

# OBJECTIVE 03

To support reconciliation, dialogue, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities

# 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN BIRD PORTAL PROJECT

## SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND NATURE (KUŞKOR)

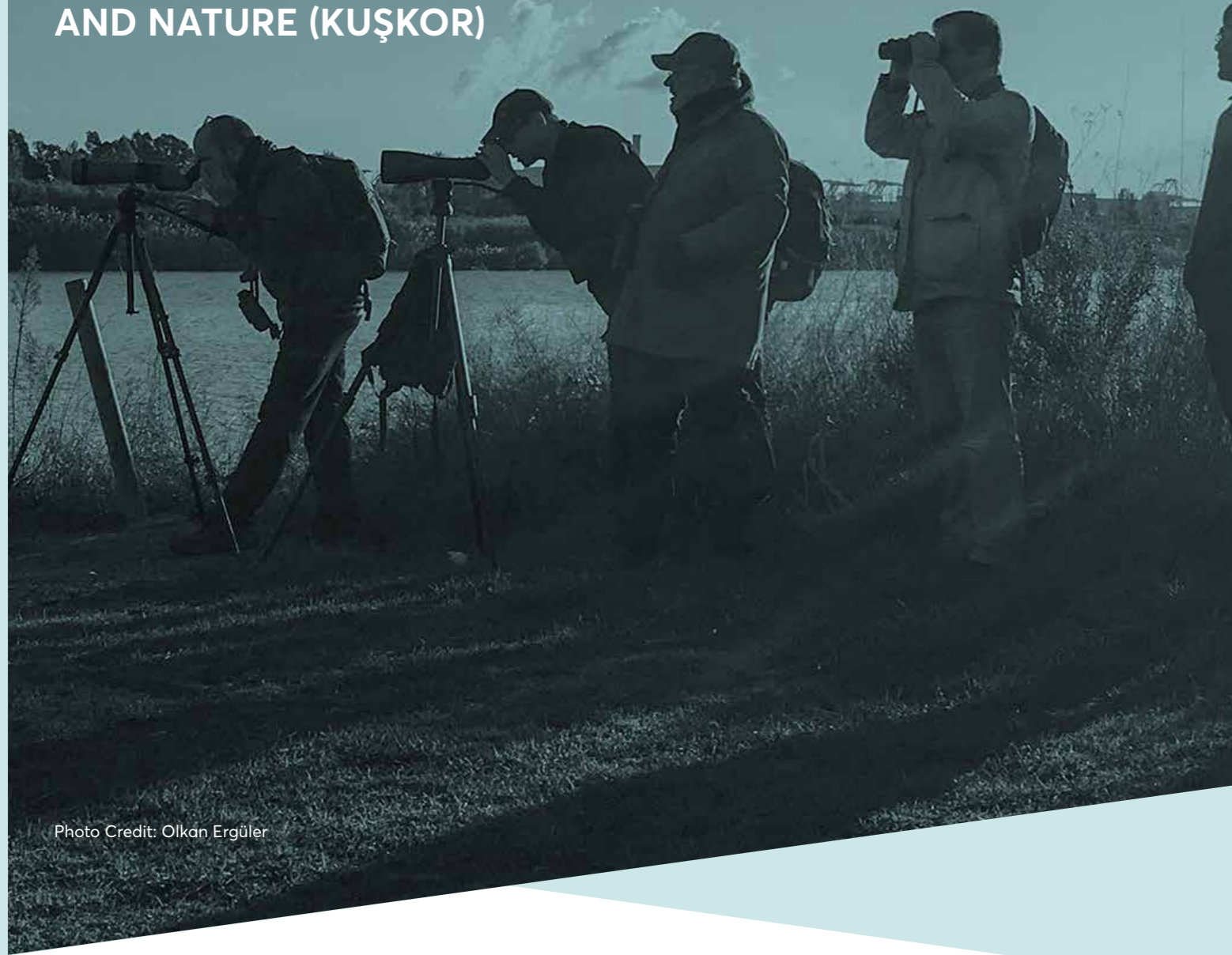


Photo Credit: Olkan Ergüler

## STORY OF THE ACTION

KUŞKOR has been working for thirty years to conserve the birds of Cyprus. They have been collecting and collating valuable bird distribution data in the northern part of Cyprus. During 2010-2011 the Association implemented a bi-communal project called the 'Important Bird Areas of Cyprus Project' funded by the European Union, which improved their capacity on collecting and sharing bird records. After implementing this project, they wanted to take further steps to become part of the international database, BirdTrack Global, to support their conservation efforts.

their knowledge, received valuable feedback and increased networks for future collaborations.

Photo Credit: Olkan Ergüler



*"After the implementation of our bi-communal project, the capacity of KUŞKOR increased and we started to actively collect bird records. There is an active KUŞKOR email group where over 50 members/birders share their bird records. Also, bird photographers provide us with their sightings. We have been sharing this data in the international journal of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, called Sandgrouse, and we are willing to share it more widely; not only for national but also for international conservation efforts. We aimed to become a part of an international database, BirdTrack Global that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout the world, and that provides facilities for individual birdwatchers to store and manage their own personal records, and supports species conservation at local, regional, national and international scales."*

Damla Beton

*"Thanks to Grow Civic's support, we now know available possibilities, advantages and disadvantages that strengthen our current position and future mobility within the European Bird Portal Community. This support immensely built our capacity and greatly contributed to the process of becoming a partner of an international database, which will significantly improve our field of work. Our knowledge and understanding about the available databases have greatly increased. We became familiar with different systems used all throughout Europe. We learned their differences and evaluated the possibility of partnerships with them."*

Damla Beton

Photo Credit: Olkan Ergüler



The association had attempted to join the BirdTrack Global portal several times and their persistent efforts resulted in an invitation to the 11th meeting of the European Bird Portal project, run by the European Bird Census Council in Barcelona. It was a pivotal event, where eighteen database portals and fifty civil society organisations were invited.

KUŞKOR felt that the Barcelona meeting was very beneficial as it helped them to gain knowledge on database management, know the differences from country to country, and understand the reasons behind those differences. They also had the opportunity to meet with some of the most well-known Spanish experts on various species such as the Bonelli's Eagle, the Mediterranean Shag and the Audouin's Gulls, which is one of the most threatened birds breeding in Cyprus that KUŞKOR has been studying for the last decade. They have deepened

## RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The action had a pivotal role in the conservation of the bird species at risk. KUŞKOR diligent effort to become a partner of an international database was largely related to their critical role in policy design, dialogue, and monitoring. Data, supported and ratified by a reliable international resource, would pave the way to advocate for safeguarding from illegal activities; wildlife could be maintained via international conventions, such as the Bern and Bonn conventions.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

KUŞKOR has been working to protect the habitat of the threatened species in Cyprus. They are also collaborating with their counterparts in the Republic of Cyprus to conserve the birds of Cyprus where possible. And they are working towards future collaborations with international stakeholders through the European Bird Portal project.

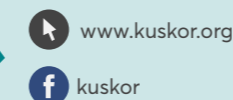
## THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Participation in the 11th Meeting of the European Bird Portal project and in networking and partnership building meetings from 12 to 14 November 2017, in Barcelona, Spain.

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND NATURE

The Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature is a civil society organization, established in 1989, that aims to protect and conserve the birds and nature of Cyprus through education, research, monitoring and lobbying.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION



This Project is funded by the European Union.

