

Sustainability of Mediterranean Sea Turtles: The Case Study of Patara Beach / Turkey

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Abstract

This paper examines the potential benefits of eco-tourism for sea turtle protection schemes and local livelihoods. Tourism is a highly valuable economic asset for every country in the world. It has special importance for developing and semi-developed countries as one of the main earners for their economy. This work analyses the importance of the tourist industry for coastal communities and identifies the problems between this industry and designated areas (Med. Marine turtle protection schemes). This work uses a case study from Turkey (Patara turtle nesting beach) to demonstrate the potential ecotourism uses of the area and its potential benefit for the local livelihood. The paper concludes that ecotourism can be used as a tool to achieve community development and sea turtle protection in an integrated way but it should be structured carefully and should be planned ahead to achieve its goals and it also should be designed with the full participation of the public and interest groups in the particular area. It should be managed at local level and also be concerned with global issues. Managing of ecotourism also requires an integrated approach.