

Hochscheid et al (2018). Sea Turtles in the

further research is needed.

areas have been identified, however

important feeding and overwintering

recorded in Lebanon, Egypt and Israel

and Syria, while a few nests are

turtles mainly nest in Turkey, Cyprus

Israel, Syria, Tunisia and Italy, Green

smaller numbers in Egypt, Lebanon,

Greece, Turkey, Libya and Cyprus and in

beaches. Logghead nests mainly nest in

In summer, sea turtles nest on sandy

Concems (LC), but conservation dependent

(Mediterranean sub-population) as Least

Endangered and Logghead Turtles

Green Turtles are classified as globally

in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

rangean.

and 1,800 logghead females nest in the Mediterranean.

estimated that only about 800 green adult females

(Dermochelys coriacea) is an occasional visitor. It is

Chelonia mydas) nests here, and the huge leatherback

The logghead (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle

Three sea turtle species are found in the Mediterranean.



ABOUT SEA TURTLES



Conservation of
Marine Turtles
in the Mediterranean Region

THREATS



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Enhancing the protection & conservation of Marine
Turtles in the Mediterranean Region
by reducing human-induced direct mortality

- ◀ Habitat loss & degradation
- ◀ Development (tourism, coastal and marine)
- ◀ Pollution (marine litter etc.)
- ◀ Collisions with vessels
- ◀ Fisheries
- ◀ International killing)
- ◀ Artefacts, poaching)
- ◀ Climate change
- ◀ Exploitation of marine resources,
- ◀ Exploitation
- ◀ for consumption or production of artefacts, poaching)
- ◀ Specifically oil and gas

Sea turtles are
threatened by human activities:
they have natural predators, the greatest
they are protected and preserved. Although
100 million years, it is therefore critical that
considered as an indicator species for marine
biodiversity and have populated Earth for over
concerns to these ancient creatures for impacts



Photo by Jesse Schaff on Unsplash

THE PROJECT

The Project "Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region" aims at the following objective: to enhance the protection and conservation of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Region by reducing human-induced direct mortality.

Activities take place in 13 Countries:

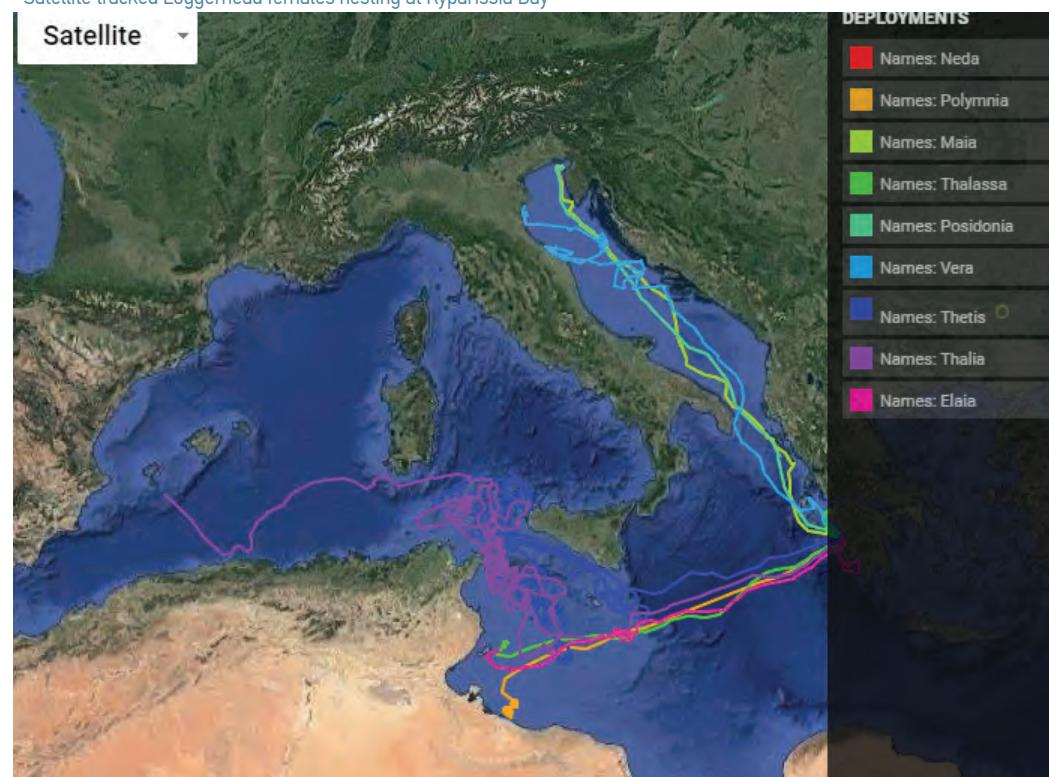
Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy (Sardinia), Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

From June 2017 to May 2020 (phase 1).

Map of geographic scope of project activities



Satellite tracked Loggerhead females nesting at Kyparissia Bay



PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Applied research and monitoring on nesting sites and marine hotspots

- a) Exploration of new nesting sites and monitoring of known sites.
- b) Assessment of beach quality for nesting and incubation on potential nesting areas.
- c) Monitoring and conservation of sporadic nesting.
- d) Evaluation of climate change impacts on nesting.
- e) Improved knowledge on migration routes and feeding sites, including satellite tracking of nesting female turtles, isotope and genetic analysis.



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- ▶ Reinforcement of coordination and implementation of harmonized protocols

- a) Identification and mapping of important Marine Turtles Areas in the Mediterranean according to relevant criteria.
- b) Standardized monitoring protocol on marine turtles available for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to improve their management.
- c) Integration of collected data in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform.

- ▶ Capacity building for relevant stakeholders for sea turtle conservation.

- a) Organization of regional trainings on identification and monitoring of nesting areas, standardized assessment of beach quality and threats, satellite tracking, management by MPAs, sampling analysis.
- b) MPA exchange visits on managing marine turtles.
- c) Permanent training centers.

- ▶ Improvement of management and protection of nesting sites

- a) Elaboration or update of National Action Plans for the conservation of sea turtles.
- b) Advocacy activities with case studies from pilot sites on marine turtles management.
- c) Rapid assessment of the conservation status of nesting beaches in Greece.
- d) Manual for MPA Managers based on adaptive management principles.
- e) Awareness raising for local communities (Turkey).
- f) Evaluation of socio-economic benefits linked to sea turtle conservation in Zakynthos National Park (Greece).

- ▶ Reduce illegal trade of sea turtles (Tunisia)

- a) Assessment of the existing illegal trade by interviewing local stakeholders and communities.
- b) Sustainable behavior change campaigns.

[6]

[7]