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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

43rd meeting

Strasbourg, 27 November - 1 December 2023

**Follow-up to Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation
of marine turtles in Kazanlı Beach (Türkiye)**

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

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

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

GOVERNMENT REPORT FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO.
95 (2002)

21.08.2023

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 2023 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 2021, 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, clean the area before each nesting season.

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. Akdeniz Municipality, which is the responsible municipality, is reminded of the precautions about photopollution, and they interview with enterprises around and the Soda chrome factory to take necessary measures.

5. Maintaining monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory and establishing a permanent system for monitoring of nesting activity on the beaches, monitoring of the effects of wastes on wildlife

The Soda-Kromsan factory processes hazardous wastes through the ETAN (Old Technology Waste Neutralization) Facility located within the factory premises, which was commissioned in 2009. Approximately 1,633,745 tons of waste have been processed so far.

The Kromsan Factory's wastewater is subject to an Environmental Permit for Industrial Wastewater Treatment. Discharge of wastewater is carried out in accordance with Environmental Legislation, and this matter is monitored by the Directorate of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change.

Nesting activities on the shore are regularly monitored by personnel from the Branch Directorate every year, and monitoring data for the last 5 years is provided below.

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>	<i>C. mydas</i>	<i>C. caretta</i>
Kazanlı Beach	1651	3	1050	-	1613	-	1226	-	1293	90

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

It is evident that coastal erosion is progressively advancing in the nesting area of Kazanlı Sea Turtles. What was once coastal erosion extending to the west of Kazanlı Elementary School in previous years has now moved as far as the vicinity of the wedding hall, reaching the sand dunes. Turtles have started using this area, which used to be a sand dune, and even the fill areas behind it, to nest. Without prompt intervention to prevent coastal erosion, it is clear that the beach will be lost in the future.

For this reason, consultations have been held with the Directorship of Erdemli METU Institute of Marine Sciences, and a draft project for Monitoring Coastal Sediment Movements has been prepared. Collaborative protocol preparations regarding the draft project are ongoing between the two institutions.

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

Education efforts in the Kazanlı region are ongoing through relevant departments. In 2023, fisherman training sessions were conducted at the Karaduvar and Çamlıbel Fishermen Shelters regarding the subject. During fieldwork, individuals observed on the beach and businesses are being informed about sea turtles. Additionally, with the participation of the Governor of Mersin and media organizations, the release of rehabilitated sea turtles back into the sea was carried out at the Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Information Center under the Mersin Branch Directorate. Press releases were also issued during these programs to raise public awareness about sea turtle conservation efforts.

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:

As a result of discussions and correspondence between the Akdeniz Municipality and the landowners, it has been decided to demolish the illegally constructed building located in the Kazanlı Beach K1 area. The building, which was still under construction, is in the process of being demolished following the evacuation ordered by the Akdeniz Municipality. Necessary efforts are ongoing to carry out the demolition work.

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

The hazardous waste, classified as old technology waste, which was generated as a result of the factory's activities in the vicinity of the shoreline between 1984 and 1998, has been managed by covering it with impermeable geomembrane material within the factory premises. These hazardous wastes (Cr+6) are

processed within the ETAN (Old Technology Waste Neutralization) Facility located on the factory site to render them non-hazardous (Cr+3). It has been reported that approximately 1,633,745 tons of waste have been processed at the facility up to this date.

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. The Municipality does not take any actions for its removal.

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:

The matter has been conveyed to the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, and in the response received, it is stated that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods are being implemented in the region to reduce the impact of agricultural chemicals and prevent untimely and unnecessary pesticide applications by farmers. Farmer field schools and producer training programs are being conducted to provide education and information on this matter.