

11/2014 – 11/2015 Period Activity Report

Dear Members,

As of November 2014 to this date, our 9th Regular General Assembly, in November 2015, our activities focused on organizing our volunteers, employing a new manager, promoting the Foundation, attending a conference, presentations and many other events. Following are the details of activities as per month.

November 2014

We had our 8th General Assembly, the place of Serpil Aran in the board was taken by Nursel Kaykusuz.

Newsletter issue 12 was prepared.

December 2014

Christmas Fairs attended at Fethiye, Dalyan and Köyceğiz consecutively. Our volunteers together with June and other committee members helped our manager as appropriate.

Köyceğiz Market which takes place on the first Sunday of each month was attended several times.

January to April 2015

Preparation and ordering of the stock for the new season and arrangements for a conference and many other tasks organised by Serpil Aran.

March 2015

June and Nursel went to Muğla on 26th of March to attend an evening event organised by Muğla Chamber of Commerce (MUTSO). MUTSO celebrated the 130 years of activity together with the celebrations of 100 years since the Gelibolu war.

In 2015 all over Turkey the Government had initiated a project “100 years / 100 Women”. Under this header each city was organising an own project. Muğla University together with MUTSO undertook a project for the Muğla region by choosing women who left their mark in the history of the province. They prepared a book to honour these women. The presentation of this book was part of the celebrations. June was selected one of the 100 women and received an award and the book. She was asked to give a brief speech for the press about her feelings and what she has done for the Carettas, June spoke in Turkish and we had wide coverage in the media.

April 2015

June and Nursel attended the 35th Annual International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (ISTS) from 18 – 24 April 2015 held at the Hilton Sarigerme. There were in total 1000 attendants from 80 different countries.

June and Nursel prepared a display table giving out brochures, general information and represented the foundation. The ISTS President's Award was given to Dr. Flegra Bentivegna, Lily Venizelos and June for their "Lifetime of accomplishment towards the study and conservation of Sea Turtles".

Sir David Bellamy and his wife Rosemary were affectionately greeted as were other Environmental activists such as Lily Venizelos (Medasset Greece) Dr. Flegra Bentivegna (Naples, Italy). Turkish universities were well represented and again it was a great pleasure to exchange views past and present. On April 23rd symposium participants visited İztuzu beach and our hut. June, Affan, Nursel, Serpil, Dilek, Anne, Michelle, Judy and Eddie, Will and Marianne were there to meet the visitors. Altogether a fascinating event which underlined the importance of sea turtles and the urgency to protect them and their habitats.

On 27th April 21 representatives from Thomas Cook Marmaris Office visited the hut. June together with our volunteers welcomed our guests.

June and Nursel were invited to Ahmet Ateş Vocational School for Technical and Commercial Education at Ortaca on 28th April as part of their Careers Days. As they did not have a meeting hall, 60 of their Lycee students went to Atatürk Primary School and 40 of Secondary students joined them. Very successful presentation about the foundation, İztuzu and Sea Turtles in general.

May 2015

As part of Begüm's programme, a group of school children from Istanbul, International School for Foreign Students were hosted at the hut.

A volunteers meeting was held on 19th May in Junes house in Kışla.

As Affan Özcaner resigned from his position as a manager, we had to find a new person suitable for this job. We employed a young man for two weeks on trial. He turned out to be not as qualified as we expected. After this Hülya Sheldon joined us.

Newsletter issue 13 was prepared.

June 2015

Hülya started working on full-time basis with the foundation.

For various reasons we had only a minimum volunteers, we had to restrict our activities to work in the hut.

July 2015

Committee member Abidin Kurt took on the responsibility to have all boats checked by a professional diver for mounted Propeller Guards. To our disappointment only 16 boats were still equipped, although many more still had our hallmarks to lure clients. We decided to supply new hallmarks every year only valid for one year. New hallmarks with 2015 logo on them were given to these boats.

August 2015

We prepared petitions to the Muğla Governor, the District Governor of Ortaca (Kaymakam), the Gendarmerie Boat Control Office and the Canal Control Officer of Special Protected Areas regarding turtle feeding and turtle biting in the canals. The letters were handed over by June, Abidin, Sue and Nursel. We received replies from the Kaymakamlık's Office and had a call from the Gendarmerie concerning this issue. A couple of boats were fined ironically not for turtle feeding but for having alive and/or cooked blue crabs on board.

September 2015

Newsletter issue 14 was prepared.

October 2015

Annual Volunteers picnic was held on the 30th October at Kışla as usual.

Preparations for the General Assembly took place. Members were sent letters, meeting announced at the public newspaper.

General Assembly to be held on 4th November.

Acknowledgements:

We want to thank you all for your never ceasing support, help and belief in Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation and our work.

Special thanks to our member Sema Tufan for invaluable support and time she gave during this season.