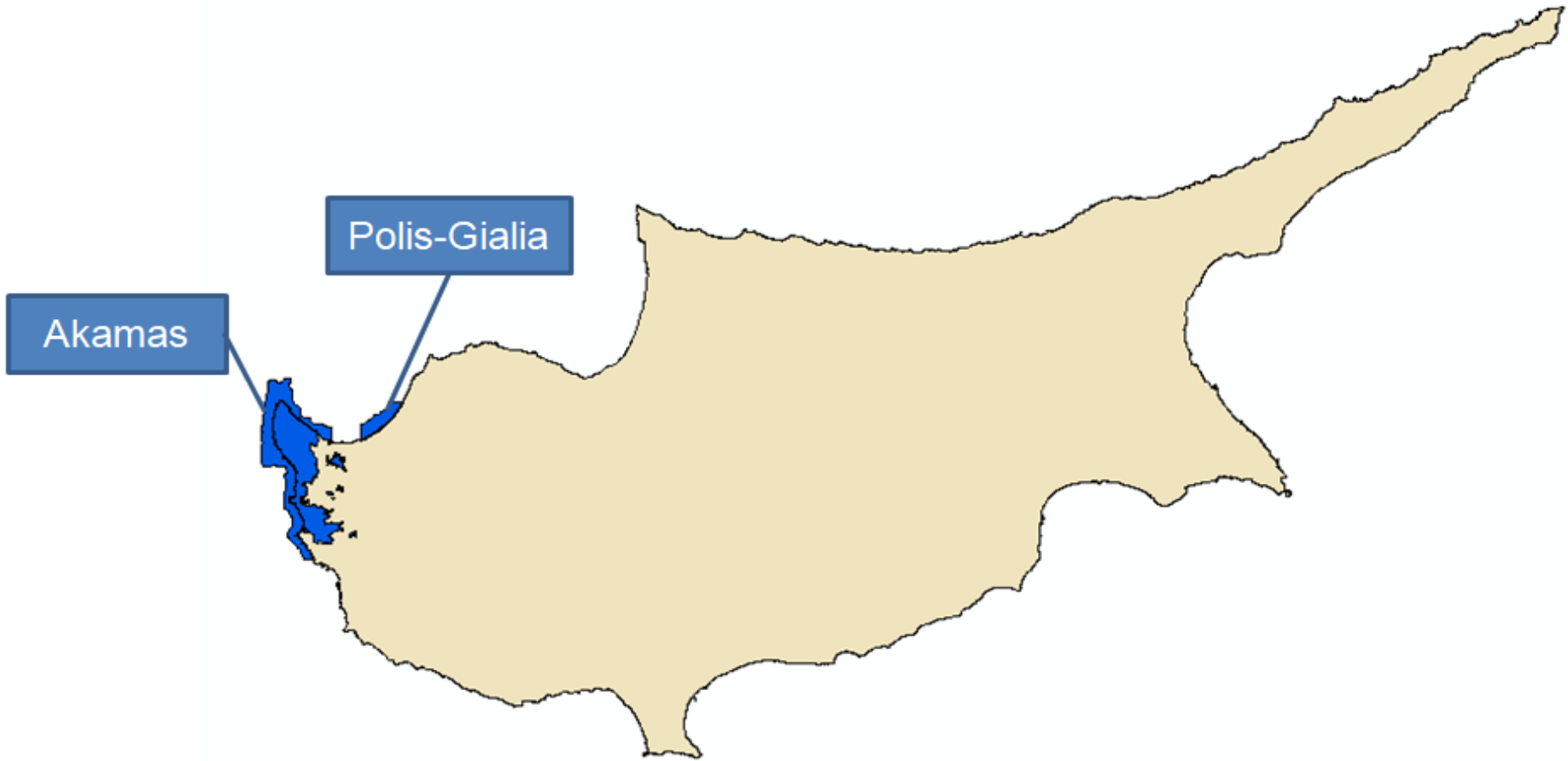


# Conservation of the Akamas Peninsula and Chrysochous Bay in Western Cyprus:

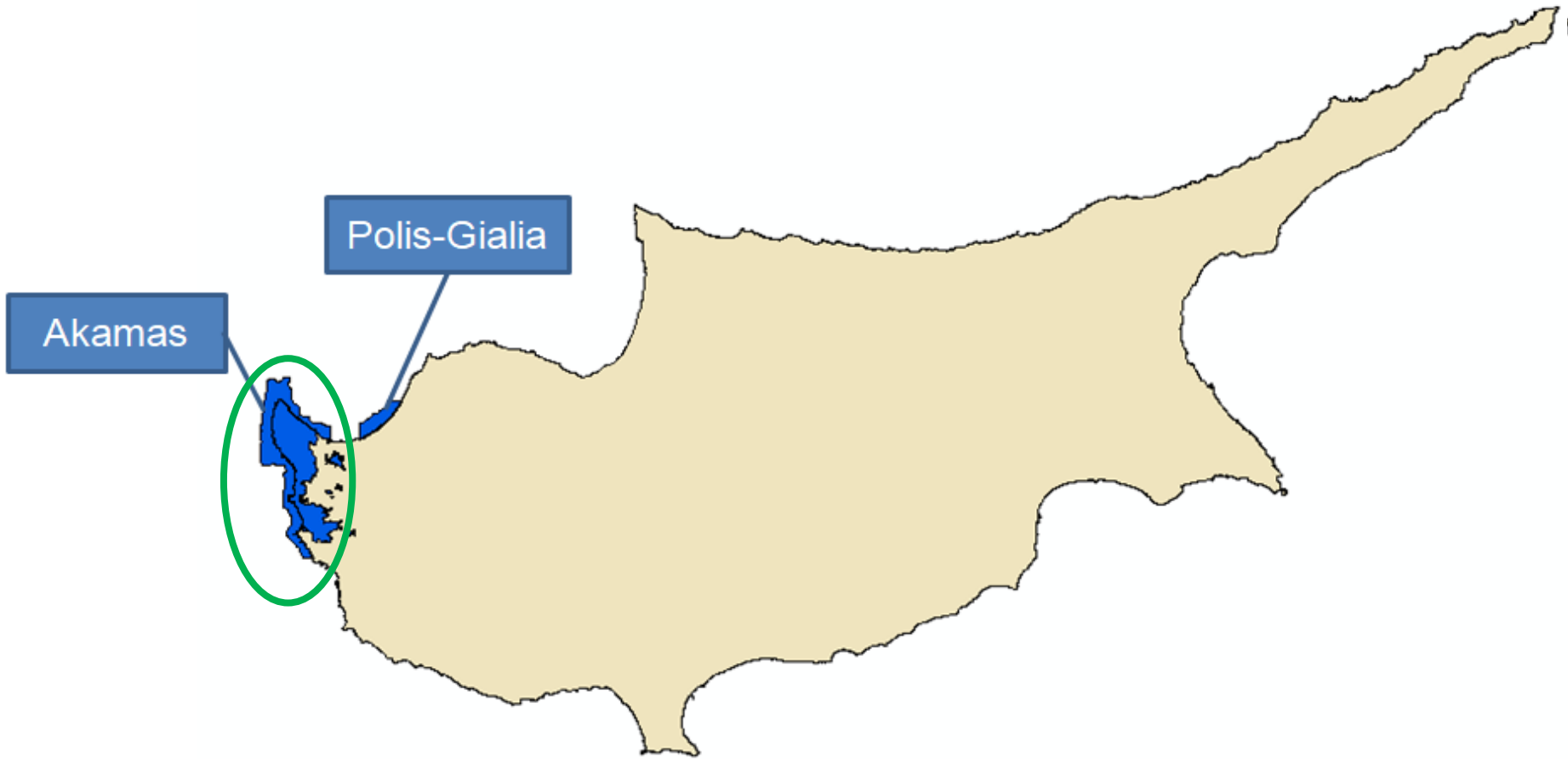
Threats posed to wildlife by development near or within these areas



# Akamas Peninsula and Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 sites



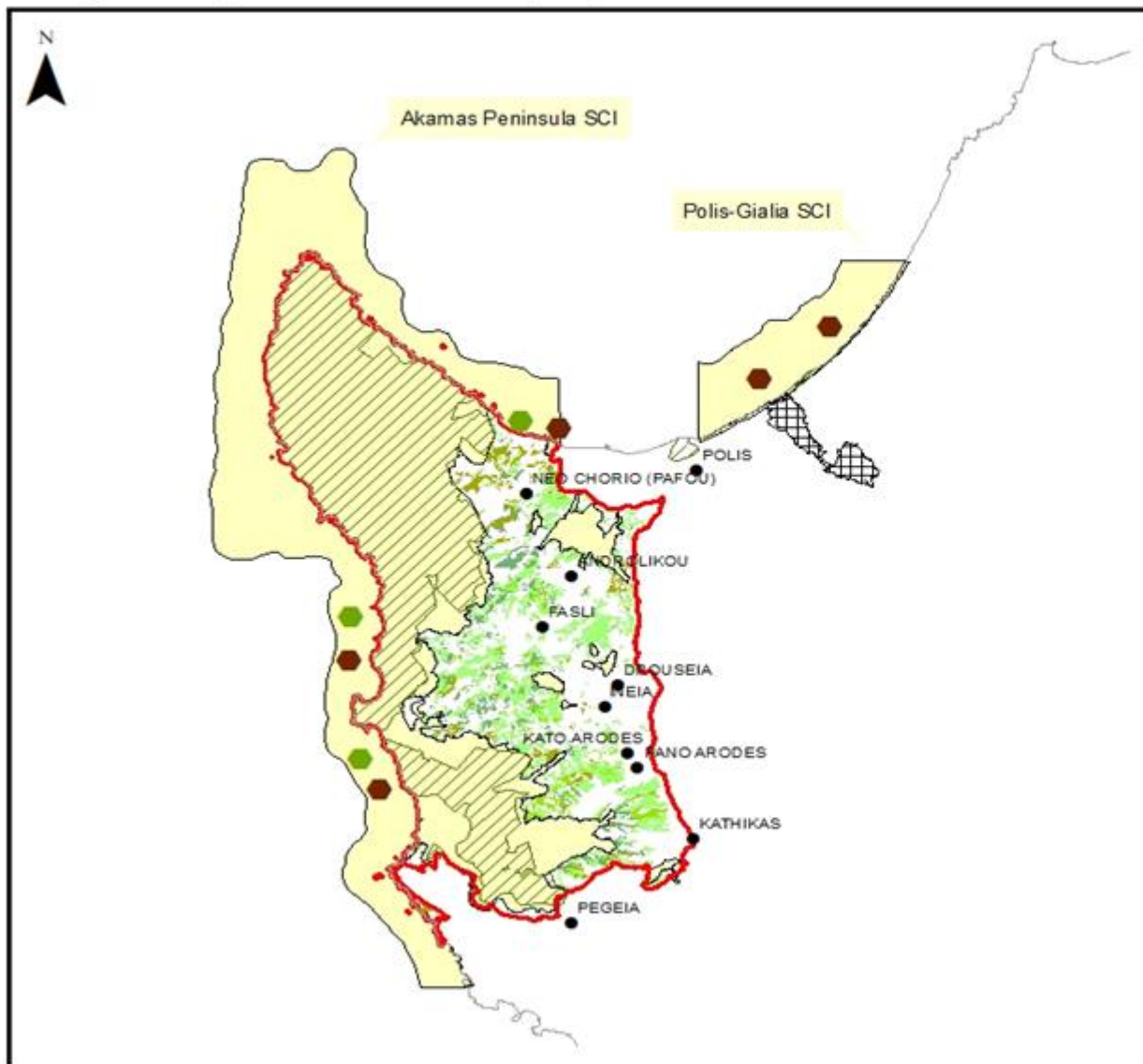
# Akamas Peninsula Natura 2000 sites





Category of Protected Area	Area (hectares)	Proposed / Designated as Protected Area
<b>UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Akamas Peninsula</b>	<b>23,000 ha</b> (only terrestrial area)	Proposed by the Republic of Cyprus, UNDP, EEC and METAP/World Bank, between 1987-1995
<b>First Proposal for Akamas Natura 2000 area</b>	<b>17,690 ha terrestrial area</b> and 7,851 ha marine area	Proposed by the Republic of Cyprus between 1998-2003
<b>Natura 2000 Site of Community Importance (SCI CY4000010) Akamas Peninsula</b>	<b>10,163 ha terrestrial area</b> and 7,851 ha marine area	Proposed by the Republic of Cyprus in 2009 and approved by the European Commission in 2010. Since then, the site has not been designated as SAC
<b>Akamas National Forest Park (NFP)</b>	<b>7,762 ha</b> (only terrestrial area, which corresponds to 75% of the terrestrial area of Natura 2000 sites SCI CY4000010 and SPA CY4000023 Akamas Peninsula)	Designated by the Republic of Cyprus between 2016-2018

# Designations, characterisations, important habitats and threats in Akamas Peninsula and Polis-Gialia Areas



## Legend

Turtle Nesting Sites

● *Caretta caretta*

● *Chelonia mydas*

● Communities

▨ Limni Golf Project

▭ LIFE Third Countries 1998 Project

▨ National State Forest

▭ Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)

LIFE Third Countries 1998 Project Habitats

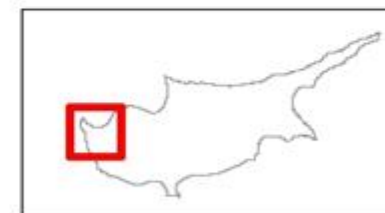
Habitat Code

▭ Mixed habitat including 5330, 6220\* and/or 9320

▭ 5330

▭ 6220\*

▭ 9320



This map has been created by  
The Cyprus Conservation Foundation  
Terra Cypria



# 14

Κόμβοι  
Διευκολύνσεων

A/A	ΚΟΜΒΟΣ	ΔΙΕΥΚΟΛΥΝΣΕΙΣ									
1	Λαπρος Ποταμός	☞	P	WC	i	♿	♻️	📖	🚲	🛒	📷
2	Κάθηκας - Μούντικο	☞	P		i				🚲		
3	Πάνω Αρόδες - Λίπαση	☞	P		i				🚲		
4	Τοξεύτρα	☞	P		i					📷	📷
5	Αθακας	☞	P	WC	i		♻️			📷	📷
6	Ίνια - Λάρα	☞	P	WC	i	♿	♻️	📖		📷	📷
7	Βόρειος Κόλπος Λάρας			WC	i					📷	📷
8	Νότιος Κόλπος Λάρας			WC	i		♻️	📖		📷	📷
9	Γεράνησας		P		i						
10	Τζόνι		P	WC	i	♿	♻️				
11	Δρούσεια - Τζιφι	☞	P		i						
12	Σμηγίτες	☞	P	WC	i	♿	♻️				
13	Λουτρά Αφροδίτης	☞	P	WC	i	♿				📷	📷
14	Φοντάνα Αμορόζα			WC	i		♻️			📷	📷



The official proposal for the Akamas National Forest Park (NFP) entrances (red symbol in right legend) and the 14 nodes (yellow symbol in right legend) providing facilities such as refreshment points, toilets and souvenir stands etc, across the Akamas NFP.



# Akamas Natura 2000 site

## What are the main issues?

### DESIGNATION

- Insufficient Natura 2000 Site Designation
- Unprotected priority habitats (e.g. 6220\* and 3170\*) and species (e.g. *Aquila fasciata* and *Coracias garrulus*)
- Lack of political will to declare the whole area of Akamas Peninsula as a protected area with comparable international protection status (e.g. UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, EU Natura 2000 and/or IUCN National Park)

### MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- **Existing Management Plans** (SCI, SPA, Grazing Capacity and Local Communities Sustainable Development) **do not have legal standing** and are not implemented
- No Management Entity
- New Plans are under preparation, carrying potential threats:
  - Two separate Local Development Plans by the Town Planning and Housing Department
  - A Sustainable Development Plan for Akamas National Forest Park by the Department of Forests



# Akamas Natura 2000 site

## What are the main issues?

### Akamas National Forest Park (ANFP)

- Covers only the state forest land of Akamas, an area which corresponds to **75% of the Natura 2000** areas
- Plans and assessment of ANFP's plans before undertaking an Appropriate Assessment and in breach of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC):
  - Architectural design of the infrastructures within the park,
  - Extensive road network and improvement of existing roads with harmful materials (asphalt)
  - Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA)
- The SEA for the *Akamas National Forest Park Sustainable Development Plan (ANFPSDP)* was undertaken by the Forest Department. The *ANFPSDP* was prepared by the same Department.
- 14 development nodes (facilities) within the ANFP: Entrance Points, Parking lots, Toilets, 4x4 Shuttle Vehicle Stops, Information Centre/ Point, Refreshment Kiosk/ Souvenir Shop etc.

# Akamas Natura 2000 site

## What are the main issues?

### MANAGEMENT ON-THE-GROUND

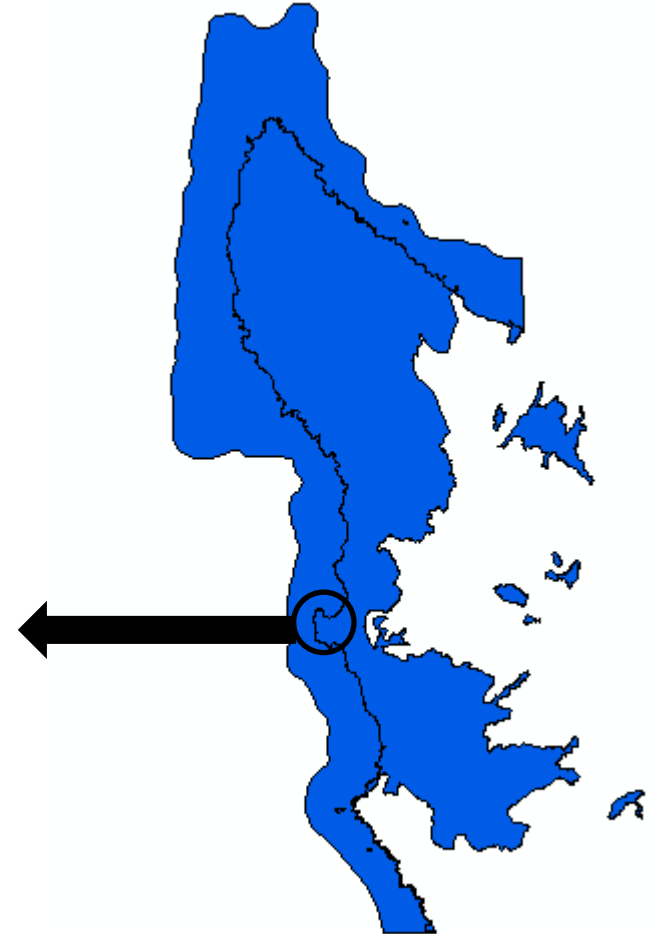
- No effective protection measures in place
- Integrated management for early response system, intervention, accountability and fines **not in place**

Some examples of the result of such lack of integrated management

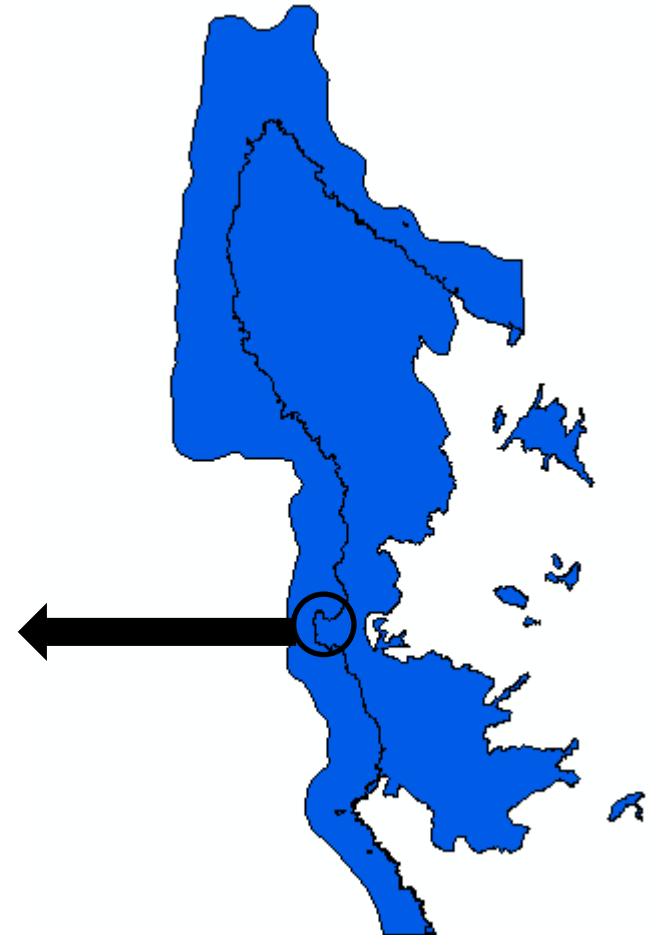
## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Illegal snack bar in South Lara Bay**

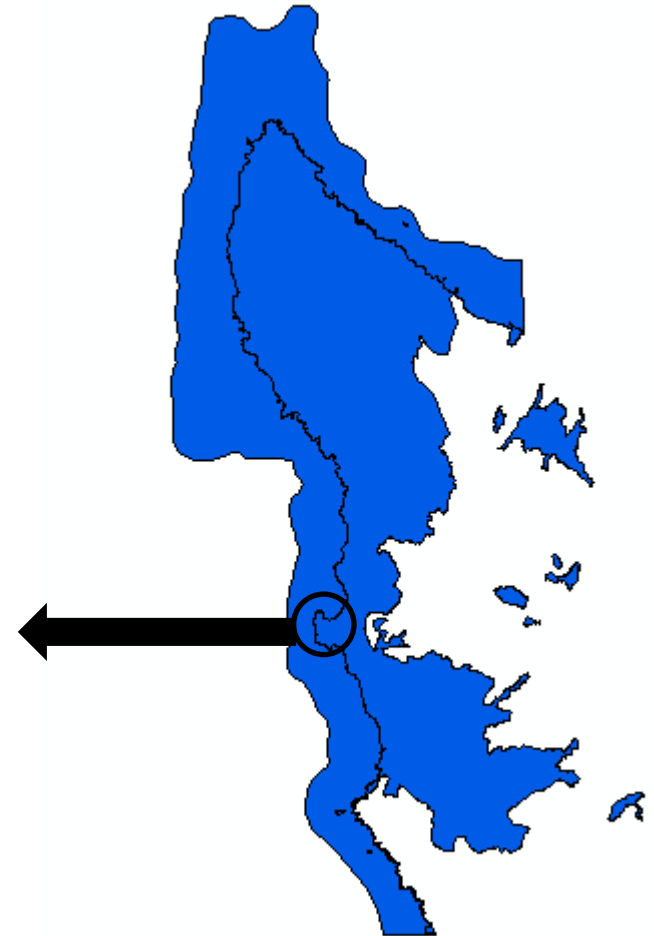


## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



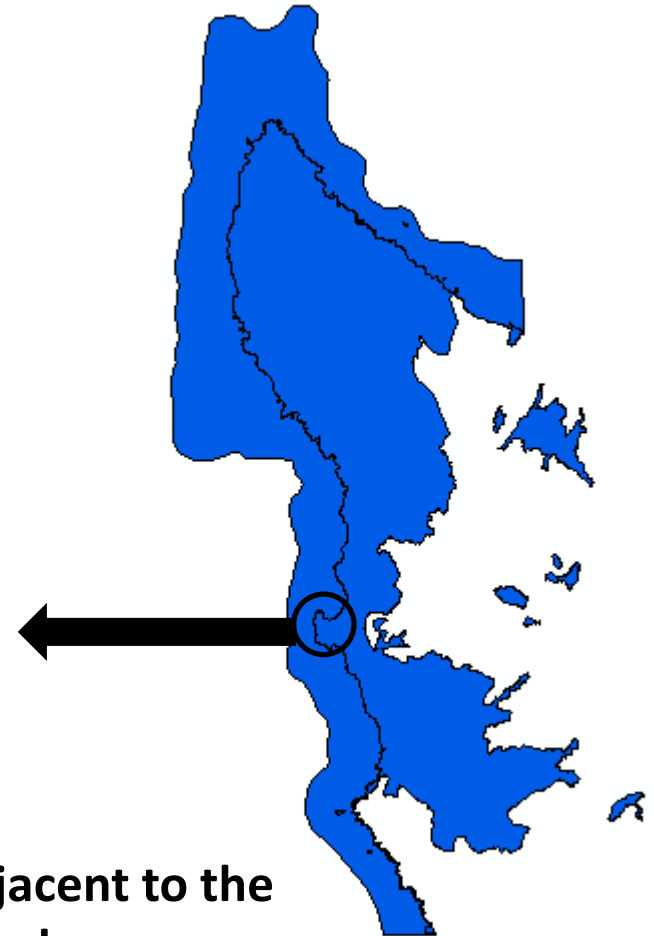
**Illegal kiosk in South Lara Bay (summer 2020)**

## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



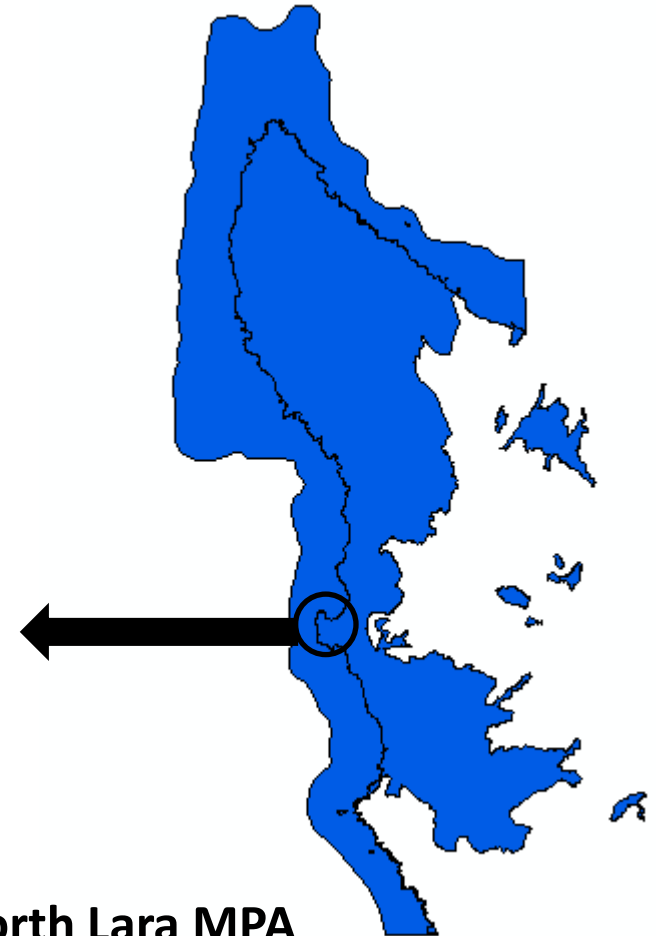
Abandoned illegal kiosks and snack bars

## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



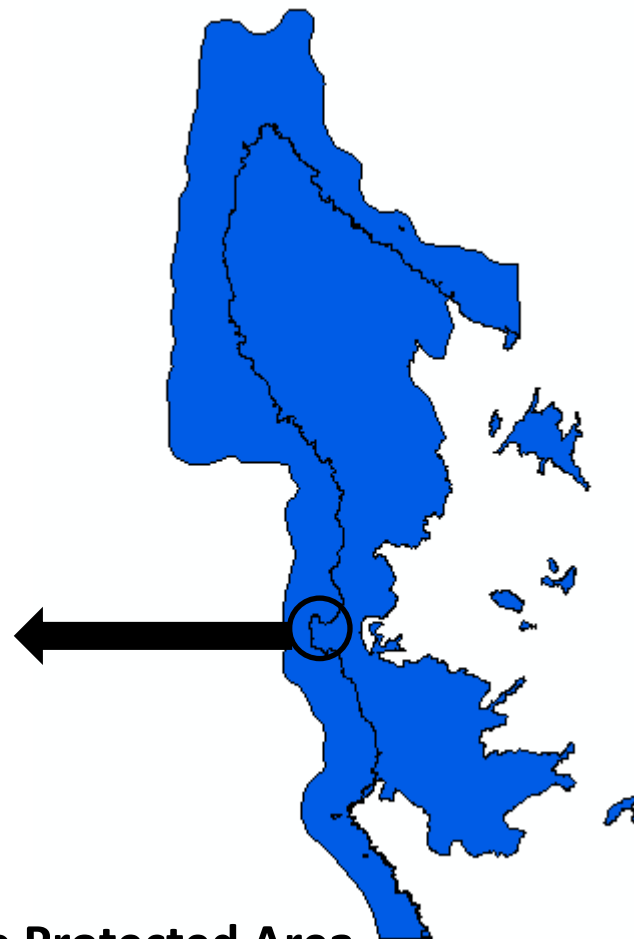
**Illegal uncontrolled quad bikes and other vehicles adjacent to the turtle nesting sand dunes in South Lara – Toxeftra beach**

## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Illegal umbrellas, sunbeds and vehicle entrance at North Lara MPA**

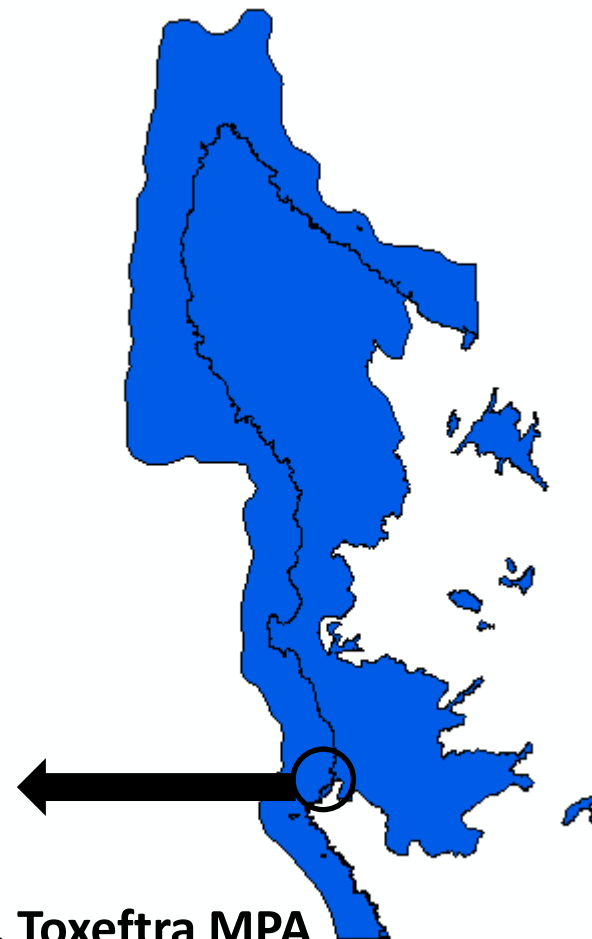
## North Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Illegal boat traffic and anchoring in north Lara Marine Protected Area**

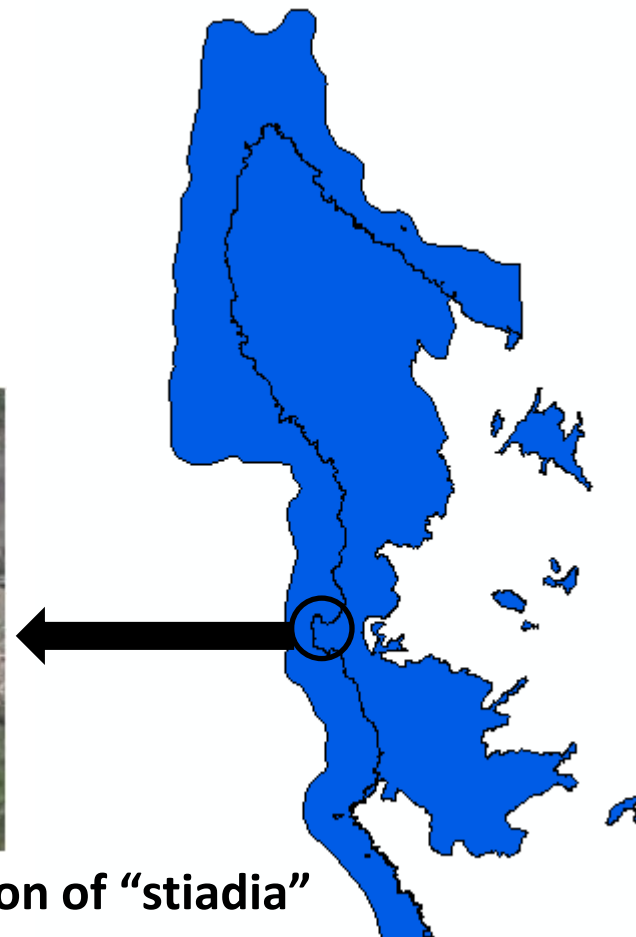


## Aspros River Estuary - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



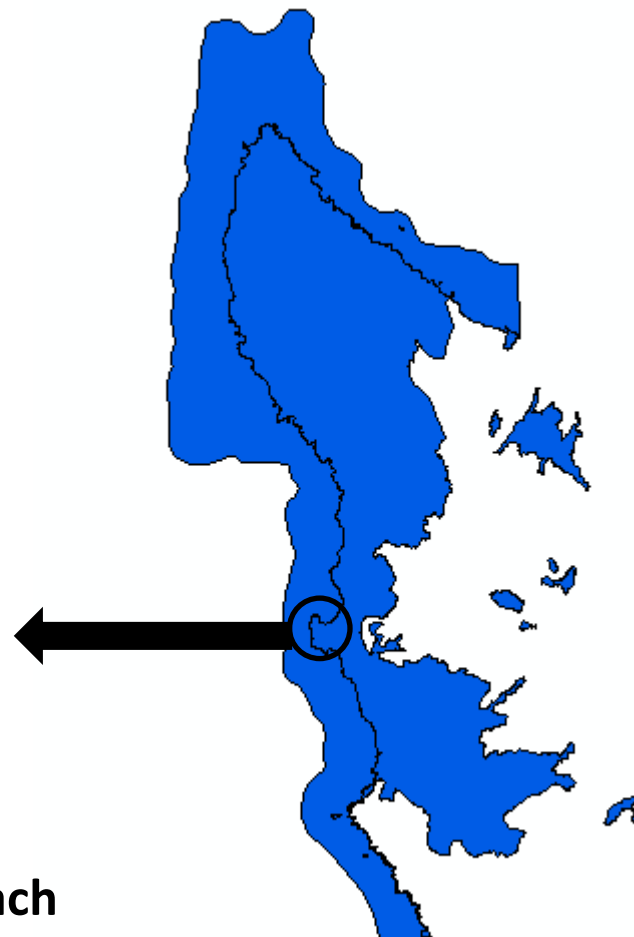
**Illegal restaurant and snack bar in Aspros River Estuary, Toxeftra MPA**

## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



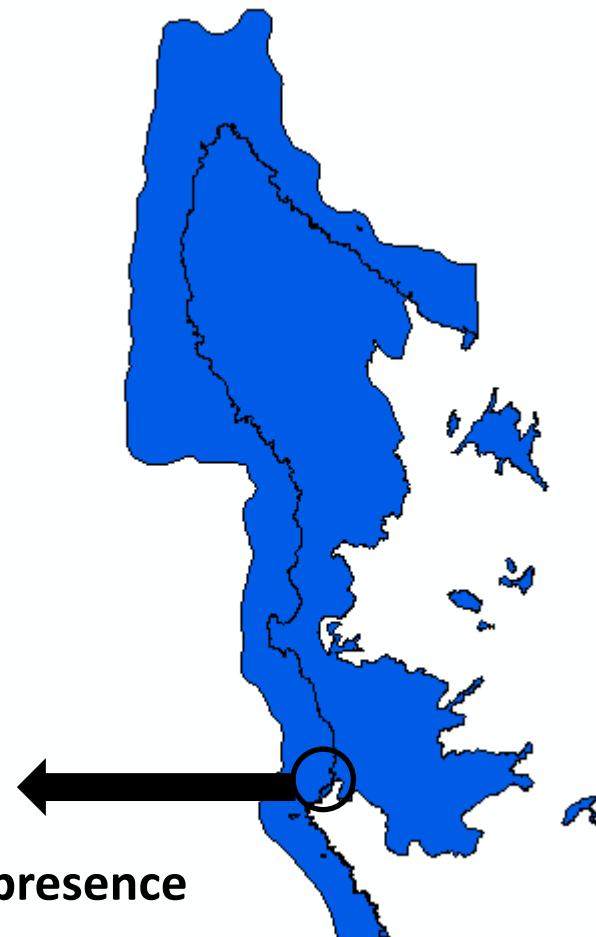
Heavy earthworks, vegetation removal and renovation of “stiadia”  
(traditional stony sheep/goat corral) near Lara MPA

## Lara and Toxeftra Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Iron fence posts to prevent vehicle access on the beach at Lara-Toxeftra MPA**

## Aspros River Estuary - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas

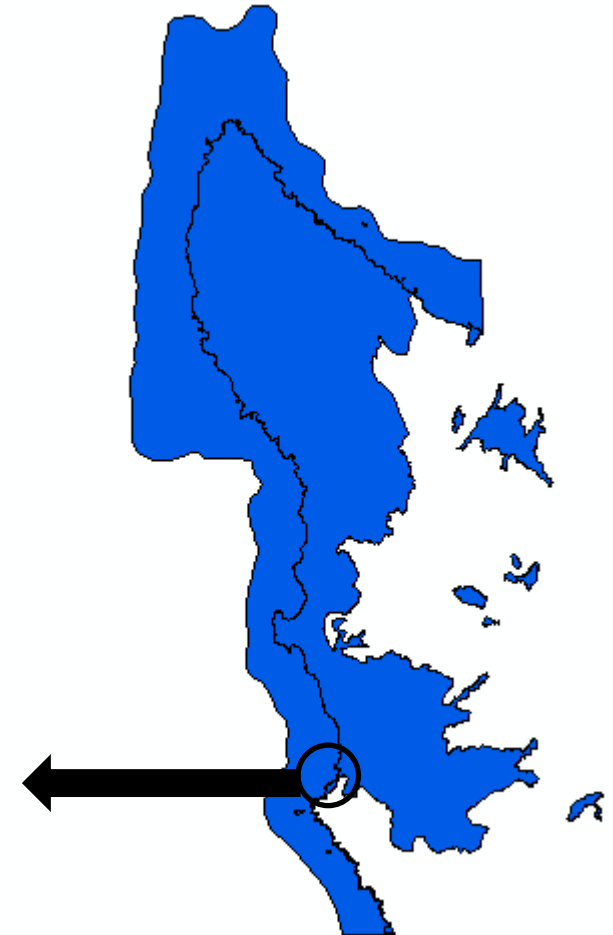


**Unregulated human activities – Uncontrolled human presence  
(e.g. beach towels, umbrellas, chairs and sun beds)**

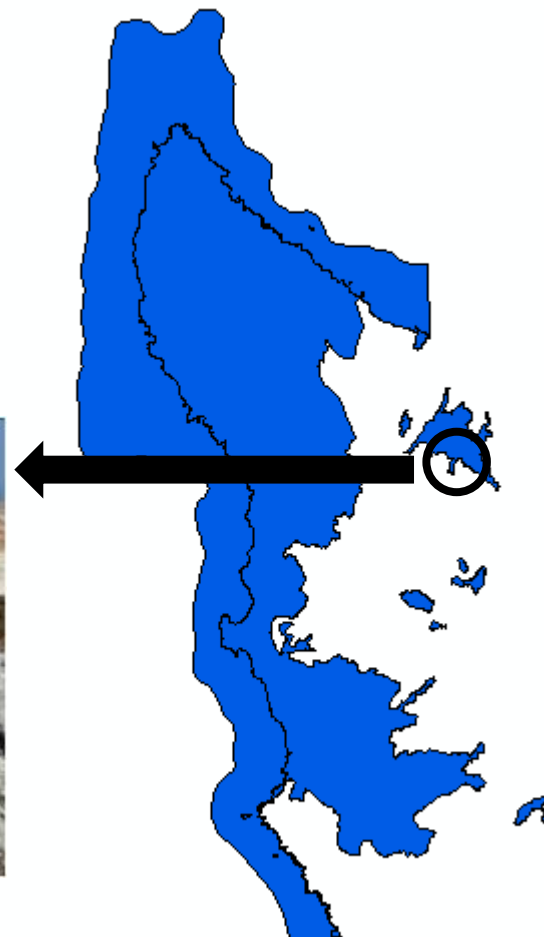
## Aspros River Estuary - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



Illegal umbrellas and sunbeds



## Kranazi area, Androlikou Gorges, Akamas Peninsula

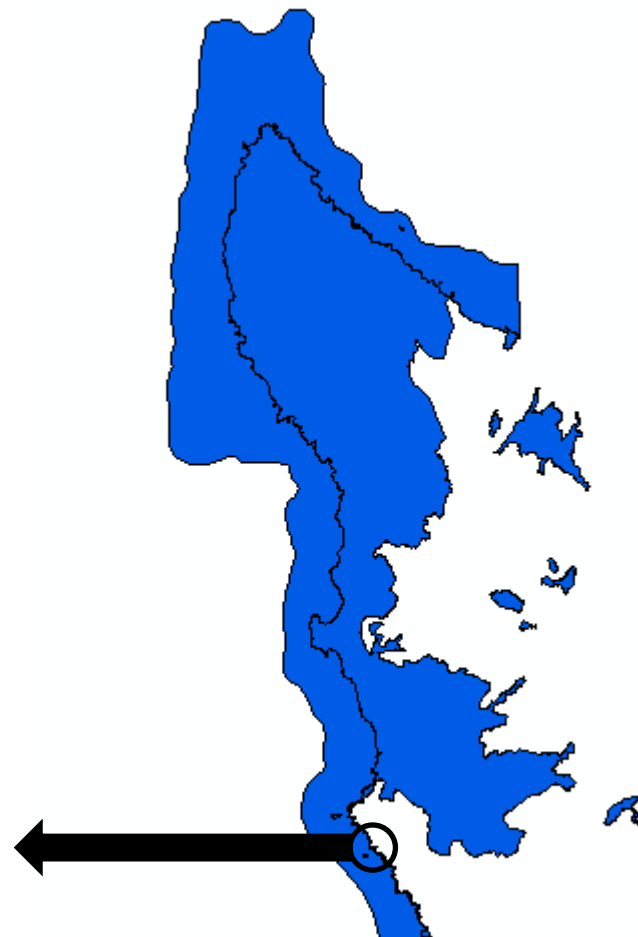


**Illegal expansion of limestone quarries**

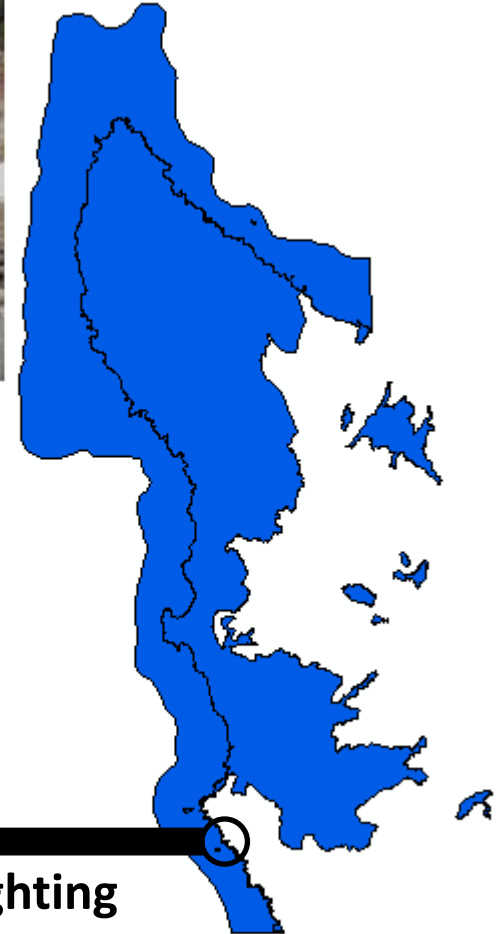
## Sea Caves in Pegeia – Mediterranean Monk Seal Breeding and Resting Area



**Rampant residential development (summer 2020)**



# Sea Caves in Pegeia – Mediterranean Monk Seal Breeding and Resting Area



**Illegal earthworks & creation of an artificial beach. Direct lighting and sunbeds with umbrellas in Kafizis area**



# Aspros River Estuary, Toxeftra and Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas

Road 1A (red line) – Aspros River to Lara

Material: asphalt

Length: 6.15 km

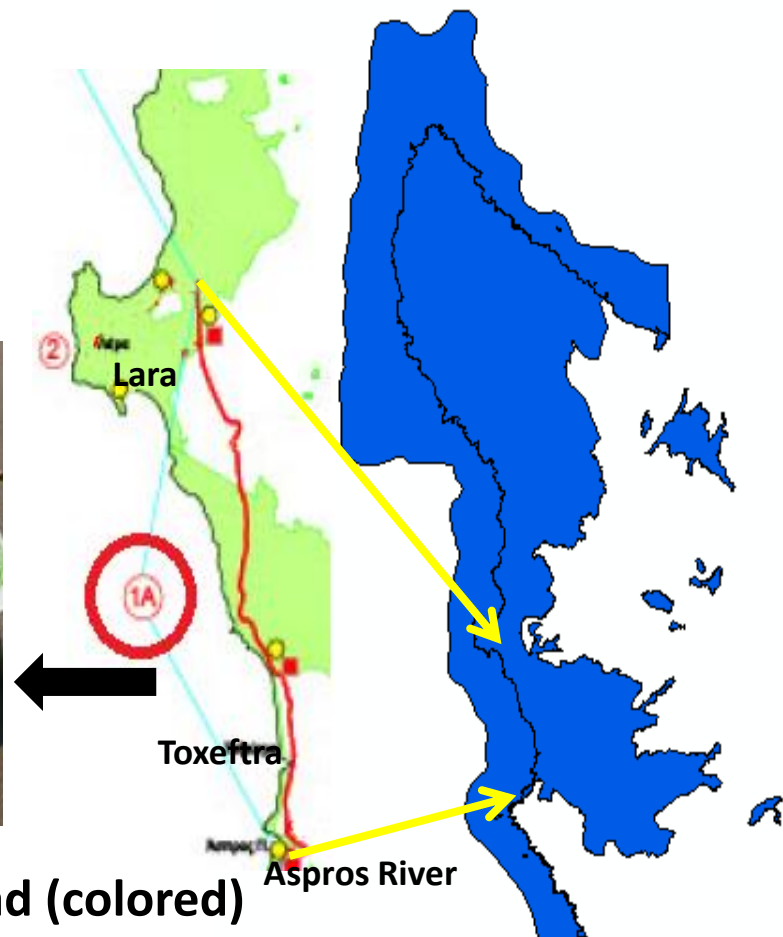
Width: 6.15 – 8m



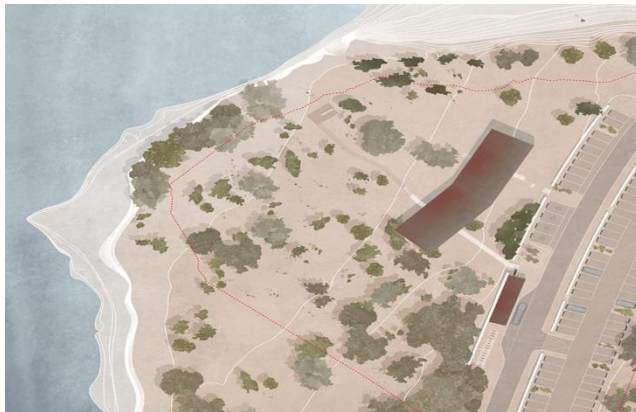
Current natural dirt road



Proposed asphalt road (colored)



# 14 Nodes within the Akamas National Forest Park



**Refreshment kiosks and souvenir shops within the ANFP will compete the local communities of Akamas.**

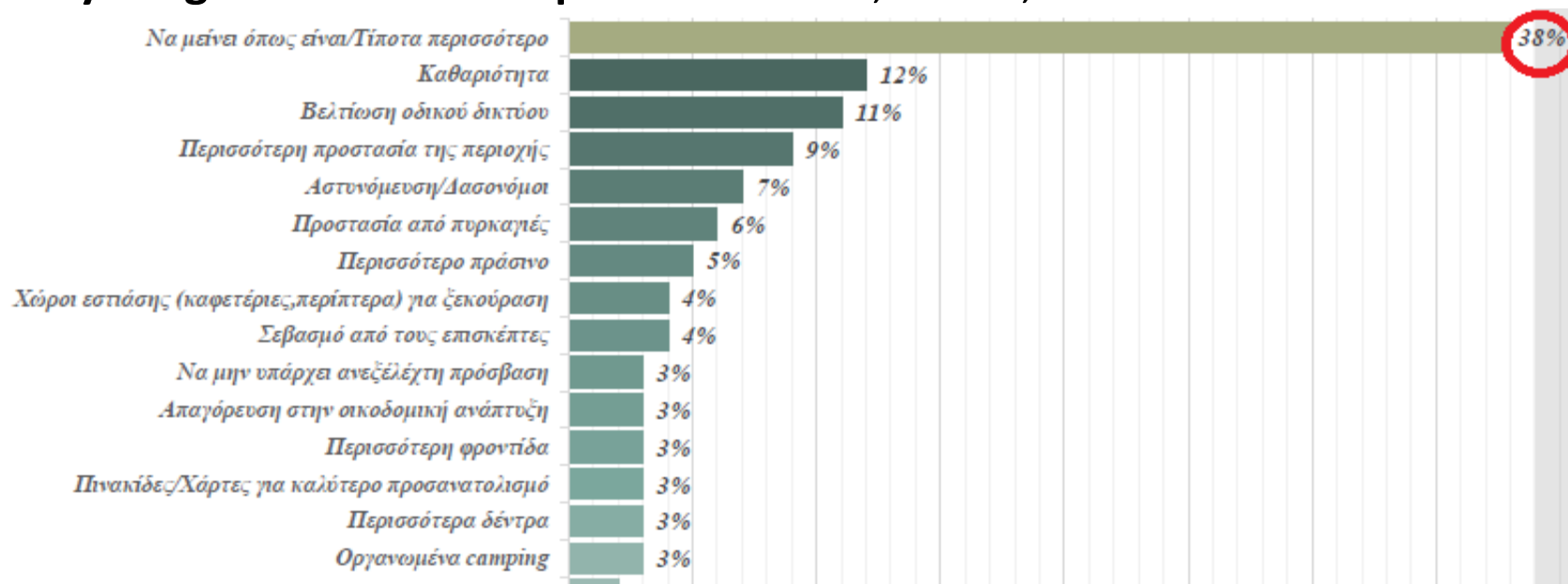
Proposed Sustainable Development Nodes



## Official visitation survey of Akamas National Forest Park

A very high percentage (**92%**) considers **the protection** of the Akamas National Park area **very important**.

Q: What visitors would like to see more of in the Akamas National Park: Most of visitors asked (**38%**) responded that “**they do not want to see anything more and to keep Akamas as is**”, that is, **natural and authentic**.



## Akamas Peninsula



**Numerous malicious fires as a form of political pressure for land-use change**

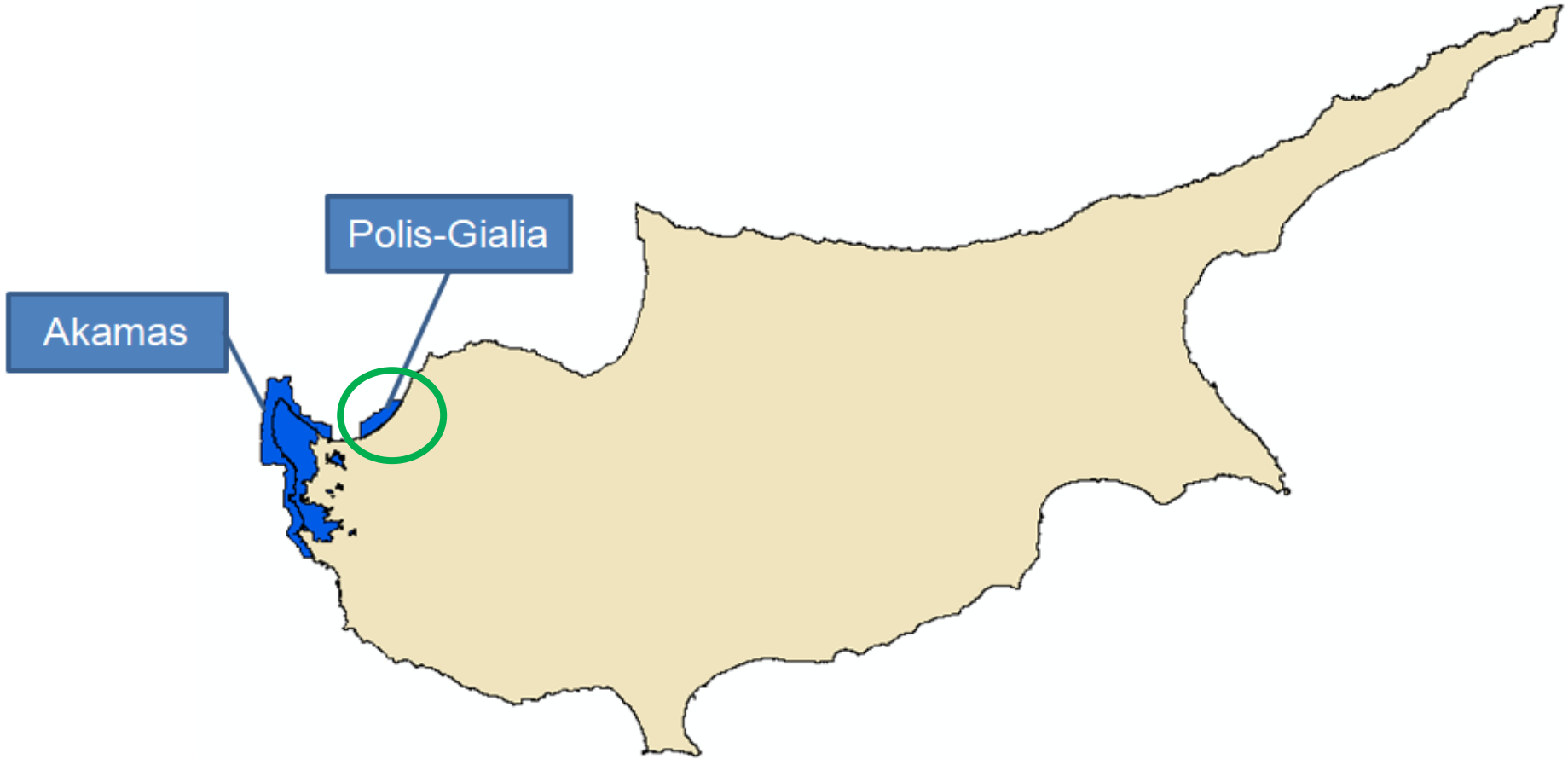
# **Akamas Natura 2000 site**

## **What do we want to see?**

- Expansion of Natura 2000 boundaries
- Establishment of legally binding measures, based on the Management Plans
- Allocation of funding for the implementation of Management Plans and effective patrolling
- Prohibition of infrastructure (overnight stay and dining) outside of the designated development limits of Akamas villages in any future plans

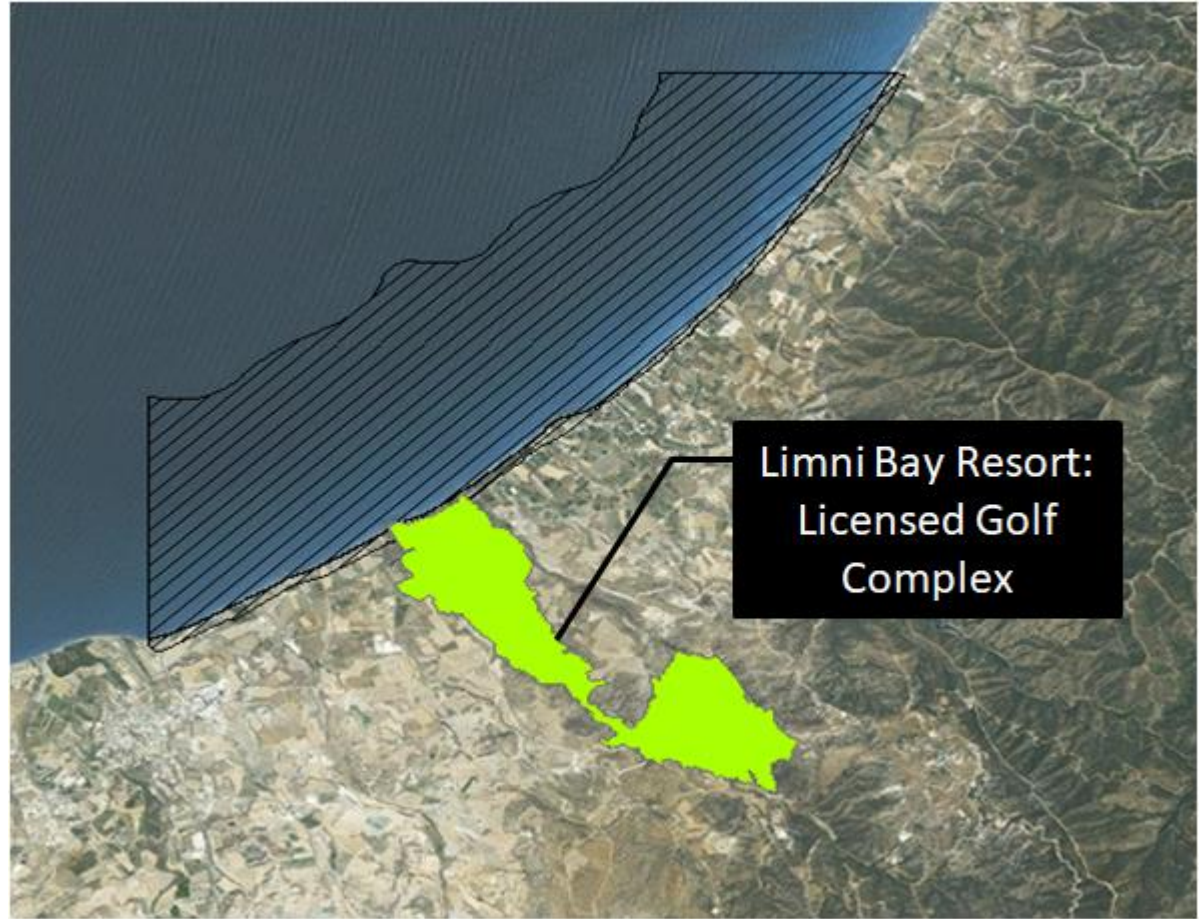
# Polis-Gialia

## Natura 2000 sites



# Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 site

## An imminent threat to a major nesting site for Loggerhead Turtles



# Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 site

## What is its importance?

- Total Mediterranean nests 6000 p.a.
- Total Cyprus nests 1000 p.a.
- Total Polis-Gialia nests 550 p.a.
- Total nests directly impacted by the proposed golf complex 200-250 p.a.



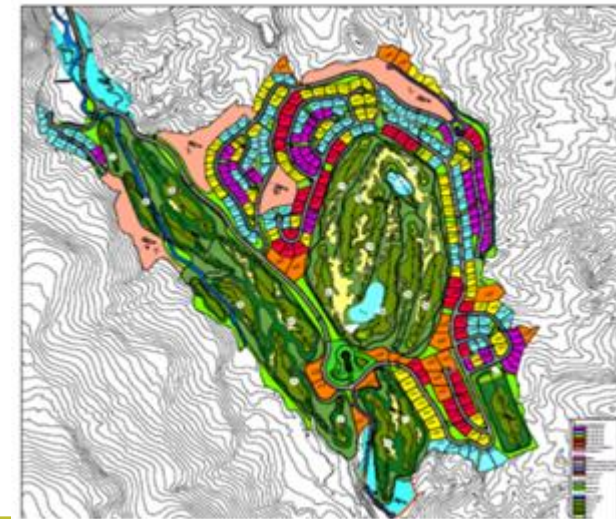
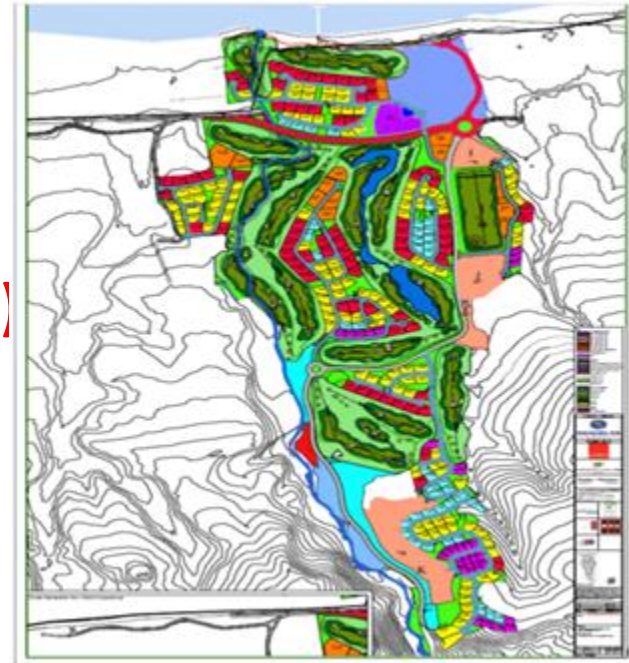
**25% of Total Cyprus Nests**

**4.2% of Total Mediterranean Nests**



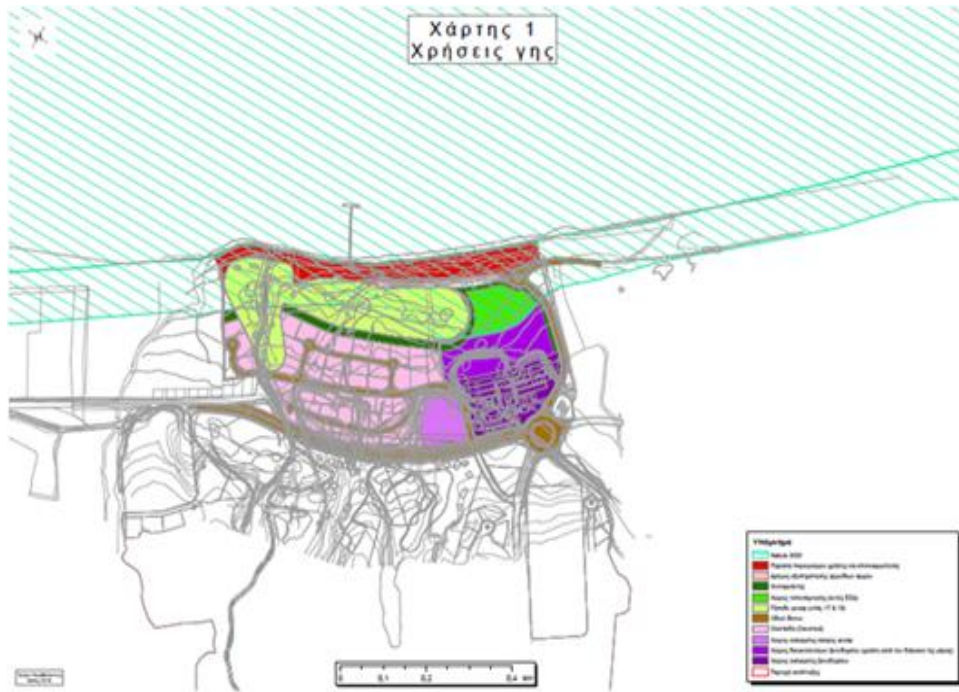
# The Limni Bay Resort

- 2 golf courses (18 holes each)
- **2 club houses (with bars and restaurants)**
- **792 villas**
- **2-storey hotel (with 160 rooms)**
- Road network
- Sport facilities



# Limni Bay Resort

The development complex is situated in an area bordering 145-200m from the sea, extending for up to 4 km inland and consisting of more than 3 million sq. m.



# Limni Bay Resort

## What are the issues?

Taking into consideration the maximum capacity of the 792 villas, which equals to **3,123 individuals** (excluding the maximum capacity of the hotel complex, which equals 160 rooms / 320 individuals, as well as employees and visitors), the proposed project is expected to:

- **Increase the population (4,061 individuals)** of the municipalities and communities, which fall under the administrative area of the Natura 2000 SCI/SAC Polis – Gialia (CY4000001), **by 77%**.
- **Increase the population (2,348 individuals)** of the municipalities and communities, which fall under the administrative area of the Chrysochou Bay Local Plan, **by 133%**.

These figures are based on the latest Population Census of 2011 and demonstrate the **significant increase of human presence and pressure caused by the project**.

# Limni Bay Resort

## What are the issues?

- The substantial term of a 475m No-building Zone between the proposed golf complex and the sea (suggested by the European Commission, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and originally by the Environment Department of the Republic of Cyprus) **has not been respected** in the updated master plan, which received a green light by the competent authorities
- The precautionary principle has **not been followed**
- The cumulative effects of the project have **not been properly assessed**
- The proposed mitigation measures are **not sufficient**

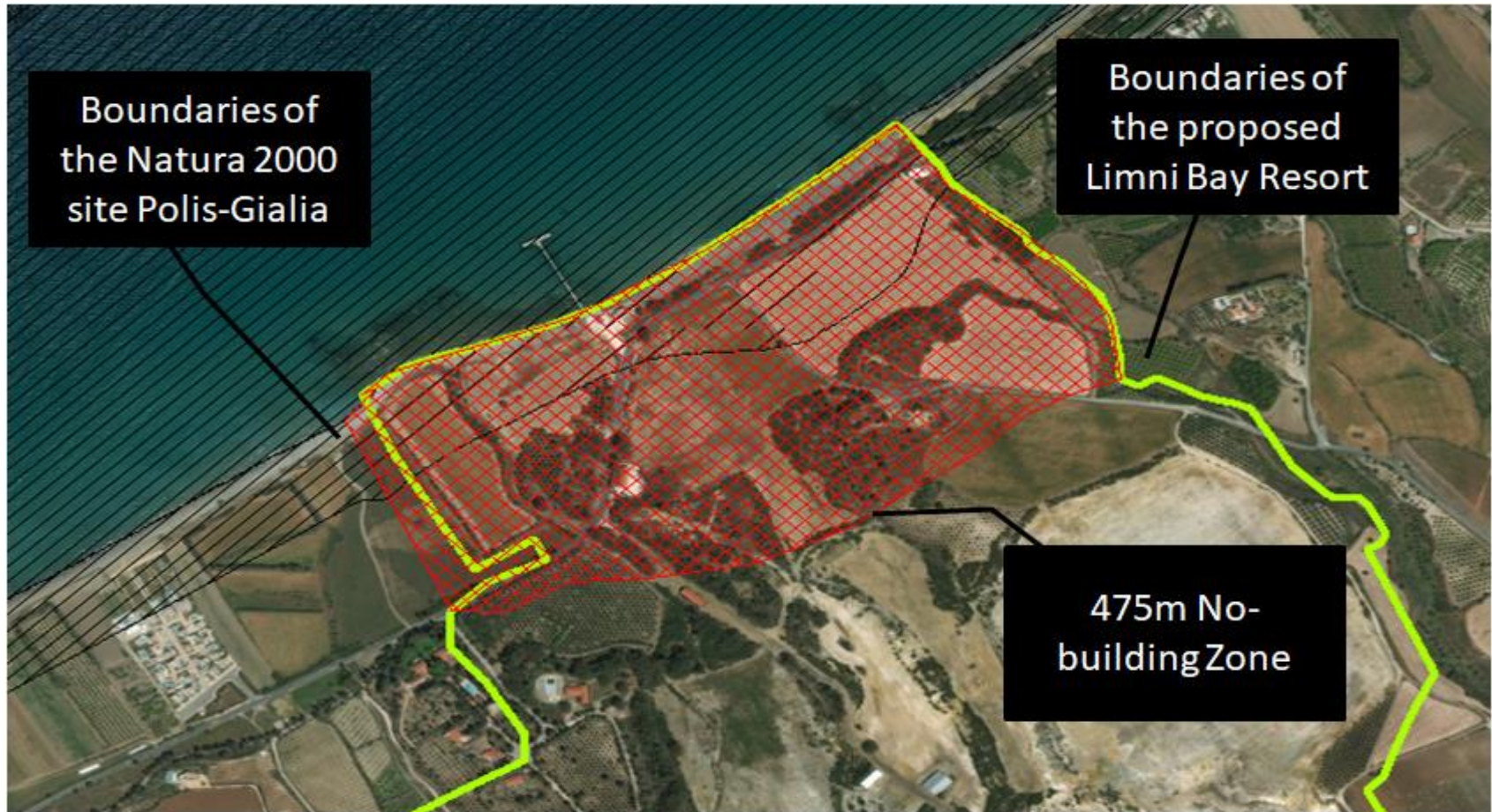
E.g. **Out of the 28 lighting conditions imposed by the Environment Department, 17 are based solely or partly on residents' compliance within their private properties**



# Why a 475-meter No-building Zone?



Area that needs to remain free of buildings  
(41 villas, a club house and a two-storey hotel)

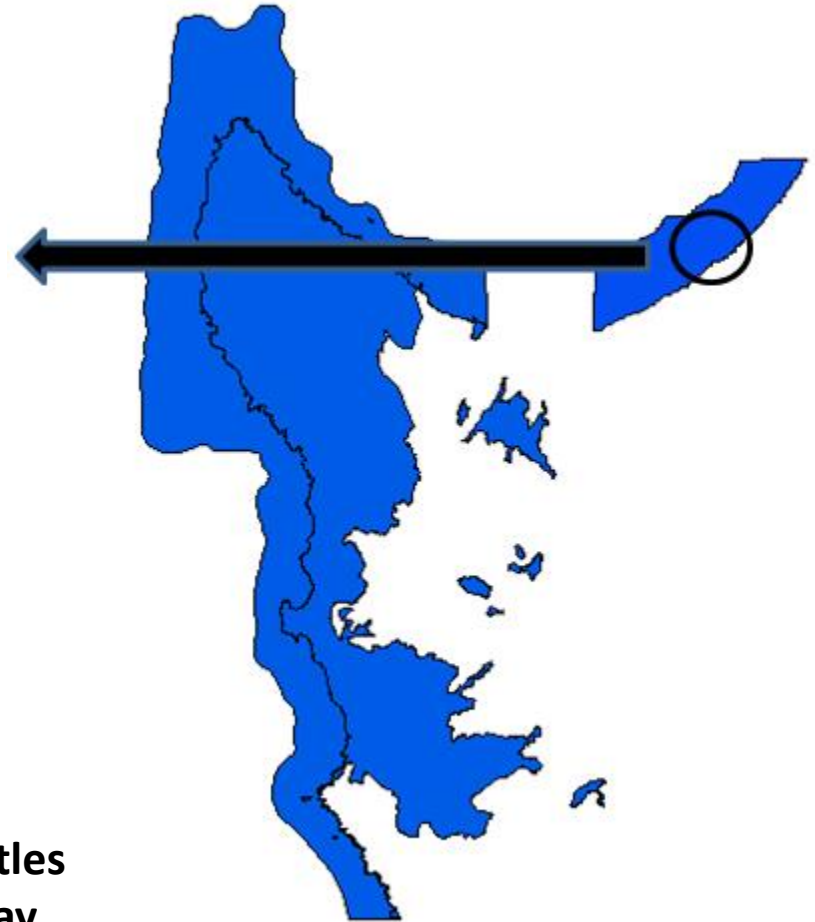


# Limni Bay Resort – What do we want to see?

- At least a 475m No-building Zone between the golf complex and the sea
- Reduction of residential capacity of the project
- Establishment and enforcement of a Management Plan and Conservation Decree for the site
- Funding to be allocated for the implementation of conservation and management measures, as well as careful monitoring and patrolling of the area



## Polis-Gialia - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



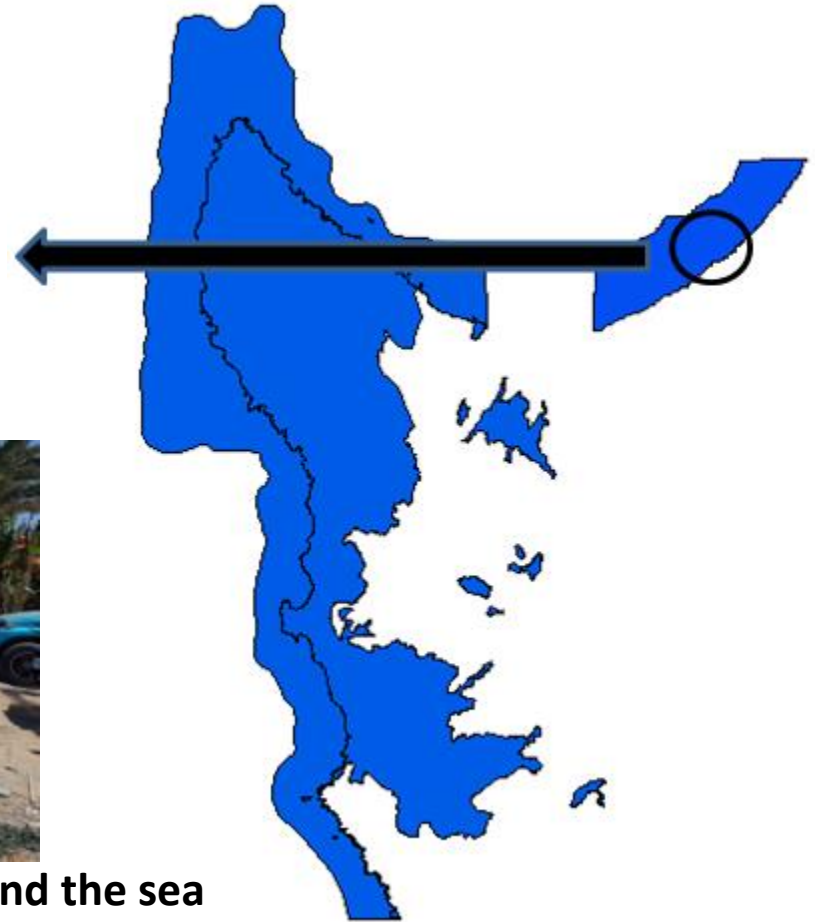
**Illegal driving upon the sand dunes and the sea turtles nesting beaches in Polis- Gialia area, Chrysochou Bay**



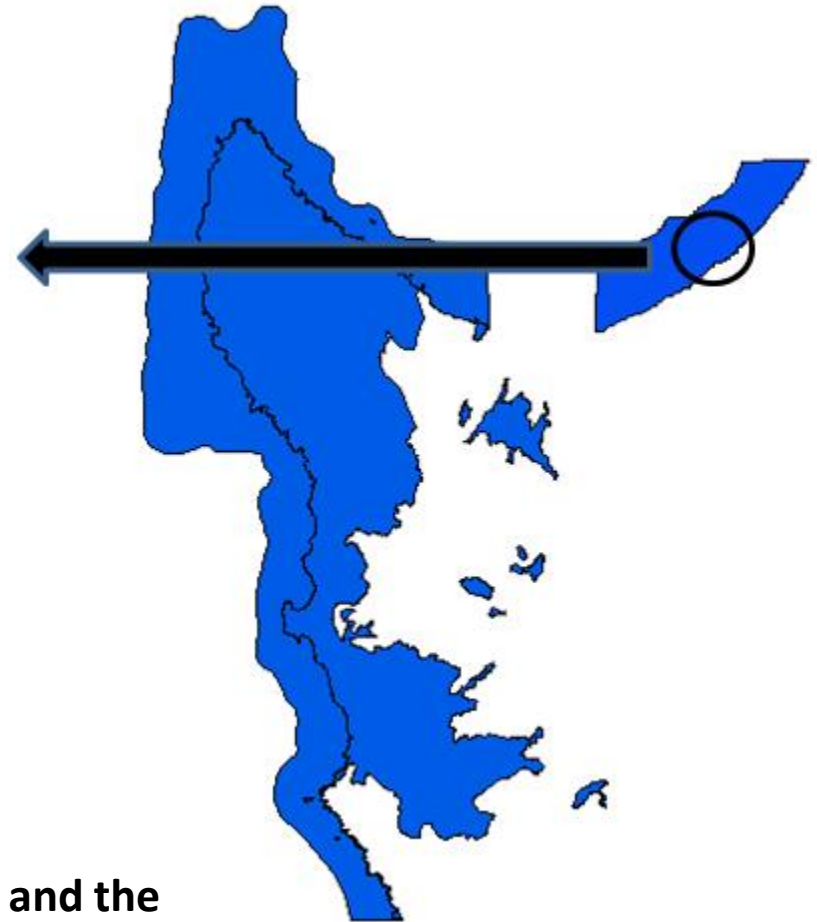
# Polis-Gialia - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



Illegal kiosks and beach bars upon the sand dunes and the sea turtles nesting beaches in Polis-Gialia area, Chrysochou Bay



# Polis-Gialia - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Illegal driving and beach bars upon the sand dunes and the sea turtles nesting beaches**



**Thank you**