

Cyprus National Pledges: a marine focus

3rd Natura 2000 marine biogeographical seminar for
the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

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Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment



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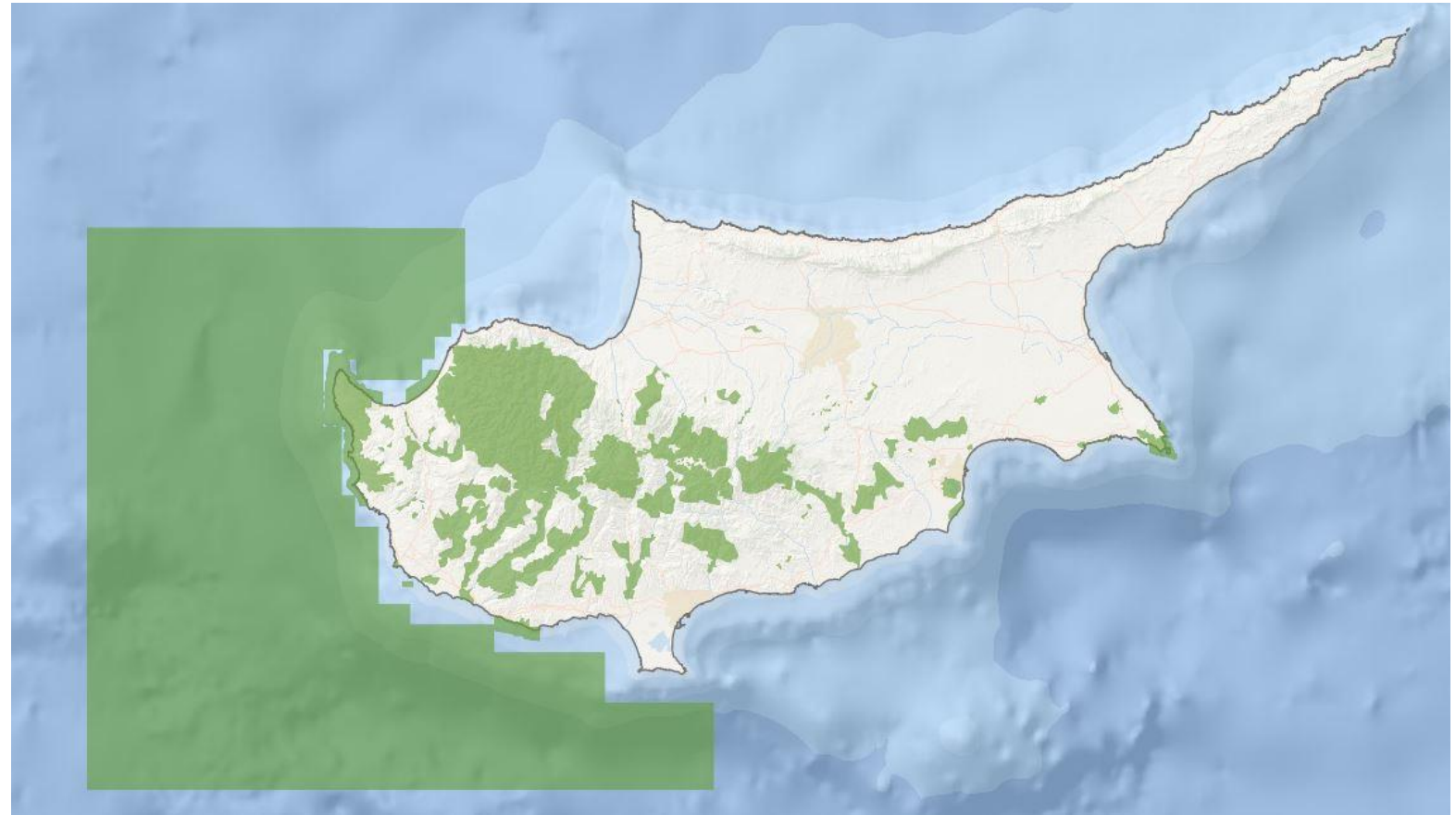
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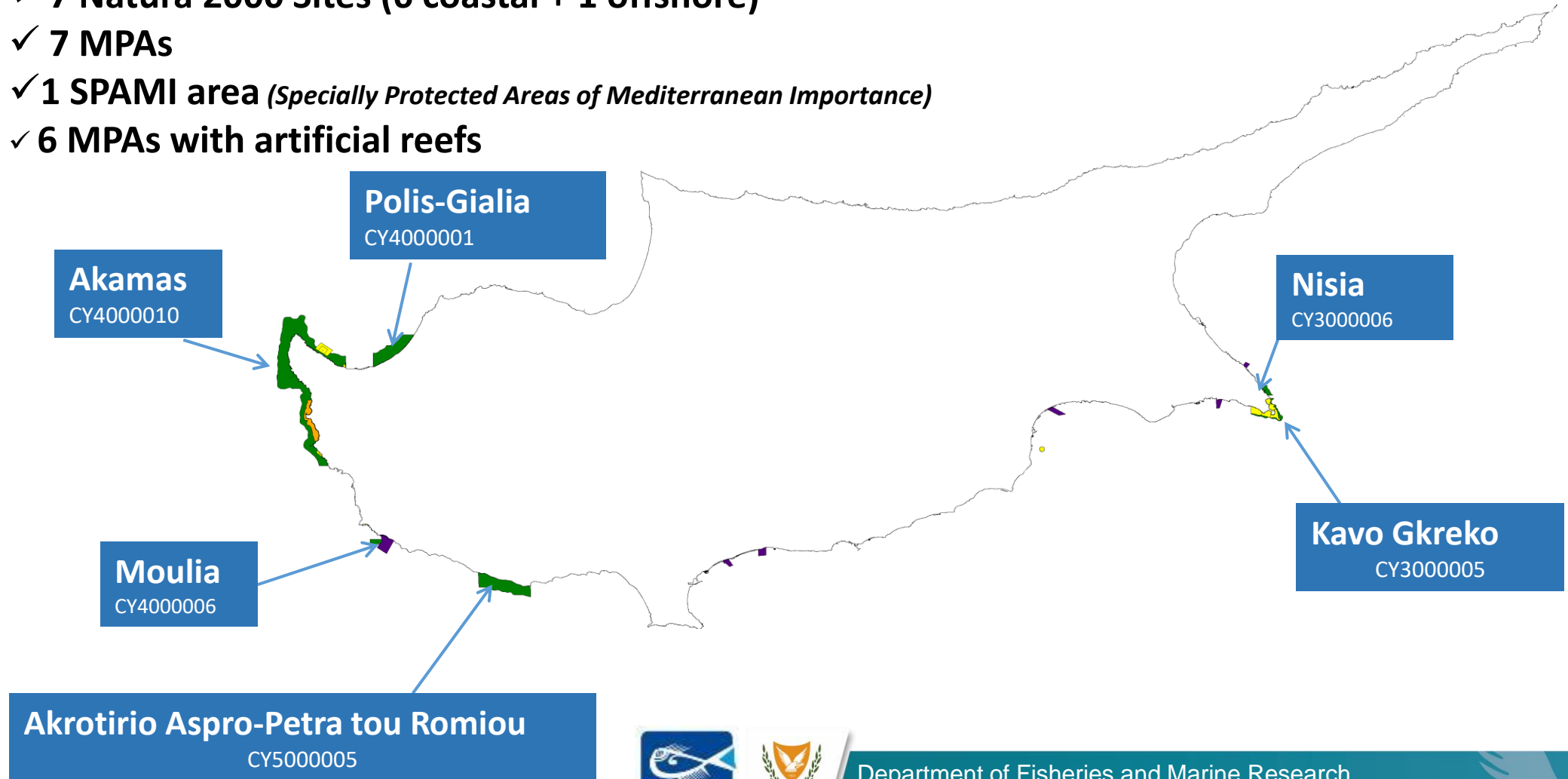
N2K Network in Cyprus

- In Cyprus:
 - 63 N2K sites
 - 7 N2K marine
 - 10,145 Km²



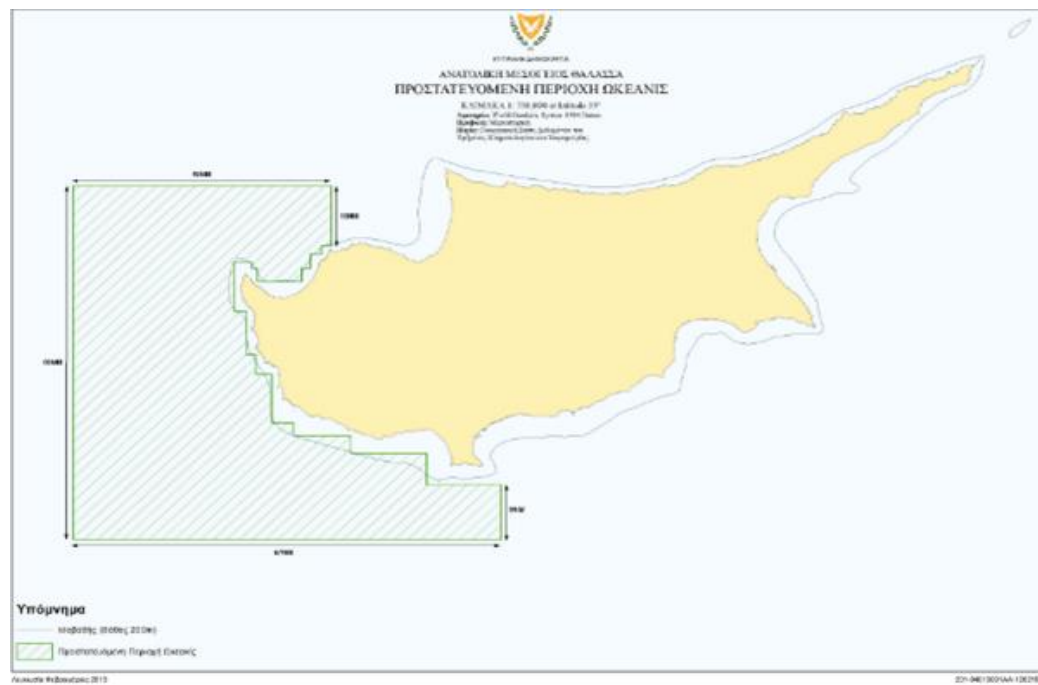
Marine Protected Areas

- ✓ 7 Natura 2000 Sites (6 coastal + 1 offshore)
- ✓ 7 MPAs
- ✓ 1 SPAMI area (*Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance*)
- ✓ 6 MPAs with artificial reefs

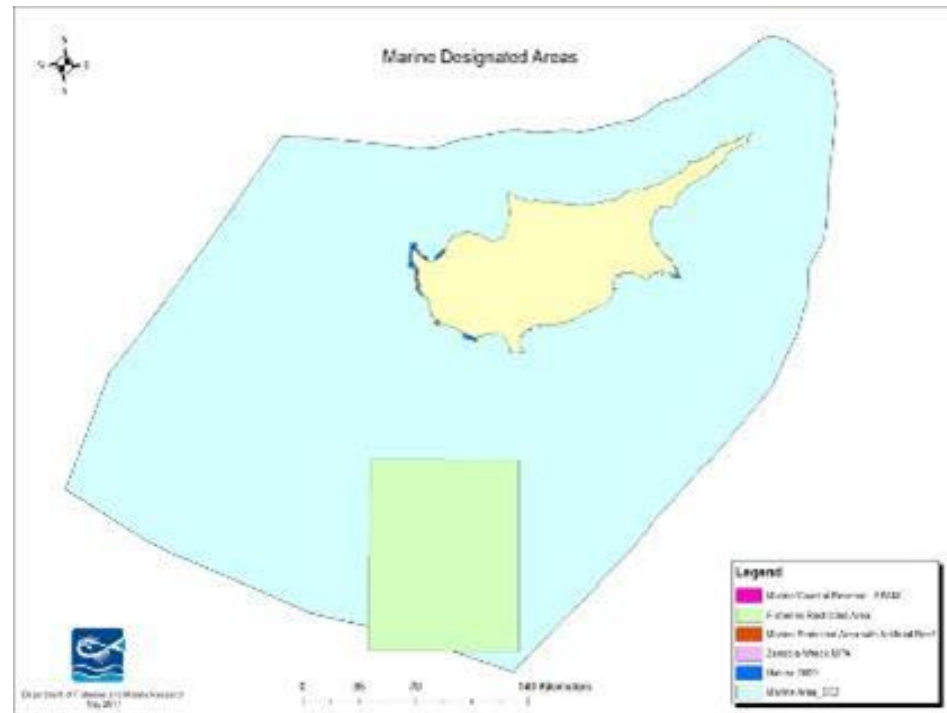


Marine Protected Areas

**Oceanid CY400024 : Offshore
N2K**



**Eratosthenes Underwater Seamount:
Fisheries Restricted Area**



Habitats Directive



- Cyprus reports on:
 - **45** habitat types, **5** of which are marine (1110, 1120, 1170, 1180, 8330) and,
 - **59** species of the Habitats Directive, **4** of which are marine (*C. caretta*, *C. mydas*, *M. monachus*, *T. truncatus*)



Habitats Directive - CY

- **25** habitat types are assessed as unfavourable (U1, U2) or unknown
- **24** species are assessed as unfavourable (U1, U2) or unknown
- Under the improving trends for 30% of species and habitats in unfavourable status target, **8** habitat types and **7** species should be included
- Under the non-deterioration in the conservation status and trends targets, **6** habitat types show a decreasing trend and should be included (no species show a decreasing trend, although 15 species have an unknown trend)



Birds Directive - CY

- **37** breeding bird species in Cyprus are not assessed as Secure at the EU-level of which **12** show a decreasing trend at national level
- Under the improving trends for 30% of species in non-secure status, **11** breeding bird species should be included in the target
- Under the non-deterioration in the conservation status and trends target, **12** breeding bird species should be included



National Pledge Process

- Criteria used for prioritizing habitats:
 - umbrella effect for endemic or endangered species
 - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)
- Criteria used for prioritizing species:
 - endemic species or species present only in Cyprus within the EU
 - endangered species
 - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)
- Criteria used for prioritizing bird species:
 - endemic species or subspecies in Cyprus or the Mediterranean or supports an important percentage of the EU population
 - decreasing short term population trend in Cyprus
 - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)



National Pledges

- Submitted for Habitats & Species (30% by 2030)
- Not-submitted for Protected Areas



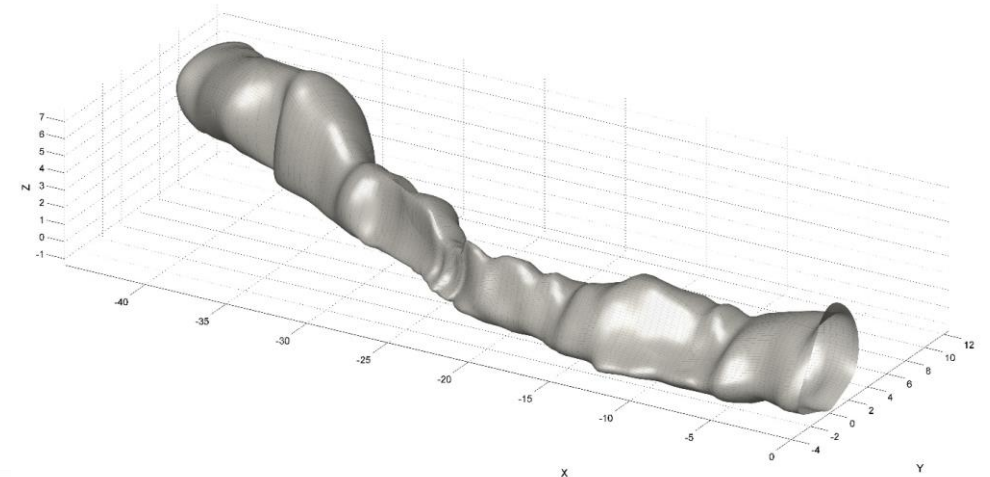
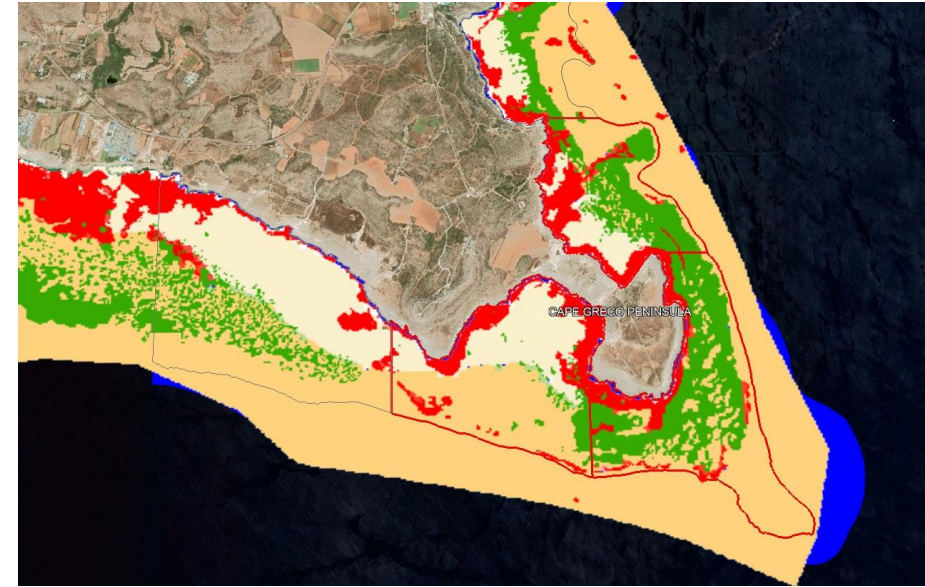
Marine Habitats & Species

- 1110, 1120, 1170, 8330 – assessed as favourable with stable trend
- 1180 – assessed as unknown, the area covered by 1180 is negligible



Mapping, Monitoring, Evaluating – Stable Trends

- Posidonia meadows (1120*)
– Priority habitat
- Reefs (1170)
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by water all the time (1110)
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves (8330)



Marine Habitats & Species

- *Caretta caretta* – assessed as favourable with improving trend
- *Chelonia mydas* – assessed as unfavourable (U1) with improving trend
- *Monachus monachus* – assessed as unfavourable (U1) with improving trend
- *Tursiops truncatus* – assessed as favourable with stable trend



Marine Species in the National Pledges

- *Chelonia mydas*
 - U1 conservation status
 - Endangered (IUCN Red List, global level)
 - Secured funding for the preparation of an Action Plan, on-going implementation of monitoring program, including in-situ protection of nests against mammalian predation

- *Monachus monachus*
 - U1 conservation status
 - Endangered at the time of the preparation of the pledges (IUCN Red List, european level)
 - Secured funding for the preparation of an Action Plan, on-going implementation of monitoring program



Cyprus Sea Turtle Conservation Project

- The first turtle conservation project in the Mediterranean – 1978.
- Main Objectives:
 - a) Protecting and managing turtle nesting beaches
 - b) Protecting eggs and hatchlings from predation - and human activities
 - c) Protecting adult turtles
 - d) Monitoring the turtle population and nesting activity in Cyprus
 - e) Raising public awareness in turtle conservation



Species Protection

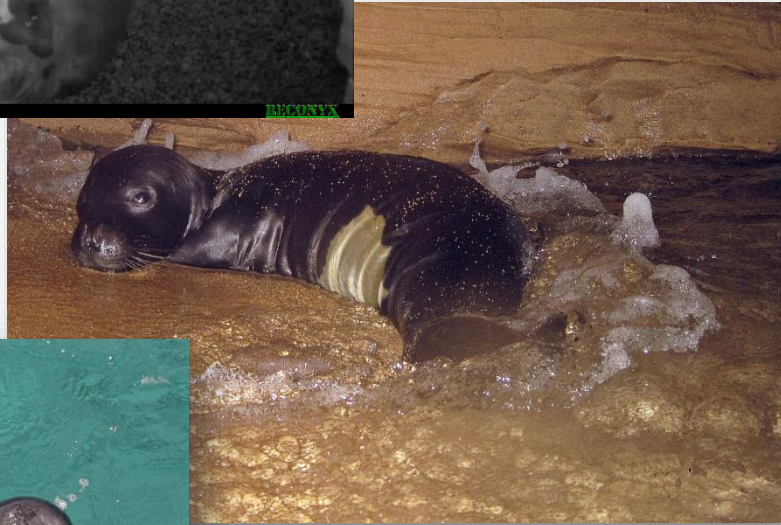


Monk Seal Monitoring Programme

- 2010 - present
- Collect data regarding the Monk Seal population in Cyprus.
- Visits to sea caves along the coastline of Cyprus, recording the presence / absence of seals, as well as any signs of usage of the caves by the seals (e.g. traces, faeces, characteristic strong smell, etc.)
- Use of trail cameras for non-intrusive and concurrent monitoring for several sites around the island.



Species Protection

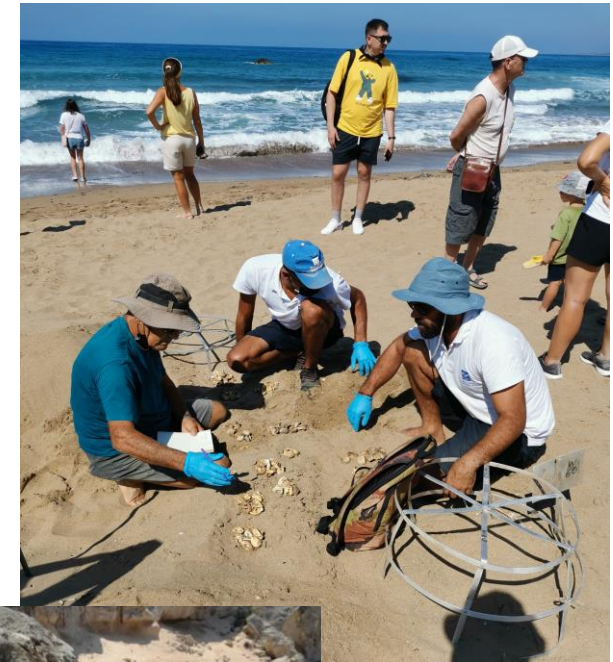


Installation of signs for the promotion of environmental awareness



Employment of Park Rangers

- Patrolling of MPAs
- Implementation of the Fisheries Law and Regulations
- Participation in the sea turtle monitoring program
- Participation in samplings
- Public awareness



Installation of live cameras

- Recording of nesting, predation, pressures



Pledges

- Guidance on “strict protection”
- Connecting actions with protection
- Protection targets Vs Conservation targets
- Tight timeframe





Thank you

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