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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

43rd meeting

Strasbourg, 27 November - 1 December 2023

Open file: 1986/8

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

- COMPLAINANT REPORT -

*Document prepared by
the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)*

UPDATE REPORT BY THE NGO**Marine Turtle Conservation in the Mediterranean****LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (*CARETTA CARETTA*) CONSERVATION
MONITORING
IN ZAKYNTHOS (LAGANAS BAY), GREECE****01 August 2023***Document presented by**MEDASSET - the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles**for the 43rd Standing Committee Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)*

MEDASSET hereby submits an update report to the 2nd Bureau Meeting of the Bern Convention (September 2023) on the conservation status of sea turtle nesting beaches in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay, Greece.

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SUMMARY

During the 2023 assessment, we observed a few improvements on management for some of the six protected nesting beaches, but these were not applied consistently throughout the whole of Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP), in order to provide adequate protection. Illegal developments remain, even though the courts have ordered their demolition and the restoration of the environment many years ago. Beach wardens' presence on the nesting beaches was insufficient for the effective enforcement of management measures. In many instances, we observed that the absence of wardens after sunset resulted in people visiting the nesting beaches after the beach closure hours. Cordoning of the nesting areas at the back of the beach did not increase and remained to four of the six nesting beaches. In the maritime area, not only were there no improvements observed but the conditions worsened significantly since our last report. Marine traffic remains extremely high, and we observed an alarming number of boats dangerously exceeding the Zakynthos National Marine Park's speed limit, with sea turtle fatalities recorded again from propeller strikes.

Regulations and management measures that apply within the ZNMP are either not enforced or are not enforced consistently and effectively. Thirty-six years since Recommendation No. 9 (1987) was adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee and twenty-one years since Greece was condemned by the European Court of Justice, the

Government has yet to adequately secure the nesting beaches in Laganas Bay against human pressure and development.

MEDASSET calls upon the authorities to:

- Increase and secure funding to the ZNMP and Management Unit, in particular for warden capacity for adequate marine and terrestrial protection of the nesting beaches and maritime area on a 24/7 basis.
- Develop an effective wardening system based on the active involvement and coordination of competent authorities and the strengthening and clear determination of enforcement competences.
- Increase enforcement of the National and ZNMP regulations, especially within the maritime area.
- Take action to cease illegal business operations in Daphne and restore the site to its natural state.
- Impose appropriate fines and penalties to deter and prevent further and continued violations throughout the entire protected area. Especially for the forested section of the protected area threatened by potential [fires](#), it is crucial to create a prevention and suppression plan and implement access control measures.

MEDASSET calls upon the Bern Convention Standing Committee to:

- Discuss the case file at the 43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee
- Continue to follow-up with the Greek Government with Recommendation No 9, especially regarding Measure No 1 about Daphne and the progress of the implementation of the National Action Plan (which was adopted in 2021)
- Perform an on-the-spot appraisal of Laganas Bay nesting beaches and maritime area, in order to update and amend Recommendation No 9 (1987)

DETAILED UPDATE

One of the most important Mediterranean's loggerhead nesting area, located in Laganas Bay at Zakynthos, consists of six discrete nesting beaches: East Laganas, Kalamaki, Sekania, Daphne, Gerakas and Marathonisi islet. The maritime area of Laganas Bay is divided into three zones with different protection levels (Fig. 1). See MEDASSET 2009 Update Report for a more detailed description of the site.

MEDASSET visited the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) in July 2023 to assess and document the conservation status of the protected nesting beaches as well as the maritime area. It is important to note that visitor numbers have increased dramatically after the COVID pandemic, re-exerting tremendous pressure on the ZNMP (Fig 2). We provide herein our survey findings in relation to the measures under Recommendation No. 9 (1987), the enforcement of the ZNMP management measures and developments within the framework of National legislation (all photos were captured by MEDASSET unless stated otherwise).

Survey observations on the implementation of Recommendation No. 9 (1987):

1. Remove the prefabricated houses in Dafni:

Thirty-six years since Rec. No. 9 was adopted, the illegal development and destruction of the protected sand dune system directly behind Daphne nesting beach has expanded and continued. The houses are no longer prefabricated but modern and permanent structures. The natural sand dune system is completely destroyed. It has been transformed from its natural state by the illegal businesses of taverns and accommodation, which continue to operate unhindered (Fig. 3). Additional touristic facilities presenting further risks to the turtle nesting activity also still exist on the land directly behind the nesting beach, consisting of hundreds of sunbeds (Fig. 4), non-

indigenous plant species (Fig. 5) and showers, whose water runoff flows onto the nesting beach (Fig. 6). It should be noted that there is no warden presence on a daily basis at the beach of Daphne.

5. Remove trees and ban and penalise the use of deck chairs, sunshades and pedalos on the nesting beaches of Gerakas, Kalamaki, eastern Laganas and Marathonisi;

The legal limits on the nesting beaches for the maximum number of visitors allowed at one time, the number of sunbeds and umbrellas and the maximum number of boats allowed are established in the protective management measures of ZNMP. Adherence and enforcement to these protective measures were not observed throughout ZNMP.

Maximum Visitor Numbers: Daphne's visitor count greatly exceeded the legal limit of a maximum of 100 visitors, with our surveyor counting 406 people present at 17:05 on 4th July 2022. No warden was present in the guardhouse or anywhere at the beach of Daphne at the time (Fig. 7). No measures for maintaining safe distances of visitors from nests, such as cordoning and signage were present on Daphne. Visitors are not only free to roam everywhere and in very close proximity to the caged nests (Fig. 8), but also it is often recorded that the red/white perimeter tape, added as additional protection for the nests is either totally removed or moved closer to the cage, reducing the protected area around the nest. The number of visitors counted at Gerakas beach (496 at 12:30 4th July) and Marathonisi Island (228 persons at 11:10 4th July) also exceeded the maximum allowances of 350 and 200 respectively.

Water sports: Water sports activities, such as canoeing and standup paddleboarding, (white circles), occur unhindered on a daily basis at Daphne beach (Fig. 9). As a result, an increasing number of tourists reach the absolutely protected area of Sekania beach, which is in close proximity to Daphne, putting at high risk the effective protection of the nests.

Maximum Umbrellas/ Sunbeds: Across Laganas East and Kalamaki nesting beaches the regulations permit a total of 150 umbrellas and 300 sunbeds. Our surveyor counted 242 umbrellas and 486 sunbeds (Laganas East: 172 umbrellas and 346 sunbeds; Kalamaki: 70 umbrellas and 140 sunbeds), exceeding the specified limits. Furthermore, no sunbeds on Laganas East, Kalamaki and Gerakas were removed from the front of the beach at night and were only placed on their sides *in situ*. (Fig. 10). This continual failure to completely remove the sunbeds from the front of the beach and the increase in their numbers, reduces the available space for emerging females to reach suitable nesting areas at the back of the beach.

Maximum number of Boats at Marathonisi: A maximum number of 10 boats are allowed at Marathonisi at any time, our surveyor counted 29 professional and private hire boats anchored on the nesting beach at 11:10 on 4th July 2023 (Fig. 11). Other private hire boats were observed anchored within Zone B of the maritime area; it is prohibited for any boat to anchor within Zone B (Fig. 12). Moreover, as published in the Official Gazette 3740/B/8-6-2023, the "Shipwreck" or "Navagio" beach will remain closed to tourists this summer for fear of landslides, a fact that causes an extra anthropogenic pressure on Laganas Bay and especially Marathonisi.

Illegal developments in other areas of the ZNMP

- The illegal developments that have occurred within the protected ZNMP boundaries remain. Two illegal buildings at Gerakas constructed in 2017, a stable (150m²) and a house (80m²) (see T-PVS/Files 2018 21) have not been demolished and the site has not been restored, despite the issuance of fines by the competent authority.
- The competent authorities have taken no action to restore the state of the illegal landfill that operated within the ZNMP boundaries and the Natura 2000 site, despite its closure since December 2017.
- The restoration of the illegally constructed road between Daphne and Gerakas, which occurred in December 2015 within the ZNMP and partially within the NATURA 2000 site, is still pending. Irrespective of the non-action by the perpetrator to restore the site, alternative measures that are available to the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy to ensure the

restoration of the site, have not been applied. In fact, despite the order of restoration issued by the authorities in 2017, the perpetrator expanded the road in March and April 2018. The Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability (COIEL, known in Greek with the acronym SYGAPEZ) issued in August 2018 its decision in accordance to Directive 2004/35/EC, for which the perpetrator is legally obliged to restore the whole area at his own expense. A fine of 200.000 Euros was imposed, however it failed to deter the perpetrator/landowner, who continued the roadworks in January 2021 (see MEDASSET letter dated 26 Feb 2021). Unexpectedly and scandalously in April 2022, following an administrative appeal by the landowner, the fine was reduced from 200.000 to 10.000 Euros. MEDASSET and WWF Greece immediately lodged legal action in the Administrative Court of First Instance against the validity of this fine reduction and notified Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA) of this action. The decision is still pending.

Observations on the enforcement of ZNMP conservation management measures and impacts:

- There are nine warden huts located across the six nesting beaches to accommodate the wardens and allow for 24/7 warden protection; however, the presence of the wardens observed during the 2023 survey was still limited and not consistent across the nesting beaches. This is mainly due to lack of financial and human resources in the Management Unit of the NMPZ. During the day, no wardens were observed at Daphne, Marathonisi and Gerakas (Figs. 7, 15 and 17). At sunset, three wardens were observed actively removing people from Laganas, Kalamaki and Gerakas nesting beaches. However, the absence of a warden at Gerakas after the beach closure hours resulted in people accessing the nesting beach at 21:35 (Fig. 13). Moreover, no warden was observed at Kalamaki nesting beach during the night. The presence of visitors on the nesting beaches after sunset, poses a great risk to nesting activity, as the disturbance can prevent females from emerging onto the beach, or cause them to abandon their nesting attempt.
- During the day, no warden was observed on Marathonisi (Fig. 14), and no enforcement for the management measure of maximum number of boats allowed at one time around the beach was observed (Fig. 11). One warden was observed patrolling along Laganas East, actively removing any persons at the back of the beach. However, at Laganas beach, sand sculptures and sand castles were not flattened, consisting an obstacle to sea turtle hatchlings when crawling to the sea (Fig. 15).
- At 12:30, no warden was present at the beach of Gerakas when more than 500 visitors were present, exceeding the maximum number of 350 people allowed (Fig. 16A). Except for the permanent furniture (63 umbrellas and 125 sunbeds), the visitors used private umbrellas, covering the nesting beach of Gerakas (Fig. 16B) and putting the nests in the no caging areas at high risk.
- The cordoned roped areas to zone the nesting areas at the back of the beach were present at Kalamaki, Marathonisi, Gerakas and Laganas East. This management greatly assists preventing people accessing the nesting areas, though it is not implemented across the whole length of the nesting beaches
- Horse riding on the nesting beaches and on the protected sand dunes is strictly prohibited, due to the negative impacts this activity has on the incubation of nests and destruction of the sand dune habitat. Horse riding as an ecotourism activity continues to be observed unhindered throughout the ZNMP, on the protected sand dune system at the back of Laganas East (Fig. 17) and on Vrononero Beach, a small beach next to Kalamaki (east), within the boundary of the park that supports turtle nesting.
- Turtle Spotting regulations were violated with up to twelve boats observed encircling less than 3m from a turtle, when only two boats are allowed at one time for up to 10 mins at a minimum distance of 15m. The turtles are seriously disturbed and distressed by these violations. Non-compliance with these regulations is a common occurrence during the summer months. No enforcement actions have been taken to prevent the serious disturbance of marine turtles by

turtle spotting activities leading to a sense of impunity and continuation (and even increase) of infringement incidents (Fig. 18).

- It is still very apparent that there is a complete disregard of the protective management measures within the maritime activity within the Bay. Of great concern is the continuation of non-compliance to the 6 knot speed limit to the safety of the nesting population within the ZNMP. Numerous boats were observed greatly exceeding the speed limit (Fig. 19). Furthermore, changes to the maximum engine horsepower allowed for private hire boats made by the Port of Zakynthos (from 10hp to 30hp) has increased the potential high speeds that boats can reach. ARCHELON's reports one incidence of sea turtle stranding with propeller strike injuries so far.
- At the port of Agios Sostis the dangerous practice of sea turtle feeding was observed on several occasions during 2023 nesting season, although the practice had stopped in previous years (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Zakynthos.Official/permalink/2171700803031955/>). This is usually done by local fishermen, aiming for tips by tourists.

Observations on other activities and impacts:

Pursuant to the new amendment of the legislation (law 5037/2023 which amended law 4685/2020), NECCA has now investigative powers for environmental violations in its areas of responsibility which constitutes a positive development. In the event of a violation, the rangers of the Management Units are obliged to write an autopsy report. Despite this legislative development, there are concerns regarding the training of the rangers on their new duties and responsibilities, especially with regard to investigative powers as well as its sufficient enforcement.

In January 2023, the Special Environmental Study (SES) concerning Natura 2000 Areas of the Regional Units of Corfu, Kefalonia, Ithaca, Lefkada and Zakynthos was released for public consultation and MEDASSET, together with other environmental NGOs, participated by submitting their comments. There are serious concerns about the effectiveness of the management measures for the protection of *Caretta caretta*, especially for Laganas Bay nesting beaches and maritime area. MEDASSET commented on the problematic approach of zoning fragmentation suggested by the SES, in which it allowed for harmful land uses in the protection zones, excluded certain areas from the scope of the protected regime and allowed for the continuation of existing projects and activities regardless of the ecological needs of protected habitats and species.

Seismic surveys will continue to be carried out until the end of 2023 in the area of the Ionian Sea as part of the concessions for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon resources in the area. The data obtained from the surveys will then be analyzed and a decision will be made on the areas where the drilling will be conducted. In order to minimize the significant pressures and threats to Natura 2000 network areas and protected objects, MEDASSET and 14 other environmental organizations have requested the immediate cessation of the operations. It should be noted that since the beginning of 2023, 18 lethal strandings of marine turtles have been already reported in Zakynthos. However, no autopsies were performed to ascertain the cause of death and the potential link with the seismic surveys.

ANNEX: BACKGROUND

For a full description of the site and of the case background see [MEDASSET 2009 Update Report](#).

Since 1988, MEDASSET has lobbied the Greek Authorities and the European Commission (EC) for effective protection of the nesting beaches in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos, which led to the adoption of the Presidential Decree, providing constitution for the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP). A brief summary of the case history since 1994 is presented in the timeline below:

1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEDASSET made a formal complaint to the European Union; case No. 4/4667SG(94)A/15702 against the Greek Government for its failure to apply National and International Law and Bern Convention Recommendations, concerning the preservation of sea turtles on Zakynthos. In particular the Council Directive 92/43/EEC 21st May 1992, on the Conservation of European Wildlife & Natural Habitats of which the European Community is a party. The complaint was renewed each year until 1998.
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The complaint to the EC was put in abeyance. MEDASSET appealed to the EC Ombudsman.
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eventually the annual complaints to the EC proved effective, leading to an “on the spot appraisal” by the EC Directorate-General (DG) XI, whose representative at the 18th Bern Meeting in 1998 announced the commencement of infringement procedures against Greece.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zakynthos Case File was closed at the 22nd Bern Convention Meeting in 1999 subsequent to the EC initiative to take the Greek Government to the European Court of Justice for non-implementation of conservation legislation and EC Environmental Directives in Laganas Bay. The Presidential Decree providing the constitution for the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) in Laganas Bay was signed immediately after the EC announced its action, in December 1999, during the Bern Convention Meeting.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EC lodged the Case at the European Court of Justice Ruling against Greece for failing the fulfil obligations under Article 12(1)(b) and (d) of Habitat’s Directive (92/43/EEC). Final written warning after on-the-spot appraisal showed Greece’s progress unsatisfactory.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC Delegation consisting of all Greek nationals conducted an ‘on-the-spot’ appraisal of Laganas Bay finding ‘substantial progress has been made towards effective implementation of a system of strict protection for the sea turtles’. The findings were in contradiction to the NGO Reports to the EC. A European Parliament Petition Committee visited Laganas Bay, highlighting in their report (10.12.03) to the Commission that ”It was clear from our visit, conversations and pictures seen, that the provisions of the EC Directive are not being complied with...” Greek Authorities issued a “short-term timetable for the adoption of the remaining actions” in order to comply with the Court Judgement of 30th January 2002.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ombudsman denied NGO full access to the results of 2003 on-the-spot appraisal. The EC sent Greece a Final Written Warning 'Reasoned Opinion' urging the Government to comply within 2 months Greece responded to the EC’s ‘Reasoned Opinion’ by providing €90,000 towards the €300,000 debts of the non-functioning ZNMP Body

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 31st 2004 the Waste Disposal Area on the hill above Sekania nesting beach, once again overflowed and the beaches and Bay were awash with effluent. The Plant has been the subject of Public Health Department prosecutions since 2000.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Inspectors of Public Administration (GEDD) investigated Zakynthos in respects to compliance with ECJ ruling. Report gave strict recommendations to meet Ruling obligations. Director of the Land Registry of Zakynthos was hospitalised after having been violently assaulted following signing of official documents confirming the State owned the majority of land around the nesting beaches. NGOs MEDASSET and EuroNature delivered a 17,000 signature petition to the Greek Prime Minister. No response was issued. The Minister of Environment appointed a replacement for the ZNMP President. A month later the NGOs lobbied against the appointment due to vested interests with his family owning illegal buildings on Daphne nesting beach. New appointment of Prof. Amalia Karagounis-Kyrtsos of Athens University (current President) by Minister of Environment. Local Zakynthos Prefect refused to demolish illegal buildings despite Government order eleven years beforehand to do so. Daphne landowners lost an appeal at the Greek Constitutional Court to remove restrictions (imposed by the Presidential Decree constituting the Park) on private property development within the boundaries of the Park. On 28th September 2005, a Management Body for the ZNMP was established according to the regulations outlined in the Park's Management Plan.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNMP President without the knowledge or consent of the Management Body developed a 'Pilot Management Plan of Daphne' and signed a 'Cooperative Agreement' with the owners of the local illegal building owners in Daphne. It indicated the locals should implement '...aesthetic and other improvements as indicated by the ZNMP' to their buildings. A 'Pilot Management Plan of Daphne' was undertaken closing the beach and allowing the construction of 9 new buildings on the area directly behind the nesting beach. NGOs filed formal complaint leading to Police visits and an arrest. NGOs lobbied the EC for intervention on the continued construction. Multiple Press Releases were circulated. Zakynthos Department of Urban Planning imposed fines ranging from €270 to €670,000 on those landowners that had further developed under the instructions of the ZNMP President (those that refused to co-operate with ZNMP President were not fined). Local Daphne residents held protests destroying ZNMP guard posts and signage. ZNMP President meets with EC DG Environment. Reports to media after she has successfully convinced the EC to close the ECJ Case and avoid fine.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC DG Environment sent the NGOs a letter on their intention to close the ECJ Case. ECJ case closed on 27/6/2007. Minister of Environment confirmed that the fines imposed on the local buildings in 2006 would not be removed. ZNMP President instigates the construction of 2 new car parks (100 cars each) in Daphne, further facilitating access. No regulation of number of tourists on the beach. No EIA on the carrying capacity of the nesting beaches. Mayor of the city of Zakynthos imprisoned for embezzlement of €10 million.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement seen in the Management of the ZNMP; however the situation in Daphne remains largely the same.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines imposed 30 months ago by the Zakynthos Department of Urban Planning on illegal building owners have yet to be settled. • Discussions regarding the amendment of the existing Presidential Decree have been extensive. The President of the Park is making efforts to prevent changes to the Presidential Decree by promoting first a management plan for the area. • Although an official decision on the expansion or the relocation of the existing Waste Disposal Site (XYTA) has not been issued, it is anticipated that the expansion will not be approved since the Ministry of the Environment has made it clear in writing that such a development at Skopos is not a sustainable solution to the Zakynthos waste management problem. The ZNMP, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and the NGOs agree that there can not be a XYTA at Skopos. Local authorities however strongly support such a development. • The representative of WWF in Zakynthos and sole representative of the NGOs on the Management Board of the ZNMP (WWF and ARCHELON are represented in rotation), submitted her resignation from Secretary General to the Board, claiming non-transparency of decision-making procedures.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Zakynthos Municipal Council asked the ZNMP Agency to stop all activities related to the preparation of the 5-year Management Plan and to proceed with a new Special Environmental Study (SES) that would allow for a series of amendments to the Presidential Decree, favourable to local residents' property rights. • NGOs filed a joint letter of complaint to the Minister of Environment concerning the Waste Disposal Site operating within the ZNMP, demanding its immediate sealing and relocation outside the boundaries of the Park. • EC DG Environment Delegation visited Laganas Bay in June 2009 and inspected the Waste Disposal Site and Daphne nesting beach. • MEDASSET wrote to the ZNMP regarding the sound pollution generated by the illegally operating "Cameo" night club at Agios Sostis, affecting the entire Bay. • On May 29th the European Court of Human Rights ruled there had been a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) and that 2 million Euros be paid by the Greek State as compensation to the lawful owner of Marathonisi islet (part of the ZNMP). • Fines imposed in 2006 by the Zakynthos Department of Urban Planning on Daphne residents for engaging in illegal building activities remain unpaid. • The Zakynthos Municipal Council, in an extraordinary Meeting, unanimously asked the President of the ZNMP to resign. • Fires, declared by the Fire Brigade as the result of coordinated arson, destroyed 250,000 sq. meters of Mediterranean maquis vegetation surrounding Daphne nesting beach.
2010 – 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDASSETs continues to update the Bureau with information in relation to Recommendation No 9
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDASSET conducts an assessment on the implementation of Recommendation No. 9 (1987) and the ZNMP conservation measures. The report with supporting information from ARCHELON and WWF Greece is submitted to the Bureau, urging them to table the issues at Zakynthos for discussion at the 2019 Standing Committee meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns for the continuous issues, the Standing Committee decide to consider this closed file as a possible file, to discuss at the next Bureau meeting.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEDASSET with supporting information provided by ARCHELON and WWF Greece submit a report with the findings of a site assessment to the Bureau, urging the file to be re-opened. The 40th Standing Committee vote to re-open the case; 13 parties voted in favour, 2 against and 8 abstained. The File is re-opened. The authorities were against the re-opening of the file.
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEDASSETs continues to update the Bureau with information in relation to Recommendation No 9 by conducting assessments and submitting reports.

ANNEX: REFERENCES

REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE BERN CONVENTION

Available online at www.medasset.org or www.coe.int

T-PVS/Files (2022) 57. MEDASSET. Update Report. Follow-up of Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of *Caretta caretta* in Laganas bay, Zakynthos (Greece). 6pp

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T-PVS/Files (2003) 13: MEDASSET. Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay), Greece. 19 pages

T-PVS/Files (2002) 15: MEDASSET: Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay (Greece), 21 pages.

T-PVS (2001) 71: MEDASSET: Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos

(Laganas Bay) Greece, 19 pages.

T-PVS (2000) 58: MEDASSET: *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (Greece), 8 pages. (Update report and recommendations).

T-PVS (99) 70: MEDASSET: Specific Site, *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay, Greece), pp. 2-14. (Update report and recommendations).

T-PVS (98) 48: MEDASSET: Specific Sites, Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos Laganas Bay, Greece, 10 pages. (Update report and recommendations).

T-PVS (97) 46: L. Venizelos, MEDASSET Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay), Greece, 5 pages. (Follow-up report and recommendations).

T-PVS (96) 86: MEDASSET (L.Venizelos): *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece), 5 pages. (Follow-up report and recommendations).

T-PVS (95) 63: MEDASSET (L.Venizelos): Specific Sites, *Caretta caretta*, in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece), 3 pages. (Follow-up report and recommendations).

T-PVS (93) 32: L. Venizelos, MEDASSET: Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay, Greece, 5 July-16 August 1993, 10 pages.

T-PVS(92)83: MEDASSET activities 1991-1992. Declaration of MEDASSET on item 12.1 about Zakynthos. pp16-18

T-PVS(91)80: Statements by delegation, declaration on item 11.13 and intervention about Zakynthos. Presented by L. Venizelos, J.Maigret. pp. 21-25

ANNEX: MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS

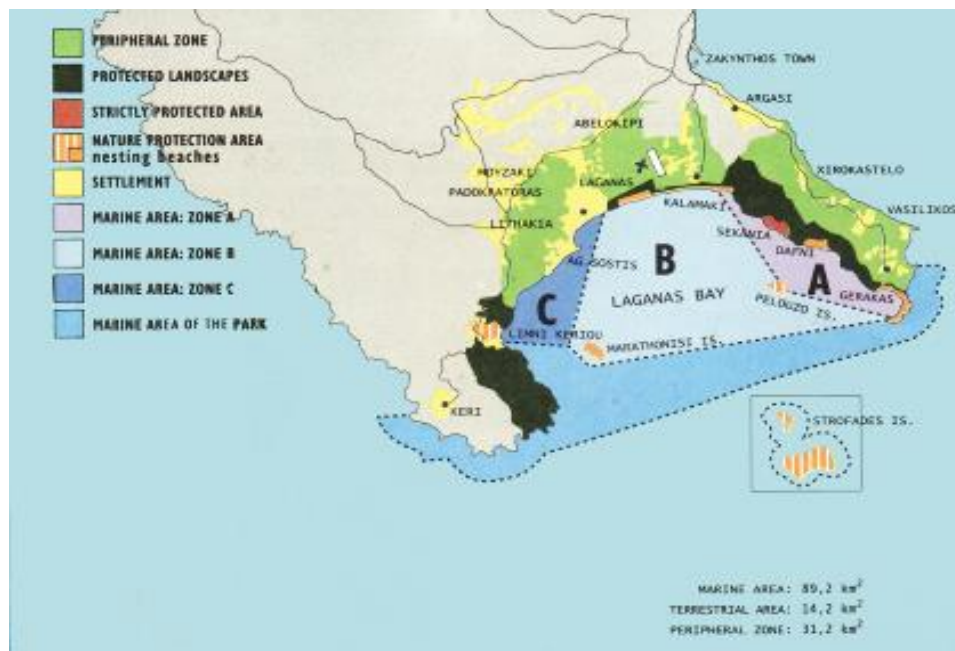


Fig. 1 | Zakynthos National Marine Park Map

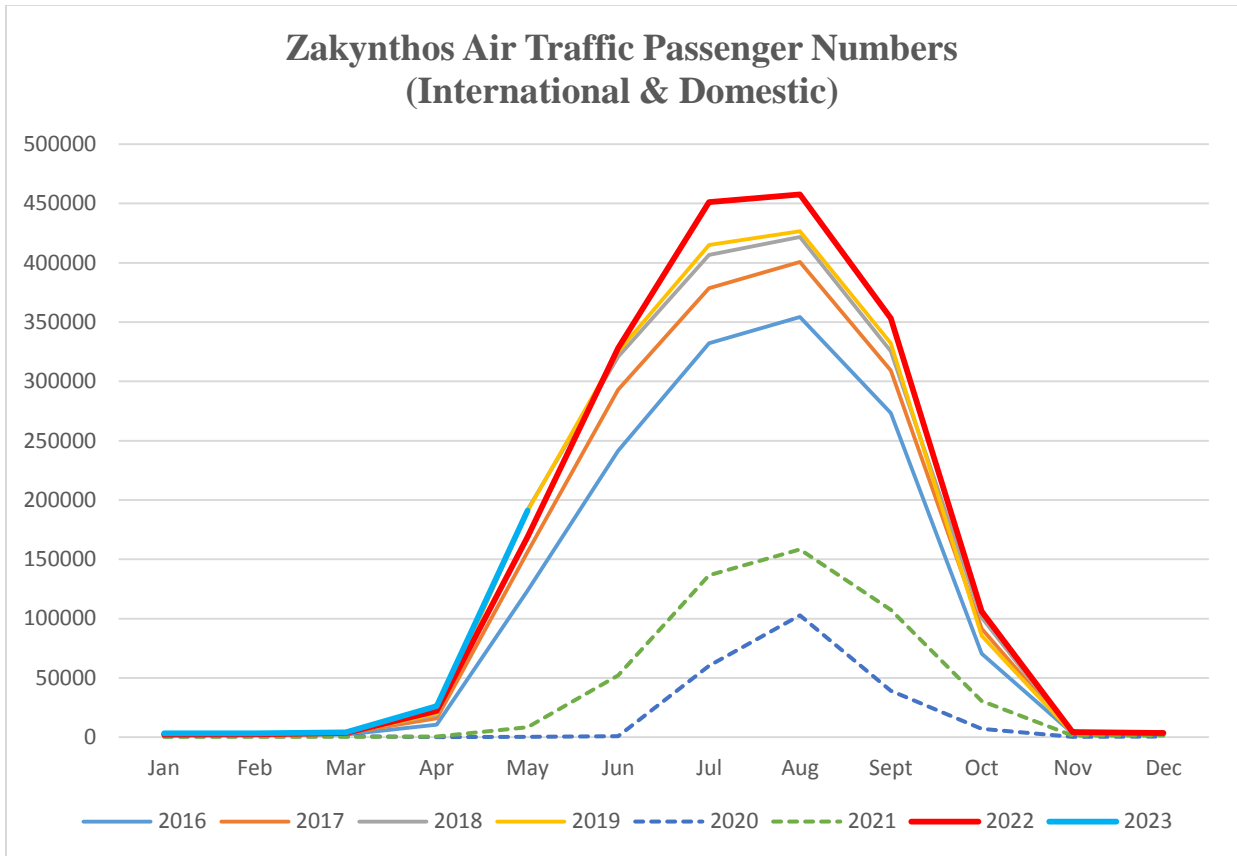


Fig. 2 | Data on air traffic passenger numbers to Zakynthos, 2016 – 2021 and Jan – May 2023. Dashed lines represent years affected by COVID pandemic. Data downloaded from the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority for Zakynthos Airport. [Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority - Our Airports - Zakynthos Airport "D.Solomos" \(ypa.gr\)](https://ypa.gr)

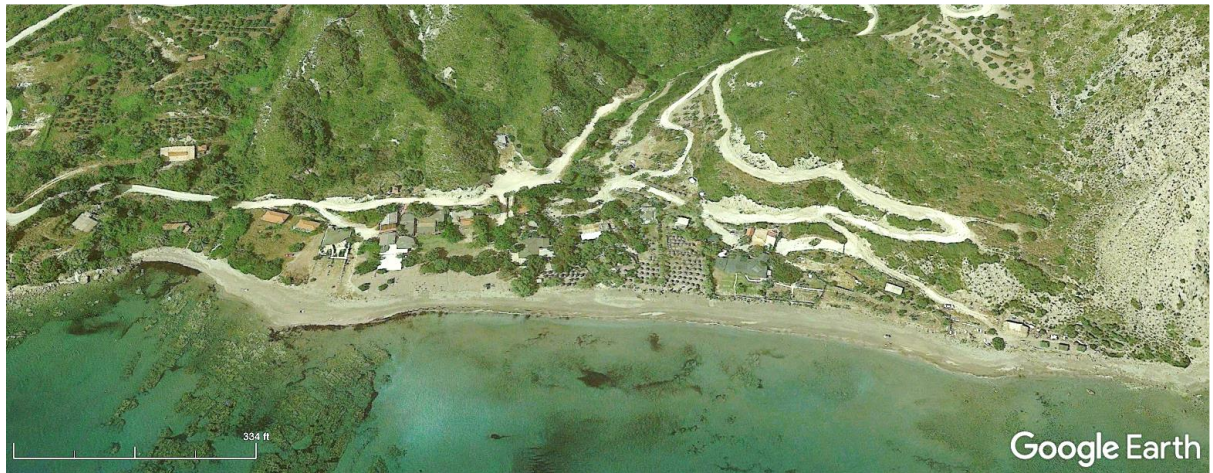


Fig. 3 | Daphne; 2020 Google Earth image: Natural sand dune system destroyed.



Fig. 4 | Daphne 4th July 2023. Sunbeds and umbrellas cover the destroyed natural sand dune system at the back of the nesting beach.



Fig. 5 | Daphne 4th July 2023. Sunbeds and umbrellas cover the destroyed natural sand dune system at the back of the nesting beach where non-indigenous plants have been introduced and maintained.





Fig. 6 | Daphne 4th July 2023. Public shower at the back of beach (A), with water runoff (B) spilling onto the nesting beach in close proximity to nests (C; white circle).



Fig. 7 | Daphne 4th July 2023. No warden present in the guardhouse or anywhere at the beach of Daphne at 17:00 when more than 400 visitors were present, exceeding the maximum number of 100 people allowed.



Fig. 8 | Daphne 4th July 2023. No protective management measures (ropes, zoning) present on beach to ensure safe distances between visitors and nests (white circles) are maintained.



Fig. 9 | Daphne 4th July 2023. Water activities such as canoeing and standup paddleboarding (white circles) occur unhindered on a daily basis.



Fig. 10 | Laganas East, Zante Beach (A), Laganas East (B), Kalamaki (C) and Gerakas 4th July 2023. No Sunbeds were removed from nesting beaches at night, reducing the space available for emerging nesting females.



Fig. 11 | Marathonissi 4th July 2023. In total 29 boats counted anchored to the nesting beach, where the maximum allowed at any one time is 10.



Fig. 12 | Maritime Area Zone B July 2023. Private hire boats illegally anchoring in the ZNMP maritime Zone B, in the nearshore waters of Laganas East nesting beach.



Fig. 13 | Gerakas, 3rd July 2023 21:30. No warden presence after the beach closure hours at Gerakas (A, 21:30) resulted in people accessing the nesting beach after sunset (B, 21:35).



Fig. 14 | Marathonissi 4th July 2023. No warden present (white circle) at the beach of Marathonissi when more than 220 visitors were present.



Fig. 15 | Laganas East 4th July 2023. Sand sculptures and castles were not flattened, consisting an obstacle to sea turtle hatchlings when crawling to the sea.



Fig. 16 | Gerakas 4th July 2023. No warden present (white circle) at the beach of Gerakas at 12:30 when more than 500 visitors were present, exceeding the maximum number of 350 people allowed (A); Tens of private umbrellas used by the visitors on the nesting beach of Gerakas, except for permanent furniture that has been officially endorsed by the N.M.P.Z. (B).



Fig. 17 | Laganas East. Horse riders observed over the protected sand dunes. This activity continues to occur unhindered.



Fig. 18 | Agios Sostis 4th July 2023. Non-compliance to the turtle spotting regulations resulting in turtles being harassed in the Bay.



Fig. 19 | Agios Sostis 4th July 2023. Boats exceeding the 6 knot speed limit place the local reproductive loggerhead turtle population at great risk.