



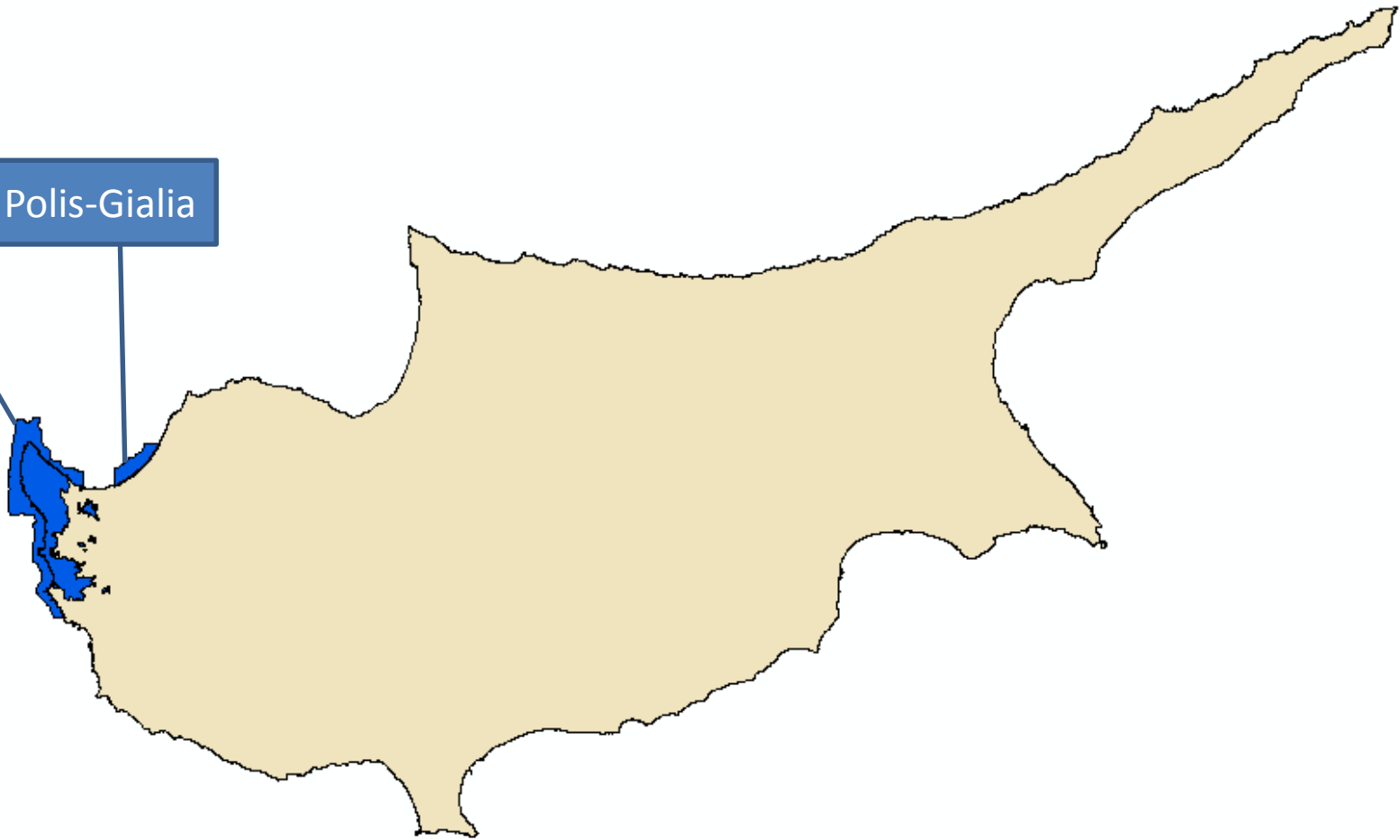
# **CONSERVATION OF THE AKAMAS PENINSULA AND CHRYSOCHOUS BAY IN WESTERN CYPRUS: THREATS POSED TO WILDLIFE BY DEVELOPMENT NEAR OR WITHIN THESE AREAS**



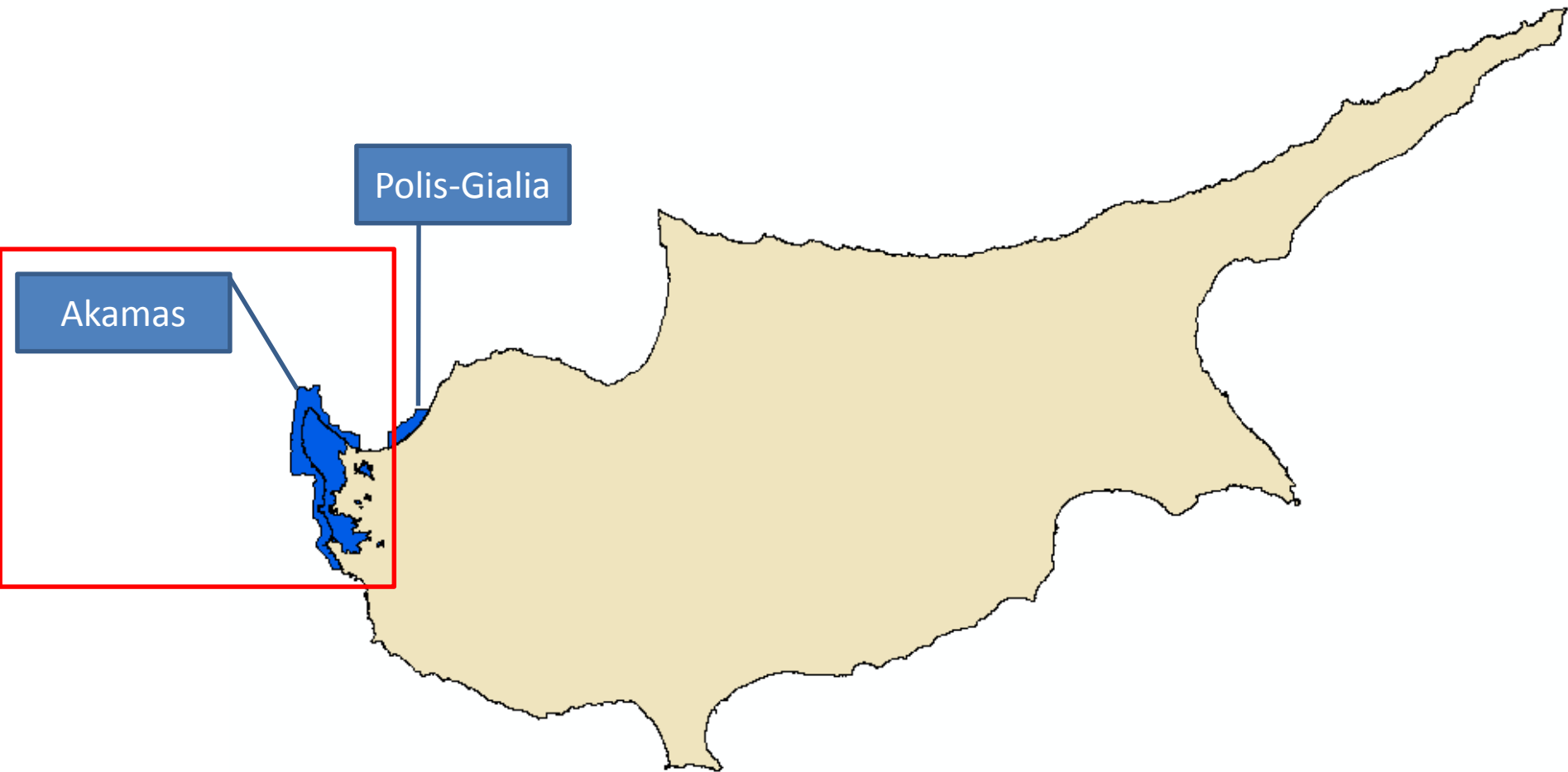
# Akamas Peninsula and Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 sites

Akamas

Polis-Gialia



# Akamas Peninsula Natura 2000 site





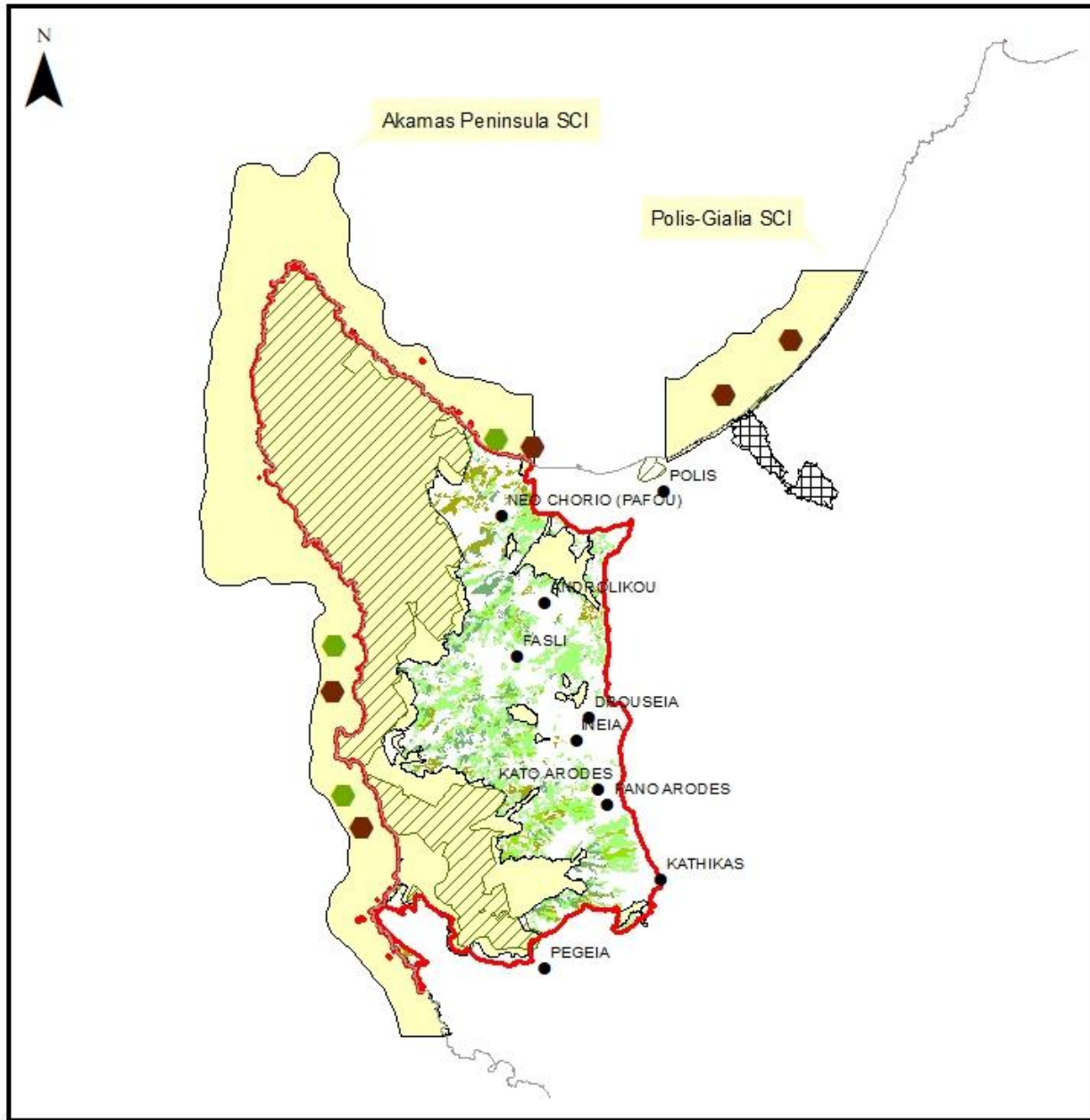


Category of Protected Area	Area (hectares)	Proposed / Designated as Protected Area
<b>UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Akamas Peninsula</b>	<b>23,000 ha</b> (only terrestrial area)	Proposed by the Republic of Cyprus, UNDP, EEC and METAP/World Bank, between 1987-1995
<b>First Proposal for Akamas Natura 2000 area</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

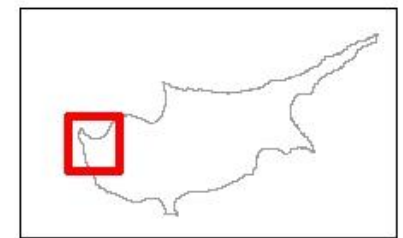
- *Caretta caretta*
- *Chelonia mydas*
- Communities

Limni Golf Project  
 LIFE Third Countries 1998 Project  
 National State Forest  
 Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)

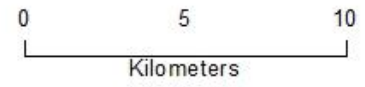
LIFE Third Countries 1998 Project Habitats

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



# 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?

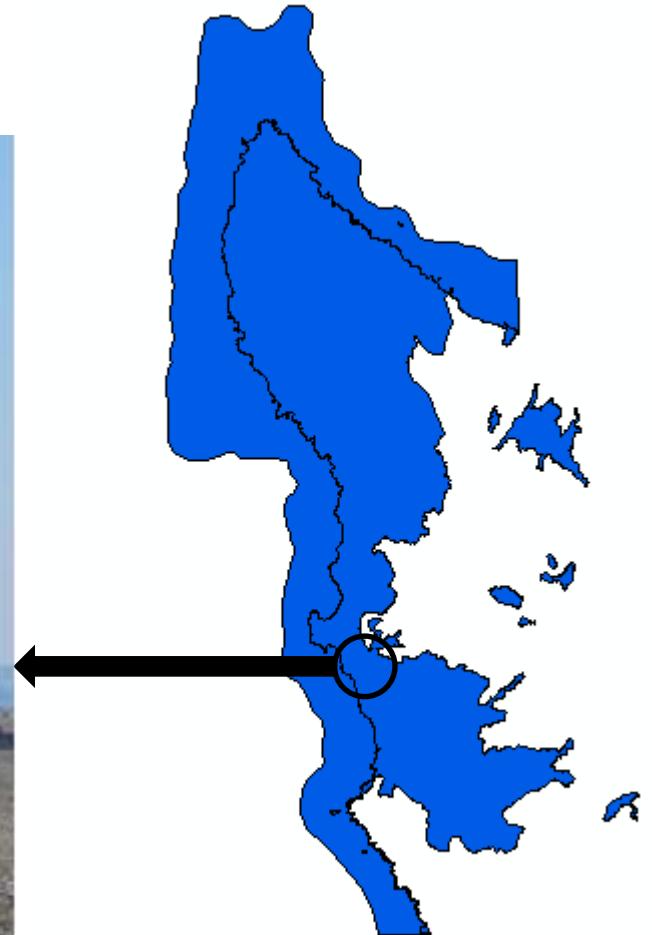
### MANAGEMENT ON-THE-GROUND

- 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

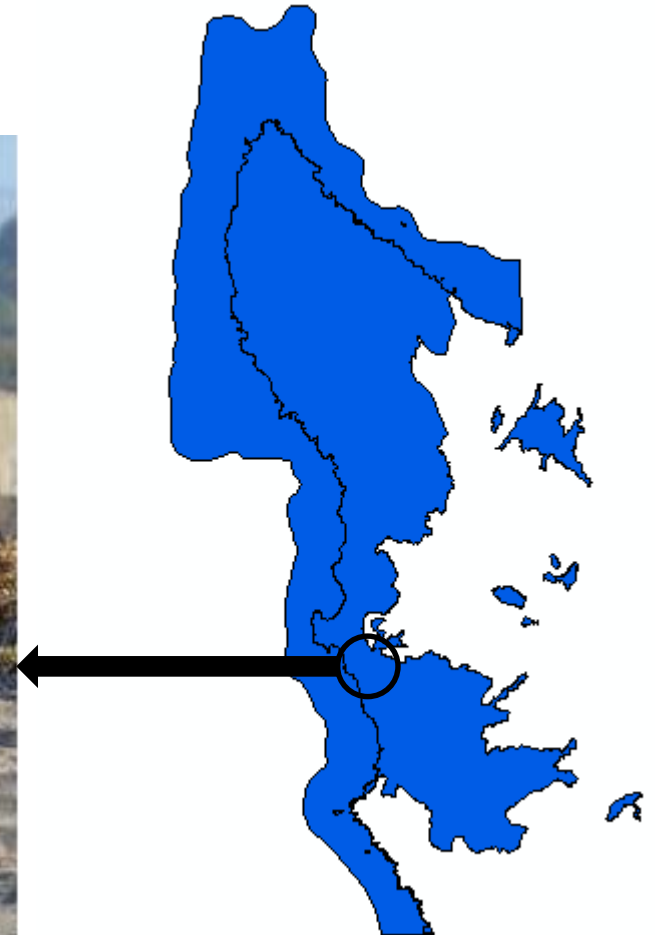


# North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



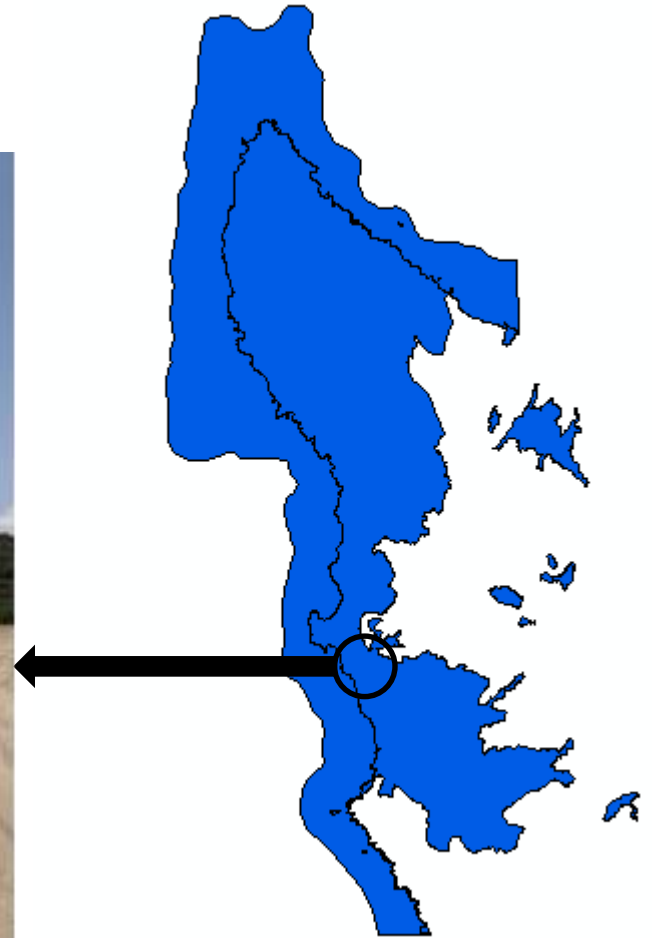
**Illegal restaurant in South Lara Bay**

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



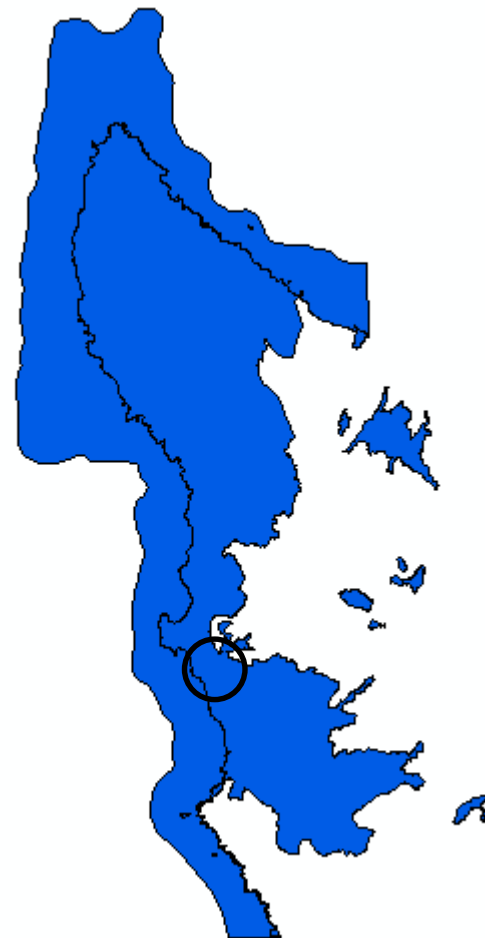
Illegal beach bar in South Lara Bay

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



**Unregulated human activities –  
Illegal car driving in South Lara Bay**

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



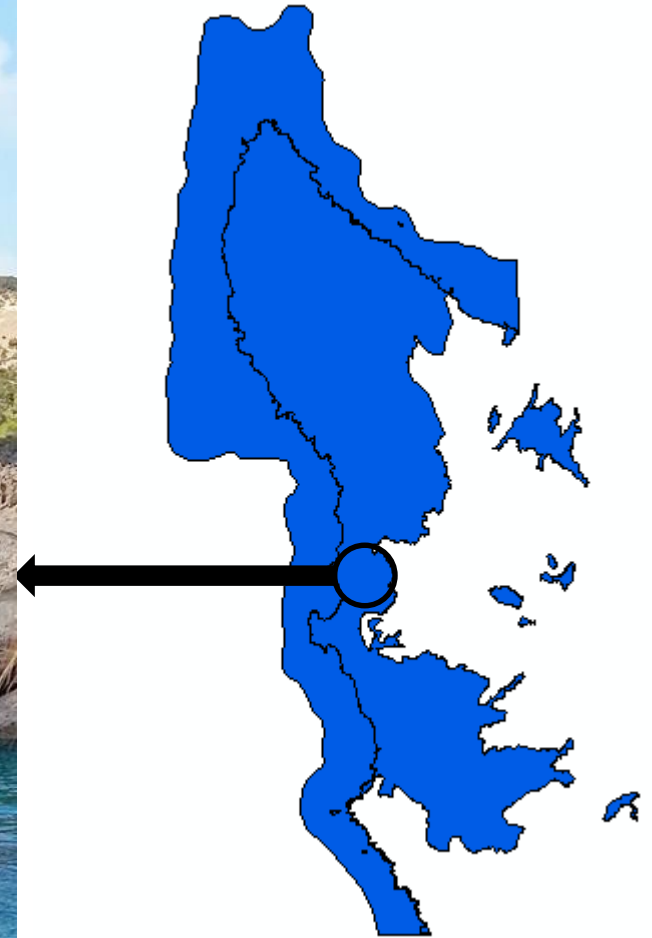


## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



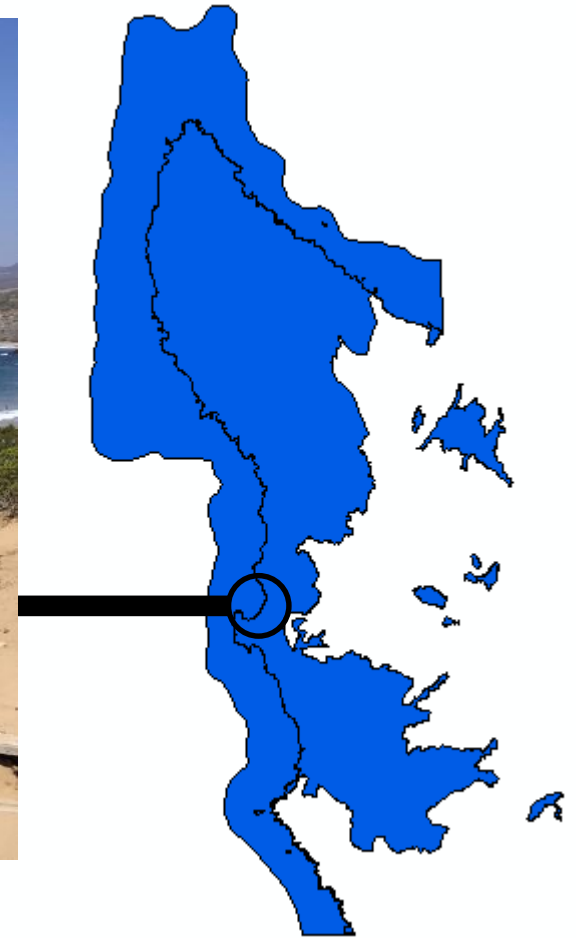


## North and South Lara Beaches - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



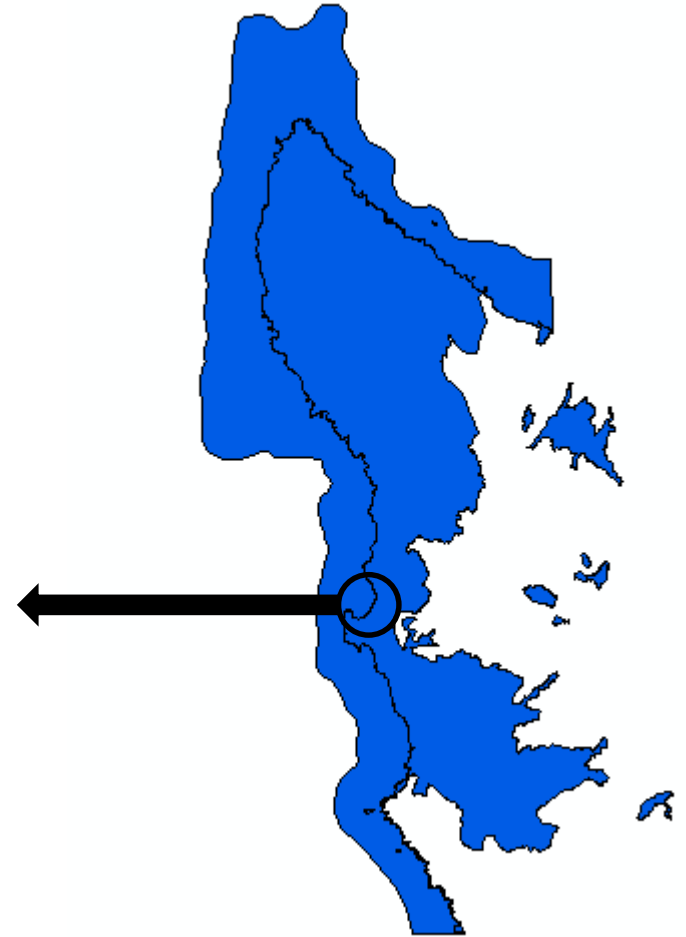
**Unregulated human activities –  
Illegal quad driving in Akamas**

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



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

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



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



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





## Toxeftra Beach - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas





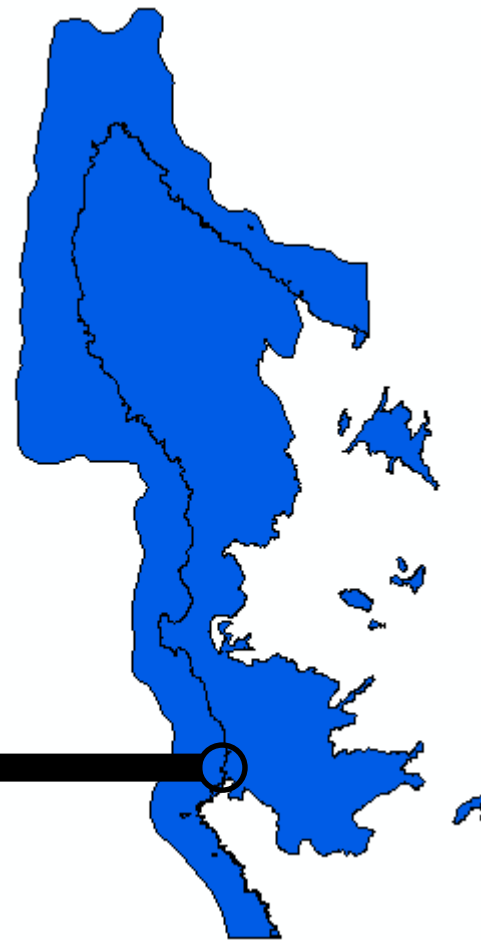
## Aspros River Estuary - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



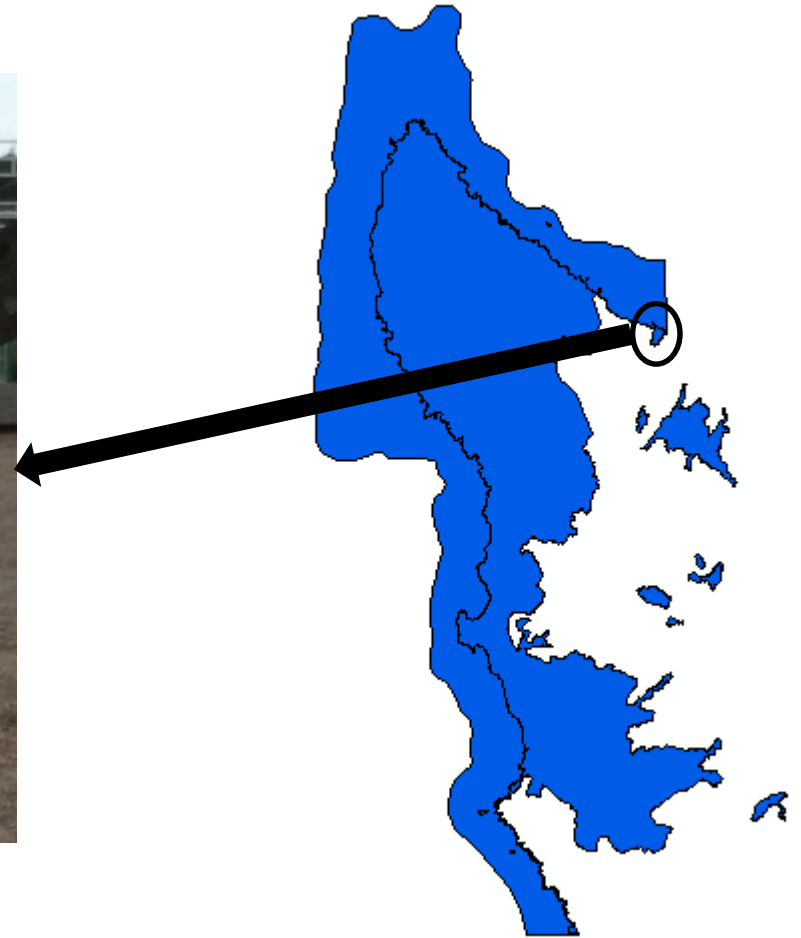
## Aspros River Estuary - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Illegal restaurant and snack bar in  
Aspros River Estuary**

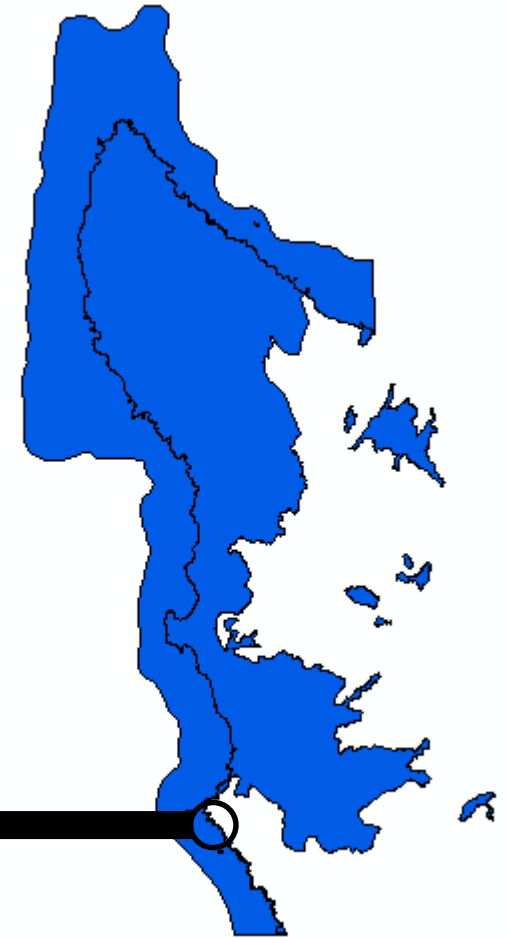


## Asprokremmos Beach - Green Turtle and Loggerhead Nesting Areas



**Wedding ceremony aborted at the last moment after strong public outcry**

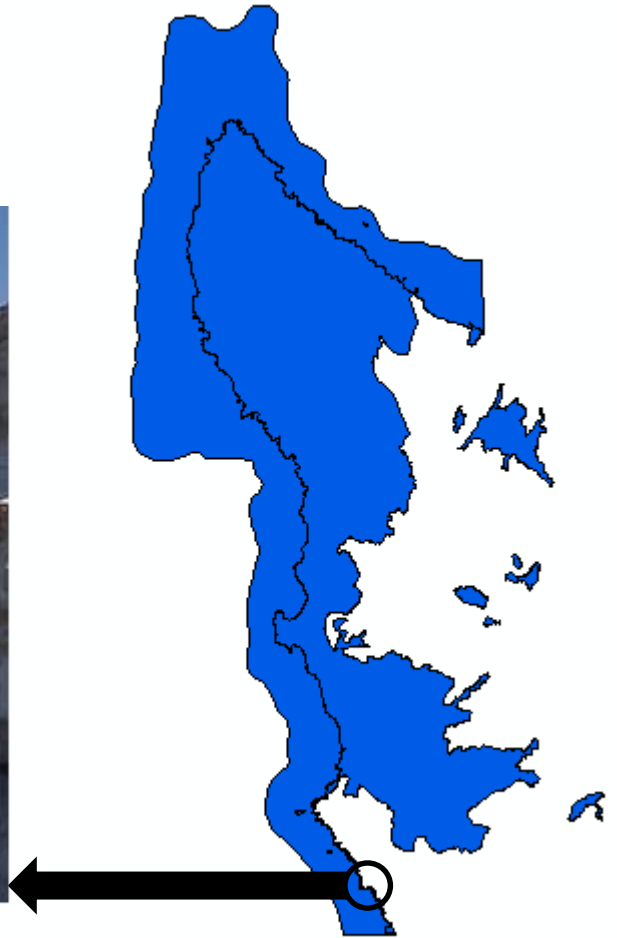
## Sea Caves in Pegeia – Mediterranean Monk Seal Breeding and Resting Area



**Illegal earthworks & creation of an artificial beach**



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



**Residential development above Monk Seal caves**

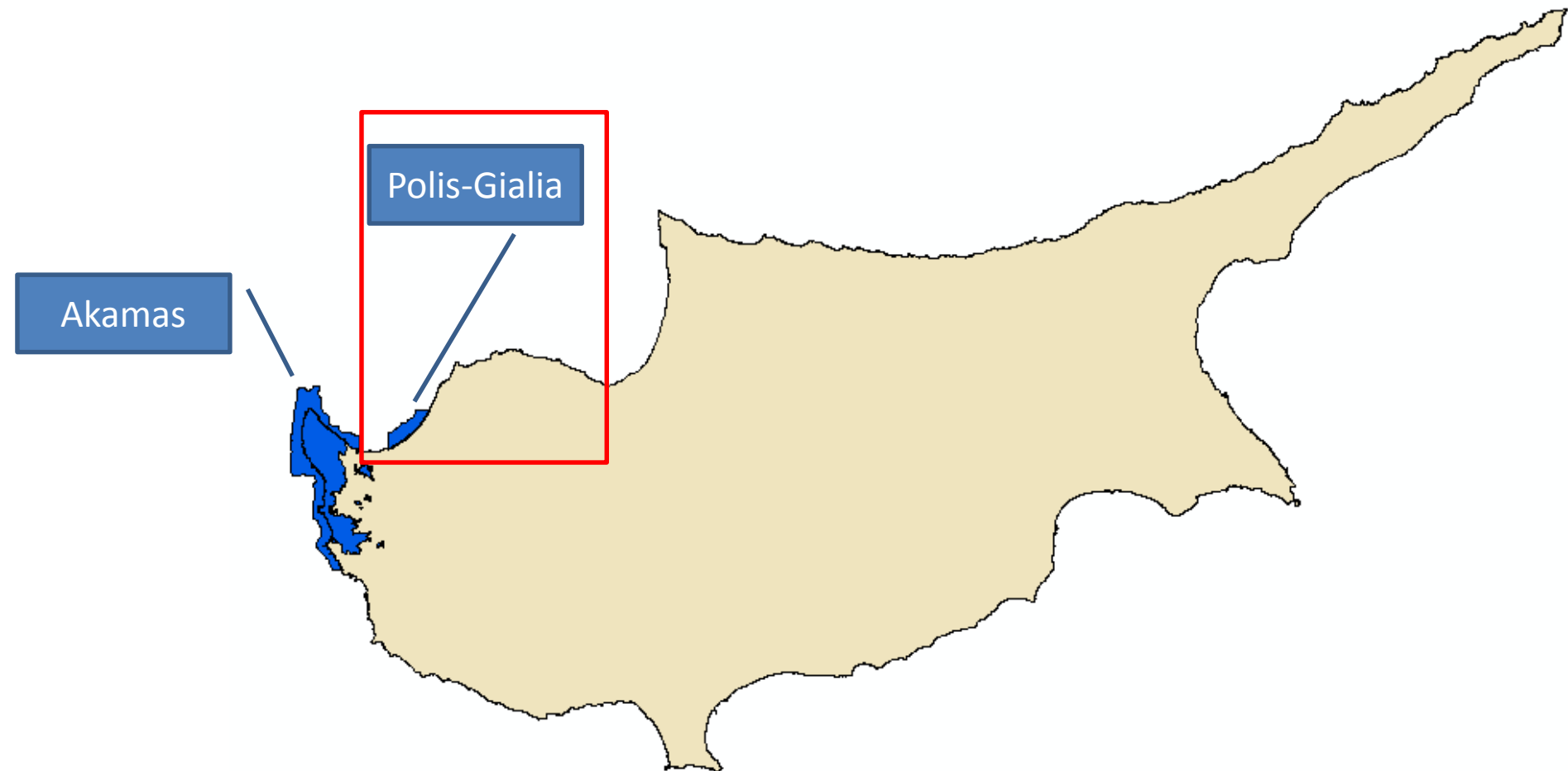


# **Akamas Natura 2000 site**

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

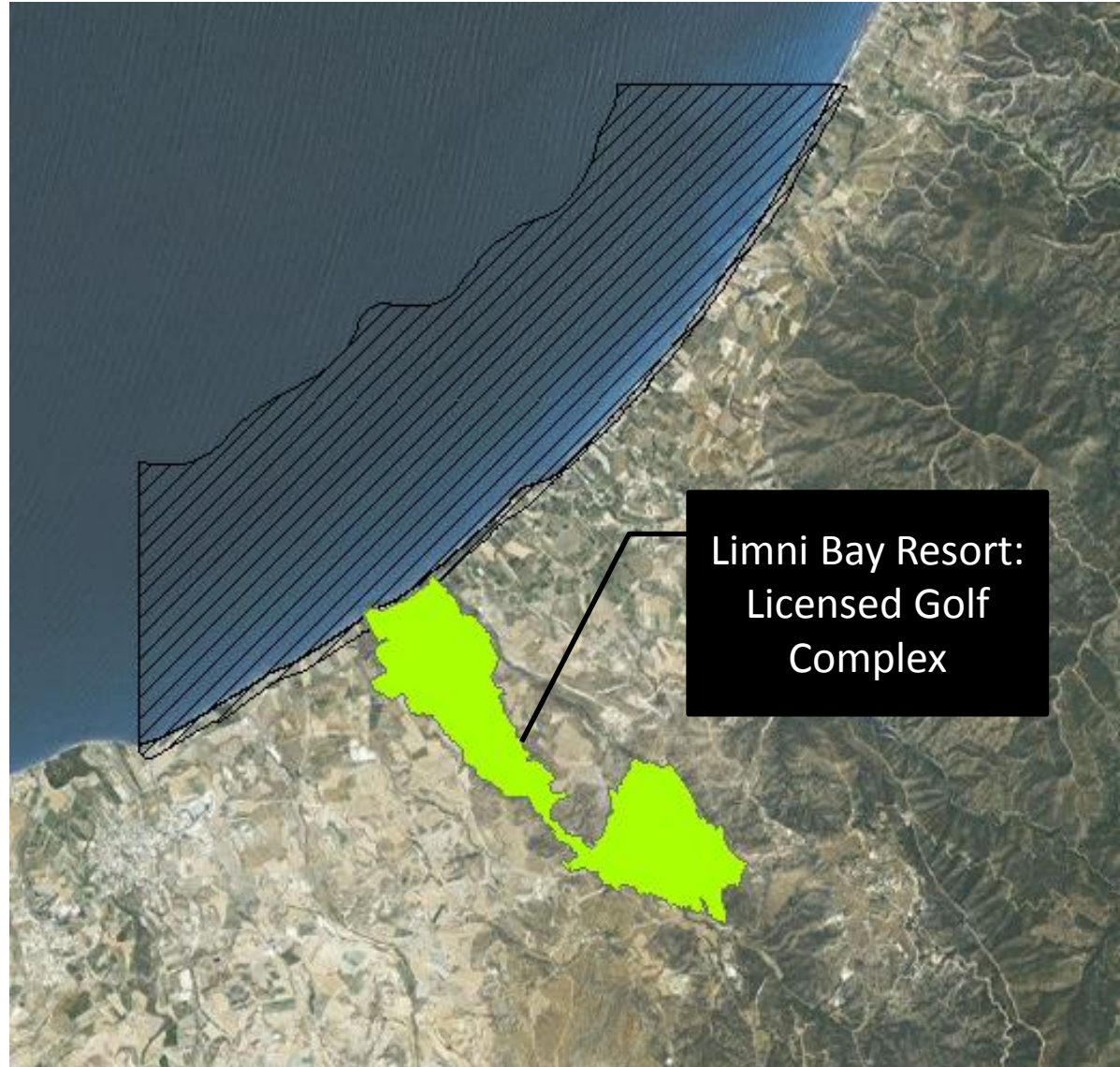
- Expansion of Natura 2000 boundaries
- Establishment of legally binding measures, based on the Management Plans
- Allocation of funding for the implementation of Management Plans and effective patrolling
- Prohibition of infrastructure (overnight stay and dining) outside of the designated development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

# Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 site



# Polis-Gialia Natura 2000 site

An imminent threat to a major nesting site for  
Loggerhead Turtles



Limni Bay Resort:  
Licensed Golf  
Complex

# 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**

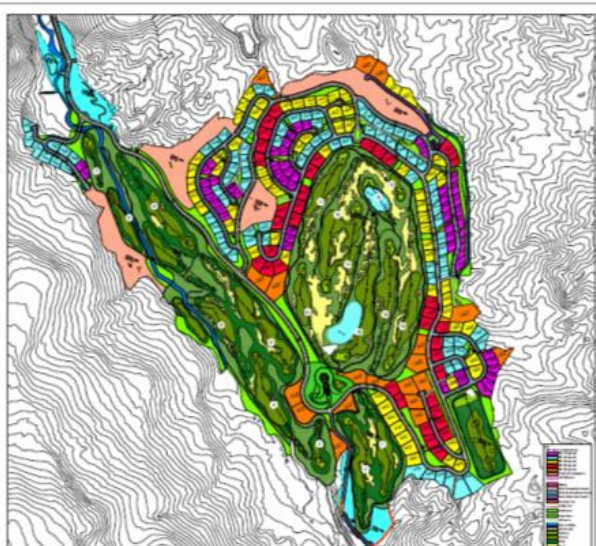
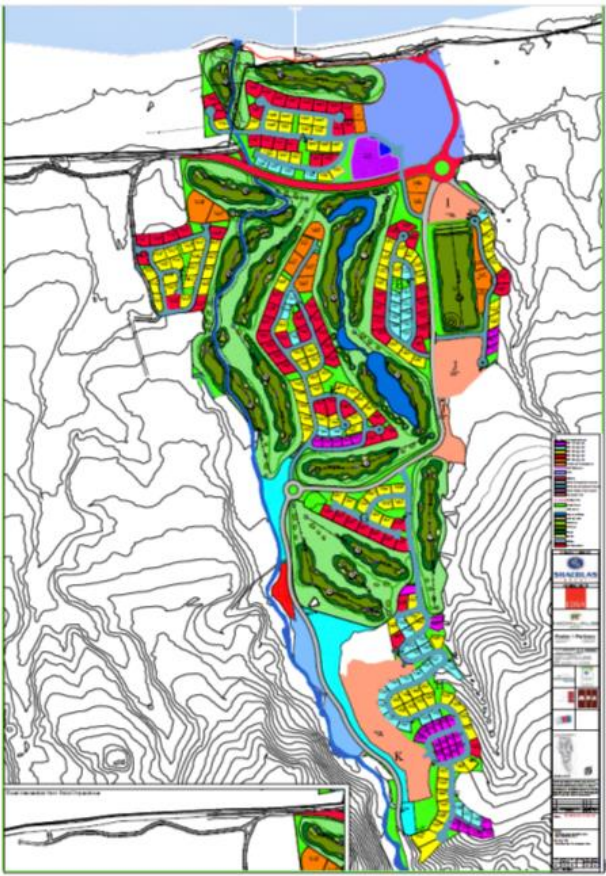
**4.2% of Total Mediterranean Nests**





# The Limni Bay Resort

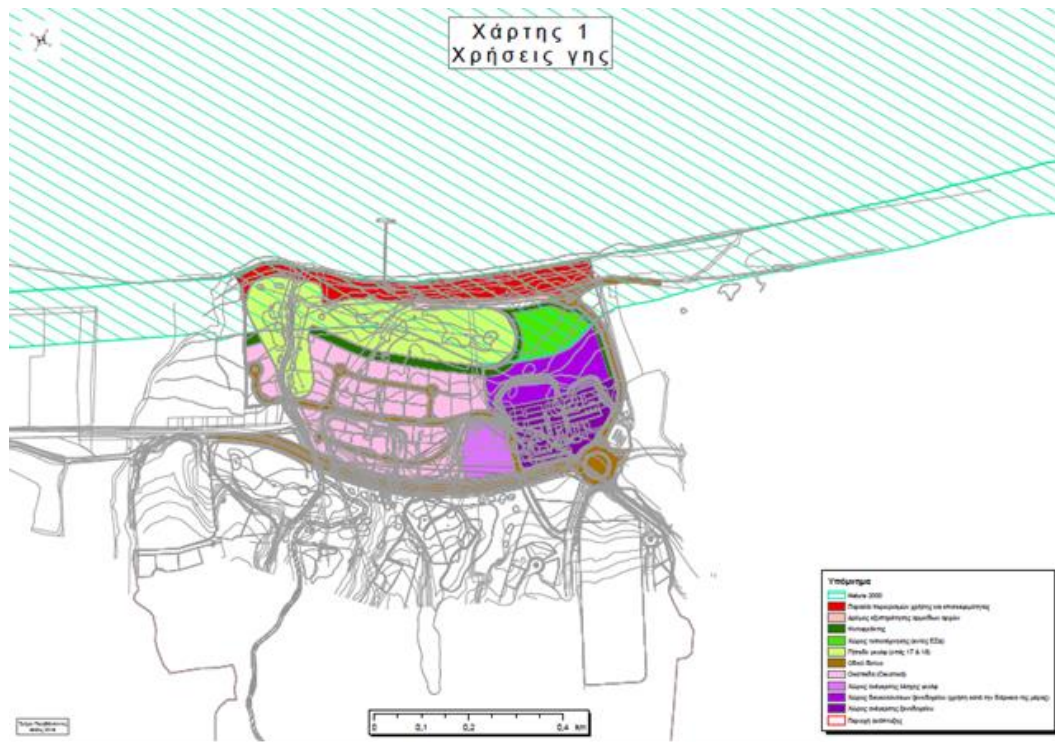
- 2 golf courses (18 holes each)
- **2 club houses (with bars and restaurants)**
- **792 villas**
- **2-storey hotel (with 160 rooms)**
- Road network
- Sport facilities





# 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



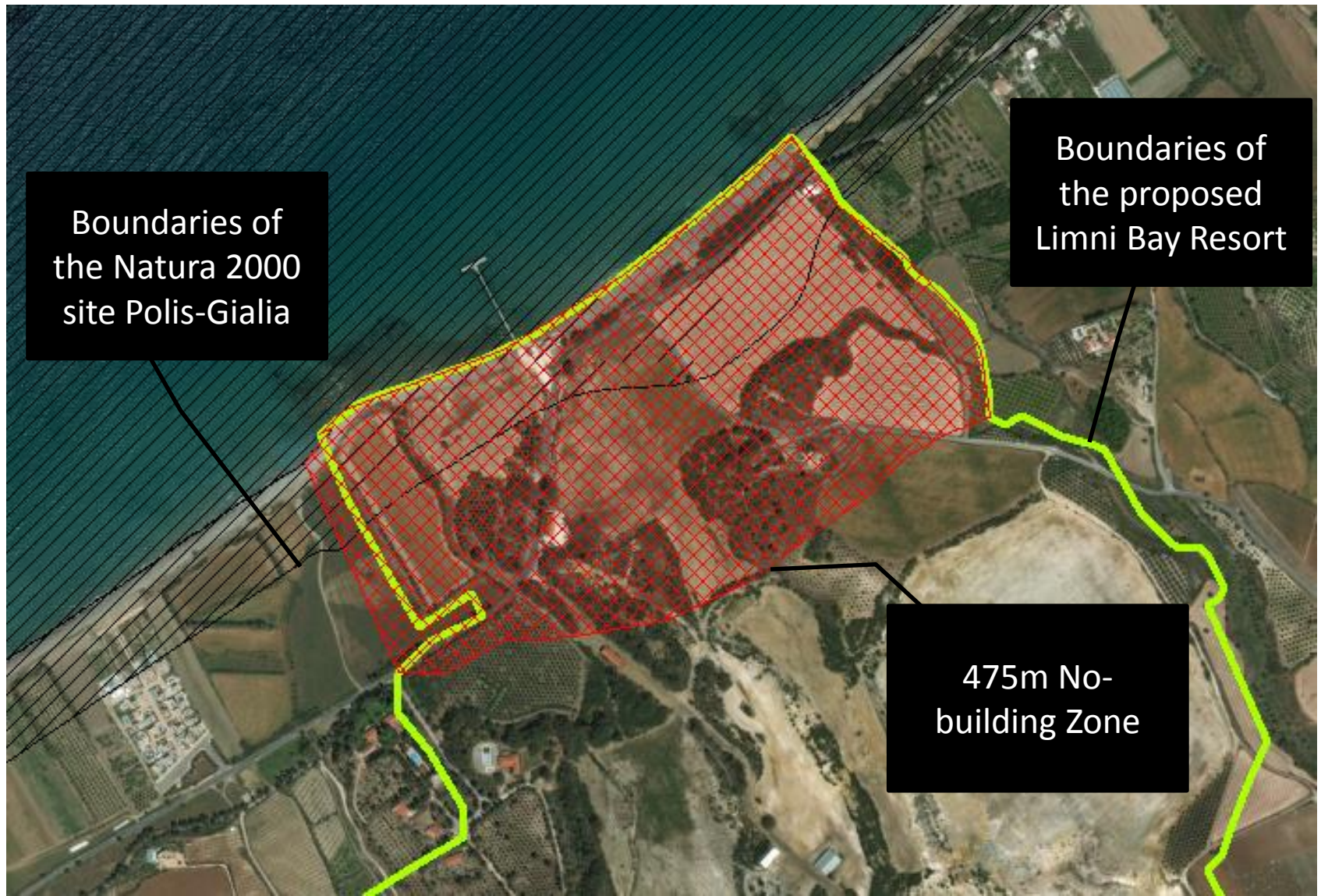


# Why a 475-meter No-building Zone?





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?

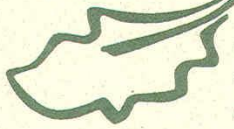
- At least a 475m No-building Zone between the golf complex and the sea
- Reduction of residential capacity of the project
- Establishment and enforcement of a Management Plan and Conservation Decree for the site
- Funding to be allocated for the implementation of conservation and management measures,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





TERRA CYPRIA

ΤΟ ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ  
THE CYPRUS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
ΚΙΒΡΙΣ ÇEVRE KORUMA VAKFI



Working for a sustainable Cyprus in cooperation with the Cyprus Environmental Studies Centre and the Laona Foundation for the Conservation and Regeneration of the Cypriot Countryside

Partners of: European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), Eurosite, Planta Europa, Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

**Thank you**

