



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

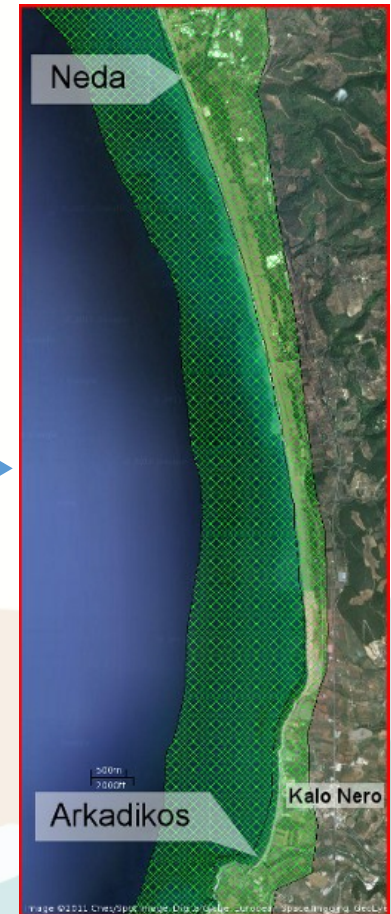
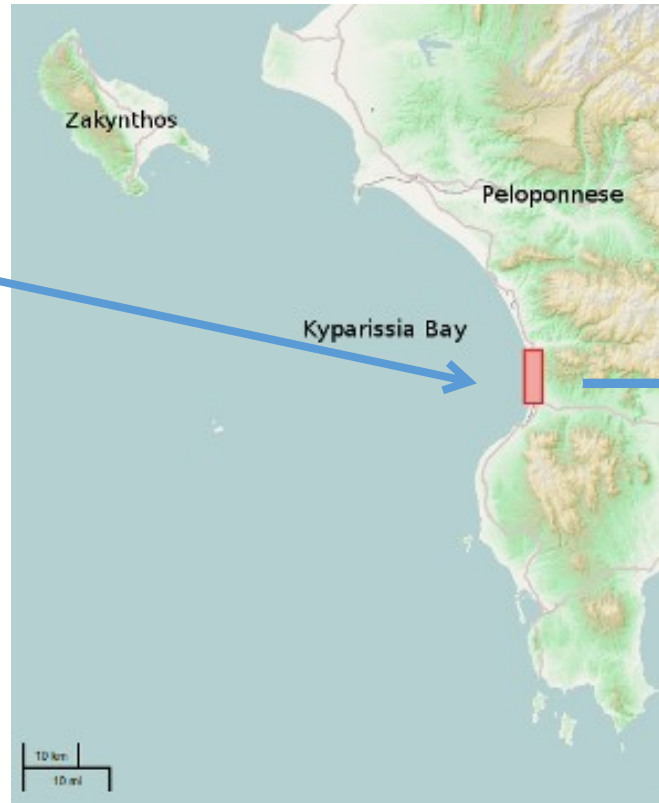
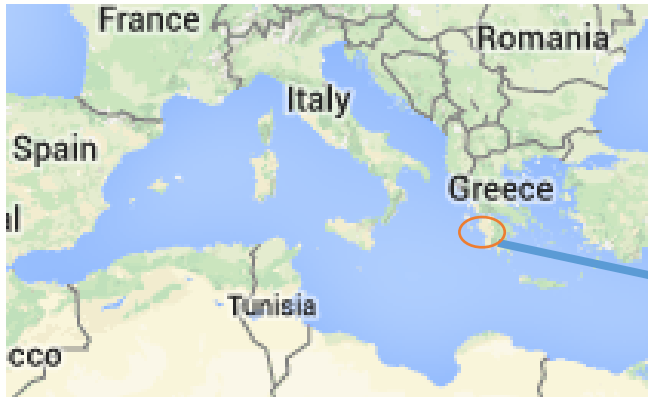
Agenda Item: 5.1

Greece: Threats to Marine Turtles in Thines Kiparissias

Survey August 2017

37th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Bern Convention
Wednesday 6 December 2017

Habitat Degradation due to Uncontrolled Development in a Protected Sea Turtle Nesting Area



- ✓ NATURA 2000 site: THINES KYPARISSIAS –GR2550005
- ✓ 2nd most important nesting beach for endangered *Caretta caretta* in the Mediterranean (at least 1200 nests every year)
- ✓ Extensive sand dunes system with *Juniperus spp*



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Government Fails to Prevent Habitat Deterioration and Ensure Improved Protection

- Aug 2010 - MEDASSET Complaint to the Bern Convention
- Oct 2012 - EC Reasoned Opinion to Greece
- Nov 2012 - Greece commits to taking measures
- Summer 2013 - Degradation continues:
 - Temporary measures not implemented
 - Protective legislation considerably delayed
- Dec 2013 - Case File opened at Standing Committee
- Mar 2014 - EC takes Greece to European Court of Justice
- Jul 2014 - On-the-spot appraisal by Bern Convention experts
- Dec 2014 - CoE Unanimously voted Rec. No 174
- Nov 2016 - Judgment of the CJEU [C-504/14] Greece failed to fulfil its obligations under Directive 92/43/EC
- Jul 2017 - Council of State requested re-examination



Measure No 1: National Park or equivalent Protection Status



The Ministry of Environment has yet to supply the Council of State with the information/explanations it requires before it can finalise a new Presidential Decree granting an appropriate and integrated level of protection to the whole area.

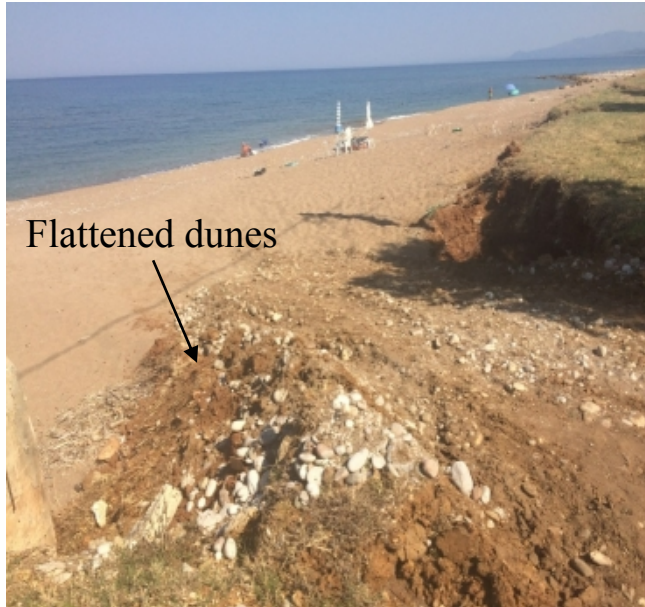
Measure No 2: Permanent Prohibition of Construction



- **The ministerial Decision of 2016 suspends the granting of new building permits for only 2 years**



Measure No 3: Restoration of Original Dune and Forest Habitat



Flattened dunes

- There have been no actions to reinstate destroyed dune ecosystems
- Vehicles continue to access nesting beaches



Access routes to the beach through the dunes



Vehicle tracks on the dunes



Measure No 4: Adjustments to existing houses



- There has been no action to reinstate the destroyed dune ecosystems and to reduce light-pollution
- New planting in the area of Vounaki

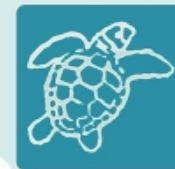


Measure No 5: No agriculture. Dune restoration



Cultivation of water melons near Kalo Nero nesting beach

- **The cultivation of water melons and market vegetables continues on the dunes.**



Measure No 6: General Photo-Pollution

- There is intense light pollution and regular human access at night
- Some sea-turtle friendly street lights have been added

Measure No 7: Beach Equipment

- The beach is overcrowded with sun beds and umbrellas. Illegal wooden platforms remain on the nesting beach



Intense light pollution on Kalo Nero nesting beach



Measure No 8: Sand and Gravel Extraction



- Sand and gravel extraction has not been an issue this year

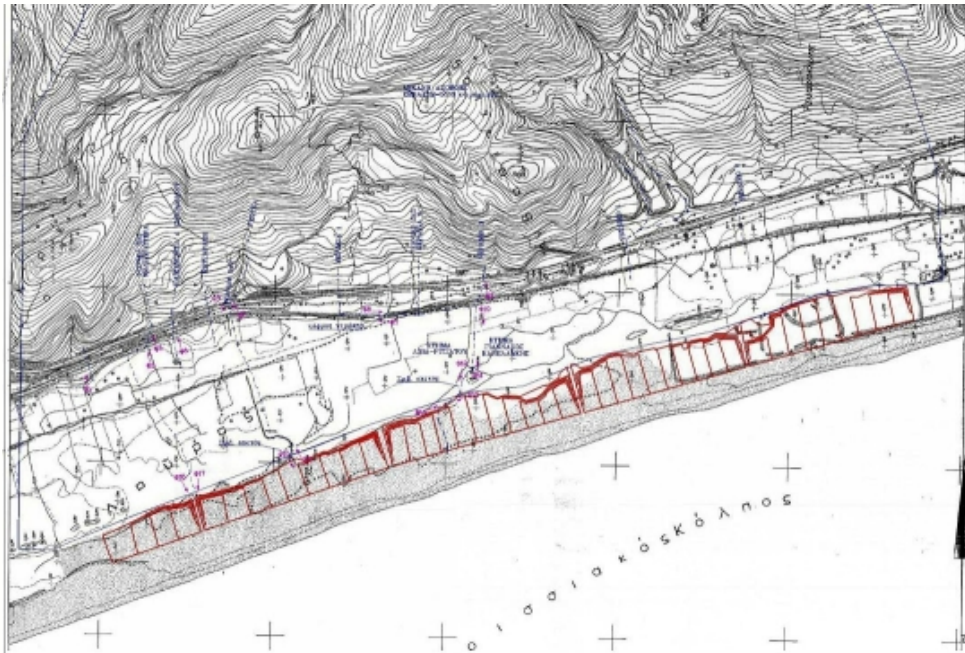
Measure No12: Feral Dogs



- No dog attacks were recorded this year



Measure No 9: Further building



- The ministerial Decision of 2016 suspends new building permits for 2 years
- Further building is expected to be addressed by the new Presidential Decree.



Measure No 10: Circulation of vessels



Fishing with nets near the nesting beach is currently permitted, leading both adult sea turtles and hatchlings to be caught during the reproductive season.



Measure No 11: Use of the Beach at Night



Use of the nesting beach at night

- No measures to prevent people and cars from reaching the beach at night, and no warning signs



Conclusion



- In 2017 there was no improvement as far as the protection and management of the sea turtle nesting beaches in Kyparissia is concerned.
- Threats identified led to the destruction of nests, unsuccessful nesting attempts, and mortality of hatchlings and adult turtles.



MEDASSET:

Calls on the Greek Government for:

The urgent implementation of Recommendation No. 174 of the Bern Convention

The urgent issue of a new Presidential Decree that will take into account both Recommendation No.174 and decision 32/2015 of the Hellenic Republic's Council of State.

Calls on the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention:

To keep the case file open and to continue following up through the Greek Government regarding progress made on a new **Presidential Decree**.



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**Thank you for your kind
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