



ICBP news

Menderes Delta This June, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, opened an information centre at the Menderes Delta, one of the most important sites for birds in Turkey. A 13,000-ha wetland at the mouth of the River Menderes on the western coast of Turkey, the delta is host to a wide range of bird species, including a colony of approximately 60 Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*. Adjacent to the delta is Bafa Lake, another Important Bird Area, with breeding Pygmy Cormorants *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni*.

The information centre has been set up as part of a conservation project run by Dođal Hayati Koruma Derneđi (DHKD), the Turkish nature protection society, and is designed to increase awareness of the delta and ecotourism in the area.

Problems for these critical sites include a drop in the water level in Bafa Lake following construction of a dyke, and considerable disturbance from hunters and fishermen. The DHKD is lobbying for both the lake and the delta to be included in the already existing Dilek National Park situated to the north of the delta, and is also pressing for the development and implementation of a hydrological management plan for the whole river basin.

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