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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting

Strasbourg, 29 November – 3 December 2021

Follow-up to Recommendation No.95 (2002)

**Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the
conservation of marine turtles in Kazanli Beach
(Turkey)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by the
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry*

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

19.10.2021

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 2021 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 2019, 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. The information provided to the municipalities included the following information:

The nesting period of sea turtles is between 15 May – 15 September. It is an obligation under the Circular 2009/10 that, every light source used in parcs, 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 circular should be reported to the provincial directorate. The lights used in Soda Chrome factory are adjusted accordingly.

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

Wastewater generated during the production of chromium compound chemicals is treated at the industrial wastewater treatment plant and discharged in accordance with environmental legislation. The industrial wastewater treatment plant, inspected by the legal authority, has an "Environmental Permit". Legal responsibilities are fulfilled within the scope of permission 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 Factory and Kromsan Factory, located on the coast of the Kazanlı coastal region, have directly contributed to the process by providing the sole and main sponsorship of the Research, Monitoring and Conservation Projects related to Sea Turtles for more than 10 years since 2007. In this context, under the consultancy of Mersin University and T.C. Turkey Şişe ve Cam Fabrikaları A.Ş. Şişecam Chemicals Mersin Soda Plant and Kromsan Plant supported by providing sole and main sponsorship. For the last four years, however, monitoring of the beaches is done by collaboration of universities and the provincial directorate of the ministry. *Caretta caretta*, as well as *Chelonia mydas* breed in Mersin Kazanlı region. Kazanlı coast, which is known to be of great importance especially for the *Chelonia mydas* species, is seen as the second most important breeding area in the world for sea turtles of this endangered species. According to the monitoring studies done this year, more than 1200 nests were found. All the nests were caged and protected against predators and human pressure.

Kazanlı Beach	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	<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>
Total Number of Nests	1651	3	1050	-	1613	-	1226	-

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

It is clear that coastal erosion is progressing day by day in the Kazanlı Sea Turtle Nesting Area. The coastal erosion that stretched to the west of Kazanlı Primary School in previous years has now advanced to the sand dunes around the wedding hall. Turtles have started to use the filling areas in this former sand dune area and even behind it for nesting purposes. It is clear that the beach will be lost in the future, unless an immediate action is taken to prevent coastal erosion. A project was prepared in cooperation with the METU Marine Sciences Institute (2019-2020 Investment Request) on the determination of the factors causing coastal erosion in previous years, but the study could not be started because the requested budget could not be obtained. It is thought that in the event of the implementation of the project, the factors causing erosion can be identified and measures to eliminate it can 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 Kazanlı region, school trainings were held in previous years. Due to the pandemic, meetings have not been held for the last two years. In addition to this, our staff in the field conducts informative activities to local businesses, the public and fishermen walking around the 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:

The old technology waste in the hazardous waste class, which was formed as a result of the activity of the factory between 1984-1998 in the area close to the coast, is kept under control by being covered with impermeable geomembrane material at the factory site. These hazardous wastes (Cr+6) are processed in the ETAN (Old Technology Waste Neutralization) Facility located within the factory site and rendered non-hazardous (Cr+3). To date, approximately 1,222,800 tons of waste has been processed in this facility. As it was reported in 2019, 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. Kromsan Plant is the only producer of chromium compounds in the world that brings process wastes, known as chrome ore processing wastes, to the non-hazardous waste category. ETAN Facility is an exemplary environmental practice developed with Kromsan's R&D activities and carried out successfully. This type of waste generated in chrome production has not been treated by any chrome producer in the world before and has not been disposed of as non-hazardous waste. The application of this process, which was developed as a result of Kromsan R&D work, is a first in the world. The amount spent for the ETAN Facility has reached approximately 52 million USD in total, 12 million USD of which is fixed investment expense and 40 million USD of operating cost. In the facility, which consists of waste preparation and

processing units, the waste in question is processed and brought to the non-hazardous waste class. In order to ensure the final disposal of the waste with the landfill method, the EIA process and legal permit processes have been completed according to the field application project, and landfill activities are carried out.

Moreover, this nonhazardous chemical waste stored in this ETAN facilities is being transferred to the permanent landfill site whose environmental impact assessment was completed five 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:

In the past, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had a project around the region. Increasing the efficiency of solarisation against nematods and soil originated diseases. Its aim was to decrease the usage of chemicals for plant diseases. Another project was “Integrated pest management in undercover vegetables and fruits”. It involved lowering the economical damage of pests to an acceptable level instead of completely destroying them. This also decreases the use of chemicals in agriculture. Nowadays, Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry provide information by producer trainings for farmers in the region in order to prevent untimely and unnecessary spraying in order to reduce the effect of agricultural chemicals.

Recommendation Number	Status	Explanation
1	Not fully accomplished	Pending due to 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 couldn't start due to budgetary issues
7	Accomplished	Repeated every year
8	Accomplished	
9	Not fully accomplished	Pending due to the decision of the court
10	Not fully accomplished	Neutralizing still continues
11	Not fully accomplished	
12	Accomplished	
13	Not accomplished	
14	Accomplished	