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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

45th meeting
Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2025

Bureau of the Standing Committee

8-10 April 2025
Strasbourg

Open File: 2019/05

Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach (Türkiye)

-GOVERNMENT REPORT-

Document prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Türkiye

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY****GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF NATURE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL
PARKS (GDNCNP)**

24.02.2025

**Government Report on Complaint No. 2019/05: Open file: Türkiye: Habitat destruction in
Mersin Anamur Beach**

Background: This report includes the progress after the decision was taken about this case file in the 44th Standing Committee Meeting. For the background information of the file, please refer to our previous reports.

General Information: Recommendation No: 226 (2024) was accepted in the 44th Standing Committee. The progress about each recommendation is given below point by point:

1. Remedy Stage 1 and 2 design issues, which mainly relate to poor lighting choices and light control. Consider erecting a fence along the beach edge to deter people from entering the beach at night.

The Mersin Provincial Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks had some attempts to discuss this issue with Anamur Municipality. The decision taken in the meetings held with the related authority is to dim the lumen of green lights and turn them off completely during the summer season. But a permanent and effective decision is expected to be taken in the meeting of the commission, which is planned to be gathered at the end of February 2025.

2. Review the remaining Stage 2 and Stage 3 development plans to ensure they are necessary and are compatible with preservation of successful, undisturbed turtle nesting.

This issue will be discussed at the meeting of the commission to be held at the end of February 2025.

3. Enforce existing legislation by removal of illegal development, structures and impactful lighting from all areas of beach but especially the area of bungalows and restaurant on beach section 2 that may act as a catalyst for similar such developments away from the urban centre.

A new staff was recruited by the Anamur Chief Office of the GDNCNP on the site, to increase the enforcement of the existing legislation.

4. Increase number of signs that have information on sea turtles and the dos and don'ts for behaviour on the nesting beach at beach entrances. Create new signs to attach to each protective nest cage so that each nest has key information associated with it.

This work will be done close to nesting season, during March or April.

5. Improve turtle monitoring and protection capacity through training and increasing the number of people involved in daily surveys. Collect all relevant data indicated in Guidance Tool, starting as soon as possible by recording the location of each turtle nest using GPS to support scientific analyses and interpretation of the status of turtles and their habitats.

The newly recruited personnel will be responsible from collecting the data in line with the Guidance Tool, once the breeding season starts.

6. Design a hatchling management plan to be prepared for occurrences of hatchling disorientation caused by artificial lighting and respond promptly and strongly to adjust, revise or eliminate problematic lighting.

This issue will be discussed in the meeting of the commission at the end of February 2025.

7. Undertake surveys for presence of Nile soft shelled turtles at all historically known sites along Anamur beach and commission ecological study for feasibility of restoring sites where presence remains, and nesting was previously reported.

The newly recruited personnel will be responsible from collecting the data about Nile soft shelled turtles.

8. Create a turtle protection network composed of authorities, NGOs, local stakeholders and concerned individuals that regularly meet to discuss issues and their solutions.

A commission was established under the Governorship of Anamur. It will hold its first meeting at the end of February. The commission's meeting agenda will be about each recommendation in Recommendation No 226 (2024).

9. Create a turtle monitoring group composed of authorities, NGOs, local stakeholders and concerned individuals to better monitor the turtle nesting activity. Investigate the potential for bringing in academic and voluntary teams to contribute to the monitoring. Given that Anamur beach potentially hosts one of the top five loggerhead turtle nesting areas in the Mediterranean accurate assessment of activity is strongly warranted.

Establishing a monitoring group will be discussed in the meeting of the commission.