

for creating fruitful partnerships

Achievements of REC Turkey 2004-2005



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
REC Turkey



The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an independent international organisation established in 1990 by Hungary, the United States and the European Commission. Today this non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation is legally based on a Charter signed by the governments of 28 countries and the European Commission.

The REC works in various fields of sustainable development, bridging solutions and stakeholders on issues such as environmental policy, biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy, environmental information and waste management.

The REC is headquartered in Szentendre, Hungary, with an international staff of over 90 people. In addition to its head office, the REC has a network of 16 country offices and 3 field offices with over 100 staff.

The newest REC country office officially commenced operations on the 27th of May 2004, in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey. The REC Turkey office is legally set-up based on the REC Charter and a Bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the REC. REC Turkey's establishment was endorsed through the ratification by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 2004.

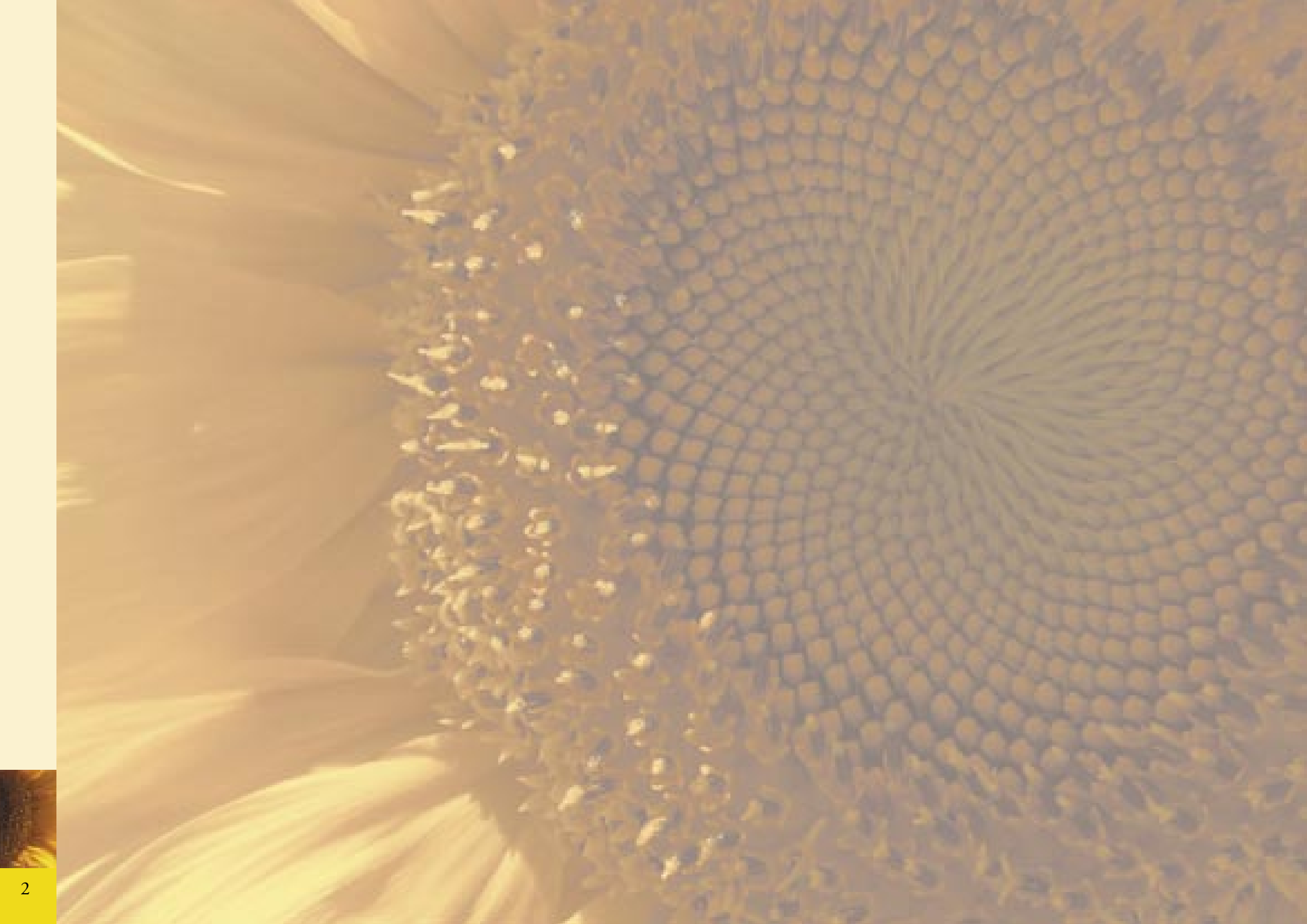


THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
REC Turkey





Sowing the Seeds of Success





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Approximately 10,000 years ago the roots of farming began in the areas of present day Turkey and the Middle East. One of the earliest human settlements, known as Çatal Höyük, in Turkey, shows evidence of people harvesting wild grasses and using the seeds for food. These seeds are now known as cereals and make up a large percentage of the worlds food supply.

Farming has come a long way since its appearance over 10,000 years ago. According to the National Academy of Engineering in the US, agricultural mechanisation is one of the 20 greatest engineering achievements of the 20th century. In the early 1900s, it took one farmer to produce food for 2.5 people, whereas today, due to engineering technology (also, plant breeding and agrichemicals), a single farmer can feed over 130 people.

As with all endeavours of man this high productivity has come at a high environmental cost. Large amounts of energy input, from unsustainable, mostly fossil fuel sources, and the use of large amounts of environmentally unfriendly fertilisers and pesticides are required to obtain the aforementioned yields.

It is evident that farming has always been dependent on the health of the environment. With changing environments and unsustainable practices, civilisations like Easter Island and the Greenland Norse collapsed. It is even argued that certain wars and modern conflicts have been and continue to be the result of a growing population competing for diminishing resources, which are decreasing due to environmentally unsound and unsustainable practices.

It is the goal of REC Turkey to plant the seeds of environmental protection and sustainable development now, so that future generations flourish, and don't become footnotes in history.

Thanks to the initial request made by the Turkish government, the hard work and long preparatory process undertaken by the REC and the financial contribution of the European Commission, REC Turkey was officially established in Turkey in April 2004. The seeds of a very fertile partnership were thereby planted and the fruits of these efforts are ripening.



The initial preparations for the office started with the Feasibility Study and its follow-up study, which were both funded by the European Commission, with full endorsement by the Turkish government. The Feasibility Study confirmed that the REC would be welcome in Turkey, as there is high demand for its services from a wide range of environmental stakeholders in the country.

The first step taken by the parties was for the Turkish government to sign the REC Charter in 2002.

The European Commission continued its support by providing a direct grant of EUR 2.3 million for the REC Establishment to Turkey project, for a two-year period ending in March 2006.

The legal status of REC Turkey was given by the Bilateral Agreement signed in January 2004 by the government of Turkey and the REC. The document was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) in June 2004 and published in the Official Journal in August 2004.

With its 11 staff members, REC Turkey has been working industriously since September 2004. True, the initial stages have produced some daunting challenges; yet, the seeds were planted with such care that we are now reaping the fruits of our labour.

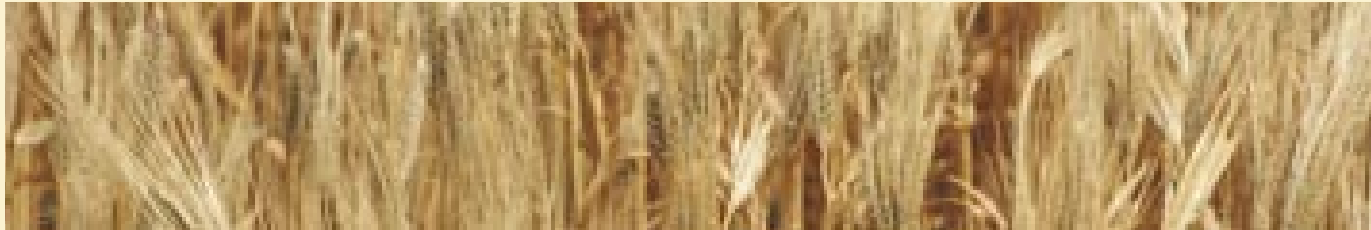
Sibel Sezer Eralp, Ph.D.
Director of REC Turkey





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REC Turkey's Current Programme Areas



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THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
REC Turkey



This project is funded by the European Commission

* ACHIEVEMENTS OF REC TURKEY 2004-2005 *



THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME strives to strengthen the capacity of the environmental stakeholders in legal, institutional and technical matters through trainings that are specially developed and tailored around the specific features of the environmental sector in Turkey.

Thus, the Programme:

- Contributes to the development of the capacity of central and local governmental institutions, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, in order to effectively manage the current environmental challenges in Turkey through technical and institutional capacity building training programs
- Promotes and provides environmental education as the main tool for addressing environmental issues;
- Provides capacity-building and technical assistance to stakeholders through the European Union accession process in the field of environment.

ACTIVITIES under the Capacity Building Programme are developed through identifying the capacity-building needs of environmental stakeholders and are continuously adapted accordingly. A variety of training programmes are specifically designed to assist governmental institutions to strengthen their capacity to address the environmental problems in Turkey. Trainings are also given to assist relevant institutions in transposing the EU environmental acquis and its implementation at the national level, and in developing negotiation and project management skills. Introductory seminars on the EU environmental acquis, training programmes on priority topics in connection with the EU accession process at the national level, training programmes on local environmental action programmes and on environmental financing opportunities are developed for local administrations. Organisational development as part of the NGO training series, which includes workshops on strategic planning, project cycle management, evaluation and monitoring, public relations and campaigning, training-of-trainers programmes to form additional training capacity within environmental civil society, and junior fellowship programmes for young environmentalists from NGOs are planned.

IN ADDITION, the Capacity Building Programme addresses specific capacity-building needs of other stakeholders, such as the media, youth, educational/academic institutions, and the business sector.



The Programme,
 contributes to the
 development of the
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 programs

I. THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY OF REC TURKEY

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the needs assessment study was to assess the needs of environmental stakeholders in order to identify and assess the specific training, information and granting needs in line with REC Turkey's mandate. The study was designed to enable REC Turkey to update its initial findings in the preliminary needs assessment study carried out before the establishment of the REC in Turkey.

TARGET GROUP: Governmental institutions, local authorities and environmental NGOs.

CONTENT: Different questionnaires were prepared for different stakeholders, a series of workshops were conducted with a view to determine the capacity building, information and grant needs of the environmental stakeholders.

METHODOLOGY: For a scientifically based needs assessment, a multiple-technique research approach was applied. First, a general literature review was carried out, and then key-stakeholder interviews were conducted. Questionnaires for different stakeholders were formulated (supported with pilot testing of the questionnaires) and finally four workshops were conducted. The workshops were carried out by using the SWOT analysis method.

TRAINERS: A university professor from the Middle East Technical University prepared the needs assessment and all of its components. She also moderated all the workshops where REC project managers carried out the facilitation of the SWOT analyses.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: Over 400 questionnaires were distributed to stakeholders. Four separate workshops were conducted with a total of 106 participants. One separate meeting was conducted specifically to assess the needs of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

OUTCOMES: There are a range of findings of the study in terms of how stakeholders perceive their role in environmental protection, as well as what they define as priority areas and needs. The detailed report can be found on the REC website. The findings of the NGO needs assessment indicate that there are still legal restrictions, a lack of an open and continuous information network, a lack of cooperation between the NGOs themselves, problems related to undeveloped organisational structures and the functioning of NGOs, and challenges to reaching the public and to encouraging people to participate directly. The results of the needs assessment for governmental institutions frequently refer to the impacts of bureaucracy and point out that there are areas of improvement for internal and inter-institutional division of labour and responsibilities in environmental management. They also emphasise that they take their role in the EU accession process seriously and make all possible efforts and attempts to adapt to EU standards successfully. However, they point out that familiarity with the issues needs to be increased. The results of the local authorities show great parallels with the results of governmental institutions. However, local authorities feel they are deficient, especially in the field of project work. This comprises all stages of development, planning-managing, implementation, and financing. A growing need for "governance" and participatory democracy is articulated by the representatives of the municipalities, stressing here the growing importance of NGOs.



Prof. Helga Tılıç and Deniz Gümüsel moderating the Needs Assessment Workshop in Ankara.





NGOs and Local Authorities at the PCM trainings after which some submitted projects to REC Turkey's Grant Programme.



II. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

Project Cycle Management Trainings

OBJECTIVE: These trainings aim to strengthen the institutional capacity of NGOs and local authorities in developing, planning, and implementing projects to address local, regional and national environmental problems.

TARGET GROUP: Environmental NGOs and local authorities.

CONTENT: Project cycle management, including problem identification, needs assessment, strategy development and planning, proposal writing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

METHODOLOGY: The trainings are designed as interactive workshops for the participants, giving them the opportunity to learn by participating dynamically in group exercises, case studies, brainstorming, and free discussions.

TRAINERS: In addition to REC Turkey's own project managers, highly qualified experts from academia and the private sector who are experienced in environmental projects participated as trainers.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: Three separate trainings in Ankara and Istanbul with a total of 66 participants from 50 environmental NGOs and 16 local authorities.

OUTCOMES: 8 participant organisations of the PCM trainings applied for and awarded to receive grants from REC Turkey. Training materials (slideshows, working documents, case studies, etc.) were developed and are available from REC Turkey, as are guides to project proposal writing, project management, and monitoring and evaluation.

Project Implementation Trainings for Winners of REC Grants

OBJECTIVE: The objective of these trainings is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the NGOs and local authorities that receive grants from REC Turkey in order to ensure high quality project implementation.

TARGET GROUP: Environmental NGOs and local authorities.

CONTENT: Topics such as the strategy and methodology for project implementation, the legal framework relevant to Turkish NGOs and local authorities regarding the use of international funds and project management, project budget and human resources management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting are covered.

METHODOLOGY: The trainings are designed as interactive workshops for the participants, giving them the opportunity to brainstorm, discuss topics of interest and learn new techniques for implementing their projects effectively.

TRAINERS: In addition to REC Turkey's project managers, highly qualified experts from academia and the private sector experienced in environmental projects participate as trainers.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: Three separate trainings in Ankara with a total of 50 participants from 31 environmental NGOs and 11 local authorities.

OUTCOMES: Grants winners were given the opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge regarding all aspects of the project implementation process.



A highly interactive atmosphere was created during the Project Management Trainings of the Winners of the REC Turkey Grants.



Project Cycle Management Training for Governmental Institutions

OBJECTIVE: These trainings aim to strengthen the institutional capacity of governmental institutions in developing, planning, and implementing EU projects on regional and national environmental issues.

TARGET GROUP: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, other central governmental institutions.

CONTENT: Project cycle management, including problem identification, needs assessment, strategy development and planning, proposal writing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation using the logical framework approach; and development of EU project fiches for projects at the national level.

METHODOLOGY: The trainings are designed as interactive workshops for the participants, giving them the opportunity to learn by participating dynamically in group exercises, case studies, brainstorming, and free discussions.

TRAINERS: In addition to REC Turkey's own project managers, highly qualified experts from certain donor institutions such as the EC Delegation, academia and the private sector experienced in environmental projects participated as trainers.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: One training workshop in Ankara with 25 participants from different departments and units of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Two advanced courses on project cycle management and project fiche development to be organised in 2006 for other central governmental institutions.

OUTCOME: Participants learned how to develop, plan and implement projects in the EU format. Following the training, the REC team started to receive a considerable number of requests for assistance in developing and planning of projects from the participants of the training coming from central governmental institutions and will continue supplying the requested support.

Training materials (slideshows, working documents, case studies, etc.) on project cycle management developed are available from REC Turkey for further use of the target group.

The trainings are designed as interactive workshops for the participants, giving them the opportunity to learn by participating dynamically in group exercises, case studies, brainstorming, and free discussions.



Training of Trainers Programme

OBJECTIVE: This training programme aimed to create a pool of trainers to address the capacity-building needs of the NGO sector and governmental institutions in Turkey, by delivering sessions on topics where the REC has the required expertise. The successful participants of this programme become trainers who are expected to deliver institutional development trainings (initially within the framework of the Training for Young Environmentalists Programme and the Communication and Public Relations Trainings of REC Turkey for NGOs).

TARGET GROUP: Environmental NGOs and other environmental stakeholders who work with environmental NGOs, e.g. the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

CONTENT: The training was designed to include topics such as strategic planning, financial and human resources management, fundraising, project management and public relations. It focused on training design, presentation skills and the use of training tools, communication and facilitation abilities, team building and dealing with group dynamics to ensure the strengthening of the participants' training skills.

METHODOLOGY: The training programme was composed of three consecutive modules, each of which was one week long and was organised in three consecutive months.

TRAINERS: A highly qualified and experienced international trainer who works with the REC on a regular basis delivered the trainings.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: Three weeks training in Ankara with a total of 20 participants.

OUTCOME: Designed to support civil society development in the field of environment in Turkey, these trainings have multiplier effects on society. A significant number of people have been trained by expert trainers and are now in a position to give very unique training sessions to civil society and other stakeholders. The training documents and materials on institutional management (i.e. strategic planning, financial and human resources management, fundraising, project management and public relations) were delivered to the participants as handouts.



Participants of the training programs really enjoyed learning and are now eager to teach.



Workshops on Communication and Public Relations for NGOs

OBJECTIVE: The training was designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of the environmental NGOs on communication and public relations to enable them to conduct effective public awareness campaigns and to ensure sound and sustainable communication with the public through mass media and other means.

TARGET GROUP: Environmental NGOs at local and national levels.

CONTENT: The principles of communication, fundamentals of public relations for NGOs, NGO-mass media relations, developing effective public awareness campaigns, fundraising techniques for campaigns, and other public relations activities.

METHODOLOGY: The training is composed of both theoretical presentation sessions and interactive parts such as group works, free discussions and case studies to ensure learning by doing. During the two-day workshop, the participants have the opportunity to develop a strategic communication plan for their NGOs, discuss and share experience on the main problems they face and possible solutions to these problems in their communication through the mass media, and work on fundraising strategies for their PR activities. Best practices of NGOs and NGO platforms on public awareness raising campaigns are also presented and discussed in detail as examples. Two guidebooks on communication and environmental awareness raising were published in Turkish and used in the workshops to support the training materials.

TRAINERS: A team of trainers including PR and communications experts from academia, experienced journalists, PR and fundraising experts of NGOs with best practices work with REC Turkey on this training.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: More than 45 NGO representatives were trained within two workshops organised in two different regions of the country. Two additional workshops are to be organised in two other regions until the end of March 2006, targeted to reach 45 NGOs.

OUTCOME: A total of 45 NGOs were trained on effective communication and PR in two workshops; two guidebooks were published and a set of training materials were developed for widespread use by NGOs.



Being a part of the network is the starting point for a good communication...



Training for Young Environmentalists

OBJECTIVE: The Training for Young Environmentalists aims to strengthen the capacities of environmental NGOs on institutional management and intervention to environmental problems through training their staff on both organisational management issues and current approaches to environmental issues.

TARGET GROUP: Professional staff and volunteers of environmental NGOs aged 20-30.

CONTENT: One-week training courses that include strategic planning, project development and financial management for NGOs, communication, management of volunteers and conflict resolution. Along with these training workshops, seminars on current environmental problems and modern approaches to these issues are also organised.

METHODOLOGY: An interactive workshop model is used for the training, including theoretical sessions on the topics followed by group work, exercises and discussions. The participants are expected to develop a strategic plan for an imaginary NGO and develop a project proposal for this NGO throughout the one week of training. Current environmental issues to be discussed are selected on the choices of the participants via a questionnaire in the application form.

TRAINERS: The successful participants in the Training of Trainers Programme of REC Turkey who are also experienced in the field of civil society development contribute as the trainers of these trainings. REC project managers also deliver certain training sessions.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: A total of 29 young environmentalists who are actively involved in NGOs were trained in two training workshops in 2005. Fifteen participants are expected to participate to the third session of the training that is to be organised for winter 2005.

OUTCOME: Altogether, youth from 24 different NGOs from over 15 different cities and four different regions of the country worked together and learned about a range of topic areas while meeting key environmental stakeholders in Ankara.



The participants learned to understand and respect each other with a role play where they put themselves in the shoes of different stakeholders in society.



* ACHIEVEMENTS OF REC TURKEY 2004-2005 *

Training for Environmental Journalists

OBJECTIVE: This training was designed to provide journalists with skills and techniques they can immediately apply to improve the quality and outreach of their stories and reports concerning the environment and sustainable development.

TARGET GROUP: Press, radio and television journalists from national mass media.

CONTENT: In the course of the training, participants were able to perform guided journalistic research on a hot environmental topic in Turkey, namely the water issue of Istanbul.

METHODOLOGY: During the interactive workshop the participants, together with the trainers, went on site visits, conducted interviews and held discussions with all relevant parties concerning the issue which was chosen to be investigated. The participants were then expected to produce a draft environmental story or report to be discussed within the group.

TRAINERS: In addition to the journalist/editor of the REC magazine Green Horizon, the well known environmental journalist Paul Brown of The Guardian newspaper of the UK delivered the trainings. Furthermore, high level experts gave presentations concerning the selected issue.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: One training workshop given in Istanbul with a total of 12 participants, to ensure effective training, following the recommendation of the trainers.

OUTCOME: The participants were given the chance to improve their journalistic skills with an international perspective. They also had a chance to write an article about a critical environmental issue, one of which was published in the newspapers.



The training was given by world renowned environmental journalist, Mr. Paul Brown from the Guardian, UK.



III. TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON PRIORITY AREAS FOR EU ACCESSION PROCESS



Opening speeches given at the Conference by Sibel Sezer (REC Turkey Director), Prof. Hasan Sarıkaya (Undersecretary of Ministry of Environment and Forestry), Gürdogar Sarıgül (EU Delegation, Environment and Sustainable Development Sector Manager) and Stephen Stec (REC, Head of Environmental Law Programme)



OBJECTIVE: A large number of trainings are delivered on EU environmental legislation and *acquis communautaire* focusing on specific environmental topics determined together with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

TARGET GROUP: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, other central governmental institutions and ministries, the Turkish Grand National Assembly, national NGOs and regional NGO platforms.

CONTENT: The content of each training topic is specifically identified based on the target group. In the first half of 2005, trainings focused on the general introduction to EU environmental policy and *acquis communautaire*, directives on horizontal legislation, and certain other selected directives. In the second half of 2005, there are a variety of additional trainings planned under this section, including the following:

- Seminar on the EC Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Seminars on EC Directives on Access to Information and Public Participation in the Field of Environment;
- Training on Economic Instruments for Environmental Financing, Conference on EU Environmental Funding Mechanisms;
- Seminar on Waste Management for Local Authorities;
- Conference on Sustainable Development and EU Environmental Policies.

METHODOLOGY: These trainings are designed to ensure a consistent national strategic approach to EU environmental legal approximation, familiarise the Turkish officials and legal experts with the structure, logic and consequent steps of approximation with EU environmental legislation, and provide good practice examples and experiences from the new member states and accession countries.

TRAINERS: Together with experts from the REC, national and international professionals are brought together to deliver trainings designed as a combination of topic oriented lectures and Q&A sessions.

FACTS WITH FIGURES:

- One Conference on Strategies towards Approximation of EU Environmental Legislation in Turkey,

with a total of 80 participants from governmental institutions;

- Seminars on EU Environmental Policy and Mechanisms of Developing Environmental Legislation. Four separate trainings were given in Ankara with a total of 130 participants from governmental institutions, parliament, NGOs and platforms.
- An additional 500 participants, primarily representatives of central and local governmental institutions, will be trained on priority areas for EU accession process by the end of 2005.

OUTCOMES: Mainly the knowledge on the EU accession process is enhanced for each target group and their capacities to effectively contribute to Turkey's accession process are strengthened.

- Through the introductory seminars, participants were informed about the historical development of EU environmental policy and the EU environmental law. They were also trained on the mechanisms through which Turkey could take part in the development of environmental policy within the EU structure during its pre-accession process.
- Participants of the Conference on Strategy towards Approximation of EU Environmental Legislation had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other governmental institutions from CEE countries with recommendations for Turkey in its EU approximation process. These recommendations included sincere advice to gain useful lessons from other past experiences and mistakes, to avoid political influence on strictly expert issues, to keep frequent and informal contacts with the European Commission, the need to create an EU-team of young and dedicated people without creating a closed elite of EU experts in the EU departments of institutions, to involve key partners in the process, and to raise the awareness of the public.
- Through the upcoming trainings, institutions will improve their expertise on specific issues including adoption and enforcement of different elements of the environmental *acquis communautaire*, financing environmental investments needed in the EU accession process, environmental management and sustainable development.
- Turkish authorities will have shared experiences and lessons learned of new member states on the challenges of the EU accession process.

IV. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANS IN TURKEY

OBJECTIVE: Training programmes are organised in order to guide the local authorities in preparing local environmental action plans (LEAPs) to strengthen their capacity in legal, administrative, institutional, technical and financial issues.

TARGET GROUP: The target groups of the LEAP training programmes are the municipalities, special provincial administrations and municipality unions located in the Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units (NUTs II regions). Central governmental institutions have also been briefed about LEAPs.

CONTENT: Preparatory activities, identifying participants, creating coordination bodies and working groups, assessing environmental issues, forming community visions, setting priorities for LEAPs, developing action plans, setting priorities for implementation and the legal and administrative framework for LEAP implementation in Turkey.

METHODOLOGY: After the preparatory activities were initiated, participants were identified based on a regional distribution. As a result of the high number of municipalities in Turkey, trainings were grouped based on the NUTs II regions. A coordination body and working groups were also defined to enable an interactive environment. The training programmes were designed to facilitate participants' ability to receive information on LEAPs, work on case studies in groups and brainstorm.

TRAINERS: In addition to the REC's international experts, a group of local professionals were brought together to form a group of trainers.

FACTS WITH FIGURES: Three separate trainings were given, two of which were in Ankara (one for central governmental institutions and one for local authorities from Central Anatolia, Western

Anatolia, Eastern and Western Black Sea Regions) and Yalova (for local authorities and Local Agenda 21 general secretariats from Istanbul, Western and Eastern Marmara, and the Aegean Regions) with a total of 72 participants.

OUTCOMES: Local administrations were informed on how LEAPs can be implemented within the framework of legal responsibilities and the most effective ways to prepare LEAPs in order to solve local environmental problems and fundraising opportunities for their local priorities. The following were derived from the workshops:

The following were derived from the workshops:

- LEAPs will be a significant means of local environmental management for local solutions to environmental problems in Turkey, which has been governed by centralised policy making for decades.
- Using LEAP methodologies with an integrated management perspective were defined as a good opportunity for supporting local administrations.
- EU motivation may equally boost LEAP implementations in Turkey where the REC's initiative and role were seen as crucial.
- Despite the scarcity of financial resources, LEAP methodology was acknowledged to be vital for determining the starting points for identifying the problems and priorities for local administrations.
- LEAPs will also provide significant guidance in implementing "preventive" environmental policies as well as "curative" policies that are the general practice at local levels in Turkey. By October 2005, the final LEAP training programme will be completed and the entire country will have been covered. Depending on funding opportunities, LEAPs will be prepared for a certain number of municipalities selected according to specific criteria.



A great deal of interest was generated when Srdjan Susic, of REC Serbia and Montenegro shared their experiences with LEAPs.





ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION PROGRAMME

During the first year of its implementation, the programme planted the seeds of environmental information. In order to meet the information needs of Turkish environmental stakeholders, REC Turkey's Environmental Information Programme provides two types of services:

- **Environmental Information Exchange Services**
- **Publications**

In addition to these services, REC Turkey's Environmental Information Programme coordinates public and media relations, and promotes the products and services of the REC in Turkey. REC Turkey offers methods and tools to its stakeholders that can be used to access information easily and freely. REC Turkey provides:

- An informative, up-to-date and well structured website (www.rec.org.tr);
- A comprehensive weekly e-newsletter;
- The REC's magazine, Green Horizon, translated into Turkish, with an additional national flavour;
- A comprehensive database of environmental stakeholders;
- An online library;
- Publications in the field of the stakeholders' needs;
- An interactive, user-friendly portal allowing all stakeholders the chance to participate and contribute. With these crops on the table, REC Turkey will be able to satisfy the hunger of Turkey's environmental stakeholders for information.

Bon appetite!



During the first year of its implementation, REC Turkey's Environmental Information Programme planted the seeds of environmental information which will grow and serve the stakeholders in their activities. With the help of Information Exchange and Publication services, REC Turkey is able to fulfil a much needed role in the Turkish environmental sector.

Environmental Information Exchange Services In Turkey

REC Turkey's environmental information exchange services provide general environmental information on programmes offered by the REC, as well as funding sources and environmental events based on stakeholder demands. Therefore, the primary task of the Information Exchange Programme is to provide timely and reliable information on:

- **European Union accession, with focus on environmental implications of the process;**
- **Civil society development in the field of environment;**
- **Public participation and public awareness.**

The means and structure of the exchange services were clarified with an in-depth assessment of environmental stakeholders' information needs. Within this topic area:

Within this topic area;

- REC Turkey's website was designed and launched in May 2004 and is currently updated every month.
- Thirty well structured weekly e-newsletters providing national, international and European news, events and funding opportunities have been sent to over 900 subscribers since October 2004.
- Over 200 books and periodicals were received and purchased for REC Turkey's library intended for the use of all stakeholders.
- Numerous information requests and questions have been received from stakeholders which were either answered by REC Turkey's experts or directed to the appropriate source of expertise.
- The following information sources were (or are in the process of being) implemented:
 - an interactive and comprehensive portal, including an online library;
 - an all-inclusive stakeholder database;
 - a unique climate change website;
 - a corporate social responsibility database and other information services.

REC Turkey's web portal will enable stakeholders to participate by sharing their information with both REC Turkey and the other stakeholders using the online tools on the portal. With the above modules the portal will facilitate the stakeholders' work by guiding them to find partners from the database, searching for the right information sources from the online library and in many ways more.



The electronic newsletter is prepared by filtering many national and international news sources every week.



Environmental Publications

In order to meet the high demand for environmental publications coming from environmental stakeholders, the Environmental Information Programme is actively working on expanding its library and information services. In keeping with its mandate to deliver environmental publications, a thorough assessment of REC publications has been made and relevant publications were selected to be translated into Turkish. This was indeed a challenging task given the wide range of publications of the REC. Eight books have been translated and printed:

- Developing Skill of NGOs – Project Proposal Writing;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – Project Management;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – Evaluation and Monitoring;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – Presentation and Communication;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – Public Education to Raise Environmental Awareness;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – The Right to Know;
- Developing Skill of NGOs – Local Environmental Action Programmes;
- Guide to Implementing Local Environmental Action Programmes;

Apart from these publications, the periodical Yeşil Ufuklar, based on the REC's quarterly magazine Green Horizon, with additional contributors from Turkey is now being published in Turkish. Yeşil Ufuklar includes news and articles from the CEE countries as well as a tasty Turkish flavour. Three issues were printed and distributed to roughly 1,000 stakeholders, including high-level government officials. The fourth issue is currently in print.



Public And Media Relations

To ensure the visibility of the REC in Turkey as well as within the donor community, Public and Media Relations are being coordinated under Environmental Information Programme.

- Developing the fact sheet on REC activities in Turkey in two languages (in Turkish and English);
- Holding press conferences related to new product/service launches and events organized by the REC Turkey; and
- Marketing of the REC publications.

Fact sheets and REC Turkey folders were designed and published both in English and in Turkish. At the moment REC Turkey has:

- A general REC Turkey Fact sheet (both Turkish and English)
- Capacity Building Programme Fact sheet (both in Turkish and English)
- Environmental Information Programme Fact sheet (both in Turkish and English)
- Grants Programme Fact sheet (both in Turkish and English)
- Special Programme Fact sheet (both in Turkish and English)
- European Business Awards Fact sheet (Turkish)
- Climate Change Brochure (English)
- REC Turkey folders (both in Turkish and English)

REC Turkey also produced promotional materials such as pen sets, pencils, notebooks, cloth bags etc. to be distributed to its stakeholders within programme area activities.





GRANTS PROGRAMME

REC Turkey initiated its Grants Programme with great enthusiasm and excitement to support NGOs and local administrations in the field of environment and sustainable development.

The Grants Programme provided support projects in four different categories:

- **Small Grants Programme for NGOs;**
- **Thematic National Grants Programme for NGOs;**
- **National Grants Programme for Local Administrations;**
- **Classical National Grants Programme for NGOs.**

MILESTONES OF THE GRANTS;

July 2004: Tailoring of the REC background document was initiated. The REC's Grants Manual and Guidelines were translated, adopted and customised for Turkey.

September 2004: The Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC) was established with nine members. It is composed of experts from different sectors with complementary backgrounds, areas of expertise and a balanced representation from different stakeholders, including the government.

November 2004: The first call was made for small grants. The scope of the small grants call was to support grass-roots NGOs and local initiatives.

December 2004: Second and third calls were made within the Thematic National Grants Programme. One call was for national NGOs and the other call was for local authorities. The scope of the national grants is to support national NGOs and local administrations in their activities based on themes identified through the outcomes of the REC Turkey needs assessment study.

April 2005: The last call within the ongoing EU Project (for 2005) was made for NGOs entitled "Classic National Grants." The scope of this call was to support campaigns, seminars, symposiums and other activities to raise awareness and build the capacity of NGOs in the field of environment and sustainable development.





The manual and the thematic areas were prepared with great care by the Grants Team.

Expectations of the Needs Assessment posted on boards from the participants. The themes of the national grants were based on findings from this study.



Grants Programme Preparation Phase

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

REC Turkey made an in-depth review and assessment of the REC's grant document and tailored them to Turkey's country specific conditions and needs. REC Turkey's Grants Manual regulating grants management in REC Turkey and the Grants Guidelines for proposal preparation, for the Small Grants, National Grants and Local Grants programmes were finalised.

SELECTION PROCESS

The **Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC)** was established through a thorough interview and selection process. REC Turkey is proud of the quality, expertise, transparency and impartiality of its committee. Moreover, they have taken a high level of interest and willingness to execute the tasks identified in the GEC Working Rules.

The GEC evaluates all proposals. The first evaluation is on a quantitative basis according to scoring sheets for each project submitted. All scoring sheets are assessed through a quantitative evaluation through the use of customised software. During the committee meetings, each proposal is discussed in detail based on the score it receives and a final decision is made during the meeting. Thus, grants are awarded after going through a meticulous vetting process.



Small Grants Programme

Great Anticipation and Excitement from Stakeholders as the “First Call within the Grants Programme” was Announced.

Date: November 2004

Scope: To support local initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development and to strengthen grass-roots NGOs.

Target Group: Grass-roots NGOs and NGOs working at the local level.

Period: 10 months

Total Number of Applications: 134 project proposals were initially received.

Implementation period: 10 months

Number of projects granted: 15 project proposals were selected and awarded grants at the winners meeting.

Maximum available amount per project: up to Eur 10.000

Total Budget of First Call: Eur 104.674,50



Snapshots during and after the Winners Meeting for the Small Grants Programme

National Thematic Grants Programme

REC Turkey continues its support to Turkish stakeholders with increasing outreach through its National Grants Call.

Date of the Second Call: December 2004.

Scope of the Second Call: To encourage NGOs in implementing projects on the six themes determined based on the outcomes of the Needs Assessment Analysis. Partnerships with local administrations were essential as a mechanism to promote cooperation between stakeholders. The themes of the call were:

- Waste Management;
- Ecosystem and Environment Protection;
- Sustainable Agriculture;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
- Development of Renewable Energy Sources.

Target Group: National NGOs.

Total Number of Applications: 43 Concept Papers were received.

Implementation Period: 10 months.

Number of Projects Granted: Three project proposals were selected and awarded grants at the winners meeting.

Maximum Available Amount per Project: up to Eur 20.000

Total Budget of Second Call: Eur 52.008,74



Winners of the National Grants working as team members during the project management training given by REC Turkey.



Local Administration Grants Programme

The Third Call within the National Grants Programme was for Local Administrations.

Date of the Third Call: December 2004.

Scope of the Third Call: To encourage local administrations to implement their projects in the field of environment and sustainable development in cooperation with other stakeholders. Partnerships with NGOs were essential to promoting cooperation between stakeholders.

Target Group: Local administrations.

Total Number of Applications: A total of 137 concept papers were received.

Implementation Period: 10 months.

Number of Projects Granted: Five project proposals were selected and awarded grants at the winners meeting.

Maximum Amount of Grant per Project: up to Eur 50.000

Total Budget of Second Call: Eur 118.471,35



Thanks to the project of the Foça Municipality, the endangered Mediterranean monk seal will have a better chance of survival.



Classical National Grants

REC Turkey Grants Programme continues its support to Turkish NGOs to increase awareness and build capacity

Date of the Fourth Call: April 2005

Scope of the Fourth Call: The scope of this call is to support campaigns, seminars, symposiums and other activities of NGOs to raise public awareness and build capacity in the field of environment and sustainable development. Partnerships with other stakeholders were essential to promoting cooperation and efficiency.

Target Group: National NGOs.

Total Number of Applications: A total of 46 concept papers were received from national NGOs.

Implementation Period: 10 months.

Number of Projects Granted: Thirteen project proposals were selected and awarded grants at the winners meeting.

Maximum Available Amount per Project: up to Eur 20.000

Total Budget of Second Call: Eur 183.634,50



Field trip for school children of The Biological Diversity and Nature Protection Project in Antalya.



National Grants & Small Grants

Small Grants					
Code	Name of NGO	Name of Project	Start	End	Amount (EUR)
A Type - Project Based					
ST0001	Başak Ecological Life Society	Biological Diversity Project in Sarayönü District	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	9.350
ST0006	Nature Watchers Society (Van)	Sustainable Environmental Awareness Raising Project	01.02.2005	31.12.2005	9.425,5
ST0012	Trabzon Environmental and Cultural Entrepreneurs Society (Trabzon)	Project for Solid Waste Treatment and Recycling	01.03.2005	15.08.2005	8.990
ST0021	Association of Ağaçık Village Nature Conservation, Nature Sports Search and Rescue Society (Sakarya)	Agricultural Chemicals Control and Organic Farming Project	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	4.192
ST0039	Foundation of Services for Bayburt (Bayburt)	“Conservation Minded Schools Who Are Examples to Others” project	01.03.2005	30.07.2005	7.505
ST0040	Güzelbahçe Cultural and Area Beautification Society (Izmir)	Sorting Recyclable and Reusable Waste at the Source and the Capacity Building for this Endeavour	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	10.000
ST0041	Association of Doctors for the Environment (Istanbul)	Environmental Health Information Communication Network Project	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	8.500
ST0048	KONÇED (Konya)	Educating Waste Oil Producers and Consumers	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	9.520
ST0063	Garden Plants Society (Izmir)	Sustainable Agriculture of Garden Plants through Environmentally Friendly Production Techniques in the Tahtali Dam Protection Basin	01.03.2005	31.12.2005	8.002
ST0078	Bozcaada Nature Conservation, Culture and Art Society (Bozcaada)	Environmentally Conscious Bozcaada, Towards a Clean Future Project (Waste Management Project)	01.03.2005	01.12.2005	6.800
ST0080	Cilo Nature Society (Hakkari)	Project on Preventing Environmental Pollution from Solid Waste	15.04.2005	14.10.2005	7.330
ST0090	Human and Nature Society (Antalya)	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Project			7.040
B Type-Equipment Purchase					
ST0001	Nature and Environment Foundation (Denizli)				2.630
ST0006	Society for the Protection of Aegean Natural Life (Izmir)				2.690
ST0020	Tarsus Environmental Protection, Culture and Art Center (Tarsus)				2.700
sub-total (Small Grants)					104.674,50
1. National Grants					
Code	Name of NGO	Name of Project	Start	End	Amount (EUR)
A Type - Project Based					
NT-0022	Underwater Research Society (Ankara)	Network of Information and Rescue for the Mediterranean Monk Seals (AFBIKA), Fethiye	01.05.2005	01.03.2006	18.912,34
NT-0029	Society of Peace with Nature (Istanbul)	Training on Decomposition of Domestic Waste at Its Source in Istanbul, Büyükçekmece Municipality	01.03.2005	31.01.2006	15.708
NT-0163	Ecological Research Society (Ankara)	Easing the Pressure of Mass Tourism on the Sea Turtle Population in the Belek and Kadriye Area	01.05.2005	01.03.2006	17.388,4
Sub-total –(1.National Grants -NGOs)					52.008,74

National Grants & Smal Grants

Local Authorities					
NT-0026	Silvan Municipality (Diyarbakir)	Blue Project (sustainable water consumption) (Region of South-East Anatolia)	11.06.2005	30.11.2005	18.299
NT-0063	Foça Municipality (İzmir)	Development of Foça Marine Protection Area Management Plan and the Raising of Local Environmental Consciousness (Aegean Region)	01.05.2005	28.02.2006	37.847,35
NT-0080	Nilüfer Municipality(Bursa)	Collecting Waste Batteries in Nilüfer	01.08.2005	31.01.2006	15.100
NT-0146	Baglar Municipality (Diyarbakir)	"I Care About My Garbage" Project (Region of South-East Anatolia)	01.05.2005	28.02.2006	22.225
NT-0151	Mordogan Municipality(İzmir)	Improvement of Daffodil Floriculture with a Sustainable Agriculture Approach and Its Contribution to Rural Development (Aegean Region)	01.05.2005	01.03.2006	25.000
sub-total (1.National Grants-Local Administrations)					118.471, 35
sub-total (1. National)					170.480,09
2. National Grants					
NCT-0003	Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association	Contest for Environmental Movies on Clean Sea Theme	01.09.2005	28.02.2006	20.000
NCT-0008	Gümüşhane Society for Culture and Sport	Increase Public Consciousness on Water Pollution of Harşit River	15.08.2005	15.11.2005	13.065
NCT-0014	Turkish Marine Investigation Foundation	Symposium on Sustainable Management of Ölüdeniz Lagoon	16.08.2005	28.12.2005	13.765
NCT-0015	Anadolu Documentary Society	Documentary on Beyşehir Lake	10.07.2005	10.01.2006	17.759,5
NCT-0018	VİDEA	Documentary on Mining Activities	15.07.2005	15.01.2006	19.382
NCT-0023	KAD	Organisation of Festivals on Migratory Birds	01.09.2005	30.12.2005	17.700
NCT-0026	Asia-Europe Research and Training Society	Seminars on Organic Agriculture	15.08.2005	15.02.2006	13.915
NCT-0030	Turkish-German Natural Science Investigation Society	Increase Public Consciousness on Organic Agriculture in GAP Region	01.09.2005	27.02.2006	13.280
NCT-0033	Protection of Nature and Environment Society (Bursa)	Public Awareness Raising on Recycling Culture in Nilüfer	01.10.2005	31.01.2006	8.750
NCT-0035	EUROSOLAR Turkish Branch	EUROSOLAR 5. Turkey Symposium on Solar Energy	04.07.2005	30.12.2005	8.800
NCT-0037	Association of Doctors for Environment (Istanbul)	Public Awareness Raising on Permanent Organic Pollutants	01.10.2005	28.02.2006	11.668
NCT-0038	Society for Wildlife and Natura Conservation	Public Awareness Raising related to Rural Development at Kızılırmak Delta	01.08.2005	31.12.2005	12.497
NCT-0042	Society of Biologists	Symposium on Genetically Modified Organisms	01.08.2005	01.02.2006	13.050
sub-total (2. National Grants)					183,631.5
TOTAL					458.786,09



SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

The overall objective of the Special Programmes is to:

- **MAXIMISE** the outreach of the REC services to environmental stakeholders;
- **STRENGTHEN** the existing activities of the REC in Turkey;
- **DEVELOP** new areas of services for environmental stakeholders in the country.

Special Programmes gives utmost importance to local, national and regional initiatives to empower cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships in Turkey, including the public and private sectors and NGOs. Therefore, it aims to build partnerships at every level to develop new areas of activities within the framework of **sustainable development** initiatives such as **climate change, eco-efficiency, eco-tourism, cleaner production, and waste management**. Special Programmes acts as a facilitator between the parties/actors to share the ownership of each initiative with the stakeholders in order to pave the way for long-term sustainability.

Multi Stakeholder Dialogues REC Turkey aims to set up dialogue groups between the business community, NGOs and governmental institutions to facilitate cooperation among parties to accelerate the implementation of the EU environmental acquis. The goal of the Special Programmes, therefore, is to develop similar models of governance in the environmental decision-making process to those applied in the EU, in order to acquire the best available results. This kind of decision-making process is highly needed in the EU accession process to foster a participatory approach to governance in Turkey. Special Programmes will establish three multi-stakeholder dialogue groups between government institutions, NGOs and businesses.

Special Programmes has identified the following topic areas where dialogue groups would be established:

- Integrated Waste Management;
- REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) – the EU's new chemicals policy;
- Environmental Liability.



Special Programmes acts as a facilitator between the parties/actors to share the ownership of each initiative with the stakeholders in order to pave the way for long-term sustainability.

Providing Assistance for EU Environmental Acquis Compliance

Technical assistance will be provided for EU environmental acquis compliance for the sectors which have the worst adverse impacts on the environment. **Special Programmes** will develop **training modules** particularly with respect to **the EU's horizontal directives**, which are relevant for most of the polluting sectors. In addition Special Programmes will organise **trainings and/or workshops** on the topics identified as being a priority and necessary **for the EU accession process**.

Within this framework, **a total of six workshops and trainings** are going to be organised covering the following topics:

- Understanding the EU environmental legislative framework and actions needed to prioritise the needs in the negotiation process;
- IFIs and tools for the business community to finance environmental investments to meet EU environmental acquis;
- Business Networking and Lessons Learnt to facilitate sharing of experiences.

The training courses to be offered will focus on:

- Voluntary schemes;
- EMAS and Eco-labelling;
- The IPPC Directive;
- Integrated Product Policy.

Climate Change Initiatives

The Special Programmes plans to concentrate on both local and international initiatives to support cross-sectoral, multi-lateral stakeholder partnerships to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between the different parties/actors. In order to support these objectives, REC Turkey will work on sustainable development initiatives where it can play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development practices in the country and in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Integration of policies and measures of climate change has always been regarded as one of the most significant drivers for the formulation of successful local, national, regional and global programmes for sustainable development. Thus, climate change would be one of the main areas of work for REC Turkey within the framework of sustainable development initiatives.

The Climate Change Work Programme was developed with the goal of increasing the technical and institutional capacity of all major stakeholders in Turkey. Within this scope, REC Turkey's Climate Change website (www.rec.org.tr/climate.htm) has been operational since February 2005. This bilingual (Turkish and English) website is the most comprehensive and up-to-date in Turkey on climate change. In addition, a quarterly Climate Change Bulletin is also being developed.

The integrated approach to the development of the programme led to the designation of REC Turkey as the Turkish national focal point for UNFCCC Article 6 by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in May 2005, which focuses on education, training and public awareness in climate change. Covering the period 2005-2007, the tasks of the national focal point will be implemented by REC Turkey, under the auspices of Ministry of Environment and Forestry and in close partnership with various national and international stakeholders.

Business Awards for the Environment

Turkish Business Awards for the Environment, which recognises excellence in business commitment and are for those who have made outstanding contributions to the protection and preservation of Turkey's environment. REC Turkey seeks to encourage the Turkish business community to consider sustainable environmental management practices as key elements for attaining the goals of sustainable development. REC Turkey has been designated as the national focal point for the organisation of a national award scheme within the framework of the European Business Award for the Environment (EBAE). EBAE is organised by the European Commission DG Environment bi-annually and is open to companies from EU member and candidate states. REC Turkey will be responsible for organising a national award scheme, with the capacity to nominate Turkish companies for this pan-European award. As a way to increase the awareness and outreach of this initiative, Special Programmes has sought partnership with the Environmental Platform for Sustainable Development (EPSD), which is composed of different business associations and environmental NGOs, to cooperate in organising the national level award scheme in order to reach the widest possible audience in Turkey.

The awards will be given in four categories;

- Management;
- Process;
- Product;
- International cooperation.

The press conference for launching this initiative was held in June 2005 and the call for applications will be announced by July 8, 2005.



European Business Awards will bring a new perspective to the Business Sector in Turkey.

REC Turkey Director, Sibel Sezer Eralp and Special Programme Manager, Kerem Okumus at the Sustainable Development Congress in Istanbul



* ACHIEVEMENTS OF REC TURKEY 2004-2005 *



Raising the Awareness of Corporate Social Responsibility

REC Turkey is launching **an initiative on business responsibility** in the country. This initiative will identify how to contribute and to build **partnerships for the protection of environment** with the aim of attaining the goals **of sustainable development**. Based on the prepared work plan, the main component of this initiative is to develop a **CSR database** for the environment promoting Turkish companies that have responsible business practices and to facilitate the exchange of information between them. The **CSR database** for the environment will have a **countrywide outreach**, not only to **exchange best practices** but also to **establish a network** that would enable interested parties to communicate with each other. Moreover, the initiative would encourage other businesses to choose a **social responsibility approach** to the environment. In order to support this process, REC Turkey organised a seminar in June 2005 together with the Turkish Businessmen and Industrialists' Association (TUSIAD) to further increase awareness on the topic.



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