



GREECE: Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos

44th Meeting of the Standing Committee, 2 December - 6 December 2024



Laganas Bay: An update

- Most of the cases are addressed immediately by:
 - notifying the involved people,
 - carrying out public awareness campaigns,
 - using social media, organizing gatherings and promoting public participation
- NECCA/OFYPEKA implements scientific monitoring and mitigation measures for the protection of sea turtles in the local Management Unit
- The principles of adapted management and the **Bern Convention guideline tool** are complied with in cooperation with the Environmental NGOs 'ARCHELON' and 'WWF Hellas', the competent authorities and other stakeholders



Laganas Bay: An update

- Despite the rapid increase in the number of visitors on the island of Zakynthos (estimated at 1.5 million people), the continuous rising trend of the nesting activity of sea turtles and, for the second consecutive year, the **highest number of nests** recorded in Zakynthos since 1984 (**over 2,300 nests in 2024**) demonstrate the **effectiveness** of the applied protection measures
- NECCA/OFYPEKA ensures the **seamless funding** of the NMPZ* and has planned a **number of activities** (e.g., acquisition of **boats, information systems** for the effective monitoring of sea turtle strandings, signing of **Memoranda of Cooperation** with the involved **stakeholders**, support to the **Port Authority** of Zakynthos, etc.), which undoubtedly contribute to a **more efficient management** of the protected area

*National Marine Park of Zakynthos

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Laganas Bay: An update

- **Landfill in 'Skopos' area: an Environmental Impact Assessment** on its restoration is under public consultation and the local Management Unit of NECCA/OFYPEKA is currently formulating an opinion on the issue. After the approval of the environmental terms by the competent authority, all necessary actions for the restoration of the landfill will be carried out
- The complainant NGO is kindly asked to clarify which other pending cases they are referring to in their recent report to the Bureau



Penal follow-up on the road opening case between Gerakas and Daphne

- ❑ The person allegedly involved in those illegal activities carried out in 2015 was finally **condemned** by the Patras three-bench Court of Appeal for Misdemeanors (Decision no. 288/2023) for violating both the provisions of the Presidential Decree no. 906/1999 and the art. 28 of Law no. 1650/1986
- ❑ The condemned person filed an appeal (no. 191/2023) at the High Court of Cassation ('Areios Pagos'), which in its turn rejected the appeal (Decision no. 1288/2023) rendering so final the Decision of the three-bench Court of Appeal for Misdemeanors
- ❑ A new prosecution against the same person was filed in 2018 by the local Management Unit of NECCA/OFYPEKA for new interventions in the opened road
- ❑ The last case was discussed in the Court of first instance in Zakynthos in July 2024 and the same person was condemned again, although he subsequently filed an appeal to be examined in the coming months



Delineation of the acceptable upper limit of beach as a management measure for nest protection. (Gerakas nesting beach)

Environmental awareness for schools at Gerakas Information Center



Sekania nesting beach



Nesting beach cleaning by the Eco Guards from the M.U. of Zakynthos in collaboration with NGO WWF, Archelon and Ionian University



Buoys immersion that prohibit the access in the maritime zone A (summer months)



Placement of bars and signs to prevent motor vehicles from entering the beach and visitors during the night



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Sea turtle nest excavation as part of school environmental education and scientific monitoring

Installation of a fence to protect the geological formations on Gerakas beach

Placement of two underwater hydrophone in Lagana's Gulf for the measurement of noise and its impact on sea turtles



Installation of ecological anchorages for the protection of Posidonia meadows (Pelouzo Island)



Panels on the nesting beaches and at the fishing shelters of Keri and Agios Sosti

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Sekania Beach during the night, recorded by one of the nine surveillance cameras installed by WWF Hellas in cooperation with the Management Unit

Sekania Beach during the day, recorded by one of the nine surveillance cameras installed by WWF Hellas in cooperation with the Management Unit



Photos taken during the summer period 2024 and provided by courtesy of the PAMU 11/NECCA

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Thank you very much for your
attention!