

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY- MONITORING LEADERS



We need Monitoring Leaders for our sea turtle conservation projects of 2023!

Internships from Universities and other organisations are welcome!

Contact: jobs@archelon.gr

1. About this call

ARCHELON is seeking a limited number of experienced and skilled volunteers to become Field Leaders for our projects in the summer of 2023. Field Leaders are responsible for leading the teams and ensuring the proper on- site implementation of sea turtle monitoring actions ([Monitoring Field leaders](#)), public awareness actions (Public Awareness Field Leaders) and the good state of ARCHELONs Research Stations (Camp and Volunteer Leaders). Collaboration between the Field Leaders is essential for the smooth operation of each project. Together they formulate the weekly schedule (rota), boost the motivation of volunteers and manage occurring problems in collaboration with the Project Coordinators for the specific site.

This is a call specifically for [Monitoring Leader \(ML\)](#) posts. To be eligible, you need to be over 20 years old, with a car driving license, fluent in English and ready to spend from 4- 6 months on site, depending on the project. Having participated in ARCHELON's projects counts as a serious advantage. More specifics on skill/ experience requirements for MLs are shown in paragraph 4.

ML posts - 2023: Project locations / Period

1. [Zakynthos](#) / May to mid-October 2023
2. [The Peloponnese- Kyparissia](#) / May to mid-October 2023
3. [The Peloponnese – Lakonikos](#) / May to end September 2023
4. [The Peloponnese – Koroni](#) / June to end September 2023
5. [Crete-Rethymno](#) / May to mid-October 2023
6. [Crete-Chania](#) / May to end September 2023
7. [Crete-Messara](#) / June to end September 2023

Learn more about each project by clicking on its name

2. Background info

ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, runs field based conservation projects in all the main sea turtle nesting beaches as well as in foraging areas in Greece. We also operate a Sea Turtle Rescue Centre near Athens all year round, for the rehabilitation of sick and injured turtles.

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ARCHELON's activities on the nesting beaches are carried out by approximately 500 volunteers from many countries of the world. The number of volunteers in each Field station (campsite) is different, always depending on the project and the time of year.

3. Tasks of the Monitoring Leader (ML)

In the general sense, a Monitoring Leader (ML) is responsible for managing the monitoring activities undertaken during a specific summer project and maintaining high quality of all data collected.

In the larger projects of Zakynthos, Kyparissia, Lakonikos and Rethymno, MLs will be assigned to assist the Monitoring Coordinator(s) (MCs) in managing the monitoring tasks. In the smaller projects of Koroni, Chania and Messara projects, MLs will have sole responsibility for the tasks. All MLs and MCs will be supervised by the corresponding Project Officers. The monitoring tasks in more detail include:

3.1. Managing and organizing scientific and conservation activities

- Leading daily morning surveys of the nesting beaches, mapping of sea turtle nests, conducting active nest management for nest protection and excavations in all nesting beach projects
- Conducting night surveys (only in Zakynthos, Kyparissia and Rethymno projects)
- Conducting beach patrols in order to monitor areas of concern (light pollution, periodic conservation issues, etc) in all nesting beach projects
- Ensuring the collection of high quality data, importing data in Excel databases (scientific/monitoring data, conservation data etc.) in all projects
- Being responsible for additional projects and research with partners - where applicable (tissue samples, temperature loggers etc.)
- Dealing with strandings of dead or injured sea turtles

3.2. Keeping track of volunteers

- Training, supervising and supporting the motivation of volunteers
- Conveying ARCHELON's vision and mission to the volunteers

3.3. Maintaining the monitoring equipment

- Ensuring the maintenance and preservation of the monitoring equipment
- Checking and updating the monitoring inventory list in the beginning and the end of the project

3.4. Handing in a report

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In the larger projects of Zakynthos, Kyparissia, Lakonikos and Rethymno, MLs will contribute with remarks to the report of the Monitoring Coordinator within the given deadlines. In the smaller projects of Koroni, Chania, and Messara projects, MLs will submit a short report on their tasks to the Project Officer within the given deadlines.

3.5. Participation in the weekly schedule (rota)

MLs will enter the rota for basecamp tasks in the same way as the rest of the people who are using the campsite. Optionally, MLs may enter the rota for tasks in public awareness activities, provided that their own responsibilities are met for that week/day.

3.6 Free time

The duties of MLs, as well as those of all Field leaders, take up a big part of each day, but there should be enough time for rest and enjoyment of the pleasant surroundings. For every week of participation in the project, MLs will have a day off the campsite.

4. Eligibility and other Requirements

Minimum eligibility criteria

1. Age over 20 years old, with health insurance
2. Holder of a Valid EU/International car driving license
3. Fluent in English
4. Basic computer skills in Microsoft Office
5. Participation in sea turtles' conservation field projects for 3 months at minimum, experience in living outdoors and in multinational groups, in identifying sea turtle's tracks, locating nests by digging for eggs, managing nest excavations, dealing with hatchlings etc.
6. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
7. Hardworking, reliable, organizational person who can perform in a demanding schedule and can adapt to changes
8. Sociable, enthusiastic, committed, supportive, good tempered with good communication skills
9. Good physical condition and endurance of hot weather

Other desired competences/ experience:

- Education / training related to the duties described above, such as (indicative list): Biology, Ecology, Zoology, Marine Science, Marine Conservation, Marine Biology, Wild Life Conservation, Conservation Biology, Environmental Management etc.
- Previous participation in ARCHELON's projects
- First Aid certification
- Use of relevant new technologies, such as UAVs (drones) and GPS

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5. Benefits/Costs

- You will be part of an international team with the mission to record and protect all nests and hatchlings of an endangered marine species, the loggerhead sea turtle, in the project area
- You will receive the necessary guidance and training on the ML duties which are based on the continuously evolving practices of a project run for over 35 years now
- You will learn by living in a multi-ethnic group and by trying to meet their expectations as a leader
- You will experience the running of a sea turtle conservation project in Greece
- For internships, ARCHELON will provide a certificate according to the internship agreement with your University/ organization
- ARCHELON will provide accommodation and food within the communal scheme in the campsite, as well as private insurance coverage for accidents up to a certain ceiling
- There will be space for you to put up your tent and you will be using all communal facilities (WC, showers, cooking stove and utensils) provided in the campsites

NB Travel expenses to Greece are not provided by ARCHELON and must be covered by the Field Leaders. Travel expenses to the project sites within Greece must also be covered by the Field Leaders, with the notable exception of participation in introductory information sessions and training events organized by ARCHELON (see below).

6. Introductory information sessions

Online introductory sessions will be organized for the selected Field leaders at the end of April/beginning of May, their exact dates and times will be communicated in due time.

7. Specific training events

A seminar for field leaders is expected to happen at the Rescue Centre in Glyfada before the start of the beach projects.

Other training events for Field Leaders might be organized during the nesting season by the project officers, depending on the needs of each project. These will be announced within the season and in case there is a need for extra accommodation and transportation within Greece, these will be provided by ARCHELON.

Further contact and application info

If interested, please send an email to jobs@archelon.gr with the following:

- Application form that you can download from [HERE](#)
- Short Curriculum Vitae (400-900 words)

NB The application deadline is January 31, 2023. The selection is expected to be finalized until 30 March 2023. Early applications have more possibilities to be successful as the places are limited. Short interviews with candidates maybe organized by Skype in an informal manner.