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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

35th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

**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*

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:** In the inspection that was carried out by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs on 07th October 2015, it was spotted that there are still some greenhouses in K3 section of the beach which are very close to the sea. As we have stated last year, all the greenhouses there have parcel numbers, meaning that they 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:** Like every year, some inspections were done by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs on the nesting beaches of sea turtles and the related institutions were informed about the situation. The responsible municipality, with the volunteered contributions of students, cleaned the area before the nesting season of 2015.



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 restaurants around and the Soda-chrome factory to take necessary measures. Also Mersin university in cooperation with Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and Soda-chrome factory made screening for the nests during the hatching season.

5. Maintaining monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory...: Chemical wastes of the chrome factory are treated in two different industrial waste treatment facility of the factory, and the wastes were analyzed by an accredited laboratory. Chromium levels and other chemical compounds are well below standard values. Also the company is the financial sponsor of marine turtle monitoring project.

6. Setting in place a monitoring of beach erosion, so as to take remedial measures as needed: The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, together with Mersin University started the preliminary work on a beach erosion project. This project is in draft now and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs is working on the budgetary issues.

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, an educational meeting was held on 07.05.2015, and 18 local fishermen participated in the meeting. Besides local fishermen, also Coast Guard staff, local branch of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and Mersin University attended the meeting.

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 last year, 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 neutralized, this waste becomes nonhazardous. 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 14 September 2015, 46593 tons of waste was transferred there. The authorities of the company plan to neutralize all the chemical waste, which is 1.7 million tons, in 8 years. As the waste is neutralized, it will be transferred to the new permanent landfill.

11. Considering the removal of the wedding hall of Kazanlı from the beach, to be relocated elsewhere: As it was stated last year, 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 has 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.