


# TURTLE TRACKS



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## A LONG-TERM SOLUTION NEEDED

With our memory full of images and thoughts, expressed by at least 700 turtles, who participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Sea Turtle Symposium on Crete, we now focus particularly on our project in Zakynthos, which is our favorite one, possibly because we feel it needs more our attention.

For twenty three years now, the start of our annual project at Zakynthos is different, like the form of the sandy beaches of the island that depends on the previous winter's storm. Similarly "stormy" was the operation of the Management Agency of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos during last winter. The good functioning of the Park should facilitate our work, which is mainly the standardized long-term collection of important nesting data, and also to allow us to be optimistic for the future of the largest nesting aggregation of the loggerhead turtle in the Mediterranean.

It is this future that we are worried about as we see some fragmentary and nervous actions aiming largely to avoid imposition of penalties from the European Union, mainly for the illegal buildings in Daphni beach. We are not the Society for the Protection of the National Economy but the Society for the Protection of Sea Turtles and for 23 years now we work for the permanent protection of the area. We shouldn't forget that the very creation of the Park is a result of ARCHELON's, and the other involved organizations, long-standing efforts.

Nature has no borders and ARCHELON's volunteers come from all over the world to work for the turtles. This is an honor for our country and for our organization but also a challenge for greater local and national participation in the project.

We hope that the Zakynthian community will eventually realize the "gold mine" that is hosted on the island and will not permit anybody to slaughter the hen which lays the golden eggs.

We wish good luck to all the selfless workers for the protection of Nature.

*Anna Kremezi-Margaritouli  
President of ARCHELON's Management Board*

**Please renew your  
subscription for 2007!**

# CARETTA CARETTA INSPIRES POEMS

Enjoy with us a poem written by a pupil of Geitonas School. The poems are associated with the sea turtles as part of the school's environmental activities.

## The Turtle's Promenade, The Release of the Turtle

*All is enigmatically dark,  
I blink and nothing happens,  
The moon and stars have abandoned me,  
The unusual night is hostile to me.*

*Hunger and thirst are my companions,  
The soggy atmosphere and cold are my tortures,  
The ground is as hard as rock,  
I'm afraid.*

*A continuous roaring sound surrounds me,  
And is a nuisance to my ears,  
I repeatedly knock my body on hard surfaces as we move,  
Where am I?*

*What's this!?  
The sound stopped, silence spreads,  
The ground starts shaking!  
Panic has overtaken me.*

*Wait. The moving stopped.  
Scratches of a wild creature are heard ahead of me,  
Fear is my new comrade now,  
I can't shield myself...*

*My fear has reached a climax;  
A bright window of light opens slowly before me,  
The brightness blinds me,  
A new world is placed before my feet.*

*The familiarity comforts me:  
The sound of the waves breaking on the beach,  
The scent of sea water,  
The vivid light of day,*

*The tenderness of the fire sphere up in the sky.  
Two big hands reach for me,  
They pull me into the world that I longed for, for so long,  
The strange creatures leave me before the sparkling blue sea.*

*I'm free! Hope has returned!  
I'm on my way back home.*

Offer this hope to other Caretta caretta sea turtles  
By Irini Rammos

Irini Rammos is a graduate of the International Baccalaureate Programme of "Geitonas School" in Vari-Attikis, who is currently studying Earth Sciences at a University in Utrecht Holland.

We would like to thank Beth Athanassiadis for providing the poems to us.

## SEMINARS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The definition of the word "volunteer" is first of all the willingness to offer your time and knowledge to others and share your experiences and enthusiasm with them. Under this spirit, a seminar for volunteers was organized by ARCHELON, at the Rescue Centre in Glyfada, from February to June 2006.

Specifically the main subjects were:

- Sea turtles in the world.
- Nesting beaches in Greece and summer projects.
- Worldwide threats and rehabilitation in Greece

We tried to meet the expectations of the potential volunteers who attended the seminar and we hope to meet them soon in some turtle activity.

Vassilis Moustakas, Smaro Touliatou

We thank our volunteers Vassilis Moustakas and Smaro Touliatou for organizing and implementing the greater part of the seminar.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAM IN THE RESCUE CENTER

Last summer the Rescue Center had many visitors in the context of People-to-People Program. More than 2.400 young people visited the Rescue Center in Glyfada and the First Aid Station in Pagalohori-Rethymno. They attended presentations for the sea turtle protection, worked voluntary and played interactive games for the protection of the environment.

## 2006 YEAR OF SEA TURTLE PROTECTION

An international campaign dedicated to the Sea Turtle Protection was launched during 2006. The campaign is conducted by the Indian Ocean-South-East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding Secretariat in Bangkok. There are several subjects that the organizers

aim to focus on "celebrating marine turtles, taking measures to ensure their long-term survival, conserving marine turtle habitats, reducing accidental capture in fishing operations, and encouraging applied research. The campaign aims to spotlight the threats and raise public awareness for the protection of sea turtles.



More information at

[http://www.ioseaturtles.org/yof2006/bg\\_information.php](http://www.ioseaturtles.org/yof2006/bg_information.php)

IOSEA YEAR OF THE TURTLE 2006

[www.ioseaturtles.org](http://www.ioseaturtles.org)



## GREEN TURTLE IN SYRIA GETS A SATELLITE TRANSMITTER

A female green turtle in Syria was satellited in the course of ARCHELON's project there, initiated and supervised by Alan Rees. This is the first turtle to receive such a device in Syria and we hope that in doing this we will get a hint as to where Syrian green turtles go after nesting. The transmitter was purchased for ARCHELON by the British Chelonia Group with additional support coming from SEATURTLE.ORG and Ford - Middle East. General sea turtle conservation efforts in Syria have been facilitated through grants from the Marine Conservation Society Turtle Conservation Fund. Engineer Mohammad Jony, under permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, attached the transmitter, under the supervision of Alan, on 8 July 2006.



## THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This year, the celebration of the World Environment Day (5 June) lasted for 3 days. The Hellenic Parliament Committee for the Environment along with the Municipality of Athens organized this event and gave the opportunity to many environmental organizations, among them ARCHELON, to present their work and their activities in kiosks at Syntagma Square.

## DOCTORATE FROM ARCHELON'S WORKER

We are proud to announce that Judith Zbinden from Switzerland received her PhD from the University of Bern on the subject "Conservation biology of the largest population of the loggerhead sea turtle in the Mediterranean". Needless to say that the "largest population" is the one nesting on Zakynthos, where Judith worked for several years as ARCHELON field leader, assistant and volunteer.

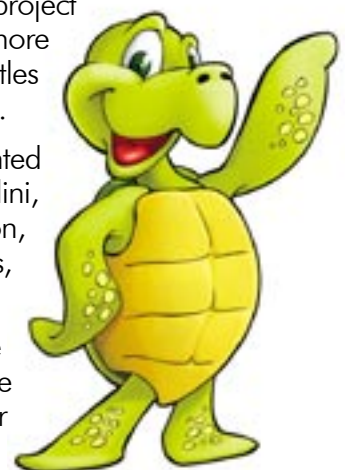
*Congratulations Judith!*

## we care FOR CARETTA CARETTA

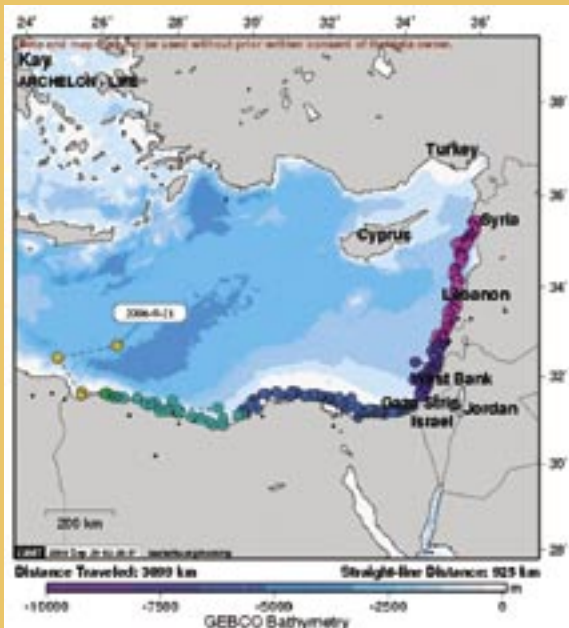
Vodafone Greece, through its corporate responsibility program entitled "We care", supports "ARCHELON", the non-profit organization for the protection of the sea turtle, for the creation of an informative program regarding the areas in which *Caretta caretta* is found in Greece. This project aims to sensitise people in becoming more responsible at the beach, where sea turtles lay their eggs and help in their protection.

The project has already been implemented in the following areas: Strofilia, Killini, Kalamata, Koroni, Kyparissia, Gythion, Nafplio, Rio, Psatha, Avlaki, Shinias, Rafina and Glyfada beach.

Vodafone Greece is also funding the administrative costs of the Sea Turtle Rescue Center of Glyfada for a year and the upgrading of the facilities.



MAP CREDIT STAT



The green turtle, named Kay, was found nesting on Latakia beach. The green turtle nesting population in Syria ranks within the top ten of the Mediterranean but it was only discovered in 2004. Local researchers are continuing their efforts to protect the sea turtles of Syria through monitoring the beaches, outreach to fishermen and lobbying for Latakia beach to become a protected area.

Kay made great progress already; by following the coast passed Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and now approaches Libya. You may watch her travels by visiting [www.seaturtle.org/tracking](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking); please click on the Syria turtle project!

## ZAKYNTHOS NEWS

The chaos of August is now over and as we move into September we can be pleased with our work in Laganas Bay. ARCHELON's project members have built a strong cooperation with the wardens of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos (NMPZ). It was really difficult for any visitor not to receive responsible and timely information on turtles and Park regulations. The ARCHELON's project on Zakynthos has done very well so far in reaching many more tourists through slide show presentations in ever more venues. In addition, a new partnership has been formed with a bar, whose local owners have offered their support in the form of a weekly quiz to raise awareness and funds for our cause. On a lighter note each week ARCHELON's volunteers played football matches with local people from Argassi and Kalamaki. The last game was an impressive 10-4 victory to ARCHELON but the season has many games left to go.

## PELOPONNESE NEWS

Kyparissia News: The camp of ARCHELON's project in Kyparissia Bay had to move from Vounaki to nearby Elea after 21 years; many of us have so good memories of the Vounaki campsite. Furthermore, for the first time after many years, the project operated without a house at Kalo Nero. Despite the difficulties, old and new volunteers –some of them for the third year in a row- working very hard managed to carry over the monitoring and nest-protection activities and double the number of presentations for the public awareness part of the project.

## CRETE NEWS

An increased number of dead sea turtles was recorded in many areas in Crete. In one case, the turtle had quite few wounds and had a rope tied tightly around the front left flipper. The turtle probably was tied somewhere where either she could not eat or she could not rise to the surface to breathe. Thanks to environmental-

conscious citizens four more dead turtles were reported in Messara Bay, Malia, Hersonissos and Gaidouronissi. We would like to thank the people who contacted us and we would like to believe that the other deaths were incidental.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO CONTEST FOR ARCHELON VOLUNTEERS

Take part in the 2006 Photography and Video Contest with photographs and/or video being taken during your volunteer work in ARCHELON's projects. Send your application form until 24 November 2006. Awards will be given to the winners. For more information you can visit ARCHELON's website [www.archelon.gr](http://www.archelon.gr)

**Want to become  
a volunteer?**

Now is the time to apply by  
visiting ARCHELON website:  
<http://www.archelon.gr>

## FUNDERS-THANKS



For implementation of public awareness  
programme "We can all live together"



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