



GREECE: THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES IN THINES KIPARISSIAS (2010/5)

42nd meeting of the Standing Committee, 28 November-2 December 2022



General overview of the status of sea turtles in Kyparissia Bay

- There is a **positive trend** in **nesting activity** of *Caretta caretta* over the last decade
- According to data provided by NECCA/OFYPEKA* and the NGO 'Archelon':
 - ❑ Core area of Kyparissia Bay (Southern Kyparissia, including Thines Kyparissias): the number of nests **significantly increased** from 858 in 2012 to 2,770 in 2022
 - ❑ Northern Kyparissia Bay: the number of nests **significantly increased** from 278 in 2017 to 797 in 2022
- Based on the conservation targets set and the standard data form on Thines Kyparissias, the conservation status of *C. caretta* is considered **satisfactory**
- A new National Action Plan for the protection of *C. caretta* was issued in 2021 and its implementation is secured via funding from the 2021-2027 Operational Programme 'Transport Infrastructure, Environment & Sustainable Development'

*Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency



On-the-spot actions-Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability (COIEL/SYGAPEZ):

- June 2021: Implementation of proactive measures against environmental damage due to the illegal opening and construction of 5 roadways on the beach between the villages of Ai-Giannakis and Elea within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Trifylia (Messinia)
- In this case the offender is obliged to pay the cost of these measures (€ 12,896) due to incompliance with a related decision issued in 2012 by the Head of the Decentralized Administration of the Peloponnese, Western Greece & Ionian Sea



Photos 1 & 2: Aspects of blocked road no.1

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Photos 3 & 4: Aspects of blocked roads no.3 and 4 respectively



Photos 4 & 5: Aspects of blocked roads no.4 and 5 respectively



Photo 6: Aspect of blocked road no. 5



- The offender is also obliged to pay for the cost of all measures imposed by the competent authority (Decentralized Authority) such as the restoration study of sand dunes, the inversion of erosion as well as the restoration of the area of the roads
- To our knowledge, the offender has not yet complied with his obligations
- In case that the offender do not comply in the future, the COIEL/SYGAPÉZ will ask the opinion/approval by the Committee for the Mitigation of Environmental Damage in order to implement the measures on its own, i.e. carrying out the beforementioned study after ensuring the funding of the project



- An omnibus bill entitled “Provisions on the simplification of environmental licensing, environmental inspections and environmental protection, urgent forestry, spatial and urban planning provisions & the establishment of a framework over the development of Offshore Wind Farms dealing with the energy crisis, and circular economy issues” was introduced into the Hellenic Parliament in July 2022
- However, due to concerns expressed by environmental NGOs and the civil society over provisions related to protected areas, the bill was partly withdrawn and will be re-introduced after further national consultations
- Finally, the Management Plan on **Thines Kiparissias** will have been introduced into public consultation by the end of 2022; a Ministerial Decision on the Management Plan will be subsequently issued (in 2023)



Thank you very much for your
attention!