



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

Agenda Item 5.1: Files opened

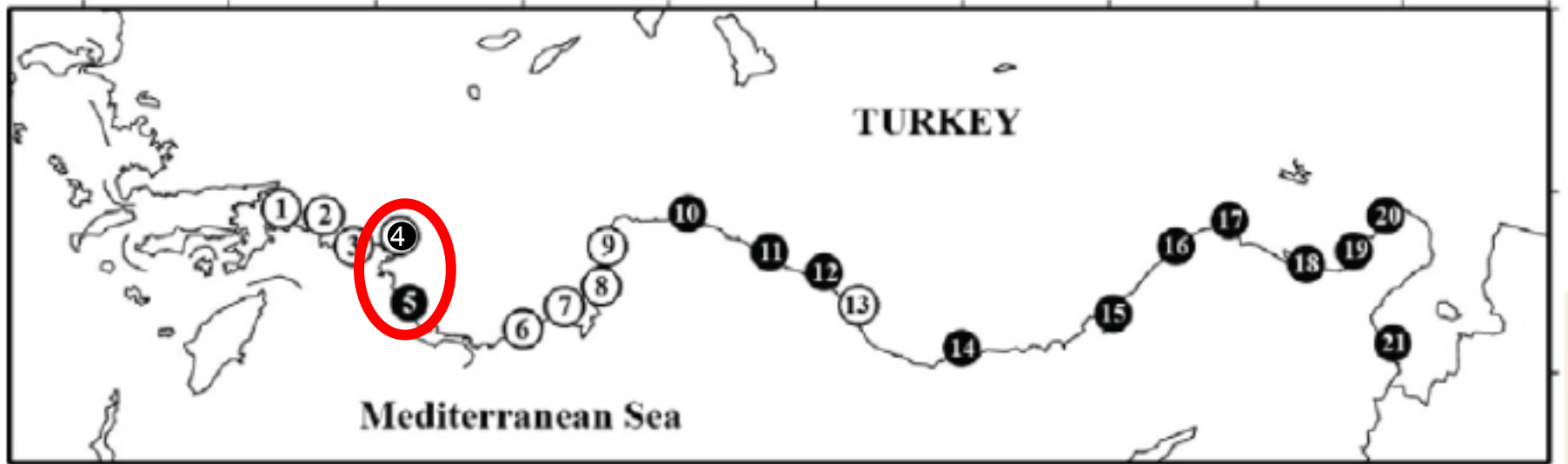
Turkey: Degradation of Nesting beaches in Fethiye and Patara SPAs

Survey August 2017

37th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Bern Convention

Wednesday 6 December 2017

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*



Recommendation 182

Rec.182 Measure 1: Ensure that Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection & management

- *There is no improvement in Patara's legal protection or management.*

Rec.182 Measure 2 (viii): Define fines for non-compliance

- *There is no local management unit responsible to design and enforce measures, regulations and fines in the protected area*

Rec.182 Measure 3: Ensure adequate financial and human resources for control, management and enforcement of regulations

- *The nest monitoring team from the Adnan Menderes University has neither the responsibility for enforcement nor the authority to impose fines.*

Rec.182 Measure 8. Set up long-term conservation & research programme with permanent team & adequate manpower for entire beach and season

- *The project is for only one season and has no adequate manpower*

Rec.182 Measure 6: Address the problem of predation

Rec.182 Measure 7: Ensure the proper fencing of all nests in areas with high human presence

- *Predation of eggs and/or of emerging hatchlings by natural predators takes place along the beach.*
- *Most of the nests on Patara main beach area were marked with cages, but some were still only marked with sticks.*
- *Anti-predation cages may be ineffective.*



All nests without a cage were predated



Cages don't appear to prevent predation



Nests marked with sticks and caged



Nests marked with sticks only

Rec.182 Measure 9: Improve information to and awareness of tourists
Rec.182 Measure 10: Improve information and education of the local community and involve them in conservation

- *There are no new information signs indicating the protected area or the nesting site*
- *Existing signs are likely to be missed by visitors of the beach*
- *The nesting zone is not clearly delimited and there are no new zoning efforts.*



Sign at Patara main beach, view from parking area



Sign at Patara main beach



Outside Patara main beach: no zoning or delimitation of the nesting area

Rec.182 Measure 2: Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which:

(i) prohibit further development on the beach and enable the removal of abandoned illegal facilities and restoration of the dunes;

Letoon beach: no noticeable improvement was observed

Çayağzı beach: some noticeable improvement



Çayağzı beach: the “Pink Bar” has been removed.



Letoon beach: the former SPA facilities that are not in use, remain on the beach in a state of decay.

Rec.182 Measure 2: Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which:

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

Outside Patara main beach: no zoning or delimitation of the nesting zone was observed

Patara main beach:

- *significant increase in the amount of beach furniture provided*
- *beach umbrellas thrust into the sand*
- *sports facilities and wooden pathways remain on the nesting beach*

Volleyball court - Patara main beach



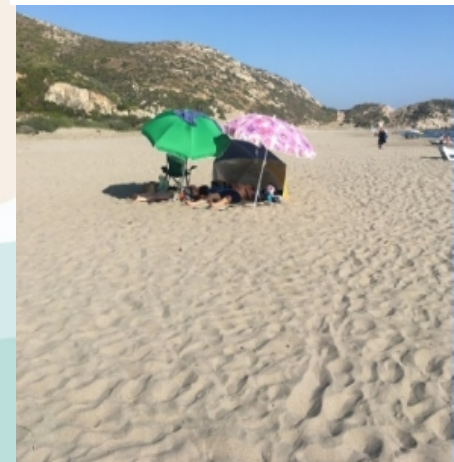
Wooden pathway and sunbeds - Patara main beach



Wooden pathway - Patara main beach



Outside Patara main beach: visitors stick umbrella poles into the nesting area



Rec.182 Measure 2: Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which: (iii) prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at the beach entrances;

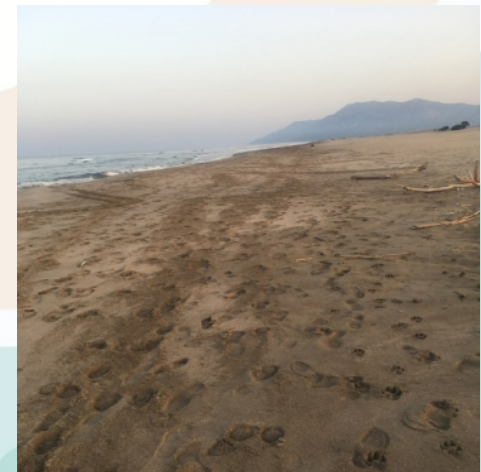
- *Both two and four-wheeled vehicle tracks were observed along the beach having entered from the river – intersected by turtle tracks*
- *Uncontrolled access at Esen river of all sorts of vehicles from 2 entry points at the river and at the top of the dunes.*
- *limited control of vehicles at Özden beach*



Vehicle tracks along the beach entering from Esen river. Note track of sea turtle crossing the vehicle track

Rec.182 Measure 2:(iv) prohibit horse riding, 4x4 or quad safaris on the nesting beach

- *Limited evidence of horse riding and use of 4x4 vehicles*



Hoof prints show where riders have been

Rec.182 Measure 2: Urgently set up, enforce and monitor the implementation of strict regulations which: (iv) prohibit illumination of the beach; (v) prohibit camping on the beach and on riverbanks in view of the beach

Limited illumination effect on the beach was observed

Rec.182 Measure 2 (vi) prohibit fishing with nets in front of the beach;

Limited nearshore fishing activity was observed in the area around the Esen river

Rec.182 Measure 5: Ensure that litter is periodically removed from beach and dunes;

A limited amount of litter was observed but an accumulation in patches due to wind and erosion was obvious



Illuminations from camping areas at Esen river



Nearshore fishing activity at Esen river



Litter accumulation

Rec.182 Measure 4: Continue to prevent uncontrolled human settlement behind the beach

300-312 summer houses
120% population increase

Inside SPA in 3rd Degree Archaeological Site

➤ **800 m from sand dunes**

➤ **1500 m from beach**



Blue line: 3rd Degree Archaeological Site.
Yellow line: 1st Degree Archaeological Site



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no significant improvement (6)

- Measure 1: appropriate legal protection & management
- Measure 2 (viii): fines for non-compliance
- Measure 3: adequate financial & human resources for management & enforcement
- Measure 8: Set up long-term conservation & research programme
- Measure 9: Improve information to and awareness of visitors
- Measure 10: Improve information and education of the local community

not effectively addressed (5)

- Measure 2(i): prohibit further development on the beach
- Measure 2(iii): prohibit access by vehicles
- Measure 2(iv): prohibit horse riding and 4x4 or quad safaris
- Measure 6: Address the problem of predation
- Measure 7: Ensure the proper fencing of all nests

significant deterioration (1)

Measure 2(ii): regulate the extent and use of furniture on the beach

limited improvement (2)

- Measure 5: Ensure that litter is periodically removed
- Measure 2: (iv) prohibit illumination; (v) prohibit camping; (vi) prohibit fishing with nets

Conclusions – Conservation status of Patara beach

- **No significant improvement** was observed in the conservation status of Patara's nesting beaches.
- **Conservation problems remain.** These include: lack of management staff and insufficient nest-monitoring personnel, lack of zoning and information, nearshore fishing, predation, vehicle access etc..

The implementation of measures for the adequate and proper management and protection of the SPA as outlined in **Recommendation No. 182 (2015)** is necessary



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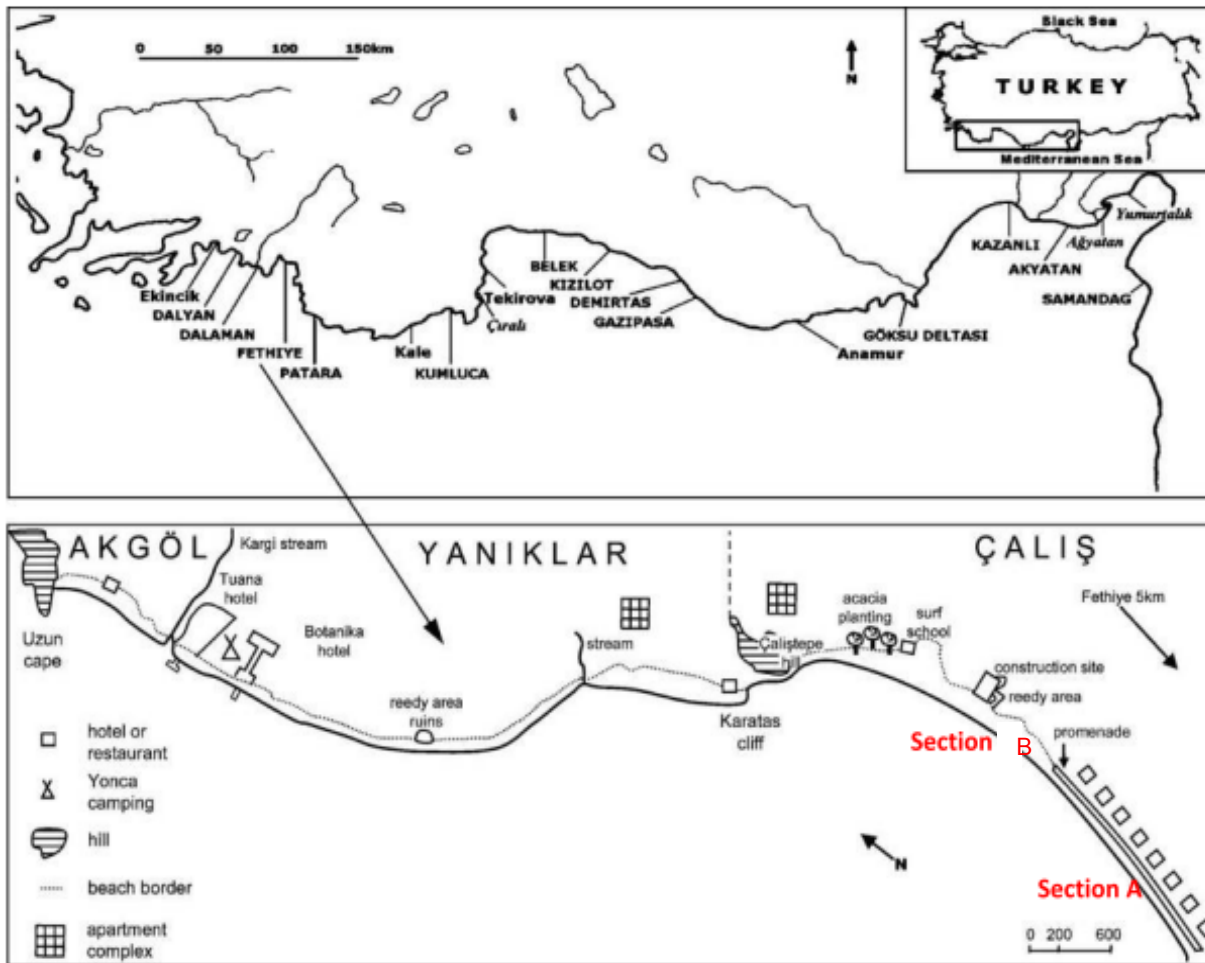
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Fethiye – nesting beach description



Ilgaz et al., 2007

The 8 km beach is split into three main sections: Akgöl, Yanıklar and. Çalış
Çalış is 2.5km long, separated from the other two beaches by a small rocky peninsula. A river (Kargı) marks the border between Yanıklar (4.5km, including Karatas beach) and Akgöl (1km).

Rec.183 Measure 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas

- *There is no apparent restoration effort*
- *Permanently fixed equipment (sports facilities, pavilions, wooden pathways etc.) remain on the beach*

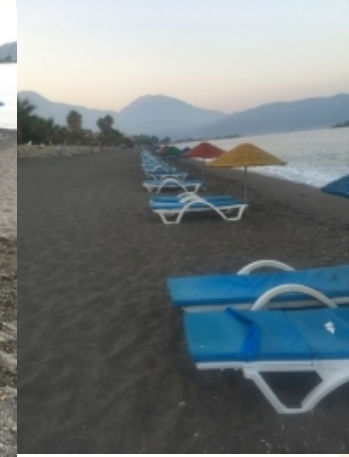


Akgöl Beach: pavilions, hut with showers and camping



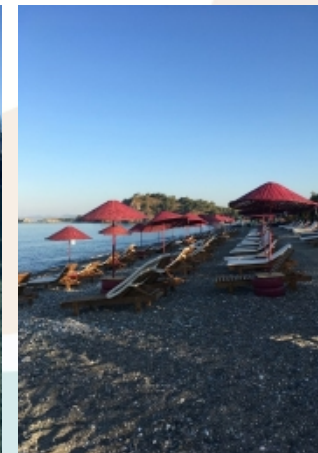
Karatas Beach: beach facilities of the “BARUT TUI Sensatori Resort”

Rec.183 Measure 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



Yanıklar beach: equipment and facilities on the nesting beach

Çalış section A: leaking showers and beach furniture



Çalış section B: further expansion of business on the nesting beach

Rec.183 Measure 6: Prohibit the use of beach furniture and other structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach

- *sandy nesting areas occupied by 14 pavilions*
- *camping and bonfires in the picnic areas*
- *decrease in beach furniture and some limited beach furniture management due to a decrease of tourists in the area*
- *sports facilities have been removed*



Akgöl beach: pavilions



Akgöl beach: bonfires and camping

Rec.183 Measure 4: Remove planted vegetation

- *There is limited new planted vegetation*
- *No restoration efforts*



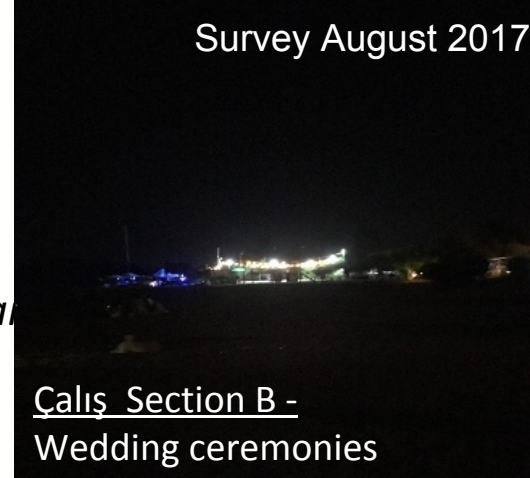
Karatas Beach: There is planted grass growing further onto the nesting area at the “BARUT TUI Sensatori Resort”



Çalış Section B: There is new planting in front of the “My Beach” restaurant on the nesting beach

Rec.183 Measure 7: Reduce light pollution

- *light pollution is severe on all nesting beaches and there have been only limited adjustments made to reduce it*
- *wedding ceremonies on the beach are becoming more popular*



Çalış Section B -
Wedding ceremonies



Karatas beach

Security floodlights from the “Barut TUI Sensatori Resort” illuminate the nesting beach



Yaniklar beach –

Hotel Club Tuana turns off its beach lights and pier lights after midnight, but lights from the area still influence the beach



Calis Sport Café at night



Karatas beach –

Deniz Incisi restaurant at

Rec.183 Measure 8: Build permanent road barriers, designate parking & picnic areas away from beach

- *Lack of barriers and/or of guards. Vehicles observed on almost all beaches*
- *Irregularly controlled barrier at Akgöl*
- *No vehicle access control on Yaniklar and Karatas beaches*
- *Picnic areas are widespread over the nesting beaches*



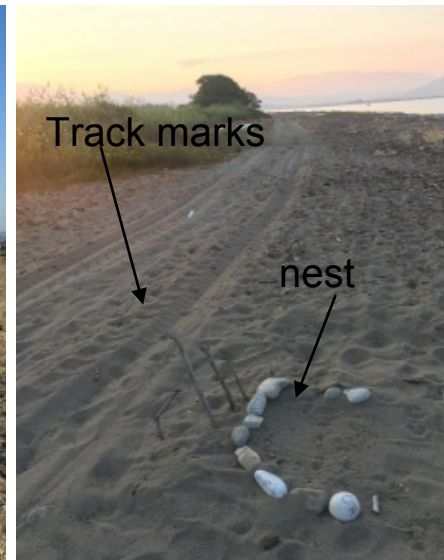
Çalış Section B: tracks



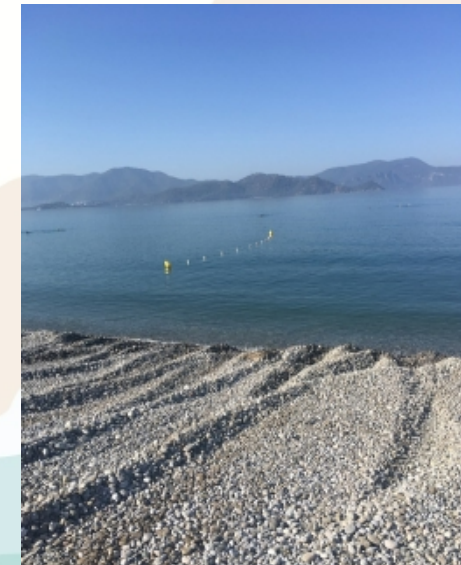
Akgöl – track marks on the nesting beach



Karatas – There is no vehicle access control



Yaniklar – There is no vehicle access control - note nest marked with stones under vehicle track



Çalış Section B- tracks from water vehicle

Rec.183 Measure 15: Improve information (communication of regulations, signs, guest campaigns, business & community involvement)

- *There is a lack of information on most nesting beaches*
- *Signage is poor, derelict, hidden or non-existent on most of the beaches*



Akgöl - destroyed sign



Yanıklar- hidden old information sign at Botanika Hotel



Karatas - No information signs

Fethiye Recommendation No 183 – overview

SIX MEASURES: NOT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED

- Measure 7: Reduce light pollution
- Measure 10: Set up long term research and conservation programmes
- Measure 11: Prohibit camping and bonfires
- Measure 13: Set up adequate regulations
- Measure 14: Ensure adequate financial and human resources to control and management
- Measure 15: Improve information (communication of regulations, signs, guest campaigns, business & community involvement)

FOUR MEASURES: NO SIGNIFIGANT IMPROVEMENT

- Measure 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas
- Measure 4: Remove planted vegetation
- Measure 5: Map the Fethiye coast (...); enforce beach furniture removal/stacking
- Measure 8: Build permanent road barriers, designate parking & picnic areas away from beach

TWO MEASURES: NO EVIDENCE AVAILABLE

- Measure 1: Stop any further development of permanent structures
- Measure 3: Sand extraction

FOUR MEASURES: LIMITED IMPROVEMENT

- Measure 6: Prohibit the use of beach furniture and other structures on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach
- Measure 9: Regulate marine traffic
- Measure 12: Clean beach
- Measure 16: Protect all nests with cages

Most measures under Recommendations 182 & 183 (2015) have not been implemented

URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT FETHIYE & PATARA'S NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

MEDASSET calls upon the Turkish authorities to:

- ▶ Urgently implement Recommendation No. 182 (2015) and Recommendation 183 (2015)
- ▶ Allocate the necessary financial and human resources to ensure enforcement of regulations and measures by authorities.

MEDASSET calls upon the Bern Convention Standing Committee to:

- ▶ Urge the Turkish authorities to implement Recommendations No. 182 (2015) and 183 (2015) without further delay
- ▶ Encourage and assist the Turkish authorities to implement management and conservation measures on both Patara and Fethiye.



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**Thank you
for your attention**