

Strasbourg, 13 March 2018
[files21e_2018.docx]

T-PVS/Files(2018)21

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

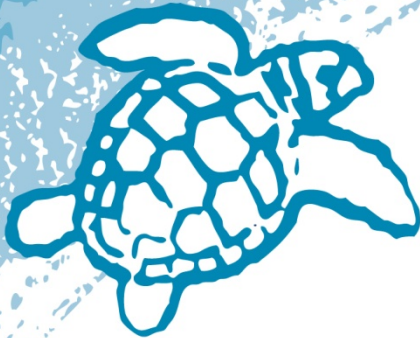
Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the
protection of *Caretta Caretta* in Laganas bay,
Zakynthos (Greece)**

- REPORT BY THE NGO -

*Document prepared by
MEDASSET*

**MEDASSET**Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea TurtlesLicavitou 1C, Athens, Greece 106 72
Tel./Fax: +30 210 361 3572, 210 364 0389
E-mail: medasset@medasset.org
www.medasset.org
www.euroturtle.org

Mr. Øystein Storkersen
President
Bureau to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Athens, 08 March 2018

Our Ref. 24550**Re: Supporting updated information in relation to Recommendation No. 9 (1987)**

Dear Mr. Storkersen,

We wish to provide an update regarding recent developments in relation to Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece).

- 1) During 2017, two new illegal buildings were constructed within the boundaries of the Zakynthos National Marine Park: a stable (approx. 158 m², Fig. 1) and a house (approx. 70 m², Fig. 2) were constructed behind the nesting beach of Gerakas, inside the Nature Protection Zone (Fig.3). According to the Presidential Decree establishing the National Park, no buildings are permitted in this zone. Environmental NGOs were informed about this development in late December 2017.
- 2) In early February 2018 the Greek Parliament approved a new law regarding the operation of Management Agencies (Law 4519/2018, FEK 25 A'/20-2-2018). This new law ensures there will be no abolishment of the Management Agency of the Zakynthos National Marine Park.

We would appreciate if this new information together with ARCHELON's report to the 2017 Standing Committee meeting are taken under consideration during the discussion of Agenda Item 6 at the upcoming Bureau Meeting.

We kindly request that the Bureau considers conducting an on-the-spot appraisal during the summer season, with the participation of the European Commission, aiming to update Recommendation No. 9 in order to assist and encourage Greek Authorities to improve the protection of Laganas Bay.

We are at your disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Lily Venizelos
MEDASSET President
Member of IUCN-Species Survival Commission: Marine Turtle Specialist Group

Protecting marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean since 1988

Enclosed: Fig. 1-3

CC: European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment:

Mr Andras DEMETER, Directorate B – Natural Capital

Mr. Fotios Papoulias, Directorate B – Natural Capital

Mr. George Kremlis, Directorate E – Implementation and Support to Member States

Mr. Yannis Couniniotis, Directorate E – Implementation and Support to Member States



Fig.1. New stable inside protected area behind Gerakas nesting beach. Source: Environmental Directorate of the Ionian Region (Letter with Ref. 106239/2018)

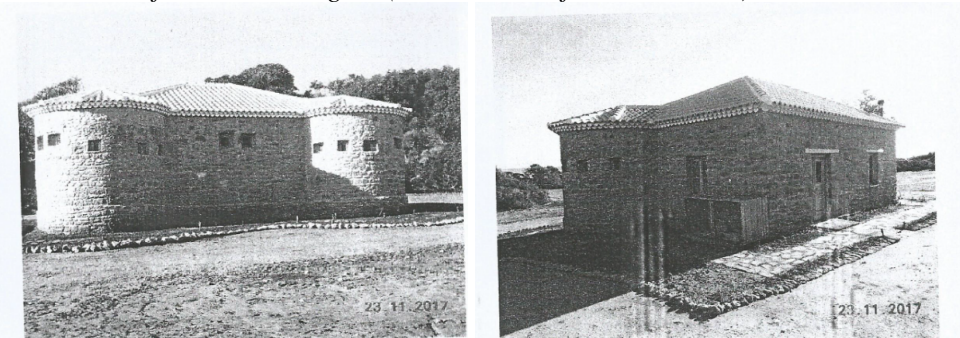


Fig.2. New house inside protected area behind Gerakas nesting beach. Source: Environmental Directorate of the Ionian Region (Letter with Ref. 106239/2018)

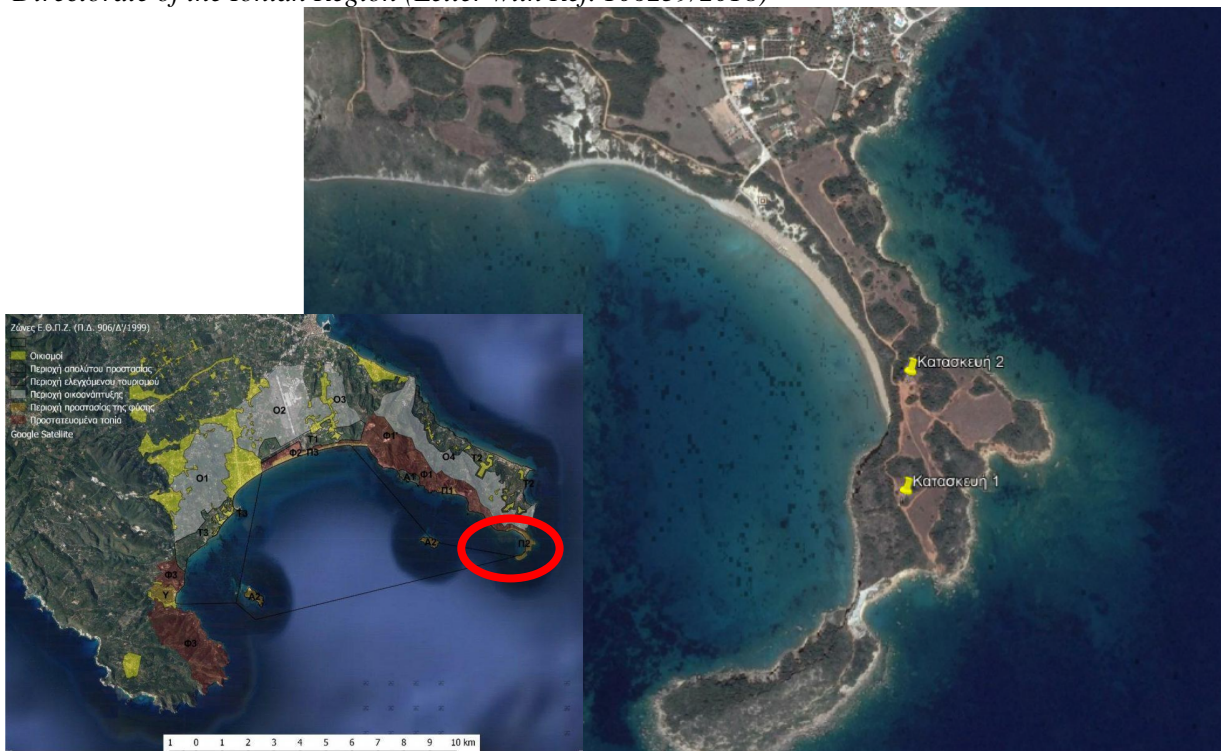


Fig.3. Location of Gerakas within the National Park (red circle in left image) and location of two new buildings inside protected area behind Gerakas nesting beach (yellow pins in right image). Source: Zákynthos National Marine Park (Letter with Ref. 1978)