

OBJECTIVE

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To support the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism

TURTLE NETWORKING AND TRAINING

Taşkent Nature Park

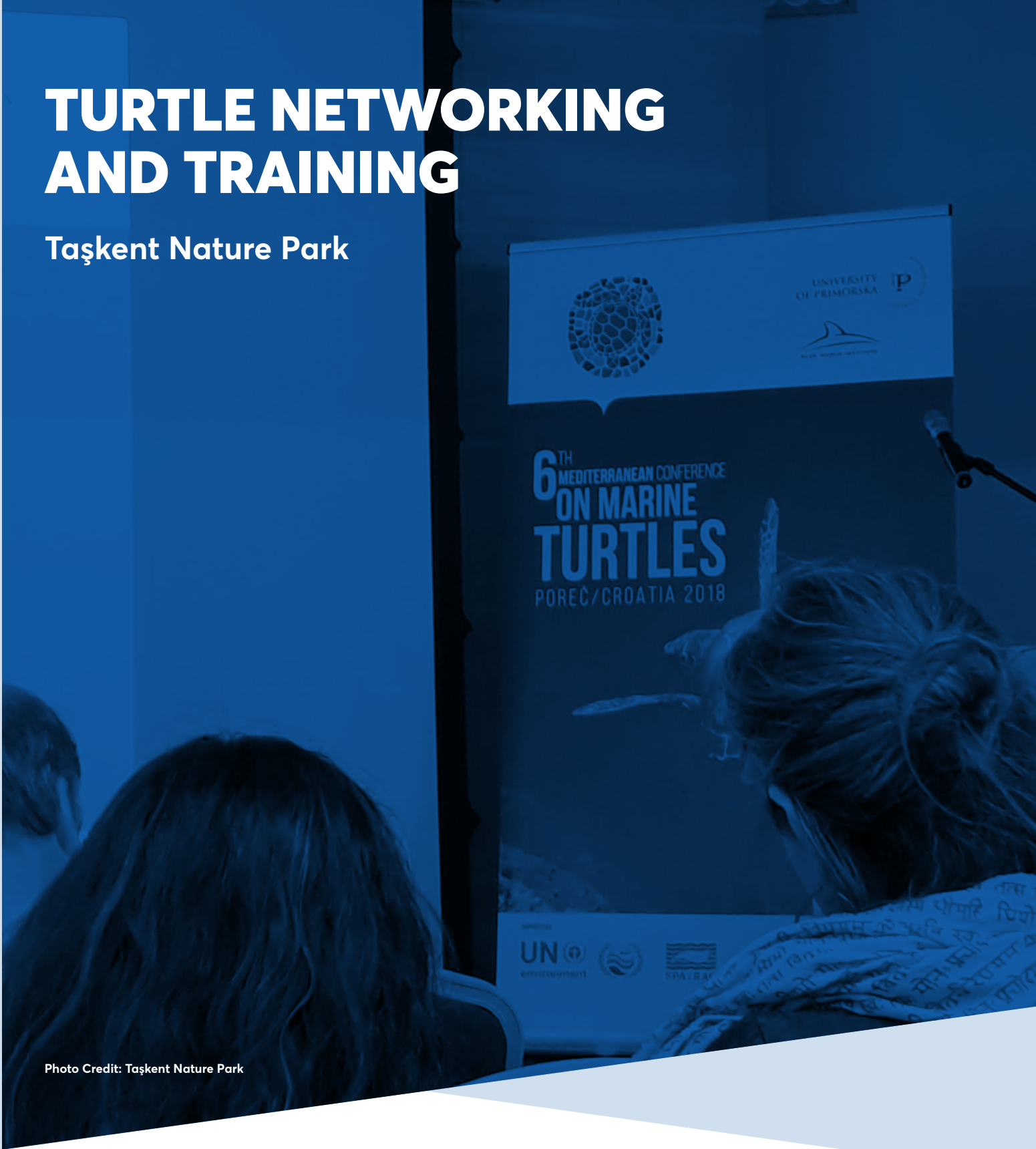


Photo Credit: Taşkent Nature Park



THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Improving partnerships and networking about marine turtle preservation and wildlife conservation

Participation of three members of Taşkent Nature Park in the 6th Mediterranean Conference on marine turtles in Porec, Croatia

Organisation of the "Wildlife Workshop on Best Practices for Conservation" on 1 December 2018 in Taşkent Nature Park.

Drafting the guidelines on wildlife conservation and sharing them with the duty bearers.

ABOUT THE TAŞKENT NATURE PARK

The Taşkent Nature Park (TNP) was established as a privately funded, non-profit, social responsibility organisation, in 2016, in Kyrenia, working to protect the environment and wildlife. The Taşkent Nature Park is the only "legally" qualified organisation to rescue and rehabilitate wild animals, and they have a 10-year protocol with the local body responsible for environmental protection. It permits them to act on their behalf to rescue and rehabilitate all wildlife in the northern part of Cyprus.

STORY OF THE ACTION



"Mediterranean Sea Turtles are endangered. This action will help contribute to Taşkent Nature Park better look after sea turtles if they are ill and by bringing together like-minded organisations and local bodies. This action will also help make it easier for the local body responsible for environment protection to better protect the nesting beaches of these endangered species."

Martin Marancos



To this end, the action took place in two parts. Three staff members from the Taşkent Nature Park, Damla Kiral, Yöner Meray and Martin Marancos attended the four-day-long 6th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles in Porec, Croatia from October 16 to October 20, 2018. The participation in the conference in Porec allowed the team to increase their knowledge and experience on the topic, network with other Mediterranean Sea Turtle experts and develop existing relationships. A veterinarian from Slovenia whom the members met during the conference in Croatia, visited the nature park. After months of voluntary work, he has moved to the northern part of Cyprus and is currently working with the TNP. After the conference, thanks to the networks established with the academics and experts, the capacity to treat turtles has greatly improved. The Humboldt University of Berlin also pledged to provide volunteer students to the organisation in the future.

The second part of the action was the "Wildlife Workshop on Best Practices for Conservation" organized by the Taşkent Nature Park to share the information received at the conference. Prof. Oğuz Türkozan from Turkey and Daniella Freggi from Lampedusa Turtle Rescue-Italy were invited to speak at the workshop. The local body responsible for environmental protection, local and international academics and CSO representatives have participated in the workshop. The speakers gave presentations on "best practices" for Mediterranean marine turtle conservation.

Guidelines on wildlife conservation were established during the workshop organized in four focus groups on: sea turtles' preservation, wildlife rehabilitation and research, monk seal conservation, and conserving flora and seeds. Each group presented their findings, and they were collated and distributed to all attendees, including the local body responsible for environmental protection. It contributed to their efforts to monitor and inspect endangered species nesting on the beaches.

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

"An excellent selection of international and local experts made presentations in the workshop. The focus groups were very effective since the participants were keen and able to discuss best practices. After the workshop, we were informed by Phil Cannings, a TAIEX expert assisting the local body responsible for environmental protection, that there is a preparation of a legal text on conducting wildlife research. He suggested that the focus groups' outcomes are considered in a potential redrafting of the legal text. A completely unexpected outcome."

Martin Marancos

Through the action, by raising the Taşkent Nature Park's reputation internationally and locally and empowering its commitment to nature conservation, the organisation increased its advocacy capacity. It became an important stakeholder for the duty bearers.



"We have been able to accelerate our progress towards being accepted as a serious CSO in marine turtle rehabilitation. Our increased ability for advocacy has meant that the Taşkent Nature Park was included in the decision-making process of the recent legal text passed for the protection of the northern part of Cyprus wetlands."

Martin Marancos



WHAT'S NEXT?

Taskent Nature Park is now recognised by Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles as a Turtle Rescue Centre based in northern part of Cyprus.

TO FIND
MORE ABOUT
THE ACTION



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alan space Πολιτών

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