

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Case study 13 DYKD - Best Agricultural Practice
Project title	Wise Use of Water Resources and Adaptation to Climate Change in Konya Closed Basin
Project acronym	
Project centre	WWF-Turkey, İstanbul, Turkey
Associated programme	Eti- Burçak (Biscuit brand operating at national level)
Begin date	1/8/2008
End date	
Ongoing	Yes
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Konya Closed Basin, Central Anatolia, Turkey
Area Type	Steppes, agricultural fields
Sea-area	
Coastal zone	
DESCRIPTIONS	
Case Study Summary	<p>The Problem/Opportunity: Konya Closed Basin is of outstanding importance to nature conservation in Turkey and globally, particularly for its wetlands, the extensive areas of steppe habitat and for rich biodiversity. Basin is one of the “Global 200” eco-regions identified by WWF International. 15 important bird areas, 6 important plant areas and 2 Ramsar Sites are located within the basin.</p> <p>However, the basin is under the threat of excess use of water resources mainly in agriculture and is one of the most vulnerable places in terms of climate change. 88% of water resources are used in agriculture, 61% of which is derived from ground water. Besides, 64,000 of 97,000 boreholes are illegally drilled.</p> <p>Objectives: WWF-Turkey and Eti Burçak cooperation aims at protecting water resources in the basin and sustaining wise use of water resources in agriculture. The best practice targets extending the use of modern irrigation systems, while putting forward the impacts of climate change in the basin and defining specific steps to reduce these impacts.</p> <p>The best practice has a crucial role in reversing the impacts of unsustainable water policies and practices as well as taking the local community a step forward in adapting to climate change. It is also important to state that the project contributed to Millennium Development Goals through ensuring environmental sustainability and alleviating poverty by increasing welfare of farmers.</p> <p>Results/Outcomes: The best practice raised the basin community’s awareness on the limited water resources, misuse of water in agriculture and threats for the future. The committed work of WWF-Turkey has helped to transform the region in terms of how ‘water’ is perceived, used and managed and there have been observable changes in the activities of public institutions in water and agriculture sector.</p> <p>It is demonstrated that farmers can increase the productivity by 28% through</p>

drip irrigation as well as reducing their costs on energy and fertilizer use.

Ziraat Bank granted a loan of 185 million TL for modern irrigation techniques from 2007 to 2011. In 2007, the loans accounted 21 million TL, whereas it reached 50 million TL on the following years. This total would cover 40,000 hectares of land.

According to the TURKSTAT data, the number of drip irrigation systems increased from 416 in 2006 to 8,212 in 2010.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock took water resources, climate change, precipitation rates and climate change into account while planning incentives for the Basin.

3,500 farmers participated to the trainings on wise use of water resources and adaptation to climate change from 2008 to 2011.

It is demonstrated that 47% water and 58% energy were saved through pilot projects.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock prioritized Basin within their Protecting Agricultural Land for Environmental Purposes Program and provided supplementary subsidies to farmers to protect natural resources.

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs prepared the Action Plan for the Protection of Konya Closed Basin and defined the steps to be realized to use natural resources and reduce pollution.

Future Plans:

By collaborating with local stakeholders, WWF-Turkey continues examining the main challenges in the region as well as developing new projects to create proper solutions to the problems. The upcoming activities of the project in 2012 are designed in line with the need of capacity building on the advantages of modern irrigation systems, financial tools to cover the costs, technical details on how to use these techniques for different types of crops.

Besides, these activities are supported by policy making and lobbying activities. With regard to this perspective, WWF-Turkey looks forward to concentrate in market transformation to integrate water footprint concept in policy-making processes.

Lessons learned:

The experience in the Konya Closed Basin showed that projects targeting agriculture need time to make a change. Farmers are the final decision makers on the technology and production patterns they implement and they usually learn by experiencing the innovation on the field. Therefore, pilot projects are the most efficient tools to create a change among farmers.

Yet another important lesson learnt from this practice is the need to collaborate with local stakeholders and guarantee participation. Being in contact with interest groups, defining their needs and problems, developing solutions specific to local needs and creating the platforms to replicate these practices are the crucial success factors.

Additionally, it is necessary to be able to communicate with local and national policy and decision makers and act as a bridge between local and national stakeholders.

Keywords	Best Agricultural Practice, Agriculture, Climate Change
Data theme	
Centre-Information	
Project centre	WWF-Turkey
Role of research centre	Lead Organisation
Other partners and countries	Eti-Burçak
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