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## A successful model for conservation and habitat management in Dalyan beach, Turkey: it was reached the highest number of nests

Eyup Baskale<sup>1</sup>, Mücahit Seçme<sup>2</sup>, Çisem Sezgin<sup>2</sup>, Meliha Cedetas<sup>2</sup>, Fikret Sari<sup>2</sup>, Yakup Kaska<sup>1</sup>

1. Pamukkale University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, Denizli, Turkey

2. Pamukkale University, Sea Turtle Research Centre (DEKAMER), Denizli, Turkey

Dalyan beach is one of the most important nesting sites of Loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in Turkey. Dalyan beach was designated as a Specially Protected Area by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry in 1988. Nesting activity and conservation actions were performed between 1 May and 30 September 2010. Out of 1005 emergences onto the nesting beach, 354 (35 %) resulted in successful nesting during the 2010 nesting season. Hatching success was calculated as 55.4%. There was a mean incubation period of 53 days (range 46-66) and a mean clutch size of 75.4 eggs (range 14-130). A total of 222 (63%) nests were screened against predation, with the screens being fixed with long metal hooks from the corners for additio-

nal safety. Overall, 133 nests were completely predated and 92 nests were partly predated, mainly by foxes. A total of 118 nests, comprising 10496 eggs, that did not have screening were predated. The main predator was red foxes in 216 nests, badgers in 8 nests and ghost crab in one nest. The highest number of nests was observed in the 2010 nesting season, in relation to nest numbers since 1988. In addition, based on conservation actions, the highest number of hatchlings reached the sea in 2010. While the observed predation rate seems to be higher than that documented in the literature, Dalyan beach demonstrates a very good example of coexistence of turtles and tourists.