

DOĞA DERNEĞİ

2023

ACTIVITY REPORT



Doga Dernegi 2023 Annual Activity Report

Doga Dernegi (BirdLife in Türkiye) 2023, İzmir, Türkiye

Orhanlı Mahallesi, 7102 Sokak No:1 Seferihisar, İzmir

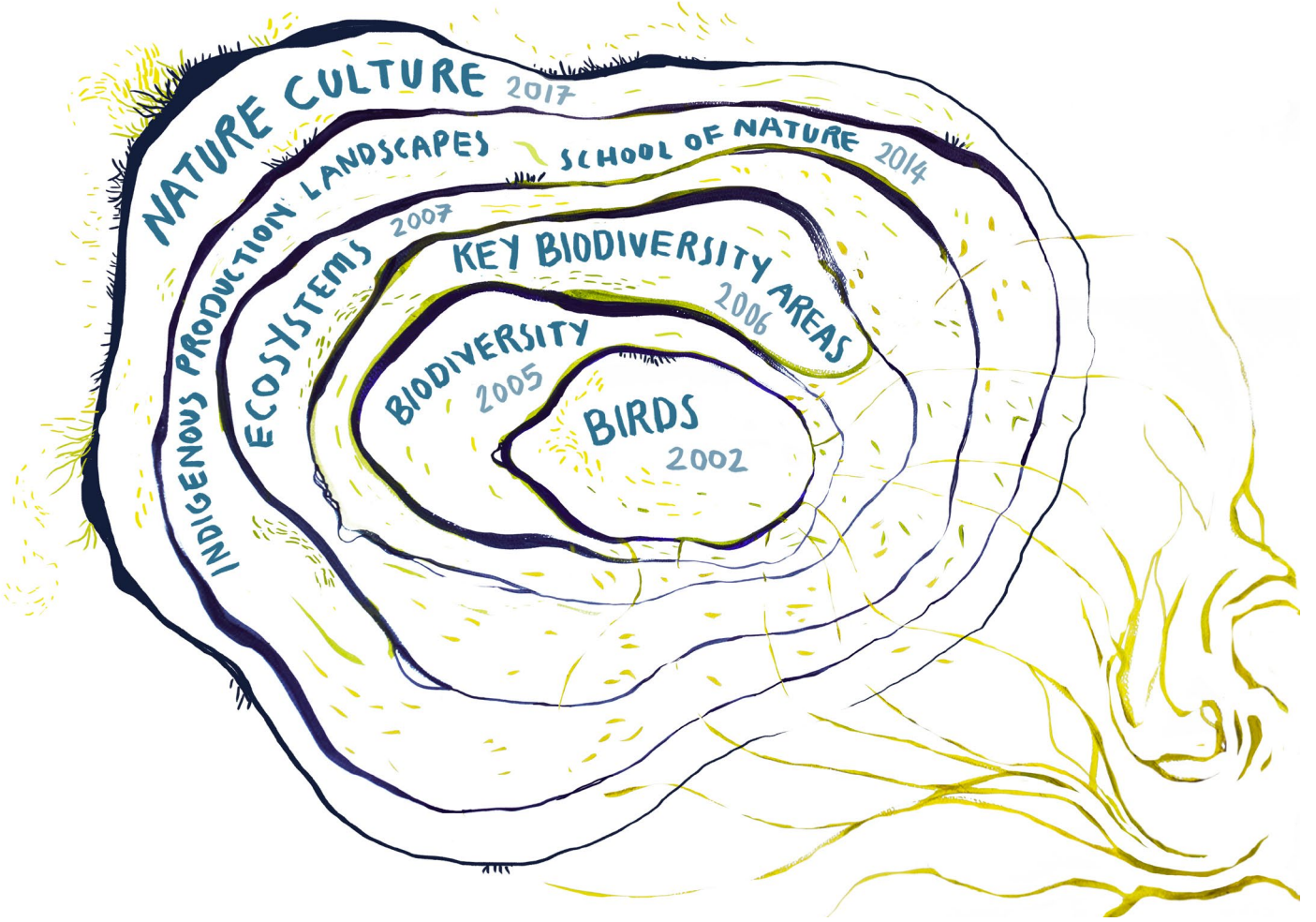
Tel: 0850 840 60 49

Fax: 0850 303 92 12

E-mail: doga@dogadernegi.org

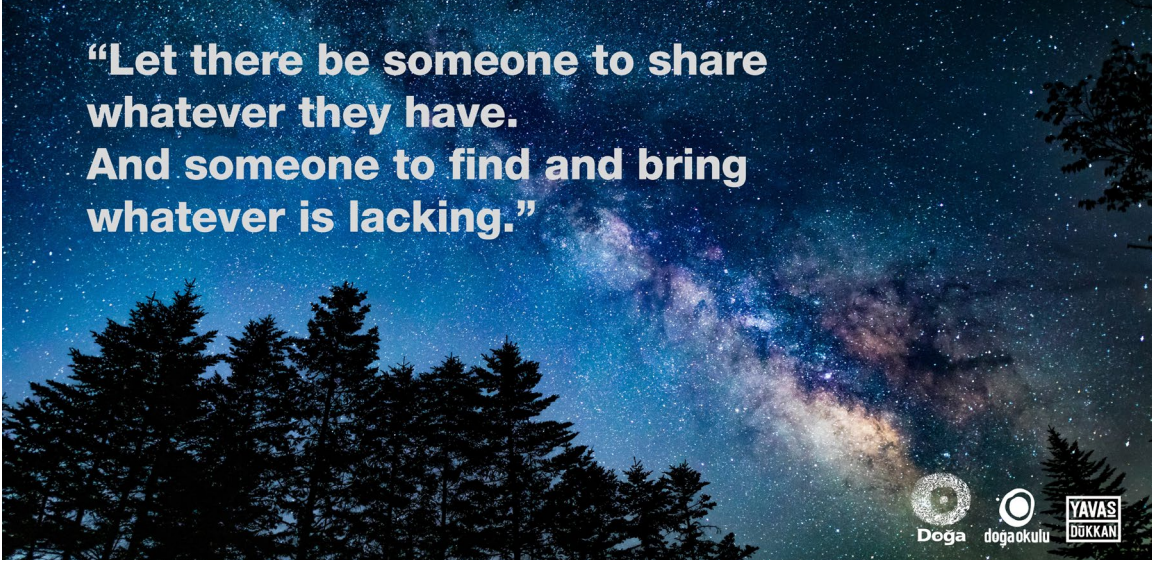
Website: www.dogadernegi.org/en/

ISBN: 978-625-99419-3-6



Main Areas of Doga's Work

WE HAVE A WISH FOR ANATOLIA...



Did 2023 not pass exactly like this? We always wanted to share whatever we had... With hope in our hearts, we were united in the struggle after the February 6 earthquake that affected all of us deeply, as well as at the Akbelen Forest, Doganyurt Village and Lake Marmara. Everyone cooperated during the earthquake disaster to deliver help to the region. Once again, we experienced what it's like to share. Although we did not have a background in this field, together with our volunteers, we could support around 6000 people who were either staying in the region or had to leave. This disaster did not show how much we need the power of kindness.

After the elections, significant massacres started again. Those led by Limak Holding and YK Enerji in the Akbelen Forest become black marks on the history of nature conservation in Türkiye. We were all there for Akbelen. The only thing that was missing was the law. Justice was not served under any circumstances. This year, too, we continued our efforts to defend the rights of nature. “Climate Justice” was the term we heard the most this year. We organised four seminars with experts working in the field. Many lives are under threat due to the impact of climate change, and the conditions are not equal. We must be ready to seek justice against

this inequality. For this purpose, the Climate Justice Network was established with 155 legal experts. We held the third of the Law and Nature School. Our network of legal experts reached 129 people. As a result of the most critical case we won this year, we prevented the change in regulations regarding the opening of wetlands for organised industrial zones. This year, we insulated 100 more electric poles in Mersin to avoid electrocution and collusion, a severe threat to birds. With a total of 348 poles, the insulation of a 40 km line was completed. Birds like storks, vultures and eagles will now have a safer migration journey.

Our Turkish radio program Doğa Sohbetleri (Nature Conversations) started on Açık Radyo. You can listen to our show, where we invite various experts, on Wednesdays at 14.00 every week or from the Açık Radyo's archive. One of the most important news in 2023 was the recognition of Anatolian olive cultivation in UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Olive trees were among the most affected by climate change; they could not bear olives in many regions. Is this giving us notice of an impending food and water crisis? No matter what happens, Anatolia is very powerful. All we need to do is to sustain the teachings of Anatolia's nature and culture.

We combined the 20th Türkiye Bird Conference with the Flamingo Festival. More than a hundred participants were there to join us at Izmir's Gediz Delta. Our restoration activities have also started on the foundations of our comprehensive studies in the Gediz Delta.

We are updating the inventory of Türkiye's Key Biodiversity Areas together with experts and academics after 17 years.

We are determining the current status of threatened, endemic and narrowly distributed species and their habitats in Türkiye.

Throughout the year, we have prepared guides, scientific articles, and reports on various topics and shared them on our website for everyone to access. One is the "Advocacy Guide for Defenders of Nature", outlining our 20 years of experience in nature advocacy.

We have all witnessed that time can bend in 2023. Days, hours, and minutes slowed down with disasters

like earthquakes we experienced. Önder CIRIK, who had significantly contributed to nature and culture, were among those we lost in the earthquake. We also lost Tansu GÜRPINAR, considered the connoisseur of conservation in Türkiye, to illness. With every breath we take, we feel the sorrow of witnessing the wars and genocides happening in the world from afar.

We wish you a new year in which we will follow nature's footsteps.



Tansu Gürpınar, Honorary Member of Doga Derneği.



Photograph of Doga Team, Meke Lake.

BIRDS

Our bird program, our focus since our foundation, includes research, conservation, and raising awareness of threatened bird species and their habitats. We are actively continuing our work to support the lives of the species we focus on.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE (*Neophron percnopterus*)



Egyptian Vulture. Photograph: Rudmer Zwerver

The globally endangered (EN) Egyptian vulture has a range that includes different regions of Anatolia. Türkiye is home to the most critical European breeding populations for Egyptian vultures, the smallest of the four vulture species living in Anatolia. Additionally, the individuals breeding in the Balkans and Eastern Europe migrate through Türkiye twice a year. In 2022, we insulated 248 electric poles that posed a threat to the Egyptian vulture in Mersin, Adana and Ankara. This year, we insulated **100 more electric poles** that threaten the migration of species in Mersin. A dangerous line for approximately 40 km has been made safe, and 348 electric poles have been isolated. Thus, the first and largest insulation project of Türkiye was completed.

This year, we conducted more comprehensive research in Mersin on the breeding areas we identified in 2021. We determined the region's active and potential nesting locations and uncovered the foraging areas they use extensively. In 2024, we will determine the breeding success as an outcome of our studies.

At the Global Egyptian Vulture Conference, we presented our publication, which compiled Egyptian



Vulture Nest Survey.

vulture research in Türkiye. The study's abstract was **published** in the African Journal, and the full text was published in Acta Zoologica Bulgarica. You can watch videos about our work on the Egyptian vulture from the past to the present on our **YouTube** channel.



Mersin Isolation Fieldwork.

GREAT BUSTARD (*Otis tarda*)



Great Bustard. Photograph: Ignacio Yúfera

The heaviest flying bird and a symbol of the steppes, the number of great bustards is rapidly decreasing due to threats such as intensive industrial agriculture activities, destruction of pastures and hunting. It is estimated that 600 adult individuals remain in Türkiye and 30,000 worldwide. In its latest update, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) raised the status of the species from vulnerable (VU) to endangered (EN). Unfortunately, more conservation efforts are needed for the Great Bustard now. We studied the lesser-known habitats of the great bustard in Central Anatolia and detected the presence of the species in certain regions. Our efforts to determine the breeding activity of the species in the identified areas will continue in 2024.

SOCIABLE LAPWING (*Vanellus gregarius*)

Anatolia lies at the intersection between the flora of Iran, Turkey, the Mediterranean, and the Caucasus. Consequently, species that require different habitats can live together. The sociable lapwing, one of the indicators of the unique geography of Anatolia, is critically endangered (CR). These birds are seen in Türkiye only during migration seasons when they stop and forage on the steppes. This year, we investigated the sociable lapwings, the species we monitor yearly during migration periods, in the steppes of Sanliurfa.



Sociable Lapwing. Photograph: Turan Çetin

We conducted comprehensive surveys in the region between September 24 and October 20, 2023. On the last days of field research, we encountered a group of sociable lapwings consisting of at least 200 individuals.

While the region is an agricultural enterprise area and the crop pattern changes yearly, making research more complex, the fact that social lapwings still occupy the region is essential for the species' future. The researchers and the sociable lapwings that use the area are negatively affected by this change in the crop pattern. During their challenging migration journeys, they need more energy to find suitable stopover sites in the region every year.



Steppes of Sanliurfa.

AUDOUIN'S GULL (*Larus audouinii*)



Audouin's Gull. Photograph: Sezai Gökseu

Audouin's gull, an endangered seabird, is categorised as globally vulnerable (VU) according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria. As one of the 17 gull species recorded in Türkiye so far, it can be observed throughout the year along the Aegean and the Mediterranean coasts. We have prepared a report consisting of the studies on the species, its current range, population status and the threats it faces in **Turkish** and **English**. Türkiye has excellent potential for Audouin's Gull, which exhibits high dispersal ability and whose numbers are increasing due to conservation measures. Therefore, coastal ecosystems and islands must be protected, and the threats against the species must be eliminated.

DALMATIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus crispus*)

The Dalmatian pelican is a seabird categorised as near threatened (NT). It is the biggest pelican species recorded in Türkiye, with a wingspan of 3.10 metres. We coordinated the work in priority Dalmatian pelican areas within the scope of the Southeastern European Pelican Census on May 25, 2023. With the support of local experts, the surveys in critical regions were completed.



Dalmatian Pelican. Photograph: Alper Tüydeş

12 Dalmatian Pelican individuals in the Işıklı Lake, 25 in Acıgöl, 37 in the Manyas Lake, 9 in the Arapçiftliği Lake, 168 in the Gediz Delta, 150 in the Büyük Menderes Delta, and 2 in both the Kocaçay Delta and Uluabat Lake were recorded.

MID-WINTER WATERBIRD CENSUS (MWC)

The Mid-Winter Waterbird Census, organised annually by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, provides critical information on waterbirds wintering in wetlands. The results contribute to nature conservationists in many processes, such as determining Important Bird Areas (IBA), declaring and suggesting conservation areas, and prioritising conservation efforts.

We voluntarily contributed to the work in the wetlands in Izmir, Aydın, Manisa and Muğla, which are under



MWC-Kutlu Aktaj Dam

the jurisdiction of the 4th Regional Directorate. We supported the team formation, setting of survey times and dates, reliable data collection, and data compilation in the censuses carried out in the second and third weeks of January. We converted the census results into a report through data analysis and shared them with the directorate.



MWC - Güllük Bay.

GEDİZ DELTA COLONIAL BREEDING BIRD CENSUS



Mediterranean Gull. Photograph: Ahmet Kaya

The Gediz Delta remains a source of life for thousands of lives. Among the species in the delta, those breeding as a colony include terns, little terns, Caspian terns, sandwich terns, yellow-legged gulls, slender-billed gulls, Mediterranean gulls, Dalmatian pelicans and flamingos. We conducted field studies in May and June to determine the breeding population of these species in the delta. This study identified these colonial breeding species' nesting sites and current population sizes. These studies carried out with the support of the Izmir Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, are essential in identifying the vulnerable areas in the delta and the activities in these areas. Based on the results obtained, the delta change will be brought to light with the scientific publication.

EUROBIRDWATCH

Yearly organised European Birdwatching Day activities were carried out on September 30 and October 1. Volunteer groups and individuals coordinated by Doga Dernegi organised birdwatching activities in the area they determined. Observations were recorded in seven cities in eight locations and gathered in a report. It was then compiled with the results of activities from other European countries. In total, 6833 individuals were observed in Türkiye.



Detaylı bilgi için →

MIGRATORY SOARING BIRDS FESTIVAL

Mersin is an important stopover site for migratory, soaring birds. Raptors and species like storks, pelicans, and cranes pass through this region during migration seasons. To bring attention to the threats these species face on their migration routes, we organised the Migratory Soaring Birds Festival in the area where power lines are insulated. Many local institutions, including Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, and national press took part in the event attended by 60 people on August 22, 2023. We will continue to work with institutions to organise similar awareness projects during future migration seasons.



Festival team in Mersin.

FLAMINGO FESTIVAL AND 20th TÜRKİYE BIRD CONFERENCE

The 20th Türkiye Bird Conference took place in Izmir's Gediz Delta. Unlike previous years, we combined it with the Flamingo Festival this year. Including our international guests, 140 people participated in the conference. At the same time, the public festival caused great excitement. 13 volunteers supported our conference, held in memory of Önder CIRIK, whom we lost in the February 6 earthquake. The Izmir Metropolitan Municipality supported and hosted it on September 15 -17. You can access the video of the conference [here](#).



Önder Cırık.



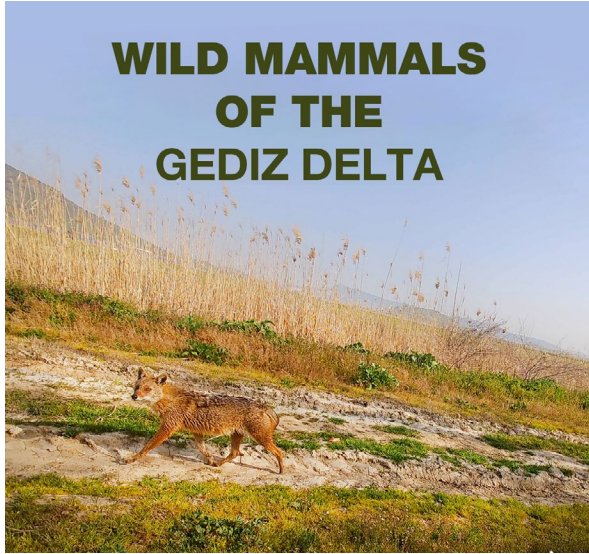
20th Türkiye Bird Conference.

BIODIVERSITY

Our biodiversity program, which includes studies on other critical species groups and birds, mainly focuses on combating threats. Studies and legal battles also continued at a busy pace in 2023.

WILD MAMMAL RESEARCH IN IZMIR

We continue our study on mammalian wildlife in Gediz Delta, which began in 2021. With the permission of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, we have placed camera traps on the delta, which provides us with information regarding wildlife in the region and their occupation pattern. Wild mammals like golden jackals, wild boars, red foxes, European badgers and hares continue living in the Gediz Delta together. You can access our videos featuring some of these species on our [YouTube](#) channel.



WILDLIFE CRIMES

Wild animals, whose habitats are rapidly being destroyed, are also under pressure due to wildlife crimes such as hunting, poisoning and smuggling. Wildlife crimes consist of activities against conservation laws, posing a threat to wild animals and plants.

These crimes are a significant threat in Türkiye as they are in most countries. However, due to the sheer

geographical size and lack of human resources, the obtained data is insufficient, and the severity of the threats is based only on estimations. The number of wild animals that were directly or indirectly poisoned, legally or illegally hunted and smuggled is not known. Controls and inspections are lacking for the vast geographical area covered by Türkiye. At least 25 million birds are illegally killed in the Mediterranean, Europe and the Caucasus. We are keeping up with our efforts to determine the severity of this threat across Türkiye and to lead decision-makers in taking precautions. In November, we organised an online workshop with our Spanish partner SEO and the participation of more than 300 Nature Conservation and National Parks staff members. This workshop provided an effective start for the work on wildlife crimes.

We translated and republished the Rome Strategic Plan prepared under the leadership of the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The plan is essential for decision-makers, non-governmental organisations and related researchers, as it aims to prevent illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region.



SHEPHERDS NETWORK MODEL

As part of the Shepherd Network, we record information from seasonally and altitudinally migrating shepherds and other members. These records contain information regarding the habitats of Egyptian vultures and numerous wild animals like cranes, storks, wild goats and Eurasian lynxes. Thus, we can monitor the situation in the area, witness threats in the region earlier and act faster.



6TH LAWSUIT AGAINST GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT IN SEFERIHISAR'S ORHANLI VILLAGE

Together with the residents of Orhanlı Village (Seferihisar, Izmir), we persist in our resistance against the Geothermal Power Plant (GPP) projects, which will destroy the production and biodiversity in the basin. In the past four years, we have won 5 legal battles against the planned GPP projects in the region. However, a project was revised with minimal changes by Kucuk Menderes Enerji A.S. and presented again to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. Despite the scientific reports, legal achievements, and protests of the local community, the ministry approved the project license and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Together with 98 individuals and five organisations, we filed our 6th lawsuit against this EIA Positive Decision. These projects threaten the lives of thousands of living, as well as the culture of olive cultivation, agriculture and animal husbandry that have persisted uninterrupted for thousands of years in the Orhanlı Valley, an Indigenous Production Landscape.

We keep resisting corporations' projects that destroy nature with the same determination we had on our first day..



RESISTANCE AGAINST THE MASSACRE OF NATURE IN BEYPAZARI

In Doğanyurt Village (Bey pazari, Ankara), the local community and non-governmental organisations have been fighting for years against the planned project for the "Limestone Quarry and Crushing & Screening Plant". Doğanyurt is the habitat for the four vulture species, mammals like red deer and brown bears, and 21 endemic plants. This project had been exempted from an EIA. Last year, we won the lawsuit we filed together with villagers and non-governmental organisations. The company applied again for the project, but the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Water and Sewerage Administration (ASKI) gave an adverse opinion as it would affect groundwater, and the EIA process was terminated. Currently, efforts to declare the area as protected are in progress.



KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

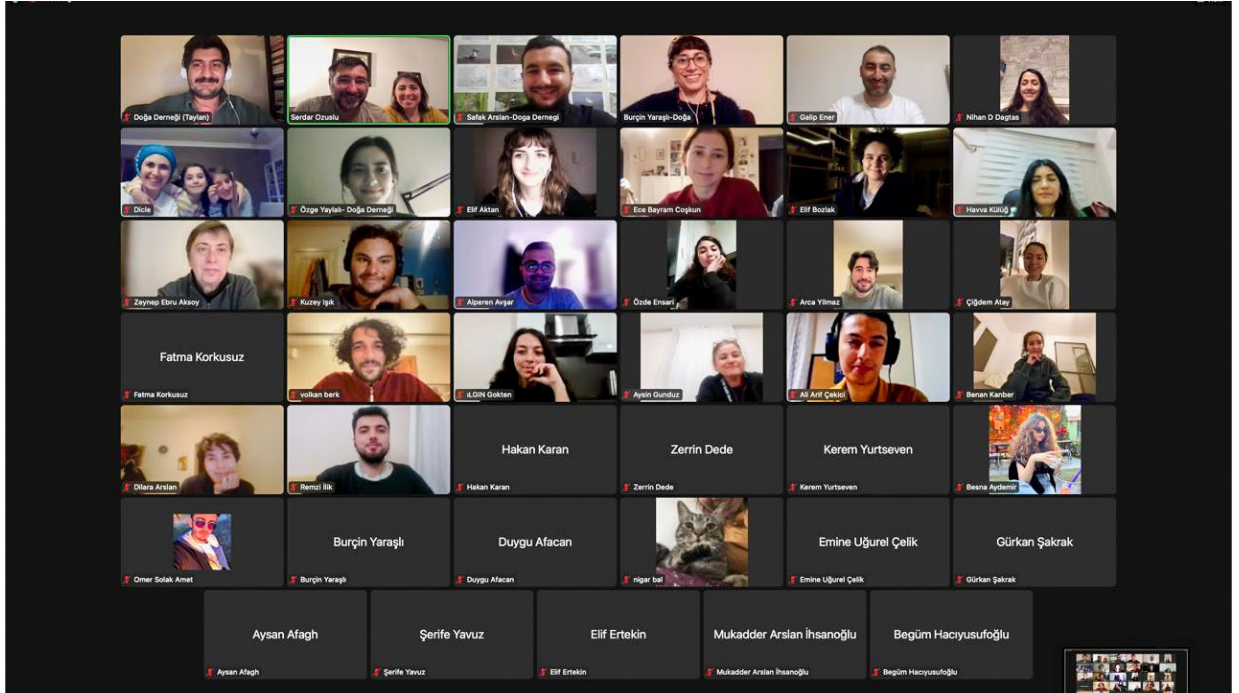
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) describe the most critical areas regarding species and habitats. The KBA approach, used to determine vulnerable and unique natural areas, was introduced to the scientific literature in 2004 by an international team, including experts from Doga Derneği. Together with numerous experts and academics, we were the first organisation to prepare and publish the first national KBA inventory in 2006. Today, in Türkiye and many other countries worldwide, these inventories are being updated by the new criteria. Since 2006, we have been conducting studies and conservation studies on KBAs.

TÜRKİYE'S KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS BEING UPDATED

Türkiye's Key Biodiversity Areas of international importance is being updated 17 years later with new criteria and nine taxa (plants, molluscs, damselflies, butterflies, inland freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds). Consisting of 12 academics and experts, the coordination team will have completed their work by the end of 2024.

Other experts and volunteers will be included in the efforts during this period. As a result of this project, the current status of Türkiye's biodiversity and habitats will be presented, and the list of threats and natural areas in need of protection will be updated. You can find detailed information on this update on our [website](#).

We have received 99 volunteer applications to help with the updating process. Volunteers will provide support on issues such as identifying threats and conservation efforts in the chosen region. If you have any information regarding the current status of a KBA or would like to share photographs of any KBAs or species, you can contact us at gonullu@dogaderneği.org.



Meeting of KBA Volunteers.

GEDIZ DELTA KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA

We prepared a **report** on the extensive bird and wild mammal studies we carried out in 2022 in the Gediz Delta. Our study, where we determined the breeding birds throughout the delta, was accepted to be published in OSME Sandgrouse scientific journal. We shared our findings in meetings with local stakeholders. Fishers, mukhtars, farmers, cooperatives and NGO members shared their opinions and objectives. More than 100 people attended these meetings, including representatives of decision-makers.



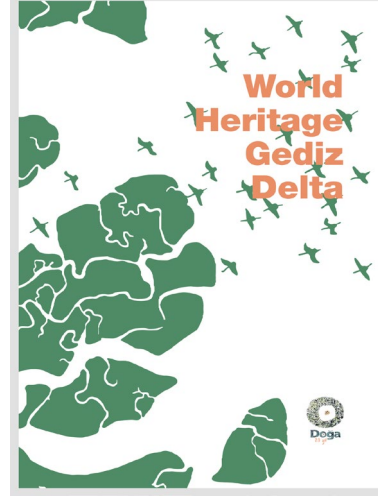
Gediz Delta Civil Society Meeting. 10.03.23

We provided information about Gediz Delta to the secondary school students from the five schools located in the delta. We made visual presentations in classrooms and followed it up with birdwatching activities outside. With the permission of the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and the Ministry of Education, 521 students and 22 teachers were involved in these activities. These activities aim to raise the awareness of children and educators to embrace, monitor, and defend the delta against threats from the next generations. To promote the Gediz Delta, we organised free Gediz Delta Birdwatching Walks on four different days.



School Activity

More than 150 people participated in these trips. We prepared the **Gediz Delta Film** and **booklet**, describing life in the delta.



RESTORATION EFFORTS BEGAN

Following our extensive studies on the Gediz Delta, we began the necessary restoration work to increase biodiversity and minimise threats in the delta. Our efforts started with a 51-partner European Union project to carry out the determined activities. The project aims to combine the individual efforts of regions and communities from different countries and continents in a meaningful manner to provide a framework to build climate resistance in the area. As per this objective, nine pilot areas were chosen in the Mediterranean biogeographical region, including the Gediz Delta.

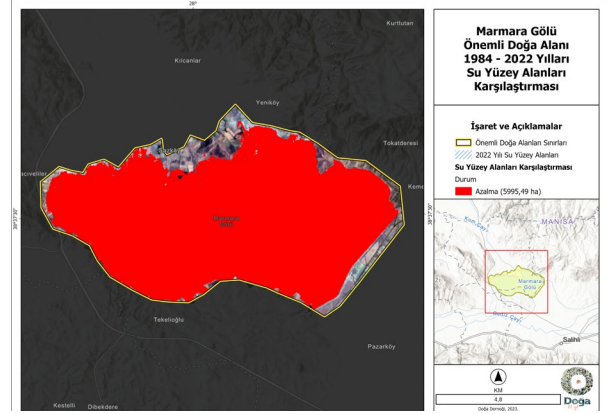
You can find detailed information regarding the restoration work on our **website**.



Restoration Project Team.

WE PERSIST IN OUR FIGHT FOR LAKE MARMARA

Lake Marmara Wetland was completely dried up in 2022. Our efforts continue for its restoration and to be home to living beings once again. Lake Marmara, located within the borders of Manisa province, was desiccated due to wrong planning and practices in agriculture and water policies. We filed lawsuits against the destruction in Lake Marmara together with concerned individuals, cooperatives and NGOs. You can find detailed information regarding the activities in Lake Marmara in recent years from this [link](#). Our lawsuits are currently in progress. It is an urgent priority to prevent wrong water use and agricultural practices on top of the already existing threats on Lake Marmara, located within the Mediterranean Basin, one of the regions that will be primarily affected by climate change.



Dried Lake Marmara. Photograph: Berkay Tunali

ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystems bring different habitats together and are vital for all living. The focus of our ecosystem studies, the fourth of Doga's rings of work, is the wetlands that have experienced the greatest extinction. Many wetlands and freshwater cycles are being destroyed due to wrong water, agriculture and mining policies.

DECISION IN FAVOUR OF WETLANDS

Towards the end of this year, the lawsuit was concluded in favour of wetlands, for which we had been waiting for news for a long time. Article 10 of the Regulation on Amendments to the Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands, published in the official gazette on October 23, 2019, paved the way for permitting agriculture-based organised industrial zones in wetlands. The 6th Chamber of the Council of State rejected the lawsuit



we filed against this change together with the WWF-Türkiye and Nature Research Society. We appealed to the Council of State Plenary Session of Administrative Law Chambers. Our efforts paid off, and the decision was reversed. The Chamber ruled that the Council of State should decide to annul the regulation change in question, stating, "While it should be decided to annul the regulation in question, there is no legal accuracy in the Chamber's decision to reject the case."

LOSSES IN TÜRKİYE'S WETLANDS ARE BEING BROUGHT TO LIGHT

We started a project to determine the changes in the wetlands located within Key Biodiversity Areas. We compared wetlands' summer water surface areas in 171 Key Biodiversity Areas between 1984 and 2022. For this purpose, we determined the water surface

areas in a region of 8,489,255.43 hectares separately for each year and calculated the difference. This process was completed via LANDSAT satellite images using remote detection and GIS methods. According to the findings, Burdur Lake lost more than 40% of its water surface area, while Acigöl and Eber Lake lost more than 80%. The complete study will be published in 2024.

IZMIR AND LJUBLJANA COME TOGETHER FOR WETLANDS AGAINST DRAUGHT

Together with the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Köy-Koop Izmir Association, DOPPS/BirdLife Slovenia, Municipality of Ljubljana and the Regional Development Agency of Ljubljana Urban Region, we started an international collaboration to develop measures against drought and to conserve wetlands. The efforts, which began in November, aim to establish a dialogue between Izmir and the city of Ljubljana on wetlands and drought, increase capacity and create a standard and sustainable basis through information exchange for both cities. 6 partners will be working to increase Izmir and Ljubljana's adaptation and resistance against the effects of drought and develop local, regional and sector-based strategies and future projections.

Details regarding the collaboration can be found on our [website](#).



DOPPS/BirdLife Slovenia is ecologically restoring the pastures of the Škocjan Bay.

INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES

Our work continues on the concept of Indigenous Production Landscapes (IPL), which we developed in 2014. IPLs are habitats where humans procure the nourishment they need by living like any other being in nature and maintaining a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature. Their indigenous production methods that go back thousands of years support biodiversity. These unique habitats form the fifth of Doga's rings of work.

We are preparing a booklet to serve as a guide in popularising IPL studies and protecting these landscapes. In 2024, we will complete and share this booklet. We aim to help identify, preserve and maintain these areas in Anatolia by giving examples from different IPLs.

We explained the concept and our work on IPLs at the House of Rene and TRT1 Radio. We also met with institutions and individuals working in ecology at the international "Architecture for Mediterranean ECOLOGY" event organised on September 20- 21 in Izmir. We shared our work on Indigenous Production Landscapes, a way of production compatible with climate change on a Mediterranean scale.

Some of the products from IPL producers are being sold through the Doga's Shop, Yavaş Dükkan website. Among them is the olive oil from Orhanlı Valley Indigenous Production Landscape. The olive oil produced from the Erkence type is specially produced in line with the IPL approach and supports biodiversity alongside the ecosystem. In the olive ecosystem where this olive oil is made, the olives are grafted to *Olea oleaster* (wild olive), and no pesticides or chemical fertilisers are used. As fences do not surround them, olive groves do not divide the wildlife habitat. They provide a home to mammalian species like golden jackals, wild boars, red foxes, and beech martens, as well as bird species like European turtle doves, Eurasian collared doves, Sardinian warblers, European robins, common blackbirds and reptiles such as Ottoman vipers and Dahl's whip snake. Many rare orchid species live in this region as these olive groves, which employ climate-friendly indigenous production methods, are not ploughed by big agricultural machines. This traditional olive cultivation culture also lives on with this production of olive oil.




Photograph: Mahmut Koyuş

NATURE CULTURE

Nature culture brings together all of the work, resistances, and concepts for nature. During the activities organised for nature and conversations we had on the radio to understand and explain the relationships humans form with nature and all of our struggles to defend the rights of nature in 2023, our cornerstone was love, hope and solidarity.

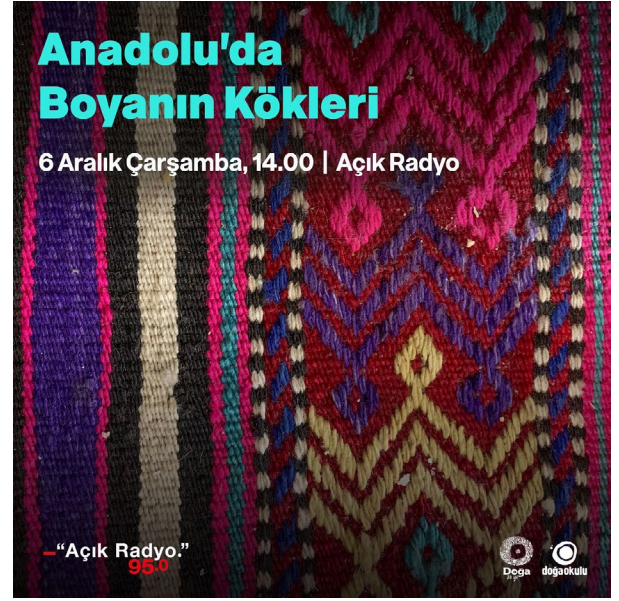

NATURE CONVERSATIONS ON OPEN RADIO

We had 20 Nature Conversations with our esteemed guests on nature conservation throughout the year. You can find them (in Turkish) on the **Açık Radyo Spotify** channel and **Doğa Derneği Doğa Sohbetleri** channel.





Doğa Sohbetleri
Açık Radyo'da.
Merkez Av Komisyonu Neden Var?
Konuk: Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sözen ve Fahri Tunç
2 Ağustos Çarşamba ● Saat 14.00

—“Açık Radyo.”
95.0



Anadolu'da
Boyanın Kökleri
6 Aralık Çarşamba, 14.00 | Açık Radyo

—“Açık Radyo.”
95.0



Doğa Sohbetleri
Açık Radyo'da.
Anadolu'da kadın ve bitkiler arasındaki ilişki
Konuk: Füsun Ertuğ
24 Mayıs Çarşamba ● Saat 14.00

—“Açık Radyo.”
95.0



Doğa Sohbetleri
Açık Radyo'da.
10 Mayıs Çarşamba ● Saat 14.00

—“Açık Radyo.”
95.0



NATURE ARTS

2 İnci Galeri artists opened an Art and Design Market in Izmir between December 16, 2023 and January 7, 2024, to support Doga Derneği. The exhibition was held at Lebon Home, located in Urla Art Street. Throughout the event, there were interviews and live workshops. Proceeds went to Doga's nature conversation efforts. We thank our volunteer, Merve TAŞTABAN, for organising this event from beginning to end.



2 İnci Galeri - Doğa Derneği.

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality organised The Tarsus Shahmaran Festival for the second time this year. We participated in the festival with a booth on Mersin's biodiversity and its threats.



Our exhibition, which was themed "Nature of Mersin" and hosted by the Mersin City Council, of which we are also a member, remained open for a week, during which we provided information about our work to the visitors.



LAW OF NATURE

To increase the number of legal experts defending nature and providing support, we organised the third Law and Nature School at Seferihisar Nature School. Organised in coordination with Altıparmak Hukuk, 26 lawyers from different regions of Türkiye attended the school to defend the rights of nature. With the participants, our Law and Nature Network increased to 129 people.

Every year, more and more legal experts start fighting against projects that violate the rights of nature. Trainings were also organised at 3 bar associations across Türkiye to support the spread and expand these dimensions of the legal struggle. 48 lawyers participated in the training in Van, Diyarbakır and Şanlıurfa Bar Associations.

We organised webinars on the "Climate Justice" concept, which was actively on our agenda this year. Four experts in their fields answered and explained the following questions on webinars: What is climate justice? Why does climate change affect individuals, groups, and countries at different levels? What steps need to be taken regarding this matter?

What is the effect of climate change on gender and the rights of future generations? 394 legal experts participated in these seminars, which were held in four series between March 29 and April 1. We established the Climate Justice Network with 115 legal experts who wanted to learn more about the subject. You can find the recordings of the webinars on our [YouTube](#) channel.

İKLİM ADALETİ SEMİNERLERİ

Yeni Tarihler
29-30-31 Mart - 1 Nisan 2023

(📺) Webinar

Doç. Dr. Yasemin Kaya
Uludağ Üniversitesi

Sehnaz Kıymaz Bahçeci
Women's Major Group Koordinatörü

Dr. Nuran Talu
Küresel Denge Derneği Başkanı

Burcu Meltem Anık
Roots & Shoots Türkiye Yürütüm Kurulu Üyesi

İletişim ve bilgi için: ipek.sezgin@dogaderneği.org

Doğa

HUKUK VE DOĞA BULUŞMASI

11-12 Kasım 2023 | Van

Doğa hakkı, çevre hukuku ve iklim adaleti konularını disiplinler arası ve bütüncül bir bakış açısıyla çalışmak isteyen hukukçular ile buluşuyoruz.

Kayıt ve İletişim: Van Barosu
Buluşma Yeri: Van Barosu Hizmet Binası
Telefon: +90 530 464 06 96 E-mail: vanbarosu@gmail.com

Doğa VAN BAROSU

ADVOCACY GUIDE FOR DEFENDERS OF NATURE

Ten lawsuits and seven legal petitions we filed against activities that destroy nature in 2023 are currently in progress. Due to the increasing number of mining, energy and agriculture projects and poor planning, irreversible losses are brought on nature.

On the other hand, the fight against the destruction

of nature gets stronger every day. Based on the experiences of individuals and organisations fighting to defend the rights of nature, we prepared the **"Advocacy Guide for Defenders of Nature"**. The guide includes examples of legal struggles, official processes, communication strategies, successful advocacy, and different petition and press release samples needed in advocacy. Real-life cases are presented in the guide, together with documents and visuals.

DOĞAYI SAVUNANLAR İÇİN REHBER

İMDATI
Doğa

Doğa

14 | DOĞAYI SAVUNANLAR İÇİN REHBER

Öncelikli Doğal Alanları Araştırmak İçin Websiteleri

Önemli Doğa Alanı
https://www.dogaderneği.org/onemli-doga-alanlari/

Önemli Bitki Alanı
http://obanettr.org/default.asp

Önemli Fok Alanları
www.sadafag.org

Türkiye Kıyılarında Yapılaşmadan Korunması Gerekli Hassas Alanlar
www.sadafag.org

BirdLife Data Zone: Türler hakkında bilgi ve Önemli Kuş Alanları (IBA)
http://datazone.birdlife.org/home

BirdLife Data Zone web sayfası.

COLLABORATIVE IFTAR

Our collaborative iftars at Seferihisar Nature School in Izmir have brought us together since 2013. As nature has taught us, we multiply solidarity, support, collective production, joy and grief in collaboration. This year, too, we set our table with the support and effort of dozens of people on April 15. Yenibağarası Village Theatre from Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Village Theatres performed their "Hello to Theatre" play. With the shadow play "Karagöz Protector of Olives," written and performed by Karagöz master Cemal Fatih Polat (pseudonym Hayali Balaban), nature, art and humour intertwined. We have an unchanging wish for all tables set with nature culture: Let it be more, not less and let it overflow, not spill.



FOLLOWING ON THE TRAIL OF MOTHER GODDESS

We hosted the event designed and presented by Doğa TAŞLARDAN, an independent researcher known for her presentations on mythology, psychology, archæology, ancient Anatolian feminine wisdom and Mother Goddess cults from the Mediterranean culture basin. It was held on October 10 at Seferihisar Doga School. In this event, where we discussed the cult of Mother Goddess, seen as the embodiment of nature itself in Anatolia for centuries, we embarked on an interdisciplinary "archo-mythology" journey between women and nature with 32 guests.



DOGA LIBRARY IS EXPANDING

Taking inspiration from seeds, Doga Library was opened three years ago. Our library is housed in the research building of Seferihisar Nature School in Seferihisar's Orhanlı Village. It aims to help researchers working on nature conservation to reach sources of knowledge on the subject. The library includes materials on subjects such as birds, endangered species, Key Biodiversity Areas, Important Bird Areas and Indigenous Production Landscapes in particular, as well as conservation of biodiversity, nature-culture, philosophy of nature, nature literacy and nature arts. We would like to thank Sevin OKYAY for her contribution by donating her books to the Doga Library this year. You can access the catalogue search of Doga Library on the [website](#).



TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

As part of World Change Day, we organised an event on the biodiversity of Mersin with Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, ZİÇEV and Change Federation. On July 7, we came together with people with special needs and conversed about biodiversity and nature.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE TREE of ETERNITY is UNDER PROTECTION

“Traditional knowledge, methods and practices concerning olive cultivation” was inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Thanks to the culture of olive cultivation, communal practices shaped around traditional knowledge and production methods will be passed down through generations. Olive grafting methods, harvesting practices, olive pressing, cooperation traditions and entertainment have become protected values. Our work on olive culture and ecosystem has been continuing since 2012. Since then, we have studied biodiversity in the olive ecosystem and collected information on traditional olive cultivation methods, the social structure and culture that developed around this tradition specific to the olive. We collaborated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism during the UNESCO process to record this knowledge and especially for it to be passed down through generations. We helped them be included in the olive file. We had online and face-to-face meetings with the commission at Seferihisar Nature School and visited the olive groves. We are delighted to be a part of this process.



FLAVOURS THAT CONSERVE NATURE – DOGA'S SHOP

A conservation project of Doga Derneği, the shop called Yavaş Dükkan, is working to sustain nature and nature culture. Starting with food, it offers nearly 20 necessities chosen from products that support biodiversity and nature culture for this purpose and, therefore, provides access to production with known sources that do not destroy nature. Last year, 81 producer families from 15 Key Biodiversity Areas and 4 Indigenous Production Landscapes were supported by Doga's Shop. This year, there are 87 producer families from 20 Key Biodiversity Areas and 4 Indigenous Production Landscapes. Without causing any harm to the cycles of nature, these producers keep on producing with the philosophy of Anatolia: “for the worm, for the bird, for the food” and do not exclude any life from the natural ecosystems in their process.

Doga's Shop started a solidarity campaign after the earthquakes in Türkiye on February 6, 2023, and provided basic necessities to families in the region and those who migrated to Izmir afterwards. It supported a family producing employing nature-friendly methods by selling their products.

You can find Doga's Shop's products, stories about those products, and more on our [website](#).



BEING THE VOICE OF NATURE

We shared our work this year, the exemplary cases from all over the world, activities harming nature, nature conservation methods and solutions via our social media channels. In 2023, we created 439 different social media posts and prepared 21 press releases. Our Facebook posts reached 1.5 million people, X (Twitter) posts to 2 million, and Instagram posts to 5.5 million last year.

In 2023, we started sending out newsletters to our volunteers and members. The newsletters have been reaching them monthly since the February 6 earthquake that affected all of us deeply. If you want to know what is going on in nature and want to receive newsletters, you can use this [link](#) to subscribe.

HOW TO SUPPORT ?

We are thankful for any support you give to defend the rights of nature. You can also support our work financially by becoming a donor in 2024. You can use this [link](#) to support us.

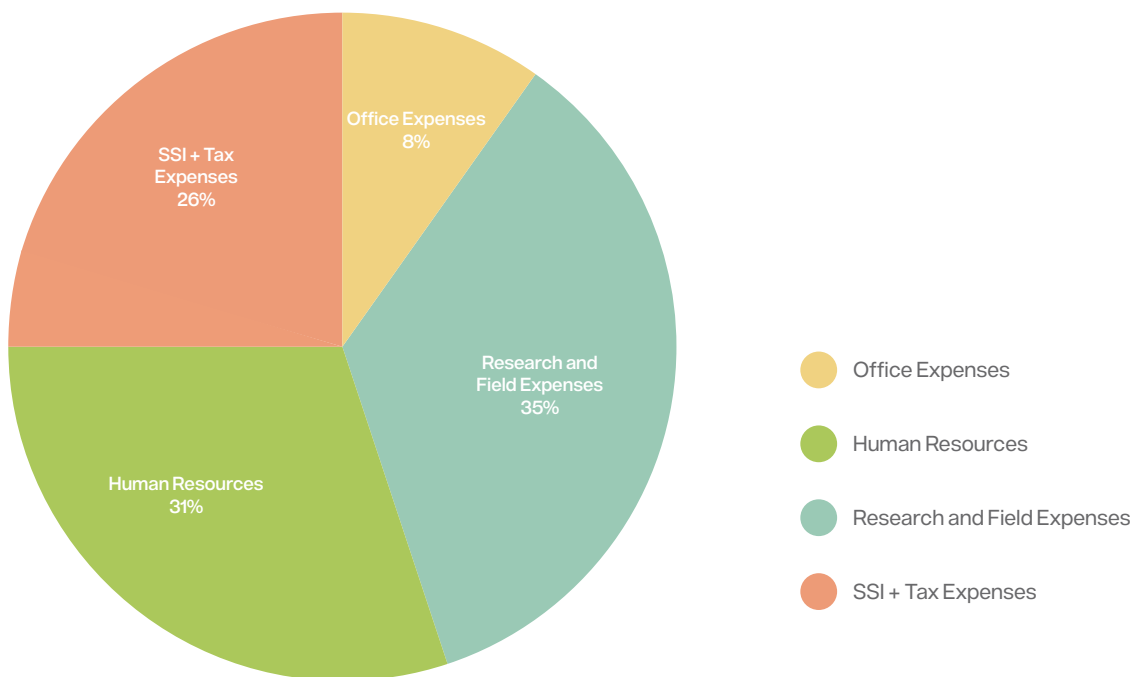
You can apply to become a volunteer via our [website](#) and follow and share our social media accounts to help defend the rights of nature.

On special occasions, you can choose to send Doga E-cards. You can find these unique cards inspired by Anatolia's nature and nature culture on this [link](#).

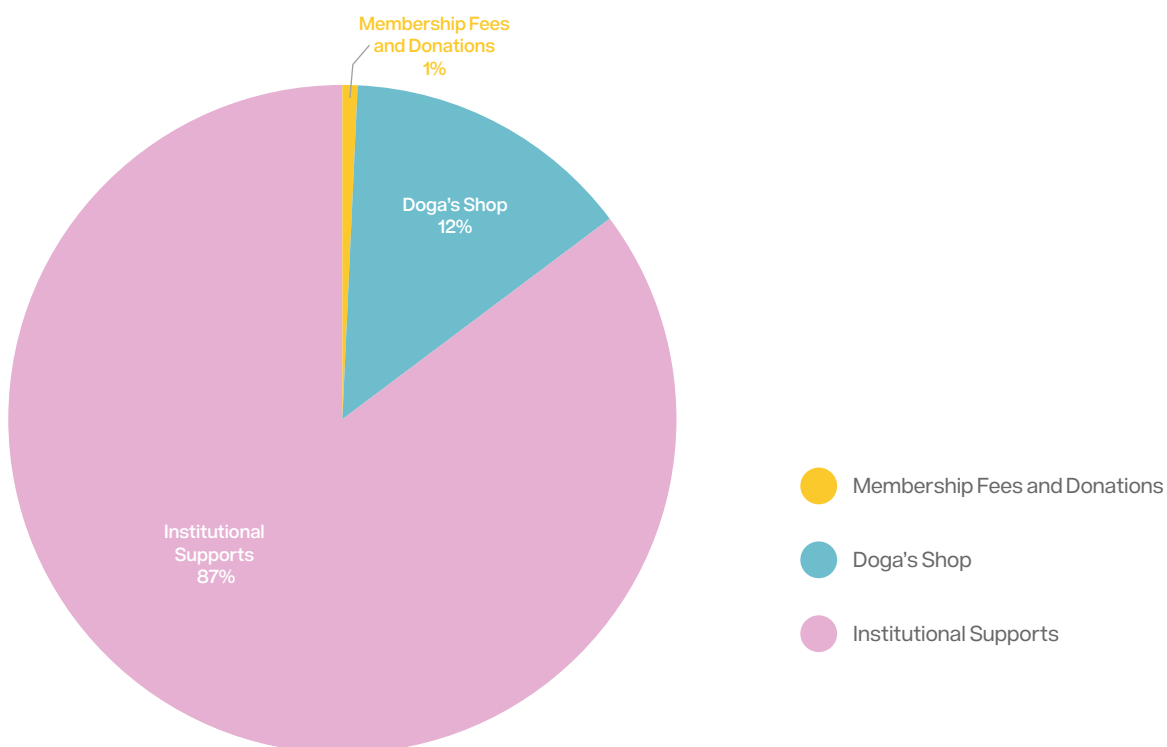


DOGA'S 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES



REVENUES



**“One side of me is me
One side of me is you
I am on your side”.**

Bedri Rahmi Eyübođlu





Doğa
20 years