



## “BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN CAMILI BASIN”



**Mr. Erdogan Ertürk**

*The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey*

*E-Mail: [erdoganerturk@yahoo.com](mailto:erdoganerturk@yahoo.com)*

*17th Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of The European Landscape Convention  
9-10 June 2016, Budapest/HUNGARY*





## The Project

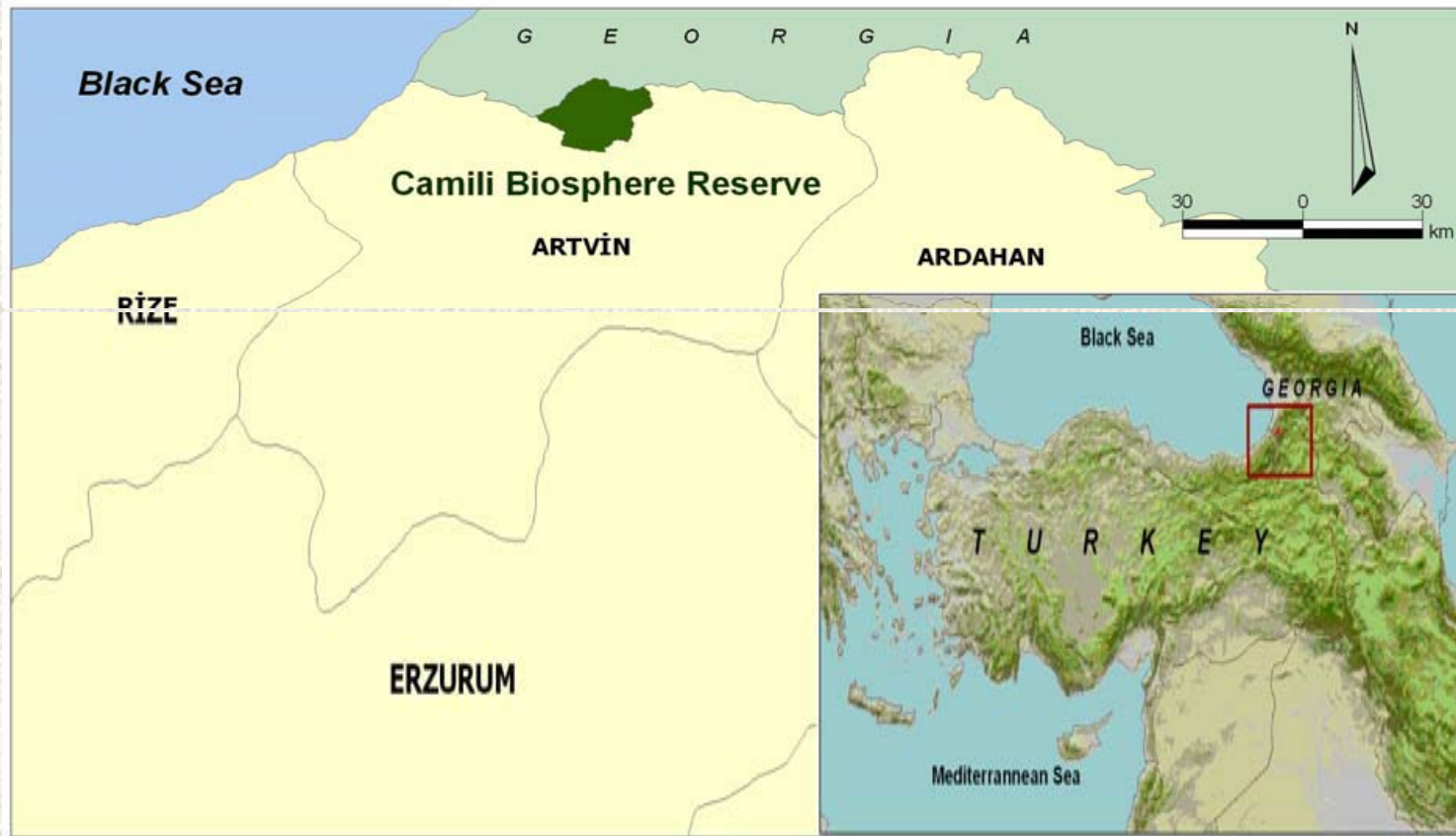
Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project which was funded by *the World Bank* and *the Global Environment Facility(GEF)* and executed by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP) of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFW) since 2000, was completed on October 2008.







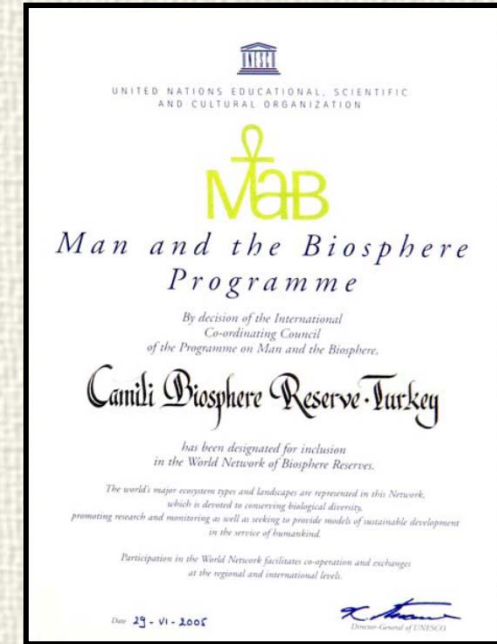
## Location Map of The Camili Basin





## Camili Biosphere Reserve

Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Project resulted in declaring the Camili Basin as the “Biosphere Reserve Area” of Turkey and registered in the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Network, as Turkey’s first Biosphere Reserve on June 29th 2005 with an area of 25,152 ha.







## **Outcomes of The Project**

- Participatory Protected Area Management Plan
- Biodiversity Integrated Forest Management Plan
- Visitor Centers and Other Infrastructures
- Small Grants Projects for Local People and NGOs
- Awareness of Local people
- Training of School Children
- Capacity Building for Government Staff and NGOs
- Declaration of the Camili Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO



## Project Objectives

To establish effective inter-sectoral participatory planning and sustainable management of Camili Basin.

To build capacity at the national level to facilitate replication of these activities at priority conservation sites.





## **The Camili Basin**

The Camili basin is an ecological and cultural treasure which is hidden in Karçal Mountains for centuries.

The basin, which from green valleys to high alpine meadows, has not been much impacted by human activities.

With large natural ecosystems, old growth forests and humid climate the Camili basin has a temperate rain forests characteristics.

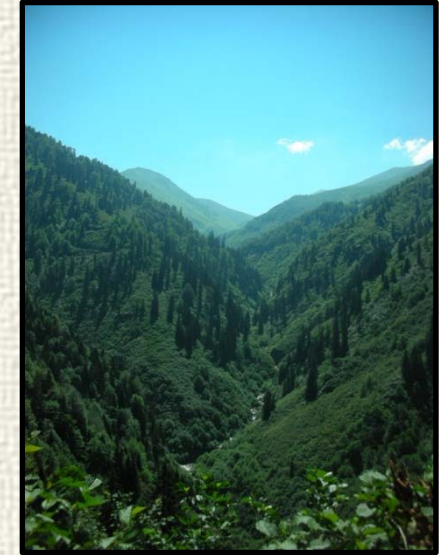






## **Ecosystems and Ecological Communities**

- Old growth forests and temperate rain forests
- Extensive alpine and subalpine ecosystems
- Aquatic communities







## Fauna Species

- *The genetically pure Caucasian Honey Bee Race*
- Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)
- Caucasian Black Grouse (*Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*)
- Caucasian Viper (*Vipera kaznakovi*)
- Caucasian Salamander (*Mertensiella caucasica*)
- Big Spotted Trout (*Salmo trutta macrostigma*)
- Migratory Raptors





## Cultural Values

The Camili area has been governed at various times by the Byzantine Empire, the Seljuk Empire, Mongols, the Ottoman Empire, Russians and Georgians .

Notable archaeological and historical features in the Camili basin include the Kemer bridge, the Iremite mosque, the church, Tamara's bridge and two old prisons.

Traditional dances and old folk music culture still survive in the area; the villagers have recently formed a Polyphonic Elders' Chorus with a view to preserve traditional songs for future generations.







## **Protected Area Management Planning**

A participatory Management Plan was initiated in the region in 2003. At each village and in different neighborhoods of the larger villages, information events were held about the conservation goals, vision and regional mapping of the management plan.

Implementing the principle of governance, beekeeping, ecotourism, and agriculture and livestock committees were formed, which were in compliance with the conservation goals of the plan.





The management plan prepared in 2007 had a detailed program and a vision seeking to strike a balance between the old and the new, between global diversity and local development, and between respected traditions and inevitable change.

The forest management plan which was prepared for the Camili basin in 2006, is the first plan in the country that includes also biodiversity conservation activities.





## BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT



The project focused on building skills of Protected Area Management Authority (PAMA) staff, within the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.

A management team composed of qualified and quantified was established in Camili basin.







### Infrastructure and Information Facilities

Entrance building, bird watching tower and visitor center were constructed in the area to inform visitors and to aware stakeholders and school children in terms of biodiversity and natural resources.





## Small Grants Program

Beekeeping, honey production and ecotourism (hostels, guiding services) projects prepared by the people and civil society organizations of the region were selectively supported by the project to encourage nature friendly economic activities.







## BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT



Technical and financial support provided by the small grants program of the GEF Project helped improve the number and the quality of income generation activities in the region.

Local people and NGOs were trained about the project preparation and management.







## BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT



Small Grant Program Projects	Number of the Supported Projects
Ecotourism	13
Education, Publicity and Capacity Building	2
Beekeeping and Honey Production, Marketing	23
Skilled Trade, Home Made Products and Conservation of Local Culture	5
Nature Friendly Animal Husbandry Practices	2
Agriculture Applications Supporting Biodiversity	2
Wise Uses of Water Resources	-
Total Number of Projects	49
Total Grants	280,000 USD





During the project a beekeeping committee was established through collaboration **Environmental Protection and Development Association** with representatives from each village and bringing producers in the region together.



As the Caucasian bee species is genetically pure, this situation created an internal control and monitoring mechanism for protection and sustainable production of the Caucasian bee and the honey in the region.





Illegal cutting of tress and illegal grazing were most important threats in the region before the project.

With the support of the project, illegal cutting of trees that local people used for their firewood has gradually decreased in the region.

Consequently, the project has successfully managed to reduce previously environmental damages given to the biodiversity and natural resources of the basin.







## **Training and Awareness of Local People**

The project supported extensive public awareness activities at the local level, including workshops, structured consultations, and regular interactions with villagers.

Outreach programs with local schools were developed and field visits facilitated for children and villagers to other natural sites in the country.





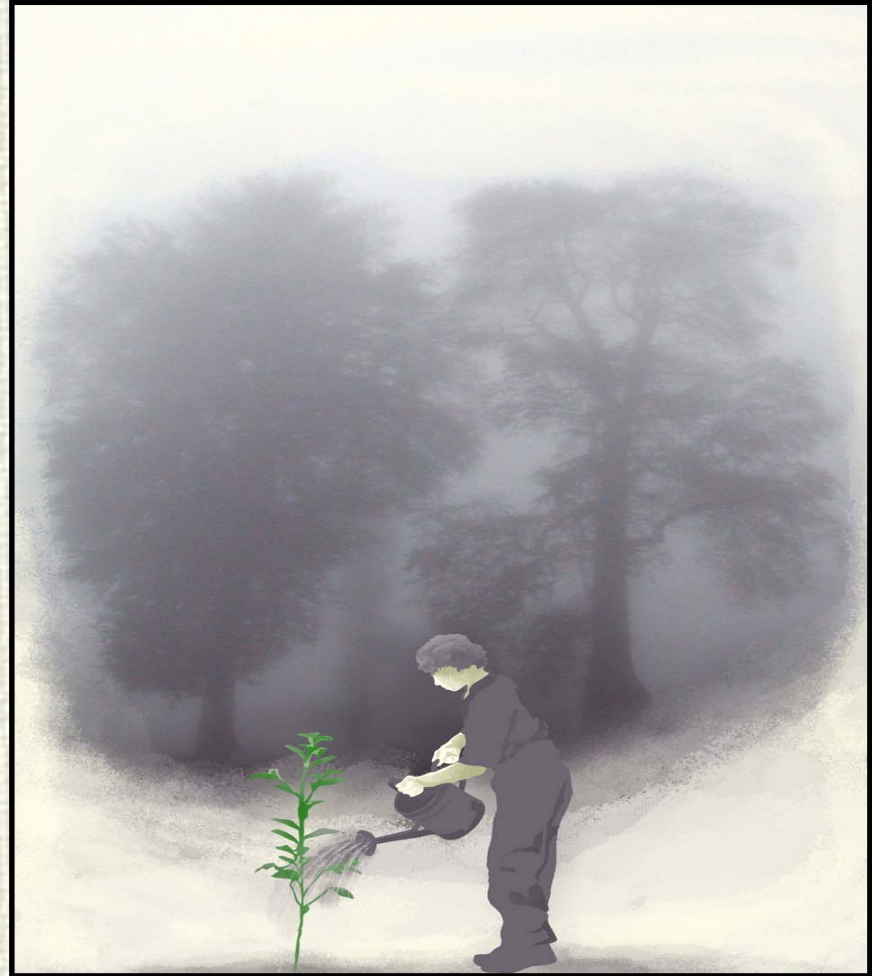


# LESSONS LEARNED





Establishment of an appropriate management structure and continuity of the staff are the basic principles for the successful protected area management.







Conducting and implementation of the rapid ecological assessment should be encouraged during the preparation phase of the management plans.







Establishment of Small Grants Programs and similar financial mechanism for local people living in or around protected areas should be supported to ensure the development by conserving the nature and to diminish the unsustainable use of natural resources.







Participation and informing target groups on participatory approach are really essential elements for effective and successful planning and management although the process is very slow.







Experts who are responsible for preparing the protected area management plans should think about the issue more comprehensively at watershed base to effectively protect and manage biodiversity.







Thank you...