





“Life Plus” Youth Program

The “Life Plus” Youth Program, conducted through a partnership between the Coca-Cola Life Plus Foundation, the YADA Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has focused its activities on supporting youth aged 18-30 from across Turkey, both in thinking about Turkey’s environmental and societal problems and in creating projects that will assist in the solution of these problems since 2005. As Turkey’s oldest and longest-running environmental youth program, “Life Plus” not only provides financial support, ranging from 5000 to 50000 USD, to youth-led environmental projects, but also acts as a mentor in helping youth in conducting their projects.”Life Plus” Youth Program helps youth to consider and understand the unique environmental problems of their own regions which may eventually lead to societal problems, and encourages them to create partnerships in finding solutions to these problems.

The “Life Plus” Youth Program with its total two million dollar budget supported 52 youth-led projects from 34 of Turkey’s provinces on themes which can be grouped into categories

of wetlands protection, waste management, supporting the utilization of renewable energy resources, sustainable use and protection of forest resources etc.

With the “Life Plus” Youth Program more than 500 young people from different regions of Turkey have led “Life Plus” projects and become active participants in the field of civil society. In the last two years alone, messages related to Turkey’s water and forest resources, its renewable energy resources and waste management have been conveyed to almost 100000 people and approximately 20000 people have participated in project events, while the projects have also brought together 10000 members of civil society organizations, representatives of state institutions, agricultural, industrial or commercial organizations and universities. Through “Life Plus” Youth Program, more than 100 partnerships with governmental and municipal departments have been formed, production and irrigation methods of nearly 3000 farmers have been converted and more than 1000 people have experienced use of solar energy.

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Projects Supported in the Period 2010-2011

For a Cleaner Hazar

Organization: Anatolian Cooperative for the Protection of Nature and Culture (AnaDOKU)

Province: Elazığ/Hazar Lake Basin

Subject: Water (Hazar Lake)

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Association for the Protection of the Hazar Lake, Elazığ Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Elazığ Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry, Gezin Municipality, Fırat University

Hazar Lake, a B category Ramsar area with its significant nature, flora and bird species, contains 4 endemic plant species and 3 indigenous fish species that are on the verge of extinction. The Hazar Lake Management Plan which was initiated by the AnaDOKU Cooperative jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in 2009 and meetings held with stakeholders have pointed to pollution arising from tourism and especially from camping tourism as one of the main issues of the lake. The project aims to reduce the damages of camping tourism on the ecological areas on the shore of the Hazar Lake by ensuring an ecologically sound camping tourism in the region.



Let the Tortum Cascade; Let Nature be Restored

Organization: Atatürk University Community Volunteers' Club (AÜ Tog)

Province: Erzurum/Tortum, Uzundere

Subject: Water (Tortum Waterfall)

Partners/Supporting organizations:

Uzundere Municipality, Uzundere District Governorship, Uzundere Nature Youth and Sports Club Association, Çağlayan Science and Culture Association



Tortum waterfall constitutes the western end of the Caucasian Ecological Area which was declared as one of the 200 ecologically sensitive regions of the world by Conservation International in 2000. The Atatürk University Community Volunteers' Club is taking action to protect the Tortum waterfall which is under risk of losing its water as a result of a faulty hydroelectric power plant nearby. The project aims to promote ecological sustainability of the region by initiating ecological tourism activities, by mobilizing local administrations, public and non-governmental organizations and by raising awareness of the public on the issue on a local and international level.



**Breath to Country, Wealth to Farmers:
Project for the Conservation of Yıldız
Mountains Forests**

Organization: Boztaş Cooperative for Agricultural Development
Province: Kırklareli / Demirköy
Subject: Forest (Yıldız Mountains)
Partners/Supporting Organizations: Demirköy Directorate of Forestry, Kırklareli Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Demirköy District Directorate of Agriculture, Kırklareli Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry



The Ministry of Environment and Forestry emphasizes the importance of local people's participation in the protection of the forest on the Yıldız Mountains which is considered a biosphere reserve. The project aims to increase forest villagers' capacity to collect, transport, preserve and market natural mushrooms, thus creating an alternative source of livelihood and ensuring that the forest is protected in a sustainable way by decreasing human pressure on it.

Sweetgum Revival

Organization: Nature Conservation Centre
Province: Muğla/Köyceğiz
Subject: Forest (Endemic Oriental Sweetgum Forest)
Partners/Supporting Organizations: Köyceğiz Municipality, Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas, Köyceğiz Directorate of Forestry

Oriental Sweetgum trees which could only constitute a forest in Köyceğiz in the entire world covered an area of 6000 hectares in the 1960s but today they survive only on an area of 1000 hectares due to illegal deforestations. The project aims to ensure the ecological integrity of the sweetgum forest by creating forest corridors between dispersed forest segments and to strengthen local community's will to protect the forest by introducing more eco-friendly alternatives of livelihood like eco-tourism.



Environmentally Friendly Earth Worms

Organization: Aegean University Faculty of Agriculture, Project Group

Province: Izmir/Menemen

Subject: Water/Agriculture (Gediz Basin)

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Aegean Association, Menemen Chamber of Agriculture

The project aims to ensure the wider use of vermicompost, an organic type of fertilizer, in order to solve the pollution problem of water and soil in the Gediz Basin due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture.

Vermicompost prevents the pollution caused in the soil and water by chemical fertilizers and decreases the water usage in irrigation up to 40 – 60% by increasing the organic content and the water-retention capacity of the soil.

The project aims to introduce the technique of vermicompost to the farmers in the district of Menemen with demonstrative practices in pilot lands, thereby decreasing the chemical pollution in the Gediz River.



Bird Songs in Halep Pine Forests

Organization: Turkish Bird Research Society

Province: Adana/Yumurtalık

Subject: Forest (Halep Pine Forest)

Partners/Supporting organizations: Adana Regional Directorate of Forestry, Adana Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry, Deveciüşağı Nature Protection and Development Association, Adana Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports



The Halep Pine Forest, situated in the Yumurtalık Lagunes, contains 6 species of plants and many species of animals that are of protection priority. The Halep Pine Forest faces the threat posed by pine processionary caterpillars, which prevent pine trees from growing by consuming their offshoots. The project aims to protect the Halep Pine Forest by introducing biological measures like increasing reproductive success of songbirds that are natural consumers of the Halep pine trees to combat verminous pine processionary caterpillars.

Projects Supported in the Period 2009-2010

The Mediterranean Flourishes Once Again in Artvin

Organization: Yeşil Artvin Association

Province: Artvin/Yusufeli

Subject: Forest

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Artvin Çoruh University Faculty of Forestry, Artvin Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry, Yusufeli Directorate of Forestry



The project aimed to regenerate the ruined Mediterranean flora of Yusufeli, an area situated in the Caucasus Ecological Region which is one of the world's 25 hot spots. Yusufeli, despite the fact that it is located in the Black Sea region, has characteristics of a Mediterranean climate. The project, which aimed to restore the area's original Mediterranean vegetation cover, was developed in a model area and efforts were carried out with the local people to reinstate the traditional ground cover. This project represented the first example of such efforts implemented in a specialized area. With this unique feature the project has become a model for The Regional Directorates of Forestry and Forestry Faculties of Universities.



Do Not Let the Bakırçay (Copper River) Turn into a Coal River

Organization: Soma Civil Servants Association (SOMDER)

Province: Manisa/Soma

Subject: Water (Bakırçay River)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Manisa Technical Employees Association, Soma District Governorship, Soma Municipality, Turgutalp Municipality

This project developed out of a wish to halt the pollution of the Bakırçay Basin, one of the largest water basins in the entire Aegean

region and one that is being polluted by coal-washing process water. The first step in the project was the establishment of the Bakırçay Environmental Platform, which was joined by 35 individuals and organizations. This platform played a leading role by signing a statement that was then used as the primary resource for the North Aegean Basin Preservation Plan prepared by the Wetlands Department of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. To make the urgent problem more visible to the public, the project provided 200 people to attend a national league match and also gathered regional stakeholders at a photographic exhibition on Bakırçay. By the end of the project, water treatment facilities had been established at two of the Bakırçay Basin coal preparation plants.



An Oasis in the Steppes: The Seyfe Lake

An Oasis in the Steppes: The Seyfe Lake

Organization: Bozkır Environmental Association

Province: Kırşehir/Mucur

Subject: Water (Seyfe Lake)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Seyfe Lake Ecology and Nature Protection Association (SEYGED), Kırşehir Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, Wetlands Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kırşehir Municipality, Mucur Municipality, Kırşehir Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry

The aim of this project was to increase awareness on the need to find a solution to the gradual desiccation of Seyfe Lake, a Turkish wetland of international importance. The project brought



together academicians studying the wetlands of Turkey, local governmental bodies and representatives of local non-governmental organizations to find solutions for the problems faced by Seyfe Lake. In an effort to rejuvenate ecotourism in the lake area, ornithology training was provided to Ahi Evran University Birdwatching Club members. Moreover a Seyfe Ecotourism Guide was prepared and with an event called the Seyfe Lake Water Festival attended by 250 people, plans for the development of ecotourism in Seyfe Lake were introduced.

The Deepest Face of the Sea

Organization: Çukurova Underwater Speciality and Water Sports Club

Province: Hatay/İskenderun

Subject: Water (İskenderun Bay)

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Tekebaşı Aquaculture Cooperative,
BALKO Aquaculture Cooperative

This project aimed to demonstrate the dimensions of the solid waste pollution in the Iskenderun Bay, an area of great importance to tourism, and to introduce measures to prevent further pollution. With the participation of the project team, approximately 80 tons of plastic waste was identified through 36 trawl operations in the area and 65 tons of plastic waste was identified as a result of coastal examinations. The data obtained through this project were used to demonstrate the type and distribution of the solid waste at Iskenderun Bay and a report was then prepared which will be a reference source for efforts to clean up the bay in the future.



Sun Harvest

Organization: Başka Association

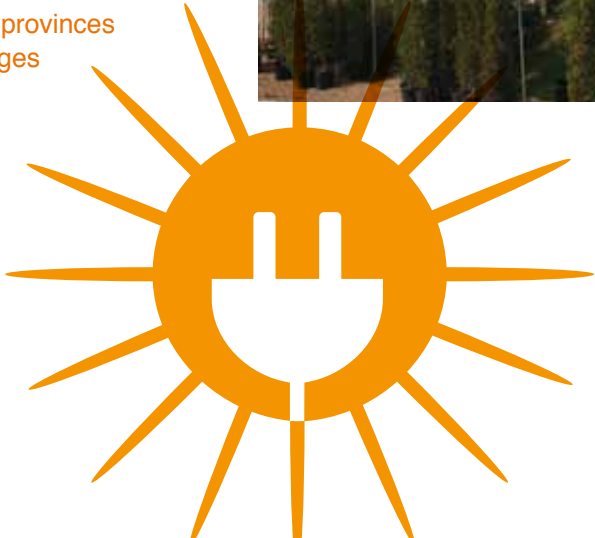
Province: Bursa/Nilüfer

Subject: Energy (Solar Energy)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Nilüfer
Local Agenda 21, Nilüfer Municipality

The Sun Harvest project aimed to create a model for the use of renewable energy sources in the public sphere and enable local administrations to benefit from Turkey's renewable energy potential. With the collaboration of the Municipality of Nilüfer, the Four Seasons Park in Bursa was transformed into a park illuminated by solar power and was inaugurated with the participation of 150 people. Other municipalities of Bursa and municipalities in neighbouring provinces were informed on the advantages and phases of the project.

As a result of the electricity savings achieved in the park, solar power systems will now be established in other parks within the Municipality of Nilüfer.



Good Agriculture for a Clean Eğirdir

Organization: Anatolian Cooperative for the Protection of Nature and Culture (AnaDOKU)

Province: Isparta/Eğirdir

Subject: Water (Eğirdir Lake)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Eğirdir Tepeli Agricultural Development Cooperative, Isparta Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Süleyman Demirel University Faculty of Agriculture, Eğirdir Garden Cultures Research Institute Directorate, Isparta Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry



This project aimed to encourage apple farmers in the Eğirdir water basin to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in order to reduce agricultural pollution in Eğirdir Lake, Turkey's second-largest fresh water lake. Apple farmers in the region were instructed on Good Agricultural Practices and 75 farmers were given hands-on training. A total of 75 farmers and 11 trainers who participated in the program were given GAP training certificates issued by the Isparta Provincial Directorate of Agriculture. With this project apple farmers gathered at pilot fields with farmers who had not participated in the training program and passed on the knowledge they had acquired through the GAP training, thus ensuring diffusion of information on Good Agricultural Practices.





Productive Agriculture for a Clean Tigris

Organization: Dicle University Students and Graduates Association

Province: Diyarbakır/Dicle

Subject: Water (Tigris River)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Dicle University Faculty of Agriculture, Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Diyarbakır Chamber of Agriculture, Sur District Governorship, Yenişehir District Governorship, Elidolu Village

The project aimed to fight pollution caused by pesticides in the Tigris River. Steps were taken to prevent harmful agricultural practices in the area via an exemplary field plowed parallel to the river. Fifty-four villagers from two villages in Diyarbakır took part in trainings in this exemplary field that demonstrated the parallel plowing technique and its advantages. The project team promoted its project at a booth in the International Fair of Agriculture held in Diyarbakır in May which was visited by 20000 people. The project has raised awareness among farmers and agricultural bodies on the pollution of the Tigris River and on harmful agricultural practices.



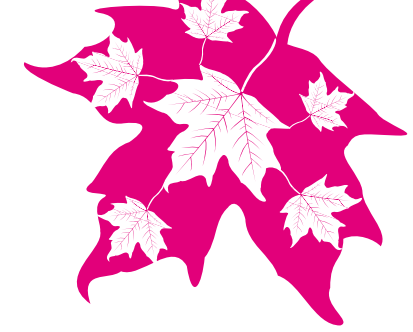
Tomorrow's Sweet Gum Forests

Organization: Nature Conservation Centre

Province: Muğla/Köyceğiz

Subject: Forest (Endemic Oriental Sweetgum Forest)

Partners/Supporting Organizations: Agency for the Protection of Special Areas, Köyceğiz Directorate of Forestry, Köyceğiz Tourism and Environment Association



The project aimed to protect and help development of the world's only sweet gum forests. The beautiful oriental sweet gum trees are found only in the Muğla – Köyceğiz area and have been disappearing due to a lack of adequate protection. Following extensive field work and research, a group of 70 people including the Mayor and District Governor of Köyceğiz, officials from the Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forests, local citizens and students gathered to plant 300 sweet gum trees in designated areas. The project booth, where the importance of sweet gum trees was explained, was visited by 300 local people. Through the work it carried out, the project raised awareness on the plight of sweet gum forests in the Muğla area.



Projects Supported in the Period 2008-2009

Seyfe Dry Land Becomes a Lake

Organization: Çanakkale 18 Mart University
Province: Kırşehir/Mucur
Subject: Water (Seyfe Lake)
Partners/Supporting Organizations:
Ministry of Environment and Forestry General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks, Wetlands Commission, Seyfe Lake Protection and Development Association, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Association, Ahi Evran University Vocational High School, Mucur Municipality

The Seyfe Lake of Kırşehir ranks as one of Turkey's 12 most vital wetlands of global importance. During the past decade, the lake has gradually begun to desiccate. The project has informed the public on the importance and the crucial problems of the lake, which has been forgotten since it lost its beauty and many of its natural features. The Seyfe Lake Action Plan, prepared as part of the Project, has placed the lake on the agenda of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry.



One Drop, a Thousand Crops Everywhere

Organization: Balıkesir University Faculty of Science and Letters

Province: Balıkesir

Subject: Water (Drip Irrigation)

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Balıkesir Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Pamukçu-Aslıhan Tepecik Plain Irrigation Union, Balıkesir Directorate of Public Waterworks Administration, Paşaköy Directorate of Agriculture Credit Cooperation, Balıkesir Ziraat Bank Head Office, Balıkesir Plains Irrigation Union, Balıkesir Head Office of Agriculture Credit Cooperation Union

This project developed a model to encourage farmers to change their irrigation methods as a way of saving water resources. Under the leadership of this project, the number of farmers in Balıkesir using the drip irrigation method increased 200 fold within two years, rising from 5 to 1000. Moreover, a consultation network was established to ease the farmers' transition to the drip irrigation method which has reached a total of 1500 farmers.



Clean Gediz Pace by Pace

Organization: Aegean Association
Province: İzmir, Manisa, Uşak, Kütahya
Subject: Water (Gediz Basin)

The Gediz Basin ranks as one of the world's seven most fertile river basins. To draw attention to the pollution of the Gediz River, the most important water source in the basin, the project has made presentations to almost 1000 students in over 20 schools and has reached 9000 people through its photography exhibitions and the booths it has set up on environmental days. The project events were held in four provinces in the basin and have managed to enroll 3000 people, among them governors, mayors and officials from the Provincial Departments of Environment and Forestry of these four provinces as 'Clean Gediz' volunteers.



100% Cycle

Organization: Başka Association
Province: Bursa/Nilüfer
Subject: Energy (Solar Energy)
Partners/Supporting Organizations:
Nilüfer Local Agenda 21, Nilüfer Municipality,
Yu-Ba Irrigation Systems Limited Company

The aim of this project was to create practices that would facilitate the use of solar energy in our daily lives. A demonstration area was established which consisted of a house and a greenhouse using solar energy for heating and electricity. To date, almost 1200 people have visited the House and Greenhouse. Moreover, the House has enabled 100 people to attain first-hand knowledge and experience in the use of solar energy.





Manyas Demands its Clean Water Back

Organization: Misya Environment Association

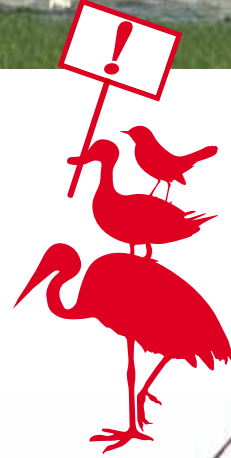
Province: Balıkesir/Bandırma

Subject: Water (Manyas Lake)

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Bandırma District Governorship, Bereketli Village Aquaculture Cooperative, Balıkesir Municipality, Bandırma Municipality, Balıkesir Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry, Balıkesir Provincial Directorate of Tourism and Agriculture, Balıkesir University

Topping the list of Turkey's lakes of international significance and known as a Bird Paradise, Manyas Lake is now battling heavy pollution. This project has drawn attention to the plight of Manyas Lake and has succeeded in bringing together a group of organizations and individuals that extends from farmers to industrialists, from fishermen to municipalities and provincial environmental departments and has prepared an emergency action plan to clean up the lake.



Waste Masterpieces

Organization: Mardin Culture and Art Association

Province: Mardin

Subject: Solid Waste

Partners/Supporting Organizations:

Environment, Ecology and Supporting Wildlife Association, Mardin Municipality, Mardin Provincial Directorate of Environment and Forestry

This project aimed to attract attention to Mardin's solid waste problem by encouraging the recycling of solid waste in a creative manner. Under the leadership of a sculptor, primary school students and residents of Mardin transformed solid waste items, which were collected and sorted throughout the project, into sculptures, or rather "Waste Masterpieces." These recycled works of art were then exhibited in the Mardin Museum.



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