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The Project LIFE–Nature (ElClimA) for the protection of Eleonora's Falcon against the impacts of climate change

2nd year of implementation

Improving knowledge and taking action for Eleonora's falcon

In the framework of the LIFE ElClimA project actions for the adaptation of Eleonora's falcon to the upcoming climate change are being carried out, including activities aiming at the improvement of knowledge about the species ecology, as well as the improvement of its nesting sites.



Construction of artificial nests on Makares islets.
© HOS/ N. Tsiopelas.

In springtime, conservation actions for the improvement of Eleonora's falcon breeding habitat began on Makares islets (Mikres Cyclades) and Antikythera Island, including the construction of artificial nests and eradication of terrestrial predators. These sites host 5% of the breeding population of Eleonora's falcon in Greece.

More about the conservation actions in [Antikythera Island](#) and [Makares islets](#).



Woodchat shrike tagged with transmitter and a combination of metal and colour rings.
© Antikythera Bird Observatory (ABO)/ Ch. Barboutis.

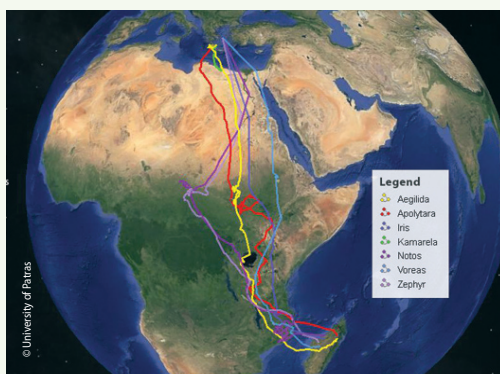
During autumn 2015 and spring 2016, field work activities concerning the study of the refuelling pattern of migratory passerines were conducted on Antikythera Island, an important stopover area during migration. The corresponding results based on data collected for the Woodchat shrike, one of Eleonora's falcon main prey, were presented at a scientific conference.

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Last summer population census activities were carried out at Eleonora's falcon breeding colonies at the project areas. The fieldwork activities will be completed in the upcoming breeding period; the data collected will be analyzed in order to investigate the causes that have led to population changes over the past years.



Censusing Eleonora's falcon breeding population.
© HOS/ D. Alagialis.



The Eleonora's falcons journey to Madagascar.
© University of Patras.

The project team followed the exciting journey of three Eleonora's falcons to Madagascar with the aid of special GPS loggers that were fitted to female individuals reproducing in the region of Antikythera Island last summer.

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Preparation for passing over a ramshackle bridge to access a remote area in Madagascar.

© Th. Hadjikyriakou.

The LIFE ElClimA project contributed to the realization of a special mission to Madagascar, the main wintering area of Eleonora's falcon, aiming - among others - at the mapping of the habitats being used by the species and the main threats the species faces there.

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Discovering the project areas

The LIFE ElClimA project is implemented in 7 areas of the Aegean Sea. Among these the Antikythera Island and the Gramvousa Peninsula together with their surrounding islets, host 1,000 breeding pairs of Eleonora's falcon.

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Antikythera Island is also home to **Antikythera Bird Observatory** of the Hellenic Ornithological Society.



Antikythera.

© HOS/ A. Evangelidis.

Networking



Visit to Makares islets with the vessel "Calypso" of Andros LIFE project.

© NCC.

The Andros LIFE project (**ANDROSSPA** www.androslife.gr) and the LIFE ElClimA project held their first joint action in April. The project team carried out a visit to the islets of Andros and Mikres Cyclades with the vessel "Calypso" of Andros LIFE project, where conservation actions are taking place for the control of population of terrestrial predators and the construction of artificial nests for Eleonora's falcon.

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Stories from the field

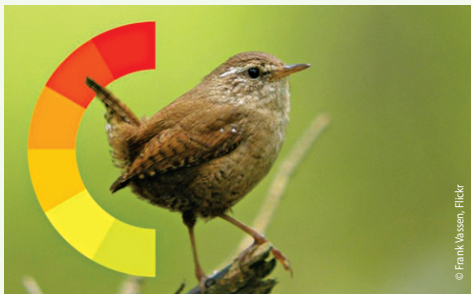
"We don't mess around with the wind. In April, the field team of the Hellenic Ornithological Society had the privilege to admire the power of nature during the construction of artificial nests for Eleonora's falcons, on the steep coast of Antikythera"

Nikos Tsiopelas, HOS-BirdLife Greece.



Antikythera.
© HOS/ N. Tsiopelas.

Climate change and biodiversity



Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).
© Frank Vassen, Flickr.

New study provides further evidence that common birds are powerful indicators of threats deriving from climate change. From Europe to the US population comparison analyses confirm scientists's predictions, with declining trends being more severe for bird species living in colder environments.

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Eleonora's falcon factsheet



Eleonora's falcons are mainly insectivorous birds. However, during the period they raise their chicks they feed mainly on migratory passerines that fly over their breeding colonies.



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The falcons create a "wall" over the sea and their breeding colony in search of passerines. The falcons are especially active at dawn and dusk, as the passerines migrate mainly at night. This is when spectacular air fights take place a few centimeters above sea level, as the passerines try to escape from their persecutors.

Interesting websites

LIFE Project "Conservation Measures for Falco eleonora in Greece" (LIFE 03NAT/GR/000091)

You can help!

- If you find yourself on an uninhabited islet keep in mind **a few simple tips**.
- If you are a farmer, protect your harvest, contributing also to the protection of the environment through the **application of simple methods**.

*This informational material was developed in the frame of a LIFE project implemented in the past in the Aegean Sea for the **Eleonora's falcon**.*

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For more information visit the website

www.lifefalcoeleonora.gr

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