

Project Update: December 2022

Activities carried out within the scope of work pack page 1

WP1: Bio-ecological investigation

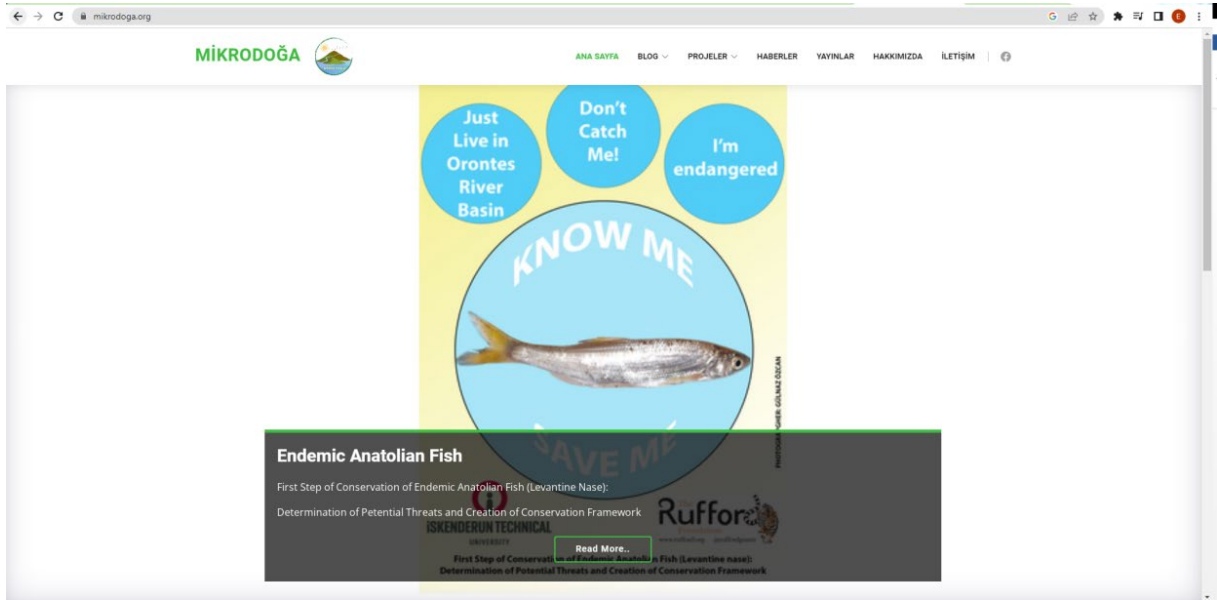
Seasonal field trips were carried out in Orontes River (Gölbaşı Lake and Karasu River) in August and October 2022. Water and sediments samples were taken from six points in Gölbaşı Lake (n:2), Karasu (n:2) and Orontes Rivers (n:2).



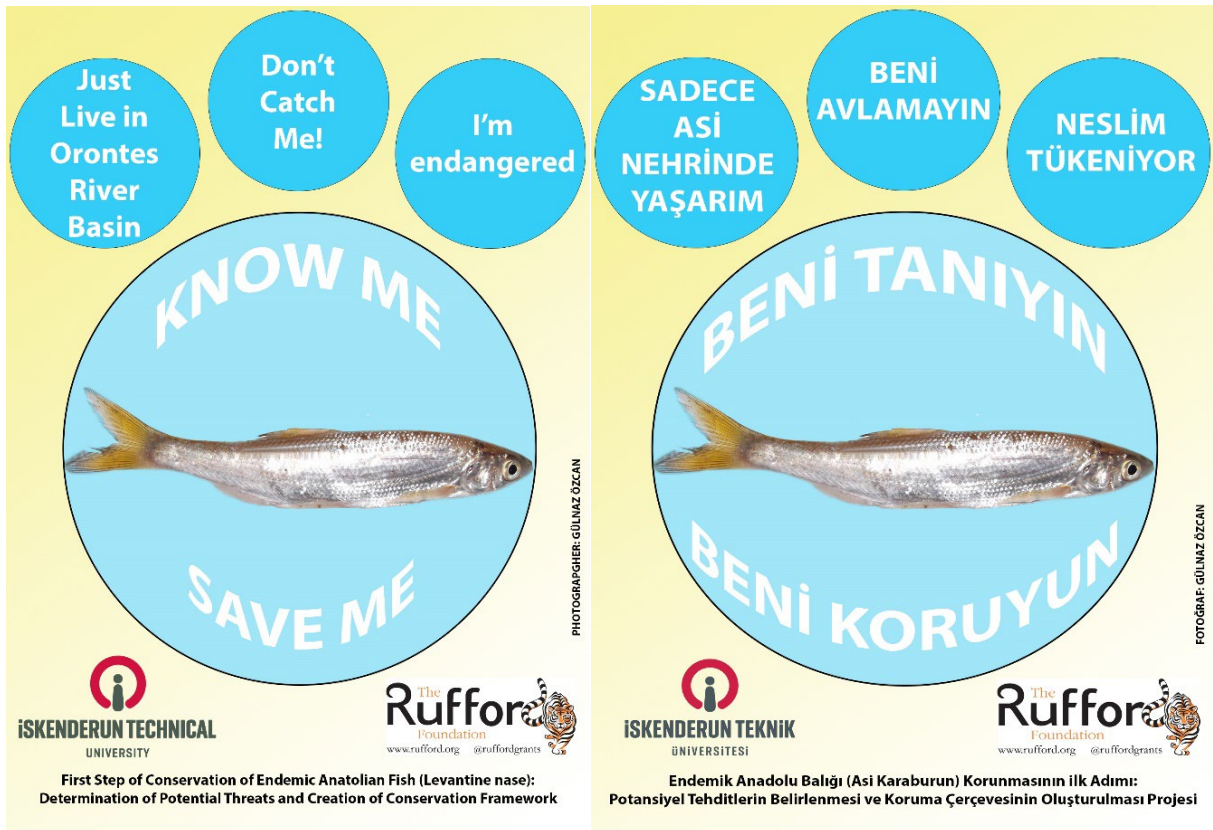
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WP2: Building information network and awareness

To increase awareness towards Levantine nase, web page which includes the aim, scope and public news about the project was designed. Also, social media accounts were created. <https://mikrodog.org/>



Brochures were prepared and printed.



Regular visits to the popular fishing locations in the Orontes River were conducted. During those visits, brochures of the project was distributed to the fisherman. Information regarding the danger status of this specie is emphasised during those visits.



Several news about the project was planned in the local press to promote the project and increase the awareness towards Levantine nase. In this way, the attention of a large audience was achieved.

<https://www.aydinlik.com.tr/haber/asi-karaburun-baligi-icin-proje-baslatildi-341374>

<https://www.hataybuyuksehirgazetesi.com/iste-projesine-bir-destek-daha/>

<https://sozgazetesi.com.tr/2022/09/24/iskenderunu-bilimin-isigiyla-aydinlatan-hocalara-alkis/>

http://www.iskenderunes.net/haber/asi_karaburun_baliginin_korunmasina_destek-17338.html

<https://www.sehrihatay.com/desteklenen-bir-proje-daha-36735>

<https://www.iskenderungazetesi.com/desteklenen-bir-proje-daha/>

<https://iste.edu.tr/haber-merkezi/2022/09/23/1836>

General comments:

We realised that there is intense plastic pollution in the Gölbaşı Lake and Asi River as well as other pollutants. These plastics seem to be fragmented to smaller particles and create severe microplastic pollution in the area which increases the stress under aquatic biota including Levantine nase.

In addition, locals of villages around the Gölbaşı Lake carried out agricultural activities around the lake. Due to the oligotrophic nature of the lake, the surface of the Gölbaşı lake is about to be closed by the aquatic plants.

Also, we observed several boats around the lake, which were used for illegal fishing, even though it is banned by law.

