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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

36<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

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**Specific Sites - Files open**

**Presumed degradation of nesting beaches in  
Fethiye and Patara SPAs (Turkey):**

*Fethiye Special Environmental Protection Area*

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey*

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**GOVERNMENT REPORT ON RECOMMENDATION NO. 183 (2015) ON THE  
CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND RESTORATION OF FETHIYE NESTING  
BEACHES (TURKEY)**

**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNTIL AUGUST 2016 UNDER THE PROJECT “CONSERVATION AND  
MONITORING OF MARINE TURTLES IN FETHIYE SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AREA”**

Conservation and monitoring activities for the year 2016 were initiated in May 2016 and all the activities carried out until August in marine turtle nesting beaches were presented below:

Firstly, The General Directorate for the Protection of Natural Assets under The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, put aside a budget for monitoring and conservation activities at the beginning of the current year, and this budget was and is still being used for monitoring and conservation activities of scientific teams working in the region.

These scientific teams had two main responsibilities in the field. First responsibility was to make conservation studies like spotting new nests, caging the nests against predation and other damages, relocating nests which are in danger of inundation. Other responsibility was educational activities. These teams also carried out educational activities for managers and employees of hotels, cafeterias and restaurants and also for domestic and international tourists and local people around Çalış, Koca Çalış and Yanıklar beaches. Within the scope of the education activities, general information about marine turtles, their life cycle, breeding behaviour and their environmental problems were the main topics. 3 warning signs and a big information sign were put on the beaches and 20 small information signs were put on the different entrances of the beaches.





An information booth was set up in Fethiye Çalış beach, which serve between 21:00 – 23:00 hours on every day of the week. In this booth area, visitors were informed about life cycle of marine turtles and the threats form arine turtles, by presentations and documentaries.



To prevent light pollution, these scientific teams made interviews with enterprises on Çalış beach and studies for dissemination of the usage of redlights in the enterprises has been launched. Many enterprises are using turtle friendly lights in their facilities, not only in terms of color of the light but also intensity of the light is adjusted.



To prevent access by vehicles to the beaches, a new landscape design was done on Çalış beach. Besides, to prevent the usage of the beaches by people after 20:00, an officer in charge is always walking on the beach to warn people. Personal goods and objects (like tents, umbrellas which are digged into the sand and boats) are not allowed on the beaches except for beach furniture (sunbeds and umbrallas) which are also removed during the night. The officer in charge is taking part in such cases and making the necessary warnings.



There was a problem with wetting of the beach by water leaking from shower cabins or showers placed on the beach by some enterprises. Some of these showers were removed especially if they are located near intense turtle nests. Therefore the problem of wetting of the nests is prevented and the shower cabins are now used as changing cabins.



Marine vehicles for water sports (boat, jet-ski, catamaran, sailboat, pedalo etc.) were restricting turtle nesting before. This problem was tried to be overcome by interviewing with the authorities to keep these vehicles at the back of the beaches during the night. After a morning check for the nests at the beach, these vehicles are allowed for their normal facilities of the day.

Especially for Yanıklar beach, high predation rates was a risk for existing turtle nests. In this region, although some nests were caged against predation last year, these were still seen predated. For this reason this year these cages were protected with extra measures like putting fences around the nests, as an addition to cages beneath the sand.



If the nest is found in a place where there is intense human activity, then these nests are protected with additional above-sand cages.



The teams made interviews with all the enterprises along the beaches and they are told to have Turtle Friendly Enterprise Certificate at the end of the season in case they cooperate with the project teams in the following subjects;

- Cooperate with Sea Turtle Conservation Project Teams and with directors of the Provincial Directorate of Environment and Urbanization of the Mugla province.
- Educate your employees, especially those working in the security and at the beaches, to implement the measures stated below. Local marine turtle project teams can provide the necessary trainings. Inform the visitors and encourage them actively to obey these measures.
- Keep the nesting area of the marine turtles clean
- Keep the beaches clean, dark, silent and peaceful during the night time
- Keep the sea safe, silent and clean

In summary, the enterprises made commitments about the followings;

**ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTERPRISE, WE WORK IN COORDINATION WITH THE PROJECT TEAM AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE “TURTLE FRIENDLY ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATE” BY PROMISING TO COOPERATE ON THE FOLLOWING:**

- I don't enter the beach by vehicles.
- I don't lay carpets on the beach.
- I don't light a fire at the beach.
- I don't play water sports near the beach.
- I don't dig umbrellas into the beach randomly. I just put my umbrella on a specified area based on the suggestions of the project team.
- I take into account the warnings of the authorities while using sunbeds.
- I tidy up the sunbeds after 20:00 at night.
- I don't throw out garbage to the beach or into the sea.
- I don't turn on lights on the beach. My lights are red and I use low-pressure sodium lights.
- I use red lights in my enterprise. I fade out or turn off unnecessary lights.
- I don't use the beach after 20:00 at night.
- I don't change the place of nest cages.
- I call the authorities if I see a seaturtle. (+90538. 403 2501)