

Declaration of concern regarding the planned installation of wind power stations on Mount Kochylas (Skyros)

21 October 2022

To whom it may concern

We are writing you as scientists involved in the research, conservation and management of **Eleonora's falcon** worldwide.

Greece, being the country **hosting the vast majority of Eleonora's falcon global population**, has not only the responsibility, but also the opportunity to play a leading role in the conservation efforts for the species worldwide. In order to provide a secure future for this iconic raptor of the Mediterranean, **maintaining the quality of its breeding and foraging habitats is of the outmost importance.**

Recently, we were thoroughly informed by the Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece on the planned installation of six wind power stations of total installed capacity 299.6 MW (58 turbines) on Mount Kochylas in south Skyros island, an area known to host one of the biggest colonies of Eleonora's falcons in the world.

Under these circumstances we, hereby, would like to **express our serious concern regarding the anticipated impacts on the species**, as the proposed planning of the project lies in the heart of the principal foraging field of the local colony and in very close proximity with their breeding grounds. Therefore, we consider the implementation of the wind farm project to be **detrimental for the conservation of the local Eleonora's falcon colony**, as well as incompatible with the status of the area as a NATURA 2000 site (Special Conservation Area), designated as such due to its significance for Eleonora's falcon.

Sincerely,

- Dr. Alberto **Badami**, Eleonora's Falcon Action Plan, Italy
- Dr. Christos **Barboutis**, Bird Migration Specialist, Antikythira Bird Observatory, Greece
- Dr. Wolfgang **Fiedler** (Präsident) c/o Max-Planck-Institut für Verhaltensbiologie, Germany
- Dr. Jordi **Figuerola**, Department of Wetland Ecology, Estación Biológica Doñana, Spain
- Dr. Johannes **Foufopoulos**, Associate Professor School for Environment and Sustainability University of Michigan, USA
- Dr. Laura **Gangoso**, Associate Professor, Department of Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution, Faculty of Biology, Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- Dr. Sinos **Giokas**, Professor, Dept. of Biology, University of Patras, Greece

- Dr. Marion **Gschweng**, Concepts for Conservation, Director, Berghülen, Germany
- Mr. Marco **Gustin**, Responsabile Specie e Ricerca, Lipu - BirdLife Italia, Italy
- Dr. Thomas **Hadjikyriakou**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Cyprus, Cyprus
- Dr. Hakan **Karaardıç**, Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University, Alanya, Antalya, Türkiye.
- Dr. Christina **Kassara**, Research assistant, University of Patras, Greece
- Dr. Alexander N. G. **Kirschel**, Associate Professor and Vice Chair, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Cyprus, Cyprus
- Dr. Pascual **López López**, Profesor Titular, Universidad de Valencia, Spain
- Dr. Ugo **Mellone**, Mediterranean Raptor Migration Network
- Dr. Aymen **Nefla**, Doctor of Ecology, Researcher at University of Tunis El Manar
- Dr. Ortaç **Onmuş**, PhD - Assoc. Prof., Ornithologist, Ecologist, Conservation Biologist, Natural History Museum, Research and Application Center, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology, Ege University, Turkey
- Mr. Gvido **Piasevoli**, senior adviser Public Institution "Sea and karst" Split, Croatia
- Dr. Abdeljebbar **Qninba**, Enseignant-chercheur, Institut Scientifique, Université Mohammed v de Rabat, Morocco
- Mr. Lily-Arison **Rene de Roland**, Madagascar Project National Director, The Peregrine Fund
- Dr. Dietrich **Ristow**, Compiler of the EU Action Plan for Eleonora's Falcon, Neubiberg/Germany
- Prof. Boudjéma **Samraoui**, University Badji Mokhtar, Annaba, Algeria
- Dr. Vlatka **Šćetarić**, NGO "Eleonora", Croatia
- Prof. Dr. Vicente **Urios**, Catedrático de Zoología, Director del Grupo de Investigación Zoología de Vertebrados, Universidad de Alicante, Spain
- Dr. Wouter **Vansteelant**, postdoctoral MAVA-fellow at University of Groningen (the Netherlands)
- Prof. Dr. Martin **Wikelski**, Director, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, Germany
- Prof. Dr Michael **Wink**, Senior professor, Heidelberg University, Germany