



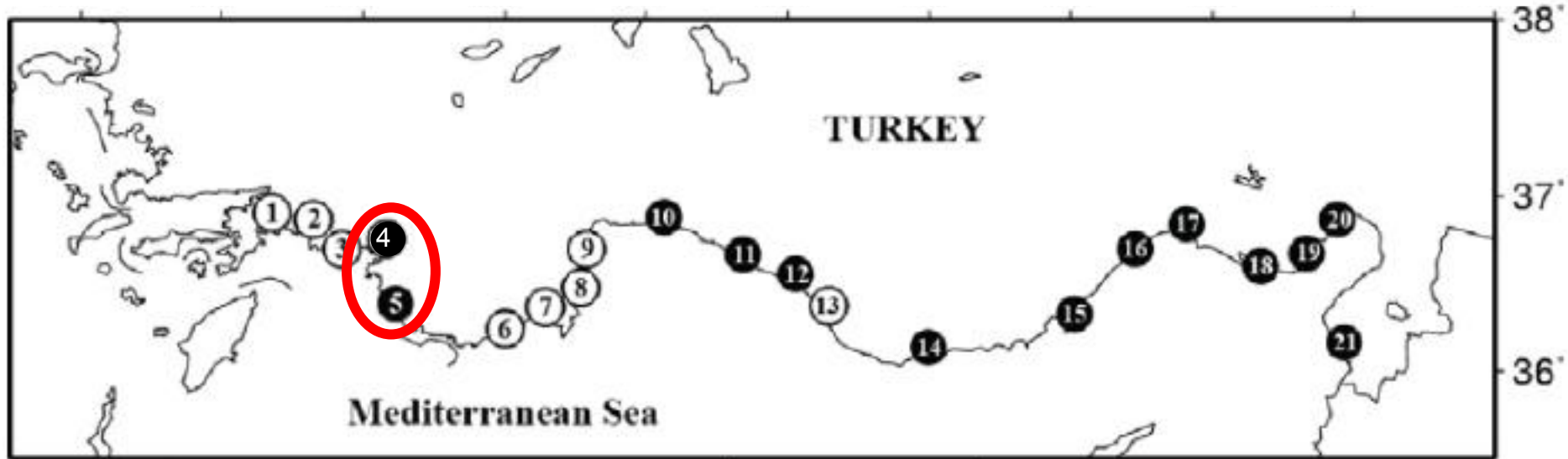
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## Agenda Item 6.1: Files opened

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

*38th Meeting of the Standing Committee  
of the Bern Convention  
Wednesday 28 November 2018*

# Fethiye & Patara are among 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*



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# Recommendation No. 182

**No. 1:** Patara nesting beach receives appropriate legal protection & management → **No improvement**

**No. 2:** Define fines for non-compliance → **No Action**

**No. 3:** Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control, management & enforcement of regulations  
→ **No management personnel on site to enforce regulations, measures not enforced**

**No. 8.** Set up long-term conservation & research programme with permanent team & adequate manpower for entire beach & season  
→ **One-season contract, inadequate manpower**



# **Patara Rec. 182 No. 2: Prohibit development on beach, remove abandoned illegal facilities & restore dunes**



**Abandoned SPA facilities  
have not been removed from the dunes**



# Patara Rec. 182. 2: Regulate extent & use of beach furniture, ensure removal from nesting zone at night

**No zoning in 90% of Patara SPA nesting beach**



**Incorrect & inadequate zoning in Patara main beach: 2 old posts mark sunbed use area.**

**Umbrellas are inserted randomly on nesting beach**

**Patara Rec. 182. 2: Regulate extent & use of beach furniture, ensure removal from nesting zone at night**



**Volleyball court remains on nesting beach, is a threat to nests**

**Walkways & tents are permanent obstacles for turtles**



# Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at beach entrances



**Uncontrolled vehicle access.  
No guards, no barriers.  
Quads, motorbikes, tractors  
and 4x4 vehicles on entire  
nesting beach.**



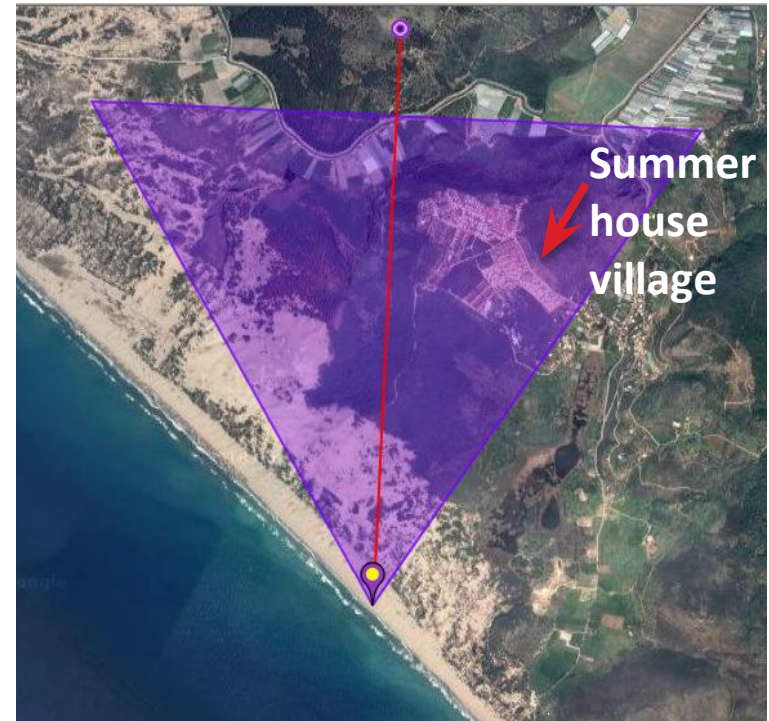
## Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit access of vehicles by placing barriers at beach entrances



**No guards, no sign, no barriers.  
Entry point via dunes  
(near summer house village)  
is busier, more litter,  
more human presence at night**



# Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit illumination of beach



**Hatchling disorientation due to lights from new summer house village.**

**Camping lights & two street lamps also affect beach.**



## **Patara Rec. 182. 2: Prohibit camping on beach & riversides in view of beach**



**Human presence, lights, vehicles and bonfires at night,  
on mouth of Esen river, in view of nesting beach**



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# Patara Recommendation No. 182

9: Tourists: Improve information & awareness

- > **No substantial action (2 signs, 1 info point twice per week)**

10: Local community: Improve information & education, involve in conservation & management - > **No action**



**Information kiosk irregularly in operation**



**Only 2 information signs along the 12km beach**

# Patara Rec. 182. 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Archaeological Site.**

**Yellow line: 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site**

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

2018

Construction continues for a total of 310 buildings

2016



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## Patara Recommendation No. 182

2: Prohibit **horse riding**, 4x4 **safaris** on beach -> **not effectively addressed, no improvement**

2: Prohibit **fishing** with nets in front of beach -> **no observation**

6: Address the problem of **predation** -> **not effectively addressed, no improvement (most nests not protected)**

7: Ensure proper **fencing** of nests in areas with high human presence -> **not effectively addressed, no improvement (50% of nests were not caged)**

**Recommendation NOT fully implemented**





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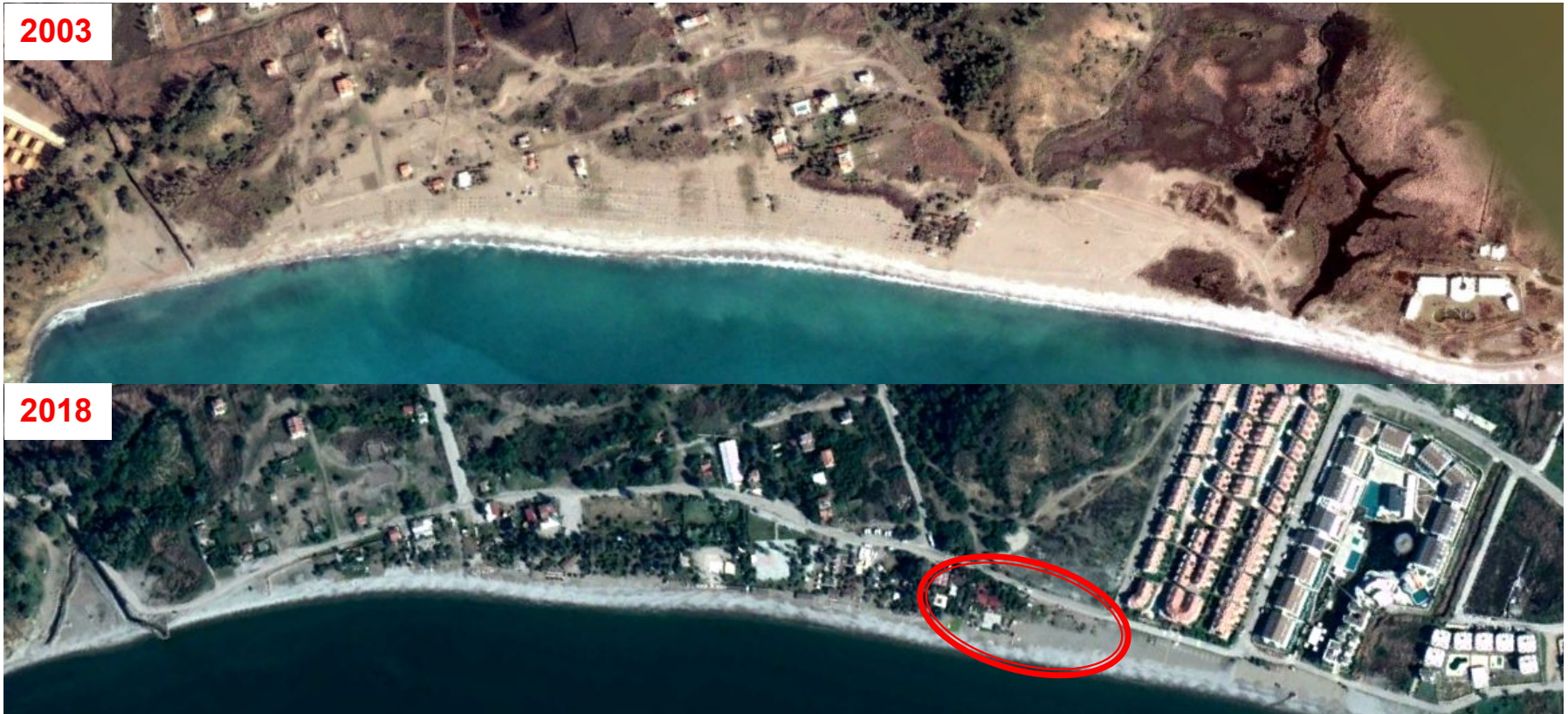
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# Turkey: Degradation of nesting beaches in Fethiye & Patara Specially Protected Areas

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# Fethiye Rec. 183. 1: Stop further development of permanent structures (buildings, shipyard, jetties, etc.)



**New business on severely degraded nesting beach.  
Nesting zone further occupied & disturbances increased.**

# Fethiye Rec. 183. 1: Stop further development of permanent structures (buildings, shipyard, jetties, etc.)

**2 new jetties & cordoned sea areas, occupy nesting beach, increase marine traffic (5 jetties in protected area)**



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 1: Stop further development of permanent structures (buildings, shipyard, jetties, etc.)



**Wetland burnt and flattened (red circle)  
next to the 2015 Barut TUI Sensatori Resort.  
New resort planned?**



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# Fethiye Rec. 183. 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



**Concrete platforms, carpets & volleyball courts permanently occupy nesting beach**



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



**More tables, umbrellas, permanent shades, camping tents, showers, playgrounds, pavilions, etc. on the nesting beach**



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 2: Remove structures & restore sandy areas



**New huge shaded water sports tent on nesting beach.**

**Showers cabins remain on beach with water leaking**



vegetation due to water runoff

**Carpets, tables & watersport equipment on nesting beach day & night**





**TUI Resort - Several pavilions, 2 sunbed rows, 2 walkways and a water sport tent remain inside the nesting zone.**



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 5: Map & zone the whole Fethiye coast. Enforce beach furniture night removal/stacking

**Businesses completely occupy nesting zone with dense rows of sunbeds that are not removed at night.**

**Note nests in red circles.**





# Fethiye Rec. 183. 5: Map & zone the whole Fethiye coast. Enforce beach furniture night removal/stacking



There was an increase in walkways & beach furniture that were not collected at night on 80% of beach



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 6: Prohibit furniture, structures or facilities on the sandy zones of Akgöl beach

Pavilions remain on nesting hotspot increased since 2015



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 3: Stop sand extraction

**Sand movement with heavy machinery during nesting season**

**Sand extraction next to Barut TUI Sensatori Resort**



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# Fethiye Rec. 183. 4: Remove planted vegetation



**New acacia trees, palms & lawn planted & watered on the nesting beaches**



# Fethiye Rec. 183. 7: Reduce light pollution



**Light pollution is severe.**

**Businesses host wedding parties on nesting beach at night**



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

Due to lack of barriers, vehicles drove on most of the nesting beaches.



**Fethiye Rec. 183. 11: Prohibit camping & bonfires, set appropriate time limits for beach bars operation at night**

**Camping, picnics & bonfires observed on all nesting beaches.**

**No time restrictions for operation of beach businesses**



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

**No signs or  
no legible signs  
on approx. 6.5 km  
of nesting beach.**





# Fethiye Recommendation 183

9: Regulate maritime traffic, prohibit at appropriate distances, set speed limits & mark corridors -> **No Action**

10. Set up long-term research & conservation programs, with adequate manpower. Assess: (i) photo-pollution effects (ii) disturbance of nesting females (iii) predation  
-> **No Action, one-season project**

12: Clean beach & ensure sewage is not discharged into sea  
-> **Litter not collected on 6.5 of 8 km beach (see report photos)**

13. Set up & enforce adequate regulations and fines  
-> **No Action**

14. Ensure adequate financial & human resources for control & management -> **No Action**

16. Protect all nests with cages -> **predation is still**



# URGENT ACTION NEEDED

## to protect Fethiye & Patara's natural & cultural heritage

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

**We call upon the Standing Committee to:**

- **Keep the case file open**
- **Urge Turkish authorities to implement all measures under Recommendations 182 & 183 with no further delay, before May 2019**





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**Thank You  
for your attention**

**MEDASSET**

Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

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