



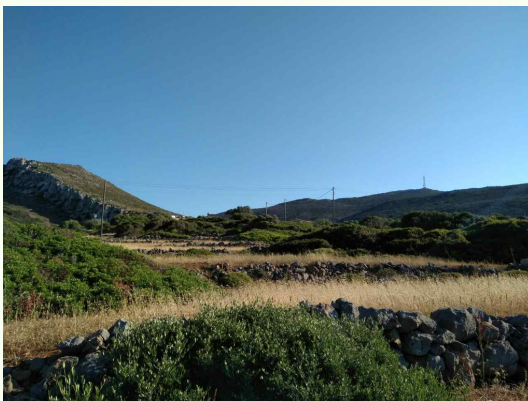
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## The Project LIFE–Nature (ElClimA) for the protection of Eleonora's Falcon against the impacts of climate change

### 3rd 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.*

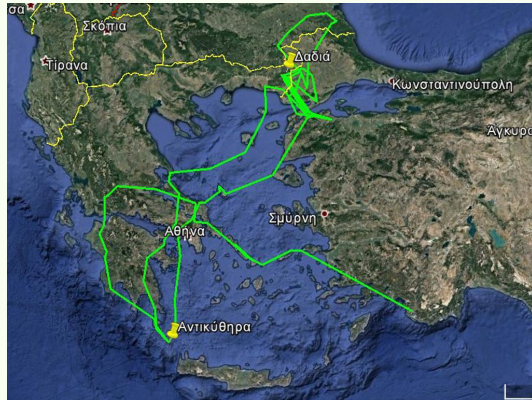


*Reformation of abandoned arable areas on Antikythera; one of the favorite foraging habitats for Eleonora's falcon.*

*Copyright N.Tsiopelas/HOS-BirdLife Greece.*

The Eleonora's falcons when arriving from their remote wintering areas and in view of the beginning of the breeding season seem to choose their feeding areas! According to the latest fieldwork results carried out during spring on Antikythera over the past three years, the highest concentrations of falcons were recorded at arable land.

[More](#)



*Plagara's journey.  
Copyright HOS-BirdLife Greece.*

A well-hidden secret of Eleonora's falcon began to unfold thanks to telemetry techniques: its impressive movements from the islets where it nests to the mainland prior to the breeding season in quest of insects.

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*Fieldwork preparations at the pier for the placement of bait stations on the islets.  
Copyright P. Baxevani.*

The rat eradication that was launched at the end of 2016 has reached its final stage of implementation on Dionysades islands. This is the largest corresponding action that has ever been carried out in Greece, encompassing an area of over 600 hectares.

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The LIFE EIClimA project team participated in the 3rd international conference on invasive species in islands "Island Invasives Conference 2017" that took place in Scotland (10-14 July 2017), where it presented the results of the rat eradication operations that have been carried out to date.

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*Aerial photograph of the farmland.  
Copyright HOS-BirdLife Greece.*

The “refueling oasis” of 1,3 hectares is being created on Antikythera, by turning a farmland, which was uncultivated for several decades, into a fertile and productive place. It is the second time that private land is being acquired through a LIFE project in Greece to solely protect local biodiversity.

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*Construction of artificial stone nests on  
Dionysades.  
Copyright J. Fric/NCC.*

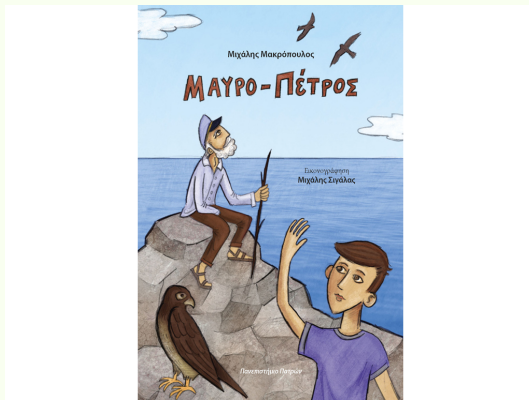
The construction of artificial nests continued this year with the installation of additional nests on Dionysades and Antikythera.



*“Eleonora’s falcons”, messengers for the climate in  
Kissamos, Crete.  
Copyright E. Panoriou/HOS-BirdLife Greece.*

The environmental education material entitled “Feathered Climate Messengers” was produced by the environmental education team of the project. The team has already visited two project areas on Crete and conveyed the message to over 1,000 students.

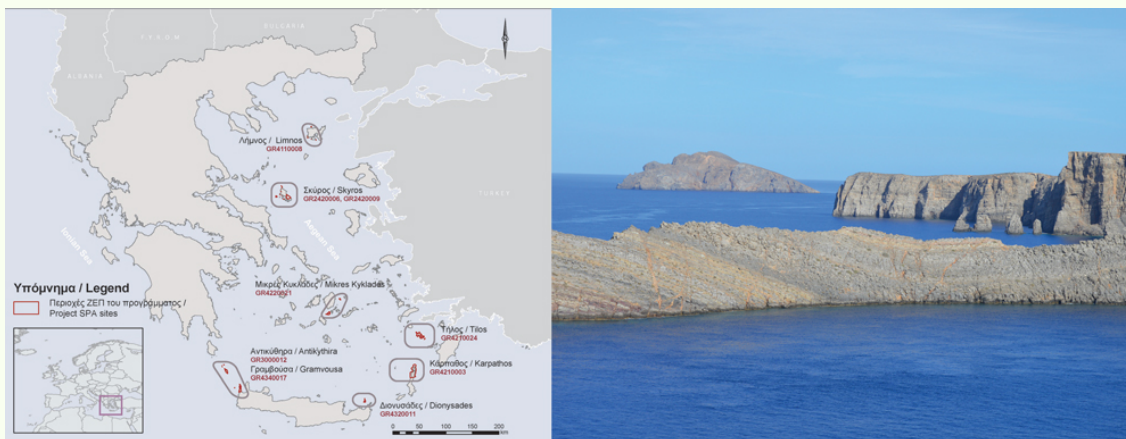
[More, Environmental education kit](#) (in Greek)



«Mavro-petros», a very interesting novella about the Eleonora’s falcon by the writer Michalis Makropoulos has been published and will be distributed to students, contributing to their awareness related to the species, but also to social issues.

[More](#) (in Greek)

## Discovering the project areas



*Dionysades islets.  
Copyright P. Baxevani.*

The EU LIFE project is implemented in 7 different areas of the Aegean Sea.

One of those is the Dionysades islets, a complex of hard to reach islands located at the northeastern tip of Crete, hosting 600 pairs of Eleonora’s falcons.

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## Interesting websites

EU LIFE Project “The ecological services, social benefits and economic value of ecosystem services in Natura 2000 sites in Crete, Greece” ([LIFE13 INF/GR/000188](#))

[Project Documentary](#)

## Stories from the field



*Trekking shoes before and after the first month of field work on the islands.  
Copyright J.Fric/NCC.*

*“The rat eradication operation on Dionysades islets was of the most challenging field work I have ever implemented on an islet featuring high risk and difficulty. In fact we wear out the soles of our shoes in every field visit to the islets covering hundreds of kilometers on foot.”*

Jakob Fric, NCC

## Climate change and biodiversity



*Meadow pipits have disappeared from sites in the south of England.  
Copyright Alamy Stock Photo.*

According to a recent study it is estimated that bird species vanish from UK due to climate change and habitat loss. Rising temperatures and crop farming mean birds are disappearing from parts of England.

[More](#)

## 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](#)\*.
- If you are a teacher or parent, play with kids teaching them about Eleonora’s falcon and its life on the islets of the Aegean Sea utilizing the environmental education kits “[Feathered messengers for the climate](#)” and “[The Eleonora's falcon takes us on a voyage in the Aegean](#)” (both in Greek).\*

*\*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](#).*

## Eleonora's falcon Factsheet

### Eleonora's Falcon The Pirate of the Aegean

The heart of birds is beating faster than the humans', approx. 600-900 heartbeats/minute.

It has strikingly long tail and very long wings.

Its length is 36-42 cm and its wingspan 84-105 cm.

It can turn its head for 340°.

It has a "tooth" on its beak, like all falcons, for the immobilization of its prey.

It is named after Eleonor of Arborea, a 14th century judge at Sardinia, the first to legislate protection of the species and other raptors.

in Greece  
**300** islands and islets  
**15,000** pairs

85% of the global population breeds at the Aegean islands

Common Name: Mavropetritis  
Local Names: Varvaki, Koustogerako, Thalassogerako, Falkoni

Overwinters in Madagascar

It stashes prey for future consumption, when the weather gets bad and the migratory bird flow halts.

It hunts in groups creating a "net" over the sea near its colony.

The Eleonora's falcons hunt during fullmoon taking advantage of the nocturnal migration.

The youngest sibling can become prey in periods of low prey availability.

It is protected under the Birds' Directive.

[www.lifefalcoeleonora.gr](http://www.lifefalcoeleonora.gr)
[www.facebook.com/lifeelclima](https://www.facebook.com/lifeelclima)

"The project is implemented by the University of Patras, in cooperation with the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the environmental consulting company NCC, with the contribution of the financial instrument LIFE + of the European Union and the Green Fund"

[www.lifefalcoeleonora.gr](http://www.lifefalcoeleonora.gr)
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