

## Project Update: November 2019

**Introduction:** Marmaris salamander (*Lyciasalamandra flavimembris*) is an endangered endemic amphibian species and found in southwestern Anatolia, Muğla, Turkey. It is found in natural coniferous forests and scrubs within the range of 30-600 m a.s.l. The major threats of Marmaris salamander are habitat loss and destruction due to forest fires, urbanisation and climate change.



Figure 1: General view of a male Marmaris Salamander

**Methodology / approaches:** To monitoring populations of Marmaris salamander, the distribution area was divided to 10 x 10 km UTM grids and the randomly selected five sampling sites which have different habitat characteristics (e.g. forest, scrubs) were visited during the activity season (December– February). In these quadrats, we used mark-recapture method to obtain basic population parameters (population size, survival rate, and capture probably). We marked all observed individuals with Visible Implant Elastomer (VIE). We observed phenology and breeding season of the salamanders in natural habitats and all data recorded properly. Besides, we collected some environmental parameters to determine the habitat preferences of the salamanders. These results will be helping us to link between environmental variables and presence and/or abundance of salamanders.



Figure 2: The general view of a sampling site from Taşlıca, Marmaris

### Progress:

1. Fieldwork: The team has conducted 25 days of field study in five sampling sites for estimating population parameters and habitat preference. All the observed individuals were marked via VIE and measured. We will be combined new data with the previous RSF results. We are still working on data analysis, modelling and literature reviews.



Figure 3: Some picture from field work

2. Public awareness:
  - a) We are continuing awareness-raising activities for adults in the regions within the salamander' distribution area. We have contracted with Regional Director of the Turkish Republic of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Marmaris Municipality and presented our results.
  - b) We have attended an awareness-raising workshop for the children in Marmaris regain organised Marmaris Municipality. In this event, we have played some street

games to inform the life cycle of salamander. About 100-200 children have attended the event with their parents and teachers.

- c) Besides, We also organized a second 1-day workshop for the children to introduce Marmaris Salamander. Marmaris Salamander Festival with national parks. In this festival, we will introduce salamander together with the Mediterranean monk seal which another endangered animal lives in the same region with the supporting of our NGOs (Akdeniz Koruma Derneği). About 200-250 children have attended the event with their parents and teachers. You can watch the event video with the following link: <https://youtu.be/naXbKGpmdLE>
- d) We have also interview with locals and discuss their problems related to livelihood. They stated that they have sold their own lands instead of doing farming, beekeeping or husbandry. We know to protect these habitats against urbanisation for reducing habitat loss. In this perspective, we are planning to prepare a sustainable economic model report for locals, and we will share with the municipalities in the area. We will emphasise the need to create a campaign to sell the local producer's products.



Figure 3: A meeting with locals in Taşlıca village

- e) The documentary filmed and shared during the festivals, besides now it was shared online channels. You can watch the documentary by the following link: <https://youtu.be/6e9GrPwgg9Y>
- f) We meet our stakeholder to conduct small meetings about our results. According to this meeting, we are working on the threat-conservation chain by using open standard methodology.