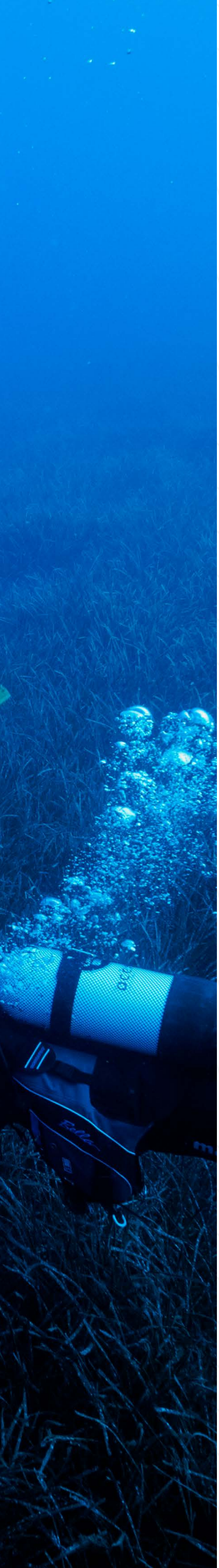
AKDENİZ KORUMA DERNEĞİ

Mediterranean Conservation Society

2022 ANNUAL REPORT







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Our Vision

The Mediterranean basin is well protected and sustainably used, providing a healthy home for localpeople and a basis for their cultural values while maintaining rich biodiversity.

Our Mission

We work to conserve the Mediterranean ecosystem and to support communities to develop sustainable livelihoods through projects that are locally appropriate and based on good science and traditions.

OUR VALUES

Science:

We believe that swift and efficient solutions must be produced to combat the destruction of species and habitats all around the world. For this reason, our efforts are based on scientific facts that allow us to determine our field of focus and methods.

Collaboration:

We believe that working with individuals and institutions with varying areas of knowledge and expertise strengthens local development and nature preservation activities. For this reason, we collaborative with strategic partners at the local, national, and international levels.

Local Development:

Knowing that humanity is a part of nature, we work with community groups such as fishers whose livelihood depends on biodiversity and support them to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

Transparency:

We believe in the importance of sharing the outcome of our efforts to help nature, as well as the value of these efforts themselves. For this reason, we hold ourselves accountable to our members, volunteers, and donors, all of whom contribute to our projects with their knowledge and capabilities.

Respect:

Just as we respect diversity in nature, we respect people of all backgrounds equally, regardless of their ethnicity, language, religion, race, or gender identity. We believe that everyone is responsible in preserving nature, which is why we adcovate and practice inclusivity in our work with local groups and volunteers. We respect the distinct knowledge, experience, and choices of all groups and individuals with whom we collaborate and share what we know about nature.

OUR AWARDS

2012
Marine Conservation Leadership Award, Marsh Marine Conservation Leadership Award, UK

2013
Whitley Nature Conservation Award, Whitley Nature Fund, UK

2014
Equator Award, United Nations Development Programme, USA

2017
Whitley Nature Conservation Gold Award, Whitley Nature Fund, UK

Changemakers Award, Sabancı Foundation, Türkiye

2018
Best Practice Award for Co-management of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Mediterranean Fisheries Commission, Malta

2022
Marsh Charitable Trust Marine Conservation Leadership Award, UK

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zafer Ali Kızılkaya
Ezgi Saydam
Funda Kök
Hakkı Caner Bayrak
Yasemin Ulusoy

MEMBERS OF THE AUDITING BOARD

Özkan Anıl
Leri Yaman Saduk
Tankut Kurt

OUR TEAM

Akın İzgin - Marmaris Salamander Programme Manager
Ayşenur Ölmez - Gökova Marine Ranger
Bengi Atay - Mediterranean Monk Seal Programme Intern
Ceyda Cihan - Resource Management Assistant
Efe Kurdaş - Purchasing and Operations Officer
Emre Güren - Fethiye-Göcek Marine Ranger
Erol Niyazi Güren - Fethiye-Göcek MPA Manager
Elif Yerebakan İncedemir - Datça-Bozburun MPA Manager
Ezgi Saydam - Science Manager - Mediterranean Monk Seal Programme Officer
Funda Kök - Conservation Manager
Gizem Akdoğan - Programmes Officer
Hakkı Caner Bayrak - Resource Management Officer
İlkay Kavak - Communications Officer
İskender Demirel - Gökova Marine Ranger
Mustafa Tunca Olguner - Project Monitoring Officer
Murat Bağcı - Gökova Marine Ranger
Ömer Balcı - Gökova Marine Ranger
Serena Pennetti - Mediterranean Monk Seal Programme Intern
Tankut Kurt - Part-time Field Support Officer
Tolunay Tabak - Data Analyst
Vahit Alan - Shark and Seagrass Programme Officer
Yasemin Ulusoy - Project and Resource Development Officer

CONSULTANTS

Prof. Dr. Bülent Miran - Data Management
Özkan Anıl - Training and Logistics Planning
Zeynep Mufti - Corporate Communication and Management
Gökhan Serdaroğlu - Public Accountant
Nejdet Bozkurt - Lycian Orchid Project
Dr Sinem Kaboğlu - GIS Training
Prof. Dr. Vahdet Ünal - Fisheries Management
Prof. Dr. Zafer Tosunoğlu - Fisheries Gear and Technology
Doç. Dr. Aytaç Özgül - Biotelemetry
Öğr. Gör. Dr. Barış Akçalı - Seagrasses
Doç. Dr. Harun Güçlüsoy - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Mammals, Fisheries Interactions
Doç. Dr. İnci Tüney Kızılkaya - Marine Biology, Macroalgae
Prof. Dr. Kerim Çiçek - Terrestrial Habitats and Zoology



SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Doç. Dr. Abdurrahman Harun Özdaş
Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Antoine Pierre Charles Dolcerocca
Arzu Saygıner Çil
Asuman Yurteri
Doç. Dr. Aytaç Özgül
Öğr. Gör. Dr. Barış Akçalı
Asst. Prof. Dr. Cem Dalyan
Esra Başak
Güner Ergün
Prof. Dr. Halil Kalabalık
Doç. Dr. Harun Güçlüsoy
Prof. Dr. Hasan Musa Sarı
Prof. Dr. Hasan Nüzhet Dalfes
Doç. Dr. İnci Tüney Kızılkaya
Dr. İpek Oskay
Doç. Dr. İsmet Saygu
Prof. Dr. Kerim Çiçek
Doç. Dr. Meriç Çakır
Merve Karakuş
Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Murat Çelik
Prof. Dr. Neslihan Demirtaş Milz
Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Olgaç Güven
Doç. Dr. Sinan Mavruk
Dr. Tolga Taymaz
Prof. Dr. Vahdet Ünal
Prof. Dr. Zafer Tosunoğlu



THANKS

Individuals who support our mission in 2022 by actively participating in our Management and Supervisory Board, as well as joining our team for a duration, included:

Ayşenur Semiz
Çağdaş Yaşar
Dilara Arslan
Serdar Subay
Yankı Tandırcıoğlu
Yunus Emre Başkahraman
Zeynep Seda Soylu
Prof. Dr. Harun Güçlüsoy
Volkan Hürsever
Ramazan Çepel
Mehmet Poslu
Prof. Dr. Kerim Çiçek
Melisa Nur Çolak



Zafer Ali Kızılkaya

Chairman of the Board

FOREWORD

In 2022, amid the global recovery efforts following the Covid-19 pandemic, the world faced the challenges of an inflationary spiral and soaring costs of basic necessities. These circumstances served as a stark reminder of the immense value of natural resources. Consequently, the restoration of ecosystems we have previously devastated has emerged as a crucial global objective. Since 2019, our organisation has been diligently working in collaboration with the Endangered Landscape Programme (ELP) to restore marine ecosystems. This ongoing effort has yielded remarkable outcomes, capturing the attention of the United Nations. Notably, at the World Biodiversity Summit (COP15) held in Montreal in December 2022, the United Nations acknowledged our Gökova Bay project as the most successful ecosystem restoration endeavour in Europe.

Throughout the year, we held significant international gatherings and conducted studies in Gökova Bay and Fethiye Bay. These events provided a platform for sharing collective ideas regarding conservation, sustainability, and the attainment of the 2030 targets. Through these activities, we recognized the substantial progress we have made and acknowledged Türkiye's potential to emerge as a prominent leader in the Mediterranean region in terms of marine protected areas.

While our shores were fortunate enough to be spared from the extreme heat waves sweeping through the Western Mediterranean, we still observed instances of mass mortality potentially linked to the elevated temperatures. Notably, we documented the significant die-off of barnacles (Lithophaga lithophaga) in both Gökova Bay and Fethiye Bay. Additionally, during the period between August and the end of October, there was a substantial disappearance of a troublesome invasive species, the long-spined sea urchin (Diadema setosum). We are currently conducting research to determine the underlying reasons for these occurrences. However, the presence of surviving individuals suggests the potential for future reproduction of this species.

In 2022, we achieved remarkable progress in incorporating invasive fish into the local economy. We procured approximately 6 tonnes of lionfish and redcoat from fishers operating in the region spanning from Kaş to Bodrum, subsequently supplying them to restaurants. However, our main challenge lies in meeting the growing demand from new chefs and restaurants, particularly during the winter months when the supply is limited. To address this issue, we are actively working on a telemetry-based project aimed at monitoring lionfish.

On land, the Lycian orchid and the Kerai tulip we discovered in the 'Karya Yolu Projesi' (Carian Trail Project), still vivid in our memory, are among the unforgettable moments of 2022. The fragility of such magnificent plant diversity and the potential speed of its disappearance became more evident through our Lycian orchid project. In the span of three or four years, it is conceivable that finding a natural habitat suitable for planting the critically endangered Lycian orchids, which we have started cultivating from seeds, may become increasingly challenging.

We carried out studies on the effects of invasive species and forest fires on marine ecosystems with scientists from The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Spain and Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn-National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology in Italy. We designed joint monitoring projects with both teams for the coming year.

Undoubtedly one of the most important activities of 2022 is the underwater cleaning work we carried out in Bozburun Çamçalık region. With the protocol we signed with The Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, Dokuz Eylül University, we are support ing the Institute's ongoing excavations in the region. In this context, insurmountable amounts of garbage and netted cages left behind by aquaculture facilities operated in the region in 2010 were individually identified and determined to have an impact on archaeological sites. As a result, in November 2022, more than 10 tonnes of nets were removed from the ecosystem.

In the current year, we established a protocol in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and the Environmental Problems Research and Application Centre at Ege University. This partnership aims to expand the scope of our joint studies, fostering further advancements in our work.

We hope that 2023 will be a year in which we will open up new areas for conservation and monitoring studies and continue our exemplary work for the world.



FUNDA KÖK

Conservation Manager

2022 was a very active and exciting year for MCS. In the last 10 years, we witnessed the impacts of our efforts for the conservation of our seas not only in Türkiye, but also from institutions and organisations around the world working towards the same goals. We shared what we have learnt, we have deliberated together on ways and methods for better conservation. This year, we hosted scientists, experts, public authorities and nature conservation professionals from many parts of the world for training, workshops, meetings and experience sharing. In the Gökova Special Environmental Protection Areas, we have been conducting conservation activities in collaboration with relevant public institutions for the past 10 years. We have substantiated the positive impacts of these conservation efforts through scientific research and monitoring, and we have been recognized as an example on international platforms. We have taken about six tonnes of non-native/invasive fish, met with hundreds of people at the events we organised, and shared our knowledge in our efforts to provide market value to non-native and invasive fish that enter our seas and put pressure on local habitats, to support small-scale fisheries which have a cultural heritage, and to reduce the pressure on the ecosystem. The positive declarations of many countries around the world regarding the conservation of 30% of marine and terrestrial areas by 2030, as well as the protection of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) in the open seas, have brought joy to all of us. With this motivation, will continue to work towards remedying the harm done to the environment on the one hand, and living in harmony with nature, researching and sharing on the other.



VAHİT ALAN

Shark and Seagrass Programme Officer

Despite global threats to sensitive species and habitats, we swiftly took action by not only being a civil society organisation guided by science at a regional level but also developing innovative methods of engagement that go beyond our primary role. We provided recommendations for both field-related issues and managerial decisions. Actively gathering real-time field data, we have developed solution proposals to prevent adverse situations. While the recognition we received at the national and international levels motivates us, there is still much more to be done! Hopefully commitments made for conservation will be realized. As part of this ecosystem, we have already begun to do much more than expected. We are grateful for being a part of conservation activities of Mediterranean.



İLKAY KAVAK

Communications Officer

In 2022, we carried out extensive communication activities increase awareness of the work we do Association and to be involved in these activities. The feedback we received from people during all these efforts gave us great motivation and raised our hopes even more. We know that there is much more to do. We will continue to work today for the Mediterranean of tomorrow and protect it!



M. TUNCA OLGUNER

Project Monitoring Assistant

We are working hard to protect marine biodiversity and endangered species. We encourage ecosystem restoration in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which are designed to prevent the negative impacts of overfishing and habitat destruction on marine ecosystems, as well as to limit anthropogenic impacts, and we act together with the landowners and stakeholders. Despite increased number of MPAs around the world, which have become lose effectiveness over time, we are making great efforts to ensure that the MPAs in our country do not remain ineffective and dysfunctional due to inadequate management, poor implementation and lack of funding. We understand the importance of MPAs for the ecosystem and local fisheries. We organise events, exchange views with our stakeholders and are available when needed, especially to ensure that these areas are adapted to the needs of small-scale fisheries and remain sustainable in the long term. We believe that by using existing data and collecting new data, successful and effective governance, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and assessments will ensure that these areas continue to play a key role in conserving biodiversity, restoring degraded ecosystems and mitigating the impacts of global climate change.



EROL N. GÜREN

Fethiye/Göcek Field Manager

In 2022, we fought with all our energy and team to achieve a Mediterranean where biodiversity is conserved and restored, free from any form of contamination, with increased societal awareness, the preservation of historical and cultural values for future generations, and the elimination of both terrestrial and marine pollution. We will continue our fight in the coming years to pursue these goals.



TOLUNAY TABAK

Data Analyst

In our 10th year, we non-stop continued in our efforts to protect the marine ecosystem in the Mediterranean. Through our active role in marine conservation in the field and our ongoing scientific research, we are contributing to the future of the Mediterranean. During these efforts, we place great importance on collecting and preserving data that will create a baseline, not only for current use but also for future studies. With our work to protect marine biodiversity based on scientific data, we will continue to set an example for future generations and the world.



AKIN İZGİN

Marmaris Salamander Species Monitoring Officer

The biological diversity studies carried out by the Mediterranean Conservation Society, both in marine and terrestrial environments, are crucial for the conservation of our country's natural resources and their transfer to future generations. Since its establishment, the Mediterranean Conservation Society has been an organization that follows the guidance of science, serving as a protector, and rehabilitator of the Mediterranean. In 2022, our society has made every effort to excel in every area it has been involved in. The desired outcome of these efforts is to witness a Mediterranean with preserved and healthy biological diversity. Moving forward, we will continue to do our best in our future endeavors to advance both our society and the Mediterranean.



GİZEM AKDOĞAN

Programmes Officer

In 2022, we continued our existing activities and embarked on new projects to ensure the best possible conservation of the Mediterranean Basin. We don't limit our perspective of the Mediterranean solely to marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity. Therefore, we work towards preserving endemic species in terrestrial ecosystems and transferring the underwater cultural heritage to future generations. In the coming years, we will continue to work with the same efforts and excitement to conserve the nature and culture we live in not only for the people of the Mediterranean but for all humanity.



CANER BAYRAK

Resource Management Officer

2022 was a year of growth and taking on more initiatives for the Mediterranean Conservation Society. As we strive to protect nature and the culture it encompasses, we also questioned what more we can do. It was a year where we shared our experiences, accepted criticism to improve ourselves, and believed that we made a difference despite challenges. Next year and in the years to come, we will continue to work for the people and nature of the Mediterranean based on scientific realities, striving to promote positive change.



ÖZKAN ANIL

Training and Logistics Planning Consultant

In 2022, the Mediterranean Conservation Society underwent a comprehensive review of its journey since its establishment over the past decade. As a result, new strategies were developed, and a roadmap with higher expectations was drawn up for the future. This year was characterised by an intensive schedule of programs through our dedicated efforts, and the experiences and opportunities gained have made us more productive, proactive, and enthusiastic. Within this framework, the society effectively carried out its flagship project, the "Marine Conservation Project," in a more reputable and influential manner, strengthening its position as a role model for all Mediterranean countries with the help of advanced high-tech surface platforms and trained personnel. Furthermore, the first phase of marine rehabilitation and restoration, the "Seafloor Cleanup" program, was developed with all available resources and as a well trained unit. The society successfully completed these large-scale cleanup operations in the deepest waters and in environments with the highest accumulation of waste effectively and complete safety. Both projects gained new stakeholders and received significant support, allowing us to progress towards our goals with greater determination.



AYŞENUR ÖLMEZ

Marine Ranger

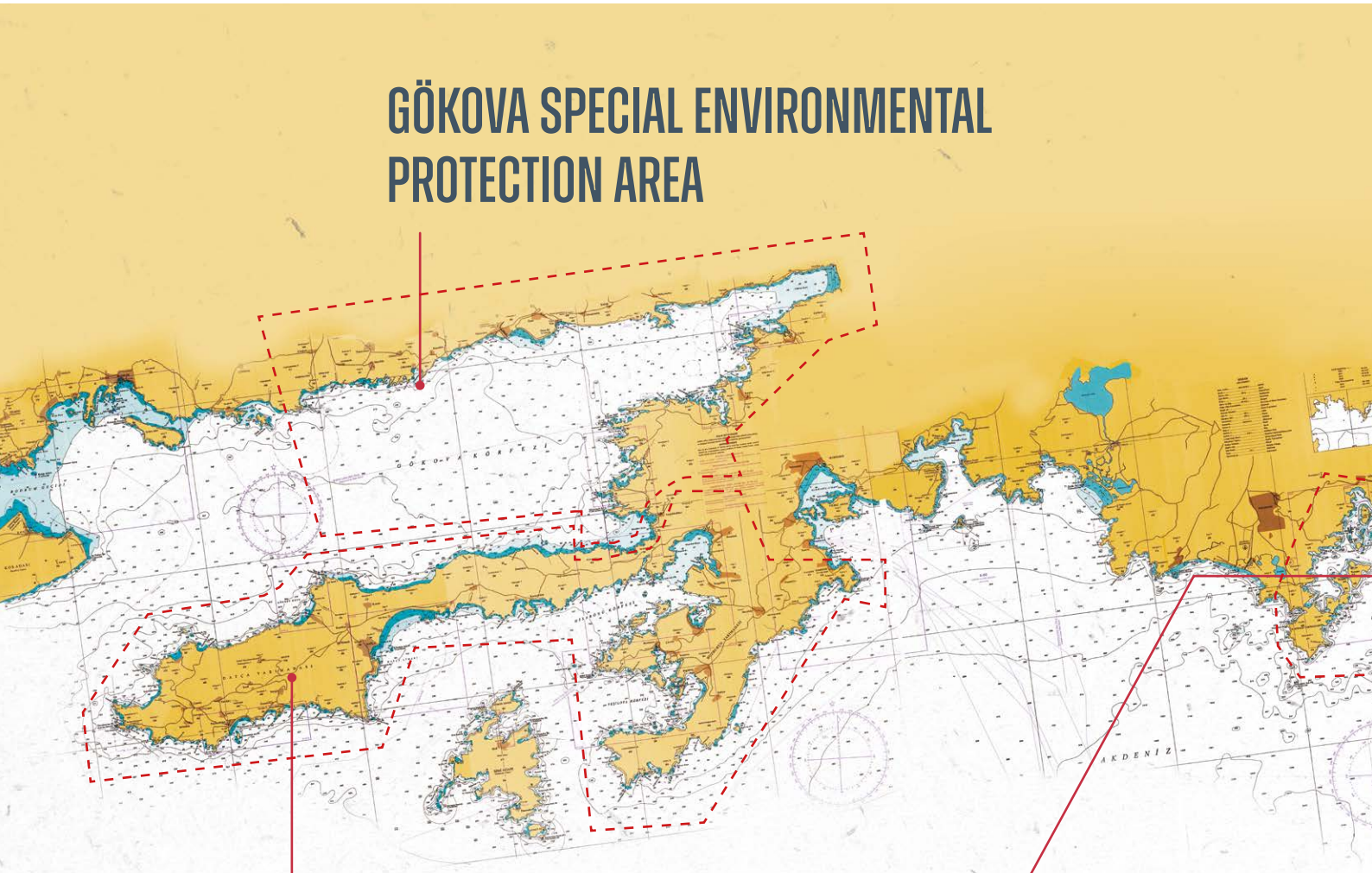
The year 2022 proved to be exceptionally fruitful for both the Mediterranean Conservation Society and myself. It marked a period of significant growth and transformative changes within the society. In addition to our efforts in the Mediterranean Basin, we dedicated ourselves to fostering environmental awareness among all individuals. Our restoration initiatives, coastal and marine clean-up projects, and the comprehensive work carried out both above and below the water surface reinforced our commitment to a meaningful purpose and brought immense satisfaction to all involved. The feedback and expressions of gratitude received by the society served as powerful affirmations that we were effectively serving our mission, making progress on the right track, and confidently advancing towards our ultimate goal. With the unwavering support we received and the tight communication within our team, we are determined to move forward with confidence.



EZGİ SAYDAM

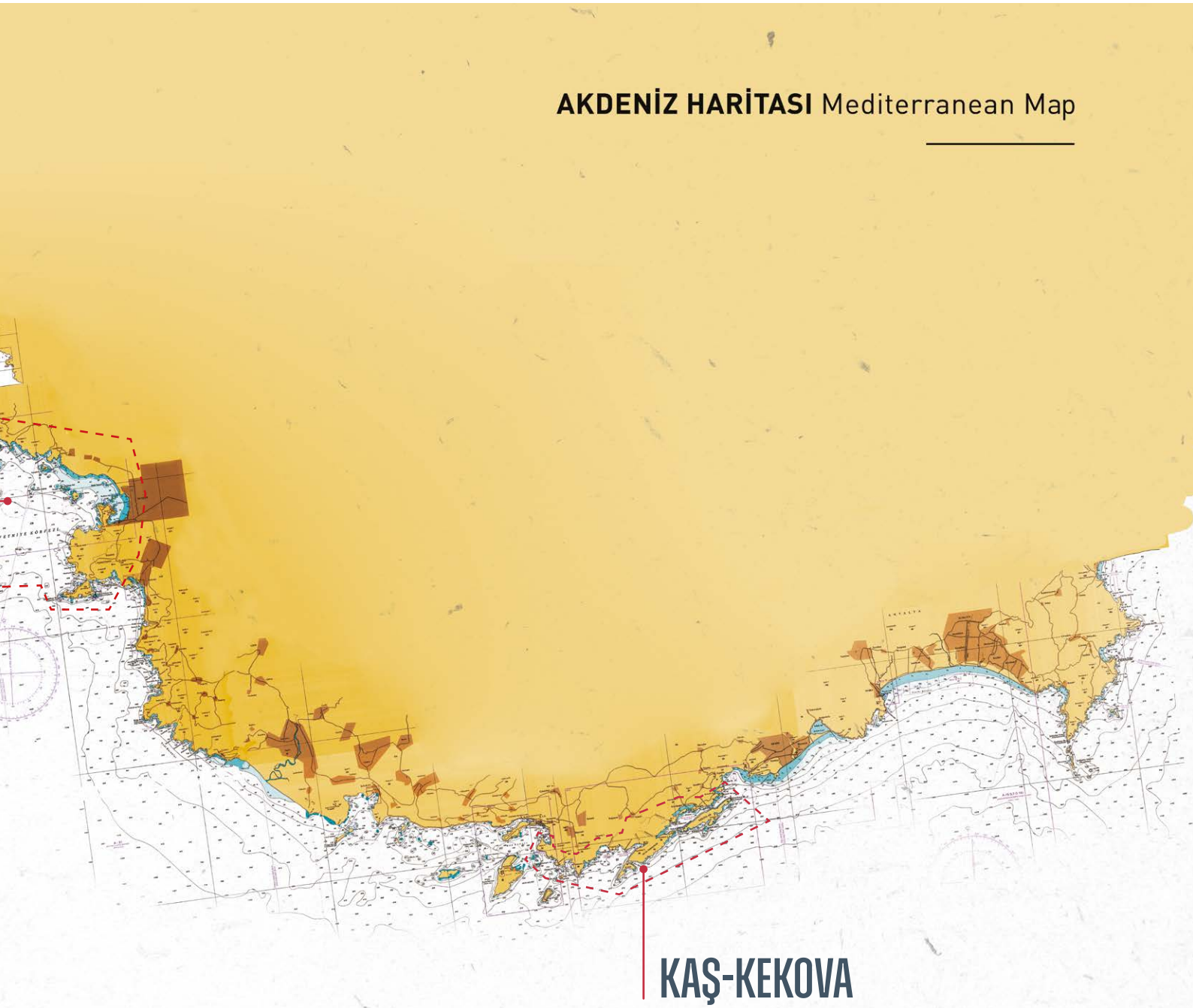
Conservation and Monitoring Director

The year 2022 was a year in which we, as a team, worked towards the preservation of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems in order to witness better days for the nature we are a part of. We expanded our fields of work and continued to monitor the changes caused by increasing human pressure and global warming through scientific research. We endeavoured to spread our approach and awareness to more people in order to slow down this negative change. It was a year in which our team, consisting of individuals who share a common goal, grew. As we continue to develop ourselves on this path, we will persist in our work and strive to live in harmony with nature as a whole.


GÖKOVA SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREA
DATÇA-BOZBURUN SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREA
FETHIYE - GÖCEK SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREA

OUR FIELD

AKDENİZ HARİTASI Mediterranean Map



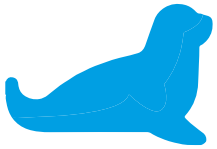
KAŞ-KEKOVA
SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AREA

OF WORK

2022 IN NUMBERS

1

In 2022 we observed the birth of 1 Mediterranean monk seal in a cave through the use of a camera trap.



2

In 2022, 2 female marine rangers joined our team as part of the Marine Protection System.



1

Our ecosystem restoration studies in the Gökova Gulf were recognized as 1 of the 5 most inspiring restoration initiatives in Europe in the report titled *"The Benefits of Ecosystem Restoration: An Analysis of Five European Restoration Initiatives"* published by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in December 2022.

7

To expand our capacity, we increased the number of our boats to 7.



35

We successfully delivered New Fish to a total of 35 restaurants for them to place on their menus.



5799,96

In 2022, we utilised 5799.96 kg of invasive and exotic fish species by serving them in restaurants, thereby reducing their impact on the ecosystem.



17

In order to witness our ongoing efforts in the Gulf of Gökova, we were visited by a team consisting of representatives from 17 countries including public institutions and non-governmental organisations.



5

According to the 2022 data published by the independent research company Somera, we were among the top 5 NGOs in Türkiye that received the highest engagement on social media.

1244

In 2022, our marine rangers conducted a total of 1244 patrols, amounting to a cumulative duration of 2286.51 hours.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

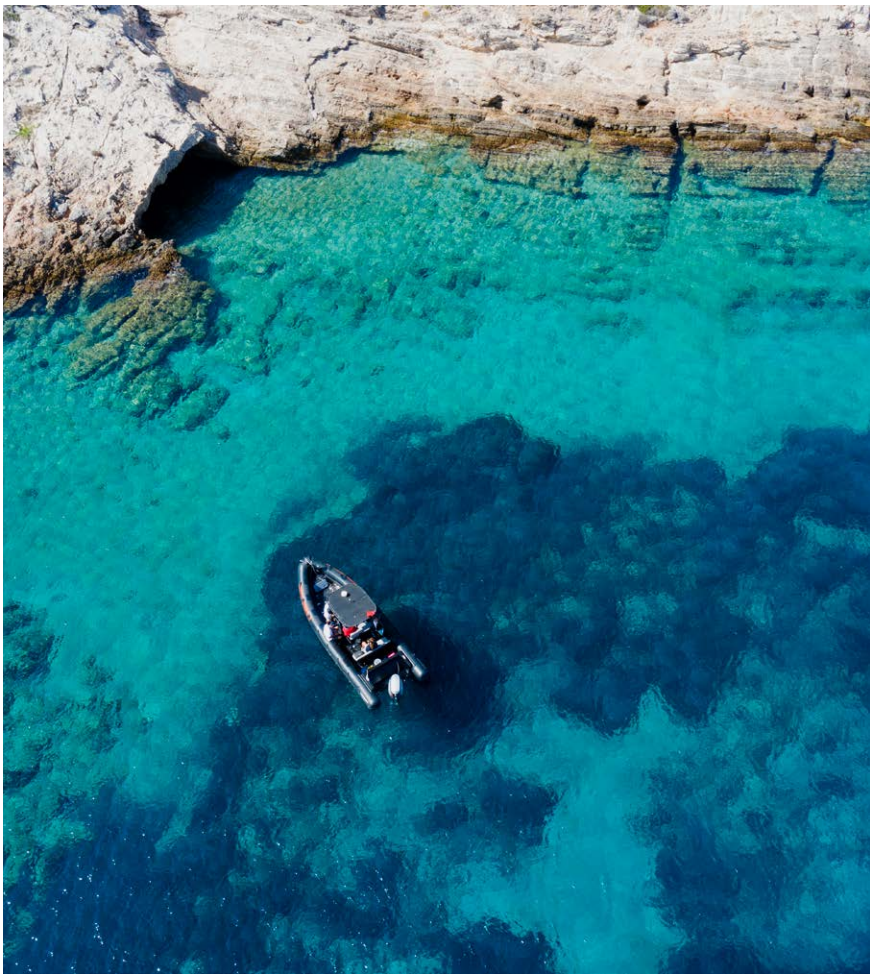
- Our project "Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Gökova Bay Marine Protected Area" became the first project from Türkiye to be showcased as an example in UNESCO's Green Citizens campaign. The campaign, initiated by UNESCO, brings together innovative and sustainable projects that contribute to nature conservation in different parts of the world.

- As the Mediterranean Conservation Society, we implemented the "Integration of Marine and Cultural Conservation Project" to preserve biodiversity and promote a healthy ecosystem in the Datça-Bozburun Peninsula.



- In 2022, we witnessed the birth of a new Mediterranean monk seal in a coastal cave monitored through camera traps along the South Aegean coast. We named the newborn seal "Işık" (meaning "Light") through our organisation's social media accounts. We will continue to observe the growth of the pup Mediterranean monk seal through ongoing monitoring studies.

- We participated as speakers in the side event of the United Nations Ocean Conference, focusing on small-scale fisheries, where we presented MCS's work in Türkiye alongside other examples from around the world.



- Our Conservation Manager, Funda Kök, was awarded the "Marsch Charitable Trust Marine Conservation Leadership" award.

- In the Bozburun Çamçalık area and the İnce Boğaz, we removed abandoned nets and solid waste that were causing harm to the local ecosystem. This operation was conducted in parallel with the archaeological research of Dokuz Eylül University, ensuring the protection of the marine ecosystem without causing harm to marine life, using advanced technology and professional expertise.



- We organised a week long exhibition that depicted the threats faced by the Mediterranean, which is one of the most affected seas in the world. The exhibition, held at the Aya Haralambos Church in Çeşme, showcased photographs by Zafer Ali Kızılkaya, Tolga Taymaz, and Ömer Ege Taymaz, focusing on invasive marine species, marine pollution, and endangered species.



EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) aim to preserve and sustain the biodiversity of a specific marine area by closing it off to human activities. This, in turn, promotes an increase in fish stocks, ensures the livelihoods of local communities, and preserves these resources for future generations.

As the Mediterranean Conservation Society, we share the data gathered from our studies with decision-makers to identify areas that are rich in biodiversity and in need of protection. We actively participate in the effective management of MPAs declared by relevant institutions, working in coordination with government agencies for permits and collaboration.

We are a partner of the MedPAN network, which brings together 127 institutions and non-governmental organisations from 21 countries to collaborate on the management of marine protected areas.

As an accredited partner of the United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), we monitor the implementation of the plan in our country and represent it internationally.



We participated in two different sessions during the "Resilient Marine Protected Areas Network" meeting held by Interreg Mediterranean in Palma de Mallorca and Barcelona from June 14th to 17th. In these sessions, titled "Effectively Managed Resilient MPAs in a Changing Ocean" and "Management of Small-Scale Fisheries in Resilient MPAs," we shared the knowledge and experience gained from our fields of work. The solutions we presented contributed to the technical and policy discussions conducted by decision-makers concerned with the climate crisis and biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.

We participated in three different sessions during the regional experience sharing workshop on Effective Management of Marine Protected Areas organised by MedPAN in Petrovac, Montenegro, from October 25th to 27th. In this meeting where MPA managers in the Mediterranean region came together, we shared our "New Fish Program," which evaluates invasive and alien marine species through a market approach, as well as our efforts on conservation in the Gökova Bay and our experience in effective management.

We hosted various non-governmental organisations, government institutions, universities, and private sector guests from around the world who share a common interest in marine conservation for the conservation mission we carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Urbanization and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Interior Affairs in the Gökova Bay.

Within the scope of the IMAP-MPA Project financed by the European Union, SPA/RAC organised a training on the Socio-economic Sustainability of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas in Gökova between November 14th and 18th, 2022. The training was attended by representatives of public institutions and researchers from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, and Morocco. As part of the training, the participants visited the Marine Protected Areas within the Gulf of Gökova under the guidance of our Association.





Blue Marine Foundation, one of our partners, operating in marine protected areas in the United Kingdom, gathered with all project staff and partners in Gökova in October to develop a consistent and harmonised conservation strategy for the Mediterranean by 2030. Thirty project managers and conservation experts from Türkiye, Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Scotland, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Australia, and Israel shared their experience on the matter during the three-day Blue Marine Mediterranean Conservation Summit. The summit focused on discussing common issues and exploring new ideas, resulting in the development of a roadmap for 2030.

We held a meeting in Akyaka with the team from Notre Grand Bleu, who came from Tunisia, to showcase our work in Gökova Bay and exchange knowledge and experiences on effective conservation methods. The event was attended by the team from Notre Grand Bleu, which operates in Tunisia to protect marine ecosystems and raise awareness on the subject, as well as officials from the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, the Mayor of Monastir, university and high school students, and local fishers, making up a team of 35 people. Representatives from the Marmaris Coast Guard Group Command, Muğla Provincial Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Urbanization and Climate Change, and Marmaris District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry also participated from Türkiye.

As a member of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (MedPAN), we hosted a training session in Gökova Bay. The training aimed to enhance operational skills in marine protected areas and was attended by 35 participants from 8 countries, including managers and fishers working in marine protected areas.

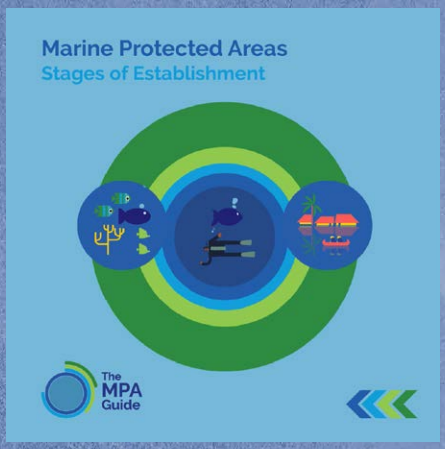
MPA GUIDE

Our Board Chairman, Zafer Kızılkaya, is among the authors of the scientific publication titled "Marine Protected Area Guide: A System for Achieving Global Goals for the Ocean," which has been published in the Science Journal.

The MPA Guide presents a common vision for defining marine protected areas and the ecological and social outcomes they offer. It provides an open, science-based framework for categorising, planning, monitoring, and assessing the outcomes of MPAs in terms of both biological diversity and human well-being.

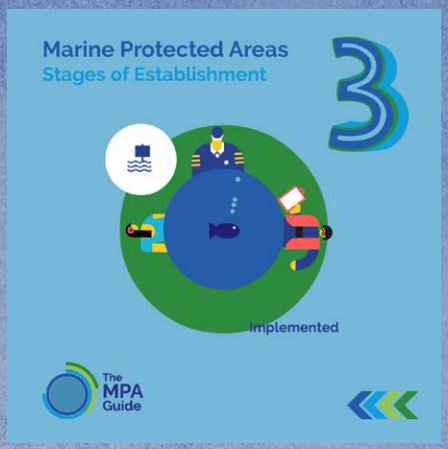


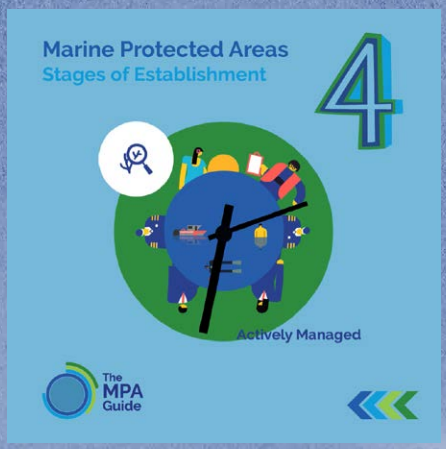
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS - STAGES OF ESTABLISHMENT











MARINE RANGER SYSTEM

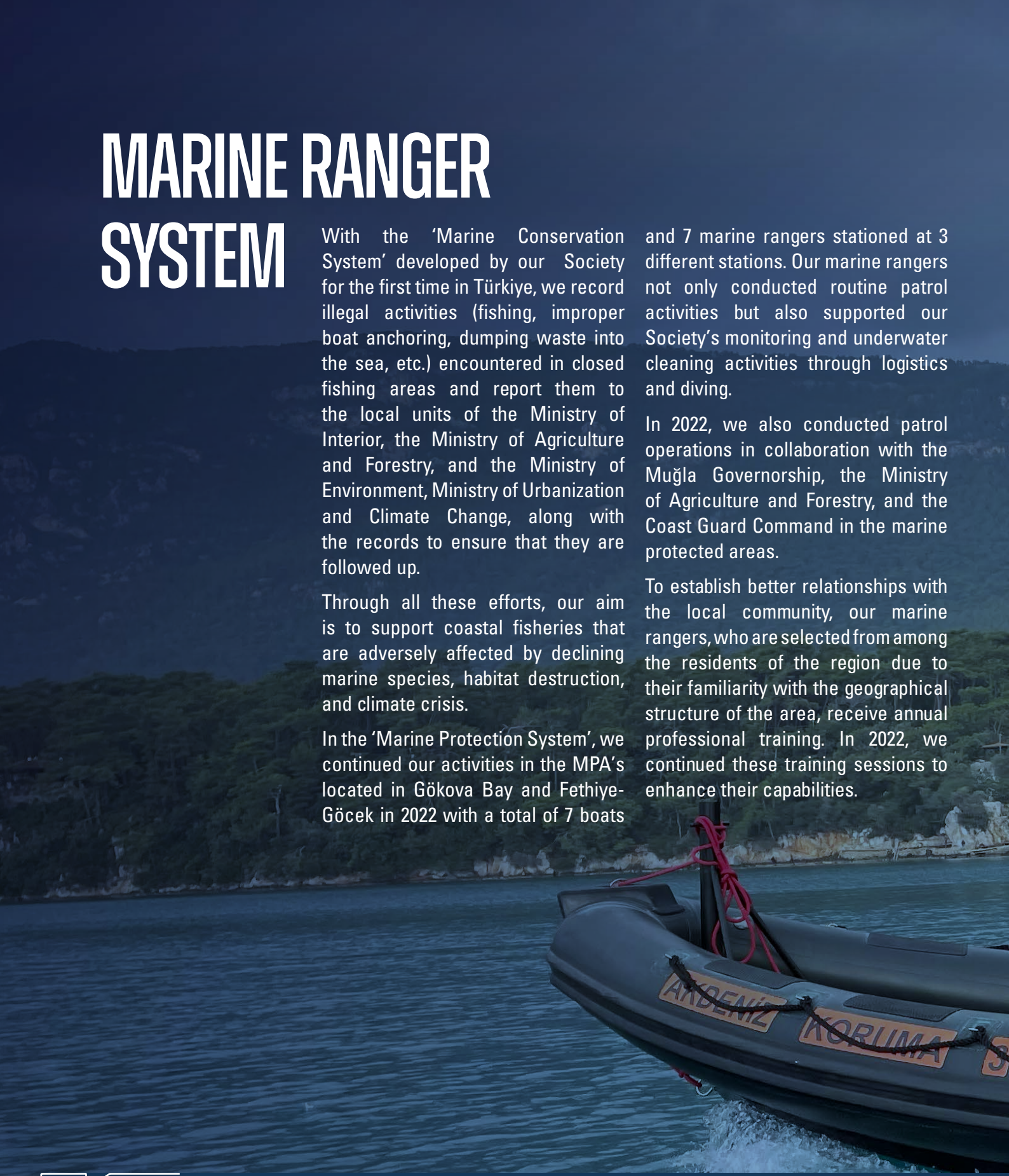
With the 'Marine Conservation System' developed by our Society for the first time in Türkiye, we record illegal activities (fishing, improper boat anchoring, dumping waste into the sea, etc.) encountered in closed fishing areas and report them to the local units of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Urbanization and Climate Change, along with the records to ensure that they are followed up.

Through all these efforts, our aim is to support coastal fisheries that are adversely affected by declining marine species, habitat destruction, and climate crisis.

In the 'Marine Protection System', we continued our activities in the MPA's located in Gökova Bay and Fethiye-Göcek in 2022 with a total of 7 boats and 7 marine rangers stationed at 3 different stations. Our marine rangers not only conducted routine patrol activities but also supported our Society's monitoring and underwater cleaning activities through logistics and diving.

In 2022, we also conducted patrol operations in collaboration with the Muğla Governorship, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Coast Guard Command in the marine protected areas.

To establish better relationships with the local community, our marine rangers, who are selected from among the residents of the region due to their familiarity with the geographical structure of the area, receive annual professional training. In 2022, we continued these training sessions to enhance their capabilities.



In 2022, our team welcomed the first female marine rangers in Türkiye, who started their duties in Gökova Bay and Fethiye-Göcek

Our marine rangers conducted a total of 1,244 patrols, spanning 2,286.51 hours in 2022.

WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE "CONSERVATION FRIENDLY BOAT" INITIATIVE!

In line with our organisation's mission and values of protecting marine conservation areas and biodiversity, we have prepared goodwill agreements for boat owners who adhere to practical guidelines. We have identified candidate boats in our working areas and started delivering Conservation Friendly Boat flags to these selected vessels.





In addition to regular patrol activities in closed fishing areas, our marine rangers provided support in evacuating people during forest fire incidents in the region.

We collaborate with the 'Sea Turtle Research, Rescue, and Rehabilitation Center (DEKAMER)' under our protocol to respond to reports of injured sea turtles in our areas of operation.

SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

With our marine conservation studies, while prioritising the conservation of species and habitats, we indirectly support the continuity of small-scale coastal fisheries. We work on providing the necessary information and infrastructure support for fishery cooperatives to enable sustainable fishing practices in Türkiye. Additionally, we collaborate with fishery cooperatives and the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to acquire daily fishing data for species monitoring and to assess the effectiveness of the "Marine Protection System."

Through our data tracking initiatives with Muğla Akyaka, Akbük, Göcek İnlice, and Çalış Fishery Cooperatives and their affiliated fishers, we calculate monthly income, composition of different species within the income, and average estimated income per boat.

We also collect seasonal individual fishing data from a total of 10 different fishers, including Akbük, Göcek, Karaköy, Kalkan, and Sarsala regions. This data includes technical and specific information such as weight and quantity of the caught species, characteristics of the fishing vessel, duration of the net in the water, fishing location/depth, mesh size/length, and number of hooks, amongst others. As a result, we obtain information on which species are caught where, when, and in what quantities, as well as the size and weight of the caught species. We also analyse the spatial and temporal distribution of the catches and the species composition. Monthly data obtained from cooperatives are transferred to our organisation's digital database, where we conduct indicator-based analysis, generate tables, graphs, and basic statistical analyses.

Through these calculations and the results, we obtain information on the diversity and quantity of economically important species that support the income of small-scale fisheries and observe changes over the years. We also assess the efficiency of fishing vessels and share this information with decision-makers to contribute to the development of small-scale fisheries.



© Sue Gibson

%81

Based on the data collected from Akyaka, Akbük, Göcek İnlice, and Fethiye Çalış Fishery Cooperatives, the average monthly income per boat in 2022 showed an approximately 81% increase compared to the previous year.

We are collaborating with fishers, cooperatives, universities, and members of the "MCS Science and Technical Advisory Board" to develop new methods for the harvesting of invasive marine species, which are increasingly spreading along our coasts.

%34

In the Mediterranean, the distribution of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass, which is crucial for the development of fish stocks, has decreased by 34% in the last 50 years. Marine protected areas play a vital role in conserving these habitats.

We participated as speakers in the United Nations Ocean Conference's side event focusing on small-scale fisheries, where we showcased MCS's work in Türkiye alongside other examples from around the world.



"SMALL SCALE, BIG VALUE"

2022 IS THE YEAR OF SMALL SCALE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE.

With the declaration of 2022 as the Year of Small Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, an International Seminar on Small Scale Fisheries and Ethics was organised in collaboration with the Agricultural and Food Ethics Association (TARGET) and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality to raise awareness on the subject.

In the session titled "Challenges, Solutions, and Future Expectations in Small Scale Fisheries," our Chairman of the Board, Zafer Kızılkaya, participated as a speaker, and in the session titled "Small Scale Fisheries in Türkiye: Importance, Values, and Future," Prof. Dr. Vahdet Ünal, one of our advisors from the Science and Technical Advisory Board, also took part as a speaker.

WOMEN IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY

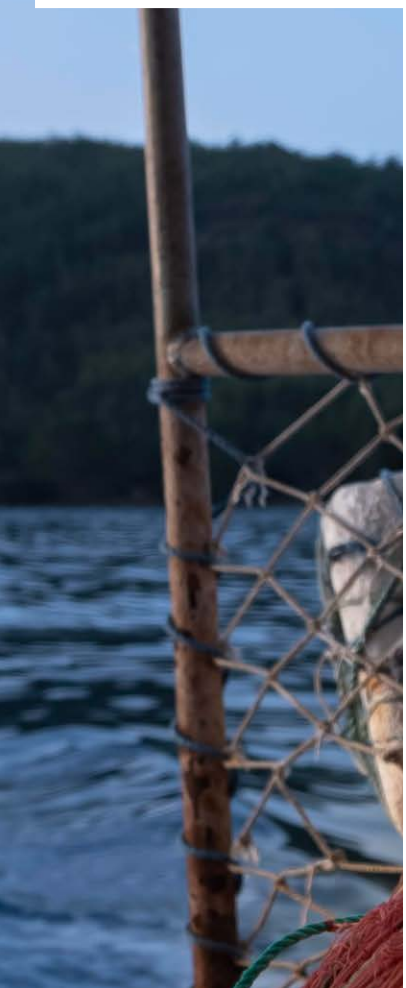
Women have a long history in the fishing industry worldwide, but their contributions often remain overshadowed by men. In the field of fisheries, women's most common role is considered to be working in family businesses or assisting their families in fishing activities. However, women face various challenges in the sector, including unequal wages, gender-based discrimination, workplace safety issues, limited access to financing and educational opportunities.

We are conducting efforts to make the contributions of women engaged in fishing in marine and inland waters in our country more visible and to address their social and economic issues. We have been working in the Gökova Bay, Datça-Bozburun Peninsula, and Lake Beyşehir to find solutions to the professional problems of women in fishing, enhance their capacity in organisation and professional knowledge, and increase the visibility of women fishers in the public. Our aim is to share the information obtained from these efforts with the public and decision-makers.



© Artemisia Bodrum





In 2022, we continued our work for women in the fishing sector. Prior to the World Fisheries Day on November 21st, women from the fishing industry and our female staff members gathered in Akyaka, Akçapınar, and Akbük in the Gökova Bay. We had great discussions about their experiences in the fishing profession, changes in the seas, and other challenges they face in their profession. In line with the continuation of our activities in 2022, we will continue to carry out various initiatives for women in the fishing sector in 2023.

MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Monitoring the effects of the climate crisis is a priority for the Mediterranean Conservation Society. We collect data on the extent and pace of the damage, and we communicate this information to decision-makers and stakeholders who can contribute to reducing and mitigating the negative impacts of the destruction.

In 2022, there were various conferences bringing together governments, private sector, and civil society organisations at the international level to address the mitigation of the effects of the climate crisis. As we increasingly witness the impacts of the climate crisis in all aspects of life, significant efforts are being made to increase knowledge and awareness and make more informed decisions.



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

The Ocean Conference, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from June 27 to July 1, 2022, aimed to generate solutions and mobilise decision-makers to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

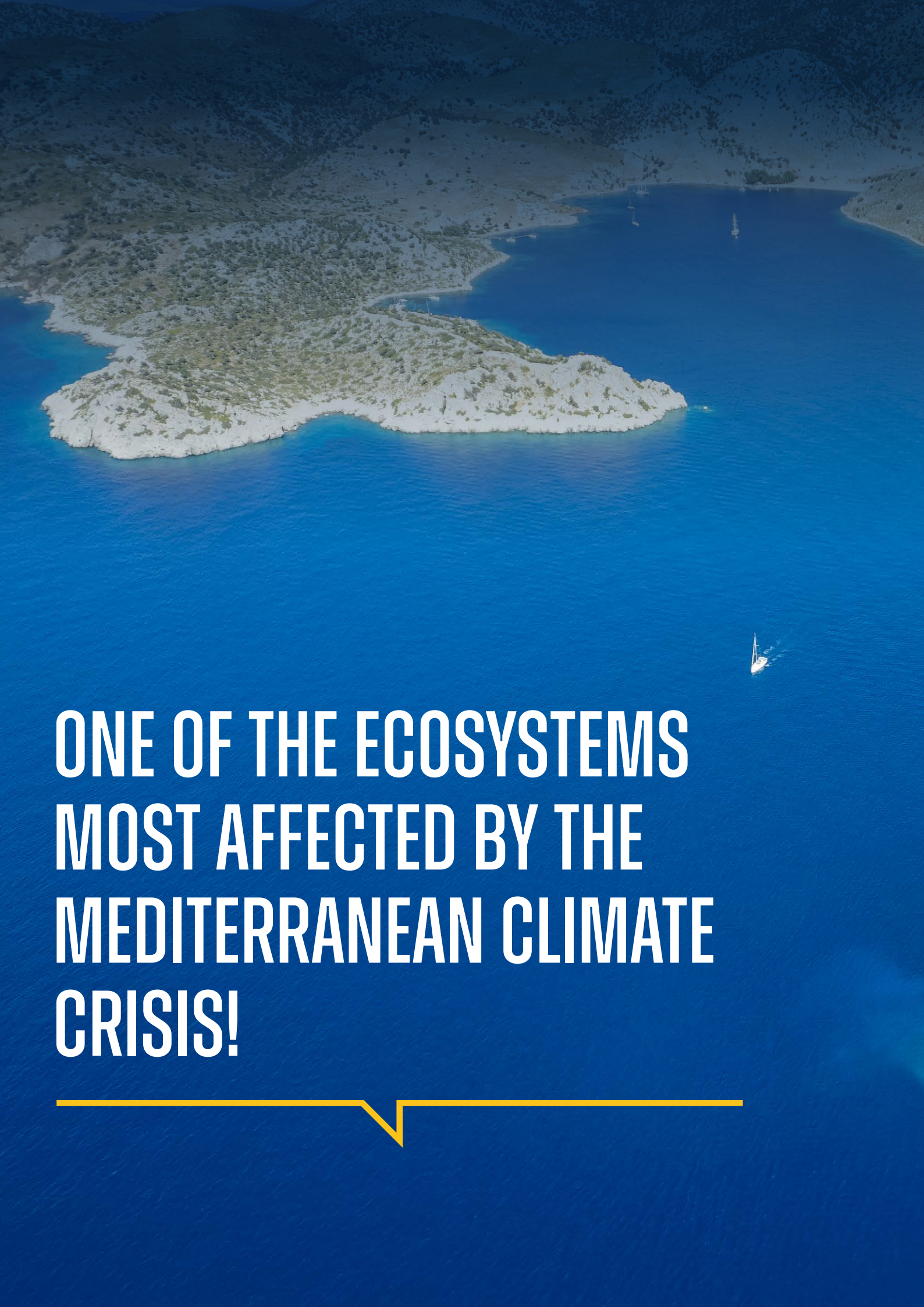
COP15 OUTLOOK

COP15, also known as the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, took place in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19, 2022. The conference focused on sustainability, protecting the rights of indigenous communities, and making decisions regarding pollution, overuse, and unsustainable agricultural practices.

COP27 OUTLOOK

In November, the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. One of the significant outcomes of COP27 was the decision to provide assistance to poor countries affected by the climate crisis through the "Loss and Damage Fund." This organisation aimed to reduce global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, and consensus was reached on previously made decisions and set targets related to global temperature increase and greenhouse gases.

As the Mediterranean Conservation Society, we participated in COP27 in Egypt. Our Society's Program Manager for Shark and Seagrass, Vahit Alan, and our consultants, Associate Professor İnci Tüney Kızılkaya, presented our projects as part of the activities at the Turkish Pavilion during COP27, supported by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye.



ONE OF THE ECOSYSTEMS MOST AFFECTED BY THE MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE CRISIS!



MONITORING SEA WATER TEMPERATURES



We monitor changes in seawater temperature by continuously measuring and recording seawater temperature. This monitoring is important for understanding seasonal and annual variations in sea water temperature, as well as the impacts of factors such as climate and human activities. Monitoring sea water temperatures typically involves using thermometers and other devices to measure temperature profiles, including sea surface temperature, sea floor temperature, or temperatures at specific depths.

Since 2015, we have been recording daily sea water temperatures using temperature data loggers placed at every 5 metres from the surface to a depth of 40 metres in the Gökova Bay. As of 2020, we have extended this monitoring to include the Fethiye-Göcek and Kaş-Kekova Marine Protected Areas. These temperature loggers allow us to collect data on sea water temperatures at different depths, providing valuable information for understanding temperature patterns and changes in these areas.



In 2015, we joined T-MEDNet, an international observation network that collects data and develops monitoring protocols on the impacts of climate crisis on coastal ecosystems. The data we collect contributes to monitoring and assessing the effects of climate crisis on coastal ecosystems by providing reliable information on current and future temperature conditions. In Gökova Bay, we have placed 8 temperature data loggers at every 5 metres from 5 metres to 40 metres depth, which record temperature simultaneously. Each year, we retrieve the devices, extract the data, and reinstall them. In this way, we have obtained an eight-year temperature data set until 2022. In addition to Gökova, we have also installed temperature data loggers in Kaş-Kekova in 2019, Fethiye-Göcek in 2020, and Datça-Bozburun Special Environmental Protection Areas in 2022, bringing the total number of stations to four.

We upload the collected data to the T-MEDNet website, contributing valuable data to the monitoring of these areas together with other Mediterranean regions and providing valuable data contributions to researchers and climate scientists.

Based on the data, we observed that extreme heatwaves in the Mediterranean over the past eight years have played a significant role in mass mortality events of marine organisms, and we have actively participated in scientific publications on this topic. Increasing seawater temperatures during the summer expand the habitats of invasive species and enhance their reproductive success. Therefore, monitoring current and future seawater temperatures is among our highly prioritised research efforts.

By transferring the data obtained from monitoring seawater temperatures to our organisation's digital database, we are able to access tables and graphs from different perspectives.

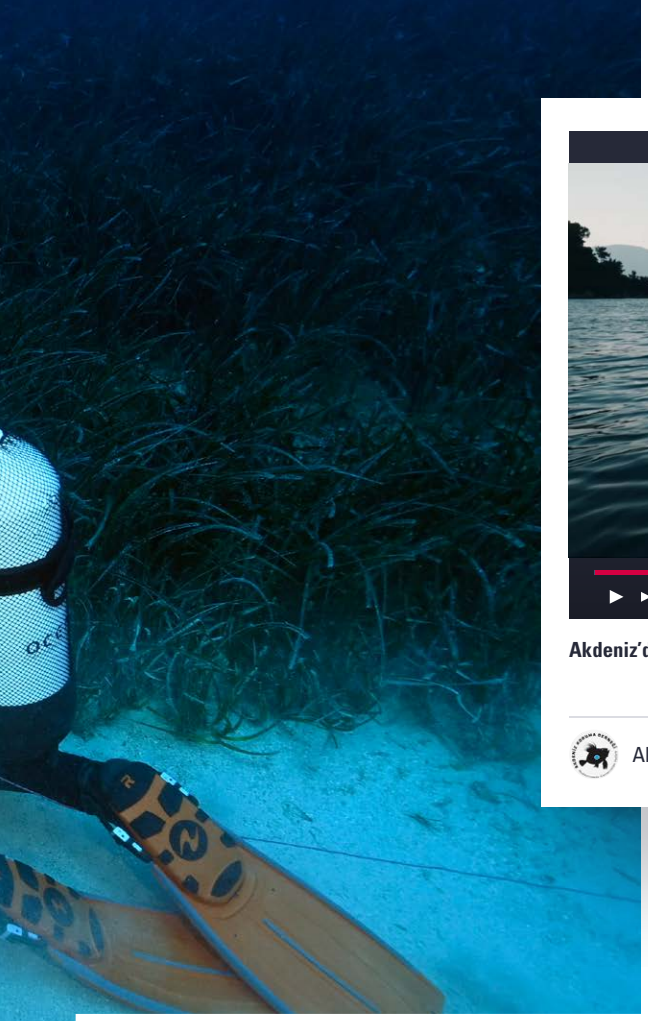


SEAGRASS MONITORING STUDIES

Posidonia oceanica, an endemic species in the Mediterranean, spreads from shallow waters to depths of up to 40 meters along the Mediterranean coast. However, due to human-induced factors such as global climate change and anchor damage, the distribution range in our study areas has narrowed by about 30 meters. Seagrasses, such as Posidonia oceanica, play a crucial role in preventing erosion in the marine environment with their roots and serve as a source of oxygen through photosynthesis on the seafloor, providing habitat, food, and breeding grounds for fish and other marine organisms. Being the first link in the food chain, they are of great economic and ecological importance to the marine ecosystem. Studies on the economic value of seagrass reveal that they provide ecosystem services valued at EUR 15,837 per hectare per year

We initiated monitoring studies on the distribution, density, coverage rates, and health of Posidonia oceanica through the Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Union in 2016, and we continued with support from other project grants. Another complementary and developmental study was the mapping of Posidonia oceanica meadows using satellite imagery within the framework of the Endangered Landscape Programme (ELP) initiated in 2019. Our work, which started with literature review and compilation in 2020, will be shaped by the provision of essential data for mapping through high-resolution ESA satellite images from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and on-site verification of the images by experts from the Mediterranean Conservation Society. Since the initial seagrass distribution maps obtained had low accuracy rates, the sharing of local ecological information and external observation data with WCMC by MCS experts is expected to strengthen the accuracy of the obtained maps.

In addition to MCS's detailed fieldwork in areas where P. oceanica seagrass beds are relatively under threat, such as Göcek Restricted Fishing Area (RFA) and Gökova RFA, seagrass maps with an accuracy rate of 85% have been prepared through an algorithmic model that combines high-resolution satellite images and bathymetric maps. On-site verification studies of these maps is in progress.





Akdeniz'de Deniz'in akciğerleri Deniz çayırları tehdit altında!

Akdeniz Koruma Derneği

Seagrass meadows, the lungs of the sea in the Mediterranean, are threatened!



OUR COMMON FUTURE, OUR SEAS: WORKSHOP ON INSTALLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SMART (MAPA) BUOY SYSTEMS

Seagrass meadows are facing severe damage due to fishing and tourism activities, along with the impact of climate crisis and invasive species, resulting in a shrinking distribution range. Particularly in the Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protection Area, anchoring activities by boats on seagrass meadows exert significant pressure on the species. The aim is to prevent this destruction through implementation of ecological buoy and buoy systems.

In 2022, we participated as one of the supporting organisations in the "International Workshop on Conservation and Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: Smart Buoy/Buoy Systems Application Models." The workshop was organised by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation under the mission of "Our Common Future: Our Seas." Our association invited experts from Spain, Italy, and France to deliver presentations and answer questions, focusing on the preservation of seagrass meadows and, consequently, all marine habitats. Furthermore, our association's President, Zafer Kızılkaya, served as a keynote speaker and session chair on one of the panels.

PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

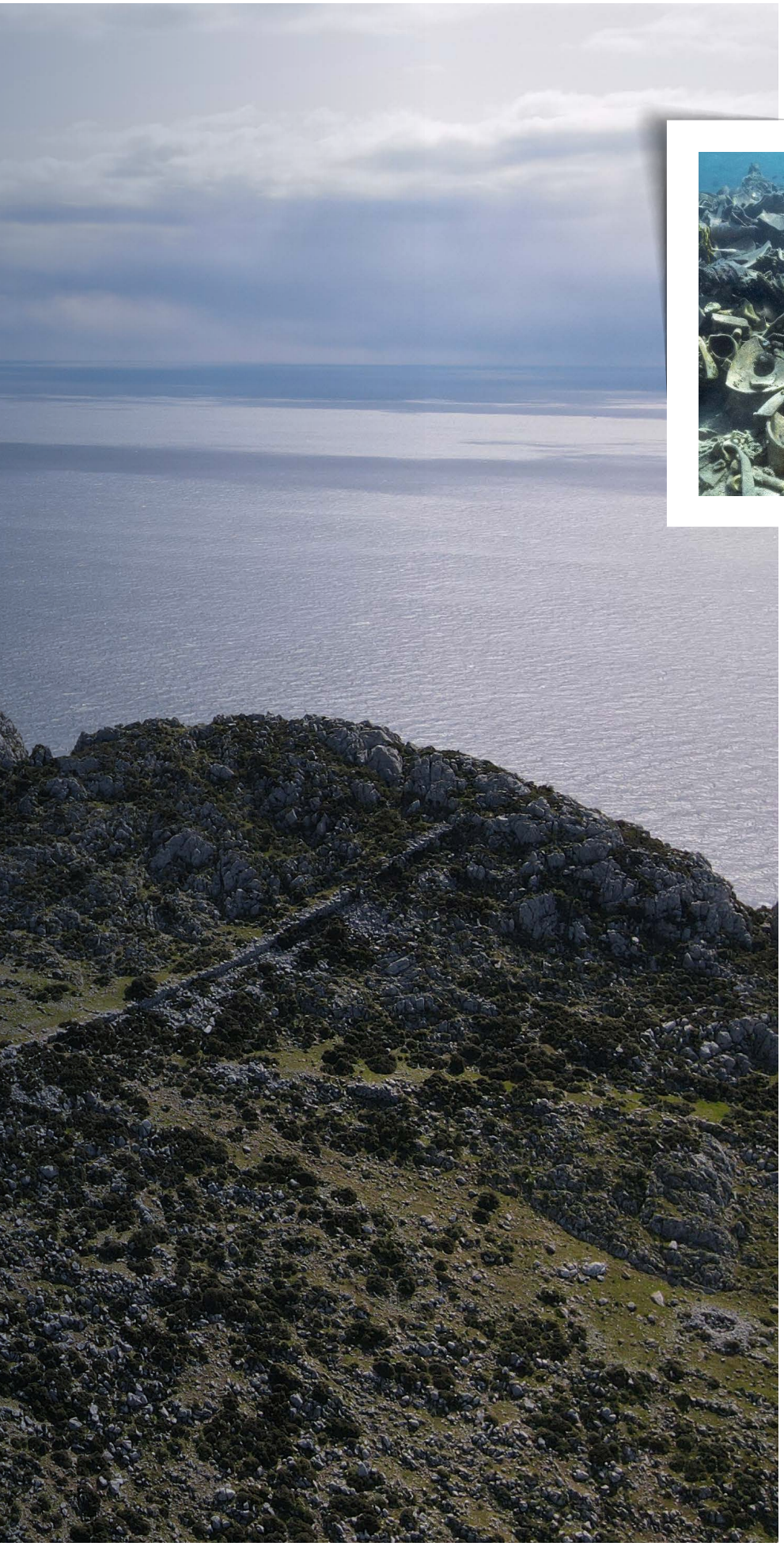
PROJECT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CARIAN TRAIL

The Carian Trail, a route that intertwines historical remnants and nature in the Mediterranean, is being revitalised and safeguarded to ensure its preservation for future generations. For thousands of years, the Mediterranean, which has been home to many civilizations, have meant "The Cradle of Civilisation" among different languages. Besides its historical and cultural richness, the Mediterranean Basin is also a habitat for numerous terrestrial and marine species. Demonstrated through the remnants found, the Mediterranean, which has been the home of numerous civilizations since ancient times, still contains many traces from the past. The Carian Trail, with its traces dating back to 7000 BC, is like a route of historical footprints in the Mediterranean. Taking its name from the ancient Carian civilization that once inhabited this region, the Carian Trail passes through numerous rural settlements with unique architecture, untouched coves, hills covered with olive and almond trees, and ancient cities, some of which can only be reached on foot. Being Türkiye's longest hiking trail with a length of 850 km, the Carian Trail consists of five different sections. Starting from Içmeler in the Bozburun Peninsula, the Carian Trail crosses the peninsula for 150 kilometres before reaching the Datça Peninsula. From the Datça Peninsula, it continues towards Gökova-Akyaka, and then, Bodrum. Additionally, a branch from the Gökova Bay separates from the main trail at Bozalan village and goes to Milas, extending further to the Beşparmak Mountains, and finally ending in the Karpuzlu district of Aydın.

The Carian Trail, streching through nature, is home to a variety of species. Its forests host many species such as red pine, black pine, juniper, and sweetgum trees, while harbouring aromatic plants like sage, thyme, and lavender, as well as colourful and fragrant plants during the spring. With unique and colourful companions like Carian tulip, purple bee orchid, and Anatolian orchid, the Carian Trail blossoms with vibrant flowers. Additionally, it serves as a habitat for various species including lynx, badger, red fox, coracias garrulus, gull-billed tern, and black-winged stilt.

Together with the Carian Trail Team, which have been working since 2009 to unveil the current state of the route, we are conducting studies specifically for the section of the route located in the Datça-Bozburun Peninsula. Our collaborative efforts involve documenting the existing trails and cultural assets in the region, identifying new species in the area's biodiversity, and working towards the conservation of endangered species.

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OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

The deep waters of the Mediterranean, which have been home to many civilizations, encompass numerous underwater cultural heritages. In Muğla, where intensive underwater excavations are conducted, some significant underwater excavations include the Bozukkale Archaic sculpture wreck, which is the first and only underwater wreck in the Mediterranean with sculptures and a mortarium stone. Another notable site is the Çamçalık Bronze Age Harbor, which contains the largest collection of Bronze Age artefacts found in Turkish territorial waters, and the Kızlan Ottoman Warship wreck from the 18th century. We have provided support to the underwater excavation works in the region through a protocol with the Bozukkale, Çamçalık, and Kızlan Underwater Excavation Directorate.

THE IMPACT OF FOREST FIRES ON TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE SPECIES

During the forest fires that occurred along Türkiye's South Aegean coasts, we supported the extinguishing efforts with contributions of volunteers and donors. As part of our Marine Conservation System implemented in the region, our Marine Rangers conducted coordinated work with the teams responsible for extinguishing the fires and evacuating people from the area.

During the forest fires, the ecosystems of the region suffered significant damage, highlighting the need for serious efforts in rehabilitating the affected areas. In this regard, we have initiated monitoring studies in collaboration with our international partners to assess the effects of ash reaching the seas through the first rains after the wildfires with regards to ocean acidification. In 2022, we hosted Dr. Simone Farina from the Genoa Marine Centre (GMC) Institute at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn–National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology, as well as Laura Tamburello and Federica Ragazoola from the Napoli Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn Institute. They shared the data and methodologies from their research project investigating the effects of the 2021 wildfire in Sardinia, and we collaborated on a joint study to investigate the impact of the 2021 fire in the Gulf of Gökova on marine environments in the Göcek and Gökova Bay areas. The monitoring activities, which lasted for a total of 6 days, included SCUBA diving and snorkelling. As a result of these efforts, we developed a common methodology for the monitoring studies in Sardinia and Gökova, and prepared a joint work schedule for the monitoring activities. We will commence the monitoring study in May 2023 and continue it for one year.

You can read the details of the project we conducted to determine the effects of forest fires on the population of Marmaris salamanders living in the region in the Marmaris Salamander section. P.54



MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

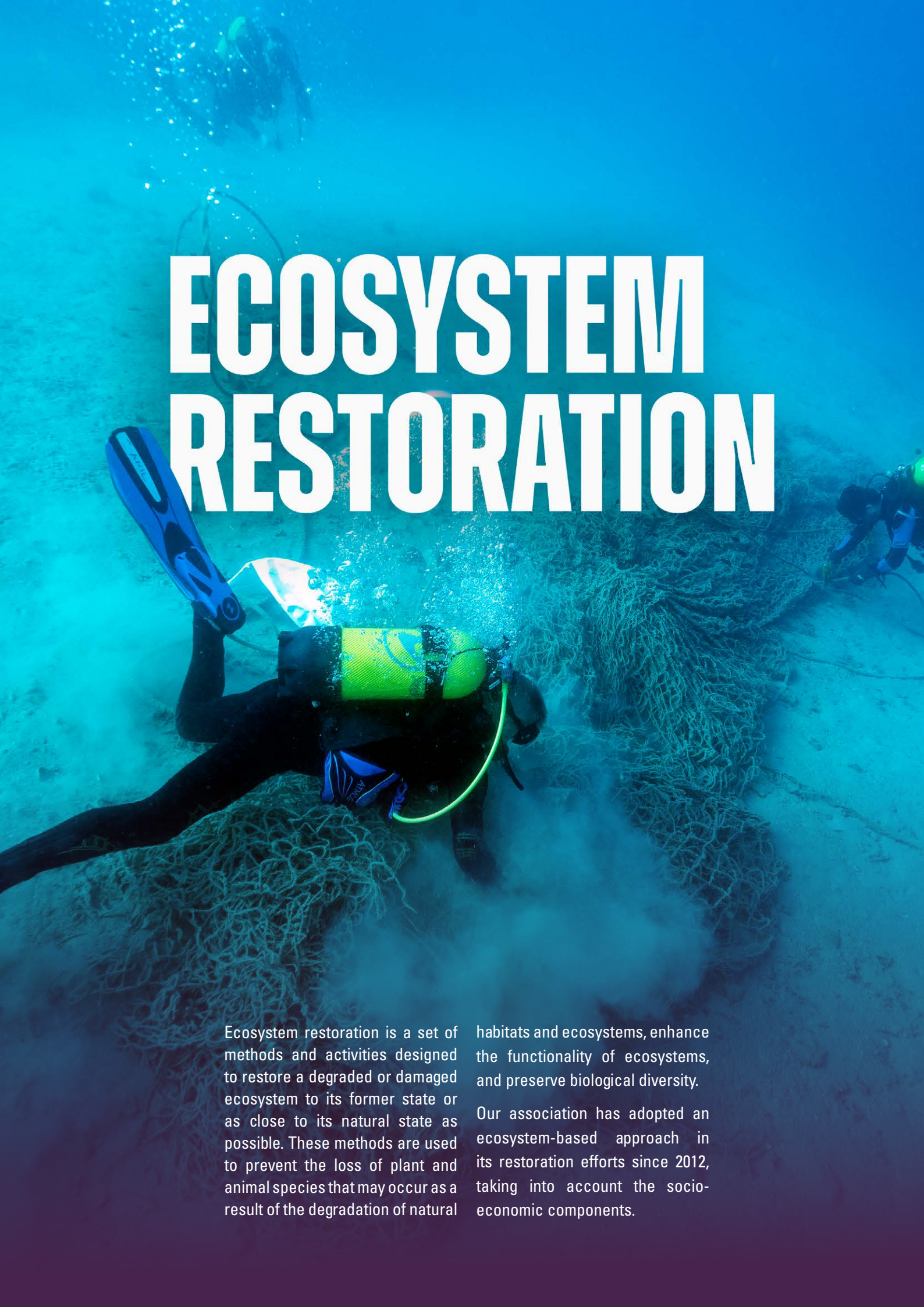
To enhance the activities conducted or to be conducted within our organisation, we have established an independent and interdisciplinary Science and Technical Advisory Board consisting of experts in the field. In December, the members of the Science and Technical Advisory Board gathered in Izmir to determine the values, strategies, actions, and working system of the Board. The prominent objectives of the MCS Science and Technical Advisory Board, comprised of professionals from diverse fields coming together with a shared purpose, and integrating their differences in a harmonious manner, are as follows:

- To evaluate the activities of the organisation with an independent perspective and different viewpoints, serving as external evaluators
- To contribute to evaluation and monitoring efforts
- To actively represent and embody the identity, culture, and activities of the organisation

You can find the names of the members of the Science and Technical Advisory Board on page 6.

The MCS Science and Technical Advisory Board has defined its values as transparency, scientific ethics, societal benefit, and interdisciplinarity, in line with MCS's current mission and vision.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



Ecosystem restoration is a set of methods and activities designed to restore a degraded or damaged ecosystem to its former state or as close to its natural state as possible. These methods are used to prevent the loss of plant and animal species that may occur as a result of the degradation of natural habitats and ecosystems, enhance the functionality of ecosystems, and preserve biological diversity.

Our association has adopted an ecosystem-based approach in its restoration efforts since 2012, taking into account the socio-economic components.





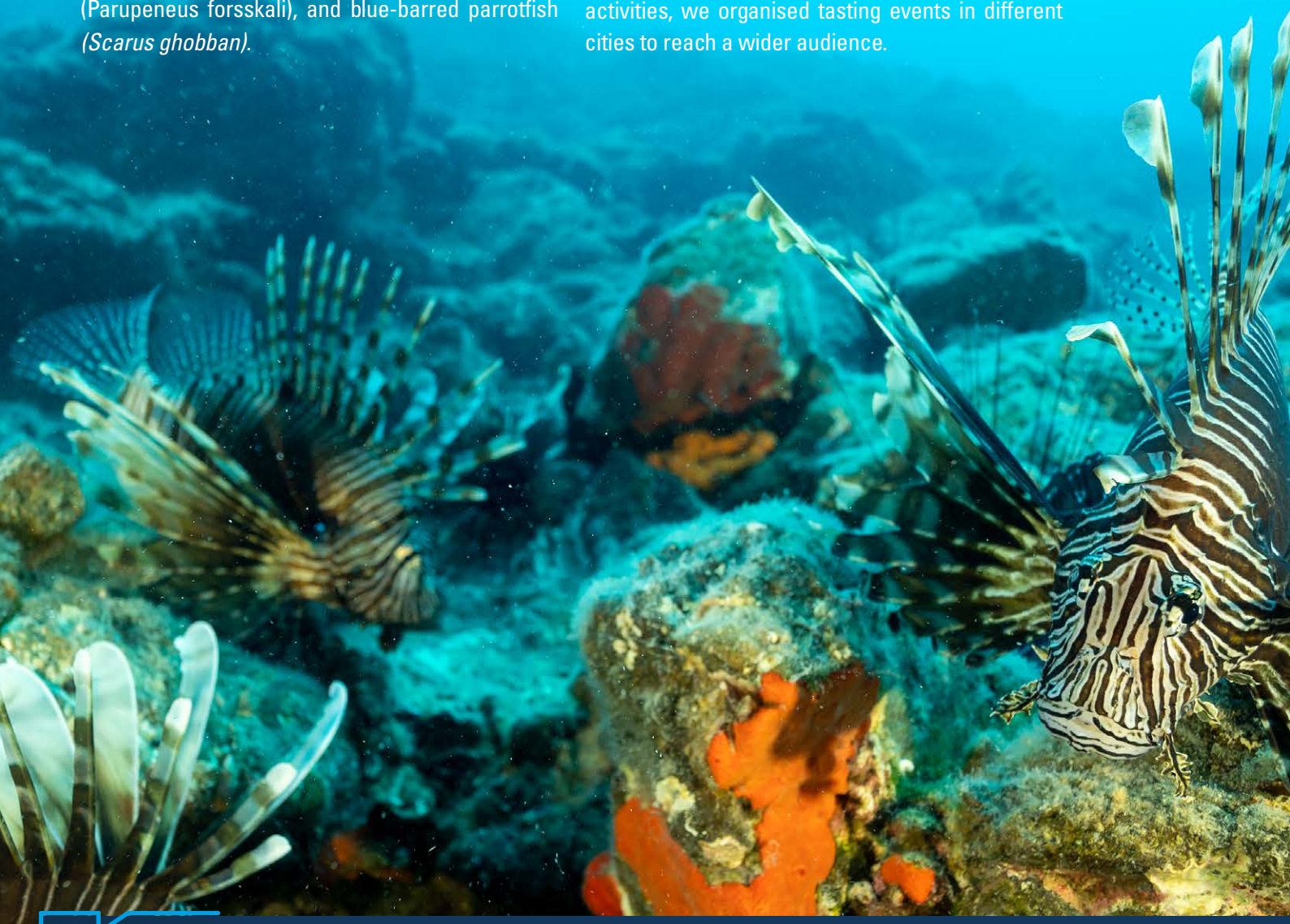
INVASIVE MARINE SPECIES

The opening and expansion of the Suez Canal, along with the impact of ballast water from ships and the climate crisis, have led to a rapid increase in the number of invasive and alien species observed in the Mediterranean Sea in recent years. Among these species, which rapidly adapt to their new ecosystem, there are fish, aquatic plants, and aquatic invertebrates that put pressure on native species, certain habitats, and consequently, fishing activities.

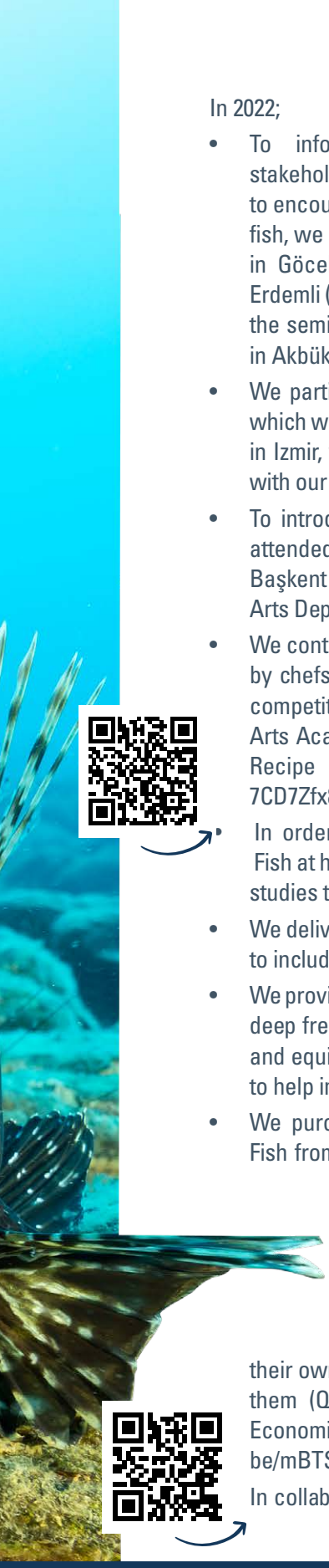
NEW FISH

Some of the species that rapidly adapt to their new ecosystem and exert pressure on native species, certain habitats, and fishing activities are actually edible and delicious fish. Some of these edible invasive and alien fish species include Randall's threadfin bream *(Nemipterus randalli),* lizardfish *(Saurida lessepsianus),* the marbled spinefoot, rivulated rabbitfish/surf parrotfish *(Siganus rivulatus - Siganus luridus),* goldband goatfish *(Upeneus moluccensis),* lionfish *(Pterois miles),* redcoat (Sargocentron rubrum), Bluespotted cornetfish *(Fistularia commersoni),* Red Sea goatfish (Parupeneus forsskali), and blue-barred parrotfish *(Scarus ghobban).*

As the Mediterranean Conservation Society, we have been continuing our 'New Fish Program' that we initiated with Randall's threadfin bream (Nemipterus randalli) in 2015 to bring economic value to these species and increase the incomes of small-scale fishers and households. Our aim is to serve ecosystem restoration by reducing pressure on native species. In 2022, we continued the program with a focus on edible new fish species. We conducted communication campaigns addressing fishers, restaurants, chefs, and end consumers to increase awareness and knowledge about these edible new fish species. In addition to these activities, we organised tasting events in different cities to reach a wider audience.



We participated in the "Scientific Conference on the Effects of Marine Invasive Alien Species," held in Antalya on 21st-23rd November, as part of the collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Marine Invasive Alien Species Project. During the conference we explained our ecosystem restoration efforts by bringing edible invasive marine species into the economy under our New Fish programme.



In 2022;

- To inform small-scale Fishers and local stakeholders about our new fish on the table, and to encourage targeting and consumption of these fish, we organised 'New Fish Seminars' (page 57) in Göcek, Karaköy, Bodrum (Muğla), Yenişehir, Erdemli (Mersin), and Çeşme (İzmir). In addition to the seminars, we held 'New Fish Tasting Events' in Akbük, Akyaka, and Fethiye.
- We participated in the "Izmir Gurmefest" event, which was visited by approximately 25,000 people in Izmir, where we showcased recipes prepared with our New Fish.
- To introduce future chefs to the New Fish, we attended the Seafood Applications class of Başkent University's Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department.
- We continued to share different recipes prepared by chefs for lionfish, and we organised a recipe competition in collaboration with the Culinary Arts Academy for redcoat (QR VIDEO: Readcoat Recipe Competition https://youtu.be/sG-7CD7Zfx8).
- In order to increase the consumption of New Fish at home, we conducted research and survey studies to understand consumer behaviour.
- We delivered New Fish to a total of 35 restaurants to include them on their menus.
- We provided support to cooperatives by delivering deep freezers, packaging materials, security kits, and equipment, as well as organising workshops to help improve their infrastructure and capacity.
- We purchased approximately 6 tonnes of New Fish from small-scale fishers, of which 91% was lionfish.
- We listened to the stories of small-scale fishers who have obtained economic income from New Fish, and to capture their stories in their own words, we conducted a film shoot with them (QR VIDEO: Small-Scale Fishers Earning Economic Income from New Fish https://youtu.be/mBTSq5Xe6qA).
- In collaboration with the Ege University Fisheries Faculty and small-scale fishers, we conducted experimental fishing trials for lionfish.
- We began working on developing jewellery and accessories using the spines and fins of lionfish for upcycling purposes.

We are working to create economic value for the New Fish and establish new markets through the MCS Fish Economic Enterprise, which was established in August 2020 with a conservation and nature-based business model. Our aim is to ensure that these species are sourced from small-scale Fishers and reach restaurants. The strategy of the MCS Fish Economic Enterprise, aligned with the vision, mission, and values of the Mediterranean Conservation Society, includes the following aspects:

- Creating market value for new fish species.
- Bringing together the private sector, small-scale fishers, and public institutions to support capacity development.
- Transfering the market system to the key actors, the small-scale fishers, to contribute to their income.
- Serving ecosystem restoration by reducing pressure on the ecosystem.

MCS Fish Economic Enterprise adopts the PCSD (Participatory Collaboration and Sustainable Development) approach in its activities.

PCSD (Participatory Collaboration and Sustainable Development) approach aims to bring about positive changes in the lives of economically marginalised groups through the principles of system thinking, facilitation, and participation. It emphasises the recognition, inclusion, and empowerment of marginal groups as legitimate market actors, while supporting local market actors to build relationships, discuss opportunities and challenges, and collaborate in solving systemic problems.

In September, partners of the ELP-Endangered Landscapes Programme visited Gökova to develop a shared understanding and exchange knowledge on best practices in Nature Positive Enterprises and Sustainable Finance. During the four-day visit, 19 project managers and officials from the United Kingdom, Georgia, Romania, Belarus, Ukraine, Portugal, and Türkiye came together. We had the opportunity to showcase MCS's Fish Economic Enterprise and our New Fish program as examples of nature-positive businesses to the participants.

SEABED CLEANING - REMOVAL OF GHOST NETS

The pollution caused by human activities in the oceans threatens the health of marine organisms and the continuity of species, disrupting the marine ecological balance. Therefore, reducing pollution in the seas and preserving marine areas is crucial for a sustainable future. Since our establishment in 2012, we have been conducting underwater cleaning operations in the Gökova Bay, aiming to remove ghost nets and associated solid waste from the marine environment. We have continued our efforts in the Kaş-Kekova region in 2020 and in the Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protection Areas in 2021. Using a balloon system, we easily collect ghost nets and other solid waste from the seabed that were previously inaccessible due to their depth and weight. In collaboration with local small-scale fishers and communities in the region, we work together to identify the locations of accumulated waste on the seafloor.

We deliver the collected waste to local public institutions to ensure its removal, recycling, and/or disposal.

In 2022, we conducted a total of 197 dives spanning 56 days with 6 divers in the Gökova Bay, Fethiye-Göcek, and Datça-Bozburun Special Environmental Protection Areas (SEPA) to remove waste from the marine environment.

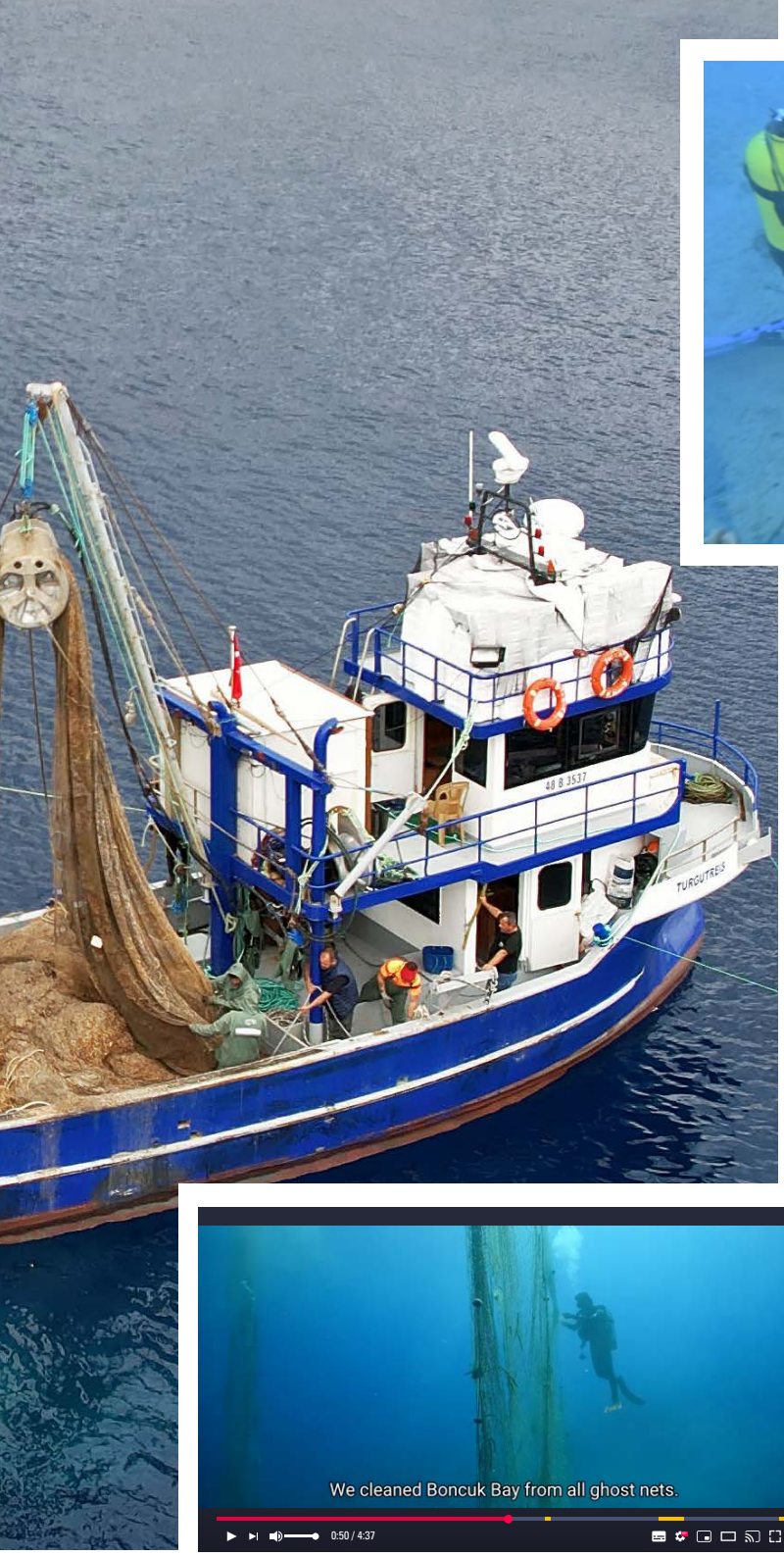
We collaborate with the waste management units of local municipalities in those regions to send the collected waste for recycling, while ensuring the proper disposal of non-recyclable waste.

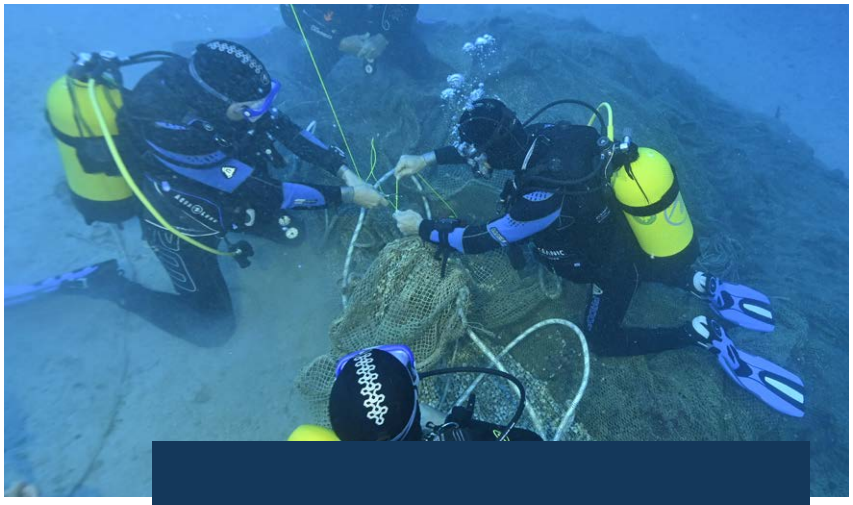
The waste collected during these dives is presented in the table below.



Waste removed from the marine environment during seafloor cleaning operations:

Collected Fishing Line **56,46 km**	Number of Net Pieces **28**	Cage Debris **22 kg**	Buoy **3**
Collected Lead **21,99 kg**	Heavy Metals **231 kg**	Bottles **215**	Vehicle Tires **120**
Waste Net **59 meters**	Chain **10 kg**	Plastic Bottles **115**	Plastic Waste **60 kg**
Unmeasured Net **10,5 tonnes**	Rope **458 meters**	Aluminium Cans **128**	Wood/Logs **120 kg**





Under the framework of the Protection and Extraction of Underwater Cultural Heritage, we supported the excavation works in the Bozburun region in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology at Dokuz Eylül University. We removed the waste from the marine environment to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage. The pollution caused by a company engaged in aquaculture in the past, which had left all its waste in the sea upon leaving the area, posed a significant threat to marine life and archaeological sites. We initiated solid waste cleaning and extraction of nets in September 2022, and by November, we successfully completed the removal of 23 large nets.

In 2022, our Göcek and Gökova field team supported the underwater cleaning campaign organised in Göcek by Muğla Metropolitan Municipality as part of World Environment Day.

Hayalet Ağlar

Akdeniz Koruma Derneği

What is a Ghost Net?

Ghost Nets refer to abandoned, discarded, or lost fishing gear that continue to entangle and catch marine life.

https://youtu.be/9apCWAtz3WM

IMPORTANT

Prior to the cleaning activities, the Association conducted informational and practical training sessions for the divers involved in the seafloor cleaning. We prioritised safety and security in all our operations.

Thanks! We would like to extend our gratitude to the public institutions, Bozburun Shipyard Enterprises, Fishers, and the local community for their support during the seafloor cleaning activities carried out in Bozburun and Göcek.



THE SOURCE OF POLLUTION IN MARINE LIFE IS HUMAN-BASED ACTIVITIES.



MACROALGAE RESTORATION

We completed the 'Testing Intervention-Macroalgae' study in 2022 as part of the 'ELP-Endangered Landscapes Programme', which aimed to investigate how macroalgae restoration activities should be carried out under the pressure of invasive herbivorous species (Siganus luridus, S. rivulatus). This study, designed as a continuation of our organisation's involvement in the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 project from 2016 to 2020, focused on the research of intervention methods. In the experiments, cages were placed at the depths of 5-10 metres, and macroalgae transplantation was carried out inside those cages.

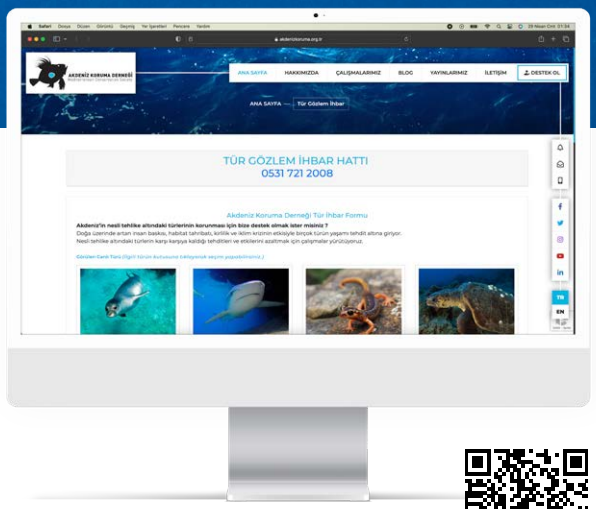
We observed that macroalgae developed and even new individuals formed in the cages observed on a monthly basis. As a result of our studies, we have seen that macroalgae restoration can be successfully accomplished. When macroalgae reached sufficient size, we removed the cages and placed GoPro cameras in front of the structures. The recorded videos showed that herbivorous fish quickly consumed the macroalgae after the cages were removed. The intensity of invasive herbivore species' pressure on macroalgae populations was once again demonstrated in our study. With the experience gained from two international projects, we will continue our work on macroalgae restoration in the coming years.


SCUBAPRO

ENDANGERED MEDITERRANEAN SPECIES

Although the Mediterranean Sea covers only 0.7% of the world's ocean and sea area, it harbours 7.5% of the world's marine fauna and 18% of the marine flora. Due to 28% of its species being endemic, it is one of the most important reservoir areas for marine and coastal biological diversity.

The Mediterranean, which is one of the seas with the highest human impact in the world, is rapidly being degraded due to excessive and illegal fishing, as well as intensive tourism and overuse of coastal areas mainly along its northern shores.



You can scan the QR code to access the Species Observation Report Form.

https://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/tr/akdeniz-koruma-ihbar-formu

MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY SPECIES OBSERVATION REPORT HOTLINE



WHAT IS THE IUCN RED LIST?

The IUCN Red List is a list prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This list assesses the conservation status of species worldwide and determines whether each species is endangered. The IUCN Red List is used to determine the conservation statuses of species worldwide. These statuses are divided into nine categories that determine whether a species is endangered: Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, Data Deficient, Extinct in the Wild, Extinct. The Red List is a source used by scientists, conservation organisations, governments, and other relevant institutions. This list is an important tool in determining conservation priorities and developing policies for the preservation of natural resources.

A Founding member of our Society, Mustafa Koç, and Badem the Mediterranean Monk Seal

We conduct monitoring and conservation efforts for endangered Mediterranean species such as the Mediterranean monk seal, sandbar shark, Marmaris salamander, and Lycian orchid. In order to address the threats faced by endangered species and mitigate their impacts, we have established the Species Observation Reporting Hotline. As a part of citizen science, if you encounter any endangered Mediterranean species, you can contact us through the MCS website (www.akdenizkoruma.org.tr) or by phone on **0531 271 20 08.**

By reporting species observations:

- You will assist in notifying the relevant authorities responsible for intervening and providing assistance to animals in need.
- You will support efforts in monitoring species and identifying individuals.
- You will contribute to determining where and how often species are exposed to potential threats and assessing the impacts of these threats.
- You will help in planning conservation efforts for the species.



MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL

(MONACHUS MONACHUS)

The Mediterranean monk seal is endemic to the Mediterranean and is listed as "Endangered (EN)" globally on the IUCN Red List, while it is categorised as "Critically Endangered (CR)" in the Mediterranean region. As the Mediterranean Conservation Society, we are conducting various activities to mitigate the threats faced by this rare species and reduce their impacts. We work in collaboration with authorities to protect the seals and their habitats. We actively continue monitoring and awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of this species and the need for its conservation.

In 2022, we initiated Mediterranean monk seal monitoring studies by installing additional camera traps in a coastal cave we designated in the Fethiye-Göcek region. We continue to monitor Mediterranean monk seals in a total of 12 coastal caves along the coastline from Gökova Bay to Kaş as part of our monitoring activities.

In 2022, we obtained the necessary permissions from the Muğla Conservation of Natural Assets Regional Commission to start working on installing simultaneous remote monitoring systems in three currently monitored Mediterranean monk seal caves. We plan to have these remote monitoring systems installed in these caves by 2023.

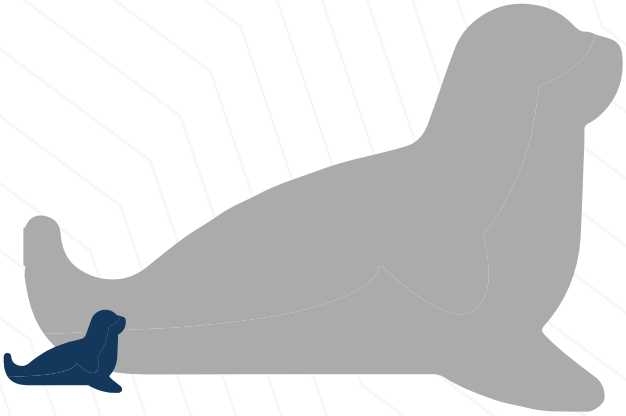
In August 2022, for the first time in many years, the birth of a Mediterranean monk seal pup was recorded in a coastal cave within the Foça Special Environmental Protection Area. One of our biggest supporters during fieldwork in the region has been the Civil Works Department of Foça Municipality.

We have been recording information about Mediterranean monk seal observations along the Turkish coasts for a long time. In order to increase awareness and knowledge among more people, we now have a dedicated section on our website about this topic. You can share your observations, information, and images regarding Mediterranean monk seal sightings with us through our MCS Species Observation Hotline. By doing so, you can help us acquire more information about the Mediterranean monk seal and contribute to raising awareness about this species.

As part of the Mediterranean monk seal monitoring program that started in 2016, one of the most remarkable moments was captured for the first time in 2022 through images obtained from the caves. In 2019, MCS created an artificial platform inside a coastal cave, which was the first of its kind globally, providing a dry area for Mediterranean monk seals. The footage of an adult male and a juvenile Mediterranean monk seal resting on this platform showcases a rare and intimate encounter that is rarely seen.







It is known that there are around **100 Mediterranean monk seals living along the coasts of Türkiye** and globally, the population is estimated to be between 600-700 individuals.



Akdeniz Foku

Akdeniz Koruma Derneği

In 2022, a Mediterranean monk seal was born in a cave where we conducted monitoring using camera traps. We named the newborn Mediterranean monk seal "Işık" (meaning "Light" in Turkish) and shared the news and updates about Işık on our social media accounts.

Our Mediterranean Monk Seal Research Video

GLOBAL RISK

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

RISK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



SANDBAR SHARK

(CARCHARHİNUS PLUMBEUS)

Sharks are one of the oldest species on the planet and are among the most important indicator species for healthy marine ecosystems. Unfortunately, sharks are often portrayed as aggressive, deadly, and vengeful globally, but they are actually very shy creatures. Moreover, their population is threatened due to human activities.

According to the IUCN, approximately 40% of shark and ray species are facing the risk of extinction. One of the major threats to these species is non-targeted fishing. Despite being a long-lived species, the sandbar shark is listed as "Vulnerable (VU)" on the IUCN Red List globally and as "Endangered (EN)" in the Mediterranean Basin due to fishing pressure and low reproductive rates.

We are conducting conservation studies for the endangered sandbar sharks living along the coasts of our country, specifically in Boncuk Koyu, located in the Gökova Bay Special Environmental Protection Area, under the coordination of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change.

As of 2021, our efforts in the region involve the integration of observations conducted through the use of self-powered underwater and surface cameras which are monitored continuously, on-site monitoring (snorkelling), and occasional aerial monitoring with drones. With cameras capable of capturing both underwater and above-water footage (2 underwater and 1 above-water), we are able to track human activities within the bay while also gaining the advantage of observing and collecting information about the species without causing researcher interference.

GLOBAL RISK

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



© Tolga Taymaz

Our conservation and monitoring efforts reveal that water temperature and human activities within the bay play a primary role in the species' use of the habitat. Analysis of the fieldwork conducted indicates that the most intensive observations occur between May and July. However, we have observed that the species' habitat use, albeit at different frequencies, extends throughout the year under the influence of water temperature. Based on the findings obtained so far, we continue our efforts to explore the impact of the climate crisis on the frequency when the species is most observed in Boncuk Koyu.

Boncuk Koyu is one of the rare and fortunate areas where ecosystem restoration efforts are being carried out. Through all these endeavours, we are working towards creating a safe environment for sandbar sharks to thrive in the bay.

We monitor Boncuk Koyu, which is the most frequently observed location for sandbar sharks along our coasts, using 2 underwater and 1 above-water cameras, and we record the data.

Within the scope of the "Integrated Pollution Monitoring in Seas (DEN-İZ) Program," conducted under the coordination of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) Marmara Research Center (TÜBİTAK MAM) and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change, the 3rd National Monitoring and Assessment Symposium in the Seas was held. The third symposium took place in Antalya in December 2022. One of our team member, Tunca Olguner, gave a presentation on the work we conducted for sandbar sharks in Boncuk Koyu and answered questions of interest.

RISK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

MARMARİS SALAMANDER

(LYCIASALAMANDRA FLAVIMEMBRIS)



In 2022, we encountered populations of Marmaris salamander in several areas where we had not previously observed them. These observations have sparked hope that the population in the area may be increasing.

Lycian salamanders, which consist of only seven species worldwide, are found on certain islands of Muğla, Antalya, and the Aegean Sea. These species, which are endemic to the Mediterranean Basin, inhabit the habitats of scrubland and pine forests. The Marmaris salamander *(Lyciasalamandra flavimembris),* which is one of the Lycian salamander species, only exists in a narrow area around Muğla in Türkiye. Listed as "Endangered (EN)" in the Red List published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the species is stated to be experiencing a declining trend in terms of its population.

In 2021, the forest fires along the southern Aegean coasts of our country resulted in the loss of our life sustaining trees and numerous other organisms. These fires, which caused severe damage to the biodiversity in the region, continued in 2022 as well. We have initiated a monitoring and conservation project for the Marmaris salamander, which is one of the species most affected by the fires. Through this project, we aim to find answers to questions such as how severely the Marmaris salamander has been affected by the fires, which populations have been more affected, and what measures should be taken to help the affected populations recover from the negative effects. From November 2021 to March 2022, we conducted montlhy fieldwork. During these studies, we classified the areas as burned and unburned until February, and after February, we also took into account the afforestation activities that were initiated, categorizing the areas as burned, unburned (natural), and restoration areas. At the same time, we started collecting data on how the post-fire processes could affect the salamanders.

Within the scope of our Marmaris salamander species monitoring studies, we utilize marking methods. In December 2021, we encountered a marked individual, and in December 2022, we came across it again. Through our studies conducted on the marked individuals, we observed that the marking method had no negative effect on the species. Furthermore, we found that the population where the marked individuals were present had been less affected by threats.

GLOBALDE RİSK

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

© Akın İzgin



LYCIAN ORCHID

(OPHRYS LYCIA)

The Lycian Orchid *(Ophrys lycia),* named after the ancient region of Lycia known as the "Land of Light," is one of the endemic orchid species of the Mediterranean. It is found only in the Kaş district of Antalya, making it unique to that area. The species was discovered in 1980 by Swiss botanist Jany Renz in a village cemetery. The Lycian Orchid is evaluated as "Critically Endangered (CR)" by the IUCN, with its natural population declining to less than a thousand. If the species is left neglected, including within cemeteries, all existing populations are on the brink of extinction.

In collaboration with the Mediterranean Conservation Society and Ege University, our goal is to preserve the Lycian Orchid *(Ophrys lycia)* and its pollen and seeds in a gene bank and reintroduce them back into their natural habitat through laboratory (in vitro) cultivation.

As part of our efforts, fieldwork was conducted between February and June 2022. During these field surveys, we visited the habitats of Ophrys lycia to assess the population sizes. Among the identified, six of them were selected for artificial pollination, and they were transferred to a protected mini-garden within the Botanic Garden of the Ege University Herbarium Application and Research Center.

In addition to *Ophrys lycia*, we also performed artificial pollination and transferred other species that coexist in the same region to the Botanic Garden for seed production purposes.

We expanded our fieldwork to cover all regions between Izmir and Antalya, and conducted seed harvesting from 363 plants, including 81 plants of the Ophrys lycia species.

During the summer and autumn of 2022, we took the initiative to establish a tissue culture laboratory within the Ege University Herbarium Application and Research Center. We dried the obtained seeds, stabilized their moisture levels, and stored them in a freezer. Through these efforts, we aim to increase hope for the future of the species.

TRAINING



SCIENTIFIC DIVER TRAINING

We organize various training programs in different fields with experts within our association. One of the training programs we conducted was the Scientific Diving Training, led by our expert divers who are certified instructors through PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) standards. This training aimed to provide participants with knowledge on recreational diving practices and regulations, basic marine biology, underwater research and monitoring methods, marine habitat restoration techniques, as well as underwater sampling and preservation methods.

The Scientific Diving Training was conducted as part of the governance strengthening program in Marine Protected Areas (MPA), with the participation of representatives from various public institutions related to our work areas.

During the "Scientific Diving" course organized by the Mediterranean Conservation Society, I had an unforgettable experience. It was both educational and incredibly fun to receive scientific diving training in the protected and unique bays of Karacasöğüt, which enchanted me with its nature. Throughout the course, we shared our experiences with the team, creating a wonderful synergy. Thanks to this course organized by a knowledgeable and dedicated team, my interest in marine biology has multiplied. I hope there will be more courses to come.

Uğur Atalay -
Scientific Diving Training
Participant 2022

AZMAK RIVER BANK CLEANUP AND EDUCATION

As part of our educational programs, we organized a cleanup event with the aim of introducing children to nature, wildlife, especially the marine ecosystem, and enabling them to establish a connection with the sea and nature, as well as familiarizing them with a sustainable lifestyle.

The Learning Design team participated in the event with game-based and design-focused educational models prepared specifically for children. After ice-breaking games, we collected waste materials left in the area together with the children, mostly consisting of plastic, plastic bottles, and cigarette ends. At the end of the collection process, we showed the children some of the collected waste, highlighting the harm they cause to the environment. The waste weighed 74 kg. Towards the end of the event, we asked the children to divide into groups and prepare a campaign on environmental issues. As a result of the campaign, the drawings created by the children on nature were included in our association's 2023 calendar.







NEW FISH SEMINAR

In 2022, we organized New Fish Seminars in Göcek, Karaköy, Bodrum (Muğla), Yenişehir, Erdemli (Mersin), and Çeşme (İzmir) with the participation of small-scale fishers, local public institutions, restaurants, and other local stakeholders. These seminars focused on the New Fish on our table, discussing the impact of these species on ecosystems and small-scale fishing, the work we have done so far to give them economic value, the process of introducing these fish to restaurants through our MCS Fish Economic Enterprise. Additionally, we addressed the health issues and first aid practices related to injuries caused by toxic marine species, in collaboration with a medical doctor member. We demonstrated the safe cleaning of the lionfish and distributed cleaning and first aid kits to Fishers to ensure their safe handling. After the speeches and presentations in our seminars, we reached over 300 people through the New Fish tasting activity.



QR code link for the New Fish Seminar in Mersin

During our New Fish Seminars, we collaborated with the Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production, and Training Institute, the Central Union of Fishery Cooperatives (SÜR-KOOP), Ege University Faculty of Fisheries, Underwater Photographers and Filmmakers Association, and Slow Fish Mersin.

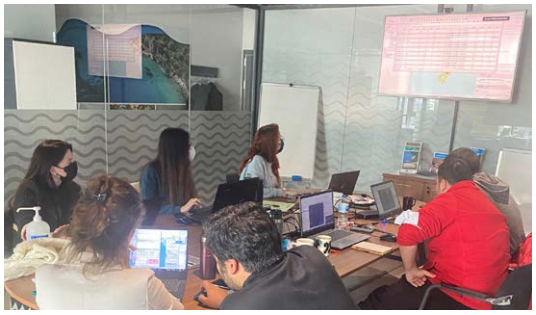
During the seminars, we reached out to numerous fishery cooperatives and public institutions along the Mediterranean coast, from İzmir to Mersin, to share our knowledge about New Fish and ecosystem restoration.

During our Mersin New Fish Seminar, hosted by Slow Fish Mersin, we brought together local fishers from Mersin, as well as Fishers from Fethiye Çalış and Akbük cooperatives who target the Lionfish. The fishers from Mersin, who used to cut their nets when encountering the lionfish, listened to fishers who earn income from this fish and learned that it was edible and had economic value. At the end of the day, during the tasting event, the participating fishers had the opportunity to taste the Lionfish.

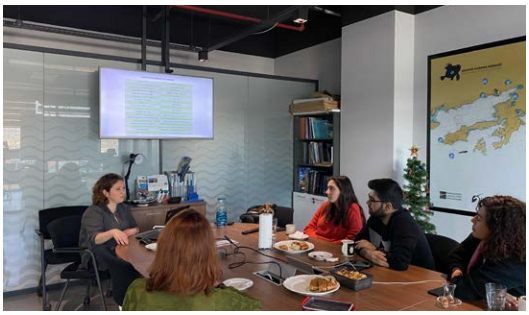
OUR IN-HOUSE TRAINING

In 2022, we continued our capacity development through various training programs within the organization.

Our field managers and relevant program coordinators completed the Nature-Based GIS Training led by Sinem Kaboğlu, and we received advanced GIS training from experts at our partner, FFI Analytical Department.



One of our significant activities is conducting Scientific Diving Training within the team to collect underwater data.



All members of our team completed the Gender Equality Training. Following the training, we implemented a monthly menstrual leave policy for our employees.



Our Marine Rangers completed biannual routine knowledge refresher training sessions.



As part of the EU Horizon 2020 project MERCES, in which our organisation was a partner from 2016 to 2019 and collaborated with the Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM-CSIC, Spain), we organized a theoretical and practical training on benthic sampling with Dr. Joaquim Garrabou, Dr. Emma Cebrian, and Dr. Enrique Ballesteros. We have had numerous joint publications with ICM-CSIC. The training focused on benthic invertebrates, macroalgae, and fish monitoring studies.

ACTIVITIES

In 2022, we held our annual team gathering in Göcek, one of our working areas.



In May 18-21, 2022, Dr. Joaquim Garrabou, Dr. Emma Cebrian, and Dr. Enrique Ballesteros from the Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC, Spain), with whom our association collaborated with as partners and co-authors in the EU Horizon 2020 project MERCES from 2016 to 2019, visited our working areas in Kaş, Göcek, and Gökova Bay.



At the Marine Forum (Foro Marino) held in Spain, our Chairman Zafer Kızılkaya participated as a speaker. The forum provided a platform to share perspectives on climate change and its adverse effects, the need to protect our seas by 30% by 2030, the blue economy, and the legal conservation of our seas from various global analyses and approaches.

In 2022, we held two General Assemblies, one of which was extraordinary. During the extraordinary General Assembly, a unanimous decision was made to establish the Mediterranean Conservation Foundation, believing that it will provide us with more opportunities to expand the scale of our work in the Mediterranean Basin.

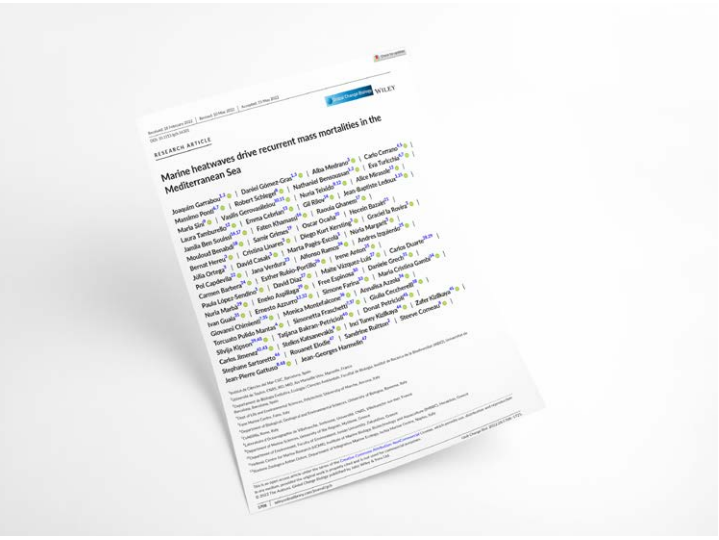


As part of the ELP-Endangered Landscapes Programme, we visited Fundatia Conservation's Carpathia project in Romania for on-site visits and knowledge sharing. The purpose of the visit was to exchange information and experiences regarding their conservation efforts.

To enhance collaboration in Marine Protected Areas, reciprocal visits took place between nature conservation-focused NGOs in Lebanon and Türkiye with the support of IUCN Med. We initially hosted our guests in Gökova Bay and later visited Lebanon to observe their conservation work on-site.

We also took part in the Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Fethiye-Göcek Special Environmental Protection Area, which falls within our working areas. The workshop aimed to propose a marine and coastal area management plan for Fethiye Bay and Göcek-Dalaman Bays. In this context, the specific objective was to update the Göcek Bay and Göcek-Dalaman Bays Protection and Utilization Principles and Procedures, which came into effect in 2010, to align with present-day conditions.

PUBLICATIONS



Scientific Title of the Publication:

Spatial distribution and density of the invasive sea urchin Diadema setosum in Turkey (eastern Mediterranean)

Turkish Title of the Publication:

Türkiye'de (Doğu Akdeniz) istilacı deniz kestanesi Diadema setosum'un mekansal dağılımı ve yoğunluğu

Authors:

Öndes, F., Alan, V., J.Kaiser M., Güçlüsoy H.

Date and Location:

2022



Scientific Title of the Publication:

Marine heatwaves drive recurrent mass mortalities in the Mediterranean Sea

Turkish Title of the Publication:

Deniz ısı dalgaları, Akdeniz'de tekrarlayan toplu ölümlere neden oluyor

Authors:

Garrabou, J., Kızılkaya Tüney, İ., Kızılkaya, Z.

Published by:

Global Change Biology

Date and Location:

2022, Spain



Scientific Title of the Publication:

A novel approach for Mediterranean monk seal conservation: an artificial ledge in a marine cave

Turkish Title of the Publication:

Akdeniz fokunun korunması için yeni bir yaklaşım: deniz mağarasında yapay bir platform

Authors:

Saydam, E., Güçlüsoy, H., Kızılkaya, Z.

Published by:

Oryx

Date and Location:

2022, United Kingdom



THE LAST SEAWEED PIE

Wenda Shurtey's book "Son Yosun Turtası" (The Last Seaweed Pie), illustrated by Paddy Donnelly, has been translated into Turkish and published in collaboration with Yıldız Tozu Yayınları (Stardust Publications) and the Mediteranean Conservation Society. The book conveys to children the impact of environmental pollution on ocean life through the stories of the characters Supitileri (Sea-ple) and Yaprakpitileri (Tree-ple) created by the author Wenda Shurtey. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of oceans, their conservation, and the idea of communities working together. The book also encourages children and their families to become ocean heroes by providing suggestions on what they can do to prevent pollution. It serves as an important resource for children to explore ocean life with the call "Become an Ocean Hero!"

GREEN PEARL ENVIRONMENT MAGAZINE

We provided support for the printing process of the 8th issue of the nature-themed children's magazine prepared by the students of Marmaris Orhaniye İnci Narin Yerlici Primary and Middle School. Additionally, the magazine includes a section prepared by children about the Mediterranean monk seal, whose numbers are decreasing along our country's coasts and which is the focus of our monitoring and conservation efforts.



DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS WE APPEARED ON (QR CODE)



Video:
TedxReset Healing The Sea
Zafer Kızılkaya -
Chairman of the Board

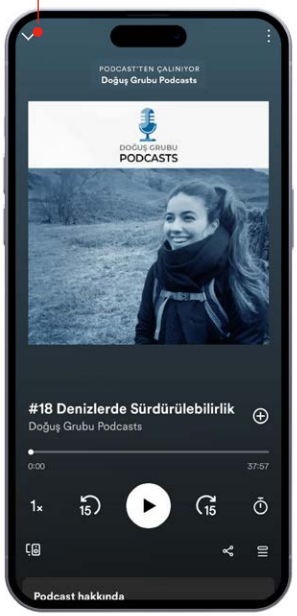
Podcast:
Voice of MSA Kitchen:
New Fish
Funda Kök
Conservation Manager



Podcast:
State of the World 74.
Threats that Mediterranean Face
Zafer Kızılkaya
Chairman of the Board



Podcast:
Doğuş Grubu Podcast
Sustainability in Seas
Yasemin Ulusoy
Project and Resource Development Officer



WE IMPROVE AND RECYCLE

We do not use any products that will turn into plastic waste in our events.

Instead of single-use plastics, we prefer long-lasting thermoses, glass bottles/cups, and cloth bags.

We use recycled paper and ensure that it is reused.

We use environmentally friendly cleaning products that have a clean and non-harmful content to nature and the oceans.

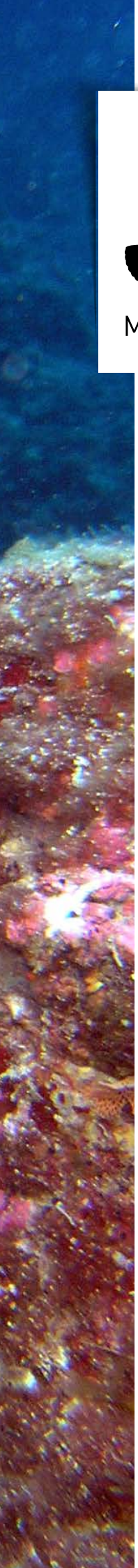
One day a week, we refrain from brewing coffee in our offices to reduce our carbon footprint.

We ensure that our waste is sorted and sent for recycling.

In addition to our individual efforts, we also expect larger organizations to make the right decisions in this field and take action.



AKDENİZ KORUMA DERNEĞİ
Mediterranean Conservation Society



THE STORY OF OUR LOGO, THE JOHN DORY/ ST. PETER'S FISH *(ZEUS FABER)*

Our Association, which was established in 2012, has been using the logo since its inception, and in 2022, we celebrated its 10th anniversary. The story of our Association's logo is narrated by Zafer Ali Kızılkaya, one of our founders and the current Chairman of the Board:

"It starts with Sait Faik Abasıyanık's story 'The Death of the John Dory': 'Their eyes are all beautiful. Their scales, while alive, are worth adorning women's dresses, women's ears, women's chests...' The John Dory fish actually doesn't even have scales. It is covered with a membrane that changes from green to cream, and in the center, there is a dark spot that is the reason for its name 'St. Peter's fish.' According to legend, this fish, once a monster, turned into a gentle and miserable fish with the touch of Jesus. One day, Sait Faik sees a John Dory fish hanging from a tree in front of a fisher's cafe. The fish is about to die, hanging by a string.

"It was the moment when its colour emerged from the sea. Only the thin, soft membranes that surrounded it were trembling. I had never seen such movement... This trembling was actually a deathdance. It was as if the soul of the John Dory, blown by the wind, was leaving through these delicate membranes; as if there was nothing left..." Sait Faik's story about the horror, sadness, and what the fish might be thinking in its death actually opens the doors to our more humane emotions.

"I felt the fear that filled the heart of the John Dory fish inside me. It was a fear that we all know: the fear of death."

Sait Faik then imagines the John Dory fish joining us and living with us, wondering how we would torment it and make it sad. He emphasizes that we would turn this innocent fish back into a monster.

Thus, starting from the death of a fish and leading to criticism of our humanity, this story and the subsequent decline of the unfortunate John Dory concluded with its selection as the logo of the Mediterranean Conservation Society. We are glad that we made that choice.

We would like to thank Miraç Güldoğan, who helped us with the design of our logo even when he was just a student.

RESTRICTED FISHING AREAS

Restricted Fishing Areas were announced and published in the Official Gazette numbered 31221 on August 22, 2020. Fishing for aquatic products, both for recreational and commercial purposes, is prohibited in the areas marked on the maps and specified by coordinates, according to the regulations on sea products fishing.

DATÇA - BOZBURUN



FETHİYE-GÖCEK



GÖKOVA

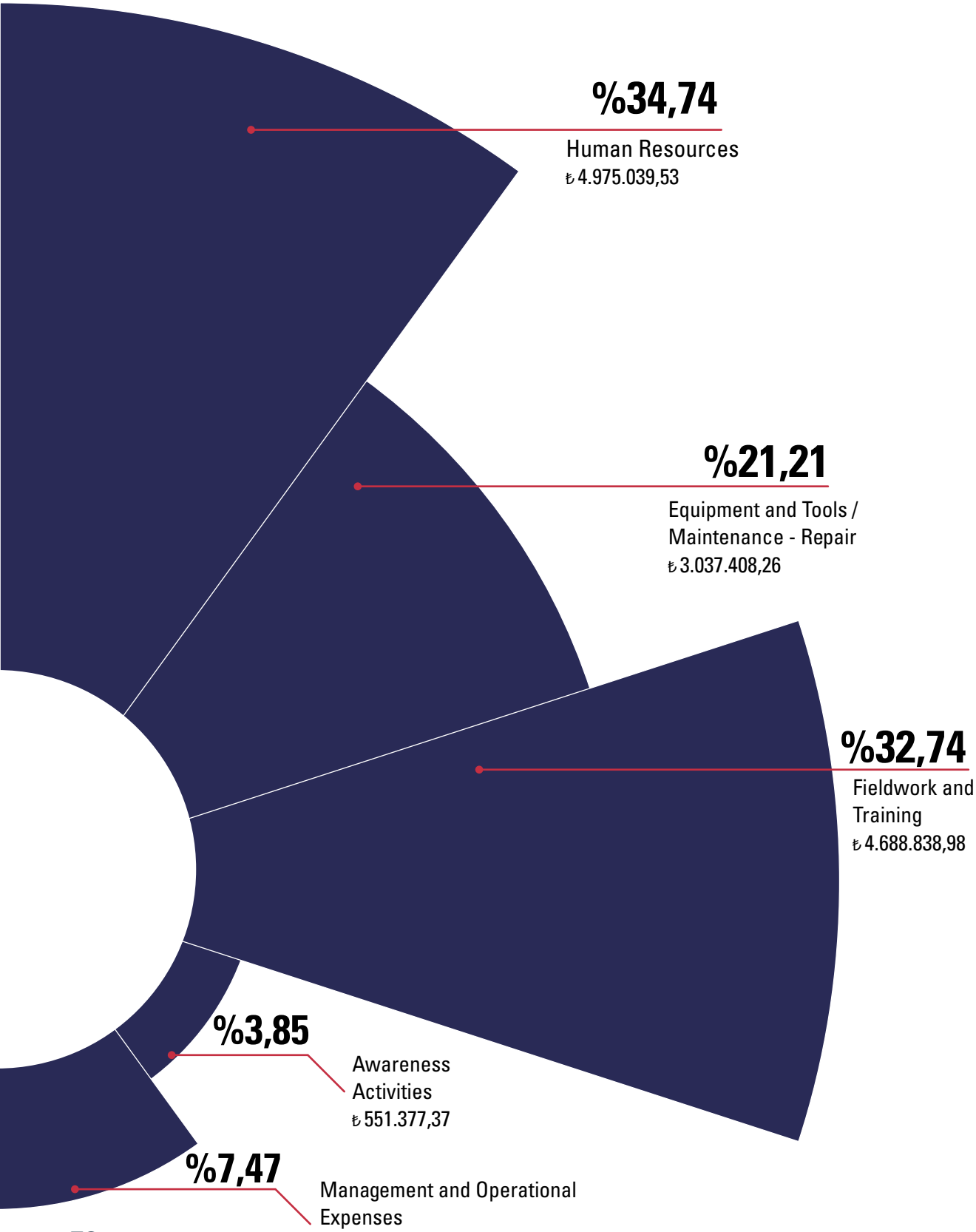


KAŞ - KEKOVA

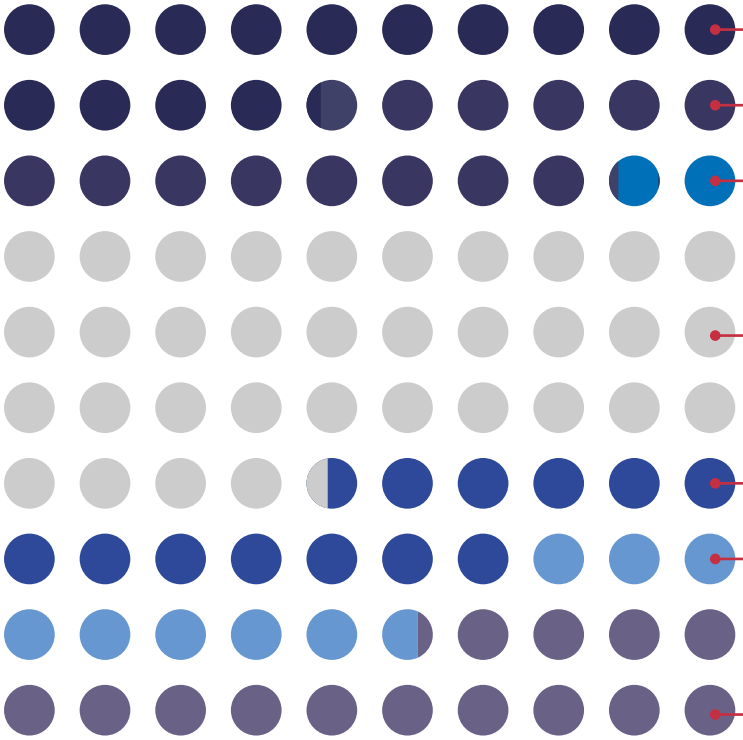


BUDGET

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



%14,22 Datça - Bozburun SEPA
₺2.037.015,73

%14,43 Fethiye - Göcek SEPA
₺2.066.616,34

%1,74 Foça SEPA
₺249.133,40

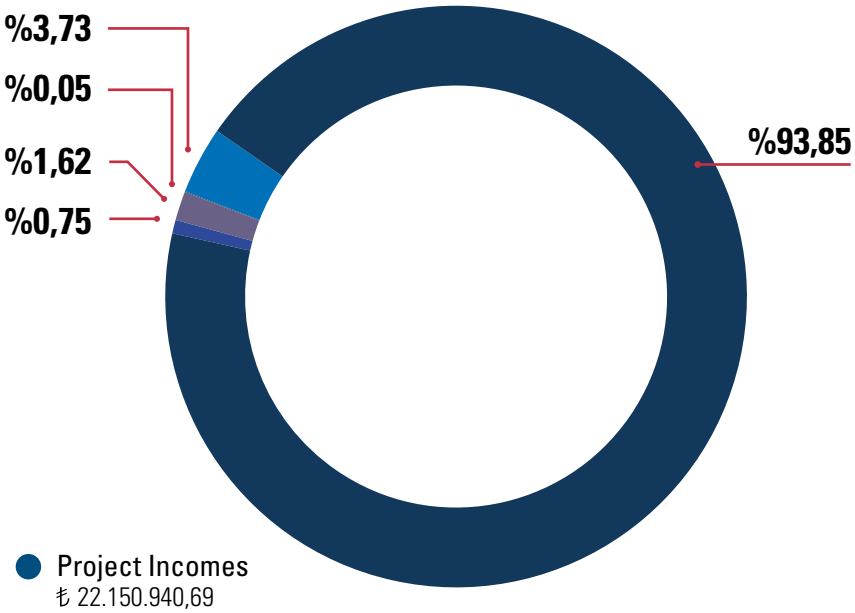
%34,47 Gökova SEPA
₺4.937.267,64

%12,36 Kaş - Kekova SEPA
₺1.770.801,86

%8,5 Bornova Main Office
₺1.217.563,08

%14,27 The New Fish Project
₺2.044.145,71

TYPES OF INCOME:



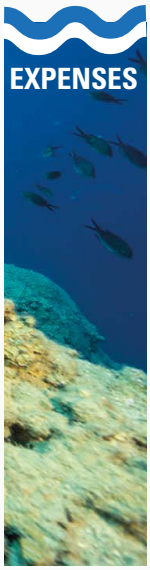
- Project Incomes
  ₺ 22.150.940,69
- Commercial Donation
  ₺ 177.529,64
- Individual Donation
  ₺ 381.309,99
- Membership Fees
  ₺ 11.479,08
- Other
  ₺ 879.352,26

USAGE OF BUDGET

₺ 23.600.611,67



₺ 14.322.543,75



THANK

FOUNDATIONS AND DONORS

Fauna & Flora International

Blue Marine Foundation

Endangered Landscapes Programme

Sigrid Rausing Trust

Audemars-Watkins Foundation

TUI Care Foundation

Rufford Small Grants Programme

GEF Small Grants Programme

The Prince Bernhard Nature Fund

Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas- MERCES

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC)

Arcadia

Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) - UN Environment Programme

ORGANISATIONS WE ARE MEMBERS OF

MedPAN

MedSeaAlliance

Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition

YOU

We would like to thank the 69 individual supporters who have supported the activities of the Mediterranean Conservation Society through their donations.

We also extend our gratitude to our followers who support us by following our social media accounts, helping our work reach a wider audience, and encouraging us with their likes and comments.

ORGANISATIONS

Mersin Deniz Ticaret Odası
Slow Fish Mersin
Slow Food Gökova
MSA Culinary Arts Academy
Ula Public Education Center
Akyaka Disaster Volunteers

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS/INTERNS

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Tuğçe Eroğlu
İlayda Ertürk
Mehmet Ali Gürbüz
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Güler Doğan
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Atıf Ölmez
Lale Orhan
Oben Orhan
Alkan Erdener Orhan
Ovel Orhan
Burhan Urkun
Tuncay Kayan
Levent Yüksel
Can Görgün
Selma Akad
Haluk Bozkurt
Murat Draman
Efe Erdem
Tolga Vatansever

WHO W





VE WORK WITH

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Interior, Coast Guard, and Gendarmerie Commands of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change General Directorate for the Protection of Natural Assets of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Republic of Türkiye

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks

Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Education, Muğla Provincial Directorate of National Education

Mugla Governorship

Marmaris District Governorship

Fethiye District Governorship

Ula District Governorship

Datca District Governorship

Menteşe District Governorship

Ortaca District Governorship

Dalaman District Governorship

Kas District Governorship

Demre District Governorship

Foça District Governorship

Ege University

Dokuz Eylül University

Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University

Girne University

Dokuz Eylul University Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology

Ege University Environmental Problems Application and Research Centre

Ege University & Herbarium Application and Research Centre Directorate

MUNICIPALITIES

Muğla Metropolitan Municipality

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

Ula Municipality

Fethiye Municipality

Marmaris Municipality

Kaş Municipality

Hinge Municipality

Karataş Municipality

Foça Municipality

Çeşme Municipality

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

WWF Türkiye

Deniz Yaşamını Koruma Derneği (Marine Life Conservation Society)

KuzeyDoğa Derneği (NorthNature Association)

DEKAMER (Sea Turtle Research, Rescue and Rehabilitation Center)

Dokuz Eylül Rotary Club

Çeşme Rotary Club

COOPERATIVES

The Central Union of Fishery Cooperatives (SÜR-KOOP)

Akbük Fishing Cooperative

Akyaka Fishing Cooperative

Akçapınar Fishing Cooperative

Bozburun Fishing Cooperative

Fethiye Çalış Fishing Cooperative

Göcek İnlice Fishing Cooperative

Datça Fishing Cooperative

Demre Fishing Cooperative

Karaköy Fishing Cooperative

Kalkan Fishing Cooperative

Marmaris Fishing Cooperative

Palamutbükü Cumali Fishing Cooperative



THE WARMING SEAWATER OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IS ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO SPONGES, CORALS, AND OTHER CORAL REEF ORGANISMS.



ABBREVIATIONS

Mediterranean Conservation Society,	**MCS**
Restricted Fishing Area, RFA	**RFA**
Marine Protected Area	**MPA**
Special Environmental Protection Area	**SEPA**
United Nations Environment Programme	**UNEP**
United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre,	**UNEP-WCMC**
International Union for Conservation of Nature	**IUCN**
Fauna & Flora International FFI	**FFI**

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%100

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