

PRESS RELEASE

Building a Sustainable Development Bridge Between Türkiye and Africa: Nehide Tuna Appointed International Director at Mara Basin Conservation Forum

Nehide Tuna, MSc, Founder of the Green Future Academy, President of the Sustainable Green Future Association (SYGD), and Founder of the Global Youth Dialogue Network, has been appointed International Director for Sustainable Development and Strategic Partnerships at the Kenya-based Mara Basin Conservation Forum (MBCF).

For Nehide Tuna, this appointment represents not merely a new position, but the beginning of a long-term journey dedicated to research, Green Skills, international cooperation, and sustainable development.

During her one-year term, she will contribute to strengthening MBCF's international strategic partnerships, supporting sustainable development initiatives, and enhancing the organization's global visibility. Her responsibilities include contributing to research activities, country reports, policy briefs, social impact reports, and academic publications, while actively supporting education and capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering children, young people, and women.

The role will also contribute to advancing Green Skills, strengthening the workforce required for sustainable employment, and promoting international cooperation to enhance communities' capacity for green transition and climate resilience.

First International Field Mission: Mandela Day 2026 – Maasai Mara, Kenya

As part of her new responsibilities, Nehide Tuna has been officially invited to participate in the Mandela Day 2026 programme, which will take place on 18 July 2026 in the world-renowned Maasai Mara region of Kenya.

The programme will include field research, stakeholder consultations, knowledge exchange, and community-based initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of Quality Education, Gender Equality, Climate Action, and Partnerships for the Goals.

Contributing to the Road to COP31

The appointment is expected to strengthen research, education, and sustainable development cooperation between Türkiye and Africa in preparation for COP31 – the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be hosted by Türkiye.

The findings generated through the Maasai Mara field mission will be transformed into country reports, policy briefs, social impact reports, and academic publications, contributing evidence-based recommendations to support the COP31 preparation process.

The initiative also aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration among universities, public institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations, while expanding joint initiatives in education, human rights, gender equality, climate action, and Green Skills.

Statement by Nehide Tuna

Commenting on her appointment, Nehide Tuna stated:

"I see this appointment not only as an international representative role but as a long-term responsibility to strengthen research, policy development, and international partnerships. Sustainable development can only generate lasting impact through scientific knowledge, quality education, and strong collaboration.

Alongside empowering children, young people, and women, I believe that developing Green Skills is one of the most important investments for shaping the future workforce, supporting sustainable employment, and accelerating the transition to a green economy.

International cooperation is essential for helping communities adapt to climate change and for developing the skilled workforce required for the green transition.

I see Türkiye's hosting of COP31 not merely as a climate conference but as a unique opportunity to advance research, education, international cooperation, and collaborative solutions. I remain committed to strengthening knowledge exchange between Türkiye and Africa and contributing to sustainable development through meaningful partnerships and shared action."

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