



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

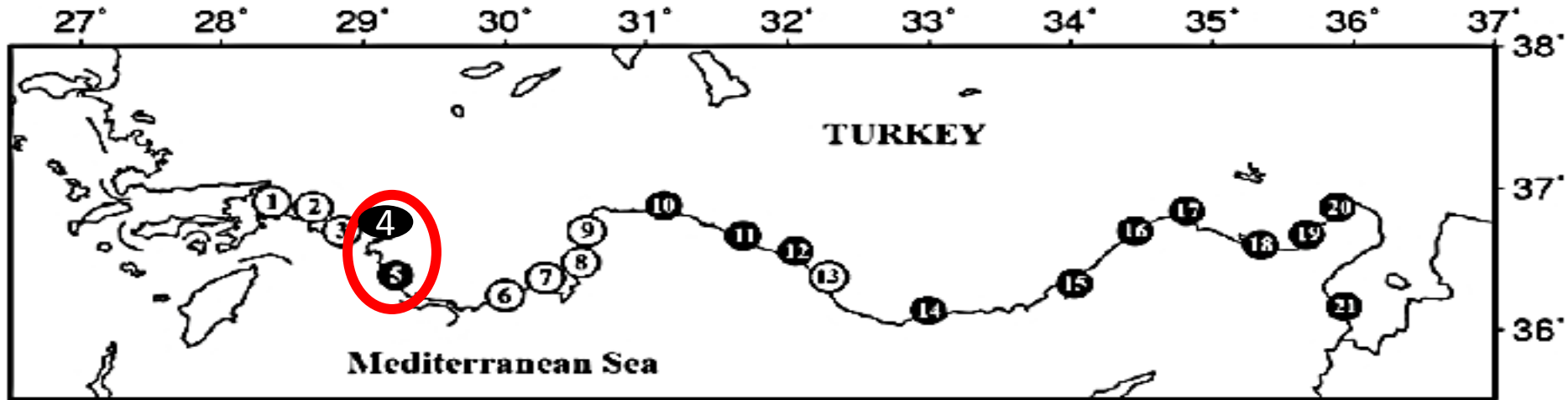
Agenda Item 6.2: Files opened

Turkey: Degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye & Patara Specially Protected Areas

41st Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention

29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2021

Fethiye & Patara are among the most important sea turtle nesting beaches in Turkey



- 1- EKİNCİK
- 2- DALYAN
- 3- DALAMAN
- 4- FETHİYE
- 5- PATARA
- 6- KALE

- 7- KUMLUCA
- 8- ÇIRALI
- 9- TEKİROVA
- 10- BELEK
- 11- KIZILOT
- 12- DEMİRTAŞ

- 13- GAZİPAŞA
- 14- ANAMUR
- 15- GÖKSU
- 16- ALATA
- 17- KAZANLI
- 18- AKYATAN

- 19- AĞYATAN
- 20- YUMURTALIK
- 21- SAMANDAĞ

● *Caretta caretta* + *Chelonia mydas*

○ *Caretta caretta*

Patara Specially Protected Area

Red line: SPA borders

Blue & Yellow line: Archaeological Site



Nesting Beaches



Patara Recommendation No. 182 NOT fully implemented

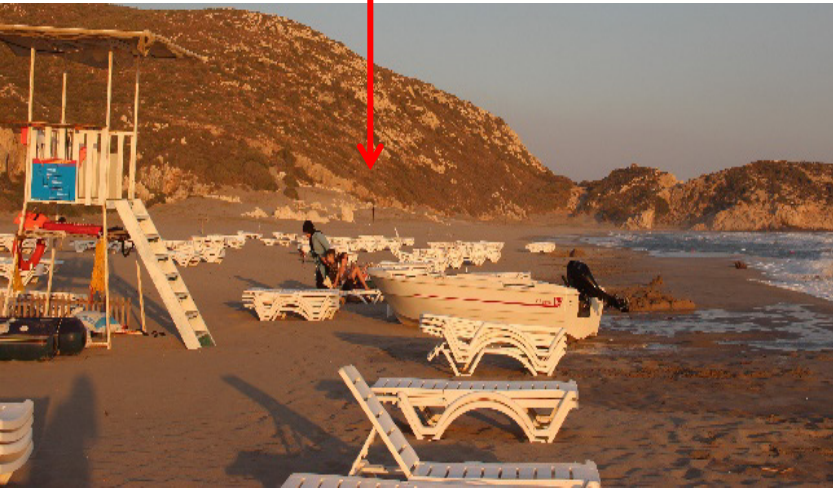
- 1: Nesting beach receives legal protection & management → **No improvement in management, info needed on re-zoning**
- 2: Define fines for non-compliance → yes but **not enforced**
- 3: Adequate resources for control, management & enforcement → **No management personnel on site to enforce regulations**
8. Long-term conservation programme with adequate manpower for entire beach & season → **One-season, insufficient manpower**



Patará Rec. 182 / 2 (ii): Regulate extent & use of beach furniture, ensure removal from nesting zone at night

Sunbeds & boats remain in the nesting zone at night

Approx. 100 parasols for users to place as they wish.



No zoning along 90% of nesting beach
Zoning incorrect in main beach

Patara Recommendation No. 182 /9 : Improve information, awareness, zoning

→ Signs insufficient, no zoning

Only 2 points of information across 12 km nesting beach



→ Uncontrolled vehicle access at 3 of 4 entry points

Patara Rec. 182 / 2 (iii): Prohibit vehicles access, place barriers

**Uncontrolled vehicle access
at 3 of 4 entry points**



Vehicle tracks next to nest predation grill

PATARA REC. 182. 4: Prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach

300-312 summer houses

120% population increase

Inside SPA in 3rd Degree Archaeological Site



Blue line: 3rd Degree Archaeological Site

Yellow line: 1st Degree Archaeological Site

Patara Recommendation No. 182 NOT fully implemented

2: Prohibit illumination of beach -> minor sources remain

No **horse** riding on beach -> **horses for rent at top of dune**

No **nearshore fishing** with nets -> **observed**

No **camping** (beach, riversides) -> **observed on river mouth**

5: Litter periodically removed -> **more in comparison to 2020**

6: Address predation -> **nests predated/unprotected**

7: Ensure nest fencing -> **not in some high human presence areas**

-> **Illegal sand extraction: 3-5.000 trucks (press reports)**



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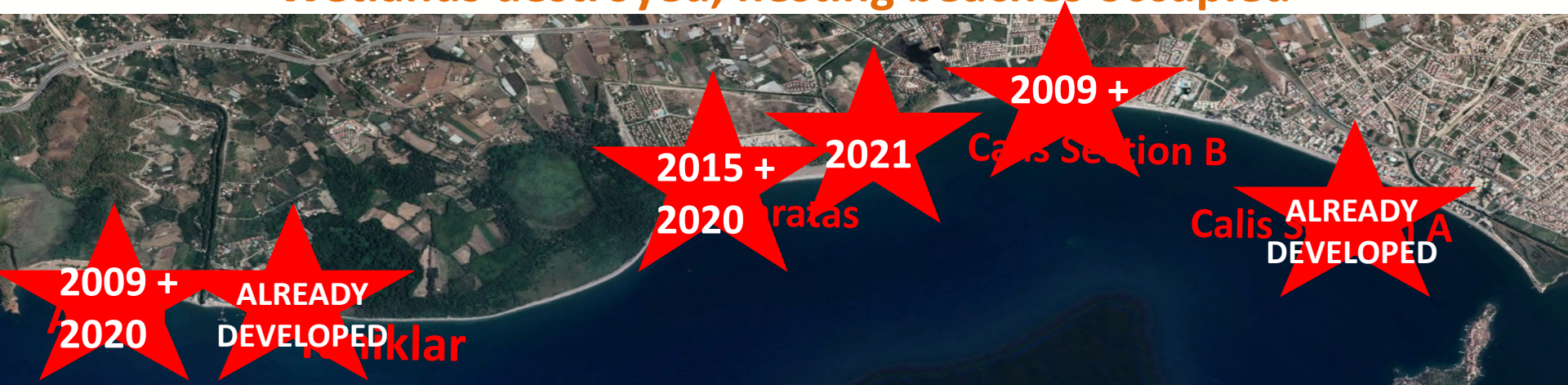
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Fethiye “Specially Protected Area”

A COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE PROCESS

Wetlands destroyed, nesting beaches occupied



Businesses built on Agkol & Calis ← { 2009: Complaint Filed
2013: Case file Opened

New hotel built on pristine Karatas ← 2015: Recommendation

More hotels on Karatas & New bar on Akgol -> 2020

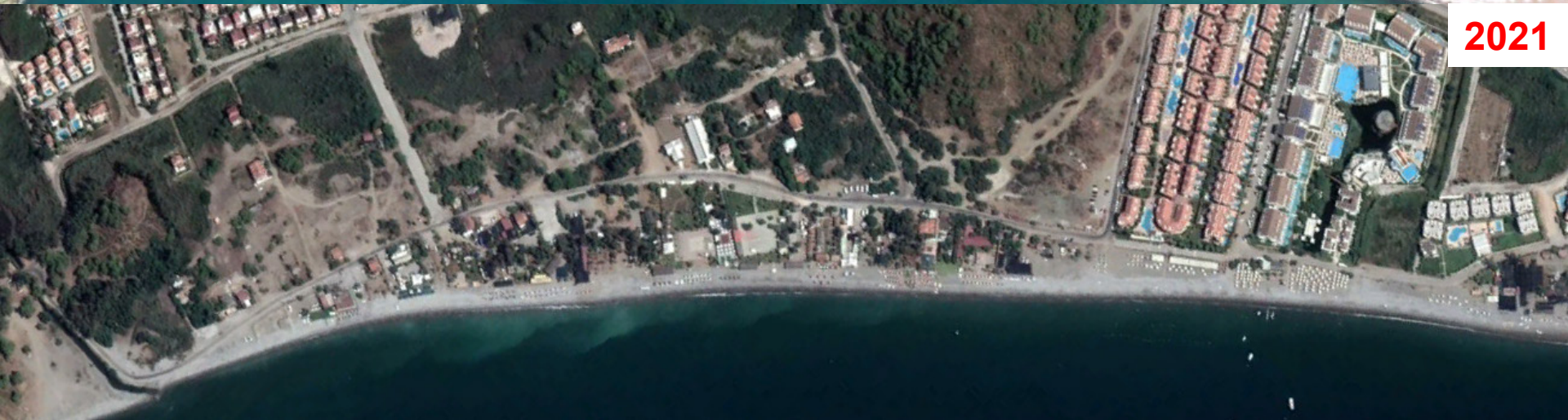
New bar by municipality on pristine “Small Beach” -> 2021

FETHIYE REC. 183/ 1: Stop further development of permanent structures

Çalış Section B: Severely degraded nesting beach



2003



2021

FETHIYE REC. 183/ 1: Stop further development of permanent structures

Çalış Section B: Severely degraded nesting beach



2003

- Continual coastal build-up, planting & occupation of sandy area
- Only the pebbly zone near waterline is free but is unsuitable for nesting

2021



2021

2015

2014



2021

Site for 2 New
Hotels

?

FETHIYE REC. 183/ 1: Stop Further Development

Karatas: **PRISTINE BEACH & WETLANDS CONTINUE TO BE DESTROYED**



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 1: Stop Further Development “Small Beach”: **PRISTINE NESTING SITE DESTROYED**



Municipality's new Beach Café:

- ✓ Permanent structures
 - ✓ Lawn & new plants on sand
 - ✓ 100 sunbeds, day & night
 - ✓ Roped swimming area & raft in the sea
 - ✓ Light pollution at night
-



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



Fethiye SPA. Çalış beach.

Sunbeds, parasols, pavilions, walkways, astroturf carpets & cushions on nesting beach that are not removed at night.

Note nests (red circles)

FETHIYE REC. 183/ 5: Map & zone the whole coast.
Enforce beach furniture night removal/stacking.



Karatas beach

Top: New Hotel occupies nesting beach

Bottom: TUI Resort (est. 2015) continues to place walkways & pavillions in nesting zone.

- Sunbeds & parasols too close to sea
- Sunbeds not removed at night

FETHIYE REC. 183/ 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach



Abandoned bar

New bar

9 pavilions on sandy nesting zone.
Intense human presence around nests (red circles).
No zoning.



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach



2020 facility built on sandy nesting zone!

- ✓ Cafeteria
- ✓ lifeguard tower
- ✓ umbrellas
- ✓ 100 sunbeds, walkway not removed at night



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach



2020 facility built on sandy nesting zone!

✓ New source of light pollution



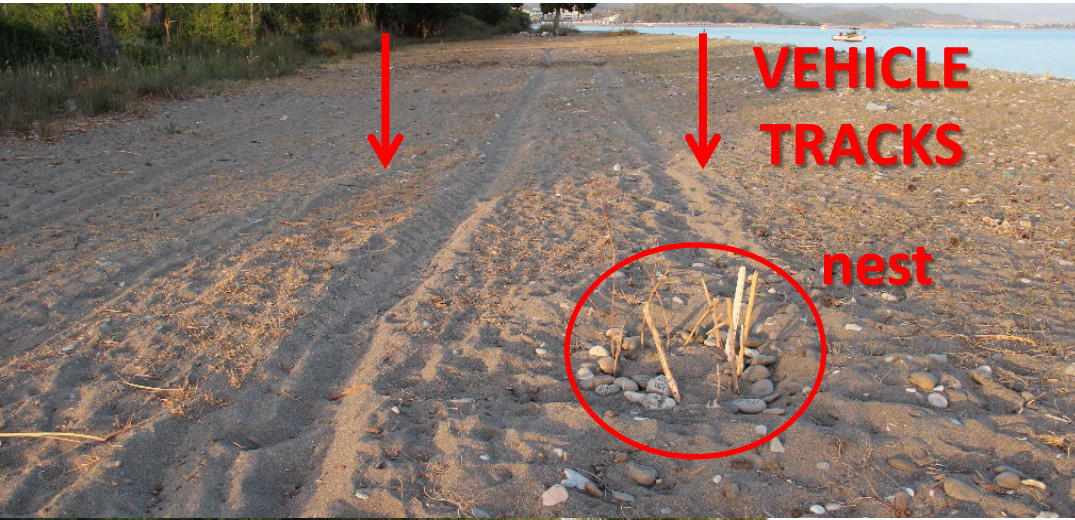
FETHIYE REC. 183/ 7: Reduce light pollution



Light pollution is a severe problem on all beaches



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 8: Permanent road barriers, designate parking & picnic areas away from beach



Several uncontrolled vehicle access points



FETHIYE REC. 183/ 15: Improve information

Overall lack of signs



- **Across 8 km coast there are only 7 signs (red arrows)**
 - **2 sections have no signs**
 - **Information on signs in Çalış & Akgöl is very limited**
 - **Information desk removed**

Fethiye Recommendation 183

3: Stop sand extraction → Sand moved/piled

4: Remove planted vegetation → No Action, new plants

9: Regulate maritime traffic, mark corridors → No Action

10: Long-term research/ conservation with adequate manpower. Assess light pollution, disturbances, predation → lack of manpower, no info on studies

11: No camping & bonfires → Observed; time limits for beach bars → not controlled, night weddings & parties

12: Clean beach & sewage not discharged into sea → some litter, 1 polluted drainage channel

13: Enforce adequate regulations, fines → enforcement severely lacking

14: Ensure adequate resources for control & management → No local unit

16: Protect all nests with cages → Some not caged. Nests predated, few protected

Fethiye Recommendation 183 (2015)

NOT implemented 6 years since adoption !

Sea turtle habitat in Fethiye “Specially Protected Area”
remains unmanaged & inadequately protected

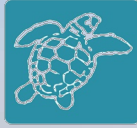
**Is the coastal zone of Fethiye considered a “protected” area
by the authorities?**

**Why is destructive development permitted in complete
disregard of the Bern Convention’s Recommendation?**

Majority of measures under Recommendations 182 & 183 (2015) **NOT implemented**

We call upon the Standing Committee to:

- **Follow-up & keep the case file OPEN**
- **Urge Turkish authorities to submit & implement a comprehensive action plan before April 2022.**
- **Request full update on each Recommendation, plus:**
 - **Patara re-zoning maps; management plan**
 - **Fethiye spatial plan; timeline of judicial process & demolitions; beach furniture mapping /zoning (183/5)**



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**Thank You
for your attention**

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