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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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**Open File: 2012/9**

**Follow-up of Recommendations Nos. 182 and 183  
(2015) on Presumed degradation of nesting beaches  
in Fethiye and Patara SPAs  
(Turkey)**

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry & Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Turkey*

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-November 2021-

## REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

### Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry & Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

01.10.2021

#### **Additional Government Report on Follow-up of Recommendations No. 182 and 183 (2015) on Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

**Background:** This report includes further information about the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting held on 15-16 September 2021.

**General Information:** The Turkish Government is well aware of the value of protection of natural habitats and the nesting sites of marine turtles. We are already cooperating on these issues with all stakeholders including the ongoing marine turtles' conservation initiative.

We developed action plans for marine turtles in both beaches and applied them. Regular monitoring and conservation programmes were continued in the summer of both 2020 and 2021 despite the covid pandemic.

Regarding the illegal buildings and/or additional constructions mentioned in the previous reports, the official owners of the lands have to follow the regular procedure to build houses in their own lands. Some of these as mentioned before at judicial proceeding aimed at regulating land registry records in Fethiye and it is a very long procedure because of more than 100 people are involved in one simple registry as inheritances. The similar case is also valid for Patara as well.

#### ***Regarding the Fethiye case file.***

As it was reported before, the new lightening system on the public beach is used this summer and the monitoring team and all related local stakeholders are cooperating for the conservation of marine turtles in the region.

The research and monitoring team patrolled the beach both at night and mornings and the main findings for the summer season in Fethiye is there were 110 nests with a total of 4,154 hatchlings produced from those nests. Two turtles were also stated to be tracked via satellite tags from Fethiye this summer (<https://www.dekamer.org.tr/cevre-sehircilik.html>). The monitoring of these two turtles with satellite tags were also other evidences of our turtle monitoring efforts in the region.

The action plan prepared for Fethiye basically covers the following topics;

- There will not be any construction in the nesting beach of turtles. The plans to build shipyard were abandoned.
- All the present structures on the beach has to be removed from nesting zone during the evenings.
- These stakeholders are advised to filter the lights visible from the beach and change to red lights as this is not visible by turtles.
- The planted trees in the nesting zones were removed and the vehicle entrances to the beach were blocked by wood posts and big blocks of cements.
- There is a long term monitoring programme for turtles on the beach and this year we have even included the satellite monitoring of two loggerhead turtles from Fethiye beach.
- The garbage were collected by Municipality staff regularly.
- Any activity on the beach effecting the turtle activities were informed to the related authorities. The necessary mitigation measures were set in terms of lightening and beach usage of umbrellas and beach chairs.
- The beach monitoring team caged the nests visible by public. There were also other signs to inform the visitors that this beach nesting place for loggerhead turtles and information about

their life cycle. Our team was also giving information to the beach visitors in the evenings at Calis section of the beach and by visiting other hotels in other parts of the beach sections.

***Regarding the Patara Case file.***

Our research team also monitored the beach every day and was able to find 316 loggerhead turtle nests and a total of 17,154 hatchlings emerged from these nests.

As a summary of the management plan prepared and adapted for Patara the most important remarks are given as bullet points below.

- The unique structure of the Patara Special Environment Protection Area and sand dunes are under protection by law and the action plan for the conservation of both sea turtles and natural habitats were protected by legislations.
- The planted trees are now a barrier between the historical sites and beach sand dunes. There is no illegal sand extraction and it is forbidden by law to take sand from sea Turtle nesting beaches.
- The beach umbrellas and desk chairs are not placed in the nesting zone of turtles. They were piled up in the evenings not to make any obstruction to turtle emergences.
- The redetermination of the SPA's zoning in Patara, placement and renewal of the wood posts to make the border of nesting zones in all Specially Protected areas will be renewed in the winter months and early months of 2022 before the new nesting season.
- These wood barriers were also placed at the locations where vehicle entrance to the beach was possible.
- There is no disorientation of hatchlings from the lights in the village that has to be kept on as part of the security reasons in the evenings.
- There is no fishing activity going on with fishing nets, if there is one Coast Guards were informed and necessary warnings were made to those fishermen. The fishermen in the region is well aware of such legislation.
- The garbage were collected by Municipality staff regularly.
- The beach monitoring team caged the nests for fox predation and also placed the top cages visible by public at the public beach area. There were also other signs to inform to the visitors that this beach nesting place for loggerhead turtles and information about their life cycle.

-August 2021-

## REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

### Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry & Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

06.08.2021

#### **Government Report on Follow-up of Recommendations No. 182 and 183 (2015) on Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)**

##### **Background Information:**

Two different complaints, one about the degradation of the habitats of sea turtle nesting beaches in Fethiye and the other about that in Patara were submitted to the Secretariat in 2012 and 2013 by an NGO. The Bureau decided on addressing these two complaints in conjunction. In the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing committee, a casefile was opened for both of the complaints. In 2014, the Committee decided on conducting an on-the-spot appraisal to the relevant sites. In 2015, two recommendations, Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and No.183 (2015) were prepared following the on-the-spot appraisal. In the following years, the Standing Committee decided to keep the case file open, while urging the Turkish authorities to step up their current efforts and ensuring that both Recommendations [No. 182 (2015) and No. 183 (2015)] are fully implemented from that on.

##### **General Information on Protection of Marine Turtles in Turkey**

Two sea turtle species nest in the Mediterranean; Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Loggerhead turtles are the most abundant sea turtle species in the Mediterranean. Main nesting areas are identified as Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Libya. The known nesting species in Turkey are: the loggerhead turtle, which is listed as Least Concern (LC) as a regional subunit in the Mediterranean, and the green turtle, which is listed as Endangered (EN) by IUCN (IUCN, 2017). This Red List assessments are updated regularly to reflect the most current and best available data, and as such the Red List status of loggerheads may change with time. This LC classification of Mediterranean loggerhead population is the result of the past nearly 25 years of protection on all Mediterranean populations. Therefore, all loggerhead subpopulations must be monitored and studied further in order to assure that conservation strategies and interventions are adjusted to respond to possible future changes. In Turkey, sea turtle conservation and monitoring studies have been continuing for almost 40 years. Nowadays, these studies are organized by two separate Ministries. The reason for that is because areas with different protection statuses are under the management of different Ministries. In early years, monitoring of the beaches was only carried out on 17 nesting beaches that were identified in 1988, but our monitoring teams were monitoring both these and other potential sites for nesting sites. As a result of these intensive monitoring efforts, we have identified and included 4 new beaches which makes a total of 21 nesting beaches in Turkey (bold ones were included over the last few years). These beaches from west to east are; Ekincik, Dalyan, Dalaman-Sarıgerme, Fethiye, Patara, Kale-Demre, Finike-Kumluca, **Çıralı**, Tekirova, Belek, Kızılot, Demirtaş, Gazipaşa, Anamur, Göksu Deltası, **Alata**, **Davultepe**, Kazanlı, Akyatan, **Sugözü-Yumurtalık** and Samandağ beaches.

A total of 21 nesting beaches were identified along the Turkish Mediterranean coast and five (Dalyan, **Fethiye**, **Patara**, Belek, Göksu Deltası) of them declared as Specially Protected Area (SPA). These SPA beaches are managed by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, General Directorate of Conservation of Natural Assets, monitored on a daily basis by this institution and all nests are protected and the necessary scientific information were collected by the research teams and volunteers. The number of nests and non-nesting emergences by the turtles, their biological information such as incubation duration, hatching success and predation rates are recorded. Both the results of monitoring studies conducted on SPAs and also those conducted on other 16 sites revealed that sea turtle population is increasing at a steady rate. As a result of this conservation activities, Mediterranean population of

*Caretta caretta* sea turtles was reevaluated by IUCN in 2015 and due to the increasing population trend, the redlist status of *Caretta caretta* was lowered from EN (Endangered) to LC (Least concern).

After the 40<sup>th</sup> SC meeting of the Bern Convention, our national authorities were invited to provide a report to the first Bureau meeting that will be held in April. Therefore this report is presented to the Bureau to provide the actions that will be taken, ultimately aiming to fully meet the terms of Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and No.183 (2015).

**Recommendation No. 182 (2015) on the Conservation of *Caretta caretta* and Its Habitat at Patara**  
**1- Urgently ensure that Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection and management, in line with its exceptional, natural and ecological value;**

Patara Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA), has been declared as a protected area in the light of international conventions (like Bern Convention) to which Turkey is also a signatory. Government agencies, with the participation of non-governmental organizations, universities, different stakeholders such as local communities, have prepared management plans specific to the area, with the aim of ensuring the protection and sustainability in the region now and at a later stage. All activities that are and will be carried out must be in line with this management plan.

**2. Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which:**  
**(i) prohibit further development on the beach (including buildings, structures, roads) and enable the removal of abandoned illegal facilities and restoration of the dunes; during the nesting/hatching season;**

In Patara, it is not allowed to set up any tent or shed on the beach. If the tents are detected in the region, they are removed and unauthorized construction is not allowed. Existing constructions are structures that have a zoning permit before the region is declared as protection area and the construction of these structures are carried out under strict controls. It was decided to demolish 74 illegal buildings in 2020 and the demolition process of these illegal buildings started in 2020. Other illegal structures will be demolished as a result of legal processes.

The rubble and piles remaining from the illegal building of an enterprise, which had been built in the previous years but then closed, were removed from the area.

The use of sea sand in constructions has been prohibited since the early 2000s. However, in the report it was mentioned that during the interviews with the local people, it has been told that there was sand purchase from the beach and its immediate surroundings. In this context, the denunciations made regarding the purchase of sand from the beach are evaluated and penalties are applied. Gendarmerie teams also continuously follow up on this issue.

Many years before Patara protection zone was declared, trees were planted by the villagers in order to prevent the sand from being transported to the agricultural lands by the wind, but today most of these trees have dried up and they have been taken from the region by the villagers.

**(ii) regulate the extent and use of furniture on the beach and ensure furniture is removed from the nesting zone at night**

Beach furniture is allowed in a local area in the region (the area whose boundaries and amount are determined solely according to the sea turtle nesting band) and these furniture (umbrellas, sunbeds) are collected at a certain point every evening. In rare cases, there are problems in the collection works in cases such as personnel shortage. In case of these malfunctions, the project team makes the necessary warnings simultaneously.



**Figure:** The array of sunbeds in the nesting area on the beach

The "beach border" and "area of responsibility" signs on the beach mentioned in the complainant's report were misunderstood. These signs indicate the areas of responsibility of the lifeguards. The structure of the piles, which were built in previous years and defined the nesting boundaries of sea turtles, has been degraded for many years. In 2021, these piles will be renewed.



**Figure:** Wooden piles determining the breeding zone

Shower and toilet wastes behind the restaurant, flow into the insulated septic tank which is about 5 m. behind them. Wastes are regularly disposed of by local governments. People staying on the beach after 20:00 in the evening are evacuated by the beach guard, gendarmerie and turtle protection teams. In 2021, parking area and shore arrangement works will be carried out on Patara beach.

**(iii) prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at the beach entrances**

Before the nesting period of 2021, barriers and warning signs will be built on the beach vehicle entry points, including the sand dunes, to prevent the entrance of motorized vehicles. In addition, it is prohibited to use the area on the entire beach after 22:00, all kinds of camping activities, lighting fires, etc.



**(iv) prohibit illumination of the beach;**

Lights used in the buildings of business enterprises are used for safety. Apart from this, there is no light source that directly reaches the beach and causes disorientation of the hatchlings. The lights used within the scope of archaeological excavations are narrow red and blue colored lights towards the road. It was also reported by the excavation team that these lights will only be turned on within short periods of time that must be turned on, and that other light sources that will affect the beach will always be turned off. As the lights filtering from the residential areas do not cause the disorientation of the hatchlings, it is not possible to turn them off for public safety.

**(v) prohibit fishing with nets in front of the beach**

Patara beach is not suitable for fishing activities. Rarely, amateur anglers are seen. They are also warned away. Likewise, fishing with nets is hardly ever performed on the beach. In case of detection, penalties are applied.

**(vi) prohibit camping on the beach and on riversides in view of the beach and (vii) prohibit horse riding and 4x4 or quad safaris on the nesting beach;**

As mentioned above, it is forbidden to camp in places overlooking the beach and to walk around the nesting beach with 4x4 off-road vehicles or horses. Necessary meetings were held with the stakeholders about the problems. If seen, legal action is taken.



**Figure:** Vehicle entries detected on the beach and reported to the authorities

**(viii) define fines for non-compliance with above regulations**

The Environment Law No. 2872, the "Circular on the Protection of Sea Turtles" No. 2009/10, and the international conventions to which Turkey is a Party, include all necessary measures and sanctions for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats, and these legislations are strictly enforced.

**3. Ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated for the control, management and enforcement of regulations;**

The Republic of Turkey is sparing a large budget and human resources every year necessary for the protection of biodiversity, including sea turtles protection and research activities and every effort is made to keep up with strict controls.

**4. Continue to prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach, particularly where these may result in making the beaches unsuitable for turtle nesting;**

There is no building behind the beach and new buildings are not allowed.

Since the zoning and construction permits of the cooperatives 3 km away from the coast were taken before the region was taken under protection, a certain number of them are made, and new zoning and construction areas are not allowed to be opened. However, the construction of the abovementioned cooperatives has been stopped and the cooperative, which has completed the legal process, continues its construction. Legal process continues for other cooperatives.

Since Patara beach is completely closed to human activities during the nesting hours of sea turtles, it is always protected from human pressure. In this context, Patara beach is one of the beaches where best examples of protection activities are carried out in our country.

Archaeological excavations continue at the back of the beach. However, these studies do not have any negative effects on sea turtle conservation and monitoring studies.

**5. Ensure that litter is periodically removed from the beach and dunes;**

The areas used intensively by local governments are cleaned daily, and the entire beach is cleaned weekly. In addition, in order to increase social awareness, the beach is cleaned with the participation of local and daily visitors and non-governmental organizations.





**Figure:** Garbage collection at the beach

**6. Address the problem of predation, including through population control's programmes;**

All nests on the beach are protected against predation with cages of 1x1 m size and 7 cm pore spacing. Areas that people use extensively are protected by prism cages with information signs on them. Thanks to the nest protection methods implemented in recent years, the predation rate of nests has been reduced from 30-40% to 10-15%. Nest conservation efforts will continue with new techniques added every year.



**Figure:** Caging of nests against predation

**7. Ensure the proper fencing of all nests in areas with high human presence during the day, so as to protect them from trampling and from beach furniture;**

Prism cages with an information sign are placed on the nests in areas where people use it intensively and even in larger areas that have the possibility of human pressure, besides, all the nests on the beach are protected by placing sub surface cages.

**8. Urgently set up long-term conservation and research programmes, entrusted to a permanent team that should be granted adequate man power to monitor the entire beach (north and south) during the entire nesting/hatching season and protect all nests if necessary;**

In Turkey, there are 21 beach protection sites where sea turtles lay their eggs, and protection and monitoring activities have been carried out regularly every year by expert teams for approximately 25 years on these beaches, including Patara.





Figure: Monitoring and Conservation Team

**9. Improve information to and awareness of tourists about sea turtle nesting and on correct behaviour for the sustainable use of the beach and install clearer signage to indicate the nesting zone ;**

There are signs on the beach that give information about sea turtles and specify the rules to be followed for the sustainable use of the beach, and these signs are maintained every year. If necessary, the number of these signs will be increased.



Figure: Information signs





Figure: Prism Cage Sign (30X40cm)

## DENİZ KAPLUMBAĞALARININ BAZI İLGİNÇ ÖZELLİKLERİ

### SOME INTERESTING CHARACTERISTICS OF SEA TURTLES

DENİZ KAPLUMBAĞALARI...	SEA TURTLES ARE...
1 Deniz kaplumbağaları yem yerken göz kapalıdır. Kulağıları kapalıdır.	1 Sea turtles show their turtle nature that blind them both in beaches where they were born to sea.
2 Her yıl 20 milyara kadar 2 milyara kadar yumurta koyarlar.	2 Females lay 50 eggs in every 2-3 years, interval between each nest is about 10 days.
3 Özellikle C. Caretta caryotta türleri 50-60 cm. C. chelonia türleri ise 90-100 cm. civarında yem yerirler.	3 Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) turtles feed their nests of about 50-60 cm shells on the beach, while Chelonia mydas turtles of about 90-100 cm shells.
4 Bir yumurta 20-30 gün süreyle kumda bekler. Yumurtadan çıkan yavrular, yaklaşık 25-30 gün sonra denize çıkarılır. 25-30 gün sonra yavrular denize çıkarılır.	4 Clutches of eggs are between 20-50 and each egg is about the size of a ping-pong ball. The incubation period is between 45-60 days. Small turtles leave 25-30 days in sea turtles, and 5-6 of every thousand hatchlings can survive.
5 Deniz kaplumbağaları sadece sıcak suda yaşarlar. Sıcak suda yaşarlar ve bu yüzden sıcak suda yaşarlar. Sıcak suda yaşarlar ve bu yüzden sıcak suda yaşarlar.	5 The sea of sea turtles is "temperature dependent". Higher temperatures (22°C) produce females and lower temperatures (18°C) males.
6 C. chelonia türleri 200 m derinlikte yaşarlar. C. caretta türleri ise 20-50 m derinlikte yaşarlar. Deniz kaplumbağaları sadece sıcak suda yaşarlar. Deniz kaplumbağaları sadece sıcak suda yaşarlar.	6 Caretta caretta is hermaphrodite and can live up to 200 meters and spend while Chelonia mydas is hermaphrodite and can live at a depth of 20-50 meters. Sea turtles are "temperature-formers". They stay and live in water but move to the land and around their eggs.
7 Deniz kaplumbağaları diğer hayvanlara kıyasla çok daha yavaş hareket ederler. Deniz kaplumbağaları diğer hayvanlara kıyasla çok daha yavaş hareket ederler.	7 Sea turtles don't have teeth, but they have very strong jaws and jaw-plates called plates.
8 Yumurtaları sıcak, kuru ve ventile olmalıdır. Yavaş hareket eden yumurtaları bu şekilde sıcak tutulmalıdır.	8 The sea and beach food and female create small mounds of food for other animals.
9 Deniz kaplumbağaları 10-15 yaşlarında, bazıları 20-30 yaşlarında yaşarlar. Deniz kaplumbağaları 10-15 yaşlarında yaşarlar.	9 Some sea turtles live in shallow seas. They sometimes get stuck in beach sand and die.
10 Yumurtaları sıcak tutulmalıdır. Deniz kaplumbağaları sadece sıcak suda yaşarlar. Deniz kaplumbağaları sadece sıcak suda yaşarlar.	10 Newly hatched turtles undergo towards reflection of heat and reach to the sea, but they become disoriented when they see the first object they face the sea.

Figure: Signs about Sea Turtles (Front and back sides) (125X160cm)

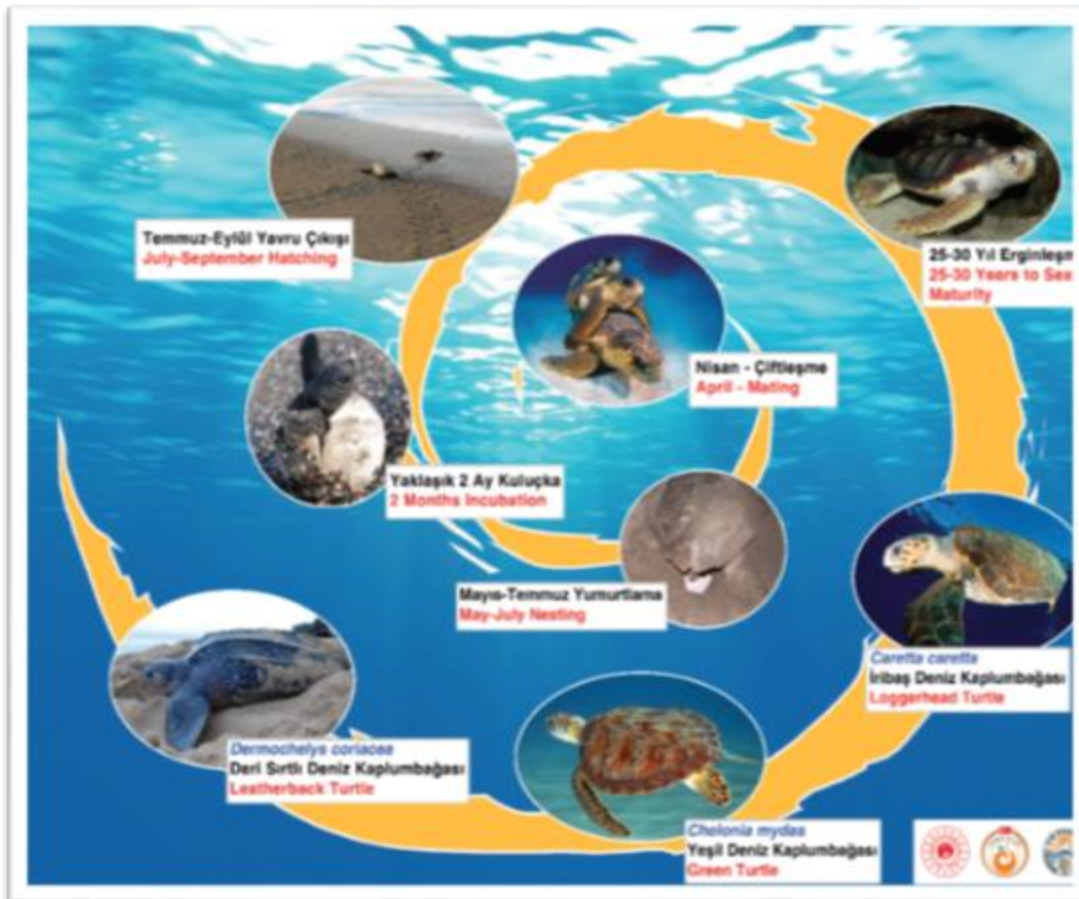


Figure: Signs about Life Cycle of Sea Turtles

**10. Improve information and education of the local community about sea turtle nesting, correct behaviour for the use of the beach, and intrinsic value of nature; and involve them in the protection, conservation, and management of the nesting beach;**

Another task of the project team is to inform and raise awareness of local people using the beach. In this context, information activities are carried out to tourists, local businesses and hotels, even including schools, who use the beach area.







Figure: Awareness raising studies

**11. Keep the Standing Committee annually informed about the implementation of the Recommendation**

There will be a detailed report at the end of this breeding season to be presented to the Standing Committee. You may find some information on the number of nests for the last few years.

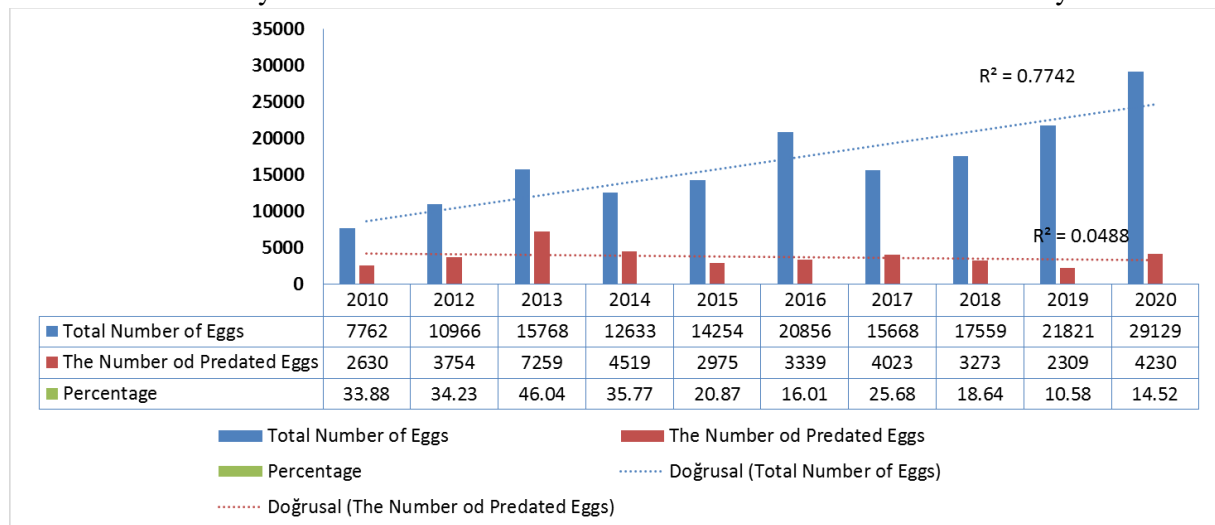


Figure: Comparison of The number of Eggs and Predated Eggs in recent years on Patara Beach



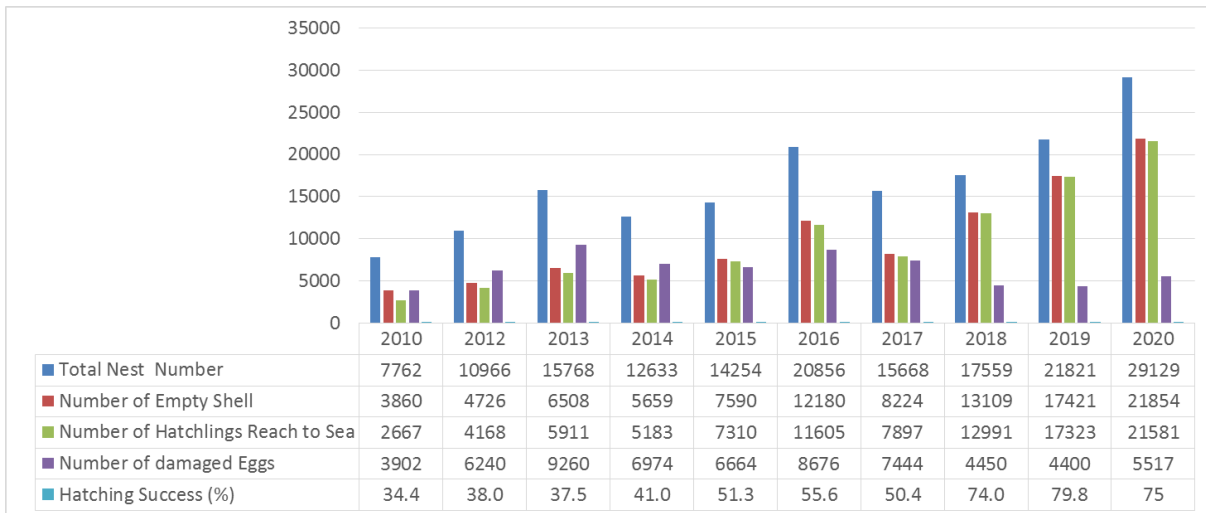


Figure: Hatching Success of Patara Beach Recent Years

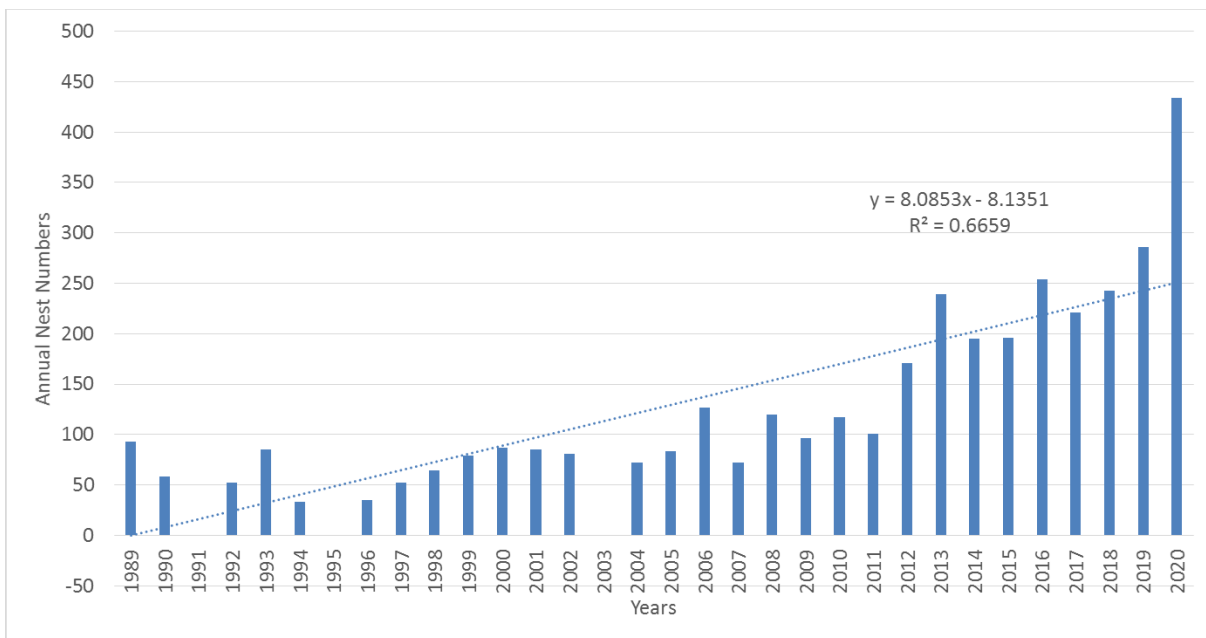


Figure: Annual Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nest numbers of Patara Beach

## **Recommendation No. 183 (2015) on the Conservation, Management and Restoration of Fethiye Nesting Beaches**

### **1. Stop any further development of permanent structures (buildings, roads, shipyard, jetties/docks, etc.) along the entire coast of the nesting site complex, in order not to reduce further the nesting habitat;**

Fethiye has been an important settlement since ancient times. In 1934, the region was named Fethiye and received the status of a district of Muğla Province. Most of these settlements and living centers today date back to about 50-100 years ago.

The area was declared as a protected area in 1988. 90% of the businesses, hotels or houses on the coastline were built before this date.

The zoning plans and approvals of the buildings built after 1988 were made before this date, and the property owners legally use these settlement rights they acquired.

After the region was declared as a protected area, no new zoning was opened, especially on the coastline. No new routes to affect the shoreline or provide access to the coast are allowed. However, there are significant forest areas on the coastline. Only roads for forest fires are allowed. Apart from this, the areas shown as new roads are the roads that existed before but were renovated due to deterioration. Development of permanent structures are not allowed on the nesting zone of the beach. Seasonal prefabricated structures are built behind the nesting zone. The beach users and seasonal enterprises were informed by the conservation team during May, June and July.

There have been demands for the construction of shipyards and piers around Akgöl. However, this request was rejected as it would affect the turtle nesting beach.

### **2- Remove any structure (wooden paths, wooden pavilions, bars, platforms, showers, carpets, patios, etc.) from sand zones, including those to be restored, especially in areas with relatively narrow beach width and/or in tracts with narrow sandy strips; and restore the sandy areas;**

While the first zoning (settlement) plans were made in Fethiye, 1/3 of the beach located in the center of Fethiye (as a result of an error or carelessness) was included in the title deeds of the landowners behind the beach. Even this property continues into the sea. The part that is the subject of complaints and the problems are expressed in Fethiye, is seen in this 1/3 area.

Due to this problem, this beach area, which is included in the property of individuals, could not be involved sufficiently. To solve this situation and to remove the beach, which was included in the deeds of the persons, from the land registry records, a judicial process was initiated and largely resolved. The aforementioned wooden roads, carpets, showers, wooden cafes etc. are experienced in this problematic area. Our research and monitoring team are asking the nesting zone clear so that the emergences of sea turtles are possible for nesting and hatching. The following Picture shows the nesting zone and umbrellas and beach furniture collected.



### **3- Stop sand extraction and ensure the application of deterrent penalties for these illegal activities;**

The use of sea sand in constructions has been prohibited in Turkey since 2010. For this reason, strict inspections are carried out on the purchase of sea sand throughout the coastlines of Turkey. Sand extraction is forbidden by the law. Illegal sand extraction is fined when caught in the act.

### **4- Remove planted vegetation, acacia in particular, with a view to restore the remaining sandy beach;**

The trees mentioned above were planted by the property owners in the areas whose title deeds extend to the interior of the sea, since these areas remained under their own property for many years. When the judicial process is completed, trees will be removed and landscaping arrangements will be made in these beach areas.

**5- Map the whole Fethiye coast using long-term data, maps and imagery to identify the past, current and potential most suitable zones for sea turtle nesting, and set a maximum percentage limit of sandy tracts where touristic structures are allowed on the nesting beach and define (A) coastal tracts less suitable for turtle nesting, where beach furniture is allowed at appropriate densities and (B) coastal tracts adequate for turtle nesting, where beach furniture and access at night are not allowed. Enforce beach furniture removal/stacking at night along the entire nesting beach complex during the nesting/hatching season;**

Sea turtles on the beach of Fethiye have been monitored for 25 years as part of a conservation program in the light of scientific studies.

Except for the problematic part of the beach, studies are carried out within a program within the scope of these data for all the issues mentioned for other areas.

At the beach of Fethiye, people are not allowed to cross the beach at night as much as possible, the areas of use given to tourism facilities are determined according to the data obtained, beach furniture is allowed to be placed behind the nesting zone, and businesses can use the beach in the specified number and area.

Beach furniture is allowed in areas with narrow nesting zones, provided that it is mandatory to gather them in a certain area every night.

In areas where these arrangements are not seen, these applications will be available on the entire beach after the problems are solved.

We are also working with all stakeholders and when they see a Turtle nesting or emerge from sea, they are informing our research team and the necessary caging and nest signs were placed immediately.

The detailed map of the nesting zone including nest data prepared. Research and conservation teams are updating maps every year and providing in the annual reports. Furniture stacking at night are being implemented during the nesting season. Beach furniture are only allowed on particular areas during the day. Beach furniture are collected by the tourism facilities during the night.



**6- Prohibit the use of beach furniture and other structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach, regulate use of the core nesting area in the sandy northern end of the beach, and carry-out the necessary controls to check enforcement;**

Since the Akgöl beach is far from Fethiye city center, the existence of a small-scale enterprise whose usage area and rules are determined by us has been deemed necessary for this region in order to control this area.

Without this enterprise, the area will be used in a more uncontrolled way and the turtle nests will be destroyed to a great extent. There are security personnel at all times and uncontrolled access to this area is not allowed.

The beach is still possible for nesting activities of sea turtles and there are around 20 nests located in this section of the beach every year. The following Picture is from 2021 nesting season showing the caged nests in this part of the beach.



**7- Reduce light pollution to a minimum along the whole coast during the nesting/hatching season: (i) remove all lights not strictly necessary, (ii) reduce the number of lights allowed for each business company, (iii) all lights considered as strictly necessary should be reduced in power and (iv) be red or orange-yellow, (v) all lights should be shaded in the direction of the beach. Further reduce lights after a certain time in the night, for not less than 50% of the dark time. Where possible, reduce height of lights, use motion sensors and native bushes/plants as light buffers on roads and properties. Prohibit light show equipment use;**

There are quite intense tourism establishments on the Fethiye beach parallel to the coast and there is also light pollution caused by them. There is a red light application project that has been started for this. However, we are working to ensure that businesses pass through it with their own wishes and desires, not by force. However, this situation requires some time.

On the other hand, the lighting on the public beach renewed by the Municipality of Fethiye. These lights have adjustable directions with curtains behind. We are also working with all stakeholders to change thier lights into the reds which is not disturbing the turtles. The following examples are from those changes.



The changes of these lights along the Çalış beach can also be seen in the below pictures.



**8- Build permanent barriers (not ditches) on the roads to prevent vehicles from accessing the beach, designate parking spaces and official picnic areas away from the beach;**

Permanent barriers were built, and vehicle access is restricted and/or prohibited during the breeding season. Vehicle entrance to the beach is prohibited and barriers are built to prevent this.



**9- Regulate maritime traffic during the nesting/hatching season, by prohibiting any motorised traffic at appropriate distances near the coast, by setting speed limits and foreseeing marked corridors from the beach to open waters;**

Within the scope of the circular numbered 2009/10 for the protection of sea turtles, water sports are prohibited in an area of 1 mile from the coast towards the sea. If there is a necessity for some sea vehicles in this area, it is prohibited to exceed 8 miles per hour.

Our law enforcement officers, working in our seas, maintain strict controls on this issue.

**10- Set up long-term research and conservation programs conducted by a permanent team recruited on a long-term perspective. This team should have adequate manpower to monitor the entire beach and protect all nests if necessary during the entire nesting/hatching season. The team should also assess across the years and using the same comparable methods: (i) the disorienting effects of photo-pollution on hatchlings, (ii) disturbance of nesting females, and (iii) predation of nests (or attempts);**

Care is taken to ensure that the team that carries out the conservation and monitoring studies of sea turtles in the Fethiye-Göcek SEPA is formed by the same scientists every year. It is very important for the same team to continue working in a field, to know the problems that exist in the field, to determine the solutions and to observe the successes achieved in implementing them. Only the team that fails in the protection and monitoring works are excluded from these studies.

**11- Prohibit camping and bonfires and set appropriate time limits for the operation of beach bars at night during the nesting and hatching season;**

It is forbidden to set up camps and campfires on the beaches. Signs notifying these warnings are available on the beach and their number will be increased in the coming period.



**12- Take measures to clean the beach and empty appropriately located bins on a daily basis, and ensure sewage is not discharged into the sea;**

There are garbage bins on the beach and these bins are emptied regularly by local governments every day. In addition, the necessary and separated garbage bins according to their characteristics will be placed according to the need.

**13- Set up adequate regulations and enforcement for the measures above, including regular day and night controls along the entire coast. Define and enforce fines for noncompliance with above regulations;**

The Environmental Law No. 2872, the "Circular on the Protection of Sea Turtles" No. 2009/10, and the international conventions that we are a party include all necessary measures and sanctions for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats, and these laws are strictly enforced.

**14- Ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated to the control and management of the beaches;**

The Republic of Turkey is sparing a large budget and human resources every year necessary for the protection of biodiversity, including sea turtles protection and research activities and every effort is made to keep up with strict controls.

**15. Improve information to local community and tourists about sea turtle nesting and sustainable use of the beach. This should include effective communication of regulations (incl. regulations**

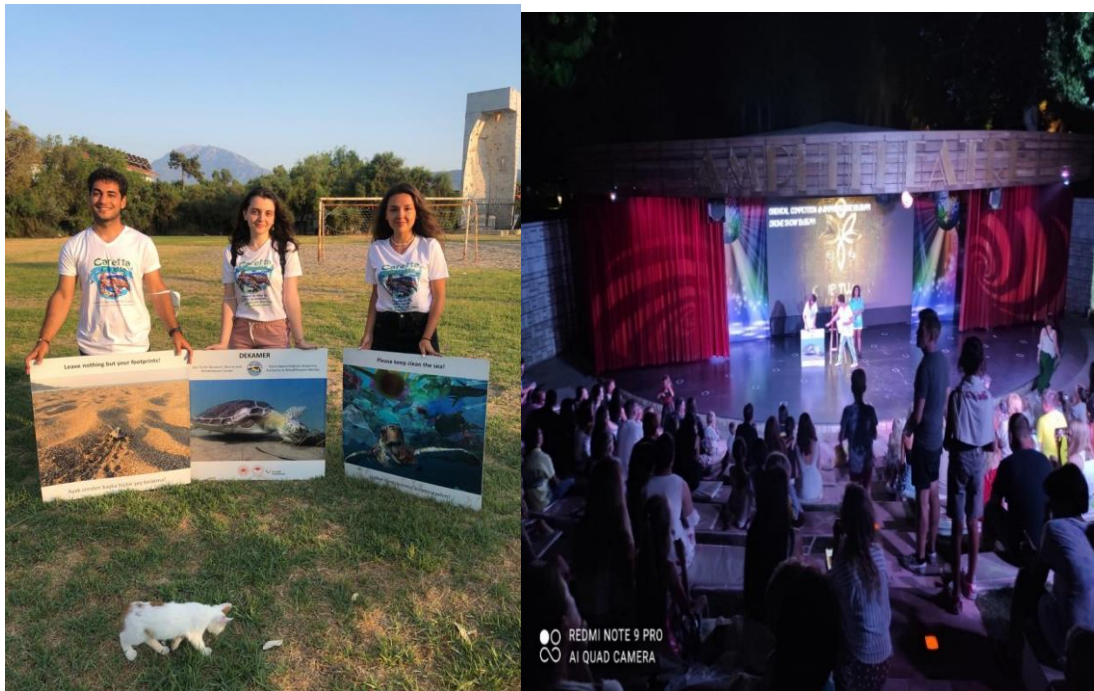
implementing the Recommendation) by the authorities to stakeholders and businesses, signs at all major beach entry points, and awareness campaigns aimed to the guests of the big resorts, in collaboration with the owners and managers. Encourage beach hotels and businesses to support scientific teams and involve the local community in the protection and management of the protected area;

Another task of the project team is to inform and raise awareness of local people using the beach. In this context, information activities are carried out to tourists, local businesses and hotels, even including schools, who use the beach area.

There are signs on the beach that give information about the sea turtles and specify the rules to be followed for the sustainable use of the beach, and these signs are maintained every year. The additional signs will be placed at beaches in 2021. Our volunteers are also holding signs and giving information to the visitors on the beach and at hotels.







These pictures show both the awareness on the public road as well as the beach usage during the day and giving information one to one due to covid pandemic.

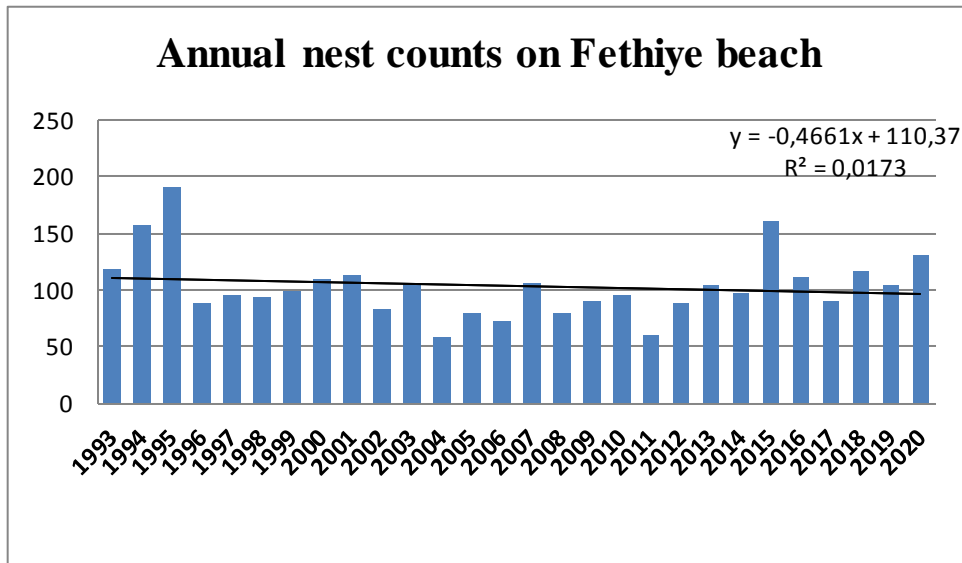
**16- Continue to protect all nests with cages, until the different conditions obtained through the other measures above will allow again a more natural process;**

The protection of the nests in the area by sub surface and prism cage method has been continuing for 25 years with the same method. This situation will continue until the conservation status of the species is fully recovered.

Each nest on Fethiye beach is caged and the total number of nests were 131 in 2020 and the nesting season still going on but the total number nests recorded so far on Fethiye was 98 as dated at the end of July 2021. The total number of nests around 100 over the last 20 years (min:58 in 2004 and 191 in 1995 but then the highest was in 2015 as 161 nests)

The number of nests are subject to change in mortalities of adult females especially stranding of dead animals in the region.

**17. Keep the Standing Committee annually informed about the implementation of the**



**Recommendation**

There will be a detailed report at the end of this breeding season to be presented to the Standing Committee.

-March 2021-

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY****Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry & Ministry of Environment and Urbanization****01.03.2021****Government Report on Follow-up of Recommendations No. 182 and 183 (2015) on Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey)****Background Information:**

Two different complaints, one about the degradation of the habitats of sea turtle nesting beaches in Fethiye and the other about that in Patara were submitted to the Secretariat in 2012 and 2013 by an NGO. The Bureau decided on addressing these two complaints in conjunction. In the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing committee, a casefile was opened for both of the complaints. In 2014, the Committee decided on conducting an on-the-spot appraisal to the relevant sites. In 2015, two recommendations, Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and No.183 (2015) were prepared following the on-the-spot appraisal. In the following years, the Standing Committee decided to keep the case file open, while urging the Turkish authorities to step up their current efforts and ensuring that both Recommendations [No. 182 (2015) and No. 183 (2015)] are fully implemented from that on.

**General Information on Protection of Marine Turtles in Turkey**

Two sea turtle species nest in the Mediterranean; Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Loggerhead turtles are the most abundant sea turtle species in the Mediterranean. Main nesting areas are identified as Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Libya. The known nesting species in Turkey are: the loggerhead turtle, which is listed as Least Concern (LC) as a regional subunit in the Mediterranean, and the green turtle, which is listed as Endangered (EN) by IUCN (IUCN, 2017). This Red List assessments are updated regularly to reflect the most current and best available data, and as such the Red List status of loggerheads may change with time. This LC classification of Mediterranean loggerhead population is the result of the past nearly 25 years of protection on all Mediterranean populations. Therefore, all loggerhead subpopulations must be monitored and studied further in order to assure that conservation strategies and interventions are adjusted to respond to possible future changes.

In Turkey, sea turtle conservation and monitoring studies have been continuing for almost 40 years. Nowadays, these studies are organized by two separate Ministries. The reason for that is because areas with different protection statuses are under the management of different Ministries. In early years, monitoring of the beaches was only carried out on 17 nesting beaches that were identified in 1988, but our monitoring teams were monitoring both these and other potential sites for nesting sites. As a result of these intensive monitoring efforts, we have identified and included 4 new beaches which makes a total of 21 nesting beaches in Turkey (bold ones were included over the last few years). These beaches from west to east are; Ekincik, Dalyan, Dalaman-Sarıgerme, **Fethiye**, **Patara**, Kale-Demre, Finike-Kumluca, Çralı, Tekirova, Belek, Kızılot, Demirtaş, Gazipaşa, Anamur, Göksu Deltası, Alata, Davultepe, Kazanlı, Akyatan, Sugözü-Yumurталık and Samandağ beaches.

A total of 21 nesting beaches were identified along the Turkish Mediterranean coast and five (Dalyan, **Fethiye**, **Patara**, Belek, Göksu Deltası) of them declared as Specially Protected Area (SPA). These SPA beaches are managed by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, General Directorate of Conservation of Natural Assets, monitored on a daily basis by this institution and all nests are protected and the necessary scientific information were collected by the research teams and volunteers. The number of nests and non-nesting emergences by the turtles, their biological information such as incubation duration, hatching success and predation rates are recorded. Both the results of monitoring studies conducted on SPAs and also those conducted on other 16 sites revealed that sea turtle population is increasing at a steady rate. As a result of this conservation activities, Mediterranean population of

*Caretta caretta* sea turtles was reevaluated by IUCN in 2015 and due to the increasing population trend, the redlist status of *Caretta caretta*s was lowered from EN (Endangered) to LC (Least concern).

After the 40<sup>th</sup> SC meeting of the Bern Convention, our national authorities were invited to provide a report to the first Bureau meeting that will be held in April. Therefore this report is presented to the Bureau to provide the actions that will be taken, ultimately aiming to fully meet the terms of Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and No.183 (2015).

**Recommendation No. 182 (2015) on the Conservation of *Caretta caretta* and Its Habitat at Patara**  
**1- Urgently ensure that Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection and management, in line with its exceptional, natural and ecological value;**

Patara Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA), has been declared as a protected area in the light of international conventions (like Bern Convention) to which Turkey is also a signatory. Government agencies, with the participation of non-governmental organizations, universities, different stakeholders such as local communities, have prepared management plans specific to the area, with the aim of ensuring the protection and sustainability in the region now and at a later stage. All activities that are and will be carried out must be in line with this management plan.

**2. Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which:**

**(i) prohibit further development on the beach (including buildings, structures, roads) and enable the removal of abandoned illegal facilities and restoration of the dunes; during the nesting/hatching season;**

In Patara, it is not allowed to set up any tent or shed on the beach. If the tents are detected in the region, they are removed and unauthorized construction is not allowed. Existing constructions are structures that have a zoning permit before the region is declared as protection area and the construction of these structures are carried out under strict controls. It was decided to demolish 74 illegal buildings in 2020 and the demolition process of these illegal buildings started in 2020. Other illegal structures will be demolished as a result of legal processes.

The rubble and piles remaining from the illegal building of an enterprise, which had been built in the previous years but then closed, were removed from the area.

The use of sea sand in constructions has been prohibited since the early 2000s. However, in the report it was mentioned that during the interviews with the local people, it has been told that there was sand purchase from the beach and its immediate surroundings. In this context, the denunciations made regarding the purchase of sand from the beach are evaluated and penalties are applied. Gendarmerie teams also continuously follow up on this issue.

Many years before Patara protection zone was declared, trees were planted by the villagers in order to prevent the sand from being transported to the agricultural lands by the wind, but today most of these trees have dried up and they have been taken from the region by the villagers.

**(ii) regulate the extent and use of furniture on the beach and ensure furniture is removed from the nesting zone at night**

Beach furniture is allowed in a local area in the region (the area whose boundaries and amount are determined solely according to the sea turtle nesting band) and these furniture (umbrellas, sunbeds) are collected at a certain point every evening. In rare cases, there are problems in the collection works in cases such as personnel shortage.

The "beach border" and "area of responsibility" signs on the beach mentioned in the complainant's report were misunderstood. These signs indicate the areas of responsibility of the lifeguards.

The structure of the piles, which were built in previous years and defined the nesting boundaries of sea turtles, has been degraded for many years. In 2021, these piles will be renewed.

Shower and toilet wastes behind the restaurant, flow into the insulated septic tank which is about 5 m. behind them. Wastes are regularly disposed of by local governments.

People staying on the beach after 20:00 in the evening are evacuated by the beach guard, gendarmerie and turtle protection teams. In 2021, parking area and shore arrangement works will be carried out on Patara beach.



**Figure:** The array of sunbeds in the nesting area on the beach

**(iii) prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at the beach entrances**

Before the nesting period of 2021, barriers and warning signs will be built on the beach vehicle entry points, including the sand dunes, to prevent the entrance of motorized vehicles. In addition, it is prohibited to use the area on the entire beach

after 22:00, all kinds of camping activities, lighting fires, etc.

**(iv) prohibit illumination of the beach;**

Lights used in the buildings of business enterprises are used for safety. Apart from this, there is no light source that directly reaches the beach and causes disorientation of the hatchlings. The lights used within the scope of archaeological excavations are narrow red and blue colored lights towards the road. It was also reported by the excavation team that these lights will only be turned on within short periods of time that must be turned on, and that other light sources that will affect the beach will always be turned off. As the lights filtering from the residential areas do not cause the disorientation of the hatchlings, it is not possible to turn them off for public safety.

**(v) prohibit fishing with nets in front of the beach**

Patara beach is not suitable for fishing activities. Rarely, amateur anglers are seen. They are also warned away. Likewise, fishing with nets is hardly ever performed on the beach.

**(vi) prohibit camping on the beach and on riversides in view of the beach and (vii) prohibit horse riding and 4x4 or quad safaris on the nesting beach;**

As mentioned above, it is forbidden to camp in places overlooking the beach and to walk around the nesting beach with 4x4 off-road vehicles or horses. If seen, legal action is taken.



**Figure:** Vehicle entries detected on the beach and reported to the authorities

**(viii) define fines for non-compliance with above regulations**

The Environment Law No. 2872, the "Circular on the Protection of Sea Turtles" No. 2009/10, and the international conventions to which Turkey is a Party, include all necessary measures and sanctions for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats, and these legislations are strictly enforced.

**3. Ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated for the control, management and enforcement of regulations;**

The Republic of Turkey is sparing a large budget and human resources every year necessary for the protection of biodiversity, including sea turtles protection and research activities and every effort is made to keep up with strict controls.

**4. Continue to prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach, particularly where these may result in making the beaches unsuitable for turtle nesting;**

There is no building behind the beach and new buildings are not allowed.

Since the zoning and construction permits of the cooperatives 3 km away from the coast were taken before the region was taken under protection, a certain number of them are made, and new zoning and construction areas are not allowed to be opened. However, the construction of the abovementioned cooperatives has been stopped and the cooperative, which has completed the legal process, continues its construction. Legal process continues for other cooperatives.

Since Patara beach is completely closed to human activities during the nesting hours of sea turtles, it is always protected from human pressure. In this context, Patara beach is one of the beaches where best examples of protection activities are carried out in our country.

Archaeological excavations continue at the back of the beach. However, these studies do not have any negative effects on sea turtle conservation and monitoring studies.

**5. Ensure that litter is periodically removed from the beach and dunes;**

The areas used intensively by local governments are cleaned daily, and the entire beach is cleaned weekly. In addition, in order to increase social awareness, the beach is cleaned with the participation of local and daily visitors and non-governmental organizations.



**Figure:** Garbage collection at the beach

**6. Address the problem of predation, including through population control's programmes;**

All nests on the beach are protected against predation with cages of 1x1 m size and 7 cm pore spacing. Areas that people use extensively are protected by prism cages with information signs on them. Thanks to the nest protection methods implemented in recent years, the predation rate of nests has been reduced from 30-40% to 10-15%. Nest conservation efforts will continue with new techniques added every year.

**7. Ensure the proper fencing of all nests in areas with high human presence during the day, so as to protect them from trampling and from beach furniture;**

Prism cages with an information sign are placed on the nests in areas where people use it intensively and even in larger areas that have the possibility of human pressure, besides, all the nests on the beach are protected by placing sub surface cages.

**8. Urgently set up long-term conservation and research programmes, entrusted to a permanent team that should be granted adequate man power to monitor the entire beach (north and south) during the entire nesting/hatching season and protect all nests if necessary;**

In Turkey, there are 21 beach protection sites where sea turtles lay their eggs, and protection and monitoring activities have been carried out regularly every year by expert teams for approximately 25 years on these beaches, including Patara.

**9. Improve information to and awareness of tourists about sea turtle nesting and on correct behaviour for the sustainable use of the beach and install clearer signage to indicate the nesting zone;**

There are signs on the beach that give information about sea turtles and specify the rules to be followed for the sustainable use of the beach, and these signs are maintained every year. If necessary, the number of these signs will be increased.

**10. Improve information and education of the local community about sea turtle nesting, correct behaviour for the use of the beach, and intrinsic value of nature; and involve them in the protection, conservation, and management of the nesting beach;**

Another task of the project team is to inform and raise awareness of local people using the beach. In this context, information activities are carried out to tourists, local businesses and hotels, even including schools, who use the beach area.



**Figure:** Awareness raising studies

**11. Keep the Standing Committee annually informed about the implementation of the Recommendation**

There will be a detailed report at the end of this breeding season to be presented to the Standing Committee.



## **Recommendation No. 183 (2015) on the Conservation, Management and Restoration of Fethiye Nesting Beaches**

### **1. Stop any further development of permanent structures (buildings, roads, shipyard, jetties/docks, etc.) along the entire coast of the nesting site complex, in order not to reduce further the nesting habitat;**

Fethiye has been an important settlement since ancient times. In 1934, the region was named Fethiye and received the status of a district of Muğla Province. Most of these settlements and living centers today date back to about 50-100 years ago.

The area was declared as a protected area in 1988. 90% of the businesses, hotels or houses on the coastline were built before this date.

The zoning plans and approvals of the buildings built after 1988 were made before this date, and the property owners legally use these settlement rights they acquired.

After the region was declared as a protected area, no new zoning was opened, especially on the coastline. No new routes to affect the shoreline or provide access to the coast are allowed. However, there are significant forest areas on the coastline. Only roads for forest fires are allowed. Apart from this, the areas shown as new roads are the roads that existed before but were renovated due to deterioration.

There have been demands for the construction of shipyards and piers around Akgöl. However, this request was rejected as it would affect the turtle nesting beach.

### **2- Remove any structure (wooden paths, wooden pavilions, bars, platforms, showers, carpets, patios, etc.) from sand zones, including those to be restored, especially in areas with relatively narrow beach width and/or in tracts with narrow sandy strips; and restore the sandy areas;**

While the first zoning (settlement) plans were made in Fethiye, 1/3 of the beach located in the center of Fethiye (as a result of an error or carelessness) was included in the title deeds of the landowners behind the beach. Even this property continues into the sea. The part that is the subject of complaints and the problems are expressed in Fethiye, is seen in this 1/3 area.

Due to this problem, this beach area, which is included in the property of individuals, could not be involved sufficiently. To solve this situation and to remove the beach, which was included in the deeds of the persons, from the land registry records, a judicial process was initiated and largely resolved. The aforementioned wooden roads, carpets, showers, wooden cafes etc. are experienced in this problematic area.

When the judicial process is completed, all of these problems will disappear.

### **3- Stop sand extraction and ensure the application of deterrent penalties for these illegal activities;**

The use of sea sand in constructions has been prohibited in Turkey since 2010. For this reason, strict inspections are carried out on the purchase of sea sand throughout the coastlines of Turkey.

### **4- Remove planted vegetation, acacia in particular, with a view to restore the remaining sandy beach;**

The trees mentioned above were planted by the property owners in the areas whose title deeds extend to the interior of the sea, since these areas remained under their own property for many years. When the judicial process is completed, trees will be removed and landscaping arrangements will be made in these beach areas.

**5- Map the whole Fethiye coast using long-term data, maps and imagery to identify the past, current and potential most suitable zones for sea turtle nesting, and set a maximum percentage limit of sandy tracts where touristic structures are allowed on the nesting beach and define (A) coastal tracts less suitable for turtle nesting, where beach furniture is allowed at appropriate densities and (B) coastal tracts adequate for turtle nesting, where beach furniture and access at night are not allowed. Enforce beach furniture removal/stacking at night along the entire nesting beach complex during the nesting/hatching season;**

Sea turtles on the beach of Fethiye have been monitored for 25 years as part of a conservation program in the light of scientific studies.

Except for the problematic part of the beach, , studies are carried out within a program within the scope of these data for all the issues mentioned for other areas.

At the beach of Fethiye, people are not allowed to cross the beach at night as much as possible, the areas of use given to tourism facilities are determined according to the data obtained, beach furniture is allowed to be placed behind the nesting zone, and businesses can use the beach in the specified number and area.

Beach furniture is allowed in areas with narrow nesting zones, provided that it is mandatory to gather them in a certain area every night.

In areas where these arrangements are not seen, these applications will be available on the entire beach after the problems are solved.



**6- Prohibit the use of beach furniture and other structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach, regulate use of the core nesting area in the sandy northern end of the beach, and carry-out the necessary controls to check enforcement;**

Since the Akgöl beach is far from Fethiye city center, the existence of a small-scale enterprise whose usage area and rules are determined by us has been deemed necessary for this region in order to control this area.

Without this enterprise, the area will be used in a more uncontrolled way and the turtle nests will be destroyed to a great extent. There are security personnel at all times and uncontrolled access to this area is not allowed.

There are ruined structures on the Akgöl beach from previous times, and these structures will be removed in the coming period and the landscaping of the beach will be made.

**7- Reduce light pollution to a minimum along the whole coast during the nesting/hatching season: (i) remove all lights not strictly necessary, (ii) reduce the number of lights allowed for each business company, (iii) all lights considered as strictly necessary should be reduced in power and (iv) be red or orange-yellow, (v) all lights should be shaded in the direction of the beach. Further reduce lights after a certain time in the night, for not less than 50% of the dark time. Where**

**possible, reduce height of lights, use motion sensors and native bushes/plants as light buffers on roads and properties. Prohibit light show equipment use;**

There are quite intense tourism establishments on the Fethiye beach parallel to the coast and there is also light pollution caused by them. There is a red light application project that has been started for this. However, we are working to ensure that businesses pass through it with their own wishes and desires, not by force. However, this situation requires some time.

On the other hand, the lighting on the public beach is in the form of curtains or floor lighting. The deficiencies will be fixed in the upcoming period.



**8- Build permanent barriers (not ditches) on the roads to prevent vehicles from accessing the beach, designate parking spaces and official picnic areas away from the beach;**



Vehicle entrance to the beach is prohibited and barriers are built to prevent this.

**9- Regulate maritime traffic during the nesting/hatching season, by prohibiting any motorised traffic at appropriate distances near the coast, by setting speed limits and foreseeing marked corridors from the beach to open waters;**

Within the scope of the circular numbered 2009/10 for the protection of sea turtles, water sports are prohibited in an area of 1 mile from the coast towards the sea. If there is a necessity for some sea vehicles in this area, it is prohibited to exceed 8 miles per hour.

Our law enforcement officers, working in our seas, maintain strict controls on this issue.

**10- Set up long-term research and conservation programs conducted by a permanent team recruited on a long-term perspective. This team should have adequate manpower to monitor the entire beach and protect all nests if necessary during the entire nesting/hatching season. The team should also assess across the years and using the same comparable methods: (i) the disorienting effects of photo-pollution on hatchlings, (ii) disturbance of nesting females, and (iii) predation of nests (or attempts);**

Care is taken to ensure that the team that carries out the conservation and monitoring studies of sea turtles in the Fethiye-Göcek SEPA is formed by the same scientists every year. It is very important for the same team to continue working in a field, to know the problems that exist in the field, to determine the solutions and to observe the successes achieved in implementing them. Only the team that fails in the protection and monitoring works are excluded from these studies.

**11- Prohibit camping and bonfires and set appropriate time limits for the operation of beach bars at night during the nesting and hatching season;**

It is forbidden to set up camps and campfires on the beaches. Signs notifying these warnings are available on the beach and their number will be increased in the coming period.



**12- Take measures to clean the beach and empty appropriately located bins on a daily basis, and ensure sewage is not discharged into the sea;**

There are garbage bins on the beach and these bins are emptied regularly by local governments every day. In addition, the necessary and separated garbage bins according to their characteristics will be placed according to the need.

**13- Set up adequate regulations and enforcement for the measures above, including regular day and night controls along the entire coast. Define and enforce fines for noncompliance with above regulations;**

The Environmental Law No. 2872, the "Circular on the Protection of Sea Turtles" No. 2009/10, and the international conventions that we are a party include all necessary measures and sanctions for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats, and these laws are strictly enforced.

**14- Ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated to the control and management of the beaches;**

The Republic of Turkey is sparing a large budget and human resources every year necessary for the protection of biodiversity, including sea turtles protection and research activities and every effort is made to keep up with strict controls.

**15. Improve information to local community and tourists about sea turtle nesting and sustainable use of the beach. This should include effective communication of regulations (incl. regulations implementing the Recommendation) by the authorities to stakeholders and businesses, signs at all major beach entry points, and awareness campaigns aimed to the guests of the big resorts, in collaboration with the owners and managers. Encourage beach hotels and businesses to support scientific teams and involve the local community in the protection and management of the protected area;**

Another task of the project team is to inform and raise awareness of local people using the beach. In this context, information activities are carried out to tourists, local businesses and hotels, even including schools, who use the beach area.

There are signs on the beach that give information about the sea turtles and specify the rules to be followed for the sustainable use of the beach, and these signs are maintained every year. The number of these signs will be increased in 2021.



**16- Continue to protect all nests with cages, until the different conditions obtained through the other measures above will allow again a more natural process;**

The protection of the nests in the area by sub surface and prism cage method has been continuing for 25 years with the same method. This situation will continue until the conservation status of the species is fully recovered.

**17. Keep the Standing Committee annually informed about the implementation of the Recommendation**

There will be a detailed report at the end of this breeding season to be presented to the Standing Committee.