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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

37th meeting
Strasbourg, 5-8 December 2017⁶

**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the
conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach
(Turkey)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey*

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GOVERNMENT REPORT

FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 95 (2002)

- 1. Removing as a matter of urgency, the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3; remove, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in beach section K3 through the appropriate legal and administrative procedures and restore that space to favour turtle nesting:**

There are still some greenhouses in K3 section of the beach which are very close to the sea. As we have stated last time, all the greenhouses are legal considering the existing legislation. However, the shore edge line in the region is in the local court and the court is still waiting for renewal of cadastral work, once this work is done, all the lands beyond the shore edge line will be transferred to public property.

- 2. Moving the taxi parking area away from the beach as a matter of urgency:**

There is no taxi parking area anymore as it was stated in previous reports.

- 3. Periodically removing the plastic debris from the beach:**

The related institutions like municipalities and local branches of Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs cooperate on this issue. The responsible municipality, with the volunteered contributions of students, cleaned the area before the nesting season of 2017. There was also a kite festival beforehand to increase the interest on the activity.

- 4. Screening the lights of the municipality of Kazanlı and the Soda-Chrome factory so as to avoid photopollution on the beach:**

The responsible municipality was reminded of the precautions about photopollution, and they interviewed with enterprises around and the Soda-chrome factory to take necessary measures.

- 5. Maintaining monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory and monitoring of nesting activity on the beaches:**

Chemical wastes of the chrome factory are treated in two different industrial waste treatment facility of the factory, and the wastes are analysed by an accredited laboratory. The latest analysis which was made in June 2017 reveals that chromium and other chemical compound levels are below the limits.

Also the company is the financial sponsor of marine turtle monitoring project. According to the monitoring studies done this year, more than 1100 nests was found. Of these, 40 belong to *Caretta caretta* and the rest belongs to *Chelonia mydas*. All the nests were caged and protected against predators and human pressure.

- 6. Setting in place a monitoring of beach erosion, so as to take remedial measures as needed:**

The beach erosion Project could not be launched as the budget could not be put aside. However, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs is still working on securing a budget on the Project.

- 7. Promote public awareness on the presence and interest of marine turtle nesting in Kazanlı, addressed in particular to local population:**

Every year, awareness raising studies are conducted regularly especially for local fishermen. This year, three educational meetings were held with the contributions of Coastal Guard Commandment in April and May, in Erdemli, Anamur and Taşucu Districts of Mersin Province and 56 local fishermen participated in these meetings. Besides all local fishing cooperatives attended the meetings.

- 8. Fully implementing the existing environment plan and assure the necessary financial and human resources to this end:**

Environment plan is a higher order plan that binds all the relevant institutions and Kazanlı beach appears as marine turtle protection site in that plan.

9. Removing the illegal building in beach section K1:

The decision mentioned in the first article will apply to this building as well.

10. Removing as appropriate the hazardous waste accumulated over the years close to the beach as a result of industrial activities:

As it was mentioned in the last report, the company has built a facility to dispose of this waste and it has been actively working since November 2009. The wastes are neutralized, pressed, and then deposited in a temporary landfill which is surrounded by an impenetrable geomembrane covering material. This neutralization process is the one of the first examples of its kind in the world. When neutralised, this waste becomes nonhazardous. To control whether there is a leakage to underground water resources from this deposit, underground water samples are taken from the wells opened for this purpose.

Moreover, this nonhazardous chemical waste stored in this ETAN facilities is now being transferred to the permanent landfill site whose environmental impact assessment was completed last year. The company started to deposit the waste here, and as of October 2017, 183 thousand tons of waste was transferred there. The waste is deposited there in clay and non-permeable geomembrane cover.

11. Considering the removal of the wedding hall of Kazanlı from the beach, to be relocated elsewhere:

As it was stated in last report, the wedding hall is still inactive.

12. Applying appropriate treatment to sewage waters from Kazanlı, so as to free the back of the beach from pollution:

Sewage waters of Kazanlı is pumped to Karaduvar waste water treatment facility, fully treated there and released to deep sea. Analysis reports of waste water treatment are published on the website of Mersin municipality. (<http://www.meski.gov.tr/Kurumsal9.aspx>)

13. Looking for an appropriate solution to remove houses on the beach that were constructed legally:

The building complex called “Onur sitesi” is still on K1 section of the beach.

14. Reducing the impact of agrochemical products in the area around Kazanlı:

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock had a project around the region. Increasing the efficiency of solarisation against nematods and soil originated diseases. Its aim is to decrease the usage of chemicals for plant diseases. Another project is “Integrated pest management in undercover vegetables and fruits”. It involves lowering the economical damage of pests to an acceptable level instead of completely destroying them. This also decreases the use of chemicals in agriculture.