Strasbourg, 31 July 2024 **T-PVS/Files(2024)51**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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Standing Committee

44th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-6 December 2024

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Bureau of the Standing Committee

10-12 September 2024
Strasbourg

Open file: 1986/08

Recommendation No. 9 (1987) on the protection of Caretta Caretta in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece)

- REPORT BY THE COMPLAINANT -

Document prepared by
MEDASSET – the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

UPDATE REPORT BY THE NGO

Marine Turtle Conservation in the Mediterranean

LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE *(CARETTA CARETTA)* CONSERVATION MONITORING IN ZAKYNTHOS (LAGANAS BAY), GREECE

31 July 2024

Document presented by
MEDASSET - the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

for the 44th 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 3rd Bureau Meeting of the Bern Convention (10-11 September 2024) on the conservation status of sea turtle nesting beaches in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay, Greece. The report was made possible by a grant from Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA), www.aga-artenschutz.de.

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SUMMARY

During the 2024 assessment, we observed a few improvements on management for some of the six protected nesting beaches (more and new signs, warden presence), 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. Particularly in the area of Kalamaki beach, we noticed tourists harassing a sea turtle on the beach, while trying to nest. 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 approaching the sea turtles for touristic purposes. We also reported a sea turtle with approximately 20% of its shell destroyed by propeller strikes trying to nest at Gerakas beach in late afternoon.

Regulations and management measures that apply within the ZNMP are either not enforced or are not enforced consistently and effectively. Thirty-seven years since Recommendation No. 9 (1987) was adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee and twenty-two 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 ensure a stable funding to the ZNMP and the Management Unit of Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), in particular for warden resources 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 44th 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, Government Gazette B 3678/10-08-2021)
- Review the ongoing court case of the landowner that illegally constructed a road between Daphni and Gerakas
- 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 early July 2024 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, and continue to increase more each year, 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-seven 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 significantly 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 more than 800 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 (Fig. 7).

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 in most areas of the ZNMP.

Maximum Visitor Numbers: Daphne's visitor count greatly exceeded the legal limit of a maximum of 100 visitors, with our surveyor counting 211 people present at 14:15 on 2nd July 2024. 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 (Figs. 6, 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 (250 at 14:00 2nd July) did not exceed the maximum allowance of 350, nor in Marathonisi Island (139 persons at 11:11 2nd July) where the maximum allowance is 200 people. However, it should be noted here that the weather conditions were not optimal for beachgoers, as the weather was cloudy and windy.
Maximum Umbrellas/ Sunbeds: Across Laganas East and Kalamaki nesting beaches the regulations permit a total of 150 umbrellas and 300 sunbeds. Our surveyor counted 135 umbrellas and 158 sunbeds (Laganas East: 79 umbrellas and 134 sunbeds; Kalamaki: 56 umbrellas and 24 sunbeds), without exceeding the specified limits. However, 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. 9). This continual failure to completely remove the sunbeds from the front of the beach, 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 13 professional and private hire boats anchored on the nesting beach at 11:11 on 2nd July 2024 (Fig. 10). It is important to notice that 4 floating canteens, which offers drinks, coffee and snacks, use to anchor at the sandy beach of Marathonisi 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. 11). Moreover, the "Shipwreck" or "Navagio" beach remains closed from 2023 and will continue being unaccessible in 2024 as well to tourists for fear of landslides, a fact that causes an extra anthropogenic pressure north west coast caves and on Laganas Bay and especially Marathonisi, since the tremendous number of existing tourist boats, operating day tours, focus on the islet since the closure of "Navagio".

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 (150m^2) and a house (80m^2) (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. As a result a fine has been confirmed at November 2023.
- 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. For this reason, the European Commission referred Greece to the Court of Justice of the EU in November 2023 for non compliance with its previous ruling (C-600/12) requesting the imposition of a fine.[1] The Greek Ministry of Environment issued a statement arguing that the delays are due to lack of progress in various processes which are under the competence of other sectoral and regional authorities.[2] Despite Greece's referral to the CJEU, no concrete action has been undertaken for the restoration of the area.
- 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

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_5444
[2] https://ypen.gov.gr/anakoinosi-genikis-grammateias-syntonismou-diacheirisis-apovliton/

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 trial is scheduled for the 18th of September 2024 at the Administrative Court ourt of Corfu. Moreover, in September 2023, the Administrative Court of Pyrgos annuled the administrative fineof 10,000 euros, . In April 2024, WWF and MEDASSET filed a third-party complaint to contest the decision of the Administrative Courtourt of Pyrgos. The trial is also scheduledfor the 18th of September 2024 at the Administrative Court ourt of Pyrgos. Finally, on a very positive note on the 9th of July 2024, the criminal court of Zakynthos convictedthe landowner to 14 months in prison without any extenuating circumstances for its actions leading to the degradation of the protected area which were committed in 2018. It should be noted that the landowner had already been found guilty for its 2015-16 actions by an irrevocable judgment of the Greek Supreme Court (Areios Pagos) .

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 2024 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 ZNMP. During the day, no wardens were observed at Daphne, Marathonisi and Gerakas beach (Figs. 7, 13 and 15). At Gerakas beach the warden remained at the guardhouse away from the beach. At sunset, two wardens were observed actively removing people from Laganas and Gerakas nesting beaches. However, the absence of a warden at Kalamaki and Gerakas after the beach closure hours resulted in people accessing the nesting beach at 22:10 and even harassing sea turtles (Figs. 12, 19). 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. 13), and no enforcement for the management measure of maximum number of boats allowed at one time around the beach was observed (Fig. 10). It is notable that neither guard kiosk exist this year at the area. 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. 14).
- At 14:00, the warden was present at the guardhouse but not at the beach of Gerakas when more than 250 visitors were present (Fig. 15B). Except for the permanent furniture (60 umbrellas and 130 sunbeds), the visitors used private umbrellas (approximately 50 which is not permitted according to the PD), covering the nesting beach of Gerakas (Fig. 15A) 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 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. At Kalamaki beach, cordoning did not cover the entire nesting area, and the response of the warden was that “we run out of rope”!
- 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. 16), within the boundary of the park that supports turtle nesting.
- Turtle Spotting regulations were violated with up to seven boats observed encircling less than 2m 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. 17).
- 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. We report one incidence of a sea turtle with propeller strike injuries nesting in Gerakas beach at 20:30 (Fig. 18).

Observations on other activities and impacts:

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, in collaboration with WWF Greece and ARCHELON, participated by submitting their comments. To this day, more than 1.5 years since its release, the SES has not yet been approved, and no draft presidential decree and draft management plan have been developed. 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 (even the illegal ones, such as the businesses behind Daphne beach) regardless of the ecological needs of protected habitats and species.

ANNEX 1: 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	• 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	• The complaint to the EC was put in abeyance. MEDASSET appealed to the EC Ombudsman.
1998	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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 • 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	• 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	● 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	● 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. ● Improvement seen in the Management of the ZNMP; however the situation in Daphne remains largely the same.
2008	● 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	● 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	● MEDASSETs continues to update the Bureau with information in relation to Recommendation No 9
2019	● 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. ● 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	● 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.
2021-2023	● MEDASSETs continues to update the Bureau with information in relation to Recommendation No 9 by conducting assessments and submitting reports. ● Scandalously, in 2022, a fine of 200.000 euros that was imposed to a landowner for the illegal construction of a road between Daphni and Gerakas, was reduced to 10.000 euros. In 2023, the fine was erased.

ANNEX 2: REFERENCES

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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.

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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 3: MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS

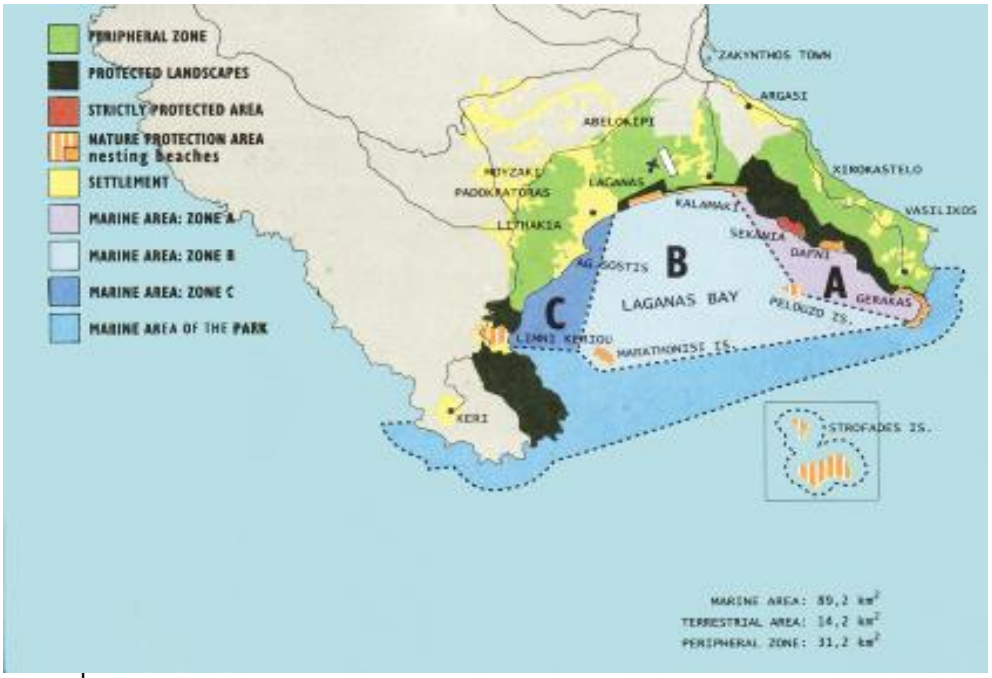


Fig. 1 │Zakynthos National Marine Park Map

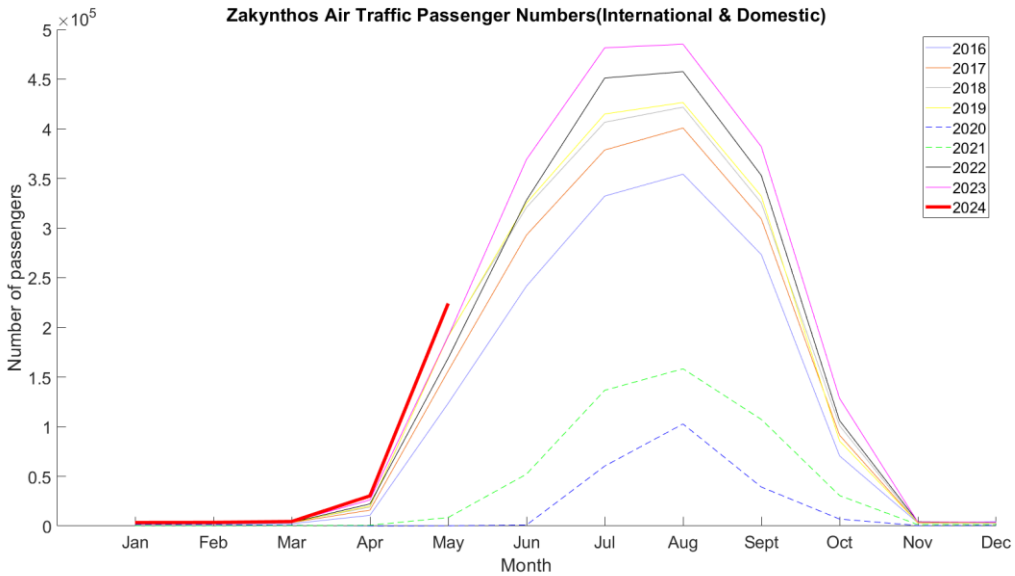


Fig. 2 │Data on air traffic passenger numbers to Zakynthos, 2016 – 2023 and Jan – May 2024. Dashed lines represent years affected by COVID pandemic. Data downloaded from the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority for Zakynthos Airport. Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority - Our Airports - Zakynthos Airport "D.Solomos" (ypa.gr)

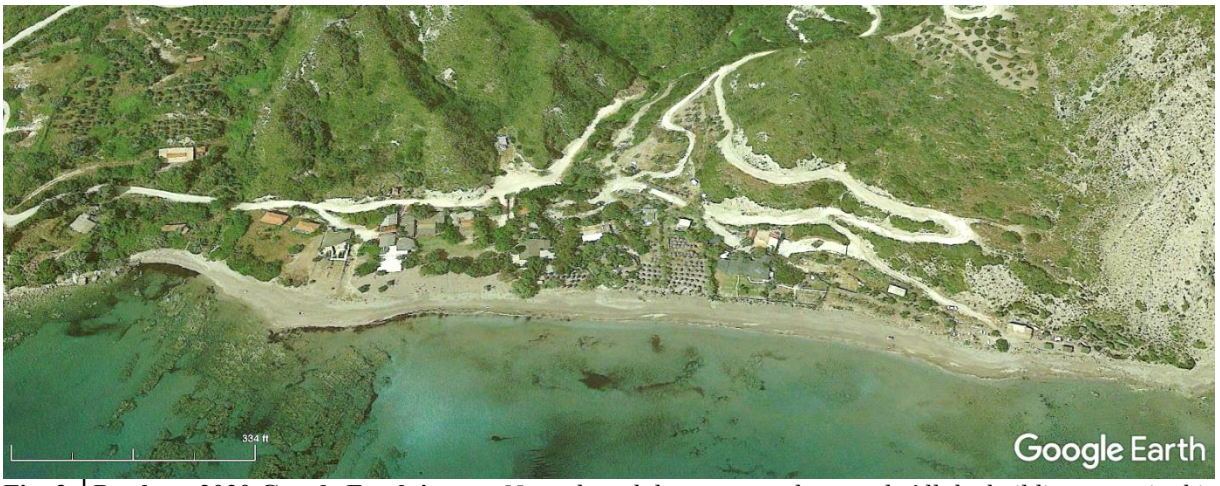


Fig. 3 | Daphne; 2020 Google Earth image: Natural sand dune system destroyed. All the buildings seen in this figure are illegal.

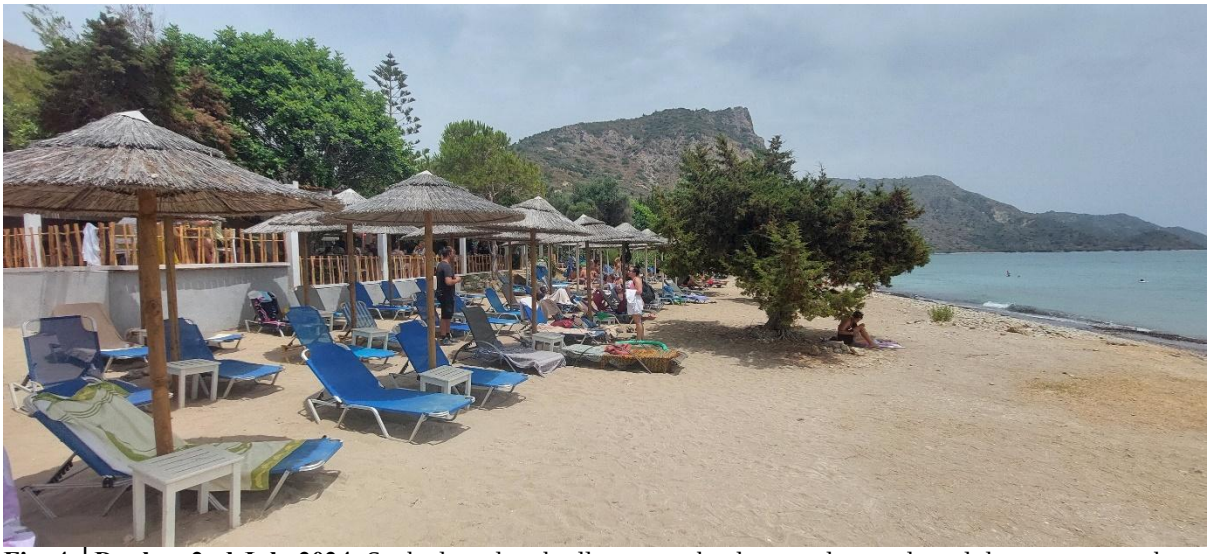


Fig. 4 | Daphne 2nd July 2024. Sunbeds and umbrellas cover the destroyed natural sand dune system at the nesting beach.



Fig. 5 | Daphne 2nd July 2024. 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. Nests are seen within the red circles.



Fig. 6 | Daphne 2nd July 2024. Public shower in close proximity to nests causing the watering of the nests (red ellipse). Nests are shown in red circles.



Fig. 7 | Daphne 2nd July 2024. No warden present in the guardhouse or anywhere at the beach of Daphne at 17:00 when more than 200 visitors were present, exceeding the maximum number of 100 people allowed. A sign next to the guardhouse contains information regarding the nesting beach for tourists. A nest is shown in red circle.



Fig. 8 | Daphne 2nd July 2024. No protective management measures (ropes, zoning) present on beach to ensure safe distances between visitors and nests (red circles) are maintained.







Fig. 9 | Laganas East, Zante Beach (A), Kalamaki (B) and Gerakas (C) 1st July 2024. Sunbeds were placed on their side in situ at night, nevertheless still reducing the space available for emerging nesting females.



Fig. 10 | Marathonissi 2nd July 2024. In total 13 boats counted anchored to the nesting beach, where the maximum allowed at any one time is 10.



Fig. 11 | Maritime Area Zone B July 2nd 2024. Private boats illegally anchoring in the ZNMP maritime Zone B, in the nearshore waters of Laganas East nesting beach.



Fig. 12 | Gerakas, 1st July 2024 21:37. No warden presence after the beach closure hours at Gerakas



Fig. 13 | Marathonissi 2nd July 2024 10:34. No warden present nor a guardhouse at the beach of Marathonissi when more than 130 visitors were present.



Fig. 14 | Laganas East 1st July 2024. Sand sculptures and castles were not flattened, consisting an obstacle to sea turtle hatchlings when crawling to the sea.





Fig. 15 | Gerakas 2nd July 2024. No warden present at the beach of Gerakas at 14:00 when more than 250 visitors were present, not 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. 16 | Laganas East 1st July 2024. Horse riders (red circles) observed over the protected sand dunes. This activity continues to occur unhindered. No warden was present at that time. Nests are shown in white circles.

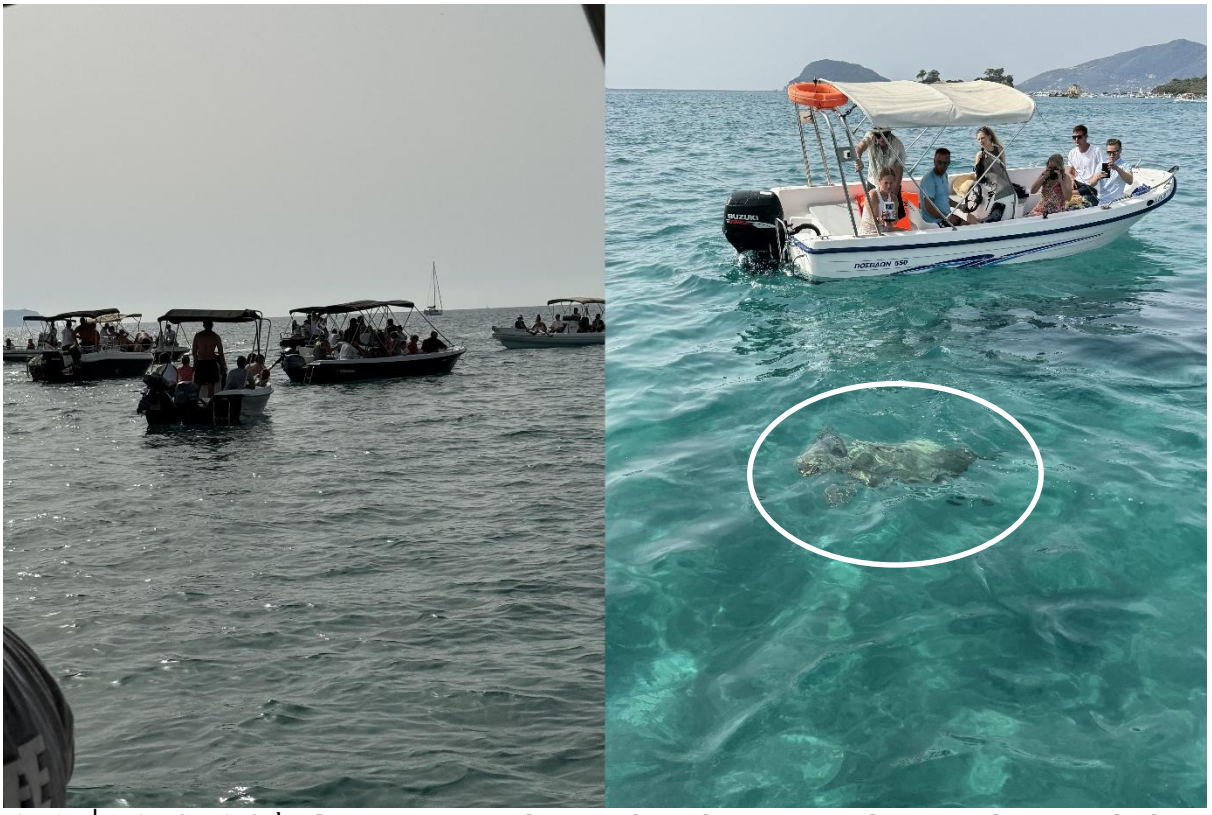


Fig. 17 | Agios Sostis 2nd July 2024. Non-compliance to the turtle spotting regulations resulting in turtles being harassed in the Bay. A sea turtle near the boats is shown in white circle.





Fig. 18 | Gerakas beach 1st July 2024. A sea turtle with propeller strike injuries nesting in Gerakas beach (A, B).



Fig. 19 | Kalamaki beach 1st July 2024. Tourists harassing a sea turtle on the beach with a torch (A) and by touching the shell (B).