

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2008)1
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2023

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: TURKIYE

Name of the area: Kuşçenneti National Park (Bird Paradise National Park)

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: 2011 - 2024

Central authority concerned:

Name: General Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks

General Director: Kadir ÇOKÇETİN

Zerrin KARAARSLAN Landscape Architect (MSc)

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Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry (Ayşegül COŞKUN AKPULAT Kuşçenneti National Park Chief)

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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

1. **Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. finalise the revised management plan within one year and commence implementation of all actions and conditions found therein;

Kuşçenneti National Park Long-Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan were approved in 2019. The main activities defined in the plan were implemented after the approval of the plan between 2019 – 2023. Normally Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan” was expected to be revised in 2023 but the 5-year revision period has been increased to 10 years by the ministry so that there aren't many changes in wetlands. At the end of the 2023 Action Plan which is the annex of the Kuşçenneti National Park Long-Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan will be revised for the next five years and started to be implemented.

2. submit any development project regarding the lake, its shores and tributaries, or concerning agricultural or industrial facilities, to a rigorous environmental impact study, the conclusions of which should be communicated to the Council of Europe;

There aren't any new development projects that may affect Kuşçenneti wetland ecosystem. There are also no facilities within the boundaries of the National Park.

All facilities in the buffer zone are permitted according to the Regulation on Conservation of Wetlands and Kuscenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan.

Within this scope, new applications for high-capacity stock farming are not allowed.

3. regularly monitor the breeding bird population of the park, and carry out research on the dynamics of these populations particularly at Siğirci Delta and Koçocay Delta;

Since 2010 bird population dynamics have been observed and recorded at 12 different points, especially in the Sigirci Delta and Kocaçay Delta (seen in figure 1).

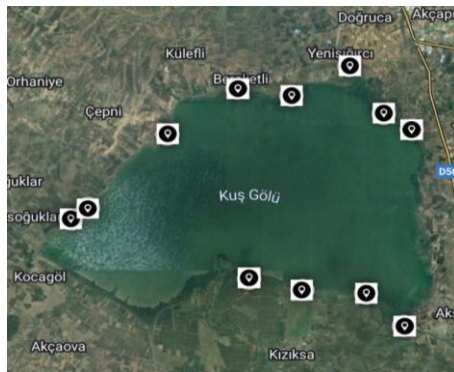


Figure 1. Observation Points Around the Lake.

Bird counting data for 2023 is attached (Annex-1).

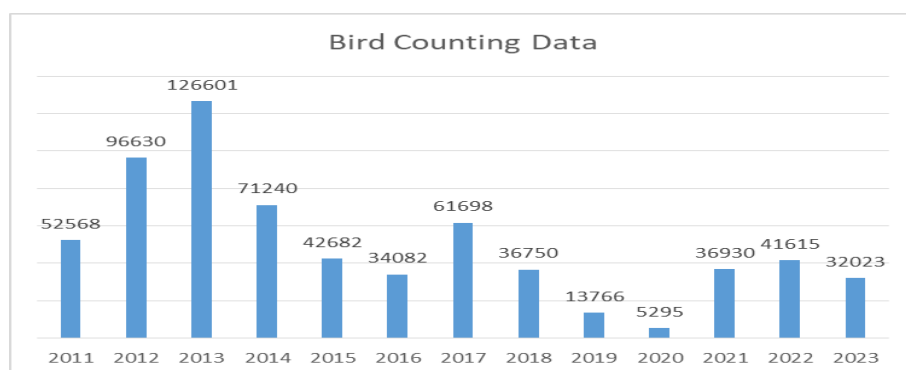


Figure 2. Bird Counting Data Between 2011 – 2023

Besides regular monitoring on the breeding birds population in the national park, provincial-level biodiversity research was conducted in Balıkesir in 2019 and monitoring efforts still continue. A part of research involves Kuşçenneti NP. Outputs of the researches related to the Kuşçenneti NP involving 2 terms in 2023 are attached (Annex-2).

Besides regular monitoring of breeding birds population in the national park, the new IPA Project titled "Preparation, Implementation and Monitoring of Species Action Plans for Endangered Species in Turkey within the Concept of a New Methodology" has just started. With this project, Turkey will prepare its species action plans and national species conservation strategy which involves several methods for the conservation of endangered species particularly for priority species listed in Annexes of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21.5.1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and of Council Directive 2009/147/EC of 30.11.2009 on the conservation of wild birds. *Pelecanus crispus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Aythya ferina* and *Oxyura leucocephala* are specified endangered species within the project. Currently, Draft Species Action Plans for these species have already been prepared and a monitoring program for each species started in Kuşçenneti NP.

4. continue efforts to control pollution caused by poultry and livestock farming and monitor continually the water quality of the lake and of the streams flowing into it.

The water quality examination and control of Sığircı, Kocaçay and Karadere Rivers are monitored by The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works according to the management plan.

There are no facilities within the boundaries of the National Park. All facilities in the buffer zone are permitted according to "Annex-2 of the Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands" and related clauses in the Kuşçenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan. Within this scope, new applications for high-capacity stock farming are not allowed.

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. increase the number of staff to meet the increased workload due to the park's enlargement;

Currently, a veterinarian who is a NP Manager, a forestry engineer (MSc.), another forestry engineer who is a consultant, a forest guard, a driver and 5 workers have been assigned to the National Park chiefdom. Also, 2 environmental engineers, a chemist, a wildlife technician, a forest guard and a worker have been assigned to Bandırma to support National Park management.

2. ensure the natural fluctuations in the lake's water level, including spring flooding and the drying up of the shoreline in summer;

According to the long-term monitoring results, the lake's natural water level shows seasonal changes from 14 m to 17 m. There is a parallelism between the changes in lake water level and regional precipitation and Manyas Stream flows. In the last 10 years, there have not been any adverse effects resulting from the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works practices that may affect the bird population. Water fluctuations are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions. Daily water level monitoring is done according to the annual operating program prepared by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and natural fluctuation is observed. Average water levels between 2011 and 2022 are given in Figure 3.

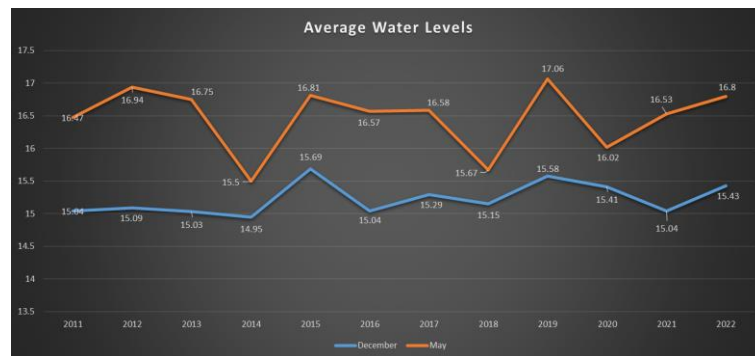


Figure 3. Average water levels between 2011- 2022

3. set up a small wardening unit on the southern shore of the lake (in the Koçocay Delta area) to guarantee the protection of the area.

In the Kocaçay Delta section, the wardening unit has been defined in the already approved plan but after renewing the camera system it has been seen that there is no more need to set up a wardening unit in this region. Because these new mobile cameras can rotate 360 degrees. It has an illumination distance of 150 meters, 32x optical zoom and 4 MP resolution. Thanks to this technology, possible threats can be detected without going to the field and intervened immediately. The location of each camera is seen in Figure 4.

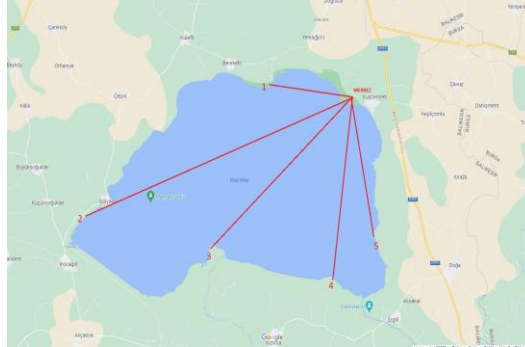


Figure 4. Location for camera system.

This system is also eco-friendly, it uses green energy. With their solar panels, the cameras use solar energy during the day and wind energy at night.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Site management for the national park is the routine activity of national park authorities. Within this context the activities defined in the Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan implemented after the approval of the plan. Bird Paradise National Park Chiefdom which was responsible for more areas besides the national park, was divided into two parts in 2020 for increasing management effectiveness. The chiefdom is just responsible for National Park now and managing area more effectively.

Visitor facilities are important tools to increase visitor satisfaction and awareness. Within this context social facilities included 6 WC, 1 disabled WC, 1 baby change unit and 2 prayer rooms completed in 2019 and opened for usage of visitors in 2020. Major renovation of the Administration and Visitor Promotion Center has just completed in 2023. Interior design which includes visitor information system and museum in visitor center is still continue. Also renovation of current bird observation towers finished and an elevator system was installed to tower to ensure access of disabled people. Current photos from visitor facilities is given at Annex 3.

Site management efforts also include support of habitat for waterfowls. New trees are planted in place of the dried ones in the Sığircı Delta before the breeding period of the birds. Also maintenance and reed coating of current (68 pieces) pelican nests continue regularly.

Field vehicles (a land vehicle, a tractor, a boat and a motor cycle) have been allocated for mobilization.

A good park signage system is conducted to protect and improve the sensitive habitats and the biodiversity associated with them in the Kuşçenneti National Park. Signs have been put up especially at the entrance points of the area and at the points where birds breed intensively. Also warning signs against illegal hunting have been placed.

Wild life monitoring efforts continue regularly via camera traps and other optical systems. Especially bird population dynamics are observed and recorded.

Regular field checks are made throughout the year in order to prevent illegal hunting and fishing.

Fish species and their population in the lake monitored regularly by District Agricultural Directorate. Result of monitoring activities show that population of carassius, which is an invasive species in the lake, has been reduced by monitoring and controlling fishing practices.

The water quality examination and control of Sigirci River is monitored by General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works.

Daily water level monitoring is done according to annual operating program prepared by General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works.

To contribute to raising individuals who understand nature, respect nature and take responsibility in protecting it educational programs are organized for different student groups in schools. Also trainings are given to the local people on illegal hunting and the protection of the national park.

Promotional products, brochures, books, etc. are being prepared for introducing resource values of the national park for different target groups.

4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

There has been no change in the boundary of the National Park since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Currently completed research in Kuşçenneti National Park:

- Master Thesis: The Relationship Between Decent Work and Job Satisfaction “A Research on Rural Workers”, Esra İÇÖZ, 2023.
- Master Thesis: Monitoring of Climate Changes In Ramsar Areas of Turkey With Remote Sensing Techniques, Ufuk CELİK, 2023.
- Master Thesis: Churches of Don (Russian) Cossacks in Manyas Kocagöl, Cansu Uçar, 2022.
- Master Thesis: Investigation of microcystin distribution in Manyas Lake, Anil Algedik, 2022.
- Master Thesis: Hydrogeological assessment and groundwater vulnerability map of Lake Manyas Basin, Hazel Alan, 2022.
- Master Thesis: Bird population influence of wind power plants (WPP) on bird migration road, Yılmaz Öztemel, 2021.
- Book: Multidisciplinary Manyas Studies: Financial, Economic and Social Approaches, Dr. Mustafa Kevser, 2022.
- Book: Manyas Bird Paradise National Park: Cultural, Historical and Political Ecology, Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Arı, 2021.

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

As a result of effective management of the National Park and its buffer zone, there haven't been any negative changes or deterioration in the environmental conditions in the last ten years. However, especially with the effects of increasing migration to the rural areas, even if it is not in National Park there are increasing population and settlements have increased in the villages around Kuşçenneti. This situation caused illegal fisheries and land hunting that is difficult to be prevent even if it is constantly controlled.

Only 1.7% (approximately 293 ha) of the National Park area consists of agricultural areas and agricultural activities in the National Park are very limited. However, agriculture in the Delta has a two-way pressure on the National Park, with the destruction of reeds (cutting, burning and plowing the areas where water is drawn) to open up new agricultural areas, and the effect of fertilizer used in agriculture and pesticide residues.

Again, even if it is not in the National Park there is increasing demand for livestock's in basin. Within the National Park, there are a total of 1,917,261.6 m² of pasture area in 10 parcels belonging to 6 neighborhoods. However, animals are grazed in wet meadows around the lake as well as on pasture areas.

Despite an increasing demand for livestock in basin, there are no facilities within the boundaries of the National Park. All facilities in the buffer zone are permitted according to "Annex-2 of the Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands" and related clauses in the Kuscenneti National Park Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan. Within this scope, new applications for high capacity stock farming are not allowed.

6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes

No major change has been observed in flora and vegetation. Beside inventory works the preparation of the long term development plan, provincial-level biodiversity research was conducted in Balıkesir in 2019. A part of the research also involves Kuşçenneti.

6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

Sığircı and Kocaçay deltas are the most important areas in Turkey as a meaning of bird species that incubate on trees. There are 240 bird species identified in the area and 105 of them are likely or definitely breeding in the area.

Kuşçenneti National Park is one of the most important incubation areas in Turkey for the dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), whose population size is around 10-14 thousand on Earth. It is also the most important wintering area of the *Oxyura leucocephala*, one of the endangered bird species estimated to be 8-13 thousand on Earth (Birdlife, 2015). Kuşçenneti meets the IBA-A4 criterion because it contains a significant number of endangered species.

An improvement in waterfowl populations has been observed over the years. Monitoring efforts were repeated at the same points every year in December, January and February and covered the entire Lake. These observations are continued by the support of NGOs which involve Turkey's most experienced bird watchers.

It is known that before 2010 population of waterfowl was less than 10,000. With increasing effectiveness of management efforts these numbers are increased and according to long-term monitoring data on the breeding bird population of the park, the highest population was reached in 2013 by 126.601 birds.

A diagram including the last ten years' bird population as a result of long-term monitoring efforts is given. As seen in the diagram there is a decrease in numbers. The main reason for this situation could be changes in climate conditions because of the effects of global warming.

Also, a decrease has been observed in the fish population in the lake in 2020. As a result of the observations made, it is thought to be the result of fluctuations in the water level that are caused by seasonal fluctuations and weather conditions in the habitats of the fish breeding season last year. Accordingly, a decrease is observed in the bird population due to the changes in the seasons.

Besides regular monitorings for bird and fish species the provincial-level biodiversity research was conducted in Balıkesir in 2019. A part of the research also involves Kuşçenneti. Outputs of the research related to the Kuşçenneti involving 2 terms in 2023 are attached (Annex-2).

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

7.1. Cultural heritage

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

The Archaeological excavations in the Daskyleion are continuing. Some new foundations and pavements have been outcropped. Findings of these excavations are shown in the collection of Bandırma Museum. Effects of Kuşçenneti and natural resources of ancient wetland settlement may be seen on these artefacts. To increase the recognition of the historical, cultural and natural values of the area at the national and international levels, to increase the visitor diversity of the area, to protect the area and to ensure that it exists with all its values in the future as it has been for thousands of years, these two values Kuşçenneti and Daskyleion antique city should be handled and evaluated together.

7.2. Socio-economic context

7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

No significant change in socio-economic context occurred since 2010.

Local people still earn their living from agriculture, livestock and fishing. The main tourist attraction point for the region is Kuşçenneti National Park. There aren't any tourism activities surrounding settlements.

The main livelihood of the settlements associated with the area is agriculture. However, agricultural activities in the National Park are very limited. Only 1.7% (approximately 293 ha) of the National Park area consists of agricultural areas. Very few of these lands are privately owned lands.

The next important source of income for the local people after agriculture is livestock. Within the National Park, there are a total of 1,917,261.6 m² of pasture area in 10 parcels belonging to 6 neighborhoods. Butter, cheese and yogurt production is an important source of income in the region. Milk and dairy products are both used as a source of income in the villages and consumed for nutrition within the family.

Aquaculture is the leading value for the fishermen produced by Kuş Lake as a wetland ecosystem.

8. Education and scientific interest

8.1. Visitors – Information policy

8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

New information instruments (brochures, stickers, booklets, t-shirts and posters) are published. All of these materials are being distributed to the visitors.

There are many arrangements for receiving and informing the public such as distribution of the brochures, direction of the visitors, and organizing training programs for children and schools. The visitors are informed in the special information hall by national park staff using the digital cameras that are located in the field. On the other hand, the visitors can take binoculars in the visitor center to watch the birds by themselves. The guiding services are offered to visitors by the National Park staff.

8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

Regular monitoring efforts continue to learn about visitor profiles and behavior (number, distribution in time and space). According to these monitoring efforts the intensive period for visiting the park is weekends and the closing period of the schools.

During the last years especially the number of primary and secondary students has increased. The main goal of their visitation is to recognize and learn about bird species and watch the birds in their habitats. The school groups are coming regularly with their teachers.

Foreign visitors are especially visiting the area for bird watching. They are mainly ornithologist and they are aware of the area and bird species. While there was a significant increase in domestic visitors every year, the number of visitors from abroad remained stable. This situation can be explained by inadequate promotion, especially abroad.

Kuşçenneti National Park is one of the main attraction points and visitor numbers increasing each year. In the last ten years before covid-19 pandemic it has increased about five times. On the other hand, the profile and increasing trends in visitor numbers have been changed for this year. As a global situation, visitor numbers in 2020 decreased with the effects of covid-19 pandemic. Then due to the ongoing construction works at the visitor center, a regular number of visitors could not be recorded from 2021 to July 2023. 25. 411 visitors visited the national park in last five years as seen in the Figure 5.

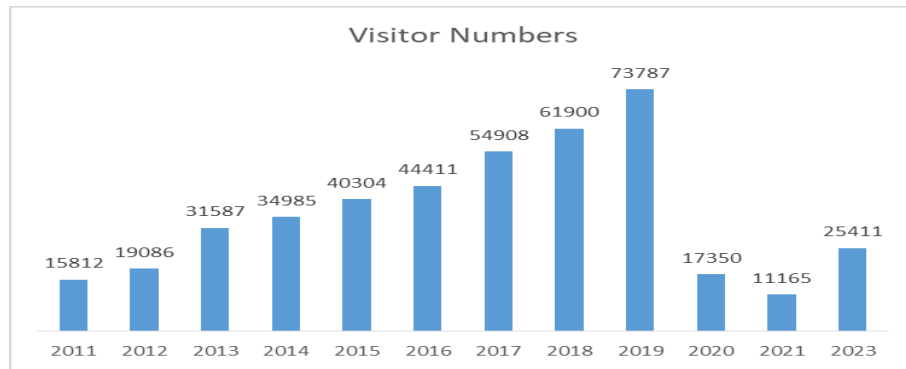


Figure 5. Visitor numbers between 2011- 2023

8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

- Since 1987, the "International Bandırma Bird Paradise Culture and Tourism Festival" has been held every year in June. Every year, scientists and artists well-known throughout the country participate in the festival. It was held for the 34th time in 2023. All of the festival visitors and participants can visit our area free of charge during the festival. Every year, panels about the introduction of the Bird Paradise National Park and its problems are organized within the scope of the festival with the participation of scientists. Photos from the festival are given at Annex 3
- A competition on the concept of "Bandırma Kuşgölü" was organized and selected and awarded photographs were presented in the exhibition garden of the visitor center in the national park.
- Nature education for the children who are from neighboring schools has continued to increase awareness of the national park and nature conservation during the last years.
- The visitor center has an important role, especially means of increasing awareness of nature conservation and protected areas. It will continue this role with increasing function after reconstruction. Each year many students visit national park as a group. Meanwhile, a training programme conservation of biodiversity was conducted by the staff of our Balıkesir Branch Office. Also, there is another course for hunters that mentions the importance of the national park and its conservation for the future.

8.2. Scientific research

8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

- Regular periodical hydrochemical sampling and monitoring studies are going on in the Kuşçenneti National Park. Besides this, ornithological surveys and bird census programs are being undertaken.
- The biodiversity inventory and monitoring efforts for Balıkesir Province was started in 2017 within the scope of the project called "National Biodiversity Inventory Research and Monitoring in Turkey" (UBENIS). Species and areas within the scope of the project began to be monitored as of April 2018. In the Kuşçenneti the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and *Bufo variabilis* are being monitored.
- Also an Action Plan for the conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) was put into force in 2019 and monitoring efforts linked to the action plan continue. Monitoring program monitoring studies cover 10 years. Within the scope of this plan, the limit for approaching pelican breeding sites was increased from 500 m to 1 km.
- In addition, TUBITAK supported University Research Projects related to the field continue.
- The research called "Trees and Shrubs of Kuşçennet (Bandırma / Balıkesir) and its Surroundings" was conducted by Tümen et.al. (2019). As a result of this research it has been determined that there are 284 genus belonging to 72 families and 419 species and subspecies taxa belonging to these genus. It has been determined that they are the richest families in terms of species and subspecies taxa from *Asteraceae* (61 taxa), *Fabaceae* (47 taxa), *Poaceae* (35 taxa) *Lamiaceae* (19 taxa) and *Brassicaceae* (19 taxa).
- According to the research called "Lake Manyas from past to present" conducted by Türket et.al. 34 species of fish belonging to 8 families are defined to live in the area. A detailed list of the fish species in Manyas Lake is given in annex (Annex 4).

8.2.2. Scientific publications

Detailed list of scientific publications is attached (Annex 5).

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No significant change in legislative or institutional structure occurred since the last reporting period.

- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
No significant change in ownership occurred since 2010
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)
No significant change in boundaries occurred since 2010

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

- 10.1. Improvements made
 - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
The renovation of existing breeding platforms for pelicans has been realized in Sığırcı Delta. The total number of the platforms is 58 in November 2023.
Protection and control operations are carried out regularly by guards (rangers).
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
Several studies are being carried out on protection against the elements (fire, water regime) by the National Park Administration. Especially public awareness and capacity-building studies are doing close cooperation with schools, municipalities and other institutions.
They are working in close cooperation with the General Directorate of Forestry for firefighting and, working with the State Hydraulic Works for the regulation of the water regime.
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
The main state road of Bandırma - Balıkesir which passes through the eastern coast has been improved. Relevant signposts and necessary traffic beacons/lights have been installed. The secondary road connecting the park to the main state road has been improved.
The oldest information and direction signs have been renewed.
The trail network has been renewed.
The roads of settlements associated with the lake are asphalt and there is no transportation problem. All settlements have electricity, telephone lines, television broadcasts, internet and mobile phone access. Except for Kuşçenneti, all settlements supply their drinking and utility water from groundwater through boreholes and there is a water network.
The drinking water, including the Visitor Center at Kuşçenneti district, is supplied from the mains water of Bandırma Municipality. Apart from the 4 settlements, there is a purification facility for drinking and utility water. Drinking water is used without treatment in Aksakal, Ergili, Bereketli and Çepni districts.
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
Field vehicles that have been allocated for use in the park are a land vehicle, a tractor, a boat and a motor cycle. There are also enough binoculars and cameras for field work.
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
Balıkesir province has become a Metropolitan Municipality in terms of local governments, and as a result, villages have turned into neighborhoods. Accordingly, domestic wastes in the neighborhoods around the lake are collected by the municipalities and disposed of by the Metropolitan Municipality.
Renewable energy facilities located in Gönen District and Bandırma Edincik District produce biogas by processing the wastes of livestock activities around the Lake.
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
The use of renewable energy systems is promoted both in the Action Plan for *Pelecanus crispus* and also in the Kuscenneti National Park management plan called the Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan. In this context camera system which has just been installed on the site uses green energy. With their solar panels, the cameras use solar energy during the day and wind energy at night. Also, new visitor facilities and park infrastructures are planned to built by taking into consideration renewable energy systems.
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
The main instrument for management of the area Kuscenneti National Park management plan called Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan was approved.
Also in 2020, the Bird Paradise National Park Chiefdom which was responsible for more areas besides the national park was divided into two parts. This structural change in Bird Paradise National Park Chiefdom made it responsible for only the national park. Thanks to this reorganization management effectiveness of the national park increased.
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
No major change occurred.

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

No major change occurred since 2010.

Kuscenneti National Park management plan called the Long Term Development Plan and Wetland Management Plan was approved and the National Park zoning system was defined by this plan.

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No significant change in legislative or institutional structure occurred since 2010.

Just Law on Wetlands has been reviewed.

11. Influence of the award of the Euroean Diploma for Protected Areas

Kuşçenneti which is the second National Park of Turkey is one of the oldest protected areas of Turkey. It is also one of the most effectively managed national park and is protected with national and international legislation.

The European Diploma is still a source of motivation and increases the awareness of stakeholders. Not only the responsible institutions are protecting the area but also the investment side, resource authorities and local people are using this title as a tool. They are working closely with the Park administration to support conservation activities and public awareness.

On the other hand, the Diploma adds prestige and power to the area. Both related institutions and local administrations are making sensitively their application because of this diploma. This situation is supporting effective management of the area. The diploma is also adding additional interest and attention to the national park.