

## Season 2007 News: June

### Shy turtles make it out of the water at last!

A late start to the season had us all wondering where the turtles were, and what they were playing at! However, when they finally arrived, the first nest (on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June) caused great excitement; all 15 volunteers were found on the beach in the early morning cheering and taking photos.



**The newest attraction**



**Ta-dah!!**

Once the turtles started coming, it seemed like there was no stopping them! Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> June, we have had 15 nests on Mounda, 4 of which were laid on the same night!

Only one turtle has returned to lay another nest so far, but we are expecting some of the others to come in the next few days. There have also been 13 false crawls on Mounda, some by turtles who subsequently managed to nest successfully, and some from those who are still waiting for that perfect patch of sand.

### Turtle nest in Katelios?

Every year we check Agia Barbara beach in Katelios, and as always there are turtles who try and nest, but usually find the beach too rocky. In June we have seen 6 false crawls on Agia Barbara, and possibly one nest!

We don't know that it is a nest for sure, but just in case we have built a special cover for the nest to ensure that no-one damages it by accident.



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### Continued monitoring of other beaches

This is the third year that we have been able to monitor our neighbouring beaches of Koroni and Lefkas. It is fast becoming one of the most popular duties as the volunteers use canoes to travel between the two beaches and the coastline is spectacular in that area.

It looks like a good year for turtles also on these beaches: with 3 nests on Koroni and 12 nests on Lefkas, plus with numerous false crawls.

Following a tip-off from some visitors to our environmental centre, we went to investigate reports of turtle tracks on Avithos beach, in the Livathos municipality. Our journey was not wasted, as we found evidence of recent turtle activity on the beach - one false crawl and one nest.



**Canoeing between Koroni & Lefkas**

### Not such good news...

Every year we find a number of dead turtles, and it seems that this year is no exception. We found one dead turtle in May, and two in June. They were both found in the vicinity of Mounda beach, both were females and possibly here to lay nests. Neither one was tagged, so they had not laid any eggs yet.

The first one, found on 19<sup>th</sup> June, had been seen about 2 days earlier floating in Mounda bay, but we had to wait until she was close enough to shore to wade in and bring her out. She died because a fishing hook got stuck in her throat and, instead of bringing her to us, whoever caught her cut the line and threw her to her death. The second turtle was found just a few days later, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. She had massive head injuries most likely caused by collision with a speedboat. It's always heartbreaking to see these magnificent creatures killed so needlessly.



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### New information desk

In our bid to raise awareness, we have moved our information desk from its traditional space in Katelios to Skala. We hope that with the greater numbers of tourists in Skala we can educate more people about the turtles and our work. The info desk in Skala is open from 9:30 -13:00 & 17:30 -19:30. We still have our environmental centre based in Katelios for people to come and visit, open 9:30 -13:30 & 17:30 - 20:30 every day.



**Information desk, Skala**



**Environmental Centre, Katelios**

### Relocations

It seems that the turtles know what they are doing this year! We needed to relocate only 2 of the 15 nests, in both cases because the nest was laid too close to the high tide line. We only relocate in extreme circumstances, when we believe that the nest has no chance of survival in the position it was laid in. The relocations were a study in contrasts, the first relocated nest was huge, and contained 140 eggs! The second was one of the smallest nests, containing only 87 eggs. They were laid by two different turtles.



**Uncovering the eggs to move them to a safer place**