

activity  
**RESULTS**  
**2024**

# 41st year of action for the protection of sea turtles

- The seven (7) Field Projects aimed at studying, recording, monitoring and protecting the sea turtle reproductive activity on the beaches of Zakynthos, Peloponnese and Crete were successfully completed.
- The project in Amvrakikos aimed at studying and monitoring the turtle population of the Gulf was carried out.
- The Nation-wide Sea Turtle Rescue Network at the Greek coast and sea continued its activity.
- The Sea Turtle Rescue Centre continued the rehabilitation of injured and sick turtles.
- Educational and awareness raising activities were carried out in all project areas.



# Monitoring the nesting activity

- From early May to early October, ARCHELON volunteers/researchers carried out daily patrols on the nesting beaches of Zakynthos, Peloponnese and Crete, locating nests, collecting necessary scientific data and implementing actions to protect nests and hatchlings.
- ARCHELON's partners recorded and monitored the nesting activity in the area of Romanos in Messinia in collaboration with TEMES Group.
- The local "Tulipa Goulimi" Association (members of which have been trained by ARCHELON) monitored nests on the beaches of southeastern Lakonia and Elafonisos.



**ARCHELON's projects for recording and protecting the reproductive activity of the Loggerhead sea turtle in Kyparissia Bay and Zakynthos are the longest-running for the species in the Mediterranean.**





### Loggerhead sea turtles started nesting earlier than ever!

A review of time series data from previous years confirmed that, for the first time, a nest was found as early as May 11th in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos. Nesting earlier in the year may serve as an adaptation mechanism for turtles to avoid the extremely high summer temperatures.

[read more](#)



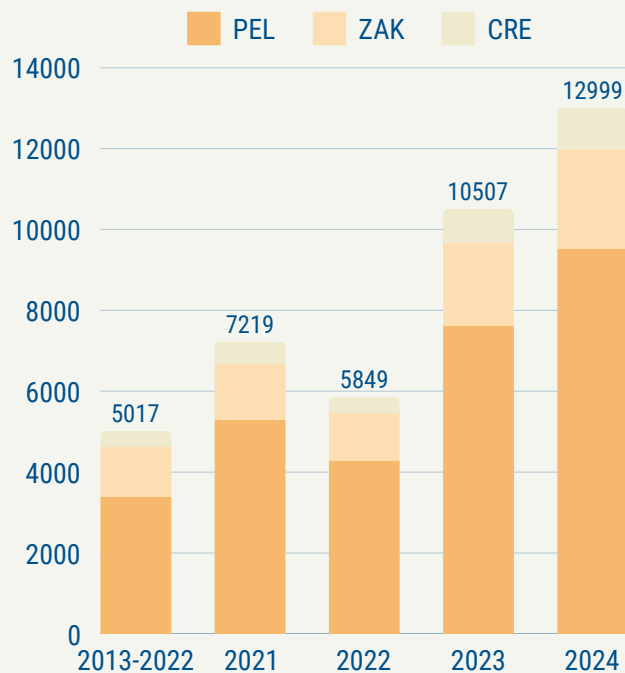
**NESTING RECORD**

**13K**

nests

In total, approximately 13,000 sea turtle nests were recorded in 2024, the largest number of nests ever recorded in ARCHELON's 40 years of activity.

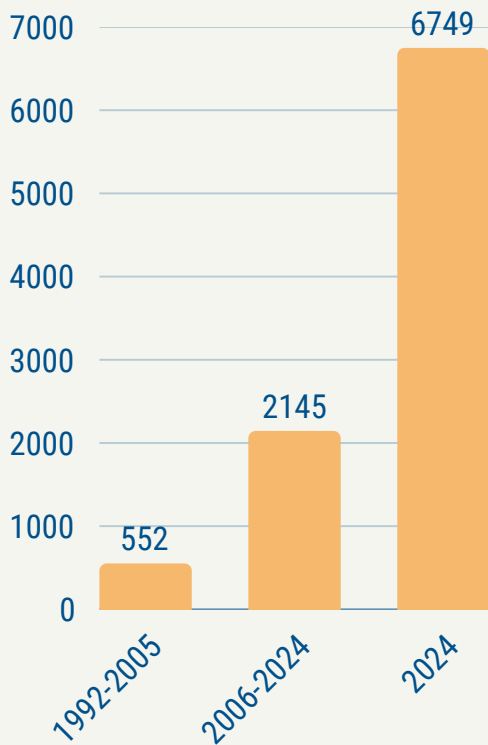
# NESTING RECORD



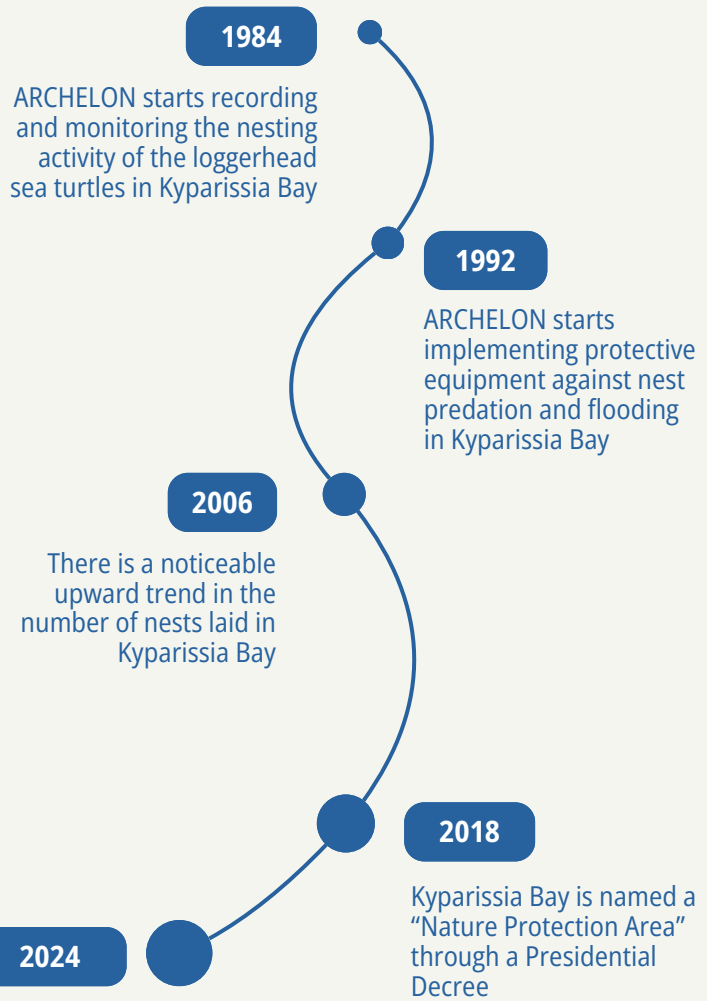
Timeline of the number of nests recorded by ARCHELON's projects in Peloponnese (PEL), Zakynthos (ZAK) and Crete (CRE).



Comparison of the number of nests recorded by ARCHELON in 2024 in the core nesting area of Kyparissia Bay compared to the average nest numbers of previous years in the same area



ARCHELON records nesting activity record-numbers in Kyparissia Bay



## The recovery of the Loggerhead population breeding in Kyparissia Bay is confirmed!

This year's record-number of 6,700 nests in the area confirms the upward trend observed since 2006 and is a result of the long-term nest protection measures implemented by ARCHELON since 1992. Kyparissia Bay is now the nesting area with the largest breeding Loggerhead population in the Mediterranean.

[read more](#)

In 2024, we counted a record-number of nests in Zakynthos, since the start of our project 41 years ago. Nevertheless, the long-term trend shows that the number of nests on the island is more or less stable as we have observed intense annual fluctuations over the years.

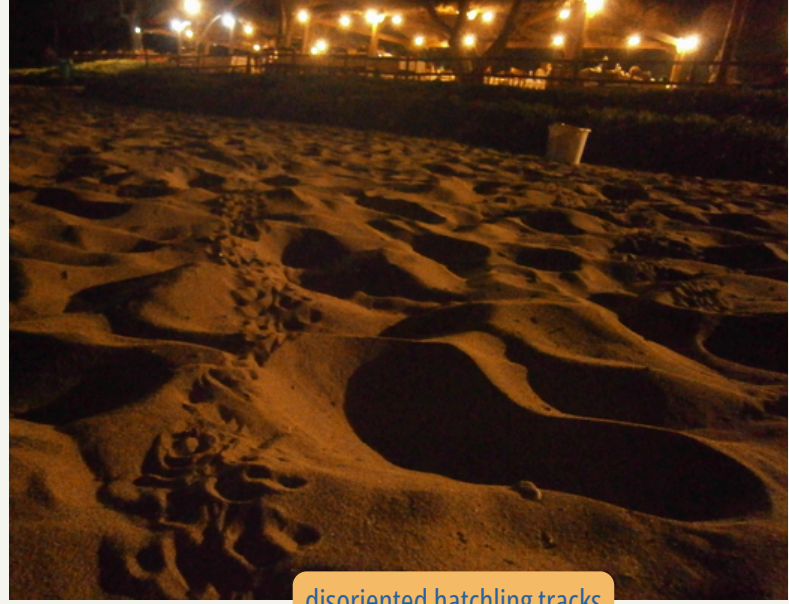
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# Threats + protection measures

To combat natural or anthropogenic threats to sea turtles at the nesting beaches, ARCHELON volunteers/researchers implement actions such as:

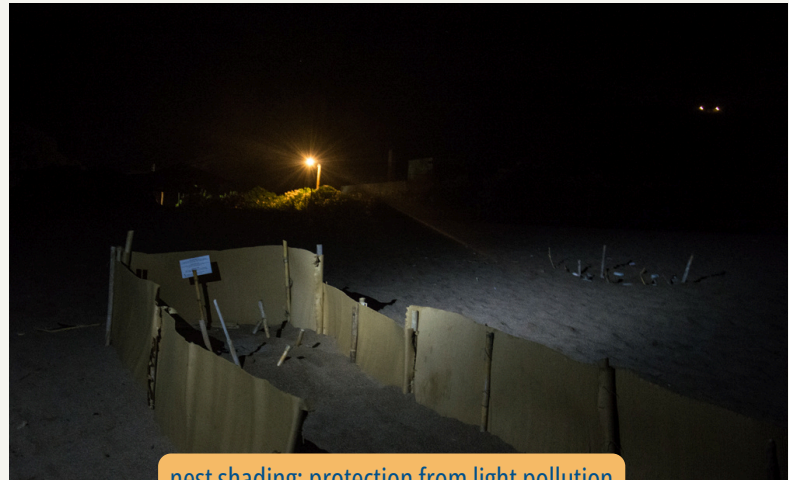
- recording of disturbances, pressures, threats and risks to sea turtles on the nesting beaches,
- placing protective cages/nets and informational signage on nests to protect them against trampling or predation,

**Greece hosts the largest breeding populations of the Loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Mediterranean. Effective protection measures on these nesting beaches largely contributes in the conservation of the species.**



disoriented hatchling tracks

- relocation of nests in danger of flooding to safer locations more suitable for incubation,
- nest shading against light pollution.



nest shading: protection from light pollution



nest relocation: protection against flooding



grids: protection against predation

# Sporadic nesting



325

recorded incidents

During their travels, some female turtles nest on coasts that are unknown to us. These “sporadic nests” can appear anywhere in Greece, and we need the public’s help to record them. If you spot turtle tracks, nests or hatchlings, you can fill out [the online form](#).

- The study of the occurrence of sporadic nests sheds light on the movements of sea turtles. These data are taken into account in the study of sea turtle populations.
- Knowing the location of nests allows protection to be implemented and nest management strategies to be improved.
- Informing the public about sporadic nesting encourages all citizens who care about nature and the environment to be observant and contribute to the protection of wildlife by reporting tracks, hatchling sightings and possible nests.

## Historic Green Sea Turtle Nest Discovered on Rhodes Island, Greece

For the first time, a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nest was recorded on the island of Rhodes, indicating a potential expansion of the species' breeding range in the Mediterranean, potentially due to rising sea temperatures linked to climate change.

[read more](#)



# Rescue + rehabilitation

Sea turtles swimming in the sea face many human-related hazards such as accidental entanglement in fishing equipment, intentional injury or killing by individuals after accidental capture, marine plastic pollution and collisions with speedboats near beaches.

- Since 1991, ARCHELON has been operating the **National Sea Turtle Rescue Network** in collaboration with port authorities, fishermen, citizens and associations. The Network is activated when injured, sick or dead turtles are washed up. In 2024, ARCHELON received reports of more than 1,000 washed up dead turtles throughout the country.
- In 1994, ARCHELON established the **Sea Turtle Rescue Centre** in Glyfada, Attica, where injured or sick animals are transported from all over Greece. There, staff and trained volunteers provide care and treatment to the animals until their successful recovery. After their recovery, the sea turtles are released back into the sea. From its humble beginnings, the Rescue Centre has grown into a modern facility with 42 specialized rehabilitation tanks and into one of the largest sea turtle rehabilitation centres in the Mediterranean.



## 30 Years of Hope: The ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre has grown

*"Back then, there were only two old train wagons at the Rescue Centre and a turtle with a hook in its mouth in a plastic children's pool about 50cm in diameter", recalls Tom Scott, the first foreign volunteer of the Rescue Centre. "We bathed with the hose, while we had to carry water from the sea for the turtles with buckets".*

[read more](#)

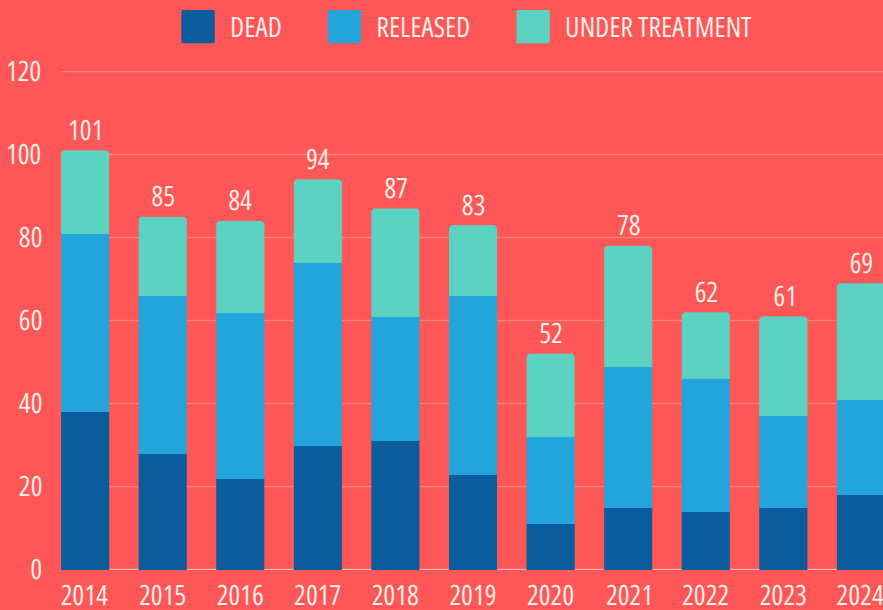
**In its 30 years of operation, the Rescue Centre has hosted and treated more than 1,300 sea turtles suffering from injuries or sicknesses with the help of more than 1,200 volunteers from all over the world.**





During 2024, the Rescue Centre hosted 69 sea turtles, of which 45 were new arrivals and 24 were from previous years. 28 of these turtles remained under care, 23 of them recovered and returned to the sea, while 18 unfortunately passed away.

Timeline of the number of turtles at the Rescue Center that died, were released or remained under treatment in the last decade



45

new arrivals at the Rescue Centre

23

turtles released

28

turtles remained under treatment



### An injured Loggerhead returns to the ARCHELON Rescue Centre with plastics in its digestive system

The story of 'Zoe' the sea turtle, is a powerful reminder that the fight against plastic pollution is a long and difficult one.

In 2019, 'Zoe' was brought to the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre with a serious, deliberate head injury. After three years of dedicated care by volunteers and the rehabilitation team, he was finally released back into the Mediterranean, only to come back again a few years later.

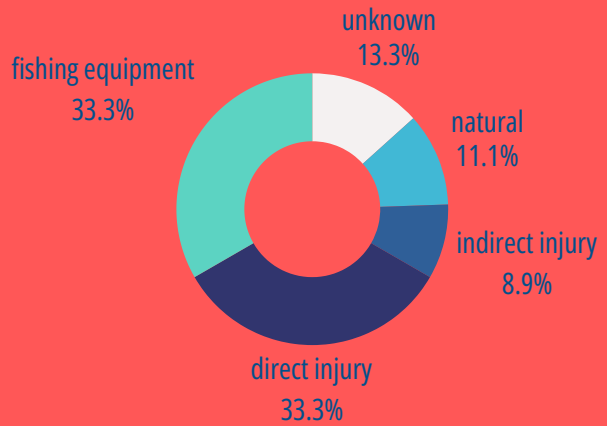


[read more](#)

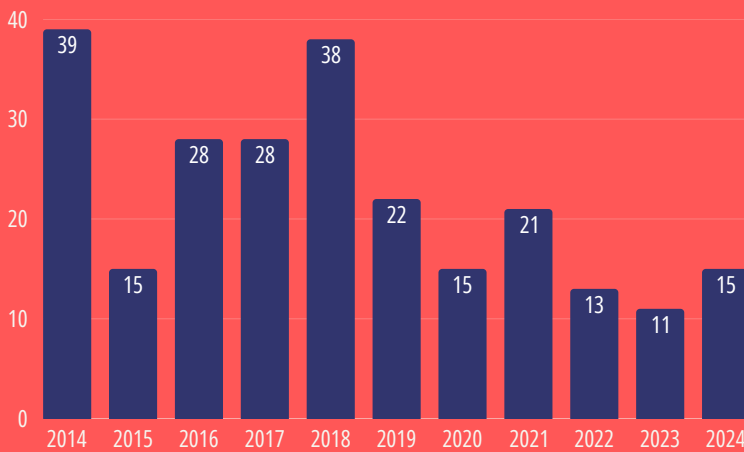
Each year, the Rescue Centre deals with approximately 70 cases of injured sea turtles, which, among other things, suffer from head injuries and neurological problems; ingestion of fishing lines, hooks or other objects; carapace or plastron injuries; flipper injuries or amputations; lung infections or other illnesses.

[See the turtles that are currently under treatment at our Rescue Centre](#)

Causes of admission to the Rescue Centre in 2024



Timeline of cases of turtles with deliberate injuries at the Rescue Centre over the last decade



### The sweet side of healing: Why honey is a secret weapon for saving injured sea turtles

"Honey, nature's antibiotic, holds potent healing properties, as it boosts natural antibacterial and antimicrobial properties that help fight off infections in wounds. This is crucial for injured sea turtles, whose open wounds are vulnerable to harmful bacteria and fungi", says Eirini Kasimati, ARCHELON's Rescue Network and Rehabilitation Officer. "It is a gentle and natural approach to wound management for sea turtles, which are often stressed after being injured", she adds.

[read more](#)

# 104K

people  
informed

## Raising public awareness

In 2024, through a multitude of activities at the Rescue Centre, as well as at the nesting beaches, around 104,000 people were educated about sea turtles and how to help them.

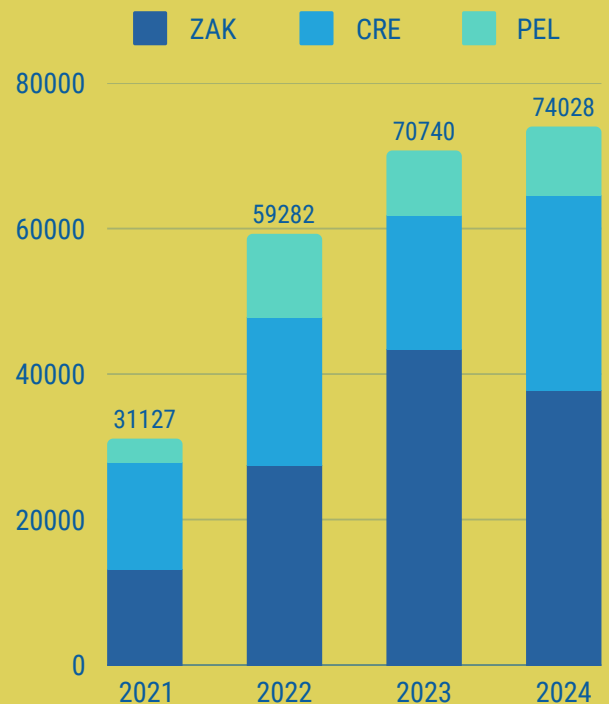




## at the nesting sites...

- Seven (7) outdoor seasonal Information Stations in Zakynthos (Zakynthos town), Crete (Venetian Port of Chania, Venetian Port of Rethymno, Matala town) and the Peloponnese (Kalo Nero in Messinia, Koroni in Messinia, Mavrovouni beach in Lakonia) and the ARCHELON Environmental Station of Agiannakis in Messinia operated successfully.
- Presentations were organized in 94 tourist accommodations near the nesting beaches.
- In Zakynthos, informative presentations were also held on boats that comply with the protection measures for turtles.
- On the beaches of Crete and Peloponnese, 157 Sea Turtle Beach Walks were held for groups or families.
- At the end of the breeding season (August - September), nest excavations were performed in public.

Timeline of the number of people informed in Zakynthos, Crete and the Peloponnese Field Projects



# at the Rescue Centre...

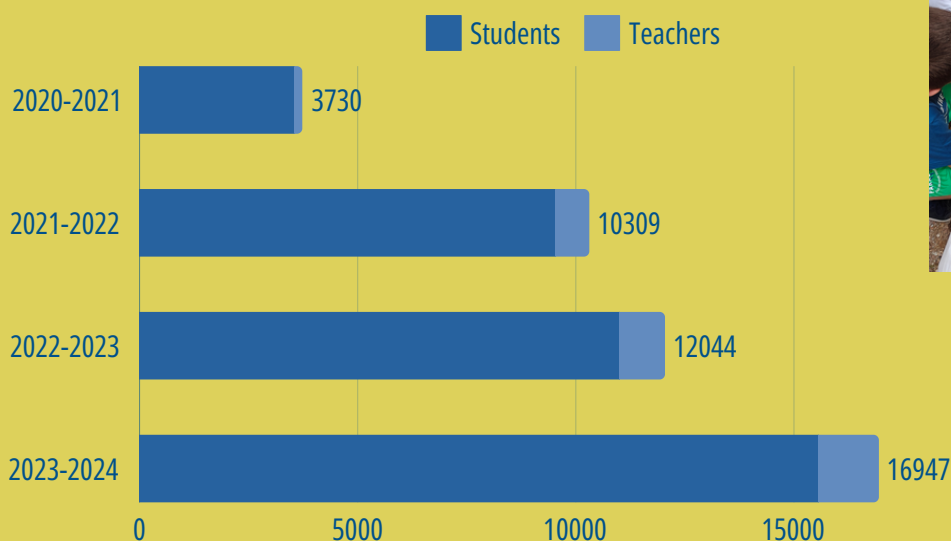


In 2024, approximately **13,000 visitors** from all over the world toured the Rescue Centre, following a specially designed route within the facilities, either during free public entry hours, or through the [SEA TURTLE RESCUE TOUR](#) program.



The educational program "Tour of the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre" was held in person and online for school classes of all levels in every corner of Greece and beyond. During the 2023-2024 school year, **15,500 students and 1,400 teachers** participated in the educational activities.

Number of students and teachers who participated in the Environmental Education Program at the Rescue Centre per school year

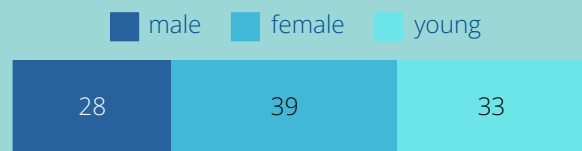
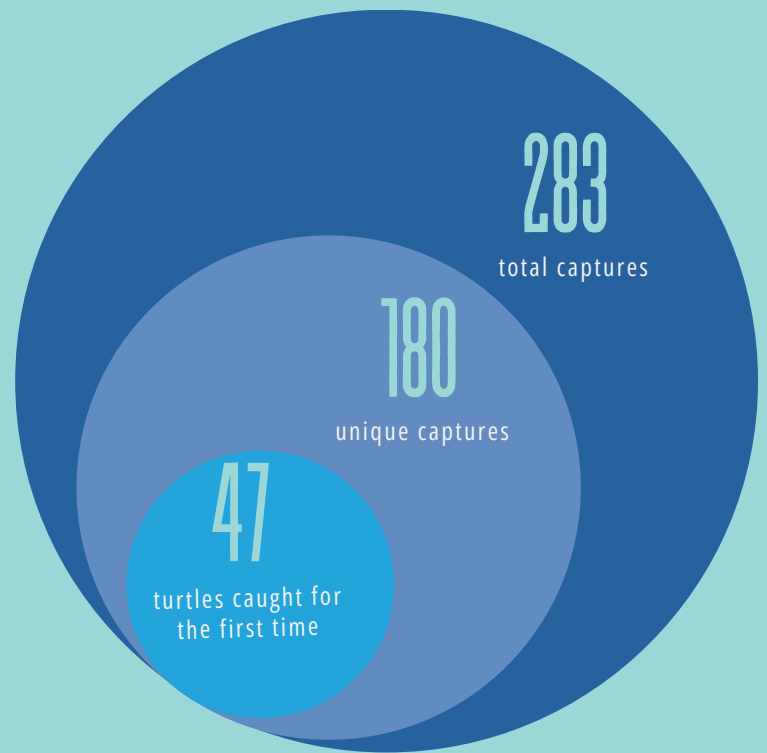


# The Amvrakikos Project

The Amvrakikos Project took place during the summer (July - August) with the aim of collecting data on the sea turtle population in the area.

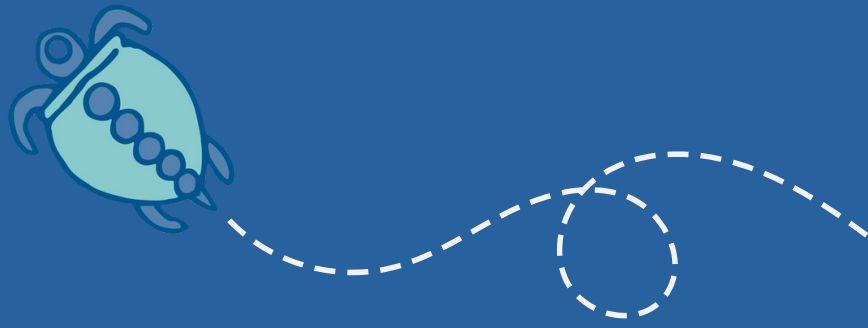
Specifically, the volunteers made 283 short-term captures of female, male and juvenile turtles. The turtles were identified, measured and/or tagged (if they were recorded for the first time) and released back to the Gulf.

The Amvrakikos team also played an important role in the rescue of two injured sea turtles, "Elsa" and "Wasabi", which were transferred to the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre in Glyfada for rehabilitation. Ultimately, both recovered quickly and were returned to the sea in the same year.

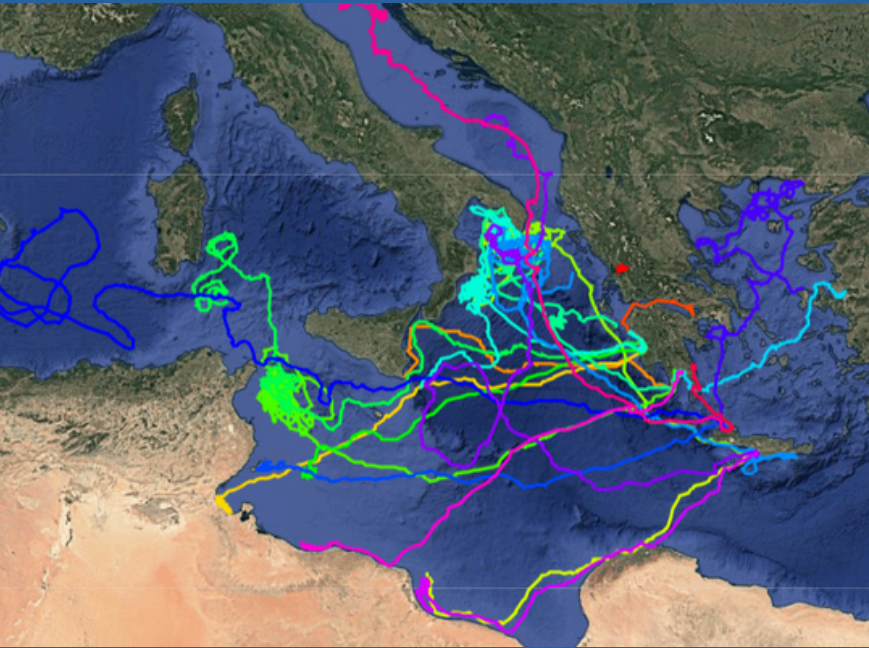


# 20+1

satellite tags



## Satellite monitoring



In the summer of 2024, ARCHELON's research team successfully completed the placement of satellite transmitters on 20 sea turtles found at the nesting beaches of western and southern Peloponnese and Crete. This research is part of the "LIFE MareNatura: Conservation of priority species of marine megafauna in Greece and Italy" project, where ARCHELON is a partner.

[read more](#)

**These 20 transmitters are part of ARCHELON's many years of work in satellite sea turtle monitoring that started in the early 2000s, counting 150 satellite and GSM transmitters to date!**

In November 2024, we continued the monitoring work with the support of the TUI Care Foundation and the placement of one more satellite transmitter on the turtle "Triton". Triton had been found with a head injury in Kythnos back in 2023 and was finally released after a year of intensive care and rehabilitation at the Rescue Centre.

[read more](#)



# Volunteering

In 2024, hundreds of volunteers and associates actively contributed to the organization and implementation of ARCHELON's conservation activities. Most volunteers were from France, Britain, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands, but there were also individual participants from South Korea and Australia!

501

full-time  
volunteers

59

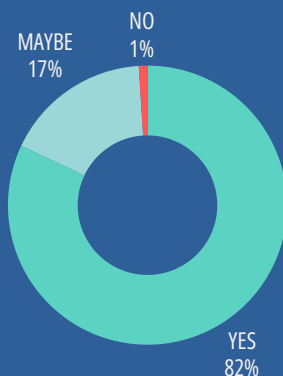
part-time  
volunteers

156

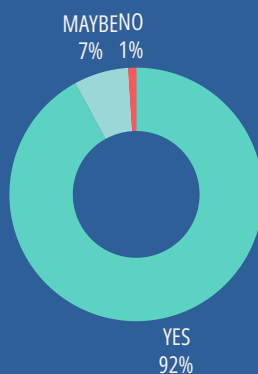
interns



Do you believe your efforts had an impact in sea turtle conservation?



Do you believe ARCHELON has an impact in sea turtle conservation?



**At ARCHELON, we owe a large part of our success to the dedication and passion of volunteers, who come from all over the world to participate in sea turtle conservation actions.**





# Supporters

- The symbolic adoptions of sea turtles and donations made by individuals raised approximately **€160,000 for the expenses of ARCHELON's projects!**
- Our little friends, the students who participated in ARCHELON's educational programs, raised approximately **€29,000 for the sea turtles of the Rescue Centre!**

**Small and large donations help ARCHELON maintain the necessary staff, infrastructure and equipment at the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre and the nesting beaches.**



# thank you

The Mediterranean is everyone's responsibility and every action counts. Together we can turn challenges into opportunities and create a healthier future for the sea we love. **Turtles and humans: we can all live together**, this has been ARCHELON's motto since 1983!



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