PRESS RELEASE

Awareness raising training on marine invasive alien species will reach 9,000 students

The new initiative of DKMPGM, ÖRAV and UNDP will support the preparation of primary and secondary school lesson plans to raise awareness of marine invasive alien species threats.

Ankara, 31 May 2022 – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry-General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMPGM) and UN Development Program (UNDP) initiative focusing on threats posed by invasive alien species in Turkey's important marine biodiversity areas.

Marine invasive alien species (IYT) are defined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as one of the main threats to Turkey's marine biodiversity. As of the end of 2020, 105 of 539 alien species detected in Turkish seas were found invasive. Reducing the impact of these species, controlling and preventing their entry is vital for the future of native species and habitats.

Addressing Invasive Alien Species Threats at Key Marine Biodiversity Areas Project is being implemented by Director General for Nature Conservation and National Parks under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and UNDP with the financial support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) since 2018. The goal of the project is to minimize negative impacts of IAS in support of conservation Turkey's globally significant native marine biodiversity. The project aims to ensure resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems through strengthened capacities and investment in prevention, detection, control and management of Invasive Alien Species.

The contributions of ÖRAV, a non-governmental organization supporting the personal and professional development of teachers in Turkey since 2008, within the scope of the training program prepared for primary and secondary school teachers in the project pilot regions, were introduced in Ankara today. 90-minute workshop was held for 25 teachers in a classroom environment where they were informed about the project and the training process.