

Project Update: January 2013

1. Literature scanning was developed.

Some history (Strabon, Plinius, Heredot, Evliya Çelebi) and local history books searches were completed. Also we searched etymological roots of “Sweetgum (Sığla-Günlük etc.)” word in Turkish. We found some interesting information about this topic. We want to write an essay about it next month.

2. We collected and analysed to Criminal Law and Ownership Law Files about Sweetgum Forests.

Also we scanned related archive documents that belongs to Köyceğiz Forestry Department.

3. Sweetgum Forest Ecology Research finished.

We aimed to preserve the integrity of the forest ecosystem. That’s why we did field trips in three big forest parts (and 48 little parts) which total 770 ha. We prepared field trip reports. Then we transferred this report’s data to GIS map’s database. We also prepared Potential and Current Sweetgum Forests Distribution Map, Land Use Map, Threat Map, Land Ownership Map and Corridor Map (you can find the maps in jpeg format at the attachment). We started to write Landscape Analysis Report. Next month we will write the Landscape Analysis Report and we will select to the most suitable pilot area for corridor methodology with Köyceğiz Forestry Department. Then we will start reviving and replanting activities (area selection and preparation, seedling preparation, equipment preparation, festival works, etc.)

4. “Koycegiz Local Newspaper” Searching was started.

We searched for related information in Koycegiz Local Newspaper (between 1975-2012). We finished this research and also categorised the topics.

5. Archeological Studies are going on.

We aimed to introduce the importance of sweetgum forests to different civilisations. We started by interviewing Professor Cengiz Işık (Başkent University) and his team who are the responsible of Kaunos Excavation since 1970s which is one of the most important cities of Karian Civilization near Lake Koycegiz. After we took his advice, we interviewed some Pharmacologists and Archaeologists who are specialists on sweetgum’s importance in ancient times as perfume, cosmetic, medicine and medicinal aromatic plants sector.

6. Sociological Studies’s analyses are going on.

We aimed to look into what kind of ethical consensus lies behind the legitimacy for the sweetgum deforestation as a social value and understand the stages set for the incentives concerning the sweetgum deforestation.

In first step we prepared a survey, undertook a focus group meeting and detailed oral interview questions and in one pilot village (Toparlar) on 9th June 2012. After this test, we regulated the questions and started to undertake the survey. In total we undertook 750 surveys in two district centres (Koycegiz and Toparlar) and seven villages (Kavakarası, Old Koycegiz, Yangı, Zeytinalanı, Hamitköy, Zaferler, Döğüşbelen) between 1st and 8th June 2012. In the autumn months we started to analyse the surveys using SPSS programme and

this is still going on. In next 2 months after we finish the analysis, we will write an article about the results.

7. Local History Studies started.

We started local history research related to sweetgum forest situation in Ottoman Empire times (between 1200-1900 A.C.) with my Co-Advisor Dr.Selçuk Dursun (Middle East Technical University-History Department). Also one retired history teacher from Köyceğiz District helps us with field trips.

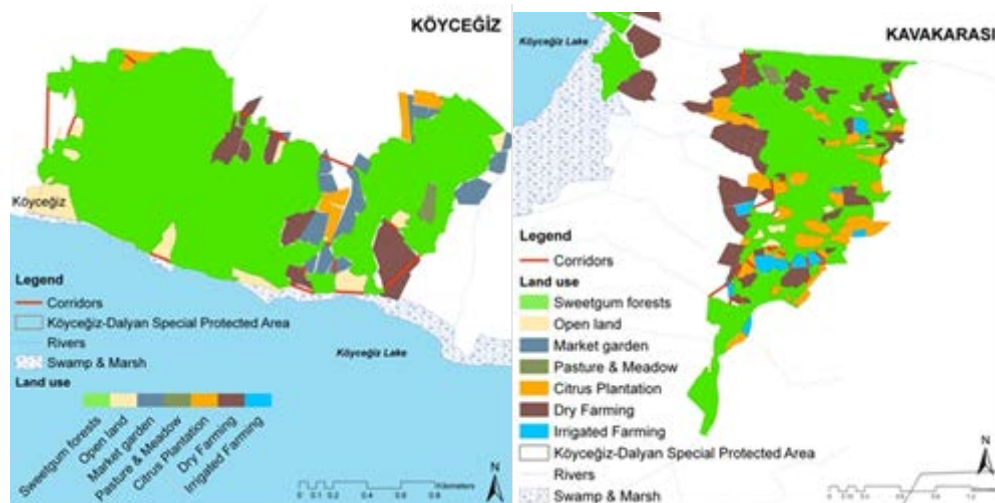
We aim to establish the importance of sweetgum forest's land ownership status, sweetgum oil's production and trade conditions and locals relationship with this forest in those dates.

On the other hand we are trying to obtain related information using old military maps, Ottoman's Archive, Cumhuriyet(Republic) Gazette's Archive (Early 20th century), Turkish Parliament's Archive, and Rhodes and Marsille Marine Trade Chamber's Archives. When we are doing this research, we will also collect all kinds of document related with sweetgum species and forest kind of photography, land registry papers, useful papers, Köyceğiz local newspaper's analysis etc.

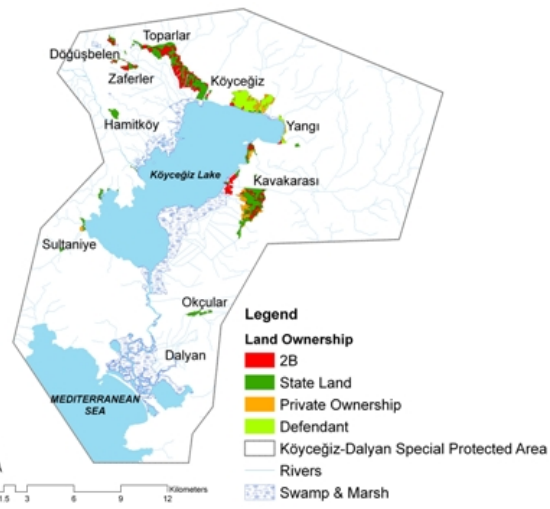
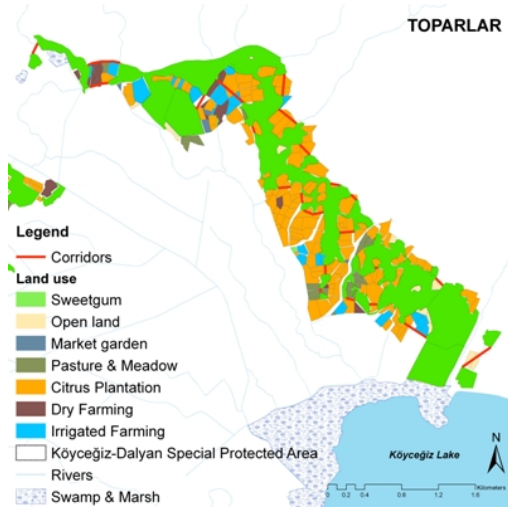
This study also will go on after our Rufford Grant Programme finishes but when we prepare an article about this topic, we will write to Rufford SGF's contribution.

8. I joined to Rufford SG Recipients Conference.

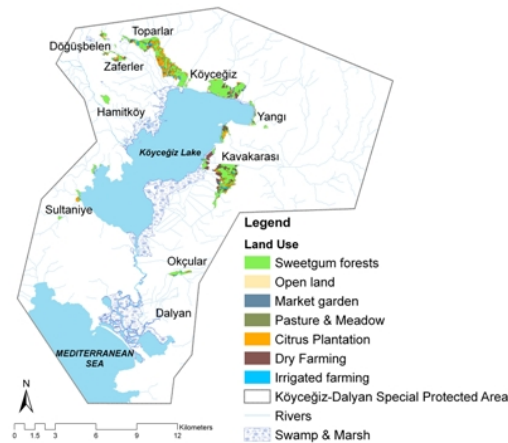
I joined the Rufford SG Recipients Conference in Armenia in September 2012.



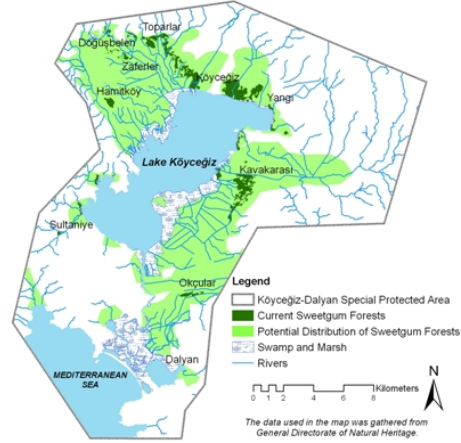
Corridor



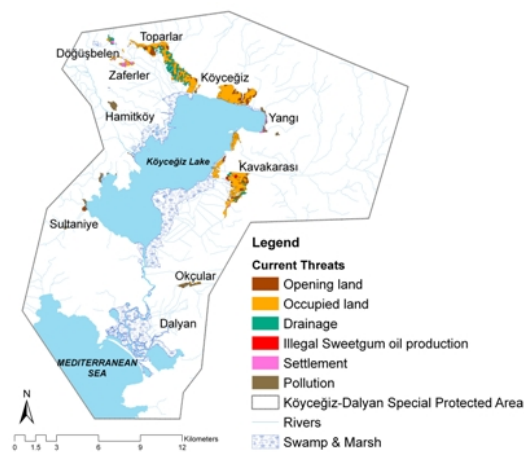
Land ownership map



Land use map



Potential & current distribution map



Threat map