

Statute of Ekomiras Association

Ekomiras is a non-governmental organization that aims to protect the natural balance and biodiversity of the Mediterranean, as well as the Marmara, Aegean and Black Sea, along with lakes, rivers, deltas, lagoons and coastal habitats. The Association carries out scientific, cultural and environmental activities in line with this purpose.

Article 1 – Purpose

The name of the association is “**Ekomiras**”. The Association has been established to protect the natural balance and biodiversity of oceans, seas (primarily the Mediterranean Basin, Black Sea, Marmara Sea and Aegean Sea), as well as inland waters such as lakes, rivers, streams, lagoons, deltas and estuaries, and to preserve and transmit the cultural heritage of these areas to future generations. The Association pursues scientific, cultural and environmental activities in line with this objective.

Article 2 – Fields of Activity

In order to achieve its purpose, the Association undertakes activities in the following fields:

1. Conservation and Research

- a) Protecting the natural balance and species living in marine, inland water and coastal ecosystems,
- b) Researching, documenting and transferring to future generations the ecological, historical and cultural values of wetlands, seas and coastal ecosystems,
- c) Developing scientific projects, conducting research and organizing educational and awareness-raising activities for the sustainability of freshwater and marine ecosystems.

2. Awareness and Protected Areas

- a) Raising public awareness through educational programs, publications, digital content, exhibitions and cultural events,
- b) Collaborating with public institutions, universities and other relevant organizations for the establishment and functioning of marine protected areas,
- c) Carrying out conservation activities for endangered species such as sharks, rays, sea turtles and the Mediterranean monk seal.

3. Prevention of Environmental Threats

- a) Identifying threats such as climate change, pollution, coastal filling, habitat destruction, excessive construction, ports and marina developments, sand extraction, outdated artificial reef practices and mooring systems,
- b) Preparing reports, developing and implementing solutions to these threats.

4. Sustainable Fisheries

- a) Protecting and promoting traditional fisheries,
- b) Restricting industrial fishing in inland waters and prohibiting it in areas serving as biological corridors,
- c) Participating in national and international projects, producing scientific reports and publications,
- d) Contributing to the development of sustainable and responsible fishing methods.

5. Cultural Heritage

- a) Preserving and promoting water, marine and freshwater-related cultural heritage,
- b) Creating scientific databases related to these fields.

6. Collaboration

Developing joint projects and partnerships with national and international individuals, institutions and organizations, and contributing to the protection of habitats.

7. Environmental Law and Advocacy

- a) Initiating efforts for the establishment of marine and wetland protected areas,
- b) Participating in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes,
- c) Carrying out activities based on environmental law.

8. Holistic Conservation

- a) Promoting an ecosystem-based rather than species-based conservation approach,
- b) Conducting identification, monitoring and research studies on seagrass meadows, corals, gorgonians, sponges and similar habitats,
- c) Developing projects in this scope.

9. Scientific Studies and Publications

- a) Compiling, publishing and presenting scientific data obtained from association projects,
- b) Leading scientific research and creating databases.

10. Nature and Culture Relations

Researching and promoting the interrelations of nature, seas, people, water, history,

culture, ecology and technology, ensuring the protection of these values, and spreading environmental awareness in society.

11. Education and Public Awareness

- a) Recognizing nature conservation as not only an environmental but also a cultural and scientific responsibility,
- b) Educating environmentally conscious individuals,
- c) Organizing training and awareness activities to increase society's sensitivity to natural resources.

12. Support for Science and Academia

- a) Providing financial and moral support for academic or independent studies in line with the Association's purposes,
- b) Creating opportunities for scientists in experimental underwater archaeology, ecological studies and natural history research,
- c) Organizing educational and scholarship programs.

13. Cultural and Scientific Contributions

- a) Designing, supporting and finalizing cultural heritage and scientific research projects related to seas and coasts,
- b) Sharing findings with the public and the scientific community,
- c) Promoting interest in history, enhancing awareness of environment and cultural heritage.