



Anatolian Sweetgum Tree Planting with Students,
World Forestry Day (March 21, 2011)



Wall Painting with Köyceğiz People
(December 5, 2010)



5th World Youth Congress, Sweetgum Forest Cleaning
(August 6-8, 2010)

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The "Sweetgum Revival" Project is carried out
by Nature Conservation Centre
with the support of Life Plus Youth Program
and in partnership with General Directorate of
Forestry, Environmental Protection Agency for
Special Areas and Köyceğiz Municipality.

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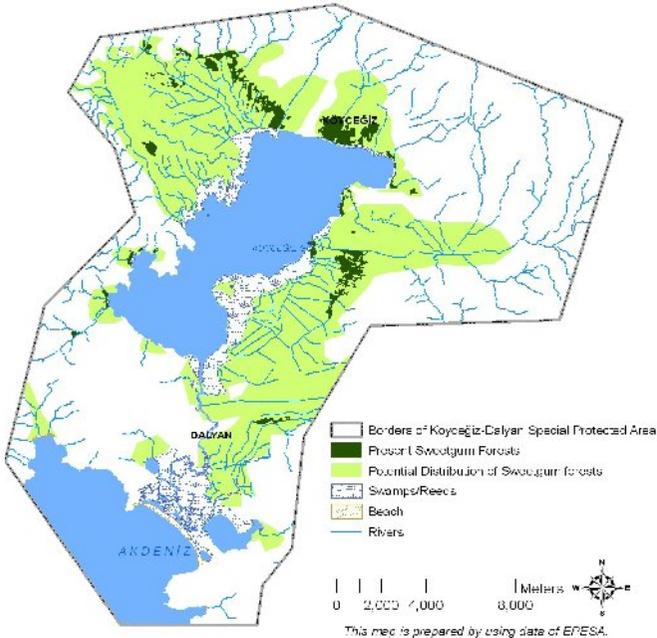
Sweetgum Revival



Anatolian Sweetgum Tree

The only Anatolian Sweetgum forest in the world is in
Köyceğiz

Anatolian Sweetgum Tree (*Liquidambar orientalis*), its local name being “*Sığla* or *Günlük Tree*”, is an endangered species and the only area large enough to be call a forest is in the Köyceğiz Region. In the 1950s Sweetgum forests had a field with **6,500 hectares**, where today this figure has dramatically dropped to **1,300 hectares**. The forest areas of the Sweetgum have been increasingly fragmented and today they are faced with the threat of extinction.



MAP: Potential Distribution of Sweetgum forest around Köyceğiz Lake

“Sweetgum Revival” Project

The “*Sweetgum Revival*” aim is to enlarge the Sweetgum Forests area by strengthening the links among forest fragments and creating corridors between the ruptured pieces. The project plan is to analyzed the current state of Sweetgum Forests and established the Corridor Strategy, along with a public awareness campaign about the forest and its properties. A plantation study was prepared using the *Corridor Strategy* with the participation of public organizations and local people. This plantation activity was one of the first tree plantation studies which took *Landscape Ecology Principles* into account in Turkey.



Currently, the Corridor Strategy Activities are still going on in the Second Year of the Project, which had started in 2011. In the future the project team plans to develop the potential of Sweetgum Forests for *alternative economic activities*, so farmers do not rely on cutting the trees for income. The goal is to bring the Sweetgum Forests back to its 1950’s condition and again make it one of the most important sources of income for the local people of Köyceğiz.

Köyceğiz People Protecting Their Sweetgum Forests Again!

- ⇒ The “*Sweetgum Tree Planting Festival*” with local people and government authorities took place on in April 6, 2010.
- ⇒ Young People from different countries participating in the “*5th World Youth Congress*” visited Köyceğiz to bring awareness to the Sweetgum Forest’s situation between August 6 and 8, 2010.
- ⇒ A *painting activity* with the topic of “*Köyceğiz and Sweetgum Forests*” was held with Köyceğiz Young People between November 29 and December 5, 2010, in the big entrance of Köyceğiz City.
- ⇒ On “*World Forestry Day*” (March 21, 2011) “*Sweetgum Tree Planting Activity*” was held with students on the gardens of schools in Köyceğiz .
- ⇒ Nature Education & Games have been held by Nature Education Specialists for Köyceğiz students for “*International Children’s Day*” (April 23, 2011).
- ⇒ **1000 sweetgum trees** sampling have being giving to community member to plan freely.

One of the project goals is to develop the potential of Sweetgum Forests for nature tourism around Köyceğiz. Towards this goal, project team is preparing *the Sweetgum Eco-Tourism Plan* and creating *nature friendly walkways* inside the Sweetgum Forests in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas.