



# 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)



Anna Staneva  
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds



# About the project



**BLACK SEA SEABIRDS PROJECT**

Black Sea Seabirds Project  
No.07.020400/2012/417393/SUB/D2

**Doga**



Funded by the European Union

*Aythya marila*

# Black Sea Seabirds

*Bucephala clangula*

*Larus genei*

*Podiceps griseogenus*

*Catharacta skua*

*Larus marinus*

*Podiceps niaricollis*

Photo: D. Mitev

Photo: A. Christidis



*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:

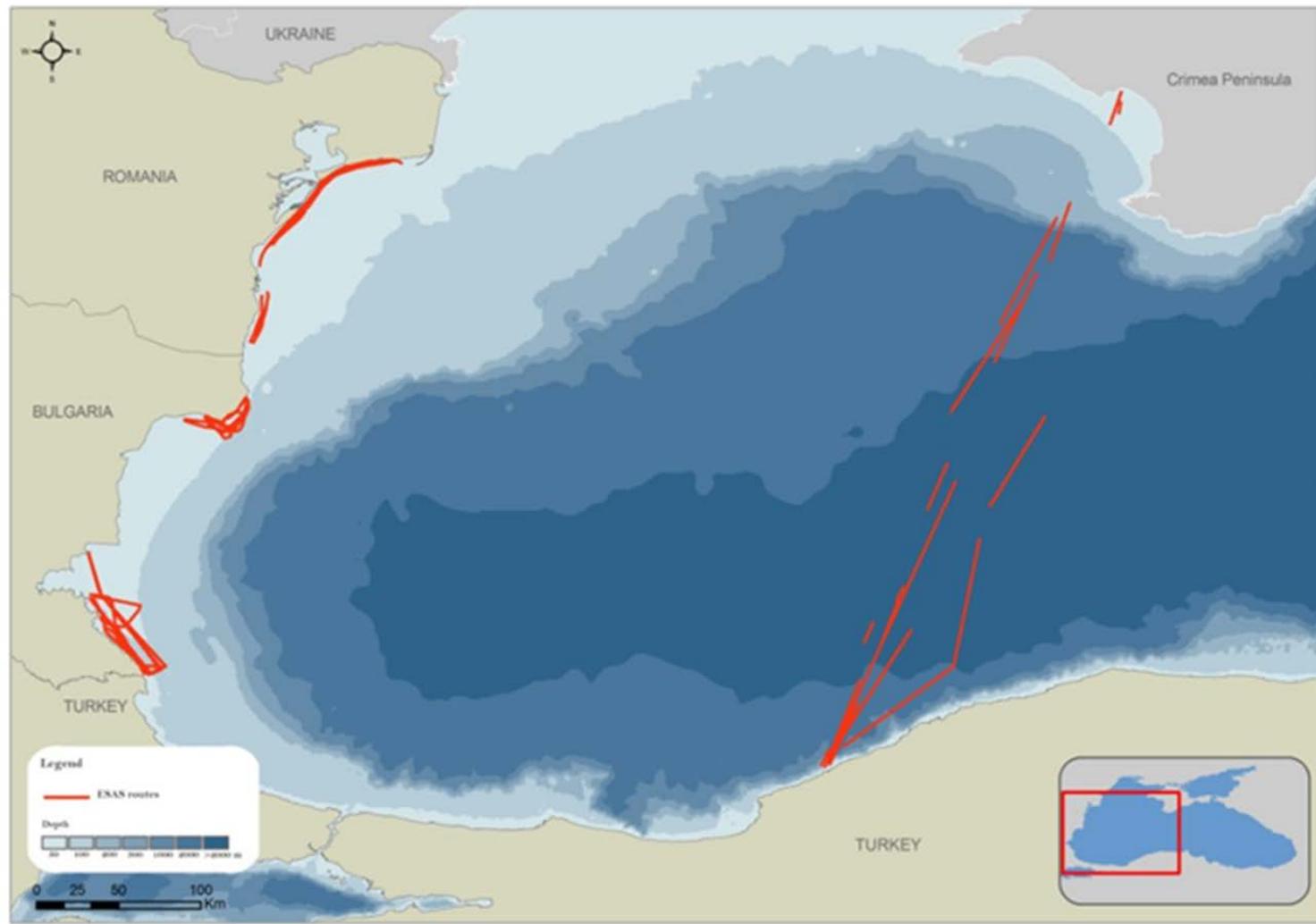
- Preliminary identification of Marine Important Birds Areas

## 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

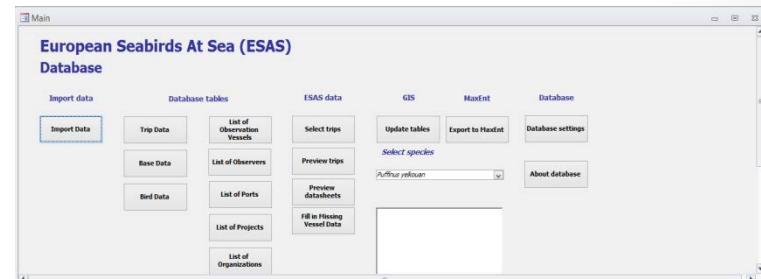


# Boat-based transects



# Project results

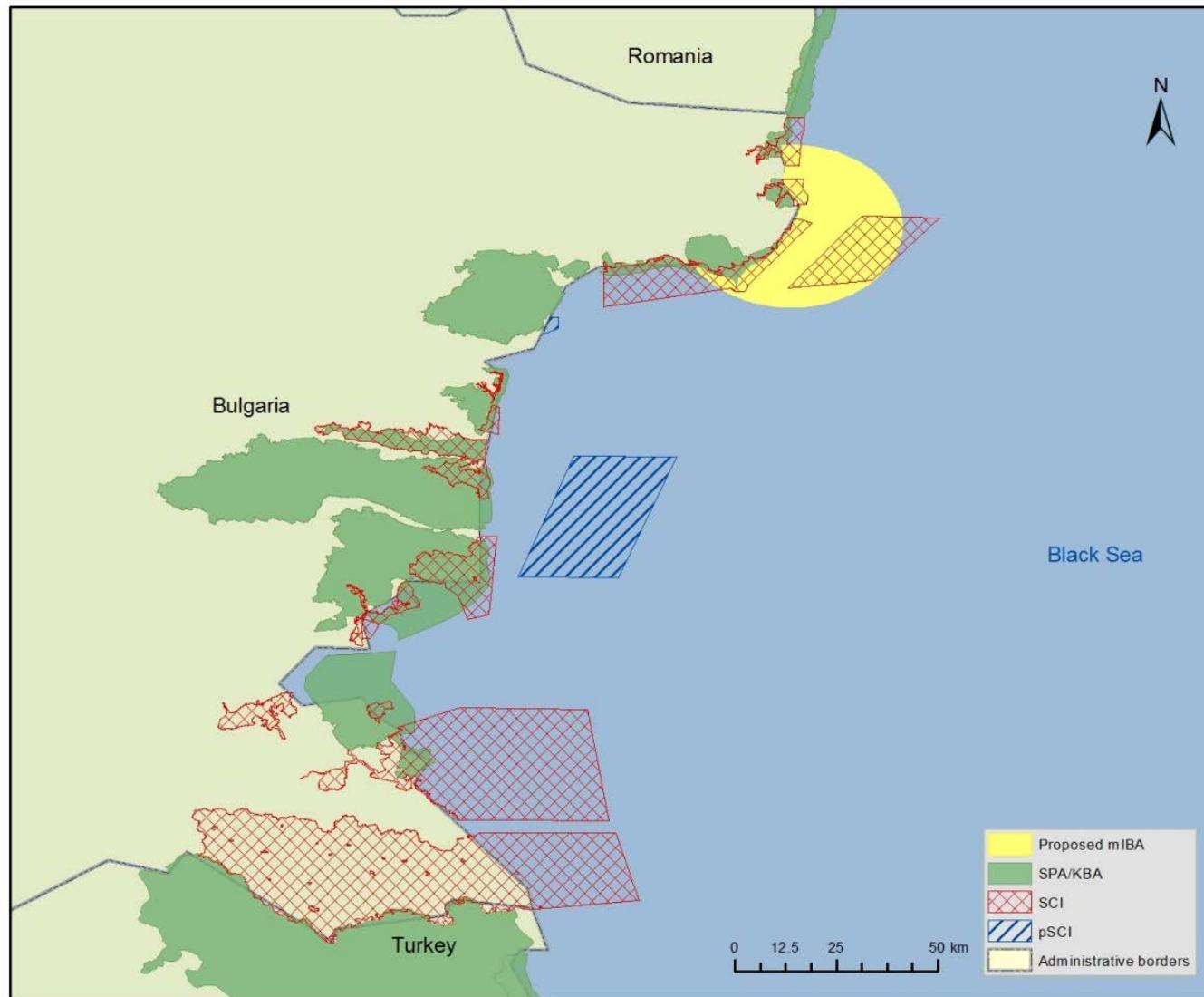
- The ESAS methodology was implemented and adapted in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey
- > 30 representatives of NGO and national institutions were trained in marine birds observations and marine protected areas identification
- Systematic data on the number and behavior of both targeted species collected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



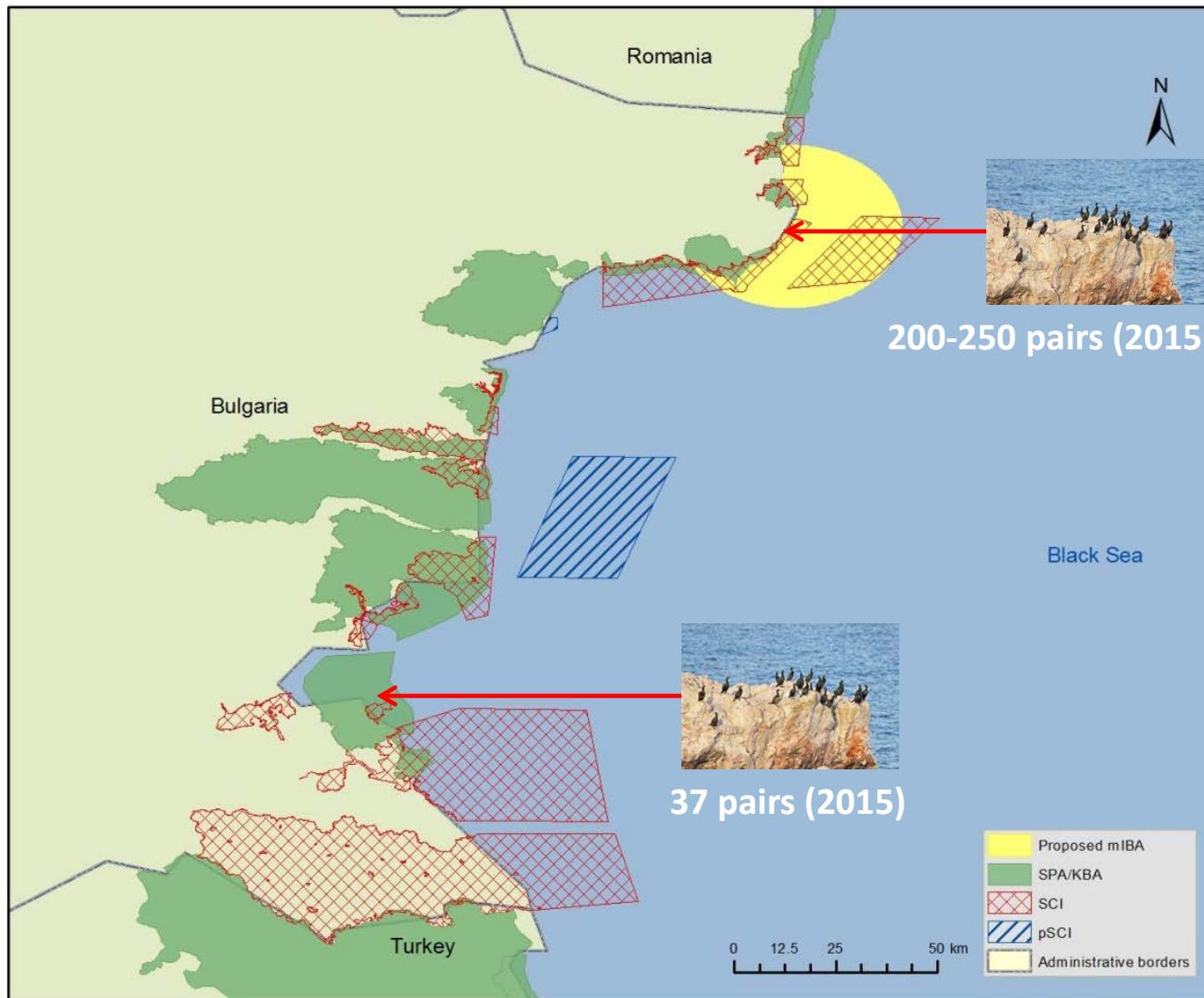
# Existing and potential mIBAs



# Existing and potential mIBAs: Bulgaria



# Existing and potential mIBAs: Bulgaria



# Shag colonies in Bulgaria



Photo: D. Mitev



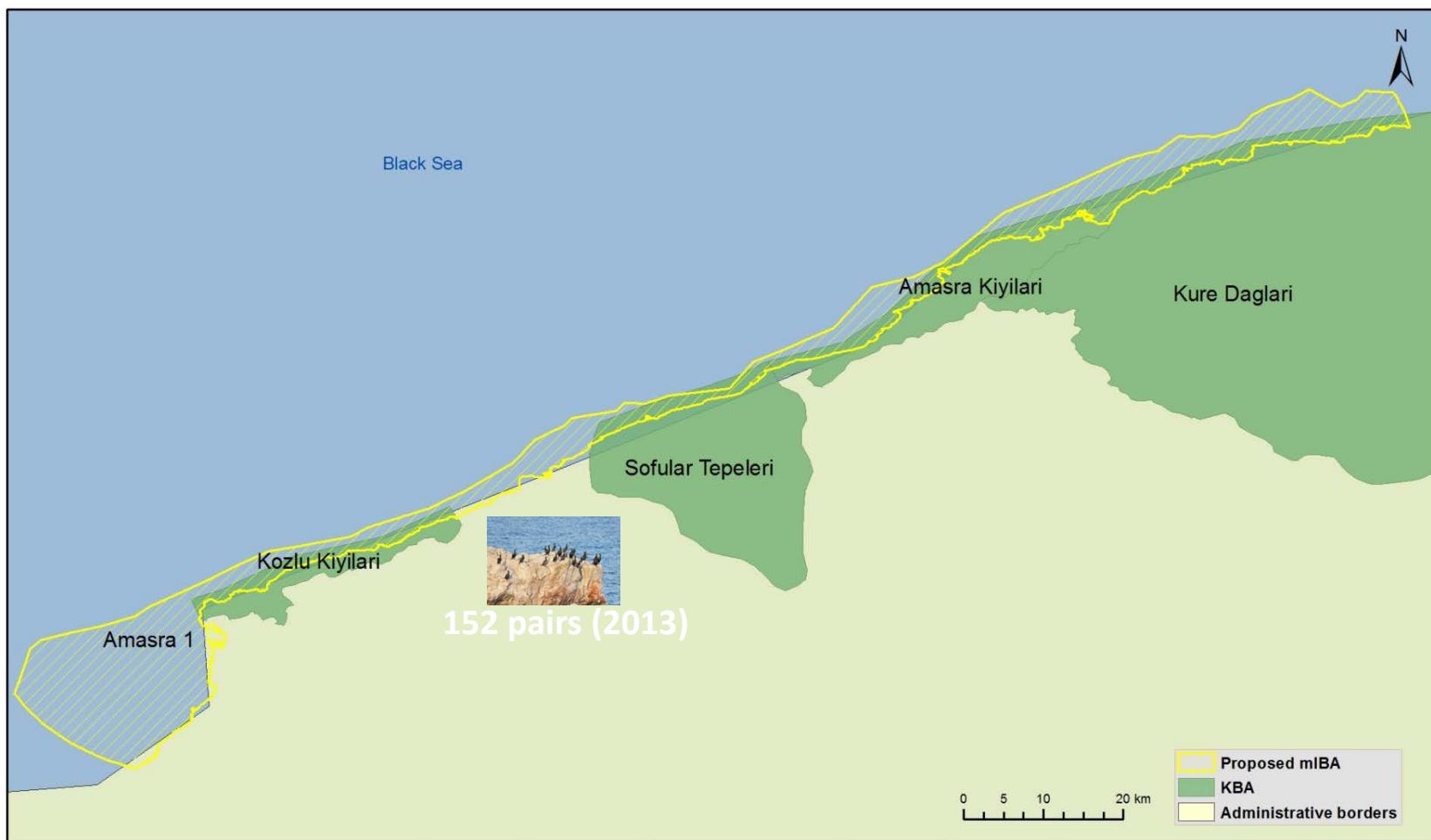
Photo: J. Barzov



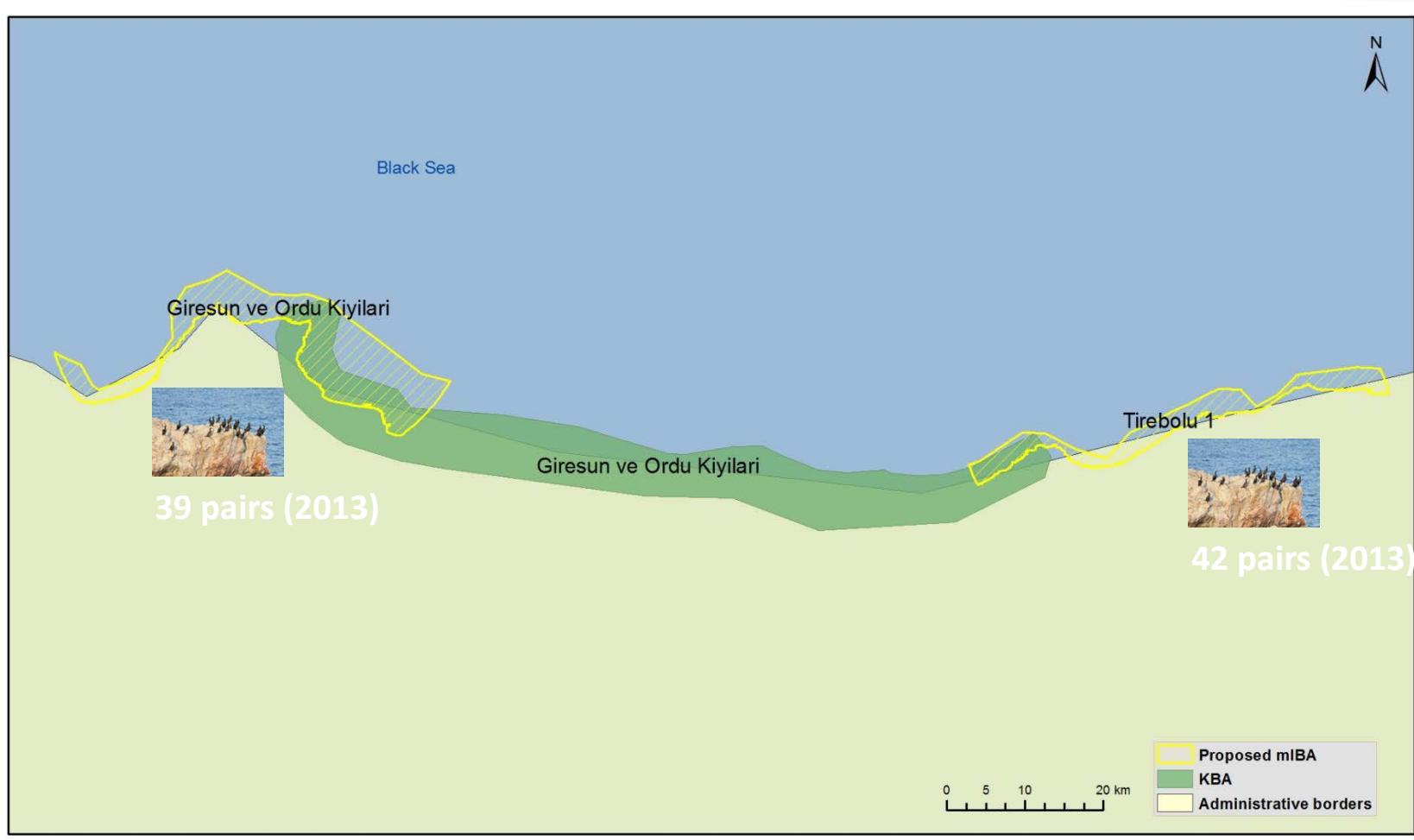
# Existing and potential mIBAs: Turkey



# 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.



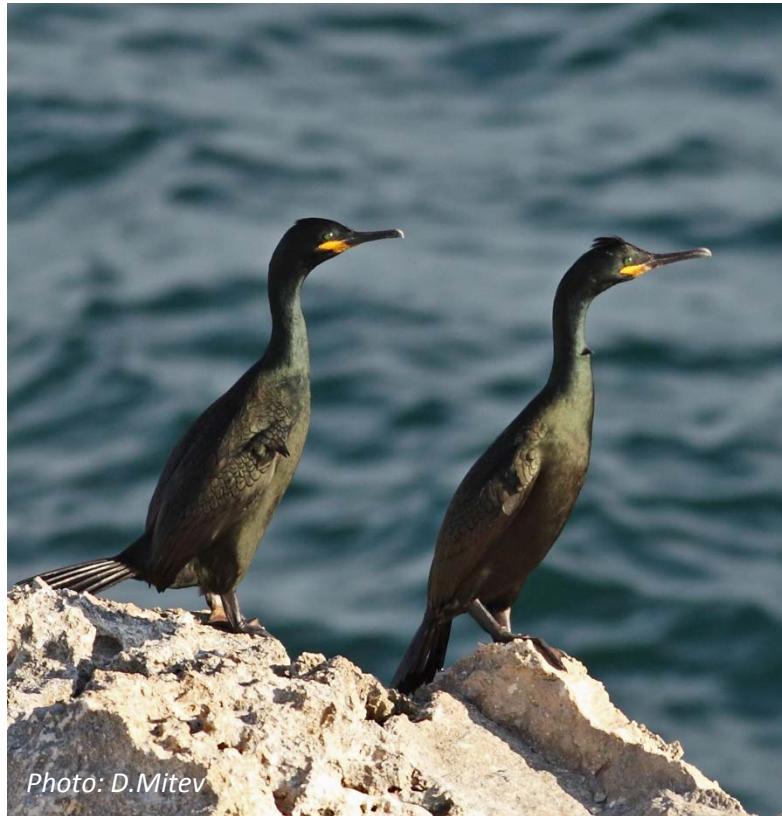
# Gaps and next steps

- **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!



Anna Staneva

[anna.staneva@bspb.org](mailto:anna.staneva@bspb.org)

