



# LIFE EUROTURTLES

## COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE EU SEA TURTLE POPULATIONS

**LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997**

Melina Markou  
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research  
March 2019



**ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΛΙΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ (ΤΑΘΕ)**

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Project is carried out with the assistance of LIFE financial  
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# LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997

## «Collective actions for improving the conservation status of the EU sea turtle populations»



- Duration: 5 years (September 2016 – August 2021).
- Total Approved Budget: € 5,116,167.00 (DFMR - €235,770). The project is co-funded 50% by the E.U.
- Partners: 9 organizations from 6 Mediterranean E.U. countries:

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR PARTNERS BY CLICKING ON LOGO**

**LIFE EUROTURTLES PROJECT IS CO-FINANCED BY:**



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# The Aim

To Improve the conservation status of the E.U. populations of two sea turtle priority species, the Loggerhead - *Caretta caretta* and the Green Turtle - *Chelonia mydas*.



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# LIFE EUROTURTLES – Objectives



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# Actions DFMR is Involved



A2. Regulations for reducing anthropogenic impacts at nesting sites

C1. Mitigation of threats at nesting sites

C5. Rescue centers and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles (OC-UCY)

E1. Visibility, dissemination and networking



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# LIFE EUROTURTLE

## ***ACTION A2. Regulations for reducing anthropogenic impacts at nesting sites***



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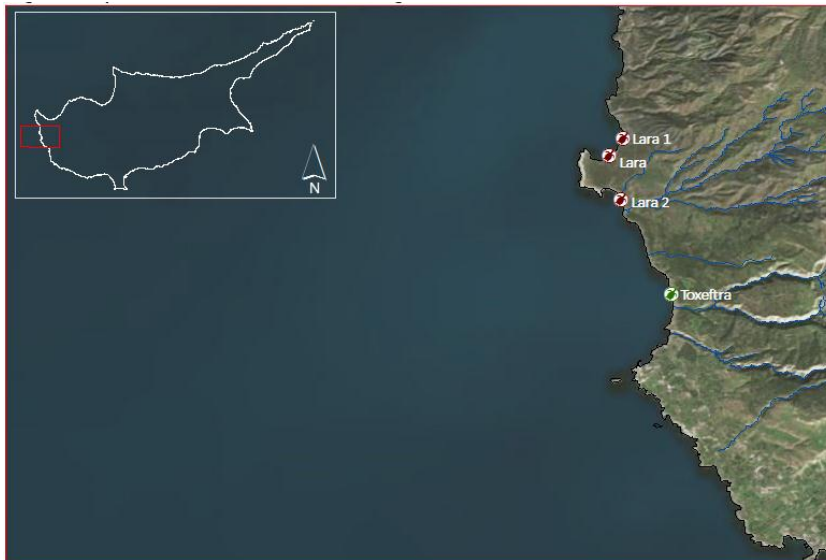


## A2. Regulations for reducing anthropogenic impacts at nesting sites



### LOCATION:

13 known nesting areas of *C. mydas* and *C. caretta* along the northwestern coast of Cyprus (Toxeftra, Lara 2, Lara, Lara 1, Asprokremmos, Latsi, Natura, Polis, Limni, Argaka, Yialia, Ayia Marina South, and Ayia Marina North)



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## A2. Regulations for reducing anthropogenic impacts at nesting sites



1. Assessment of the current status of the anthropogenic threats at the 13 nesting sites
2. Anthropogenic threats ranked in each area
3. Report on the trends related to the threats and pressures that sea turtles face in the areas in question
4. Protocol on “Actions to Take” when finding a nest at a protected and non-protected site

Summary and Ranking of Anthropogenic Threats. For details see Individual Beach Sheets. Some are potential threats if implemented												
Beach	Code	Threat - Ranking of Anthropogenic Threat (10 is highest)										
		Driving	Visitors at night	Day Visitors - unintentional disturbance	Day Visitors - intentional disturbance	Photopollution from night visitors and/or development (cages)	Development	Beach furniture	Camping	Water Sports	Disturbance of sand dunes (sand removal and/or dune alterations)	Mechanical Beach Cleaning
Toxettra	T	8	10	2	1	7	0	0	5	0	8	n/a
South Lara Bay	L2	10	8	5	1	10*	8	5	5	0	8	n/a
Lara	W	0	10	9	9	6	0	8	5	0	0	n/a
North Lara Bay	L1	0	5	4	1	4	0	0	3	0	0	n/a
Asprokremmos	A	5	6	7	7	6	10	10	10	8	n/a	10
Latsi	Lat	2	unknown	10	1	10	10	10	0	5	n/a	n/a
Natura	N	7	10	5	10	8	10*	3	3	3	0	n/a
Polis	P	8	6	5	1	5	5	0	0	3	8	n/a
Limni	PL	8	unknown	8	7	6	10*	0	0	2	0	n/a
Argaka	Arg	8	5	5	8*	3	3	0	2	2	0	n/a
Yialia	Y	10	unknown	6	10*	10	10	3	0	2	10	7
Ayia Marina South	AMS	2	5	1	5	10	5	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Ayia Marina North	AMN	4	unknown	1	1	8	10	0	0	0	n/a	n/a

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# LIFE EUROTURTLE

## *ACTION C.1: Mitigation of threats at nesting sites*

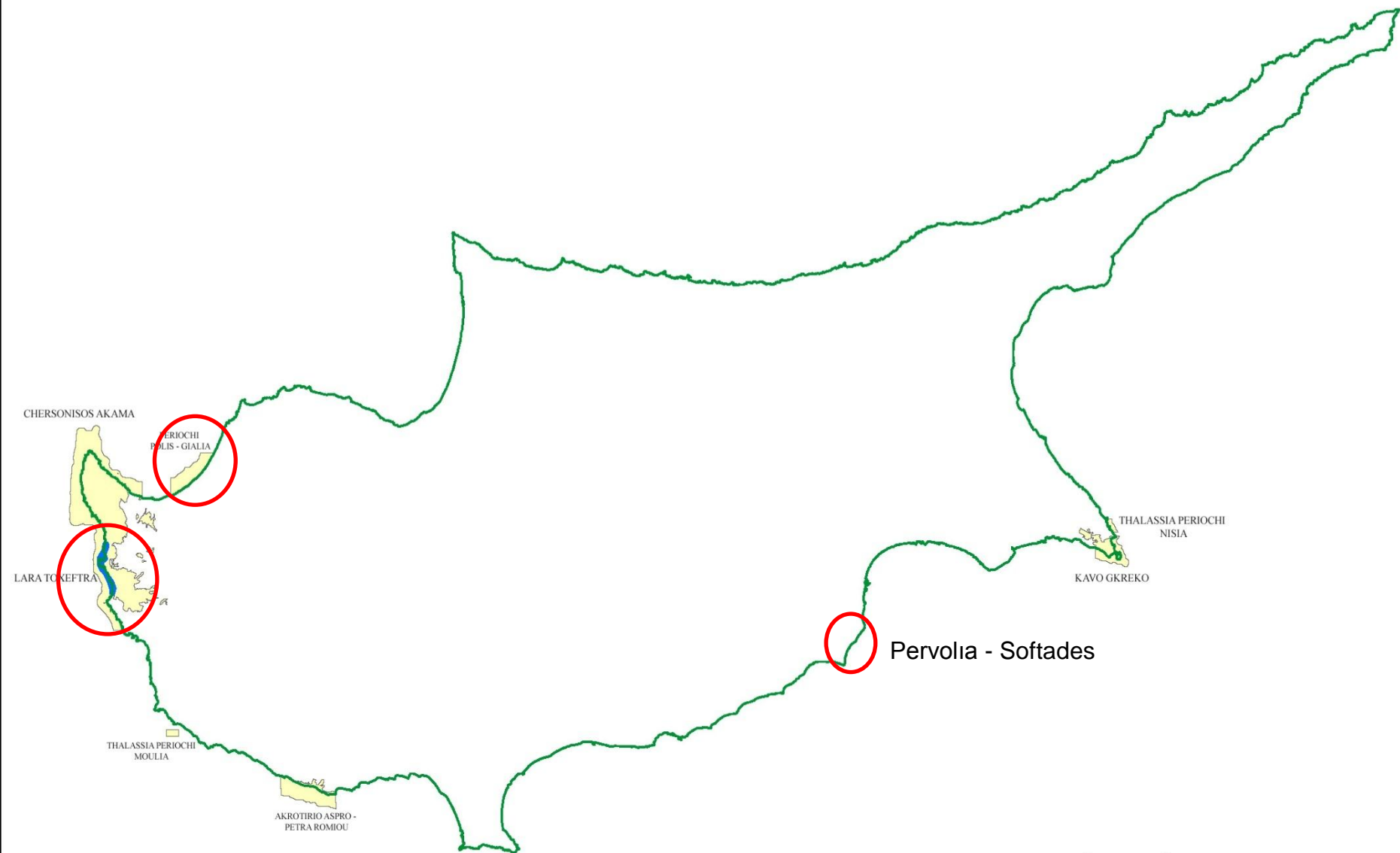


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### Legend

-  Marine Protected Areas - Cyprus
-  Natura 2000 sites - Cyprus

# C1. Mitigation of threats at nesting sites

## What has been done so far - Fencing



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**Action C1: Mitigation of threats at nesting sites**

**Fencing and Signs at Nesting Sites**

### **Softades Beach:**

"Fencing" with the use of wooden constructions for obstructing any vehicle access and to protect the turtle nests found on that beach. This wooden fence was completed in January 2017 and the cost was covered by the Kiti Council.



### **Lara Beach:**

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) in 2015 has proceeded with the repairing of the specific fence in an effort to protect the nests of the two sea turtles species in Lara bay during the nesting period of 2016. The cost was covered by the DFMR's own budget.



### **Pervolia (Faros) Beach:**

Due to its elevation profile, fencing has been installed mainly for the safety of the general public and therefore there is no need for any further installation of a fence.





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Improve the capacity to detect nests in need of specific protection in areas at risk of predation or inundation.

The current capacity is limited to on-foot ground surveys conducted by the limited personnel of DFMR and the marine turtle experts, over long coastal tracts.

As a consequence some tracts are inefficiently surveyed (low frequency and delayed intervention in case of need).



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3 areas on the southeastern part of Cyprus  
(Pervolia and Softades), where turtle nests are not  
adequately protected



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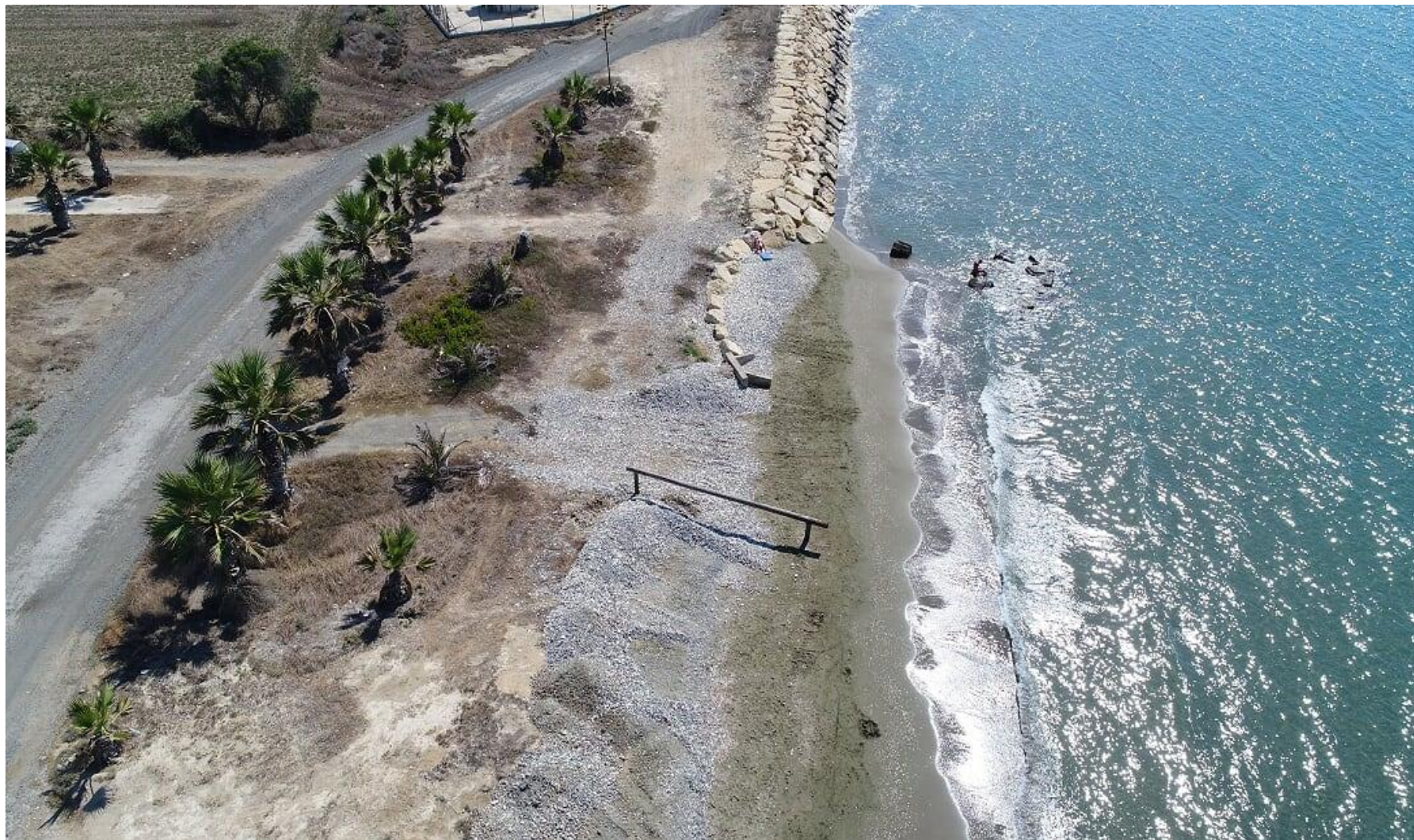


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Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Lab (Temlab)  
Open University of Cyprus



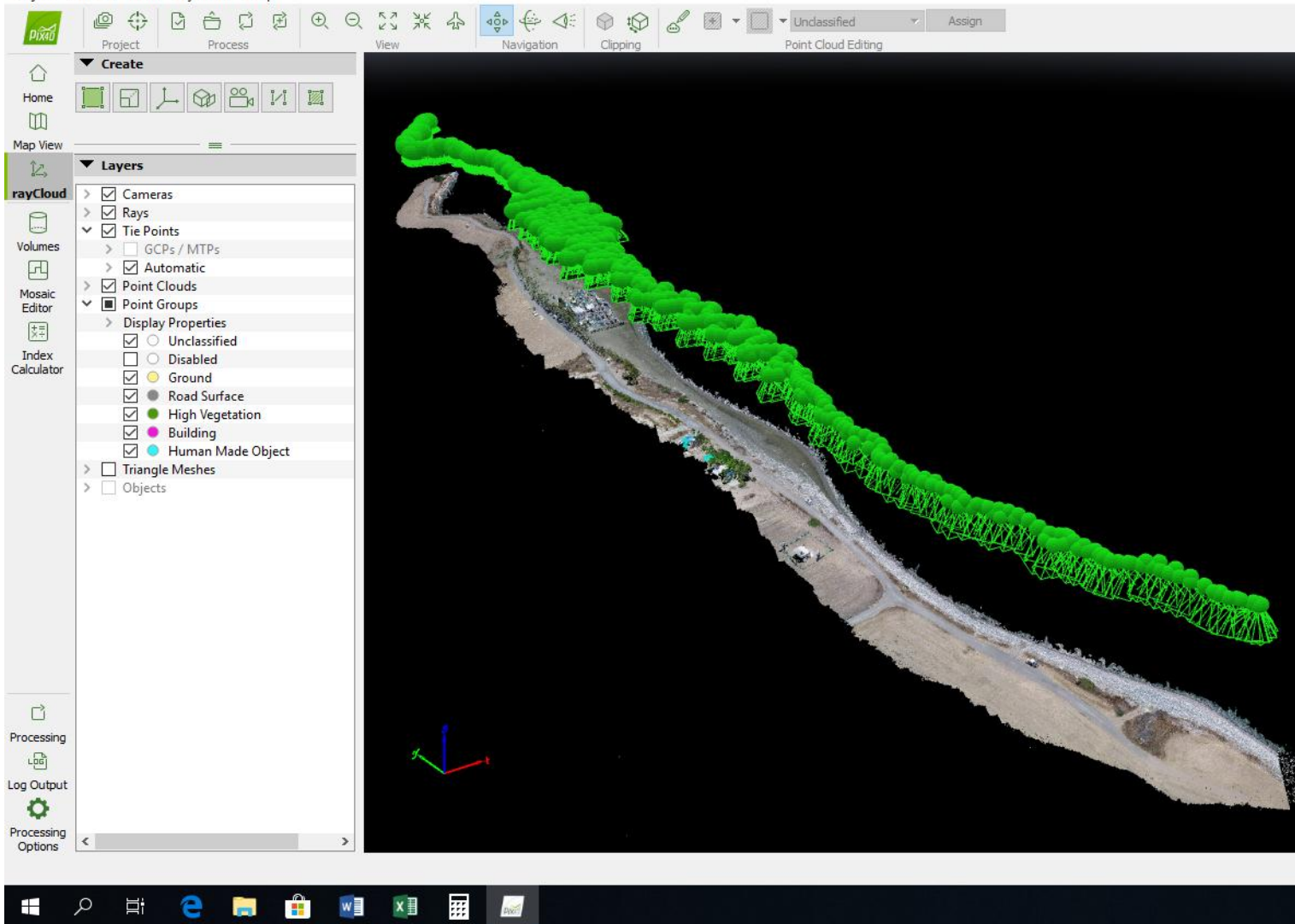
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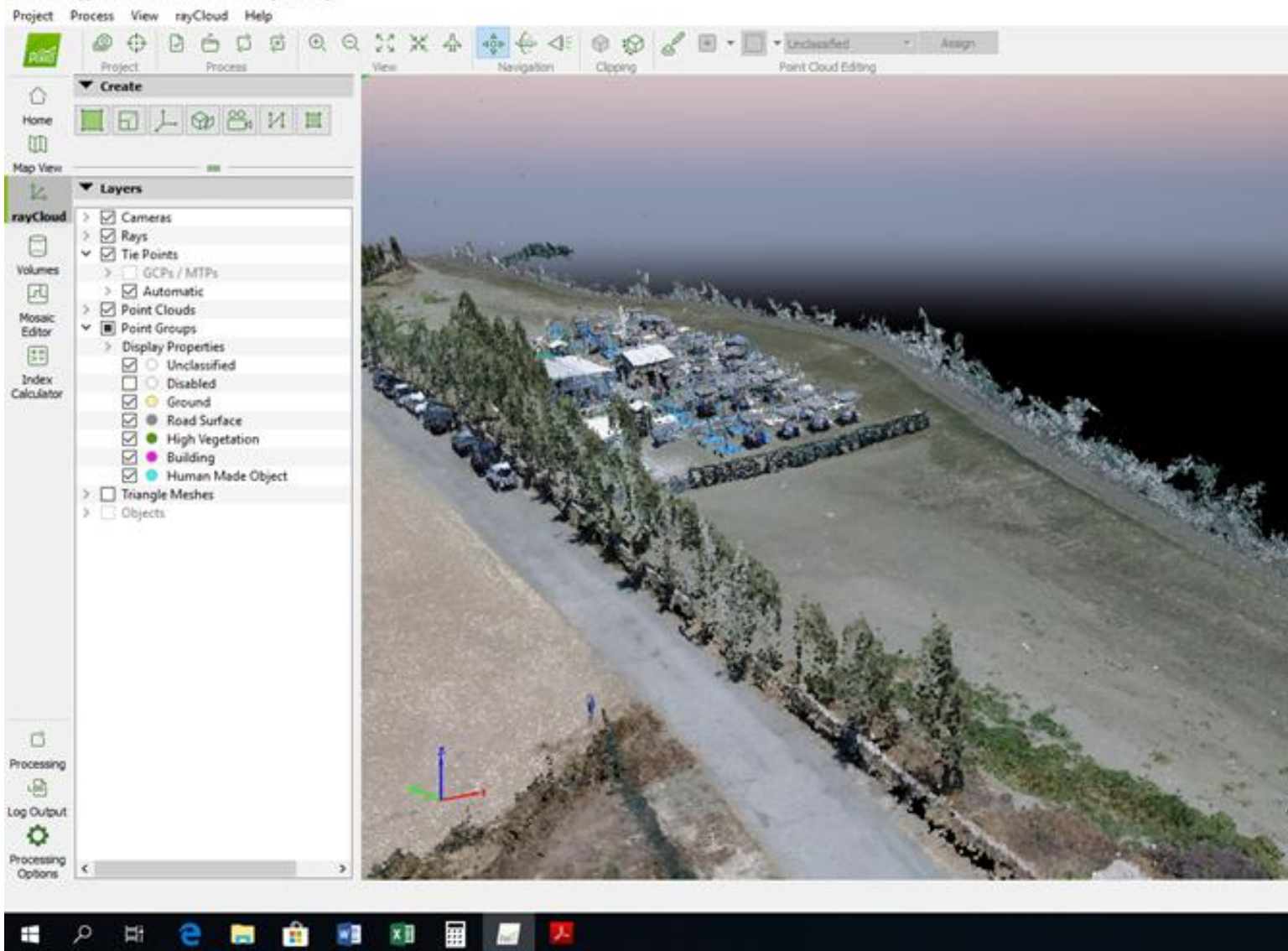




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- ☒ Point Clouds
  - ☒ Densified Point Cloud
    - Display Properties
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- ☒ Point Groups
  - Display Properties
    - ☐ Unclassified
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    - ☒ High Vegetation
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Properties

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**Selection**

**Densified Point**

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Google Earth

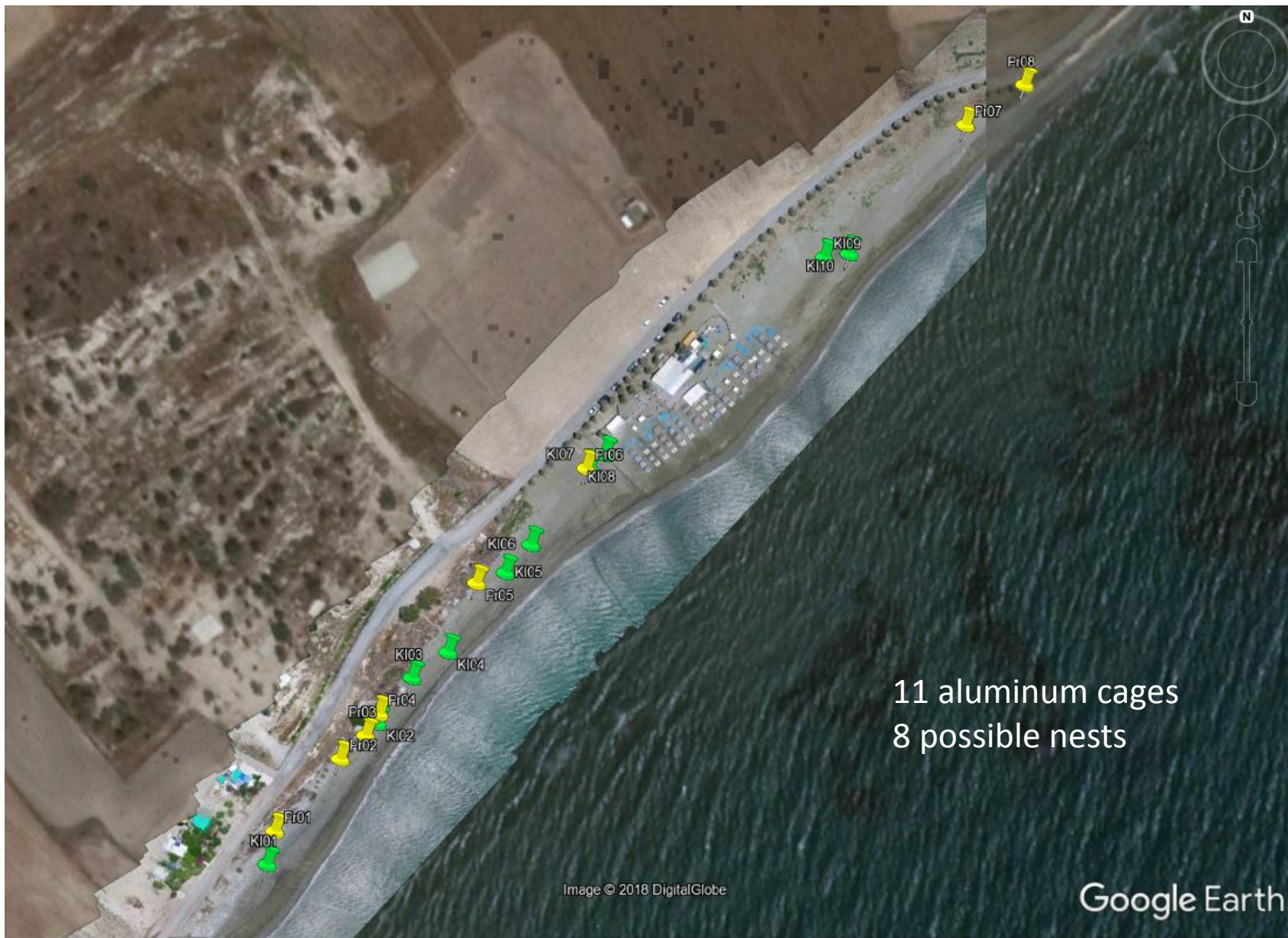


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## Benefits

- Faster survey for long areas
- Minimizing personnel time on field
- Rapid method
- Repeatable
- Developing accurate database
- Detect details that might be missed on sight
- Detect any illegal activities (i.e. car tracks)
- Extract Georeferenced nest location



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## Next steps

- Scan all 10 studied beaches creating detailed maps to be used from field officers
- During nesting seasons
  - Collect aerial images two times a week
  - Extract possible nesting locations
  - Field validation and protection



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# LIFE EUROTURTLE

## ***ACTION C5. Rescue centers and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity***



**ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΝΙΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ (ΤΑΘΕ)**

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# C5. Rescue centres and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

## What has been done so far



### Action C5: Rescue Centers and Networks

#### Turtle Rescue Kits

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) has purchased 5 turtle rescue kits (Boxes with handles, gloves, gauzes, saline solution), that were prepared and delivered at the DFMR in Nicosia on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017.



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# C5. Rescue centres and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

## What has been done so far



### a) Turtle Rescue Kits delivered to the District Offices

During the month of June 2017, the “Rescue Kits” made under the Action C.5 “Rescue Centers and Networks”, were disseminated in the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) District Offices in Paralimni, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos. All personnel involved (Naval Service Staff and Fisheries and Marine Research Inspectors) were informed about the LIFE EUROTURTLES Project and its Actions and Goals. Everyone is now on-board and happy to help by providing the medic first aid to injured turtles before transferring them to the Meneou Turtle Rescue Center.



Paralimni



Larnaca



Limassol



Paphos





## C5. Rescue centres and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

What has been done so far



### *Capacity Building*

Training Workshop in Athens – January 2019: First Aid, Rescue and Rehabilitation of Injured Turtles



ΑΡΧΕΛΩΝ Σύλλογος για την Προστασία της Θαλάσσιας Χελώνας  
ARCHELON The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece



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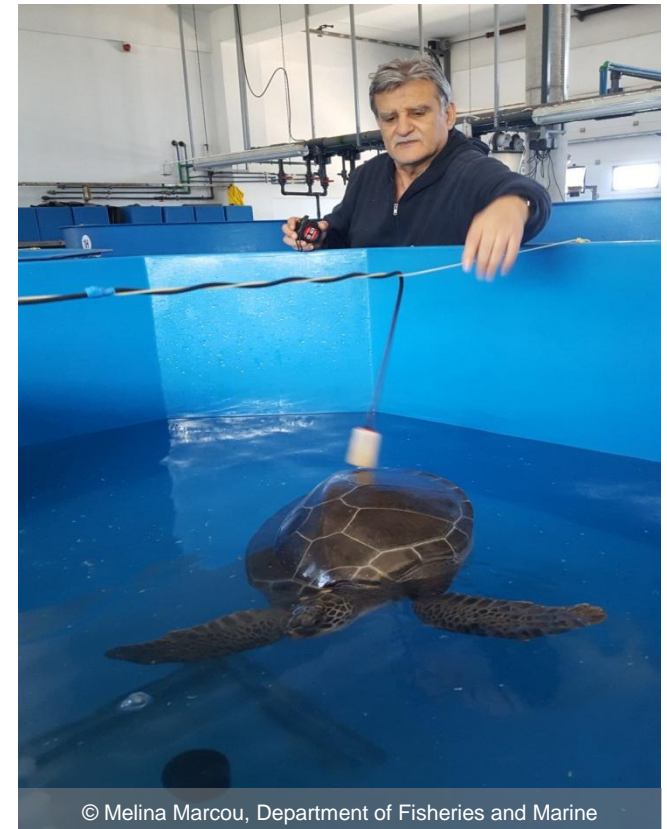
# C5. Rescue centres and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

What has been done so far

## *Meneou Turtle Rescue Center*



© Melina Marcou, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research



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Turtles



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## C5. Rescue centres and networks: increasing sea turtle rehabilitation capacity

### What has been done so far



**Γραμμή βοήθειας για χελώνες**  
**Sea turtle hotline** **+357 9695 2929**

**Αν εντοπίσεις τραυματισμένη ή νεκρή χελώνα τηλεφώνησε στην παγκύπρια γραμμή βοήθειας για χελώνες.**  
**+357 9695 2929**

**24 ώρες/μέρα – 7 μέρες/εβδομάδα • 24 hours/day – 7 days/week**

Συλλογικές δράσεις για τη βελτίωση των μέτρων διατήρησης των ευρωπαϊκών πληθυσμών των θαλάσσιων χελωνών (LIFE15 NAT/HR000997). Το έργο υλοποιείται με τη βοήθεια του χρηματοδοτικού εργαλείου LIFE της ΕΕ / [info@euroturtles.eu](mailto:info@euroturtles.eu)

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# LIFE EUROTURTLE

## ***ACTION C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gears in turtles***



**ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΝΙΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
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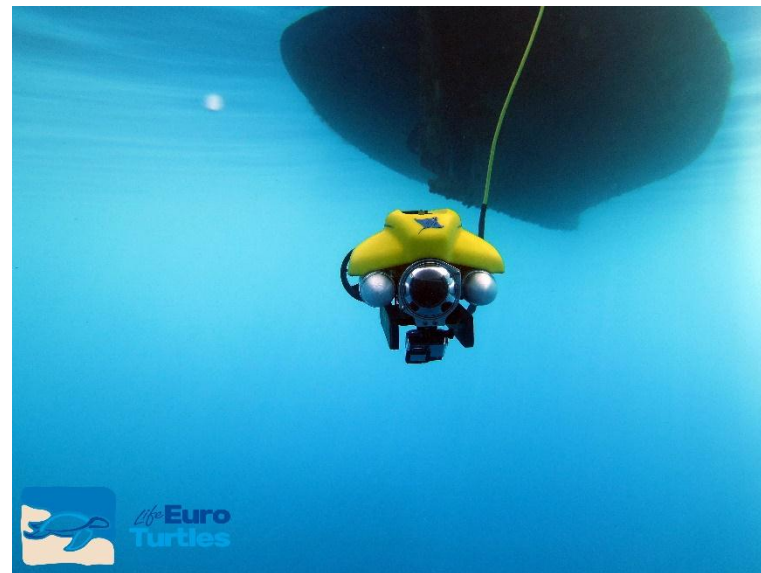
# C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles

## What has been done so far



University of Cyprus  
Oceanography Centre

ROV surveys to identify locations and estimate extend of ghost gear in Natura 2000 Site Polis – Gialia (CY4000001)



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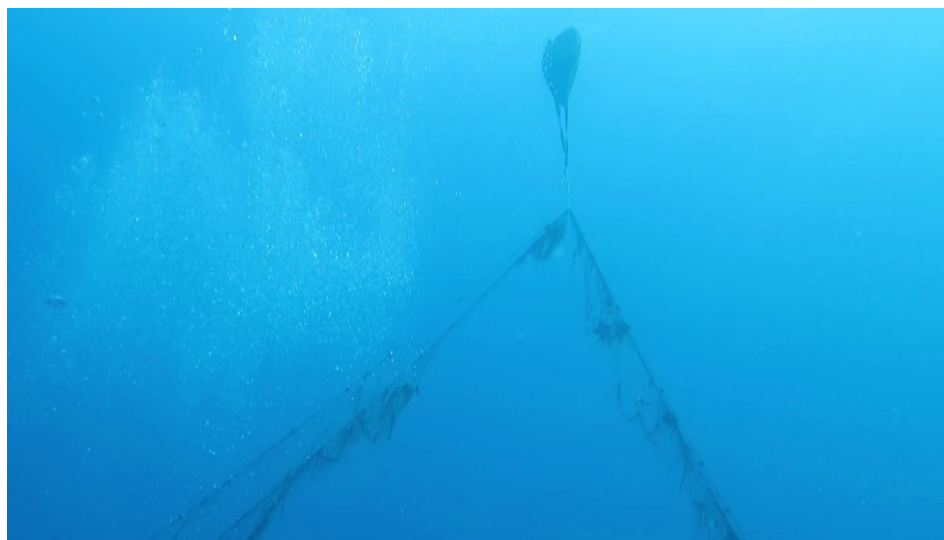


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# C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles

## What has been done so far



Placement of collection bins for abandoned fishing gears (ghost gear) at Latsi port and the fishing shelters of Pomos and Kato Pyrgos.



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## C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles

### What has been done so far



The discarded fishing gear are collected by ENERCO Energy Recovery Ltd and converted into energy, replacing the conventional fuels.



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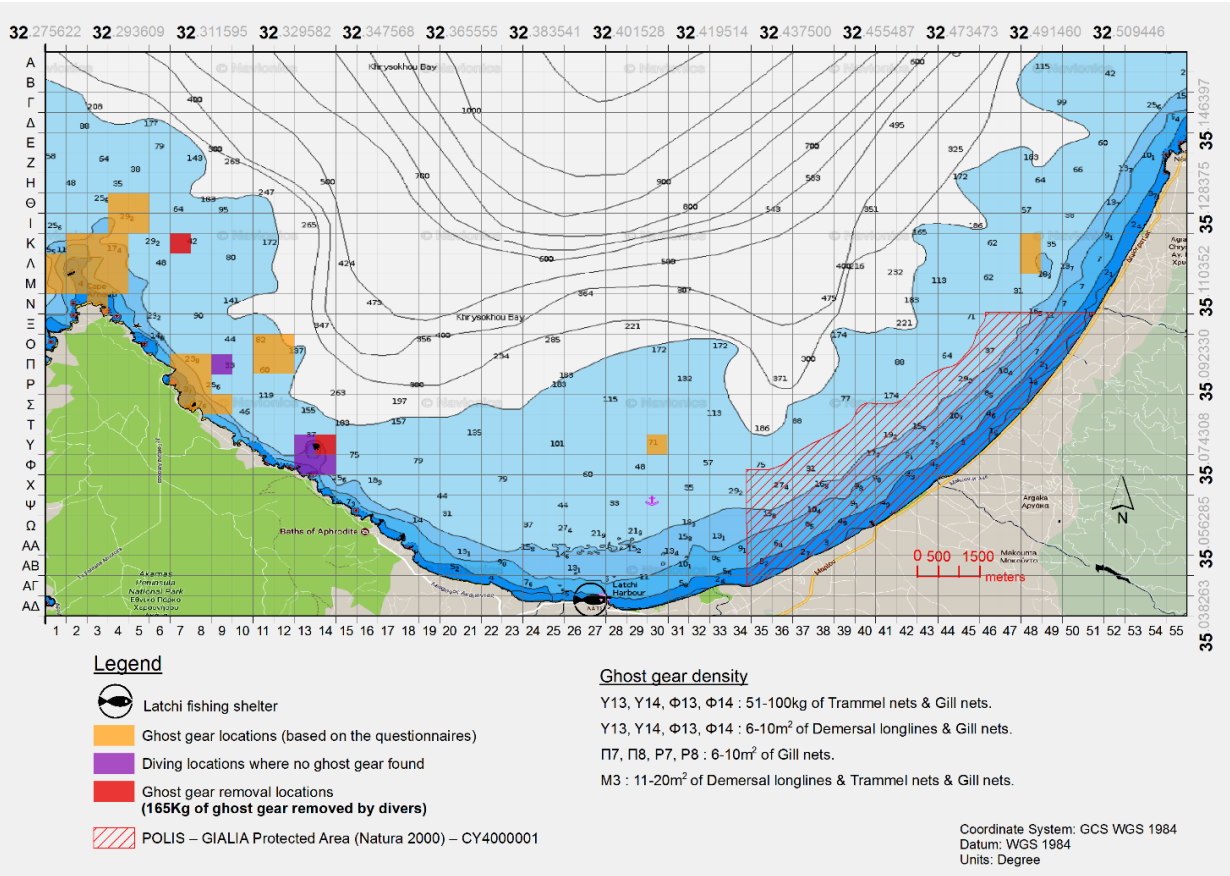
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# C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles

## What has been done so far



GIS map with ghost gear locations, densities, and types.



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## C6. Reducing the impact of ghost gear in turtles

### What has been done so far

- In total **285 kg** of abandoned ghost fishing gear (165 kilos from Latsi and 120 kilos from Pomos) were removed **by the divers** and placed in the bins that have been installed at the port of Latsi and at the fishing shelter of Pomos.
- Collection bins contained also fishing gear that were discarded by professional fishermen. In total **215 kg** of useless fishing gear were discarded **by professional fishermen**. In particular, 105 kg of fishing gear were discarded in Pomos and 110 kilos in Kato Pyrgos.
- In total **500kg of ghost gear** were collected by an authorized company and converted into energy between 01/12/2017 and 29/08/2018.



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# LIFE EUROTURTLE

## ***ACTION E1. Visibility, dissemination and networking***



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# E1. Visibility, dissemination and networking



## **LIFE EUROTURTLES - LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997** **Participation in the event "Paddle for our Sea"**

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) was invited to participate in the event "Paddle for our Sea" (Image 1) organized by the Windsurf-City Cyprus, in Larnaca on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017. Ms Melina Marcou attended the event in order to talk about the marine turtles, their protection and conservation, as well as to inform the general public regarding the Actions involved in the LIFE EUROTURTLES Project.



**Image 1:** The invitation to the "Paddle for our SEA" event

During the event, there was a lot of interaction with the general public in regards to the marine turtles in Cyprus, giving information and explaining the methodologies involved for their protection and conservation, their treatment and data collection, as well as all the Actions that the DFMR is involved in the framework of the LIFE EUROTURTLES Project (Image 2).



**Image 2:** Explaining regarding the treatment / first aid provided to the injured turtles – Action C5 of the LIFE – EUROTURTLES Project

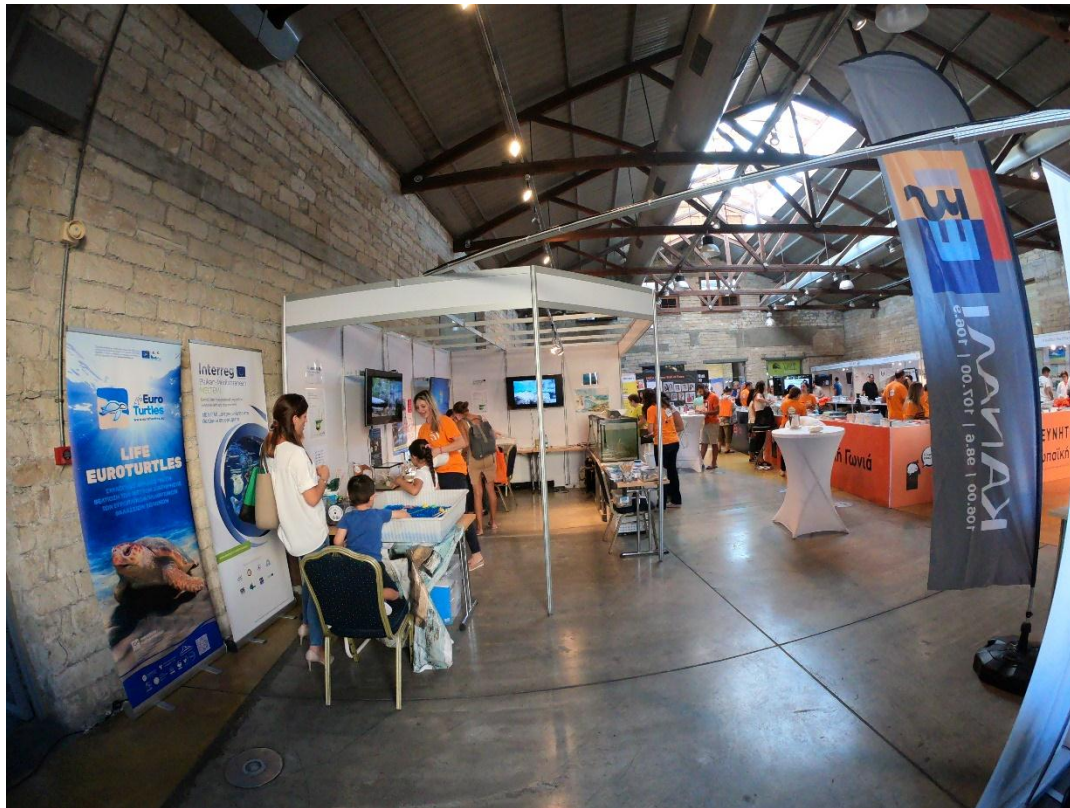
Moreover, information was given to the general public regarding the possibilities of how they can get involved and help the DFMR with its task, such as where to call in case of an injured turtle, a found nest etc (Image 3). Everyone seemed very enthusiastic and the event had a great success (Image 4).



**Image 3:** Giving information to the general public



# E1. Visibility, dissemination and networking



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# E1. Visibility, dissemination and networking Presentations



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29  
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2018

# LIFE EUROTURTLES IS PART OF EU PROTECTS CAMPAIGN



European Commission launched European wide #EUProtects campaign showing how EU supports protecting what is important to us. We are proud that our LIFE Euroturtles project has been presented as one of European projects where "ordinary heroes" are working hard for the protection of Adriatic and Mediterranean #seaturtles



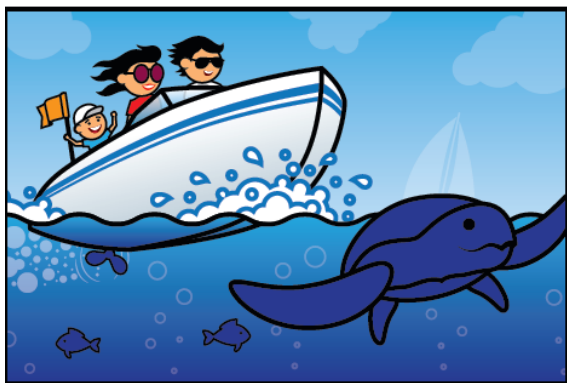
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# HOW YOU CAN HELP



## SLOW DOWN! SEA TURTLES

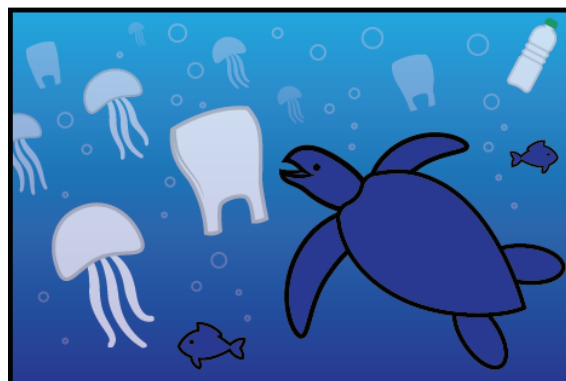


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## PLASTIC KILLS SEA TURTLES!



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# HOW YOU CAN HELP



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# BE RESPONSIBLE

*Help us save some friends*

Sea turtles are globally endangered and their future depends on conservation actions we take. Help us collect the data needed to protect them. Your observations of sea turtles on the sea, their nesting tracks, hatchlings, injured or dead turtles or reports on turtle bycatch in nets and on long lines will help us understand the scale of interactions sea turtles have with us. We are looking to include all countries and nations along the Mediterranean sea in developing the largest citizen science database. The efficiency of our conservation actions depends on the number of reports we will obtain. So, if you care about the sea turtles and their environment – report and help us save a friend!



REPORT SIGHTING



MOBILE APP DOWNLOAD



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# Thank you for you attention



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