



LIFE09 NAT/GR/000343

Progress Report

Covering the project activities from 01/06/2011 to 31/08/2012

Reporting Date: 01/11/2012

“ACCOLAGOONS”

Data Project

Project location	Greece, Prefecture of Thessaloniki
Project start date:	01/10/2010
Project end date:	30/09/2013
Total budget	1.639.770,00€
EC contribution:	1.229.828,00€
(%) of eligible costs	75%

Data Beneficiary

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Executive summary

The progress report of ACCOLAGOONS project is aiming to provide up-to-date information regarding the progress of the project from 01/06/2011 to 31/08/2012 and the targets achieved within the reporting period. The ACCOLAGOONS project comprises a series of steps and actions for dealing with the relatively common threats (intense tourist activity, aquacultures, fisheries, intensive farming) and the degradation of Natura 2000 designated coastal sites in the lagoons of Epanomi and Aggelochori. The methodological approach implemented by the project will allow the development of optimum techniques and methods in order to deal with the following essential issues: the *Posidonia oceanica* beds degradation, the hydrological and ecological status deterioration of the lagoons, the management of intense recreation / tourist activities and the absence of stakeholder participation in actual management procedures.

The starting date of the project was 1/10/2010 and the total duration is 36 months. During the reporting period (01/06/2011 to 31/08/2012), six (6) out of the 19 Actions of the project have been completed successfully and on time according to the work schedule of the project. The completed actions are:

ACTION A.2: Management plan of the priority habitat type *1120 “*Posidonia* beds (*Posidonia oceanica*)” and of other marine habitat types of the project marine zone.

ACTION A.3: Restoration plan of the Epanomi Lagoon functions and the technical specifications to implement restoration.

ACTION A.4: Development and use of digital infrastructures for collection, processing and diffusion of pollution data in the study area.

ACTION A.5.: Management Plan of the breeding and resting habitats of priority / important bird species at both sites

ACTION A.6: Visitor management plan

ACTION A.7: Strategic Environmental Assessment

Furthermore and in accordance with the work-programme of the project, the implementation of 12 out of the 19 Actions of the project are under way. These actions are:

ACTION A.1: Sign of Memorandum of Understanding with land owners of the project area (site 1 & 2)

ACTION C.1: Installation of environmentally friendly moorings in coastal waters at both sites of the project.

ACTION C.2: Restoration of Epanomi Lagoon functions.

ACTION C.3: Litter removal from the Epanomi Lagoon area.

ACTION C.4: Environmental interpretation technical works

ACTION D.1: Publicity, Information material and dissemination actions

ACTION D.2: Establishment of stakeholders' e-Participation tool

ACTION E.1: Project organization and management

ACTION E.2: Establishment of a monitoring system for the marine habitat types

ACTION E.3: Monitoring of the water quality at sites 1 & 2 of the project area

ACTION E.4: Monitoring of bird and amphibian species and habitats

ACTION E.5: Networking with other projects

Concerning Action A1 & C1 for RCM and Action D.1 for ORTHE, although there is a delay in their implementation they are well under way.

In Action A1 the Memorandum of Understanding with land owners was signed by the Municipality of Thermaikos (<http://www.thermaikos.gr/default.aspx?lang=el-GR&loc=1&page=306&newsid=473>), but the signing by the Tourist Estate Company is still pending. It is expected to be signed by the end of 2012.

In Action C1: The call for tenders was released on 31/8/2012 (<http://www.pkm.gov.gr/default.aspx?lang=el-GR&page=62&proclid=483>) and in Action C.3: the call for tenders was released on 8/6/2012 (<http://www.pkm.gov.gr/default.aspx?lang=el-GR&page=160&proclid=432>) and on 27/6/2012 the evaluation of the offers was made. The contract will be signed during September 2012. However, a technical meeting with the contractor took place at the end of August and instructions were given to him about the execution of the works.

In terms of publicity (D1), an international call for tenders was launched and the outcome of its proceedings was approved by the Executive Committee of ORTHE with decision 5/9.14.6.2012. Although there was a delay in the implementation of the Action, ORTHE managed to overcome the difficulties and all the internal structure changes and a new timetable has been created with all the sub actions of D1 and is expected that the implementation of D1 will not face any further problems. (Annex 7.1).

Furthermore, the final version of the e-participation tool is available on the internet (<http://accolagoons.servehttp.com/>) (D2). A first presentation for the stakeholders will be done in the conference targeting the local community that will take place by the end of November 2012.

Finally, for the networking with other projects (E5), a list of relative LIFE projects and the first newsletter of the Project was prepared and is available on the website of the project.

Concluding, the ACCOLAGOONS project is well under way. Although minor modifications of the timetable for Action A1 C1,C3 & D1 are needed this does not affect the overall objectives and timeframe of the project.

General progress

The project includes 19 actions in total. The progress of implementation is the following:

- 12 actions (A1, C1, C2, C3, C4, D1, D2, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5) are under way,
- 6 actions (A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7) were completed successfully until 31/08/2012,

In terms of implementation status, from the 12 actions that are under way, there is a delay in 3 (A1, C1, D1), while 9 are implemented without any problems within the given timeframe of the project. The general progress of the project is characterized as good. The problems with Actions A4 and D1 that were identified in the previous reporting period have been resolved and it is expected that within the 2nd semester of 2012 the technical and financial aspects of the project will be balanced.