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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
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Specific Sites - Files open

**Follow-up of Recommendations Nos. 182 and 183
(2015) on Presumed degradation of nesting beaches
in Fethiye and Patara SPAs
(Turkey)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkey*

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

05.03.2019

GOVERNMENT REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS NOS. 182 AND 183 (2015)
ON PRESUMED DEGRADATION OF NESTING BEACHES IN FETHIYE AND PATARA SPAS
(TURKEY)

Marine turtle conservation and monitoring studies which have been started to achieve the targets of Recommendations 182 and 183 will continue in 2019 nesting period. The studies planned are as follows;

A- Research, monitoring and conservation studies

1. Nest density on nesting beaches, nest distribution in terms of space and time will be determined, the negative factors affecting the nests, eggs and hatchlings will be monitored in each part of the nesting beaches, the nesting beaches will be scanned in regular intervals to obtain necessary information. If possible, adult individuals will be marked.

All the components of the studies that will be done within the frame of monitoring of *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* (if found any) is given below;

- The time and location of adult female turtle's coming out on beach to lay eggs will be determined by GPS, the result of emergence in terms of nesting will be recorded.
- The nesting regions of the individuals will be marked on digital maps with appropriate scale.
- Rate of emergence of adult turtles with or without nests and their distribution in months
- Rate of emergence of adult turtles with or without nests and their distribution based on beach regions
- Rate of emergence of adult turtles with or without nests and their distribution based on distance from the sea
- -Nest depths, nest diameters, clutch size clutch time
- -The rate of hatchlings, unhatched eggs and the rate of predated nests
- -The rate of hatchlings remaining within the nest and emerging from the nest
- -The rate of hatchlings remaining on the nest outlet and leaving the nest
- -The rate of dead/alive hatchlings on the nest outlet
- -The rate of dead/alive hatchlings on the way to the sea / reaching to sea
- -Comparison of nest densities with previous years (nest/km)
- -Number of newly marked individuals and those marked in previous years and recaptured, (will be given with serial numbers of labels)

Population dynamics of last five years (numbers of adults and hatchlings) will be given in tables and if there is increase or decrease, causes and precautionary actions will be discussed in the final report.

2. The factors deteriorating the presence of turtles, nests, eggs and hatchlings will be determined, to increase the chance of survival of hatchlings, nests will be protected by cages buried underneath the sand. The contribution of caging to the protection of the nests will be measured numerically.

3. To minimise the possible damages for the nests, those nests which are at high risk of human disturbance on highly populated beaches will be protected via high cages that will be visible from a distance.

4. In case of finding any injured/damaged/sick turtles, those cases will be immediately informed to the rehabilitation center in Iztuzu beach by the local staff of each beach.

5. The technical team which will take part during this project will be trained by the project manager about all the field work necessary for the conservation and monitoring of turtles, prior to the starting of new nesting season.

B- Providing Information on and Raising Awareness for Sea Turtles

1- Reaching out to public and raising awareness through local units

Public will be in personal contact in information offices that will be set on each beach and local people and national or international tourists will be informed about sea turtles in those offices.

2- Training of the managers of touristic facilities

There will be a seminar on sea turtle conservation for tourism managers at the beginning of the season.

3- Training of tourism facilities' personel;

There will be a seminar on sea turtle conservation for tourism personel at the beginning of the season.

4- Providing information for tourists;

There will be presentations at the sea turtle offices, about the conservation of sea turtles. The presentations will be made to tourists in sea turtle information offices regularly.

These studies, which were provided in our 2018 action plan will be accomplished in 2019 nesting season.