



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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“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 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 only forest area in the world is just in Köyceğiz Region. In the 1950s Sweetgum forests had a narrow life field with **6,500 hectares**, whereas today this figure dramatically dropped to **1,300 hectares**. Köyceğiz is the home for this tree species that can be seen on water fronts and on high ground water level. These forest areas of the Sweetgum have been increasingly fragmented and today they are faced with the threat of extinction.



“Sweetgum Revival” Project

The “**Sweetgum Revival**” Project started in 2009 and in the first year of the project the aim was to enlarge the Sweetgum Forests area by strengthening the links among forest fragments and creating corridors between the ruptured pieces. In this context, the project team analyzed the current state of Sweetgum Forests and established the Corridor Strategy. After that, public awareness activities about Sweetgum Forests of Köyceğiz were held. A plantation study was prepared using **new 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.



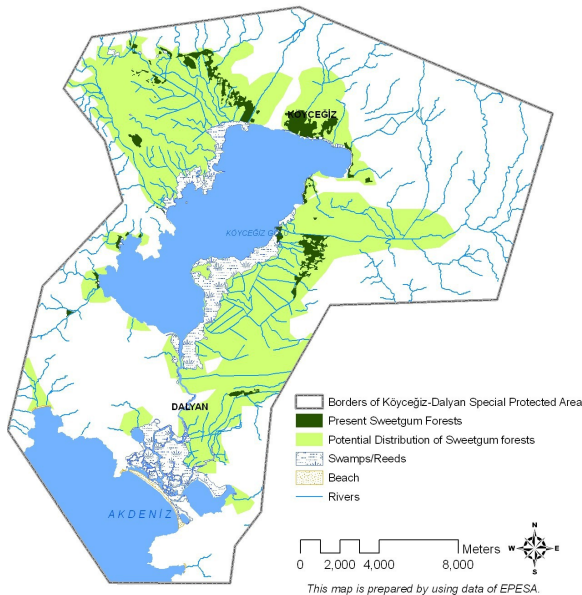
Corridor Strategy Activities are still going on in the Second Year of the Project, which had started in 2010. Currently the project team is working to develop the potential of Sweetgum Forests for **nature tourism** around Köyceğiz. The project aimed to turn the Sweetgum Forests back to its 1950’s condition 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!

- ⇒ Project’s first activity was the “**Sweetgum Tree Planting Festival**” with local people in April 6, 2010.
- ⇒ Young People from different countries within the “**5th World Youth Congress**” were brought together for a research of Sweetgum Forest’s present situation between August 6 and 8, 2010, in Köyceğiz, by Nature Conservation Centre.
- ⇒ The topic of **the painting activity** was “Köyceğiz and Sweetgum Forests” and it was held with Köyceğiz Young People between November 29 and December 5, 2010, in the big entrance of Köyceğiz City.
- ⇒ On the “**World Forestry Day**” (March 21, 2011) “Sweetgum Tree Plantation Activity” was held with students on the gardens of elementary schools in Köyceğiz .
- ⇒ Nature Education and Nature Games have been held by Nature Education Specialists for Köyceğiz students for the “**International Children’s Day**” (April 23, 2011). Moreover **1000 sweetgum trees** sampling to plan freely to community members.

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.

One of the activities carried out within the scope of the Project is **Sweetgum Festival**. The main aim of the Festival is to promote the importance of Sweetgum Forests and the eco-tourism potential at national scale. The Festival will be held in **September 2011**, in Köyceğiz.



MAP: Potential Distribution of Sweetgum forests