

Report of the Turkish MAB National Committee on the Activities of UNESCO MAB Programme (2007-2009)

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In all MAB related activities established by the Turkish MAB Committee has been considered the MAP implementation.

It should be noted that at the 35th Session of the UNESCO General Conference 2009, Turkey was elected first time into the MAB International Co-ordinating Council (MaB – ICC) since the program was established.

MAP 5 The EuroMAB 2007 Meeting

The Turkish MAB Committee with the support of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, UNESCO Venice and Moscow Offices hosted EuroMAB 2007 Regional Network Meeting. That meeting finalized with the adoption of the EuroMAB Action Plan. The Proceedings of the EuroMAB 2007 were published by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and distributed out to the Participants during the EuroMAB 2009 held in Slovakia. This report is also available at the www.unesco.org.tr website.

MAP 5 Subregional Workshop; The Role of UNESCO MAB (Man and the Biosphere Reserve) Program in Sustainable Development Management in the Middle Asia Step Region

A Workshop on the Role of UNESCO MAB (Man and the Biosphere Reserve) Program in Sustainable Development Management in the Middle Asia Step Region was organized by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the MaB National Committee, with the support of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Antalya, Turkey on 25-28 November 2008. The main goal of the Workshop was to evaluate the current state of nature conservation activities carried out in the Step Region and to reveal the cooperation opportunities for the Countries involved. 52 participants from 7 different countries attended the workshop.

MAP 5 International Workshop: Developing the Biosphere Reserves Network in the SEE and Caucasus Regions

After establishing the Steering Committee for the EuroMAB Region in the EuroMAB 2009 in Slovakia, the Turkish MAB Committee, in cooperation with UNESCO Venice Office and UNESCO Moscow Cluster Office initiated an international workshop on Developing the Biosphere Reserves Network in the SEE and Caucasus Regions. The Workshop resulted with an action plan for the SEE and Caucasus Regions, aimed at establishing of a functional biosphere reserve networking, as well as stimulating the sharing of knowledge and experience.

MAP 7 Turkish MAB National Committee

The Turkish MAB National Committee was established by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and consists of individual experts, representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, as well as academicians, mainly from the field of nature conservation and also social scientists.

The Committee convenes regularly at the Turkish National Commission and has authorization to plan its activities in the context of MAB Program implementation.

Activities planned and carried out by the Turkish MAB National Committee is financially supported by the Turkish National Commission and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry

MAP 8 and 26 Project on the Certification of the Organic Products in Camili Biosphere Reserve

In order to ensure the sustainable development and to create new income opportunities for the local people, living in Camili Biosphere Reserve, the Turkish MAB Committee, with the financial support of the Turkish National Commission, the technical support of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, have established a project for

the certification of local organic products, especially honey production in Camili Biosphere Reserve. The Project comes to the final stage of implementation and has so far gained the full recognition from the local people. At the end of 2010, the local people shall get the certificate for the organic honey production.

MAP 10 The Management Plan of Camili Biosphere Reserve

The Management Plan of the Camili Biosphere Reserve was prepared through a participatory manner and complies with the BR Zonation requirements. A negotiation process with local people, relevant institutions, and NGOs related to the actualization of the Management Plan is currently carried out

MAP 11 Statute on the Establishment, Management and Monitoring of the Biosphere Reserves

Since Turkey has not adopted yet a special normative regulation for the Biosphere Reserves, Turkish MAB National Committee prepared a draft Statute on the establishment, management and monitoring of the Biosphere Reserves and submitted it for the consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry , other relevant institutions and civil society organizations. The draft statute will be also transmitted for comments to other stakeholders.

MAP 28 Study Tour of the Local People from Camili Biosphere Reserve to the Oberlausitzer Heide-und Teichenlandschaft Biosphere Reserve in Germany

In 2007, in the context of exchanging knowledge and experience among the Biosphere Reserves, Turkish MAB Committee initiated cooperation with the Directorate of Oberlausitzer Heide-und Teichenlandschaft Biosphere Reserve in Germany. With the financial support of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, local elected representatives of Camili Biosphere Reserve visited the German Biosphere reserve in order to initiate a relation between the two BR Management Authorities and local people. After visiting the German Biosphere Reserve, the recognition of BR concept among the local people living in Camili was considerably increased.

MAP 30 A future transboundary biosphere reserve; Strandja Mountains

Strandja Mountain , located on the territories of both Bulgaria and Turkey is a significant example of a territory abundant in biological and cultural diversity. Both countries - Bulgaria and Turkey, have declared nationally protected areas on their respective sides. Besides, during the last years a project supported by the European Union, which to study the options for the establishment of a transboundary biosphere reserve on this location was also initiated. Some common activities, related to biodiversity conservation, education for sustainable development between the two countries, have been already accomplished and also currently implemented.

Turkey has already prepared a scenario plan for the future biosphere reserve on its territory of Strandja Mountain, while Bulgaria is currently carrying out a separate project dedicated to the establishment of such category.