

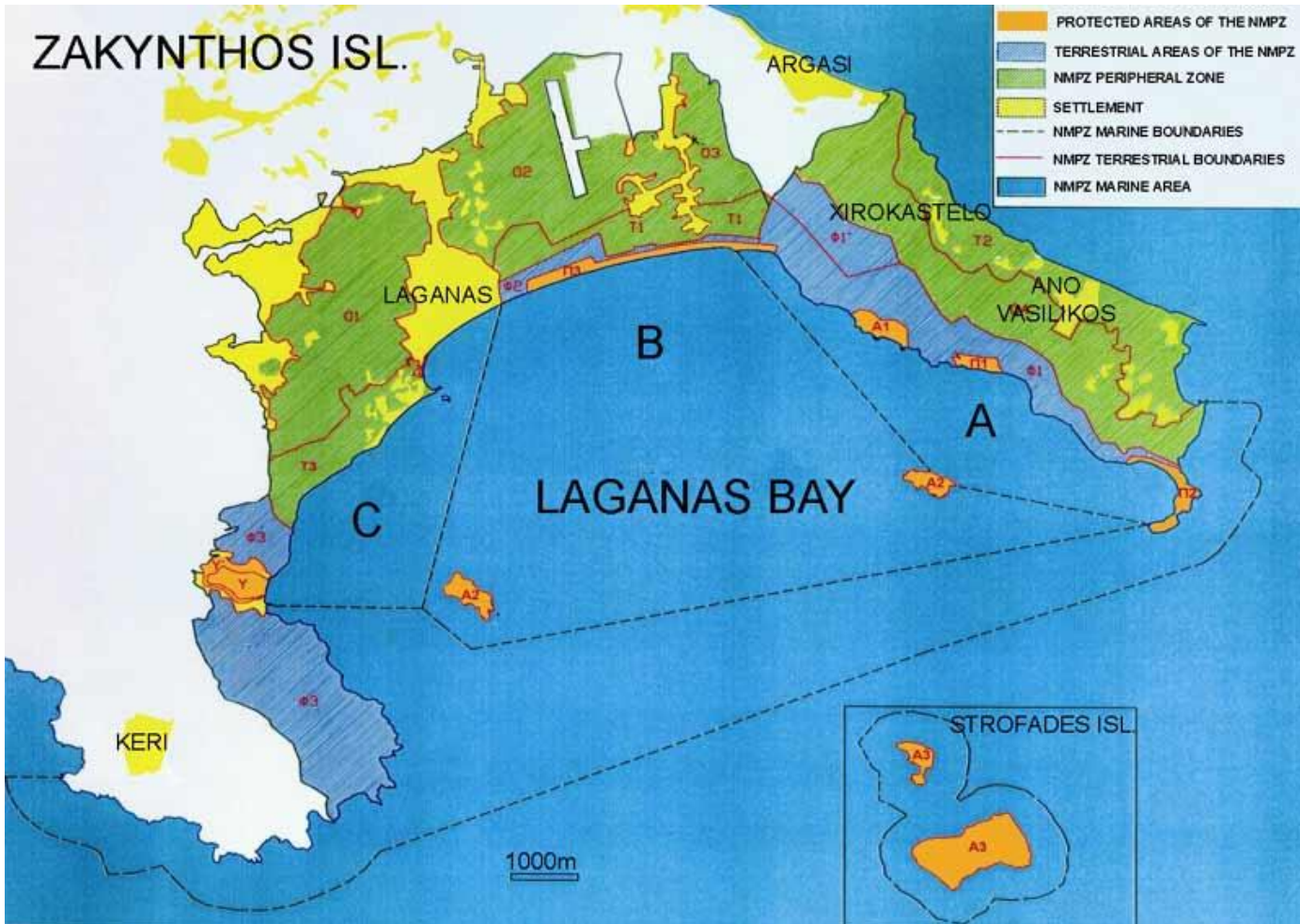


Agenda Item 6.2: Possible Files

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

40th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Bern Convention
30 November – 4 December 2020

Violations of National and EU Legislation & Lack of Enforcement of Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) Protection Measures



Zakynthos (Laganas Bay)

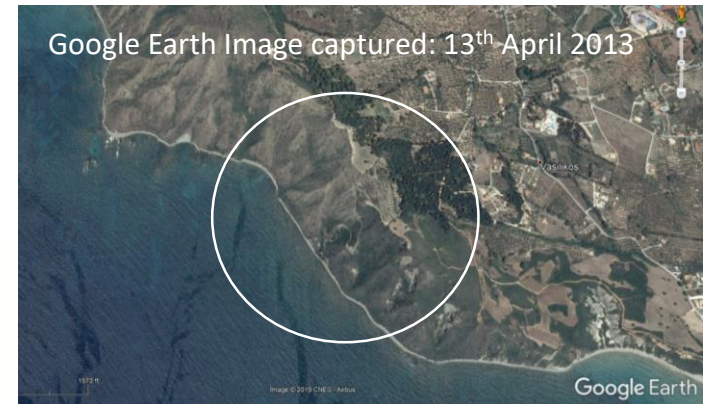
- Hosts one of the largest Loggerhead sea turtle breeding aggregations in the Mediterranean (Av. 1200* nests/yr¹). During 2020 nesting season over 1,840* nests were recorded
- Nesting primarily occurs along six beaches, approx. 5.5km
- The ZNMP was established in 1999 and the Management Agency (MA) in 2000

Maritime zonation of the NMPZ

* Additional information and data from ARCHELON

(1a) Gerakas - Illegal constructions & lack of compliance & implementation

No restoration to the illegal road between Gerakas & Daphni

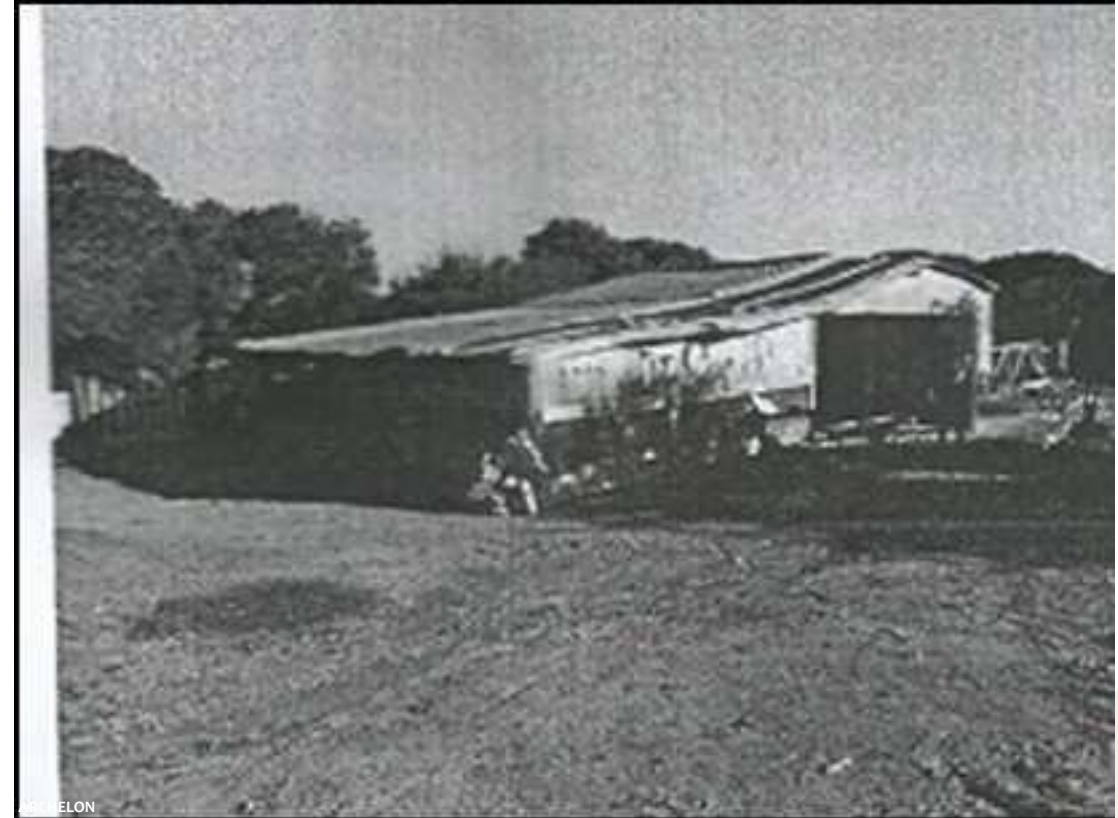


The issue of fines and orders after the construction and for the restoration of the illegal road since 2016, have failed to deter further illegal activities in 2020



(1b) Gerakas - Illegal constructions & lack of compliance & implementation

Illegal buildings behind Gerakas nesting beach are yet to be demolished (since 2017)



(2) Illegal landfill not restored



The saturated illegal landfill that operated within the ZNMP boundaries and the Natura 2000 site has still to be restored despite its closure since December 2017

(3) Insufficient presence of wardens



Consequences of warden absence on Marathonisi beach; visitors (white circle) sat behind the roped area (red arrow), zoned for the protection of nests and use of private umbrellas



Although a warden was present in Laganas East (Zante Beach Hotel), people remained present on the beach, further than 5m from the water line. Others were playing football at the back of the beach



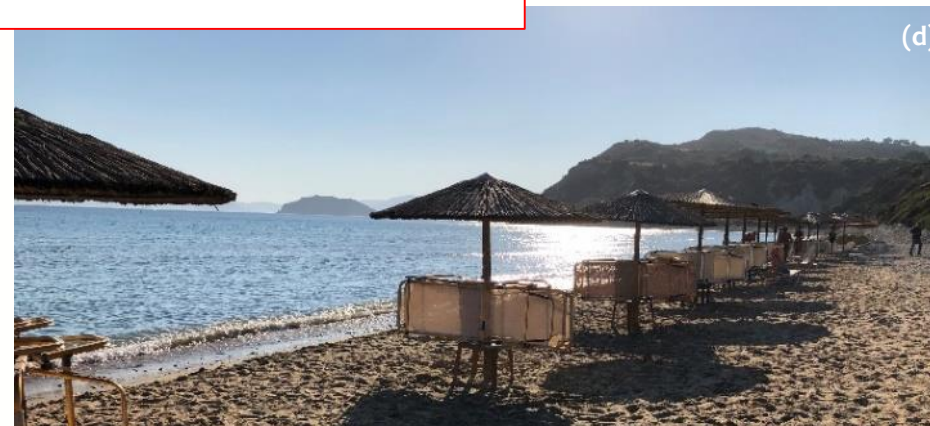
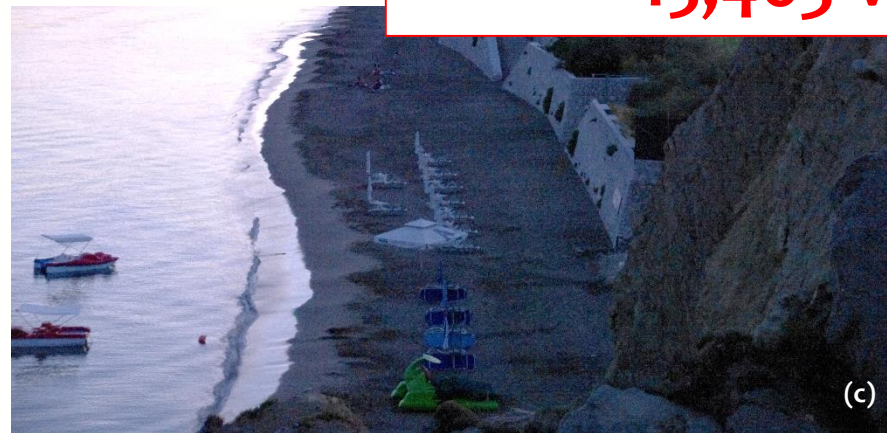
No warden was present at Kalamaki beach to prevent people (a) from walking or (b-c) staying on the beach after sunset



(4a) Lack of beach equipment management



15,463 Violations*



Sunbeds not removed from the front of the beach at night (a) East Laganas (close to Zante Beach Hotel) pedalos not removed from the front of the beach at night (b) East Laganas (Stanis Tavern), with nests directly behind sunbed area, sunbeds and pedloes not removed (c) & Gerakas sunbeds not removed from the front of the beach (d)

*as recorded by ARCHELON

(4b) Human presence on nesting beaches opposed to regulations



Use of private umbrellas not enforced on the nesting beaches (Gerakas nesting beach)



Use of ropes by the ZNMP to prevent access of visitors to the nesting zone at the back of the beach (Islet of Marathonisi)



(5) Horse riding on the nesting beaches



A significant growth of commercial horse-riding activity on the sand dunes behind East Laganas on almost a daily basis during the entire 2020 nesting season

Horse riding on the nesting beach at East Laganas

(6a) ZNMP Maritime Traffic Regulations regularly infringed in the Bay

In 2020, according to Coast Guard data, **463** vessels operated in Laganas Bay protected waters

- Port Authority of Zakynthos raised max engine power allowed for private hire boats from 10hp to 30hp **resulting in an increase of violations of the 6 knot speed limit**
- Max number of allowed boats in **Marathonisi** islet was **exceeded** even though there was a limited number of tourists (Max. 10 boats allowed at any one time, 23 boats counted at 10/07/2020 at 14:50)



A small boat from Kalamaki placed two buoys approximately 100m apart and deployed fishing gear (10/07/2020, 17:20)



Recreational fishing activity observed within the Bay, approximately 250m from the shoreline of Kalamaki beach

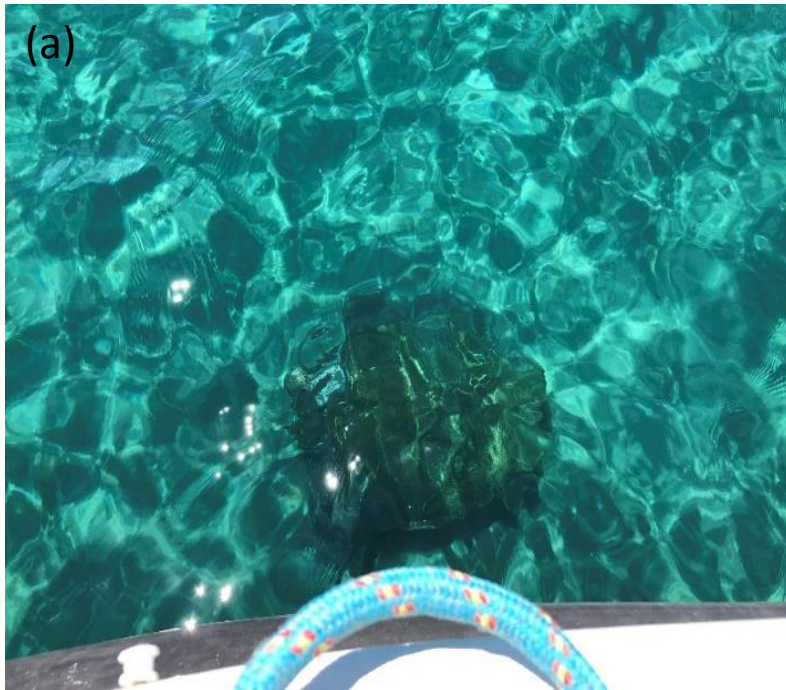


Spear fisher at Daphni Beach

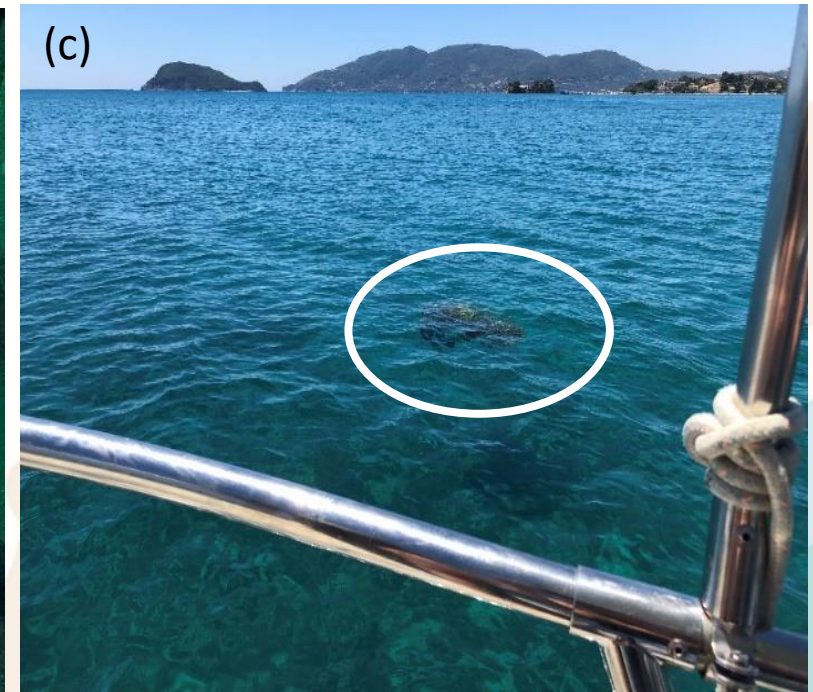
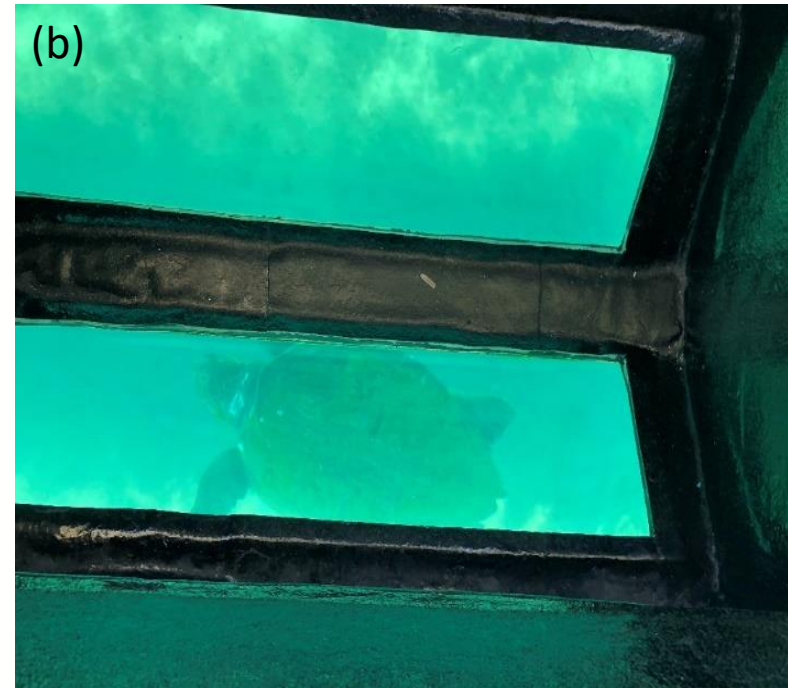
(6b) Lack of Compliance to Turtle Spotting Code of Conduct

- New additional measure to the Coast Guard decision, restricting boat speed to 2 knots during turtle observations
- Minimum distances of 15m between the boat and turtle, when the turtle is at the surface (Measure 3.2.1)

were completely disregarded



(a) Glass bottom boat approach in order to drive illegally over turtle for (b) viewing.



(c) The boat is closer than 15m to the turtle at the surface

(Measure No 1) Daphni - Illegal Constructions & lack of compliance



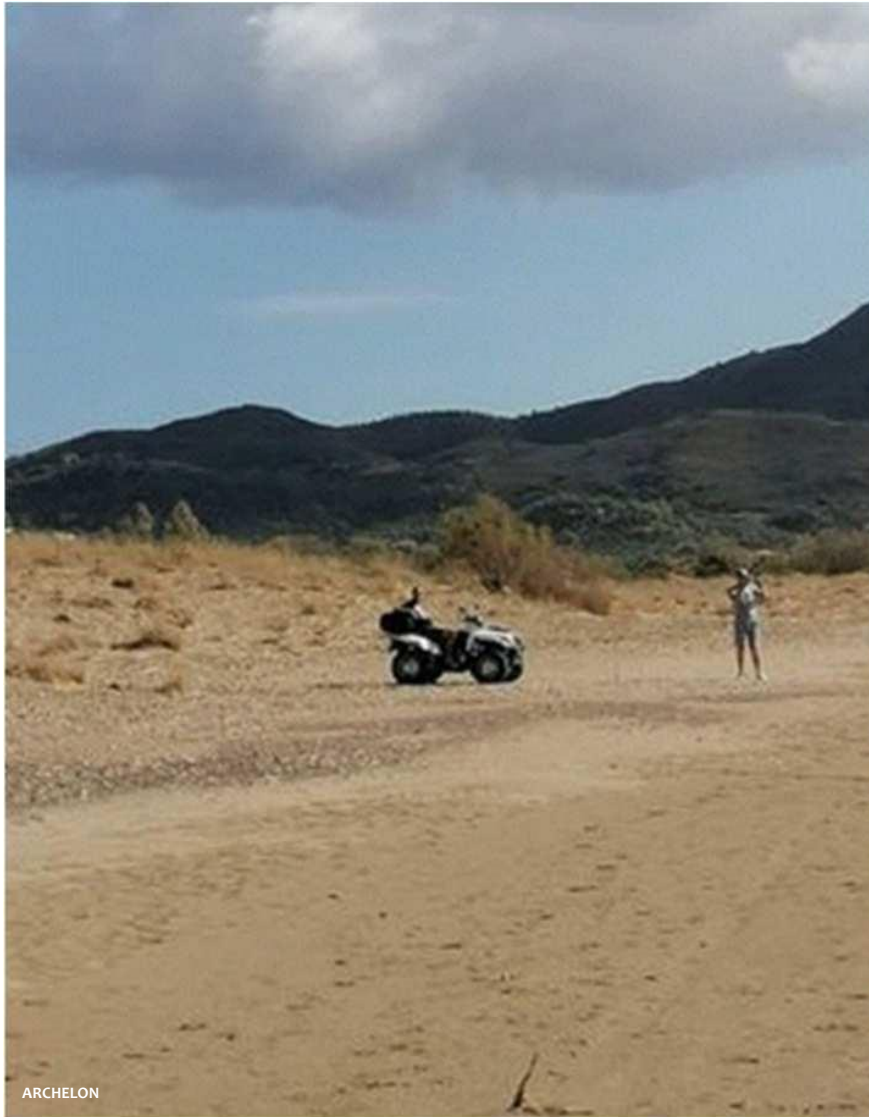
Illegal constructions have yet to be removed -> **Seven illegal businesses** (beach bars, restaurants, house rentals) operating since 2017 have resulted in beach degradation and direct disturbance on nesting



Public shower in use (a), Direct runoff from shower onto the nesting beach in close proximity of nests (b)



(Measure No 6) Close the access of vehicles to the beaches from all roads



Despite restrictions and the reduced number of tourists due to the pandemic, a notable number of vehicles, quad bikes and tracks were observed on several beaches in Laganas Bay

Quad bike on nesting beaches (Photo taken, East Laganas)

VIOLATIONS OF Recommendation No 9 (1987)
(Measure No 7) Light pollution



**Light pollution on Daphni beach
originating from illegal businesses**



**Light pollution originating from West
Laganas was visible from almost all nesting
beaches in Laganas
Bay (Photo taken from Sekania nesting beach)**

Conclusions



Extreme pressure in Laganas Bay MPA due to:

- Tourism (though not representative due to Covid-19)
- Poor implementation/ enforcement of EU, PD and ZNMP legislation
- ZNMP's Management Agency lack of financial resources and staffing.

MEDASSET- The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles



Calls on the Greek Government to:

Increase and secure funding to the ZNMP

Enforce the PD and NMPZ regulations & withdraw the agreement for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons within the marine area adjacent to the protected area

Impose, implement and enforce fines and penalties

Take action to stop operation of illegal businesses in Daphni & **restore** the habitat

Ensure that the National Action Plan for the conservation of the turtles, is co-designed and implemented by all relevant stakeholders and is put into force as soon as possible

Calls on the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention to:

Re-open the case file of Zakynthos, Laganas Bay

Follow-up through the Greek Government Recommendation No 9, and in particular Measure No 1 regarding Daphni

Perform an on-the-spot appraisal of Laganas Bay's nesting beaches, in order to update and amend Recommendation No 9