

Challenges and solutions to enhance the resilience of the Datça - Bozburun Peninsula's socio-ecological production landscape and seascape

COMDEKS Turkey, GEF SGP, UNDP (On-the-ground activities)

Turkey is one of the ten participating countries of the first phase of the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS), a unique global project implemented by UNDP as the flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)¹. Working through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP, the COMDEKS Project provides small grants directly to local community organizations, empowering communities to implement participatory landscape planning and develop integrated solutions to enhance the resilience of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS).

The proposed poster reflects the landscape mapping exercise that took place during the COMDEKS baseline assessment of the target socio-ecological production landscape/seascape in Turkey. The poster is used in key points of the Peninsula as an educational tool for enhancing capacity of the local communities living in the area, and building awareness among tourists visiting the area. The left hand side of the poster shows the area's key characteristics, important assets, and local products, as well as threats to the landscape as identified by landscape stakeholders. At the bottom of the map, eight messages developed by the stakeholders who participated in the landscape-wide baseline assessment, and directed to users of the Peninsula (also translated in English), welcome visitors to the area and present ways to respect the area's natural features such as how to avoid disturbing animal habitats, support sustainable fishing, and empower local cooperatives to ensure conservation of local products.

On the right hand side, information of the nine COMDEKS projects funded in the area is outlined. Three projects in the waters surrounding the peninsula aim to support sustainable, responsible fishing to reverse the effects of overfishing, raise awareness and reduce the number of ghost nets, and promote the presence and significance of fisherwomen in fisheries. Moving inland, two village driven projects intend to prevent erosion while encouraging afforestation and biodiverse plant wealth, as well as promote conservation and production of the local Datça almond. These projects intend to improve the competitiveness of the local goods (including, almond, native medicinal herbs and aromatic plants) and initiate ecotourism. Two projects address the peninsula's plant and animal species by implementing "species conservation action plans" to protect mammalian species, and determining priority sites for application of conservation measures to protect Mediterranean forest ecosystems. The final two projects focus on information dissemination. The first brings together local stakeholders to discuss issues relating to the community's impact on the land and sea. Another project will produce a documentary depicting the experiences of NGOs working in the peninsula.

¹ COMDEKS is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. With a contribution of US\$10 million from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, established within the CBD Secretariat, the COMDEKS Project has been designed to support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and up-scaling.