

Project LIFE Artina

Seabird Conservation Network in the Adriatic

PROJECT OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

Create the preconditions for the designation of new marine special protection areas (SPAs) in Croatia in order to address the main problems in conservation of target seabird species.

PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

Identify marine SPAs at sea in the southern part of Croatia for the Audouin's Gull, the Scopoli's Shearwater and Yelkouan Shearwater.

Understand and assess the main threats affecting seabird populations on land and at sea in the project area and define actions to mitigate them.

Eradicate alien terrestrial invasive species (ship rats) that negatively impact on Shearwater breeding colonies and control Yellow-legged Gull population at breeding sites of Audouin's Gulls.

SEPTEMBER 1ST 2018 - AUGUST 31ST 2023

Project duration

1.921.387 €

Total project budget

EU LIFE Programme financial contribution

1.152.832 € / 60% of the total project budget

Agreement number:
LIFE17 NAT/HR/000594



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PROJECT LEADER



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Today, seabirds like Yelkouan Shearwater, Scopoli's Shearwater and Audouin's Gull are considered to be one of the most endangered bird species in the world. The reason is mainly the destruction of breeding habitats by introducing alien mammal species into these areas.

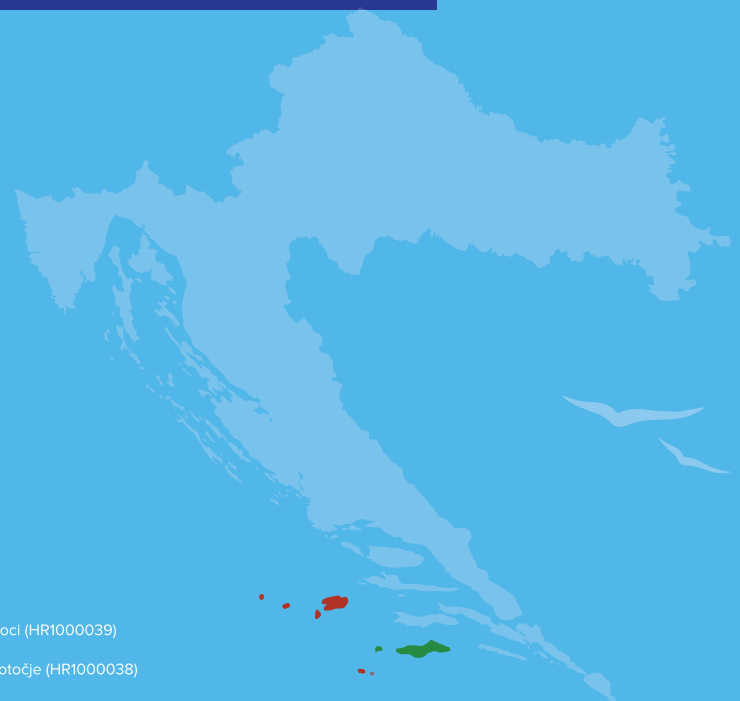
Project LIFE Artina is project is designed in order to improve the protection of seabirds in Croatia. This will enable them to survive when more and more species are going extinct. Future of birds depend on us and on our actions starting from today.

Project area: Vis archipelago, Lastovo archipelago, Palagruža archipelago. Project area covers two areas of the ecological network, special protection areas for birds (SPAs): SPA Lastovsko otočje and SPA Pučinski otoci. The project area was chosen for its importance for endangered seabird species: **Audouin's Gull, Yelkouan Shearwater and Scopoli's Shearwater.**

Project area

Legend

- SPA Pučinski otoci (HR1000039)
- SPA Lastovsko otočje (HR1000038)



T A R G E T S P E C I E S

Yelkouan Shearwater
PUFFINUS YELKOUAN



Number of pairs
300-400

Yelkouan Shearwater is the Mediterranean endemic species, which means it doesn't nest anywhere outside it. In Croatia only 300 – 400 pairs nest, mainly in the Lastovo island archipelago. Like other shearwaters. Yelkouan Shearwater lay only one egg, which both parents incubate alternately.
WING SPAN: 70 - 84 cm

Scopoli's Shearwater
CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA



Number of pairs
1200-1750

Scopoli's Shearwater is a larger and more abundant species than Yelkouan Shearwater. Except from the Mediterranean, it is present in the eastern part of Atlantic as well. In Croatia 1200 – 1750 pairs nest, mainly in the remote and isolated islands. Like Yelkouan Shearwater and other shearwaters, it lays only one egg per breeding season.
WING SPAN: 112 - 122 cm

Audouin's Gull
LARUS AUDOUINII



Number of pairs
13-60

Unlike the well known Yellow-legged Gull, Audouin's Gull population is small in the Adriatic. In Croatia only 13 to 60 pairs nest. It is common for the Audouin's Gull to change nesting sites each year, probably depending on the breeding success. Nesting population in Croatia is restricted to islands Lastovo and Mljet.
WING SPAN: 117 - 128 cm

YELKOUAN SHEARWATER & SCOPOLI'S SHEARWATER...

...Scopoli's and Yelkouan shearwater are seabirds belonging to the order of tubenoses, same as widely known albatrosses. Tubenoses today are one of the most endangered bird taxa mostly due to invasive mammals introduced to their colonies by – man. Project name Artina comes from the local name for Yelkouan shearwater.

AUDOUIN'S GULL...

...Audouin's gull is, unlike his cousin Yellow-legged gull, a "shy" seabird, rarely seen in the vicinity of populated areas. In Croatia it nests on just a few islets, so the project area covers about 70%-100% of it's national breeding population.

Ecological network (Natura 2000) in Croatia covers:

36,73%
OF LAND

15,42%
OF SEA

ONLY **3,29%** OF SEA...

...in Croatia has been designated as the conservation areas important for birds - Special Protection Area (SPA), which is insufficient for the conservation of seabirds that spend a significant part of their life at open sea.

Threats

Predation on nesting bird populations by ship rats Interspecific competition of Yellow-legged Gull and Audouin's Gull Seabird bycatch in fishing gears Negative impact of visitors and tourists on nesting Marine litter Lack of data Lack of management capacity