



I. Project Report (January, 2022)

Project Title: From Local Ecological Knowledge to Drone-based Monitoring Surveys: Addressing the Importance of Marine Top Predators

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Project ID: 34046-2

Project Purpose

Top predators are long-lived and late-maturing species that are sensitive to intense negative effects of many human activities. Consistent and long-term surveys are necessary to fill the gap in knowledge regarding these species. With the first Rufford Project, carried out in 2019-2020, a database of these species was created. At this stage, we aim to conduct scientific aerial surveys, supported with Local Ecological Knowledge. The project also aims to reinforce environmentally conscious communities in the target area for a long-lasting perception of conservation. In this context, meetings are held with the young generation on the island and capacity building activities continue at full speed.



Autumn, 2021 - Field Survey

The team got Covid on the first week of September, 2021. Even though the weather conditions were predicted to be rough in October and November, autumn surveys had to be postponed to the end of October, 2021 until full recovery. A total of 10 days were spent on the island. 7 days out of 10, land observations were successfully conducted from the determined high grounds with a telescope and visited repeatedly. All sightings as well as environmental conditions are recorded. Three individuals (including one calf) of common bottlenose dolphins were sighted from the Kaleköy observation point.



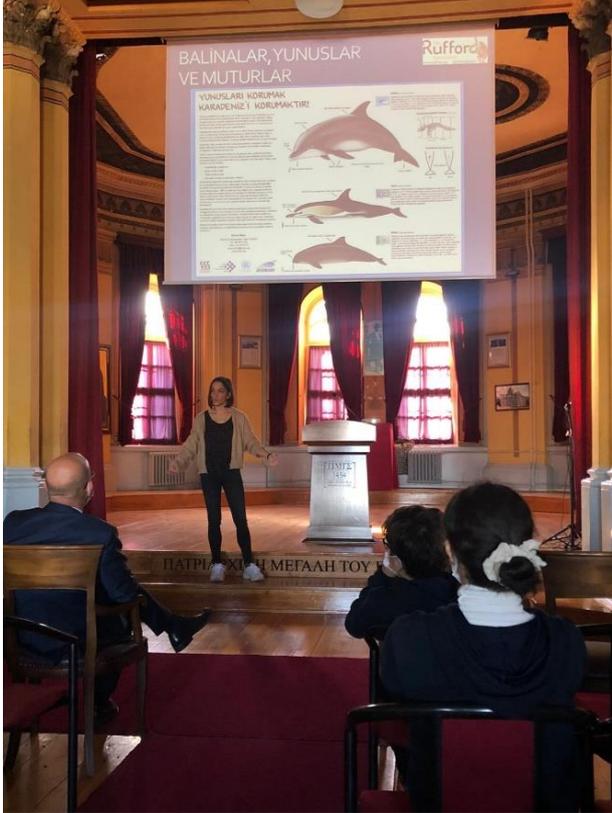
Meeting with Decision-makers



The EU-supported “Doğaya Güç Kat” project, in which Doğa Araştırmaları Deneği (DAD) is the project owner together with 7 partners, aims to gather non-governmental organizations under the roof of nature conservation in order to establish a much stronger and functional network. As HIDRA, we were in Izmir for the very first Network Establishment Workshop on 27-29 November. There, we were able to introduce our first and second projects to several NGO’s and decision makers.

Awareness Raising Activities

On the 2nd of December 2021, we performed our presentations to middle-school and high-school students. Questionnaires and training packages were provided in the Gökçeada Island.



Local Ecological Knowledge

Fishermen, harpooners and SCUBA divers were considered as target stakeholders for the Local Ecological Knowledge data gathering, in the Gökçeada Island. In order to gather information from the stakeholders, questionnaires were used. Besides, social media platforms were analyzed, covering the period from 2019 to 2022. The information taken from social media platforms included number of encountered species, location and date. Overall, >30 individuals were recorded up to date.

Species	Date	Number of individuals	Source	Activity
Osteichthyes				
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	13.04.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	25.04.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	2.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	9.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	10.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	14.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	23.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	25.05.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	2.06.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	19.06.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	2.10.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Xiphias gladius</i> Linnaeus, 1758	14.11.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
Cetaceans				
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> (Meyen, 1833)	4.05.2021	4-8 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Grampus griseus</i> (Cuvier, 1812)	30.05.2021	2 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Grampus griseus</i> (Cuvier, 1812)	3.06.2021	3 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Grampus griseus</i> (Cuvier, 1812)	2.06.2021	1 ind.	Selim K.	Harpooning
<i>Delphinidae</i>	13.10.2020	1 ind.	Social media	Fishing
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788)	13.05.2019	1 ind.	Social media	Fishing
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> (Nardo, 1827)	18.02.2020	1 ind.	Social media	Fishing
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> (Owen, 1846)	16.05.2020	7-8 ind.	Social media	Fishing
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788)	4.10.2019	1 ind.	Social media	Fishing
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	9.09.2021	1 ind.	Social media	Fishing