



The LIFE Project: Restoration and Management of Oroklini Lake Special Protection Area in Larnaca, Cyprus

Protecting the biodiversity richness of an important wetland

The project LIFE Oroklini (LIFE10NATCY716) brought together five beneficiaries to implement specific actions aimed at the restoration and management of Oroklini Lake. This groundbreaking project, co-funded by the European Union (LIFE+) for the environment, started in 2012 until 2014.

The LIFE Oroklini project consisted of both conservation and awareness-raising actions to tackle the pressures threatening this important wetland.

Conservation actions included:

- Fencing of the lake to prevent disturbance from motor vehicles and motorcycles that entered the lake during dry seasons
- Removal of invasive alien plant species
- Planting of native shrubs and trees
- Water management
- Restoration of an area where it had been destroyed by the operation of an illegal flea market

Public awareness-raising actions for the significance of the lake included:

- Installation of notice boards at the site
- Construction of a visitor information point with a hide for nature watching
- A photo competition for the production of a photo album with photos from Oroklini Lake “Oroklini Lake all through the year”
- Information material for schools and the wider public
- Video (documentary) on Oroklini Lake
- Volunteer-based ‘Clean Oroklini Day’

Oroklini Lake is an important wetland as it is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive, for the two qualifying bird species, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus Himantopus* and Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus spinosus*. The site is also classified as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for its halophytic marsh vegetation. Thus, according to the two European directives, Oroklini Lake belongs to European network of protected areas Natura

2000. Despite the protection status of the Oroklini Lake in recent years suffered from continuous degradation. LIFE Oroklini project was a board protection for the lake. More information on the lake and because is worth to visit the site, please click **here** (<http://www.voroklini.org/default.asp?id=239>).

INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT:

TITLE: 'Restoration and Management of Oroklini Lake SPA (CY6000010) in Larnaka, Cyprus'

CODE OF THE PROJECT: LIFE10 NAT CY 000716

BUDGET:

Total: € 797.070

50% co-funded by EU (€ 398.535)

PROJECT DURATION: 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2014

BENEFICIARIES:

Game Fund as lead beneficiary, BirdLife Cyprus as coordinator, the Environment Department, the Department of Forests and the Voroklini Community Council.

FUNDING:

LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Union

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information on the OROKLINI project please contact the project coordinator:

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The team involved in the everyday management of the project:

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Information Kiosk Officer: Margarita Agathokleous, Voroklini Community Council
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Aim of the project:

The main objective of the project is to bring the Oroklini Lake Special Protected Area (SPA) to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) in relation to the species for which the site was selected. The main target species are Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*.

In the framework of LIFE OROKLINI project Information Kiosk was built and has an officer.

The information kiosk becomes the focal point for visitors who wish to receive information on Oroklini Lake and its wildlife, as well as the LIFE Oroklini project. This is a great opportunity for schools and other interested groups to organize field trips to Oroklini Lake, watch the birds from the 3 meter high observation platform, learn more about this natural wetland and its wildlife and participate in educational activities coordinated by the Information Kiosk Officer.

The information kiosk open hours are Monday to Friday 08:30 – 15:00. However interested groups or individuals can contact the Information Kiosk Officer, Mrs Margarita Agathokleous on 97 819636 and arrange a visit outside these hours.

For more information about the project please visit the project website, www.orokliniproject.org.



Oroklini Lake, M. Apostolidou



Birdwatching on Oroklini Lake, M. Apostolidou