Dear Guests,
Welcome to the ODTÜ Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) Campus!

Alongside the scientific research and teaching at IMS, the beach on campus is one of the last remaining natural habitats in the area. The extent of urbanization and horticultural expansion is especially evident when the IMS grounds are viewed from the hill behind where the campus is clearly seen to be the only forested area remaining in this vicinity. Additionally, from the bordering Kocahasani public beach it is obvious that the natural sand dunes still remaining on the IMS beach occur nowhere else. The beach at our campus serves as one of the last safe havens for the survival of several endangered species, such as marine turtles and sand lilies.

The Loggerhead Turtle
*Caretta caretta*

The Loggerhead turtle is found in all seas and can reach a body length of over one metre. This species is sadly endangered due to the loss of nesting sites and overfishing. The beach at the IMS campus is one of the most important nesting areas in the region and around 15 nests from this species alone are successfully built annually.

The Green Sea Turtle
*Chelonia mydas*

The Green Sea turtle is similar to the Loggerhead in terms of habitat and distribution and is therefore also endangered. Our beach on campus is also an important breeding area for this species hosting 10 nests annually.

The Nile Soft-Shelled Turtle
*Trionyx triunguis*

The Nile soft-shelled turtle is found on the African continent and the Mediterranean.

On the Turkish coasts this species is most commonly found inhabiting river mouths and wetlands. Due to extensive dam construction both habitats are rapidly disappearing. In our protected harbor we frequently see Nile turtles swimming (up to twelve individuals at a time and all year round).
The Sand Lily
*Pancratium maritimum*

The Sand Lily is found on both the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts. These beautiful lilies flower until the end of summer. They stabilize sand dunes through their root system and provide habitats for other creatures. Our campus is the most important habitat in this region for this plant due to continual coastal development elsewhere.

As the campus belongs to us all, so are all of us responsible for its protection. We wish you a pleasant stay on Campus....