



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

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



General overview of the status of sea turtles in Laganas 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' the number of nests **increased** from 761 in 2011 to 1,128 in 2022 in Laganas Bay
- Based on the conservation targets set and the standard data form of the area, 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'
- A number of activities have been also carried out by the staff of National Marine Park of Zakynthos (NMPZ) to protect sea turtles in the area

*Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency



Photo 1. Sekania Nesting Beach



Photo 2. Dafni Nesting Beach



Photo 3. Buoys immersion that prohibit the access in the maritime zone A (summer months)



Photo 4. Protection cages on nests in the nesting beach of Dafni



Photo 5. Gerakas Nesting Beach



Photo 6. Implementation of management measures on the nesting beach of Gerakas regarding the ban on entering the beach during the night



Photo 7. Nesting beachcleaning by the Eco Guards from the M.U. of Zakynthos in collaboration with NGO WWF, Archelon and Ionian University



Photo 8. Terrestrial Park Rangers from the M.A. of the N.M.P.Z. informing visitors for the regulation measures in the nesting beach of Kalamaki



Photo 9. Protection cages on nests and delineation of the acceptable upper limit in the nesting beach of Kalamaki.

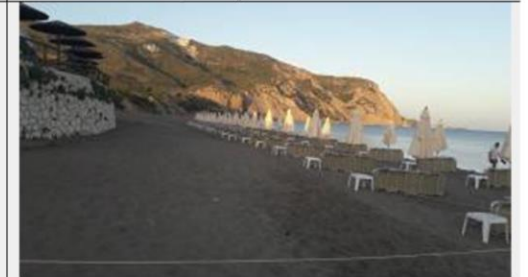


Photo 10. Delineation of the acceptable upper limit of beach furniture presence on the nesting beach as a management measure for nest protection. (Kalamaki nesting beach)



Photo 11. Implementation of management measures on the nesting beach of Sekania regarding the prohibition of approaching visitors to the beach



Photo 12. Implementation of management measures at Kalamaki nesting beach (i.e. signs and polls) for the information of the visitors.



Photo 13. Implementation of management measures on the nesting beach of Kalamaki regarding the prohibition of approaching vehicles, horses, etc at the beach.



Photo 14. Delineation of the acceptable upper limit of beach visitors presence on the nesting beach of Marathonisi as a management measure for nest protection.



Photo 15. Implementation of management measures on the nesting beach of Kalamaki regarding the ban on entering the beach during the night and the ban of enter motor vehicles all the year with the installation of new barrier bars during 2022.



Photo 16. Nesting beach of Kalamaki beach during the night

Photos captured during summer periods 2021-2022 and provided by courtesy of the PAMU 11/NECCA



Surveillance/management Program of Management Unit of National Parks Zakynthos, Ainos and Protected Areas of Ionian Islands for 2022

The purpose of the program is the implementation of the protection measures provided in Presidential Decree No. 906/D/1999*, as well as the implementation of the individual management measures adopted each year by the Management Unit.

The main axes of the activity control program for **2022** are:

- Guarding NMPZ Nesting Beaches
- Guarding NMPZ Marine Area
- Guarding Strofades Islands
- Guarding Forest Areas
- Participating in Environmental Monitoring
- Informing NMPZ visitors

**as amended by Presidential Decree 1272/D/2003*

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On-the-spot Surveillance/Management Program in NMPZ* (24 h/day):

- ✓ 12 Eco Guards who performed approximately 12,000 hours of guarding during the summer season of 2022 on 6 nesting beaches
- ✓ 2 Marine Eco Guards who performed approximately 2,000 hours of guarding in the marine area of Laganas Bay

The infrastructure and equipment needed to implement the program include:

- ✓ 4 vehicles
- ✓ 4 Boats
- ✓ 6 Information Kiosks on the nesting beaches
- ✓ 1 Information Center - Research Station on Gerakas Beach

**National Marine Park of Zakynthos*

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Follow-up on the illegal landfill site in Zakynthos

- The illegal landfill site in the area of Skopos has been **inactive since ca. 2017**
- An updated environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the site has been approved by the Governing Council of Regional Management Body for Solid Waste of Ionian Islands
- The EIA was subsequently submitted to the Decentralized Administration of the Peloponnese, Western Greece & Ionian Islands for evaluation and approval
- The expected cost for the restoration of the site amounts to ca. **€ 6 million** and its funding has been secured



Follow-up on the illegal road in the protected landscape between Gerakas and Daphne

- A **fine** was imposed against the offender in 2018 by the Regional Unit of Zakynthos
- A joint appeal was recently filed by the NGOs 'WWF Hellas' and 'Medasset' with the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of the Peloponnese, Western Greece & Ionian islands against a decision issued by the Regional Unit of Zakynthos ruling a reduction of the imposed fine to € 10,000. As support, NECCA has sent a letter to the Decentralized Administration, underlining the need to take into consideration the aforementioned appeal for canceling of this reduction
- COIEL/SYGAPAZ* proceeded to an on-the-spot inspection in 2021 to ascertain if measures imposed in 2018 by the Minister of Environment and Energy for the restoration of the site had been implemented
- The inspection and the issuance of the report by COIEL/SYGAPAZ **are under way**
- **The Ministry contacted** the Urban Planning Directorate of the Municipality of Zakynthos and the Department of Environment, Water Economy & Spatial Planning of the Regional Unit of Zakynthos notifying them of the December 2021 letter of the Secretariat to the Ministry and requesting updated information on this case as well as **urging them to take any necessary action according to existing national legislation**

**Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability, Ministry of Environment & Energy*

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Follow-up on the illegal road in the protected landscape between Gerakas and Daphne

- The Regional Unit of Zakynthos replied that **there are no pending complaints** filed for environmental inspection in the reported areas
- The same agency also informed the Ministry that **precise information** (e.g., the GGRS87/Greek Grid coordinates of those constructions/buildings/activities, etc., and the name of the complainant in each case) for the identification of those constructions/buildings, etc., for which **complaints have been filed in the past**, is needed in order to get access to the **related case-files**



Follow-up on the two illegal buildings in Nature Protection P2 of Gerakas, illegal constructions in Daphne beach as per point 1 of the Recommendation

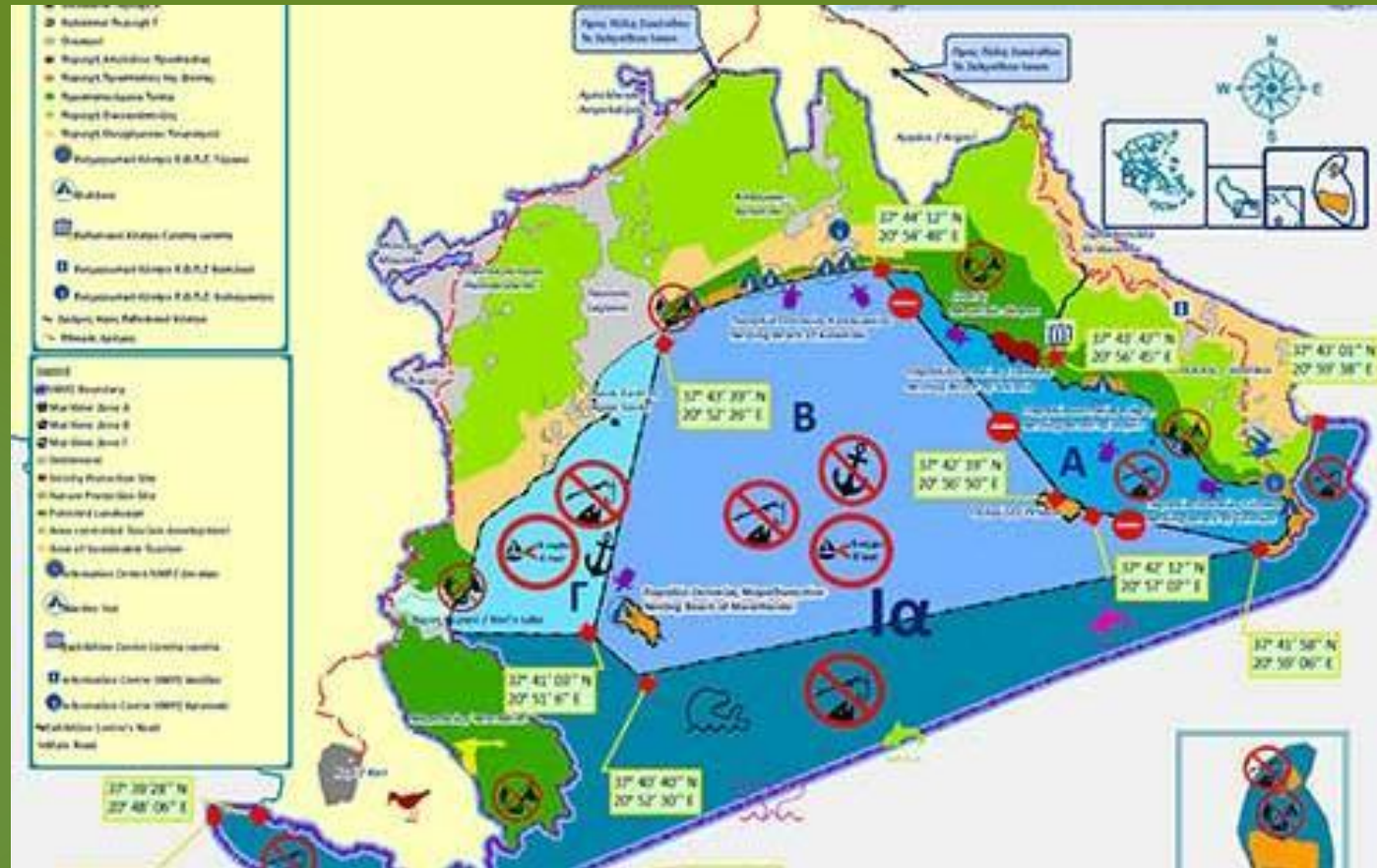
- To our knowledge, the buildings still remain in these areas
- The Regional Unit of Zakynthos replied that there are **no pending complaints filed for environmental inspection** in the reported areas
- The same agency also informed the Ministry **that precise information (e.g., the GGRS87/Greek Grid coordinates of those constructions/buildings/activities, etc., and the name of the complainant in each case) for the identification of those constructions/buildings, etc.,** for which complaints have been filed in the past, is needed in order to get access to the related case-files



Regulation of marine traffic in Laganas bay, Zakynthos

- The General Port Regulation No. 38/2004 'Rental of motorized boats and small speedboats / Replacement of a provision in General Port Regulation No. 23' issued by the Minister of Merchant Shipping (*Government Gazette, No. 748/B/2004*) regulates any relevant issue related to private boat rental across Greece, notwithstanding the horsepower of vessels
- Presidential Decree No. 906/D/1999* (*Government Gazette, No. 906/D/1999*) **forbids (Art. 4)**:
 - marine traffic, stay or anchorage of any sort of vessel in **sea zone A** between 1 May-31 October each year
 - marine traffic at speed > 6 kn and recreational craft rental in **sea zone B** between 1 May-31 October each year
 - marine traffic at speed > 6 kn in **sea zone C** between 1 May-31 October each year

**1 Designation of land and sea areas within Laganas bay and Strofades islands as National Marine Park and designation of the land area of both the Municipality of Zakynthos and the Municipality of Laganas as circumferential zone '*



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Thank you very much for your
attention!

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