

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management in the Camili Basin, Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association

The Camili Basin was selected as one of the four pilot sites of the Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project which was implemented by the Camili Environmental Protection and Development Association, with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in collaboration with the World Bank and the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from 2000 to 2008. Through the project, many activities such as policy and programmes, training and awareness-raising, implementation and monitoring, were realised. Within this context, a participatory management plan was prepared, and training and awareness-raising programmes were carried out for local people and schoolchildren. Local people were supported both technically and financially to develop alternative economic activities. In addition, a visitor centre and bird watching towers were constructed, and a local ecotourism and beekeeping committee was established. Collaboration with the project of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO led the Camili Basin to join the World Biosphere Reserve Network in 2005.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe acknowledged and praised the great value of the project presented for the 4th Session 2014-2015 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration. As a result of the project, an inter-sectoral, participatory and sustainable management plan has been prepared and is being implemented. Training, education and awareness-raising programmes have also been carried out for local people and schoolchildren. In addition, technical and financial assistance has been provided to involve the local population in landscape-related projects, offering new economic prospects. The project illustrates how the precautionary management of natural resources and biodiversity contributes positively to enhancing the landscape, which is considered an essential component of people's surroundings.