



07.05.2013

## PRESS RELEASE

### “Green Oscar” for Mediterranean Conservation Society

Mr. Zafer Kızılkaya, the Chairman of the Mediterranean Conservation Society (AKD), is presented the Whitley Award, a prestigious international nature conservation prize. AKD, which is the implementing NGO of the different projects under the support of the Strengthening the System of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Turkey Project and GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), is given the prize for its efforts on providing and increasing the Gökova Special Environmental Protection Area No-Fishing Zones’ effectiveness by participation of the local fishers

AKD Chairman Mr. Zafer Kızılkaya is presented the Whitley Award, known as “Green Oscar”. AKD is the implementing NGO of the different projects under the support of Strengthening the System of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Turkey Project (PIMS 3697) by the implementation of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization General Directorate of Natural Assets Protection and UNDP with the support of GEF-SGP

### HRH The Princess Royal presented the prize

The ceremony was made at the Royal Geographical Society and the prize was presented to Mr. Kızılkaya by HRH The Princess Royal. “Every winner has a close connection with their community, as well as experience and an understanding of the issues, which often relate to human-wildlife conflict, but they also know how to make an impact through practical solutions, engaging people and initiating change at government level. That’s a rare skill. Let’s face it, there are ‘experts’ out there, who don’t always have that skill, but the Whitley Award winners do” said the HRH The Princess Royal.

### Conducting many projects

Establishing marine ranger system, which includes the local fishermen to increase the effectiveness of the control in the no-fishing zones of the Gökova Special Environment Protection Area and “Traditional Fishing” projects are among the projects conducted by AKD.

AKD is given the prize for its efforts on providing and increasing the Gökova Special Environmental Protection Area No-Fishing Zones’ effectiveness by participation of the local fishers.