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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

**Follow-up of Recommendation No. 95 (2002)
on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı
beach (Turkey)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry*

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
GOVERNMENT REPORT
FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 95 (2002)
10.10.2019**

Background Information: This case file was open between the years 2000 and 2004. In 2013, it was included in the recommendations to be followed-up, and with a Committee decision taken in 2017, it was decided to be reported biannually. Therefore, the report of the year 2019 is presented below:

1. Removing as a matter of urgency, the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3; remove, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in beach section K3 through the appropriate legal and administrative procedures and restore that space to favour turtle nesting:

There are still some greenhouses found in the last inspection, on K3 section of the beach. As it was reported in 2017, all the greenhouses seems to be legal considering the existing legislation. However, the shore edge line in the region is in the local court and the court is still waiting for renewal of cadastral work, once this work is done, all the lands beyond the shore edge line will be transferred to public property.



2. Moving the taxi parking area away from the beach as a matter of urgency:

There is no taxi parking area anymore as it was stated in previous reports.

3. Periodically removing the plastic debris from the beach:

The related institutions like municipalities and local branches of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry cooperate on this issue. The responsible municipality, with the volunteered contributions of students from the surrounding schools, cleaned the area before the nesting season of 2019 as they have been doing for several years.

4. Screening the lights of the municipality of Kazanlı and the Soda-Chrome factory so as to avoid photopollution on the beach:

Before every nesting season, inspections are made at the beaches by the provincial directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The enterprises are informed about the necessity of preventing the light pollution at the beaches. The responsible municipality, which is Akdeniz Municipality is reminded of the precautions about photopollution, and they interview with enterprises around and the Soda-

chrome factory to take necessary measures. The information provided to the municipalities included the following information:

The nesting period of sea turtles, which is a protected species under international conventions, is between 15 May – 15 September. It is an obligation under the Ministerial Decree 2009/10 that, every lighting used in parks, gardens and enterprises that has the possibility to reflect light towards the nesting site of the sea turtles must be designed in a way to avoid to be seen from the beach. This could either be achieved by directing the lights to the opposite site or by screening the light sources. It is also important to use light sources that have short wavelengths. Any violation of the decree should be reported to our provincial directorate.

5. Maintaining monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory and monitoring of nesting activity on the beaches:

Liquid chemical wastes of the chrome factory are treated in two different industrial waste treatment facility of the factory, and the wastes are analyzed by an accredited laboratory. This issue is followed by the provincial directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism. According to the report of the directorate, discharged chemical compound levels are below the limits.

The soda-chromium company was the financial sponsor of the marine turtle monitoring project for long years. For the last two years, however, monitoring of the beaches is done by collaboration of universities and the provincial directorate of the ministry. According to the monitoring studies done this year, more than 1000 nests were found. All the nests were caged and protected against predators and human pressure.

Kazanlı Beach <i>Length</i> 4.5 km	2017		2018		2019	
	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>
Total Number of Nests	1102	40	1651	3	1050	-

6. Setting in place a monitoring of beach erosion, so as to take remedial measures as needed:

The search for finding a solution to the beach erosion problem is still going on. Lastly, the provincial directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry drafted a joint project with Middle East Technical University, Institute for Marine Sciences. The draft project, Monitoring of Sediment Movements on the Shores, is planned to be initiated in 2020. With this project, the level of erosion will be determined and the possible ways to stop beach erosion will be put forward.

7. Promote public awareness on the presence and interest of marine turtle nesting in Kazanlı, addressed in particular to local population:

In the past, there was an education program and every year, awareness raising studies have been conducted regularly especially for schools. This year, 4 sea turtles which had been rehabilitated in Mersin Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation and Information Center were released into the sea from Kazanlı Beach, with the participation of Governor and Mayor of Mersin and mukhtars and local people. The releasing program had a broad repercussion in press and made a great contribution to the importance of protecting the Kazanlı Beach.

8. Fully implementing the existing environment plan and assure the necessary financial and human resources to this end: Environment plan is a higher order plan that binds all the relevant institutions and Kazanlı beach appears as marine turtle protection site in that plan.

9. Removing the illegal building in beach section K1: The decision mentioned in the first article is valid for this building as well.

10. Removing as appropriate the hazardous waste accumulated over the years close to the beach as a result of industrial activities:

This waste, which is categorized in hazardous chemical class was accumulated between the years 1984-1998. It was due to an older technology but still deposited under an impermeable geomembrane. As it was reported last time, the company has built a facility to dispose of this waste and it has been actively working since November 2009. The wastes are neutralized, pressed, and then deposited in a temporary landfill which is surrounded by an impenetrable geomembrane covering material. This neutralization process is one of the first examples of its kind in the world. Neutralization process turns the chemically active (Cr^{+6}) to (Cr^{+3}). When neutralized, this waste becomes nonhazardous. To control whether there is a leakage to underground water resources from this deposit, underground water samples are taken from the wells opened for this purpose. The amount of chromium neutralized in this facility is around 800.000 tons. Moreover, this nonhazardous chemical waste stored in this ETAN facilities is being transferred to the permanent landfill site whose environmental impact assessment was completed three years ago. The company started to deposit the waste here, in clay and non-permeable geomembrane cover.

11. Considering the removal of the wedding hall of Kazanlı from the beach, to be relocated elsewhere:

The wedding hall is still in the area. Although the building itself is not used for weddings, its garden is used for this purpose.

12. Applying appropriate treatment to sewage waters from Kazanlı, so as to free the back of the beach from pollution: Sewage waters of Kazanlı is pumped to Karaduvar waste water treatment facility, fully treated there and released to deep sea. Analysis reports of waste water treatment are published on the website of Mersin municipality. (<http://www.meski.gov.tr/Kurumsal9.aspx>)

13. Looking for an appropriate solution to remove houses on the beach that were constructed legally: The building complex called “Onur sitesi” is still on K1 section of the beach. As they were constructed legally, there could be no solution possible as of today.

14. Reducing the impact of agrochemical products in the area around Kazanlı: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had a project around the region. Increasing the efficiency of solarisation against nematods and soil originated diseases. Its aim is to decrease the usage of chemicals for plant diseases. Another project is “Integrated pest management in undercover vegetables and fruits”. It involves lowering the economical damage of pests to an acceptable level instead of completely destroying them. This also decreases the use of chemicals in agriculture.

Recommendation #	Status	Explanation
1	Not fully accomplished	Pending for the decision of the court
2	Accomplished	
3	Accomplished	Repeated every year
4	Accomplished	
5	Accomplished	Repeated every year
6	Not fully accomplished	The project will start in 2020
7	Accomplished	Repeated every year
8	Accomplished	
9	Not fully accomplished	Pending for the decision of the court
10	Not fully accomplished	Neutralizing still continues
11	Not fully accomplished	
12	Accomplished	
13	Not accomplished	
14	Accomplished	