



Black Sea Seabirds Project

# The Black Sea Seabirds Project

Preparing the basis for an inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas along the southern Black Sea Coast (Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey)



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# About the project



## BLACK SEA SEABIRDS PROJECT

**Doğa**



*Aythya marila*

# Black Sea Seabirds

*Bucephala clangula*

*Larus genei*

*Podiceps grisegena*

*Catharacta skua*

*Larus marinus*

*Podiceps nigricollis*



*Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*Mergus serrator*

*Sternula albifrons*

*Hydroprogne caspia*

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

*Larus argentatus*

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

*Larus ichthyaetus*

*Larus cachinnans*

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Larus hyperboreus*

*Larus canus*

*Podiceps auritus*

*Stercorarius longicaudus*

*Larus fuscus*

*Podiceps cristatus*

*Larus michahellis*



# Project aim and activities

## Aim:

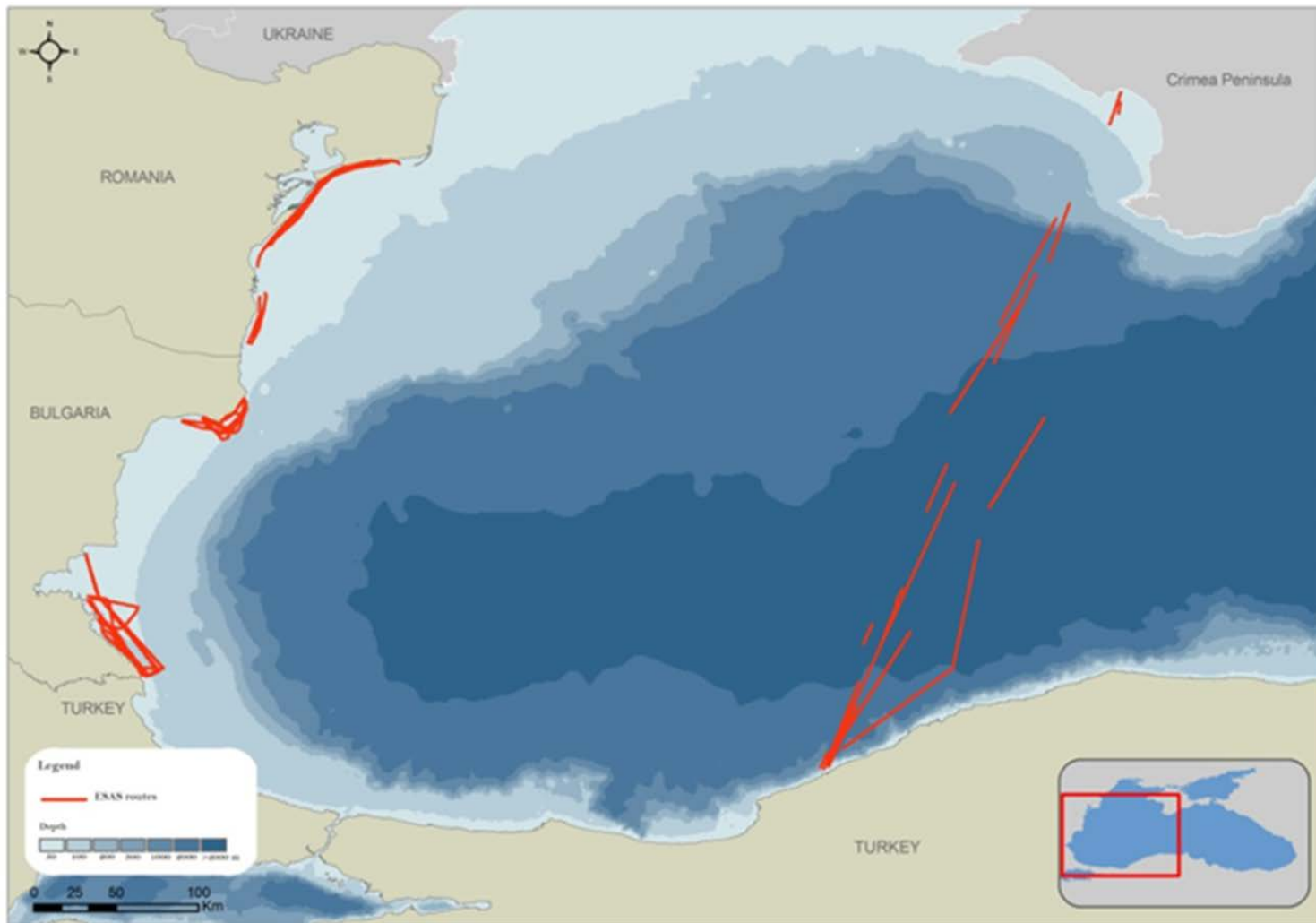
- Preliminary identification of Marine Important Birds Areas

## Activities:

- Increasing the capacity of the NGO and the government sector on the identification of marine IBAs
- Recording seabirds use of marine territories through using standardised methods (boat-based (ESAS) & land-based observation) to locate key marine areas for *P. yelkouan* and *Ph. aristotelis* during their annual cycle.
- Raising public awareness about seabird conservation and the need for protected areas

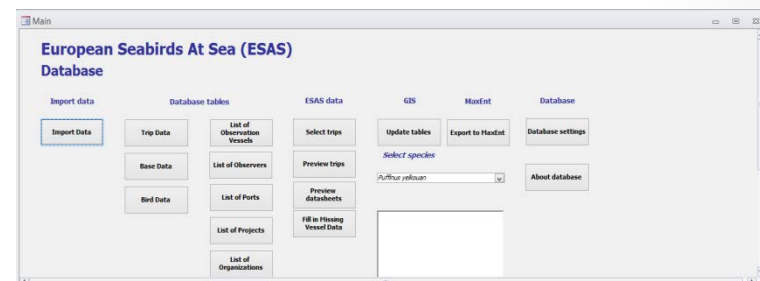
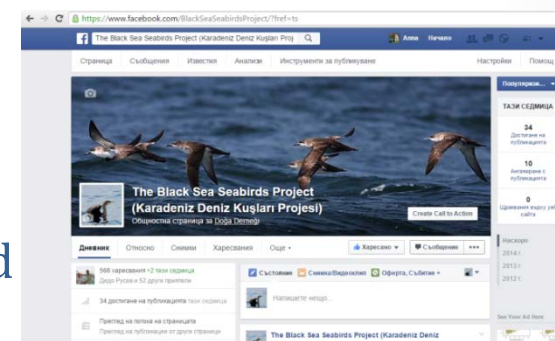


# Boat-based transects



# Project results

- The ESAS methodology was implemented and adapted in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey
- > 30 representatives of NGO and national institutions were trained in marine birds observations and marine protected areas identification
- Systematic data on the number and behavior of both targeted species collected for first time and database created
- Potential mIBAs were identified



# Existing and potential mIBAs

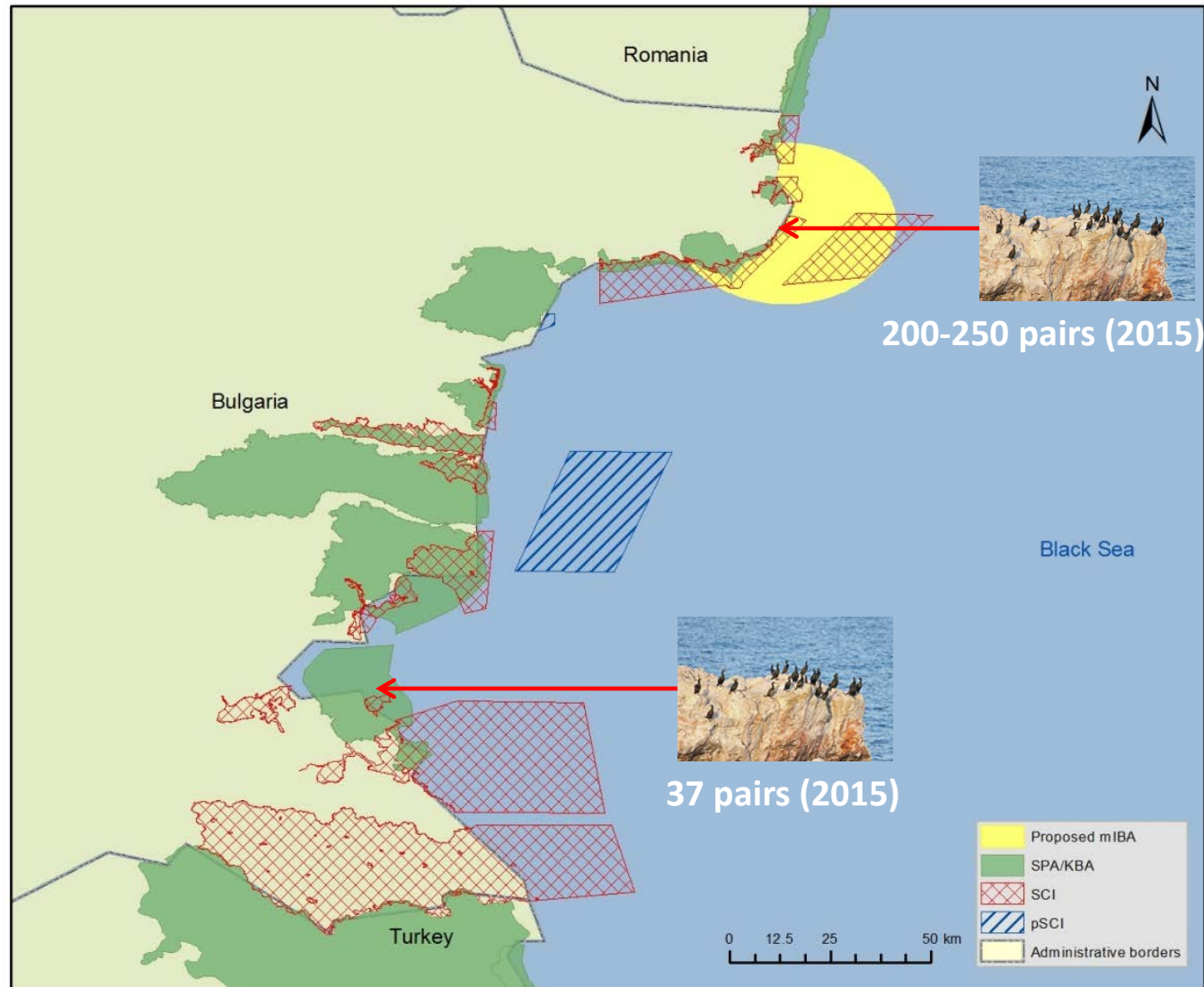


# Existing and potential mIBAs: Bulgaria





# Existing and potential mIBAs: Bulgaria



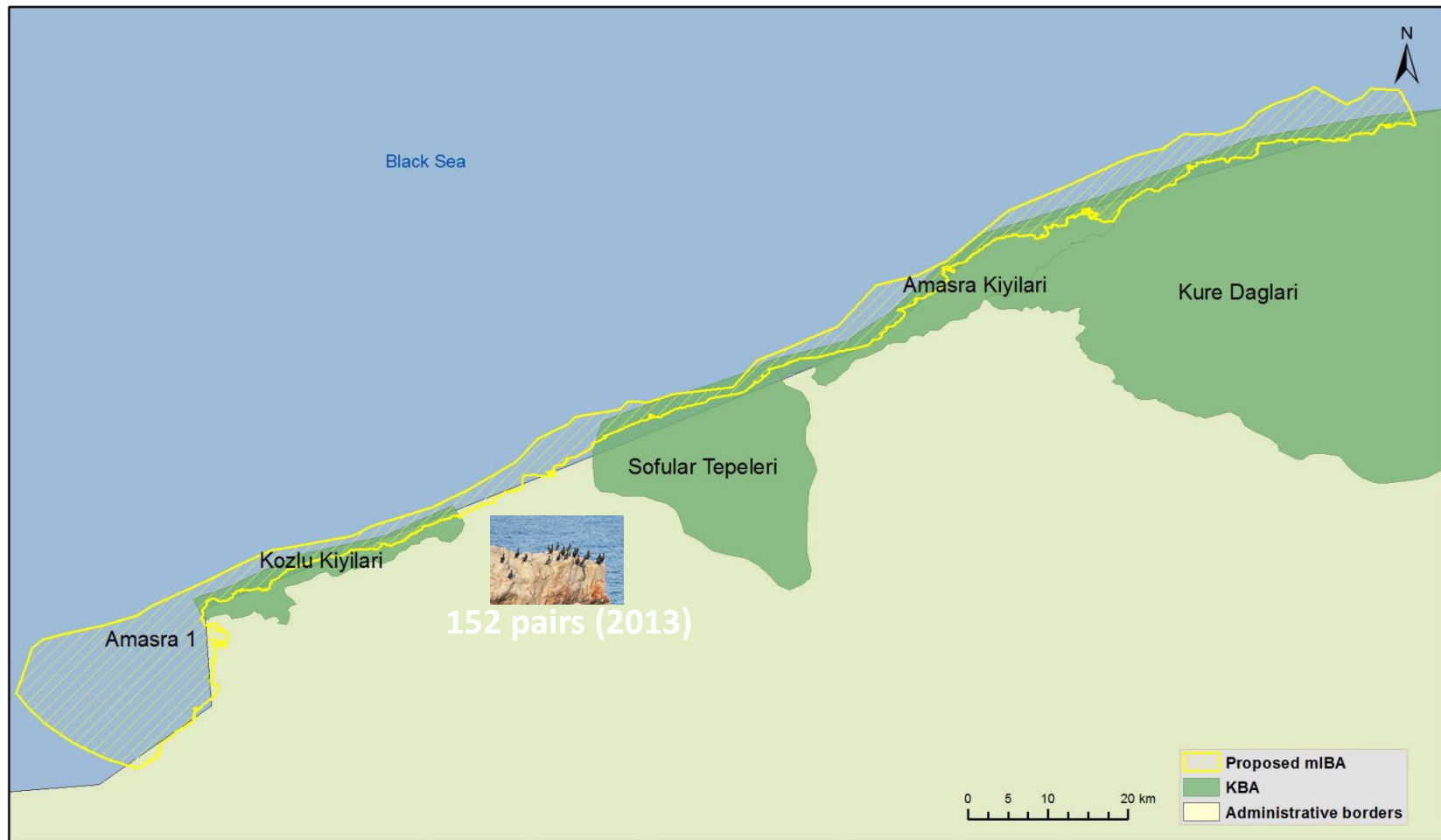
# Shag colonies in Bulgaria



# Existing and potential mIBAs: Turkey



# Existing and potential mIBAs: Turkey





# Existing and potential mIBAs: Turkey



# Conclusions about the methodology

- Coastal counts are better for registering presence, movements and maximum numbers of Yelkouan Shearwater
- ESAS is better for monitoring Shag colonies and collecting behavioral data on all species of seabirds.



# Gaps and next steps

- **In Bulgaria:** collaboration between institutions, small national budget for research, MSFD ongoing

"Technical and administrative support for the joint implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in Bulgaria and Romania – Phase 2" (ENV.D.2/FRA/2012/0017)(DG Environment)  
Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in Bulgaria – Focus: Programmes of Measures (Cooperation with EECCA and Central/Eastern European states)

- **In Romania:** planned elaboration of SPA Marea Neagra Management Plan, lack of budget, MSFD ongoing
- **In Turkey:** joining the EU, identification of Natura 2000 sites

# Thank you for your attention!



Photo: D.Mitev

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