



© Linda Pitkin / WWF Canon

LET'S PROTECT KAŞ-KEKOVA TOGETHER

Kaş-Kekova: Diving paradise of Turkey and the origin of the ancient civilizations. These two unique regions that carry on the sun of Likya, The Light Country, are preferred by billions of foreigners every year not only thanks to their cultural heritage, but also to their rich nature and underwater treasures. Surrounded by the antique ruins, Kaş-Kekova arouse more and more interest in cultural and diving tourism with their rich marine biological variety. Kaş-Kekova, as an important Special Environmental Protected Area, deserve to be protected with all these values. The marine biological variety in Kaş-Kekova where fishing and tourism are the main economical activities is threatened by excessive and illegal fishing, loss of natural living areas, pollution, new strange species, and climate change just like Mediterranean region. The result of 10-year biological diversity researches in Kaş-Kekova shows that population of the significant species like dusky grouper, white grouper and red porgy decrease rapidly.

Marine Protected Area is an important tool to protect sensitive marine ecosystems which is directly related to tourism and fishing activities. Prepared by the participation and support of local authorities, partners, and local people, Kaş-Kekova Marine Management Plan will perpetuate all the colours of the underwater richness.

WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?

Marine Protected Area is an area in the sea where human activity is placed under some restrictions to protect the natural, historical and cultural values. Today, in Mediterranean region, the size of the protected and managed areas is only 4 per cent. This ratio is less than the target of 10 per cent which was agreed to be reached by the agreements aimed to protect Mediterranean. Only 2,8 per cent of Turkish territorial water is protected. Marine Protected Areas, also known as the National Parks in the sea, provide a living in harmony with nature and sustain livelihoods of local people which mostly depend on natural resources. For this reason the number of Marine Protected Areas needs to increase in the world. The objectives of project being run in the Kaş-Kekova Special Environmental Protected Area are to:

- Protect sensitive ecosystems
- Save endangered species' population like dusky and white grouper
- Secure biological diversity
- Improve fishing area fertility
- Maintain the sustainability of commercial activities

LET'S SAVE MARINE RICHNESS

Mediterranean coasts of Turkey host many endangered species like sea turtles, Mediterranean monk seal, bluefin tuna. Seagrass, also known as the lungs of the seas, is important in supplying living areas for the marine species and are commonly found in Kaş-Kekova.

KAŞ-KEKOVA MARINE PROTECTED AREA PROJECT

With the collaboration of WWF-Turkey and Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas and support of WWF Mediterranean Office, Kaş-Kekova Marine Management Plan is being prepared by the participation of local authorities, partners, and local people. The plan aims to ensure sustainable use and management of marine resources in Kaş-Kekova Special Environment Protection Area.

Support our work in Kaş-Kekova Special Environment Protection Area and help us protect nature.



Why we are here

WWF-Turkey's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

www.wwf.org.tr

**WWF-Turkey Kaş Office
Andifli Mahallesi Barış Sokak
No: 29 Kaş-Antalya - Turkey
Phone-Fax: +90242 836 29 83**