

HOSTING PROPOSAL FOR THE 8th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles

Mediterranean Turtle
Research and Conservation Society
(MEDTRACS)

By Simon Demetropoulos
Director, MEDTRACS

Paphos, Cyprus
October 2022

Candidate for the presidency of the 8th Mediterranean Conference: Simon Demetropoulos,
(CV attached at the end of this proposal)

Professional affiliation(s)

1. Mediterranean Turtle Research and Conservation Society (MEDTRACS), P.O. Box 61267, 8132 Paphos, Cyprus. (Position: Director, Research and Project Coordinator).
2. Cyprus Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 24281, 1703 Nicosia, Cyprus (Position: Founder Member, Key Scientist/Researcher).

Office/communication address: P.O. Box 61267, 8132 Paphos, Cyprus

e-mail: chelonia@logos.cy.net

Country of residence: CYPRUS

Short biography:

Brought up in a conservation-minded environment since childhood, have been particularly involved in turtle conservation in Cyprus since the early days of the “Cyprus Turtle Conservation Project” which was set up in 1978 under the Fisheries Department. Have dealt in all aspects of the project from fieldwork (nest protection, tagging etc) to data collection and analysis, report preparation and assessments as well as related scientific research. Have been a key trainer for biologists from around the Mediterranean and other countries who participated in the “Training Course on Marine Turtle Conservation and Beach Management” for several years including annually from 1989 to 2022 which were sponsored by RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP) and the Council of Europe. For 2021 and 2022 training was carried out for staff of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. The project has been run by the Cyprus Wildlife Society until 2021 and currently by the Mediterranean Turtle Research and Conservation Society (MEDTRACS) (Founder member in both and director in the latter). Joined the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group in January 2022.

Studied Environmental Biology at Swansea University (1988 – 1992). Have worked on numerous and varied ecological research projects, assessments, management plans as well as EIAs over the years. Have also been involved in environmental education at the first Environmental Studies Centre in Cyprus as a teacher from the mid to late nineties.

Hosting organization:

MEDTRACS (Mediterranean Turtle Research and Conservation Society)

P.O. Box 61267, 8132 Paphos

CYPRUS

Tel.: +357 99427152

Email: chelonia@logos.cy.net

MEDTRACS is a new Non-for-Profit Organisation founded in 2022 with however a dedicated group of people with decades of experience and dedication to Turtle Conservation, Research, Training and Education going back four decades.

Fundraising possibilities:

In addition to expected support from Bern Convention, Bonn Convention and Barcelona Convention (RAC/SPA), and a

revenue generated through participant registration fees, we will actively seek funding for the meeting from the local authorities. We expect to receive support from the Cyprus government (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment) and semi-governmental authorities (e.g. Cyprus Telecommunications authority). We also expect to receive funding from the private sector including private foundations as well as companies. We expect the meeting to be 100% financially solvent through our fundraising possibilities.

Proposed country to host the 8th Mediterranean Conference: CYPRUS

Proposed dates: April 2025. Alternate dates: April 2026.

Proposed Conference Theme: Turtles Conservation Across Borders

Alternate Conference Theme: Turtle Conservation - Challenges in an Altering World

Proposed locations:

- Paphos
- Larnaca

Both locations have several venues with facilities suitable for meetings of ~200 participants, have access to an international airport that greatly facilitates participant travel to the venue. Paphos holds an advantage over Larnaca as it lies very close to the main turtle conservation area and nesting grounds of both green and loggerhead turtles, which is also the first MPA in the Mediterranean. The same area also lies within the proposed national park of the attractive

Akamas peninsula with its diverse landscapes and habitats – an ideal area for a field trip with a short distance of travelling. Paphos is also well known for its rich history and archaeological sites. Final selection of the location and venue will depend on accessibility, cost effectiveness and places where participants may get the most fulfilling experience.

Curriculum Vitae
Simon Demetropoulos

Date of Birth: 24 September 1966
Place of Birth: Nicosia, Cyprus
Nationality: Cypriot
Address: P.O.Box 61267, 8132 Paphos, Cyprus
Tel: (+357) 99427152
E-mail: chelonia@logos.cy.net

STUDIES

1978-1985. The English School Nicosia

1988-1992. BSc (hons) Environmental Biology. Swansea University (University of Wales) UK

1992-1997. Research on the Herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) of Cyprus, diversity, distribution and habitat selection of these, towards a PhD. Swansea University (University of Wales) UK

OTHER COURSES AND TRAINING

- 1984 Fire Service Training Course, Cyprus Fire Service, Nicosia
- 1987 6th International Gold Award Training expedition (Caribbean), The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme leadership training course.
- 1984-99 Gold Award Holder of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Award Leader and Assessor, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- 1988 SPNI (Israel) 3rd International Seminar on Informal Nature Conservation Education, SPNI, Israel.
- 1991 Training Course on "Marine Turtle Conservation Techniques and Beach Management", Department of Fisheries and Cyprus Wildlife Society, Lara Turtle Reserve, Cyprus.
- 1998 WWF Blue School: "Marine and Coastal Management Course on the Mediterranean Sea".

- 1998 Training Course in First Aid (based on mountaineering and other outdoor activity emergencies), St. John Ambulance Brigade in Wales – The Bangor First Aid Scheme.
- 2000/01 Rock Climbing Training Course, Cyprus Climbing Federation.
- 2015 Training Course on Wild Animal Rehabilitation, BirdLife Cyprus, Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, Game and Fauna Service, Akrotiri, Cyprus.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1996-1999. Cyprus Conservation Foundation (Environmental Field Studies Centre – Kritou Terra, Cyprus), Instructor: Environmental education based on field work -Environmental Analysis, Biology & Ecology of (mainly) terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

From 1992 until present (other than 1996-1999) has been working in ecotourism, environmental education/training, ecological impact assessments, conservation and ecological research programmes. 2017 - present: Director SD EcoExplorers Ltd (Ecological research and consultancy company).

Extensive knowledge of the natural habitats and wildlife of Cyprus (flora, fauna, geology) and of the Cypriot landscape/natural areas. Also very knowledgeable of the NATURA 2000 sites of Cyprus and ecology of these. Extensive experience in fieldwork, sampling methods and data collection and analysis from participation in numerous and varied research programs and studies, environmental/ecological surveys and impact assessments and from training/teaching of ecological subjects.

Environmental/Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA/EcIA) Studies Undertaken or Participated in

1997. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (fauna and flora) for the transfer of the Trimiklini (66kV) substation, Troodos, Cyprus.

1998. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (fauna and flora) for the construction of the Paphos - Polis motorway, Cyprus.

2006-2007. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (fauna and flora) in the Archimandrita/Cha Potami area, Cyprus in relation to the proposed wind farm.

2016. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (bat survey) for the proposed development of the Pykni forest / Ayiovouni area, Peyia, Cyprus.

2017. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (reptile & bat survey) for the proposed development of the Maniki area, Peyia, Cyprus.

2018. Ecological Consultant. (EcIA) Ecological study (bat monitoring) for the proposed development of the Maniki area, Peyia, Cyprus.

2019. Ecological Consultant. (EclA) Ecological study (bat & herpetofauna survey) for the proposed Kalavassos metal works project, Kalavassos, Cyprus.

2020. Ecological Consultant. (EclA) Ecological and Arboricultural survey of the British High Commission Grounds, Nicosia, Cyprus.

2009-present. Numerous Protected Species Surveys / Ecological Impact Assessments in the SBAs island-wide (with particular emphasis on bats, herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) and birds but not only; also flora (including invasive species and arboricultural) and habitat surveys and assessment; primarily terrestrial but also marine surveys undertaken). Part of the work involves handling of protected species (mainly reptiles and bats).

Participation in Research, Conservation & Educational Programmes/Studies

Turtle Conservation and Research:

Has worked since before **1990 until today** with the Cyprus Turtle Conservation Programme (Lara/Toxeftra, Chrysochou Bay etc). Expert assistance by the Cyprus Wildlife Society to the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research in execution of all aspects of the project - includes nest protection, tagging, data collection and analysis, reports and assessments, use of data loggers, drone imagery, GIS mapping etc and instructing in training courses on turtle conservation and beach management.

Additional participation in various studies and research projects on marine turtles.

Member of IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group since Jan 2022.

MedTurtle Bulletin – Member of Advisory Board.

Relevant Poster & Oral Presentations in international conferences:

Journal Articles:

- *Tikochinski Y., Bradshaw P., Mastrogiacomo A., Broderick A., Daya A., Demetropoulos A., Demetropoulos S., Eliades N. G., Fuller W., Godley B., Kaska Y., Levy Y., Snape R., Wright L., Carreras C. (2018). Mitochondrial DNA short tandem repeats unveil hidden population structuring and migration routes of an endangered marine turtle. Aquatic Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst. 2018;1–10.*

Conference Proceedings:

- *Mastrogiacomo A., Demetropoulos S., Demetropoulos A. (2022). First report on marine leech *Ozobranchus margo* parasitising loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in Cyprus. Book of Abstracts, 7th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Tetouan, Morocco (Poster).*
- *Demetropoulos S., Mastrogiacomo A., Pistentis A., Hadjichristophorou M., Demetropoulos A. (2022). Nesting activity of marine turtles in Cyprus during the 2016-2021 reproductive seasons. Book of Abstracts, 7th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, Tetouan, Morocco (Poster & Oral).*

- Mastrogiacomo A., Demetropoulos S., Eliades N.G., Demetropoulos A. (2015). Genetic Characterization of *Chelonia mydas* from Cyprus: Preliminary Results. In: Kaska Y., Sonmez B., Turkecan O., Sezgin C. (compilers). 2015. Book of abstracts of 35th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. MACART press, 250pp. Turkey. (Poster & Oral Presentations).
- Tikochinski Y., Bradshaw P., Mastrogiacomo A., Broderick A., Daya A., Demetropoulos A., Demetropoulos S., Eliades N.-G., Fuller W., Godley B., Kaska Y., Levy Y., Snape R., Wright L., Carreras C. Mitochondrial DNA STRs unveil hidden population structuring and migration routes of Mediterranean green turtle populations. In: Lazar B. and Jančić M. (editors) 2018. Book of Abstracts, 6th Mediterranean Conference of Marine Turtles, Poreč - Croatia. 168 pp. (Oral Presentation).
- Mastrogiacomo A., Demetropoulos S., Pistentis A., Marcou M., Hadjichristophorou M., Demetropoulos A. More than a Mediterranean nesting rookery: feeding grounds and anthropogenic impact on marine turtles in Cyprus revealed by stranding analysis. In: Lazar B. and Jančić M. (editors) 2018. Book of Abstracts, 6th Mediterranean Conference of Marine Turtles, Poreč - Croatia. 168 pp. (Poster).

Reports:

- Demetropoulos, A., M. Hadjichristophorou, A. Pistentis, A. Mastrogiacomo, S. Demetropoulos (2018). "Report on the Turtle Conservation Project in 2018", as submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) of Cyprus. Cyprus Wildlife Society (CWS). Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Annual Reports on the Turtle Conservation Project 2010 to 2021 – as above (leading author/editor 2019 to 2021 – S. Demetropoulos).
- Mastrogiacomo Angela, Demetropoulos Simon, Marcou Melina. (2021). Report on protection of nests and nesting success Year 4 (2020). ACTION D.3: Monitoring the Impact of Action C1 (Mitigation of threats at nesting sites) «LIFE EUROTURTLES» - LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997.
- Marcou M., Demetropoulos A., Demetropoulos S. and Mastrogiacomo A. (2019). Report on protection of nests and nesting success Year 3 (2019). ACTION D.3: Monitoring the Impact of Action C1 (Mitigation of threats at nesting sites) «LIFE EUROTURTLES» - LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997.
- Marcou M., Demetropoulos A., Demetropoulos S. and Mastrogiacomo A. (2019). Report on protection of nests and nesting success Year 2 (2018). ACTION D.3: Monitoring the Impact of Action C1 (Mitigation of threats at nesting sites) «LIFE EUROTURTLES» - LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997.
- Demetropoulos A., Mastrogiacomo A., Demetropoulos S., Hadjichristophorou M. (2018). Phase 1 Report, Provision of Services for the Study and Assessment of Threats and Pressures in nesting areas and for the preparation of a Protocol of Actions on finding a

turtle nest in the context of the framework of Action A2 of the European Programme «LIFE EUROTURTLES» (LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997).

Assessments:

- IUCN RED LIST: Mediterranean Green Turtle Red List Assessment (2022).

Other:

1990. Team member and guide in 1990 Cyprus Bat Survey. See: "Boye P., Pott-Dorfer B., Dorfer K. and Demetropoulos A. 1990. *New records of bats (Chiroptera) from Cyprus and notes on their ecology. Myotis 28, 93-100*".

1997. Mediterranean Monk Seal Survey of the Cyprus Coasts, 1997. See: "Panos Dendrinou and Andreas Demetropoulos, *Report to RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP)*". (Team member).

1998-1999. Cyprus Conservation Foundation. Proposed Landscape Management Project, Dhiarizos River Valley Area (Paphos, Cyprus), Mapping of vegetation.

2004-2007. Study of land snails in the Natura 2000 sites of Cyprus. Cyprus Wildlife Society and Natural History Museum of Crete. Project (AEIFO/0104/05) funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation.

2005-2006. Mediterranean Monk Seal Survey of the Cyprus Coasts, RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP) (Team member).

Publication: [Demetropoulos A., M. Hadjichristophorou, S. Demetropoulos, D. Cebrian. 2006. *Report on the Mediterranean Monk Seal Survey of the Cyprus Coasts (2005-2006)*. CWS, Fisheries Department. A Report to RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP).]

2005-present. Yeronisos Island Archaeological Excavation, Cyprus (New York University) – Ecological advisor and Team member.

2006. Cyprus Wildlife Society. Larnaca Salt Lakes Aquatic Invertebrate Ecology Study.

2007. Survey on the distribution and habitats of the Balkan terrapin *Mauremys rivulata* in Cyprus: Assistance to the Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus in preparing the First Report to the EU on the Habitats Directive.

2007. Assistance (fieldwork) to the Natural History Museum of Crete regarding genetic studies of the Balkan terrapin *Mauremys rivulata*. See: Mantziou, G. (2007): *Phylogeography and population genetics of *Mauremys rivulata* (Chelonia: Geoemydidae)*. PhD thesis, University of Crete, Faculty of sciences and Engineering, Department of Biology.

2007-2008. Participation in MedWet Reseau CODDE project of the INTERREG IIIC SUD CODDE project: Wetland Inventory and Assessment in the Mediterranean region: Advanced Tools. Data verification for Cyprus for the "Preliminary inventory of Cypriot wetlands using remote sensing data". Through the Cyprus Wildlife Society.

2007-2009. Study of Small Mammals (Bats and non-volant mammals) in NATURA 2000 and other sites in Cyprus [Distribution - Diversity - Abundance]. 3 year project. Cyprus Wildlife Society and Natural History Museum of Crete (University of Crete). Funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, as Project AEIFO/0506/09.

Relevant Poster & Oral Presentations in international and Greek conferences:

Jahelková H., Georgiakakis P., Demetropoulos S., Bartonička T., Lučan R., Horáček I., Nicalaou H., Lymperakis P., Hulva P. : The variability of echolocation and social calls of cryptic pipistrelles across the Western Palaearctic. 15th International Bat Research Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 23-27 August 2010 (Poster).

Georgiakakis P., Demetropoulos S., Nicolaou H., Lymberakis P., Mylonas M., Demetropoulos A.: Study of the distribution of Chiroptera and their shelters in Cyprus. 5th Pan-hellenic Conference on Ecology, Patra, Greece 7-10 October 2010 (Oral Presentation).

Lymberakis P., Demetropoulos S., Nicolaou H., Georgiakakis P., Kapli P., Demetropoulos A., Mylonas M.: Study of the distribution of small non-volant mammals in Cyprus. 5th Pan-hellenic Conference on Ecology, Patra, Greece 7-10 October 2010 (Oral Presentation).

2008. Confresh - Promotion of the conservation and sustainable development of freshwater ecosystems to schools of 2ry education, through professional training of their educational staff. Natural History Museum of Crete / Cyprus Wildlife Society.

2008. Cooperation with the Natural History Museum of Crete (through the Cyprus Wildlife Society) for the creation of an inventory of the collections of the various natural history museums in Cyprus.

2009-2012. Study of snails (terrestrial and freshwater) in Cyprus. Cyprus Wildlife Society and Natural History Museum of Crete. Project (AEIFO/0104/05) funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation.

Publications: [K. Vardinoyiannis, S. Demetropoulos, M. Mylonas, K. A. Triantis, C. Makris, G. Georgiou, A. Wiktor, A. Demetropoulos. 2012. Terrestrial Slugs (Gastropoda, Pulmonata) in the NATURA 2000 Areas of the Island of Cyprus].

[Vardinoyianni K., S. Demetropoulos, Mylonas M.. 2012. Atlas of the Terrestrial snails of Cyprus].

A new Islamia species (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae) from Cyprus. Canella Radea, Aristeidis Parmakelis, Simon Demetropoulos, Katerina Vardinoyanis.

The genus Turanena (Gastropoda Enidae) in the Eastern Mediterranean Islands. Mylonas M., Vardinoyannis K., Demetropoulos S., Psonis N., Demetropoulos A.

2012-2013. Akamas Management Plan (Ecological assessment and management plan for the herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) of the Akamas peninsula (NATURA 2000 Site)), Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus.

2015-2016. Management Plan for the Polis-Yialia NATURA 2000 Site: Update Survey for Habitats and Species. (Ecological survey and assessment of the herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) and bats of the Polis-Yialia Site), Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus.

2018-2019. “Update Survey for Bat Species and an Insect Listed in the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC included in the Action Plan for the Management of the NATURA 2000 “AKAMAS” Site Coded “CY4000010” (TΔ 4 2018)”. (Main expert for the Ecological survey and assessment of the bats of the Akamas Site).

2019-2021. Monk Seal Conservation in the Mediterranean (Proj. no. P03251) – Survey of fishermen in ports & marinas. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.

Other publications

The Mammals of Cyprus (in Greek), Andreas Demetropoulos, Simos Demetropoulos (I Fysi, Issue 135, ISSN 1107-681X, Greek Company for the Protection of Nature).

Publications in preparation

Small Mammals of Cyprus, Diversity, Distribution and Ecology.

LICENSES AND ACTIVITIES

Licensed to work on bats, including bat-netting, by the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment and by the SBAA Environment Department. Use of Ultrasound recorder Pettersson D1000X (Bat Detector) and “Batsound” software. Has been working on bats since before 1986. Experienced in handling of bats. Experienced in caving exploration and caving / rock climbing techniques.

Has worked since 2000 as Instructor in the training courses held every year by the Cyprus Wildlife Society and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research in “**Marine Turtle Conservation Techniques and Beach Management**” for scientists working in protected areas in the administrations of other Mediterranean countries. The courses have been organized for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of UNEP/MAP and in more recent years for the Council of Europe which have funded the trainees attending the training courses.

Certified **Drone (RPAS) Pilot** as of 2017

MEMBERSHIPS

Cyprus Wildlife Society (founder member) since 1984

Yeronisos Island Expedition (NYU) (team member & ecological advisor) since 1995

OTHER EXPERIENCES / ABILITIES

- Extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of Cyprus, biology and ecology of these.
- Decades of experience in handling of protected species e.g. bats, reptiles (turtles, snakes, lizards etc – all species found in Cyprus).
- Experienced wildlife photographer, in particular of fauna (reptiles, mammals, invertebrates etc) but also flora.

- Use of sub-meter accuracy GPS (Trimble) and related software (ArcPad).
- Use of GIS (ArcMap) mapping and related software.
- Languages: Greek & English (fluent), Italian & German (limited)