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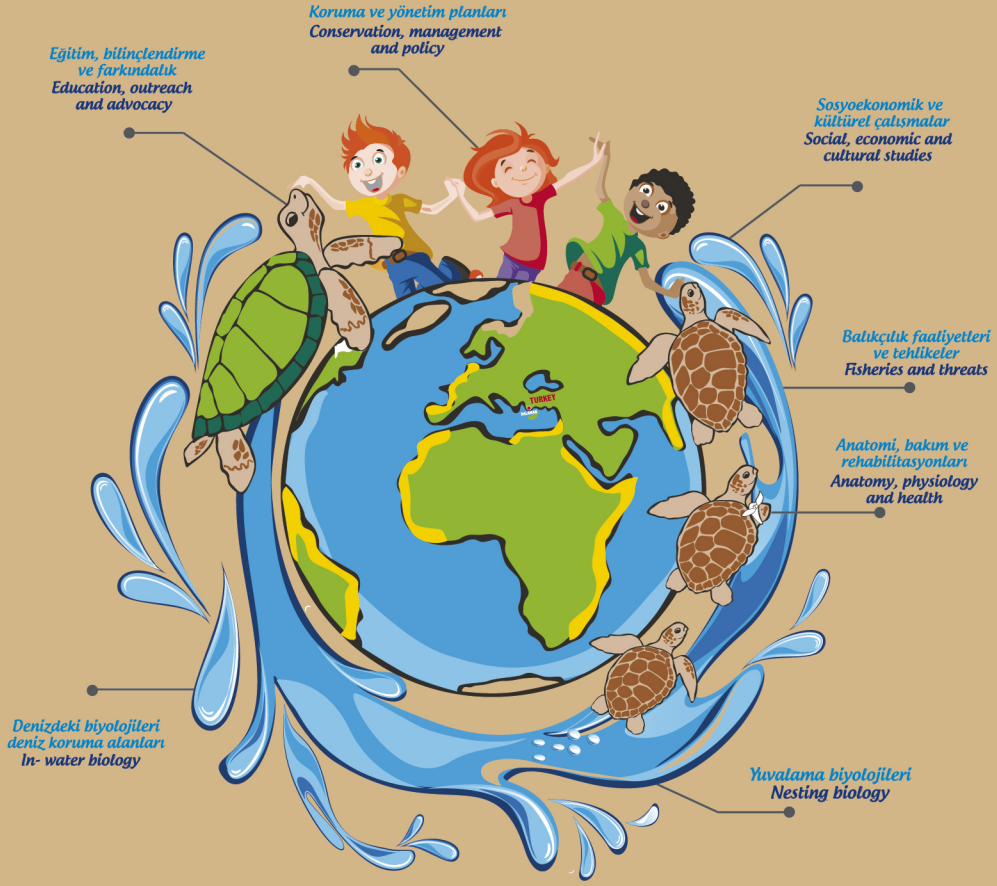


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Abstract ID: 6069 **Type:** Poster **Subject:** Anatomy, Physiology, Health **Country:** Turkey
Submitted By: Eyup Başkale

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH, RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTRE (DEKAMER), DALYAN, MUĞLA-TURKEY; RESULTS OF THE FIRST SIX YEARS

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The first sea turtle rescue centre (DEKAMER) was established in 2008 and its activities during the first six years are explained in these results. A total of 122 injured turtles, 95 (78%) *Caretta caretta*'s, 24 (20%) *Cheloniemydas* and 3 (2%) fresh water turtles *Trionyxtriunguis* were admitted to the centre during the years of 2008-2014. Turtles that came for rehabilitation was brought from distances approximately 250 km. (min. 12km., max. 750 km.). The wounded turtles were brought from Dalyan/Muğla(39%), other parts of Muğla (25%), Antalya (25%), Aydın (4%), İzmir (3%), Mersin (2%) and Balıkesir (2%). Totally 68 turtles were recovered and released back to the sea as healthy individuals. The remaining 42 died during their treatments. The mean value of the treatment durations were calculated as 5 months (151 days) ranging from two weeks to two years. There are currently 12 sea turtles still undergoing treatment and rehabilitation at the centre. Injured turtles were mainly (64%) found within the Muğla province. In order to determine the true cause of mortality, necropsies were conducted on all dead turtles. The main causes of injuries and deaths were found to be related to fishery and boat activities, such as speed boat crash or propeller cut (22%), fishing-net or fishing line entanglements (22%), buoyancy problems (14%), intentional injuries (13%), parasite infection (12%), hook ingestion (12%) and others (5%). Treatment process varies depending upon the type of injury, and size of wounds being treated. First of all, all injured turtles are hydrated with either Ringer solution or Isotonic. Vitamins and other supporting medicine were applied IV and/or IM depending on their body condition and state of health. Turtles were cleaned from external contaminants with 5% Betadine solution. Antibiotics, silver containing creams, and powders were used open wounds. If it is necessary intramuscular painkillers and antibiotics were also given for a period of one week. The centre is open to both national and international collaborations.

Abstract ID: 6075 **Type:** Poster **Subject:** Anatomy, Physiology, Health **Country:** Turkey
Submitted By: Dusen Serdar

RECORDING THE EPIBIONTS OF TURTLES UNDER REHABILITATION AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARASITES RECORDED FROM POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF SEA TURTLES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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Two species of sea turtles loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are using Turkey's Mediterranean coastline for nesting and foraging. Loggerhead sea turtles are isolated from Atlantic population and colonized in the Mediterranean and their nesting population seems to be around 2000 females only. There are around 50 injured and 100 stranded turtles reported all along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. The injured ones are transported to Sea Turtle Rescue Centre (DEKAMER) and examined for both internal and external parasites and also epibiont species. Turtles died during the treatment period also examined for internal parasites. This study is the first evidence of parasites on these turtles nesting along the Turkish beaches. The external parasites usually recorded from nesting females but there were no information on male turtles. Twenty two adult specimens of *Caretta caretta* and 12 green turtles were examined and these helminth groups were recorded: Digenea, Nematodes and Annelids (*Ozobranchus* sp.). Two epibionts species from Cirripedia (Crustacea) were also reported. The abundance and the turtles health problems were recorded and overall parasite infection were discussed and compared with literature. Study of internal and external parasites is very important for the treatment of sea turtles especially under rehabilitation.