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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

41<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 29 November – 3 December 2021

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**Other Complaint: 2021/01**

**Alleged threats to marine turtles due to a new coal-  
fired power plant at Sugözü Beach  
(Turkey)**

**- REPORT BY THE COMPLAINANT -**

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25 August 2021

Complainant report

As requested by the Meeting Report of 30 April 2021, prepared by the Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe.

Dear Standing Committee members,

The eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey, including Sugözü beach, is one of the most important nesting areas for the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), where more than 50% of the green sea turtle population within the Mediterranean lay their eggs.

The number of green sea turtle nests documented in 2004 is 190, according to the study field of Ecological Research Association (Ekolojik Araştırmalar Derneği, EKAD)<sup>1</sup>. Another scientific study done in 2006 in Sugözü beach, the green turtle population is 198<sup>2</sup>. However, according to another field study that is made in 2012, the green sea turtle nests found in the same area amounts to 78<sup>3</sup>. The number for all sea turtle nests (*Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*), on this beach totaled 213 in 2013<sup>4</sup>. Another study which compares the nesting activity and summarizes the total nest numbers for green turtle during 2006-2014 in among Sugözü, Samadag and Akyatan beaches, in annual basis, Sugözü has 132 nests per year<sup>5</sup>. Unfortunately, there are no publicly available scientific data for this area since then.

The power company, EMBA, has also stated that they had rehabilitated the coast in Spring-Summer 2020; however, there are no publicly available information of how the rehabilitation was done or whether any data is collected regarding sea turtle's reach to the nesting beach.

As of today, an independent field study needs to be conducted to have scientifically verifiable data on the nests and population in this area as well as to do due diligence of the rehabilitation. Alternatively, the Turkish Scientific Committee for Sea Turtles, can conduct a field study. The committee had been the leading actor on the adoption of the "Circular no. 2009-10 on the Protection of Sea Turtles" issued by the Directorate General of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMP). The Circular explicitly states the nesting beach as a protected area, where the coordinates are precisely defined. The field study can be conducted in accordance with this national legislation.

It should still be noted that Prof Oğuz Türkozan, a member of the Turkish Scientific Committee for Sea Turtles, had approved the construction on the nesting site, even during the nesting season. Prof Türkozan, is also the consultant of the power plant by EMBA.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/190-deniz-kaplumbagasi-yuvasi-kesfedildi-38638650>

<sup>2</sup> II. Ulusal Deniz Kaplumbağaları Sempozyumu 25-27 Ekim 2007 Dalyan-Muğla, Deniz Kaplumbağası Yuvalama Kumsallarında (Dalyan, Dalaman, Fethiye, Patara, Belek, Demirtaş, Göksu Deltası ve Sugözü-Yumurタルık) 2006 Yılı Yuvalama Sonuçları; Ali Fuat CANBOLAT, Yakup KASKA, Onur CANDAN, Kerem Yekta ATATUNÇ, Doğan SÖZBİLEN, Burak AKBABA, Murat ÖZAYDINLI, Haydar METİN

<sup>3</sup> Evaluating The Effects of Temperature on Nest Parameters, Weight and Sex of Hatchlings in Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas* L., 1758) Nests at Sugözü Beaches (Ceyhan-Adana), Çağla Kılıç University of Ordu Institute for Graduate Studies in Natural and Technology Department of Biology, 2015

<sup>4</sup> Hochscheid, S., Kaska, Y. and Panagopoulou, A. (Eds.) (2018). Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report 2018. Draft Report of the IUCNSSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, 2018. Pp 167

<sup>5</sup> Türkecan, Onur & Candan, Onur & Sönmez, Bektaş & YILMAZ, Can & Canbolat, Ali & Oruç, Ayşe & Yalcin Ozdilek, Sukran & Türkozan, Oğuz. (2015). NINE YEAR NESTING ACTIVITY OF GREEN SEA TURTLES IN THREE EASTERN BEACHES OF TURKEY.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281148787\\_NINE\\_YEAR\\_NESTING\\_ACTIVITY\\_OF\\_GREEN\\_SEA\\_TURTLES\\_IN\\_THREE\\_EASTERN\\_BEACHES\\_OF\\_TURKEY](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281148787_NINE_YEAR_NESTING_ACTIVITY_OF_GREEN_SEA_TURTLES_IN_THREE_EASTERN_BEACHES_OF_TURKEY)