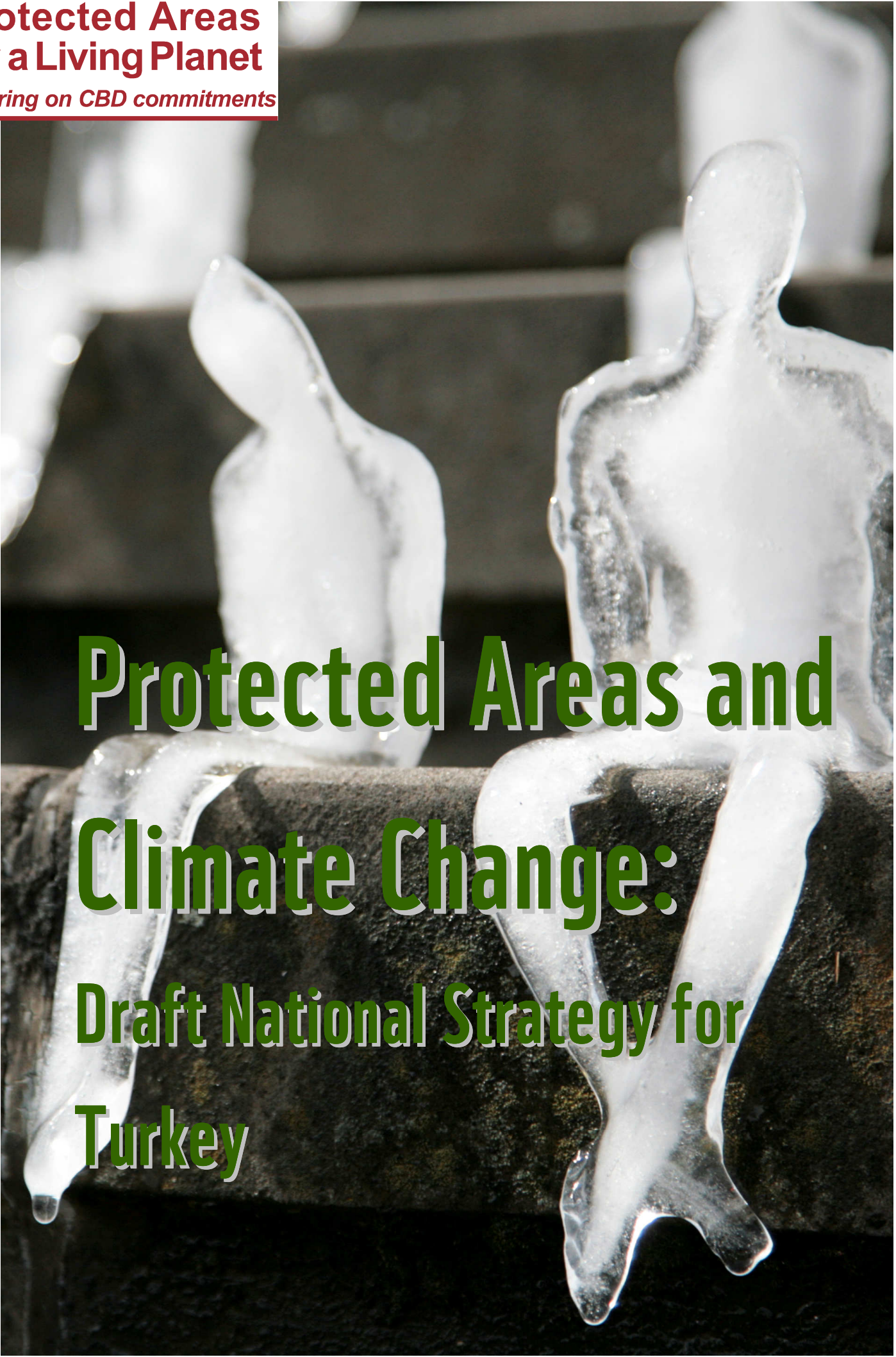


**Protected Areas  
for a Living Planet**

*delivering on CBD commitments*

The background image shows two ice sculptures of human figures sitting on a dark, textured log. The sculptures are made of clear, crystalline ice and are melting, with water dripping from their legs. The scene is set against a dark, blurred background, emphasizing the fragility of the ice figures.

**Protected Areas and  
Climate Change:  
Draft National Strategy for  
Turkey**

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry, UNDP-Turkey and WWF-Turkey have been working in partnership for improving protected area system in Turkey.

Front cover: 1.000 Ice Figures for Global Warming, Art project, Berlin, Germany. © Rosa Merk / WWF-Germany

**THE REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY YILDIRAY LISE OF UNDP-TURKEY AND BAŐAK AVCIOĐLU OKALIŐKAN OF WWF-TURKEY UNDER “PROTECTED AREAS FOR A LIVING PLANET PROGRAMME” AND “ENHANCING FOREST PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN TURKEY PROJECT”.**

**2010, ANKARA, TURKEY**

# INTRODUCTION

WWF-Turkey, under Protected Areas for a Living

Planet Programme organized “Protected Areas and Climate Change Workshop” in 15-16 February 2010 in Ankara in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and UNDP-Turkey under joint project of “Enhancing Forest Protected Areas Management System in Turkey”. As being one of the first national workshop, leading experts in the world and Turkey came together. The aims of the two day workshop are:

- Explaining the role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation with samples from world
- Prepare a roadmap for Turkey on the role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation

During the workshop, experts and participants emphasized the role of protected areas and ecosystem services provided by them.

The workshop has the importance for being the first national workshop in the world after “Protected Areas and Climate Change Granada World Summit” organized by PACT 2020 Initiative in 16-19 November in Granada-Spain. “Protected Areas and Climate Change in Turkey Workshop” has a total of 120 participants including Ministry of Environment and Forestry General Director of Nature Conservation and National Parks Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kemal Yalınkılıç, WWF-Turkey CEO Tolga Baştaç, IUCN WCPA Head Nik Lopoukhine, UNDP, Micheal Succow Foundation, national experts and officers.

At the first day of the workshop, global scale of protected areas and climate change, pilot applications about the topic from world, existing situation in Turkey and sample studies were presented. As for the second day, group works were made to develop protected areas and climate change strategy in Turkey. In the working groups, biome specific actions for forests, wetlands, steppes, marine and coastal protected areas, were defined for climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Beside this, national priorities were defined for the establishment of national protected areas system in relation to climate change, protected area planning, policy making, and information sharing.

# RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION

Participants of the workshop assessed national protected area system and legal protected areas in Turkey under 5 major targets within 3 main working groups (forest, wetlands and Anatolian steppes, marine and coastal ecosystems). As a result of group discussions and exercises, protected area and climate change strategy in Turkey was developed coherent to Granada Summit Action Plan.

Five major targets forming the framework of the Strategy were grouped and listed below with sub-targets and recommended actions.

## **TARGET 1: RESEARCH AND APPLICATION**

**Definition:** Conducting applied research in protected areas, testing practical applications, developing model practices on mitigation and adaptation.

### **1.A. The role of protected areas in risk mitigation and disaster prevention**

- to conduct studies for defining climate change impacts in Turkey and develop decision making support systems specific to different ecosystems
- to ensure integrating climate change and protected areas into risk mitigation programmes
- to conduct model/pilot studies on environmental flows at river basins
- to conduct research on protected areas and their role on preventing disasters like floods and landslides.

### **1.B. Integration to development plans, environmental plans and sectoral plans (forest management plans, land use plans etc.)**

- to include climate change impacts and ecosystem carbon value in environmental plans
- to consider climate change in regional development plans and to include higher scale level adaptation and mitigation strategies
- to ensure climate change and protected area themes involvement within major topics of the development agencies
- to ensure developing pilot projects on low carbon and climate resilient development strategies
- to practice adaptation management patterns on water and climate change topics
- to incorporate all studies on definition of priority areas for conservation (gap analysis, key biodiversity areas, important forest areas, important

plant areas, important bird areas, Pan European ecological network and etc.) and to ensure reflecting their results to large scale physical planning by State Planning Institute

- to join climate models into pilot practices and plans during preparation of sectoral plans such as forest management and land use plans
- to conduct studies for encouraging integrated planning with considering the reality of interaction between protected areas and remaining areas.

### **1.C. Integration of climate change into protected area system, protected area planning and management**

- to include climate change into studies on defining priority areas for conservation (gap analysis, key biodiversity areas, important forest areas, important plant areas, important bird areas, Pan European ecological network and etc.)
- to assess protected area management effectiveness specific to climate change
- to prepare pilot climate change adaptation plans in protected areas
- to ensure including climate change in protected area economic assessments
- to prepare management plans for protected areas which don't have one and to ensure including climate change into planning process
- to define related parameters and dynamics (physical, chemical and biological status – as well as community dynamics) for developing necessary basis for protected area management plans and monitor their changes under climate change.

### **1.D. Monitoring and research**

- to conduct scientific research on climate change impacts on ecosystems in Turkey, resource use, social-cultural-economic activities, protected areas and for presenting its interaction with conservation activities and to built necessary infrastructure for monitoring practices
- to support national research on climate change and protected areas
- to develop models about possible impacts of climate change on different ecosystems in Turkey to set up a baseline for protected area management plans
- to ensure necessary support for pilot studies on researching impacts of climate change in Turkey to species
- to conduct basic research and develop projects on providing benefits for protected areas from REDD+ and international funding sources
- to conduct research on protected area benefits and economic values
- to encourage studies on ecosystem services and ecosystems in Turkey

- to develop monitoring system in protected areas and to enable establishment of measurement point, monitoring point and long term research stations specific to climate change impacts
- to ensure building necessary infrastructure to establish long term ecological monitoring systems in protected areas
- to ensure developing national monitoring system to monitor and assess protected area management plan field applications
- to expand biodiversity and climate change research throughout whole Turkey.

## **TARGET 2: EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING, CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Definition:** Conducting studies for determining global and national best practices, developing guidelines on necessary tools and documents to disseminate best practices throughout Turkey, determining training needs for implementers, and developing and implementing training programs.

### **2.A. Workshops and meetings**

- to organize regional workshops on prioritization of protected area and climate change topics, and to develop regional sub-strategies
- to organize national workshops for experience sharing
- to organize round table meetings with local people, managers and other stakeholders in protected areas
- to organize workshop on climate change and protected area planning
- to organize workshops on major ecosystems (forests, Anatolian steppes, wetlands, marine and coast, etc.) and climate change impacts.

### **2.B. Implementation tools and guidelines**

- to ensure integrating climate change into existing tools for assessing PA management effectiveness and implementing these tools regularly in national protected area system
- to ensure integrating climate change into gap analysis and other site prioritization practices
- to ensure involving climate change in protected area management planning trainings
- to develop methodologies on climate change adaptation in protected areas representing different ecosystems
- to integrate climate change into studies and applications on species adaptation and protected area models

- to support analyzing benefit and cost associated with ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation.

### **2.C. Trainings and capacity building**

- to organize trainings for integrating climate change impacts, mitigation and species-ecosystem adaptation into protected area planning and management
- to make contribution for increasing national capacity on carbon financing
- to organize trainings on protected area values and benefits
- to conduct capacity building activities for stakeholders on climate change and protected areas
- to organize trainings on the role of climate change in landscape and seascape planning
- to organize trainings for protected area managers on climate change and monitoring of ecosystems and species.

### **2.D. Sharing experiences and pilot practices**

- to develop a system for experience sharing
- to compile global and national pilot practices on adaptation and climate change, and experience sharing.

### **2.E. Develop maps and spatial tools**

- to map national protected area system including all its elements and to present measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- to develop measures for future of protected area system by analyzing existing system using climate change models developed for Turkey
- to map ecological networks between protected areas and present their values for adaptation and mitigation
- to develop maps for determining terrestrial areas with lowest climate change impacts
- to develop map of high carbon storage areas within protected areas
- to consider climate change impacts in defining protected area zones
- to develop maps of protected areas in relation to carbon storage, water, and food security.

## **TARGET 3: COMMUNICATION**

**Definition:** Organize campaigns and/or activities on overall importance of protected areas and specifically their importance in climate change mitigation

and adaptation processes, coordinate communication activities carried out by various organizations.

### **3.A. Publications**

- to translate Natural Solutions book into Turkish and distribute effectively
- to publish international publications about climate change mitigation and adaptation in Turkish and distribute to local managers.

### **3.B. Communication and campaigns**

- to perform communication activities on ecosystem services and benefits
- to build a national campaign about protected areas values and importance
- to build necessary communication and information infrastructure for regular outreach to local people and institutions on protected areas values, importance, borders and applications
- to run communication activities to create one national perception about Anatolian steppes and peatlands by explaining their values
- to make activities to develop common language / terminology on protected areas and climate change.

## **TARGET 4: POLICY**

**Definition:** Play emphasis on protected areas in large scale plans and national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in Turkey, and accept the existence of efficient tools about both topics.

### **4.A. Ensure protected areas incorporating into national (higher level) policies as a priority issue**

- to conduct activities for presenting protected areas values and importance to high level politicians and decision makers.



#### **4.B. Ensure protected areas incorporating into national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy and action plans**

- to ensure institutions working on protected areas and climate change to conduct joint activities and to have an effective role in strategy preparation
- to ensure protected areas incorporating into national adaptation strategy
- to prepare regional strategies for climate change adaptation and protected areas
- to promote ecosystem-based adaptation to related organizations and institutes important for Turkey.

#### **4.C. Allocate adequate funding for protected areas as a part of climate adaptation and mitigation strategy**

- to develop national funding mechanisms for the role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation process
- to ensure existing climate change funds to include protected areas
- to ensure relevant institutions to allocate adequate budget for protected areas and climate change topics from their annual budget
- to develop budgetary plans for protected areas and to workout for establishment of alternative funding systems.

#### **4.D. Promote the creation of new protected areas**

- to conduct necessary scientific research for protection of areas important for climate change adaptation and mitigation (giving priority to marine and coastal areas, Anatolian steppes, peatlands and rivers which area not sufficiently represented within national protected area system)
- to provide support for protection of defined priority areas
- to create national protected area network
- to establish ecological corridors between protected areas and re-create network between fragmented protected areas
- to incorporate climate models in determination of new protected areas.

#### **4.E. National protected area strategy**

- to develop a national protected area strategy for Turkey as soon as possible.

A comprehensive national strategy should be developed for establishment of national protected area system with integration of climate change into the process of assessing existing protected areas, defining new protected areas and developing management and operational plans for these areas. This

strategy should be developed by a working group under coordination of an institute and consists of related governmental organizations, NGOs and universities.

- to ensure developing necessary organizational arrangements for the areas outside the protected areas
- to start necessary procedures to re-structuring more effective local bodies of organizations which are responsible of protected areas
- to make activities to strengthen the capacity (to satisfy the required staff, experts, equipment and capacity needs) of the organizations at local level
- to ensure the development of efficient management and governance models for protected areas
- to ensure the necessary arrangements for effective collaboration between institutes and organizations which are responsible for protected areas
- to develop a strategy to adapt protected area monitoring results to management plans and policies
- to ensure allocation of necessary staff, equipment and budget for efficient implementation of management plans
- to ensure efficient participation of stakeholders in protected area management planning processes in Turkey.

## **TARGET 5: COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY**

**Definition:** Ensure coordinating the activities in this strategy, developing communication mechanisms and sharing information and experience across organizations.

- to ensure establishment of a working group among related organizations and sector representatives (this group should have an efficient role for implementation and monitoring)
- to develop related tools for experience sharing and to enable efficient sharing of tools
- to ensure efficient data sharing procedures. Development of an open database and sharing portal for all related organizations having related data. Cooperation and data sharing are necessary between universities and organizations for development of climate impact scenarios and making comprehensive protection planning with their use.