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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

46th meeting

Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2026

Bureau of the Standing Committee

Strasbourg, 22-24 September 2026

Open File: 2019/05

Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach (Türkiye)

-COMPLAINANT REPORT-

Document prepared by MEDASSET

Update as of July 2026

UPDATE REPORT BY THE NGO

Marine Turtle Conservation in the Mediterranean

LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (*CARETTA CARETTA*), GREEN TURTLE (*CHELONIA MYDAS*) & AFRICAN SOFT SHELL TURTLE (*TRIONYX TRIUNGUIS*) CONSERVATION MONITORING IN ANAMUR, MERSIN, TÜRKİYE

31 July 2026

*Document prepared by
MEDASSET - the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles*

*For the 3rd Bureau Meeting of 2026 of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the
Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)*

MEDASSET and MERÇED hereby submit a joint update report to the 3rd Bureau Meeting of the Bern Convention (22-24 September 2026) on the conservation status of loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)& green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtle nesting beaches and habitats of the African soft shell turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) in Anamur, Türkiye. The MEDASSET on site survey was funded through a grant from Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA), www.aga-artenschutz.de.

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1. SUMMARY

This report covers the updates since the last report submitted for the Spring Bureau Meeting T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_comp (<https://rm.coe.int/files-2019-05-turkiye-habitat-destruction-in-mersin-anamur-beach-feb-2/48802b0511>).

In June 2026, MEDASSET visited the Anamur Special Protection Area (SPA) to conduct on-site observations of the management and conservation status of the nesting beach. The fieldwork was carried out over three days, encompassing both daytime and nighttime monitoring. During this process, the issues raised in the reports of various stakeholders (both advocates and complainants) were directly evaluated and documented on-site.

Within the scope of the fieldwork, the current status of the issues identified in the previous report was also evaluated. During the pre-season meeting organized by the Governorate and District Governorates, noise and light restrictions were communicated to local businesses, specifying that these bans would be in effect between 20:00 and 08:00. However, on-site observations revealed that these restrictions were not being enforced. In the Anamur SPA (Special Protection Area), an increase in nesting density was observed in localized areas where light and noise pollution had decreased. Overall, various types of pollution continue to be encountered across the beach. While efforts to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the beach are showing positive progress, it was determined that violations still persist in certain areas. Furthermore, it was observed that some of the newly initiated high-rise building constructions behind the Karaağaç section of the beach have been completed, and exterior facade lighting has been added to these blocks. This development is projected to further intensify light pollution in the future. Of extreme importance is the observation that the natural structure of the “rehabilitated” river mouth

has been compromised by adding extra rocks to the dune formation. Compared to previous years, the dune accumulation in the delta has been completely lost due to these interventions, eliminating any potential for the area to serve as an alternative habitat for the African Softshell Turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) in the future. During the on-site monitoring activities, no African Softshell Turtles were observed, contrasting sharply with data from previous years.

MERCED reinforces our findings and summarizes the situation as follows:

“According to our observations and social media posts based on videos and photos sent by people in the field, it appears that the nesting beach has been abandoned by the Nature Conservation and National Parks authorities. Not only are the nests not being monitored, but measures against light and noise pollution are also not being taken, and the businesses on the beach are not being inspected. As a result, sea turtles are either abandoning nesting on the beach or, after hatching, the hatchlings are drawn to the lights of the businesses and lose their lives, which have barely begun. An examination of the Facebook posts we have attached below will show how unprotected and occupied the Anamur Nesting Beach is by businesses. The authorities are conducting some token inspections. Businesses are aware of these inspections in advance and therefore portray their activities on the beach as legal. However, they continue their lawlessness even after the inspections and do everything they can to have the nesting beach removed from its registered status as a sea turtle habitat. Meanwhile, the authorities are not taking any effective action to protect the nesting beach.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of sea turtles that come to the beach but then return to the sea, meaning they are disturbed by human activities on the beach and abandon nesting.

One of the following posts mentions an increase in the number of nests on Anıtlı beach, a neighborhood of Anamur.

In our view, the reason for this is that Anamur Nesting Beach has been occupied by beach operators and Anamur Municipality. Unfortunately, sea turtles and their nests are not safe on Anıtlı beach either.

In fact, many nests were submerged because irrigation pipes running along the beach were not repaired during the winter months.

We regret to state that neither the efforts of us volunteers nor the token efforts of the authorities are sufficient to protect the beach. For some reason, the authorities are not issuing penalties to businesses and those committing crimes against the beach.

Therefore, businesses and individuals do not hesitate to commit crimes and violate rules. In short, the nesting beach is not protected.”

This report highlights the fact that the issues included in the previous NGO reports have not been corrected, including light pollution, illegal vehicle entry to the beach, expanding businesses, stone walls alongside the *Trionyx triunguis* habitats (Dragon river and Sultan Stream) etc. In our detailed report (Annex 1, 2, 3 and 4) we provide further details, photographs and videos.

To summarize, it was determined that the issues remain and Recommendation No. 226 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6th December 2024, on Mersin Anamur Beach has not been implemented. The SPA area is in urgent need of protection and implementation of Recommendation No. 226 (2024)!

MERÇED and MEDASSET call upon the authorities to:

1. Ensure that local authorities and local businesses comply with the Turkish National law (Circular # B.18.0.DMP.0.01.03 - Ref: Annex 5-[R11]) and the Bern Convention’s Recommendation No. 66 (1998),
2. Enforce and penalize perpetrators for violations of the protection measures as stated in the National legislation circular # B.18.0.DMP.0.01.03 (e.g. vehicle access, sand extraction, business expansions, light, and noise pollution, etc). Businesses should be disciplined so that they stop to commit violations,

3. Allocate more staff and work with experts from a university, to ensure efficient and significant prevention, monitoring and data collection is performed,
4. Establish the sea turtle commission, as decided during the 2024 Bern Convention OSA (BCOSA), and operate it effectively. Reported violations to the commission should be resolved effectively and in a timely manner,
5. Ensure that the positive cooperation and communication established with local NGOs during the BCOSA process continues, which at this time is nonexistent,
6. Update the Ministry's National Biodiversity Inventory records to collect and include Green turtle's (*Chelonia mydas*) and African soft shell turtle's (*Trionyx triunguis*) data,
7. Rehabilitate the stone walls alongside of the Dragon River, Sultan Creek and Sarısu Creek that cause irreversible damage to the living environment and seriously affect the nesting activities and habitats of African soft shell turtles,
8. Fix the lighting of parks, tourism businesses, official premises, street lamps and apartment complex's lamps on the entire nesting beach. Especially the newly built Beach Arrangement Project (Devlet Bahçeli Park) and the Port (Iskele) region, should be evaluated in terms of the color, intensity, frequency and direction of the lighting, and necessary changes should be made
9. Ensure that no sand is taken from the beach. Punish people/institutions that take illegal sand from the beach in a way that will provide deterrence,
10. Prevent illegal vehicle access to the beach,
11. The caravan area in the Dragon area and the iron profiles to establish the jet ski renting facility must be removed,
12. Remove the reinforced concrete building and the toilet area within the 1st degree archeological protected area and the 1st degree nesting protection zone in Anemurium Ancient City (Ören). Area must be rehabilitate to its natural state,
13. Ensure that the data collection process on sea turtle nests follows international protocols, (For example, GPS data of the nests should be recorded.)
14. Ensure that the restaurant that builds bungalow houses, plants grass, creates a walnut garden by pouring soil on the sand on Karaagaç beach, comply with the rules defined with the Circular,
15. Fix the showers in Beach Arrangement Project (Devlet Bahçeli Park) to prevent water flows to the beach,
16. Remove the concrete floor in front of the Teacher's Guest House that narrows beach and causes nests to be submerged,
17. Release more water from the Hydroelectric Power Plant in Dragon Stream. Sedimentation flow must be ensured,
18. Provide sea turtle awareness and protection training to all municipal and government office employees (including cleaning personnel, construction workers, gardeners, electricians, technicians, excavator operators, etc.) who work at the beach or whose work interacts with the beach,
19. Publish the number of nests marked by the Nature Conservation and National Parks authority on the Anamur nesting beach separately, according to the sections of the beach and all existing sea turtle species (Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and African soft shell turtles (*Trionyx triunguis*). This information is requested for the past 5 years and future years.
20. Dismiss the zoning plan change in the Aquapark region affecting the nesting beach that is approved by the Municipality of the Anamur and the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality.
21. The damage to the streams from existing and possible mines in the region is unknown. Additionally, agricultural pollutants in the environment need to be investigated. Mass fish deaths occur at various times in these streams, which are home to African soft shell turtle. Again, the municipality's stream

improvement and cleaning efforts are likely to have negative effects on the aquatic life in the streams.

22. The soil brought to the Karaağaç Picnic Area should be removed
23. As owners of businesses and fields on the nesting beach increase and expand the violations during the winter months when the inspection mechanisms do not operate, authorities must intervene. Despite our repeated warnings to state officials on this issue, they neither cooperate with us nor protect the beach.

MERÇED and MEDASSET call upon the Bern Convention Standing Committee to:

1. Encourage authorities to implement the necessary actions listed above and Recommendation No. 226 (2024).
2. Include the case files in the agenda of the 46th Meeting of the Standing Committee for discussion.
3. Maintain the case files open to ensure continued monitoring and follow-up.

Annex 1: MEDASSET - The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

DETAILED REPORT OF 2026 FOR ANAMUR SPA, TURKEY

In June 2026, MEDASSET visited the Anamur Special Protection Area (SPA) to conduct on-site observations of the management and conservation status of the nesting beach. The fieldwork was carried out over three days, encompassing both daytime and nighttime monitoring. During this process, the issues raised in the reports of various stakeholders (both advocates and complainants) were directly evaluated and documented on-site.

Within the scope of the fieldwork, the current status of the issues identified in the previous report was also evaluated. To synopsise, during the pre-season meeting organized by the Governorate and District Governorates, noise and light restrictions were communicated to local businesses, specifying that these bans would be in effect between 20:00 and 08:00. However, on-site observations revealed that these restrictions were not being enforced. In the Anamur SPA (Special Protection Area), an increase in nesting density was only observed in localized areas where light and noise pollution had decreased. Various types of pollution continue to be encountered across the beach. While efforts to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the beach are showing positive progress, it was determined that violations still persist in certain areas. Furthermore, it was observed that some of the newly initiated high-rise building constructions behind the Karaağaç section of the beach have been completed, and exterior facade lighting has been added to these blocks. This development further intensifies light pollution which we project will further increase in the future.

The primary issues observed in the Anamur SPA are presented below under subheadings:

1. Illegally filled site in Karaağaç

Although recovery has been observed in the rehabilitated dune area, the road filling work carried out behind this section has been halted, and the added fill material has been removed. However, due to the ongoing construction activities behind the beach, it has been observed that alternative access roads have been opened to facilitate transportation. The rising population density resulting from the increasing residential developments in the region leads to a visible increase in visitor pressure on the area. The addition of exterior facade lighting to completed buildings clearly demonstrates, at a concerning level, how severely even unoccupied structures contributes to light pollution.

Of extreme concern, the natural structure of the rehabilitated river mouth has been compromised by adding extra rocks to the dune formation. Compared to previous years, the dune accumulation in the delta has been completely lost due to these interventions, eliminating any potential for the area to serve as an alternative habitat for the African Softshell Turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) in the future.

Another negative development was the observation that in addition to the bungalow that was situated on the Karaağaç beach in previous years, container-type houses and tiny houses have been introduced, and supplementary lighting has been installed in the bungalow's garden (Recommendation Point 3). It was observed that businesses in the region are expanding their facilities. Specifically, it was determined that the bungalow business added external sand—damaging the natural structure of the

beach—and carried out non-native plant cultivation. (Figure 1 shows the photographs of the area)

2. Beach Arrangement Project

The coastal development project carried out by Anamur Municipality remains actively ongoing, in direct violation of the Sea Turtle Conservation Circular No. 2009/10 (Recommendation Point 2). In interviews conducted with local residents and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, it was noted that while Anamur Municipality announced to the media on May 3, 2026, that the park's boundaries were being reorganized and the project would be completed by May 19, 2026 (<https://www.istemersin.com/foto/27920215/anamur-dragon-parkinda-degisim-sinirlar-yeniden-belirleniyor>), construction activities that compromise the conservation zone continue on-site. Furthermore, the official opening of the fish restaurant (<https://www.anamurgazetesi.com/halk-balik-restorani-rauf-denktas-parki-nda-hizmete-acildi/6266>) located within the park area was delayed until June 11, 2026. Consequently, this situation clearly demonstrates a direct violation of the aforementioned circular.

According to Circular No. 2009/10:

- No construction activities of any kind may be carried out within the 1st and 2nd Degree Conservation Zones.
- Between May 1 and September 30, entry of all kinds of animals and motorized vehicles onto nesting beaches must be strictly prevented.
- Within the Buffer Zone of nesting beaches, construction activities are permissible only during daytime hours.
- To protect sea turtle nesting habitats, the Coastal Law must be meticulously enforced, and the dumping of garbage, rubble, or solid/liquid waste on the shore must be strictly prohibited.

Consultations with officials from MERCED (a local NGO) and examinations of field photographs confirmed that these circular regulations are not being complied with. The project, designed as part of the Dragon Creek (Rauf Denktas Park) coastal arrangement, is listed under the objective "Creating a sustainable ecological city in harmony with nature" in the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan of Anamur Municipality (<https://anamur.bel.tr/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/1-Anamur-Belediyesi-2025-2029-Yili-Stratejik-Plan.pdf>) .

However, the project in question falls within the beach's 1st Degree Conservation Zone (0–65 meters). Specifically, the widening of the walkway on the beach side of the park and the physical properties of the sand used as filling material have adversely affected the natural beach structure. Furthermore, artificial lighting fixtures oriented toward the beach have been installed along the filled walkway. Once the project is fully completed, these artificial light sources are projected to severely impact sea turtle behavior.

With the completion of the Rauf Denktas Park arrangement, it has been observed that the newly generated recreational areas have already increased human-induced usage pressure on the beach. This heightened recreational footprint—combined with factors such as artificial lighting, sunbed and umbrella usage, and littering—is assessed to

pose critical threat vectors to the natural behavior and life cycle of sea turtles. (Figure 2 Beach arrangement Project)

3. Sand extraction

Generally, no direct sand extraction was detected during the observations along the beaches. However, it was determined that the activities conducted by businesses within Devlet Bahçeli and Rauf Denktaş parks, as well as in Karaağaç, have damaged the dune structure. Particularly, rainwater drainage lines cause degradation and erosion on the beach. Additionally, restoration and rehabilitation works carried out on riverbeds and deltas render modifications to the beach structure inevitable. (Figure 3. Sand extraction)

4. Illegal vehicle access to beach

During on-site field observations, direct vehicle entry onto the beach was not detected, except in a few localized areas (Recommendation Point 1). However, motor vehicle tracks were encountered on the beach surface. Particularly on Cerenler Beach, although vehicle access from the highway has been restricted by digging deep trenches, the passage of light vehicles such as motorcycles cannot be completely prevented. It has been observed that these illegal vehicle entries onto the beach are not subject to any punitive sanctions or enforcement. (Figure 4. Illegal vehicle entrance)

5. Light pollution

Light pollution resulting from newly constructed parks, street lighting, and private businesses operating on the beach has reached critical levels (Recommendation Point 1). It has been determined that no mitigation measures against light pollution have been implemented across a wide spectrum, ranging from streetlamps and parks to restaurants and entertainment venues. While only a single business in Karaağaç was observed to have transitioned to conservation-oriented red-light usage, the high-intensity lighting used for wedding events at the adjacent bungalow business was found to counteract this positive measure. Particularly, the green, white, and blue-toned lights utilized in Devlet Bahçeli Park exert a direct negative impact on the orientation behavior of sea turtles. On the newly commissioned Anamur Pier (active for maritime passenger transport), streetlamps, and the newly installed spotlights of Rauf Denktaş Park, no shielding or directional lighting modifications have been made; instead, some lights were merely turned off. However, evaluations indicate that this partial shutdown is highly insufficient due to the light spill visible from various angles. Although removing spotlights entirely may not be feasible due to security concerns at the military camp and certain other facilities, the light sources in these areas must urgently be replaced with amber-toned spectrums. Furthermore, the exterior facade lighting of numerous newly constructed residential projects must be decommissioned immediately. (Figure 5 Light pollution)

6. Expanding businesses on the nesting beach

Beach furniture are deployed on the shore by local businesses in an alarming rate. These furniture are not removed at night and are positioned in a manner that obstructs the critical nesting zone of the beach. Although some facilities in the area between Dragon Creek and Anamur Pier have been removed, a wooden boardwalk has been installed in front of the newly opened municipal business, and umbrellas and sunbeds belonging to private establishments still remain on the beach. Furthermore, it was observed that the sunbeds and umbrellas belonging to the businesses within Devlet Bahçeli Park cover a vast area, with new beach furniture being actively introduced.

An establishment providing accommodation and restaurant services on Karaağaç Beach has constructed a new restaurant building compared to previous years. In addition, expansion works are being carried out to add new beach pavilions to the facility. During the fieldwork, a wedding ceremony was encountered directly on the beach; the deployment of such high-intensity sound and light sources within the conservation area exceeds acceptable thresholds and directly threatens habitat security.

Evidence of beach fires was detected in multiple sections of the shore. In camping zones and newly designed park areas, non-native plant species that damage the natural dune ecosystem have been planted, and artificial vegetation changes have been induced through periodic irrigation. This practice is projected to cause a progressive narrowing of the beach width in the coming years. (*Figure 6. Expanding businesses on the nesting beach*)

7. Stone wall built alongside the Dragon River

The riverbed restoration works conducted in Dragon Creek through the construction of stone retaining walls have completely destroyed the habitat of the African Softshell Turtle (Trionyx triunguis). Specifically, these stone walls built along the river channel have covered the sand dunes, completely eliminating the nesting zone of this species. During the on-site monitoring activities, no African Softshell Turtles were observed, contrasting sharply with data from previous years. (*Figure 7. Stone wall built alongside the Dragon River*) (*Figure 8 New problems still same*)

8. Information Signs, Public Awareness and Monitoring of the Beach and the African Softshell Turtle (Trionyx triunguis)

The situation remains as previously reported (Recommendation Point 4) . There is limited/no awareness among the public about the cages or markings for turtle nests, and emphasis should be placed on education, printing and publication activities on this subject. This also ties with non implementation of Recommendation Point 5, Point 6, Point 7, Point 8 and Point 9. It was determined that no regular, academic, or professional conservation or monitoring program is currently in place in the area. Not only are the nests not being monitored, but measures against light and noise pollution are also not being taken, and the businesses on the beach are not being inspected. As a result, sea turtles are either abandoning nesting on the beach or, after hatching, the hatchlings are drawn to the lights of the businesses and lose their lives, which have barely begun. Of great concern is that a regular, academic, and professional conservation or monitoring

program, focusing on the Nile soft shelled turtles as well, is currently NOT in place in the area, as recommended in Point 7.

Figure 1. Status of Karaağaç



Karaağaç beach in June 2026: On the west part we observe a new plantation and on the east part the beach facilities are removed.



Legal Registered status of the expanded facility: Parcel number: 326/1, Total area: 13,786.00 m², 327/1, Total area: 2,641.05 m²Field status: Farm land (July 2026)



Karaağaç Rehabilitation Area, June 2025: A road embankment was constructed behind the rehabilitated area, and the final state as of June 2026 is indicated (yellow rectangles).



Newly constructed buildings with exterior facade lighting and the illumination sources of the bungalow enterprise visible in the background (yellow arrows).



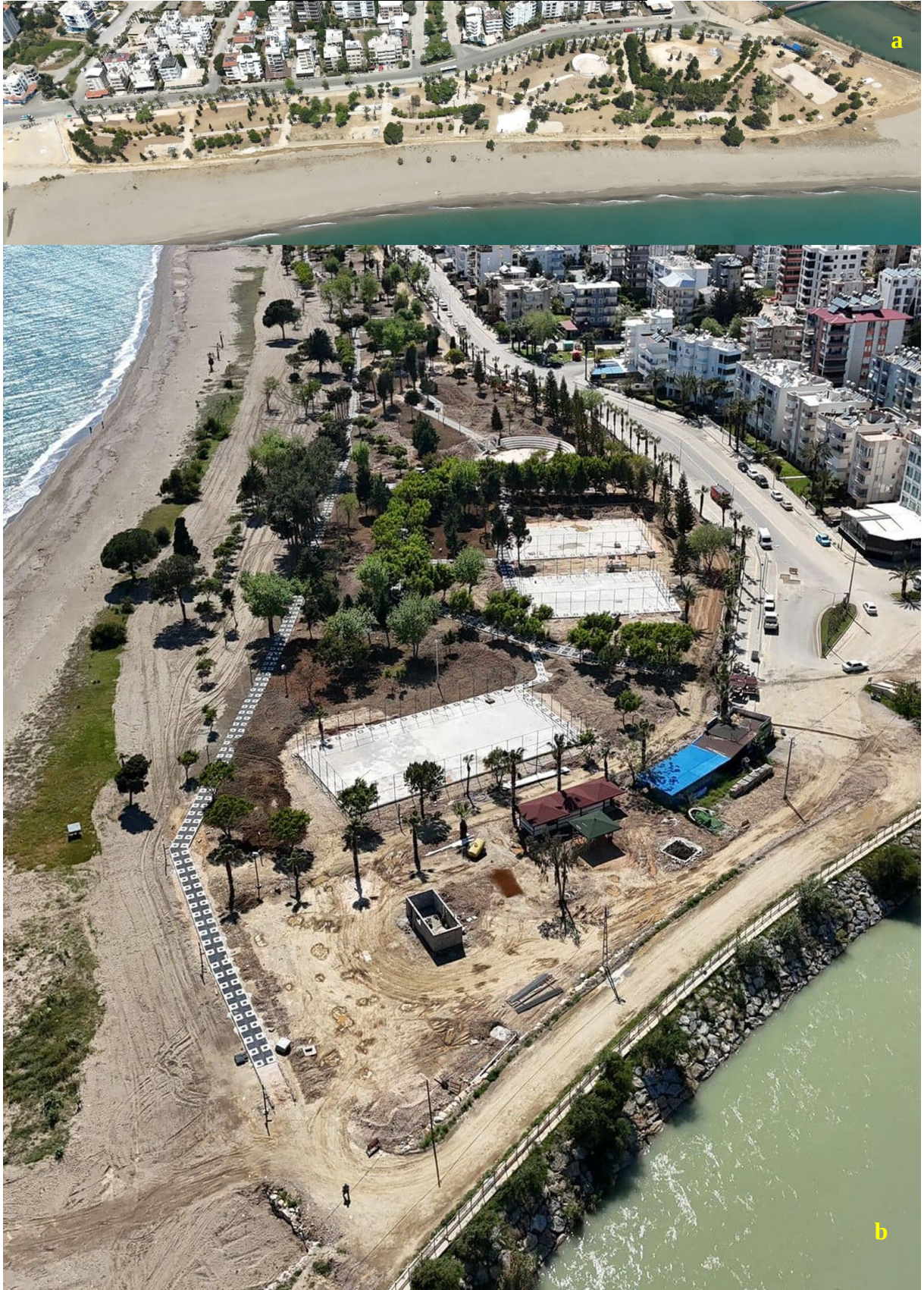
Rock-filling activities carried out in the coastal area where beach formation had begun: July 2025 (a) and June 2026 (b).



New lighting fixtures added to the bungalow garden and newly deployed tiny houses observed around the facility's perimeter. July 2025 (a) and June 2026 (b)



Karaağaç, June 2026: Fertile soil was brought in for saplings, and an irrigation system was installed.

Figure 2 Beach arrangement Project

Comparative field images showing the expansion of the Rauf Denktaş Park project toward the beach area: May 2025 (a) and May 2026 (b).



The setback/relocation of the walking path further inland at Rauf Denktaş Park: May 2025 (a) and June 2026 (b).



Artificial light sources from Dragon Park casting glare onto the beach area and their potential light pollution impact on the nesting grounds.



Increased human-induced usage pressure and recreational impact on the beach area following the official opening of the park.



Electrical wiring installed in July 2025 to illuminate the park's walking path, and the subsequent park lighting fixtures installed in June 2026 (area marked in yellow).



Newly installed shower cabins and the direct discharge of their wastewater onto the beach, which is projected to cause alterations in coastal vegetation and sand compaction (hardening) in the future.

Figure 3. Sand extraction



Degradation and adverse impacts caused to the dune structure by the activities of businesses operating in the Karaağaç region, alongside the physical interventions within Devlet Bahçeli and Rauf Denktaş parks in the beach areas.

Figure 4. Illegal vehicle entrance



Deep trenches dug at Cerenler Beach to block vehicle access remained intact in 2025 (a) and 2026 (b);



however, despite these preventative measures, motor vehicle tracks were still detected on the beach. Furthermore, uncontrolled vehicle entry was observed to persist on the western wing of the beach.

Figure 5. Light pollution

To more clearly visualize the change over the course of a year, a photo from 2025 is placed on top and a photo from 2026 is placed on the bottom.



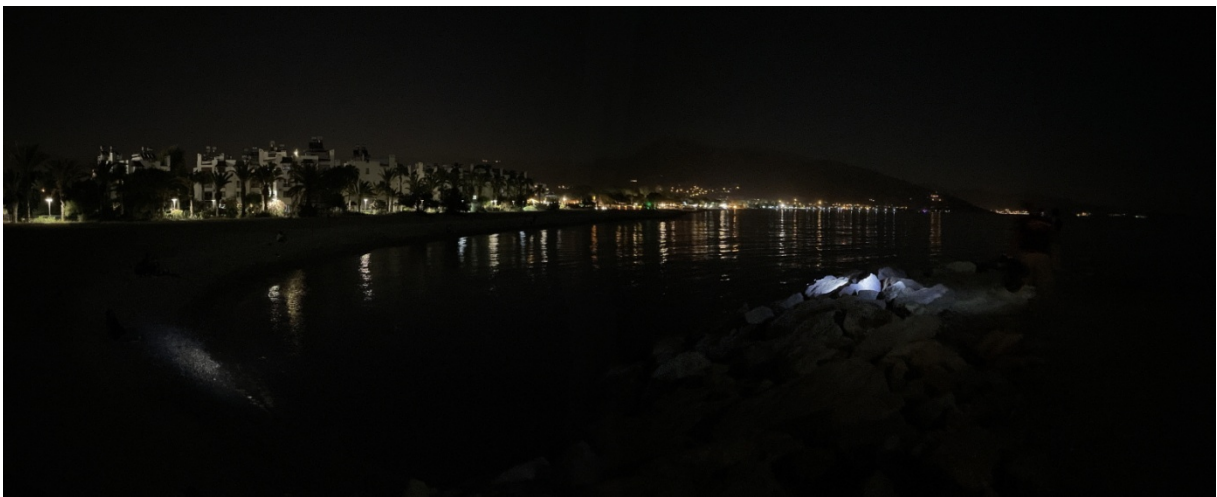
The road lighting is the right color, but it's facing the wrong direction. Their status is the same.



The lighting is part of the beach renovation project. The highlights in the middle were turned off for the basketball court, as were the lights facing the beach.



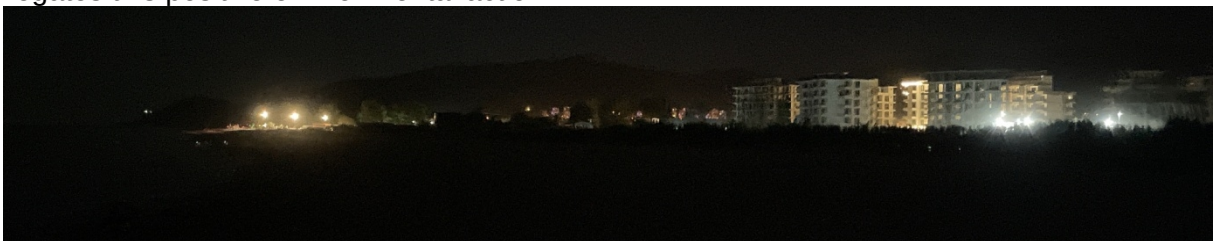
Port illumination and beach restaurant lighting casting artificial glare directly onto the nesting beach, contributing to localized light pollution.



Although the illumination from the summer houses was partially shielded by the vegetation, the newly installed security lighting at the marina was found to be inactive. However, white light emissions from visitors on the beach remain highly conspicuous.



A business operating in Karaağaç implementing turtle-friendly red light lighting; however, the highly intense white illumination utilized by the adjacent bungalow enterprise mitigates and negates this positive environmental action.



Newly installed exterior facade lighting and high-intensity light emissions from the wedding/event venue, directly impacting the beach front.

Figure 6. Expanding businesses on the nesting beach



The wooden boardwalk added in front of the newly constructed fish restaurant in Dragon Park, representing a direct physical intervention on the natural dune structure of the beach.



No different from last year Camping areas near Mamure Castle



There has been an increase in fire indicators and litter on beaches.



The construction of a new restaurant building and ongoing installation works of new pavilions on Karaağaç Beach by the local bungalow enterprise.



Observation of sunbeds and umbrellas occupying a vast area of the beach within Devlet Bahçeli Park, alongside the addition of beach furniture and the installation of a volleyball court, increasing recreational pressure on the coastal habitat.



As in the previous year, visitors continue to use the beach actively at night within the areas illuminated by the parks constructed along the coastline (yellow arrows).



Beach furniture still covers the entire beach in some places.



"I am a beach, not a giant ashtray! Please don't throw your cigarette butts" written on the warning sign.



The designated area for the planned floating pier/jetty on Karaağaç Beach, alongside new umbrellas brought to the site to be installed on the beach.

Figure 7. Stone wall built alongside the Dragon River and the African Softshell Turtle



Mouth of Dragon River in 2025



Mouth of Dragon River in 2026 with more vegetation



Land side of the river covered by stone wall in 2025



Land side of the river covered by stone wall in 2026 with more vegetation

Figure 8. New problems



Barracks built on the Sultan Stream 2026



Observation of uncontrolled tent camping activities initiating on the beach, alongside certain businesses—, which had previously cleared their setups—expanding their sunbed and umbrella layouts once again.

ANNEX 2: REFERENCES

Anamur: REPORTS & COMPLAINT SUBMITTED TO THE BERN CONVENTION

Available online at www.medasset.org or www.coe.int

T-PVS/Files(2022)32 - Government Report

T-PVS/Files(2022)33 - Complainant Report

T-PVS/Files(2023)56 - Government Report

T-PVS/Files(2023)42 - Complainant Report

T-PVS/Files(2024)31 - Government Report

T-PVS/Files(2024)6 - Complainant Report

T-PVS/Inf(2024)13 - Report of the on-the-spot appraisal by the independent expert

T-PVS/Files(2025)2019-05_gov - Government Report

T-PVS/Files(2025)2019-05_comp - Complainant Report

T-PVS/Files(2026)2019-05_comp

RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

Rec. No. 7 (1987) on the protection of marine turtles and their habitat

Rec. No. 8 (1987) on the protection of marine turtles in Dalyan and other important areas in Turkey

Rec. No. 12 (1988) concerning the protection of important turtle nesting beaches in Turkey

Rec. No. 24 (1991) on the protection of some beaches in Turkey of particular importance to marine turtles

Rec. No. 66 (1998) on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Turkey

Academic Publications Related with Sea Turtles in Anamur, TURKEY

[R1] Aşkın Hasan UÇAR and Serap ERGENE, (2022), First data on African (soft shell turtle (*Trionyx triunguis*) nests on Anamur Beach in Mersin on the eastern Mediterranean coast of Türkiye,: https://biozoojournals.ro/bihbiol/cont/v16n2/bb_e221305_Ucar.pdf

[R2] Max Kasperek (2000) - Status of the Nile Soft-shelled Turtle, *Trionyx triunguis*, in Turkey: An assessment in the Çukurova Delta with Recommendations for Conservation Management – January 2020 - Report for the 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Affiliation: MEDASSET / Council of Europe
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289968156_Status_of_the_Nile_Softshelled_Turtle_Trionyx_triunguis_in_Turkey_An_assessment_in_the_Cukurova_Delta_with_Recommendations_for_Conservation_Management/citations

[R3] Aşkın Hasan UÇAR (2008) Investigation of Biological Properties of Sea Turtles *Caretta caretta* and *Cheloniemydas* and Soft Shell Nile Turtle *Trionyx triunguis* Populations and Anamur Nesting Beach Properties. Ph.D. Thesis. Mersin University, Institute of Science and Technology, Department of Biology. Thesis Advisor Dr. Serap Ergene, Mersin, December 2008

Prof. Dr. İbrahim Baran and Dipl.-Biol. Max Kasperek, 1989, Marine Turtles Turkey. Status survey 1988 and recommendations for conservation and management.

[R4] Casale P., Boderick A.C., Camiñas J. A., Cardona L., Carreras C., Demetropoulos A., Fuller W. J., Godley B. J., Hochscheid., Kaska Y., Lazar B., Margaritoulis D., Panagopoulou A., Rees A. F., Tomás J. & Türkozan O. (2018) 'Mediterranean sea turtles: current knowledge and priorities for

conservation and research'

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326775961_Mediterranean_sea_turtles_current_knowledge_and_priorities_for_conservation_and_research

Supplement : https://www.int-res.com/articles/suppl/n036p229_supp.pdf (Table S9, S15, S18, S20 defines *Caretta caretta* numbers)

[R5] European Reptile & Amphibian Specialist Group. 1996. *Trionyx triunguis* (Mediterranean subpopulation). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 1996: e.T22200A9364253. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.1996.RLTS.T22200A9364253.en>

[R6] Aşkın Hasan UÇAR, Serap ERGENE, Yakup KASKA, Cemil AYMAK, (December 2019) Sex Ratio Estimation of the Most Eastern Main Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting Site: Anamur Beach, Mersin, Turkey https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236646756_Sex_Ratio_Estimation_of_the_Most_Eastern_Main_Loggerhead_Sea_Turtle_Nesting_Site_Anatur_Beach_Mersin_Turkey

[R7] IUCN MTSG report Sea turtles in the Mediterranean, 2010: distribution, threats and conservation priorities <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2010-012.pdf> (Turkey section is given in pages 257-293. Authors for "Turkey" section : Oğuz Türkozan and Yakup KASKA)

[R8] Peter Paul van Dijk, Tomas Diagne, Patrick Joseph Baker, Ertan Taskavak, December 2017, *Trionyx triunguis*. IUCN Red List Assessment https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323990667_Trionyx_triunguis_IUCN_Red_List_Assessment

[R9] Hochscheid et al. (2018). Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report https://mtsg.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/mtsg-annual-regional-report-2018_mediterranean.pdf

Other References

[R10] Circular # B.18.0.DMP.0.01.03 / 831.02 dated October 2009 - About the protection of the sea turtles, Released by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. [https://kms.kayis.gov.tr/\(X\(1\)S\(pvtdfjxi5h25d2jwtaoqoy4\)\)/Home/Goster/56800?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](https://kms.kayis.gov.tr/(X(1)S(pvtdfjxi5h25d2jwtaoqoy4))/Home/Goster/56800?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

[R11] Posts at the facebook account of "Anamur Environment Platform" regarding with the negative issues affecting the *Caretta caretta* nesting or the hatchlings
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/wDW3YrMwpjfbjqZ/?mibextid=UalRPS>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/sZX6z43RgCjUxMdH/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/Yv21pXY9yyvvVnpW/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/hYsArz8aMMFhEpGc/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/j7CtM6P152qDriGP/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

[R12] Posts at the Facebook account of "Anamur Environment Platform" regarding with the concrete construction at the Anemurium Ancient City.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/wyu79cVm5XUELDzy/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/AVd1riQqbs1kAt77/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/wMmgNR3wxPNUKPzH/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/tD47gNpav4z4WWxj/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/RTiEBJnrZuPqCuZr/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/rAJNgfLbEdd7pHFp/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/CawSAiVmrU6AfLEj/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

[R13] Karaagac Restaurant company's Instagram account :
<https://www.instagram.com/karaagacbeach/>

[R14] Post at the Facebook account of "Anamur Environment Platform" regarding with the dead hatchling found in front of Rolli Hotel. This hotel is almost 250 meter far from the shore line: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/CmdzjAKSjQxsxDSS/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

[R15] Post at the Facebook account of "Anamur Environment Platform" regarding with the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchlings observed in Anamur – Oren nesting beach . Note that comments added to the post includes additional video of the same event.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/VhUrAtSiHQhhC3F6/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

[R16] News and publications about the initiative to open stone, coal, marble and dolomite quarries in the region

http://www.haberanamur.net/46953/tas-ocaklarina-karsi-direnis-devam-ediyor/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGJlvdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHeG54cSSUog1jYXJSJFAupBot-mFNUq_WAE6cpniQkqdXNT6YgfEOGuw_aem_Fl3NIHVYIVhsN-pq53nMfg
https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1711638746346646&id=100025016101730&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=Hr0uBKzj2zucDcHO#
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/385241977_ANAMUR_ILCESI_EMIRSAH_VE_OVABA_SI_DOLOMIT_OCAGININ_CEVREYE_ETKILERI
<https://www.facebook.com/100069901083569/posts/842458264760869/?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=zYLzVXXISh0D0EDc>
<https://www.mersinhaberci.com/haber/54196/anitlida-ki-mermer-ocagi-yargi-eliyle-durduruldu.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/100069901083569/posts/452066793800020/?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=kVNknGLzmG00KnkY#>
https://www.uyan32.com/mermer-ocagi-ruhsatini-iptal-edildi?fbclid=IwY2xjawETDK9leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQci90eJrDQfIOnQtS7AS5J2fEVqS2Of7EyqXpUnqemR5j-PVlDmC7dk4Q_aem_BnNIgE-S4icp1Funod6zcg&sfnsn=scwspwa#lz5hjn9pzzexds20h4

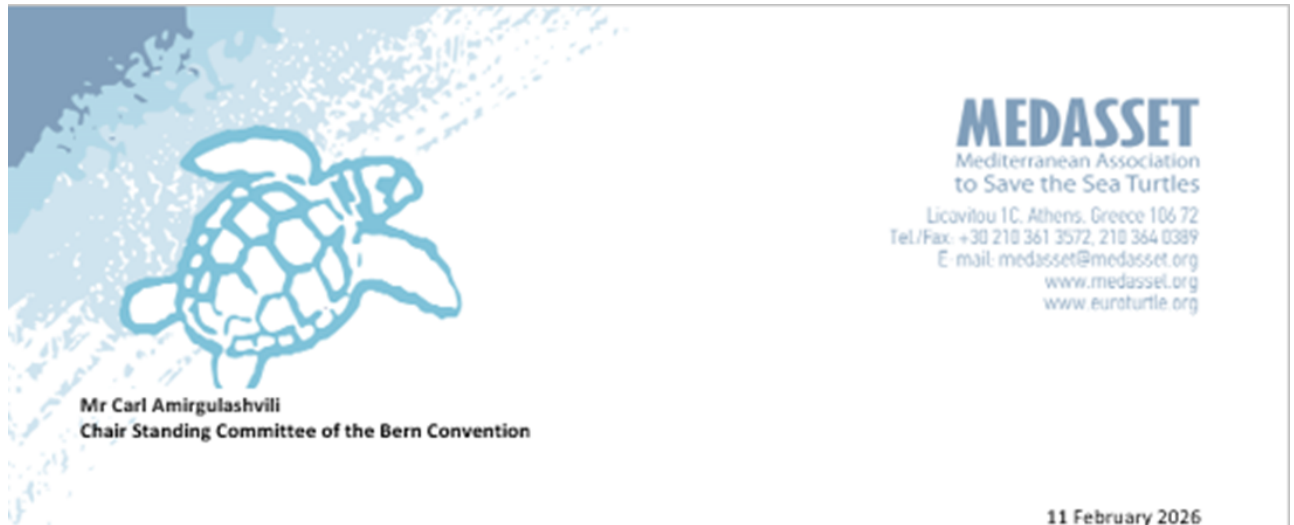
[R17] Various reports of mass fish kills in area streams

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1245835739772606>
<https://www.facebook.com/iceltv/videos/ekspres-haber-2-18092017-anamurda-bal%C4%B1k-%C3%B6l%C3%BCmleri-korkutuyor-mersinde-18-gemi-bat/1923665767897920/>
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x615xzzr>

[R18] Nile turtle individual seen around Rolly Hotel beach
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-sFqtzMVGU/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D>

[R19] Geothermal Drilling License

<https://www.facebook.com/share/19PBiuYznU/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1EykfHKTZK/?mibextid=WC7FNe>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/16mYjysySw/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Update as of February 2026

Re: Update regarding Recommendations No. 95, 182, 183, and 226 (Kazanli, Patara, Fethiye, and Mersin Anamur, Turkey)

Dear Mr. Amirgulashvili,

MEDASSET wishes to provide a brief status update regarding the aforementioned recommendations.

At this time, there are no significant new on-the-ground developments to report. However, we would like to highlight our continued readiness to support the implementation of these conservation measures.

In a recent meeting with the **IUCN Mediterranean (IUCN-Med)** representative, we formally expressed our commitment to participate in the upcoming protection and implementation processes for **Patara (Recommendation No. 182)**. We look forward to contributing our expertise once the mission and subsequent actions are organized.

We remain at your disposal for any further information and will continue to monitor these files closely.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

Lily Venizelos

MEDASSET President

Member of IUCN-Species Survival Commission: Marine Turtle Specialist Group |

CC:

Bern Convention, Council of Europe:

Ms. Alessandra SIINO, Secretary of the Bern Convention

Mr. Marc HORY, Project Manager - European Diploma for Protected Areas and Emerald Network

Ms. Marta MEDLINSKA, Programme Manager