

Project Update: July 2024

With the beginning of the project, electronic materials were procured, and from March 2024 onwards, exploration activities were carried out based on reports from regional authorities. During the project, it was observed that boats were passing very close to the shore during the turtle breeding season. Educational and informational activities were conducted at Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University for university students and invited researchers who are experts in the field. Presentations on turtles and seagrasses (*Posidonia oceanica*) were given to primary and secondary school students in the Manavgat region of Antalya. Volunteers aged 18-30, who came to the Belek and Kızılot camp areas, were provided with training as part of EKAD's research, monitoring, and conservation efforts for sea turtles. During this process, discussions with local administrations led to the establishment of communication networks and exchanges of ideas to prevent damage caused by wildlife tourism. During the education and awareness activities, a report of a dead green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) washed ashore was received. Upon investigation, it was determined that the turtle had died due to a propeller wound. It is believed that this was caused by boats rapidly entering shallow areas during wildlife tourism. Field studies revealed that various small speedboats and large boats entered the area, staying from 9:00 to 11:00 every day for wildlife tourism purposes. It was also found that large boats caused damage to seagrass beds by anchoring and dragging anchors in areas dense with seagrasses.



