

HOSTING PROPOSAL FOR THE 7th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles

By Alikì Panagopoulou, Ph.D.

Athens, Greece
October 2018

Candidate for the presidency of the 7th Mediterranean Conference: Aliko Panagopoulou, Ph.D. (CV attached at the end of this proposal)

Professional affiliation(s)

- (1) ARCHELON, The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, Solomou 57, GR 104 32 ATHENS (Position: Member of the Scientific Committee)
- (2) The Leatherback Trust, 5736 Kinlock Place, Fort Wayne, IN 76835 USA (Position: Conservation Scientist)
- (3) Drexel University, 3141 Chestnut st., Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA (Position: Visiting Research Associate)

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Philadelphia PA 19104 (USA)

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Country of residence _____ GREECE & USA _____

Short biography: I have been involved in conservation since 1994, when I joined a sea turtle conservation project run by ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece. I am experienced in managing sea turtle conservation projects, compiling and implementing management policies for important sea turtle habitats and running collaborative programs with fishermen. I received my Ph.D. in environmental science from Drexel University in Philadelphia. I have been a member of IUCN's Marine Turtle Specialist Group since 2005 and was appointed Regional Vice Co-chair for the Mediterranean in 2017. I have served in the Board of Directors of the International Sea Turtle Society and the National Marine Park of Zakynthos and am also a member of ARCHELON's Scientific Committee. I am a recipient of the International Sea Turtle

Society's President's Award in recognition of my lifetime accomplishment toward the study and conservation of sea turtles. Currently I am writing the Action Plan for the Protection of sea turtles in Greece. (CV attached).

Personal experience in running conferences: I have vast experience running international meetings. I have been heavily involved in the organization of the Annual International Sea Turtle Symposium, serving from several posts that include: Program Chair, Session Chair, Travel Grant Chair, Student Judge, Nominating Committee Chair and Member of the Board of Directors. In addition, I was instrumental in the running of the 37th International Sea Turtle Symposium in Las Vegas, USA (Position: Operations Manager), working closely with Dr. Frank Paladino (ISTS President). The meeting was attended by 850 people from 75 countries.

I have also attended all but one Mediterranean Conferences and have taken several posts of responsibility. As a result, I am well familiar with the particularities of this meeting and the close collaboration with Bern Convention, Barcelona Convention (SPA/RAC) and Bonn Convention that is required for the successful running of the conference.

Hosting organization: ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece
 Solomou 57, GR 10432 ATHENS
 GREECE
 Tel.: +30 2105231342
 Web: www.archelon.gr

ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece is a non-profit environmental NGO founded in 1983 aiming to protect sea turtles and their habitats in Greece as well as to raise awareness about turtles and the threats to their survival. Over the last 35 years, ARCHELON has been running conservation programs at the most important nesting sites for loggerhead turtles in Greece (Zakynthos, Peloponnesus and Crete), as well as a Sea Turtle Rescue Center in Glyfada, Athens. ARCHELON been instrumental in the compilation of management policies and the establishment of protected areas for marine turtles (e.g. the National Marine Park of Zakynthos and Southern Kyparissia Bay), and successfully undertaken several LIFE-Nature Projects, co funded by the European Union. ARCHELON achieves its work through a vast network that

includes a 7 member Board of Directors, its active members, an average of 500 volunteers per year and several collaborations with the local and national authorities, other NGOs and private foundations and companies. In 2006, under the Presidency of our founding member Dimitris Margaritoulis, ARCHELON hosted the 26th International Sea Turtle Symposium on Crete, Greece. The conference was attended by 700 people from 76 countries across the world. This was a meeting supported by local and national government, as well as several private companies. ARCHELON has agreed to act as hosting organization for the 7th Mediterranean conference. We are confident that our background, network of volunteers and 15 employees, available resources and accumulated experience of organizing international meetings we will be able to organize a successful 7th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles.

Fundraising possibilities: Besides the support expected by Bern Convention, Bonn Convention and Barcelona Convention, we will actively seek additional funding for the meeting from the local and national authorities (e.g. Ministry of Environment, regional government, municipalities). We also expect to receive support by private companies including private foundations (e.g. Kostopoulos Foundation, Niarchos Foundation, etc), companies (e.g. Grecotel, TUI). We expect the meeting to be 100% financially solvent through our fundraising possibilities.

Proposed country to host the 7th Mediterranean Conference: GREECE

Proposed dates: October 2021

Proposed locations:

- Athens
- Crete (e.g. Herakleion, Rethymno)
- Western Greece (e.g. Kyparissia Bay)

All three locations have several venues with facilities suitable for meetings of ~200 participants, and as a result of our work, existing collaborations (e.g. Grecotel, Costa Navarino, TUI) will be easy to negotiate good deals with. Based on our previous experience, Athens and Crete hold an advantage over Western Greece as they have access to an international airport that greatly facilitates participant travel to the venue. All three locations offer unique opportunities for field trips after the end of the conference, Western Greece (Kyparissia Bay) has the added advantage

of being close to unique sea turtle nesting habitats (Kyparissia Bay, Kotychi Lagoon, Pylos) as well as important archaeological and historical sites. Final selection of location and venue will depend on accessibility, cost effectiveness and places where participants may get the most fulfilling experience.

ALIKI PANAGOPOULOU, Ph.D.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Conservation Scientist, The Leatherback Trust

Contact Information

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Tel.No: 215-895-1987 (daytime), 267-231-6640 (cell)

Education

2015 Ph.D. Environmental Science, Drexel University, Department of Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science, Philadelphia PA.

1989 Bachelor of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Dissertation

Sea turtles and small-scale fisheries: Designing conservation policies for a marine area on the island of Crete, Greece.

Supervisor: Dr. James R. Spotila, Betz Chair Professor of Environmental Science.

Professional Experience:

2016 – Conservation Scientist, The Leatherback Trust, Fort Wayne, IN and Philadelphia, PA

2015 – Visiting Research Associate, BEES Dept, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

2015–2016 Post-doctoral Research Fellow, The Leatherback Trust, Fort Wayne, IN and Philadelphia, PA

2011–2015 Teaching Assistant, Drexel University, Department of Biology, Philadelphia PA

2010–2011 Betz Chair Predoctoral Research Fellow

1998–2010 ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece:

2004–2010 Projects Coordinator and Conservation Officer

2002–2003 Coordinator for ARCHELON's Project of Crete

1998–2002 Assistant Project Coordinator, Crete

1989–1998 Foreign Language Teacher

Other appointments

2018–	Co-PI, “Protecting Sea Turtle Populations of the Eastern Pacific Ocean” [Earthwatch]
2018–	Coordinator, Action A2_ Action Plan for the Protection of Sea Turtles in Greece (LIFE Euroturtles LIFE15NAT/HR/000997)
2016–	Regional Vice-chair for the Mediterranean, Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN/World Conservation Union – Species Specialist Committee
2013–	External scientific consultant, “Evaluating priority species and habitat types for sea turtles within NATURA 2000 Areas”, funded by the Greek Ministry of Environment.
2009–	Member, Scientific Committee - ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece
2005–	Member, Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN/World Conservation Union – Species Specialist Committee
2011–2016	Member, Board of Directors - International Sea Turtle Society
2007–2010	Member, National Marine Park of Zakynthos Board of Directors
2006–2007	Member, Marine Turtle Specialist task force for the revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan for Marine Turtles, adopted by the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) contracting parties in June 2008
2001–2010	Member, National Jury for the BLUE FLAG Environmental Award coordinated by the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (www.blueflag.org)
2001–2010	Consultant on issues concerning beach management and coastal issues, Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

University Teaching Activities and Seminars

2012	BIO 225: Vertebrate Biology and Evolution (Laboratory Instructor, Drexel Burlington County College)
2012-2014	BIO 225: Vertebrate Biology and Evolution (Teaching Assistant, Lab)
2012-2014	BIO 226: Microbiology for health professionals (Teaching Assistant, Lab)
2013	BIO 124: Evolution and Organismal Diversity (Teaching Assistant, Lab)
2011	BIO 108: Cells, Genetics and Physiology (Teaching Assistant, Lab)
2005	Environmental Management (150 hours)
2004	Designing and Implementing Eco-touristic programs and Interpretation systems within Protected areas (200 hours)

Student Mentoring

ARCHELON supervisor:

Nathan Hunt, Master’s Thesis: To what extent do anthropogenic impacts affect the nesting location preferences of loggerhead sea turtles *Caretta caretta* in Rethymno Bay? (School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University, UK) (Thesis submitted 2017)

Irini Kasimati & Natalia Page, independent research: Effects of environmental enrichment on behaviour and diving condition of sea turtles in rehabilitation (2016 – [ongoing]).

Bella Jack, Master's thesis: "Exploring the practice of citizen science and volunteerism through a case study of sea turtle conservation in Greece." (Department of Geography, University College London, UK) (Thesis submitted 2016)

Jack Suss, Ph.D. dissertation: "Biophysical and physiological ecology of loggerhead turtle nests in Zakynthos and Kyparissia, Greece" (Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA - 2012) (Dissertation submitted 2013)

Jana Behnke, Master's thesis: "Competitive interaction of natural cues and human impacts during nest site selection by loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in Rethymno Crete, Greece." (University of Hamburg, Germany - 2011) (Thesis submitted 2014)

Nima Moin, Master's Thesis: "Modeling Critical Coastal Ecosystems: A study on the marine turtle nesting habitats in the Mediterranean" (International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation –ITC, The Netherlands – Thesis submitted 2007)

Awards & Honors

2018	Disney Conservation Fund grant : "Conservation of Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles" (\$50K)
2017	President's Award, International Sea Turtle Society
2015	Archie Carr Student Award: Runner Up for Conservation (Oral paper), 35 th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation
2015	International Travel Award, Office of International Programs (\$0.75K)
2015	Dissertation Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies (\$2.5K)
2014	William L. McLean III Fellowship (\$12.5K)
2014	Archie Carr Student Award: Runner Up for Conservation (Oral paper), 34 th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation
2014	Outstanding Presentation in "Books and Bagels – Conversations on interdisciplinary research" seminar series, Drexel Office of Graduate Studies
2013	Claudio T. Elia Memorial Fellowship (\$6K)
2011	International Travel Award, Office of International Programs (\$0.75K)
2010	Betz Chair Fellowship (\$50K)
2010	Lee Smith Travel Fellowship (\$2K)

Journal Referee

PLOS One, Marine Turtle Newsletter, Chelonian Conservation and Biology, Scientific Reports (Nature Publications), Endangered Species Research, Herpetological Conservation and Biology

Reviewer/Evaluator

- 2016 Judge, Herpetologist's League EE Williams Research grant
2015 Reviewer in Spotila, JR and Santidrián-Tomillo P. (Editors) *The Leatherback Turtle*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland

Publications (Selection)

- Casale P., Broderick A.C., Camiñas J.A., Cardona L., Carreras C, Demetropoulos A, Fuller W.J., Godley B.J., Hochscheid S., Kask Y., Lazar B., Margaritoulis D., **Panagopoulou A.**, Rees A.F., Tomás J., Turkozan O. REVIEW: Mediterranean sea turtles: current knowledge and priorities for conservation and research (In press, *Endangered Species Research*)
- Panagopoulou, A.**, Meletis, Z. A., Margaritoulis, D., & Spotila, J. R. (2017). Caught in the Same Net? Small-Scale Fishermen's Perceptions of Fisheries Interactions with Sea Turtles and Other Protected Species. *Front. Mar. Sci*, 4:180.
- Patel, S.H., **Panagopoulou A.**, Morreale, S.J., Kilham, S.S., Karakassis, I., Riggall, T., Margaritoulis D., and Spotila, J.R., (2015). Differences in size and reproductive output of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nesting in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea are linked to foraging site. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 535:231-241
- Patel, S.H., Morreale, S.J., **Panagopoulou A.**, Bailey, H., Robinson, N.J., Paladino, F.V, Margaritoulis, D. and Spotila, J.R., (2015). Changepoint analysis: a new approach for revealing animal movements and behaviors from satellite telemetry data. *Ecosphere* 6:1-13
- Patel S.H., Morreale S.J., Saba V.S., **Panagopoulou A**, Margaritoulis D, Spotila J.R. (2016). Climate Impacts on Sea Turtle Breeding Phenology in Greece and Associated Foraging Habitats in the Wider Mediterranean Region. *PLoS ONE* 11(6): e0157170. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0157170
- Margaritoulis D and **Panagopoulou A.**, 2010. Chapter on Greece in Casale, P. and Margaritoulis, D. (Eds.) 2010. *Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean: Distribution, threats and conservation priorities*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 294pp.
- Margaritoulis D., Koutodendris A. and **Panagopoulou A.**, 2007. Fisheries Interactions with Marine Turtles. Chapter V.6. (pp 279 – 286) of the *State of Hellenic Fisheries*. Issued by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Institute of Marine Biological Resources. C Papakonstandinou, A Zenetos, V Vassilopoulou and G Tserpes (editors)

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Panagopoulou A.**, Patel, S.H., Morreale, S.J., Margaritoulis D., George, R.H., Paladino, F.V. and Spotila, J.R.. Interesting behavior of turtles nesting in Rethymno, Greece: Reproductive output, movements, strategies.
Target Journal: *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*.
Submission date: November 2018

Invited Papers / Seminars

Drexel University Office of Graduate Studies, “Books and Bagels – Conversations on interdisciplinary research” Seminar Series June 26th 2014: “Sea turtles and small-scale fisheries: Steps towards designing conservation policies for a marine area on the island of Crete, Greece”

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the LIFE+ European Commission Environment Programme, Athens, Greece April 24th 2012: “Reduction of mortality of *Caretta caretta* in the Greek seas (LIFE02NAT/GR/8500)” (Keynote)

Workshop on the designation of Marine Natura 2000 Areas, organized by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and the Greek Ministry of Environment, December 10th 2010: “Sea turtles in Greece: Overview”

VI National Convention on Cetaceans and Marine Turtles, Sperlonga, Italy, 26-27 November 2005: ARCHELON: “22 years of studying and protecting sea turtles in Greece” (Keynote)

European Commission Conference on Environmental Governance and Sustainable Tourism. Organized by the Greek Presidency of the European Union and DG Environment. Volos, 26-27 May 2003: “The role of tourism in sea turtle conservation: the case of Crete”

Invited Panelist

“Biodiversity and Green Development: The day after”. Congress for the International Year of Biodiversity, Goethe Institute, Athens, 26-27 Nov 2010

Marine Environmental Workshop, organized by the Fisheries Secretariat, Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-11 December 2007

Conference Presentations/Workshops

To restrict or not to restrict? Small-scale fishermen’s perceptions on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). 6th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Porec, Croatia 16-19 October 2018

Using Satellite Telemetry to Optimize Protection of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) Nesting on Crete, Greece. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New Orleans, LA 6-10 July 2016

(Workshop co-organizer) So you think you can survey? A workshop on the basics of social science survey design and implementation, with an emphasis on in-field applications for sea turtle research and conservation. 36th Annual Symposium in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Lima, Peru, 29 February – 5 March 2016

Hook, line and thinkers: Understanding complex perceptions of fisher-turtle interactions in context (Crete, Greece). 35th Annual Symposium in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Dalaman, Mugla, Turkey, 18-24 April 2015 (Oral)

Untangling fishermen-turtle relationships: perceptions of sea turtle interactions with small-scale fisheries, in Crete, Greece. 34th Annual Symposium in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 10-17th April 2014 (Oral)

Unfaithful females: interesting movements suggest alternative nesting strategies and nest site infidelity for loggerheads nesting in Rethymno, Greece. 32nd International Symposium in Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Oaxaca, Mexico 6-12 March 2012 (Oral)

Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) nesting in Rethymno, Greece, show a preference for the waters adjacent to their reproduction site during the inter-nesting period. 3rd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Naples, Italy, 6-10 November 2011 (Oral)

Inter-nesting behavior of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in Rethymno, Greece 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, San Diego, California, 10-15 April 2011 (Oral)

Education and outreach: an important element in the protection of loggerhead sea turtles on the island of Crete, Greece. 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Goa, India, 27-29 April 2010 (Oral)

Turtle deaths at sea undermine protection measures on nesting areas in western Peloponnesus and Zakynthos, Greece. 29th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Brisbane, Australia, 17-19 February 2009 (Oral)

Creating an effective sea turtle stranding network: the role of the coast guard in Greece. 3rd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Yasmin Hammamet, Tunisia, 20-23 October 2008 (Oral)

Studying the reasons behind the decline of the loggerhead nesting population of Rethymno, Greece: lessons learned for the future. 28th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico, 18-26 January 2008 (Oral)

Interactions with small-scale fisheries in Greece: an important factor for the reduction of turtle mortality. 27th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA, 22-28 February 2007 (Oral)

Volunteers and sea turtle conservation: why time equals money for an environmental NGO. 26th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Island of Crete, Greece, 3-8 April 2006 (Poster)

Networking among rescue centres in the Mediterranean 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Kemer, Turkey, 5-8 May 2005 (Oral)

Can the tourism industry play a role in sea turtle conservation? The example of Crete, Greece. 24th International Sea Turtle Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles, San Jose, Costa Rica, 22-29 February 2004 (Oral)

Tour operators, a potential ally in the protection of sea turtle nesting habitats: the case of Crete, Greece. 23rd International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-21 March 2003 (Oral)

Five years of implementing management policies on Crete: an evaluation. 22nd International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles, Miami, Florida, 4-7 April 2002 (Poster)

Involving local communities in a National Sea turtle Stranding Network: the case of Crete. 21st Interantional Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 22-27 February 2001 (Poster)

Service

- 2018 Student Grant Chair, 6th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles
2003–Present International Sea Turtle Society
Symposium Chief of Operations (2017)
Program Committee Chair, Workshops Committee Chair (2017)
Program Committee member (2006, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016)
Proceedings Compiler (2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013)
Chair, Nominating Committee (2009)
2008 3rd Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Program Committee
2004 Organizer, Mediterranean Workshop for the Rehabilitation of Sea Turtles, Glyfada Attiki, 19-20 November 2005
1994–1997 ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece
1994 – 1996 (summer): Volunteer in Rethymno, Crete
1995–1997 Volunteer at ARCHELON's Sea Turtle Rescue Centre
1992–1994 Greenpeace Greece, Volunteer

Professional Societies

Herpetologist's League
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
International Sea Turtle Society
Society for Conservation Biology

Special skills and certifications

Software: Microsoft Office, Dbase, R Programming, Arc GIS, NVivo
Languages: Greek (native), English (Cambridge Proficiency in English, Grade A/ TOEFL, Grade 112/120),
French (Sorbonne I, Certificat de Langue Francaise)

References Provided Upon Request