9, D1-8, E1, E3-4	Temporary contract / full time	Project Director	170	688	38.4	117,132	19.80%
1	A1, D1-8, E1	Temporary contract / full time	Dissemination Coordinator	148	430	24	63,597	10.75%
1	A1-2, C1-7, C9, E2	Temporary contract / full time	Field Warden	123	860	48	105,600	17.85%
1	E1	Temporary contract / part time	Administration Assistant	89	120	6.7	10,752	1.82%
2	A1-2, C1-2, C7, D8, E1, E2	Temporary contract / part time	Project Ornithologist	184	305	17	56,100	9.48%
2	A1, C2	Temporary contract / part time	HOS Field Reserchers	145	45	2.5	6,499	1.10%
2	C7	Temporary contract / part time	Caretaker coordinator	145	107	6	15,598	2.64%
2	E1	Temporary contract / part time	HOS Administration Staff	123	50	2.8	6,161	1.04%
3	A1-3, C1-9, D1-4, D6, D7-8, E1-4	Temporary contract / full time	Scientific Coordinator	167	430	24	71,982	12.17%
3	A2, C1-3, E2	Temporary contract / part time	Islet Management Officer	145	555	31	80,591	13.62%
2	A2, C1-2, E2	Temporary contract / part time	Monitoring Officer	145	206	11.5	29,897	5.05%
3	A1-2	Temporary contract / part time	GIS/Data Manager	123	125	7	15,401	2.60%
3	E1	Temporary contract / part time	NCC Administration Staff	123	100	5.6	12,321	2.08%
TOTAL =>					4023	225	591,631	100%

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F2

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Travel and subsistence costs

Beneficiary number	Action number	Destination (From / To)	Outside EU (YES / NO)	Purpose of travel/number of trips and persons travelling, duration of trip (in days)	Calculation =>	A	B	A + B	
					Travel costs	Subsistence costs	Total travel and subsistence costs	% of total travel and subsistence costs	
2	A1	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork for assessment target species foraging habitats, vessel/vehicle, up to 10 visits, 1-2 days, 2-3 pax	2,000	1,200	3,200	1.73%	
3	A1	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork for assessment species colonies and telemetry, vessel/vehicle, at least 15 trips of 1-5 days, 2-3 pax	3,500	2,000	5,500	2.98%	
3	A2	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Travel for the assessment of colony sites, vessel & vehicle, 2 visit at all colony sites of 10 days, 2-3 pax	6,000	3,500	9,500	5.15%	
2	A2	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Travel for assessment of terrestrial and marine foraging areas, vessel/vehicle at least 1 trips of 10 days, 2-3pax	3,500	1,500	5,000	2.71%	
3	C1	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Rat eradication operations, vessel/vehicle, 3-12 pax, 23-33 field visits to at least 3 islet complexes of 1-5 days	16,000	7,000	23,000	12.46%	
2	C1	Athens to project sites	NO	Field work for rat eradication operations, vehicle/vessel, 1-2 pax, up to 3 field visits, 2-3 days	1,000	500	1,500	0.81%	
3	C2	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork for gull control operations, vehicle/vessel, 2-8 pax, 5 field visits at every sites, 3-6 days	6,000	2,500	8,500	4.61%	
2	C2	Athens to project sites	NO	Fieldwork for gull control operations, vehicle/vessel, 1-2 pax, 5 field visits, 1-4 days	750	1,500	2,250	1.22%	
1	C3	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork for shrub plantation and artificial nesting sites, vehicle/vessel, 2-6 pax & volunteers, at least 50 field visits, 1-3 days	11,200	5,000	16,200	8.78%	
3	C3	Athens to Andros	NO	Cultivation of fields, vehicle & tractor, up to 200 daily trips	1,000	1,000	2,000	1.08%	
1	C4	Andros to project sites	NO	Cultivation of fields, vehicle & tractor, up to 200 daily trips	6,000		6,000	3.25%	
3	C4	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork, at least 8 visits, 1 pax, vehicle, 1-2 days	2,000	1,000	3,000	1.63%	
1	C5	Andros to project sites	NO	Fieldwork, at least 20 visits, vehicle, 2-5 pax	2,500		2,500	1.35%	
3	C5	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Fieldwork, at least 8 visits, 1 pax, vehicle, 1-2 days	2,000	1,000	3,000	1.63%	
1	C6	Andros to project sites	NO	Installation of mooring buoys, vessel/vehicle, at least 10 field visits, 2-5 pax, 1 day	3,000		3,000	1.63%	
2	C7	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Work of LCG, at least 12 trips, 1-10 pax, vehicle / vessel, 1 day	5,000	3,000	8,000	4.33%	
1	C9	Andros to project sites	NO	Surveillance fieldwork, 1 fieldtrip with vessel & 3 field trips with vehicle per week for 2 years, 2-4 pax, 1 day	33,000		33,000	17.88%	
1	C8	To Andros and project sites	NO	Operation of the Management Scheme, at least 6 visits, 2-4 pax, 1-2 days	3,000	1,500	4,500	2.44%	
3	C8	To Andros	NO	Operation of the Management Scheme, at least 10 visits, 1-2 pax, 1-2 days	1,500	800	2,300	1.25%	
1	D5	Athens to Andros and on Andros	NO	Implementation of Env. Education, vehicle, 2-3 pax, 1 day, up to 20 visits	2,000		2,000	1.08%	
1	D6	To and on Andros	NO	Stakeholder meetings, at least 15 visits, 1 days, 2-5 pax	2,500	1,500	4,000	2.17%	
1	D7	Andros, Athens, N. Cyclades	NO	Mass media dissemination, at least 20 trips, 1-2 days, 1-2 pax	2,000	1,200	3,200	1.73%	
1	D8	From Greece and abroad to workshop venue	NO	Travel to conference venue for 30 people (tickets 150€ per person, accomodation at 60€ for 1-2 days)	4,500	1,800	6,300	3.41%	
2	E1	To Andros	NO	Project coordination and coordination meetings, at least 2 trips annually, 1-2 pax, 1-2 days	1,200	700	1,900	1.03%	
3	E1	To Andros	NO	Project coordination and coordination meetings, at least 2 trips annually, 2-3 pax, 1-2 days	2,000	1,200	3,200	1.73%	
3	E2	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Monitoring fieldwork, vessel/vehicle, at least 40 trips of 1-3 days, 1-3 pax	8,000	3,000	11,000	5.96%	
2	E2	Athens to project sites and in project area	NO	Monitoring fieldwork, vessel/vehicle, at least 40 trips of 1-3 days, 2-3 pax	8,000	3,000	11,000	5.96%	
TOTAL =>					139,150	45,400	184,550	100%	

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F3

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

External assistance costs

Beneficiary number	Action number	Procedure	Description	Costs (€)	% of total external assistance costs
3	A1	Direct treaty	NCC Field reserchers and external experts (Zoologist, Agricultural expert)	16,700	3.73%
2	A1, A2	Direct treaty	HOS Field Researchers	9,600	2.14%
3	A2	Direct treaty	Field Researchers and external experts (wetland ecologist, wetland engineer, landscape planner, forester, soil ecologist, plant ecologist)	31,400	7.00%
3	A3	Direct treaty	External experts (environemntal economics, ecotourism and socioeconomics)	15,000	3.35%
3	C1	Direct treaty	Field researchers and field workers	21,600	4.82%
1	C1-9	Public tender	Management Officer	57,600	12.85%
3	C2	Direct treaty	Field workers for gull population control	9,000	2.01%
3	C3	Direct treaty	Construction of artificial nesting sites	7,000	1.56%
3	C3	Direct treaty	Field workers for installation of artificial nests and plantation of endemic shrubs	4,000	0.89%
1	C4	Public tender	Agricultural expert	5,400	1.20%
1	C4	Public tender	Creation of wildlife ponds	5,000	1.12%
1	C4	Public tender	Field workers for field cultivation and pigeon lofts' operation	6,000	1.34%
3	C4	Public tender	Restoration of 3 pigeon towers	7,500	1.67%
1	C5	Public tender	Interventions for wetland restorations and artificial ponds: Earthworks	46,000	10.26%
1	C5	Public tender	Interventions for wetland restorations and artificial ponds: installation of sluices and other water control structures	20,000	4.46%
1	C5	Public tender	Interventions for wetland restorations and artificial ponds: creation of earth dams and dikes	24,000	5.35%
1	C5	Public tender	Interventions for wetland restorations and artificial ponds: habitat creation (mainly planting – enhancement of native wetland plants)	10,000	2.23%
1	C6	Public tender	Construction and installation of mooring buoys	25,000	5.58%
1	C7	Public tender	Construction of bird cages and kennels	5,000	1.12%
3	C7	Direct treaty	Wildlife rehabilitation expert assistance (ANIMA)	9,000	2.01%
1	D1	Public tender	Production of notice boards (10)	2,500	0.56%
3	D2	Public tender	Production of a documentary	15,000	3.35%
1	D3	Public tender	Creation and maintainance of project website	20,000	4.46%
1	D4	Public tender	Photographs for information material	2,000	0.45%
3	D4	Public tender	Production of exhibition panels and material	8,000	1.78%
1	D5	Public tender	Expert assistance in production of Environmental Education Kit	2,000	0.45%
2	D5	Public tender	HOS Environmental education Staff	3,000	0.67%
3	D5	Direct treaty	NCC Environmental education Staff	3,000	0.67%
1	E1	Public tender	External audit	7,000	1.56%
3	E2	Direct treaty	NCC Field Ornithologists	9,600	2.14%
1	C7	Public tender	Rental of a house for Wildlife First Aid Centre (for 2 years)	12,600	2.81%
1	E1	Public tender	House rental for project personnel	28,800	6.42%
TOTAL =>				448,300	100%

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F4 b

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Durable goods: Equipment costs

Beneficiary number	Action number	Procedure	Description	Actual cost	Depreciation (eligible cost)	% of total Equipment costs
1	C4	Public tender	4X4 vehicle	30,000	30,000	9.77%
1	C3	Direct treaty	500l water tank for the boat	2,000	2,000	0.65%
1	C9	Public tender	All weather speed boat (expected number of boat-use days is 439days)	140,000	140,000	45.58%
1	C9	Public tender	Base VHF communication equipment	500	500	0.16%
2	A2	Direct treaty	Binoculars (2)	1,000	1,000	0.33%
3	A2	Direct treaty	Binoculars (2)	1,000	1,000	0.33%
1	C7, C9	Direct treaty	Binoculars (10 medium quality binoculars at 400€/pcs for volunteers of LCG and 2 high quality binoculars for Municipality project personnel 500€/pcs)	5,000	5,000	1.63%
1	C9	Public tender	Boat equipment (GPS Plotter, Radar, VHF Communication)	7,000	7,000	2.28%
3	A2	Direct treaty	Cages, traps for rats	500	500	0.16%
1	C9	Public tender	Car VHF communication equipment	500	500	0.16%
1	C9	Direct treaty	Compact water-proof camera	1,500	1,500	0.49%
1	C3	Direct treaty	Construction equipment	2,500	2,500	0.81%
3	A1	Direct treaty	Desktop computer (1)	2,000	2,000	0.65%
1	A1, D1	Public tender	Desktop computers (2)	4,300	4,300	1.40%
3	A2	Direct treaty	Diet sampling equipment	1,000	1,000	0.33%
2	C7, E2	Direct treaty	Field laptop computers (1 laptop for LCG coordinator, 1 laptop for project monitoring)	4,000	4,000	1.30%
1	C4, C9	Public tender	Field laptop computers (2)	4,600	4,600	1.50%
3	C1, C2	Direct treaty	Field laptop computers (2)	4,000	4,000	1.30%
3	A1	Direct treaty	GIS software	6,000	6,000	1.95%
2	E2	Direct treaty	GPS (1)	500	500	0.16%
1	C9	Public tender	GPS (2)	1,000	1,000	0.33%
3	A2, C1, C2	Direct treaty	GPS (3)	1,500	1,500	0.49%
3	C2	Direct treaty	Gull control field equipment	2,000	2,000	0.65%
1	D2	Public tender	High Definition Video Cameras	9,500	9,500	3.09%
1	D1	Public tender	High quality photographic camera	2,500	2,500	0.81%
1	D4	Direct treaty	Korthi exhibition equipment	5,000	5,000	1.63%
3	C3	Direct treaty	Nest cameras (3)	7,500	7,500	2.44%
1	C9	Direct treaty	Night vision binoculars	5,000	5,000	1.63%
1	C9	Direct treaty	Portable VHF communication equipment	1,000	1,000	0.33%
3	C1	Direct treaty	Rat eradication field equipment	3,000	3,000	0.98%
1	C4	Public tender	Small tractor	14,000	14,000	4.56%
1	C4	Public tender	Solar Electric fence systems (3)	7,500	7,500	2.44%
3	A2	Public tender	Telescope (1)	2,000	2,000	0.65%
2	E2	Public tender	Telescope (1)	2,000	2,000	0.65%
3	A1	Public tender	VHF transmitters (30) & tracking equipment	8,250	8,250	2.69%
1	C3	Direct treaty	Water pump	1,500	1,500	0.49%
1	C7	Direct treaty	Wildlife First Aid Centre Equipment including surgical tools and dishes, one (1) incubator for weak birds and nestlings, one (1) high precision, weighing scale, Infrared lamps for heating, five (5) electric heating pads, two (2) cupboards with drawers for medicines, medical consumables and equipment, one(1) electric heater (for winter), one (1) air conditioner, table lamps, one(1) stationary small surgical table, four (4) chairs, one (1) table, 10 small, 10 medium and 2 large pet porters	10,000	10,000	3.26%
1	C4	Public tender	Lease of agricultural equipment	6,000	6,000	1.95%
TOTAL =>				307,150	307,150	100%

Please refer to articles 25.6 to 25.9 of the Common Provisions to see if the equipment in question is subject to depreciation and what depreciation rates should be applied

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F5

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Land purchase or long-term lease of land / use rights

Calculation =>			A	B	C	(A x B) + C		
Beneficiary number	Action number	Description of land purchase / long-term lease / one-off compensation	Estimated cost per hectare (rounded to the nearest €)	Area (hectares)	Associated charges (€)	Expected cost (€)	% of total land purchase/lease costs	
1	B1	Farming land for revitalization of farming practices	2,000	10		20,000	100.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
						0	0.00%	
TOTAL =>						0	20,000	100%

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F6

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Consumables

Beneficiary number	Action number	Procedure	Description	Cost (€)	% of total Consumable costs
	3 A2	Direct treaty	Sampling materials	1,000	1.32%
	3 A2	Direct treaty	Fieldwork material	500	0.66%
	3 C1	Public tender	Bait for rat eradication	15,000	19.79%
	3 C1	Public tender	Bait stations	10,800	14.25%
	3 C2	Direct treaty	Material for gull control	11,000	14.51%
	3 C3	Direct treaty	Material for artificial nests	6,000	7.92%
	3 C3	Direct treaty	Pistache cuttings	2,000	2.64%
	1 C4	Direct treaty	Seeds and other material for crop cultivation	5,000	6.60%
	1 C4	Direct treaty	Pigeon fodder and dead rabbits for H. fasciatus	10,000	13.19%
	1 C4	Direct treaty	Electric fence wire	2,000	2.64%
	1 C7	Public tender	Consumables for Wildlife First Aid Centre (medical consumable & bird fodder for 2 years): Food and medical consumables for 2 year pilot operation, including costs for (A) Medical consumables: medicines and surgical consumables, gauzes, catheters (for feeding) etc, (B) Rehabilitation consumables: cloths, cardboard boxes, paper towels, water bowls and (C) Bird fodder: meat, fish, seeds, vegetables for patients in the first aid centre.	3,500	4.62%
	2 C7	Direct treaty	Consumable material for volunteers	3,000	3.96%
	1 C9	Public tender	Boat Safety equipment	1,000	1.32%
	3 D2	Direct treaty	Video/photo consumable material	500	0.66%
	1 D4	Direct treaty	Material for project exhibition	2,500	3.30%
	3 E2	Direct treaty	Field and sampling material for project monitoring	2,000	2.64%
TOTAL =>				75,800	100%

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms

FORM F7

Proposal acronym: ANDROSSPA

Other costs

Beneficiary number	Action number	Procedure	Description	Costs	% of total Other costs
			Bank guarantee		0.00%
					0.00%
1	C4	Public tender	Rental of pigeon loft (for 2 years)	4,000	5.67%
1	C4	Public tender	Car and agricultural equipment maintainance and	4,500	6.38%
1	C9	Public tender	Boat maintainance and insurance (Municipality)	16,000	22.70%
1	D1	Public tender	Production of leaflets (10000)	4,000	5.67%
3	D1	Public tender	Production of album book (2000)	17,000	24.11%
1	D1	Public tender	Production of layman's report (200)	1,000	1.42%
3	D5	Direct treaty	Production of environmental education kit	16,500	23.40%
1	D6	Public tender	Cost of meeting halls	2,500	3.55%
1	D8	Public tender	Cost of a conference hall	5,000	7.09%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
					0.00%
TOTAL =>				70,500	100%

Please refer to the relevant instructions given in the explanatory notes for filling in these forms