

LAKE BEYŞEHİR IN FOCUS

A Visual Overview of
Social, Economic, and
Environmental
Conditions





Prepared by: Ertan Karabiyik, Yiğit Yüksel

Translated and Edited by: Özgür Çetinkaya, Bürge Akbulut

Photographs by: Ertan Karabiyik, Gökçe Okullu, İbrahim Tuğrul, Kurtuluş Karaşın, Özgür Çetinkaya, Yiğit Yüksel

Design: KarasinGraphic

May 2025, Ankara

FOREWORD

Nestled in the heart of Anatolia, at the foothills of the Taurus Mountains and within the Lakes Region, Lake Beyşehir is not only one of Turkey's largest freshwater lakes but also a custodian of the area's rich natural, historical, and cultural heritage. For thousands of years, it has been a place where water, land, and people have coexisted in harmony—offering a unique living landscape that blends agriculture and fishing, reed beds and birdlife, villages and ancient monuments into an integrated whole.

This photo album aims to reveal the captivating beauty of Lake Beyşehir, its vibrant ecosystem, and the social and economic life that thrives along its shores. Each photograph stands as a silent witness: from shimmering reflections on the lake's surface to scenes of daily village life, from birds hidden in the reeds to fishermen casting their nets at dawn.

This geography, where nature, humanity, and history intertwine, is both a cradle of fertile agricultural activity and a reminder of the urgent need to preserve fragile water resources and vulnerable ecosystems. For the local population, the lake's waters are nothing less than life itself. Used for irrigation, drinking, and fishing, the lake also shelters endemic fish species and is a haven for a wide variety of birdlife—offering immense ecological value.

Conscious water use, environmentally attuned agricultural practices, and the protection of wetlands are all vital for ensuring both the economic and ecological sustainability of the region. This project not

only documents the natural beauty of Lake Beyşehir, but also the stories, traditions, and relationships that local communities have forged with it over generations.

From the quiet morning journeys of fishing boats to the bustle of village squares, from the silent testimony of ancient ruins to the majesty of stone monuments, this photographic journey sheds light on the multilayered identity of Lake Beyşehir.

Our aim is not only to celebrate the lake's beauty, but also to draw attention to the challenges it faces. Climate change, unsustainable water use, rural transformation, and biodiversity loss are among the pressing issues presented here—calling for awareness and action from both local communities and concerned observers like you.

We hope this album serves not only as a visual archive, but also as a source of awareness and inspiration—contributing to the protection and preservation of Lake Beyşehir and its surroundings. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all local residents, researchers, and nature lovers who opened their doors and shared their stories with us. This album reaches you as an echo of their voices and a reflection of the lake's timeless beauty.

We wish you an enlightening journey of discovery—and one that may help prevent the disappearance of Lake Beyşehir.

Development Workshop
May 2025, Ankara





➤ Crop Production, Livestock Farming, and Beekeeping

6



➤ The Lake Ecosystem and Influencing Factors

15



➤ Water Resource Utilization and Practices

24



➤ Rural Communities

31



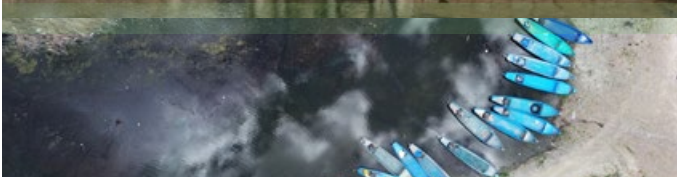
➤ The Village of Endless Gratitude
(Sonsuz Şükran Village)

33



➤ Historical and Archaeological Sites

35



➤ Fish Diversity

41

➤ CROP PRODUCTION

Annuals
Perennials



Annuals

The area surrounding Lake Beyşehir—located in Konya province and home to Turkey’s largest freshwater lake—includes extensive agricultural lands. The region is characterized by a continental semi-arid climate, with hot, dry summers and cold winters. Where irrigation is available, various annual crops are cultivated in the fields surrounding the lake.

Key annual crops grown in the Lake Beyşehir region include:

Wheat: One of the most widely cultivated cereals in the region, typically grown in dry farming areas.

Barley: Grown for both animal feed and the food industry; preferred for its drought tolerance.

Oats: Primarily used as animal feed; cultivated in areas where irrigation is available.

Rye and Triticale: Suitable for dry farming, especially in marginal lands.

Maize (Silage and Grain Corn): Grown in irrigated fields; silage maize is particularly important in areas where livestock farming is developed.

Sunflower: Cultivated for oil production.

Sugar Beet: Requires irrigation; grown in areas around the lake where irrigation is possible.

Legumes: Chickpeas are a widespread dry farming crop in Konya and its

surroundings. Lentils and beans are also cultivated in suitable areas.

Vegetables (Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes, Carrots, Lettuce, Spinach, etc.): Grown in irrigated fields and gardens. Vegetable production around Beyşehir is limited and primarily aimed at local consumption.

Alfalfa and Vetch (Annual Forage Crops): Sown to support livestock farming and serve as a significant source of fodder in irrigated areas.







Perennials

Perennials to be grown in the Lake Beyşehir region are selected based on the local climate—characterized by cold winters and hot, dry summers—and the availability of irrigation. Since Beyşehir is located in the western part of Konya, it is influenced by both the Central Anatolian and Lakes Region climates.

The main perennials cultivated in the area include apples, cherries, peaches, walnuts, almonds, grapes, pears, and plums.

Fruit cultivation is more developed in irrigated areas, with apples, cherries, and walnuts being the most prominent products. Other fruits are grown on a smaller scale or for local consumption.

➤ LIVESTOCK FARMING

Small Ruminant Farming
Cattle Farming





Small Ruminant Farming

Thanks to its wide pastures and rich vegetation, the lands surrounding Lake Beyşehir is well-suited for small ruminant farming. Sheep and goat breeding is particularly common, with local farmers continuing livestock practices using traditional methods. Animals grazing on natural pastures produce high-quality meat and dairy products. Around the lake, it is common to see shelters made of tents or adobe. For the inhabitants of Mada Island, in particular, goat herding is an important source of livelihood.



Cattle Farming

The area surrounding Lake Beyşehir, one of Konya's significant natural assets, is well-suited for cattle farming due to its fertile pastures and extensive grazing lands. Cattle breeding is widespread in the region and constitutes an important source of livelihood for the local population. The natural pastures and forage crops around the lake serve as primary feed for the cattle, contributing to the high quality of both meat and milk production. In recent years, the adoption of modern livestock farming techniques has led to improvements in animal health and increased production levels. Cattle farming around Lake Beyşehir plays a vital role in the regional economy and supports the production of local dairy and meat products. Dairy farming, in particular, is highly prevalent.

➤ BEEKEEPING

Thanks to its natural wealth and diverse vegetation, the vicinity of Lake Beyşehir is highly suitable for beekeeping. The region's thyme, sainfoin, and various wildflowers provide beekeepers with the opportunity to produce high-quality, aromatic honey. Additionally, the clean water sources and pristine nature around the lake contribute to the healthy nourishment of the bees.

Despite the rich plant diversity and favorable conditions for apiculture, beekeeping activities are surprisingly scarce in the Lake Beyşehir area. During two visits to the region, very few beekeepers were encountered.





THE LAKE ECOSYSTEM ➤ AND INFLUENCING FACTORS

Fishing
Birds
Reed Beds
Water Recession

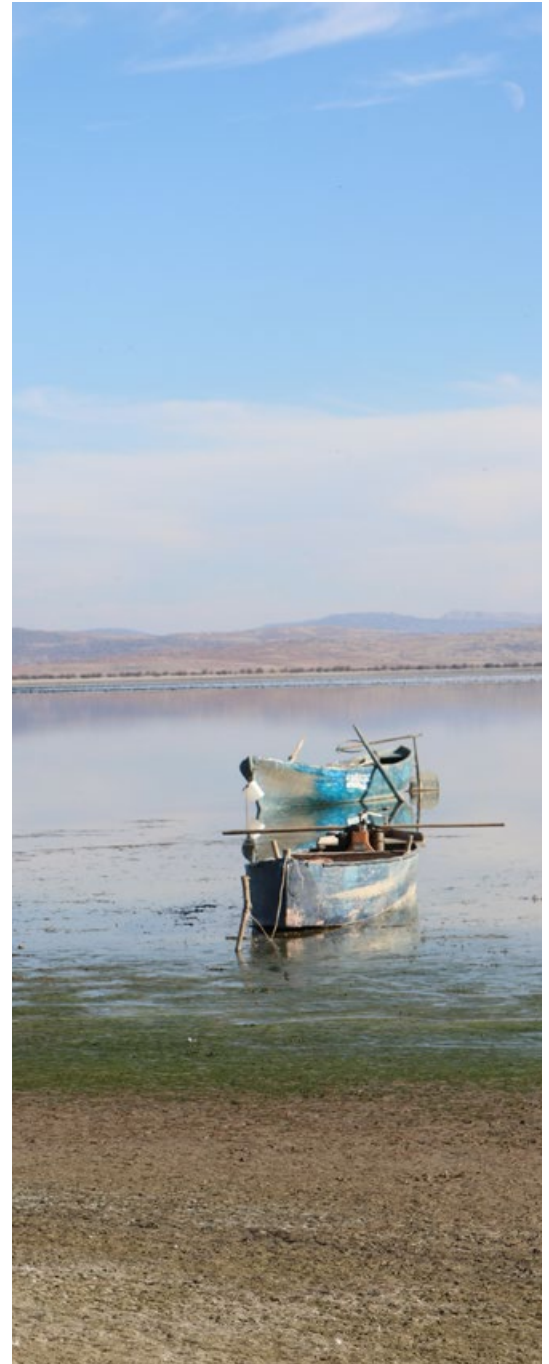


When discussing an ecosystem, the impact or change is never one-sided. Each link in the chain both affects and is affected by others. Similarly, at Lake Beyşehir, the lake's ecosystem influences human activities, and in turn, these activities impact the ecosystem. For example, the drying up of the lake adversely affects fishing activities. On the other hand, to increase fish yields, carnivorous species introduced into the lake can harm native fish diversity and contribute to the lake's depletion. Another instance is the uncontrolled burning of reed beds to clear land for agriculture, which damages the ecosystem and complicates the transfer of water from the shrinking lake to agricultural fields. This section presents some of the living organisms that make up the lake ecosystem, along with several economic activities that directly impact it.

Fishing

Lake Beyşehir, one of Turkey's largest freshwater lakes, has historically been an important fishing hub for the local community due to its rich diversity of fish species. Fishermen living around the lake primarily rely on catching carp, pikeperch, and silverfish for their livelihood. Using both traditional methods and modern nets and boats, they supply fresh fish to local markets as well as neighboring provinces. Fishing not only contributes significantly to the local economy but also supports a vibrant trade and cultural life around the lake. However, fishing activities at Lake Beyşehir have declined sharply over the past 20 years. Currently, there are two fishing cooperatives in the area, and the number of fishermen has dropped from around 3,000 to approximately 600, with many of the remaining fishermen no longer relying on fishing as their main source of income. Local residents attribute this decline primarily to the lowering water levels of the lake and the introduction of predatory fish species into the ecosystem.





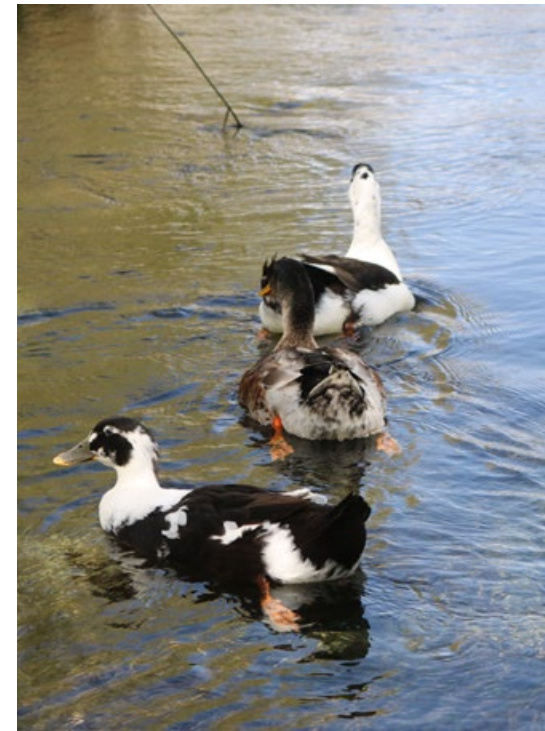
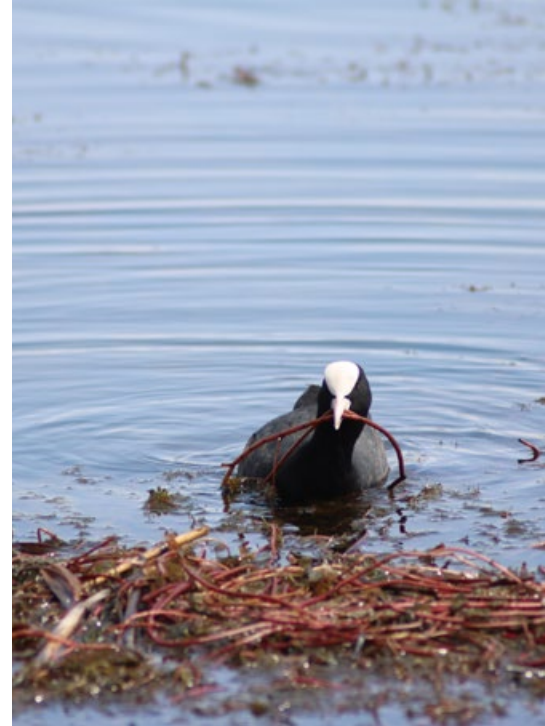


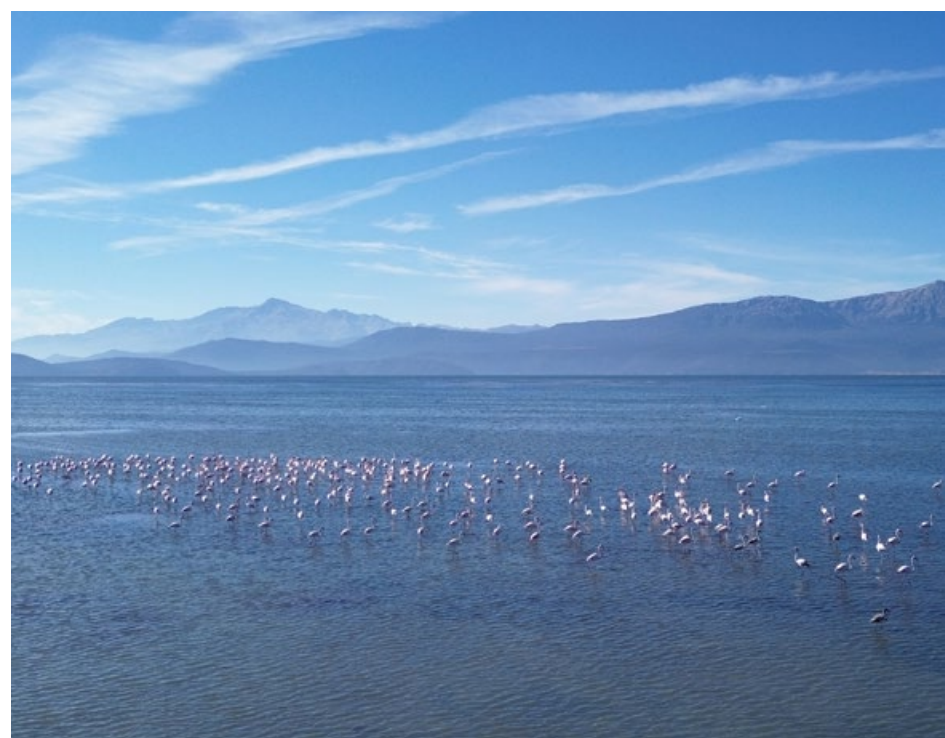
Birds

Lake Beyşehir and its surroundings, as one of Turkey's largest freshwater lakes, host a rich biodiversity. In particular, the reed beds, wetlands, and the nearby Storks Valley provide crucial habitats and breeding grounds for many bird species. Storks Valley is named after the hundreds of storks that arrive here each spring; it serves as a resting and nesting site for these migratory birds.

The lake is also home to various waterfowl species such as the white-headed duck, garganey, mallard, and cormorant. For birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts, Beyşehir is a captivating destination, offering both natural beauty and a diverse array of bird species.

Situated along key migratory routes, Lake Beyşehir welcomes thousands of birds during the spring and autumn migrations.





Reed Beds

The reed beds at Lake Beyşehir hold great ecological significance. They help regulate the water quality by filtering the lake's water and simultaneously support the region's biodiversity. These reed beds provide essential breeding grounds for numerous bird species and other aquatic life.

Traditionally, the local community harvests reeds for various purposes, including construction, handicrafts, artisanal products, and animal feed. However, sustainable management of these reed beds is crucial. Unsustainable harvesting or environmental damage could lead to the loss of these valuable habitats.

Effective management of the reed beds not only contributes to preserving the ecological balance but also supports the continuity of the local economy. As important components of the Beyşehir Lake ecosystem, reed beds provide habitat for some of the lake's fish species.

Within the national park boundaries, reed beds are selectively cut each year to maintain the health and productivity of the reed ecosystem. A portion of the harvested reeds is donated to nearby villagers, while the remainder can be purchased. Residents around the lake dry these reeds for use as building materials.





Water Recession

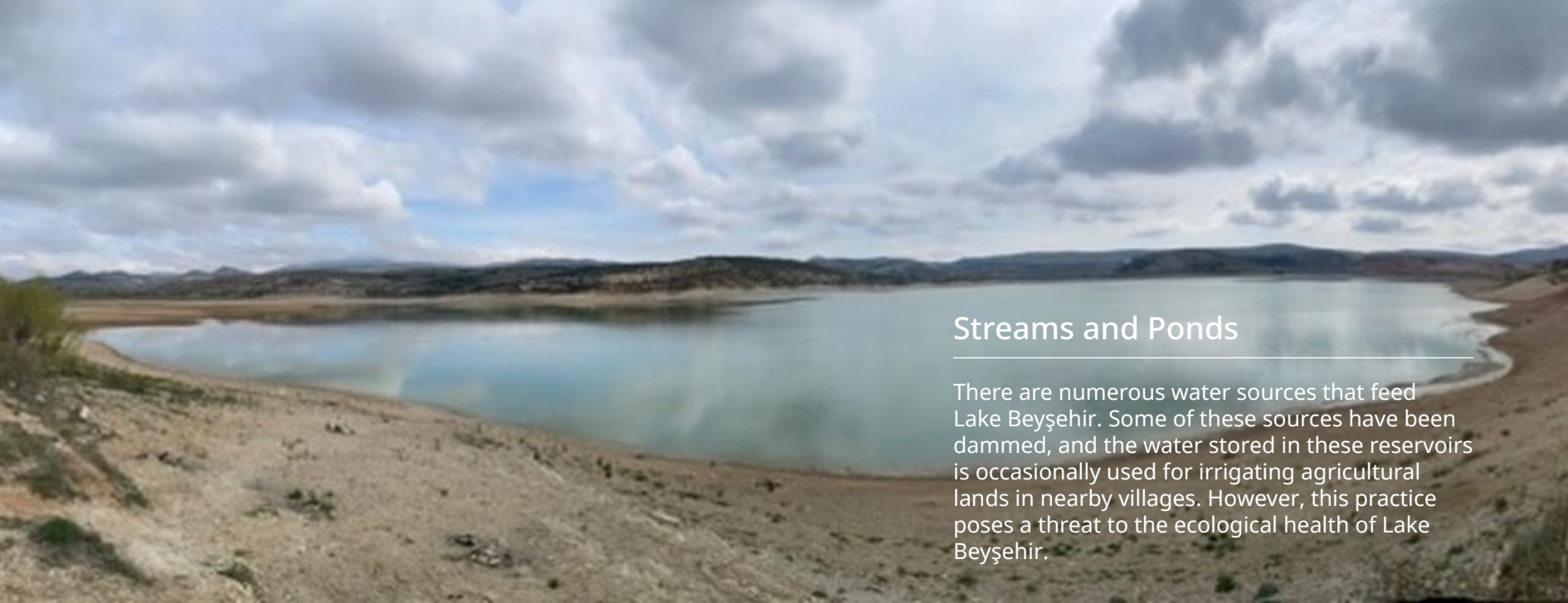
In recent years, fluctuations and a decline in the water level of Lake Beyşehir have become evident. The meadows that form in areas where the water has receded serve as a clear indicator of this trend. Additionally, the accounts of local residents who remember the lake's water level from their childhood confirm that the water level dropped significantly. Moreover, just a few kilometers south of the district center, mud is being dredged from the lake to increase its depth.



WATER RESOURCE ➤ UTILIZATION AND PRACTICES

Streams and Ponds
Beyşehir Regulator and Canal
Irrigation Practices





Streams and Ponds

There are numerous water sources that feed Lake Beyşehir. Some of these sources have been dammed, and the water stored in these reservoirs is occasionally used for irrigating agricultural lands in nearby villages. However, this practice poses a threat to the ecological health of Lake Beyşehir.



Beyşehir Regulator: Historical Background, Regional Significance, and Impact on the Lake Ecosystem

The Beyşehir Regulator is a significant hydraulic structure located in Beyşehir district, designed to divert the waters of Lake Beyşehir to the Konya Plain. Initial planning began in 1908 during the Ottoman period, and the construction accelerated in the early years of the Turkish Republic, reaching completion between 1908 and 1914.

This regulator has played a crucial role both agriculturally and environmentally, marking a turning point in the irrigation of the Konya Plain. Historically, the Konya Plain has been known as a dry region with significant water needs, while Lake Beyşehir, with its substantial water reserves, serves as an essential natural resource to meet these demands.

The regulator transfers excess water from the lake to the plain via the Çarşamba Canal, facilitating both irrigation and flood control. As a result, agricultural production has increased, and the livelihoods of local communities have diversified. Additionally, the structure has contributed to balancing the groundwater levels in the plain, ensuring the continuity of agricultural activities even during periods of drought.

The impact of the Beyşehir Regulator on the lake's ecosystem requires careful monitoring. Water levels fluctuate seasonally and according to agricultural water demands, which can place stress on endemic fish species, waterfowl, and wetland ecosystems within the lake. However, with proper management and water planning, this delicate balance can be maintained.

Another important effect of the regulator is the control of reed beds and marsh areas around the lake, allowing for the expansion of settlement and agricultural lands.

In conclusion, the Beyşehir Regulator holds considerable historical and economic significance for the region. When managed correctly, it enhances the fertility of the Konya Plain while contributing to the ecological stability of Lake Beyşehir. However, climate change and increasing water demands make the preservation of this fragile balance even more critical. Therefore, developing sustainable operational and water management solutions for the regulator is vital to securing the future of the region and its generations to come.







Irrigation Practices

Irrigation methods around Lake Beyşehir have undergone significant transformation in the last three decades. Traditionally, irrigation in the region relied heavily on old-style open surface canals, which transported water from the lake to the fields. However, these canals resulted in substantial water loss due to evaporation and seepage.

In recent years, many of these open channels have been replaced or converted into closed underground pipelines. This modernization has improved water conveyance efficiency and minimized losses. Additionally, water storage ponds and reservoirs previously used for irrigation have largely been phased out in favor of pressurized systems that deliver water directly from the source.

Despite these advances, in some areas—especially where strawberry cultivation is practiced—earthen irrigation ponds continue to be used, mainly due to drought conditions. On the other hand, traditional irrigation practices involving direct water diversion from the lake via open channels are still observed among some farmers.

With growing awareness of water conservation and the spread of modern agricultural techniques, pressurized irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler irrigation are rapidly expanding around Lake Beyşehir. These methods deliver water directly to the plant root zone, significantly enhancing water savings and improving crop yields.

The area surrounding Lake Beyşehir is a significant agricultural production zone, particularly for high water-demanding crops such as sugar beet, corn, strawberries, alfalfa, and various fruit orchards. During the irrigation season, farmers occasionally face challenges in accessing sufficient water resources.

Irrigation cooperatives play a vital role not only in managing the existing infrastructure but also in promoting awareness and training programs to encourage the adoption of modern irrigation techniques. Both surface water from the lake and groundwater sources are utilized in irrigation activities around Lake Beyşehir.

Farmers typically draw water directly from the lake through canals or pumps to irrigate fields and orchards adjacent to the

lakeshore. However, excessive water withdrawal from the lake poses a serious environmental risk, potentially lowering the lake's water level and harming its ecosystem.

In addition to lake water, groundwater use has increased in recent years. Farmers in areas farther from the lake increasingly rely on artesian wells to meet their irrigation needs. Unregulated groundwater extraction, however, risks depleting aquifers and causing land subsidence in agricultural areas.

Therefore, sustainable management of both surface water and groundwater resources is critically important for the future viability of agriculture in the region.





➤ RURAL SETTLEMENTS

In the villages surrounding Lake Beyşehir, various types of housing constructed from different building materials can be observed. Most of the older houses are built using adobe or rubble stone, while the majority of newer houses are constructed with reinforced concrete. In some areas, container or prefabricated houses are also present. Additionally, Sonsuz Şükran Village is notable for being composed entirely of adobe houses.





THE VILLAGE OF ➤ ENDLESS GRATITUDE (SONSUZ ŞÜKRAN KÖYÜ)

Sonsuz Şükran Village is a neighborhood of the town of Çavuş, located in the Hüyük district of Konya, and was established under the leadership of the artist Mehmet Taşdiken. Built with adobe in consideration of traditional Anatolian architecture as well as the region's historical and cultural heritage, this unique settlement stands as one of Türkiye's pioneering projects that blend art with rural life. The village is home to many nationally and internationally recognized artists, and throughout the year hosts various art events, workshops, and cultural gatherings. Sonsuz Şükran Village goes beyond being just an art village; it makes significant contributions to the cultural and economic life of the region, serves as a bridge between the local community and the art world, and represents a rare and exceptional example in Türkiye.





➤ HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Eflatunpınar Hittite
Water Monument

Fasıllar Hittite Monument
and the Lukyanus Inscription

Kubadabad Palace

Mada Island Church

Eşrefoğlu Mosque





Eflatunpınar Hittite Water Monument

Eflatun Pınarı is a water monument from the Late Hittite period located near Beyşehir. Built approximately 3,300 years ago, it stands as a unique heritage that has transcended time to the present day. The monument reflects both the engineering skills and religious worldview of the Hittites. Constructed behind a pool where spring water flows, the monument emphasizes the relationship between the sacredness of water and divine order.

The reliefs at the center of the monument depict various deity figures, foremost among them the Storm God, symbolizing the divine powers controlling the flooding of the water. The fact that clear water still flows from its channels today is not only an architectural achievement but also a symbol of an ancient harmony established with nature. The architecture and layout

of the monument demonstrate the Hittites' understanding of worship in harmony with nature.

The walls, made from cut stone blocks, both guide the natural flow of water and convey cultural messages through the carved reliefs. Eflatun Pınarı is not just an engineering structure but an important archaeological heritage that reflects the Hittites' sacred space concept, the relationship between state and religion, and their artistic understanding. Today, it continues to attract great interest from both scholars and visitors alike.

As a Hittite Water Monument that has withstood the centuries, it is not merely an archaeological site but a living witness of human memory carrying the whispers of history.



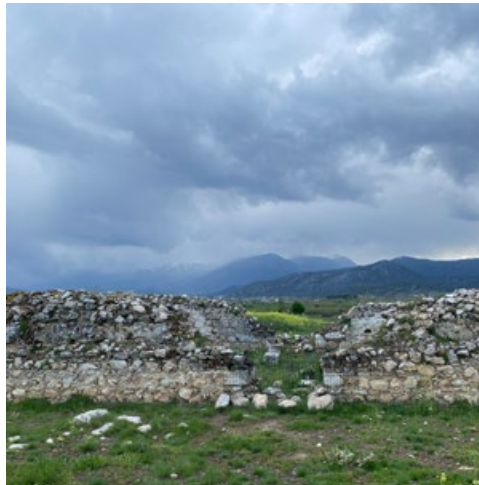
Fasillar Hittite Monument and the Lukyanus Inscription

The Fasillar Monument is a massive rock monument standing silently against the passage of centuries in Fasillar Village in Beyşehir. Carved masterfully onto a single colossal rock weighing 72 tons with a surface area of approximately 20 square meters, this work is considered one of the largest rock monuments not only in Anatolia but also in the world. Dating back to the Hittite period, the monument features reliefs of a deity figure, two powerful lions, and a second god representation, carrying traces of the religious and symbolic world of that era to the present day. Every line and figure resonates like a voice from thousands of years ago, speaking the silent language of ancient civilizations.

On the other hand, the Lukyanus Monument is a poignant memorial carved into the rock. Located about 10 meters above

the slope on a steep rock face, the 1.85-meter tall relief of a dying horse was erected in memory of a young man who died early in life. Next to the monument, about five meters above the ground, is a ten-line Greek inscription carved into the stone. From this inscription, we learn that a young man named Lukyanus passed away, and his family wished to keep his memory alive by organizing wrestling competitions in front of this monument. The inscription also includes instructions on how these contests were to be conducted.

Today, these stones bear witness not only to a family's deep love for their child but also to the rituals, social traditions, and commemorative monuments erected by humans in the face of death during that period.



Kubadabad Palace

Kubadabad Palace was constructed in the first half of the 13th century during the Anatolian Seljuk Sultanate period by Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad I. Situated on the western shore of Beyşehir Lake, amidst natural beauty, this palace is an important structure reflecting the elegance and aesthetic principles of Seljuk architecture. The palace served not only as a summer residence but also as a center for administration and relaxation. Kubadabad holds a unique place within Seljuk palace architecture due to its planning, location, and artistic value.

One of the palace's most remarkable features is its collection of tile panels. These tiles, especially those depicting animal figures and scenes from palace life, reveal the rich artistic heritage of the period. Today, largely in ruins, Kubadabad Palace remains of great significance for both archaeological research and art history. The remains and artifacts recovered from the site are exhibited primarily at the Konya Karatay Medrese Museum, serving as an important resource for understanding the development of Anatolian Seljuk art. Kubadabad Palace is the only surviving palace structure from the Anatolian Seljuk period to the present day. It is regarded as a forerunner of the Ottoman-era Edirne and Topkapı palaces.

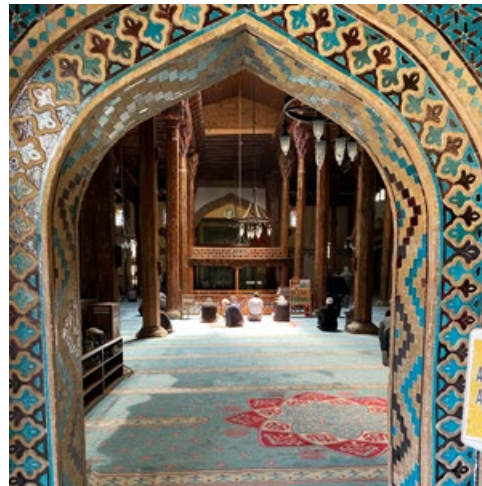


Mada Island Church

Mada Island, located on Beyşehir Lake and belonging to Gedikli Neighborhood in Şarkikaraağaç district of Isparta province, is a naturally beautiful island. Throughout history, the island has hosted various civilizations, and one of its notable remnants is a stone church that still stands today. This church is an important structure shedding light on the island's cultural and religious past.

Architecturally, the church is believed to date back to the Byzantine period. Although it has suffered damage over time, its wall ruins and floor plan remain visible. This historic church on Mada Island stands out as a valuable asset for both archaeology and tourism in the region. According to one tradition, the building was constructed as a church in the 12th century by the Byzantine Komnenos dynasty, while another tradition suggests it was originally built as a watchtower.





Eşrefoğlu Mosque

Eşrefoğlu Mosque stands as one of the most magnificent examples of Anatolian Seljuk architecture. Built between 1296 and 1299 by Eşrefoğlu Seyfettin Süleyman Bey, the mosque is distinguished among wooden columned and flat-ceilinged mosques due to its size and uniqueness. The ceiling is supported by 48 wooden columns, which are said to be made from cedar wood and submerged in Beyşehir Lake for six months to increase their durability.

Inside the mosque, there is also a “kar kuyusu” (snow well), used during the summer months to provide cooling and to maintain the moisture balance of the wooden structure. The mosque is notable for its architectural details as well. Its pulpit (minbar) is crafted from walnut wood using the intricate künde-kârî technique, carved and assembled without glue. The mihrab, standing 6 meters high and adorned with tile mosaics, along with the monumental main door and colorful painted decorations, reflect the elegance of Seljuk art.

Thanks to these unique features, Eşrefoğlu Mosque was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in 2012 and was inscribed on the permanent list in 2023 under the title “Medieval Anatolian Wooden Column and Beam Mosques.” This recognition has enhanced the mosque’s international profile and reinforced its significance as a cultural heritage site.

➤ FISH DIVERSITY

Lake Beyşehir is one of Türkiye's largest freshwater lakes and is notable for its rich diversity of fish species. The lake is home to species such as common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), tench (*Tinca tinca*), European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), and Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*). These fish play a vital role in maintaining the lake's ecological balance and serve as an important livelihood resource for the local population. Fishing activities are particularly intense during the spring and summer months, while fishing bans are imposed during specific periods to protect certain species and ensure sustainable stock management.

However, in recent years, the fish populations in the lake have faced multiple environmental pressures. Declining water levels, pollution, overfishing, and illegal fishing pose significant threats to the lake's biodiversity. Additionally, the introduction of invasive species has reduced the habitats available for native fish and intensified competition among species. These challenges underscore the critical need for sustainable fishing practices and the development of conservation-focused management strategies.





Beyşehir gudgeon (*Gobio microlepidotus*)



Beyşehir nase (*Chondrostoma beysehirense*)



Eregli minnow (*Hemigrammocapoeta kemali*)



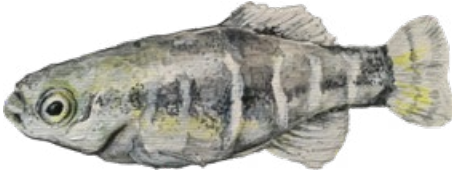
Battalgil spined loach (*Cobitis battalgili*)



Anatolian minnow (*Pseudophoxinus anatolicus*)



Maurice's scraper (*Capoeta mauricii*)



Anatolian toothcarp (*Aphanius anatoliae*)



Akil bleak (*Alburnus akili*)



Bilses spined loach (*Cobitis bilseli*)



Anatolian loach (*Seminemacheilus lendlii*)



Atili loach (*Oxynoemacheilus atili*)



Hittite minnow (*Pseudophoxinus hittitorum*)

Fish species of the Beyşehir Lake Basin as illustrated in the 2018 Conservation Plan for Endangered Fish Species by Doğa Derneği.

Illustrations by Fûruzan Şimşek, courtesy of Doğa Derneği Archive.



WATER AND POVERTY PROJECT

Water scarcity — especially in arid regions and during extended periods of drought — is more than just a lack of water; it's the unraveling of the systems that sustain both nature and human life. As rivers run dry and reservoirs shrink, entire ecosystems falter, and the communities that rely on them are left vulnerable. From rural farmlands to crowded cities, the consequences are sweeping: economic hardship, health crises, social instability, and environmental degradation.

In every drop lost, a warning echoes — the cost of inaction is too great to ignore.

This project is committed to alleviating the harsh impacts of water scarcity and poverty, promoting responsible and sustainable water management, and supporting communities to secure reliable access to clean, life-sustaining water.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Alleviate the Impact on Rural and Urban Communities

Reduce the harsh effects of water scarcity on rural livelihoods—such as farming, livestock, fishing, and beekeeping—and eliminate inequalities in urban water access, ensuring clean water for all, especially the most vulnerable.

Prevent Health Risks

Combat health issues stemming from polluted and insufficient water supplies by improving hygiene and halting the spread of waterborne diseases.

Promote Social Equity

Address barriers to water access in rural areas, prioritizing the needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, to foster fairer living conditions.

Support Sustainable Development

Drive sustainable development by safeguarding water resources, promoting their efficient use, and empowering communities with awareness on responsible water management.

ACTIVITIES IN THE KONYA-BEYŞEHİR LAKE SUB-BASIN

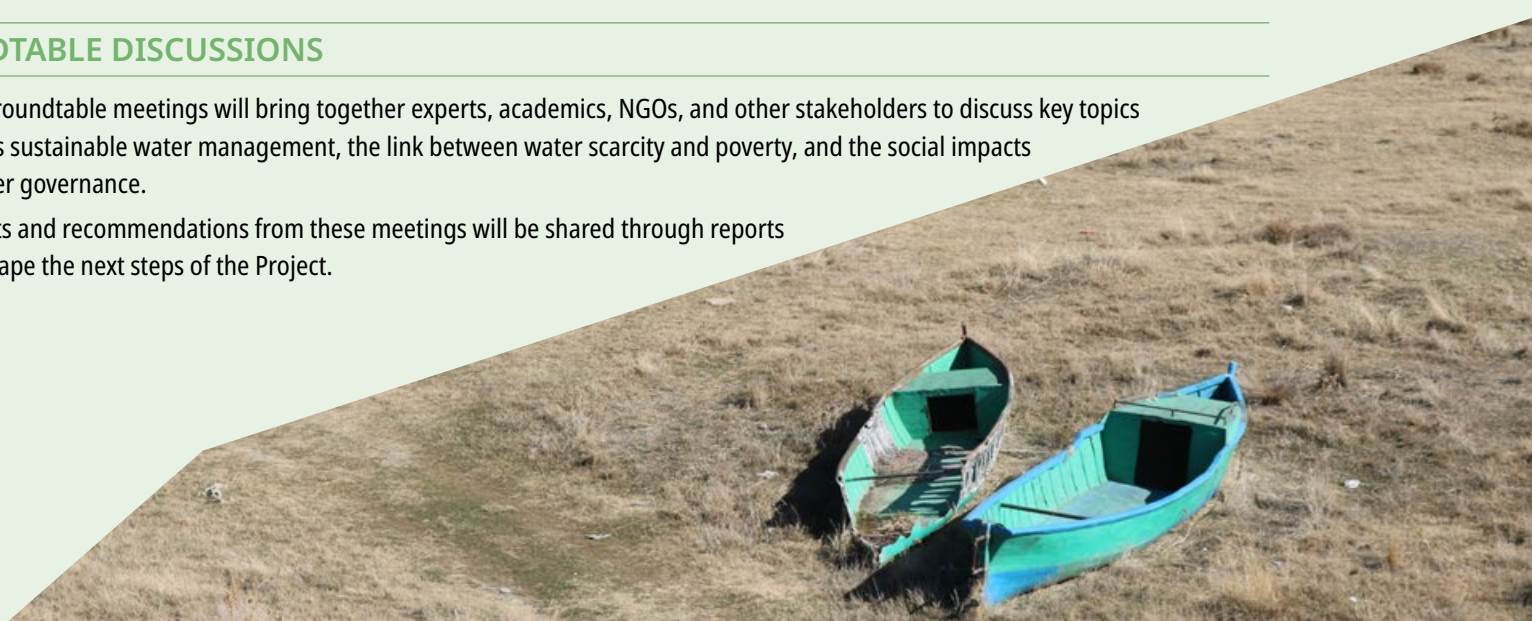
- Comprehensive efforts will be undertaken to ensure the sustainable use and management of Beyşehir Lake and its surrounding water resources.
- Targeted management strategies will be developed to enhance the protection of water resources, optimize agricultural irrigation, secure drinking water supplies, and support sustainable fisheries.
- An action plan will be formulated to tackle critical regional issues including water scarcity, poverty, and migration.

DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATIVE BRIEFS

- A series of informative briefs will be prepared covering key topics such as forest-water interactions, bottled water, water pricing mechanisms, rainwater harvesting methods, the hydrological regime of Lake Van, and Istanbul's water challenges.
- These materials will serve to raise public awareness and foster understanding of water resource conservation and sustainable usage.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- Three roundtable meetings will bring together experts, academics, NGOs, and other stakeholders to discuss key topics such as sustainable water management, the link between water scarcity and poverty, and the social impacts of water governance.
- Insights and recommendations from these meetings will be shared through reports and shape the next steps of the Project.





WATER AND POVERTY PROJECT

This project aims at enhancing the lives of rural and urban communities by protecting and sustainably managing vital water resources. By confronting the challenges of water scarcity and poverty head-on, it strives to bridge social divides and foster true sustainability. Through practical action and raising awareness, it lays the foundation for lasting change—ensuring a future where clean water is a right, not a privilege, for all.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Rural Areas:

Protection of essential livelihoods such as crop production, livestock farming, and fishing; ensuring food security; and reducing migration pressures.

Urban Areas:

Addressing inequalities in access to water, improving hygiene conditions, and preventing waterborne diseases.

Reducing Social Inequalities:

Facilitating easier access to water for vulnerable groups and enhancing their overall living conditions.

Sustainable Development:

Contributing to sustainable development through the conservation and efficient use of water resources.

PROJECT TEAM



Ayşe Kudat
Volunteer Project Advisor



Ertan Karabıyık
Project Coordinator



İbrahim Tuğrul
Project Expert



Özgür Çetinkaya
Project Expert



Kurtuluş Karaşın
Project Visual Director



Yiğit Yüksel
Project Assistant




Development Workshop Science Culture Training Research Implementation
Production and Enterprise Cooperative

Çankaya Mah. Üsküp Cad. No: 16/14 Çankaya - Ankara - Türkiye
+90 (553) 211 38 97



  [kalkinmaatolyesi](#)

  [kalkinmatolyesi](#)

 info@ka.org.tr

RIT Research Institute
on Turkey

This Photo Album has been supported by the Research Institute on Turkey within the scope of the Water and Poverty project.
The views and images presented in this project do not necessarily reflect those of the Research Institute on Turkey.