



## **AITO & THE HAWK AND OWL TRUST**

In November 2002 at the AITO Conference in Cadiz, Southern Spain, AITO held a charity auction at which a range of holidays and related services were put up for auction. A total of £4,470 was donated to the Hawk and Owl Trust as a result.

### **The Hawk and Owl Trust**

The Hawk and Owl Trust was formed in 1969 by a group of people deeply concerned about the welfare of birds of prey, specifically peregrines badly affected by pesticide poisoning. Over the years, the Trust has grown in both membership and scope, now working to protect all birds of prey and their habitats. This is achieved through a range of activities, including;

- Creating, managing and monitoring habitats
- Practical research in to habitats and species
- Imaginative education about species and habitats

The Hawk and Owl Trust was selected to receive the donation as they are operating in partnership with the Spanish NGO SEO / Bird Life in the Cadiz province in Southern Spain, where the AITO Conference was held. The project selected for funding was the 'Rural schools pack on the Spanish Imperial Eagle', which incorporates both social and environmental aspects.

The project involves the production of posters and educational packs, which include information on biology, management and conservation. These have been distributed throughout rural schools in the Cadiz Province, to help raise awareness and educate school children as part of a long-term protection programme under the EU Action Plan for the endangered Spanish Imperial Eagle. The AITO funds have been used for the planning, printing and distribution of the school packs, which are also being developed as a model for similar education projects on endangered raptors elsewhere.