Ecuadorian Projects Completed within the Seventh Turkish Antarctic Expedition and Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) Marmara Research Center (MAM) Polar Research Institut

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Information Paper Report by Ecuador and Türkiye

Summary

The cooperation between Ecuador and Türkiye is reported in the context of the 7th Turkish Antarctic Expedition (TAE) and the XXVI Antarctic Ecuadorian Expedition.

Also, this paper gives information about the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), Marmara Research Center (MAM), Polar Research Institute (PRI) and the Oceanographic and Antarctic Institute of the Navy (INOCAR) Ecuador on Scientific Cooperation in Antarctic Research.

Ecuador-Türkiye Scientific Collaboration

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Scientific Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBİTAK), Marmara Research Center (MAM), Polar Research Institute (PRI), and the Oceanographic and Antarctic Institute of the Navy (INOCAR) Ecuador, on scientific cooperation in Antarctic research was signed on May 27, 2022 by the signatures of CPNV-EMT Carlos Zapata and Prof. Dr. Burcu Özsoy.

As the first collaboration after the signing of the MoU, two Ecuadorian scientists who were part of the International Scientific Sub-programme of the XXVI Ecuadorian Antarctic Expedition were hosted during the TAE-VII.

Prof. Pablo Alejandro Araujo Granda conducted a research project titled “Modelling Antarctic ecosystems using IBMs and machine learning techniques” and Mr. Marcos Xavier Vera Morales conducted a research project titled “Characterization of the biological diversity of microorganisms associated with Antarctic vascular and non-vascular plants for bioprospecting purposes”. Between 1 February – 2 March 2023 the field studies of the project was completed on Horseshoe Island and surroundings. Prof. Araujo’s and Mr. Vera’s fieldwork with the support of the Turkish Antarctic Expedition Team was successfully completed.

In addition, as part of the cooperation and excellent relations between both countries, on March 1st, personnel of Turkish Antarctic Expedition visited Pedro Vicente Maldonado Scientific Station. As well, two spaces have been made available for the participation of Turkish researchers in the XXVII Ecuadorian Antarctic Expedition.

It was a mutual pleasure to work together during the last summer and we hope that this successful collaboration will continue in the future years.