

INITIATIVE ON THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES



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The **Bern Convention** is an international treaty, which aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, such as marine turtles and their nesting beaches. Cyprus, Greece and Turkey are three of the 51 contracting parties, while ARCHELON, MEDASSET and Terra Cypria are among the Observer Organisations to the Convention.

The Bern Convention is leading an initiative to develop a **guidance tool**, for example an action plan or guidelines, for **sustainable co-existence of economic development and marine turtles' protection** in contracting parties Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

To ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the guidance tool to the local contexts, **it is essential to involve representatives of all relevant stakeholders** and consult them, to **listen and understand their views**. For this reason, the Bern Convention would like to **invite you to a first online consultation**, to share your opinion and ideas and/or the opinion and ideas of the group you represent, on the possible ways of coexistence of people and sea turtles in your country. **A second consultation will be organised next year** to give you the chance to discuss and provide feedback on the first draft action plan/guidelines, which will then be finalised. Once finalised, the contracting parties, in collaboration with all stakeholders, will lead the implementation of the guidance tool in their countries, with the hope that environmental protection will become an asset to the tourist economy for sustainable local development and that **people and marine turtles will share natural resources to the benefits of all**.

XXX, national consultations

First consultation

Second consultation

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Anthropogenic threats to the sea turtles



Intense Tourism



Plastic & derelict fishing gear



Boating and fisheries



Light pollution



Unregulated coastal development