



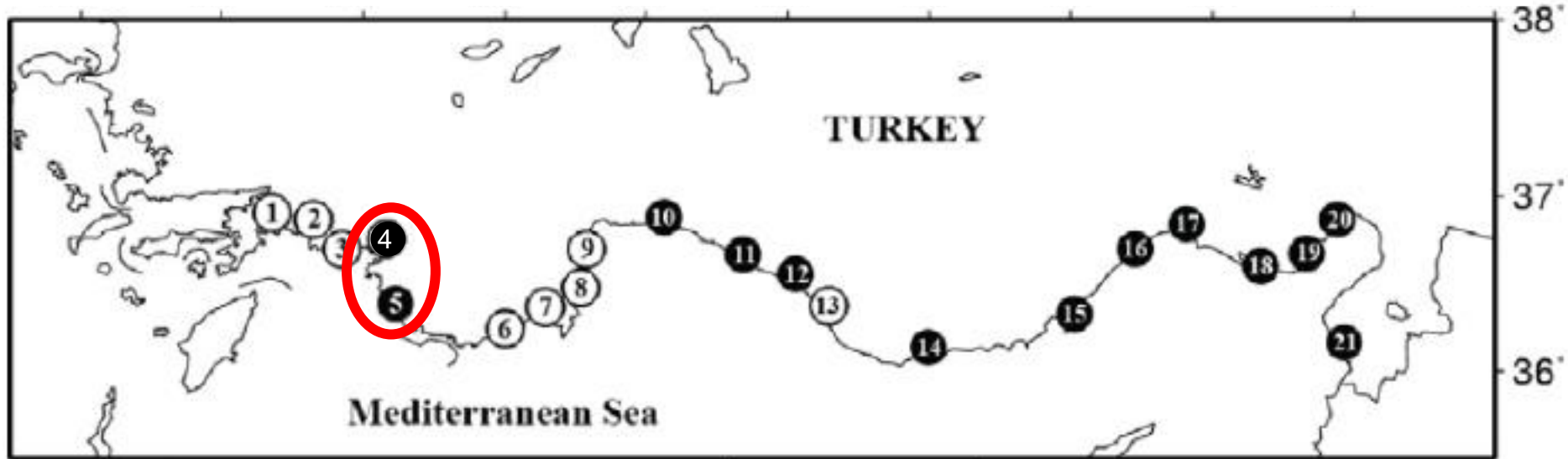
MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

Agenda Item 5.1: Files opened

Turkey: Degradation of Nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

**36th Meeting of the Standing Committee
of the Bern Convention
Wednesday 16 November 2016**

Fethiye & Patara are among most important sea turtle nesting beaches in Turkey



1- EKİNCİK

2- DALYAN

3- DALAMAN

4- FETHİYE

5- PATARA

6- KALE

7- KUMLUCA

8- ÇIRALI

9- TEKİROVA

10- BELEK

11- KIZILOT

12- DEMİRTAŞ

13- GAZİPAŞA

14- ANAMUR

15- GÖKSU

16- ALATA

17- KAZANLI

18- AKYATAN

19- AĞYATAN

20- YUMURTALIK

21- SAMANDAĞ



● *Caretta caretta* + *Chelonia mydas*

○ *Caretta caretta*

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

to protect Patara's natural & cultural heritage

Recommendation No. 182

1: Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection & management

2: Define fines for non-compliance

3: Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control, management & enforcement of regulations

- > No Action

8. Set up long-term conservation & research programme with permanent team & adequate manpower for entire beach and season

- > One-season project, inadequate manpower

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit development on beach, remove abandoned illegal facilities & restore dunes



Illegal snack bar facilities remain on the dunes

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Regulate extent & use of beach furniture, ensure removal from nesting zone at night



Beach furniture was not removed at night (photo 6 am)

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Regulate extent & use of beach furniture, ensure removal from nesting zone at night



Zoning was inappropriate: nests (red circle) inside the sunbed use area.



In the incorrectly zoned area, visitors were allowed to insert rented umbrellas

Patara Rec. 182. 7: Ensure proper fencing of all nests in areas with high human presence



Several nests were not marked. Other nests were marked only with sticks, just 3 were caged.

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at beach entrances



Uncontrolled access.

Quads, motorbikes, tractors & other 4x4 were driven on entire nesting beach

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit horse riding & 4x4 or quad safaris on the nesting beach



**Horse tracks and feces on nesting beaches.
Horse riding is not effectively controlled.**

Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit fishing with nets in front of beach



**Nearshore fishing is not effectively prohibited.
Discarded “ghost” nets are also a trap for turtles &
hatchlings and litter the nesting beach**

Patara Recommendation No. 182

9: Tourists: Improve information & awareness

- > **No substantial action**

10: Local community: Improve information & education, involve in conservation & management - > **No action**



Information kiosk irregularly in operation



One sign added to these signs in August. No other sign along the 12km beach

Patara Rec. 182. 4: Continue to prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach

300-312 summer houses
120% population increase

Inside SPA in 3rd Degree Archaeological Site
➤ **800 m from sand dunes**
➤ **1500 m from beach**



Blue line: 3rd Degree Archaeological Site.

Yellow line: 1st Degree Archaeological Site

Patara Rec. 182. 4: Continue to prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach

Construction continues in 2016:

118 foundations & frames

15 buildings with outer walls

70 foundations laid

52 plots prepared for construction

27 houses completed (2015)



Patara Recommendation No. 182

2: Prohibit camping on beach & riversides in view of beach

-> Camping on riversides

2: Prohibit illumination of the beach

-> a few street lamps affect Patara's main beach

-> summer house lights could be a future problem as they are visible from a specific beach point

5: Ensure litter is periodically removed from beach & dunes -

> some cleaning efforts, less litter observed. River water looks polluted.

6: Address the problem of predation

-> not effectively addressed





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Turkey: Presumed Degradation of Nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

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Fethiye Rec. 183. 1: Stop further development of permanent structures (buildings, roads, shipyard, etc.)

2003



2016



New business established on severely degraded nesting beach. Nesting zone further occupied & disturbances increased

Fethiye Rec. 183. 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



Business expands with new playground on nesting beach

New wooden platforms, permanent shades & beach furniture





TUI Resort - Several pavilions, 2 sunbed rows, 2 walkways and a water sport tent are inside the nesting zone.



Fethiye Rec. 183. 5: Map & zone the whole Fethiye coast. Enforce beach furniture night removal/stacking



New business: additional carpets & furniture cover the entire sandy area of the nesting beach.

Fethiye Rec. 183. 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach

Pavilions that are directly installed on nesting hotspot increased from 4 in 2015, to 14 in 2016.



Fethiye Rec. 183. 4: Remove planted vegetation



New acacia trees, palms & lawn planted & watered on the nesting beaches



Fethiye Rec. 183. 7: Reduce light pollution



Light pollution was severe

**Businesses hosted
wedding parties on the
nesting beach at night**



Fethiye Rec. 183. 8: Build permanent road barriers, designate parking & picnic areas away from beach



Bulldozer illegally flattened the whole beach during the nesting season.



Due to lack of barriers, vehicles drove on most of the nesting beaches.

Fethiye Rec. 183. 11: Prohibit camping & bonfires, set appropriate time limits for beach bars operation at night



**Camping, picnics and bonfires
were observed on all nesting beaches**

**Fethiye Rec. 183. 15: Improve information
(communication of regulations, signs, guest campaigns,
business & community involvement)**

**No signs or
no legible signs
on approx. 5.5 km
of nesting beach.**



Fethiye Recommendation 183

9: Regulate maritime traffic, prohibit at appropriate distances, set speed limits & mark corridors - > **No Action**

10. Set up long-term research & conservation programs, with adequate manpower. Assess: (i) photo-pollution effects (ii) disturbance of nesting females (iii) predation - > **No Action, one-season project in 2016**

12: Clean beach & ensure sewage is not discharged into sea - > **Litter not collected on 6.5 km of nesting beach**

13. Set up & enforce adequate regulations and fines - > **No Action**

14. Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control & management - > **No Action**

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

to protect Fethiye & Patara's natural & cultural heritage

Majority of measures under Recommendations 182 & 183 (2015) have not been implemented.

We call upon the Standing Committee to:

- Keep the case file open**
- Urge Turkish authorities to implement all measures under Recommendations 182 & 183 with no further delay, before May 2017.**



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**Thank You
for your attention**

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