



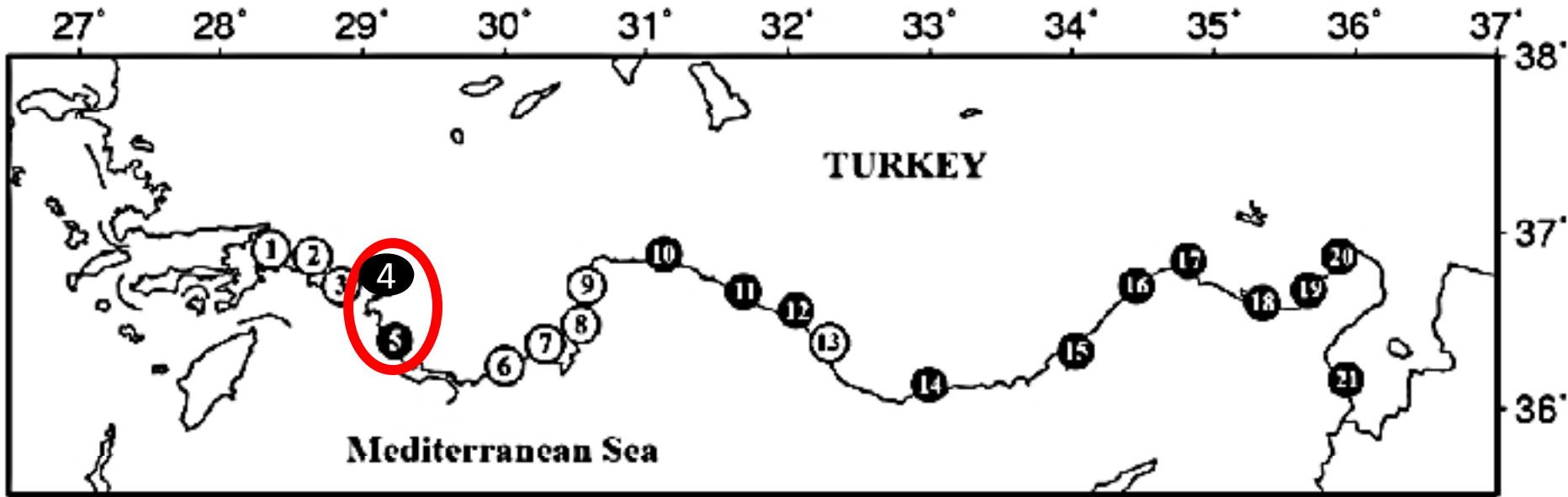
**MEDASSET**  
Mediterranean Association  
to Save the Sea Turtles

## Agenda Item 6.1: Files opened

# Turkey: Degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye & Patara Specially Protected Areas

**40th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention**  
30 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER 2020

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



- |            |              |              |                |
|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1- EKİNCİK | 7- KUMLUCA   | 13- GAZİPAŞA | 19- AĞYATAN    |
| 2- DALYAN  | 8- ÇIRALI    | 14- ANAMUR   | 20- YUMURTALIK |
| 3- DALAMAN | 9- TEKİROVA  | 15- GÖKSU    | 21- SAMANDAĞ   |
| 4- FETHİYE | 10- BELEK    | 16- ALATA    |                |
| 5- PATARA  | 11- KIZILOT  | 17- KAZANLI  |                |
| 6- KALE    | 12- DEMİRTAŞ | 18- AKYATAN  |                |

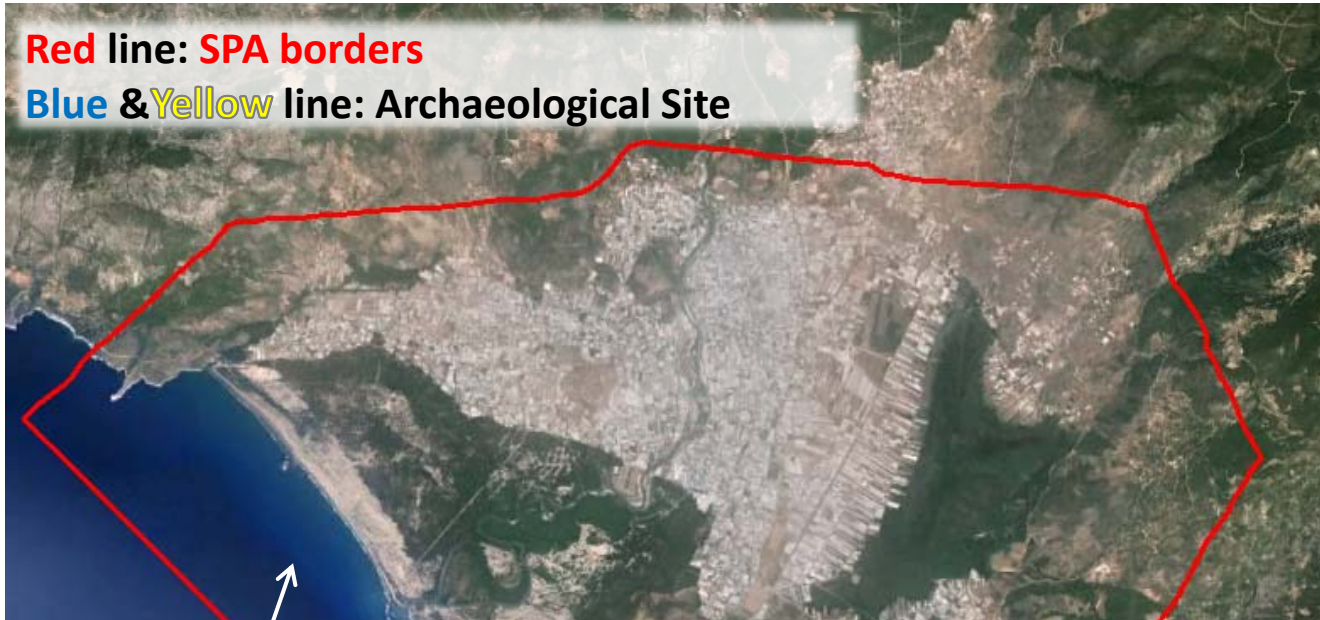


● *Caretta caretta* + *Chelonia mydas*      ○ *Caretta caretta*

# Patara Specially Protected Area



# Patara Specially Protected Area







## Recommendation No. 182

- 1: Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection & management → **No improvement, information needed on re-zoning**
- 2: Define fines for non-compliance → **Not enforced**
- 3: Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control, management & enforcement of regulations → **No management personnel on site to enforce regulations**
8. Set up long-term conservation & research programme with permanent team & adequate manpower for entire beach & season → **One-season, not long-term contract, inadequate manpower**

**Recommendation NOT fully implemented**



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

**No zoning along 90% of nesting beach  
Zoning incorrect in main beach**



**Sunbeds & boats are NOT removed and remain on the beach at night**



## Patara Rec. 182 / 2 (III): Prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at beach entrances

- **Uncontrolled vehicle access, except in main beach.**
- **No guards, no barriers at 3 of 4 entry points**



**Vehicle tracks on nesting beach around Esen river mouth.**

# PATARA REC. 182. 2 (IV): PROHIBIT ILLUMINATION OF BEACH

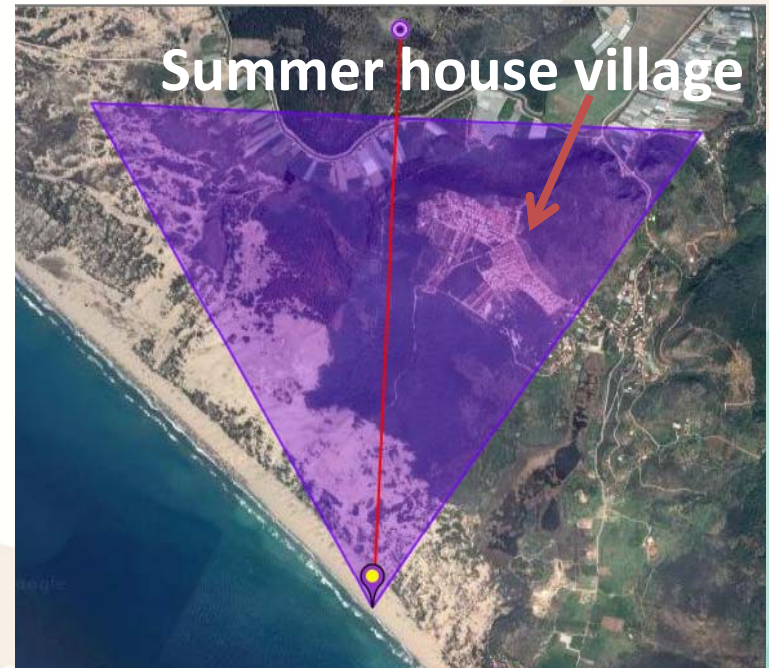
Patara main beach **was illuminated until 11.30 PM by summer house village and/or restoration site & welcome centre construction in archaeological site**



**Beach bar lights are visible at night**



**When summer house village is complete, light pollution may increase**



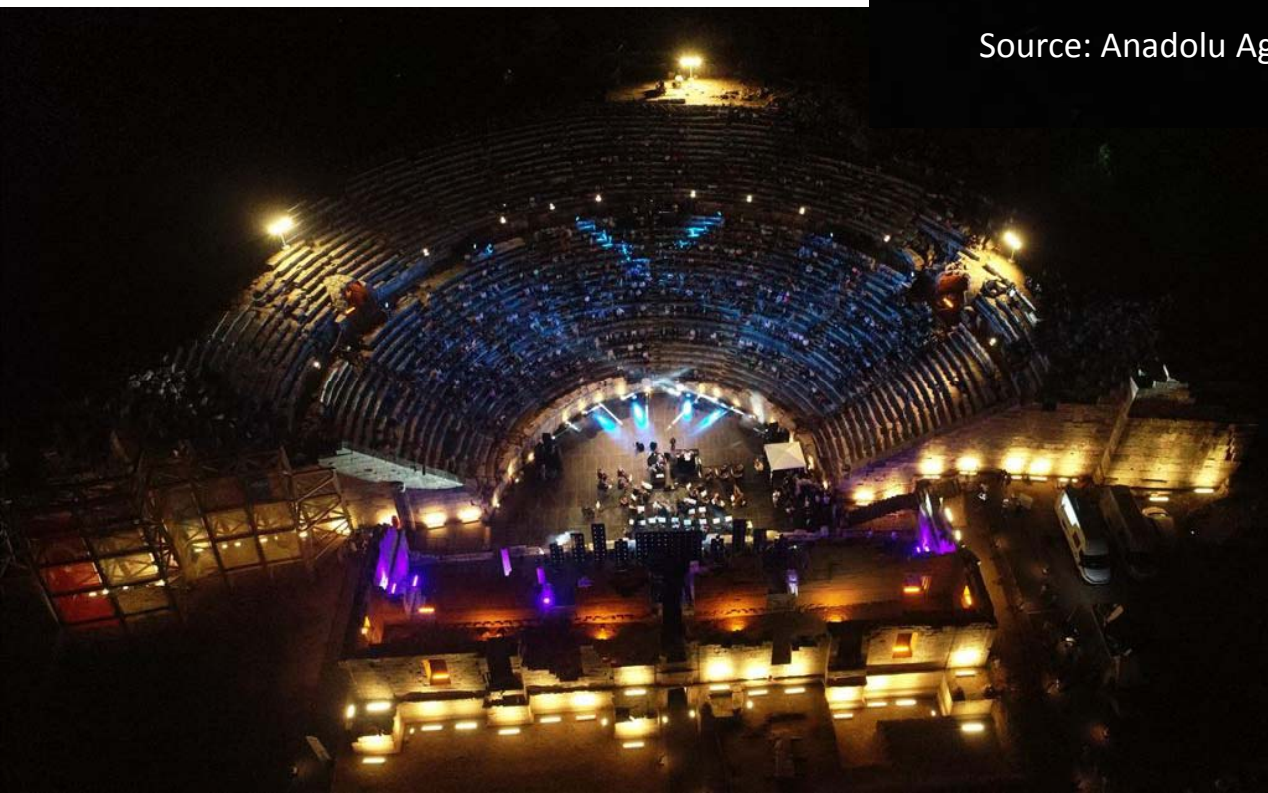
## PATARA REC. 182. 2 (IV): PROHIBIT ILLUMINATION OF BEACH

Patara main beach: **Concert at ancient theater, August 27th.**

Sound & lights may have impacted nesting beach at peak of hatchling season.



Source: Anadolu Agency



Future use of theater at night: **impacts on nesting beach need to be assessed.**

# PATARA REC. 182. 4: CONTINUE TO PREVENT UNCONTROLLED HUMAN SETTLEMENT BEHIND THE BEACH



Construction of “welcome centre” in the archaeological site behind the beach



Crane (red circle) behind dunes for archaeological site restoration.

Sticks in sand to mark nests (yellow circles) - no protective cages or signs

# 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Archaeological Site  
Yellow line: 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site

## Patara Recommendation No. 182

2: Prohibit: **horse** riding, 4x4 **safaris** on beach; NEARSHORE **fishing** with nets -> **No activity observed**

5: Ensure litter is periodically removed -> **No Litter**

6: Address the problem of **predation** -> **not effectively addressed, no improvement (most nests not protected)**

7: Ensure proper **fencing** of nests in areas with high human presence -> **not effectively addressed, some nests protected from predation but not systematic**

**Recommendation NOT fully implemented**



## Patara Recommendation No. 182

**9: Tourists:** Improve information, awareness, zoning  
→ **Signs & zoning insufficient, no information desk**

**Only 2 information points across 12 km nesting beach**



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

**Recommendation NOT fully implemented**





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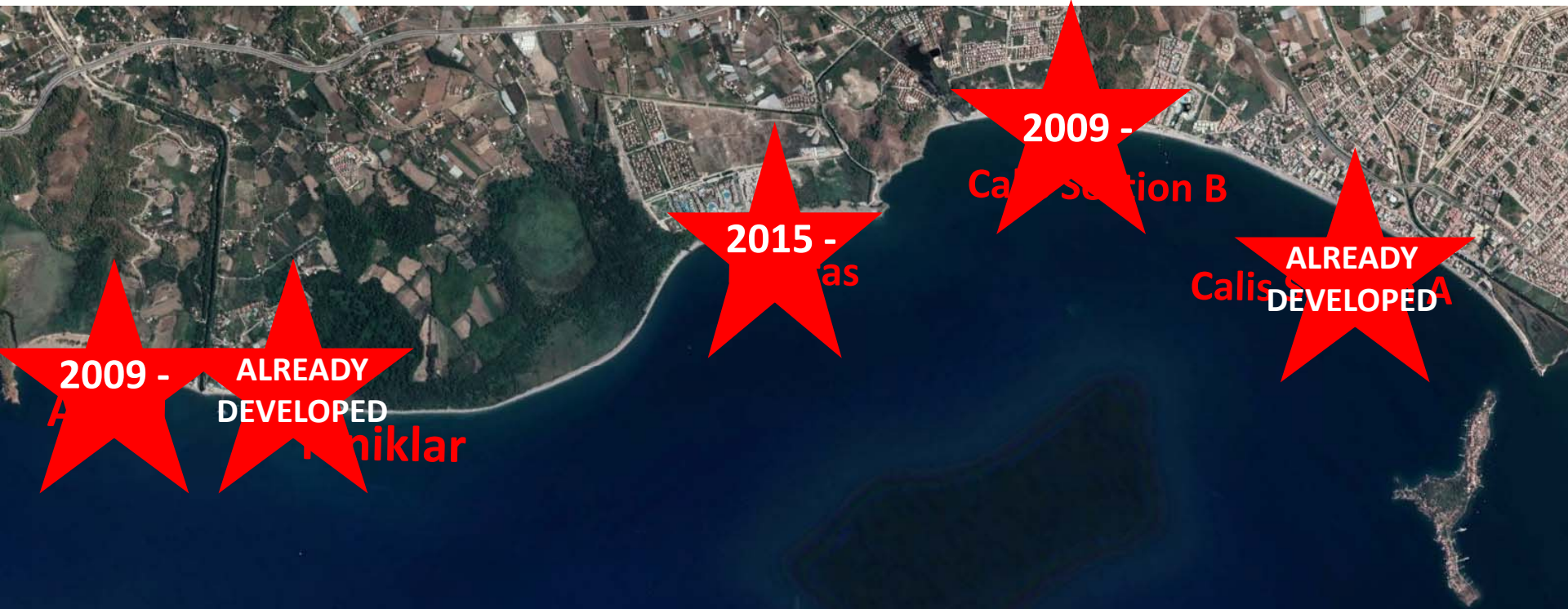
## Agenda Item 6.1: Files opened

# Turkey: Degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye & Patara Specially Protected Areas

**40th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention**  
30 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER 2020



# Fethiye Specially Protected Area



**Businesses built on Agkol & Calis** ← { 2009: Complaint Filed  
2013: Case file Opened

**New hotels built on Karatas** ← 2015: On-the-spot Appraisal & Recommendation  
(ongoing)

**A COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE PROCESS**

**Wetlands destroyed, businesses occupy nesting beach**

**FETHIYE REC. 183. 1: Stop further development of permanent structures (buildings, shipyard, jetties, etc.)**

**2003**



**2020**



**Fethiye SPA. Çalış Section B. Severely degraded nesting beach. Continual coastal build-up, planting & occupation of sandy area. Only the pebbly zone near waterline is free - unsuitable for nesting.**

# FETHIYE REC. 183. 1: Stop Further Development

## **PRISTINE BEACH AND WETLAND DESTROYED**

**2003**

Fethiye SPA. Karataş beach



**2020**

**Günlük  
Kent  
Park**

**TUI Sensatori  
Resort**

**Fabay  
Koymat  
Hotel**

**Site for 2 New  
Hotels  
(Lillyana Resort  
Aronis Resort)**



## FETHIYE REC. 183. 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



**Fethiye SPA. Yanıklar beach.**

**Sunbeds, parasols, pavilions, banks, tables, stools, and boats on the nesting beach. Note large jetty.**

# FETHIYE REC. 183. 5: Map & zone the whole coast. Enforce beach furniture night removal/stacking



## Çalış Section B.

Sunbeds, parasols, pavilions, astroturf carpets & cushions on nesting beach that are not removed at night. Note nests (red circles)



Karatas beach. TUI Resort  
Sunbeds and parasols too close to the sea, that are not removed at night.

# FETHIYE REC. 183. 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach

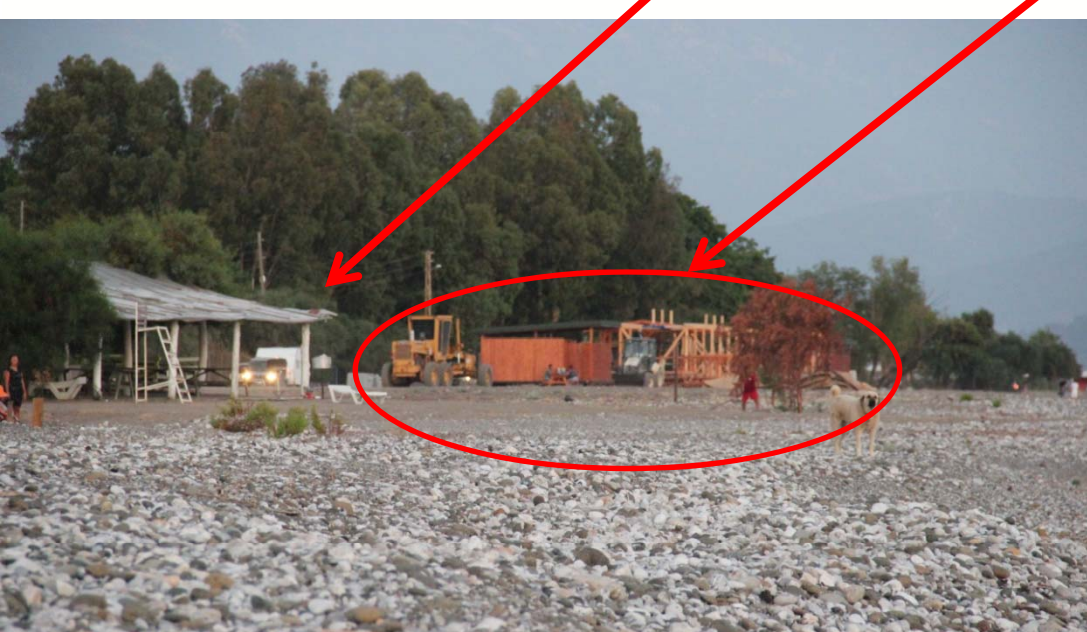


**Nine pavilion structures on sandy zone of nesting beach.**

**Intense human presence around nests (red circles), no zoning.**



# FETHIYE REC. 183. 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach



**NEW beach facility constructed on sandy zone during nesting season (red circle): cafeteria, umbrellas, sunbeds**

**Red stars mark location of existing structures/facilities**

## FETHIYE REC. 183. 7: Reduce light pollution



**Light pollution is a severe problem on all beaches**



**Intense illumination from construction site at Karataş beach**





# FETHIYE REC. 183. 12: Clean beach & ensure sewage not discharged into sea



**Extremely polluted channel draining onto nesting beach**



**Litter on Calis nesting beach**

# FETHIYE REC. 183. 15: Improve information (communication of regulations, signs, guest campaigns, business & community involvement)



**Information desk closed  
and in bad condition**



**Derelict sign among dense  
furniture, no information on  
regulations**

**Overall lack of signs**

# Fethiye Recommendation 183

3: Stop sand extraction → **Sand moved/piled**

4: Remove planted vegetation → **No Action, new plants on Akgöl beach**

8: Permanent road barriers, designate parking & picnic areas away from beach → **No Action**

9: Regulate maritime traffic → **No Action**

10: Long-term research & conservation program with adequate manpower. Assess light pollution effects, disturbance of nesting females, predation → **One-season project, lack of manpower**

11: No camping & bonfires; time limits for beach bars → **No Action**

13: Set up & enforce adequate regulations and fines → **No Action**

14: Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control & management → **No Action**

16: Protect all nests with cages → **Some nests predated; cages ineffective in dealing with light pollution**

# **URGENT ACTION NEEDED**

## **to protect Fethiye & Patara's natural & cultural heritage**

**Majority of measures under  
Recommendations 182 & 183 (2015)  
**NOT implemented****

### **We call upon the Standing Committee to:**

- **Follow-up & keep the case file OPEN**
- **Urge Turkish authorities to implement Recommendations with no further delay.**
- **Reiterate to Turkish authorities the urgent need to implement a comprehensive action plan before May 2021.**
- **Request Government update on re-zoning of Patara & new hotels development in Fethiye**



**MEDASSET**  
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**Thank You  
for your attention**

**MEDASSET**

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