



PROJECT:

EastMed Pipeline Project



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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AA	Appropriate Assessment
C/S	Compressor Station
C-M/S	Compressor and fiscal Metering Station
Contractor	The contractor to which the construction shall be awarded. Currently, it is not defined the manner of awarding or the number of engaged contractors.
EC	European Commission
ECP	EastMed Compression Platform
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKPAA	National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ETA	Environmental Terms Approval
EU	European Union
FSA	Field Survey Area
ha	Hectares
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
Investigated project	The EastMed consisting of an Onshore and an Offshore section and associated onshore facilities
IP	Interconnection Point
ITA	Inline Tee Assembly
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JMD	Joint Ministerial Decision
kHz	kilohertz
km	Kilometers
LFi	Landfall





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Abbreviation	Description
m	meters
MD	Ministerial Decision
MEE	Ministry of Environment & Energy
NCC	Nature Conservation Consultants Ltd.
0&M	Dispatching and Operation & Maintenance Building
ОГУРЕКА	Organization of Natural Environment and Climate Change
Onshore Stations	 Compressor and Metering Stations at Crete, Compressor Station at Achaia, Metering/ Pressure Regulating and Heating Station at Megalopoli.
PGM	Permanent Ground Markers
PIER	Preliminary Environmental Identification Requirements
PPS	Pipeline Protection Strip and Safety Zone (PPS)
Project	Construction and Operation of the EastMed Project
Project Owner	IGI Poseidon: a Company equally owned (50-50%) by DEPA International Projects and Edison, incorporated under Greek law
RCM	Reliability Centered Maintenance
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDF	Standard Data Form
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPT	System Pressure Test
ssco	Site Specific Conservation Objective
WS	Working Strip





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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal framework for the conduction of Appropriate Assessment for the SPA "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015

According to Greek national legislation Law 4014/2011 an Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required for technical projects belonging to category A1. In case they interfere with Natura 2000 sites a specialized Appropriate Assessment (AA) has to be conducted concerning the entire Natura 2000 site, which becomes an integral part of the projects' ESIA.

The EastMed Pipeline Project has offshore and onshore sections and is directly connecting East Mediterranean resources to mainland Greece via Cyprus and Crete. The Project is being developed by IGI Poseidon (Project Owner), a company based in Athens and equally owned (50-50%) by the Greek company DEPA International Projects S.A. and the Italian company Edison S.p.A.

The ESIA has been prepared on behalf of the Project Owner by the company ERM Italia SpA and the engineering company ASPROFOS Engineering S.A. (member of the HELPE Group of Companies) and in collaboration with renowned, experienced and specialised consultants, in accordance with applicable environmental legislation. The AAs of the Project have been carried out by Nature Conservation Consultants Ltd (NCC), subcontractor of ASPROFOS Engineering S.A.

The present AA concerns the Special Protection Area "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015, focusing mainly on the part that is adjacent to the Onshore section of Eastmed Pipeline Project (Figure 2-1).

In the framework of the present AA, NCC established an official communication with the Management Body of Messolonghi Lagoon - Akarnanika Mountain, the responsible Body for the management and protection of the site and requested the most up to date information on avifauna monitoring in the site available from its' biodiversity data-bank. This data and relative reports have been provided to NCC prior to the development of the present AA, and were used for the preparation of the AA, along with all data collected by NCC from field surveys at the site.

The pipeline passes at the same location, close to the SAC "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou, Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas", GR2310001, for which a separate AA has been conducted.





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Category of Appropriate Assessment Study for site, based on the Annexes of Ministerial Decision 170225/2014

The Greek MD 170225/2014 sets two possible categories of AA described in Annexes 3.2.1. and Annex 3.2.2. In particular:

- An AA falls under the requirements of Annex 3.2.1, when existing biodiversity data for the Natura 2000 site, where the project or portion of the project is proposed to be implemented, are not recent and/or sufficient, and a detailed biodiversity field survey lasting at least 20 days (for projects of category A1) is required for the collection of biodiversity information.
- An AA falls under the requirements of Annex 3.2.2, when existing biodiversity data for the Natura 2000 site, where the project or portion of the project is proposed to be implemented, are recent, reliable and sufficient and are available from official/public sources, such as the Natura 2000 sites national biodiversity monitoring network and no field survey is required.

The present AA for the Special Protection Area "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015, falls under the category set in Annex 3.2.1, since existing data for the sites are not sufficiently detailed to fulfil the requirements of Annex 3.2.2. Thus, a field survey of at least 20 days has to be performed addressing the requirements of Greek legislation, to gather sufficient biodiversity information for the present AA.

The field survey was carried out for an overall period of 20 days between April 2021 and December 2021, including the following activities:

- Collection of field data on avifauna of interest present in the section of the Natura 2000 site close to the pipeline routing by ornithologists;
- Collection of field data on habitats, with a focus on habitats that are suitable for the identified avifauna species by habitat expert at the same section;

Field survey results are presented alongside desktop data and clear reference to the data source is made throughout the AA.

1.2 Assumptions, limitations and exclusions

For the preparation of the AA a number of assumptions have been made:

• The assessment was based on Project design data available to date. Reliable assumptions on the following key elements have been made, on the base of existing bibliography on pipeline construction: (a) total duration, (b) specifications concerning the project within the Study Area,





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(c) details of the HDD method concerning the water abstraction/disposal and drilling depth for avoiding alluvial vegetation.

- The AA is in alignment with the ESIA.
- The present AA focused solely on the normal operative conditions of the project. Consequently, emergency and non-routine events (e.g. accidental leakage of water/bentonite mixture, during application of the HDD method into the water body), that could potentially affect biodiversity, were not taken into consideration in this AA and will be assessed in the ESIA.
- The decommissioning phase of the project was not taken into account in the present AA, since it is expected to take place in 3-5 decades from today, when all biodiversity parameters will have to be re-evaluated. Therefore, a new AA will be required for the decommissioning phase after the project end of life.

1.3 Analysis of Institutional / Legal Framework

1.3.1 Plans and projects within Natura 2000 sites

The Natura 2000 network is an EU network of protected areas, whose main objective is the protection of vulnerable and endangered species of animals, plants and habitat types in the EU, and it constitutes the widest biodiversity conservation network worldwide. Based on the Birds and Habitats Directives (2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC, respectively), every member of the Union declares Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), in order to protect the endangered biodiversity of Europe.

The connection between human activities and the protection framework of Natura 2000 sites is clarified in Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. More specifically, for every project or plan that is expected to significantly affect an area, it is noted that:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public





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interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted".

The two Directives have been transposed into the Greek legislation with the following decrees: JMD 37338/1807/2010, JMD 8353/276/2012, JMD 33318/3028/1998, MD 14849/853/2008.

Concerning Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC, the L. 4014/2011 and the MD 170225/2014 are defining in detail the implementation of respective provisions. The national legislation includes also the Law 3937/11 "Conservation of biodiversity and other provisions".

Based on the above legal framework, the following are noted:

- The consequences of every project must be examined separately and in accordance with other existing projects or plans in the site,
- The criteria must be based on preserving the integrity of the site, along with keeping in mind the conservation objectives,
- In the case the construction of the project is necessary for overriding public interest, all necessary compensatory measures will be taken.

1.3.2 Natura 2000 network in Greece

The national Natura 2000 network has been updated and extended with the JMD 50743/2017, while the Management Bodies for all the Natura 2000 sites are set by the Laws 4519/2018 and 4685/2020. According to Law 4685/2020 the Organization of Natural Environment and Climate Change (OFYPEKA) was established and operates as the successor of the National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (EKPAA). Among other things, the purpose of OFYPEKA is the implementation of the policy set by the Ministry of Environment and Energy for the management of Natura 2000 protected areas in Greece.

1.3.3 Environmental authorization of activities and projects

According to Law 4014/2011, the environmental authorisation procedure of project and activities that may affect Natura 2000 sites, the preparation of an Appropriate Assessment is foreseen, constituting an integral part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

According to the Greek MD 1958/2012 and its subsequent amendments (Greek Decrees MD 20741/2012, MD 65150/1780, MD 173829/2014 and MD 37674/2016) the Projects are classified in



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two categories: Category A, when they potentially may cause very significant/significant environmental impacts, or in Category B, when they may cause only locally or of no significance environmental impacts.

The content of the Appropriate Assessment was specified by the MD 170225/2014, which includes

- detailed record of natural environment data with emphasis to the protected elements of the Natura 2000 sites and those likely to be affected by the project or activity,
- appropriate assessment and impact assessment,
- mitigation measures for the potential impacts,
- compensatory measures (if needed)
- monitoring program,
- conclusions summary,
- bibliography sources and
- study team.

1.3.4 Classification of the project based on National legislation

The project classification according to National legislation (as amended and in force) is provided in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Classification of EastMed according to MD 170225/2014

Legislation	Category	Project Categorization		
	Group	11 - Transport of energy, fuels and chemical compounds		
MD 1958/2011	No.	1 —Pipelines of national importance or included in European or international networks and associated/ supporting facilities		
	Category	A1 – Project and activities that may have very significant impacts on the environment		
	Comment	-		
	Section	D – Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply		
	Division	35 – Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply		
STAKOD 08/ NACE Rev.2*	Group	35.2 – Manufacture of gas; distribution of gaseous fuels through mains		
	Class	35.23		
	Description	Trade of gas through mains		
	Group	n/a		







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Legislation	Category	Project Categorization
JMD 3137/191/Φ.15/2012*	Sub-group	n/a
	No.	n/a
	Disturbance class	n/a

^{*} The classification presents the activity most relevant to the Project. The applicable provisions concern also the compressor stations.

It is noted that the compressor stations, having a total capacity >50 MW, fall into the provisions of JMD 36060/1155/E.103 regarding "Establishing a framework of rules, measures and procedures for the integrated prevention and control of environmental pollution from industrial activities, in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2010/75 / EU "On Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)" of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010"

Prepared by: (ASPROFOS, 2021)





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2 STUDY AREA - FIELD SURVEY AREA

According to the AA specifications (MD 170225/2014) the whole Natura 2000 site, crossed or affected by the project should be defined as Study Area; hence the Study Area for the present AA is the SPA "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015. As shown in Figure 2-1 the routing of the Onshore pipeline approaches the site at its eastern part at Evinos river, but does not cross it.

According to the National regulatory specifications (MD 170225/2014), the Field Survey Area (FSA) for linear projects (such as the pipeline) is defined as a buffer zone of at least 500m either side of the linear infrastructure falling within the Study Area. Although the project is not crossing the Study Area, it passes in close proximity to it (about 65m) and its 500m buffer zone overlaps with the Study Area. Given that the construction of the project outside the Natura 2000 site may affect the site, an FSA area was considered, that includes also an are outside the Natura 2000 site, covering a total surface area of 429ha, of which 77ha overlaps with the Natura 2000 site (0.2% of the site's area) (Figure 2-3).

Maps of the Study Area and the Field Survey Area are provided in ANNEX E, in Maps 2 and 4 respectively.

It should also be mentioned that at the broader area the pipeline crosses the zone "Peripheral area of Evinos riverbed" (ΠΠ1) of the National Park of "Messolonghi-Aitoliko Lagoon, lower reaches and estuaries of Acheloos and Evinos rivers and Echinades islands" between IP 2024-2025, while it passes in close proximity to the Ramsar site of Messolonghi lagoons (340m) and the SAC GR2310001 (65m) (Figure 2-2), as mentioned in Section 3.1.1.



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Figure 2-1 Study Area (red hatch) and Field Survey Area (orange). Pipeline routing in red



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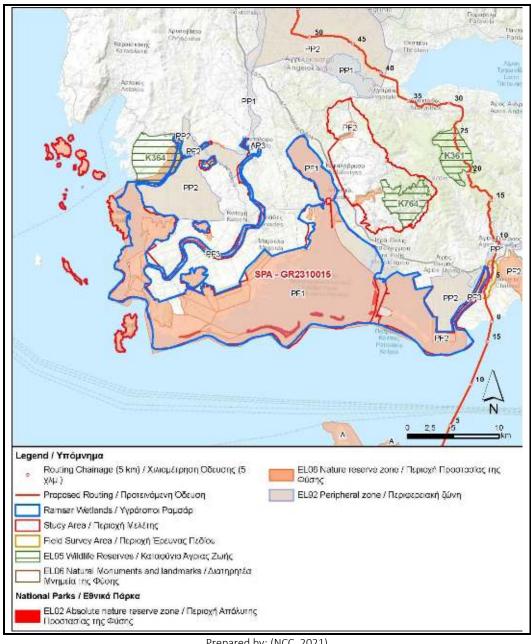


Figure 2-2 Protected areas of the broader area, crossed by the pipeline. Pipeline routing in red





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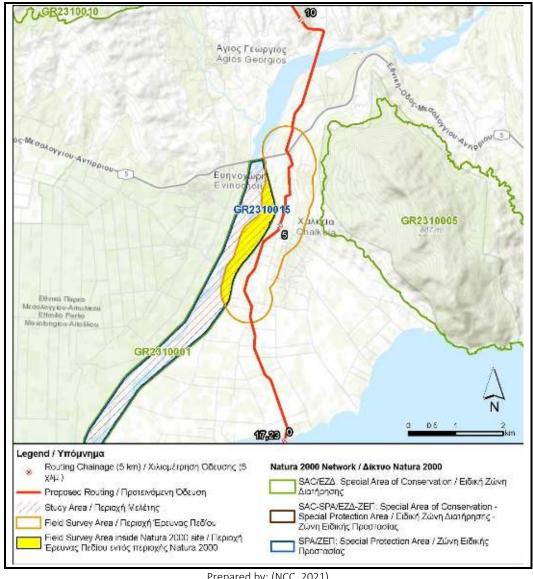


Figure 2-3 Field Survey Area (in yellow the FSA part within the SPA). Pipeline routing in red



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3 CURRENT STATUS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

According to the specifications of MD 170225/2014, the characterization of the current status of the natural environment should include the description, recording and analysis of elements of the natural environment of the Study Area, as well as its conservation status.

The present section focuses on the whole SPA ecosystem providing data on existing baseline conditions of the site. Information on the FSA is provided based on fieldwork collected data.

3.1 Description, Recording and Analysis of the Study Area Natural Environment

The analysis of the current status of the natural environment in the Study Area has been based on data derived from the literature, enriched by the findings of the dedicated field surveys performed for the development of this AA.

In particular, for the purpose of the present document, a literature review of published references and a desktop review of data available from existing databases were carried out for the Study Area.

The main bibliographic sources of information used include:

- The Standard Data Form of SPA GR2310015 (2020).
- The most recent reports on the implementation of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC.

In addition, the results of the following studies have been considered:

- Recording and monitoring of the conservation status of avifauna species of Community interest in the area of responsibility of the Messolonghi Lagoon Management Body. (Kontos et al., 2015).
- Determination of compatible activities in relation to the avifauna trigger species of the Special Protection Areas. (Dimalexis et al., 2009).
- Action Plans for species at National and European level.
- The most recent Red Data Books (national, European, international).
- International Waterbird Census in Greece (1968-2006) (Chandrinos et al., 2015).
- Important Bird Areas in Greece: Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation (Portolou et al., 2009)

The present AA includes also the mapping of ecological spatial units within the Study Area, carried out by habitat experts along with a desktop analysis of available data on habitat suitable for avifauna species. It is noted that the production of this map exceeds the minimum regulatory requirements for the AA; however, it was deemed necessary for the assessment of the extent of habitats suitable for protected bird species within the SPA, in comparison to their presence in the FSA.



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3.1.1 Short description of the Study Area

The Study Area is the Special Protection Area "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015, which is located within the administrative limits of the Region Western Greece covering an area of 44,364.36 hectares. The area is managed by the Management Body of Messolonghi Lagoon - Akarnanika Mountains. The area of Messolonghi lagoons is designated as a Ramsar site (GR62), while the Study Area overlaps with the Special Area of Conservation GR2310001 "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou, Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas" and it is part of the National Park of the Messolonghi-Aitoliko Lagoon, lower reaches and estuaries of Acheloos and Evinos rivers and Echinades islands. Furthermore, it overlaps with the Natural monument of Lesiniou Forest, the Wildlife Reserve "Asprolithi Dimou Mesolongiou" and partially the Wildlife Reserve "Kantilia-Valti (Astakou)".

The site is a complex ecosystem located in Western Continental Greece. It is one of the most significant wetlands in Greece. The Mesolonghi lagoon (11,200 ha) predominates in the central part of the wetland system, while a number of other smaller lagoons to the north (Aitoliko, 1,400 ha), east (Kleisova, 3,000 ha), and the west (Gourounopoules, Paliopotamos, 800 ha) exist. The lagoons of Mesolonghi lie behind a fragmented sandy coastal ridge which is located between the mouth of the river Evinos to the east and the Koutsilaris hill to the west; they are connected with the Patraikos Gulf by a large opening. The lagoons are shallow. Their maximum depth is about 2 m, but large areas have a depth of about 1 m. Only the Aitoliko lagoon has a maximum depth of 28 m. A part of the Evinos river delta is also included in the eastern part of the Mesolonghi plain. In the extreme west of the site a part of delta of the river Acheloos occurs. The site also extends to the Ionian Sea including also the Echinades islands group. In the western part of the site, the sediments of the river Acheloos surround rocks and hills, of which the Koutsilaris (433 m) is the highest. In the same part several former beds of the river Acheloos can be distinguished. In places within the area of the lagoons near Ag. Triada, Ag. Taxiarchis and Megalo Vouno, former sand-dune ridges are formed. The basin of the lagoon is divided into the Aitoliko and Mesolongi lagoons, which are connected to each other by a narrow channel.

Although the lagoons of Mesolongi are connected with the sea, some parts are rather isolated. This results in large fluctuations of salinity during the course of the year. The high salinity in summer, caused by evaporation, is tempered by fresh water flowing into the lagoons from the surrounding fields and some small brooks. During the winter large amounts of fresh water drain into the lagoons. In winter water from the Evinos and Acheloos rivers probably also flows into the lagoons on occasions. The principal human activity in the lagoons is fishing. For this purpose elaborate pile screens have been constructed in many creeks using the stems of *Arundo donax*. The Mesolonghi



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lagoons were formerly surrounded mostly by extensive salt marshes, large parts of which were drained for agricultural purposes, but still remain infertile and serve as a wildlife habitat. Despite land reclamation, salt marshes, sand-banks and mudflats still occur around the lagoons. Generally, the area is characterized by variable habitats. Extensive areas of salt marshes exist, as well as extensive areas of shallow water with a rich submerged vegetation. A long, wide coastal strip with sand-dunes occurs mainly to the south-west of the area. The Acheloos river is the second largest river in the Balkans. On its estuaries as well as along its banks three main types of riparian forests grow: 1) Riparian forests with Salix alba and Populus nigra as dominant species (such forests occur mainly in the southern area of the delta as well as along the river banks); 2) A forest of Fraxinus angustifolia near Lesini, which is the most valuable part of the riparian vegetation of this area; 3) Clusters with Tamarix parviflora and Vitex agnus-castus (mainly in the southern part of the Delta at Kali Chitsa, as well as along the bank of the river). The estuaries of the Evinos river extend from the east shore of the Kleisova lagoon to the foot of Mt. Varasova. The River Evinos springs from Mt. Vardousia and flows into the Patraikos Gulf. It is noticeable that the riparian vegetation of river Evinos appears significantly different from the equivalent vegetation of River Acheloos, since Evinos river has not a constant and satisfactory flow during all the year. Despite the intense agricultural activities sufficient hedges of natural vegetation grows between the small fields. At the coastal zone extending from the east shore of the Kleisova lagoon to the west of the mouth of the Evinos river (ca. 3 km in length and 0.5 km in width) the land is lower than sea level and is devoid of discharge, resulting in overflow due to rain water. In that place an extensive saltmarsh with a gradiated natural vegetation is developed. The coasts of Echinades islands provide a number of submarine and semi-submarine sea caves which are important seal habitats.

This is one of the most important ornithological sites in Greece. It is important for breeding, passage and wintering waterbirds, waders and raptors. Each winter it gathers large numbers of waterfowl, in average 12.1% of the total wintering population in Greece. The site is a compact ecosystem which although has been strongly influenced by human activities still has significant ecological value. The flora and fauna of the area is largely specialized due to the extensive presence and dominance of wet-element taxa. Despite land reclamation, extensive areas of salt marshes sandbanks and mudflats still exist. An important part of this site is the pure Fraxinus forest (the only one in Greece) that exists near the Lesini area. Relicts from such a riparian forest occur also on the eastern banks of the Evinos river. These areas have large ornithological and ecological value. The alluvium of the Evinos river is very significant and in a very good condition. The estuary of this river consists of one of the most harmonized ecosystems. The plant communities of this area are in excellent condition. The coastal zone between the Kleisova lagoon and the Evinos river is the largest unique and uniform part of natural saltmarsh in this site; it is also in a very good natural state. Of great ecological importance is also the ammophilous vegetation of this site which grows mainly on the islets of the lagoons. The



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important number of site's islands presents big interest from phytosociological and floristic points of view. The vegetation of the site is composed of a lot of interesting endemic, rare or threatened plants.

The map of the Study Area is provided in ANNEX E, in Map 2.

3.1.2 Detailed description of the Study Area

3.1.2.1 Ecological spatial units

At the Natura 2000 site, 20 ecological spatial units were identified. Table 3-1 provides the spatial extension of each ecological spatial unit identified in the Study Area, as well as their percentage with respect to the whole area of the site, as mapped by the habitat expert in the framework of the AA, a task estimated as necessary in for the estimation of the suitable for the bird species habitats. The main part of the Study Area is covered by coastal lagoons, followed by the continental shelf, shrubland and wetlands. Of less extent are broadleaved forests, phrygana, as well as salt pans. The rest of the area is covered mainly by crops, uninhabited islets, grass pasture and rivers.

Table 3-1 Ecological spatial units found in the Study Area

Ecological spatial unit	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Coastal lagoons	17,002.91	38.33%
Shrubland	4,431.59	9.98%
Continental shelf	4,274.87	9.64%
Wetlands	3,278.79	7.39%
Broad-leaved forests	3,026.44	6.82%
Salt pans	2,729.74	6.15%
Phrygana	2,668.15	6.01%
Annual crops	2,228.84	5.02%
Multiannual / arboreal crops	1,704.21	3.84%
Uninhabited islets	1,172.13	2.64%
Grasslands	565.65	1.28%
Rivers	539.13	1.22%
Sandy beaches and dunes	314.86	0.71%
Urban ecosystems	182.17	0.41%
Steep cliffs	147.00	0.33%
Abandoned cultivation	50.70	0.11%
Steep rocky coast	33.84	0.08%





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Ecological spatial unit	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Forest plantations (reforestation)	13.35	0.03%

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021) **633** 30 Legend / Υπόμνημα Routing Chainage (5 km) / Χιλιομέτρηση Όδευσης (5 χλμ.) Field Survey Area / Περιοχή Έρευνας Πεδίου Proposed Routing / Προιεινόμενη Οδευση Ecological Spatial Units / Οικολογικές Evergreen broadleaves forests / Sandy beaches and dunes / Κωρικές Ενότητες Δάση αείουλλων πλατύφυλλων Αμμώδεις παραλίες και αμμοθίνες Abandoned cultivation / Forest plantations (reforestation) / Shrubland / Θομνιώδεις εκτάσεις Ενκατελειμμένες καλλιέργειες Αναδασώσεις Steep cliffs / Χερσαίες απόκρημνες Annual crops / Μονοετείς Grasslands / Γιοολίβαδα Βραχώδεις εκτάσεις καλλιέργειες Multiannual - arboreal crops / Πολυετείς - δενδράιδεις Steep rocky coast / Απόκρημνες Βραχώδεις ακτές Broad-leaved forests / Δάση καλλιέργειες Uninhabited islets / Ακοτοίκητες Coastal lagoons / Παρόκτιες Phrygana / Φρυγανικές εκτασεις λιμνοθάλασσες Rivers / Ποτάμια Urban ecosystems / Αστικά Continental shelf / Ηπειρωτική οικοσυστήματα Salt pans / Αλυκές υφαλοκρηπίδα 📝 Wetlands / Υγρότοποι

Figure 3-1 Ecological spatial units coverage at the Study Area



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3.1.2.2 Avifauna

This is one of the most important ornithological sites in Greece. It is important for breeding, passage and wintering waterbirds, waders and raptors. The trigger species of the area are: Aythya ferina, Burhinus oedicnemus, Calandrella brachydactyla, Charadrius alexandrinus, Falco naumanni, Gelochelidon nilotica, Glareola pratincola, Gyps fulvus, Haematopus ostralegus, Hydroprogne caspia, Mareca penelope, Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis, Plegadis falcinellus, Recurvirostra avosetta, Sternula albifrons, as well as the estimated as extinct species Numenius tenuirostris.

169 species have been recorded in the Study Area and included in its Standard Data Form (SDF), of which 77 species are listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. ANNEX A of the present AA presents the trigger species, the Annex I species of the Birds Directive and the migratory species with regular presence, included in the SDF of the SPA. Their presence in the SPA, population and conservation assessment, are also presented in ANNEX A.

Of the species included in the SDF, 17 are residents, 47 are breeding in the area, 71 overwinter in the area, 82 use it as a stopover site, during their annual migratory movements. 31 species have been characterized as rare or very rare visitors of the area.

Twelve (12) species has been characterized as Near Threatened (Aegypius monachus, Anthus pratensis, Aythya nyroca, Calidris ferruginea, Circus macrourus, Falco vespertinus, Gallinago media, Haematopus ostralegus, Limosa limosa, Numenius arquata arquata, Pelecanus crispus, Vanellus vanellus), 4 as Vulnerable (Clanga clanga, Aquila heliaca, Aythya ferina, Streptopelia turtur), 1 as Endangered (Falco cherrug) (IUCN), while at national level species 12 species have been characterized as Endangered (Aegypius monachus, Aquila chrysaetos, Clanga clanga, Clanga pomarina, Ardea purpurea, Botaurus stellaris, Chlidonias hybrida, Chlidonias niger, Ciconia nigra, Falco biarmicus, Hieraaetus pennatus (Aquila pennata), Larus melanocephalus), 6 as Near Threatened (Alauda arvensis, Burhinus oedicnemus, Circaetus gallicus, Lanius minor, Nycticorax nycticorax, Sternula albifrons), 22 as Vulnerable (Acrocephalus melanopogon, Spatula querquedula, Mareca strepera, Ardeola ralloides, Aythya nyroca, Buteo rufinus, Ciconia ciconia, Circus aeruginosus, Ardea alba, Falco naumanni, Glareola pratincola, Hieraaetus fasciatus (Aquila fasciata), Larus genei, Melanocorypha calandra, Pelecanus crispus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Platalea leucorodia, Recurvirostra avosetta, Gelochelidon nilotica, Thalasseus sandvicensis, Tadorna tadorna, Vanellus vanellus) and 7 as Critically Endangered (Aquila heliaca, Circus pygargus, Falco cherrug, Haliaeetus albicilla, Milvus migrans, Plegadis falcinellus, Gyps fulvus). ANNEX Bof the present AA provides information concerning the threat status of the species included in the SDF of the SPA, based on the most up to date bibliographic sources.





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ANNEX A of the present AA provides also information concerning other species of interest included in the SDF.

3.2 Other projects – potential cumulative impacts

The following broad categories of types of third-party projects that are likely to have direct or indirect synergy with EastMed Pipeline Project: (a) other linear projects, namely pipelines, roads, power lines, (b) other energy projects and (c) other major projects. The existence or planning of third-party projects that may act cumulatively with the current project was investigated within the Natura 2000 site.

The site has no other significant existing or planned projects and infrastructures, except for

- the Motorway A5 (Ionia Odos),
- the national road network (E55), as well as
- the local road network crossing at the southern borders of the site and the FSA area of the pipeline,
- one under permitting wind park project, which is located at a significant distance (>2.3 km) from the FSA and the pipeline axis,
- one line of the high voltage network.





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Figure 3-2 Main other project at the Study Area



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3.3 Description, Recording and Analysis of elements of Natural Environment in the Field Survey Area

3.3.1 Field survey methodology

According to the MD 170225/2014 for Category A1 projects implemented within SPAs or outside but potentially affecting them, falling under the category set in Annex 3.2.1, field work "[...] will have to cover the ecological requirements of an annual cycle of avifauna, depending on the seasonal presence of the species in the area and should include observations during (a) the breeding season, (b) the migratory period and (c) the wintering period [...]", unless otherwise stated, due to the existence of recent and sufficient data for the species of interest. Field work should last at least 20 days, requiring (a) recording of reproduction indications, (b) mapping of critical species habitats.

In light of the above a total of 20 days of field work were performed (timing provided in Table 3-2); more specifically:

- 6 days of field work were conducted during April 2021 (spring survey migration)
- 5 days of field work were conducted during May 2021 (summer survey breeding)
- 5 days of field work were conducted during September, October 2021 (autumn survey migration)
- 4 days of field work were conducted during December 2021 (winter survey wintering)

and included the following activities:

- Field data collection for avifauna species at the FSA, collected by ornithologists;
- Field data collection for habitats and flora with a focus on habitats that are suitable for the identified avifauna species, collected by habitat expert.

Table 3-2 Timetable of the Field work days

Group	Date	No of field work person-days
Site assessment	12/04/2021	1
	12/04/2021	2
	25/04/2021	3
Avifauna	23-25/05/2021	5
	05-06/10/2021	4
	20-21/12/2021	4
Habitats	bitats 06/09/2021	
	Total	20





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The field work methodological approach aimed at:

- Recording all species of avifauna within the FSA in all the main and secondary habitats of the area.
- Focusing on the study to the trigger species.
- Focusing on the colonies and nests of bird species important for the SPA and nests of other species present within the FSA.

For the organization of the field work, a series of factors were considered for optimal recording of species of interest and include:

- The adequacy of existing ornithological data from literature.
- The knowledge and experience of the avian experts concerning the area.
- The size, relief and accessibility of the area.
- The homogeneity, extent and diversity of the types of vegetation.

3.3.1.1 Field survey methodology for Ecological spatial units

The purpose of the survey on habitats is to locate habitats in order to contribute in the identification of the important for bird species habitats inside the SPA. The results are consolidated in the form of a map of ecological units. The research techniques used are the interpretation of satellite images and on-site verification (ground-truthing validation), while the available mapping of habitat types for overlapping SAC and Corine land cover are utilized as a base.

Satellite images provide important information about land uses of the Study Area. Through the interpretation of an updated satellite image, the general conditions (e.g. vegetation coverage, land use) of the Study Area and the wider area are easily illustrated and provide a preliminary map of ecological units. Verification in the field refers to the survey of the Study Area with the systematic visit and recording of all the environmental resources encountered by the field researcher.

By this process the preliminary map of ecological units is confirmed, necessary modifications are made and details, which are not visible in the satellite images or aerial photographs, are recorded, while important flora species are being identified. For the ecological units, an on-the-spot investigation was carried out to check all possible microenvironments and taking into account the Braun-Blanquet method (1964), which is based on the distinction between vegetation types and then ecological units.

3.3.1.2 Field survey methodology for Avifauna

Field work has been carried out using the following methods:





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- Look and see, to identify species in suitable habitats.
- Point counts, which is an adequate method for monitoring birds in areas with shrub or tree vegetation.
- Vantage Points for location of presence, flights and nests of birds of prey in suitable habitats.
- Line transects.

The fieldwork was carried out by 5 experienced ornithologists, using binoculars, spotting scopes and zoom cameras to record birds and their habitats in FSA. Field experts searched on a wider area than the FSA for species of interest, identified possible or confirmed breeding of birds within the FSA and recorded individuals of various species singing, defending breeding territories or simply or passing over the area.



Reference: (NCC, 2021)

Figure 3-3 Field survey at Mesolonghi.

3.3.2 Detailed description of the Field Survey Area

3.3.2.1 Ecological spatial units

The FSA includes agricultural land, close to villages and high-speed roads (Greek Motorway 5 – Ionia Odos (E55) and the Greek National Road – EO Riou Agriniou (E951)). Evinos river has not a constant flow during all year, so the riparian zone especially close to the estuaries is poorly vegetated. The area is characterized by the presence of Eucalyptus sp., shrubland and river dunes. Two ecological spatial units are identified within the FSA in the Study Area, namely wetland and the river. The working strip is not crossing the Study Area.



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Table 3-3 Area (in ha) and Percentage (%) of the ecological spatial units per Areas of Interest

Ecological spatial unit	Study Area	FSA	FSA%	WS	WS%	PPS	PPS%
Wetlands	3,278.79	66.42	2.03%	-		-	
Rivers	539.13	10.40	1.93%	-		-	

Notes: FSA: Field Survey Area, WS: the typical Working strip for the construction of the investigated project (19 m on each side of the pipeline axis), PPS: the Pipeline Protection Strip (4 m on each side of the pipeline axis). Percentages refers to cover compared to the total area of the ecological spatial units of the Study Area.

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)



Reference: (NCC, 2021)

Figure 3-4 Evinos river

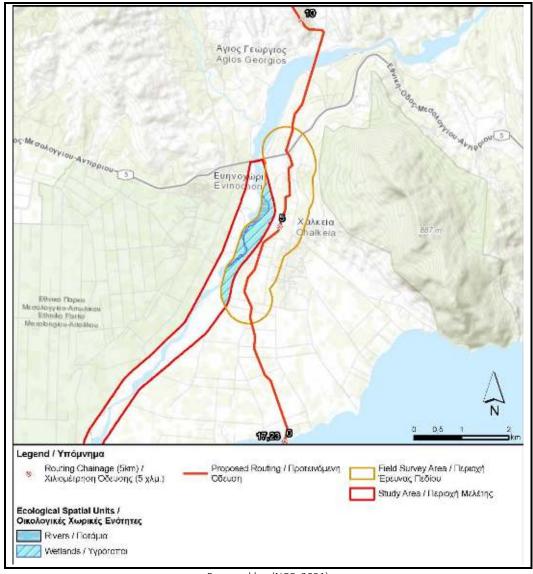
The mapping of ecological spatial units for the FSA has been carried out by the habitat expert and is provided in ANNEX E.





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Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

Figure 3-5 Ecological spatial units of the Field Survey Area.

3.3.2.2 Avifauna

The FSA includes mainly agricultural areas and as a result mainly passerines were observed and some raptors. It also includes part of river Evinos, where a small number of herons were observed.

According to Kontos et al. (2015), the FSA crosses the distribution range of species, which are presented in Table 3-4. Based on Kontos et al. (2015), the FSA does not cross any critical habitats of avifauna species of interest of the Study Area.



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Table 3-4 Species distribution according to Kontos et al. (2015), within the FSA.

IP	Species of interest
2006-2008 (~500 m from pipeline)	Oriolus oriolus, Merops apiaster
2009-2011 (~300 m from pipeline)	Lanius collurio
2001-2002*	Acrocephalus scirpaceus
2003-2004*	Galerida cristata, Lanius senator

Note: * outside the Study Area Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

3.3.3 Key findings

Bird species of interest observed within the FSA are mainly passerines of agricultural areas and characteristic for the habitat raptors, while at the edges of the FSA close to the riverbed individuals of heron species of interest were observed.

The species observed during bird field surveys are presented in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5 Species of interest observed during field work.

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
IP	Species of interest
2013-2017*	Buteo buteo, Otus scops, Egretta garzetta, Ardea cinerea, Alcedo atthis Cecropis daurica, Delichon urbicum (urbica), Ficedula albicollis, Fringilla coelebs all others, Hirundo rustica, Lanius senator, Passer hispaniolensis, Phylloscopus sibilatrix, Saxicola rubetra, Streptopelia turtur, Erithacus rubecula, Motacilla alba, Muscicapa striata, Phylloscopus trochilus

Note: * outside the Study Area Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

The map of the field survey plots and the bird important habitats at the FSA is provided in Figure 3-6 and in ANNEX E.



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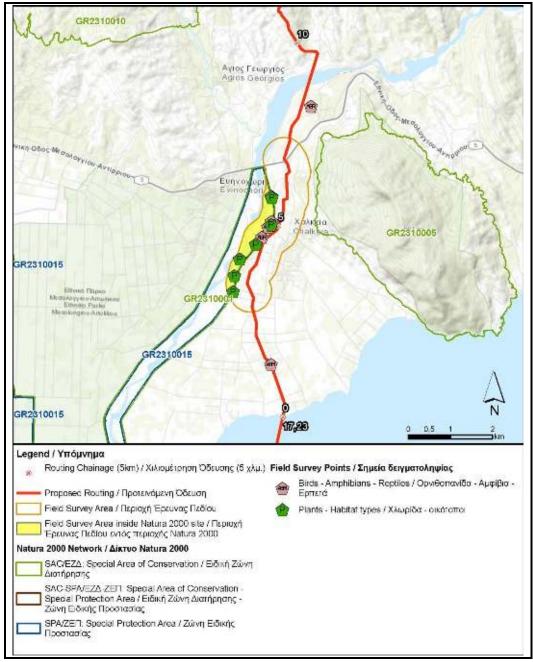


Figure 3-6 Field Survey locations for the survey of avifauna of Article 6 (Directive 2009/147/EC), carried out within the FSA



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3.4 Status of natural environment

3.4.1 Conservation objectives of bird species

The Conservation objectives have been specified through the project "Assessment of the conservation status of species and habitat types in Greece" (Ministry of Environment, 2015). The overall Conservation objectives proposed for each trigger species are directly related to the assessment of the conservation status at the Natura 2000 site as reflected in the current version of the country's descriptive Natura 2000 database. Therefore

- For each trigger species for which the Degree of Conservation has been rated as A the Conservation Objective is proposed to be the maintenance of Degree of Conservation A.
- For each trigger species for which the Degree of Conservation has been rated B, the Conservation Objective is proposed to be the achievement of the Degree of Conservation A.
- For each trigger species for which the Degree of Conservation has been assessed as C, the Conservation Objective is proposed to be the achievement of Degree of Conservation B in the short term (2 6-year periods) and the A Degree of Conservation in the long term (4 6-year periods, in accordance with EU standards for long-term/short-term national reference reports under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive).
- For species for which the Degree of Conservation has been identified as unknown, a prerequisite
 for setting up conservation targets is to collect more data through survey and monitoring
 programs.

The specific Conservation Objective is the maintenance of Degree of Conservation B in short-term, achievement of Degree of Conservation A in the long-term and conservation of the minimum population size as mentioned in the SDF for the species *Anas penelope* (6,047 ind.), *Aythya ferina* (2,306 ind.), *Burhinus oedicnemus* (39 ind.), *Calandrella brachydactyla* (2,300 ind.), *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus* (220 ind.), *Falco naumanni* (12 ind.), *Glareola pratincola pratincola* (66 ind.), *Gyps fulvus* (10 ind.), *Haematopus ostralegus* (4 ind.), *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus* (79 ind.), *Recurvirostra avosetta* (333 ind.), *Sterna (Sternula) albifrons albifrons* (124 ind.), *Sterna (Hydroprogne) caspia caspia* (17 ind.), *Sterna (Gelochelidon) nilotica nilotica* (19 ind.).

3.4.2 Conservation status of bird species

According to the SDF of the SPA the site is one of the most important areas of the national resident populations of *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Egretta garzetta* and *Sterna hirundo*, of the national staging populations of *Aquila heliaca*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Egretta garzetta* and of the national wintering





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populations of Charadrius alexandrinus, Egretta garzetta, Larus genei, Milvus milvus, Pluvialis apricaria and Thalasseus sandvicensis, whereas the populations of the other species that the area hosts is either a significant percentage of the national populations or only a small percentage of the national populations. The degree of conservation of the important for the species habitats and their restoration potential is good. The only species that are on their margin of distribution are Accipiter brevipes, Aegypius monachus, Clanga clanga, Aquila heliacal, Clanga pomarine, Buteo rufinus, Charadrius hiaticula, Chlidonias leucopterus, Circus macrourus, Falco cherrug, Haliaeetus albicilla, Hieraaetus fasciatus (Aquila fasciata), Milvus milvus, Numenius tenuirostris, Microcarbo pygmaeus and Porzana porzana. The overall value of the site for the conservation of the species is assessed as good.

Detailed information is provided in ANNEX A.

3.4.3 Threats/Pressures

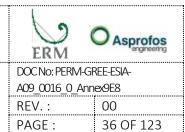
According to the SDF of the site, the main threats are mostly of medium or low magnitude. Threats of medium magnitude include natural fire in the area, as well as discharges, the construction and operation of roads and motorways, the use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, salt works and irrigation in and around the area. Of medium magnitude are the removal of hedges and corpses or scrub and noise nuisance and noise pollution around the area. Moreover, of low magnitude are marine and freshwater aquaculture and the industrial and commercial areas in the area. Also, threats of low magnitude in and around the area include the structures and buildings in the landscape, intensive grazing, outdoor sports and leisure and recreational activities, the construction and operation of roads, paths and railroads and mining and quarrying. Lastly, wind energy production is another threat.

3.4.4 Ecological functions

The Natura 2000 site consists one of the most important wetland ecosystems in western Greece, with high ornithological and ecological value. The SPA forms a compact ecosystem which although has been strongly influenced by human activities still has significant ecological value, with exceptional ecological functions.

The site functions as wetland ecosystem which provides suitable habitats and conditions for many species of fauna (mainly birds) who seek for food, rest and breed. To this mean the SPA holds habitats, with great importance for breeding, passage and wintering waterbirds and raptors. The flora and





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fauna of the area is largely specialized due to the extensive presence and dominance of wet-element taxa.

3.4.5 Site development trends

Site development trends refer to the evolution trends of the site's natural environmental elements which are present and recorded within the Study Area under the assumption that no construction for the project would take place in the region. The site is **strongly influenced by** human activities performed in the area e.g. agricultural use, grazing, drainage works, irrigation and hydroelectric development plans, reclamations and hunting which further interact with natural elements of the site both biotic and abiotic (e.g. hydroelectric development plans/ water flow and discharge/ water quality/ delta formation/habitat for species). As a result, the site's development trend is highly dependent on projects to be implemented within the water basin of the Study Area.



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4 PROJECT OVERVIEW

4.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the proposed project and its associated components, as well as it further outlines the project's constructional and operational requirements.

Apart from this general project description, Section 4.5 provides a more detailed description of the project interfaces with the specific Natura 2000 site.

The EastMed Pipeline Project aims to transport gas directly from the eastern Mediterranean fields to the European Natural Gas System via Greece.

EastMed consists of a Southern Line and a Northern Line to deliver gas from Israeli and Cypriot sources, respectively, through Peloponnese and Western Greece, to the Poseidon Pipeline Project in north-west Greece. Upstream of Crete these two lines are designed to work complementarily as well as independently, foreseeing infrastructure in Cyprus dedicated to each line. Thanks to this, the system is highly flexible, contributing to security of supply. The EastMed Pipeline Project comprises the following main components:

A. Southern Line of EastMed (Israel \rightarrow Cyprus/Crete \rightarrow SE Peloponnese):

- Transports gas from Israeli sources directly from the EastMed Compression Platform (ECP) in Israeli waters to a compression and metering station in Crete (CS2/MS2) and from there to the mainland Greece and the Poseidon Pipeline Project,
- ➤ Delivers gas to Cyprus for domestic consumption through a subsea Inline Tee Assembly (ITA) and a branch pipeline from the subsea ITA to Cyprus (OSS1 comes from Israeli platform to ITA, OSS1a from ITA to a Metering and Pressure Reduction Station (MS1a/PRS) in Cyprus and OSS2 from ITA to Crete);

B. Northern Line of EastMed (Cyprus \rightarrow Crete \rightarrow SE Peloponnese):

➤ Delivers dry gas originating from one or more of the Cypriot offshore gas discoveries to the compression and metering stations in Cyprus (CS1/MS1) first, through OSS1b and then in Crete (CS2/MS2N), through OSS2N and from there to the mainland Greece and Poseidon Pipeline Project, as referred in the next paragraph;

C. Combined System of EastMed (Crete & mainland Greece → Poseidon Pipeline Project):



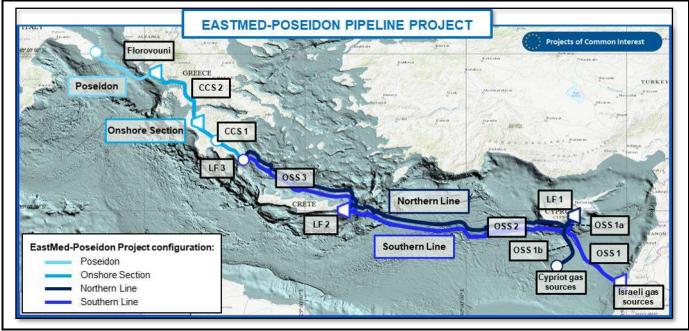
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- At LF3 the gas flow streams from two pipelines will be combined into a single large-diameter pipeline (CCS1-OSS4-CCS2) for transportation to the Poseidon Pipeline Project Compressor Station at Florovouni¹ in north-west Greece,
- Combination of the Southern and Northern flow streams will require additional compression along the CCS1 section in Peloponnese (CS3).

The 'Northern and Southern Lines' are shown in Figure 4-1 where the 'Southern Line' and 'Northern Line' are indicated in blue and dark blue, respectively. The onshore single large diameter pipeline of the 'Combined System' (i.e., CCS1 and CCS2) is shown in light blue².

A more comprehensive visualization of the crossing with the Natura 2000 sites is provided in Map 1 of ANNEX E.



Prepared by: (EastMed, 2020)

Figure 4-1 EastMed Onshore and Offshore sections - overview

 $^{^{1}}$ Compressor Station of the Poseidon Pipeline Project system at Florovouni in north-west Greece belongs to another project with the same owner and has received environmental permitting through a separate procedure (ETA: ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΙΠΑ/35872/2373/07-06-2019, ΑΔΑ: ΩΠΝ34653Π8-4Ι9)

² Light blue line also includes the small offshore section of the Combined System that crosses Patraikos Gulf, i.e., OSS4.



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The **EastMed Onshore Section in Greece** includes the following:

- The Compressor and Metering Stations in Crete (CS2/MS2 and CS2/MS2N) together with the relevant small onshore sections to and from landfall site LF2;
- The onshore section of the 48" pipeline that crosses Peloponnese (CCS1) from landfall site LF3 (SE of R.U. Laconia) to landfall site LF4 (NW of R.U. Achaia on the south coast of the Patraikos Gulf);
- The Megalopoli's Branch line that is foreseen to connect CCS1 with the National System at Megalopoli's area (Perivolia area). The pipeline will have a diameter of 16";
- LF4 (Landfall site in the NW of R.U. of Achaia, close to Lakopetra beach, NW Peloponnese area)
- The offshore section of the 46" pipeline that crosses the Patraikos Gulf (OSS4) from landfall site LF4 to landfall site LF5 (SW of R.U. Etoloakarnania);
- LF5 (Landfall site in the SW of R.U. of Elotoakarnania, close to Evinochori settlement, SW Sterea Ellada)
- The onshore section of the 48" pipeline that crosses Western Greece (CCS2) from landfall site LF5 (south-west of R.U. Etoloakarnania) to the installation site of the Poseidon Pipeline Project compressor station at Florovouni, in R.U. Thesprotia;
- The Metering and Pressure Reduction Station (MS4/PRS4) in Megalopoli (start of Megalopoli's Branch);
- The Heating Station in Megalopoli in the same plot as MS4/PRS4;
- The compressor station CS3 at R.U. Achaia in Peloponnese; and
- The Dispatching and Operation and Maintenance Centre (O&M) in the R.U. of Achaia.

Along the onshore section, Scraper Stations – SS (in total seven³) and Block Valve Stations - BVS (fifteen in total) will be installed as per the current Project design. BVSs will be placed at distances of approximately 30 km. A Landfall Station (LS) (four in total) will be installed near each landfall site.

For the section starting at landfall site LF3 in south-east Peloponnese to the Poseidon Pipeline Project's compressor station at Florovouni (sections CCS1, OSS4 and CCS2), the design pressure of

³ It is clarified that 1 Scraper station will be located within the MS4/PRS4 and Heating Station at Megalopoli area, 1 Scraper station will be located within the future CS3, in the R.U. of Achaia, and 4 Scraper Stations will be located within the same plot as the Landfall Stations, bundling permanent facilities of the project as much as possible. The seventh SS concerns the Megalopoli's Branch.





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the Project is 100 barg while the maximum operating pressure (MOP) is considered equal to 95 barg. For the Megalopoli's Branch line, the design pressure is 80 barg while the MOP is equal to 75 barg.

The **EastMed Offshore Section in Greece**, includes the following:

- OSS2 and OSS2N (the part of the Offshore Section from Cyprus to Crete under Greek jurisdiction): Subsea trunk lines from the start of the Greek Offshore Section to Crete;
- LF2 (Landfall site in Crete): the nearshore and coastal crossing section in the area of Crete;
- OSS3 and OSS3N (Crete to Peloponnese): Subsea trunk lines from Crete to Peloponnese; and
- LF3 (Landfall site in Peloponnese): the nearshore and coastal crossing section in the area of Peloponnese.

The Greek Offshore Section of the Project includes two (i.e., twin) pipelines at an average distance of approximately 100 m. Near the landfall site, the two pipelines approach each other to enter the same shore crossing cofferdam. Up to the landfall site, pipelines will be simply laid on the seabed with the pipelines gradually buried only near the coast.

In more detail:

- OSS2 (in Greece) will have an approximate length of 390 km, a diameter of 26" and a transfer capacity of 11 BSCM/yr;
- OSS2N (in Greece) will have an approximate length of 390 km, a diameter of 26" and a transfer capacity of 10 BSCM/yr; and
- OSS3 and OSS3N will have a diameter of 28" and transfer capacity of 10.5 BSCM/yr each, along an approximate length of 430 km.

Once both lines become operational, the EastMed project will transport a combined total flow rate of 21 BSCM/yr to the EastMed Onshore Section.

The design pressure of the OSS2 and OSS2N sections is 363 barg, while the MOP is considered equal to 345 barg. The design pressure of the OSS3 and OSS3N sections is 231 barg, while the MOP is equal to 220 barg. From a technical point of view, the two pipelines (Southern and Northern) are independent but also parts of a unique project system, and from an environmental point of view, they should be considered as one for most environmental and social parameters. Therefore, unless a clear distinction is necessary, the term "Line OSS2/OSS2N" is introduced to describe pipelines OSS2 and OSS2N as one integrated pipeline system across the south Cretan Sea (from the middle of the sea straits between Greece and Cyprus to the designated landfall in Crete); similarly, the term "Line OSS3/OSS3N" is used for the OSS3 and OSS3N pipelines across the South Aegean Sea from the landfall in Crete (LF2) to the designated landfall in SE Peloponnese (LF3).



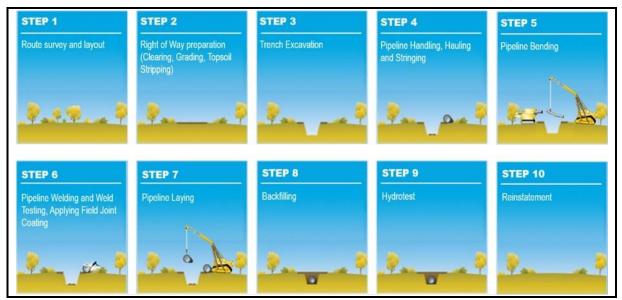
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4.2 Pipeline Construction and Pre-commissioning

4.2.1 Construction Overview

The basic method of constructing gas onshore pipelines is generally known as the spread technique, which is an "open cut" method and is widely used throughout the world. A typical sequence for onshore pipeline construction is illustrated in Figure 4-2.



Prepared by: (ASPROFOS, 2021)

Figure 4-2 Typical Pipeline Construction Sequence

This method can be broken down into several phases:

- Route survey and layout;
- Working strip preparation (clearing, grading, topsoil stripping);
- Trench excavation;
- Pipeline handling, Hauling and stringing;
- Pipeline bending;
- Pipeline welding and weld testing, applying field joint coating;
- Pipeline laying;
- Backfilling;
- Hydrotest and



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Reinstatement.

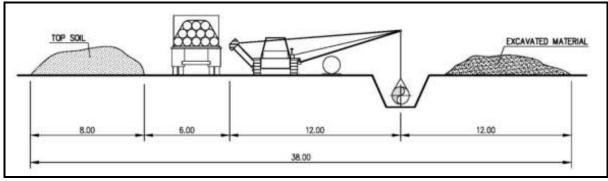
A survey control system in the form of permanent ground markers (PGM) will be installed. A subcontractor will tie all survey works into this control system and confirm the accuracy of the PGM control system.

The work includes removal of all trees, bushes, hedges and other obstacles from the construction working strip. A restricted working strip shall apply where there are physical constraints or where contractor chooses to reduce the working strip to benefit particular operations. A larger working strip may be necessary where a particular operation may benefit from additional space. The working strip should be set up before work commences.

4.2.2 Onshore Construction Methods

4.2.2.1 Marking and Clearance of Working Strip

The working strip is the temporary corridor along the pipeline where construction takes place. It must be wide enough to allow all activities to be carried out safely whilst providing sufficient room to store topsoil and trench material separately and keeping crop loss to the farmer to a minimum. The width of the working strip is proportional to the diameter of the pipeline to be installed. It follows that the greater the pipe diameter, the greater the extracted trench material that has to be stored. The width of the working strip is also determined by the size of the heavy machinery needed to safely lift and lower pipe into the trench and dig the trench. The width of the working strip in open country for pipelines with nominal diameter (ND) 48" and 46" will be 38 m.



Source: (Design Basis Memorandum – Pipeline and Facilities)

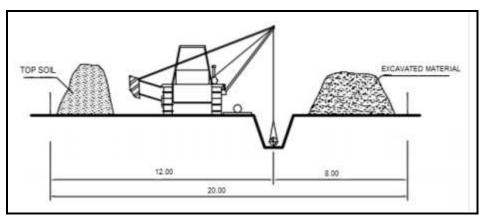
Figure 4-3 Regular Working Strip in Open Country for Pipeline ND 48" and 46"

The width of the working strip in open country for pipeline of ND 16" will be 20 m.





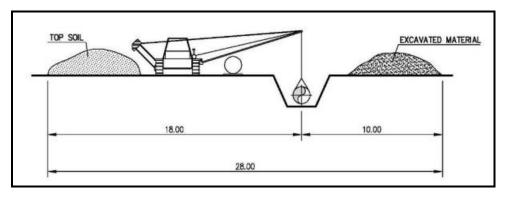
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Source: (Design Basis Memorandum – Pipeline and Facilities)

Figure 4-4 Regular Working Strip in Open Country for Pipeline ND 16"

The width of the spread zone along areas planted with permanent crops (e.g., vineyards, olive trees, etc.) for pipeline with ND 48" and 46" will be reduced to 28 m and for pipeline with ND 16" will be reduced to 14 m in order to minimise impacts on the plantations.



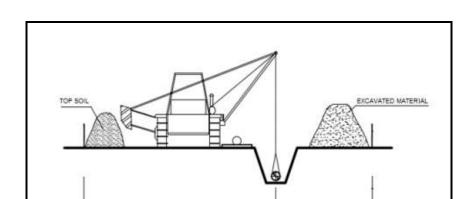
Source: (Design Basis Memorandum – Pipeline and Facilities)

Figure 4-5 Reduced Working Strip (with Topsoil Stripping) for Pipeline ND 48" and 46"





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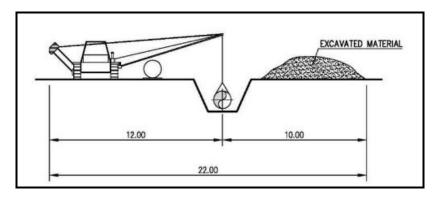
Source: (Design Basis Memorandum – Pipeline and Facilities)

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Figure 4-6 Reduced Working Strip (with Topsoil Stripping) for Pipeline ND 16"

The width of the working strip for construction of pipelines with ND 48" and 46" inches can be reduced to 22 m in forest and mountainous areas where there is usually no need for top soil storage and to 28 m in areas with permanent plantations (with topsoil stripping).

For pipelines with ND 16" the regular working strip (in open country and agricultural areas planted with annual crops) is 20 m which is reduced to 14 m in areas planted by permanent plantations and without topsoil stripping (forest areas).



Source: (Design Basis Memorandum – Pipeline and Facilities)

Figure 4-7 Reduced Working Strip (without Topsoil Stripping) for Pipeline ND 48" and 46"

The areas where this reduced working strip will be applied will be carefully defined in order to reduce the impacts of the pipeline construction along these areas as much as possible, as well as to minimise impacts on the construction progress (e.g., delays) and to ensure that all activities along the reduced zone will be safely executed.



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Furthermore, the width of the working strip will be increased when a trenchless construction method is applied at crossings of major infrastructure or rivers in order to accommodate relevant equipment for construction works (e.g., horizontal directional drilling (HDD), direct pipe, microtunnel, boring method).

Table 4.1 Summary of Working Strip width

Diameter of the pipelines (inches)	Regular Working Strip (m)	Reduced Working Strip (m)	Reduced Working Strip without Topsoil Stripping (m)	Boring methods (Area Required) (m²)	HDD (Area Required) (m²)
48 and 46	38	28	22	45 x 50 and 45 x 30 (each side)	100 x 100
16	20	14	14	40 x 40 and 40 x 20 (each side)	100 x 100

Source: IGI Poseidon, 2021

4.2.2.2 Topsoil Stripping

Topsoil will be removed by means of suitable earth moving equipment (such as excavators and loaders) from the entire surface of the area, with the only exception being the areas designated for topsoil storage. The average depth of the topsoil strip to be removed is 0.2 m but this will be adapted to local soil conditions. The topsoil removed will be stockpiled within the area for temporary storage until site reinstatement.

4.2.2.3 Grading

As described above the working strip must provide sufficient working space for pipeline fabrication and for simultaneous vehicle movements. Therefore, the delineated strip will be graded by specified equipment such as bulldozers and graders to the required width.

4.2.2.4 Trenching

The pipeline will be buried underground within a trench for its entire length and protected against corrosion by a cathodic protection system. The required trenching works will be mainly undertaken by excavators or jack-hammers. The standard soil covers of the buried onshore pipeline (measured from top of pipe) shall be at least 1 m.



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4.2.2.5 Blasting

The use of explosives might be considered necessary at the following Natura 2000 areas. They could speed up the construction, decreasing construction duration and consequently nuisance to sensitive receptors.

Table 4-2 Indicative locations where explosives might be used during construction within protected areas

Pipeline Segment	From KP	То КР	Length (m)	Engaged Natura 2000 site
CCS1	21.348	21.845	497	SPA - GR2540007
CCS2	211.308	213.142	1,834	SPA – GR2120006

Prepared by: (ASPROFOS, 2021). Based on ESIA baseline soil classification

4.2.2.6 Backfill

The assembling of the pipeline will be carried out in a standard way with a construction spread that moves along the pipeline corridor. Most of the excavated soil will be used to backfill the pipeline trench. Excess soil will likely be spread out and contoured along the route in agreement with competent authorities and landowners/ users and according to further engineering studies.

4.2.2.7 Clean Up and Restoration

The clean up and restoration will be carried out in a specified way with a construction spread that moves along the pipeline corridor.

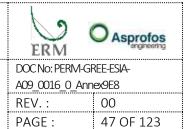
The removed topsoil will be placed back on the working strip so as the area to be restored as closely as possible to its original condition. Land will be stabilized where necessary and progressively restored with native vegetation, where possible. All machinery, equipment, tools, etc will be removed.

4.2.2.8 Indicative Schedule

The estimated total duration of the Onshore pipeline construction activities is 36 months.

On top of that, duration of the construction depends on the difficulties imposed by the baseline conditions, e.g., morphology, geotechnical issues, land uses, etc. Based on experience from other similar projects in dimensions constructed in Greece (i.e., with similar baseline conditions) the indicative construction rates (in terms of project progress, per construction activity) are:





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- 400 m/day, in agricultural areas (in plain areas, 600 m/day may be achieved)
- 200 m/day, in hilly or intense relief areas, of tree crops or natural vegetation
- 100 m/day, in mountainous areas, more often than not covered with natural vegetation (in rocky areas, 75 m/day or even smaller may be constructed).

4.2.3 Watercourse Crossings

In general, crossing techniques can be divided into open cut (i.e., dry or wet, where the trench is directly dug across the feature) and trenchless crossing methods which prevent surface disturbance (e.g., HDD). According to the current design, all river crossings are planned with the open-cut technique unless trenchless techniques are required due to environmental, technical and engineering constraints. Trenchless crossing techniques (e.g., HDD) advantages include no interaction with the water body engaged, no modification to the riverbed morphology or to the flow regime.

4.2.3.1 Open cut

Rivers are generally crossed by excavating an open trench and installing a siphon. The pipe trench is excavated by means of excavators operating from floating pontoons. The defined height and the width of the pipe trench are continuously monitored and documented by means of echo soundings. The excavated material is stored temporarily in designated and approved places. The pipeline section for the river crossing is constructed on the river bank and then pulled into position using a winch located on the opposite river bank. After checking that the pipeline is in the correct position, the pipe trench is backfilled and any sheet piles are removed. Pipes with increased wall thickness and a "reinforced PE coating" are used for the crossings as they will have to withstand the additional weight of the overlying river bed material and water. Buoyancy control is achieved by means of a reinforced concrete coating which also serves to mechanically protect the PE coating during the pulling-in process. The following table indicates the locations where open cut will be implemented.

Regarding smaller rivers and streams, a temporary passage is erected across the watercourse after preparing the working strip. This passage principally consists of an earth dam, which, depending on the water level, is equipped with pipes to ensure the unhindered flow of water. This passage is dimensioned for a low to medium water flow and is flooded in case of high water levels.

The pipeline section is pre-fabricated on the river bank together with its concrete casing.



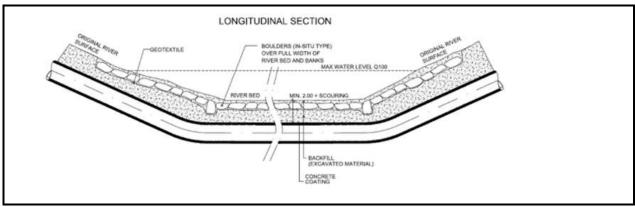


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The trench is then excavated across the watercourse to accommodate the pipeline. Excavation of the trench is likely to make the water turbid. However, in the smaller streams with a surface width of between 3-5 m this turbidity will last for approximately half a day only. For bigger crossings sediment curtains can be installed in order to prevent the sediment plume from travelling downstream. Specific measures, such as sediment barriers, and seasonal limitations such as construction only in low flow conditions, are usually implemented to minimise the mobilisation of fine particulate materials downstream.

The prefabricated section of pipeline will then be lifted into place and the pipe trench is backfilled using the stored excavation material. This will again make the water turbid, with the duration of the work being limited to a few hours for smaller streams. In streams where an infiltration from the river into the groundwater is possible, clay barriers at the river banks are used to seal the pipeline trench. The river bed is then restored to its original state.

The river banks are then restored incorporating stabilisation of the river bank slopes (erosion control systems). Slope stabilisation is dimensioned according to the expected flood run-off, with bank protection being defined as a function of the water depth and the inclination of the water run. In order to construct bank protection in accordance with ecological aspects, natural measures for stabilising the river bank are given preference. When stones are used to stabilise the river bank, they are subsequently covered with humus to facilitate a natural vegetation cover.



Source: (ASPROFOS, 2021)

Figure 4-8 Typical Open-Cut River Crossing

4.2.3.2 Trenchless crossing

At rivers and streams of high ecological importance, trenchless crossing shall be investigated if technically possible and if necessary to minimize impacts to biodiversity.



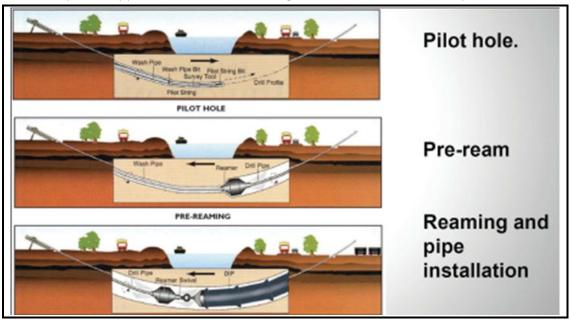


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It is envisaged that the major watercourse crossings will be performed mainly with the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling method (HDD).

HDD is a trenchless crossing method which begins with boring a small diameter, horizontal hole (pilot hole) under the crossing obstacle (e.g., a river) with a steel drill rod. When the steel drill rod emerges on the opposite side of the crossing, a special cutter, called a back reamer, is attached and pulled back through the pilot hole. The reamer bores out the pilot hole so that the pipe can be pulled through. The pipe is usually pulled through from the side of the crossing opposite the drill rig. Usually a drilling mud, such as fluid bentonite clay (an inert, non-toxic substance), is forced down the hole to stabilise the hole and remove soil cuttings. Bentonite provides lubrication to the hole drilling and also provides stability and support for the borehole. Figure 4-9 demonstrates the procedure of HDD.



Source: (ASPROFOS, 2021)

Figure 4-9 Typical HDD River Crossing

Additionally, it should be mentioned that in order for the HDD technique to be applied large quantities of water will be required. Prior of water abstraction, the EPC Contractor shall have obtained all necessary permits by the competent public authorities

HDD activities are related to significant increase of noise levels in the area for the limited time that HDD works are conducted. Noise sources are located mainly at the drilling (rig) side and are caused predominately by the generators and the pumps.

The following table indicates the location and the method that will be implemented.





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Table 4-3 River Crossing Points with Trenchless Methods

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s/n	Crossing Method	WaterCourse Name	Crossing Type	Location of crossing point (Related IP and Distance (m)	Kilometer Chainage	Pipeline Section
MC0026	Direct Pipe	Alfios River	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP0907+475.74	202.37	CCS1
MC0103	Direct Pipe	River Evinos	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2024+969.13	8.77	CCS2
MC0109	HDD	Water Canal Trichonida - Lisimachia	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2153+1,009.99	37.28	CCS2
MC0114	Direct Pipe	River Acheloos	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2188+1,711.2	57.14	CCS2
MC0116	Boring Without Casing	Artificial Concrete Irrigation Channel	Concrete Irrigation Channel	IP2192+609.36	59.84	CCS2
MC0121	HDD	River Arachthos	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2513+909.18	134.91	CCS2
MC0126	HDD	River Louros	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2578+551.52	159.82	CCS2
MC0127	HDD	Tributary of River Louros	Rivers (Crossing Width<30m-≥5)	IP2580+728.38	161.92	CCS2
MC0129	HDD	Irrigation Ditch	Rivers (Crossing Width<30m-≥5)	IP2584+944.7	167.34	CCS2
MC0133	HDD	River Acherontas	Large Rivers (Crossing Width≥30m)	IP2672+410.51	196.43	CCS2
MC0135	HDD	Vouvopotamos River	Rivers (Crossing Width<30m-≥5)	IP2676+1,610.02	201.55	CCS2

References: (ASPROFOS (2021))

4.2.4 Pressure Testing during Construction (Hydrotesting)

The condition of the pipeline at the start of pre-commissioning is determined by performing a system pressure test (SPT). SPT options include:

Conventional SPT using water (e.g., hydrotesting); and



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 Replacement of the SPT with other means that ensure that the overall safety level of the pipeline system for which the test is to be replaced is equal to or better than that of an equivalent system that implements the SPT- this option is applicable only to the offshore pipeline sections and under specific conditions.

The above ground facilities of the project (e.g., compressor, metering, pressure regulating, heating stations) are not subject to this procedure since these facilities include equipment that has been pretested during its manufacturing.

4.2.4.1 Hydrotest Concept

Hydrotesting (or hydrostatic testing) is the most common method for testing pipeline integrity and checking for any potential leaks prior to commissioning. The test involves placing water inside the pipeline at a certain pressure for a certain time to confirm pipeline strength and tightness.

The activities to be carried out before and after the hydrotest are repeated here:

- Before hydrotest:
 - Flooding and cleaning,
 - Gauging;
- During hydrotest:
 - Leak detection;
- After hydrotest:
 - Dewatering,
 - Drying,
 - Purging.

Pressurisation is achieved during a hydrotest by pumping water into the pipeline section being tested. According to DNV-OS-F101, the system pressure test should be 1.15 times the design pressure with a hold period of 24 hrs. Pressurisation is then carried out with a high pressure pump.

After the pipeline has been filled and pressurised, and all the necessary parameters have been measured, the pipeline is dewatered and dried.

• Flooding, Cleaning and Gauging. After the pipeline is initially flooded, it will be cleaned and gauged. Typically, cleaning and gauging are performed as a single operation together with flooding. Cleaning involves sending a series of pigs through the pipe section to remove any debris (typically weld slag and pipe mill scale, where the latter is expected only in a very limited amount



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due to the internal coating) from inside the pipeline. One pig bounds the air and water, and another series of pigs can be used to clean the internal pipe-wall. Clean water is pumped in front of the pig train to moisten the debris. Pipeline internal gauging is used to ensure the inner diameter of the pipeline is free from obstructions and excessive ovality. A gauging pig is equipped with a device to determine its location in case it does not reach the pig receiver. If a gauging pig becomes stuck in the pipeline it is freed, the pipe defect is located and eliminated, and the gauging operation is repeated. An alternative gauging method could be used that will pinpoint any defect. Gauging can be performed with an electronic calliper tool for this purpose, optionally combined with a geometry pig to confirm the pipeline geometry as built. The gauging and geometry pigs may be run in the same train as the flooding and flushing pigs; pig speed for this operation should be between 0.3 m/s and 1 m/s. The pipeline system configuration should be designed to allow for pigging in forward or reverse direction. This is achieved by barred tees, lock-open check valves, eliminating non-piggable wye pieces, and designing the pig receivers so that they can also be used as launchers. This philosophy provides benefits during pre-commissioning and possible future repair scenarios;

- **Dewatering**. The recommended method for dewatering is to use compressed air. This method uses compressed air to drive a pig train through the pipeline while displacing the hydrotest water. The pig train consists of multiple compartments separated by pigs. Some are filled with fresh water to flush the salt from the pipe wall, and some are filled with air. The air is oil free and dry with a dewpoint of at least -65°C at atmospheric pressure and an oil content no greater than 0.01 ppmW;
- Drying and Purging. The dewatering pig train leaves a small film of water, approximately 0.05 mm thick, in the pipe. The absence of water in the pipeline is necessary in order to prevent the possible formation of methane hydrate. The drying method is air drying which usually employs swabbing pigs to help spread out the water so that it has a larger surface area in order to be more easily collected; and
- Discharge/Disposal Options. Following successful testing, the used water is discharged back into a receiving water body after having passed a sedimentation pool, through which the water will flow very slowly. These pools are sized to provide a retention time of 5 minutes, which is considered enough time to allow the solid particles to be cleaned out of the pipe, to settle and remain in the bottom of the pond. The discharge rate after finalisation of hydrotests will follow the same rules as applicable for abstraction. Hence the same water bodies will be taken into consideration for discharge. Environmental effects are expected to be minimal or negligible when discharge rates are under 10% of the receiving river flow. Discharged water will be free of any chemicals, or, if it is necessary to add any chemical substances (especially at the offshore sections), they will be from the PLONOR list. The contractor for hydrotesting will obtain written





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approvals from the local authorities and landowner(s) where the hydrotest water will be discharged; water will not be returned to any watercourse without permission of the appropriate local authorities.

4.2.4.2 Pre-Commissioning with SPT Replacement (only applicable to offshore sections under specific conditions)

The aim of the REPLACE methodology is to provide a robust basis for replacing the SPT with other means that ensure that the overall safety level of the pipeline system for which the test is to be replaced is equal to or better than that of an equivalent system that implements the SPT.

Consideration of SPT replacement starts early in the design timeline and continues through the offshore pipeline installation phase. The methodology describes the REPLACE activities to be undertaken in each phase of the project.

4.2.4.2.1 REPLACE plan

The REPLACE plan describes the actions required to ensure that all prerequisites, requisites and additional safeguards identified in the FMECA are implemented and documented to demonstrate compliance to stakeholders and authorities. The REPLACE plan is maintained throughout the Project lifecycle and is updated as the technical definition and execution plans develop.

Should the SPT be replaced (i.e., from REPLACE option), the pre-commissioning procedure changes. Certain steps can be omitted, and additional safeguards will be taken on board. In that case, the typical pre-commissioning procedure consists of the following (sequential) activities:

- Pressurising. The pipeline will be pressurised using dry air to create back pressure ahead of the
 cleaning and gauging pig train, which will be introduced in the system in the next step. Back
 pressure is necessary to ensure the pig-train speed can be controlled on steep slopes. The
 required back pressure will be assessed in detailed design. The size of the compressor spread
 determines the time needed for the pressurisation phase. Upon completion of the pressurising
 step, the pipeline is filled with dry air at elevated pressure;
- Cleaning and gauging. Cleaning and gauging activities are, ideally, conducted using a single pig run—a second run may be necessary if too much debris is found in the pig train's last slug after the first run. The pig train will consist of a series of pigs with clearing and gauging (CG) functionalities. The series of pigs will be separated by slugs of monoethylene glycol (MEG), not by slugs of water. MEG is hygroscopic and will absorb condensed water in the pipeline. For this reason, MEG inhibits against hydrates and is a so-called "hydrate-control fluid". The pig train will





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be propelled by a large slug of nitrogen (with a high purity of, for instance, 95%) of several tens of kilometres followed by ultra-dry air. Now the pipeline is chemically conditioned and a drying step is no longer needed. Upon completion of the pig run, the system is filled with dry air at elevated pressure;

- **Depressurisation.** After successful receipt of all pigs (see the above CG step), the pipeline system will be depressurised by venting to atmospheric pressure from both ends of the pipeline. Upon completion of the depressurisation, the system is filled with dry air at ambient pressure; and
- **Nitrogen purging.** Next, the system will be purged with a nitrogen-rich gas mixture of very high purity (e.g., 98%) to avoid an explosive gas—air interface. The mixture is pumped into the pipeline at low pressure to displace the air contents. Once the oxygen level measured at the outlet is sufficiently low, nitrogen purging is halted. Upon completion of nitrogen purging, the pipeline system is filled with inert gas, slightly above ambient pressure. This means that precommissioning has been completed and the system is ready to receive hydrocarbon gas.

This REPLACE Methodology was successfully used in TurkStream and Nord Stream 2 Pipeline projects, removes the need for seawater and the risk associated with lateral buckling concerning the conventional method. This procedure can be amended if necessary, depending on specific project requirements.

4.2.4.3 EastMed System Pressure Test Response

Each offshore pipeline, comprising the Greek section of the EastMed Pipeline Project has been assessed individually in accordance with the REPLACE methodology.

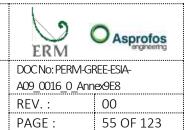
Based on the System Pressure Test Replacement Study (E780-00225-Ev32A-TDR-00055, Rev.02), it has been concluded that, for OSS2, OSS2N, OSS3 and OSS3N project components, it is beneficial not to pressure test the system applying the conventional hydrotesting SPT because of the risk associated with lateral buckling. For the remaining Project components, conventional SPT is applied.

Hydrotest sections will have a length up to 9 km each. It is estimated that approximately 50 hydrotests will be carried out for CCS1, 38 for CCS2 and 2 for Megalopoli Branch.

Each hydrotest will be completed in 7-10 days.

Pre-commissioning of the **offshore** OSS4 section is expected to require a total of 11 days. Similarly, the pre-commissioning of the other offshore project components is expected to require a total of 57 to 84 days. Pre-commissioning will be finished before commissioning activities.





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4.2.4.4 Water Abstraction Sources for Conventional SPT

As far as the onshore pipeline segment, inland water sources with larger amounts of water flow have been considered for water abstraction and discharge. Water reservoirs will not be used as a source for testing water. For the offshore and nearshore segments, the most likely option is the use of sea water.

Table 4-4 shows the potential water sources identified along the pipeline route and the volumes required for hydrotesting for each main section.

The timing for hydrostatic testing activities will consider the seasonal changes of river flows and the reduced flows during the summer months.

The quantity of water used for hydrotest, considering the complete onshore section, is approximately 600,490 m³. This volume of water is the maximum that could be used. However, it is best international practice to transfer water between hydraulic test sections and re-use it as much as possible so the final volume is expected to be much smaller.

The contractor for the hydrotest will obtain written approvals from local authorities and landowner(s) or users regarding hydrotest water abstraction and disposal.

Table 4-4 Water Requirements for Hydrotest Sections

1	-				Approx. Volume	Pipeline Section
From KP	To KP	Source	Required (m³)	ripeline Section		
				Short Onshore Section at Crete		
0	50	Evrotas	54,900	CCS1		
50	100	Evrotas	54,900	CCS1		
100	130	Evrotas	32,940	CCS1		
130	150	Alfeios	21,960	CCS1		
150	200	Alfeios	54,900	CCS1		
200	250	Pineiakos Ladonas	54,900	CCS1		
250	300	Pineiakos Ladonas - Pineios	50,500	CCS1		
			18,451	OSS4		
0	35	Evinos	38,430	CCS2		





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Pipeline Spread		Water	Approx. Volume	Din alin a Castilan
From KP	To KP	Source	Required (m ³)	Pipeline Section
35	55	Water Canal of Trichonida	21,960	CCS2
55	70	Acheloos	16,470	CCS2
70	135	Arachthos & Louros	71,370	CCS2
135	200	Louros	71,370	CCS2
200	233	Louros & Acherontas	36,234	CCS2
0	4	Alfeios	492	Megalopolis Branch
4	9.8	Alfeios	713.4	Megalopolis Branch

Source: (IGI Poseidon, 2021)

As the conventional SPT approach involves the use of water (either inland or sea), it should be noted that inland water providing the compliance of its physicochemical characteristics with what was described earlier does not pose any risk to pipeline integrity. The water used needs to be free of contaminants and not aggressive (pH between 5 and 8), and no additives, corrosion inhibitors or chemicals are envisaged to be used.

This is not the case with sea water due to its corrosive behavior. The following options exist regarding seawater composition for hydrotesting purposes:

Filtered seawater (50 micron) + UV sterilisation. Use of chemicals is not envisaged considering that the water residence time should be fewer than 30 days. If the use of chemicals or other additives is deemed unavoidable, these substances will be included in the PLONOR list. The PLONOR list is a list of substances that are deemed to pose little or NO risk (PLONOR) to the environment. The list has been developed by the OSPAR committee (known as Oslo – Paris committee) for protection of the marine environment. All chemicals or mixtures on the PLONOR list are allowed to be discharged into the sea in accordance with international industry standards.

4.2.4.4.1 Discharge and Disposal of SPT Mediums

Conventional SPT includes discharge and disposal of large quantities of hydrotesting water.





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Water for the **onshore** sections will be discharged back into a receiving water body after having passed a sedimentation pool, through which the water will flow very slowly. These pools are sized to provide a retention time of 5 minutes, which is considered enough time to allow cleaning the solid particles out of the pipe to settle and remain in the bottom of the pond. The discharge rate after finalisation of hydrotests follow the same rules as applicable for abstraction. Hence the same water bodies will be taken into consideration for discharge. Environmental effects are expected to be minimal or negligible when discharge rates are under 10% of the receiving river flow. Discharged

In any case:

- The discharge is performed in a controlled manner according to local environmental approvals. An assessment of the likely dispersion rate and extent should be evaluated as part of the precommissioning design activities during the EPIC stage of the project; and
- Prior to discharging the hydrotest fluids, samples are collected and analysed on-site to ensure compliance with permits and other regulations before being discharged to the open sea.
- The discharge point will be selected based on:
- Results of dispersion analysis;

water will be free of any chemicals.

- Application of diffuser; and
- Assurance of efficient dispersion into environment.

Continuous discharge is considered possible by developing a discharge plan taking into account the spread capacity of the entire discharge system.

4.3 Operation maintenance

Detailed operating procedures for the pipeline system will be developed. These procedures will precede the operation of the pipeline. A system for collecting information from third party activities will be operational.

The pipeline is monitored and controlled from the control room. The monitoring system is SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition). During operation, leak detection is performed through continuous measurements of pressure and flow rate at the inlet and outlet of the stations and the pipeline. If a leak is detected, the deactivation system is activated. In order to be able to carry out an internal inspection, scrapper stations will be installed.





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4.3.1 Maintenance

4.3.1.1 Pipeline Maintenance

The pipeline system will be monitored and maintained to ensure that it shall remain adequate and operational as designed, constructed and tested throughout its life-time and also in order to minimize environmental and human hazards. In general, pipeline monitoring, operational inspections and monitoring of operating conditions shall be performed in order to address any problems and to enable their repair in a short period of time. Maintenance planning shall be performed through a combination of modern management techniques, information systems and innovative technical analyzes in order to minimize any risk associated with the operation of the installation and equipment in the long run. The integration of scheduled maintenance will be a major component of the project development and will be implemented throughout the operation of the pipeline system.

Pipeline inspection and maintenance work during operation include the following parameters:

- Pipeline monitoring
- Supervision of the alignment possibly with road vehicles
- Inspections of special intersections
- Monitoring the population and activities of third parties adjacent to the pipeline
- Installation of the cathodic protection system
- Control and monitoring investigations
- Functional inspections and accreditation of the installation and equipment
- Maintenance of installation and equipment at predetermined intervals

The pipeline will be cleaned on a regular basis to confirm the geometry of the pipeline as well as after possible damage or after seismic phenomena.

4.3.1.2 Maintenance of Compressor Stations and Metering Stations

The maintenance strategy is based on the preventive maintenance, the program defined in the Maintenance Plan and the inspection / testing program. In the subsequent operation, the maintenance program follows the Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) principle where maintenance activities are based on the recorded reliability and fault database of the plant equipment.

No significant gas leaks occur during the maintenance of the metering stations.



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4.4 Decommissioning of the Project

The expected service lifetime of the two pipeline systems is 50 years. It may be possible that life expectancy of the Project is increased as technology further develops during its operation. Nevertheless, it is expected that at some point the pipelines and the facilities will be decommissioned.

Any decommissioning activities will be subject to permitting requirements applicable at that time and subject to consultation with affected owners and stakeholders of affected properties and structures. A plan covering all relevant items will be prepared and approved before any decommissioning works. The plan will also include an assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed decommissioning technique and proper mitigation measures.

The Project is designed for a lifetime up to 50 years. Project components may be modified and upgraded over the years, and various measures may be taken to increase the life expectancy of the Project. However, at some time in the future the maintenance of the project will become economically unfavourable and the technology obsolete; consequently, the Project will be demobilised.

The plant and equipment will be dismantled or cut into manageable sections, wiring and electronic boxes removed and handled in accordance with national legislation. Steel sections will be carted away for reuse or reprocessing. Building structures, including pits and culverts, and paved surfaces on the site are demolished, and the used building materials are transported to an approved waste disposal site if they cannot be recycled.

Finally, the area is reinstated by contouring the site to its original slope and undulation, and any scrub and vegetation are planted. The reinstatement will be planned and drafted in co-operation with the relevant authorities, whose approval shall be in hand prior to commencement of any fieldwork. A few years thereafter, the site should appear to be mingling in with the general landscape, and any traces from Project operations would not be detectable.

More specifically, a detailed plan for the decommissioning phase will be submitted to competent authorities for approval in advance of the planned date of end of operation activities, providing details of all necessary activities, in compliance with international best available dismantling practices and technologies available at the time of the execution of the plan.

The current approach foresees that the decommissioning procedure will consist of removal of the pipeline. In specific sections where the removal operation would not be technically feasible or would cause a more adverse impact on the natural or socioeconomic environment than the abandonment underground, the pipeline will be left buried (e.g., OSS4 or other sections of the onshore components of the Project). Nevertheless, regarding the offshore sections, it is expected that at some point the offshore pipeline should be decommissioned. At that point activities will be undertaken in accordance





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with prevailing legislation, in liaison with the relevant regulatory authorities and taking into account international best practices. This can be expected, for instance, in trenchless crossing sections. In these cases, the section will be made inert by filling up the pipe with appropriate concrete conglomerates or mixtures (in order to prevent collapse of empty pipeline), provided that the section is welded with caps.

Pipeline decommissioning, like the commissioning of a new pipeline, will be performed through a number of sequential phases that will allow occupation of limited areas at a time, progressively forwarding through the route. The impacts are expected to be similar to the ones evaluated for the construction phase (in a reverse chronological order).

In line with the principles concerning the permanent above-ground facilities, the decommissioning procedure will consist of removal of the structures and reinstatement of the area in a reasonable time frame in order to the return to the previous conditions of the area where this is possible. Of course, the first priority is to reuse materials; some components, though, cannot be reused and they are recycled to the extent possible. Other components are managed as excavation, demolition, construction waste.

4.5 Description of the project overlap with the Natura 2000 site

The current Appropriate Assessment concerns the part of the project that crosses close to the Study Area (Natura 2000 site: GR2310015). There will be no working strip within the Study Area.

During construction

- The working strip will be outside the Study area and of 28m-38m width.
- Outside the Study Area, the Evinos river crossing will be upstream of the Study Area and trenchless by using the HDD method.
 - HDD sites (drilling/pulling) will be established at either side of the river.
 - For the needs of the HDD method water will be abstracted from Evinos river.
- Water will be abstracted from Evinos for hydrotesting.
 - According to the Table 4-4, the required amount of abstracted water is about 38,430 m³.
 - Evinos river will be also used as a receptor of the water used for hydrotesting. It should we noted that according to the projects' specifications, the total water volume for the HDD and hydrotesting should not exceed 10% of the rivers' flow.





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- Outside the Study Area, the Acheloos river crossing will be trenchless by using the HDD method, while water will be abstracted by the river for hydrotesting of about 16,470 m³.
- It is estimated that a few weeks will be required for the completion of the work in the area.
- Blasting is not expected to be used.
- It should be noted that the only construction activities that will take place during night are related to the trenchless crossing of the rivers and hydrotesting, as they have to be continuous until their completion.

During operation/maintenance

• Outside the Study Area, an 8m wide pipeline protection strip will be maintained along the pipeline.

Table 4-5 Pipeline Working Strips

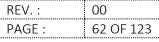
Project phase	Working Strip	Width (m)
Construction and pre-	General working strip	38
commissioning	Working strip with construction/environmental constraints	28
Operation and maintenance	Pipeline protection strip	8

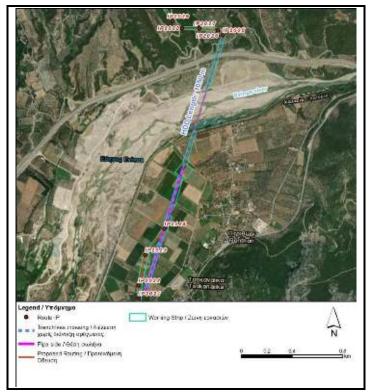
Reference: (ESIA Project Description)





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Figure 4-10 Trenchless crossing of Evinos river



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5 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

According to the requirements of Article 6 of the Directive 92/43/EEC, the guidelines of the European Commission for the Appropriate Assessment and the MD 170225/2014, a series of procedural and substantive safeguards are set out, that must be applied to plans and projects that are likely to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site. In this framework the procedure of the AA is designed to:

- Fully assess the impacts of plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.
- Ascertain whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site can be ruled out. If such is not the case, the plan or project can only be approved if mitigation measures or planning conditions can be introduced that remove or minimize the adverse effects on the site so that its integrity is not affected.
- Provide a mechanism for approving in exceptional circumstances plans or projects for which it cannot be ascertained that they will not adversely affect a Natura 2000 site even after the introduction of mitigation measures, when these plans of projects in the absence of alternative solutions are judged to be of overriding public interest.

5.1 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

This section describes the appropriate assessment methodology that will be applied so as to assess in an appropriate manner the potential significant impacts that may be emerged by the project to the qualifying features and integrity of Natura 2000 sites. To this aim the methodology was based on the provisions and criteria of MD 170225/2014 with slight modifications so as to fullfill the purpose of the assessment and be in line with the directions derived from the methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The significance of the potential impacts has been assessed considering the following characteristics:

- Duration,
- Spatial extent of the impact,
- Frequency of occurrence or timing with significant ecological periods,
- Intensity of the expected impact on ecological functions of habitats, species and ecosystems,
- Reversibility, either naturally or through implementation of measures to prevent and mitigate impacts.

Furthermore, the vulnerability/sensitivity of the habitat or species (receptor) to changes caused by the project and its capability to recover are taken into account, always considering how tolerant and



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fragile the habitat or species is and the value, in terms of environmental conservation and ecology, of the receptor affected including species, populations, communities, habitats and ecosystems.

The significance of the impact was assessed in two steps: (a) taking into consideration the value and sensitivity of habitats and species, and the intensity of the impact on them; and (b) incorporating the frequency of occurrence or timing with important ecological periods.

In cases where a site supports habitats or species for which the potential impact differs, the scoring system uses a "weakest link" approach. This means that scores are based on the "worst" case.

Table 5-1 Assessment of impact Intensity towards the recipient of Habitats/Species of interest

	1 Assessment of impact Intensity towards the recipient of Habitats/Species of interest
Impact	Recipient: Habitats/Species of interest
Intensity	
High	 The project (either alone or in combination with other projects) may adversely affect the integrity of a habitat, by substantially changing in the long term its ecological features, structures and functions, across all or most of the area, that enable it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the population levels of species that makes it important. Affects an entire population or species in sufficient magnitude to cause a decline in abundance and/or change in distribution beyond which natural recruitment (reproduction, immigration from unaffected areas) will not return that population or species, or any other population or species depending on it, to its former level within several generations*. A large magnitude impact affecting the species may also adversely affect the integrity of the site, habitat or ecosystem. A secondary impact of large magnitude may also affect a subsistence or commercial resource use (e.g. fisheries) to the degree that the well-being of the user is affected over a long term.
Medium	 The habitat's integrity will not be adversely affected in the long term, but the effect is likely to be significant in the short or medium term to some, if not all, of its ecological features, structures and functions. The habitat may be able to recover, through natural regeneration and restoration, to its state at the time of the baseline study. Affects a portion of a population and may bring about a change in abundance and / or distribution over one or more generations*, but does not threaten the integrity of that population or any population dependent on it. A medium magnitude impact may also affect the ecological functioning of a site, habitat or ecosystem but without adversely affecting its overall integrity. The size of the consequence is also important. A medium magnitude impact multiplied over a wide area will be regarded as large. A short term effect upon the well-being of resource users may also constitute a secondary medium impact.
Low	 Neither of the above applies, but some minor impacts of limited extent, or to some elements of the habitat, are predicted but the habitat will readily recover through natural regeneration. Affects a specific group of localized individuals within a population over a short time period (one generation* or less), but does not affect other trophic levels or the population itself.

*Note: Generations of the animal/plant species under consideration.

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Table 5-2 Assessment of impact Intensity towards value and sensitivity of resource/recipient, frequency of occurrence and reversibility.

Impact Intensity	Value and sensitivity of	Frequency	Reversibility
	resource/recipient		
High	The receptor has little capacity to balance the changes without substantially altering its current state or is important at national or international level. For the classification the value of the species habitat affected is also taken into consideration.	The activity is continuous or/and takes place during critical life-stages or seasons for wildlife, e.g. bird nesting season.	The implementation of mitigation measures will reverse the effect by 100%.
Medium	The receptor has moderate ability to balance changes without significantly altering its current state or is of high importance. For the classification the value of the species habitat affected is also taken into consideration.	The activity is expected to be carried out for long periods of time during construction and will continue during operation or/and takes place during early or late breeding stages.	The implementation of mitigation measures will reverse the effect only partially and over 50%.
Low	The receptor is tolerant to change without harming its features, is of low or local importance. For the classification the value of the species habitat affected is also taken into consideration.	The activity will occur sporadically at irregular intervals or/and outside critical life-stages or seasons for wildlife.	The implementation of mitigation measures will reverse the effect only partially and up to 50%.
Negligible		The activity will occur once and outside critical life-stages or seasons for wildlife.	
Irreversible			There is no reasonable chance of action being taken to reverse it.

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Table 5-3 Assessment of the impact's magnitude towards the value of the resource and the intensity of the impact

modified of the mipute					
Magnitude of impact		Intensity			
		Low	Medium	High	
Value/	Low	Negligible	Low	Medium	
sensitivity of	Medium	Low	Medium	High	
receptor	High	Medium	High	High	

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Table 5-4 Assessment of the overall significance of the impact, with the frequency taken into account

Overall significance of impact		Impact's magnitude with regard to the value of the receptor and intensity			
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Low
Fraguency	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Medium
Frequency	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	High
	High	Low	Low	High	High

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An assessment of the residual impact (impact that can not be mitigated and thus irreversible) has also taken into account the reversibility that may arise from the implementation of measures to prevent or mitigate the impacts of the project on habitats and species.

Table 5-5 Assessment of the residual impact, with the reversibility of the impact taken into account

Residual impact		Overall significance of impact			
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High
	High	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Low
Reversibility	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Medium
	Low	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
	Irreversible	Negligible	Medium	High	Critical

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Table 5-6 Impact significance definitions

Significance	Definition
Critical	Unacceptable. It is not subject to mitigation, alternatives should be identified.



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Significance	Definition
High	Significant. Impacts with a "High" significance are likely to disrupt the function and value of the resource/receptor, and may have broader systemic consequences (e.g. ecosystem or social well-being). These impacts are a priority for mitigation in order to avoid or reduce the significance of the impact.
Medium	Significant. Impacts with a "Moderate" significance are likely to be noticeable and result in lasting changes to baseline conditions, which may cause hardship to or degradation of the resource or receptor, although the overall function and value of the resource or receptor is not disrupted. These impacts are a priority for mitigation in order to avoid or reduce the significance of the impact.
Low	Detectable but not significant. Impacts with a "Low" significance are expected to be noticeable changes to baseline conditions, beyond natural variation, but are not expected to cause hardship, degradation, or impair the function and value of the resource or receptor. However, these impacts warrant the attention of decision-makers, and should be avoided or mitigated where practicable.
Negligible	Not Significant. Any impacts are expected to be indistinguishable from the baseline or within the natural level of variation. These impacts do not require mitigation and are not a concern of the decision-making process.

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5.2 Assessment of Impacts

The present impact assessment estimated impacts, taking into account the implementation of adequate mitigation measures and environmental planning aimed at reducing and where possible preventing environmental impacts, as presented in Section 6. Final residual impact is also estimated. A typical example is the selection of the trenchless underground passage of the pipeline at some sites, in order to minimize impact on sensitive habitats and species. Mitigations measures are therefore presented alongside the assessment and presented in detail in Section 6.

In this framework, the potential impacts concerning the construction and operation of the project were assessed with regards to the technical characteristics, the special natural characteristics and the current environmental conditions of the Study Area, with emphasis on the protected elements, the ecological integrity of the Study Area and the overall consistency of the Natura 2000 network.

For the section of the project under assessment, given the characterization of the area of interest as SPA for the Natura 2000 network, the following evaluation indicators were used:

- (a) loss and fragmentation of habitat areas of bird species,
- (b) disturbance/displacement of species of interest, as well as



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(c) direct loss of individuals of species of interest.

The examination of the above indicators can provide information on the impact of the project and on whether the project may:

- Cause delay or disrupt the progress in meeting the conservation objectives of the Natura area concerned;
- Reduce the size of the species population or affect the conservation status of their habitats or fragment them or affect the balance between species or affect their degree of isolation;
- Cause changes to vital parameters within the Natura 2000 site;
- Interact with anticipated or expected physical changes.

as required by the MD 170225/2014.

The chapter includes an initial screening of species and habitat types, followed by the estimation of the impacts of the project on the selected species related to (a) the pipeline construction and precommissioning, (b) the pipeline operation, (c) cumulative impacts, while possible impacts to other important species are also presented. Finally, the alternative scenarios are examined.

5.2.1 Species screening

A screening was carried out concerning the species included in Table 3.2. of the SDF that could be potentially affected by the project, based on field observations and bibliographic data. The main species for which this Natura 2000 site has been designated (trigger species) and other species considered as important for the site and could potentially be affected by the project were selected based on experts' judgment. The rest of the species was decided to be grouped in wider ecological groups and assessed based on the ecological requirements of their group (see below).

The ecological requirements of the individual species and the groups are presented in ANNEX C, based on the studies of Dimalexis et al. (2009).

Table 5-7 Species of interest expected or observed within the FSA

Code	Species	Presence	Observed during field work	Annex of Birds Directive / IUCN / Greek Red List		
	Trigger species - Annex I (2009/147/EC) species of the Study Area Reported in chapter 3.2 of the site's SDF					
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	r, w		I LC -		







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Code	Species	Presence	Observed during field work	Annex of Birds Directive / IUCN / Greek Red List			
	Other species of the Study Area Reported in chapter 3.2 of the site's SDF						
A026	Egretta garzetta	c, r, w	X	I LC -			
A087	Buteo buteo	p, w	X	- LC -			
A214	Otus scops	р	X	- LC -			
A210	Streptopelia turtur	c, r	X	II/2 VU -			
A321	Ficedula albicollis	С	X	I LC -			
A341	Lanius senator	c, r	X	- LC -			
A319	Muscicapa striata	С	X	- LC -			
	Groups of bird species of the Study Area Reported in chapter 3.2 of the site's SDF						
Heron	Herons						
Gulls 8	k terns						
Passer	Passerines of agricultural areas						
Passerines of wetlands and forests							
Pelicans & shags							
Raptors							
Waders							
Water	Waterfowl						

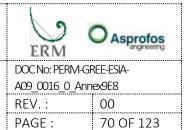
Concern, VU: Vulnerable Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

<u>Herons</u>: Ardea cinerea, Ardea purpurea, Ardeola ralloides, Botaurus stellaris, Ciconia ciconia, Ciconia nigra, Ardea alba, Egretta garzetta, Ixobrychus minutus, Numenius arquata arquata, Nycticorax nycticorax, Platalea leucorodia

<u>Gulls & terns</u>: Chlidonias hybrida, Chlidonias leucopterus, Chlidonias niger, Larus ridibundus, Hydrocoloeus minutus, Larus genei, Larus melanocephalus, Gelochelidon nilotica, Hydroprogne caspia, Sternula albifrons, Thalasseus sandvicensis, Sterna hirundo

<u>Passerines of agricultural areas</u>: Alauda arvensis, Anthus campestris, Anthus cervinus, Anthus pratensis, Anthus spinoletta, Anthus trivialis, Tachymarptis melba, Apus apus, Calandrella brachydactyla, Coturnix coturnix, Cuculus canorus, Delichon urbicum (urbica), Emberiza caesia, Emberiza hortulana, Emberiza melanocephala, Erithacus rubecula, Ficedula albicollis, Ficedula





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hypoleuca, Fringilla coelebs all others, Iduna pallida s. str., Hippolais icterina, Cecropis daurica, Hirundo rustica, Jynx torquilla, Lanius collurio, Lanius minor, Lullula arborea, Luscinia megarhynchos, Melanocorypha calandra, Merops apiaster, Motacilla alba, Motacilla cinerea, Motacilla flava, Oenanthe hispanica, Oenanthe oenanthe, Oriolus oriolus, Passer hispaniolensis, Phoenicurus ochruros, Phoenicurus phoenicurus, Phylloscopus collybita s. str., Phylloscopus sibilatrix, Phylloscopus trochilus, Saxicola rubetra, Streptopelia turtur, Sturnus vulgaris, Sylvia borin, Sylvia cantillans, Sylvia communis, Sylvia curruca, Turdus merula, Turdus philomelos, Upupa epops

<u>Passerines of wetlands and forests</u>: Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Acrocephalus melanopogon, Acrocephalus palustris, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Acrocephalus scirpaceus, Alcedo atthis, Locustella luscinioides, Leiopicus medius

<u>Pelicans & shags</u>: Pelecanus crispus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis, Microcarbo pygmaeus

Raptors: Accipiter brevipes, Aegypius monachus, Aquila chrysaetos, Clanga clanga, Aquila heliaca, Clanga pomarina, Bubo bubo, Buteo rufinus, Circaetus gallicus, Circus aeruginosus, Circus cyaneus, Circus macrourus, Circus pygargus, Falco biarmicus, Falco cherrug, Falco columbarius, Falco naumanni, Falco peregrinus, Falco subbuteo, Falco vespertinus, Gyps fulvus, Haliaeetus albicilla, Hieraaetus fasciatus (Aquila fasciata), Hieraaetus pennatus (Aquila pennata), Milvus migrans, Milvus milvus, Pandion haliaetus

<u>Waders</u>: Actitis hypoleucos, Arenaria interpres, Burhinus oedicnemus, Calidris alba, Calidris alpina, Calidris ferruginea, Calidris minuta, Calidris temminckii, Charadrius hiaticula, Gallinago gallinago, Gallinago media, Glareola pratincola, Haematopus ostralegus, Himantopus Himantopus, Limosa limosa, Numenius tenuirostris, Calidris pugnax, Phoenicopterus roseus, Plegadis falcinellus, Pluvialis apricaria, Pluvialis squatarola, Recurvirostra avosetta, Riparia riparia, Tringa erythropus, Tringa glareola, Tringa nebularia, Tringa ochropus, Tringa totanus, Vanellus vanellus

<u>Watefowl</u>: Anas acuta, Spatula clypeata, Anas crecca, Mareca penelope, Anas platyrhynchos, Spatula querquedula, Mareca strepera, Aythya ferina, Aythya fuligula, Aythya nyroca, Cygnus olor, Ficedula parva, Fulica atra, Mergus serrator, Podiceps cristatus, Podiceps nigricollis, Porzana porzana, Tadorna tadorna

5.2.2 Pipeline Construction and Pre-commissioning

The project will not cross the Study Area, while the Evinos river will be crossed upstream with the use of the HDD method underground. At the vicinity of the Study Area the project will cross mainly agricultural areas. The construction is expected not to exceed a few weeks.



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During the preliminary design phase special care was taken in order:

- to avoid crossing the Study Area in an attempt to minimize any potential impact of the project to the site and the Natura 2000 network in general.
- to prevent or minimize any potential impact during the project construction. More specifically, a series of measures have been taken in order to minimize the potential impact to biodiversity, including (a) the use of HDD method to pass the main water bodies underground, (b) no use of blasting within the site, (c) abstraction/discharge of less than 10% of the river flow and use of sedimentation pools and water treatment at hydrotesting, (d) minimization of construction works during night, (e) application of reduced working strip when environmental constraints apply and (f) all necessary precautions to avoid the spill of mud from HDD to the river.

The potential impacts have been assessed taking into consideration measures adopted during preliminary design phase and the pre-condition that the construction works within and in the vicinity of the Study Area will take place outside the main breeding period (March-July), following the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and the national legislation.

Species habitat loss, deterioration, fragmentation: Negligible

Bird species of interest observed within the FSA are mainly passerines of agricultural areas and some characteristic of those habitats raptors, while at the edges of the FSA close to the riverbed herons were observed.

As the abstraction and discharge of water used for hydrotesting and the application of HDD will be less than 10% of the flow at the ditch and will not be contaminated with chemicals or sediments, it is not expected to affect the aquatic habitats that are used by the birds.

At the agricultural areas the species expected to be present are passerines of agricultural areas and some species of raptors. Among them are species of interest and important features for those are mainly the existing hedgerows. However, the intervention is small and linear.

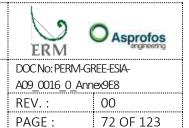
Table 5-8 General impact characteristics for avifauna species habitat loss

Receptor	Nature	Extent	Duration
Passerines of agricultural areas	Negative. Destruction of hedgerows	Local, exclusively the working strip.	Short-term. The impact is expected only during the construction period.

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

The value of the receptor is medium, as it hosts habitats of species included in Annex I of the Birds Directive, but not critical habitat for these species. The intensity of the impact is low, as it could potentially affect only localized individuals within a population over a short time period and the





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frequency is also negligible, as the construction period will last a few weeks outside the sensitive period. Based on the above the impact is estimated to be negligible.

For the species habitats' quality, the general Conservation Objectives apply for all species, as no SSCOs have been defined. Thus, the Conservation Objective for all species is to maintain the Degree of Conservation B in the short term. The Degree of Conservation is directly related to the conservation of the features of the habitat important for the species, as well as the restoration possibility of the species. Based on the above, as the important for the species features of the habitat are maintained the Conservation Status and the Conservation Objective for the species are not expected to be affected.

Loss of Individuals: Negligible.

Loss of individuals is envisaged only in the case of destruction of active nests, since the project does not entail any other perceivable causes of bird mortality (e.g. overhead wires). As construction works will take place outside the breeding season, accidental roadkills of juveniles or nestlings are not expected.

Table 5-9 General impact characteristics for loss of individuals of avifauna

Receptor	Nature	Extent	Duration
All ground nesting species and passerines of agricultural areas	Negative. Destruction of nests, loss of eggs/nestlings	Local, exclusively the working strip.	Short-term. The impact is expected only during the construction period (few weeks).

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

The value of the receptor is high as it concerns many species of interest included in Annex I of Birds Directive. The intensity of the impact is low, as it could potentially affect only localized individuals within a population over a short time period and the frequency is also negligible, as the construction period will last a few weeks outside sensitive periods. As a result, the overall impact is low.

As appropriate mitigation measures can be applied in order to mitigate the extent and intensity of the impact, the reversibility of the impact is medium and the residual impact negligible. The main measure to achieve this mitigation is to avoid construction during the breeding season.





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The Conservation Objectives for the species is to conserve the minimum population size as mentioned in the SDF for all species. The Conservation Objectives, concerning their population, are not expected to be affected.

Disturbance: Low.

The project will traverse through agricultural areas. Main sources of disturbance are expected to be machinery operation, vehicle movements and workers physical presence. However, it should be mentioned that the area is regularly used by farmers and heavy machinery is used for the cultivation or harvesting of crops which indicates that a similar disturbance already exists and a relevant adaptation is expected by the species during day. Furthermore, HDD is related to significant increase of noise levels in the area for the limited time that HDD works are conducted. Noise sources are located mainly at the drilling (rig) side and are caused predominately by the generators and the pumps. The trenchless crossing will be a twenty-four hours a day procedure until its completion. The abstraction and discharge of water for hydrotesting will also involve the extensive use of generators and pumps.

Furthermore, light pollution at the working strip during night is expected to disturb bird species, especially during migration and bird movements between areas.

Table 5-10 General impact characteristics for disturbance of avifauna

Receptor	Nature	Extent	Duration
Passerines of agricultural areas, Raptors	Negative. Disturbance	Local, exclusively the working strip.	Short-term. The impact is expected only during the construction period (few weeks).
Nocturnal birds, migratory birds	Negative. Light pollution during night	Local, exclusively the working strip.	Short-term. The impact is expected only during the construction period (few weeks).

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

The value of the receptor is high, as it concerns species included in Annexes I of the Birds Directive. The intensity of the impact is low, as it could potentially affect only localized individuals within a population over a short time period and the frequency is low, as the construction period will last a few weeks outside the sensitive period. Based on the above the impact is estimated to be low.

As appropriate mitigation measures can be applied in order to mitigate the extent and intensity of the impact, the reversibility of the impact is low and <u>the residual impact low</u>. The main measure to achieve this mitigation is to avoid construction during the breeding season.





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No Conservation Objectives exist for the disturbance of bird species for the site or their distribution that could be affected.

<u>Changes in the general ecosystem of the Study Area: Not applicable</u>

The project is not crossing the Study Area, while Evinos river will be crossed underground. The area the pipeline crosses is expected to regain its former condition and use after the end of the construction. As a result, it is expected that the project will not cause changes to the vital defining aspects that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.

The above in combination with the negligible impact to species and habitats leads to the estimation that no change to the dynamics of the relationships that define the structure and/or function of the site are expected. Furthermore, the project does not interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site.

The project is not expected to change the balance between key species or reduce the diversity of the site.

5.2.3 Operation and Maintenance

During operation and maintenance phase of the pipeline no regular human or vehicle presence is anticipated, apart from what is necessary for the safe operation of the pipeline. As the site will be crossed underground, no impact is expected during operation and maintenance of the pipeline.

Species habitat loss, deterioration, fragmentation: Not applicable.

No loss, deterioration, fragmentation of species habitat is expected during operation.

Loss of Individuals: Not applicable.

No loss of individuals is expected during operation.

Disturbance: Not applicable.

No disturbance is expected during operation.



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Table 5-11 Assessment of impacts

Phase	Threat	Receptor	Nature	Extend	Duration	Intensity	Value of the receptor	Frequency	Overall	Reversibility	Residual impact
	Species habitat loss, deterioration, fragmentation	Birds (see relevant table) & Cons.obj.	Negative	Local	Short term	Low	Medium	Low	Negligible	-	Negligible
Construction	Loss of individuals	Birds (see relevant table) & Cons.obj.	Negative	Local	Short term	Low	High	Low	Low	Medium	Negligible
	Disturbance	Birds (see relevant table)	Negative	Local	Short term	Low	High	Low	Low	Low	Low
Operation	Species habitat loss, deterioration, fragmentation	Birds	Negative	e No impact expected							
·	Loss of individuals	Birds	Negative				No impact	expected			
	Disturbance	Birds	Negative				No impact	expected			

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)





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5.2.4 Cumulative impacts

It is well established that pipelines, power lines and roads can form a linear intrusion in natural areas leading to habitat loss, fragmentation, and to the creation of barriers to movement of terrestrial species. As mentioned above the site has not significant other existing or planned projects and infrastructures, except from the Motorway A5 (Ionia Odos), the national road network (E55), as well as the local road network crossing at the southern borders of the site and the FSA of the pipeline routing and one line of the high voltage network. There is one under permitting wind park project, which is located at a considerable distance (>2,3 km) from the FSA and the pipeline axis.

It must be noted that the pipeline is not crossing the Natura 2000 site, it passes in close proximity to it and only the FSA overlaps with the SPA. In regards to any potential cumulative impacts it must added that the pipeline will cross trenchless the river upstream of the SPA, in order to avoid impacts on aquatic and riparian ecosystems of the nearby protected area. Project activities will only take place in adjacent rural ecosystems of the area, either side of the river Evinos outside the SPA. This choice of trenchless technique leads to decrease of any cumulative impact, as it does not increase the habitat fragmentation at the surroundings of the SPA. In addition, no other planned projects or plans are known to be proposed within the Natura 2000 site and therefore no cumulative impacts are expected.

5.2.5 Alternative scenarios

Detailed description of alternative scenarios is given in the relevant chapter (Chapter 7) of the ESIA. Concerning the assessment of alternative routings of the project, to avoid the specific SPA site, this is not considered as a viable scenario due to the fact that the routing is already passing outside the borders of this particular SPA. The pipeline traverses the Evinos river near the site, with an HDD trenchless technique, in order to avoid impacts on aquatic and riparian ecosystems of the adjacent protected area. Project activities will only take place in adjacent rural ecosystems of the area, either side of the river outside the SPA. This routing forms practically the optimum scenario from the environmental point of view, for the routing of the pipeline.

Scenario 1: Current routing.

The construction works for the current routing are estimated to have no impact on the avifauna of the SPA. By respecting the construction time-constraints and by taking appropriate pre-construction mitigation measures such as ornithological surveys for spotting nesting trees and tree stands, to avoid the destruction of nest sites through micro-siting, the impact is expected to be negligible.





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Scenario 2: Do-nothing Scenario.

In the case of the do-nothing scenario, there would be no pipeline construction, which would have the effect of negligible effects for all types of impacts. However, the implementation of the project would result in a number of significant positive impacts, namely: enhancement of competition in the energy market and of EU security of supply, broadening of the Southern Gas Corridor, developing of natural gas resources within the EU or close border sources, ensurance of supply of natural gas to areas of Greece that do not have access to the National Network, support of the transitory phase to renewable sources.

5.3 Conclusions of Impact Assessment on conservation objects and ecological integrity of Natura 2000 site

Taking into consideration the above assessment and the current status of the ecological characteristics of the Study Area and the construction and functional requirements of the Project, it is concluded that the implementation of the proposed project is not expected to:

- Cause delay or disrupt the progress in meeting the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 area concerned.
- Reduce the size of the population of protected species or affect the conservation status of their habitats or fragment or affect the balance between species or affect their degree of isolation.
- Cause changes to vital parameters (e.g. terrain, water surface network) that contribute to the function of the Natura 2000 site.
- Interact with anticipated or expected physical changes.

Given the above and considering the implementation of the aforementioned management and mitigation measures towards the prevention/reduction of potential impacts, it is concluded that the implementation and operation of the proposed project will induce low impacts on the protected species, on the ecological functions they perform regarding the ecological integrity of the Study Area and on its role towards the coherence of the Natura 2000 network.



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6 MITIGATION MEASURES OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Mitigation measures are proposed as precaution for the avoidance or reduction of potential adverse impacts. In this context the aim is to prevent, minimize and neutralize any negative impacts of the project and they are an integral part of its implementation specifications.

In this context the most vulnerable points and sections of the pipeline routing were highlighted and the areas where measures should be implemented to prevent/minimize impacts are presented in the following Table (Table 6-1).

It is noted the impact assessment presented in the above section, assessed residual impacts after the implementation of the management and mitigation measures listed below.

Table 6-1 Impact, mitigation measures proposed and significance of residual impact

Table 0-1 Impact, mitigation me	Efficier								
Mitigation Commitments to Address the Impact / Risk	Prevention/ avoidance	Reduction of intensity	Reduction of extent	Restoration	IP	Significance of Residual Impact / Risk			
Construction Phase									
Implement time-constraints and undertake construction works outside the breeding period between 1 st March and the 31 st July.	X				2006-2021	Low			
Habitat types loss / Species habitat loss, degradation or fragmentation									
Already foreseen by the project: The topsoil will be carefully stored and no construction materials will be taken from the surrounding environment unless approved by the responsible authority.	X				2006-2021	Negligible			
Already foreseen by the project: Establishment and marking of working strip and use of existing infrastructure and roads.	X								
HDD									
HDD cooling water will be discharged free of any chemicals and with a similar temperature to the water in the watercourse.	X	X			Evinos river: 2024-2025	Negligible			
Drill mud, such as bentonite clay, will be an inert and non-toxic substance.	Х								
Water use from rivers/streams		<u> </u>							







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	Efficier	псу				Significance of Residual Impact / Risk		
Mitigation Commitments to Address the Impact / Risk	Prevention/ avoidance	Reduction of intensity	Reduction of extent	Restoration	IP			
Already foreseen by the project: The water abstraction from rivers shall be limited to a maximum of 10 % of the run-off rate during the abstraction period.	Х	Х						
Already foreseen by the project: No additives such as biocides or oxygen scavengers should be discharged back to the watershed. In case of such substances used, they should be listed in PLONOR list.	X							
Already foreseen by the project: Water discharge back to rivers / streams will be done through settlement ponds.	Х	Х						
Water taken from one specific watershed shall not be discharged in another watershed.		Х			Evinos river: 2024-2025	Negligible		
No water discharges will be conducted on any of the water bodies, without appropriate authorization from the competent public authority.	Х							
Water quality will be monitored prior to discharge to comply with relevant regulations.	Х							
All potential water sources should have a minimum discharge rate of 3 m³/sec.	Х	Х						
Reuse of the hydrotest water will be performed wherever possible.	Х							
Loss of individuals		-	,					
Limiting of vehicle speed (limits will be established at the Traffic Management Plan)	Х	Х	X		2006-2021	Negligible		
Collection of injured individuals and transfer to wildlife rehabilitation centres.		Х						
Disturbance								







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	Efficier	псу				Significance of Residual Impact / Risk	
Mitigation Commitments to Address the Impact / Risk	Prevention/ avoidance	Reduction of intensity	Reduction of extent	Restoration	IP		
Limitation of night working and minimization of the use of lighting along the corridor. Avoidance of dusk-dawn work.		Х					
Usage of lights to minimum, for safety reasons, and directional lighting.	X		Х		2006-2021	Low	
Access to the works area will only be allowed to site staff.	Х						
All impacts							
Ecological awareness/behaviour training should be provided to all personnel.	X	X	Х				
Establishment of a Fire Risk Prevention Plan.	X						
Construction work must be supervised by an ornithologist and monitoring of birds will take place immediately before and during construction period, to carry out preventive conservation measures by the pipeline environmental team, if required. The Management Body will be timely informed.	X				2006-2021	Low	
A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will be implemented for the Natura 2000 site. The BAP should foresee direct collaboration with the local Management Body of the protected site.	X	X	Х	X			
Operation Phase							
A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will be implemented for the Natura 2000 site. he BAP should ensure a close collaboration of the ecological monitoring team with the management Body of the protected area.				Χ	2006-2021		

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

Information concerning monitoring of the efficiency of the mitigation measures is provided in Section 8.





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7 COMPENSATORY MEASURES

Compensatory measures, as described in Article 6 (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and incorporated into the Greek Law 4014/2011, are the "last resort" and are only used when a decision has been taken to proceed with a project or plan that could have negative impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000, because there are no alternatives and the project has been judged to be of overriding public interest.

Based on the guidelines for the interpretation of the European Directive 92/43/EEC, compensatory measures have to be considered only when a significant negative impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site is found.

<u>Since no significant negative impact on the integrity and the conservation objectives of the investigated Natura 2000 site is assessed in the present Appropriate Assessment, no compensatory measures are proposed.</u>



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8 MONITORING PROGRAM

The implementation of a monitoring program is considered particularly important, during both (a) the construction phase of the pipeline, as well as (b) the operation and maintenance phase. It consists of two parts (a) monitoring the state of the species and habitats of interest and (b) monitoring the implementation of the mitigation measures.

8.1 General Monitoring Criteria

During construction

During construction phase, a "pre-construction" team composed by specialized field experts-scientists will monitor/survey (walkover) before construction initiation. Main goal for the team is to survey potential presence of important species, features and parameters that may need specific handlings (e.g. breeding species, important species, injured individuals, young individuals, important sites, etc.). This will ensure that any site-specific issues will be highlighted before construction and appropriate measures will be taken before construction activities initiation.

Post construction

After construction has been finalized, a monitoring program during the operation of the project must be conducted for at least 3 years. Given the scale of the project, it is necessary to implement such monitoring follow-up in order to establish the effectiveness of the applied mitigation measures and record any possible changes/impacts to the natural environment and its components due to the project function. During the operation phase, monitoring actually has an ancillary role to observe the follow-up situation, and record some meta-status that may need attention.

Main goal of monitoring activities

The main aim of these two monitoring stages, is to be able to record the actual stage and status of fauna species, in-situ, with a pre-construction preceding team, then in real-time during the construction process, and eventually once the construction is over to record the post-construction situation, impact and effect of mitigation measures, and natural environment elements' status in the recovery phase.

Basic axis for monitoring implementation

There are <u>four basic axes</u> upon which the monitoring will be designed and carried out: (a) Important species of concern that must be studied in each respective protected area, (b) Period (season-month and time of the day) of the monitoring implementation, (c) Guidelines for monitoring implementation





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depending on each biological group which is studied, and (d) Biological and environmental parameters recorded during monitoring process.

All four axes are analytically described in the paragraphs below.

8.2 Monitoring Program for the Study Area

The implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures proposed will be foreseen and included in the Environmental Management System of the project and their details will be defined by the Environmental Management Plan. An Environmental Monitoring Plan will be prepared, while a Biodiversity Management Plan will be included as an integral part of it. The Environmental Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the competent authorities that will monitor its implementation by the contractor.

The monitoring will focus on (a) the presence of the species in the area and its use by them during construction in order to estimate the actual impact of the activities to the species in terms of loss of habitat, loss of individuals and disturbance and the efficiency of the mitigation measures in order to provide information for the assessment of the need for modifications in the construction timing or finetuning of mitigation measures etc. and (b) the presence of the species and the use of the area after the construction in order to estimate the long-term impacts of the project to the Natura 2000 site.

Furthermore, the monitoring will also focus on the collection of all necessary information on (a) the confirmation of the mitigation measures' implementation and (b) the effectiveness of the mitigation. A series of indicators representative of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures (Key Performance Indicators - KPIs) will be defined and monitored. The effectiveness of the one-off measures will be measured once, i.e. after their implementation.

All above information will feed the procedure of the periodic adjustment of the mitigation program, while annual reports of the monitoring program should be submitted to central, regional and local authorities responsible for environmental supervision.

<u>Species for which monitoring should focus on, both during construction and in post-construction surveys.</u>

Based on the site's recorded fauna, attention during monitoring should be given in trigger species, Birds Directive Annex I species, as well as rare and important species as they are demonstrated analytically within the Annexes of the present AA.





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Monitoring during construction period

In the case of passerines – songbirds - small birds, a group which actually includes Passeriformes, Coraciiformes, Piciformes, Apodiformes, Cuculiformes, Columbiformes, Road-Foot-survey Line Transects will be realized. Monitoring will be mainly realized with binoculars preferably 10x42, whereas the additional spotting scope 20x60 will be much less needed, since due to high activity of the species, quick reflexes require an easy spotting tool such as hand binoculars. The team will be following specific line transects. Foot line transects can be realized in parallel by the avian expert field crew, and recording may take place preferably very early in the morning (1 hour before dawn) and must not be realized after 11.00-12.00. Each member of the avian survey team, should have along a hand-gps loaded with the transect lines that will be followed, and the project routing. Before direct observation and monitoring will take place, the field team must have already complete basic parameters within specific protocols such as name of surveyor, temperature, date, local geographical names, percentage of cloud-cover, wind direction, wind power on Beaufort scale. Whenever representative species of the group will be located (it must be noted that more than half of this group's observations are realized through acoustic identification and not visual contact), the following parameters will be recorded: Latin name of the species, number of individuals, age of individuals, sex of individual, description of habitat at site of observation, direction flight, distance of flight from project, and the following eight ethological parameters must also be recorded based on species' behaviour: flying-gliding, roosting, prey foraging – feeding, territory marking & defending, courtship, nest construction, egg-laying and incubation, feeding nestlings. Furthermore, for this group we record mainly species which are within the vicinity of 100m around us, and in case the species fly above the site as passing by visitors, it is noted in the protocols as "fly over flight", which does not relate the individuals with the site.

In all cases and all possible observations of the above avian group, and once all observations' recording is realized, the following main variables must be treated with high priority once recorded:

- Possible early initiation of courtship (early February)
- Possible early establishment of foraging and breeding territories (early February-March)
- Destruction of small-extension important habitats for roosting, nesting and breeding.
- After main breeding season, species with late breeding season, nestlings not fully fledged yet, active nests.
- After main breeding season, freshly fledged younglings, occupying new territories during dispersal and meta-population process.

Depending on the timing of construction, the appropriate variables have to be selected and monitored.





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Monitoring during operation and maintenance phase

After the construction is finalized, the monitoring phase of the "post-construction" period will be conducted for a total of 3 years, except if during monitoring and assessment it is estimated that a shorter period can be sufficient. The main axis of its implementation is the same as presented in the above section of construction monitoring phase.





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9 CONCLUSIONS

The present Appropriate Assessment concerns the onshore section of the EastMed pipeline, which passes in proximity to the Special Protection Area (SPA) "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015. It has been prepared as a necessary and integral part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the project.

The present AA followed the specifications described in Annex 3.2.1 of the MD 170225/2014, concerning the AA of projects and activities located within Natura 2000 sites that are not subject to specific conditions. Bibliographical data were collected and field surveys of a total duration of 20 days were carried out in 2021, to cover all the annual cycle.

The present AA provided a detailed ecological description of the Study Area with special emphasis in the Field Survey Area (a strip of 500 m either side of the proposed routing). In particular, the AA assessed the potential impacts of the project to the populations and distribution of protected species and the ecological functions of the site, and identified suitable mitigation measures to ensure that the proposed project will not harm the ecological integrity of the site and the connectivity of the Natura 2000 network.

The pipeline does not cross the site. It passes in close proximity to it (about 65m) and its 500m buffer zone overlaps with the Study Area. As a result, the expected residual impact to habitats and species of the Study Area are estimated as negligible and are mainly related to (a) potential habitat degradation due to limited loss of existing hedgerows between fields and (b) potential disturbance of birds due to construction works and increase of noise level, light pollution (i.e. passerines of agricultural areas, raptors, nocturnal birds, migratory birds).

The present AA proposes a key measure for mitigation of the impacts on the local biodiversity, in order to minimize project impacts to the site: The construction works within the site and its vicinity will take place outside the main breeding period, March-July, following the provisions of the EU Habitat Directive and of the national legislation. By applying this measure and other mitigation measures proposed in the relevant chapter of the AA, the impacts of the project to the ecological integrity of the SPA site are assessed to be low.

Concerning cumulative impacts, the main infrastructures are in a distance >2.3 km from the routing and are not expected to act cumulatively. The scenario of the current routing is estimated as the optimal one.

The present AA also provided guidelines on the monitoring program to be carried out during construction alongside the executions of construction works, and during the pipeline operation for at least three years.





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Provided that the described above precautions are taken into consideration, it is well beyond doubt that the impacts of the project to the ecological integrity of the Special Protection Area (SPA) "Delta Acheloou, Limnothalassa Mesolongiou - Aitolikou Kai Ekvoles Evinou, Nisoi Echinades, Nisos Petalas, Dytikos Arakynthos Kai Stena Kleisouras", GR2310015, of the Natura 2000 network, will be low.





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10 STUDY TEAM

Name		Role
Tasos Dimalexis	Dr. Biologist	Project Coordinator Site assessment
Margarita Tzali	Environmental Engineer, MSc	Project Manager AA compilation
Alexandra Kontou	Environmentalist, MSc	AA compilation
Vassilis Goritsas	Environmentalist, MSc	Data management/Map production
Jakob Fric	Physicist	Development of databases/Data management Field worker: Avifauna field survey
Giorgos Fotiadis	Dr. Forester	Habitat expert Field survey, Preparation of texts, Mapping
Apostolos Christopoulos	Environmentalist MSc, Phd candidate in Biology	Avifauna expert Field survey, Preparation of texts
Giannis Rousopoulos	Environmentalist MSc	Field worker: Avifauna field survey
Thanos Kastritis	Dr. Oceanographer	Field worker: Avifauna field survey





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ANNEX A SDF DATA





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Table ANNEX-1Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

		Popula	ation			Assessment					
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global
Trigger	species										
A855	Mareca penelope	W	6047	8634	i	С	M	В	В	С	В
A059	Aythya ferina	W	2306	6203	i	С	M	В	В	С	В
A133	Burhinus oedicnemus	r	39	39	i	С	M	В	В	С	В
A243	Calandrella brachydactyla	r	2300	2300	i	С	M	В	В	С	В
A095	Falco naumanni	r	12	12	i			С	В	С	В
A135	Glareola pratincola	r	66	66	i	R	M	В	В	С	В
A078	Gyps fulvus	р	10	10	i	R	M	С	В	С	В
A078	Gyps fulvus	r	3	3	р	R	M	С	В	С	В
A130	Haematopus ostralegus	r	25	25	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A130	Haematopus ostralegus	W	4	10	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A159	Numenius tenuirostris	С				Р	DD	А	В	В	В
A391	Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis	w	1892	3427	i	С	М	В	В	С	В
A032	Plegadis falcinellus	С	79	79	i	R	M	В	В	С	В
A132	Recurvirostra avosetta	р	84	84	i	R	M	С	В	С	В
A132	Recurvirostra avosetta	W	333	673	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A189	Gelochelidon nilotica	r	19	19	i	R	M	В	В	С	В
A894	Hydroprogne caspia	С	17	17	i	С	M	В	В	С	В
A885	Sternula albifrons	r	124	124	i	R	М	В	В	С	В
Bird Di	rective Annex I species		'	,	'	'	'				
A402	Accipiter brevipes	r				Р	DD	С	В	В	В
A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon	W				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A079	Aegypius monachus	р	1	1	i	V	М	В	В	В	В
A229	Alcedo atthis	С	382	382	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A229	Alcedo atthis	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A229	Alcedo atthis	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A255	Anthus campestris	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A091	Aquila chrysaetos	р	3	3	i	R	М	С	В	С	В







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	Species Name	Popula	ation		Assessment						
Code		Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global
A859	Clanga clanga	W	3	3	i	R	М	С	В	В	В
A404	Aquila heliaca	С	2	2	i	V	М	А	В	В	В
A858	Clanga pomarina	С	2	2	i	R	М	С	В	В	В
A029	Ardea purpurea	С	13	13	i	R	М	А	В	С	В
A024	Ardeola ralloides	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A060	Aythya nyroca	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A021	Botaurus stellaris	W	1	1	i	Р	М	В	В	С	В
A215	Bubo bubo	р				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A403	Buteo rufinus	С				R	DD	С	В	В	В
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	r	220	220	i	С	М	А	В	С	В
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	W	956	2010	i	С	М	А	В	С	В
A734	Chlidonias hybrida	С	17	17	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A197	Chlidonias niger	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A031	Ciconia ciconia	r	9	9	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A030	Ciconia nigra	С	7	7	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A080	Circaetus gallicus	С				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A080	Circaetus gallicus	r	2	2	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A081	Circus aeruginosus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A081	Circus aeruginosus	р	4	4	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A081	Circus aeruginosus	w	13	13	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A082	Circus cyaneus	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A083	Circus macrourus	С				R	DD	С	В	В	В
A084	Circus pygargus	С				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A868	Leiopicus medius	р	90	90	i	С	M	С	В	С	В
A773	Ardea alba	р	49	49	i	С	M	С	В	С	В
A773	Ardea alba	W	547	547	i	С	M	С	В	С	В
A026	Egretta garzetta	С	1491	1491	i	С	M	Α	В	С	В
A026	Egretta garzetta	r	356	356	i	С	M	Α	В	С	В
A026	Egretta garzetta	W	633	633	i	С	M	Α	В	С	В
A447	Emberiza caesia	r				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A379	Emberiza hortulana	С				Р	DD	С	В	В	В







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		Popula	ation		Assessment						
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global
A101	Falco biarmicus	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A511	Falco cherrug	С	1	1	i	R	М	В	В	В	В
A098	Falco columbarius	W	1	1	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A103	Falco peregrinus	р	1	1	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A097	Falco vespertinus	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A321	Ficedula albicollis	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A320	Ficedula parva	С				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A154	Gallinago media	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A075	Haliaeetus albicilla	W				Р	DD	В	В	В	В
A707	Hieraaetus fasciatus (Aquila fasciata)	С				R	DD	С	В	В	В
A092	Hieraaetus pennatus (Aquila pennata)	С				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A131	Himantopus himantopus	r	133	133	i	С	М	В	В	С	В
A131	Himantopus himantopus	W				С	DD	В	В	С	В
A022	Ixobrychus minutus	r	12	12	i			С	В	С	В
A338	Lanius collurio	С	100	100	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A339	Lanius minor	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A862	Hydrocoloeus minutus	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A862	Hydrocoloeus minutus	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A180	Larus genei	W	700	700	i	С	М	А	В	С	В
A176	Larus melanocephalus	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A246	Lullula arborea	W	398	398	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A242	Melanocorypha calandra	р	200	200	i	С	M	С	В	С	В
A073	Milvus migrans	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A074	Milvus milvus	W				Р	DD	А	В	В	В
A023	Nycticorax nycticorax	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A094	Pandion haliaetus	W	7	7	i	R	М	С	В	С	В
A020	Pelecanus crispus	r	98	98	i	С	М	В	В	С	В
A020	Pelecanus crispus	W	221	221	i	С	М	В	В	С	В
A019	Pelecanus onocrotalus	р	2	2	i	R	М	С	В	С	В







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		Population							Assessment				
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global		
A072	Pernis apivorus	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В		
A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus	С				Р	DD	С	В	В	В		
A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus	W				Р	DD	С	В	В	В		
A861	Calidris pugnax	С	1264	1264	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A663	Phoenicopterus roseus	р	1333	1333	i	С	М	В	В	С	В		
A663	Phoenicopterus roseus	W	6964	6964	i	С	М	В	В	С	В		
A034	Platalea leucorodia	С	273	273	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A034	Platalea leucorodia	р	32	32	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A034	Platalea leucorodia	W	33	74	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A140	Pluvialis apricaria	W	767	1414	i	С	М	Α	В	С	В		
A119	Porzana porzana	С				R	DD	С	В	В	В		
A863	Thalasseus sandvicensis	W	45	45	i	С	M	А	В	С	В		
A193	Sterna hirundo	r	216	221	i	С	М	А	В	С	В		
A166	Tringa glareola	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В		
Migrat	cory species with regular prese	nce											
A298	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A296	Acrocephalus palustris	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A295	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A297	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A168	Actitis hypoleucos	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A168	Actitis hypoleucos	W	0	5	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A247	Alauda arvensis	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В		
A054	Anas acuta	W	558	1144	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A857	Spatula clypeata	r				С	DD	В	В	С	В		
A857	Spatula clypeata	W	1342	2517	i	С	М	В	В	С	В		
A052	Anas crecca	С	10530	10530	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A052	Anas crecca	W	3243	6168	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A053	Anas platyrhynchos	r	22	22	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A053	Anas platyrhynchos	W	292	757	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		
A856	Spatula querquedula	С	300	300	i	С	М	С	В	С	В		







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		Popula	ation					Assessment				
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global	
A889	Mareca strepera	W	31	65	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A258	Anthus cervinus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A257	Anthus pratensis	W				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A259	Anthus spinoletta	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A256	Anthus trivialis	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A228	Tachymarptis melba	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A226	Apus apus	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A028	Ardea cinerea	С	929	929	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A028	Ardea cinerea	W	131	234	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A169	Arenaria interpres	С			i	Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A061	Aythya fuligula	W	150	150	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A087	Buteo buteo	р	8	8	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A087	Buteo buteo	W	40	40	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A144	Calidris alba	С	4420	4420	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A149	Calidris alpina	W	3016	5161	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A147	Calidris ferruginea	С	1471	1471	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A145	Calidris minuta	W	855	2078	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A146	Calidris temminckii	С	304	304	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A137	Charadrius hiaticula	С				С	DD	С	В	В	В	
A137	Charadrius hiaticula	W				С	DD	С	В	В	В	
A198	Chlidonias leucopterus	С	45	45	i	С	М	С	В	В	В	
A113	Coturnix coturnix	r				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A212	Cuculus canorus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A212	Cuculus canorus	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A036	Cygnus olor	W	11	222	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A738	Delichon urbicum (urbica)	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A738	Delichon urbicum (urbica)	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A382	Emberiza melanocephala	С	200	200	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A382	Emberiza melanocephala	r				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A269	Erithacus rubecula	р				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A269	Erithacus rubecula	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В	







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		Popula	ation					Assessment				
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global	
A099	Falco subbuteo	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A322	Ficedula hypoleuca	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A657	Fringilla coelebs all others	r	1700	1700	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A657	Fringilla coelebs all others	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A125	Fulica atra	r	301	301	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A125	Fulica atra	W	16893	24873	i	С	М	В	В	С	В	
A153	Gallinago gallinago	W	52	208	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A487	Iduna pallida s. str.	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A299	Hippolais icterina	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A479	Cecropis daurica	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A479	Cecropis daurica	r	400	400	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A251	Hirundo rustica	С	18000	18000	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A251	Hirundo rustica	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A233	Jynx torquilla	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A341	Lanius senator	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A341	Lanius senator	r	90	90	i	С	M	С	В	С	В	
A179	Larus ridibundus	W	3650	3650	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A156	Limosa limosa	С	627	627	i	С	M	В	В	С	В	
A156	Limosa limosa	W				С	DD	В	В	С	В	
A292	Locustella luscinioides	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A271	Luscinia megarhynchos	r				Р	DD	С	В	С	В	
A069	Mergus serrator	W	15	70	i	R	М	С	В	С	В	
A230	Merops apiaster	С	1000	1000	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A262	Motacilla alba	r	50	50	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A262	Motacilla alba	W	1265	1265	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A261	Motacilla cinerea	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A260	Motacilla flava	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A260	Motacilla flava	r	420	450	i			С	В	С	В	
A319	Muscicapa striata	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	
A768	Numenius arquata arquata	W	103	180	i	С	М	С	В	С	В	
A278	Oenanthe hispanica	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В	







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		Popula	ation					Assess	sment		
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global
A278	Oenanthe hispanica	r	200	200	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A277	Oenanthe oenanthe	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A337	Oriolus oriolus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A214	Otus scops	р				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A355	Passer hispaniolensis	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A355	Passer hispaniolensis	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A273	Phoenicurus ochruros	W	172	172	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A274	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A572	Phylloscopus collybita s. str.	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A316	Phylloscopus trochilus	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A141	Pluvialis squatarola	W	252	252	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A005	Podiceps cristatus	r				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A005	Podiceps cristatus	W	557	1107	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A008	Podiceps nigricollis	W	356	778	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A249	Riparia riparia	С	600	600	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A249	Riparia riparia	r	350	450	i			В	В	С	В
A275	Saxicola rubetra	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A210	Streptopelia turtur	С	1700	1700	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A210	Streptopelia turtur	r	100	100	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A351	Sturnus vulgaris	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A310	Sylvia borin	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A304	Sylvia cantillans	r	800	800	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A309	Sylvia communis	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A574	Sylvia curruca	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A048	Tadorna tadorna	r	26	26	i	С	M	С	В	С	В
A048	Tadorna tadorna	W	1341	1341	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A161	Tringa erythropus	С	146	146	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A161	Tringa erythropus	W	9	82	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A164	Tringa nebularia	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A164	Tringa nebularia	W	4	30	i	С	М	С	В	С	В







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		Popula	ation		Assessment						
Code	Species Name	Туре	Min	Max	Unit	Abund.	Data Quality	Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Global
A165	Tringa ochropus	W				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A163	Tringa stagnatilis	С				Р	DD	С	В	С	В
A163	Tringa stagnatilis	W				R	DD	С	В	С	В
A162	Tringa totanus	r	50	50	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A162	Tringa totanus	W	534	1099	i	С	М	С	В	С	В
A283	Turdus merula	Р				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A285	Turdus philomelos	W				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A232	Upupa epops	С				С	DD	С	В	С	В
A142	Vanellus vanellus	W	896	2026	i	С	М	В	В	С	В

Prepared by: (NCC, 2021)

Definitions:

Type: p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering

Unit: i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)

Abundance categories (Cat.): C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present

Data quality: G = Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = Good' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); P = Voor'

Size and density of the population of the species present on the site in relation to the populations present within national territory (Population): the ratio of the population in the site / population in the national territory: A: 15%-100%, B=2%-15%, C=0%-2%, D=non-significant population

Degree of conservation of the features of the habitat which are important for the species concerned and possibilities for restoration (Conservation). This criterion comprises two sub-criteria: i) degree of conservation of the features of the habitat important for the species, ii) restoration possibilities. A = conservation excellent (= elements in an excellent condition, independent of the grading of the possibility of restoration), B = good conservation (= elements well conserved independent of the grading of the possibility of restoration), C = average or reduced conservation (= all other combinations)

Degree of isolation of the population present on the site in relation to the natural range of the species (Isolation). A: population (almost) isolated, B: population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution, C: population not-isolated within extended distribution range

Global assessment of the value of the site for conservation of the species concerned. A: excellent value, B: good value, C: significant value.





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Other species

There are also 57 other species of importance for the area included in the SDF, all of which are birds and included in the National Red Data Lists, of which 56 included in International Conventions, while 19 are for other reasons. There are no endemic species. For further detail please refer to the SDF.





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ANNEX B THREAT STATUS



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Table ANNEX-2Threat and Protection status of Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC

Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
Trigger	species								
A855	Mareca penelope	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A059	Aythya ferina	VU		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A133	Burhinus oedicnemus	LC	NT	I	II	II			
A243	Calandrella brachydactyla	LC		I	II				
A095	Falco naumanni	LC	VU	I	II	1; 11		II	
A135	Glareola pratincola	LC	VU	I	II	II	٧		
A078	Gyps fulvus	LC	VU/CR	I	II	II		II	
A130	Haematopus ostralegus	NT		11/2	III	II	٧		
A159	Numenius tenuirostris	CR	CR	I	II	1; 11	٧	I	
A391	Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis	LC			III		٧		
A032	Plegadis falcinellus	LC	CR	I	II	II	٧		
A132	Recurvirostra avosetta	LC	VU	I	II	II	٧		
A189	Gelochelidon nilotica	NR	VU	ı	II	II	٧		
A894	Hydroprogne caspia	LC		I	II	II	٧		
A885	Sternula albifrons	LC	NT	I	II	II	٧		



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
Bird Dir	ective Annex I species					-		<u>, </u>	<u>'</u>
A402	Accipiter brevipes	LC		I	II	II		II	
A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon	LC	VU	I	II	II			
A079	Aegypius monachus	NT	EN	I	II	II			
A229	Alcedo atthis	LC	DD	I	II				X
A255	Anthus campestris	LC		I	II				
A091	Aquila chrysaetos	LC	EN	I	II	II		II	
A859	Clanga clanga	VU	EN	I	II	1; 11		II	
A404	Aquila heliaca	VU	CR	I	II	1; 11		1	
A858	Clanga pomarina	LC	EN	I	II	II		II	
A029	Ardea purpurea	LC	EN	I	II	II	٧		
A024	Ardeola ralloides	LC	VU	I	II		٧		
A060	Aythya nyroca	NT	VU	I	III	1; 11	٧		
A021	Botaurus stellaris	LC	EN	I	II	II	٧		
A215	Bubo bubo	LC		I	II			П	
A403	Buteo rufinus	LC	VU	I	II	II		П	
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	LC		I	II	П	٧		
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	LC		I	II	П	٧		



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A734	Chlidonias hybrida	LC	EN	I	II		٧		
A197	Chlidonias niger	LC	EN	I	II	II	٧		
A031	Ciconia ciconia	LC	VU	I	II	II	٧		
A030	Ciconia nigra	LC	EN	I	- II	II	٧	II	
A080	Circaetus gallicus	LC	NT	I	II	II		II	
A081	Circus aeruginosus	LC	VU	I	- II	II		II	
A082	Circus cyaneus	LC		I	II	II		II	
A083	Circus macrourus	NT	DD	I	- II	II		II	
A084	Circus pygargus	LC	CR	I	II	II		II	
A868	Leiopicus medius	LC		I	II				
A773	Ardea alba	LC	VU	I	II	II	٧		
A026	Egretta garzetta	LC		I	II		٧		X
A447	Emberiza caesia	LC		I	- II				
A379	Emberiza hortulana	LC		I	III				
A101	Falco biarmicus	LC	EN	I	II	II		II	
A511	Falco cherrug	EN	CR	1	II.	II		II	
A098	Falco columbarius	LC		I	H	Ш		II	
A103	Falco peregrinus	LC		I	- II	II		ı	



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A097	Falco vespertinus	NT	DD	1	II	II		II	
A321	Ficedula albicollis	LC		1	II	II			X
A320	Ficedula parva	LC	DD	1	II	II			
A154	Gallinago media	NT	DD	1	II	II	٧		
A075	Haliaeetus albicilla	LC	CR	1	II	I; II		1	
A707	Hieraaetus fasciatus (Aquila fasciata)	LC	VU	I	II	II		П	
A092	Hieraaetus pennatus (Aquila pennata)	LC	EN	I	II	II		П	
A131	Himantopus himantopus	LC		1	II	II	٧		
A022	Ixobrychus minutus	LC		1	II	II	٧		
A338	Lanius collurio	LC		1	II				
A339	Lanius minor	LC	NT	1	- II				
A862	Hydrocoloeus minutus	LC		1	II		٧		
A180	Larus genei	LC	VU	1	II	II	٧		
A176	Larus melanocephalus	LC	EN	1	II	II	٧		
A246	Lullula arborea	LC		1	III				
A242	Melanocorypha calandra	LC	VU	1	II				
A073	Milvus migrans	NR	CR	1	H	П		П	



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A074	Milvus milvus	LC	DD	1	II	II		Ш	
A023	Nycticorax nycticorax	LC	NT	1	II		٧		
A094	Pandion haliaetus	LC		1	II	II		II	
A020	Pelecanus crispus	NT	VU	1	II	1; 11	٧	1	
A019	Pelecanus onocrotalus	LC	VU	1	II	1; 11	٧		
A072	Pernis apivorus	LC		1	II	II		П	
A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus	LC		1	II	II	٧		
A861	Calidris pugnax	LC		l; II/2	III	II	٧		
A663	Phoenicopterus roseus	LC		1	II	II	٧	П	
A034	Platalea leucorodia	LC	VU	1	II	II	٧	П	
A140	Pluvialis apricaria	LC		I; II/2; III/2	III	II	٧		
A119	Porzana porzana	LC	DD	1	II	II	٧		
A863	Thalasseus sandvicensis	LC	VU	1	II	II	٧		
A193	Sterna hirundo	LC		1	II	II	٧		
A166	Tringa glareola	LC		1	II	II	٧		
Migrato	ry species with regular presenc	e	·	·	·		<u> </u>	·	<u> </u>
A298	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	LC			II	II			
A296	Acrocephalus palustris	LC			II	II			



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
	Acrocephalus								
A295	schoenobaenus	LC			П	II			
A297	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	LC			11	II			
A168	Actitis hypoleucos	LC			II	II	٧		
A247	Alauda arvensis	LC	NT	11/2	III				
A054	Anas acuta	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A857	Spatula clypeata	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A052	Anas crecca	NR		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A053	Anas platyrhynchos	LC		/1; /1	III	II	٧		
A856	Spatula querquedula	LC	VU	11/1	III	II	٧		
A889	Mareca strepera	LC	VU	11/1	III	II	٧		
A258	Anthus cervinus	LC			II				
A257	Anthus pratensis	NT			II				
A259	Anthus spinoletta	LC			11				
A256	Anthus trivialis	LC			II				
A228	Tachymarptis melba	LC			II				
A226	Apus apus	LC			III				
A028	Ardea cinerea	LC			III		٧		X



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A169	Arenaria interpres	LC			II	II	٧		
A061	Aythya fuligula	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A087	Buteo buteo	LC			II	II		II	X
A144	Calidris alba	LC			II	II	٧		
A149	Calidris alpina	LC			II	II	٧		
A147	Calidris ferruginea	NT			II	II	٧		
A145	Calidris minuta	LC			II	II	٧		
A146	Calidris temminckii	LC			II	II	٧		
A137	Charadrius hiaticula	LC			II	II	٧		
A198	Chlidonias leucopterus	LC			II	П	٧		
A113	Coturnix coturnix	LC		11/2	III	II			
A212	Cuculus canorus	LC			III				
A036	Cygnus olor	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A738	Delichon urbicum (urbica)	LC			II				X
A382	Emberiza melanocephala	LC			II				
A269	Erithacus rubecula	LC			II.	II			X
A099	Falco subbuteo	LC			II	II		II	
A322	Ficedula hypoleuca	LC			II	II			



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A657	Fringilla coelebs all others	LC			III				X
A125	Fulica atra	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A153	Gallinago gallinago	LC		11/1; 111/2	III	II	٧		
A487	Iduna pallida s. str.	LC			II	II			
A299	Hippolais icterina	LC			II	II			
A479	Cecropis daurica	LC			II				X
A251	Hirundo rustica	LC			II				X
A233	Jynx torquilla	LC			II				
A341	Lanius senator	LC			II				X
A179	Larus ridibundus	LC		11/2	III		٧		
A156	Limosa limosa	NT		11/2	III	II	٧		
A292	Locustella luscinioides	LC			II	II			
A271	Luscinia megarhynchos	LC			II	II			
A069	Mergus serrator	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A230	Merops apiaster	LC			II	II			
A262	Motacilla alba	LC			II				X
A261	Motacilla cinerea	LC			II				
A260	Motacilla flava	LC			II				



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A319	Muscicapa striata	LC			II	II			X
A768	Numenius arquata arquata	NT		11/2	III	II	٧		
A278	Oenanthe hispanica	LC			II	II			
A277	Oenanthe oenanthe	LC			II	II			
A337	Oriolus oriolus	LC			II				
A214	Otus scops	LC			II			II	X
A355	Passer hispaniolensis	LC			III				X
A273	Phoenicurus ochruros	LC			II	II			
A274	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	LC			II	II			
A572	Phylloscopus collybita s. str.	LC			II	II			
A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	LC			II	II			X
A316	Phylloscopus trochilus	LC			II	II			X
A141	Pluvialis squatarola	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A005	Podiceps cristatus	LC			III		٧		
A008	Podiceps nigricollis	LC			II		٧		
A249	Riparia riparia	LC			II				
A275	Saxicola rubetra	LC			II	II			X
A210	Streptopelia turtur	VU		11/2	III	II			X



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Code	Species Name	IUCN (2020)	Greek Red Data Book (2008)	Birds Directive	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	AEWA	CITES	Observed during field work
A351	Sturnus vulgaris	LC		11/2					
A310	Sylvia borin	LC			II	II			
A304	Sylvia cantillans	LC			II	II			
A309	Sylvia communis	LC			II	II			
A574	Sylvia curruca	LC			II	II			
A048	Tadorna tadorna	LC	VU		II	II	٧		
A161	Tringa erythropus	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A164	Tringa nebularia	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A165	Tringa ochropus	LC			II	II	٧		
A163	Tringa stagnatilis	LC			II	II	٧		
A162	Tringa totanus	LC		11/2	III	II	٧		
A283	Turdus merula	LC		11/2	III	II			
A285	Turdus philomelos	LC		11/2	III	II			
A232	<i>Upupa epops</i>	LC			II				
A142	Vanellus vanellus	NT	VU	11/2	III	II	٧		

Prepared by: (NCC,2021)

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Threat categories according to IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species (2020.1) (http://www.iucnredlist.org/): EX: Extinct, CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened, LC: Least Concern, DD: Data Deficient, NE: Not Evaluated

Red Data Book of Rare and Threatened Plants of Greece (2009): EX: Extinct, CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened, LC: Least Concern, DD: Data Deficient, NE: Not Evaluated, (): temporary category

Threat categories according to the Red Data Book for Endangered Animals of Greece (2009): EX: Extinct, CR: Critically Endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, NT: Near Threatened, LC: Least Concern, DD: Data Deficient, NE: Not Evaluated

Birds Directive (2009/147/EC): I: Annex I - Species subject to special management measures for their biotope, II/1: Annex II/1 - Species that may be hunted in the geographical area where the Directive applies, II/2: Annex II/2 - Species that may be hunted only in the Member State in respect of which they are indicated, III/1: Annex III/1- Member States shall not prohibit their exploitation, III/2: Annex III/2 - Member States may prohibit the exploitation of these species

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). I: Appendix I – Strictly Protected Flora Species, II: Appendix II – Protected Fauna Species

Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS, Bonn Convention). I: Appendix I – Endangered migratory species, II: Appendix II – Migratory species conserved through Agreements

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA, CMS).

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). I: Appendix I - endangered species of animals and plants, which CITES generally prohibits international trade of their specimens, II: Appendix II - species of animals and plants which are not directly threatened with extinction, but may be listed in Annex I if their trade is not controlled.





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ANNEX C ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS





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Table ANNEX-3 Ecological requirements, threats and state in Greece and the Study Area of Species assessed by the AA (1: Dimalexis et al., 2009, 2: species population according to BirdLife International (2015), 3: SDF)

		Habitat ¹				Significant	Population in
Code	Species Name	Reproduction	Foraging	Threats ¹	Presence Status in Greece ²	Presence Status in the Study Area ³	the Study Area ³
Trigger	species						
A138	Charadrius alexandrinus	sandy, muddy and gravely shores, dunes, coastal lagoons, seasonally flooded land, swamps and deltas	sandy, muddy and gravely shores, dunes, coastal lagoons, seasonally flooded land, swamps and deltas	loss of wetland areas, disturbance, loss of nesting sites at the coastal zone, reduction of water and sediment supply to estuaries, collision at power lines	Resident (1,000-2,000 pairs) and winter visitor (815-8,534 individuals)	Summer visitor, winter visitor	А
Birds D	irective Annex I specie	S					
A026	Egretta garzetta	riparian forests, reeds, standing freshwaters	standing freshwater, wet meadows, cultivated land	loss, shrinkage and alteration of freshwater wetlands & disturbance	Passage visitor and resident (2,549 pairs)	Passage visitor, Summer visitor, Winter visitor	А
A087	Buteo buteo	coniferous forests, deciduous broadleafed forests, forest marginal ecotones	scrubland, cultivated land, forest marginal ecotones	fire, logging, impropor forest management, intensification of agriculture	Resident (4,000-8,000 pairs) and winter visitor	Resident species, Winter visitor	С
A214	Otus scops	Stones and boulders, grasslands, urban parks and gardens, cultivated land	variety of habitats including crops, olive groves or orchards but also parks or suburban forests	Destruction of mature trees, abandonment of old buildings,intensive use of agrochemicals, collission at power lines	summer visitor (5,000- 20,000 pairs)	Resident species	С





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		Habitat ¹				Significant	Population in
Code	Species Name	Reproduction	Foraging	Threats ¹	Presence Status in Greece ²	Presence Status in the Study Area ³	the Study Area ³
A210	Streptopelia turtur	areas with sparse forest cover, openings, extensive crops, hedgerows, tree clusters etc, often near settlements, scrubland	forest plantation, cultivated land, scrubland, forest marginal ecotones	abandonment of traditional agricultural practices, intensification of annual crops, pollution from agrocehmicals, reparcelling	summer visitor (30,000- 80,000 pairs) and passage visitor	Passage visitor, Summer visitor	С
A321	Ficedula albicollis		any kind of habitat with some trees and on small treeless islands	reduction / abandonment of fig cultivation and reduction of available places with surface water	passage visitor	Passage visitor	С
A341	Lanius senator	multiannual crops, scrubland, forest marginal ecotones	herbaceous lands and scattered shrubs and trees, dry bushy pastures, cultivated areas, forest margins, orchards, olive groves	intensification of agriculture, reparcelling, pollution from agrochemicals	Resident species (60,000-70,000 pairs)	Summer visitor, Passage visitor	С
A319	Muscicapa striata		open deciduous and coniferous woodland, clearings withing dense forest, orchards and olive groves		Summer visitor (130,000-170,000 pairs) and passage visitor	Passage visitor	С
Groups	of bird species of the St	cudy Area					
Herons	;		inland and coastal wetlands,	Degradation - destruction			
Wader Passeri	nes of wetlands	Reedbeds, riparian vegetation, open areas without vegetation	especially areas with shallow water depth (usually less than 30 cm), wet meadows and mudflats combined with areas with dense vegetation, such as reeds.	of wetlands (encroachment, expansion of settlements and leisure infrastructure, water and soil pollution, waste	Resident species, summer visitors, winter visitors, passage visitors		



Gulls and terns

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summer visitors, winter

visitors, passage visitors



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		Habitat ¹				Significant	Population in
Code	Species Name	Reproduction	Foraging	Threats ¹	Presence Status in Greece ²	Presence Status in the Study Area ³	the Study Area ³
				disposal, water management), poaching, disturbance from human activities			
Passeri areas	nes of agricultural	open areas that combine low Mediterranean vegetation (mainly macchia and phrygana), crops with scattered trees, hedges, etc.	open areas that combine low Mediterranean vegetation (mainly macchia and phrygana), crops with scattered trees, hedges, etc.	Use of fertilizers, pesticides, residential and tourist development	Resident species, summer visitors, winter visitors, passage visitors		
Pelican Waterf	s & shags owl			Degradation - destruction of wetlands (encroachment, expansion			
		inland and coastal wetlands with	inland and coastal wotlands with	of settlements and leisure	Resident species,		

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infrastructure, water and

management), poaching, disturbance from human

soil pollution, waste

disposal, water

activities

inland and coastal wetlands with

a mosaic of wetland vegetation

a mosaic of wetland vegetation

vegetation with deeper waters

but also open areas without





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ANNEX D PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



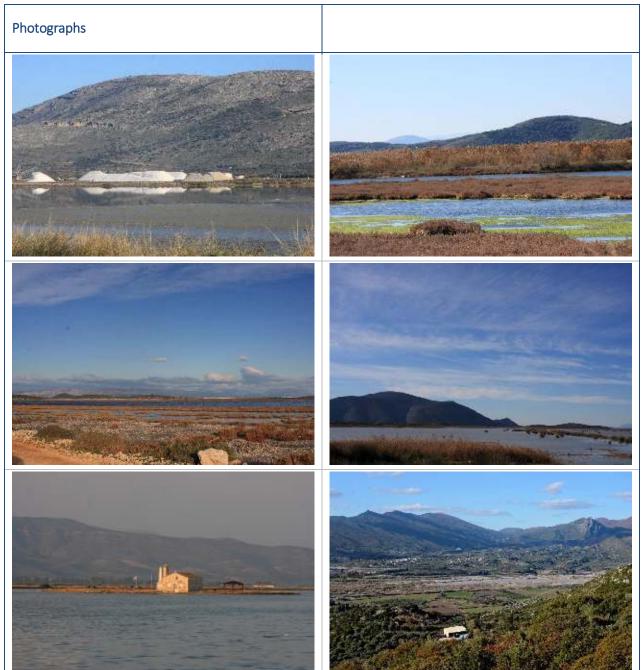


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Study Area

Note: The photographs provide an overview of the Natura 2000 site and come from the photographical archive of NCC Ltd.







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Photographs

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Field Survey Area

Note: Photographs of the FSA have been taken from the referred sampling plot corresponding to the IPs mentioned in the table and are illustrated in ANNEX F. Map 6.

IP	Photograph	Sampling Plot	Filename / Date
2013		ABR29	JPEG_2021 042511182 0976.jpg
2013		ABR29	JPEG_2021 042511184 6774.jpg





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IP	Photograph	Sampling Plot	Filename / Date
2012- 2013		ABR27	JPEG_2021 041214331 1286.jpg
2012- 2013		ABR27	JPEG_2021 041214335 8818.jpg

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ANNEX E MAPS





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- Map 1. EastMed pipeline and Natura 2000 sites it crosses
- Map 2. Study Area
- Map 3. Ecological Spatial Units Study Area
- Map 4. Field Survey Area
- Map 5. Ecological Spatial Units Field Survey Area
- Map 6. Sampling plots Field Survey Area

