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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November - 4 December 2020

Possible File

**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 9 (1987) of the
standing committee on the protection of Caretta
Caretta in Laganas bay, Zakynthos (Greece)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece*



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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DIRECTORATE OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
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TO: The Bern Convention Secretariat

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

RELATED : (1) Your letter with date 12/12/2019

Dear Mr Eoghan Kelly

Regarding the Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas bay, Zakynthos”, we would like to notify you as follows:

The following actions should be mentioned:

- (1) The Presidential Decree and the Management Plan of the area is financed through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funds, in the framework of the on-going project “Assembly of special environmental studies and Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites in Greece”, and it is expected to be delivered to the Ministry of Environment and Energy by June 2021.
- (2) The efforts of “ARCHELON”, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, an undisputable, dedicated and most efficient partner of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, which, during 2019, has concluded an important work of data collection, monitoring, protecting and rescuing in the region along with close and effective collaboration with the Management Body of National Marine Park of Zakynthos.
- (3) Pursuant to this development, the Ministry approved a national action plan for the conservation of *Caretta caretta* and is going to issue a Ministerial Decision in the course of 2020, in order to see through the implementation of the Action Plan over a 5-year period, 2020 – 2025. The whole project is being financed by LIFE integrated Project LIFE – IP 4 NATURA. Most of the actions foreseen in the Plan are targeted the Laganas bay in Zakynthos.

- (4) Meanwhile, according to the Law 4519/2016, the responsibility for the current management of Laganas Bay comes under the Management Body of National Marine Park of Zakynthos who disposes of 1m euros, provided under the ERDF operational program “Transport infrastructure, environmental and Sustainable Development” for conservation actions. More specifically, concrete conservation actions have been scheduled, starting next January, such as protection of marine turtle nesting sites, of an estimated cost of 45.000 euros and implementation of actions for the regulation and delimitation of human activities in the area of Laganas Bay, of an estimated cost of 60.000 euros.
- (5) With believe that the scope of the aforementioned actions can and will address adequately the Bern Conventions’ Recommendation and will result a better conservation status of the marine turtles in the area. Even though we are fully aware that some issues might still need further scrutiny and particular attention, we are convinced that we have initiated a process, certainly lengthy, but comprehensive and trustworthy. We are always open to hear suggestions and proposals from the Parties of the Convention as well as from other partners that can help us in achieving our primary goal which is the conservation of the natural heritage.

The Head of the Department

G. Lazopoulos