



Strasbourg, 26 November 2025

T-PVS/Files(2025)1995-06 NGO

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

45th meeting
Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2025

Open File: 2010/05

Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias (Greece)

- REPORT BY THE NGO -

Documents prepared by ARCHELON

ARCHELON, The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece



Conservation efforts during 2025 at the nesting habitat of *Caretta caretta* in southern Kyparissia Bay, Western Peloponnese (Natura 2000 - GR2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS”)

Short report submitted to
the European Commission and
the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

Athens, September 2025

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Acronyms:

MP: Management Plan

MU: Management Unit

NECCA: Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency

PD: Presidential Decree

SES: Specific Environmental Study

Summary

The report presents the conservation work carried out by ARCHELON during the 2025 reproductive season for the protection of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and their habitats in the core nesting area (9.5km) of Kyparissia Bay, which is included in the Natura 2000 site GR2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS: NEOCHORI – KYPARISSIA”. The aim of the report is to outline the results of monitoring of nesting activity and protection of nests and hatchlings, along with presenting the current pressures and threats onsite, as well as to inform of any updates in the application of the Judgment of the European Court of Justice of 10 November 2016 (case C-504/14) and the Bern Convention Recommendation No. 174 (2014).

The core nesting area, together with the rest of Kyparissia Bay, is included in a Nature Protection Area designated in 2018 by Presidential Decree (PD). The responsibility for the management of this area lies with the Management Unit (MU) of Strofylia Wetlands National Park and Protected Areas of Western Peloponnese, which is an integral part of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), a nationwide Agency established in 2020 and supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

In 1984 ARCHELON began monitoring and protecting nests in the area, establishing a crucial baseline for the population. Eight years later, starting in 1992, ARCHELON implemented annual protection to most nests within the core nesting area against primary threats: predation by mammals, sea inundation, and light pollution, following internationally approved protocols. Because loggerhead turtles require 15 to 25 years to reach maturity, the continuous nest protection ensured that an adequate number of hatchlings survived to be recruited to the population. Since 2006, a gradual increase in the number of nests – and thus in adult females – has been recorded. This positive surge is directly attributed to ARCHELON's long-standing nest protection efforts, as the protected hatchlings from the 1990s have now reached maturity and are contributing to the population's growth.

In 2025, sea turtle nesting activity reached 5,200 nests in the core nesting area, and approx. 900 nests over 4.3km north of the core nesting area (preliminary data). Approx. 31.3% of the recorded nests were protected against predation, trampling and/or light pollution. These results are consistent with the overall positive trend of the last 19 years (2006-2024).

Seven years after the designation of Kyparissia Bay as a Nature Protection Area (PD 2018), legal, institutional and on-the-ground management deficiencies still allow unregulated anthropogenic pressures. With no Management Plan (MP), an inactive MU in the area, without proper signage and wardening, and various activities permitted without prior impact assessment, the area's important habitats in the site continue to suffer negative impacts that affect their ecological integrity.

Thus, significant anthropogenic disturbance persisted in 2025 and, as in previous years, was due to: (a) illegal platforms and unmanaged beach furniture, which obstruct turtle nesting, (b) vehicle traffic and free outdoor camping in sensitive areas due to lack of signage and barriers, as well as construction of houses and expanding agriculture in the sand dune zone, all of which degrade protected dune vegetation and nesting habitats, (c) fishing near the shore, which pose risks of adult turtle entanglement, (d) severe light pollution, which impact hatchling orientation.

In view of these facts, one must consider the observed positive trend in the number of nests in Kyparissia Bay as entirely conservation-dependent. Should the current nest protection be discontinued, the progress made would be quickly lost, and severe declines would soon be observed. The future of the species in this area remains precarious.

Kyparissia Bay and the nearby Laganas Bay (Zakynthos) combined host over 57% of all Loggerhead nests in the European Union. Since 2012, ARCHELON has proposed to unify these two areas to enable more effective and integrated management. In 2024, the Greek government announced the establishment of a large National Marine Park in the Ionian Sea, encompassing the nesting beaches of both sites. The Specific Environmental Study (SES) for the “Ionian Marine Park” was released for public consultation until late September 2025. ARCHELON participated in this consultation and submitted various suggestions to achieve good conservation status of the species and its habitats.

A set of recommendations appears at the end of this report as a guide for the near future.

Introduction

Located in western Peloponnese, Kyparissia Bay with approx. 43.5km of continuous sandy beach, hosts now the largest reproductive population of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Mediterranean. The bay is defined by the mouth of River Alfios in the north, to the mouth of River Arcadikos in the south. The beach is backed mostly by stripes of dunes and coastal forests. A small number of additional beaches separated by rocky outcrops is located further south until the port of Kyparissia.

The three Natura 2000 sites (Image 1) designated in Kyparissia Bay are:

- GR2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS: NEOCHORI – KYPARISSIA”,
- GR2330005 “THINES KAI PARALIAKO DASOS ZACHAROS, LIMNI KAI AFA, STROFYLIA, KAKOVATOS, and
- GR2330008 “THALASSIA PERIOCHI KOLPOU KYPARISSIAS: AKR. KATAKOLO – KYPARISSIA”.

This report outlines the main efforts related to the protection of loggerhead turtles and their habitats in the 9.5km-long core area situated in the south of the bay (hereafter referred to as southern Kyparissia Bay), during the 2025 reproductive season, which lies entirely within the Natura 2000 site GR2550005. It provides information on the monitoring of nesting activity and protection of nests conducted by ARCHELON, presents the current pressures and threats, and reports on progress regarding the fulfillment of the state’s international obligations for this site.

Any information related to other parts or the whole of Kyparissia Bay, is explicitly mentioned as such.

1. Background

Southern Kyparissia Bay extends from Arcadikos River in the south, to Neda River in the north, and hosts approx. 84% of the total loggerhead nesting activity of Kyparissia Bay (Images 1 and 2).

Beginning in the early 2000s, coastal tourism-development and increasing beach-user numbers in southern Kyparissia Bay, have impacted the ecological features of the Natura 2000 site in general and sea turtle nesting in particular. Environmental NGOs sent information on the pressures and threats as well as on the ecological significance of the area for sea turtles to the Ministry of Environment. However, no action was taken to safeguard the core nesting area. This resulted in the European Commission taking the Greek State to the Court of Justice in March 2014. The Court hearing took place on 13 January 2016 and the relevant Judgment, posted on 10 November 2016, declared the failure of the Greek State to fulfill its obligations under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The Bern Convention also opened a case file for this matter, issuing Recommendation No. 174 on the conservation of the nesting habitat in southern Kyparissia Bay in December 2014.

In 2018, almost two years after the Judgment of the European Court of Justice and four years after the Bern Convention Recommendation, Kyparissia Bay in its entirety was designated a Nature Protection Area by Presidential Decree (PD). The PD was issued in October 2018 (Government Gazettes D 391/03-10-2018, D 414/12-10-2018) and includes the three Natura 2000 sites GR2550005, GR2330005, and GR2330008.

In 2020, the wardening and management of the Nature Protection Area was assigned to the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA) through its Management Unit (MU) of Strofylia Wetlands National Park and Protected Areas of Western Peloponnese. The MU is based near the city of Patras, approx. a two-hour drive from southern Kyparissia Bay.

The case file in the Bern Convention has been reviewed annually during the Bureau and Standing Committee meetings since December 2015. During their latest meeting in December 2024, it was decided that an on-the-spot appraisal would be held, and the case file would remain open due to failing to fully implement Recommendation No. 174. The on-the-spot appraisal occurred in June 2025.

2. The 2025 nesting season

I. Monitoring and Conservation work

ARCHELON’s long-term program includes monitoring of the nesting activity, protection of nests and hatchlings, and recording sea turtle strandings. It is carried out annually from about early May until the end of September. During this

period, ARCHELON's field team also collects data on on-site pressures and threats and carries out public awareness and educational activities to inform visitors and residents in the area.

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The long-term project of ARCHELON is carried out mainly using its own financial resources and is the only protection of the sea turtle nesting activity conducted in southern Kyparissia Bay. Thanks to the participation of 90 researchers and volunteers from all over the world, the 2025 field project successfully monitored nesting and hatching activity and protected turtles, their nests, and hatchlings. Despite these considerable efforts, ongoing pressures and threats continue to pose significant risks to turtles and their habitats.

In 2025 fieldwork was conducted from 12 May to 25 September. To facilitate data collection, as in previous years the 9.5km core nesting area was divided into 4 sectors (O, A, B, C), while the 4.3km beach north of River Neda (northern part of GR2550005) was designated as sector D (Image 3). Preliminary data indicate that about 5,200 nests were recorded in the core nesting area, and about 900 nests in Sector D. It should be noted that, due to the significant increase of nests in the area, ARCHELON revised its protocols in 2025 to make the workload feasible. Nests were protected against predation, trampling, inundation, and light pollution in areas with intense human pressures (approx. one third of the total nest numbers). Tagging nesting females, which aims to understanding of the sea turtles' interesting and migration patterns, continued for yet another year.

During the nesting season, along the entire Kyparissia Bay, ARCHELON recorded 11 dead and 1 injured sea turtles. From the beginning of 2025, 19 more dead turtles were recorded by citizens and the Coast Guard. It was not possible to accurately assess the cause of death for some of the stranded turtles, since they were in a highly decomposed stage when found or had no visible external injuries. In cases where it was possible to do so, the cause appeared to be attributed to interaction with fisheries and deliberate injuries inflicted by humans.

Public awareness and educational activities were conducted from 15 May to 24 September on the beach, in various touristic facilities, in ARCHELON's permanent Environmental Station at Agiannakis, and through the operation of ARCHELON's seasonal Information Kiosk at Kalo Nero village. Over 5,800 visitors and locals participated in these activities and were informed about turtles, the pressures that impact them and how to best behave while on the nesting beaches. A new Information Kiosk was installed by ARCHELON in Kyparissia town and operated under the LIFE MareNatura project, aiming to create awareness for nine emblematic marine species, including the loggerheads.

II. Increase in nest numbers: an overview

ARCHELON began monitoring nests across Kyparissia Bay in 1984, establishing a crucial baseline for the population and identifying that the majority of nests were laid at the southernmost 9.5km of beach which was characterized as the core nesting area. Since 1992 all nests at the core nesting area were protected against predation, inundation, trampling and light pollution.

Beginning in 2006, a gradual increase in nests, and therefore in adult females, has been recorded, reflecting the long-term success of ARCHELON's nest protection work. Loggerhead turtles require 15 to 25 years to reach maturity; continuous nest protection has ensured that an adequate number of hatchlings survive to join the adult population. Turtle-tagging data indicate an increasing percentage of 'neophyte' turtles (i.e. those observed nesting for the first time) suggesting that hatchlings protected in the 1990s have now reached maturity and are contributing to the growth of the nesting population. While the average annual number of nests in 1994-2005 was 552, in 2006-2025 ARCHELON recorded an annual average of 2,290 nests. This trajectory is a direct result of the extensive nest protection measures applied by ARCHELON over the past 33 years (1992-2025), providing evidence that many of these hatchlings have now reached reproductive maturity, further contributing to the growth of the nesting population.

This positive trend in Kyparissia Bay relies entirely on ARCHELON's continued conservation efforts. Discontinuing nest protection could rapidly reverse the progress made, putting the population at serious risk of decline; and this is precisely why the increase in population is considered conservation-dependent.

III. Threats

The following section outlines the anthropogenic pressures and threats recorded by ARCHELON that impact sea turtles, their nests, and the nesting habitat along Kyparissia Bay in 2025.

A. Southern part of GR 2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS: NEOCHORI – KYPARISSIA” – core nesting area (sectors O-C)

Sectors O, A, B, and C form the core nesting area and include the beaches of Kalo Nero, Vounaki, Agiannakis and Elea respectively. Sector O has been severely impacted by coastal tourist-development. Sectors A-C are characterized by a very wide beach with an appropriate incline for nesting turtles, backed by low sand dunes and natural vegetation. These sectors should be maintained in pristine condition to ensure the long-term viability of the site. Unfortunately, each sector faces several challenges caused by human activities.

In particular:

- Coastal businesses (sector O) and beach bars (sectors B, C): Sector O has many coastal businesses with 6 illegal wooden platforms on the beach (photos 1, 2a, 2b). These businesses do not manage their furniture during nighttime, resulting in 283 sunbeds remaining every night as obstacles for nesting females. In sectors B and C, two beach bars are located on the sand dune zone, and their hours of operation extend beyond sunset. They thus attract increased human presence during night hours (photo 3).
- Light pollution in sector O is so strong (photos 4a, 4b) that the standard method of “nest- shading” applied in other nesting areas is ineffective. To protect hatchlings, ARCHELON is obliged to use the unorthodox practice of “nest-boxing”. As opposed to sector O, sectors A-C have significantly fewer artificial light sources, but these are still visible from large distances, thus impacting big sections of the beach. According to preliminary data, a total of 60 nests were affected by light pollution in sector O, while in sectors A-C almost 160 nests were affected.
- Several houses in the sand dune area that had already been built before the issuance of the PD permanently alter and degrade the natural sand dune zone. Even after the PD was issued in 2018, 4 additional houses have been built in sector B (photos 5a, 5b). It is notable that alien vegetation has been planted in all plots of land where buildings exist.
- People were regularly observed free camping along the entire core nesting area, both in campervans and tents. This activity is not permitted and puts a lot of environmental pressure on the area, especially in sectors B and C causing sand dune degradation as well as disturbance to the nesting and hatching turtles during the night (photo 6). Campers were repeatedly found at night searching for hatchlings on the beach, while 35 incidents of campfires were recorded. Additionally, campers often left their private beach equipment on the beach overnight, creating obstacles for the emerging turtles. Between May and September 2025, more than 3,450 pieces of private equipment were recorded on the beach, hindering nesting activity.
- Behind sectors A and B, extensive stretches of land are used for agriculture. These negatively affect the sand dunes (photos 5b, 7).
- Due to the absence of appropriate barriers and signage, moving vehicles were recorded daily either on the nesting beach or the sand dune zone in all sectors (photos 8, 9). Their presence leads to degradation and fragmentation of natural vegetation, sand compaction, and damage to existing nests. Organized visitor-reception and recreational infrastructure is completely lacking, causing numerous vehicles to be parked in sensitive areas during the high tourist season, effectively creating new illegal parking lots (photos 8, 10, 11a, 11b). One incident of beach cleaning with heavy vehicles was recorded on sector O on 1 June (photos 12a, 12b).
- Horse riding was recorded mainly in sectors B and C, affecting existing nests and natural vegetation.

B. Northern part of GR2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS: NEOCHORI – KYPARISSIA” (sector D)

Sector D (beach length 4.3km) carried similar anthropogenic disturbances. These included: vehicles on the beach driving near nests (42 tire tracks recorded between May and September), and 1,708 pieces of private beach shelter equipment left on the beach overnight (photo 13). Free camping was also observed on the beach, oftentimes with beach fires. Light pollution, beach bars with illegal constructions on the sand dune zone, and unmanaged beach furniture during the night also caused disturbances. Beach parties took place weekly in July and August, and on 9 August 2025, the village of Giannitsochori hosted its annual Music Festival behind the nesting beach. Artificial lights, loud music and the participation of hundreds of people caused extensive light and noise pollution, as well as nest trampling (photo 14).

C. GR2330008 “THALASSIA PERIOCHI KOLPOU KYPARISSIAS: AKR. KATAKOLO – KYPARISSIA” – marine area of Kyparissia Bay

Professional and recreational fishing remain a threat for sea turtles during the mating and nesting seasons. Fishing activities occurred widely across all sectors, increasing the danger of entanglement and injuries from fishing lines and

nets. In 2025, fishing boats and stationary nets were recorded very close to shore (approx. 34 times) in all beach sectors, in some cases even at distances less than 30m from the shore (photo 15). Set nets were left for the duration of the night; any females attempting to emerge for nesting were at risk of entrapment. Issues regarding fishing activities are not addressed by the PD and, therefore need to be included in the MP.

While the PD foresees a maximum 6knot speed limit, speedboats were recorded to exceed this limit 4 times.

3. Compliance with international obligations

Characterized by institutional inertia, seven years after Kyparissia Bay was designated a Nature Protection Area, little progress –if any– has been made. The 12 points of the Bern Convention Recommendation as well as the European Court of Justice’s Judgment of 10 November 2016 are still not implemented. Unregulated human pressures and lack of management action endanger the ecological integrity of the nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*):

- The existing legal framework of the protected area (PD) does not address all the existing disturbances for loggerheads and their habitats (e.g. fisheries, human presence at night, and agriculture in the sand dune zone). Under these circumstances, and because of the continuous absence of a MP for the area, management solutions for these issues have not yet been formulated, allowing for habitat degradation and disturbances to the reproductive process. The MP is expected to be issued after the completion of the SES for Kyparissia Bay. The SES, however, has been experiencing serious delays and has not been brought up for public consultation until today. As such, the area still lacks a cohesive legal framework.
- Between late July and late September 2025, the Ministry of Environment released another SES for public consultation, documenting the establishment of the Ionian Marine Park. The SES incorporates the entire beach of Kyparissia Bay (43.5km) into a list of 80 nesting beaches across the Ionian Islands and the Peloponnese. Two main issues should be highlighted with regard to Kyparissia Bay: (a) the proposals paradoxically separate the beach from its adjacent terrestrial parts of the Natura 2000, thus ignoring the dynamics and integrity of this unique coastal area, and (b) although all nesting beaches included in the Ionian Marine Park have different ecological characteristics (i.e. number of nests, nesting density, observed threats), the proposed management measures are identical for all sites. The SES therefore fails to consider the unique ecological value of Kyparissia Bay, which hosts 36% of the total nesting effort recorded within the EU. In conclusion, vital improvements of the proposals included in the study are required to ensure the good conservation status of sea turtles and their habitats.
- The MU of the area remains inactive regarding wardening and site management. The data from the long-term project conducted by ARCHELON in southern Kyparissia Bay show a significant recovery of the sea turtle population, which was achieved after many years of hard work by thousands of volunteers, and which is absolutely dependent on previous protection efforts that are essential to continue. The National Action Plan for turtles (adopted in 2021 by Ministerial Decision) defines the monitoring and protection of nests and hatchlings as a top management need. However, to date, all these protection efforts with their consequent financial cost continue to be covered entirely and exclusively by ARCHELON resources. If the Greek authorities continue not to support these efforts, a serious problem will arise since ARCHELON cannot continue to cover this expense in its entirety.
- A range of construction projects and activities continue to take place without the appropriate assessment of their impact on the habitat in general and on marine turtles in particular. New houses are built near the nesting beach (photos 5a-5c), and beach bars and coastal businesses that operate on the sand dune zone cause intensive light pollution and increased human presence (photo 3). Local festivals are organized behind the nesting beach (photo 14). Moreover, poor management of beach equipment left overnight creates obstacles for the nesting females. New public and private sources of light are installed (photos 4a, 4b, 5c), resulting in aborting nesting attempts and hatchling disorientation, extensive fields are cultivated causing sand dune degradation (photos 5b, 7), and invasive species are observed in various locations of the habitat (photos 5a, 5b, 16).
- Since Greece received a Reasoned Opinion from the European Commission (Infringement No. 2011/2156, Reasoned Opinion dated 27/09/2012), the State has been dramatically slow in taking necessary protection and management measures, resulting in the gradual degradation of the dune habitats and the critical sea turtle nesting beach. Indicative of the site’s poor management is that the competent authorities remain inactive regarding various interventions/activities that are not permitted by law, such as: roads leading to the beach, parking lots, vehicles on

the beach and the sand dunes, free camping, platforms on the beach belonging to coastal businesses, and extensive beach cleaning with heavy vehicles (photos 6, 10, 12a-12b). On the other hand, activities that are foreseen by the PD remain uncontrolled and cause habitat degradation and disturbance to sea turtles. For instance, houses and coastal businesses cause light and noise pollution as they are not required to apply turtle-friendly practices. Recreation-related pressures, such as the access of vehicles and visitors to the sand dunes and the beach are left unmanaged due to the lack of proper signage or barriers. Additionally, popular fishing practices (set nets left near the shore during nighttime, fishing lines) are not regulated at all, posing the threat of entanglement to sea turtles attempting to nest (photos 15, 17).

- In 2024, NECCA commissioned and accepted a study entitled “Adequate Assessment of the Impact from Roads and Constructions in the NATURA GR2550005 Area Thines Kyparissias – Neochori – Kyparissia”, which was submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention. Environmental NGOs reviewed the document and submitted detailed comments to the Secretariat. Their concluding comments were that the study ignores good practices in other important sites worldwide and significantly downscopes the severity of the impact caused by roads and various constructions in the core nesting area. Specifically, it claims that the impact on the loggerhead sea turtle is "neutral" (i.e. nonexistent), and that no degradation of the dune habitats has occurred. In fulfilling its legally mandated role to protect and manage the site, NECCA should instead (1) conduct restoration studies for the degraded habitat types, (2) prioritize checking the legality of the constructions (roads, houses, etc.) and, (3) in the case of illegal constructions, ensure their demolition in collaboration with relevant authorities (in line with the PD). Moreover, it should adopt management actions to reduce the pressures from unregulated human activities (vehicles, fishing, etc.). The study makes it clear that there is no intention to protect and manage the habitat in accordance with its exceptional ecological value. Its goal is to close the pending cases at the Bern Convention and the European Court, regardless of the consequences to the loggerheads, the dunes, and the habitat in general.

4. Recommendations

- A MP to address the threats that are not regulated by the PD is urgently needed. The SES for Kyparissia Bay must be completed, while the SES for the Ionian Marine Park must make vital amendments to reflect the significant ecological value of Kyparissia Bay. It should be noted that the nesting beaches of Kyparissia Bay and the nearby Laganas Bay (Zakynthos), both included in the Ionian Park, host more than 57% of all loggerhead nests in the European Union.
- The MU that is responsible for the site must develop ways to ensure the supervision and management of the protected area. This includes collaborating with local authorities and stakeholders to enforce the PD provisions, restore degraded habitats, as well as properly assess and control human activities.
- The positive trend in annual nest numbers is entirely conservation-dependent. To effectively protect the sea turtle population of Kyparissia Bay, it is essential that current efforts continue and that threats are addressed comprehensively. The Greek state must financially support the costs of monitoring and protection of nests and hatchlings.

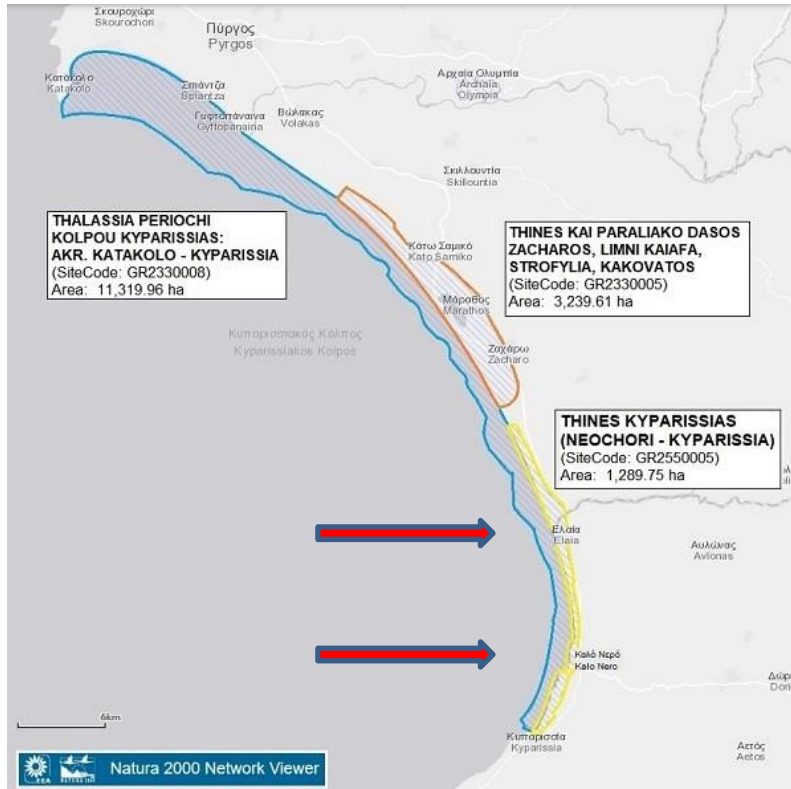


Image 1: Map of Kyparissia Bay and the relevant Natura 2000 sites. The three sites are included in the PD issued in 2018. The core nesting area is marked by red arrows.

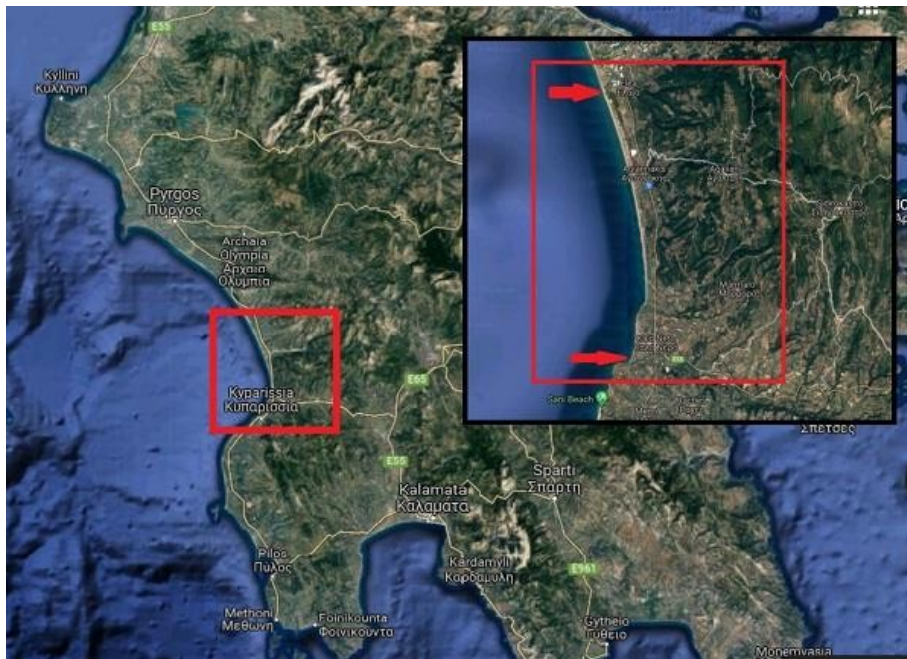


Image 2: Map of Kyparissia Bay. The arrows indicate the core nesting area, ranging from Arcadikos River (south) to Neda River (north).

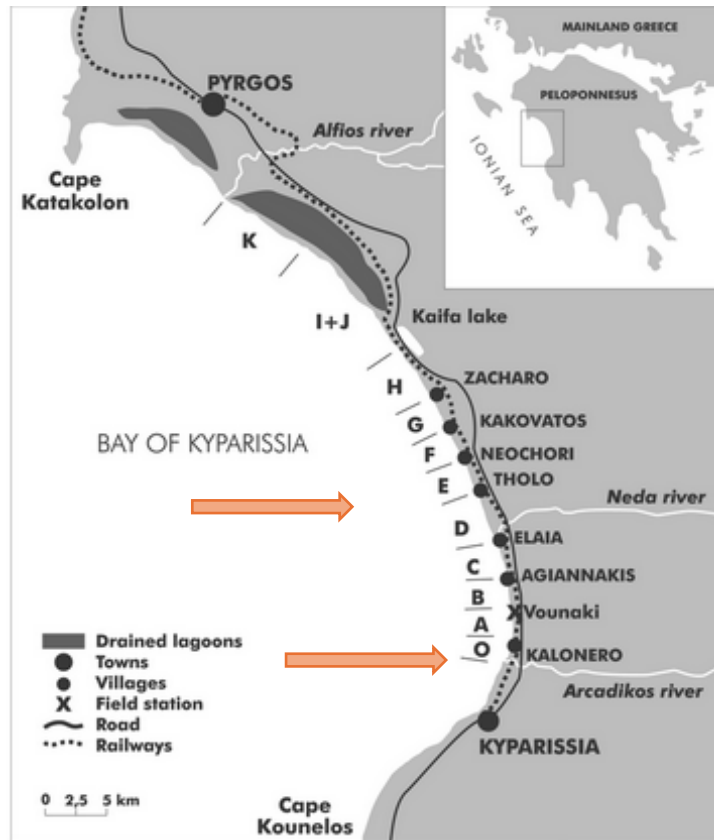


Image 3: Map of the entire Kyparissia Bay and the separation by sectors used by ARCHELON for the monitoring of *Caretta caretta* nesting activity. As indicated by the red arrows, monitoring work in 2025 covered five Sectors (O-D), all included in GR2550005 “THINES KYPARISSIAS: NEOCHORI – KYPARISSIA”.



Photo 1: Kalo Nero, 11 July 2025 – Not only the 6 platforms on Kalo Nero beach remain, but one of the businesses extended its platform in 2025.



Photo 2a: Kalo Nero, 22 August 2025 – The illegal wooden platforms remain on the nesting beach of Kalo Nero.



Photo 2b: Kalo Nero, 22 August 2025 – Nest proximity to the beach furniture of coastal businesses. Shading is placed around each nest close to its hatching date to prevent disorientation from artificial lights. The nests are indicated with red arrows.



Photo 3: Agiannakis, 03 August 2025 – Beach bars and coastal businesses operate on the sand dune zone in an uncontrolled way and organize beach parties, resulting in intense light and noise pollution, as well as increased human presence during nighttime.



Photo 4a: Kalo Nero, 25 July 2025 – Public and private sources of light are installed without taking into consideration the light pollution on the beach.



Photo 4b: Kalo Nero, 25 July 2025 – Light pollution on the beach results in abandonment of nesting attempts and hatchling disorientation. Additionally, the businesses do not manage their beach equipment creating obstacles for nesting females.



Photo 5a: Agiannakis, 22 August 2025 – The construction of these villas was approved without the impact on the sand dune habitat to be assessed.



Photo 5b: Vounaki, 22 August 2025 – Four houses are visible out of which 2 are currently constructed. Planting of alien vegetation in the sand dune zone is quite visible.



Photo 5c: Agiannakis, 11 August 2025 – The extensive light pollution deriving from the houses built behind the nesting beach was not assessed prior to their approval.



Photo 6: Elea, 12 August 2025 – Free camping is not controlled and results in extensive human presence on the beach during nighttime, campfires, private equipment left on the beach.



Photo 7: Vounaki, 28 May 2025 – Extensive fields are cultivated on the sand dune zone.



Photo 8: *Agiannakis, 10 August 2025 – The total absence of barriers and signage leads to extensive access of vehicles on the sand dune zone and the nesting beach.*



Photo 9: *Agiannakis, 01 June 2025 – The total absence of barriers and signage leads to extensive access of vehicles on the sand dune zone and the nesting beach. The vehicle is in close proximity to a nest (marked with a red circle).*



Photo 10: Elea, 22 August 2025 – Sand dune vegetation is absent due to the beach bar and the illegal parking lot.



Photo 11a: Agiannakis, 10 August 2025 – Numerous vehicles have uncontrolled access to the beach due to lack of signage and barriers.



Photo 11b: Agiannakis, 12 August 2025 – Only 3 signs of the MU are placed in the core nesting habitat which are clearly insufficient. Instructions on appropriate beach conduct are only shown on the lower end of the sign.



Photo 12a: Kalo Nero, 01 June 2025 – Extensive beach cleaning after the nesting season has started results in sand compression and nest disturbance.



Photo 12b: Kalo Nero, 01 June 2025 – Extensive beach cleaning after the nesting season has started results in sand compression and nest disturbance.



Photo 13: Giannitsochori, 07 August 2025 – Private beach equipment remains on the beach during nighttime.



Photo 14: Giannitsochori, 09 August 2025 – a Music Festival is organized behind the nesting beach. Loud music, extensive light pollution and human presence on the beach threaten the reproductive success of the nests.



Photo 15: Kalo Nero, 21 August 2025 – Fishing very close to the shore with set nets.



Photo 16: Kalo Nero, 07 July 2025 – Alien vegetation is present in various locations of the protected area.



Photo 17: Agiannakis, 10 August 2025 – Fishing from the shore during the nighttime is not permitted.