



Sacaklıkasıde
Scutellaria orientalis subsp. *haussknechtii*



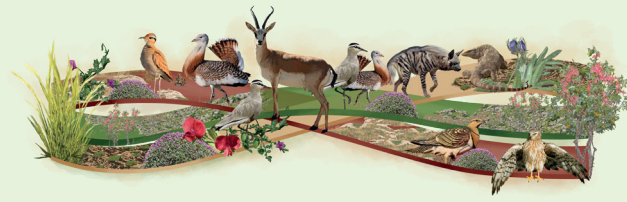
Ceren
Achillea formosa subsp. *amanica*



Colban-lathyrus cteera



Salkimbakla
Vicia noeana var. *noeana*



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TURKEY'S STEPPE ECOSYSTEMS PROJECT GCP/TUR/061/GFF

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project is conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (TOB), General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMPGM), General Directorate of Plant Production (BÜGEM) and General Directorate of Forestry (OGM) with the financial support of Global Environment Fund (GEF).

For detailed information

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General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
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General Directorate of Plant Production
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General Directorate of Forestry
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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PLANT DIVERSITY OF THE STEPPES



Tavsantopuğu
Astragalus plumosus

Plants, important representatives of Şanlıurfa steppes, appear with increasing temperatures. Among them, gubel, thistle, bitter speedwell, bitter broom, caltrop and zattar are prominent plant species. As to other steppe elements, yarrow, nodding thistle, echinops ritro, onosma bornmuelleri, milk vetch, mountain basil, sage, knapweed, figworts, euphorbia, wild chickpea and Venus's navelwort stand out in the steppes of Şanlıurfa.

Endemic and rare plants are also found in the steppe vegetation of the region. Harmel, orientalis subsp. haussknechtii, Papaver clavatum and Astragalus suberosus stand out among these endemic plants.

Şanlıurfa steppes also host wild relatives of many cultivated species. Wheat, barley, chickpea, lentil, lathyrus are some of these species. Additionally, some of the plants of the steppes, including cardoon, mallow, bitter speedwell and Eminium spiculatum are consumed by the local people.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity represents “diversity of life” and refers to the diversity of living things on Earth. This diversity includes changes in each level of biological organization. Biodiversity is the entirety of genes, species and ecosystems in a region.



Biodiversity is affected by many factors, especially human intervention. Habitat losses, extinction of species, pressure by invasive species, diseases, natural disasters and geological events as well as climate change, deforestation and pollution are the main factors.

Biodiversity is the basis of living resources, which are indispensable in meeting the basic needs of people, especially need for food. For this reason, in all practices, conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources should be taken into account.

What is a Steppe?

Steppe represents a form of vegetation that belongs to dry lands where annual grasses and perennial shrubs are dominated by xerophytic dwarf herbaceous plants and woody plants are scarce. Low annual rainfall is a defining characteristic.

Steppes represent the dominant vegetation in the Southeastern, Eastern and Central Anatolian regions of Turkey. They are commonly described as steppes of anthropogenic character. The Southeastern Anatolian steppes are shaped by the scorching temperatures of summer and the drought in autumn. Here, anthropogenic factors also play an important role in the formation of steppe vegetation.



Steppe Vegetation

Steppe vegetation is generally characterized by species belonging to the Legumes, Acrocliniium, Lamiaceae and Poaceae families.



In steppe vegetation, the harbingers of spring are bulbous and tuberous plants. Autumn crocus, *Gagea reticulata*, white pandurate, *Hyacinthella nervosa*, crocus and *Iris aucheri* are only a few to name.

