

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dilara Arslan
Project Title	Conservation activities of endangered Marmaris salamander (<i>Lyciasalamandra flavimembris</i>) from Muğla, Turkey
Application ID	27105-2
Grant Amount	5000 £
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Date of this Report	02.03.2020

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
<p>1. Collecting data from 20-day fieldwork to determine population density, phenology, habitat loss and local threats on population</p>				<p>20 days of intense fieldwork were completed. Scientific papers with results and proposed conservation activities were submitted to Herpetology Notes journal. Here, we estimated some population parameters of Marmaris salamander. In total, we marked 323 salamanders and recaptured 46 of them. The population consists of 36% juveniles, 28% males and 36 % females. Population size was calculated as between 73 and 295. The capture probability ranged from 0.15 to 0.54 and the survival rate ranged from 0.53 to 0.86 among the populations. The potential distribution area could narrow by between 9 and 62% in the next 30-50 years. The most important threats are land conversion, climate change and forest fires. Our suggestions were taken in consideration during a management plan meeting with government. We also conducted 10 days extra field work to increase our database for conservation aims of the project.</p>
<p>2. Having public campaigns to create awareness about the ecological value of Marmaris salamander and beauty for the region.</p>				<p>We completed awareness raising activities for adults and children in the regions within the salamander distribution area. We had meetings with Regional Director of Turkish Republic of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Marmaris Municipality and presented our results. We have attended an awareness raising workshop for the children in Marmaris regain organised by the Marmaris Municipality. In this event, we have played some street games to inform people about the life cycle of</p>

			<p>salamander. About 100-200 children were attended the event with their parents and teachers. We also interviewed locals and discussed their problems related to livelihoods. 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 this with the municipalities in the area. We will emphasise the need to create a campaign to sell the local producer's products.</p> <p>We organised a second Marmaris Salamander Festival with national parks. In this festival, we introduced salamander together with the Mediterranean monk seal which another endangered animal that lives in same region with the support of our NGO (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)</p> <p>The documentary was filmed and shared during the festivals and now it was shared on online channels. You can watch the documentary by the following link: (https://youtu.be/6e9GrPwgg9Y)</p> <p>We also published our results as a public new in different online mainstream ecology media.</p>
<p>3. Collaborate with local authorities to implement conservation activities. In the end, a One-day workshop with local authorities and National Parks. (January-December 2019).</p>			<p>Finally, we attended a meeting for the management and protection of Marmaris salamander meeting which was organised by national parks. In this meeting, we shared our knowledge and experience about the species. Our suggestions have been added or combined to the objectives to be implemented in the management action plan. During the 1-month</p>

				extension of the project, we had two meetings with stakeholders (locals, governmental organisations) to discuss future project perspectives.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The most important challenge is working with locals and meeting in conservation aims. For that aims, we spend most of our time with locals to understand their livelihoods.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- 1- In the previous RSG project, Marmaris Municipality supported our festival organisation. In the 2nd year, national parks also wanted to support the project. With these collaborations, the local authorisations had an opportunity at being proactive in conservation efforts of an endangered species.
- 2- We submitted a scientific article. These results and our suggestions will be implemented by stakeholders according the management action plan.
- 3- Responses from public, government and private sector show that the aimed message was delivered.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Marmaris Municipality and Marmaris National Park supported our festival organisation. With this collaboration, they had an opportunity at being proactive in conservation efforts of an endangered species.

Our interviews with locals shown us, awareness was increased in positive. Now the salamander has started to be accepted as an important value for the local people.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the follow up meetings with the government which are still ongoing. We want to continue to collaborate to implement actions according to the management plan. We need to continue public awareness activities to manage threats on the habitats.

We want to continue monitor the population in years, to understand population trends in long-term.

We also want to study the interaction between Marmaris salamander and another Lycian salamander around the region.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We have an NGO Mediterranean Conservation Society. The project is already on the website:

<http://www.akdenizkoruma.org.tr/marmaris-semenderi-izlenmesi-ve-populasyon-arastirmalari/>

We submitted one article about population parameters of Marmaris salamander (Herpetology Notes). We will also put the PDF version of this articles on our websites. Before publishing, we also shared our results with stakeholders during the workshop of conservation action meeting organised by the national park.

In addition, we filmed some parts of project and a documentary about the species shared by YouTube channel and social medias.

Article online:

<https://www.biotaxa.org/hn> (will be published here after acceptance of the manuscript)

YouTube online:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWkP9cmMLaRF9C4Zk7w3A-g>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/akdenizkorumadernegi/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/akdenizkoruma/>

News about the festival:

<http://www.ankahaber.com.tr/yere/nesilleri-tehdit-altindaki-iki-tur-tanitolacak-h51518.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/marmarisbld/posts/1948839708554195>

<http://www.marmaris.bel.tr/Content.aspx?ContentID=6063&CategoryID=44>

We published our results in public news site.

<https://yesilgazete.org/blog/2020/02/26/iklim-krizi-marmaris-semenderini-tehdit-ediyor/>

<https://www.iklimhaber.org/iklim-krizi-marmaris-semenderini-tehdit-ediyor/>

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

We spent the time equal in each objective.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Awareness raising materials and Festival Cost	1400	1377	-23	
Fieldwork Equipment	1353	1343	-10	
Foods and Accommodations	1250	1152	-98	
Field Trips (Car Rental and Fuel)	997	1104	+107	We continued to explore new populations in different region inside the study site.
Total	5000	4976	-24	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

The most important steps are increase the collaboration between the stakeholders. Awareness raising activities, especially the festival, were more successful than we expected. In this perspective, we believe the raising awareness activities, especially for children, will have benefit on the species protection widely. After these, we observed (through interviews by non-systematic surveys) that the feelings and knowledge of local authorities and community has been changed in positive way. They would like to more pro-active to conservation activities. They are more ambitious for the next phases of the project and they are running new activities.

We are getting more and more informed about the population trends of the species. We strive for the impact of threats on species and possible solutions.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We used RF logo in posters and brochures we published for the public awareness of the project (also in social media channels). We also used RF logo in our supporter part of the Mediterranean Conservation website.

<http://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/html/destekcilerimiz.html>

We also mentioned RF support for the project in our website <http://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/html/> and acknowledgments part of the article.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Çağdaş Yaşar is also biologist working on the project. He helped us on analysing and the field works.

Dergah Şen is a videographer. He made all the films and pictured.

Ozan Arslan assisted with logistics and helping us on the fieldworks and computer business.

Akın İzgin was the volunteer of the project and joined the team. He helped us on the field works and organizing.

Besides Akın İzgin, there were **25 volunteers** had helped us on the field works and festival period.

