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**CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS**

**Bureau of the Standing Committee**

18-19 March 2024  
Strasbourg

**Open case-file: 2019/05**

**Habitat destruction in Mersin Anamur Beach (Türkiye)**

**- GOVERNMENT REPORT -**

*Document prepared by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Republic of Türkiye*

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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

05.02.2024

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

**Background:** In the summer of 2019, a complaint was raised regarding an illegal occupation of a nesting beach, leading to an inspection by the Mersin Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Subsequently, the municipality was fined 180,000 Turkish Liras under Turkish Environmental Law (No. 2872), and it was mandated to rehabilitate the affected area. The municipality contested the fine, appealing to the administrative court, but the National Court, in January 2021, dismissed the appeal. Following discussions in the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and the experts, it was determined that rehabilitation should be carried out to prevent further damage caused by heavy machinery activities. Rehabilitation was completed before the summer of 2021. Another complaint related to the same site, encompassing a broader beach arrangement project, was submitted to the Secretariat. In the Standing Committee Meeting of the year 2022, a file was opened after a vote, and in the following year, where Turkish government was not represented in the SCM, several decisions were made, including an on-the-spot appraisal, subject to the agreement of Turkish authorities.

### **Beach Arrangement Project**

The Anamur Coastal Arrangement Project is set to occur in two phases. In the initial stage, two demarcated areas identified by wooden stakes were established. The first area extends up to 65 meters inland from the coastline, serving as a nesting ground for sea turtles. Boundaries for nesting, previously determined through collaborative efforts with the Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and local sea turtle experts, were considered. Beyond the 65-meter mark inland, this space is open to the public for the use of sunbeds and umbrellas. As per Circular 2009/10, no structures (facilities, stalls, cafes, tea houses, etc.) can be constructed within the first 65 meters of the 1st Protection Zone.

The planned activities for the 2nd stage include the following: Despite the absence of a requirement for an Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) for small-scale projects like these under Turkish legislation, a team of scientists, comprising professors from three different universities with expertise in sea turtles and membership in the National Sea Turtle Scientific Committee, assessed risks, necessary measures, and preservation methods for the nesting area before the beach arrangement works. The scientific committee found that the 2nd Protection Zone behind the sea turtle nesting area had suffered from the impact of vehicle traffic, filling, and excavation works. Consequently, the implementation of the 2nd Stage project is deemed by the scientific committee to contribute to the conservation of the area. As of August 17, 2023, taking into account the decisions made by the scientific committee during their examinations, it has been observed that the 2nd Stage project is approximately 90% complete.

Conservation measures recommended by the Scientific committee were outlined in earlier reports, that's why this report does not contain any extra information.

Finally, Turkish authorities would welcome an on-the-spot appraisal to be held in 2024 summer.