

# Mehmet Göktuğ Öztürk

*Ecologist*

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## About Me

I am currently working at the Directorate of Climate Change and Clean Energy of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality. I have contributed to various projects ranging from agriculture and animal husbandry to afforestation, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience.

I completed my master's in Ecology at Hacettepe University, focusing on 'Spatiotemporal Patterns of Lightning-Induced Wildfires in Turkey.' I participated in several field research across Anatolia, including fire ecology, plant functional traits, nomadic pastoralism, raptor migration, breeding birds, and large mammals. My research interests include ecological modeling, fire ecology, and biogeography.

As an advocate for open and reproducible science, I write scripts in R, Python, and Bash.

## Experience

### Biologist - İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

March 2021 - Present | İzmir, Türkiye

I am working on climate resilience and nature based solutions - NBS in various projects, such as Interreg NEXT MED, Climaax, Urban Climate Resilience Program - UCRP at the Directorate of Climate Change and Clean Energy of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality. During my time at the municipality, I worked ecological animal husbandry, agriculture, afforestation and landscape designing in several projects, such as Mera İzmir, Başka Bir Tarım Mümkün, Bir Fidan Bir Dünya, Yaşayan Parklar and HORIZON (CARDIMED-Climate Adaptation and Resilience Demonstrated in the Mediterranean Region). I took an active role in collecting, processing and spatial analysis and modelling of the data.

### Undergraduate Research Assistant - Hacettepe University

September 2015 - January 2021 | Ankara, Türkiye

I have worked as an undergraduate research assistant on fire ecology, seed germination and plant functional traits projects in the FEL (Functional Ecology Lab) at Hacettepe University with Çağatay Tavşanoğlu, Cansu Ülgen and Gökhan Ergan.

### Field Biologist - Yolda Initiative

March 2019 - March 2020 | Mersin, Karaman, Konya, Ankara, Türkiye

I worked from March 2019 to November 2019 as a field biologist in field study on pastoralist's goat herds in Mersin in the Nomadic Pastoralism Effects on Seed Dispersal Project. After the field studies, I worked on this project's lab works. The project was run with partnership Yolda Initiative and Hacettepe University.

## **Field Biologist - Doğa Derneği - Birdlife Türkiye**

September 2018 - September 2019 | Adana, Türkiye

I worked as a birdwatcher on the Sarımsazlı Raptor Migration Count in the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project (LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874).

## **Undergraduate Research Assistant - Hacettepe University**

September 2018 - Ankara, Türkiye

I worked as a field study assistant in a research project on *Quercus aucheri* with Elif Deniz Ülker. We have worked in Aydın, Muğla and Antalya cities, almost all distribution range this species.

## **Education**

### **Master of Science - MS, Ecology**

2021-2024 | Hacettepe University | Ankara, Türkiye

### **Bachelor's degree, Biology**

2015-2021 | Hacettepe University | Ankara, Türkiye

## **Volunteering**

### **Editor - havadelisi.com**

2018 - Present | Türkiye

I am an editor in havadelisi.com and it's social media accounts.

### **Field Biologist - Middle East Technical University**

2017-2018 | Ankara, Türkiye

I was volunteer as birdwatcher in the Investigating the Biodiversity of Lake Eymir Area's Forest and Steppe Ecosystems and Determining Conservation Priority Zones Project in METU's Birdwatching Club(OKGT).

### **Field Biologist - Middle East Technical University**

2018-2019 | Ankara, Türkiye

I was volunteer as birdwatcher in the Searching for White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) Breeding and Wintering Grounds in Central Anatolia and Monitoring of Its Populations Project(Mohamed bin Zayed Species project number 182515710).

### **Field Biologist - WWF-Türkiye**

2016-2017 | Ankara, Türkiye

I was volunteer as a birdwatcher in the European Breeding Bird Atlas Project 2 (EBBA 2).

### **Undergraduate Research Assistant - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

August 2016 | Bolu, Türkiye

I was volunteer as an assistant of wildlife biologist in the Impact of Anatolian Motorway on Large Mammals project with Ali Onur Sayar.

## **Publications**

Öztürk, M.G., Bekar, İ., Tavşanoğlu, Ç., 2024. Rethinking lightning-induced fires: Spatial variability and implications for management policies. *Forest Ecology and Management* 572 122262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2024.122262>

Öztürk, M. G., Bekar, İ., Tavşanoğlu, Ç., 2024. Rethinking lightning-induced fires: Spatial variability and implications for management policies. In: *Proceedings of the 10th Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium*, Çanakkale, Türkiye.

## Thesis

Öztürk, M. G., 2024. Spatiotemporal Patterns of Lightning-Induced Wildfires in Turkey. MSc thesis, Hacettepe University. (In Turkish with English summary).

## Skills

**Computer Skills:** R | Python | Bash | GDAL/OGR | QGIS | GRASS GIS | SAGA GIS | GEE | ArcGIS | SQL | Git | Markdown | Typst | Office Programs

**Other Skills:** Ecology | Ecological Modelling | Biogeography | Spatial Analysis | Remote Sensing | Data Analysis | Statistics | Machine Learning | Field Work | Birdwatching

## Languages

**Turkish:** Native

**English:** B2

## References

### Prof. Dr. Çağatay Tavşanoğlu

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