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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

28th meeting
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Possible New File

**Report on Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Conservation
Monitoring in Kazanlı (Turkey)**

REPORT BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Krom san Factory
within the coordination of the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry*

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A Summary of the Preliminary Evaluations of Kazanlı Sea Turtle Project

- A- Participants of the Project:
- a. Managing Institute: Ecological Research Society
 - i. Project Manager: Dr Ali Fuat Canbolat
 - ii. Project Coordinator: Mehmet Deli
 - iii. Person in Charge for Project Area: Kurtuluş Özgişi
 - b. Sponsor: Soda Sanayii A.S.
- B- Project Area: Kazanlı- Mersin Türkiye.
- C- Duration of the Project: June-September 2008

Pre -summary of the Project:

(Evaluation has been not finalized and only approximate figures are presented.)

During the period of June-September 2008, following results have been obtained by the area studies performed by app. 4-5 people.

Subsection	Number of nest	Number of predation	Number of hatchling success
K1	254	9	202
K2	49	14	45
K3	61	7	43
K4	-	-	-
Total	364	30	290

Hatchling success:

Number of eggs lied on the beach: 35.000

Number of hatchlings reached to the sea: 20.000

Intensity of the nests along the length of 4,5 km Kazanlı beach, has been determined as app. 80 nests/km.

During our studies in 2008, a total number of 364 sea turtle nests has been determined. According to the 2007 report of WWF, the number of sea turtle nests determined in the Kazanlı beach was 191. The number of the nests determined as a result of 2008 studies are higher than the 2007 results. During the past years, only in 2004-2005 and 2006, the total number of the nests was between 350 and 400. In the other years (between the years 1988 and 2003 in that studies were carried out) the number of the nests were determined as below 350.

According to the 2007 report of WWF, the number of sea turtle nests determined in the Kazanlı beach was 191. The distribution of these nests to the sub-sections was reported as follows; 63% was in K1, 12% was in the K2 and 25% was in K3. In the present study, from the total 364 nests, 70% was in K1, 13% was in K2 and 17% was in K3 section. Although some small differences exist between the sectional distributions of these years, the proportions are not significant.

In 2008, app. 17.000 hatchlings are predicted as having reached to the sea. According to the WWF 2007 report, 17.150 hatchlings were reported as having reached to the sea. Although total number of nests found out in 2008 was higher than the nests reported in 2007, the total number of the hatchlings that have reached to the sea decreased in 2008. The reason of this was not attributed to the predation number of 2008, but also it is presumed that a numerical or mathematical error in the 2007 report has caused this decline. Because, in the 2007 WWF report, a total number of 191 nests and a mean value of 84,8 eggs/nest were reported. In this case, it can be concluded that app. 16.200 eggs were laid down during 2007 in the Kazanli beach. However, in the same report, the number of the hatchlings that have reached to the sea was reported as 17.150, in which case the number of the hatchlings reaching to the sea would be greater than the number of eggs laid down in the beach.

Edited by:

Dr. Ali Fuat Canbolat

Ecological Research Society and University of Hacettepe.

SOME REMARKS ABOUT KAZANLI SEA TURTLE PROJECT

The Project called “Monitoring and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Kazanlı” has been carried for more than 12 months and has been also acquainted as a project that had a modest contribution to the nearby social environment.

In the scope of the project, a flat was rented and furnished as a an office and shelter that was used by young people of Kazanlı as a youth center. It was possible for these people to rent books from the small library and to benefit from the internet connection in the centre. With the aid of these facilities, most of the sea turtle studies undertaken during the past years by different research workers has been collated. Also all kind of instruments have been obtained and brought together in the centre that will enable to effectively pursue the studies.

In order to assist to the teachers in the primary school to educate environmental subjects, some documents have been collected and given to the teachers. Also, the teachers were encouraged to carry out education in the field of environmental protection.

During the winter time an English course was organized with the aim of to improve the communication skills of the young people of Kazanlı with the volunteers that will join to the summer program.

In order to draw the attention not only the people from Kazanlı also from the city centre of Mersin, a photograph exhibition was organized in one of the popular shopping center of the Mersin. In this exhibition, some 40 photograph of sea turtles were presented and a very warm response was given by the visitors.

The studies during the nesting season started in June, have been undertaken by volunteers coming also from abroad. With the assistance of the “Youth Services Centre”, two separate camps were organized. To the first one, 21 volunteers from eight countries, to the second one 20 people from six countries have participated. In these camps, following main activities were realized;

- To promote community awareness about the conservation of sea turtles, and encouraging contributions to the conservation studies, presentations were made to the local community, even by visiting homes and cafe’s.
- During the nesting season the 4 km long Kazanlı beach has been cleaned regularly in order to secure the hatchlings to easily reach to the sea.
- Monitoring sea turtle populations and determining the locations of sea turtle nests,
- Hatchling census and statistical analysis of hatchling success for the nests during hatchling emergence season,
- To help hatchlings that get stuck inside nests or lose their ways on the beach,
- Caging nests against undesired predations caused by natural enemies such as foxes, dogs, and crabs.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS ON KAZANLI BEACH DURING 2007–2008 SEASON

Recommendations	Implemented			Remarks
	yes	partly	no	
1. Remove greenhouses in beach section K3	mostly			Most of them were demolished; the rest are moved far from the beach.
2. Remove taxi (dolmus) parking area	yes			
3. Remove plastic debris	yes			Debris is periodically removed from the beach
4. Screen lights	yes			Low pressure SOX lamps are used. Screening done during nesting period. High level lambs were moved away.
5. Monitoring of chemical waste discharge	yes			Regularly, monitor in the center of Kazanlı
6. Monitoring of beach erosion	yes			Monitoring is done in the framework of the “Kazanlı Beach / Monitoring and Protecting Project”. In addition most of the activities resulting to erosion in the beach were banned.
7. Promote public awareness	yes			Government, municipality, local NGOs (EKAD mostly) do the public awareness campaigns. Web site for Marine turtles was established under Ministry Provincial Office official site.
8. Implement environmental plan («cevre düzeni planı»)	yes			Plan adopted in 2004; Protection by the decisions of Municipality Council
9. Remove illegal building in K1	partly			Most removed and no new buildings are allowed.
10. Remove hazardous waste	no			Project on that issue is under preparation. It is foreseen for the year 2009.
11. Relocate wedding hall	no			Only active during weekends of summer time till 22:00. In addition, trees were planted between the hall and the sea to decrease the negative effects.
12. Construct sewage treatment plant for Kazanlı	yes			Active
13. Look for appropriate solutions for houses built legally on the beach	partly			Some buildings such as school, huts were all demolished, and nobody was allowed to live in the mentioned area.
14. Reduce impact of agrochemicals	partly			Bio-farming is supported in the region. Education of the farmers on that issue is done by relevant organizations.

Progress Report of Soda Sanayii A.Ş. Kromsan Plant August 2008

As it was presented in the report of 2007, Kromsan Plant is the “**sole**” chromium chemicals manufacturer in the world protecting its hazardous solid waste of the process - *so called chromium ore processing residue “COPR”* - in a well constructed disposal site. The hazardous solid waste produced between 1984 and 1998 is protected in the premises of the plant by adopting very strict measures and it has been therefore possible to prevent deterioration of the environment.

A novel solid waste treatment process invented as a result of extensive R&D studies has been presented to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and regarded as an applicable project. The overall aim of this project is to convert the hazardous waste to non-hazardous waste by reducing the hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium which is insoluble and non-toxic form of chromium. The non-hazardous waste will be sent to a waste landfill site for ultimate disposal.

As far as the overall performance of the project is concerned, the critical step is to construct the landfill site which should be available to receive the non-hazardous waste once the treatment plant starts to operate. Therefore, in the course of planning of project, priority is given to establish the landfill site, namely by searching a location in the vicinity of the Mersin. However, an unsuccessful initiative to set up a central waste storage facility has delayed Kromsan Plant to set up its own landfill site at a designated location for some time.

This unforeseen progress caused to an undesirable delay of project start up. Nevertheless, after the preliminary approval of the landfill site location by the Ministry and considering the alternated conditions, the project scheduling has been revised and sent to the Ministry on August 06, 2008. In this revised plan, the start up date of the solid waste treatment plant is stated as July 2009. Similarly, the landfill site is planned to put into operation in November 2009.

Being one of the leading companies in the chromium chemicals industry, Kromsan Plant is expected to realize this “*unique*” environmental project according to the proposed schedule.