



LIFE09 NAT/GR/000343

Inception Report

Covering the project activities from 01/10/2010 to 01/06/2011

Reporting Date: 30/06/2011

“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 ACCOLAGOONS project comprises a series of steps and actions for dealing with the relatively common threats (intense tourist activity, aquaculture, 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 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 1/10/2011 and the total duration is 36 months. During the first reporting period (01/10/2010 to 01/06/2011) and according to the approved work plan, the implementation of 11 out of 19 Actions of the project was started.

These actions are:

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

ACTION A.2: Management plan of the priority habitat type *1120 "Posidonia beds (Posidonium oceanicae)" 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 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.3: Monitoring of the water quality at sites 1 & 2 of the project area

ACTION E.5: Networking with other projects

The above mentioned actions are underway and they are implemented according to the work programme of the project. The only exceptions are Actions A1 and A4 in which there is a delay in their implementation. More specific, during the first reporting period the management scheme of the project was established, and the partnership agreement among coordinating and associated beneficiaries was signed (E1). In Action A1 a Memorandum of Understanding with land owners of the project area was drafted but has not been signed yet due to the administrative reformation (Kallikratis) that took place in Greece after 1/1/2011. The partners proceeded in all the necessary

actions (collection of background information, field visits, measurements etc) for the development of the following studies which are under way according to the original workplan:

- Management plan of the priority habitat type "1120" and other marine habitats (A2)
- Restoration plan of the Epanomi Lagoon (A3)
- Management Plan of bird habitats (A5)
- Visitors Management Plan (A6)

The call for tenders for the establishment of the telemetric digital infrastructures for monitoring (A4) was prepared on time. However there was a considerable delay in the approval of the competition terms by the General Directorate of National Supplies. The final approval was given on 18-04-2011 and the tender was finally launched on 6/5/2011.

For the monitoring of the water quality (E3) the preparation of the monitoring protocol and guidelines are under way. Due to the delay in Action A4 the original plan was modified including more frequent and intense monitoring activities until the establishment of the telemetric stations.

In terms of publicity (D1), the web site of the project is already on-line, while the technical specifications of a call for tenders for the project's foreseen publicity activities were prepared. Furthermore, the first version of the e-participation tool is available on the internet (D2). Finally, for the networking with other projects (E5), a list of relative LIFE projects and the first newsletter of the Project were prepared. In addition, a protocol for the establishment and operation of the network is in the final stage awaiting the approval of the Scientific Committee.

Concluding, the ACCOLAGOONS project is well under way. Although minor modifications of the timetable for Actions A1 and A4 are necessary, these does not affect the overall objectives and timeframe of the project.

General progress

The project includes 19 actions, 11 of which are already underway according to the approved timetable of the project. More specifically:

- 8 actions (A1, A2, A3, A4, D1, D2, E1, E5) started in October 2010,
- 2 actions (A5, A6) started in January 2011,
- 1 action (E3) started in April 2011.

In terms of implementation status, from the 11 aforementioned actions there is a delay in 2 (A1 and A4) while 9 are implemented without any problems. The remaining actions of the project are expected to start on time according to the timetable of the project since no delays are foreseen so far. The general progress of the project at technical level is characterized as good. However, at financial level the expenses are lower than the expected due to the delay in Action A4. In any case, since the problem of A4 was resolved, it is expected that within the 2nd semester of 2011 the technical and financial aspects of the project will be balanced.