

Agenda Item 6.3: Possible Files

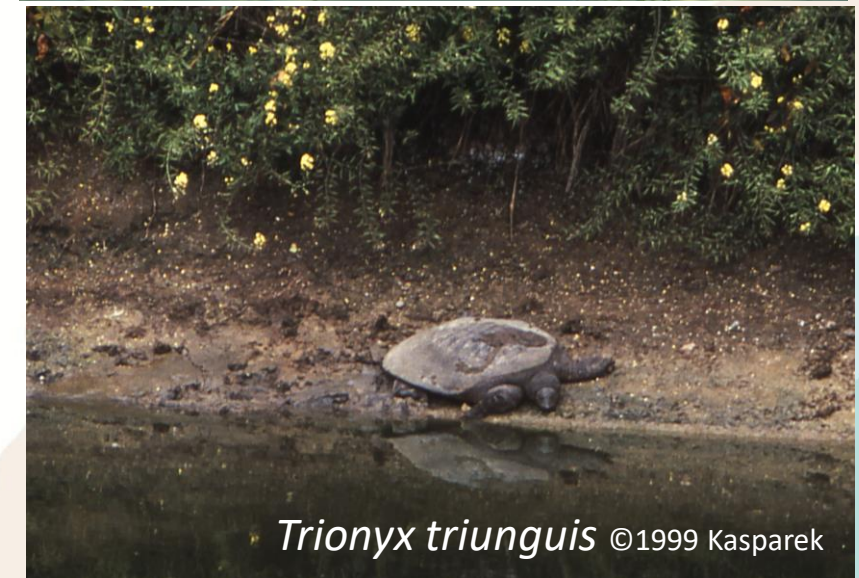
Turkey: Habitat Destruction in Mersin, Anamur Beach



41st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Bern Convention
29th November – 3rd December 2021

ANAMUR SEA TURTLE NESTING SITE

- 12.7km sea turtle nesting beach
- **2nd** most important sea turtle nesting site in Turkey & **4th** in the Mediterranean¹
 - Nests/yr Average = **733**²
 - Recent years have recorded 1,000+ nests
- The natural habitat of the creek is an important area for the **Critically Endangered** Mediterranean subpopulation of the **Soft Shell Nile Turtles (*Trionyx triunguis*)**
 - Entire Mediterranean subpopulation estimated to be **less than 1000** adult individuals



¹IUCN MTSG report *Sea turtles in the Mediterranean*, 2010; Hochscheid et al. 2018. *Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report*
²Hochscheid et al. 2018. *Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report*

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION OF ANAMUR

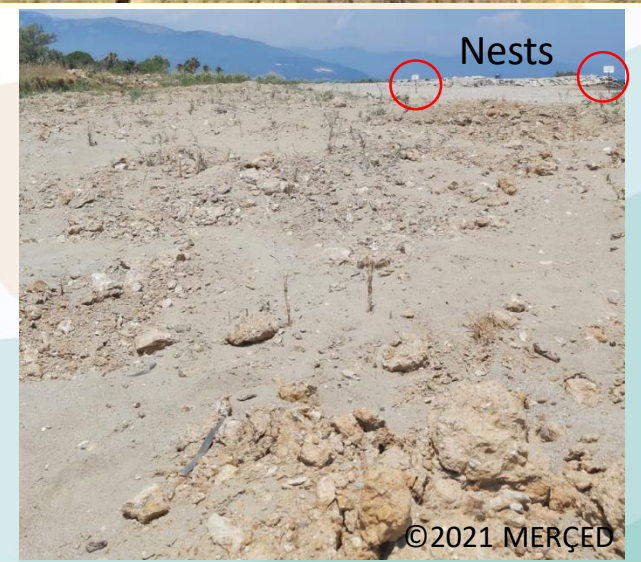
- **Recommendation No.66 (1998) on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Turkey on 4th December 1998.**
 - **Measure No.1** Necessitates **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)** to be carried out for projects.
 - **Measure No.4** Assure **inter-ministerial compliance** for marine turtle conservation
 - **Measure No.5** Urgent & stringent measures to **enforce legislation against illegal sand extraction.**
 - **Species Protection** Anamur Beach: To Prohibit sand extraction & Secure remaining unbuilt beach plots against development.
- **Turkish Ministry of Environment & Forestry Circular No:B.18.0.DMP.0.01.03/831.02 Oct 2009**
 - 1st Degree Conservation Areas. (The Protection Zone)
 - (b) Prohibits alteration of the land (digging/filling)
 - (c) No alterations to the sand (removal or additions)
 - (f) The use of lights at night will be prevented and audited by taking necessary measures
 - (g) Requirement of Ministerial permission from Environment & Forestry Ministry for projects

KARAAĞAÇ NESTING BEACH

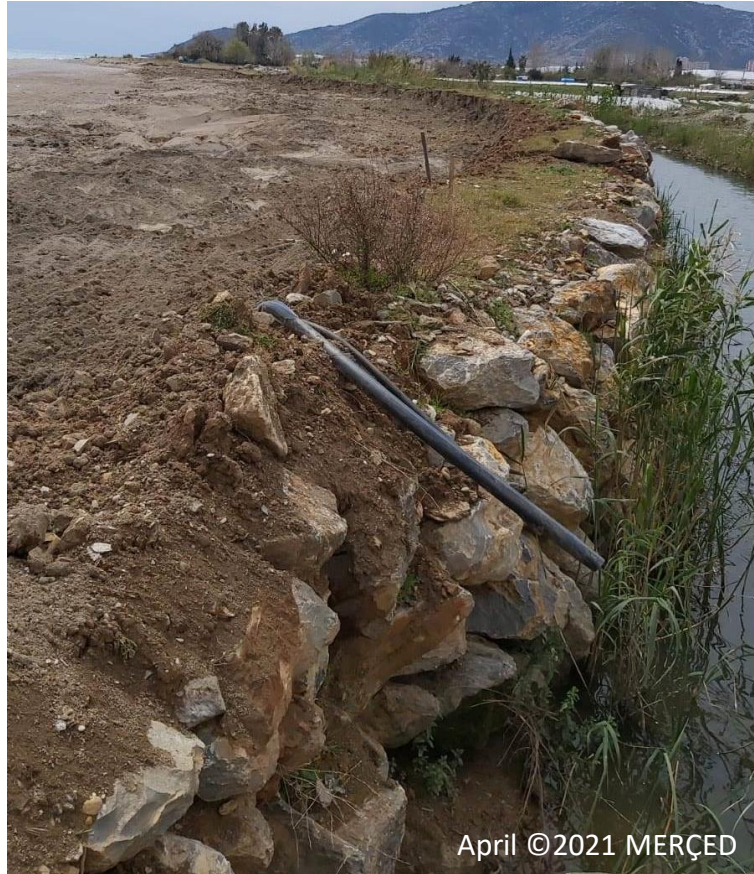


Site has not been fully restored to its natural state.

No communication or collaboration between the authority and the local NGO has occurred.



KARAAĞAÇ SARISU CREEK



No restoration has been attempted to remove the stone wall and reinstate the natural creek bank

NEW COASTAL ARRANGEMENT PROJECT

The new development of tourist facilities covering **95.000m²** has begun



Sourced from the Municipality Web page-
<http://www.anamur.bel.tr/icerik/54/1078/mesire-alani-ve-halk-plaji-projesi.aspx>



Sourced from the Municipality Web page- [Anamur Municipality Official Mobile Website](#) :
[Anamur Mayor Hidayet Kilic Sets Out for The Beach Project](#)

ADDITIONAL THREATS TO ANAMUR NESTING BEACH



LIGHT POLLUTION
from coastal
apartments and local
businesses



Caged Nest

ADDITIONAL THREATS TO ANAMUR NESTING BEACH



SAND EXTRACTION.
Despite National
Legislation sand
extraction was still
evident along the
protected nesting
beach.

ADDITIONAL THREATS TO ANAMUR NESTING BEACH



LACK OF BEACH MANAGEMENT

Beach furniture is not removed from the beaches at night



No zonation management to define nesting area and tourist zones.

★ Shows location of marked nests

ADDITIONAL THREATS TO ANAMUR NESTING BEACH



BUSINESS EXPANSION

Unhindered
increase of spatial
expansion of local
businesses on the
nesting beach

Dragon ayı Rivulet



Removal of the illegal shanties, sheds and huts, deprived of a sewage system are being removed.

However, new plans of development for the area have not been made public

In Conclusion- There is a complete lack of transparency and communication of current and proposed development plans

We encourage the Turkish Government to:

- Ensure Karaağac and Sarisu Creek is fully restored to its previous natural state
- To provide transparency, collaborate and communicate with the local NGOs
- Ensure local businesses and authorities comply with Turkish National Law (Circular # B.18.0.DMP.0.01.03) and the Bern Convention Recommendation No. 66 (1998)

Call upon the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention to:

- Encourage the authorities to implement all the necessary actions listed above
- Conduct an on-the-spot appraisal during summer 2022
- Ensure all relevant stakeholders are engaged in the Marine Turtle Initiative