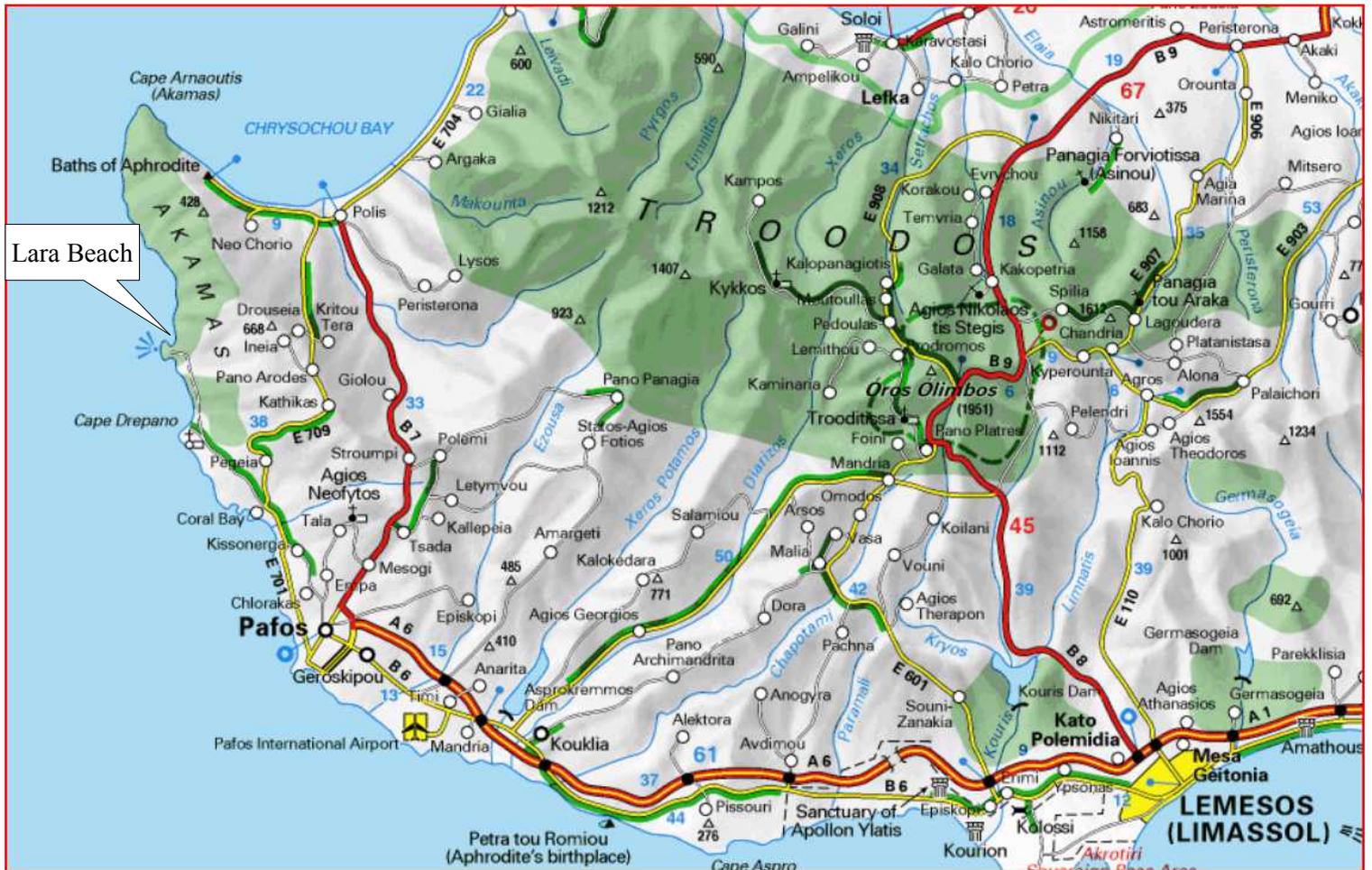


The 9<sup>th</sup> of January we went for a drive on the west coast of the Akamas peninsula.



On the west side of the [Akamas Peninsula](#) there is a beach that is a popular beach in the summer, but it is not developed. It is also popular as incubator space for turtles. It is the largest area where turtles are incubating in Cyprus. The beach is called Lara Beach.

More links to Akamas

- [Link 1](#)
- [Link 2](#)

More links to Lara Beach

- [Link 1](#)
- [Link 2](#)
- [Link 3](#)



We had become acquainted with Bente Bjoland and Bjørn Bakken, and they took part of this trip. Their dog, Aki, also took part. Here we are on the north side of Lara Beach, and ready to go.

There is a little walking distance to get down to the beach.



Here we found a path to get down.



Down on the beach which is just north of Lara Beach.



We must pass these stones.



This is Lara Beach. There is no turtles at this time.



In the background we see the headland on the south side of Lara Beach.



Buildings used in connection with the protection of the turtles nests after the eggs are laid. The white stack on the right are cages, which are put over the nests to prevent someone to step on the sand, because the eggs are then destroyed.



The beach seen north.



The dog is thirsty, and it gets carried water.



Time to take pictures.



Here we have gone up on the peninsula that lies to the south of Lara Beach.  
We look outwards towards the outer cape.



There are a lot of rocks at the outer edge.



We went as far as this. Here we turn and go back.



Here we come to a shed where it's put up many pictures, which tell about the turtles.



Turtle information.  
Links regarding the conservation of turtles.  
[Link 1](#) [Link 2](#) [Link 3](#) [Link 4](#)



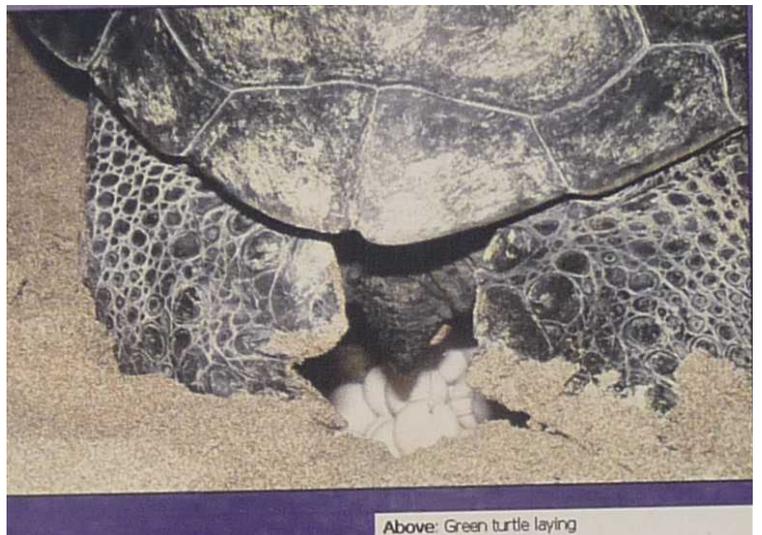
Above: Three Green turtle nests, made by the same female at different times, with protective cages on Toxeftra. Below: Green turtle nests on Toxeftra beach

Here are nests with cages to protect the eggs.



Green turtle nesting - Πράσινη χελώνα σκεπάζει τη φωλιά της

Green turtle nesting.



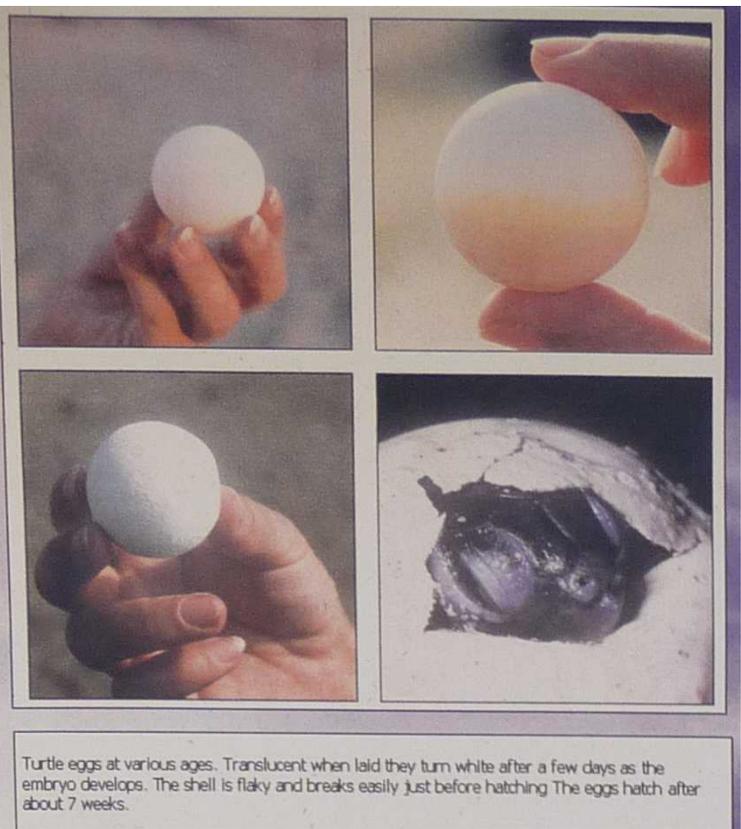
Above: Green turtle laying

Green turtle laying eggs.



Cages protect the nests from foxes. The new cages now used on all beaches allow the hatchlings to go to the sea as soon as they hatch, which is what happens in nature. Signs warn people not to disturb the nest – disturbance may lead to the death of the eggs and hatchlings as the structure of the chamber may collapse and the air (oxygen) present will be lost

Cages to protect nests from foxes. The new cages are now used on all the beaches. They are more open, so that they do not prevent turtle-kids to go down to the sea as soon as they are hatched. The sign warns people not to destroy the nest.



Turtle eggs at various ages. Translucent when laid they turn white after a few days as the embryo develops. The shell is flaky and breaks easily just before hatching. The eggs hatch after about 7 weeks.

Eggs of green sea turtle. They are transparent when they are newly laid, but becomes white in a few days. The shell becomes porous and break easily just before hatching. The eggs hatch after about 7 weeks.



Eggs at hatching stage

Eggs at hatching stage.

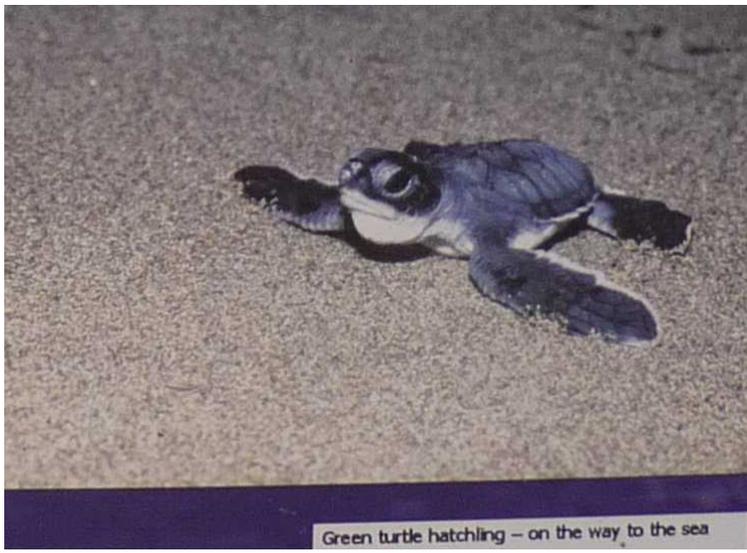
The turtles have been protected in Cyprus since 1971.

Those that lay eggs in Cyprus are:  
[Loggerhead sea turtles](#),  
 egg laying from June to September  
[Green sea turtle](#)  
 egg laying from May to September



Green turtle hatchling emerging from egg

A green turtle hatchling emerging from the egg.



Green sea turtle hatchling.



Loggerhead hatchlings.