



**WE SODA**

# **SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT**

27 June 2022

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
OVERVIEW.....	4
1    CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH.....	7
2    ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.....	18
3    SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SPORTS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES .....	20
4    PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL.....	22
5    PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT .....	27
6    PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS .....	37
APPENDICES.....	39

## INTRODUCTION

WE Soda LTD ('WE Soda' or 'you') has commissioned S-RM Intelligence and Risk Consulting ('S-RM') to detail the corporate social responsibility ('CSR') initiatives developed, launched, supported and expanded by WE Soda entities in Turkey and the United Kingdom between April 2020 and June 2022. The information relating to the CSR initiatives detailed in this report was provided to S-RM by representatives and employees of WE Soda entities, and has not been independently verified. This report has been produced for your information and reference internally, to update your understanding of CSR initiatives within the business.

## OVERVIEW

According to our interviews, WE Soda has supported countless social impact projects and initiatives in Turkey and made commitments to support a charity in England and two community partnership initiatives of a sports union in Wales. The company has prioritised five main areas when providing social support:

- **Creating sustainable communities and promoting economic growth;**
- **Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;**
- **Supporting local communities, sports and cultural initiatives;**
- **Providing equal access to education for all; and**
- **Protecting and preserving the environment.**

These priority areas, and the initiatives that WE Soda supports, follow the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ('UN SDGs'), a global framework containing 17 goals that aim to create a more sustainable world.

WE Soda consists of the Turkey-incorporated soda ash companies Kazan Soda Elektrik AŞ ('Kazan Soda') and Eti Soda AŞ ('Eti Soda').

The social initiatives of WE Soda have predominantly focused on helping the local communities around WE Soda production sites in the Beypazarı, Sincan, and Kazan districts of Ankara, Turkey. In the UK, WE Soda has chosen to: make commitments to a charity based in London, focusing on providing support to victims of modern slavery; and, to finance two community partnership programmes of the Welsh Rugby Union, the governing body of rugby in Wales.

WE Soda has both established and supported long-term projects, short-term initiatives and provided ad-hoc donations and support to the local communities surrounding its production sites in Ankara, Turkey. While the scope of the projects and initiatives WE Soda supports has largely differed from one another, they share in common the aim of contributing to its local communities. As a result of the nature of these initiatives, many initiatives fit into more priority areas than the one they were categorized under in this report.

WE Soda's long-term projects focus on protecting biodiversity and the environment, reducing inequalities, promoting sustainability and increasing access to education and learning opportunities.

At their core, the majority of the company's initiatives, whether long-term projects or donations, focus on social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

*Map 1 and 2: Map showing the location of Beypazari, Kazan and Sincan districts of Ankara, Turkey (left) and map showing the location of WE Soda headquarters (right)*



**The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Through its corporate social responsibility initiatives, WE Soda has reflected its desire to advance the UN SDGs by contributing to and supporting local communities.

WE Soda's programme in Turkey has prioritised six UN SDGs:

- ▶ Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education;
- ▶ Reducing inequalities;
- ▶ Taking action against climate change;
- ▶ Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation;
- ▶ Creating more sustainable and resilient communities; and,
- ▶ Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The UN SDGs are a global framework containing 17 goals that aim to foster sustainable development and create a more sustainable planet. Please refer to Appendix A for more information on the 17 UN SDGs. Alongside the social projects discussed in this report, the UN sustainable development goals that the project is working towards addressing is represented by its corresponding visual representation:

*Image 1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> Source: [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

# 1 CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Many of WE Soda's social impact initiatives have focused on creating more sustainable communities in areas surrounding its manufacturing facilities. The company's initiatives in this regard have predominantly focused on supporting agriculture, expanding opportunities for employment, and supporting local institutions near their production sites in Ankara, Turkey.

## SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

Eti Soda has undertaken several projects in the Beypazarı region, predominantly focusing on aiding agriculture, which is an important source of livelihood for Çakıloba, Bağözü and Başören villages. Since 2020, Eti Soda has expanded some of their existing projects, such as the Eti Soda demonstration vineyard project (see Section 1.1), and has introduced a new project that focuses on creating employment opportunities for local women through agriculture. Meanwhile, Kazan Soda has continued expanding its beekeeping initiative, and has provided entrepreneurship training to local women, who were primarily involved in the agriculture sector. These initiatives aim to increase employment in the local villages and promote economic sustainability in the region.

In their efforts to support agriculture in the region, WE Soda companies have:

- ▶ Established a sample vineyard in the region and given training sessions to locals;
- ▶ Encouraged the use of new grapes in the region through the distribution of vine stems and cultivation of ten new grape types;
- ▶ Increased the size of their vineyards, and encouraged local participation in the collection and conservation of vine leaves;
- ▶ Established, maintained or expanded irrigation systems in Çakıloba, Bağözü and Başören villages;
- ▶ Developed electricity infrastructure in the vineyards in the Çakıloba region;
- ▶ Constructed and maintained grape molasses development facilities in Çakıloba and Bağözü villages;
- ▶ Started a beekeeping initiative; and
- ▶ Established a greenhouse, alongside a subsidiary of the Municipality of Ankara, which focused on employing women from local villages.

### 1.1 THE ETI SODA DEMONSTRATION VINEYARD

The Eti Soda Demonstration Vineyard, a sample vineyard, was established by Eti Soda in 2009 on top of the company's trona extraction field. The solution extraction technique that is used by Eti Soda allows the use of the extraction field for agricultural initiatives.<sup>2</sup> The vineyard was established in partnership with Professor Dr. Gökhan Söylemezoğlu, a professor of horticulture from Ankara University. The project was initially established to develop the viticulture methods used in the region, which had become outdated over time. This project is still active as of May

---

<sup>2</sup> This information was provided by Ahu Kılıç, a Management Systems Supervisor at Eti Soda.

2022.<sup>3</sup> During their almost ten-year partnership, several training sessions have been given to local villagers, including lessons on grape care, vineyard maintenance and vine pruning.<sup>4</sup>

Training sessions started in 2013, with one session given in partnership with Ankara University. Approximately 80 villagers were taken to the Kalecik Viticulture Research and Implementation Facility, an Ankara University-run sample vineyard containing Turkey's largest number of grape types.<sup>5</sup> The session in the Kalecik vineyard aimed to expose the locals to new techniques used in the viticulture industry. The most recent training session given by Dr. Söylemezoğlu was in August 2019 and focused on maintaining vines and combating illnesses.<sup>6</sup> As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, no training sessions were given between March 2020 and June 2022.<sup>7</sup>

*Image 2: Eti Soda Demonstration Vineyard – 24 May 2022*



### ***Introducing new grape types to the region***

While increasing local knowledge on viticulture techniques has always been a primary goal of the project, it has equally focused on encouraging the production of new types of grapes in the region. The sample vineyard contains six different types of grapes, three used in wine production and three suitable for direct consumption. None of these grape types were reportedly grown by the locals of Çakıloba, Bağözü, and Başören villages prior to the establishment of the sample vineyard.<sup>8</sup> However, since 2013, locals have been given the opportunity to incorporate these different grape types into their vines by using the cuttings that amass following the pruning process at the Eti Soda Demonstration Vineyard. The cuttings are distributed on a first-come first-served basis to the local population involved in the viticulture industry.<sup>9</sup> Between March 2022 and mid-May 2022, approximately 70 people requested cuttings from the company to use in their personal land. In 2022, the cuttings of Red Globe and Alphonse vines were requested most by the local populace.<sup>10</sup> These grape types are both primarily considered to be “table grapes”, grapes grown for direct consumption, by the local populace.<sup>11</sup>

In line with its aim to introduce more grapes in the region, Eti Soda set up a secondary vineyard that uses the pergola system, a training and pruning system whereby grapevines are placed overhead on wires and wooden frames, in 2020. Ten different types of grapes, that are not

<sup>3</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş, Deputy General Manager of Eti Soda.

<sup>4</sup> This information was provided by Professor Dr. Gökhan Söylemezoğlu on 10 February 2020.

<sup>5</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak, Head of Administrative Affairs at Eti Soda, during his interview at the Eti Soda production site on 2 March 2020.

<sup>6</sup> This information was provided by Ahu Kılıç.

<sup>7</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş, Deputy General Manager of Eti Soda.

<sup>8</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 2 March 2020.

<sup>9</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 2 March 2020.

<sup>10</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>11</sup> This information was provided by Meryem Kesküş on 27 June 2022.

commonly grown in this region, were planted in this vineyard.<sup>12</sup> These grape types include Victoria, Horozkarası, Crimson Seedless and Michael Palieri.<sup>13</sup> Once the vines are established, Eti Soda plans to share cuttings with the local populace. Eti Soda believes that this will lead to the cultivation of grapes that are more profitable to sell.<sup>14</sup>

The pergola system is reportedly not a commonly used system in the Beypazarı area, as more local methods of viticulture are still preferred by the local populace. Eti Soda hopes that the introduction of this new technique will increase efficiency and decrease costs associated with the upkeep of vineyards by reducing the number of individuals required to maintain them.<sup>15</sup> Eti Soda is considering organizing a training session in the future on the pergola technique, alongside some planned training about powdery mildew, a fungus that affects vines.<sup>16</sup>

*Image 3: Secondary vineyard using the pergola system - 24 May 2022*



### ***Harvesting both grapes and leaves to promote employment***

In addition to these efforts, since 2022, Eti Soda has expanded their vineyards by purchasing more land from the local populace. Eti Soda purchased this land in order to ensure that the majority of the land they used for solution extraction was under their ownership.<sup>17</sup> The grapes that are grown in these vineyards are local to the Beypazarı area.<sup>18</sup> As such, these vineyards are not primarily used to introduce locals to new types of grapes and cultivation techniques associated with them.

Eti Soda works with the local populace for the upkeep of these vineyards and for the collection of both grapes and leaves.<sup>19</sup> The leaves of the grapes that grow in these local vineyards can be used to make traditional Turkish dishes, such as *Dolma* (commonly referred to as stuffed vine leaves in English). Local women are employed by Eti Soda, in order to collect leaves from the vineyard and also partake in the conservation process of these leaves.<sup>20</sup> The conservation process involves the placement of clean leaves in jars, which are then filled with salt and hot water.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>12</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>13</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>14</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>15</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>16</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>17</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>18</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>19</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>20</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>21</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.



Furthermore, from the grapes collected in this region, Eti Soda also hires locals to produce grape molasses and a traditional Turkish dish called cevizli sucuk, which are walnuts on a string that have been dipped in starch grape molasses.<sup>22</sup> Eti Soda has also planted walnut trees on its land. However, as several years have to pass for these trees to produce walnuts, the company currently purchases walnuts from other producers.

These dishes that are created are then distributed to the employees and clients of both Eti Soda and Kazan Soda.<sup>23</sup>

*Image 4 and 5: Local women working on the vineyards (right) and local man working on the vineyards*



**International recognition**

Eti Soda was one of three companies shortlisted for the Best Environmental Sustainability Programme in the Sedex Responsible Business Awards 2020, awards given by Sedex, an ethical trade platform, following the submission of the Eti Soda Demonstration Vineyard as an example of the company’s sustainability initiatives.<sup>24</sup> The shortlisted companies were recognized because they “implemented programmes to protect their workers or their surroundings and improve environmental issues”.<sup>25</sup>

**These initiatives aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below by increasing employment opportunities, by promoting sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, and by increasing access to technical and skill based training:**



**1.2 THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT**

Prior to March 2020, Eti Soda’s leadership approved the Greenhouse Project, a project to develop a greenhouse in partnership with ANFA Limited Şirketi (‘ANFA’), a subsidiary of the

<sup>22</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.  
<sup>23</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak  
<sup>24</sup> This information was provided by Ferhat Soylu, the QA/QC and HSE Manager at Eti Soda; SEDEX.  
<sup>25</sup> Source: [SEDEX](#).

Municipality of Ankara. The greenhouse went into operation in April 2022.<sup>26</sup> While Eti Soda provides the land for the greenhouse, the project is run by ANFA, and employs local women from surrounding villages. The greenhouse occupies approximately 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space.<sup>27</sup> In addition to land, Eti Soda provides electricity and hot water from the Eti Soda production site to this greenhouse. The water is obtained from Eti Soda’s excess condensate water and from residual steam.

A variety of different plants are being grown in the greenhouse. The greenhouse leadership wants to particularly focus on ‘medicinal or aromatic plants’, such as lavender and thyme.<sup>28</sup>

As a precondition to this project, Eti Soda required employees of the greenhouse to be local women from surrounding villages.<sup>29</sup> As at May 2022, there were 15 employees working in the greenhouse, 12 of whom were women from local villages.<sup>30</sup> This is a not-for-profit project, and as such any profit left over after the distribution of wages will be used in the Çakıloba, Bağözü, and Başören villages.<sup>31</sup>

*Image 6 and 7: A photograph of a section of the greenhouse (left) and a photograph of the entire greenhouse (right)*



***This initiative aims to address the UN SDG’s indicated below by increasing employment opportunities for local women from surrounding villages and by ensuring sustainable food production:***



<sup>26</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>27</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>28</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>29</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>30</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>31</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

**1.3 GRAPE MOLASSES PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

Eti Soda has constructed grape molasses facilities in two villages close to its production site in Beypazarı.

***Çakıloba Village Grape Molasses Production Facility***

In 2018, Eti Soda constructed an 80m<sup>2</sup> facility in Çakıloba, a village in the district of Beypazarı, fitted with the necessary equipment and machines required for making grape molasses. The facility was used for the first time in 2020 by the local populace.<sup>32</sup>

*Image 8 and 9: Image of Kazım Uysal, the local authority of Çakıloba village, in front of and inside the Çakıloba village grape molasses production facility on 2 March 2020.<sup>33</sup>*



***Bağözü Village Grape Molasses Production Facility***

Eti Soda has constructed an 80m<sup>2</sup> facility fitted with the necessary equipment and machines required for making grape molasses. According to the local authority of the Bağözü village, this facility was constructed around 2014.<sup>34</sup> This facility is also used to produce grape molasses for Eti Soda.<sup>35</sup> Eti Soda financed some minor refurbishments of the facility during 2021.<sup>36</sup>

***This initiative aims to address the UN SDG's indicated below by increasing employment opportunities, by increasing the incomes of locals through access to facilities which allows for the creation of higher value products, and by increasing the number of people with relevant skills for obtaining a higher income:***



<sup>32</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.  
<sup>33</sup> These images were taken during S-RM's visit to Eti Soda on 2 March 2020.  
<sup>34</sup> This information was provided by Hayati Değirmenci, the local authority of the Bağözü village on 11 February 2020.  
<sup>35</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet Keşküş on 24 May 2022.  
<sup>36</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

## 1.4 IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Eti Soda has maintained or expanded different irrigation systems, and increased the local populace’s access to water for agricultural purposes.

Eti Soda has established irrigation systems for agricultural use in Başören, Bağözü and Çakıloba villages. They have constructed a 300 m<sup>3</sup> irrigation pool in Başören village, a 250 m<sup>3</sup> irrigation pool in Bağözü village, and two separate irrigation pools (300 m<sup>3</sup> and 100 m<sup>3</sup>) in Çakıloba village.<sup>37</sup> The irrigation system in Çakıloba village was constructed in 2018.<sup>38</sup> By constantly supplying the irrigation pools with clean water from the production site, the company has supported agriculture in the region. In 2021, as a result of increased demand, Eti Soda expanded the irrigation pool they constructed in the Çakıloba village.<sup>39</sup>

Prior to the establishment of the irrigation system, the fields were reportedly watered using old techniques, such as by using water from draw wells. The use of draw wells significantly reduced the amount of water below the ground, and the inefficient technique led to the use of more water than was necessary.<sup>40</sup> Eti Soda is now providing water to these irrigation systems from the Sariyar dam, out of the water quota that has been set for Eti Soda by the government. The irrigation systems have therefore increased the efficiency of water use in these villages.<sup>41</sup> According to Kazım Uysal, the local authority of Çakıloba village, when the system was first set up, because the demand for water was so high, local producers would argue over who could use the water and for how long. In order to put an end to these arguments, and to guarantee that the system benefits the whole community, Eti Soda hired a worker to be in charge of water allocation in Çakıloba village.<sup>42</sup>

***This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below by increasing water use efficiency, supporting local engagement in water management, by upgrading available agricultural methods of water distribution and by increasing resource efficiency in consumption:***



<sup>37</sup> This information was provided by Kazım Uysal and Hayati Değirmenci, Hayati Değirmenci referred to the system as water pipes as opposed to an irrigation system with regards to Bağözü.

<sup>38</sup> This information was provided by Kazım Uysal, the local authority of the Çakıloba village.

<sup>39</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 24 May 2022.

<sup>40</sup> This information was provided by Ferhat Soylu and Ahmet Keşküş on 3 March 2020.

<sup>41</sup> This information was provided by Ferhat Soylu and Ahmet Keşküş on 3 March 2020.

<sup>42</sup> This information was provided by Kazım Uysal on 2 March 2020.



### 1.5 DEVELOPING ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN VINEYARDS

Eti Soda finished developing electricity infrastructure for vineyards in the Çakıloba village in 2021. They financed the electricity pylons, cabling and the transformer.<sup>43</sup> The vineyards take up approximately 90,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land.<sup>44</sup>

The project was initiated following a request from Kazım Uysal, the Çakıloba village local authority. This request was reportedly made because villagers from Çakıloba wanted electricity in the small resting houses/areas they have next to their fields.<sup>45</sup>

While the infrastructure was put in place by Eti Soda, the electricity costs from the use of this infrastructure is reportedly paid by the local villagers, who use the electricity for their personal purposes.<sup>46</sup>

***This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below by investing in rural infrastructure that can increase productivity in the field and by increasing access to information:***



### 1.6 BEEKEEPING INITIATIVE

In 2018, Kazan Soda started a beekeeping initiative within its facilities, in order to promote the profession and re-engage the local population with beekeeping. The beekeeping activities are run by Kudret Arıcı ('Arıcı'), a beekeeper from the region, and the honey produced from these activities is distributed to Kazan Soda employees.<sup>47</sup> The project started off with 50 beehives, and was producing honey from approximately 100 beehives as at March 2020.<sup>48</sup> As at May 2022, the number of beehives had expanded to approximately 150.<sup>49</sup>

Beekeeping is not a popular profession in areas surrounding the Kazan Soda production site, and therefore the beekeeping project has attracted attention as a source of knowledge in these matters. Two beekeepers from Fethiye and Mülk villages have asked Arıcı for assistance in matters related to beekeeping in 2020. For example, a beekeeper from Fethiye village called Arıcı to inquire about how to cope with parasites in the field that were hindering beekeeping activities. Kazan Soda also supports its beekeeping activities by planting lavender and acacia

<sup>43</sup> This information was provided by Meryem Keşküş on 27 June 2022.

<sup>44</sup> This information was provided by a member of the Eti Soda Sustainability Team, consisting of Ahu Kılıç, Ferhat Soylu and Esin İbıbbıkan.

<sup>45</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2021.

<sup>46</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>47</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 5 March 2020.

<sup>48</sup> This information was provided by Kudret Arıcı on 5 March 2020.

<sup>49</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

trees, two plants preferred by bees. The aim of the project is to revive beekeeping in the region and show the local populace that it could be a means for profit. With regards to Kazan Soda’s beekeeping project Arıcı believes that “*without bees there would be no life*”.<sup>50</sup> Kazan Soda wants to increase beekeeping in the region by giving training to women from local villages. However, this project has not yet been approved, and is currently only being discussed among Kazan Soda personnel as a possible future project.

***This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below by halting the loss of biodiversity:***



### 1.7 ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING CATERED TO LOCAL WOMEN

In 2019, Kazan Soda engaged in discussion with Başkent Üniversitesi, a Turkey-based university, about a possible collaboration in relation to a project that would focus on female entrepreneurs. While Kazan Soda did not end up working with Başkent Üniversitesi, in October 2021, they partnered with the Innovation Research and Design Centre, to give a training session on entrepreneurship to 29 women from the Fethiye, Mülk and İlhayat villages.<sup>51</sup> The discussions during this session revolved around which fruits and vegetables these women were growing, what else could be planted, and how they could improve their yield and earn additional income.<sup>52</sup> A second training was planned in 2021, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was indefinitely postponed.<sup>53</sup>

***This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below by increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success, by creating equal opportunities for women’s success and by creating more opportunities for productive employment:***



<sup>50</sup> This information was provided by Kudret Arıcı on 5 March 2020.

<sup>51</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022.

<sup>52</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

<sup>53</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

**1.8 GARDENING INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON LOCAL WOMEN**

Kazan Soda solely gives gardening works within the land that houses its facility to a company created by, and that employs, local women. This initiative has been taking place for the past two years.<sup>54</sup>

*This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below by creating more employment opportunities for local women:*



**SUPPORTING KEY MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS**

According to the information provided by Eti Soda and Kazan Soda personnel, these companies have provided monetary donations to municipal institutions around their production sites in 2021 and 2022, and have provided support to local non-profit organizations, elderly homes and to disaster relief efforts.

*These donations aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below by strengthening local institutions and by contributing to the reduction of the adverse effects of natural disasters:*



<sup>54</sup> This information was provided to S-RM by Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022

### 1.9 DONATIONS TO THE BEYPAZARI MUNICIPALITY INSTITUTIONS IN 2020 AND 2021<sup>55</sup>

- ▶ In 2021, Eti Soda donated money for the reconstruction of the Beypazari municipality building, a seven story building whose construction was completed in 2021.
- ▶ Eti Soda supported the repair and renovation of the Beypazari District Police Department in 2021 by providing a monetary donation.
- ▶ An elevator and a disability access ramp were constructed in the Beypazari Central Police Department with the support of Eti Soda.
- ▶ Eti Soda made a monetary donation to the Beypazari Municipality Tax Department in 2021, in support of the establishment of a tea center within the building.

### 1.10 DONATIONS TO THE SINCAN, KAZAN AND INCIRLIK MUNICIPALITY INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Kazan Soda purchased a printer and a shredder for the Sincan Municipality Gendarmerie Command between 2020 and 2021.
- ▶ Kazan Soda donated one container to the Ayaş Municipality Police Department on 15 December 2020.
- ▶ Kazan Soda donated 500 chairs and 135 tables to the Ilyakut and Mülk villages on January 2021.
- ▶ Kazan Soda donated two computer tablets to the Incirlik Village Authority, for its use in distance education on 27 January 2021.

### 1.11 DONATIONS RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF IN TURKEY

Eti Soda made donations to the Turkish cities of Elazığ and Muğla following natural disasters in both regions.<sup>56</sup>

- ▶ Eti Soda has made donations to Elazığ, Turkey following the earthquake that took place on 24 January 2020.
- ▶ Eti Soda made a monetary donation to the Muğla Disaster Area following the wild fires that occurred in the summer of 2021.

### 1.12 SEKLİ KÖYÜ GÜÇSÜZLER NURSING HOME RENOVATION

Eti Soda has historically supported the Sekli Nursing Home, a nursing home run by the Türkiye Güçsüzler ve Kimsesizlere Yardım Vakfı, a foundation aiming to help vulnerable individuals in Turkey, by financing repair costs as the need arises in the facility.<sup>57</sup> In 2020, Eti Soda financed the purchase of a security camera system for the foundation, in order to increase the security of the building. Furthermore, during winter 2021, Eti Soda supported the maintenance of the radiators in the facility.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>55</sup> This information was provided to S-RM by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022 and has not been independently verified.

<sup>56</sup> This information was provided to S-RM in an email.

<sup>57</sup> The contact from the nursing home could not recall the date of the renovation. However, he confirmed that Eti Soda covers the repair costs of the nursing home.

<sup>58</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.



The support provided to the Sekli Nursing Home aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below:



### 1.13 SUPPORT TO ANIMAL SHELTERS

Both Eti Soda and Kazan Soda provide support to animal shelters near their production sites. Kazan Soda donates approximately 120 bags of dry and wet dog food (each containing 15 kg of food) monthly to Pati Park, a local kennel.<sup>59</sup> Eti Soda also supported local animal shelters by providing food or unused pallets in 2021. This support was provided to an animal shelter in Elmadağ, and Tekkeköy, Ankara.<sup>60</sup>

## 2 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

In 2020 and 2021, WE Soda increased the number of initiatives that address the goal to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation. They have continued their expansion of irrigation systems, to address water waste (see Section 1.4), but have also increased initiatives to address sanitation problems in regions surrounding their plants in Beypazarı and Kazan.

The initiatives listed in this section aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below by providing access to sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and by increasing fresh water supply:



<sup>59</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022.

<sup>60</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022.

### **2.1 COMMUNAL BATHROOM ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE ANNUAL GAZI GÜNDÜZALP EVENT**

Every year in Hirka Tepe, Turkey, a commemoration day is held for Gazi Gündüzalp, an individual acknowledged to be the grandfather of Osman Gazi, the founder of the Ottoman Empire. In 2022, Eti Soda provided food for this event and constructed modern lavatories.<sup>61</sup>

### **2.2 COMMUNAL BATHROOM ESTABLISHMENT, KUYUCAK, BEYPAZARI**

Eti Soda made a monetary donation towards the establishment of communal bathrooms in the Kuyucak neighbourhood of Beypazarı in 2021.<sup>62</sup>

### **2.3 WATER WELL ESTABLISHMENT, ÇAKILOBA AND BAŞÖREN, ANKARA**

In 2021, Eti Soda made a monetary donation for the establishment of a 130 m water well in Çakıloba. On 8 June 2022, Eti Soda financed the efforts to open a water well in the Başören village. The works are currently ongoing.<sup>63</sup>

### **2.4 WATER LINE ESTABLISHMENT**

In 2021 and 2022, three new water lines of varying sizes were established in the Mülk, Fethiye, and Incirlik villages.<sup>64</sup>

### **2.5 WATER LINE REPAIR**

In 2021, Kazan Soda helped repair the water lines of the Ilyakut, Mulk and Fethiye villages. They also repaired water foundations. They assisted with the machinery necessary to fix the water lines that had been damaged.<sup>65</sup>

On 25 May 2022, Kazan Soda helped villagers from the Kirmir village combat water damage to their fields caused by excessive rains. The owners of the fields asked Kazan Soda for help in arranging water ways, and opening the water ways that were clogged up. Kazan Soda rented machinery in order to help re-establish water ways.<sup>66</sup>

### **2.6 ENROLLMENT IN CEO WATER MANDATE**

In May 2021, both Eti Soda and Kazan Soda endorsed the CEO Water Mandate, making a commitment to advance water stewardship.<sup>67</sup> The CEO Water Mandate is a joint initiative between the UN Global Compact and the UN Secretary General.

---

<sup>61</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet M. Keşküş on 26 May 2022.

<sup>62</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

<sup>63</sup> This information was provided by Selamı Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>64</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

<sup>65</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

<sup>66</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

<sup>67</sup> [CEO Water Mandate](#).

### 3 SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SPORTS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Preserving cultural and historical sites, and promoting the engagement of local communities with the arts and sports is essential for communities to thrive. WE Soda has sponsored local cultural events, sports societies, and engaged in the expansion and establishment of village rooms, rooms or buildings that can jointly be used by villagers for village meetings, cultural events, and other activities. These village rooms aim to provide a space that all villagers can use equally.

*The initiatives listed in this section aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below:*



#### 3.1 VILLAGE ROOM EXPANSION, BAĞÖZÜ VILLAGE

In 2021, Eti Soda expanded the Bağözü village room and set up an awning for the villagers. The area covered by the awning is used for local weddings and for rain dance rituals during the summer.

#### 3.2 VILLAGE ROOM ESTABLISHMENT, GÜRAĞAÇ, ANKARA

In 2021, Eti Soda made a monetary donation towards the establishment of a village house in the Gurağaç neighbourhood.

#### 3.3 VILLAGE ROOM ESTABLISHMENT, YEŞİLAĞAÇ, ANKARA

Eti Soda donated money for the establishment of a village house in the Yeşilağaç neighbourhood in both 2020 and 2021. The company also made a donation to the Yeşilağaç authority.

#### 3.4 SPONSORSHIP OF THE LOCAL RAIN DANCE EVENT

In April 2022, Kazan Soda sponsored a local rain dance event in one of the local villages.

#### 3.5 IFTAR DINNER

Every year during Ramadan, all Eti Soda employees and the locals of the Bağözü, Çakıloba, Başören and Gurağaç villages, come together on one evening to break their fast. An iftar meal is also hosted in the Kazan Soda production site during Ramadan. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, Eti Soda and Kazan Soda have not organized iftar dinners as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Images 10 and 11: Images of the Kazan Soda (left) and Eti Soda (right) Fast Breaking Dinner from 2019<sup>68</sup>



### 3.6 SPONSORSHIP OF LOCAL TURKISH SPORTS CLUBS

Eti Soda sponsors multiple sports societies and clubs in Ankara. The company sponsored the Beypazarı Municipality Youth and Sports Club Society between 2016 and 2017. In this capacity, they report to have paid for the necessities of all teams associated with the society. Similarly, they provided a monetary donation to this sports club in both 2021 and 2022.<sup>69</sup>

Furthermore, Eti Soda has historically supported the Bushido Sports Club, a sports club in Nallıhan, Ankara. Under Eti Soda's sponsorship, in November 2019, some members of the Bushido Sports Club travelled to Baku, Azerbaijan in order to participate in the second World Martial Arts Championship. These members were competing in the championship as a part of the Martial Arts Turkey National Team. Two Bushido Sports Club members won medals in the championship: Gül Nisa Akkayaoğlu and Elif Eylül Acar. While Gül Nisa won three gold medals in the stars category, Elif Eylül won two gold medals in two separate branches.<sup>70</sup> The Turkish National Team won second place in the championship.

Eti Soda reports to have made monetary donations to the Bushido Sports Club in 2020, 2021 and 2022.<sup>71</sup>

### 3.7 THE WELSH RUGBY UNION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME<sup>72</sup>

In 2022, WE Soda became a community partner of the Welsh Rugby Union ('WRU'), the governing body of rugby in Wales. As a partner, WE Soda committed to providing financial support for two of WRU's initiatives: Fit and Fed and Jersey for All.

#### ***Fit and Fed***

As part of the Fit and Fed initiative, spanning three years, WE Soda has committed to financing 1,250 rugby based sports camps, with a specific aim of reaching children from deprived communities in Wales. These one day sports camps will run during school holidays and centre around rugby based activities and lunch for the participants. The camps will also provide educational messaging around the need to protect the environment and reduce waste.

We Soda committed to financing 250 camps during 2022, the first 70 of which took place during Easter holidays between 11 April and 22 April 2022. These camps were run by WRU affiliated clubs including North Wales, Scarlets, Dragons, Cardiff, and Ospreys. On 11 April 2022, for

<sup>68</sup> These images were provided to S-RM by Meryem Keşküş.

<sup>69</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

<sup>70</sup> Sources: 'Azerbaycan'da tarihi başarı', [Haber Turk](#), 27 November 2019; 'Çayırhanlı sporcuların büyük başarısı', [Sabah](#), 28 November 2019.

<sup>71</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

<sup>72</sup> Information relating to this partnership programme was provided by Anita Siddle on 15 June 2022.

example, 11 camps were held, four of which solely focused on girls, and one for children with disabilities. Over 3,100 children in total participated in the 70 camps during Easter holidays and approximately 150 camps are being planned for the Summer of 2022.

**Jersey For All**

WE Soda committed to supporting “Jersey for All”, an initiative providing rugby-based activities for children and young adults with disabilities and special educational needs (‘SEN’) with the aim of encouraging inclusive opportunity and participation. As part of the programme, WE Soda will also finance rugby themed sessions once a week, in five community clubs, over 32 weeks. They will also finance five Rugby festivals for these children, possibly culminating with a finale held at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. As part of Jersey for All, WE Soda has also committed to financing five SEN hub officers delivering day to day support in SEN schools.

This initiative aims to address the UN SDGs indicated below:



Image 12 and 13: Photographs of children participating in the WRU Community Partnership Programme<sup>73</sup>



## 4 PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL

WE Soda has made its contribution to education through constructing or repairing educational institutions, by providing bursaries and internships to students, by donating to and sponsoring local schools and by providing training to students in relation to biodiversity.

<sup>73</sup> These images were provided to WE Soda by WRU.



The initiatives listed in this section aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below, unless indicated otherwise:



#### 4.1 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ETI SODA ÖZEL EĞİTİM OKULU

On 17 April 2015, the Ciner Group started the construction of Eti Soda Özel Eğitim Uygulama ve İş Okulu, a school for mentally handicapped children in Beypazarı, Ankara.<sup>74</sup> The school's construction began after the signing of a protocol with the government as a part of the government's '100% Support for Education' campaign. While the cost of the institution's construction was fully paid for by Eti Soda, the land that the school was constructed on was donated by the Beypazarı municipality.<sup>75</sup> The construction finished in 2017 and the school was donated to the Ministry of Education in April of that year. In addition to being an educational institution for children, the school runs sessions for parents and provides psychological assistance for families that request support.<sup>76</sup> Eti Soda continues to provide material support to the school by covering repair costs.<sup>77</sup>

Image 14: Image of the exterior of the Eti Soda Special Education School taken on 3 March 2020<sup>78</sup>

*"The construction of the Eti Soda Special Education School has addressed a significant deficiency and a significant need in Beypazarı. We thank the Ciner Group for their help". – Hürrem Dursun, District Director of National Education (March 2020)*



<sup>74</sup> Source: [Ciner Group](#); 'Beypazarı Özel Eğitim Uygulama Okulu Protokolü İmzalandı', [Hürriyet](#), 17 April 2015.

<sup>75</sup> This information was provided by Hürrem Dursun, the District Director of National Education of Beypazarı, during S-RM's visit to the school on 3 March 2020.

<sup>76</sup> This information was provided by Levent Yüksel, during S-RM's visit to the school on 3 March 2020.

<sup>77</sup> This information was provided by Levent Yüksel, during S-RM's visit to the school on 3 March 2020.

<sup>78</sup> This image was taken during S-RM's visit to Eti Soda on 3 March 2020.

*Images 15 and 16: Images of the interior of the Eti Soda Special Education School taken on 3 March 2020<sup>79</sup>*



The school itself has two floors. It consists of 17 classrooms, three administrative rooms, five arts and craft rooms, one parent visitation room, one staff room, one application house, one cafeteria and kitchen, one teachers room, one multi-purpose living room, one archive and two storage rooms.<sup>80</sup> The school contains an application house, that allows students to practice engagement within a less formal setting and to practice life skills.

*Image 17: Image of Ahmet Keşküş, the Vice General Manager of Eti Soda, with Levent Yüksel taken on the 3rd of March 2020<sup>81</sup>*



#### **Support to the Special Education School between 2020 and 2022**

In May 2020, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Eti Soda donated a high quantity of disinfectant and cleaning materials to the Special Education School. In 2021, Eti Soda assisted the school by funding necessary insulation and re-decoration work after flooding on the first floor.<sup>82</sup>

#### **4.2 BURSARIES TO LOCAL STUDENTS IN TURKEY**

Between 2013 and 2018, Eti Soda and Kazan Soda together gave bursaries to approximately 80 local students. As a part of this programme, students are given money for their personal needs throughout their education. Kazan Soda provided 32 students with bursaries in 2021, and Eti Soda provided approximately 30 students with bursaries in 2022.<sup>83</sup> The bursaries Eti Soda

<sup>79</sup> These images were taken during S-RM's visit to Eti Soda on 3 March 2020.

<sup>80</sup> This information was found in an informative pamphlet provided by Levent Yüksel on 3 March 2020.

<sup>81</sup> This image was taken during S-RM's visit to Eti Soda on 3 March 2020.

<sup>82</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

<sup>83</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

provided focused on students who were predominantly from Beypazarı, with an interest in studying engineering.

### 4.3 TRAINEESHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS AT ETI SODA AND KAZAN SODA

Eti Soda implements a traineeship programme for engineering students from technical high schools and for university students. While the internships for university students last approximately one month, technical high school students have longer internships, lasting approximately four months.

The internship applications are made on an ad hoc basis. As part of their traineeship programme, a representative from the high school meets with an Eti Soda representative to discuss the student's progress every week. While the internship programme accepts students from all regions in Turkey, the interns are predominantly from the Beypazarı region. In 2021, Eti Soda had 19 short-term interns, and 11 long term interns, whereas as at June 2022, they had eight short term interns and 23 long term interns.<sup>84</sup>

Kazan Soda's traineeship programme is very similar to that of Eti Soda's. The internships for high school students in Kazan Soda begin in September and conclude in June.<sup>85</sup> These students largely study in technical high schools, and focus on electric or electronic engineering, information processing or information technology. The majority of the company's trainees are from Ankara. As at May 2022, Kazan Soda had seven trainees, one of whom is already an employee in the company. These seven trainees are doing their internships in the electronic maintenance department, the measurements and control department and the information processing departments.<sup>86</sup>

In contrast, the university student placements are usually approximately 21 days long, but depend on the requirements of their programme. While doing their placements, the students are also encouraged to attend training sessions set in place for permanent staff. In 2021, Gülşen Can, an industrial engineering student at Necmettin Erbakan University, a university in Konya, Turkey, expressed her happiness in being able to attend staff training sessions and expand her knowledge with the regards to logistics as an intern of the company.<sup>87</sup> Furthermore, towards the end of their internship, students are asked to make a presentation to the Kazan Soda staff on a topic of their choice. According to Erdem Keskin, these presentations aim to increase the students' knowledge on their topic of their choice, and also to increase their confidence in public speaking. For example, in 2022, chemical engineering students gave a presentation on the soda manufacturing process. In February 2022, 11 future engineers completed their month long internship at Kazan Soda.<sup>88</sup>

Interns at Kazan Soda also receive some of the same benefits as employees. For example, for Eid, these interns received a gift voucher from a local supermarket, alongside employees.<sup>89</sup>

### 4.4 DONATIONS

According to the conversations we had for this assignment, Eti Soda and Kazan Soda have made donations to local schools and universities.

---

<sup>84</sup> This information was provided by Meryem Keşkküş on 9 June 2022.

<sup>85</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022.

<sup>86</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>87</sup> Source: [LinkedIn](#).

<sup>88</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>89</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.



**These donations listed in this section aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below by providing equal access to quality education, unless indicated otherwise:**



#### 4.4.1 Monetary donations to local schools<sup>90</sup>

Eti Soda has provided monetary donations to local schools in Ankara, Turkey between 2020 and 2022. Donations were made to:

- ▶ Halide Edip Adivar Preschool, located in Beypazarı, in 2020.
- ▶ Beypazarı Fatih Vocational and Technical Highschool, located in Beypazarı, in 2020.
- ▶ Tolunay Özaka Health Center ve Technical Anatolian Highschool, a Beypazarı-based technical highschool focusing on the health sector, in 2021.

#### 4.4.2 Monetary donations to universities across Turkey<sup>91</sup>

Eti Soda has provided monetary donations to university funds and foundations across Turkey between 2020 and 2022. Donations were made to:

- ▶ Istanbul Technical University Foundation, a foundation established in 1984 to support the Istanbul-based university, in 2020.
- ▶ Middle Eastern Technical University Development Foundation, a foundation to support the Ankara-based university, in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- ▶ Hacettepe University Technology Development Area, a company established by the Hacettepe University that supports research and development and fosters the development of technology start-ups, in 2022.

#### 4.4.3 Book donations

Eti Soda donated books to three local schools in the Beypazarı area.<sup>92</sup>

- ▶ 757 books were donated to the Cumhuriyet Primary School in 2021.
- ▶ 202 books were donated to the Namık Kemal Middleschool in 2021.

<sup>90</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022.

<sup>91</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022.

<sup>92</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022.

- ▶ 535 books were donated to the Nurettin Karaoğuz Foundation Anatolian Highschool in 2021.

**4.4.4 Demand-based donations to educational institutions<sup>93</sup>**

- ▶ Eti Soda purchased a battery operated cleaning vehicle for the Cumhuriyet Primary School (2019-2020) and the Beypazarı Imam Hatip School (2020) in Beypazarı.
- ▶ Eti Soda purchased work clothes and shoes for the students of Beypazarı Fatih Vocational and Technical Highschool in 2020.

**4.5 EVENTS FOCUSING ON ENHANCING STUDENTS’ KNOWLEDGE**

Kazan Soda has carried out multiple events with both local and national schools to increase student’s awareness of endemic plants and local animals (see Section 5.4 for more information).

## 5 PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

WE Soda entities carry out social initiatives that aim to protect and preserve the environment. Some of these initiatives focus on minimizing or offsetting the companies’ environmental impact. While all of the Turkey-based WE Soda initiatives engage in afforestation<sup>94</sup>, Kazan Soda has the most comprehensive environmental corporate social responsibility initiatives. However, since January 2021, Eti Soda has increased its focus on protecting biodiversity and has implemented a biodiversity conservation and monitoring project that closely resembles Kazan Soda’s activities. Furthermore, Eti Soda has significantly increased long-term initiatives that focus on climate action and life on land, as they have also implemented a Greenhouse project in the region (see Section 1.2).

*The initiatives listed in this section aim to address the UN SDGs indicated below by protecting biodiversity and natural habitats:*



<sup>93</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 24 May 2022.

<sup>94</sup> Afforestation refers to the process of planting a large number of trees on a land that previously did not contain any or had only a few.

## 5.1 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MONITORING PROJECT KAZAN SODA<sup>95</sup>

In 2016, Kazan Soda initiated a project focusing on preserving the biodiversity in the area surrounding the Kazan Soda production site. The project was conducted in partnership with Ekoiz, an environmental consultancy based in Ankara, Turkey. Eight academics participated in this project, including Prof Dr. Hayri Duman ('Duman'), a flora specialist and ecologist from Gazi Üniversitesi in Ankara.

In 2016, Duman visited the project area under different seasonal conditions in order to observe the flora. These visitations were done in March, June, July and November. From these visits, a detailed list of the taxons within the project area was accumulated. From this list, the project team assessed which taxons were endemic, and which had the risk of becoming endangered even if they had not been categorized as endemic.

*Image 18 and 19: Images from the March 2016 Field Works (left) and images of the different endemic plants (below)<sup>96</sup>*



The 2016 field visits and works found 246 different types of plants in the area designated for this project. Of the 246, 41 were endemic to Turkey, and six have a specific local or regional spread. These six types can be found below:

- ▶ *Aethionema dumanii*, which was named after Prof. Duman.
- ▶ *Campanula damboldtiana*
- ▶ *Erodium sibthorpiatum* subsp. *Sibthorpiatum*
- ▶ *Scutellaria yildirimlilii*
- ▶ *Sideritis galatica*
- ▶ *Salvia tchihatchefii*

Out of the six taxons listed above, only *Campanula damboldtiana* has a local spread. As such, it has been categorized as "critical, CR" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature ('IUCN') red list, a comprehensive list of threatened species in the world.

<sup>95</sup> All information and photos relating to the biodiversity conservation and monitoring project is from the Biodiversity Action Plan composed by Ekoiz in September 2017. Meryem Keşkülü sent this action plan to S-RM during the company's visit to the Kazan Soda production site. All photos related to the conservation and monitoring project were taken by Ekoiz.

<sup>96</sup> All photos related to the conservation and monitoring project were taken by Ekoiz. All information and photos relating to the biodiversity conservation and monitoring project is from the Biodiversity Action Plan composed by Ekoiz in September 2017.

In order to protect these six endemic plants, the Kazan Soda team and the Ekoiz team started initiating protection plans following the end of the team’s field visits. It was decided that the seeds of these six endemic plants would be collected at appropriate times and sent to the Ankara Seed Genetic Bank. This would guarantee that even if these plants were to be adversely affected, they could be re-planted in the region. As at August 2019, the seeds of *Salvia tchihatchefi* and *Aethionema dumanii* had been delivered to the seed bank. The remaining four seeds were delivered between August 2019 and March 2020.<sup>97</sup>

**5.2 ENDEMIC PLANT CONSERVATION AREA, KAZAN SODA**

In light of its efforts to protect and raise awareness regarding these endemic plants, Kazan Soda decided to establish a greenhouse within its grounds in 2020. However, it was later decided that it would be better to keep the local plants in their natural habitat, and create an area surrounding it for conservation purposes.<sup>98</sup>

As a result, Kazan Soda created the endemic plant area, which covers approximately 10,000m<sup>2</sup> within their grounds. Wooden stairs and watch areas were created around this area, and information and photos relating to these plants were placed to aid visitors’ understanding regarding these plants.



Image 20 and 21: Banner that reads Endemic Plant Protection Area (left) and photograph of the EPPA (right)



Translocation of the seeds or corms of local plants that were not already in the area was first completed in 2020. For example, the translocation of the seeds of *Centtaura tchihatcheffi*, a flower endemic to Ankara, was first completed in 2020. Whereas, *Fritillaria Imperialis*, also referred to as crown imperial, was planted in the Kazan Soda endemic plant area in 2021, using their fertilized corms to promote growth.<sup>99</sup>

Translocation is an ongoing process, and plant seeds or corms are introduced to the area in different time periods to not only increase the types of flowers in the area, but to also increase the quantity of types of existing flowers growing in the foreclosure. The six types of plants

<sup>97</sup> This information was provided by both Hayri Duman and Erdem Keskin on 16 March 2020.

<sup>98</sup> This information was provided by and Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022.

<sup>99</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.



identified in the Ekoiz 2020 report as endemic are still undergoing translocation with the aim of increasing the population of these plants.<sup>100</sup>

Image 22 and 23: Photograph of the planting and growth of *Fritillaria Imperialis* (left) and *Centtaura tchihatcheffi* (right)<sup>101</sup>



As part of the next phase of this project, Kazan Soda will be planting St John's-wort into a space of approximately 100m<sup>2</sup>. While this flower is not endemic to the region, it is considered to be a medicinal plant and Kazan Soda aims to spread awareness with regards to its medicinal properties in the surrounding region.<sup>102</sup>

While the endemic plant conservation area has been completed, an information office is currently in construction within the area grounds.

### 5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TRAINING OF LOCAL WOMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, KAZAN SODA

On 30 October 2019, two separate training sessions relating to environmental awareness and environmental protection were given to local women in the Kazan Soda production site. Each session was attended by ten local women from the Incirlik, Fethiye and Ilyakut Villages. The environmental awareness training was given by Özge Atlı, a Kazan Soda environmental engineer. The environmental protection training was given by Murat Doğan, the general manager of Ekoiz. The latter presentation outlined the aims of the biodiversity project, what had been achieved so far through this project and outlined what the locals need to pay attention to while they are within this environmentally protected area.

Following this training, the ten local women, alongside Kazan Soda employees, engaged in environmental planning in the area surrounding the conservatory. These local woman were paid by Kazan Soda for their involvement in this project.<sup>103</sup>

No other training sessions relating to endemic plants were conducted local women between 2020 and May 2022, as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

<sup>100</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>101</sup> Images were provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>102</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

<sup>103</sup> Information received from Erdem Keskin on 5 March 2020.

*Image 24: Image of Murat Doğan’s training sessions to local woman from the Incirlik, Fethiye and Ilyakut Villages<sup>104</sup>*



**5.4 RAISING ENDEMIC PLANT AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS**

Kazan Soda has created booklets relating to their endemic plant project, which they have shared with students and other visitors to their endemic plant area. Students from a variety of different schools across Turkey are set to visit the endemic plant area, and to receive an informative presentation on these plants, in May and June 2022.<sup>105</sup>

On the 23 April 2022, National Sovereignty and Children’s Day in Turkey, Kazan Soda sponsored the visit of the Ağrı Mollakara İlkokulu, a primary school located in Ağrı, a city in eastern Turkey. Kazan Soda covered the costs associated with transportation and housing and gave the children a presentation about endemic plants in order to increase their awareness.<sup>106</sup> These children then had a chance to visit the endemic plant area within Kazan Soda grounds to be informed about the different types of endemic plants in the region.

*Image 25: Photograph from the 23 April 2022 visit of Ağrı Mollakara İlkokulu*



Three other schools visited the Kazan Soda endemic plant area between 5 and 11 June 2022, as part of World Environment Week.<sup>107</sup> These visits were as follows:

- ▶ Between the 5 and 11 June 2022, 40 students from Ipucu Koleji, a school in Ankara, visited the area;

<sup>104</sup> This image was provided by Meryem Keşküş.  
<sup>105</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 5 March 2020.  
<sup>106</sup> This information was provided by Erdem Keskin on 26 May 2022.  
<sup>107</sup> This information was provided by Meryem Keşküş on 27 June 2022.

- ▶ On the 7 June, 23 students and 2 teachers from the Ankara METU<sup>108</sup> Development Foundation Private Schools visited the area; and,
- ▶ On 10 June, students from the METU AICHE<sup>109</sup> Student Chapter visited the endemic plant area.

Image 26: Statement of Kazan Soda in relation to 22 May World Biodiversity Day<sup>110</sup>



### 5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING – ETI SODA

On 8 June 2022, in order to commemorate World Environment Week, Eti Soda hosted an event for the students of Eti Soda Özel Eğitim Okulu (see Section 4.1), where a presentation relating to the environment was given to approximately 70 students, as well as a lunch and a tree-planting session. The event was attended by a professor from Ankara Üniversitesi, who conducted the session.<sup>111</sup>

### 5.6 MAMMAL CONSERVATION PROJECT, KAZAN SODA<sup>112</sup>

As a part of Kazan Soda’s conservation and preservation project, mammals in the area were also monitored. Inside the biodiversity working grounds, and its surrounding vicinity, the project team identified 23 different types of mammals. These identifications were made following field work, discussions with locals in the area and literature relating to the subject. None of these 23 mammals found within the area are classified as globally endangered by the IUCN categories. However, three types of bats found in the surrounding area were classified as vulnerable in nationally based categories, and *sciurus anomalus*, a squirrel, was categorized as rare. Because there are no caves and hollows in the project area, it was assessed that the bats would not be negatively impacted by the Kazan Soda production site.

<sup>108</sup> METU: Middle East Technical University.

<sup>109</sup> AICHE: American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

<sup>110</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>111</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>112</sup> Information and photos relating to this project are from the Biodiversity Action Plan composed by Ekoiz in September 2017, unless stated otherwise. Meryem Keşküş sent this action plan to S-RM during the company’s visit to the Kazan Soda production site on 5 March 2020.

Image 27: Anatolian Ground Squirrel<sup>113</sup>



In order to protect the ground squirrel, as well as the other mammals that have been identified in the area, Kazan Soda educated project personnel and locals (See Section 4.2). According to Erdem Keskin, one of the problems with protecting the squirrel population has been the fact that their habitat is essentially the fields of the local villagers. However, the perception of these mammals by these locals has been largely negative as a result of the impact that the squirrels have on their crops. Kazan Soda therefore aims to increase the squirrel population on its own grounds, and it aims to do this largely by supporting the habitats these squirrels live in by increasing awareness among the local populace. As aforementioned, training and educational seminars on biodiversity and conservation have been given to local women, containing information about the importance of protecting the mammals and their natural habitat. In order to make sure the habitats of these squirrels and other mammals are preserved, afforestation initiatives of Kazan Soda are only made in areas that have been deemed appropriate for this purpose.

Since 2021, Kazan Soda has been doing its own monitoring of wildlife around the area using 'photo capturers'. They have set up stations with bird feed, which also allows them to monitor birds in the surrounding areas. In 2022, during monitoring, Kazan Soda captured photographs of lynx within the production site. Monitoring is continuing in relation to this identification.<sup>114</sup>

Image 28: 4 February 2022 photo capture of lynx in land surrounding Kazan Soda<sup>115</sup>



<sup>113</sup> All photos related to the conservation and monitoring project were taken by Ekoiz. All information and photos relating to the biodiversity conservation and monitoring project are from the Biodiversity Action Plan completed by Ekoiz in September 2017.

<sup>114</sup> This information was provided by Kazan Soda personnel.

<sup>115</sup> This image was provided by Eti Soda personnel.



### 5.7 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MONITORING PROJECT, ETI SODA<sup>116</sup>

In 2021, in similarity to Kazan Soda, Eti Soda partnered with Ekoiz with the aim of identifying and protecting endemic plants and animals surrounding the plant. The monitoring process, which involved the participation of eight academics, began in January 2021, and was concluded in December of that same year.

During the monitoring phase of the project, Ekoiz identified 251 types of plants and plant taxons in the area. Out of the 251 identified, 30 were endemic to Turkey, 25 had a wide spread, and 5 had a local spread.

Ekoiz selected six taxons that should be protected as part of their action plan. The seeds/corms of these plants will thus be collected, increased and also given to the Turkish Seed Bank for conservation purposes.

The six types of taxons under protection are:

- ▶ *Muscari adillii*
- ▶ *Astragalus trichostigma*
- ▶ *Sidaritis gulendamia*
- ▶ *Salsolo turcica*
- ▶ *Paronychia dudleyi*
- ▶ *Cymbocarpum alinihatii*

From the six endemic plants listed above, *Muscari adillii* and *Cymbocarpum alinihatii* have been classified as critically endangered according to the IUCN red list. Additionally, *Astragalus trichostigma* and *Salsolo turcica* have been categorized as endangered.

As a next step to this project, Eti Soda are planning to create an endemic plant conservation area. This will involve translocation of seeds to a designated area. The seeds or corms of the taxons identified can only be translocated in the month of November.

### 5.8 MAMMAL MONITORING AND CONSERVATION PROJECT, ETI SODA

The biodiversity monitoring project also focused on monitoring animals in the area between January and December 2021. During monitoring, 142 types of bird, 22 types of mammal, 16 types of reptiles or amphibians, and 508 types of invertebrates were identified.

*Neophron percnopterus*, commonly referred to as the Egyptian vulture, is one of the types of bird that was identified during monitoring. The IUCN red list has categorized the Egyptian vulture as endangered. As such, an action plan was created to monitor these Egyptian vultures. Eti Soda will continue to monitor the other species identified using photo capturers placed in the field.

---

<sup>116</sup> This information was provided by Eti Soda personnel on 26 May 2022.

### 5.8.1 Egyptian vulture conservation project<sup>117</sup>

In order to both protect Egyptian vultures and to monitor them, transmitters will be placed on three Egyptian vultures by specialist teams. These vultures will then be released into the wild, which will allow for the tracking of their migration patterns.

These birds will also be named in collaboration with the students from the Eti Soda Special Education School (see Section 4.1). The bird names will either be chosen by the students themselves or will be given the names of three students. Eti Soda is planning to create an online platform, accessible to all, that will transmit the information from the vultures' trackers.

As the migration patterns of Egyptian vultures are not commonly known, academic literature relating to this will be published at the end of the tracking period, and therefore Eti Soda will contribute literature that can be used for the monitoring and conservation of these animals.

*Image 29: Photograph of a Egyptian vulture<sup>118</sup>*



### 5.9 KAZAN SODA AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

Kazan Soda undertook a tree planting event in 2019, which led to the planting of approximately 30,040 trees in the area surrounding the production site. The trees planted included Cypress, Juniper and Cedar trees. In 2021, Kazan Soda planted 3,605 plants or trees. These consisted of the following<sup>119</sup>:

- ▶ Dwarf Juniper Trees: 800
- ▶ Rose Bushes: 600
- ▶ Rosemary Plants: 400
- ▶ Lavender Plants: 400
- ▶ Cypress Trees: 400
- ▶ Russian Olive Trees: 200
- ▶ Sweet Cherry Trees: 200
- ▶ Scarlet Firethorn Bushes: 200
- ▶ Acacia Trees: 80
- ▶ Raspberry Bushes: 80
- ▶ Virginia Creeper Vines: 80
- ▶ Blue Cypress Trees: 80

<sup>117</sup> This information was provided by Ahmet Keşküş on 24 May 2022.

<sup>118</sup> This photograph was provided by Eti Soda personnel.

<sup>119</sup> This information was provided by Bilge Şimşek on 25 May 2022.

► Willow trees: 25

Image 30 and 31: Images from a tree planting event run by Kazan Soda in 2019<sup>120</sup>



### 5.10 LAVENDER PROJECT, KAZAN SODA

In 2018, 33,000 lavender flowers were planted in the area of the Kazan Soda facility. Kazan Soda’s aim is to increase lavender farming in the region, by beginning lavender oil production. Kazan Soda believes that if the local populace sees that lavender farming could be profitable, it will be taken up to a greater extent. The lavender project was also started in order to support Kazan Soda’s beekeeping initiative (see Section 1.6) since bees are attracted to lavender flowers.

### 5.11 ETI SODA AFFORESTATION INITIATIVES

Eti Soda has planted 5000 trees in a field designated for reforestation off the Bey pazarı-Çayırhan Highway in 2019. They had pledged to plant 2,000 trees every year in 2020 and have assumed the responsibility for watering the field.

Furthermore, Eti Soda has purchased 1,500 trees, which they are planning to plant in the months of June and July 2022. In order to plant these trees, Eti Soda has hired local individuals from the surrounding villages. These individuals are not permanent employees of Eti Soda, but rather were hired to plant these trees.<sup>121</sup>

### 5.12 SPONSORSHIP OF THE EKO İKLİM CONFERENCE

Both Eti Soda and Kazan Soda were sponsors of the Eko İklim Conference, also referred to as the Economy and Climate Change Summit, held in Ankara, Turkey on 30 and 31 March 2022<sup>122</sup>. The conference focuses on fighting climate change and minimizing the impact climate change has on the economy.<sup>123</sup> Eti Soda sponsored a bicycle tour as part of the conference.

<sup>120</sup> This image was provided by Meryem Keşküş.

<sup>121</sup> This information was provided by Selami Damak on 8 June 2022.

<sup>122</sup> Source: [LinkedIn](#).

<sup>123</sup> Source: [Ekoİklim](#).

## 6 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Eti Soda and Kazan Soda frequently donate to, and partner with, non-profit organizations. While in the UK, WE Soda has pledged commitments to two community partnership initiatives of the WRU (see Section 3.7), and to Hestia, a charity headquartered in London, which focuses on a variety of issues around exploitation and domestic abuse.

### 6.1 WE SODA’S DONATIONS TO OR PARTNERSHIPS WITH TURKISH NON-PROFITS

- ▶ Kazan Soda makes donations to LOSEV, a Turkish charity that supports children with leukaemia, on behalf of every new person that joins the company.
- ▶ For women’s day, 8 March 2022, both Eti Soda and Kazan Soda made donations on behalf of their women employees to SERCEV, the Association of Children with Cerebral Palsy.
- ▶ For the new year in 2022, Kazan Soda and Eti Soda made donations to TEMA Vakfı, the Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion.
- ▶ Both Kazan Soda and Eti Soda have a blood drive in their facilities, every three months, in support of the Turkish Red Crescent.
- ▶ Eti Soda purchased children’s books from Yurt Madenciliğini Geliştirme Vakfı in 2022, in order to support the charity, and increase the knowledge children have with regards to mining. They purchased both a colouring book titled ‘What is a mine?’ and a magazine called ‘Small Miner’, which contained information about different minerals and mines, and their locations. These magazines were distributed to Eti Soda staff who have children and to the local populace.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of these partnerships aim to address the UN SDGs listed below by improving the health of children and adults, and by taking measures against climate change:



### 6.2 HESTIA HOUSING AND SUPPORT LIMITED (‘HESTIA’)<sup>124</sup>

WE Soda pledged its commitment to Hestia Housing and Support Limited, a UK-based charity that predominantly focuses on domestic abuse and modern slavery. Hestia offers a variety of services in London, and across the region, which includes safe houses and outreach support to victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse support in the form of community based support and refuges. Furthermore, the charity offers a wide range of services for individuals with physical,

<sup>124</sup> This information was provided by Anita Siddle on 14 June 2022.

mental and learning disabilities, those struggling with addiction issues, the elderly, and ex-offenders. WE Soda will particularly be supporting three Hestia initiatives through its monetary contribution:

- ▶ Vouchers for women receiving modern slavery services from Hestia. Hestia reports that approximately 50 women, who have become victims of Modern Slavery, join their services monthly. This voucher will be primarily used for purchasing undergarments, and leftover funds will go towards personal hygiene or baby products. WE Soda's commitment will go towards funding vouchers for approximately 600 women.
- ▶ Hestia's Art is Freedom Workshops. Hestia organizes art workshops, with the help of volunteers from the creative industries, for victims of modern slavery. The art created in these workshops are then showcased in different locations around London. WE Soda will support the running of ten workshops, by helping to purchase the equipment and essentials necessary.
- ▶ Supporting Children. Hestia provides activities and outings for children who have fled domestic abuse and are living in Hestia's refuges, for a period of six weeks during school holidays. WE Soda's contribution to this scheme will go towards extending this programme to children whose mothers have been victims of modern slavery.

Hestia's aims align with WE Soda's own commitment to reducing inequalities and poverty, and the wellbeing of individuals.

**This partnership therefore aims to address the UN SDGs listed below:**



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- ▶ Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- ▶ Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- ▶ Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- ▶ Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- ▶ Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- ▶ Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- ▶ Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- ▶ Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- ▶ Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- ▶ Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- ▶ Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- ▶ Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ▶ Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- ▶ Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- ▶ Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- ▶ Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- ▶ Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Image 3: UN Sustainable Development Goals



## APPENDIX B

On 2, 3, and 5 March 2020, S-RM visited the Eti Soda and Kazan Soda production sites in order to find out more information relating to these companies' social corporate responsibility efforts. During this visit, S-RM made field visits to the Eti Soda Demonstration Vineyard, the Eti Soda Special Education School, and the Çakıloba grape molasses facility and village hall. A second visit was conducted by S-RM on 24 and 26 May 2022 in order to document changes to existing initiatives and any new initiatives that were developed. This report contains corporate social responsibility projects that were communicated to S-RM during these visits, and in follow up phone calls and emails.

The information included in this report was provided to S-RM by Kazan Soda and Eti Soda employees and representatives, including:

- ▶ Ahmet M. Keşküş, Vice General Manager of Eti Soda
- ▶ Erdem Keskin, QA.QC / HSE Manager at Kazan Soda
- ▶ Meryem Keşküş, Customer Relations Supervisor
- ▶ Esin Özkasnaklı, Brand and Sustainability Supervisor
- ▶ Ahu Kılıç, Management Systems Specialist
- ▶ Selami Damak, Administrative Affairs Specialist
- ▶ Aysel Ünver, Human Resources Specialist
- ▶ Özge Ünsal, Environmental Engineer
- ▶ Bilge Şimşek, Management Systems Engineer
- ▶ Onur Akbaba, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Manager

Neither the existence and nor the scope of the projects and the initiatives mentioned in this report have been verified independently by S-RM.



# S-RM IS A GLOBAL CONSULTANCY THAT HELPS CLIENTS MANAGE REGULATORY, REPUTATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL RISKS

## CORPORATE INTELLIGENCE

Combining industry-leading intelligence with unrivalled responsiveness and client service.

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Preventing crises, and safeguarding your people, assets and reputation.

## CYBER SECURITY

Helping you manage complex information security challenges through a collaborative and consultative approach.



300 + employees  
1000 + sub-contractors



across 6  
continents



speaking 30+  
languages

supporting  
clients in  
140 +  
countries



CORPORATE INTELLIGENCE | CRISIS MANAGEMENT | CYBER SECURITY

[hello@s-rminform.com](mailto:hello@s-rminform.com) | [www.s-rminform.com](http://www.s-rminform.com)