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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

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

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Environment and Energy*

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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TO: The Bern Convention Secretariat

CC: Permanent Representation of
Greece to the CoE, Strasbourg

SUBJECT : Complaint 2010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias

RELATED : (1) Your e-mail with date 18/10/2019.

Dear Ms Obretenova,

Regarding Complaint case 22010/5: Greece: threats to marine turtles in Thines Kiparissias”, we would like to notify you as follows:

1. The Presidential Decree for the Protection of Kyparissia Bay has been published in the Government Gazette (391/D/3-10-2018 as corrected in Government Gazette 414/D/12-10-2018) on the 3rd of October 2018 and is currently in effect. The Presidential Decree protects Kyparissia Bay from intensive building interests behind the nesting beach.
2. The Management Plan of the Kyparissia Bay is currently under drafting and will be delivered to the Ministry of Environment and Energy during 2021. The drafting of the Management Plan is financed by the on-going project “Assembly of Special Environmental Studies and Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites in Greece” funded by ERDF.
3. An Action Plan for protection and conservation of marine turtles in Greece is currently under drafting by the EUROTURTLES (LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997). The Action Plan will be legally approved by the Ministry of Environment and Energy by the end of 2020, while it will be fully implemented and financed by the LIFE Integrated Project LIFE-IP 4 NATURA (LIFE16 IPE/GR/000002) in which Ministry of Environment and Energy is the Coordinated Beneficiary.

4. The management of Kyparissia Bay is under the responsibility of the Management Body of Kotychi, Strofilia Lagoon & Kyparissia Bay (according to the Presidential Decree and the law 4519/2018). The Management Body is currently financed with 1 million Euros by the Operational Programme “Transport Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development”, ERDF for implementing concrete conservation actions in the protected area of the Kyparissia Bay.

5. According to the ARCHELON report submitted to our Department on the 31st of October 2019 (our ref.: ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΔΦΠΒ/98836/2539) sea turtle nesting was completed successfully during 2019, as all nests were recorded and protected against predation, inundation and light pollution.

It is expected that the Presidential Decree along with the successful implementation of the foreseen and planned above-mentioned actions (2 – 4), will fully address the points mentioned in the Bern Convention Recommendation and will achieve favourable conservation status of marine turtles and the habitats in Kyparissia Bay.

The Director of Natural Environment Management and Biodiversity

Aggeliki Psaila