CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 16

Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at the national, regional, and international level

IPANET

A civil society network for the conservation of Important Plant Areas in Turkey

GSPC Target 16 (ESPC targets 2.17, 4.2a, 5.5-5.7)

Relevant species or habitats

Project coordinators	Stichting Rubicon (The Netherlands)
Partner organisations	FLORON, INV (The Netherlands)
Funding mechanisms	BBI-MATRA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands) WWF information on eco-regions (www.panda.org)

Uludag IPA (Northern Turkey)

Cyclamen pseudibericum

Description

The Important Plant Areas project in Turkey cuts across many of the targets of the ESPC and GSPC, including targets 4, 5, 7 and 15. Turkey contains 5 eco-regions as defined by WWF (see below) including Mediterranean forests, woodland and scrub. Turkey is one of the most important regions of floristic diversity in Europe. There are c.10,000 species with 35% endemism, with habitats ranging from semi-desert, to temperate rainforest, to grassland and wetland. The country falls across three floristic regions and contains two of Vavilov's eight Centres of Crop Plant Diversity. However only a tiny portion, less than 1% of Turkey's land area receives protection for nature conservation and only 12 of the 87 Bern Convention species receive any protection and usually only one site per species. In addition Turkey has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe and pressures on nature are increasing.

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CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 16

IPANET: A civil society network for conserving IPAs in Turkey

Description (II)

The IPA Identification Project in Turkey was coordinated by three organisations: Doğal Hayatı Koruma Derneği (DHKD), The University of Istanbul, and Flora & Fauna International (FFI). 122 IPAs, covering 12% of the total land area of Turkey were identified from 1994 to 2002 and the abridged results were published in 2003. The full book version of these results was also published in 2005. Among the greatest threats to the conservation of these IPAs is the lack of implementation of conservation measures on the ground and the lack of participation of civil society in the conservation process.

The IPANet Project aims to create and train a strong civil network working at community level with various stakeholders (Government offices, local NGOs, universities, private sector organisations and individuals) to allow effective participatory processes to influence political decisions on resource management. Training and capacity building of local IPA networks will be targeted at the following types of activities: Lobbying – influencing local decision making (town/village council and national); Community development related to conservation/sustainable use of biodiversity; Formal and non-formal education; Production of educational materials and programmes; Citizen science

Date of case study

Citations and Publications

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Website	www.dhkd.org WWF information on eco-regions (www.panda.org)