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# Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands

Priority issues identified for cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection and conservation

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Wageningen University & Research Centre  
Wageningen, March 2009

Wageningen International





# Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands

Priority issues identified for cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection and conservation

*Interviews with experts from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations based in Turkey and based in The Netherlands*

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## Summary

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As a consequence of its geographical location Turkey is very rich in biodiversity; its flora is richest, both in terms of overall plant diversity and level of endemism compared to Europe, North Africa, or countries in the Middle East.

The Netherlands has been involved in biodiversity issues in Turkey through the BBI-Matra (International Biodiversity Policy Programme) activities. The main objective of the BBI-Matra Action Plan for 2005-2008 is based on the resolution: 'To halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan-European region by the year 2010, by supporting and strengthening civil society organizations involved in nature themes'. Moreover, the BBI-Matra Action Plan focuses on European unification, and therefore BBI-Matra has an important role to play in supporting and helping countries to prepare for EU regulation adding extra value by increasing civil society's ability to exert influence on biodiversity policy. Besides BBI-MATRA activities, in recent years, some small projects within the context of KNIP-Matra have been executed in Turkey. It is difficult to monitor, however, how these activities and projects will integrate into a wider context on biodiversity issues. For the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality it is therefore important to understand who the most important players in the 'Green Knowledge Exchange' arena are, what priorities they have and how The Netherlands can contribute effectively to the Turkish biodiversity agenda.

This report gives an overview of important biodiversity issues in Turkey and priorities for cooperation selected by Turkish and Dutch parties. The project aimed to facilitate the set up of a long-term cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands in a structural 'Green Knowledge Exchange' between officials and experts of the two countries. This report is based on *interviews* held with representatives of Governmental Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Turkey (2007) and with representatives of Governmental bodies and NGOs in The Netherlands, which are currently involved in addressing biodiversity issues in Turkey. Most representatives from Dutch side were interviewed in 2008 and some in 2007. The reports of the interviews form the backbone of this publication. In the second place the report includes the outcomes of a workshop held in Ankara with representatives from Turkish Ministries and NGOs and representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in November 2007. Thirdly, the report provides a SWOT analysis and comparison of the information obtained from Turkish side and the information provided by organisations based in The Netherlands.

The interviews and the workshop showed that, although there was a great diversity in priorities, specifically capacity building and involvement of (local) stakeholders were key issues acknowledged by most participants. Specific areas of attention for improving biodiversity conservation in Turkey and at the same time areas for 'Green Knowledge Exchange' between Turkey and The Netherlands include: communication; institutional development (which needs to focus on *applying* a participatory approach and *sharing* of information and data); awareness raising, education and capacity development; data availability and monitoring; management planning (with a focus again on *interactive* planning); sustainable tourism; adaptation to climate change.

*Keywords:* Biodiversity, Conservation, Nature, Turkey, The Netherlands, Governance, Cooperation, Knowledge Exchange.

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Part 1 has been updated and 're-published' in 2009 together with part 2 and part 3 of the report as: Klok, C & E. Koopmanschap, 2009. Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands; Priority issues identified for cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection and conservation. Wageningen, Wageningen International, Capacity Development and Institutional Change Programme, 2009, ISBN 978-90-8585-415-9. It is available in digital format at [www.cdic.wur.nl](http://www.cdic.wur.nl).

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## **Preface**

The Netherlands has been involved in biodiversity issues in Turkey through the BBI-Matra activities. The main objective of the BBI-Matra Action Plan for 2005-2008 was based on the resolution ‘To halt the loss of biological diversity in the pan-European region by the year 2010, by supporting and strengthening civil society organizations involved in nature themes’. Moreover, the BBI-Matra Action Plan is focused on European unification, and therefore BBI-Matra has an important role to play in supporting and helping countries in their preparation for implementation of EU regulations. In addition BBI-Matra tries to increase civil society’s ability to exert influence on biodiversity policy.

Besides BBI-MATRA activities (Appendix 1 of this report), over the last years some small projects within the context of MATRA-KNIP have been executed in Turkey. However it remains unclear how these projects integrate in a wider context on biodiversity issues, how they contribute to the priorities on the Turkish biodiversity agenda, and how they relate to the issue of involving the local public. To achieve continuity, an implementation of the above mentioned project in a larger ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ framework would certainly increase the value of these projects and thus contribute to a broader development perspective.

Based on the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2000 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MoARA) of the Republic of Turkey and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) a desire to co-operate and explore possible joint activities in the field of, among others, nature management and biodiversity protection has been formulated. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the authority responsible for the protection of Turkish biodiversity is as yet not involved in this MoU.

For the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality it is important to understand who the most important players in the ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ arena are, what priorities they have, and how The Netherlands can contribute effectively to the Turkish biodiversity agenda.

Carla Konsten, Counsellor for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands Embassy in Ankara from 2005 to 2009, commissioned a research from Wageningen-UR to explore the priorities for enhancing the bilateral cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection. The research should focus on the priorities on the Turkish side in the field of the conservation of biodiversity and the possibilities for an effective contribution to this aim through bilateral cooperation with the Dutch side. Possibilities to extend the current cooperation into a larger and more continuous ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between The Netherlands and Turkey should be explored.

This report is based, in the first place, on interviews held with representatives of Ministries and NGOs in Turkey (2007) and with representatives of Ministries and NGOs in The Netherlands (partly 2007 and partly 2008) which are currently involved in addressing biodiversity issues in Turkey. In the second place the report includes the outcomes of a workshop held in Ankara with representatives from Turkish Ministries and NGOs and representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in November 2007. Thirdly, the report provides a SWOT analysis and comparison of the information obtained from Turkish side and the information provided by organisations based in The Netherlands.

We hope that this report will start up and stimulate the discussion between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity protection in general and on the cooperation between the two countries in this regard specifically.

Carla Konsten, as well as Chris Klok (Alterra, Wageningen UR till October 2008 and Wageningen Imares from October 2008 onwards) and Esther Koopmanschap (Wageningen International, Wageningen UR) would like to thank all those who have contributed to this report, by being interviewed and/or by participating in the workshop, for their efforts, support and time.

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## **Acknowledgement by the authors**

Chris Klok and Esther Koopmanschap would like to thank all those interviewed for their time and contribution during the interviews and also thank those who ‘refined’ the reports of the interviews afterwards.

A special thanks to Ms. Melike Hemmami of the Buğday Association for Supporting Ecological Living for her help with translation of some policy documents and regulations from Turkish into English. We also need to thank her for her help during the facilitation of the workshop in Ankara in November 2007. A special thanks also to Ms. Bilge Bostan who together with Melike helped translating the flipcharts from Turkish into English after the workshop.

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In addition we would like to thank Ms. Felicia van der Does of Wageningen International for her support in editing and the layout of this publication.

For the photos on the front page of the document we need to thank Mrs. Lauma Rode-Rimša, Latvia, (the nice picture with the yellow flowers). The picture of the gulls has been provided by one of the participants of Wageningen International’s training on Multi-Stakeholder Processes (2006). The other pictures have been taken and provided by Esther Koopmanschap.

Last but not least we would like to thank Mrs. Carla Konsten, Counsellor for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands Embassy in Ankara from 2005 to 2009, who greatly supported the writing of this report by commenting on the draft texts and especially by her enthusiasm and dedication for biodiversity protection in Turkey.



## **About this Publication**

This publication is the result of an ‘exploration’ of the priorities for enhancing the bilateral cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection between Turkey and The Netherlands.

The Netherlands has been involved in Biodiversity conservation issues in Turkey mainly through bilateral projects within the BBI-Matra and KNIP-Matra programmes (see Klok & Koopmanschap, 2008 or Appendix 1 of this report for an overview). These projects are all very valuable in itself but mainly solve specific biodiversity conservation issues. The projects are not developed to contribute directly to a wider biodiversity context and besides they do not always contribute to the priorities outlined on the Turkish biodiversity agenda.

This ‘exploration’ or research focussed on the priorities felt at ‘Turkish side’ in the field of the conservation of biodiversity and the possibilities for an effective contribution to this aim through bilateral cooperation with partner organisations in The Netherlands (Part 1 of this publication). At the same time the Turkish view has been complemented by the view of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations based in The Netherlands (Part 2 of this publication).

Through this study, the authors of this publication aimed to provide recommendations to extend the current cooperation into a larger and more continuous ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands.

This report is based on *interviews* held with representatives of Ministries and NGOs in Turkey (2007) and with representatives of Governmental bodies and NGOs in The Netherlands, which are currently involved in addressing biodiversity issues in Turkey. Most representatives from Dutch side were interviewed in 2008 and some already in 2007. In the second place the report includes the outcomes of a workshop held in Ankara with representatives from Turkish Ministries and NGOs and representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in November 2007. Thirdly, the report provides a SWOT analysis and comparison of the information obtained from Turkish side and the information provided by organisations based in The Netherlands.

Part 1 of this publication gives a short overview of Turkey and its Biodiversity, it provides the reports of the interviews and the workshop held in Turkey and finishes with a ‘quickscan’ of the results obtained from interviews, background information and the workshop and some preliminary recommendations.

(An earlier version of) Part 1 of this publication was published in 2008 as: *Klok, C & E. Koopmanschap, 2008. Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands; Priority issues identified for cooperation in the field of biodiversity protection and conservation. Wageningen, Alterra, 2008, ISSN 1566-7197.*

The current publication complements the report by Klok & Koopmanschap (2008) with interviews held with Dutch Governmental bodies and NGOs active in Biodiversity conservation in Turkey and with the above mentioned SWOT Analysis.

After the interviews held with the ‘Dutch side’ and despite the fact that Part 1 was already published in 2008 (Klok & Koopmanschap, 2008), it was decided to publish all three parts again, as such providing one publication including:

- Part 1: *Interviews with experts from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations based in Turkey*
- Part 2: *Interviews with experts from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations based in The Netherlands)*
- Part 3: *SWOT Analysis and recommendations for Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands*

Chris Klok and Esther Koopmanschap hope you enjoy reading this publication and hope that it provides a basis for enhanced exchange of knowledge within Turkey itself and between Turkey and The Netherlands specifically.

*Please note that the report is primarily based on interviews carried out in 2007 and 2008. When finishing this publication (March, 2009) there are of course many new developments regarding the 'Green Knowledge Exchange' between Turkey and The Netherlands, e.g. projects on Climate Change Adaptation. One other important development is that the BBI-Matra programme merged with the Dutch Matra Projects Programme. The recommendations on BBI-Matra given by the interviewees in Part 1 of this Publication are still very relevant for the Dutch Matra Projects Programme.*

**Part 1**

**Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands**  
**The Turkish Perspective**

*Interviews with experts from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations based in Turkey*



# 1 Turkey and its biodiversity

## 1.1 Current status of biodiversity in Turkey

Turkey is very rich in biodiversity. This results from the fact that Turkey lies in various climatic regions, with extremes being the Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers and mild and wet winters, and the Eastern Anatolian climate with summer temperatures of up to 40°C and long winters with temperatures as low as –30°C. As a consequence of its geographical location, Turkey’s flora is richest, among European, North African, or the Middle East Countries, both in terms of overall plant diversity and level of endemism.

Turkey has 75% of the 12,000 plant species that occur in the whole of Europe, and ranks 9th in terms of biodiversity richness (Zal, 2006). During the interviews (reported in this publication) it was mentioned by taxonomists that Turkey has in excess of 10,000 plants and every 6 days a new species is added (by taxonomists) to the list of plants in Turkey.

Turkey has a total land area of 779,500 km<sup>2</sup> of which 2.6% is protected (Earthtrend, 2007). The table below shows the number of all protected areas. This table has been updated with some figures of 2008 taken from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): MoEF’s National Nature Conservation Report of 2008.

**Table 1. Protected Areas in Turkey (Zal, 2006)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. in 2006</b>	<b>Total Area (ha)</b>	<b>No. in 2008</b>
National Parks	37	853.222	40
Nature Parks	18	72.315	30
Strictly Protected Areas	33	64.663	
Natural Monuments	102	5.285	105
Wildlife Reserve Areas	123	1.851.317	
Nature Reserve Areas	-	-	31
Gene Conservation Forests	163	23.408	
Seed Stands	344	46.348	
Specially Protected Areas (Barcelona Convention)	12	418.800	14
Protection Forests	53	365.884	
Ramsar Sites	12	179.900	
World Heritage Sites	9	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>3.881.142</b>	

Twenty seven percent of Turkey’s land area is forested ([www.ogm.gov.tr](http://www.ogm.gov.tr), data of 2004). The forested area is said to be shrinking due to illegal cutting and clearing, illegal settlement and grazing, fires and pests. Fires are a growing threat particularly in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions where forestlands are also subject to competitive land uses such as urbanization and tourism. Twenty eight percent of Turkey includes pastures and this number is also declining. Pastures and grasslands are important because they support animal husbandry, which accounts for one-third of the country’s agricultural production. Besides, many of the pastures are referred to as ‘High Nature Value’ areas, because of their high biological diversity.

Wetlands make out two percent of the total land in Turkey. 27 percent of Turkish wetlands are larger than 100 hectares, 60 percent of the wetlands are freshwater ecosystems, and 20 percent are brackish or salt. Most wetlands in Turkey are shallow lakes, 70 percent is less than 6 meters deep and many of these are part of crucial routes for migratory birds. There are more than 400 species of birds found in Turkey, of which 250 are migratory (Okumus, 2002). Many Turkish lakes and other wetlands are under severe threat of desiccation and pollution because of uncontrolled ground water use for irrigation and in addition climate change and urban waste water discharge. The surface area of Turkish lakes has decreased especially during the last 10 years, some lakes disappeared totally.

Biodiversity in Turkey is under threat largely as a result of the rapid development in infrastructure and irrigation, tourism, urbanization, and major investment projects (dams, power plants, etc.) in rural areas. Protected areas cover less than three percent of the total surface area of Turkey. Despite their protected status these may suffer from tourism projects, irrigation, pollution of wetlands, forest fires, etc. Due to high population growth (between 1980 and 1998 the population increased by 46 percent), migration to cities is high, this leads to unplanned urbanization, loss of rich agricultural lands and severe environmental impacts, including soil erosion and pollution of surface waters (Okumus, 2002).

Given the fact that baseline inventories which quantitatively describe biodiversity in Turkey are restricted to relatively small and scattered areas, there is a need to strengthen the network of specialists, scientists and NGOs dealing with flora and fauna in order to conduct an inventory of endangered species and publish a 'red list' of threatened species. Moreover, there is a need for greater cooperation and partnership among Ministries and relevant institutions responsible for nature conservation. Furthermore, it is necessary to increase public awareness and reinforce information and education programs on nature conservation, and also the capacity to develop a national biodiversity action plan (Environmental Profile of Turkey, 1999).

## **1.2 Turkeys Legal management structure of Biodiversity**

Turkey has become a party to the international conventions of Bern, Barcelona and Ramsar, to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity Biodiversity. The legal framework for the protection of nature is established by the Laws on Land Hunting (No: 3167), on Forestry (No: 3116) and on Natural Parks (No: 2873).

Various Ministries have duties and responsibilities for conserving biological diversity. There is, however, no overall coordinating system for conservation activities. Due to the overlaps in mandates there are also no dedicated agencies for conservation of biodiversity in specific ecosystems (115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Turkey-EC Association Committee, 2007). Different Ministries in Turkey are responsible for the protection of natural resources in Turkey, i.e. the Ministries of Environment and Forestry, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Culture and Tourism, Public Works and Settlement, Energy and Natural resources, and Health (Okumus, 2002; 115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Turkey-EC Association Committee, 2007). These different parties aim at different aspects of biodiversity and have overlap for some aspects. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is responsible for co-ordination and utilization of all resources related to agriculture, therefore biodiversity in e.g. grasslands falls under their responsibility. However, when grasslands are part of forests this habitat falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is responsible for the management of protected areas (as declared under the National Parks Law) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry creates policies, planning and co-ordination for environmental protection. In case protected areas also involve cultural values, there is an overlap with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Wetlands fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, whereas the Turkish State Hydraulic Works (DSI) is

responsible for water in general. DSI just recently became part of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, causing the integration of water policies and regulations being at an early stage in the process.

Although the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has an overruling influence on biodiversity (due to the fact that development investments need an Environmental Impact Assessment which has to be accepted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry), capacity within the Ministry strongly constrains optimization of this influence. In general shortage of technically trained and specialized staff is a major constraint in environmental conservation programs in Turkey.

Next to the above mentioned Ministries the General Secretariat for EU integration, the Under Secretariat of the State Planning Office and the Under Secretariat of Treasury, which resort directly under the Prime Minister's Office, have important responsibilities for the environment and nature protection. Especially the Under Secretariat of the State Planning Office which prepares the national development plans and annual investment plans have through investments an important influence on environment and nature protection (115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Turkey-EC Association Committee, 2007).

### **1.3 Turkey and EU Environmental Directives**

Within the framework of sustainable development, Turkey today faces the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental progress. This will require strengthened environmental efforts and cooperation between the central government, municipalities and the private sector, which will create the necessary environmental infrastructure in urban and industrial areas. In the coming years, Turkey must find ways to:

- implement environmental policies and strengthen enforcement capabilities;
- invest in an environmental infrastructure;
- support public participation and increase public awareness of environmental problems;
- integrate environmental concerns into economic decisions;
- meet the country's international commitments; and
- complete harmonization with EU standards.

Turkey faces a considerable task in adopting EU environmental directives, implementing them into its national legislation and enforcing them. At the same time Turkey is aligning with EU legislation in other policy areas as well. In many of these areas, there are also considerable needs, but the resources, both financial and administrative, are limited.

The 2007 progress report of the EU concludes that Turkey has made substantial progress in strengthening the administrative capacity at central level. However, limited progress can be reported on horizontal legislation, air quality, chemicals, noise and waste. Turkey made no progress in the area of industrial pollution and risk management. The overall level of transposition of the environmental acquis was said to be low.

There has been no progress on transposition of environmental liability, public participation, and public access to environmental information. Transposition of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive is at a very early stage. This is according the EU Progress Report of 2007, however, it has to be acknowledged, according to the authors, that environmental liability, public participation and public access to environmental information is much higher on the agenda in Turkey. Besides, public participation is mentioned now in Environmental Laws. We would like to refer in this respect to page 84 (SWOT Analysis - Strengths regarding Biodiversity Conservation in Turkey).

No development can be reported, according the progress report, concerning water quality. Some aspects of the water quality acquis are covered by Turkish legislation. However, overall alignment is low as the water framework directive has not been transposed. Trans-boundary consultations are at an early stage. The institutional framework for water management is not organised on a river basin management basis.

Limited progress can be reported in the area of nature protection, the level of legal harmonisation and implementation has remained very low. The continuing rapid loss of habitats is a cause of concern. A framework law on nature protection and implementing legislation on birds and habitats has not been adopted.

Considerable progress can be reported in the area of administrative capacity. Following the amendment of the Environmental Law, a substantial number of experts were recruited and trained by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). An environmental fund was established under the MoEF, to support environmental projects. A project prioritisation methodology has been introduced. There was no progress, however, on the establishment of a national environmental agency.

The administrative capacity, including coordination between the relevant authorities, needs further strengthening. Responsibilities, such as regards inspection activities, are not clearly defined. Horizontal integration of environmental protection into other policy areas, as well as ensuring that new investments comply with the environmental acquis, is at an early stage.

#### **1.4 Turkey's civil society and biodiversity protection**

On the basis of information provided on internet and based on interviews with some of Turkey's NGOs an overview has been provided on the importance of Turkey's civil society for biodiversity protection. Descriptions of projects implemented by NGOs (often in co-operation with civil servants from different Ministries) also provide a bit more insight in recent developments in biodiversity protection and what aspects of biodiversity are covered. We specifically focused on larger NGOs and regarding background information (as far as it was not mentioned during the interviews) we were restricted to those who gave information in English on their website.

As the analysis of priorities in biodiversity protection in Turkey are based on the feedback provided during interviews and on the information provided on internet, the analysis might be biased, due to the fact that the larger NGOs might focus more on biodiversity issues on global and country wide scale. Turkey, however, has many local NGOs and community based organizations, which are more locally oriented and carry out activities that form an important contribution to biodiversity conservation in Turkey. The view of these smaller NGOs has sometimes been included in the feedback provided by the larger NGOs, but are largely lacking in this analysis.

In chapter two, next to the feedback provided during the interviews, we gave some background information of the larger NGOs and summarised some of their biodiversity projects.

## **2 Reports of interviews – the Turkish perspective**

### **2.1 Introduction**

We (Chris Klok and Esther Koopmanschap) developed a questionnaire that served as a guideline to interview Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In this way we tried to get the view of the representative or representatives of the organisation on current important biodiversity issues in Turkey. During the interview it was discussed in which specific biodiversity field these representatives thought cooperation between The Netherlands and Turkey would be beneficial and if so, who should be involved.

Please find below the guiding questionnaire that was used during the interview and as such using the ‘semi-structured interview’ as methodology.

#### **Guiding questionnaire**

- Is your organisation currently involved in biodiversity issues in Turkey?
- Can you name relevant projects?
- With which organisations do you cooperate?
- Does your organisation involve citizens in their actions?
- What is your organisation’s priority in issues concerned with Biodiversity in Turkey?
- What are advantages and/or disadvantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues? What are past experiences if any and what are priorities for future cooperation?
- Which organisations should be included in this so called ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’?

Paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 give an outline of the discussions based on the above guiding questions.

### **2.2 Turkish Ministries**

#### **2.2.1 Interview with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism**

Anonymous interview - 28-May-2007

##### *Introduction*

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has been established after the merge of the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture. Both former Ministries have different backgrounds and attitudes. Whereas the Ministry of Culture was more involved in the ‘conservation’ of cultures, the Ministry of Tourism followed and still follows a strategy that is more based on economic opportunities. Due to these differences unification and cooperation are evolving slowly.

*Current involvement of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Biodiversity issues in Turkey:*

- Influence of cultural traditions on biodiversity.
- Ecotourism and its influence on biodiversity.

### *Cooperation*

There is a good exchange between some Turkish NGOs and some staff members of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. 'It depends a bit on how important individual staff members find this cooperation themselves'.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism does not have direct links with biodiversity or biodiversity protection but many activities are closely linked because of the important link between cultural traditions and biodiversity aspects. The representative of the Ministry is personally very interested in the relation between cultural traditions and biodiversity. This is not always perceived as an important issue by the Ministry. For the Ministry of Culture and Tourism a comprehensive inventory on different cultural traditions in Turkey is sufficient. 'Such an inventory is perceived to have a large positive impact in the process of uniting all different groups in Turkey, but an inventory alone is not enough, but is a good start'.

### *Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

Advantages of cooperation are:

- A major shortcoming at the moment is capacity and how to organize capacity (institutional capacity building), especially at the Ministry level. Cooperation with The Netherlands may enhance the process of capacity building.
- Exchange of information and knowledge between Ministries should be enhanced. EU legislation may facilitate such a cooperation.
- The Netherlands may benefit from knowledge developed in Turkey on the influence of cultural tradition on biodiversity.
- How to involve citizens, and fully take advantage of participation in decision making is another interesting field of cooperation. Participation has recently been introduced in policy making in Turkey by EU legislation. Although the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (like most other Ministries) mentions to apply participation in decision making, it is mainly a top down approach. Knowledge exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands on how to fully take advantage of participation may be beneficial for both countries, especially since Turkey has a much wider group of stakeholders than The Netherlands (given the larger country and corresponding larger diversity of cultural groups). Also the cooperation with NGOs may benefit from a better insight in how to involve citizens (participation), in such a way that competition between Ministries and NGOs on this aspect does not evolve.

'Most, maybe even all, Ministries and to a lesser extent NGOs lack capacity to fully take advantage of participation'. At the Ministry of Culture and Tourism sociologists work on participation and anthropologists are generally not involved. The sociologist approach is different from the anthropologist approach, the first works more from theoretical concepts the latter from field data. Moreover, sociology has a less direct link with biodiversity than anthropology; the first is more directed at local development which may indirectly include biodiversity, whereas the latter has a direct link through cultural traditions. This difference, together with the fact that in general modernisation (which usually includes technical solutions and where traditions are perceived as an obstruction to implement these solutions) has been advocated as the ultimate solution for development, usually results in different questionnaire results and solutions on participation. 'Anthropologists should be involved in research and implementation activities on participation'.

### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Delegates of Ministries as well as NGOs and universities should take part in the exchange. Especially academic involvement is welcomed to enhance capacity. 'A wide scope of disciplines (ecology, sociology, anthropology, etc.) should be favoured in such an exchange'. 'An exchange should also include case-based studies to fully explore aspects such as participation'.

## **2.2.2 Interview with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks**

Prof. Dr. M. Kemal Yalınkılıç, General Director. 29-May-2007

### *Introduction*

Professor Yalınkılıç states that five years ago biodiversity was perceived as a luxury and a relative non issue. This has changed by a raised awareness of major losses of biodiversity in Turkey, and now biodiversity is clearly on the agenda at both national and local government level and on the agenda of local administrators.

### *Current involvement of the Ministry in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry plays an important role in biodiversity conservation. Development plans that include activities having an impact on biodiversity in protected areas have to pass through the Ministry for permission. The new hunting law of the Ministry works as an effective instrument in that sense, activities may not take place if they have significant negative effect on species under protection, also mentioned in the Birds- and Habitats Directive. Since all projects affecting protected species and areas have to pass through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, this Ministry has an overruling position on the aspect of biodiversity over other Ministries like Culture and Tourism, Transport, Mining etc. Many international conventions have been ratified by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, e.g. Ramsar and the CBD. Also the Environmental Law has been renewed which makes it easier to enforce the law, especially in case of aquatic biodiversity. A new draft law on Biodiversity and Nature conservation has been developed and currently has to pass the Parliament. This law which includes Birds- and Habitats Directive elements will further strengthen the importance of biodiversity.

Professor Yalınkılıç states that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry would greatly benefit from an independent scientific authority advising the Ministry. Now the Ministry works directly with universities, but it is difficult to locate the right capacity at the right time.

### *Cooperation*

There is much exchange with Turkish NGOs. Professor Yalınkılıç mentions that practices and activities of NGOs are discussible. Given the amount of species and areas to be conserved, and the fact that the biodiversity in only a small part of all areas has been described in Turkey, NGOs should be more directed at the issue of conservation and prioritise and develop scientific sound and technical applicable solutions for conservation of specific species and/or areas. Ecotourism and awareness raising on biodiversity in general are activities in which many NGOs are currently involved. According to Professor Yalınkılıç they are of less value. Moreover, there seems to be some conflict between NGOs and the Ministry in the sense that NGOs consult the Ministry in some cases only to receive a letter of support which they need for their project proposal.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Wetland protection; 90% of the wetlands are without wetland management plan, even inventories that describe the type and richness of their biodiversity are lacking;
- More research and exchange between the 78 universities in Turkey and research bodies in The Netherlands;
- Turkey needs a National Scientific Authority (like it has been established in Germany). The Ministry of Environment and Forestry should provide the budget but the authority should work independently. Like the idea of establishing a Wetland Centre for Turkey. Scientific reports are urgently needed;
- Awareness and education;
- Implementing the Birds- and Habitats Directive;

- Terrestrial protected areas and to a lesser extent marine protected areas. Concerning marine protected areas Professor Yalınkılıç states that permissions for fish farms are not given for protected areas, however formerly issued permissions can not be redrawn under the current law.

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and the Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

Exchange should specifically take place on a site basis, e.g. sister parks. Although bilateral agreements are important as well, Professor Yalınkılıç expects that actual working together on concrete issues of conservation, i.e. on-site, are of more value (because they result in deliverable outputs).

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Knowledge exchange should be expert driven, based on concrete cases to be studied and solved.

### **2.2.3 Interview with T.C. Çevre ve Orman Bakanlığı - Özel Çevre Koruma Kurumu Başkanlığı (ÖÇKK) Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry**

Mr. Mehmet Menengiç, Head of Environmental Protection and Research and Evaluation Department; Mr. Eyüp Yüksel, researcher; Ms. Sezer Göktaş, researcher; Ms. Evrim Bolükbaşı, project assistant and translator. 30-May-2007.

*Introduction*

ÖÇKK was established in November 1989 following the ratification by the government of the Bern and Barcelona Convention. ÖÇKK is part of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and its goal is to protect environmental values of 'Special Protected Areas'. ÖÇKK takes action regarding the design and promulgation by the Ministry of these SPAs.

*Current involvement of ÖÇKK in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

The special protected areas include terrestrial and coastal habitats, excluding marine areas. Since 1989 ÖÇKK is also in charge of waste treatment (solid and liquid). At the moment (2007) there are 14 special protected areas (table 1 in paragraph 1.1 is from 2006, indicating only 12 SPAs at the time). Special protected areas are those that indicate integrity in terms of historical, natural and cultural value and have ecological importance on the world scale (ecosystems/species protected under e.g. Bern convention). Formal institutions such as local municipalities or NGOs can apply for a special protection status of an area. The motivation for a special protection status is mostly based on vegetation under pressure, but can also be based on animal species such as *Caretta caretta* (logger head sea turtle) which has an international protection status under the Bern convention. Drivers of loss of biodiversity in special protected areas are yacht tourism and as a consequence water pollution, tourism (e.g. use of beaches or second houses for holidays have a negative impact on the nesting of turtles), intensified human settlement, agriculture, transportation and fragmentation. Special protected areas do not only include nature but also human settlements and at the same time economic activities may occur in the area. Special protected areas may overlap with areas managed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. There is currently no integrated management approach. ÖÇKK wishes to stress that the Turkish Special Protected Areas (SPAs) are not the same as Natura 2000's Special Protection Areas that have to be assigned under the Habitats Directive. Of course it might be that SPAs designated under Natura 2000 will overlap with SPAs identified by ÖÇKK.

### *Cooperation*

Management of areas with local NGOs. ÖCKK co-operates with DD, WWF Turkey and KAD and many Turkish universities (e.g. METU). Furthermore ÖCKK has good cooperation with the German Ministry of Environment and Nature. Cooperation with the Dutch professor Peter Veen, (Utrecht) on steppe habitats. ÖCKK involves citizens on a project basis e.g. local people are involved in monitoring sea turtles.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Arranging meetings, together with NGOs, to raise awareness of fishermen, women, farmers, students. Especially women are an important target group as many women living in SPAs are often not educated.
- Inventory studies in coastal areas using biotope mapping (UNIS classification).
- Better use and protection of areas using a sustainable development approach.
- Protection of steppe habitats and grasslands.
- Law enforcement (gendarmes are more and more involved but it needs more attention still); ÖCKK has no sanction power.

### *Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- The Netherlands has experience with networks, water management, and managing natural habitat. It would be of help to exchange ideas with The Netherlands on how to write good management plans (how to integrate management plans with physical and spatial planning) and in addition how to implement them.
- Exchange of agri-environmental practices and problems, including nitrogen eutrofication, exchange on soil conservation, including heavy metal pollution.

### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

NGOs, governmental bodies and universities.

## **2.2.4 Interview with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MoARA) - General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development**

Mr. Mesut Akdamar, Branch manager and Mr. Osman Aslan, Agricultural engineer and member of Organic Agricultural Committee. 1-June-2007

### *Introduction*

The new Rural Development Programme (RDP) is being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and will be available for farmers between 2007 and 2008. The RDP will be established under the Rural Development Strategy for Turkey developed by the State Planning Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

For more efficient usage of the resources there will be some prioritization of sector and level. The applications and 'payment for farmers' subsidy will be dealt with by agencies to be established under IPARD. Farmers will be able to apply to these agencies and receive payment for environmental services they provide.

### *Current involvement of MoARA in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

The main problem faced by MoARA is the lack of willingness of producers (farmers) to accept new techniques, like drip irrigation. Therefore pilot projects which can 'facilitate' acceptance are necessary. Also small farmers are difficult to reach by MoARA. This is fortunately going to change since a new law

on agriculture is in place, and Farmers' Unions will be better able to reach the target group of small farmers. The new Agricultural Law emphasizes sustainable development, biodiversity protection, and sustainable agricultural techniques. MoARA has no problems with capacity since they have 30 research institutes over the country which can advise them and can also help training farmers. These research institutes are even to a limited extent open for NGOs.

*An example of MoARA's current involvement:*

- ÇATAK programme: The project (9 mln, US\$ spent on 5000 ha) is supported by the World Bank and applied in a few areas (e.g. Kayseri, Isparta) that include Ramsar sites. This project aims to help farmers implement technologies and ways of working to reduce water use and increase soil quality by fighting erosion and overgrazing. The project's main principles are 1. Using low water demanding crop types; 2. Using appropriate irrigation techniques and 3. Improvement of agricultural fields. Farmers can receive subsidies if e.g.:

They use a rotation scheme where land is not planted continuously each year but left fallow once in a few years and use better plowing techniques (40\$ per hectare);

They use a drip-irrigation system, select crops that have a low water demand, and use organic fertilizers (90\$ per hectare);

They prevent overgrazing, wind erosion by putting fences and/or if they collect stones (40\$ per hectare).

MoARA will try to continue this subsidy system when the current project has finished, by using internal funds. MoARA will also enlarge the area where the subsidy system is applicable, but this will depend on the willingness of municipalities to co-operate.

*More and updated information on the ÇATAK programme available from the MoARA. More information also provided in: Redman, M and M. Hemmami, 2008. Agri-environment Handbook for Turkey, Buğday Derneği, Ankara 2008. ISBN 978-605-5714-00-0.*

- EU project: Capacity building project on genetic resources (seeds).

*Cooperation*

MoARA has ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, DSI, the Under secretariat of EU Affairs. Of the NGOs especially the Farmers' Union, the Union of Agricultural Engineers, the Producers' Organizations and the environmental NGOs: Doğa Derneği (DD), WWF, Buğday Derneği and many local NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs). 'In principle MoARA can work with all NGOs'.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Sustainable agriculture (focus on low water demanding crop types, appropriate irrigation techniques, sustainable land cultivation techniques); MoARA will try to extend the group of farmers using sustainable farming techniques with the help of 'leader farmers'. These leader farmers will form an example for farmers still using non-sustainable techniques. MoARA aims to increase from 33% of farmers using sustainable techniques to 95%;
- Sustainable development;
- Biodiversity protection;
- Pilot projects are essential.

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Preferably pilot projects with The Netherlands to:
- Exchange information on organic farming;
- Exchange information on agri-environmental expertise;
- Exchange expertise on involvement of local people (participation).

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Especially delegates of Ministries and NGOs. Universities can be involved in exchange, but they will still have their own scientific agenda.

### **2.2.5 Interview with the Undersecretariat of the State Planning Organization (SPO); Directorate General of Social Sectors and Coordination.**

Ms. Arzu Özbay, planning expert and Mr. Rıza Fikret Yılmaz, assistant planning expert. 18-June-2007.

#### *Introduction*

The Social Sectors and Coordination Department of SPO is concerned with macro policy on the environmental sector including all related fields and Ministries. SPO is affiliated to the Prime minister and has an advisory role for the parliament and develops five years development plans. The last plan has a duration of seven years. These development plans are guiding documents, adopted and enforced by the parliament. Development plans are designed in close cooperation with the different Ministries; also NGOs and experts (universities and individuals) are involved in the design of the plan.

The social sectors and coordination department of SPO is involved in biodiversity through policy and investment.

#### *Current involvement of in Biodiversity issues*

Through its policy the Social Sectors and Coordination Department of SPO prepares strategic documents for e.g. implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, advises the Ministries, and coordinates between Ministries (e.g. by development plans).

Through investment this department of the SPO decides on the yearly investment of the different Ministries. The Ministries develop projects on yearly basis which are evaluated for funding by SPO. Moreover, SPO invests in research by supporting the Scientific Research Authority of Turkey on research projects and database development. SPO supports ÖÇKK for fieldwork and plans for the special protected areas. Also foreign investments targeting biodiversity should be approved by SPO in line with the development plan.

#### *Cooperation*

SPO has an intense cooperation on the design of the development plans with Ministries, NGOs (e.g. Doğa Derneği (DD), Doğa Koruma Merkezi (DKM), Buğday Derneği, Kuş Araştırmaları Derneği (KAD) and many local NGOs) and all other interested parties that have expertise on relevant issues. SPO has the policy to let local NGOs cooperate with national ones to share knowledge and capacity. Citizens can be involved if they have technical expertise.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

Important priorities that need further attention:

- Turkey has many protected areas which differ in protection status (e.g. ÖÇKK areas, national parks) which may be conflicting. As a result of the GEF-2 project financed by the World Bank a draft law has been developed which structures protection status.
- The scientific capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) should be enlarged, in such a way that an enabling environment or supportive institutional setting that covers all biodiversity aspects can be established. Now different Ministries have different priorities e.g. MoARA's priority is on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)) and the Ministry of MoEF on implementation of the Birds and Habitats directive.
- Currently different organizations assemble biodiversity data that are saved in databases which are not compatible and therefore part of the information is not available to SPO. Development of

databases on biodiversity which include all information has a high priority. The question is if such a development should be started by SPO or by an independent body.

*Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Natura 2000, criteria for the design of Natura 2000 areas
- Development of fieldwork for Natura 2000 sites (development of a training institute)

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

NGOs, governmental bodies and universities (they have the scientific capacity)

## **2.3 The European Commission**

### **2.3.1 Interview with the EC Delegation to Turkey**

Mr. Gürdoğan Sarıgül, Environment & Sustainable Development Sector Manager.

04-June-2007.

*Introduction*

The EC Delegation in Turkey has been growing to cope with the needs following the progress in EU-Turkey relations since December 1999, when Turkey was recognized formally as a candidate for EU membership at the Helsinki European Council. The number of the staff members has risen to 100 since then.

On the diplomatic and political level the Delegation represents the Commission and serves as a contact point between Turkish authorities and the decision-makers at the Commission headquarters in Brussels. It is the channel for day-to-day relations between the Commission and Turkey, and reports to Brussels on the latest political, economic and commercial developments. It monitors and reports to Brussels on political and economic developments related to Turkey's future membership in the European Union.

The Delegation monitors the implementation of the reforms undertaken by the Turkish government in the light of the EU acquis and the short- and medium-term priorities of the accession partnerships. It also gives support to the establishment and development of full operational capacity of the structures required for the management of EU-funded external assistance.

It also contributes technically to the dialogue between the EC and Turkey in different sub-committees, meetings, etc. The tasks include regular dialogue with policymakers, opinion leaders and experts on both the government and NGO level in the sectors of the acquis, as well as with the technical services of the Commission.

In short the EC Delegation to Turkey:

- Represents the European Commission to Turkey;
- Contributes to the development of bilateral relations in the political, economic and trade fields by expressing the position of the European Union and monitoring and reporting on the political, economic and acquis related developments in Turkey;
- Actively supports the accession negotiation process and is fully engaged in preparatory and follow-up work;
- Contributes to the programming of financial cooperation between the Community and Turkey, and ensures the management of de-concentrated programmes and projects and supervises the proper functioning of the Decentralized Implementation System (Provides the transfer of management responsibility for EU funded projects in Turkey to the Turkish authorities, under the supervision of the European Commission);
- Maintains and increases the visibility, awareness and understanding of the EU, its values and interests.

*Current involvement of the EC Delegation to Turkey in Biodiversity issues*

Mostly through EU twinning projects (designed to share the best experiences of public administration and organisation in which Member States and candidate countries take part jointly). For the EC Delegation the current focus is developing capacity in Turkey to implement the EU Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000.

*Cooperation*

The EC Delegation to Turkey has not an explicit preference to work together with a certain Ministry, NGO or university but of course for the EC's environmental programme in Turkey involvement in biodiversity protections or issues is necessary.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Institutional development and the capacity to change institutions are lacking. A long term capacity building programme for government officials, NGOs and Universities would be beneficiary;
- There is not a specific training or curriculum (also not in universities) on specific environmental issues (site management following a systematic approach e.g. species identification and mapping, management planning);
- Natura 2000 is one of the main priorities on the agenda in Turkey as well as the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, but the ability to write good project proposals needs improvement (goes for Ministries as well as NGOs);
- Methodology for identifying Natura 2000 sites (and identifying gaps and performing gap analyses). ÖCKK's Special Protected Areas would qualify easily for Natura 2000, but there is a lot of overlap with sites managed/identified by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the sites of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. All sites need to be re-evaluated. ÖCKK would be a competent authority to lead Natura 2000 implementation (ÖCKK is quite effective in implementing legislation), although building ÖCKK's capacity is needed. The interest of other Ministries to deal with biodiversity issues is low, or gets lost in their own daily responsibilities.
- A competent authority for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive is needed;
- Reorganizing 'Biodiversity Administration' in Turkey is essential. This could be guided/facilitated by NGOs, maybe even the Regional Environmental Centre (REC). Preferably an independent Nature Protection Agency would be established (*in comparison with the feasibility study to develop a wetland centre for Turkey*). An agency that is cross cutting through all sectors. It is essential that experts and the relevant authorities are brought together to develop a strategic plan.

General concern: There is a lack of financial resources in the MoEF, but other Ministries and NGOs also have to deal with this issue.

*Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Turkey and The Netherlands have cooperated for more than 20 years. Additional exchange in the field of habitat management and monitoring would be an advantage, as well as exchange on institutional change processes (especially with regard to the implementation of EU legislation);
- Specific exchange on water quality, management, monitoring is recommended;
- Dutch experts would benefit from working with Turkey because there is an enormous richness in terms of number of species and habitats. There is a trend in Turkey to intensify land use, would therefore be very good to exchange lessons learnt from Dutch examples and try to increase the awareness of the importance of extensive land use and use of traditional practices;
- Experiences on the implementation of the Nitrate Directive.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Government officials, NGOs, universities. Preferably an exchange could be established that is very practical, Turkish and Dutch experts working together on a specific case and learning from each other.

*Other donors active in Turkey other than EU or The Netherlands?*

Concerning biodiversity mostly funds coming from the UK government. Also the EVD, the Agency for International Business and Cooperation a branch of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (Ms. Anne Kempers) is trying to focus as much as possible to the demands raised in Turkey.

*Recommendations*

A discussion with Vincent van den Berk, as former EU Twinning RTA (Resident Twinning Advisor) could be of added value.

## **2.4 Turkish Civil Society**

### **2.4.1 Interview with TÜRÇEK**

Mr. Doğa Ertürk, Ms. Ceren Üzel, Mr. Kerem Ateş. 08-June-2007

*Introduction*

TÜRÇEK is a non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) which aims at developing non-political environmental policies in a democratic, participatory understanding with a respect for difference.

TÜRÇEK has been established in 1972 in İstanbul as one of the pivotal environmental organizations in Turkey that functions on a voluntary basis. In 1975 it got the status of 'Public Benefit Society' by the Parliament, and in 1985 its title has been approved as 'Turkish Environmental and Woodlands Protection Society' by the Turkish Ministry of Interior Affairs.

The society has one central office (Giresun), 13 representatives in various cities of the country including Antalya, Çorum, Erzurum, Trabzon, Gebze, Niğde, Tekirdağ, Lefkoşe, Gaziantep, İçel, Ankara, Muğla, and Sakarya. It functions with five professional employees, a youth committee, 2920 members and hundreds of volunteers.

TÜRÇEK, in spite of being a nature-oriented organization, would not in any case single out this aspect and exclude human in its functioning. It aims at a participatory, mediatory and a respectful understanding and working. It has a broad perspective and is open to collaboration with different persons and organizations. TÜRÇEK uses scientific data and an analytical way of working as much as possible. The organization focuses nowadays on capacity building.

*Background information (brochures and internet)*

TÜRÇEK, aims at a participatory, mediatory and a respectful understanding and working with nature. It has a broad perspective and open to collaboration with different persons and organizations. Activities of TÜRÇEK often have an awareness raising component. TÜRÇEK is involved in many projects. Examples are the establishment of an education centre in Acarlar Lake, by the Acarlar Lake Model Environmental Education and Visitor Centre held by TÜRÇEK (see appendix 5 for details on the project). KarDoğa, is another project by TÜRÇEK. This project is a pilot project aiming to create a National Nature Conservation Network on Nature Conservation in Black Sea. Partners are eight East Black Sea Region non-governmental organizations, financed by European Commission. The main goals of the project include: organising NGOs of East Black Sea coastal provinces (KarDoğa Federation) through the establishment of an institutional cooperation network, building institutional and collaboration capacity of KarDoğa NGOs and finally forming the infrastructure for a Nature Conservation Confederation throughout Turkey, by creating a cooperation network model derived from the experience of KarDoğa. For more information on projects see the web site of TÜRÇEK ([www.turcek.org.tr](http://www.turcek.org.tr)).

*Current involvement of TÜRÇEK in Biodiversity issues*

In the seven different geographic regions of Turkey, TÜRÇEK has different priorities. In the Black Sea region they focus on the primary (old) forests and coastal zones. In Central Anatolia TÜRÇEK focuses more on wetlands, water and agriculture (e.g. through a project together with Wetlands International). In general local NGOs will set the priorities. TÜRÇEK tries to bring NGOs together to form Federations. NGOs can only be member of one federation by law. The NGOs working at grassroots level can do much more together when they cooperate in a federation.

TÜRÇEK tries to build capacity to attract young people to work in conservation, to strengthen grass-root level NGOs (e.g. by facilitating the establishment of federations), and to build capacity of local people who know much better why for instance a wetland is important. Some mechanisms might be difficult for them to get involved in, e.g. switching to organic agriculture. TÜRÇEK wants to help them to write proposals, introduce strategic planning, NGO management issues etc.

*Cooperation*

Different NGOs in Turkey but also abroad (e.g. Wetlands International in The Netherlands).

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Establish an ecological network in Turkey;
- Expand knowledge and research on species distribution;
- Developing a curriculum on ecology in Turkey, at the moment there is too much attention on engineering regarding environmental education.

General concern: Turkish NGOs have to be more focused (e.g. if the NGO focuses on the protection of birds then *keep your focus* and do not switch to wetland management). ‘Too many NGOs nowadays mention to have expertise on climate change, but all the expertise of different NGOs together can make the difference in combating climate change’.

*Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

Exchange between universities less essential, they have their scientific platforms to find each other. Exchange between Dutch and Turkish NGOs would be an advantage, especially for practical knowledge exchange in the field.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Especially young people should be involved. Building a network in Turkey to exchange knowledge has to be done very slowly, because dealing with biodiversity is a very delicate issue. Building a network with The Netherlands might even be more delicate. Building good relations to work together for biodiversity takes time.

## **2.4.2 Interview with The Society for the Protection of Nature (DHKD)**

Ms. Sema Atay. 07-June-2007.

*Introduction*

DHKD was founded in 1975. Among the core group was a group of hunters that focused on the protection of birds, plants and habitats. The ‘bald ibis’ (*Geronticus eremite*) was the first bird species they tried to protect. DHKD was actually next to TÜRÇEK (1972) the first environmental organization. Many staff members from the other environmental NGOs started working for DHKD.

The society consists of members, and makes the organization in that sense more democratic. In 1996 a foundation was erected and added. A foundation is preferred by NGOs because it can describe a long term management program without interference of its members. All projects and staff from DHKD were

transferred to WWF from 2001 onwards and the idea was to gradually close DHKD. In 2003 DHKD members prevented this from happening. DHKD and WWF then decided to both continue separately. Both organizations are still located in the same building, sponsored by Garanti Bank. WWF took over the sponsorship of Garanti Bank. DHKD works with three staff members and 18 volunteers.

*Background information (brochures and internet)*

The Society for the Protection of Nature (DHKD) was founded in 1975 and as such, together with Türcek (1972) the first NGO in environmental protection. Many staff members from the other environmental NGOs started working for DHKD. DHKD made important contributions in the field of wetland protection and the implementation of the Ramsar Convention as well as the identification of Important Plant Areas (IPAs).

The society works for the conservation of biological diversity and natural resources, encourages sustainable use of natural resources, increases public awareness of nature conservation, carries out projects aimed at protecting significant and threatened ecosystems and lobbies official institutions and agencies in support of these goals. DHKD is especially known for its early work on the preservation of wetlands and its lobby to establish Ramsar sites in Turkey. Other important projects are the identification of about 120 Important Plant Areas (IPAs, 1995) and a project on the preservation of indigenous flower bulbs. In 2003 DHKD had 12,000 supporting members (Okumus, 2002). In 1995 DHKD became an associate member of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and of Bird Life International. Later on, two new NGOs originated from this international cooperation: WWF Turkey and Doğa Derneği. Information in Turkish can be found at [www.dhkd.org](http://www.dhkd.org) (not in English)

*Current involvement of DHKD in Biodiversity issues*

- As WWF adopted primarily the priority issues from WWF International, DHKD merely focused on the expertise covered by its staff and volunteers, which includes mainly plant biodiversity and plant habitats. Protection of important plant habitats is also the 5<sup>th</sup> priority of the Convention on Biologic Diversity.
- DHKD published a book on 122 important plant areas in Turkey (together with Plant Life International, United Kingdom);
- A project funded by MATRA (MATRA project 15249, lead by the Rubicon Foundation, The Netherlands) on establishing a network of 9 important plant areas. This project focuses on building capacity to conserve areas (together with Rubicon Foundation, IVN and Floron, The Netherlands);
- BTC funds a project on identifying IPAs along the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company (BTC) pipeline (DHKD identified 144 and BTC 22);
- Another project focuses on IPAs in cities: For example DHKD's project: **Keep Istanbul Green**. Seven important flora and fauna areas have been identified in Istanbul and to enlighten this further: The Netherlands has 1600 important species, UK 1850 and only in the city of Istanbul 2000 important species exist. The project tries to raise awareness on the biodiversity richness of the city. It develops action plans for e.g. *Rasia orientalis*. There is good cooperation with local planners but unfortunately the Governor and the municipality of Istanbul do not have protection of species high on their agenda;
- Promotion of indigenous cultivation and production of wild threatened Turkish bulbs in combination with the Eden Project (UK).
- DHKD is aiming to create a database for Important Plant Areas (IPAs) to be able to use and share the data on internet. It also includes threatened species and habitats; the idea still needs funding...

### *Cooperation*

DHKD is mainly cooperating with Plant Life International, United Kingdom and Vereniging voor natuur en milieu-educatie (IVN), Floron and the Rubicon Foundation, The Netherlands.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Further identification of IPAs in Turkey;
- Overcoming the lack of biological data;
- Sharing information and data;
- Real participation of local communities in biodiversity protection;
- Establishment of Environmental and Agricultural policy, implementation of laws;
- Communication with Ministries and lobbying especially with the MoEF; MoEF orders more than that it co-operates, besides they do not see DHKD as a scientific research centre;
- Tourism is always first priority for the government, then mining. Other issues, like environment are of much lower priority.

### General remarks:

‘Ministries should represent everybody, not just indicate ‘us and they’;

‘Criticism is a difficult issue in Turkey’;

‘Turkey is a country of big ‘egos’.

### *Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Learn from bad examples from loss of biodiversity in The Netherlands;
- Traditional knowledge and use of traditional practices in agriculture;
- Most important land use planning and land management, from villager to government the all make use of resources. Real benefits (incl. services that nature provides) should be valued, also economically;
- Facilitation of land use planning, how can different views be shared.

### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

From government official to villager.

## **2.4.3 Interview with Doğa Derneği (DD)**

Mr. Nuri Özbağdatlı, Network Development Coordinator. 31-May-2007.

### *Introduction*

The mission of Doğa Derneği (DD), the Nature Society, is to integrate nature and human society, in the view of DD conservation can only be viable on the long run if people participate. DD aims to protect Turkey’s threatened species starting with birds, Important Bird Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and priority habitats through a national grassroots network.

The strategy of DD is based on science (to undertake well informed local and direct conservation actions) and monitoring, awareness raising and capacity building, networking and advocacy:

*Science and monitoring* by e.g. specific projects (see two examples below under heading ‘Current involvement of DD in Biodiversity issues in Turkey’). Monitoring results are made available in Noah’s Ark (a project in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) and ‘Kuşbank’, Turkey’s bird database, (in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)).

*Awareness raising and capacity building* by e.g.:

- Education of school children by taking them out into nature by birdwatchers;

- Organizing nature schools for universities, teaching courses in nature conservation. The last has already resulted in an increase of staff by two persons;
- Organizing workshops for people working at Ministry level;
- TV campaigns e.g. Zero-Extinction with CNN Turkey (the campaign is one of the activities of a Dutch Government's Pin Matra Fund project).

*Advocacy and Networking by e.g.:*

- The Hasankeyf and Dicle Valley KBA project, funded by DD's own resources, in Eastern Turkey in cooperation with the Atlas magazine. A projected dam is expected to have large negative effects on biodiversity, although an environmental impact report developed using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines suggests low negative impact. DD reviewed this report and made the results available to the public in cooperation with Atlas. DD aims to protect five KBAs which are irreversible affected by the dam project;
- For selected Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) DD works with local decision makers to increase networking;
- DD and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry collaborate in a court case against DSI (State Hydraulic Works) to protect the Wetland Protection Legislation;
- DD undertakes several court cases to increase the strength of nature conservation legislation.

*Background information (brochures and internet)*

Doğa Derneği is the BirdLife affiliate in Turkey. The organization was founded in 2002. Doğa Derneği seeks to protect Turkey's bird species, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Key Biodiversity Areas and priority habitats, through a national network. The organization undertakes local and direct conservation actions, develops communication and cooperation networks, carries out research and disseminates its results, runs education and capacity development programs and advocates conservation through campaigns and lobbying.

DD owns the largest data set on Turkey's biodiversity and it is one of the first organizations in the world that applied the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) concept on a national level. In May 2004, DD launched the new Turkish IBA book and the web site of Turkey's KBAs.

The organization has compiled the first national Key Biodiversity Areas inventory in Turkey, and launched the internet based campaign 'Zero Extinction' to protect these (see Appendix 5 for details on the project). The campaign is supported by BirdLife and the Atlas Magazine and mobilizes thousands of people to send letters to the central government in Ankara as well as the provincial government.

Doğa Derneği carries out site based conservation, education and interpretation activities in Mogan IBA, Gediz Delta IBA, Büyük Menderes National Park and Birecik Bald Ibis Station. Actions for species conservation include work on flamingos, Caucasian Black Grouse, Great Bustards (see Appendix 5 for details on the project) and Northern Bald Ibis. Furthermore, Doğa Derneği became an active supporter of the German and Turkish Government twinning project on developing Turkey's Natura 2000 network.

For its finance Doğa Derneği depends greatly on funds, some of their major donors include: BTC (BP Turkey), RSPB, BirdLife Secretariat, Dutch Government, European Commission, ATLAS Magazine, Tour Du Valat, and the Provincial Government of Izmir. More information can be found at the website of DD ([www.dogadernegi.org](http://www.dogadernegi.org)).

*Current involvement of DD in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

DD is involved in many biodiversity projects, two projects with a scientific goal are:

- The project on Key Biodiversity Areas. For this project the Drivers-Pressures-States-Impacts-Responses DPSIR approach (EEA, 1999) was used to allocate sites. Maps and The world conservation union (IUCN) criteria were used to assess the biodiversity status for plants, mammals, birds, fish, and herpetofauna. The KBAs form a draft list for the Natura 2000 sites.

- Improving the conservation status of the Caucasian Black Grouse in Turkey. This project has been financed by BTC's Environmental Investment Programme. The aim is to determine the size and distribution of the population and its use of habitat and predict its distribution based on knowledge of habitat use. For a key site in its distribution a management plan will be developed.

#### *Cooperation*

DD cooperates with universities abroad and in Turkey. There is a high cooperation with NGOs from Turkey (both national and local) and from abroad. Four national Turkish NGOs are organized as cooperation to influence policy. This cooperation, TBCD (TEMA, Buğday Derneği, ÇEKÜL (a NGO focused on environmental and cultural activities) and DD), has developed a position paper on water and are currently working on a paper on rural development.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Conservation of (globally) threatened species, specifically bird species;
- Adequate protection of Key Biodiversity Areas;
- Development of Turkish red lists;
- Integration of nature with human society in a sustainable way.

#### *Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Share knowledge on adaptation (biological) and mitigation of climate change;
- Share knowledge and co-operate on wetlands;
- Networking on climate change;
- Share knowledge on integrated river management.

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Delegates of NGOs, Ministries and Universities

## **2.4.4 Interview with WWF Turkey**

Mr. Ahmet Birsal. 07-June-2007.

*Note:* 'Feasibility study on developing a wetland centre for Turkey' dominated the interview.

#### *Introduction*

WWF Turkey started as a foundation under DHKD. 25 people are now working for WWF Istanbul and WWF Ankara together.

#### *Background information (brochures and internet)*

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with almost five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF aims to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

WWF Turkey tries to fulfil WWF's mission for Turkey specifically. More information can be found at [www.wwf.org.tr](http://www.wwf.org.tr). Information in English is unfortunately not provided. Reading through the interview with WWF will provide enough background on the tasks of WWF-Turkey.

#### *Current involvement of WWF Turkey in Biodiversity issues*

WWF Turkey has been the leading ‘water NGO’ in Turkey since 25 years. Turkey has lost 1.3 mln ha of wetlands, and that is half of the wetlands that Turkey used to have. Wetlands were seen as wastelands as areas that brought malaria and therefore areas that should be drained. Besides, State Hydraulic Works (DSI), which is the leading water authority in Turkey, has drained wetlands for years in order to use the reclaimed land for agricultural production. (Note: August 2007 DSI became part of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry)

#### *Cooperation*

There is a lot of competition between NGOs, which makes cooperation difficult and creates reluctance to cooperate.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

##### **Freshwater:**

- The new generation or the future staff of DSI has to be educated (from a more environmental viewpoint rather than an engineering point of view);
- Philosophy of the EU WFD and Integrated River Basin Management (N.B. the word basin does not occur yet or occurs to little in policy papers of MoEF. A lake strategy has been developed as well as a river strategy. The same goes for wetlands although this is a very weak strategy);
- 90% of the irrigation in Turkey is wild irrigation, which causes 50% of evaporation before the water actually can be used by the crops. Enforced by MoARA and MoEF, drip irrigation should legally be the only irrigation system applied in Turkey;
- Leakage of water transfer pipes has to be avoided;
- DSI consists of engineers, they want to construct; Constructing dams is not necessarily bad, but Environmental Impact Assessments have to be endorsed by the MoEF. (Note: China, India, Brazil and Turkey are the largest countries in terms of dam construction).

##### **Forestry**

- Increase forest protected areas;
- Sustainable use of forest/wood products;
- Restoration of forest areas;
- Increase effective management.

##### **Marine areas**

- Currently there are no/hardly any protected areas, the richness of biodiversity in marine areas has to be outlined;
- Cooperate with ÖÇKK to implement the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management and
- Setting up sustainable tourism.

##### **Fisheries**

- Promote sustainable fisheries; Turkey has no measurements for control;
- Preservation of flag species like the blue fin tuna, ranching is a large problem for the whole Mediterranean area; this species is sold to Japan and Korea.

##### **Urban water management**

Of the approximately 2300 municipalities only 10% have waste water treatment plants. (Note: 80% of the salt used for consumption in Turkey comes Tuz Lake (Salt Lake), most municipalities around it just dump their waste straight into the lake)

##### **In general**

- Bureaucracy has to be reduced;
- Data have to be shared by all institutes (also the governmental institutes need to share data). At the same time there is lack of data collection in Turkey. Especially regarding the status of groundwater. Shift in crop use is essential (e.g. sugar beet uses too much water)

*Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- The Netherlands needs to restore its natural areas, in this way Turkey can learn that it is of highest priority to conserve its natural areas and besides that it is very expensive to restore what has been destroyed, also considering all the services that are provided by natural habitats;
- The philosophy as well as good and bad practices in implementing the EU WFD;
- Challenges in implementing EU legislation, especially EU WFD;
- Water pricing;
- The issue of participation in the EU Water Framework Directive, this is still a big issue in Turkey;
- Many tools to come to Integrated River Basin Management are already applied in NL, so let's start to implement them in Turkey.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Consultants or organizations, but preferably experts that can be recommended. An online roster of experts would be helpful. Not the institute should be important but the experts behind it. Often work is carried out by too un-experienced people (and they are not the ones mentioned in the proposal). This also occurred in cooperation with Dutch organizations.

*Recommendations on BBI-MATRA*

- Turkey should be able to apply themselves for BBI-MATRA funding;
- Good Dutch partners cannot be involved more than once in BBI-MATRA, that is a pity (WWF NL can e.g. not have more than 5 applications);
- The website should be in English.

## **2.4.5 Interview with Kuş Araştırmaları Derneği (KAD) – Bird Research Society**

Mr. Okan Can. 31-May-2007.

*Introduction*

The Bird Research Society (KAD) was founded in 1998 by birdwatchers, ornithologists and conservationists for the study and conservation of birds and for raising public awareness. Their activities are directed at birds, their species abundance and population status in Turkey, and protection and conservation of threatened species. KAD is a EURING member and cooperates mostly with SEEN (the South-Eastern European ringing Network).

*Background information (brochures and internet)*

KAD aims to:

- Gather information on avifauna of Turkey
- Contribute the development of bird watching and ornithology in Turkey
- Support ornithology, bird watching and conservation
- Support any kind of nature conservation especially the birds
- Publish on bird watching and ornithology.

KAD is member of the National Wetland Committee, SEEN (South Eastern European Bird Migration Network) and EURING.

The society has its income from membership subscriptions, donations and the projects that they coordinate or participate in as a consultant.

KAD's portfolio is available at [www.kad.org.tr](http://www.kad.org.tr)

*Current involvement of KAD in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

KAD is involved in many conservation issues in Turkey specifically on birds. KAD is currently the national coordinator of the ringing scheme in Turkey. Some specific projects are:

- Black vulture study in Kızılcahamam National Park. A nest survey was performed and a protection plan developed. Black vultures strongly depend on old trees for their nesting sites. Since these trees are cut, nesting sites may become limited for the population, resulting in a population decline. This information was shared with the local foresters resulting in an agreement to leave the trees where Black vultures nest and their direct surrounding out of the logging schemes. Next to the inventory of currently used breeding sites also potential breeding sites, based on habitat characteristics, were published in a booklet.
- Bird migration. Lake Amik near to Amanos Mountains is a very important stop-over place for migratory birds, especially soaring birds that cannot cross large distances over open water. Large parts of the lake have been drained 20 years ago. KAD made an inventory in 2000 on the species and their numbers passing over Amanos Mountains. There seemed to be a substantial loss of mainly eagles and storks due to illegal hunting. A GEF-SGP fund was used to share knowledge on the importance of conservation of these birds with the local population to mitigate further illegal hunting.
- Other projects are concerned with the conservation of the Great-Bustard in a small population near Altıntaş Plato and a Avian Flu project financed by FAO.
- KAD is also involved in projects related to wetland management planning and wetland management education. The National Wetland Commission has 2 NGO members. One of them is from KAD.

*Cooperation*

On a project basis KAD cooperates with local NGOs. Furthermore KAD cooperates with most national NGOs and some international, with universities and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. KAD strongly strives to involve citizens in her projects and actions.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- All research issues concern ornithology and birds, currently KAD is lacking a clear strategy for a more in depth focus.
- Data collection on birds (ringing, counts, inventories of breeding sites). It has been proven difficult to find funds for such activities, e.g. Governmental institutes did not appreciate only data collection (e.g. setting up a National ringing organization) as an important objective.

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Exchange of knowledge on wetlands specifically related to birds
- Exchange of expert knowledge on bird species
- Increase of EU financial support on biodiversity conservation

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Delegates of NGOs (also local NGOs), Ministries and universities.

#### **2.4.6 Interview with DKM (Doğa Koruma Merkezi) - Nature Conservation Centre**

Ms. Hüma Ülgen and Ms. Hilary Welch. 30-May-2007.

##### *Introduction*

DKM was founded in 2004 by a group of ecologists and nature conservationists who had worked with DHKD, WWF Turkey and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK.

DKM is developing and promoting the use of 'Systematic Conservation Planning' (SCP) as a tool for identifying conservation priorities. This is an approach which is both complementary to and different from the approach used by Doğa Derneği (DD). DD's and Conservation International's methodology both identify Key Biodiversity Areas following strict criteria which consider the occurrence of populations of species. SCP is more like an optimizing tool e.g. it can identify where and what size of area needs to be protected to reach the goal of conserving 85% of all species present in a study area, and includes vegetation communities as a layer, thus ensuring that areas with no species data are included in the representation process. The tool is based on GIS and can be described as a Decision Support Tool. Currently DKM is developing the inclusion of ecological processes (such as climate change) and other forms of land use, as additional layers within the tool. Specifically a 'tourism opportunities' layer has been suggested by the General Director of National Parks (Ministry of Environment and Forestry).

##### *Background information (brochures and internet)*

The Nature Conservation Centre (DKM) is a cooperative established under Turkish law 1163 (Law of Cooperatives) in November 2004.

Its founding members are a group of experienced ecologists and nature conservationists from Turkey and the UK who came together to form DKM in order to provide a centrally organized pool of expertise and technical capacity for conserving biodiversity in Turkey and the surrounding area.

DKM's members each had a long involvement in nature and environmental conservation in Turkey, with some individual's active interest and experience both in Turkey and abroad stretching back to the 1960s. In Turkey DKM's members have worked with government, NGOs, research institutions, individual experts and volunteers, carrying out major studies of mountain, forest, wetland and steppe ecosystems. DKM prefers to work in partnerships to achieve effective results thus sharing a broader range of skills and experience.

DKM wishes to assist in the conservation of biodiversity through facilitating sound research, practical project implementation, capacity building and developing mutually beneficial partnerships. And to reach this goal DKM:

- Collects, compiles and disseminates technically sound data;
- Works with other national and international individuals and organizations to develop effective networks;
- Trains and builds capacity;
- Actively implements practical conservation;
- Encourages others to have an interest in biodiversity and practice its conservation;
- Promotes knowledge and understanding of biodiversity conservation.

##### *Current involvement of DKM in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

DKM has many projects on biodiversity in Turkey. Most of them involve 'gap analysis' and 'systematic planning'. Examples of projects are:

- 'Conservation Priority Analysis for the Eastern Mediterranean and Eastern Anatolian Ecoregions', a project funded by BTC (the BTC pipeline project) under its Environmental Investment Programme. In this project, in the ecological units along the pipeline (identified using WWF's ecoregions), fieldwork and a desk study are being carried out in order to compile an inventory and map the distribution of vegetation (from satellite images), large and small mammals, birds, herpetofauna, butterflies and threatened plants. Compilation of the data layers in

a GIS, weighing of various factors (e.g. threats) to assign a conservation priority, complementarily analysis and the participatory process of systematic conservation planning will then define the ‘priority conservation areas’ in the region. Of the sites identified, the sites with the best conservation investment returns will be selected. Given the fact that there are extremely little baseline data, and not all species can be included in such an inventory, only a restricted understanding of species diversity and distributions are possible. However, the project intends to extrapolate the distribution of certain indicator species which are known to have very specific habitat requirements in order to improve the data set as much as possible and make it scientifically sound.

- Development of simple and appropriate field techniques for biodiversity monitoring and forest habitat assessment for implementation and use by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
- Development of a course to introduce this package to forest workers of the Ministry. This project is funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). Since the foresters will only be able to carry out the monitoring activities during their normal forestry tasks, the programme has to be both straightforward and not too time consuming. Moreover, since historical baseline data are generally absent it is difficult to determine what makes a well-managed forest habitat and therefore what practices are currently beneficial.

#### *Cooperation*

Ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and forthcoming projects are initiating a cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. DKM often works together with other Turkish NGOs. Much cooperation with national (e.g. METU) and international universities (Smithsonian Institution US, Australia and South Africa). On a project basis local universities are also involved, e.g. in fieldwork.

Citizen science is not currently part of DKM’s programme. DKM is not targeted at awareness raising, lobbying and participation. DKM aims to develop a robust scientific basis for conservation practices in Turkey.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Development of a forest monitoring and assessment protocol;
- Monitoring and assessment of biodiversity in non-agricultural terrestrial habitats: forests and grasslands;
- *‘Grassland habitats are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; wooded lands under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Special Protected Areas under ÖÇKK; Water/Wetlands under DSI (and wetlands also under Ministry of Environment and Forestry); archaeological and National Heritage Sites under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, but it is not clear which Ministry focuses on steppe habitats’*; Steppe habitats in Turkey have high biodiversity and is a priority habitat, however actual inventories are scarce, and this habitat type is currently under much pressure from agricultural development and water extraction and its conservation/protection is not the responsibility of any specific governmental body.
- Ecological Networks. Most nature areas are disconnected. Inclusion of Turkish nature areas in the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN);
- Wetlands larger than 8 ha are legally under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. However, economic activities such as mining and tourism always have a priority above protection, even where an area is already legally protected. Wetlands are even more ‘unlucky’ than protected forest areas. The DG of Forestry has more staff. Wetland protection needs more attention, because they are under serious threat;
- The Biodiversity Monitoring Unit (under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) is responsible for establishing and managing a national wildlife database (like the ‘Kuşbank’, the bird database managed by Doğa Derneği) and it is intended that these data will be available for use by all interested parties;

- More focus on cooperation, not only between government and NGOs but also among NGOs (ownership of projects means money and this somehow also blocks cooperation, at least in part due to lack of trust).

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Sharing knowledge in how to develop a forest monitoring system, or more in general biodiversity monitoring systems. And through Dutch connections also with existing European monitoring networks;
- Organize a steppe habitat conference;
- Share Dutch knowledge of how to implement ecological networks.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

NGOs, Ministries and universities. Universities in particular should be part of the exchange in order to try and ensure their long term involvement and the collection and sharing of Turkey's best scientific knowledge.

#### **2.4.7 Interview with Buğday Derneği (The Buğday Association for Supporting Ecological Living)**

Ms. Güneşin Aydemir and Ms. Melike Hemmami. 30-May-2007.

*Introduction*

Buğday Derneği is not a nature conservation NGO but works on nature friendly production consumption chains, consumer awareness and producer networking, lobbying and advocacy. The main goal of Buğday Derneği is implementation of sustainable production consumption chains, in such a way that added income from this source can help to reduce the pressure from agriculture on nature. Each project run by Buğday Derneği has to be ecological, healthy, equal (fair trade) and sustainable.

*Background information (brochures and internet)*

The Buğday Association For Supporting Ecological Living has been active for 15 years and took on a formal status as an 'association' in August 2002.

Since its foundation, the Buğday Derneği movement aims to protect nature by carrying out activities that intend to solve the ecological (and related economical, cultural and social) problems in Turkey. Buğday Derneği aims to do this with the participation of individuals and the society as a whole by reorganizing/redefining the same human activities that contribute to such problems.

Among these activities are the setting up of the first ecological shops and first ecological market stalls in Turkey, the first Ecological Domestic Markets Congress, and the publication of the Buğday magazine for over six years, the first periodical ecological living magazine to communicate and share information about national, international and local ecological activities. None of these activities have been limited by availability of financial resources and have been carried out with a holistic approach with grassroots' support.

Buğday Derneği has activities in the fields below to fulfil its mission:

- To expand sustainable agriculture methods, which do not harm the environment and human health at any stage.
- To establish the infrastructure and create working marketing channels for a healthy internal organic market in Turkey.
- To protect and maintain traditional production methods.
- To contribute to the continuity of communities that live in harmony with nature in terms of their settlements, production and consumption.

- To support communities that already exist in this manner and to assist the creation and sustainability of such new communities.
- To redefine human needs in a way that is in harmony with cycles of the ecosystem.
- To support production, consumption models and technologies that attend to such natural needs and their application.
- To create activity areas that provide individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to live in harmony with the nature and their environment.
- To develop and practice an understanding of tourism that provides information and cultural exchange.

#### *Current involvement of Buğday Derneği in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

Buğday Derneği is involved in many projects concerning biodiversity issues. Two interesting projects that clearly outline the priorities of Buğday Derneği are the 'TaTuTa' project and the 'organic markets' project. The 'Eco-Agro Tourism and Voluntary Exchange' (TaTuTa) project, initially financed by the Small Grants Programme of GEF (GEF-SGP), was the first 'rural tourism' project of Turkey aiming to support ecological agriculture farmers by providing them with the monetary support, and to solve the problems they face in the process. The TaTuTa network now forms an important network also applied by e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The organic markets project has different sponsors and aims to organize organic producers in Turkey and reduce the length of the producer consumer chain by creating regional markets and contribute to revaluation of the country-side by people living in the city. Currently there is an organic market in Istanbul where TaTuTa farms sell their goods. Buğday Derneği has an influence on the production process and planning of crops used at the TaTuTa farms. Buğday Derneği is currently developing guidelines for municipalities to create more of these markets (municipalities are the legal authority for markets). Furthermore, Buğday Derneği stimulates regional consumption of regional produced goods, and stimulates product selling at farms to visitors. Many young people nowadays leave the country-side to find work in cities. This results in a loss of knowledge (traditional knowledge is no longer passed on to the next generation). The concept of Ecotourism involves that visitors bring some value to the visited places. It implies real interaction between the visitor and the people visited. Visitors may pay for their time on the farm in money, in work, or by bringing knowledge. Moreover the farmers can directly market their products to the visitors.

Most TaTuTa farmers involved are in the older age groups and are mostly women. Therefore Buğday Derneği is also trying to specifically address women.

To become member of the TaTuTa network, farmers have to apply and fulfil certain criteria. The result is a network of farmers, volunteers and tourists in which products and labour can be exchanged without involvement of money. Using this network, farmers can also directly exchange goods with other farmers: barter trade (exchange of goods between farmers without involvement of money). These networks help to create new possibilities for a sustainable country-side and renewal of rural life.

#### *Cooperation*

Internationally, Buğday Derneği is the Turkish partner of the European Centre for Eco-Agro Tourism (ECEAT) and Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF) and member of International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the Dutch Avalon Network, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) Network, Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) Network, the European Vegetarian Union (EVU) and Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Europe. There is a guide on ecotourism developed by ECEAT which includes 10 Turkish farms. Many of the visitors are foreigners. Buğday Derneği does strongly involve citizens.

Furthermore, Buğday Derneği cooperates with most of the Turkish NGOs on biodiversity.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Involve local communities in nature conservation. Only when local people fully participate (are aware of the need for conservation, agree with the goals, participate in conservation, and gain some form of income for their involvement) conservation may be sustainable on the long term.
- Use traditional knowledge to maintain a sustainable environment and conserve habitats and species.
- Create new simple methods for sustainable rural livelihoods: low energy input technologies to reduce water consumption, heating systems of houses, mitigate soils erosion etc.
- Stimulate development of new policies mainly on ecological agriculture and Agri-Environmental Schemes.
- Development of a 'steering committee' on higher level (comparable with the Steering Committee Mrs. Carla Konsten tries to establish for the Agri-Environmental Programmes, to co-ordinate/facilitate/link initiatives of GOs and NGOs).

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- exchange of good practices and inventive solutions for sustainable rural life (e.g. crop rotation, less water consumption in agriculture, soil conservation)
- exchange traditional knowledge in agricultural practices
- exchange of participation in practice to maintain a sustainable rural life and therefore also conserve biodiversity values of the environment in a sustainable way
- exchange information on eco villages (GEN: Global Ecovillages Network)
- exchange knowledge on organic farming, good agricultural practices and nature friendly farming systems

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Such a knowledge exchange will specifically be valuable if applied at local level and good practices will be shared.

#### **2.4.8 Interview with TEMA, the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats**

Ms. Yeşim Erkan, Mr. Murat Ermiş, Mr. Süreyya İsfendiyaroğlu. 06-June-2007.

*Introduction*

TEMA was founded in 1992. TEMA's main aim is to raise public awareness of environmental problems, specifically on land degradation (soil erosion, deforestation, loss of biodiversity) and climate change. TEMA's approach in preventing soil erosion is to alleviate poverty in rural areas through so-called model projects, i.e. finding alternative environmental friendly income opportunities. So far around 50 model projects in sustainable rural development have been carried out and 50 projects in reforestation. The organization works with 80 staff members in Istanbul and 20 in other offices, and a large network of volunteers.

*Current involvement of TEMA in Biodiversity issues*

- TEMA finds itself especially successful in their 'legal battles' using different media (posters, newspapers, radio, TV): e.g. the posters in Istanbul to make citizens aware of the domestic use of water and the announcements in the newspapers for the elections ('the environment is waiting for you').
- Raising awareness is carried out through dialogue, campaigns (e.g. signature campaigns), if necessary court cases against government decisions (e.g. in Antalya against the Ministry of Culture

and Tourism to avoid the establishment of golf courses in order to protect the Red Pine Forest), TEMA's Education Programme (e.g. training of, preferably, future trainers, but also imams and military staff, seminars, summer camps), publications (e.g. their monthly magazine 'Yeşiliz') and TEMA's projects (e.g. on reforestation, afforestation or CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration).

- TEMA is also involved in developing small scale policies at local level as well as drafting national policies (e.g. Turkey's Land Protection law, for which TEMA is now involved in the implementation process).
- TEMA provides a trademark for rural projects, e.g. organic honey from one of their projects and under their Economic Enterprises department it has its own Travel Agency, organising tours for small groups of experts and others interested in e.g. beekeeping or botany.

#### *Cooperation*

TEMA works with different Ministries (mainly MoEF), NGOs (they formed an alliance with Buğday, Doga Derneği and Çekül, an organisation focusing on environment and culture) and universities. They run a large EU project (2.1 mln Euro), in the Kaçkar mountains together with MoEF, METU and DKM. TEMA works with a large network of volunteers and has more than 555 voluntary representatives all over Turkey. The organization has erected Child TEMA (an organization currently active at more than 300 primary schools enabling children to organize various events and workshops) and Young TEMA (active in more than 55 universities and bringing new innovative ideas). TEMA also tries to expand globally (until now: 1998 TEMA-D in Germany, 2002 TEMA-NL in the Netherlands and 2005 TEMA Brussels). TEMA-NL, based in Rotterdam, focused on the education of the Turkish Community in the Netherlands on environmental issues (e.g. 'enjoying a park without having a barbecue'). TEMA-NL is related to the MoU between the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Finally, TEMA is member of different international organizations (IUCN, European Environment Bureau (EEB) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)), has consultative status to UN's ECOSOC and is an accredited NGO of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and (United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP)).

General remark: DD, WWF, DHKD are also IUCN members as well as the MoEF, which acts as the national secretariat.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- MoEF and MoARA tune their policy and legislation;
- Reducing bureaucracy (e.g. TEMA organized in cooperation with MoEF a workshop on IUCN Red Lists);
- Working towards EU integration;
- Establishing and integrated water policy (DD, Buğday Derneği, Çekül and TEMA developed a position paper on water protection);
- Combating desertification;
- Working at local level, especially in rural development projects (stakeholder involvement).

General concern: Lack of financial and human resources in Ministries and NGOs.

#### *Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Exchange on projects involving local people;
- Exchange of experiences between volunteers, how to engage people in solving environmental problems;
- TEMA would be interested to co-operate with e.g. Natuurmonumenten;

- What works with regard to the implementation of the EU WFD and what does not work (no projects again on what the WFD is) and the same goes for the implementation of Natura 2000;
- Exchange between local decision makers;
- Cooperation in campaigns, e.g. organizing a certain campaign at the same time to enlarge impact.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Anybody, as long as exchange is practical.

*Recommendations on BBI-MATRA*

- It is not always easy to find a Dutch partner interested in the same issue, it would therefore be an advantage to have a ‘network of ideas’, preferably on internet;
- BBI-MATRA provides rather small funds but it is a good instrument for co-funding (e.g. in addition to EU funds);
- Dutch organization should avoid getting into contact with Turkish organizations few days before deadline of BBI-MATRA; Communication of BBI-MATRA, the information provided at the Dutch website is more detailed compared to the information provided in English.

#### **2.4.9 TTKD, Turkish Nature Protection Association (no interview)**

This organization aims to protect natural resources, to maintain the balance between soil, water and human, and avoid the pollution made by industry. For more information on TTKD see their web-site ([www.ttkder.org.tr](http://www.ttkder.org.tr) no English).

#### **2.4.10 TURMEPA, Turkish Marine Environmental Protection Association (no interview)**

TURMEPA was established in 1994 as the first NGO in Turkey advocating for the sea. For the past ten years, TURMEPA has worked to make the public aware of the importance of a clean marine environment. In addition TURMEPA involved the public and volunteers in cleaning activities with the aim to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the health, leisure and economic benefits of the sea. Annually TURMEPA conducts public awareness campaigns and activities with the aim to create widespread public concern and inspire positive action at the same time. TURMEPA uses television advertising and special events including televised broadcasts, concerts and sporting events to reach out to the public. Public opinion polling is used to benchmark public opinion and to track changes. In 2001, TURMEPA has started to organize Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup Campaign. TURMEPA is the only representative of this campaign in Turkey. The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest and most successful volunteer event of its kind. Each year, thousands of volunteers from around the globe participate, clearing tons of trash from coastlines, rivers and lakes and recording every piece of trash collected. In 2006, TURMEPA organized this event all around the Turkey. For more information on TURMEPA, please visit [www.turmepa.org.tr](http://www.turmepa.org.tr).

## 2.5 Other organisations involved in biodiversity protection

### 2.5.1 Interview with Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Ms. Z. Bilgi Buluş, National Coordinator and Ms. A. Özge Gökce, Programme Associate. 31-May-2007.

#### *Introduction*

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is directed at Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation. Formerly also International Waters and Land Degradation were covered by SGP. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) can apply for SGP funds for up to US\$ 50,000, a total amount of US\$ 400,000 can be allotted by SGP on a yearly basis. SGP has two approaches in biodiversity conservation, a top down scientific knowledge driven approach and a local level, traditional knowledge approach. SGP works with intermediaries (called visionaries) who are usually better educated than the local people they represent. These visionaries in some cases have clear linkages with policy in such a way that local solutions also influence policy. An example is the Lake Van project. In Lake Van an endangered fish species was harvested by local communities in harming amounts. This species swims upstream to breed in freshwater streams around the lake. Local people harvested the fish before spawning took place. The visionary, a professor in aquaculture (Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sarı), shared his knowledge about this species with the local people and changed their use and harvesting of the species. Out of 90 biodiversity projects of SGP, 60 of them are in or around 'Key Biodiversity Areas' and the other 30 are not site specific.

#### *Background information UNDP and GEF Small Grants Programme (brochures and internet)*

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP works on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to worldwide and national development challenges.

Across the world, UNDP is working in partnership in a number of key areas: Democratic Governance; Poverty reduction; crisis prevention and recovery; energy and the environment; HIV/AIDS.

UNDP Turkey works for Democratic Governance and Growth without Poverty. For more than 50 years the UNDP in Turkey has worked in close partnership with the Turkish government and numerous national and international institutions, including NGOs, academics and the business community.

UNDP supports Turkey's ambitious reform agenda on which EU accession figures prominently. UNDP Turkey works with the Government, civil society and the private sector to find practical solutions to Turkey's Development challenges and manages projects to address them.

The GEF Small Grants Programme is administered by UNDP. The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the GEF Focal Areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation), and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches. The interview with GEF SGP Turkey outlines mission, aims and tasks of GEF SGP in Turkey.

#### *Current involvement of SGP-GEF in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

The focus of SGP is on nature conservation using a participatory approach to facilitate the management of sites by involving local communities, co-management or community management of sites. Participation and equity are important key words for the programme.

#### *Cooperation*

SGP specifically tries reaching all citizens and therefore preferably co-operates with grassroots level small local NGOs and community-based organizations. Of the larger NGOs the programme worked with

organisations such as DD, WWF Turkey, DKM and Buğday. Cooperation mainly goes through projects. Small groups and local NGOs often require assistance in applying for SGP funding, therefore SGP both provides hands-on support and has also developed a guide for project management to facilitate these groups in their management of their projects supported by SGP funds.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Involving local people in conservation of their area;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in other areas;
- Mitigation of Climate change;
- Clean energy technologies/ energy efficient techniques in agriculture;
- Dealing with water shortage in agriculture (using new irrigation methods);
- Sustainable (clean) transport (e.g. biking routes);
- Renewable energy;
- Sustainable agriculture, especially for small farms which are close to Turkey's Key Biodiversity Areas, preferably organic agriculture;
- Conservation of traditional knowledge on e.g. crop species adapted to local environment;
- Marketing of local products, especially slow food.

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Possibilities to exchange knowledge among local people by site visits
- Share knowledge in agro-ecology (not scientific knowledge per se but knowledge on sustainable agriculture)
- Establishing a European farmers network
- Exchange of good and bad practices
- Establishing a common language between scientists and practitioners

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Preferably as much as possible local communities although there might be a serious language barrier.

## **2.5.2 The World Conservation Union (IUCN) - Turkey (no interview)**

IUCN works with national committees in the partner countries.

### **IUCN National Committee of Turkey**

Contact: Mr. Aybars Altıparmak (Assistant Expert)

c/o Department of Nature Conservation; Ministry of Environment and Forests (Çevre ve Orman Bakanlığı); Gazi Tesisleri 10 nolu Bina, Söğütözü Ankara; Ankara 06530; TURKEY, Tel: ++90 (312) 212-4000/2336; Fax: ++90 (312) 296-4816; Email: [aaltiparmak@cevre.gov.tr](mailto:aaltiparmak@cevre.gov.tr). No English website (source: [www.iucn.org/MEMBERS/national-committees.htm](http://www.iucn.org/MEMBERS/national-committees.htm)).

### 2.5.3 Interview with the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company (BTC) – Environmental Investment Programme (BTC-EIP)

Mr. Cem Cakıroğlu, Environmental coordinator. 1-June-2007.

#### *Introduction*

The BTC pipeline is 1,768 km long and crosses Turkey from the east to the south. Before the pipeline construction started an environmental impact assessment was carried out over a 500 m wide strip along the pipeline. This assessment study was used to mitigate negative foreseeable effects of the pipeline. Next to this assessment BTC invested in both community and environment by the Community Investment Programme (CIP) and the Environmental Investment Programme (EIP) respectively. Non-profit making NGOs, academic institutions and consultancies can tender for grants of BTC.

#### *Background information (brochures and internet)*

The BTC Pipeline Environmental Investment Program Turkey resulted from the construction of a large pipeline transporting oil from the east to the southern Mediterranean coast of Turkey where the oil is shipped. BTC Co corporate policy states that the company will generate 'economic benefits and opportunities for an enhanced quality of life for those whom their business impacts'. To meet this goal, a Community Investment Program (CIP) along the BTC Pipeline route has been put in place. The CIP states to go beyond mitigating any negative impacts of the construction and long term presence of the pipeline. Its intention is to have a positive influence in the areas in which BTC Co operates and encourages sustainability beyond the term of project funding and considers projects to be a joint investment together with villagers, community leaders, NGOs, local and regional authorities, universities, private companies, and other third parties.

The CIP is being implemented in three countries Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Turkey receives US \$9 million. The various projects are designed to encourage sustainable development, with a bias towards income-generating activities, vocational training, improvements in community health, social infrastructure (such as schools and clean drinking water systems) and agriculture/livestock, and schemes to enhance the capability of communities to organize and help themselves.

The current funding is for the construction phase of the pipeline and there are plans to make (additional) funding available during the operational phase of the pipeline. CIP activities are managed by experienced organizations (e.g. NGOs, universities, consultancies with experience in development activities). Some of these are international and some are national. Environmental Investment Program (EIP) in Turkey is managed by a small team in BTC Co.-Turkey Section which is being supported by a number of local experts, international specialists and BTC Co. field staff. The team takes recommendations and advices from various stakeholders and donor organizations such as the European Commission, Ministry of Environment and Forest. BTC Co. Community Investment Program, a sister program of EIP, is also supporting the program.

Ongoing projects are: Green sea turtle, Mediterranean Monk Seal, Caucasian Black Grouse, Important Bird area's, Important Plant area's, Lower Caucasian Forests, Wetland Management, Forest Management, and Public Awareness.

#### *Current involvement of BTC in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

Over the period 2003-2008 BTC allocated/will allocate US\$ 5,000,000 to its Environmental Investment Programme (EIP). This money was/is spent on various projects developed by DD, RSPB, TEMA, UNDP, KAD, DKM and many others. Projects vary from protection of a single species (e.g. Mediterranean monk seal), single ecosystems (e.g. wetland management), and inventories of important bird areas to large scale (over \$ 1 million) integrated conservation and development.

### *Cooperation*

BTC is open for cooperation with all non-profit making parties (NGOs, companies and universities) as well as donors and private companies. BTC funds implementation, preferably not research. Cooperation has been going on with most of the conservation NGOs in Turkey. WWF-Turkey has not received grants from BTC since they have monitored the pipeline project. Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry increased over the last years. The fact that many authorities who have an influence on biodiversity conservation are neither well organized nor have a clear list of priorities or agenda, complicates the actual implementations of biodiversity conservation activities. However, BTC together with one of its grantees -DKM- has been establishing a common conservation investment prioritization approach and tool to address the issue which is in good progress.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

BTC has no specific thematic biodiversity priority, all projects that have a positive influence on biodiversity, either increasing knowledge by making inventories to develop conservation plans for specific ecosystems or protected species are eligible. On the other hand, BTC is prioritizing the areas to invest conservation funds in and trying to align these with those of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, TEMA, DD and WWF.

### *Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Cem Cakiroğlu states that cooperation with The Netherlands can only be fruitful for Turkey if the best experts are sent from The Netherlands who are also able to communicate. Often not qualified, not well-experienced or too young experts have been sent (in cooperation with different countries, not only the Netherlands), which only prolong the process. ‘Not another slideshow but experts that facilitate/support implementation’;
- *Note of the interviewers:* This remark has been checked more often. It does not only count for The Netherlands but it has to be mentioned that many projects are carried out in cooperation with The Netherlands. ‘Specialists come here thinking they know best without checking the knowledge already there’. ‘Methodologies are often not adapted to Turkish circumstances’. These are remarks often heard.
- BTC intends to sponsor young Turkish trainees to learn and gain knowledge in other countries;
- Lessons learned from the Turkish point of view are often showing that simple solutions are more viable on the long run than highly technical ones;
- Lessons learnt are not really applied; better translation to the Turkish context is needed. Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands on a policy level and cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on NGO level could be helpful;
- In the area of practical tools for environmental management expertise in Turkey is needed. Guidelines would be much welcomed (e.g. how to efficiently warm your house). Stakeholder involvement in environmental projects and how to manage conflicts;
- The conservation prioritization approach and tools that BTC’s Environmental Investment Programme are using and DKM is developing together with BTC are now being closely followed-up and used by Australian, American and South African Universities. They try to further improve tools and methods together. The outcomes of the Environmental Investment Programme are very interesting also for Dutch experts.

### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

Only experts with good communication skills and specialised in local, simple and custom fit solutions.

### 3 Quick scan of the interviews, background information and workshop results

#### 3.1 Detailed overview of the interviews and background information

This chapter summarizes the interviews and background information that fed into the discussion prior to the workshop ‘Opportunities for bilateral cooperation between Turkey and the Netherlands in the field of conservation of biodiversity’ held on Thursday 22 November in Ankara at the Netherlands Embassy, when the organizations interviewed met the official delegation from the Netherlands’ Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The authors deliberately chose not to rank the priorities mentioned and advantages for cooperation identified. This to give the reader a transparent view on the results of the interviews and to provide the reader the opportunity to regard the issues identified from his/her own expertise.

##### 3.1.1 Priorities in Biodiversity Management and Protection for Turkey

###### *1. Harmonise Legislation and Responsibilities on Protected Areas*

- Grassland habitats are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, wooded lands under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Special Protected Areas under ÖÇKK, Water under DSI, but wetlands under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, archaeological and National Heritage Sites under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Steppe habitats do not fall under a specific governmental responsibility.
- As a result of different responsibilities of the Ministries at the site level policies can be conflicting.
- The Birds- and Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) and the EU WFD may facilitate harmonization of policies.

###### *2. Increase protection of areas*

###### *Wetland and River Basin Management*

- Wetland protection needs more attention, because these habitats are under serious threat. Currently 90% of the wetlands are without wetland management plan, even inventories that describe the type and richness of their biodiversity are lacking. Wetlands larger than 8 ha are legally under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. However, economic activities such as mining and tourism always come before protection, even if an area is already legally protected. Wetlands are also more ‘unlucky’ than protected forest areas, since the Ministry is short in capacity.
- Implement the philosophy of the EU WFD (River Basin Approach) and thus Integrated River Basin Management, an integrated water policy is needed!
- Collect data to assess the status of groundwater.

###### *Key Biodiversity areas, Important Bird Areas and Important Plant areas*

- Huge strength for Turkey that these areas have been identified, they need further identification, monitoring and protection. These areas need to be integrated in Turkish legislation. Besides, the IPAs are a recognized tool for implementing the Global Plant Conservation Strategy (and European Plant Conservation Strategy) which are the tools for implementing the CBD, which Turkey has signed.

###### *Coastal Zones and Marine areas*

- Increase the number of protected areas. Currently there are no/hardly any marine protected areas, the richness of biodiversity in marine areas has to be outlined.

- Develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach.
- Implement the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), this would be beneficiary.

*Forests*

- Increase the amount of forest protected.
- Use forest/wood products sustainable.
- Restore forest areas (not the areas that have not been forested land before).
- Increase the effectiveness of management and develop a forest monitoring and assessment protocol.

*Grasslands, steppe habitats*

- Increase protected areas.
- Monitor and assess the biodiversity in non-agricultural terrestrial habitats. Steppe habitats have a high biodiversity, however, little is known on the actual abundance of species since the number of inventories has been low; moreover this habitat is not under the specific responsibility of any specific governmental body.
- Combat desertification.

**3. Increased protection of species**

- Conserve (globally) threatened species, with specific attention for bird species (e.g. migratory).
- Protect species adequately in Key Biodiversity Areas as well as in the identified Important Plant and Bird areas.
- Develop Turkish red lists.
- Use traditional knowledge to maintain a sustainable environment and conserve habitats and species.

**4. Connect protected areas**

- Implement Ecologic Network.
- Ecologic Network for Turkey: Most nature areas are not connected to each other. Inclusion of Turkish nature areas in the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) is seen as beneficiary.
- The identified KBAs, IBAs and IPAs could be used as potential stepping stones in creating a network of protected areas.

**5. Solve conflicts between economic activities and biodiversity conservation**

*Fisheries.*

- Promote sustainable fisheries (Turkey has no measurements for control, but permissions for fish farms are not given for protected areas, however formerly accepted permissions can under the current law not be redrawn. Beneficial is that there is a new law for fisheries where all coastal fish farms will be pulled 2 miles away from the coast).
- Preserve flagship species.

*Waste Water Treatment*

- Increase the number of waste water treatment plants. Of the approximately 2300 municipalities only 10% have waste water treatment plants. (Note: 80% of the salt used for consumption in Turkey comes from Lake Tuz, most municipalities around it just dump their waste straight into the lake).

*Dam construction*

- Endorse Environmental Impact Assessments *before* construction of dams (Note: Together with China, India and Brazil, Turkey has the highest number of dams in the world).

*Agriculture*

- Deal with water shortage: leakage of water transfer pipes has to be avoided in agriculture and new irrigation methods have to be applied; 90% of the irrigation in Turkey is wild irrigation, which

causes 50% of evaporation before the water actually can be used by the crops. Drip irrigation should legally be the only irrigation system applied in Turkey.

- Change crop type into in low water demanding types crop use essential (e.g. sugar beet uses too much water).
- Use sustainable land cultivation techniques (avoiding soil erosion); motivate farmers to shift to sustainable techniques (by implementing pilot projects).
- Make rural development sustainable. Develop policy and incentives to increase organic farming and marketing of local products (develop slow food chains).
- Create new simple methods for sustainable rural livelihoods: Clean, energy efficient and low energy input technologies to reduce water consumption, Renewable energy sources to provide heating systems of houses etc.
- Conserve traditional knowledge on e.g. crop species adapted to the local environment.

#### *Tourism*

- Make tourism sustainable.
- Make transport for tourism sustainable (e.g. bike routes).
- Make sure that biodiversity does not lose out for tourism, tourism is always first priority for the government, then mining and other issues, like environment are of much lower priority.

### **6. Use/ increase human capacity for biodiversity protection**

#### *Awareness raising, capacity building, education.*

- Arrange meetings, together with NGOs, to raise awareness of fishermen, women, farmers, students. Especially women are an important target group as many women in living in SPAs are often not educated.
- Develop ecological training. There is no specific training or curriculum (also not in universities) on ecological issues (site management following a systematic approach e.g. species identification and mapping, management planning). Too much attention on engineering regarding environmental education.

#### *Stakeholder involvement* (seen as high priority by most organisations interviewed)

- Involvement of all stakeholders in nature conservation. Integrate nature with human society in a sustainable way. It is essential that experts and the relevant authorities are brought together to develop strategic plans.
- Facilitate real participation.
- Work at the local level, especially in rural development projects and involve local people in conservation of their area.

#### *Cooperation, Networking, Institutional Development*

- Reduce bureaucracy; cooperation and integrated policy development are needed.
- Mainstream 'biodiversity' in all policies.
- Enhance focus on cooperation, not only between governments and NGOs but also among NGOs (ownership of projects means money and this often blocks cooperation due to lack of trust).
- Facilitate networking and knowledge exchange: Data have to be shared by all institutes (e.g. development of databases on biodiversity that can be used by everyone); The Biodiversity Monitoring Unit (under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) is responsible for establishing and managing a national wildlife database (like the 'Kuş Bank', bird database managed by Doğa Derneği) and it is intended that this data will be available for use by all interested parties.
- Develop a long term capacity building programme for government officials. Institutional development and the capacity to change institutions are lacking. NGOs and Universities would also benefit from capacity building.
- Make 'Biodiversity Administration' in Turkey a visible and viable organisation. This could be guided/facilitated by NGOs, maybe even the Regional Environmental Centre (REC).

- Use instruments like EU WFD and Natura 2000: Working towards EU integration (regarding biodiversity!!).
- Enforce biodiversity policies. Currently due to capacity law enforcement is low and legislation seems a paper act.
- Increase exchange between 78 universities in Turkey (and research bodies in The Netherlands).
- Facilitate and increase data collection in Turkey (the lack of scientific data causes difficulty to develop ecologically sound management plans).
- Turkey needs an independently working National Scientific Authority (like the idea of establishing a Wetland Centre for Turkey)

***General concern as provided by some of the experts interviewed***

- Lack of financial and human resources in Ministries and NGOs.
- Criticism is a difficult issue in Turkey.
- Climate change: Turkish NGOs have to be more focused (e.g. if the NGO focuses on the protection of birds then keep your focus and do not switch to wetland management). Too many NGOs nowadays mention to have expertise on climate change, but all the expertise of different NGOs together can make the difference in combating climate change.

**3.1.2 Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues**

The interview results and background information resulted in the following priorities listed below for further cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands, as viewed from Turkish side. The *conclusions* and *recommendations* have been added after the workshop was carried out. Also remarks made during the workshop have been included in the formulation of conclusion and recommendations.

The advantages of cooperation mentioned, are:

***1. Stakeholder involvement*** (very often mentioned in different settings); just a few examples:

- Exchange experience on how to involve citizens, and fully take advantage of participation in decision making (Participation has recently been introduced in policy development in Turkey by EU legislation, but is generally a top down approach).
- Exchange experience of involving local people (participation) to both conserve in a sustainable way the biodiversity values of their environment and maintain a sustainable rural life.
- Establish a common language between scientists and practitioners.
- Exchange experience on stakeholder involvement in environmental projects and conflict management.
- Facilitation of land use planning, how can different views be shared.
- Sociologists work in a different way than anthropologists. Anthropologists are more focusing on the issues ‘on the ground’ and what knowledge is available. In many discussions or interviews it has been mentioned that ‘*Specialists come here thinking they know best without checking the knowledge already there*’. ‘*Methodologies are often not adapted to Turkish circumstances*’. This would then stress for the need of, next to sociologist involvement in projects, also anthropologists’ participation.

*Conclusion:* In nearly all interviews the issue of participation was mentioned. Many projects are said not to be sustainable on the long run due to the lack of participation of *all* relevant parties. This does not only include local communities but also governmental organisations (at all levels). Most projects lack an *interactive* planning process at an early stage.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* An exchange of Turkish and Netherlands' experts' on interactive planning and the involvement of stakeholders in decision making, by e.g. a workshop on good and bad practices in stakeholder involvement organized in Turkey or in the Netherlands, may stimulate the change towards interactive planning.

## **2. Implementation of EU legislation**

- Enlargement of the European Natura 2000 network with sites in Turkey will strengthen the whole European network effectively. Share Dutch knowledge of how to implement ecological networks and establish Natura 2000 SPAs and SCIs (training needed on how, not what).
- Exchange of information and knowledge between Ministries should be enhanced. EU legislation may facilitate such a cooperation.
- Exchange on institutional change processes (especially with regard to the implementation of EU legislation).
- Exchange experiences on the implementation of the Nitrate Directive.
- Exchange knowledge and experience on what works with regard to the implementation of the EU WFD and what does not work (no projects again on what the WFD is) and the same goes for the implementation of Natura 2000.
- Exchange knowledge and experience on the philosophy, the challenges as well as good and bad practices in implementing EU legislation, especially the EU WFD.
- The issue of participation in the EU Water Framework Directive, this is still a big issue in Turkey.
- Many tools on how to work towards Integrated River Basin Management are already applied in NL, so let's start to implement them in Turkey too.

*Conclusion:* Two issues clearly come forward. There is currently not a favourable environment or suitable institutional setting for biodiversity protection. Legislation is overlapping, and co-operation is lacking both between Ministries and between the government and the civil society level. This also affects a smooth implementation of the EU's *Acquis Communautaire*.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Regarding the implementation of Natura 2000 and the EU WFD The Netherlands can very well support implementation by providing practical methods and tools. But as mentioned during many interviews, the focus should be on practical implementation guidance, and not on general information on what new EU legislation includes. This should be a point of attention for future projects. *'How can these experts understand our situation if they just come for a week from time to time'* was mentioned during interviews. In many projects budget constraints restrict stronger involvement from the Dutch side. Aside from budget issues there are ample suitable experts from the Dutch side whom could share their experiences on the practical EU legislation implementation process. A possible solution to facilitate exchange of knowledge may therefore be institutional exchange of personnel.

## **3. Enhancing capacity building**

A major shortcoming at the moment is capacity and how to organize capacity (institutional capacity building), especially at the Ministry level. Cooperation with The Netherlands may enhance the process of capacity building.

- Exchange should specifically take place on a site basis, e.g. sister parks. Although bilateral agreements are important as well but actual working together on concrete issues of conservation, i.e. on-site, are of more value (results in deliverable outputs).
- Learn from bad examples from biodiversity loss in The Netherlands.
- Exchange of experience with agri-environmental practices and problems, including nitrogen eutrophication, exchange on soil conservation, including heavy metal pollution. Develop pilot projects with The Netherlands on organic farming and agri-environmental planning.

- Exchange of good practices and inventive solutions for sustainable rural life (e.g. crop rotation, less water consumption in agriculture, soil conservation).
- Possibilities to exchange knowledge among local people by site visits.
- Exchange between Dutch and Turkish NGOs would be an advantage especially for practical knowledge exchange in the field. NGO Turkey co-operating with e.g. Natuurmonumenten.
- Exchange of experiences between volunteers, how to engage people in solving environmental problems.
- Exchange between local decision makers.
- Cooperate in campaigns, e.g. organizing a certain campaign to learn from each other at the same time to enlarge impact (as example: wise use of drinking water).

*Conclusion:* Capacity Building is needed in Turkey but the request for it is really focusing on *practical* capacity building.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:*

The interviewed experts from the Turkish side indicated that it would be beneficiary to cooperate with experts from other countries in pilot projects and work together by applying different tools and methods. Having experts working together on a longer term basis (so that foreign experts really understand the situation at stake), on practical project implementation is beneficial.

#### ***4. Using traditional knowledge (especially in farming)***

The Netherlands may benefit from knowledge developed in Turkey on the influence of cultural traditions on biodiversity. Exchange of traditional knowledge in agricultural practices.

- Exchange practical knowledge on organic farming, good agricultural practices and nature friendly farming systems.
- Establishing a European farmers network.
- Lessons learned from Turkish point of view are often showing that simple solutions are more viable on the long run than highly technical ones. Guidelines would be much welcomed (e.g. how to efficiently warm your house).
- Dutch experts would benefit from working with Turkey because there is an enormous richness in terms of number of species and habitats. There is a trend in Turkey to intensify land use, would therefore be very good to exchange lessons learnt from Dutch examples and try to increase the awareness of the importance of extensive land use and use of traditional practices.

*Conclusion:* Regarding the use of traditional knowledge there is a clear benefit for Dutch experts to cooperate with Turkish experts (the use of the word ‘experts’ also includes e.g. farmers) and work together on sustainable and extensive land use. Especially the richness in biodiversity might be an interesting feature of cooperation and further research for Dutch experts. Besides as mentioned often there is a lack of data on species and habitats. Even if data are available data are not shared nor stored in databases that can be exchanged. This last point stresses once again that there is a need for institutional development that supports cooperation for biodiversity protection.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* First priority is to set up a good data collection and storage system on traditional knowledge.

#### ***5. Monitoring and management planning***

The Netherlands has experience with networks, water management, and managing natural habitats. It would be of help to exchange ideas with The Netherlands on how to write good management plans (how to integrate management plans with physical and spatial planning) and in addition how to implement them.

- Share knowledge on how to develop biodiversity monitoring systems. And through Dutch connections also with existing European monitoring networks.
- Turkey and The Netherlands have cooperated for more than 20 years. Additional exchange in the field of habitat management and monitoring would be an advantage.
- Land use planning and land management: a process from villager to government, all make use of resources (connected with stakeholder involvement).
- In planning, transparency on benefits of the services that nature provides. These services should be valued, also in economic terms.

*Water and wetland management* (“when you think of the Netherlands you think of water”)

- Share knowledge and cooperate on wetlands (including protection of bird species and the exchange of expert knowledge on bird species).
- Share knowledge on integrated river basin management.
- Specific exchange on water quality, management, monitoring.
- Water pricing.

*Conclusion:* Turkish experts would be interested to cooperate in management planning for natural areas and especially, including the first point mentioned, how to develop participatory or interactive management plans. Not by provision of a new training on management planning but effectively working together in a management planning process. If a Dutch expert could provide a fresh view on the process in Turkey and maybe facilitate the process then it might be good if a Turkish expert provides his/her view on a planning process in The Netherlands. Especially in transboundary river basin and wetland management, Dutch experts are seen as being able to provide useful expertise in Turkey.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:*

The remark of ‘real’ exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands by having Turkish experts participating in a Dutch planning process and *vice versa*, is one to seriously consider. Turkish experts could work with e.g. a Dutch Water Boards for a while.

The process of Monitoring and Evaluation is a complicated process which includes large amounts of tools, methods and techniques. A team, working on a monitoring and evaluation process in Turkey reviewing what has been done so far regarding management planning and its ecological and economical effectiveness, could be an important starting point for setting new objectives for institutional (ex)change in support of biodiversity protection.

## **6. Climate Change**

Share knowledge on adaptation (biological) and mitigation of climate change and networking for climate change.

Türcek formulated a nice *recommendation*: “Turkish NGOs have to be more focused (e.g. if the NGO focuses on the protection of birds then keep your focus and do not switch to wetland management). Too many NGOs nowadays mention to have expertise on climate change, but all expertise of different NGOs together is what is needed and will result in a successful programme to combat climate change”.

## **7. Other issues**

- Organize a steppe habitat conference.
- Exchange information on eco villages (GEN: Global Ecovillages Network).
- Increase of EU financial support on biodiversity conservation.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* An important starting point will be to increase the number of projects and activities funded by EU Environmental programmes.

## **3.2 Workshop on opportunities for bilateral cooperation between Turkey and the Netherlands in the field of biodiversity conservation**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

Based on the results of the interviews a workshop was held in Ankara at the Dutch Embassy in November 2007 with representatives of the Turkish Ministries: MoEF, MoARA, MoCT and ÖCKK and NGOs: DHKD, DD, WWF, KAD, DKM, Buğday, Türçek and TEMA, and delegates of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

The aim of this workshop was to discuss the results of the interviews and discuss opportunities for future cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity protection. Participants were asked to bring a poster with their organizations' priorities in Biodiversity (see Appendix 3). These were presented at the workshop during the introduction of the participants (see workshop programme in Appendix 2).

These priorities were further supplemented plenary which resulted in the following list of issues:

### **3.2.2 Discussing the interview results and provision of additional priority issues for biodiversity conservation**

#### **1- Research on biodiversity:**

- Identification of important nature areas;
- Acceptation and recognised status;
- Multi-stakeholders processes;
- Research on diversity; research on gene diversity (agro);
- Butterfly conservation (identify prime butterfly areas in Turkey);
- Study and conservation of steppe habitats;
- Bird and mammal species inventory conservation;
- Identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation;
- Climate change;

#### **2- Management (planning) for biodiversity protection**

- Ecological networks;
- Climate change (forest, freshwater, marine);
- Reforestation of sensitive ecosystems;
- Environmental assessment analysis and planning;
- Concrete action (pilot project);
- Management Plans for Ramsar sites;
- Wetlands: development of good management plans working for local stakeholders;
- Combat erosion;
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) implementation;
- Integrated River Based Management (IRBM) implementation; monitoring endangered species; regional assessments and conservation plans;
- Systematic conservation planning for terrestrial and wetland habitats;

#### **3- Protection of biodiversity:**

- Marine Biodiversity and species;
- Identification of endemic species;
- New protected areas;

- Important plant areas identification;
- Local seed variety protection;
- Forestry protection;
- Protect birds species and habitat; medical plants and bulbs;
- Key Biodiversity Areas; protection of habitats (flora and fauna);
- Forestry and woodland protection;

#### **4-Legislation and Biodiversity:**

- Local governments;
- Systematic selection effective protection categories and active conservation for protected areas;
- Nature protection law in harmony with international conservation and EU directives;
- Rural development;

#### **5- Social Economic aspects and Biodiversity:**

- Agro ecotourism to generate alternative income for local (mostly rural) communities;
- More ecological Consumption - Protection chain;
- Organic farming;
- Creation of simple methods and techniques supporting sustainable livelihoods (e.g. mitigating soil erosion);
- Sustainable tourism;
- Adaptation to EU Acquis;
- Support policy development;

#### **6-Human Capital and Biodiversity:**

- Cooperation;
- Effective Communication;
- Networking;
- Trans-boundary cooperation;
- Bird-watching network;
- Establishing a wetland centre for Turkey;
- Working in partnership (Government, NGO, Universities and individuals)

#### **7- Culture and tradition and Biodiversity:**

- Culture protection of nature by sharing traditional culture/knowledge;
- How to use traditional knowledge (e.g. open museum);

#### **8- Capacity building and Biodiversity:**

- Youth programmes;
- Develop and deliver training (and environmental education) e.g. biodiversity monitoring;
- Increasing capacity of KBAs training centre;
- Education program;
- Eco schools: increase capacity; butterfly conservation- increase /develop field capacity; at local and national level; campaigns (e.g. signature campaigns);
- Transformation;
- Improve Turkish infrastructure;

#### **9- Raising Awareness on Biodiversity:**

- Accreditation of blue flags;
- Environmental education;
- Conservation plans for eco-regions;

- Youth programmes;

**10-Participation and Biodiversity:**

- Establishment of voluntary network;
- Increase public participation;
- Sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Participatory planning;
- Setting up local initiatives;
- Working with local communities;
- Participation: involvement of all stakeholders especially local;

Within three groups (two NGO groups and one Government group) this list was further discussed to come to a priority list. This was a difficult process and resulted in quite different lists of priorities. The lists of the two NGO groups were more focused on issues involving the human element: capacity building and involvement of local parties, whereas the governmental group focused its priorities more on governance and protection. The priority list per group are provided below.

**3.2.3 Results of group work: focussing the priority list**

***Government Group***

- ❖ Improve gene bank capacity – proper infrastructure
- ❖ Law enforcement on hunting, mainly mammals and birds good inventories needed
- ❖ Intangible cultural heritage protection – in that way protecting nature
- ❖ Increasing sustainable agriculture – more focus on organic farming
- ❖ Rural development: Support agriculture activities by training local people
- ❖ Alternative income generation in protected areas
- ❖ Awareness raising (Starting already at schools)
- ❖ Management plans preparation for protected areas
- ❖ Cooperation on legal status of protected areas
- ❖ Partnership with NGOs and GOs
- ❖ Share information on traditional knowledge with other Ministries
- ❖ Share information on traditional knowledge for Turkey
- ❖ ‘Open air museum as alternative income’
- ❖ N2000 Implementation

***NGO Group 1***

*1. Sustainability of Natural Resources (e.g. Protected areas and wetlands)*

- ❖ Ecological Network
- ❖ Endangered Species
- ❖ ‘Sound Science’
  - Data base
  - Accessible good data

*2. Legislation*

- Establish and develop
- Manage
- Monitor
- Implement



National Policy

- ❖ Management, action plans (for all stakeholders/sectors)
- ❖ Harmonise with International/EU legislation
- ❖ Financial Instruments
- ❖ Network + trans-boundary cooperation/scale

3. *Integration of Biodiversity for (financial or other) beneficial purposes*

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Public Awareness
- ❖ Capacity Building (all levels)
- ❖ Increase (public) participation (political will, implementation capacity)

**NGO Group 2**

- ❖ Increase human capacity to facilitate biodiversity conservation
- ❖ Implementation of biodiversity in all legislation
- ❖ Nature Management
- ❖ Complete restructuring of MoEF institutional setting and its policies
- ❖ Habitat management e.g. restore habitats, combat erosion
- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Systematic selection and prioritisation of areas for active conservation which considers biodiversity, socio-economics, local capacity, local interests, threats i.e. Systematic Conservation Planning

The plenary discussion converged in the common agreement by the participants that participatory planning is one of the most essential issues to focus on for Turkey. Especially with regard to the policy development process.

Currently Turkey has to harmonise national legislation and also think of the integration of international legislation. The participants of the workshop mentioned there is a need to develop a legal framework, thus avoiding overlapping legislation. Local authorities and NGOs need to be involved in this process. This policy development needs an interactive planning process and need to focus on setting SMART objectives.

This process would benefit from an exchange with The Netherlands by sharing experience on interactive planning and how to involve different stakeholders in such a process.

We tried to close the workshop with formulating a concrete product for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands. An example of such a product could for example be a capacity building trajectory on ‘real’ participation and interactive planning, as well as developing real partnerships, which includes regional trainings. One of these trainings could be e.g. Ekşisu Marshes Wetland Management Planning Course for stakeholders.

*Appendix 4 in Klok & Koopmanschap (2008) gave an overview of the funding opportunities through the Dutch BBI-MATRA programme. This programme was also discussed during the workshop. As this programme merged with the Dutch Matra Projects Programme, we removed the former Appendix 4 from the current publication. The recommendations on BBI-MATRA given by the interviewees are still useful for the overall Netherlands’ MATRA programme.*

### 3.3 Concluding remarks on identified priorities for biodiversity protection in Turkey

This paragraph gives an overview of important biodiversity issues in Turkey and priorities for cooperation or knowledge exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands, suggested by Turkish interviewed parties. In Chapter 4 preliminary recommendations will be provided on cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands for biodiversity protection. This paragraph provides some concluding remarks on the priorities raised during the interviews and the workshop.

The interviews and the discussions during the workshop presented a great diversity in priorities. Yet there are also some clear priorities that were mentioned by the majority of parties interviewed and that were also stressed during the workshop.

#### 1. Data collection and sharing

Turkey is very rich in biodiversity, which has largely not yet been (fully) quantified, e.g. inventories usually only cover small areas, and few species. Increase in the human population and economic development pose a strong pressure on biodiversity. This pressure is, however, difficult to quantify due to the lack of basic ecological data. Besides if data are available, these are usually beneficial for a single party since there is currently no strategy to share data.

Therefore in data collection and use networking and knowledge exchange is needed: Data have to be shared by all institutes (e.g. development of databases on biodiversity that can be used by all relevant parties). Exchange can be greatly facilitated by an independent National Scientific Authority. For wetlands, ideas for such an Authority have been developed in the form of a Wetland Centre for Turkey.

#### 2. Legislation, institutional setting and cooperation

Turkey lacks a clear structure in legislation on biodiversity and in addition different Ministries have influence on different aspects of biodiversity. 'Grassland habitats are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; woodlands under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Special Protected Areas under ÖÇKK; Water/Wetlands under State Hydraulic Works (and therefore also under Ministry of Environment and Forestry); archaeological and National Heritage Sites under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism'. Still it is possible to have a proper institutional setting if different Ministries are involved in policy development, but cooperation is really a problem that needs attention. Besides legislation needs to be adapted and developed collaboratively to be really able to conserve biodiversity.

Cooperation should be enhanced, not only between governments and NGOs but also among NGOs (ownership of projects means money and this often blocks cooperation due to lack of trust).

The Birds- and Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) and the EU WFD may facilitate the harmonisation of policies.

#### 3. Protection of ecosystems

There are several ecosystems that need further attention regarding protection; especially wetland, coastal zones, and steppe grasslands were mentioned. Again some of the parties stressed that implementing Natura 2000 and the EU WFD (and thus the River Basin Approach) may be beneficiary for the water management in Turkey. Coastal Zones and Marine areas need further attention and some former forest areas need to be restored.

Steppe habitats have a high biodiversity, however, little is known on the actual abundance of species since the number of inventories has been low; moreover this habitat is not under the specific responsibility of any specific governmental body.

In line with Natura 2000, many parties mentioned the need for connection of key biodiversity areas or protected areas, thus establishing an ecological network for Turkey that can be linked to the development of a pan-European network.

#### **4. Integrated and participatory management planning**

Turkish experts also mentioned the need for management planning, especially for vulnerable areas like wetlands. There are many protected areas but most of them lack a management plan, in particular a plan that has been developed interactively with local stakeholders.

Environmental Impact Assessments need to be endorsed, especially regarding the construction of dams. Further promotion of sustainable tourism and organic agriculture is needed. In agriculture especially 'wild irrigation' needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

One of the most important issues mentioned was the lack of interactive planning and the involvement of all stakeholders in nature conservation. This of course has a strong link with the lack of cooperation and the lack of a supportive institutional setting.

#### **5. Capacity building**

Capacity building or development was another key issue often mentioned. At the NGO level, capacity is improving as can be inferred from the recent increase in number of personnel and the quality of their projects. To further strengthen capacity, cooperation with the Netherlands may be beneficial by exchanging knowledge and expertise and by networking.

Although the Ministry of Environment has an overruling influence on biodiversity protection (through the fact that development investments need an Environmental Impact Assessment which has to be accepted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry), the capacity within the Ministry strongly constrains optimization of this influence. In general shortage of technically trained and specialized staff is a major constraint in environmental conservation programs in Turkey.

'There is a lack of financial and human resources in Ministries and NGOs' and 'Criticism is a difficult issue in Turkey'.

#### **6. Preserving and using local knowledge**

Next to a high biodiversity Turkey also holds a rich cultural diversity resulting in a large amount of unexploited local knowledge which can be very important in the management of biodiversity at a site level.

## 4 Preliminary recommendations for a draft agenda for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity protection

*(Recommendations are based on the interviews and workshop with Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations based in Turkey only. Part 3 of the report will provide a SWOT analysis and recommendations that also include the Netherlands' perspective)*

During the interviews and the workshop, held on 22 November 2007, advantages of cooperation or knowledge exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands have been mentioned.

Especially cooperation was mentioned to be beneficiary in the fields of expertise mentioned below. This could therefore be seen as a preliminary agenda for cooperation or knowledge exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands. In 2008 also Dutch parties active in biodiversity in Turkey have been interviewed. Only after having also an overview of priorities outlined by organisations based in The Netherlands a final 'Green Knowledge Exchange agenda' can be formulated.

### **Participation and stakeholder involvement**

In nearly all interviews the issue of participation was mentioned. Many projects are said not to be sustainable on the long run due to the lack of participation of *all* relevant parties. This does not only include local communities but also governmental organisations (at all levels). Most projects lack an *interactive* planning process at an early stage.

The fact that local participation has been perceived as an important aspect of biodiversity management by most interviewed parties, methodologies and ways to strengthen local participation and the facilitation of planning processes also is a theme from which both Turkey and The Netherlands may benefit in cooperation.

### **Implementation of EU legislation**

Two issues clearly came forward. There is currently not a favourable environment or suitable institutional setting for biodiversity protection. Legislation is overlapping, cooperation is lacking between Ministries and between government and civil society. This also affects a smooth implementation of the EU's Acquis Communautaire.

Regarding the implementation of Natura 2000 and the EU WFD The Netherlands can very well support by providing practical methods and tools. But as mentioned during many interviews, the focus should be on practical implementation guidance, and not on general information on what new EU legislation includes. This should be a point of attention for future projects. *'How can these experts understand our situation if they just come for a week from time to time'* was mentioned during interviews. In many projects budget constraints restrict stronger involvement from the Dutch side. Aside from budget issues there are ample suitable experts from the Dutch side whom could share their experiences on the practical EU legislation implementation process. A possible solution to facilitate exchange of knowledge may therefore be institutional exchange of personnel.

Another point mentioned during the interviews is that often too young or inexperienced experts were replacing those experts of whom CVs had been included in project proposals.

In addition an important starting point to further implement EU legislation will be to increase the number of projects and activities funded by EU Environmental programmes.

### **Data collection and sharing**

Data collection and sharing was not directly mentioned as a priority for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands. But exchange of views on 'knowledge management' (which actually involves

implementation of the Aarhus Convention, which stresses the access to information) could be of added value for Turkish as well as Dutch experts. Particularly regarding the approximation process of Turkey to the EU and therefore linking key biodiversity areas in Turkey to Natura 2000 sites in the EU Member States, which means as much as making data available in and comparable between different Member States. Direct cooperation between Turkish and Dutch experts is in that sense extremely useful.

### **Enhancing capacity building**

Capacity Building is needed in Turkey but the request for it is to really focus on *practical* capacity building. The interviewed experts from Turkish side indicated that it would be beneficiary to cooperate with experts from other countries in pilot projects and work together by applying different tools and methods. Having experts working together on project implementation on a long term basis, so that foreign experts really understand the situation at stake but still can have a fresh look from outside, is expected to be beneficial.

### **Using traditional knowledge (especially in farming)**

Regarding the use of traditional knowledge there is a clear benefit for Dutch experts to cooperate with Turkish experts (including farmers) and work together on sustainable and extensive land use. Especially the richness in biodiversity may be an interesting feature of cooperation and further research for Dutch experts. Besides as mentioned often there is a lack of species and habitat data. Even if data are available data are not well shared and also not stored in databases that can be exchanged with existing models or databases. This last point stresses once again that there is a need for institutional development that supports cooperation for biodiversity protection.

A first priority is to set up a good data collection and storage system. This however has to be linked with the facilitation of an institutional change process in this way really creating an enabling environment that encourages effective cooperation for the protection of biodiversity.

### **Monitoring and management planning**

Turkish experts would be interested to cooperate in the field of development of management plans for natural areas and especially in gaining insight in how to develop these in a participatory and interactive way. This knowledge should not be introduced by theoretical training but by project based cooperation in a management planning process. ‘Management Planning’ as such is not at all a new concept in Turkey, but how to make this really a participatory processes that is taken into account at Government level and how to overcome the often conflicting interests between different governmental bodies.

In such a process experts of both countries can learn, because also Turkish experts have the possibility to express their opinion on the Dutch planning process. Especially in transboundary river basin and wetland management, Dutch experts are seen as being able to provide useful expertise in Turkey. And how to implement management plan and comply with the agenda of different Ministries.

The remark of ‘real’ exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands by having Turkish experts participating in a Dutch planning process and vice versa, is one to seriously consider (e.g. participation in a Dutch Water Board).

Furthermore, an international team working on a monitoring and an evaluation process in Turkey, reviewing what has been done so far regarding management planning and its ecological and economical effectiveness, could be an important starting point for setting new objectives for institutional (ex)change.

*These are ‘just’ preliminary ideas for the ‘green knowledge exchange’ agenda between Turkey and The Netherlands which will be further elaborated, after taking into account the view of experts from governmental and non-governmental organisations based in the Netherlands. This will be done in Part 3 of the current report.*

**Part 2**

**Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands**  
**The Dutch Perspective**

**Interviews with experts from Governmental and Non-  
Governmental Organisations based in The Netherlands**



## **5 Reports of interviews – the Dutch perspective**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Some clear issues were mentioned to be priority during the interviews with experts based in Turkey and during the workshop held in November 2007. These issues can be divided into the broad categories as outlined below.

- **Implementation of EU legislation**
- **Participation and stakeholder involvement**
- **Data collection and sharing**
- **Enhancing capacity building**
- **Using traditional knowledge (especially in farming)**
- **Monitoring and management planning**

During the interviews and workshop these broad categories were also said to reflect the areas for which cooperation with The Netherlands is expected to be beneficial.

From both the interviews as well as the workshop it appeared that Turkey lacks a clearly structured legislation on biodiversity conservation, a favourable institutional setting and the capacity to enhance effective law enforcement. Currently Turkey has to structure national legislation, harmonise it with European legislation (regarding its pre-accession status) and adapt legislation to comply with international agreements like Ramsar, CBD, CITES etc..

The participants of the workshop mentioned there is a need to develop a legal framework thus avoiding overlapping legislation. Local authorities and NGOs need to be involved in this process. This policy development needs an interactive planning process and a focus on setting SMART objectives. This process would benefit from an exchange with The Netherlands by sharing experience on interactive planning and how to involve different stakeholders in such a process.

In this part (Part 2) we aim to provide a better view on existing ideas of governmental bodies and NGOs based in the Netherlands.

### **5.2 Semi-Structured Interviews**

We used the same questionnaire as reported in Klok & Koopmanschap (2008)/Part 1 of this report. This questionnaire just served as a guideline for the interviews. During the interviews it was discussed in which specific biodiversity field experts from organisations based in The Netherlands thought cooperation between The Netherlands and Turkey would be beneficial and if so, who should be involved. Please find the ‘guiding questions’ used during the discussions below.

**Guiding questions during the discussion on ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands:**

- Is your organization currently involved in biodiversity issues in Turkey?
- Can you name relevant projects?
- With which organizations do you cooperate?
- Does your organization involve citizens in their actions?

- What is your organization's priority in issues concerned with Biodiversity in Turkey?
- What are advantages and/or disadvantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues? What are past experiences if any and what are priorities for future cooperation?
- Which organizations should be included in this so called 'Green Knowledge Exchange'?

## **5.3 Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality**

### **5.3.1 Interview with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality**

Mr. Martin Lok, Director Directorate General of Nature. 07-May-2007

#### *Current involvement of LNV in Turkey*

LNV (co-) finances many biodiversity projects in Turkey through the BBI-Matra (Beleidsprogramma Biodiversiteit Internationaal - Maatschappelijke Transformatie) programs.

#### *Cooperation*

The projects (co-) financed by LNV usually include local NGOs. This is perceived as an advantage for success.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Ecological networks and wetlands: especially important for flyways of migratory birds with specific interest in the risk of Avian Influenza (AI)
- Economic chains: focusing on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, marine biodiversity and coastal management
- Agricultural development and biodiversity protection
- Tourism and biodiversity
- Implementation of international and European biodiversity agreements: CMS (Convention on Migratory Species), CBD (Convention on Biological Biodiversity), Natura 2000 and WFD (Water Framework Directive)

#### *Advantages of co-operation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

Advantages of co-operation are:

- Enlargement of the European Natura 2000 with sites in Turkey will strengthen the whole European network which has beneficial effects also on Natura 2000 sites in The Netherlands.
- Migratory birds that winter in The Netherlands and breed in the Arctic connect wetlands in The Netherlands with wetlands in Turkey which are used by birds that breed in the Arctic and pass through Turkey to their wintering grounds further south. This implies that the effectiveness of policy directed at e.g. Avian Influenza (AI) in The Netherlands is influenced by policy in Turkey directed at AI.
- The Netherlands can share knowledge on how to implement European Biodiversity policy (Natura 2000, WFD).
- Turkey and The Netherlands can share knowledge on coastal management of areas of high biodiversity value where other activities such as fisheries and tourism induce a pressure on biodiversity (e.g. Wadden Sea in The Netherlands and Black sea coast and Mediterranean coast in Turkey).

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- Delegates of ministries and NGOs

## **5.4 Dutch Civil Society**

### **5.4.1 Interview with the Association for Environmental Education (IVN) Nederland**

Mr. Ruud Maarschall, Manager International. 16-July-2008

#### *Introduction*

IVN is an organization for Nature Education. Its mission is to contribute to a sustainable society by connecting people with nature in their environment. IVN International focuses on nature education and education for sustainable development where nature is perceived in its socio-economic context, with the aim to contribute to poverty reduction and full local participation. IVN therefore works in line with the international conventions like the Decade Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

IVN strives to show how nature, its deterioration and conservation relate to socio-economic aspect of our human society, and why nature protection in isolation from these aspects is relatively inefficient. E.g. the project 'Black tailed godwit' clearly indicates that nature crosses borders. Protection of this migratory species only in The Netherlands will not be sustainable; also their wintering areas should be considered and socio-economic aspects in the wintering areas. This can be a complicated issue given e.g. that low quota in Dutch territorial waters resulted in more fishing activities of Dutch vessels in waters near the North African coast. This increased pressure from fisheries and reduced the livelihood of local fishermen. Locals, therefore, shift to other activities which result in an increased exploitation of wetlands in coastal zones. Such a higher exploitation can be expected to conflict with the interest of waders, like our overwintering godwits, that feed in these wetlands. Further IVN signifies the importance of ecosystem services of nature, e.g. by showing loss of economic value for tourism on the mid and long term in case of unsustainable use of mountain areas for skiing on the Uludağ in the Bursa region in Western Turkey.

#### *Background information IVN (brochures and internet)*

IVN develops educational methods, training programmes, projects (around 700 annually) and materials to support professional workers, government, volunteers and other parties. IVN also participates in the Dutch professional environmental network. IVN develops and publishes a wide range of educational books on the environment, brochures, posters etc. 'Mens en Natuur' (Man and Nature) is the IVN volunteer quarterly magazine, whereas 'Podium' and 'Podium Actueel' are mainly consulted by professionals. All three magazines are in Dutch. A well-equipped information centre, [www.podiumonline.nl](http://www.podiumonline.nl), specializes in online information services.

IVN has branches (consultancies) in all 12 Dutch provinces, with professional consultants. These all have their own regional networks and link national developments and activities to local levels and vice versa. Since 2004 IVN International is increasingly involved in bilateral educational projects, both in Europe (the 'new neighbours' of the European Union), West-Africa and the Caribbean. In 2005, the Yves Rocher Foundation honoured an educational project in Madagascar, co-produced by IVN. IVN is a member of IUCN; one staff member joins the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. IVN International combines the spirit and knowledge of both volunteers and professional staff by initiating and participating in small scale international education activities, always with local partners.

#### *Current involvement of IVN in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

- Capacity Building of environmental NGOs in Turkey on water management, nature conservation and rural development.

This project is organized by KNNV in cooperation with WWF Turkey. IVN participates in the project to help strengthen the capacity of environmental NGOs in Turkey such that they can play a major role in the transition process towards a democratic society by implementing principles of a sustainable management

of natural resources and protection of biodiversity. IVN enhances capacity of the environmental NGO on nature education by train the trainer principles.

- Establishment of a Volunteer Network for the Important Plant Areas in Turkey-IPANET

This project is cooperation between IVN, Floron and DHKD, led by Rubicon. IVN plays an important role in this project to enhance the capacity of DHKD staff and volunteers such that they can actively work in multi-stakeholder platforms to influence the decision-making processes involved in natural-resources management and in particular those pertaining to globally important plants in Turkey.

#### *Cooperation*

In Turkey:

- TEMA
- WWF-Turkey
- DHKD

In The Netherlands:

- IUCN
- Both-Ends

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

Capacity building on nature education. Connect people to nature by enhancing the involvement and participation of citizens.

#### *Advantages of co-operation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Exchange knowledge on environmental education
- Facilitate capacity building e.g. by helping to organize training activities
- Facilitate participation
- Facilitate institutional development
- Exchange of knowledge (including local) and exchange of experience.

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- NGOs, Ministries and universities. Important note also include education, and institutional development

### **5.4.2 Interview with the Avalon Foundation**

Mr. Mark Redman, consultant. 31-May-2007

#### *Introduction*

The Avalon Foundation aims to promote sustainable rural development based on organic farming, mainly in the countries of Central & Eastern Europe. The organisation was founded in 1991. Avalon is a member of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

#### *Background information Avalon Foundation (brochures and internet)*

The mission of Avalon is to contribute to an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agriculture and rural development in the countries in the Central and Eastern European region and beyond. Next to strengthening and management of the Avalon Network, a wide range of activities and instruments are being applied. These can be grouped in Sustainable Rural Development, Agri-Environmental Policy and Knowledge and Capacity Building. In these three programs Avalon

- Stimulates the development, implementation and exchange of innovative ideas on sustainable rural development and organic agriculture
- Stimulates Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations as well as the private sector to put sustainable rural development into practice and assists them on all levels, from policymaking to the production and marketing of organic products
- Assists beneficiaries, mainly farmers and their organisations, in strengthening their capacity to develop and implement rural innovations based on organic agriculture and agricultural nature management
- Influences and assists governments to formulate and introduce viable agri-environment policies. This is necessary to secure a stable sustainable countryside
- Uses and strengthens its network to stress the importance of sustainable rural development and to give greater publicity to its activities

Over the years Avalon's activities contributed to the promotion and strengthening of organic farming, agri-environmental policy and market development in more than twenty countries. Another result is the establishment of a vast network of over 120 actors in the field of organic agriculture, nature conservation, biodiversity and sustainable rural development. This network links people who are active in Avalon projects with each other and with professionals on EU and international level. Avalon facilitates this network by providing communication and capacity building tools.

#### *Current involvement of Avalon in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

Avalon is currently supporting the elaboration of a national Agri-Environmental program for Turkey. This ongoing project started in January 2006 finishes July 2008 is financed by BBI-Matra. The objectives of this project are to introduce the concepts of:

- Agri-Environmental payments
- High nature value farming systems

The project process has 3 main components: 1<sup>st</sup> establishment of a multi stakeholder working group, 2<sup>nd</sup> creating a learning environment, 3<sup>rd</sup> working in partnership with the working group to deliver technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MoARA), further develop the concept of a national agri-environment programme, and prepare a manual in English and Turkish on Agri-Environment understandable for people who have to work with it.

*The English version of the handbook: Redman, M and M. Hemmami, 2008. Agri-environment Handbook for Turkey, Buğday Derneği, Ankara 2008. ISBN 978-605-5714-00-0.*

Avalon has been facilitating the development of Agri-Environmental programmes in many pre-accession countries since 1989, Turkey is the 12<sup>th</sup> in line. Turkey is an interesting country because of the natural diversity and complex relationship between agriculture and the environment.

#### *Cooperation*

The project consortium includes Avalon, IEEP (Institute for European Environmental Policy) and Buğday Derneği. DD is a subcontractor. Avalon co-operates with the two Ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In general Avalon does specifically involve citizens in its projects, however in this specific project farmers were not involved mainly to refrain from raising expectation, since Turkey first has to access the EU before Agri-environmental funds will become available to the farmers.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Support sustainable rural development. This is also the general priority of Avalon in the whole of Eastern Europe.
- Networking and facilitating knowledge exchange.

*Advantages of cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

- Innovation for both countries
- Share and develop skills for networking

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- NGOs and Ministries, universities are questionable (they ultimately have their own research agenda)

### 5.4.3 Interview with the Coastal Union (EUCC - The Coastal Union)

Mr. Alan Pickaver, head of Policy Unit. 15-July-2008

*Introduction*

EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association with 2700 members and member organizations in 40 countries of which Turkey is one. EUCC was founded in 1989 with the aim of promoting coastal conservation by bridging the gap between scientists, environmentalists, site managers, planners and policy makers. Its working area is Europe, the Mediterranean and Black Sea and other neighbouring regions. EUCC's mission is to promote coastal and marine management that integrates biodiversity conservation with those forms of development that sustain the integrity of landscapes, the cultural heritage and the social fabric of coasts taking into account the effects of climate change. EUCC advocates best practice by developing coastal and marine policies, mobilizing experts and stakeholders, providing advice and information, and implementing demonstration projects. EUCC has 14 National branches.

Aims of EUCC are:

- Promote sustainable development of coastal zones
- Influence policy development at a regional and European level.
- Make high quality data available to coastal professionals and disseminate knowledge to coastal scientists, policy makers, practitioners and the interested public

*Background information EUCC (brochures and internet)*

The Dutch branch of EUCC is called the Kustvereniging ([www.kustvereniging.nl](http://www.kustvereniging.nl)). On the national level the Kustvereniging runs several projects, and publishes the monthly e-mail newsletter KustMail, a coastal magazine (Kust & Zee Gids), a website on sustainable coastal tourism in The Netherlands, ([www.kustgids.nl](http://www.kustgids.nl)). Since 2002 the Kustvereniging closely collaborates with Duinbehoud, De Noordzee, and Ecomare in the annual 'Week van de Zee' (Week of the Sea) ([www.weekvandezee.nl](http://www.weekvandezee.nl)) and in other projects. Member organizations include: Waddenvereniging, Stichting Duinbehoud, Ecomare, Duinwaterbedrijf Zuid-Holland, Waternet Amsterdam, NV PWN Waterbedrijf Noord-Holland, Zuid-Hollands Landschap, Zeeuws Landschap, Staatsbosbeheer.

On the international level, EUCC is involved in:

- The EECONET Action Fund (EAF). This fund operates as an independent fund for urgent conservation actions under the umbrella of NatureNet Europe. It is a joint fund of EUCC
- The Coastal Union, EUROSITE (European union of site management organisations), Euronatur (European Natural Heritage Fund) and the ECNC (European Centre for Nature Conservation). The EAF is governed by a Board consisting of board members representing EUCC, EUROSITE, Euronatur, ECNC and an independent President. The EAF Secretariat is hosted and supported by EUCC
- The Coastal Union in Leiden, The Netherlands. EUCC is involved supporting the ICZM process in the Black Sea region to support the Ministry of Environment in Ukraine to develop a Draft Law on sustainable management of the coastal zone.

- A web-based Coastal WIKI ([www.encora.eu](http://www.encora.eu)). The Kustverenigingand takes the lead in implementing information in the WIKI on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Participation and Implementation.
- The South-East European Ecological Network SEENET programme coordinated by ECNC, in partnership with EUCC and Stichting Noordzee.

Important issues concerning Turkey are sustainable coastal tourism and investment in land buying through EAF (supported by LNV, IUCN and others to support local NGOs to buy land for nature conservation). The international branch of EUCC focused more on the political level more than citizens directly. The philosophy of EUCC is that sustainable coastal management includes public participation whereby all relevant stakeholders including business, government, science, and the general public, have a say in coastal management decisions.

Activities of EUCC can also result in scientific progress as exemplified in the project led by EUCC in the Black Sea region where an oyster reef was discovered. Such reefs built up from flat oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) have not been reported before, the only other existing oyster reef was reported in the East of the United States built by *Crassostrea virginica*.

#### *Current involvement of EUCC in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

- Science and Policy Integration for Coastal Systems Assessment SPICOSA is a 6<sup>th</sup> EU framework program with 50 partners lead by France in which EUCC is involved in many case studies of which Izmit Bay Turkey is one. The aim of SPICOSA is to promote a multidisciplinary system approach in coastal zone management that integrates ecological social and economic assessments to seek policy options that result in sustainable management of coastal zones.

#### *Cooperation*

In Turkey:

- WWF
- Birdlife
- Turkish Ministries
- Municipalities
- Local government and citizens

In general EUCC cooperates with all parties interested in nature conservation, biodiversity, sustainable development, and tourism.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

Priority issues for EUCC are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), both in open sea and coastal zones, and sustainable coastal zone management. EUCC has more interest in the Turkish Black Sea region (given many past and ongoing activities in this region) than the Turkish Mediterranean region.

#### *Advantages of co-operation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Share knowledge on coastal zone management
- Facilitate processes between parties. EUCC can play an important role in facilitation; bringing different parties within a country together. Next to cooperation also money is often a bottleneck. Investments from abroad can change the attitude of local parties concerning biodiversity in a positive way.
- Exchange visits can be beneficiary for both parties

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- NGOs, Ministries and Research Institutes which have direct links with ministries

*Note:* For Turkey no complete information on biodiversity is available (especially species diversity in marine systems is relatively unknown), this makes effective protection difficult. Small NGOs face the problem of not being able to set the agenda.

#### **5.4.4 Interview with the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC)**

Mrs. Ayşegül Cil. 14-May-2007

##### *Introduction*

ECNC is an independent European Biodiversity Expertise Centre for sustainable development, based on a foundation structure. Currently the ECNC Network comprises 46 partners in 23 European countries. ECNC devotes a great deal of attention to partnerships. Since its inception, ECNC has prioritized the development of partnerships and alliances, which could result in the following benefits for Europe's biodiversity and people:

- Stronger pools of expertise and innovation, which will provide better and more comprehensive products for clients and/or funders;
- Enhanced impact of activities;
- More benefits of scale and scope, resulting in more efficient processes;
- Enhanced stakeholder involvement and understanding, resulting in more effective biodiversity approaches and increased potential for sustainable economic development.

##### *Background information ECNC (brochures and internet)*

The mission of ECNC is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of nature and biodiversity in Europe, because of their intrinsic values and their relevance to the economy and European culture. ECNC seeks to bridge the gap between science and policy, between economy and ecology. ECNC prefers to find common ground in interests and promotes new and effective approaches to and ways of conservation for sustainable development. ECNC works in five fields:

- Nature and Society
- Business and biodiversity
- European ecological networks
- State of European Nature and biodiversity
- International Policy support

These fields highlight the relationship between nature and people; address the market based conservation and use of biodiversity; focus on connectivity of nature and land uses; monitor changes in biodiversity; and combine international and European policies with regional and local situations and approaches. ECNC also specifically addresses European landscape issues, because the landscape is a basis and a reflection of economic development, culture and resilient biodiversity.

##### *Current involvement of ECNC in Turkey*

- Currently, ECNC's SEENET programme aims to support and facilitate the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) in South-East Europe and the Black Sea area. Turkey is one of the countries within the SEENET Programme where Turkey the Ministry of Environment and Forestry participates in this project. SEENET is now in its final stage.
- A second project directed at capacity building and knowledge transfer is at the moment in a proposal phase (BBI-Matra) and awaiting for funding from the Dutch Ministry.

##### *Cooperation*

In all projects (current and forthcoming) ECNC has direct cooperation with NGOs and National governments. Stakeholders like citizens are involved through the NGOs. ECNC does not seek only to

cooperate with large well known NGOs but also involves small unknown NGOs in their network. Turkish NGOs involved in exchanging knowledge with ECNC are:

- TEMA
- Türçek

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Ecological Networks (Pan European) and capacity building, communication and information exchange
- Biodiversity in a socio/economical context, capacity building, facilitation and knowledge exchange
- Implementation of international and European biodiversity agreements e.g. Natura 2000 facilitation and capacity building with a particular emphasis on stakeholder involvement and participation at regional and local level.
- Biodiversity and the science policy interface
- Biodiversity and knowledge transfer between European countries where stakeholders (citizens) participate as e.g. in the EU project Lifescape

*Advantages of co-operation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

Advantages of co-operation are:

- Enlargement of the European Natura 2000 with sites in Turkey will strengthen the whole European network effectively.
- ECNC has a large network, knowledge structure and can facilitate candidate countries like Turkey to apply for European funds and enlarge their expertise.
- Turkey and The Netherlands can transfer knowledge on how to implement European biodiversity agreements given the fact that the planning authority is at the municipality level where capacity on biodiversity issues is insufficient.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- Delegates of ministries and NGOs and scientists from universities

#### **5.4.5 Interview with Vogelbescherming Nederland**

Mrs. Dianne Nijland, head Public Affairs. 15-July-2008

*Introduction*

Vogelbescherming Nederland is an independent NGO financially supported by 141,000 members, by enterprises and organizations. Vogelbescherming is the Dutch partner of BirdLife International, the organisation dedicated at the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats. Birds are good indicators of the state and quality of nature and the environment. An essential precondition to conserve biodiversity on earth is preserving the richness in bird species under natural living conditions.

*Background information Vogelbescherming (brochures and internet)*

Vogelbescherming was founded in 1899. Bird populations are not restricted to the Dutch borders, no more than the habitats they need. Therefore, Vogelbescherming Nederland is the Dutch Partner of BirdLife International, a globally active Partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations with a focus on birds and their habitats.

Vogelbescherming Nederland bases its priorities on three aspects:

1. Legal protection
2. Species and Habitats
3. Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

1. Legal protection of birds and their habitats is the basis of the projects run by Vogelbescherming. Vogelbescherming helps in an active way to achieve legislation and keeps a keen eye on the implementation.

2. Vogelbescherming draws up conservation plans for threatened species and is also closely involved in their implementation. The aim is to help a whole group of birds through protection of certain habitats, instead of only one species. An example of a successful approach is the Conservation Plan for Marshland Birds.

3. Legally protected Important Bird areas are of international importance for large numbers of birds. Conservation of Important Bird Areas is the main concern within Vogelbescherming's policy. Wetlands are given special attention and a network of volunteer IBA-caretakers has been set up to protect these sites.

To achieve protection of birds and their habitats Vogelbescherming is involved in conservation programmes, intensive cooperation with (inter)national NGOs, advocacy, public campaigns, extension etc. The conservation programme of Vogelbescherming is subdivided in four themes focusing on:

- Birds and their habitats in the natural environment;
- Birds and their habitats in the rural environment;
- Birds and their habitats in the urban environment, and
- Birds and their habitats in the international context.

Vogelbescherming is active in countries that are:

- On the international flyway, more specifically the East Atlantic flyway with emphasis on Northern and Western Africa;
- Countries that have historic relations with The Netherlands (e.g. Netherlands Antilles, Indonesia);
- Countries bordering middle and east European countries.

The type of cooperation with these countries can be by both financial and personnel means or only financial. The philosophy of Vogelbescherming is to enhance institutional development, and facilitate development of democratic NGOs who are financially supported by their own members, with a clear link to the general public and good contact with governments.

The general idea is to let these NGOs organize activities themselves in their own country (institutional development).

#### *Current involvement of Vogelbescherming in Biodiversity issues in Turkey*

Vogelbescherming was involved in two projects, of which one has ended this year:

- Key Biodiversity Areas. The important bird areas are identified by BirdLife Partners in Russia, Ukraine and Turkey with financial support of Vogelbescherming Nederland. This activity was financially supported by the PIN-MATRA fund of the Dutch government. These projects have largely strengthened the network of important bird areas in Eastern Europe. In Turkey the Turkish BirdLife Partner, Doğa Derneği has identified the Key Biodiversity areas and the results are reported in a book.
- Zero Extinction Fund for Nature by corporate and private sponsorship. This fund will be used to carry out priority conservation actions in 305 Key Biodiversity Areas selected by Doğa Derneği.

Projects will include threatened orchid species conservation in Southern Turkey and preservation of Turkey's last remaining Demoiselle Cranes. This activity was financially supported by the BBI-MATRA fund of the Dutch government.

#### *Cooperation*

In Turkey: Doğa Derneği, the Counsellor for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands Embassy in Ankara and Ministries. Vogelbescherming generally has no direct contact with citizens in countries abroad. Turkey is a special case in the sense that many Dutch citizens have Turkish roots. On 'how to inform, involve, and mobilize this group for bird protection both in The Netherlands and in Turkey', a quick scan among leading Turkish citizens in The Netherlands was financed by Vogelbescherming.

#### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Bird protection and their habitat following international criteria such as set by IUCN,
- Flyways (traditionally more the East Atlantic flyway),
- Involvement of Turkish citizens in bird protection

#### *Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

- Facilitate institutional development;
- Mobilize and involve the Turkish community in The Netherlands and Turkey in bird protection;
- Realize goals on bird protection;
- Exchange knowledge.

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- NGOs and Ministries, research institutes and universities.

*Important note:* also include communication, marketing and institutional development

### **5.4.6 Interview with the Royal Dutch Society for Natural History – Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging (KNNV)**

Mr. Peter Veen, consultant. 25-July-2008.

#### *Introduction*

The Royal Dutch Society for Natural History (KNNV) is a society which aims at active participation in and with nature: through the enjoyment of nature, through natural history studies and through nature conservation. The KNNV is in essence a society for field biology.

Mr. Peter Veen carries out, on request, the coordination of KNNV's Foreign Affairs Committee.

#### *Background information KNNV's Foreign Affairs Committee(based on interview)*

The work of KNNV abroad focuses on the following themes:

1. Biodiversity and agriculture (which is the oldest theme): Projects are implemented since 1997 in 13 CEECs. In 2009 a book will be published on biodiversity and agriculture in Europe.
2. Ancient woodlands: Projects are implemented since 1998 in three countries
3. Implementation of Natura 2000 and related issues: Projects since 1992. Projects include preparation of regional ecological networks (Hungary, Slovakia), preparation of management plans for National Parks (Slovenia), training of local platforms and national institutions in the

aspects of Natura 2000 and projects concerning completion of the annexes of the HD for Balcan countries (Croatia).

KNNV consists of a team of 10 experts and if necessary other experts will be subcontracted for projects, this involves also experts from the new EU Member States.

*Current involvement of KNNV in biodiversity issues in Turkey*

Important projects involve projects in biodiversity and agriculture.

1. MATRA-BBI project on assessment of knowledge about sustainable steppic grassland management (KNNV – WWF TR project). The project resulted in three outputs: 1. a bibliography about steppic grasslands with about 1.000 publications included; 2. In depth analysis of existing knowledge about pasture management and biodiversity aspects; 3. Proposal for further research about grassland mapping.
2. MATRA project (2007-2009): Training and Capacity Building of Environmental NGOs (in principal only for Turkish national NGOs, but also regional NGOs are joining in workshops and also GOs are invited). The project is carried out together with WWF and focuses mainly on the following national Turkish environmental NGOs: TEMA Foundation, Research Association for Rural Environment and Forestry (KIRCEV), Ecological Research Society (EKAD), The Environment Foundation of Turkey (TCV), Nature Conservation Foundation (DKV), Nature Society (DD) which operate at national level, are identified as the key partners. A total of 5 workshops will be implemented: the first (Ankara) and second (Bursa) workshop focused on water management (e.g. how to develop a vision for water management planning), the third workshop (Rize) dealt with nature conservation in general and the fourth and fifth workshop will have rural development as central issue. Workshop four will especially put attention to the how in The Netherlands Rural Development Plans (Plattelandsontwikkelings Plan) were drafted and implemented. The workshops concentrate on methodologies and methods used in water management, rural development and nature conservation in general. Development of plans, based on long term visions and environmental assessments are hot items. The workshops so far had between 30 and 40 participants.
3. Mr. Veen is involved as independent consultant in a Government to Government project managed by DLG on the sustainable management of pastures which started in January 2008 and will run for 2 years. This project was also an outcome of the first mentioned project also.

*Cooperation*

KNNV cooperates within these projects with the following Turkish governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as knowledge institutes: MoARA, MoARA's Crop Institute, MoEF (mainly the DG of National Parks and different Forestry departments and Natura 2000 department), University of Ankara, Middle East Technical University (METU), WWF, TEMA, Buğday Derneği, DD, KIRCEV, EKAD, TCV, DKV.

For the projects developed and carried out in Turkey, KNNV works mainly together with IVN (Ruud Maarschall), DLG and University Utrecht in The Netherlands.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

Two issues can be distinguished as priorities, i.e.:

1. The implementation of Natura 2000: An EU Twinning project with Germany as leading partner has been carried out over the last years. A start up on the implementation process was made but in fact a lot has to happen still because the technical preparations needs much attention. A first step has been made already (harmonisation of legislation) but especially the identification of new habitat types in the Anatolian biogeographical region needs attention, the same goes for species which are of an European importance. A major barrier in the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directive can be that universities have a limited capacity to be involved in this process and

national funds are restricted. The co-operation between research institutes and governmental institutions should be intensified also because there is a need that scientific knowledge could support the accession process.

2. Agri-environmental management (schemes): Traditionally range land is seen as agricultural lands and is under the responsibility of MoARA. It is proved already by the Grassland Project (BBI-MATRA Project) that pastures are important regarding biodiversity and the number of endemic species is high (40% of national endemic plants rely on steppes). KNNV has a great experience in research and making management strategies. This experience can help also to make the bridge between agriculture and nature conservation aims.

#### *Advantages of the cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

The transfer of knowledge and new methods and techniques is an important advantage for Turkey: ‘How to identify, value and manage biodiversity’. The Netherlands plays an important role in bringing different groups together.

The advantage for The Netherlands is that The Netherlands always has and had biodiversity protection as a high priority on its agenda, therefore we are more or less obliged to advocate biodiversity protection also in other countries. In the CBD The Netherlands especially put agrobiodiversity as an important issue. Nature conservation in other European countries largely benefits nature conservation in The Netherlands at the same time and therefore also economic development (and not only because of Dutch organisations working in Nature Conservation abroad).

In addition it is beneficial that Western and Eastern (including Turkish) cultures get to know each other better and that similarities and differences are getting more clear.

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

NGOs, Universities and Ministries, but especially the last two. NGOs already largely participate through international projects. Besides, NGOs know very well how to ‘show’ themselves and their activities. For NGOs we see that good staff members unfortunately leave their organisation, due to salary restrictions. This need attention also for the exchange projects which rely on training of staff of NGOs. Ministries and Universities are key-partners for implementation of accession projects in the opinion of KNNV.

### **5.4.7 Interview with the Rubicon Foundation**

Ms. Canan Orhun, Managing Director. 30-May-2008

#### *Introduction*

The Rubicon Foundation aims to promote enduring and practical solutions for the co-existence of biodiversity and rural communities through policy and field projects. In fact Rubicon focuses on everything related to rural development and (nature) conservation but in particular takes action for globally threatened species in countries crucial for their conservation and along migration routes. ‘Making conservation profitable to foster the protection and wise use of natural resources’ is an important mission of the foundation. Rubicon mainly works with and through partner organisations on the implementation of projects, training and transfer of expertise. In their projects and in the projects they collaborate the organisation tries to work with local people and organisations in order to share with them the best practices in this field and to enable them to partake actively in reversing ecological problems in their country.

#### *Background information (internet)*

Over the last 20 years the founders of Rubicon Foundation have been working in the field of biodiversity conservation. Although they have global experience and understanding of the international issues

surrounding nature conservation and development Rubicon's special expertise covers the European continent.

Rubicon fills a niche by focusing on site-based community work, and has a practical, action-oriented approach, thus bridging the gaps in knowledge and experience between countries. The geographical focus is on the Central and Eastern European countries, the Balkans and the Caucasus region. The team has worked in these countries for many years.

The Rubicon team uses their expertise on EU legislation to provide services and best practices for wise use of natural resources in the EU countries (in particular the 'new' Member States). Although much of European conservation activity and finances is concentrated in Western Europe and in particular the EU countries most of Europe's biodiversity is in the east.

The organization is registered under Dutch legislation as a Stichting (foundation), which is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors.

More information at [www.rubiconfoundation.org](http://www.rubiconfoundation.org)

#### *Current involvement of Rubicon in biodiversity issues in Turkey*

One important project of Rubicon in Turkey is the MATRA project IPAnet (15249 Matra), which started in September 2007. The aim of the project is to set up a network of volunteers in Turkey that will monitor and work for the protection and sustainable use/development the Important Plant Areas (IPAs) in Turkey. 'Volunteers function as the 'eyes and ears' of the IPAs'. In this project Rubicon works together with DHKD. The project includes 9 pilot sites (covering 12 of Turkey's provinces) in which a multi-stakeholder network will be set up. The networks are 'facilitated' by pilot IPA coordinators, which are all volunteers (7 university staff, already for more than 10 years involved in IPA inventory, 1 businessman and 1 city planner). The challenge in this project is that plant scientists tend to think that inventory and monitoring of the IPAs cannot be carried out by citizens. By working together with Dutch organisations, that have huge networks of volunteers (and definitely many of them are not scientists), Rubicon and DHKD try to motivate the coordinators to facilitate these multi-stakeholder networks and create a core group for land stewardship and sustainable rural development in the pilot sites. The support of Rubicon and DHKD focuses on e.g. how to recruit people for plant inventory and monitoring and on enhancing knowledge and skills to facilitate these networks of volunteers.

In 2006, Rubicon had an advisory role in a project in Turkey which was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The project was awarded to Vogelbescherming Nederland and its partner organisation Doğa Derneği (DD) in Turkey. In Turkey, through this project a new fund for biodiversity conservation was started.

Rubicon has recently been awarded a BBI-Matra project called Putting PEEN to Practice in Marine and Coastal Areas (BBI-Matra/2008/022). The project aims to ensure the ecological resilience, coherence and sustainable future of Gokova Bay SPA in Turkey. In Turkey the project will be implemented with the cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The project will start in January 2009.

Rubicon also provides organizational development support to the NGOs it cooperates with in Turkey, including issues such as: fundraising, management, strategic planning, etc.

### *Cooperation*

In Turkey, Rubicon currently works with the following Turkish organisations: Buğday Derneği (the Association for Supporting Ecological Living), DHKD, DD, SAD-AFAG and TEMA. Rubicon collaborates with the Dutch organisations Floron, IVN and Eurosite in Turkey.

### *Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

Turkey identified its priority areas i.e. the important bird areas (IBAs) of Turkey, its important plant areas (IPAs) and key biodiversity areas (KBAs). Turkey was in fact the first country in the world to have identified its KBAs and IPAs. Especially plants are a hugely important indicator. Even by only studying and protecting plants and their communities you can do already a lot for conservation. On average every 5 days and 12 hrs a new plant species is identified in Turkey and 34% of the species are endemic! Turkey had already 122 IPAs identified and in 2007, 22 areas were added to the list by an inventory along the BTC pipeline (for more information please check the interview with BTC, Part 1 of this publication).

### **Raising Awareness**

- The priority sites are known and inventories will continue but know it is time for raising awareness and inform people about the huge biodiversity there is in Turkey and the necessity to protect it;
- Motivate biology and environmental engineering students to go to the field (even if they are interested students have to follow a fixed curriculum);
- Enable university teachers to go back to the field again too (often no time and money available)

### **Curriculum Development**

- School and university curricula are too fixed, too much focused on learning from the book and the books used are often not motivating (they do not understand young students);
- Ministry of Education has to be encouraged to create the studies Nature or Nature Management or Nature Conservation where students are also more free to choose the subjects that fits their interests and ambitions.
- Environmental education with hands on outdoor experiences should be part of the curriculum starting at lower grades..
- How to set up education/visitors' centres. This could create job opportunities and besides national parks and their visitors' centres can often be seen as 'money making machines'.

### **Agriculture**

- The Turkish flora is of exceptional value to mankind: major parts of two of the eight Vavilov Centres of Crop Plant Diversity occur within Turkey (the Mediterranean and Near East Centres). Turkish flora includes many wild relatives of important domestic crop species (e.g. wheat, barley, chickpea, lentil, cherry, pear, apricot, chestnut, pistachio, etc.). In Turkey, early Neolithic evidence of crop domestication dates back to 7200-6500 BC (from findings of einkorn, naked wheat, emmer, lentil etc. at Cayonu) (Tan, 1998).
- Protect the genes that still exist in Turkey. Many genes in Turkey are lost while being replaced by hybrids after the American example (e.g. the huge corn fields), based on short term economic benefits. Very important to protect the seeds that are still there in nature! Another example the Malatya apricots of Turkey are mixed/grafted with European apricots. Awareness should be raised on the value of unique local products, which are in fact important commodities of Turkey. And also for future food security issues worldwide it is important to protect the 'natural gene'.

### **Legislation**

A problem often addressed is the overlap of legislation for areas. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has its own development for a certain area, while the area might at the same time be a protected area under the legislation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Decisions taken by the MoEF are often

overruled at parliamentary level for plans/initiatives in the area of the MoCT, because of direct short term financial benefits (which are not necessarily sustainable projects).

### **Democratisation**

Especially local people should be more aware of their human rights. Civil servants should act more as servants, perhaps it is in the semantics but in Turkey this terminology is not used. Terms such as 'local authorities' 'directors' 'managers' are used. So it seems as if we elect people to 'boss us around' rather than provide us governmental services. In many cases there is a fear of reaching out to these 'local authorities' by the uneducated local populations. Many local governments do not even know what authority they have. NGOs are often seen as 'communists' or enemies of the nation. At the same time it has to be added that some of Turkey's NGOs are not very cooperative towards the government.

#### *Advantages of the cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands on biodiversity issues*

Although scale wise there is no match at all between Turkey and The Netherlands, still there is huge potential for information, experiences and knowledge exchange in the field of biodiversity conservation:

- The Netherlands has a long rooted history in nature conservation;
- Nature policies are integrated in The Netherlands and the work of the Ministry of LNV is 'tuned' with the Ministry of VROM and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, this could set a good example for Turkey;
- The Netherlands has a huge network of volunteers and their work is highly valued. In Turkey this appreciation of the capacity of the civil society does not exist. Many NGOs provide excellent work through their volunteers which is not valued by mainly Government and the Academicians;
- Water Management with integrated methodologies for watershed or river-basin management;
- Waste Management;
- Energy, power generation, alternatives energy sources (especially solar), energy efficiency.

*Note:* Information exchange has to be practical (rather than didactical), i.e. real life examples. The Turkish population is a proud people, so no experts from The Netherlands that come to Turkey and tell what they think has to be done in Turkey.

#### *Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- With regard to curriculum development there could be an exchange between Wageningen University with Turkish universities, especially on a more ecology based curriculum; also Dutch students and professors supporting field work in remote areas of Turkey may motivate their Turkish counterparts; and Turkish students or professors visiting the NL may be educational as well as motivational.
- Exchange between Dutch and Turkish NGOs - especially on how to institutionalise the work carried out by NGOs and how to ensure the valuation of the work carried out by volunteers; however this should also be endorsed by governmental contacts between Turkey and the Netherlands. For example the biodiversity data collection and monitoring in the Netherlands is also done by NGOs such as SOVON and FLORON and the data they collect becomes part of the national database. In Turkey this does not work as well. In some parts also because university professors think only they can collect viable data, and in some aspects because the ministries feel this way as well.

#### 5.4.8 Interview with Wetlands International

Mr. Chris Baker. 02-May-2007

##### *Introduction*

Wetlands International was founded in 1995. It developed from an organization dedicated to waterbirds which started in 1954 under the name the International Wildfowl Inquiry. This organization enlarged its scope to the current global organization on wetlands. The headquarters of Wetlands International are located in The Netherlands and it has 20 offices all over the world reaching from China to South America.

##### *Background information Wetlands International (brochures and internet)*

Wetlands International's mission is 'to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations'. Wetlands International explores all kind activities to protect wetland species like waterbirds and fish. The organization includes thousands of volunteering birdwatchers who monitor millions of waterbirds annually. Wetlands International collects all this information to show governments how important some of their wetlands are for the survival of waterbirds. WI works on the protection of networks of flyways, by monitoring them, raising awareness among the people living around these wetlands about the importance and by informing governments about ways to protect them.

Wetlands International also helps people to protect or restore the wetlands they depend on for reasons like drinking water, fish, and reed as building material, peat as fuel, etcetera. Wetlands International advises local organisations how to use their wetlands in a better way and informs their governments about the importance of wetlands for the people and about ways to protect the area.

Wetlands International conducts field projects to protect and restore specific wetlands and demonstration projects. In this way Wetlands International shows to governments and local people the importance of these areas and how they should be managed.

Field projects can only be conducted if:

- Its work is globally relevant
- Its work is based on sound science
- It works through partnerships and with a wide range sectors
- It respects traditional values and knowledge
- It works in a transparent and accountable way

##### *Current involvement of Wetlands International in Turkey*

- Central Anatolia Turkey Wetland Conservation. Türcək is involved as partner. The project is nearly finished. For more info on this project see ([www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/pub07\\_waterbirds\\_part3.7.8.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/pub07_waterbirds_part3.7.8.pdf))
- Project on Civil Society Development, focusing on building a federation of NGOs. This project aims to build a NGO federation to support wetland conservation and wise use. It builds capacity in water management and also provides training. The idea behind developing the Federation of NGOs is to have more influence at institutional level. The BlackSeaWet network is one of the examples. For more info about BlackSeaWet please visit [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org) ([www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg\\_reg\\_europe2008\\_wg06\\_blacksea.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_europe2008_wg06_blacksea.pdf))
- BlackSeaWet, a project funded by BBI-Matra. Partners involved in Turkey are: Ministry of Environment of Turkey, Friends of Ecology and Environment Association, Environment Volunteers Association, Doğa Derneği, Black Sea Education Culture and Environment Protection Association, and Black Sea Regional Activity Centre on Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources. Duration of the project: May 2006-February 2008. This project aims to enhance the conservation and sustainable development of the Black Sea coastal wetlands by establishment of a foundation for the launch of a Black Sea Regional Initiative for the wise use of coastal wetlands. It will establish the foundations for a regional wetlands initiative that will

underpin future wetland conservation efforts by facilitating a multi-stakeholder process to define the priorities in Coastal Zone Management.

- New project in Mediterranean area. Putting wetland management into a river basin context. Currently Turkey is not involved. CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) is the donor organization, and but Turkey is not on their priority list. Turkey will hopefully be included through the MAVA Foundation.

*Priority issues concerning biodiversity in Turkey*

- Especially due to large very arid areas in Turkey, using an Integrated Approach in Water Resources Management is of major importance. Trying to bring different sectors (agriculture, water supply, environment etc) together to prepare sustainable water management plans is essential. Capacity building in IWRM is therefore a priority issue regarding ‘green knowledge’. Besides, it will be of high importance in line with Turkey’s possible EU accession process.
- Another priority that would benefit from Dutch-Turkish knowledge exchange is raising awareness focused on the value of wetlands but also on the importance of biodiversity protection in general and specifically for flyways.
- Water quality and sanitation.

*Advantages of cooperation between TR and NL on biodiversity issues*

Advantages of cooperation are to form a kind of platform for the issues mentioned above. This will help to get the Governmental support in the priority themes mentioned. This is an issue raised also by NGOs in Turkey. Experience of NGOs is often not well taken on board in policy development. If there would be a platform between TR and NL, engagement of NGOs in policy development could be positively influenced. It is also a way that does not push the government too much as it is actually just a platform to exchange views, experiences and ideas, but enables NGO involvement. Again in frame of the EU enlargement process establishing such a platform will be beneficiary.

*Who should take part in a green knowledge exchange?*

- Delegates of ministries and NGOs and experts involved in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

**Part 3**

**Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands  
SWOT Analysis and Recommendations**



## 6 SWOT analysis and recommendations

### 6.1 Introduction

Paragraph 6.5 includes the SWOT Analysis regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey. From the results of the SWOT Analysis, i.e. looking at the **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities** and **Threats** or Constraints regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey, issues that will be favourable for a Turkish – Netherlands Green Knowledge Exchange have been identified. SWOT Analysis is a very helpful technique for understanding the Strengths and Weaknesses of a system (which could be an organisation, sector, situation or even a country) and for analysing the Opportunities and Threats a system or, in this case, a country faces. **Strengths** and **weaknesses** are mainly internal to the ‘system’ you analyse. **Opportunities** and **threats** mainly relate to external factors that affect the ‘situation’. For this reason the SWOT Analysis is sometimes called Internal-External Analysis.

The SWOT analysis mainly includes the priorities mentioned by Turkish and Netherlands experts interviewed for enhancement of biodiversity protection in Turkey. During the interviews experts from Turkish and Netherlands’ side have also been asked what issues are favourable for ‘knowledge exchange’ or cooperation between the two countries with the aim to improve biodiversity conservation.

Below (paragraph 6.2) you will find a short recap of these recommendations mentioned by Turkish side in Part 1 of the report. Afterwards a summary of the priorities for cooperation mentioned by experts working for Netherlands based organisations (paragraph 6.3). Paragraph 6.4 is very short as most experts from Turkish as well as Netherlands’ side mentioned very short and clear the parties that should be involved in the Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands.

Section 6.6 combines the results of the SWOT analysis and the initiatives mentioned for cooperation or exchange between The Netherlands and Turkey and ends with recommendations by the authors.

### 6.2 Recommendations for ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands by experts from Turkish side

*(a recap of Part 1 of the report)*

#### ❖ Interactive planning – participatory approach and stakeholder involvement

In nearly all interviews the issue of participation was mentioned. Many projects are said not to be sustainable on the long run due to the lack of participation of *all* relevant parties. This does not only include local communities but also governmental organisations (at all levels). Most projects lack an *interactive* planning process at an early stage.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* An exchange of Turkish and Netherlands’ experts on interactive planning and the involvement of stakeholders in decision making, by e.g. a workshop on good and bad practices in stakeholder involvement organized in Turkey or in The Netherlands, may stimulate a the change towards interactive planning.

#### ❖ **Implementation of EU legislation**

*Conclusion:* Two issues clearly come forward. There is currently not a favourable environment or suitable institutional setting for biodiversity protection. Legislation is overlapping, and co-operation is lacking both between Ministries and between the government and the civil society level. This also affects a smooth implementation of the EU's Acquis Communautaire.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Regarding the implementation of Natura 2000 and the EU WFD, but also other directives, The Netherlands can very well support implementation by providing practical methods and tools. But as mentioned during many interviews, the focus should be on practical implementation guidance, and not on general information on what new EU legislation includes. This should be a point of attention for future projects. *'How can these experts understand our situation if they just come for a week from time to time'* was mentioned during interviews. In many projects budget constraints restrict stronger involvement from the Dutch side. Aside from budget issues there are ample suitable experts from the Dutch side whom could share their experiences on the practical EU legislation implementation process. A possible solution to facilitate exchange of knowledge may therefore be an institutional exchange of personnel.

#### ❖ **Enhancing capacity building**

*Conclusion:* Capacity Building is needed in Turkey but the request for it is really focusing on *practical* capacity building.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:*

The interviewed experts from the Turkish side indicated that it would be beneficiary to cooperate with experts from other countries in pilot projects and work together by applying different tools and methods. Having experts working together on a longer term basis (so that foreign experts really understand the situation at stake), on practical project implementation is beneficial.

#### ❖ **Using traditional knowledge (especially in farming)**

*Conclusion:* Regarding the use of traditional knowledge there is a clear benefit for Dutch experts to cooperate with Turkish experts (the use of the word 'experts' also includes e.g. farmers) and work together on sustainable and extensive land use. Especially the richness in biodiversity might be an interesting feature of cooperation and further research for Dutch experts. Besides as mentioned often there is a lack of data on species and habitats. Even if data are available data are not shared nor stored in databases that can be exchanged. This last point stresses once again that there is a need for institutional development that supports cooperation for biodiversity protection.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* First priority is to set up a good data collection and storage system on traditional knowledge and whether such a system is or has been used in The Netherlands.

#### ❖ **Monitoring and management planning**

The Netherlands has experience with networks, water management, and managing natural habitats. It would be of help to exchange ideas with The Netherlands on how to write good management plans (how to integrate management plans with physical and spatial planning) and in addition how to implement them.

*Conclusion:* Turkish experts would be interested to cooperate in management planning for natural areas and especially, including the first point mentioned, how to develop participatory or interactive management plans. Not by provision of a new training on management planning but effectively working together in a management planning process. If a Dutch expert could provide a fresh view on the process in Turkey and maybe facilitate the process then it might be good if a Turkish expert provides his/her view on a planning

process in The Netherlands. Especially in transboundary river basin and wetland management, Dutch experts are seen as being able to provide useful expertise in Turkey.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:*

The remark of ‘real’ exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands by having Turkish experts participating in a Dutch planning process and vice versa, is one to seriously consider. Turkish experts could work with e.g. a Dutch Water Boards for a while.

The process of Monitoring and Evaluation is a complicated process which includes large amounts of tools, methods and techniques. A team, working on a monitoring and evaluation process in Turkey reviewing what has been done so far regarding management planning and its ecological and economical effectiveness, could be an important starting point for setting new objectives for institutional (ex)change in support of biodiversity protection.

#### ❖ **Climate Change**

Share knowledge on adaptation (biological) and mitigation of climate change and networking for climate change.

Türcek formulated a nice *recommendation*: ‘Turkish NGOs have to be more focused (e.g. if the NGO focuses on the protection of birds then keep your focus and do not switch to wetland management). Too many NGOs nowadays mention to have expertise on climate change, but all expertise of different NGOs together is what is needed and will result in a successful programme to combat climate change’.

#### ❖ **Other issues**

- Organize a steppe habitat conference.
- Exchange information on eco villages (GEN: Global Ecovillages Network).
- Increase of EU financial support on biodiversity conservation.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* An important starting point will be to increase the number of projects and activities funded by EU Environmental programmes.

### **6.3 Recommendations for ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands by experts from Netherlands’ side**

*(a summary of results as outlined by experts working in Netherlands’ based organisations)*

The replies from ‘Netherlands’ side were somehow related to ‘what’ should be the focus of the Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands and in addition ‘how’ could the exchange best be accomplished. Experts from Netherlands’ side also added the advantage for The Netherlands of such an exchange.

#### **What?**

##### ❖ **Implementation of EU legislation**

- The Netherlands can share knowledge on how to implement European ‘biodiversity’ or environmental policy (Natura 2000, the Water Framework Directive and many other water related directives, but also the directives related to agriculture);
- The Netherlands can support candidate countries like Turkey in applying for European funds;

❖ **Implementation of global biodiversity agreements**

- Turkey and The Netherlands can exchange knowledge on how to implement European biodiversity agreements given the fact that the planning authority is at the municipality level where capacity on biodiversity issues is insufficient.

❖ **Water management**

- Turkey and The Netherlands can share knowledge on coastal management of areas of high biodiversity value where other activities such as fisheries and tourism induce a pressure on biodiversity (e.g. Wadden Sea in The Netherlands and Black sea coast and Mediterranean coast in Turkey);
- Water Management with integrated methodologies for watershed or river basin management;
- Energy, power generation, alternatives energy sources (especially solar), energy efficiency
- Waste water treatment

❖ **Institutional arrangements**

- Especially the exchange between Dutch and Turkish NGOs would be beneficial: how to institutionalise the work carried out by NGOs and how to ensure the valuation of the work carried out by volunteers; For example the biodiversity data collection and monitoring in The Netherlands is also done by NGOs such as SOVON and FLORON and the data collected becomes part of the national database. In Turkey this is hard to realise as data are only regarded as valuable when collected by the university. Also ministries have difficulty to believe that volunteers or NGOs can be helpful in this respect;
- The Netherlands has a huge network of volunteers and their work is highly valued, also by the Dutch Government. In Turkey this appreciation of the capacity of the civil society does not exist. Many NGOs provide excellent work through their volunteers which is not valued by mainly Government and the Academicians;
- The Netherlands has a long rooted history in nature conservation; although scale wise there is no match at all between Turkey and The Netherlands, still there is huge potential for information, experiences and knowledge exchange in the field of biodiversity conservation, especially at institutional level;
- Nature policies are integrated in The Netherlands and the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) is ‘tuned’ with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ), this could set a good example for Turkey.
- NGOs and Ministries, research institutes and universities work well together in the Netherlands;
- Exchange on how communication and a good communication strategy can support institutional change or development;

**Environmental Education**

- Exchange knowledge on environmental education: in Turkey the only way to study nature conservation is through environmental engineering or through biology. But nature or biodiversity conservation would really benefit from trained students in a more integrated approach to biodiversity conservation, therefore, a curriculum on ecology is needed in Turkey.
- With regard to curriculum development there could be an exchange between Wageningen University and Turkish universities, especially on a more ecology based curriculum; also Dutch students and professors supporting field work in remote areas of Turkey may motivate their Turkish counterparts; and Turkish students or professors visiting The Netherlands may be educational as well as motivational.

❖ **Other**

- Waste Management in general;
- Marketing;

- Realize goals on bird protection;
- Traditional and local knowledge (e.g. exchange between Netherlands and Turkish farmers, preferably on organic farming )
- Exchange knowledge on identifying, valuing and managing biodiversity.
- Raising awareness of the public on the value of nature
  
- *It is beneficial that Western and Eastern cultures get to know each other better and that similarities and differences are getting more clear.*

### ***How?***

#### **❖ Capacity Development**

Netherlands experts mainly see capacity development as a possibility to exchange knowledge and skills. Besides the experts of organisations based in Netherlands see themselves mainly as facilitators in their activities in Turkey:

- Facilitate capacity building e.g. by helping to organise training activities;
- Facilitate participation and 'bringing groups together';
- Facilitate institutional development;
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge (including local) and exchange of experiences;
- Share and develop skills for networking.

In addition, capacity development by:

- Mobilising and involving the Turkish community in The Netherlands and Turkey in bird protection.

#### **❖ Platform for exchange to facilitate cooperation and institutional development**

Establish a platform (including an online one) to exchange views, experiences and ideas on different issues that are having an impact on Turkey's biodiversity. This will help to get the Governmental support in the priority themes mentioned. This is an issue raised also by NGOs in Turkey. Experience of NGOs is often not well taken on board in policy development. If there would be a platform between TR and NL, engagement of NGOs in policy development could be positively influenced. It is also a way that does not push the government too much as it is actually just a platform but enables NGO involvement and supports cooperation. Again in frame of the EU enlargement process establishing such a platform will be beneficiary.

In addition:

- Exchange visits can be beneficiary for both parties.

### ***Benefit for The Netherlands***

- Enlargement of the European Natura 2000 with sites in Turkey will strengthen the whole European network which has beneficial effects also on Natura 2000 sites in The Netherlands.
- Innovation for both countries
- Migratory birds that winter in The Netherlands and breed in the Arctic connect wetlands in The Netherlands with wetlands in Turkey, because of the migration routes. This implies that the effectiveness of policy directed at e.g. Avian Influenza (AI) in The Netherlands is influenced by policy in Turkey directed at AI.
- The advantage for The Netherlands is that The Netherlands always has and had biodiversity protection as a high priority on its agenda, therefore Dutch experts are more or less 'obliged' to advocate biodiversity protection also in other countries; So maybe not directly an advantage but a 'must';
- In the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992) The Netherlands especially put agro-biodiversity as an important issue; supporting other countries in agro-biodiversity also benefits Nature conservation in The Netherlands;

- Nature conservation in other European countries largely benefits from nature conservation in The Netherlands and at the same time The Netherlands largely benefits from ‘sound’ nature conservation in other European countries which in turn supports economic development in The Netherlands (healthy ecosystems provide a lot of functions that The Netherlands would otherwise have to carry out with high costs e.g. healthy wetlands hugely benefit water purification)
- Dutch organisations working in nature conservation abroad also helps to sustain these organisations.

#### 6.4 Participants of the green knowledge exchange

In this paragraph we can be quite short, most experts from both Turkish and Dutch side mentioned that NGOs and Ministries, research institutes and universities should be involved in the green knowledge exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands. Many interviewees stressed that this answer means that they have to be involved together, at the same time, by preference. Others mentioned that universities might be too much focused on their own research agenda and in that sense that is a risk to take into account.

#### 6.5 SWOT Analysis regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey in frame of Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands

*Note:*

Marked with ❖ : ‘often’ (at least 7 times or more) mentioned by Turkish and/or Netherlands’ experts

##### **Strengths - regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey**

based on the interviews and background information (in bold the strengths that have been very often mentioned and underlined by interviewed experts)

##### **Biological diversity**

##### ❖ **Turkey, still, has an extremely high biological diversity;**

- Turkish flora includes many wild relatives of important domestic crop species (e.g. wheat, barley, chick pea, lentil, cherry, pear, apricot, chestnut, pistachio, etc.);
- Turkey has unique local products which could evolve as important commodities for Turkey;
- Turkey has many species that can be used as flagship species to make people more interested in nature conservation;
- Turkey was the first country to have its Important Plant Areas (IPAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified, also Turkey identified its Important Bird Areas (IBAs);
- The identified KBAs, IBAs and IPAs serve as an excellent basis for the implementation of Natura 2000;

##### **Interest to involve stakeholders**

- Participation, although still at low level, is starting to have a place in legislation:
  - ◆ The Ministry of Environment and Forestry mentions in its Environmental Law 2872, 3<sup>rd</sup> Article Paragraph B: to protect the environment, prevent degradation and reduce pollution the ministry works together with other ministries, local authorities, professional chambers (Chambre of e.g. Environmental or Agricultural Engineers), Unions (e.g. Farmers’ Unions) and NGOs;
  - ◆ The Ministry of Environment and Forestry mentions in its Environmental Law 2872, 3<sup>rd</sup> Article Paragraph E: in the development of environmental policies the right of participation is essential.

The Ministry has to engage with other ministries, local authorities, professional chambers (Chambre of e.g Environmental or Agricultural Engineers), Unions (e.g. Farmers' Unions), NGOs and citizens to provide participatory environment. This participatory environment is created in correspondence with the Right to Environment (Clean and Well Preserved Environment);

#### **Awareness on the need for an integrated approach**

- Discussion and interest for a Wetland Centre, i.e. people, also within the ministries, understand the need for an integrated approach and cross-sectoral cooperation;

#### **Sustainable agricultural development**

- Agricultural development starts to take into account/integrate Natural Resources Management, also in terms of policy development;
- Approach in agriculture is changing: there is more awareness about the value of low input farming systems for safeguarding biodiversity and the need to protect HNV farmlands;
- More attention for Turkey's traditional practices in agriculture, also in policy development;
- More positive approach for organic farming, also in policy development;

#### **Fisheries**

- Permissions for fish farms in protected areas are not issued, however (weakness!) formerly issued permission can under the current law not be withdraw
- Beneficial is that there is a new law for fisheries where all coastal fish farms will be pulled 2 miles away from the coast

#### **Awareness on the need of sustainable tourism development**

- More people start realizing that mass tourism also has a huge impact on Turkey's natural resources and even an irreversible effect on the environment. Losing Turkey's richness in biodiversity means on the long run a decline in tourism and thus economic development and therefore there is more support for sustainable tourism initiatives;

#### **Other**

- Turkey has well educated people in environmental engineering, biology, hydrology etc.

### **Weaknesses regarding Biodiversity Conservation**

based on the interviews and background information (in bold the weaknesses that have been very often mentioned and underlined by interviewed experts)

#### **Protected areas and species conservation**

- ❖ **As a result of different responsibilities of the Ministries at the national and site level, policies and tasks can be conflicting even with regard to *one* specific area;**
  - Protected areas are too small and not connected;
  - There are important areas that are not protected (goes for marine areas, wetlands, grasslands, forests);
  - Many species need to be protected still;
  - The 'red lists' in Turkey need further development;
  - Developing marine protected areas and coastal zone management is not well developed for the Mediterranean area (due to different initiatives the situation is a bit better for the Black Sea region);

#### Stakeholder involvement, communication and cooperation

- ❖ **Stakeholder involvement in biodiversity protection and conservation; it is present and stimulated on paper but in reality not well practised. Nature conservation needs to be more embedded in the Turkish society, improving connecting people to nature will benefit conservation;**
- ❖ **Huge lack of cooperation and *communication* between sectors;**
- ❖ **Sectoral approach or no integrated approach;**
- ❖ **Sharing of information and data:** networking and the facilitation of knowledge and information exchange is needed;
- ❖ **No facilitation of the policy development – science – society interface:** facilitation is needed because there is a lack of a ‘common language’;
  - Too much competition between different NGOs, NGOs should stick to their niche and improve cooperation and sharing information and data;
  - Too much competition between universities: too much focus on protecting own data rather than sharing data;
  - NGOs and Ministries often see each other as the enemy, while they could benefit so much from better cooperation;
  - Democratisation process: there is a ‘fear’ or hesitance of many Turkish citizens to approach governmental bodies and government representatives (and as such a hesitance to get involved in initiatives), government representatives are not seen as *civil servants*;
  - ‘Brain migration’: Many experts educated in Turkey try to find jobs abroad;
- ❖ **The value of traditional knowledge is still too much neglected, although very important in terms of e.g. High Nature Value farming.**
- ❖ **The social-economic context and perspective of nature conservation is neglected. The concept ‘sustainability’ has an ecologic, as well as an economic and social perspective. This is known but not used!**

#### Data availability and monitoring

- Biodiversity monitoring and frequent data collection needs to be institutionalised. Especially data on water quality and water quantity are needed, which includes groundwater;
- Steppe habitats are very rich in biodiversity but till now no or little data are available;
- Little is known about the species diversity of marine systems;

#### Awareness raising, nature education and capacity development in nature conservation:

- Education in Turkey is not enough focused on ecology and integrated approach;
- No Nature or Nature Management or Nature Conservation study available in Turkey.
- School and university curricula are too fixed, too much focused on learning from the book and the books used are often not motivating (they do not understand young students). Students are not free to choose the subjects that fit their interests and ambitions;
- Environmental education with hands on outdoor experiences is not part of the curricula at lower grades;
- Scientists and their students need to go back to the field: science needs to be more linked to the real problems in the field;
- Nature education in Turkey is neglecting the link with socio economic aspects;
- ❖ **Raising awareness of all Turkish citizens (especially linked to enormous biodiversity richness in Turkey);**
  - Low appreciation of Turkey’s unique local products: appreciation for some of the natural genes occurring in Turkey is not zero, but awareness needs to be raised;

### Conflicting development aims

- ❖ **Short term economic goals often overrule long term goals that include a more sustainable (ecological, social and economic) development:** Sustainable development versus short term economic benefits/election results;
  - Outcomes of Environmental Impact Assessments are often neglected for the sake of short-term benefits
  - *Tourism* – still too much focus on profit through mass-tourism;
  - *Agriculture*: 1. still too much use of wild irrigation methods and production of crops demanding large amount of water in dry areas; 2. use of sustainable land cultivation techniques need to be endorsed;
  - *Dam construction* – Power plants are needed in Turkey, but negative environmental impacts are neglected, at the risk of high costs that need to be spent on sustaining environmental services;
  - *Fisheries* – no sustainable fisheries, no measurements for control. Permissions for fish farms in protected areas are not issued (*strength!*), however formerly issued permission can under the current law not be withdrawn;
  - *Industry* – Industrial waste (as well as wastewater from households) is dumped directly into river, lakes or sea without prior treatment – *Polluters Pay Principle* needs to be introduced and implemented;
- ❖ **Valuation of wetlands and natural areas in general is lacking, and thus a good overview of the economic benefits obtained by service provided by different ecosystems.**

### Pollution

- High pollution: Water quality is still declining due to pollution, there is a far too small number of waste water treatment plants;
- Sewerage system and sanitation are especially in Eastern Turkey not or poorly developed.

### Other

- Lack of, especially national, financial and human resources in Ministries and NGOs;

### Opportunities regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey

based on the interviews and background information (in bold the opportunities that have been very often mentioned and underlined by interviewed experts)

#### The implementation of EU Legislation and international agreements:

- ❖ **The implementation of the EU Birds- and Habitats Directive (Natura 2000), the EU Water Framework Directive and other international agreements (Convention of Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention etc.) may facilitate harmonisation of national policies, thus avoiding overlapping legislation of different ministries;**
- Implementation of the EU Directives forces Turkey to have monitoring institutionalised;
- ❖ **The implementation of the philosophy of the EU WFD (River Basin Approach) and thus an Integrated approach towards River Basin Management;**

#### Expanding the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) with important sites in Turkey

- There is a lot of interest for the development of an Ecologic Network for Turkey (most natural areas of importance are not connected) - linked with Natura 2000.
- Inclusion of Turkish nature areas in the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) - linked with Natura 2000;
- Linking important biodiversity areas in Turkey to the Pan European Ecological Network will enhance biodiversity conservation in the whole of Europe (EU and European countries therefore might be interested to continue investing in nature conservation initiatives in Turkey).

### **Marine protection and coastal zone management**

- The implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);
- More interest for sustainable coastal tourism

### **Sustainable development**

- ❖ More interest for *sustainable* development in the whole of Europe;

### **Climate change**

- Climate change (also mentioned as a constraint): people are forced to apply a different approach towards nature conservation.
- Again a controversial opportunity... During the summer of 2007, Turkey faced extreme water shortage, this made people more aware of the necessity to use water ‘wisely’;

### **Implementation of the Flyway Approach**

- The Flyway Approach to Conservation, ensuring a more integrated approach and transboundary cooperation;

In addition:

- Bird and bird’s habitat protection following international criteria as set by e.g. IUCN;
- There is an active network of bird watchers in Turkey, bird watching can be used as an entrance to involve more citizens in nature conservation;

### **Application of lessons learned from other countries (especially EU Member States)**

- **Application of lessons learned from EU Member States;**
- Many lessons learned in The Netherlands on bridging nature conservation and agriculture aims;
- Many lessons learned in The Netherlands on stakeholder involvement and interactive planning;

### **Sustainable tourism and (nature) education**

- More interest for small scale (and sustainable) tourism
- Setting up/Building education/visitors’ centres (and some have been erected already): This could create job opportunities and besides national parks and their visitors’ centres can often be seen as ‘money making machines’;

### **Genetic biodiversity of Turkey**

- The ‘genetic biodiversity’ of Turkey resulting in high quality local products: these are important commodities of Turkey!

In addition:

- More interest for ‘slow food’

### **The ‘Value Chain’ approach**

- Nature conservation and sustainable agricultural development will benefit from a value chain approach: Well functioning markets and business development, underpinned by standards and conditions that protect against human and environmental exploitation.

### **Constraints regarding biodiversity conservation in Turkey**

based on the interviews and background information (in bold the constraints that have been very often mentioned and underlined by interviewed experts)

#### **Capacity development**

- ❖ **Capacity Development is based on short term goals (often this is a constraint formed outside Turkey):** Capacity Development initiatives often just include a few short term training programmes. In fact this is a short term approach to capacity development which is stimulated by donors and available funds from abroad. Building capacity needs a longer time frame than just 1 to 3 years;

#### **Climate change**

- Climate change (also mentioned as a opportunity): even if Turkey will be able to finally implement an integrated approach, especially water shortage will ‘attack’ the country;  
\* *In addition:* Turkey has large very arid areas, applying an integrated approach is therefore pivotal, but more difficult to implement.

#### **Genetic diversity**

- Many genes in Turkey are lost while being replaced by hybrids after the American example (e.g. the huge corn fields), too much focus on short term economic benefits;

#### **Mass-tourism**

- Many tourists from abroad are still more interested in mass-tourism offers, although there is (opportunity!) more interest for sustainable tourism;

#### **International (non-Turkish) experts**

- ‘Specialists from abroad (also from The Netherlands) come here thinking they know best without checking the knowledge already there’. ‘Methodologies are often not adapted to Turkish circumstances’.

## **6.6 Main issues SWOT analysis**

Now looking back at the reports of the interviews, the workshop held in Ankara in 2007 and the SWOT analysis we will compare the focus of Turkish parties with the focus of parties based in The Netherlands. Based on this comparison we will check where both parties can meet each other for the ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands.

From paragraph 6.2 and 6.3 we can make a nice but, at the same time, very limited comparison between the Turkish perspective and the Netherlands’ perspective on the issues *seen as suitable* for cooperation or ‘knowledge exchange’. This is done in the table below. Please note that, in the table below, the Netherlands’ perspective is based on views of representatives of organisations based in the Netherlands. Not necessarily, are these experts all Dutch experts (some are even Turkish, working for Dutch organisations). It goes without saying, that this table is really dependant on who has been interviewed. Please realise, it is an extremely simplified projection of the interview results!

Turkish perspective	Netherlands' perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interactive planning, in other words Participation of <i>all</i> stakeholders in planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutional arrangements (facilitating institutional change processes, using a real <i>participatory</i> approach )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of EU Legislation and/or establishing a framework for national legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of EU legislation</li> <li>▪ Implementation of global biodiversity agreements</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhancing capacity development (request for more practical capacity building!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental Education (and Capacity Development)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using traditional knowledge</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring and Management Planning</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Climate Change</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (Water management) <small>mentioned but only twice</small></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water management</li> </ul>

When you combine the above table mentioning the fields suitable for knowledge exchange with the main issues mentioned from the SWOT analysis (please see figure 1 below), there are in fact more options for ‘knowledge exchange’ between Turkey and the Netherlands than only the ones outlined in the interviews. This is what the authors will discuss in the last paragraph of this report (paragraph 6.7).

In general the Dutch parties are more directed to ‘what’ should be the focus of the Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands and in addition ‘how’ could the exchange best be accomplished, whereas Turkish parties are more directed at the process of biodiversity protection: including participation of *all* relevant parties in biodiversity conservation issues and improving conservation by *interactive planning* (i.e. planning that includes all stakeholders). Specifically the NGOs seek solutions in how to embed biodiversity conservation issues within the legal context and how to involve the civil society in such a way that they are taken as fully participating stakeholders. In this process Dutch parties can obviously only be facilitators, which is exactly what they perceive as their role. According to Dutch parties capacity development is the best way to attain biodiversity conservation in Turkey that is embedded within the socio-political context.

Interesting to notice also from paragraph 6.2 and 6.3 is that the Turkish parties really thought of ‘exchange’ whereas Dutch parties focus more on their role as supporters/advisors, capacity builders or facilitators. This is not necessarily wrong but we feel that it might be good to see whether the exchange could really focus on ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands.

The recommendations from the side of the authors on which issues would be suitable for Green Knowledge Exchange and, in addition, how this could be realised is described in paragraph 6.7.

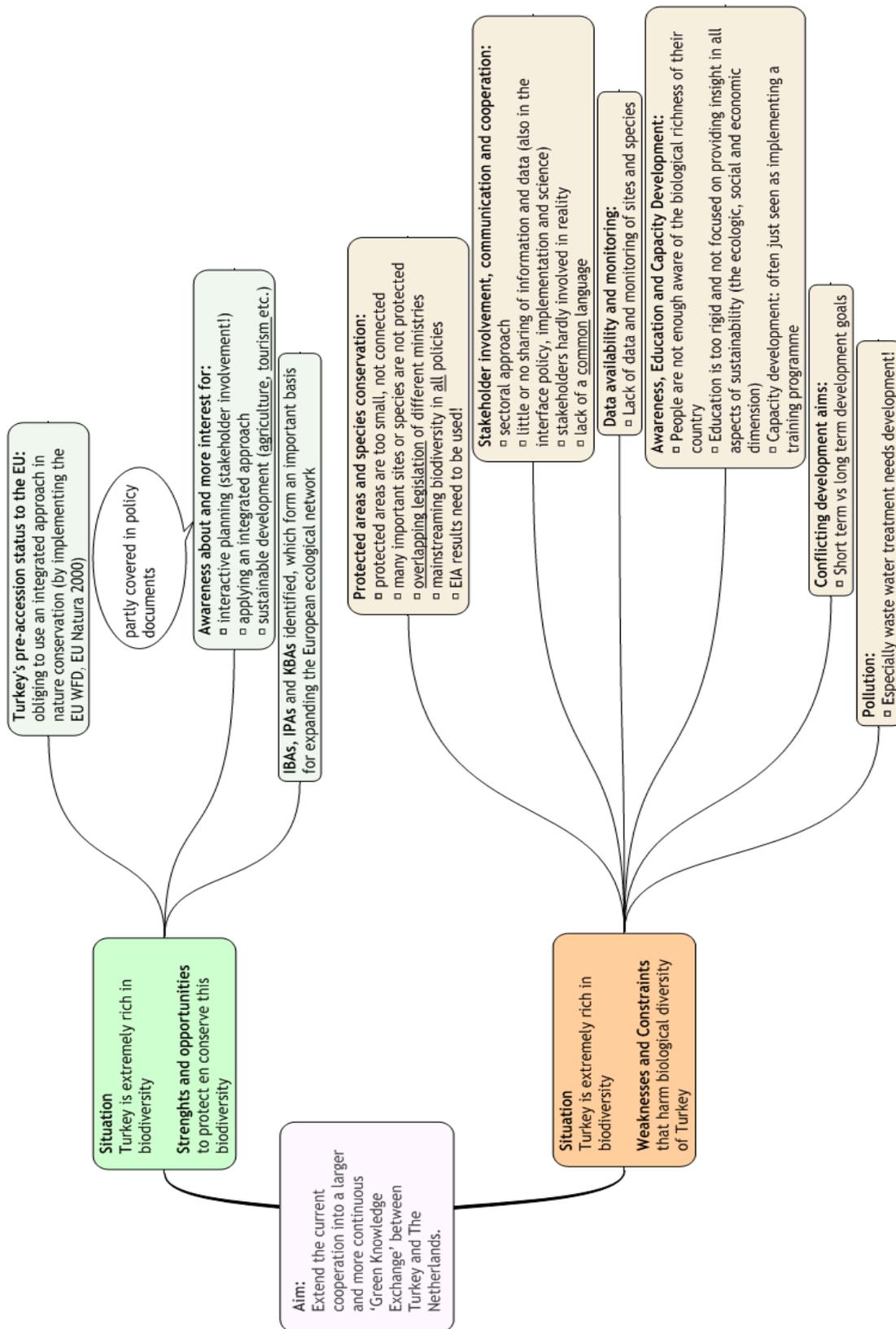


Figure 1. Main issues from the SWOT analysis

## 6.7 Recommendations for Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands

Figure 1 in paragraph 6.6 shows the main issues mentioned in the SWOT Analysis (paragraph 6.5 for the full outline of the analysis). Paragraph 6.2 and 6.3 outline, as mentioned in paragraph 6.6, the issues that were reported in the interviews as suitable for Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands.

In this paragraph we would like to combine the recommendations for exchange given by experts during the interviews with the issues raised in the SWOT analysis for biodiversity protection and conservation in Turkey. In addition we provide ideas for how this exchange could be realized.

### **First of all, the very simplified situation in both countries regarding biodiversity...**

1. Turkey is very rich in biodiversity – and this biodiversity should be conserved and protected as much as possible
2. Turkey is very rich in biodiversity – and activities that harm biodiversity should be diminished or stopped
3. The Netherlands has many lessons learnt on the price it has to pay to restore the services provided by nature

### **How?**

We think that a contribution can be made to protect and conserve biodiversity and to diminish or stop activities/approaches that harm biodiversity by a structured process of ‘Green Knowledge Exchange’ between Turkey and The Netherlands.

### **Why?**

Because The Netherlands and Turkey have already a long history in cooperation through many projects that have been carried out. Many lessons are learnt from this cooperation and based on these lessons learnt, Turkey and The Netherlands will now be able to make a step forward, focussed on ‘real’ knowledge *exchange* between both countries. An exchange that should be very practical, as requested and recommended by both Turkish and Dutch parties interviewed.

### **What are benefits for both countries?**

Enlargement of the European Natura 2000 network with sites in Turkey will strengthen the whole European network which has beneficial effects also on Natura 2000 sites and as such the status of biodiversity in The Netherlands. The protected sites in other European countries will in turn benefit the status of biodiversity in Turkey. ‘Sound’ nature conservation in all European countries supports economic development (e.g. healthy ecosystems provide a lot of functions that The Netherlands or Turkey would otherwise have to carry out with high costs; for instance healthy wetlands hugely benefit water purification). Policies developed to address environmental problems, influence each other; As an example: migratory birds that winter in The Netherlands and breed in the Arctic connect wetlands in The Netherlands with wetlands in Turkey which are used by birds that breed in the Arctic and pass through Turkey to their wintering grounds further south. This implies that the effectiveness of policy directed at e.g. Avian Influenza (AI) in The Netherlands is influenced by policy in Turkey directed at AI.

In addition, different cultural backgrounds

### **Fields of cooperation?**

The main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints have been described in paragraph 6.5. A summary of what we felt are the most important issues have been given in figure 1 (paragraph 6.6) and

based on that we would like to recommend the following fields for Green Knowledge Exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands.

❖ **Improve communication (most important issue of all!)**

This is a clear cause of many problems in biodiversity conservation and protection, not only in Turkey, not only in The Netherlands, but everywhere. Make everyone *understand* why you implement certain measures. Communication is an expertise. Many specialists are very good in what they do, but are not able to communicate what they do or what the necessity of their activities is. Realise that different target groups need a different communication strategy. The most important ingredient for effective communication is active *listening*. Putting effort in trying to understand why a government department, an NGO, a fisherman, a farmers' association has chosen that strategy.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* An exchange of Turkish and Netherlands' experts on explaining each other what strategy they choose for biodiversity conservation and why they chose that strategy. From trying to understand each others approach a lot can be learnt.

Biodiversity conservation therefore needs involvement of social and economic scientists also!

*How?* Start with a workshop in Turkey and a workshop in The Netherlands and continue communication through an *informal* online platform and this needs facilitation or stimulation!

In addition, effective communication is very much linked to access to and sharing of information. Effective communication is not possible on the basis of different levels of information! The interviews also reflect that parties are not well informed about what their colleagues do in the field of biodiversity conservation. And this hinders of course effective communication at all levels!

❖ **Institutional Development**

There is currently not a *supporting environment* or *suitable institutional setting* for biodiversity protection in Turkey. Legislation is overlapping, and cooperation is lacking both between Ministries and between the government and the civil society level. This also affects a smooth implementation of the EU's Acquis Communautaire, which is stressing the interface of ecologic, social and economic sustainability.

▪ **Acquiring a favourable institutional setting requires stakeholder involvement!**

This again goes back to improve communication. If stakeholders do not understand why you do what you do policies cannot be successfully implemented. Besides there is so much knowledge at local level on how to manage areas, make use of it!

▪ **Acquiring a favourable institutional setting requires sharing of information and data!**

Without sharing of data and information the overlap of tasks and legislation in important biodiversity areas will not be overcome.

▪ **To structure the institutional setting, implementing EU legislation is helpful**

Directives like the Birds - and Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive etc. are supportive, especially because they do focus on an integrated approach and the cooperation between sectors.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Regarding the implementation of Natura 2000 and the EU WFD, but also other directives, The Netherlands can very well support implementation by providing practical methods and tools. But as mentioned during many interviews, the focus should be on **practical** implementation guidance, and **not** on general information on what new EU legislation

includes. This should be a point of attention for future projects. *‘How can these experts understand our situation if they just come for a week from time to time’* was mentioned during interviews. In many projects budget constraints restrict longer involvement from the Dutch side. Aside from budget issues there are ample suitable experts from the Dutch side whom could share their experiences on the practical EU legislation implementation process. A possible solution to facilitate exchange of knowledge may therefore be an institutional exchange of personnel.

#### ❖ **Awareness Raising, Education and Capacity Development**

**Awareness raising** on the value of nature is needed in both countries. Not only on the value of biodiversity in protected areas but also on the value of extensively used agricultural lands and the unique local products that are already produced for thousands of years.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Turkish and Netherlands experts could work together on a campaign to show the importance of biodiversity conservation in Turkey and in The Netherlands and how nature conservation in Turkey benefits the status of nature in The Netherlands and vice versa. Make easy to understand guidelines on what people can do themselves on nature protection or biodiversity conservation.

**The educational system** in Turkey needs and update. But also The Netherlands will benefit from some revision. Biodiversity conservation needs to be taught from primary school onwards. There are small-scale initiatives for primary schools to introduce the importance of environment in Turkey within the national education system, but further development is needed. At university you have to be able to choose for a study on ecology, not just biology or environmental engineering. Teach and train young people in what is needed in the country in terms of biodiversity conservation and that is definitely a more integrated approach towards conservation. There are a lot of good experts in Turkey, definitely specialists in their fields. But it is important that these specialists also are able to see the ‘bigger picture’ with regards to nature protection. Nature protection does not only have an ecological perspective. A huge interface exists that includes ecologic, social and economic development

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Curriculum development in which Turkish and Dutch experts participate for primary schools, secondary schools, high schools and universities. Even better to make a more broad exchange between European trainers and teachers.

With regard to curriculum development at university level there could be an exchange between Wageningen University and Turkish universities, especially on a more ecology based curriculum; also Dutch students and professors supporting field work in remote areas of Turkey may motivate their Turkish counterparts; and Turkish students or professors visiting The Netherlands may have an educational benefit and might be motivating as well. Especially regarding fieldwork this needs authorisation at government level in Turkey.

**Capacity development** often has a very narrow focus. Mostly capacity development is seen as running a training programme or a course. But effective capacity development includes training, cooperation of experts and using the capacity of these experts to adapt.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Effective capacity development needs time to really discuss and work together and not just participate in a training. Therefore Turkey and The Netherlands should submit proposals together that are focussed on real capacity development and monitoring whether new capacity really has been developed or built and has an impact.

The interviewed experts from the Turkish side indicated that it would be beneficiary to cooperate with experts from other countries in pilot projects and work together by applying different tools and methods.

Having experts working together on a longer term basis (so that foreign experts really understand the situation at stake), on practical project implementation is beneficial.

#### ❖ **Data availability and monitoring**

There is a lack of data on species and habitats in Turkey. Even if data are available data are not shared nor stored in databases that can be exchanged. This last point stresses once again that there is a need for institutional development that supports cooperation for biodiversity protection.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* First priority is to set up a good data collection and storage system, including traditional knowledge. The existing ‘KusBank’ database for bird species and Noah’s Ark database ([www.nuhungemisi.gov.tr](http://www.nuhungemisi.gov.tr)) for biodiversity are very good starting points. Nature policies are integrated in The Netherlands and the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) is ‘tuned’ with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ), this could set a good example for Turkey because data are really shared. NGOs and Ministries, research institutes and universities work well together in the Netherlands because there is simply not enough capacity to do all the work by one institute only. Even well-trained volunteers help in the provision of data.

It would be beneficial, again, to exchange staff between Turkey and The Netherlands. Also the Netherlands will benefit from a fresh objective view from Turkish experts.

The process of Monitoring and Evaluation is a complicated process which includes large amounts of tools, methods and techniques. A team, working on a monitoring and evaluation process in Turkey reviewing what has been done so far regarding management planning and its ecological and economical effectiveness, could be an important starting point for setting new objectives for institutional (ex)change in support of biodiversity protection.

#### ❖ **Management planning**

Turkey has very good experts regarding the *writing* of management plans, the only recommendation would be that it is not about writing the management plan as such but whether people really *understand* why measures are implemented that are mentioned in frame of the management plan and that is far more important than having a perfectly written management plan! That is why you need to develop a management plan in a participatory way. The plan should be owned by people living in the area. Owned by all stakeholders that are affected by the management plan itself and/or have an impact on the area you are writing your plan for.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Turkish experts clearly indicated that they would be interested to cooperate in management planning for natural areas and especially on how to develop participatory or interactive management plans that are understood by a broad range of stakeholders. Not by provision of a new training on management planning but effectively working together in a management planning process. If a Dutch expert could provide a fresh view on the process in Turkey and maybe facilitate the process then it might be good if a Turkish expert provides his/her view on a planning process in The Netherlands. Especially in transboundary river basin and wetland management, Dutch experts are seen as being able to provide useful expertise in Turkey.

The remark of ‘real’ exchange between Turkey and The Netherlands by having Turkish experts participating in a Dutch planning process and vice versa, is one to seriously consider. Turkish experts could work with e.g. a Dutch Water Boards for a while.

### ❖ Sustainable tourism development

Turkey has a huge potential for developing sustainable tourism initiatives. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism also supports these initiatives, not only along the coast but also inland. Also in the strategy of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism diversifying tourism activities and sustainable tourism are among the priority issues and to develop initiatives in line with nature protection and biodiversity conservation. This is an enormous step forward to shift from mass-tourism focussed on economic development only. As indicated by many interviewees tourism has contributed largely to destroying of many ecosystems and services provided by these ecosystems. The development of sustainable tourism initiatives will strongly support the raising of awareness on the richness of Turkey's biodiversity and if developed well these initiatives can help to motivate people to protect this biodiversity. Especially inland tourism opportunities will help to reconnect urban people with nature and with the rural beauty of Turkey.

*Recommendations for cooperation between Turkey and The Netherlands:* Rural communities in Turkey, especially small scale (and often organic) farmers need alternative sources of income. In the Netherlands, as well as in other European countries, there is high interest in the rural initiative 'Kamperen bij de boer' (Camping at a farm). An exchange between Turkish and Dutch farmers on how to 'manage' facilities in favour of visitors already came forward in a few interviews. Besides Turkey already has a an effective network of organic farmers (the TaTuTa network). Important to not here as well is that small-scale farmers already largely contribute to biodiversity conservation, but are often not aware of it. An exchange on how to develop sustainable tourism, especially inland, initiatives would benefit and stimulate local production, organic farming (as there is more and more interest for local organic products), would support the protection of agro-biodiversity, will raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity protection and will generate income for farmers in Turkey as well as for Turkey as a whole. Not only Turkish and Dutch farmers could exchange ideas but also travel agencies that support sustainable tourism.

### ❖ Adapting to Climate Change

There are many initiatives on the adaptation to climate change. A new issue to so many experts and a very interesting area to work closely together! In 2008 UNDP started a large project 'Enhancing the Capacity of Turkey to Adapt to Climate Change'. In 2007 Turkey also published its first National Climate Report.

## **6.8 Some concluding remarks**

We hope that this publication is useful for Turkish organisations and Netherlands' organisations working in biodiversity conservation in Turkey. Please note that the recommendations provided in paragraph 6.7 are based as much as possible on the ideas mentioned by experts in the interviews. Also note that these recommendations are just a summary of a summary, but still reflecting, according to the authors, the most mentioned and the most important issues *at this moment in time*. Please do not just read our recommendations but go back to the interview reports, because many important issue have been raised during the interviews, which might not have been included in the recommendations given by the authors.

Please keep informing us, Chris Klok and Esther Koopmanschap, about new issues and ideas that come up because this report should not remain just a report, we hope that it can serve as a dynamic framework. A framework that includes a 'quickscan' of the main issues that improve and harm biodiversity conservation in Turkey based on the view of many different experts in Turkey and The Netherlands. A framework that will be adapted and improved. We hope we provided a baseline or 'current situation analysis', which will stimulate improving biodiversity conservation in Turkey and in The Netherlands and moreover will encourage and continue the cooperation between Turkey an The Netherlands.

*Please note that the report is primarily based on interviews carried out in 2007 and 2008. When finishing this publication (March, 2009) there are of course many new developments regarding the 'Green Knowledge Exchange' between Turkey and The Netherlands.*



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## **Annex 1: Pin- and BBI-MATRA projects (partially) carried out in Turkey**

### **Distance training for biodiversity conservation and integrated coastal management in Croatia, Poland, Russia and Turkey**

Classification biodiversity, conservation, networks, training, wetlands

Reference Pinmatra/2001/25

Region Europe

Country: Croatia Poland Russian Federation Turkey

Duration: from November 2001 until April 2004

Total budget (Euro): 160.659

Responsible office LASER

Implemented by EUCC -The Coastal Union (European Centre for Coastal Conservation).

Background of the project: Capacity building (training and access to information) is considered as the key to sustainable management of coastal areas. This project will develop, test and distribute a multimedia distance-training module 'Integrated biodiversity conservation and management for coastal CEE and NIS (Newly Independent States) countries'. The target group consists of the professionals of NGOs, GOs, relevant training institutes and organizations involved in the conservation of biodiversity and landscape around the Black Sea, East Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea and East Mediterranean Sea. The project builds on an earlier project also implemented by EUCC, supported by the Leonardo da Vinci program, and in collaboration with Polish, Turkish, Bulgarian and Slovenian experts and the Netherlands institutes RIKZ and IHE-Delft, resulting in the special distance training module 'Introduction to Integral Coast Management'. It is expected that the expert network developed during the first project, will be further developed during this project and will continue after the completion of this project.

Contributed to the conservation of Central and Easter European coastal areas through capacity building.

Expected results are:

- At least 15 professionals in Russia, Poland en Turkey attended de first training run
- The second training run has been tested by at least 100 professionals in Russia, Poland and Turkey
- At least 50 completed questionnaires have been returned by the above group.

### **Towards wise use of the Konya closed basin**

Classification biodiversity, conservation, local population, nature management, policies, rural development, training, watershed management, wetlands.

Reference Pinmatra/2003/05

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from July 2003 until July 2006

Total budget (Euro): 547.955

Responsible Office LASER

Implemented by WWF-Turkey

Background of the project: The Konya Closed Basin is located in the Central part of Turkey. The area is characterized by lack of water, silting of the agricultural lands, rapid depopulation of the rural areas and large-scale interventions for the supply of irrigation water, mostly from the surrounding mountains. In the southern edges of the basin there used to be rich wetlands, but they have mostly disappeared or are used as drainage basins. The lakes in the west are used as storage for fresh water. In the North is the large saltwater lake surrounded by some smaller lakes with protected status. With its 'Towards Wise Use of the Konya Closed Basin' project, WWF Turkey aims to stimulate key stakeholders and decision-makers to

make a strategic shift in the way they think about, use and manage water resources and thus the Konya Closed Basin at large. This process-oriented project is focused on the empowerment of stakeholder groups and communities in order for them to transform their responsibilities and concerns regarding the environment into concrete actions, long term objectives such as using scarce water sustainably and efficiently, and allocating it to support multiple activities and (natural) values of the basin and conserving and restoring wetlands and steppes for their rich biodiversity, natural products and functions. The project will be implemented in collaboration with WWF International and WWF-Netherlands

The long term objectives are:

- Forests and soils in the watershed are conserved to support diverse water needs of the basin;
- Areas with sustainable soil are secured for sustainable agriculture;
- The scarce water resources are used sustainably and efficiently, and allocated to support the multiple activities and (natural) values of the basin;
- Wetlands and steppes are conserved and restored for their rich biodiversity, natural products and functions;
- Steppes are managed sustainably to support grazing, dry land agriculture and their unique flora and fauna; and
- The socio-economic conditions of local communities are improved and will continue to develop.

Expected results are:

- Capacity built for effective and sustainable IRBM (Integrated River Basin Management)
- Dialogue established between various (inter-sectoral) stakeholders
- Pilot projects developed and implemented
- The necessity for IRBM communicated to the general public and specific target groups

### **Identifying the Pan-European Ecological Network in South Eastern Europe**

Classification biodiversity, conservation, ecological networks, information, nature development, partnerships, policies, training.

Reference Pinmatra/2003/32

Region Europe

Country: Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Greece Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Serbia And Montenegro Slovenia Turkey

Duration: from July 2003 until May 2006

Total budget (Euro): 462.057

Responsible Office LASER

Implemented by ECNC -European Centre for Nature Conservation

Background of the project: This project aims to outline the contours of the Pan European Ecological Network in South Eastern Europe. It will identify, for Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro, Bulgaria, the FYR of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania and Greece:

- the core nature areas of European importance;
- existing corridors between these areas;
- where new corridors could and should be established to meet the connectivity requirements of key species;
- the location of buffer zones and stepping stones, when and if required and possible. Naturally, the map remains an indicative map, meaning that it will only identify the possible or likely location of core areas, corridors, buffer zones and restoration areas of Pan-European importance. The project is implemented by the ECNC in partnership with organizations in the concerned countries.
- contributed to the conservation of the Balkan region's biodiversity by setting first steps towards the establishment of an international ecological network;
- synergy between existing ecological network initiatives on the national level generated;
- the implementation of the PEEN furthered by clarification of the concept;
- commitment increased towards the indicative map of the PEEN in South Eastern Europe with stakeholders involved;

- European investment agencies encouraged to take into account the requirements of the PEEN in their investment policies and projects;
- contributed to understanding of/support for nature conservation in the region;
- awareness raised of the relevance of the region's natural heritage for the whole of Europe.

Expected results are:

- core areas, buffer zones, corridors (or areas that could be restored to serve as such) indicated in support of the development of the Pan European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe;
- awareness and understanding of ecological networks in general and PEEN in particular raised by stimulating discussion among policy-makers, researchers, investors and NGOs;
- capacity built within the organizations directly involved in the project in the field of strategic planning for nature conservation, as well in the field of mapping, GIS application and data management;
- the development of national ecological networks and their linkages with the PEEN stimulated;
- involvement of national and international organizations generated by including them in the wider consultation process around the development of the map;
- threats and opportunities indicated arising from other land uses in South Eastern Europe for biodiversity in general and the Pan-European Ecological Network in particular;
- land-use planners and policy-makers on the national level of decision-making encouraged to take into account the concept of the PEEN into their national policies and ecological networks in SEE;
- international co-operation improved between countries of the project region regarding activities under the PEBLDS process and the PEEN.

### **Review of natural and semi-natural grasslands in Turkey -a first step for realising a sustainable network of high nature value areas**

Classification biodiversity, conservation, flora, information, nature assessment, policies, stakeholder participation

Reference Pinmatra/2004/009

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from September 2004 until May 2006

Total Budget (Euro): 97.997

Responsible office LASER

Implemented by KNNV (Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging)

Background of the project: This project is focussed on a review of the existing information about biodiversity aspects of natural and semi-natural grassland ecosystems in Turkey. It was estimated that 28% of Turkey is covered by pastures and grasslands. The variety in grasslands is very high: from salty steppe grasslands till upland grasslands. The total coverage of grasslands was estimated at 21 mill. ha. In the thirties, the total coverage was about 44 mill. ha. It means that the total surface was decreased with 50% over 70 years. Up till now the information about the biodiversity aspects of natural and semi-natural grasslands is scattered over nature conservation authorities, universities, institutes, private experts and NGOs. This project has the objective to raise awareness for the importance of grassland ecosystems in general. Within the project stakeholders will be involved through personal contact and through a seminar at the end of the project.

The long term objectives:

- a) To conduct a survey of the importance of natural and semi-natural grasslands in Turkey.
- b) Raising public awareness for protection and sustainable use of natural resources through the publication of a grassland review report.
- c) To assist the Turkish Government in aspects related to EU accession, and particularly regarding implementation Habitat Directive (Natura 2000 Network), Bern Convention (EMERALD Network) and agri-environmental policy.

Short term objectives

- a) To describe the natural and semi-natural grassland ecosystems based on existing knowledge in Turkey;

- b) To compile a bibliography of grassland publications in Turkey with short summaries of the contents;
- c) To prepare a working plan for the execution of a grassland mapping project in Turkey.
- Report about grassland vegetations in Turkey (trends in area in the past, actual situation, farming practices, expected changes in future, preservation goals);
  - Proposal for a national grassland mapping project.

### **Community based conservation of potential Nature 2000 sites in Turkey caretaker approach**

Reference Pinmatra/2004/011

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from December 2004 until May 2006

Total budget (Euro): 112.440

Responsible Office LASER

Implemented by Vogelbescherming Nederland

Background of the project: Turkey is a country rich in birds and biodiversity. In 2003, Doğa Derneği (DD) identified 266 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) in the country of which 184 are Important Bird Areas (IBA's). Most of these sites are expected to qualify as a Natura 2000 site. Due to often inadequately planned economical developments, many of these sites are under great pressure or at serious risk. On the other hand, the number of local initiatives is rapidly increasing, as most of these developments do affect stakeholders in or around these sites. To try and halt negative impacts in bird and biodiversity priority sites (IBA's/KBA's), DD started to work with c. 400 local individuals in 20 different provinces of Turkey since 2002, in order to monitor and conserve these sites.

DD held several training activities for these volunteers. The results so far have shown a strong need for a well planned, strategic set-up of the IBA/KBA caretakers network in order to standardise and prioritise and by these to maximise it's inputs into the conservation of the potential Natura 2000 sites in Turkey. Overall (long-term) Objective:

All internationally important sites in Turkey for birds and other biodiversity are adequately protected

Project Goal:

A strong network of local caretakers for the conservation of potential Natura 2000 sites in Turkey established and operational

Project objectives:

1. Project management implemented successfully.
  2. Data on Important Bird Areas (IBA's) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) easily available.
  3. Capacity development programme for IBA/KBA caretakers in place (one pilot and two official training workshops held, each for 20 participants, in the project period).
  4. Local IBA/KBA caretaker network operational and providing significant input to IBA/KBA conservation.
  5. IBA/KBA data distributed to key stake-holders and contributing to formal national and EU site protection in Turkey
  6. Project results effectively and widely communicated
- Two progress reports prepared per year by DD to VBN.
  - IBA/KBA Book (including IBA's of EU importance) printed, launched, distributed to all relevant stakeholders.
  - The IBA/KBA data of Turkey are systematically being updated and recent data are widely available for conservation actions through an online database system.
  - Strategic plan prepared for setting-up, training and maintaining key KBA/IBA caretaker groups.
  - Successful and long-term capacity Development Programme developed and established in Turkey for training local IBA/KBA caretakers-conservationists

- Sustainability of the Training Programme secured.
- IBA/KBA data contributing to formal national and EU site protection in Turkey.
- Necessary revisions made on the DD's conservation plan with inputs of the IBA/KBA caretaker groups

### **Establishment of Zero Extinction Fund (ZEF) for Turkey**

Classification biodiversity, conservation, investments.

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/013

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from January 2006 until December 2007

Total budget (Euro): 99.500

Responsible Office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by Vogelbescherming Nederland

Background of the project: Turkey is a biodiversity rich country where rates of extinction are equally likely to rise as a result of increasing human activities' pressures to its natural and semi-natural habitats. Like many of the signatory parties to the Convention of Biodiversity, Turkey has committed itself to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. Furthermore, as a candidate country to the EU, Turkey has been responsible to compile its Natura 2000 short list in order to identify species and sites of prime conservation importance. This exercise is now nearly complete with the country's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified. Turkey's nature currently urges concrete action to safeguard those areas that require urgent interventions to prevent likely extinctions.

This proposal calls upon the creation of a national pool of financial resources that will enable the implementation of innovative entrepreneur projects triggering conservation of the most threatened and rare species among Turkish KBAs. The Zero Extinction Fund targets to gain the support of the most prominent sectors in the society, especially the private sector in Turkey. Vogelbescherming Nederlands, Doğa Derneği and Doğan Media Group (Atlas Magazine and CNN Turk) decided to work collaboratively for the establishment of the Zero Extinction Fund (ZEF) to attract long-term commitment from the business community which has thus far has been engaged only distantly to biodiversity conservation.

The Project comprises the following main objectives; i) identify and engage corporate partners the ZEF, ii) identify priority areas, where ZEF should invest urgently, iii) run a public awareness campaign on species extinctions, iv) organise a day long telethon for the campaign with the support of celebrities and CNN Turk, v) set up a steering committee of the ZEF, vi) support pilot projects in priority areas through ZEF.

### **Facilitating the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network: a programme focussing on the Balkans and the Black Sea Area**

Classification: capacity building, ecological networks, policies, stakeholder participation

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/014

Region Europe

Country: Bulgaria Croatia Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine

Duration: from December 2005 until November 2007

Total budget (Euro): 540.586

Responsible office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation Serbia and Montenegro

Background of the project: The purpose of this programme is to facilitate that the Balkans, Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Turkey are fully involved in activities in support of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) and that interests and considerations specific to these regions are taken into account. To achieve this, the programme will take an integrative approach, aimed at involvement of all relevant

stakeholder groups and specifically including non-conservation stakeholders. The programme will take into account coastal and marine areas as well as terrestrial areas.

The emphasis of work under this programme will be very much on Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey, but support will also be given to the wider Pan-European Ecological Network, especially to the work of the Committee of Experts on the Establishment of the PEEN and to work carried out under the Work programme on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks set up under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The reason for this wider scope is that activities focusing on the Balkans and the Black Sea can only be successful if a strong international context is provided.

The primary target groups benefiting from this programme will include national authorities and NGOs in Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as owners and managers of protected areas in these countries. The target groups will benefit from the programme by:

- Increased access to information on development in research, policy and funding concerning PEEN and ecological networks in general via a dedicated website/clearing house;
- Seminars addressing priority training needs in the region;
- Resources to attend international meetings and events;
- Higher profile of the region in international forums and policy processes;
- Being part of a coordinated network of experts and policy makers.

The objective of this programme is providing support to and facilitating the establishment of the Pan European Ecological Network in the Balkans and the Black Sea Area. This will be put into effect by:

- 1.Promoting the ecological network concept, and PEEN in particular, among relevant actors and in relevant forums in the Balkans and the Black Sea area;
- 2.Capacity building programmes for governmental and non-governmental organisations in these regions;
- 3.Supporting organisations from the Balkans and the Black Sea area in successfully applying for funding for projects in support of ecological networks and PEEN;
- 4.Stimulating the involvement of other sectors, such as agriculture, transport, fisheries and spatial planning in discussions concerning ecological networks in general and PEEN in particular;
- 5.Stimulating and supporting discussions in EU about connectivity and ecological networks; where appropriate promoting interests of and considerations specific to the Balkans and the Black Sea area;
- 6.Supporting effective implementation of activities focusing on ecological networks under the CBD, the Environment for Europe process and the PEBLDS, while in particular promoting the interests and considerations of the Balkans and the Black Sea area.

### **Building Strategic Partnerships to Catalyze Sustainability of Wetlands for Biodiversity Conservation at Central Anatolia Region of Turkey**

Classification biodiversity, capacity building, fauna, partnerships, wetlands

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/020

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from January 2006 until December 2006

Total budget (Euro): 109.194

Responsible Office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by Wetlands International

Background of the project: The Konya Closed Basin is breeding habitat for 8 of the 13 globally threatened bird species in Europe, 14 Important Bird Areas, and 10 Important Plant Areas. Despite these values, biodiversity and traditional cultures of the Region are under extreme pressure. Unsustainable water management due to lack of sustainable use policies and incentives is a major cause. Solutions and mechanisms to reverse the situation are known and available, however lack of commitment from politicians and decision-makers means that implementation and enforcement are not realised. NGOs have an important role to play in influencing policy and actions to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands

and water resources. National NGOs in Turkey have been highly effective in protected areas management planning, however participation of local NGOs, which is key to local policy making and on-site management, is almost nonexistent. Local NGOs lack institutional and managerial capacity to participate to their full potential. Through capacity-building and network development the project will position local NGOs to participate in regional, national and global decision-making processes and actively contribute to wetlands conservation, development of the pan-European ecological network and related priorities set by the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and other global Conventions.

The aim of the project is to contribute to wetland biodiversity conservation of Central Anatolia Region, emphasizing the Konya Closed Basin.

Objectives: increase institutional and managerial capacity and enhance the sustainability of local NGOs to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in protected areas; establish an operational Federation of Central Anatolia nature conservation NGOs capable of contributing to and advocating for local, regional and national policy reforms with regard to participatory decision making, and sustainable use of wetland natural resources including freshwater; increase the cooperation capacity of Central Anatolia Conservation NGOs through the implementation of a pilot project on sustainable wetland use that will campaign to improve the efficiency of water use in a rural area.

An active Federation of local NGOs in the Central Anatolia Region, institutional and technical capacities of the Federation and its individual members sufficiently developed for effective project management and policy development and recognition of the Federation as 1) a legitimate authority on Central Anatolia Region wetland and protected areas issues and 2) a valuable participant in related decision-making processes.

### **Support to Elaboration of a national Agri-environment Programme for Turkey**

Classification biodiversity, capacity building, fauna, partnerships, wetlands

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/023

Region Asia

Country: Turkey

Duration: from January 2006 until June 2008

Total budget (Euro): 529.774

Responsible Office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by Avalon Foundation

Background of the project: Agri-environment payments are an obligatory measure for EU Member States to implement under Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy the so-called 'Rural Development Regulation' (the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development from 2007) and are intended to encourage farmers to adopt more environmentally-friendly and sustainable farming practices, including the conservation of biodiversity, landscape and other natural resources. Agri-environment payments are therefore an important part of the agricultural acquis and are commonly administered within the framework of a so-called National Agri-environment Programme (NAEP) with clearly defined and logical objectives pursued through the implementation of a range of specific sub-measures that are often organised and promoted to farmers as national, regional or local schemes.

The programme is a follow-up to a series of projects undertaken by the applicant -Avalon -and its partners in the ten EU pre-accession countries of central and eastern Europe between 1997 and 2001, and in Croatia in 2002 2004.

The main goal of this programme is to assist Turkey in the process of preparing for future accession to the EU by supporting the development of a NAEP for Turkey with the objective of ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management on high nature value (HNV) agricultural land, and by supporting development of the necessary capacity and organisational structures for agri-environment policy-making and programming in the future.

In order to effectively provide this assistance, the specific objectives of the programme are to: 1.introduce the concept of HNV agricultural land to relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations in

Turkey 2.introduce the concept of EU co-financed agri-support payments to the same governmental and non-governmental organisations 3.bring together policy-makers and relevant stakeholders to develop an effective model of the organisational structure necessary for developing an NAEP, as well as all future agri-environment policy in Turkey 4.use this model of the necessary organisational structure to prepare pilot agri-environment schemes for TWO contrasting pilot areas in Turkey 5.apply the results and lessons learnt from this process to the development of proposals for a NAEP for Turkey 6.widely disseminate and promote the proposals for a NAEP to all relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.  
Classification environment, policies

### **Integrating local communities and nature protection in the European Green Belt**

Classification capacity building, ecological networks, stakeholder participation, wetlands

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/038

Region Europe

Country: Bulgaria Croatia Romania Russian Federation Turkey

Duration: from September 2005 until August 2007

Total budget (Euro): 109.865

Responsible office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by IUCN -The World Conservation Union Serbia And Montenegro

Background of the project: The European Green Belt, an ecological network for nature conservation and regional sustainable development, was launched in 2004. The initiative has evolved rapidly through the development of the Programme of Work and the establishment of a fulltime Coordinator to oversee it. The three sections: Fennoscandia, Central Europe, and South-Eastern Europe are managed by regional coordinating organisations and in each country there are National Focal Points who represent national administrations and other partners such as NGOs to the Green Belt.

Now that the required structures are in place, it is essential to realise this international initiative's goals through actions on the ground. The Programme of Work calls for projects to be initiated by 2006 that integrate nature conservation with rural development for local communities. This project aims to initiate a pilot project that will conduct habitat mapping and capacity-building in the Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve in Serbia & Montenegro which is part of a wetland complex that spans Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Hungary. The pilot study will emphasise the importance of cooperation and exchange of information between Serbia & Montenegro and Croatia. In the other BBI Matra countries that border the Green Belt extensive consultations with local stakeholders will take place to identify focal regions and to develop a series of targeted project proposals ready for implementation. The initiative is working to highlight the importance of cooperation across borders and to provide positive examples of the implementation of international conservation agreements at the local level.

Currently a database is being developed that will contain information on the land use patterns and protected areas within the Green Belt. The habitat mapping that will take place in Gornje Podunavlje SNR will form a direct contribution to this initiative and provide an important link between the database at the European level and activities at the local level. The pilot study will work closely with local authorities and stakeholders to identify opportunities for sustainable regional development involving the Special Nature Reserve (SNR). The results from this pilot study will also be used in the development of the project proposals for other regions and will be communicated widely among Green Belt participants.

The consultations with stakeholders will identify focal areas by linking the important needs and activities of local communities with respect to nature to the protected landscapes around them. A Workshop will be organised, in connection with ongoing projects, in each region to bring stakeholders together to discuss the results and how projects could be implemented. In this process there will be a strong exchange of knowledge and communication on the tools that can be used to improve sustainable rural development. Tools will include activities at the local level and the European level – such as training on funding at the European level and establishing links with old and new EU member states. The results of the pilot study and the proposals will also act as models for the integration of local practices into the management of protected areas.

**Capacity building of environmental NGOs focused on forests in accession countries and new Member States**

Classification capacity building, forestry development, policies

Reference BBI-Matra/2005/039

Region Europe

Country: Bulgaria Croatia Romania Turkey

Duration: from September 2005 until August 2006

Total budget (Euro): 67.639

Responsible office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by FERN

Background of the project: Civil society groups in accession countries and in new EU Member States are increasingly looking towards using EU policies and legislation to protect the environment in their countries. This is particularly the case for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) working on natural resource management and, specifically, forest management. The accession of ten new Member States has increased the forested area within the EU by about 20%. It will increase again substantially with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.

FERN works closely with local and national NGOs in new Member States and accession countries to promote the protection and sustainable use of forests. With this project, FERN aims to support these NGOs in how to use existing EU legislation and policies effectively to further reach their objectives. To this end FERN will produce a guide and a series of briefing notes, organise training sessions and host a conference for NGOs to meet and discuss with Commission staff and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The annual Forest Movement Europe (FME) meetings -the only EU-focused NGO network dedicated to issues affecting forests and forest dependent peoples – will be an important part of the project. These meetings will provide the new Member States and accession country NGOs with an opportunity to meet with most NGOs working on similar issues in the EU15.

This project is a one year proposal to kick-start the capacity building of forest NGOs in new Member States and accession countries and to connect them with the existing network of European NGOs

**Establishing the foundation for the launch of a Black Sea Regional Initiative for the wise use of coastal wetlands (BlackSeaWet)**

Classification coastal zone management, policies, protected areas, stakeholder participation, wetlands

Region Europe

Reference BBI-Matra/2006/034

Country: Bulgaria Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine

Duration: from August 2006 until March 2008

Total budget (Euro): 110.361

Responsible office Ministry of LNV Dienst regelingen

Implemented by Wetlands International

Background of the project: The Black Sea coastal wetlands include examples of rare and threatened habitats such as coastal steppe and coastal peat bogs that include diverse and often rare animal and plant species. Furthermore, they are essential as spawning, nursery and feeding grounds for many economically important species in the Black Sea. Coastal wetlands in the Black Sea Basin provide important services and benefits to people such as food, building materials, flood protection, water quality improvement and groundwater recharge. However wetlands are multi-use ecosystems and often development in the Basin is degrading these wetland ecosystems, posing a very significant threat to biodiversity and negatively affecting livelihoods of the local population. There is a need to establish a strategic initiative across the Basin that can help to address these issues through activities such as influencing policy, raising awareness, engaging civil society, demonstrating best practices, and undertaking research.

The project is designed to establish civil society, government, scientific community and international organisation support and the donor environment that will lead to the inception of a coordinated initiative (BlackSeaWet) to catalyze the conservation and sustainable use of Black Sea Coastal wetlands.

To establish the foundation for the future launch (within 1.5 years) of a strategic regional wetland initiative (BlackSeaWet) that will catalyse the conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands. Sub-goals are:

Establish and maintain stakeholder participation in the development of the foundations for the BlackSeaWet initiative.

Develop a Vision and Portfolio of actions for BlackSeaWet as the basis for future actions.

(Planned) Outputs: -A web-based directory detailing key government, civil society and scientific organisations in the Black Sea Region concerned with wetland conservation and sustainable development.

-Improved networking between national and sub-national stakeholders focused through National Working Groups composed of government, civil society and scientific organisations concerned with the Black Sea.

-An international conference on conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands.

-Portfolio of Actions focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. -A Vision document for conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands. -Donor awareness of the need for support of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands increased to the point where dialogue engaged for support of Portfolio implementation.

## **Annex 2: Summary of posters on biodiversity priorities by participants.**

- **TÜRÇEK:**

Turkish Environmental And Woodland Protection Society (1972)

Developing non-political environmental policies

Democratic participatory mediatory understanding

Priority:

Establish an ecological network

R&D on species (extensive)

Developing a curriculum of ecology

- **TARIM VE KÖYİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI – MoARA**

Gen kaynaklarının muhafazası – The conservation of genetic resources

Yerli gen kaynakları öncelikli tohum ıslahı – Priority on the breeding of local genetic resources

Organik Tarım – Organic Agriculture

- **KUŞ ARAŞTIRMALARI DERNEĞİ – BIRD RESEARCH SOCIETY**

Öncelikler – Priorities

Özellikle sulakalanlar olmak üzere kuşların yaşama ortamlarının korunması bozulmuş olanların iyileştirilmesi

Özellikle Orta Anadolu'da olmak üzere suyun iyi yönetimi

Bozulmuş sulakalanların restore edilmesi

Ulusal sulakalan merkezi kurulması

Ulusal ve yerel düzeyde kapasite artırılması

Nesli tehlikede veya tehlikeye düşebilir kuş türleri için eylem planları hazırlanması ve uygulanması

Avrupa Birliği direktifleri, uluslararası sözleşmelerle uyumlu doğa koruma yasasının çıkarılması

- **MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Culture:

Safeguarding traditional culture which means protection of nature

Tourism

- **WWF–TURKEY**

Priorities areas

3 eco regions:

- Mediterranean Eco-region (Terrestrial + Marine)

- The Caucasus eco-region (Caucasus, Anatolian, Temperate forest)

- Anatolian freshwater eco-region

Working in 3 programs:

Forest

Freshwater

Marine and Coast

+ climate change

Conservation Targets:

Turkey will have more extensive, more diverse and higher quality forest landscapes which will meet human needs while conserving biological diversity fulfilling ecosystem functions necessary for people and nature.

The fresh water habitats and resources of Turkey are conserved and wisely used to benefit people and nature.

Making a significant contribution to the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in Turkey by using Med. Coastline as a model area.

Key issues:

Policy change and adoption of EU directives

Capacity building

Effective communication

Concrete solutions on the ground

Increasing public participation

- TEMA

Öncelikler

Çevre sorunlarına karşı halkın farkındalığını arttırma

Toprak erozyonuyla mücadele

Ormanların korunması

Biyçeşitliliğin korunması

İklim değişimi

Biyolojik çeşitlilik ile ilgili konularda öncelikler

AB ile entegrasyon

Su çerçeve politikası

Çölleşme ile mücadele

Kırsal kalkınma

Priorities

Increase public awareness on environmental problems

Combat with soil erosion

Conservation of forests

Biodiversity conservation

Climate change

Priorities on biodiversity

Integration with EU

Water frame policy

Combat with desertification

Rural development

- DHKD- The Society for the Protection of Nature

Priorities for the nature conservation

Promotion of protection and sustainable use of natural resources

Development of national environmental policies

Capacity building of governmental officials, local NGOs and volunteers/public awareness.

### Annex 3: Workshop programme

Programme 22 November 2008 Green Knowledge Exchange Turkey - The Netherlands

08.30	Room open to prepare posters		
09.00	Coffee/tea		
09.30	Opening by Ministry of LNV (Ms. Carla Konsten)		
09.40	Introduction of participants with posters		
10.35	Priorities International Biodiversity Policy (Ms. Marie Josée Jenniskens)		
10.45	Coffee/tea		
11.00	Introduction group work (Ms. Chris Klok and Ms. Esther Koopmanschap)		
11.05	Group work: Governmental Organisations including Mr Marien Spek and Ms Esther Koopmanschap (faciliator)	Group work: NGOs including Ms. Gelare Nader and Mr. Jieles van Baalen (facilitator)	Group work: NGOs including Mr. Hans Kampf and Ms. Chris Klok (facilitator)
12.30	Lunch		
14.00	Presentations and discussion group work		
15.30	Available Dutch programmes and instruments (Ms. Gelare Nader)		
15.45	Coffee/tea		
16.00	Introduction group work (Ms. Chris Klok and Ms. Esther Koopmanschap)		
16.05	Plenary work on cooperation between Turkey and the Netherlands: Bringing priorities together - steps for (further) cooperation, and discussion on further cooperation between Turkey and the Netherlands		
17.30	Closure and concluding remarks future perspectives (Ms. Carla Konsten) followed by drinks		





**agriculture, nature  
and food quality**

Commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Wageningen University & Research Centre in the Netherlands aims to address global challenges of sustainable development through what it calls ‘science for impact’. The **Wageningen International Capacity Development and Institutional Change Programme (CD&IC)** is part of this strategy. We offer partners and clients a comprehensive range of capacity development services. These combine our expertise on innovation, learning processes and institutional change. Our approach brings different stakeholders together in constructive dialogue and integrates scientific understanding and technology development with processes of organisational and social change.

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