

## MARINE SPECIES - THREATS

The main pressures for the marine species on Andros are the presence of marine debris, mainly plastic, as well as any abandoned fishing gear at sea, marine caves, the coast and beaches, which can lead to their entanglement, injury or even death, as well as the interaction with fishermen, which affect both fisheries and seals.

The main threats for the seabirds on the islets they breed on have been addressed by the previous LIFE project implemented on Andros, ANDROSSPA. The same project has set the basis for the study, protection and surveillance of the protected areas and species of Andros Island, through a management plan, equipment acquisition and trained personnel.



## MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL

Mediterranean monk seals swim and hunt in the sea surrounding the Andros Island, while its marine caves are used for resting and pupping of their young. The neighboring island of Gyaros hosts the largest species population in the Mediterranean Sea and seals from there visit Andros to feed. It is the rarest seal species on earth.



## SEABIRDS

The Mediterranean Shag and the Audouin's Gull form colonies and nest on the islets of Andros. The former feeds on fish by making long dives, while the latter feeds on the sea surface. Andros hosts one of the five largest populations of the Mediterranean Shag in Greece, while the presence of the Audouin's Gull colony is also important, as it hosts the largest population of the species in Northern Cyclades.

The alder forests (habitat 91E0) and the marine species being in danger of extinction makes their conservation a priority at the European level.



## VISIT US

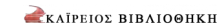
At the Information Center at Korthi, +302282062319.  
At the project's Botanical Garden at Apoikia, Agadaki Estate.  
At the Municipality's summer kiosks at Chora and Gavrio.

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union.

### Coordinator



### Beneficiaries



## THE PROJECT LIFE16 NAT/GR/000606



"CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY SPECIES AND HABITATS OF ANDROS ISLAND PROTECTED AREA INTEGRATING SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS"

[www.life-andros-park.gr](http://www.life-andros-park.gr)  
[facebook.com/LifeAndrosPark](https://facebook.com/LifeAndrosPark)

# LIFE

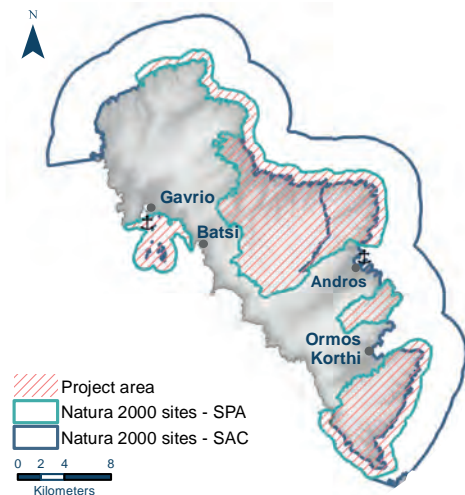
ANDROS PARK



A NEED FOR PROTECTION & OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN ANDROS ISLAND

## THE PROJECT AREA

Natura 2000 sites of Andros Island



**Andros is an island with rich biodiversity, while most of it is protected in European level. The LIFE Andros Park project seeks to promote and protect part of this natural wealth.**

### ALDER FORESTS

Alder forests grow at the valleys leading to Vori and Lefka bays, while small patches are also found along streams in other parts of the island. These are riparian forests with high diversity of plants and a few dozens of mushroom species.



### ALDER FORESTS - THREATS

About 40% of the alder forests on Andros have been destructed or degraded. The main threats for the alder forests are uncontrolled grazing, which hinders plantlets growth and consequently forest regeneration, as well as intensive flooding and erosion, as a result of wildfires on the slopes surrounding the streams, and terraces abandonment, leading to destruction of parts of the forests.

The Natura 2000 network is a European Ecological Network of sites that host habitats and species important at European level. It is the largest network of protected sites worldwide.



### DEALING WITH THREATS - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

The main objective of the LIFE Andros Park project is to deal with the pressures and threats the target species and habitat face, leading to the improvement of their status by means that will favor and create opportunities for the local community.

#### Restoration and protection of alder forests

- Planting of alder trees for the restoration of destroyed-degraded parts of the forests.
- Implementation of small-scale interventions to address wildfires, erosion and floods, as well as uncontrolled grazing, for the protection of the alder forests.
- Creation and maintenance of plant (and associated fungal) collections of dried and living specimens at the Agricultural University of Athens and at the Botanical Garden, which will be established at the village of Apoikia (Agadaki Estate), for the protection and conservation of plant and mushroom species found in alder forests.



### Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal and support of the fishermen in their efforts for a harmonic coexistence with the species

- Planning, in collaboration with fishermen, and implementation of voluntary seal-friendly fishing practices and their association with a local quality label for the promotion of local fishing products.
- Contribution to the development and promotion of the fishing tourism.

### Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal and seabirds

- Removal of plastic debris and any abandoned fishing gear from the sea, marine caves, islets and coastal areas.

