



## Become a Volunteer

Enthusiastic and committed volunteers are required to work at DEKAMER's sea turtle conservation projects in Turkey. Dalyan and Sarigerme beaches host the nesting areas for the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). In Dalyan, DEKAMER also runs the only Sea Turtle Rescue Centre in Turkey.

Volunteers are invited to work on the beach of Dalyan (called also turtle beach) in its task to implement protection measures for the preservation of the sea turtles. Volunteers will protect nests against predation from foxes and other mammals. At the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre, volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in the daily treatment of sea turtles that usually bear injuries as a result of their accidental capture in fishing gear and help in rising of public awareness among the public as well as in the maintenance of the Centre's facilities.

### 1. SUMMER PROJECTS (Mid May - Mid October)

The nesting season commences at the end of May and lasts until August. The hatchlings emerge at the end of July through to the end of October. During this period, the work of DEKAMER aims at the protection of nesting females, nests and hatchlings and involves: **Morning Survey** conducted daily at dawn, to assess the previous night's turtle activities. It may be long and tedious, physically demanding and extend well into the heat of the day. **Nest Protection** against human activities and predation, achieved wherever necessary through screening. Further nests laid in unsafe areas are relocated to safer areas. **Excavation** of a sample of nests is carried out in order to determine hatching success.



### 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE CENTRE (All-year round)



Many sea turtles are annually reported stranded throughout Turkey, usually caught in fishing gear or injured by speedboats and fishermen. The ones that are still alive have a good chance to survive if immediate and proper treatment is provided. Sea Turtle Rehabilitation tasks include preparation and administration of food, operation of the sea water supply systems, carrying and cleaning the animals, as well as cleaning the facilities and equipment. Public Awareness activities include the running of exhibition area and providing information to visitors.

## REQUIREMENTS

- volunteers stay on either designated camp areas, restricted to DEKAMER volunteers, **with outdoor basic sanitary, cooking facilities** (cold water showers, gas or electric stoves and fridges, cooking pots and pans, cutlery, crockery) and unlimited internet access at caravans at DEKAMER on Dalyan beach. Volunteers must be prepared to share a communal life, living and working in both populated and secluded areas, often as members of small teams and usually under harsh conditions. Although relevant experience is not necessary, the ability to live and co-operate with people of different cultures and background is essential
- applicants must be **over 18 years of age**, able to **communicate in English (the projects are English speaking)** and carry a health insurance policy. The recommended participation period is **more than 6 weeks (minimum participation 4 weeks/28 days)**. Long term participation is highly appreciated.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Available for students interested to carry out undergraduate or postgraduate research during their voluntary work. Applications must be made well in advance in order to receive further information and complete a research agreement form. Student exchanges are also possible under the Erasmus Agreements between two Universities. **The deadline for finalizing research projects is 1st April for the following summer.**

**There is an International Dalaman Airport 39 km from our Rescue Center.** If possible please inform the project by email ([caretta@pau.edu.tr](mailto:caretta@pau.edu.tr)) for the exact time and date of your arrival.

**For Further Information: Please visit our website <http://caretta.pamukkale.edu.tr> and download our short 2009 annual report for further information.**

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The Sea Turtle Rescue Center (DEKAMER) were established in 2009 in Dalyan, Mugla-Turkey after a protocol was agreed upon between the Directorate of the Conservation of Nature and National Natural Parks and the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas of Turkish Ministry of Environment of Forestry, the Municipality of the Dalyan, and Pamukkale University. Later in the year, the the Higher Educational Council of Turkey officially recognized the rescue center and this constitution was published in the Turkish Official Newspaper. Despite having nesting and foraging grounds along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, only one turtle rescue centre has been established following the RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Center/Special Protected Areas) guidelines (RAC/SPA, 2004). This center is to be set up for year-round activity and to help educate the public about conservation efforts. DEKAMER will act as the regular monitoring of the Dalyan beach for nesting activities by accepting volunteers from all Universities. Any injured turtles found along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey are also brought the center and will take care of their necessary medical treatment and rehabilitation. DEKAMER is open for both national and international collaborations in all types of scientific studies.