



Strasbourg, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 28 November - 1 December 2023

**Open case-file: 2010/5**

**Threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias (Greece)**

**- GOVERNMENT REPORT -**

*Document prepared by  
Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece*

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- October 2023 -

**Ministry of Environment & Energy  
General Directorate of Environmental Policy  
Directorate of Natural Environment Management & Biodiversity  
Department for Biodiversity**

Athens, 24 October 2023

**To the Secretary of the Bern Convention**

Dear Mr POUTIERS,

**Subject:** File Complaint No. 2010/5: Case-file open on “Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias”

Greece would like to provide some extra information and clarifications asked by the Bureau pursuant to the September 2023 Decision of the Bureau on the present open-case file.

First of all, the reference by the complainant (point 8, p. 4) in their 2022 Report on the erosion in Kalo Nero, that the local community “*attempted to solve the problem by placing the sand hills across the road as an anti-erosion measure (Fig 14)*”, lacks geographic coordinates, which are necessary for the national authorities to conduct an on-the-spot appraisal, since the Kalo Nero beach is quite lengthy. Therefore, the complainant is kindly requested to provide precise information over this claim.

Secondly, regarding the study of restoration of environmental damage, the offender (a company) was obliged to comply with a Decision issued by the local Decentralized Administration based on Presidential Decree No. 148/2009, in 2012, in order to i) stop car access to the beach via the five illegal roads that the company constructed in the area and to ii) submit a list of sand-dune restoration measures to the Regional Committee for the Mitigation of Environmental Damage within 3 months (i.e. by December 2012). Unfortunately, the offender did not implement these recommendations until 2020, when the Ministry of Environment and Energy (COIEL/SYGAPAZ)<sup>1</sup> took over the case by implementing the blocking of these roadways financed by the national ‘Green Fund’. The Ministerial Decision, which was issued for this purpose, also stressed the need to monitor the implementation of measures and cooperation with other national authorities including the local Prosecutor’s Office and the Police without excluding any other extra measures to be taken in the future. At the same time the offender appealed against this Ministerial Decision to the Supreme Court (‘The Council of State’), whereas the case is still pending. As also stated in our October 2021 supplementary national Report to the Bureau, the COIEL/SYGAPAZ eventually blocked the five roadways and according to the Decision the offender was obliged to pay for the taken measures amounting to €12,896 and to submit a relevant environmental study on the restoration of sand dunes, the inversion of erosion as well as the restoration of the area after the blocking of the roadways. The Ministerial Decision did not include any new deadline for completion of the study preparation by the offender, although the proposed restoration measures remained as included in the 2012 Decision. At this point the Ministry would like to express its commitment to monitor the area and continue the implementation of the measure (environmental restoration study), according to national provisions regarding the implementation of environmental liability and after ensuring the funding needed, regardless of the offender’s response and the outcome of the pending trial before the Supreme Court.

Finally, as regards the Bureau’s request for information on the purpose and the benefits of the report on human activities on the beaches, the Ministry would like to reiterate the objectives of the project as presented in detail in the July 2021 National Report, i.e.:

- the description of the current status in the area and particularly the geomorphology, species & habitats, human activities, pressures & threats as well as the land users
- the mapping of current activities and the identification of conflicts and management queries
- the assessment of the carrying capacity at each site leading to:

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<sup>1</sup> Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability of the Ministry of Environment & Energy

- specialization of terms & conditions of time access to the beach throughout the year and throughout the day
- delimitation of parking areas to protect sand dunes as well as speed limit designation for the protection of the fauna
- spatial and time designation of allowed activities in the coastal zone of the protected area in total
- specific limitations for each activity (e.g. type and direction of light intensity in order to protect *C. caretta*, prohibition of playing music, etc.)
- designation of the minimum required infrastructure for environmental upgrade and beach protection (e.g. installation of garbage bins, information kiosks, signs, poles for preventing vehicle access to the beach, temporary constructions and delimitation of parking areas, etc.)
- current infrastructure assessment and potential removal of unsuitable infrastructure

The afore-mentioned project is expected to contribute to a better organizing of touristic activities in Kyparissia Bay as well as to the protection of the sensitive coastal zone through reducing disturbance and pressures.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification you may need.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Evangelos Badieritakis

-The national focal point to the Bern Convention-

- July 2023 -

**Ministry of Environment & Energy  
General Directorate of Environmental Policy  
Directorate of Natural Environment Management & Biodiversity  
Department of Biodiversity**

Athens, 31 July 2023

**To the Secretary of the Bern Convention**

Dear Mr POUTIERS,

**Subject:** File Complaint No. 2010/5: Case-file open on “Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias”

Greece would like to provide the following information to the attention of the Bureau of the Bern Convention in view of the Autumn 2023 Bureau meeting over the open Case-File No. 2010/5.

Greece would like to inform the Bureau that the country is still working on this case-file having Recommendation No. 174 (2014) as a guiding tool and particularly point 11 of the Recommendation.

The Management Plan of the area is under way and is expected to have been issued by the end of 2023. The conservation objectives for the whole Natura-2000 network in Greece were adopted and issued by Deputy Minister’s Decision in 2021 (‘Designation of national objectives on the conservation of natural habitats and species of EU interest’) (Government Gazette, no. 1375/B/7.4.2021). The latter was later updated on 28 February 2023 by a newer Deputy Minister’s Decision (Government Gazette, no. 1091/B) which also included conservation targets for *Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758) based on the population size of reproductive individuals and the number of nests.

The NECCA/OFYPEKA<sup>2</sup> has also informed our Ministry on two environmental projects; one project over the formulation of a report about the regulation and delimitation of human activities on the beaches within the jurisdiction of the local Management Unit (MU), namely Kalogria, Bouka, Kentro, Falari, Brinia, Kounoupelaki, Gianniskari, Bouka Eleas, Giannitsochori, Kaiafa and Kalo Nero, based on their carrying capacity, and one project dealing with placing informative signs in the reproduction sites of marine turtles. Both projects are currently under way and are expected to have been concluded by the end of 2023. The local MU has also called the competent authorities and has asked for the elimination of the invasive plant genera *Carpobrotus* and *Agave* which threaten significant habitats and plant species in the protected area.

At the same time, the Department for Environmental Inspection of our Ministry recently issued (June 2023) a certificate of violation against the owner of a building in the area of Vounaki (Municipality of Trifylia) for having planted non-native plant species and invasive plant species around his property as well as having built a cement jardiniere. His property falls within the Areas of Nature Protection category 1 ‘Sand dunes and Coastal Zone’. The latter was designated in the 2018 Presidential Decree for the protection of Kyparissia Bay. In the same certificate the inspectors drew up a recommendation addressing to the owner and demanding from him to remove the jardiniere and to replace it with a wooden fence or other sand dune-friendly construction in combination with planting some native plants. The recommendation is due to be carried out until October 2023. The inspectors have also obliged a neighbouring owner of a building to remove some non-native plant species from her property; this owner has already complied with the inspectors’ recommendation.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification you may need.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Evangelos Badieritakis

The national focal point to the Bern Convention

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<sup>2</sup> Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency