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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

32<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

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**Implementation of Recommendation No. 66 (1998)  
on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for  
marine turtles in Turkey**

**REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT**

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

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## MONITORING AND PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES FETHIYE SEPA 2012

Breeding and nesting activities of Sea Turtles on Fethiye Beach, which take place in Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protection Area, were studied in 2012 nesting season. A total of 247 emergences, all of which belongs to loggerhead sea turtles, occurred in 2012, of which 89 (36,03 %) nests were deposited and the remaining 158 (63,97 %) non-nesting emergences were recorded. GPS records of the nests were taken and the distances of emergences from the sea were also measured. Mean nesting density was 10,72 nests/km in 2012 for the length of 8,3 km long beach. Mean depth of the nests was 47,98 (39-61) cm, diameter of egg chamber was 24,13 (17-36) cm with a mean clutch size of 81,62 (17-134). A total of 3 nesting females were tagged, one of them re-observed during their second nesting.

The nests were caged against predation and human activities. A total of 11.23 % nests were caged against human activities and against predators. Hatching was observed in 97.7 % of the nests and only 2.3 % of the nests were not produced any hatchlings. After excavating the nests, a total of 7265 eggs were counted, of which 669 of them were unfertilized. 1309 dead in shell embryos and 5287 empty eggshells that produced hatchlings. The hatching success was calculated as 92.37 %. For the public awareness, monthly meetings with hotel owners and personnel have taken place and PowerPoint presentations were also made to the tourists and visitors. This public awareness champagne for both local and international tourists was active every night at Caretta Info Desk on Calis beach. The present results together with the relevant literature were evaluated and the conservation priorities for Fethiye beach were proposed.

Moreover Monitoring and Conservation Project for Population of Marine Turtles (*Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*) and Nile Turtles (*Trionyx triunguis*) in Beaches of Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protected Area“ has been continuing since 1989, as one of the continuous projects of our Agency in the subject area within Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protected Area (SEPA), and we are also financing the project in 2012 in accordance with the “**Action Plan**” and terms of references prepared by our General Directorate last year.