

**Honeyguide's comments on the proposed wind farm development on western Lesvos,
July 2012**

Sent to perivallon@pvaigaiou.gov.gr and vorioaigaio@mou.gr and pba@otenet.gr
Copied to stevedudley@btconnect.com

Dear Sir

Proposed wind farm development on western Lesvos

I am very worried to read about the proposed wind farm on western Lesvos. Though in principle I favour energy created from sustainable sources, this proposal is wrong because:

- 1) It will affect birds using a Special Protection Area, part of the Natura 2000 network, and will therefore be illegal in European law.
- 2) It will discourage birdwatchers and other 'eco-tourists' from visiting Lesvos, and therefore have a detrimental impact on the economy of Lesvos.

Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays is a UK-based tour operator specialising in nature holidays. Over several years, we have sent eight (8) groups of people to Lesvos. We use locally-owned accommodation, usually in the Vatera area, hire local vehicles and eat in locally-owned tavernas. Our visits have been in April and September – the 'shoulder months' for tourism, when extra travellers are especially welcome.

We also include a conservation donation as part of our holiday price: see, for example, <http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/charitabletrust.htm> and <http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/wildlife-holidays/lesvos-cons.html>

One of the areas we visit, like many wildlife groups, is the unspoilt and rugged western part of Lesvos. One of the attractions here is the cinerous bunting *Emberiza cineracea*, with the western part of Lesvos the best place to see this bird in Europe.

The scale of this development means there is a serious risk, from the construction impacts alone, to the cinerous bunting *Emberiza cineracea*. This means the proposal runs counter to the needs of the Birds and Habitats Directives that protect the Natura 2000 network. It also fails to follow the EU's advice in its Guidance Document 'Wind Energy Development and the Natura 2000 Network - http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf

If this development takes place, it will discourage our company and others from sending eco-tourists to Lesvos.

While I am in favour of generating power from sustainable sources, it cannot be considered sustainable if it damages part of the Natura 2000 network of internationally important wildlife sites.

I urge the Greek authorities to reject, downscale or re-shape this proposal. Failing this, we will encourage the European Commission to intervene, owing to the potential breach of EU legislation.

Yours faithfully

C J Durdin

Chris Durdin
Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays
36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich NR7 0PX
01603 300552
chris@honeyguide.co.uk
www.honeyguide.co.uk