

Organization of the
United Nations



The Conservation and
Management of Turkey
Ecosystems Project

School Activities Report

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Introduction

The steppes are one of the most important and sensitive ecosystems of Turkey. Steppe ecosystems in Turkey include natural steppes, meadows, and pastures. Steppe ecosystems are mainly seen in Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, and Southeastern Anatolia regions. Steppe ecosystems in Turkey are faced with threats such as investments, urbanization pressure, loss of land due to mining, overgrazing, and afforestation in the wrong places, and the effects of climate change. In this context, The Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project is carried out by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), General Directorate of Plant Production (GDPP), and General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The



strengthening Turkey's efforts to conserve steppe ecosystems. Studie project's component of "creating a suitable environment for the effect biodiversity in large landscapes" are carried out by the Nature Conse (DKM). The project is implemented in the Kızılkuyu Wildlife Developn National Park, and Karacadağ steppes in Şanlıurfa. As part of the pro, carried out at schools. I'm Learning The Steppes Training Set was pre held for teachers. School wall painting, inter-school poetry and painti and create your own garden activities were organized.

SCHOOL EVENTS

consists of 5 parts:



I'm Learning the Steppe
Training Set and Teacher
Seminar



School Wall Painting
and Nature Corner



Steppe Theatre



Steppe Painting
and Poetry
Competition



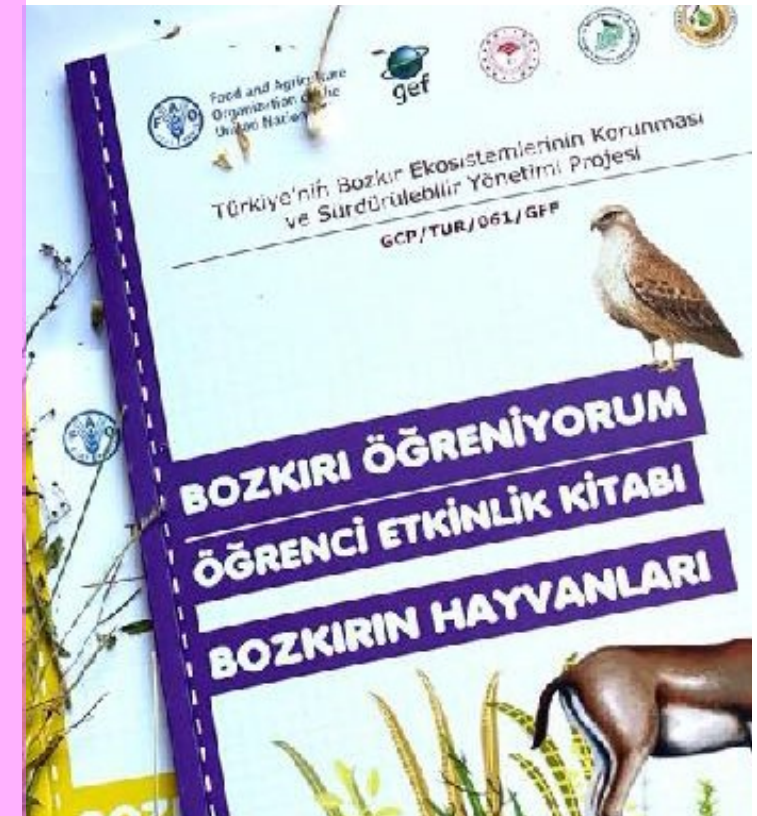
I'm Learning the Steppe Training Set



The aim of I am Learning The Steppe Training Set is to provide resources to increase children's knowledge, interest, and awareness about Şanlıurfa's steppe ecosystem. With this set, children will discover the diversity and importance of the steppe ecosystem from different perspectives such as history, biology, geography, sustainability, and climate change, and will develop behavioral changes to protect it. There are 40 activities in the student handbooks that will encourage students to research, feed their curiosity, and deepen their understanding of scientific concepts. 250 copies of the booklets were printed and distributed to schools in the implementation sites of the project.

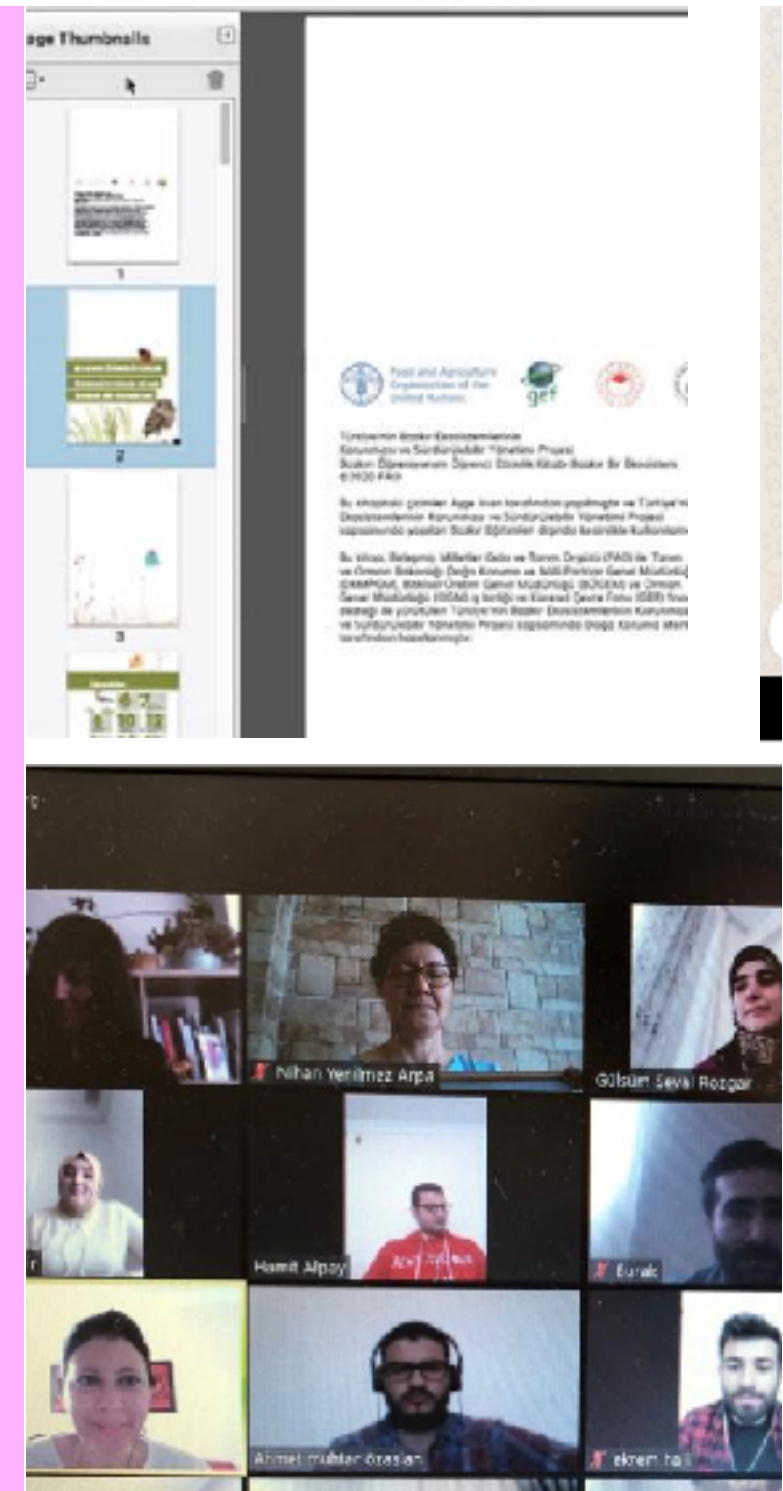
I'm Learning The Steppe Training Set consists of 5 booklets:

- Teachers' Guide
- Steppe Animals
- Steppe Plants
- Life in The Steppe





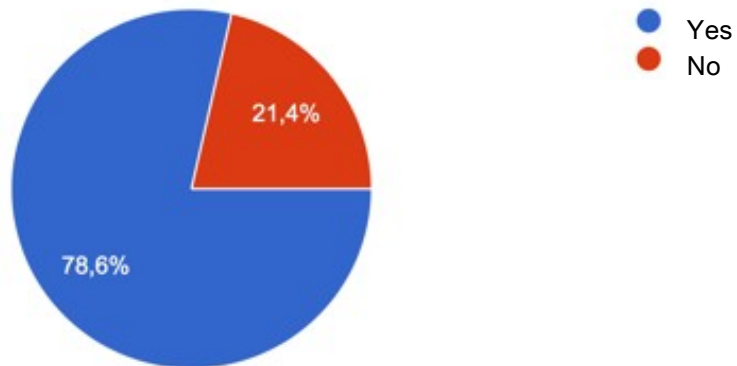
The teacher seminar, which was planned to introduce the Training Set in primary schools in the project region, could not be held face-to-face due to the pandemic which affected the whole world. Training has been decided to be held online on May 12, 2020. For this purpose, an online group consisting of the representatives of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Nature Conservation Centre, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of National Education, and the administrators and teachers at the schools in the project area was created. Before the seminar, online meeting instructions were prepared, the meeting agenda and all documents were sent to the participants via e-mail and group. The seminar was held with a total of 24 participants, 16 of whom were administrators/teachers from Güzelkuyu, İkizce, Altınbaşak, Yağmurlu, Özkent, Küptepe, Ekinci, Şahinler and Eskiha primary schools. The seminar commenced with the speeches of Nihan Yenilmez Arpa (FAO), Kenan Demiroğlu (Şanlıurfa MoNE), Mehmet Gürkaynak (NCNP), and the speakers expressed the biological diversity and the importance of steppe ecosystems and how the training set will provide information and experience for the children. Later, the ecology of the steppe ecosystem in Şanlıurfa and the main threats to the biodiversity of the steppe ecosystem were presented by Yıldıray Lise (DKM). The content of the training set and how to use the activities in the lesson plans were introduced by Tuğba Can (DKM). At the end of the seminar, it was stated that the prepared training set could be used effectively by the teachers.



Evaluations of the Training Set and the Teacher Seminar

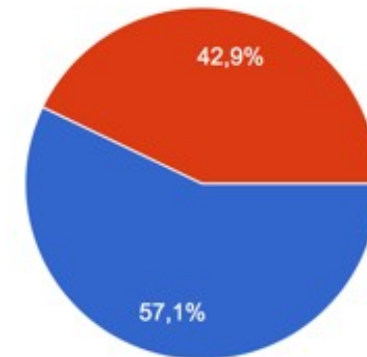
Have you participated in an activity related to nature education before?

14 answers



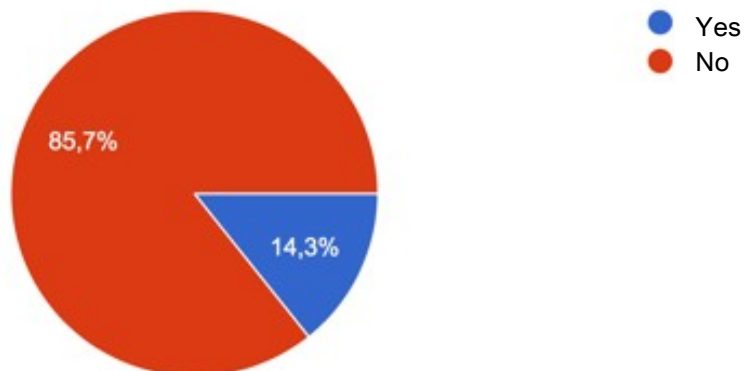
I'm Learning the Steppe Teacher's Book is easy to understand

14 answers



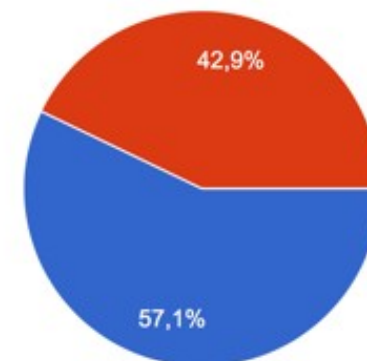
Have you attended an event related to the steppe project before?

14 answers



I'm Learning the Steppe Student Activity Books are rich in cc applied.

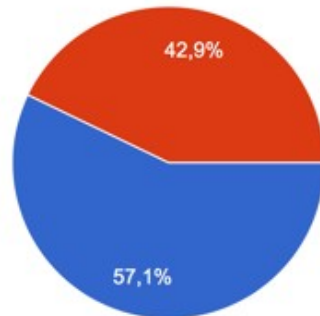
14 answers



Evaluations of the Training Set and the Teacher Seminar

Events can be associated with the MoNE Program.

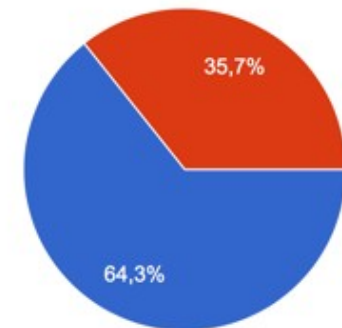
14 answers



- I absolutely agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I do not agree
- I strongly disagree

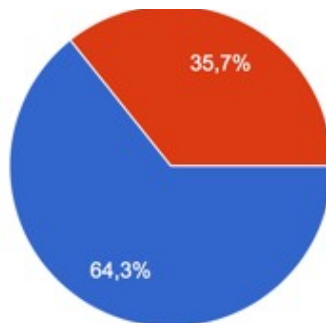
The visual materials used in the books are appropriate.

14 answers



The language of the texts in the books is clear and understandable.

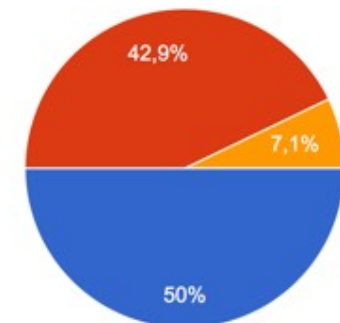
14 answers



- I agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I do not agree
- I strongly disagree

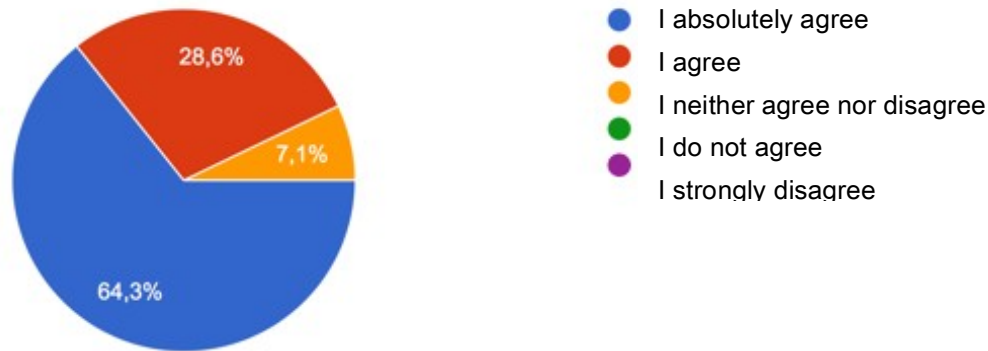
I would like to apply the I'm Learning Steppe 1

14 answers

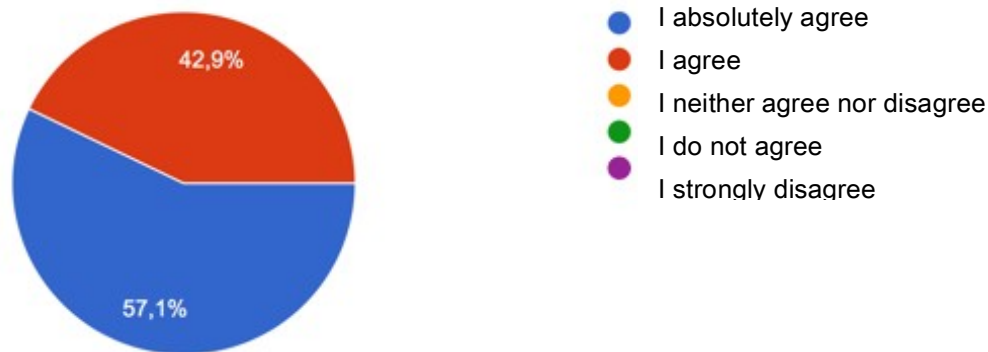


Evaluations of the Training Set and the Teacher Seminar

I was satisfied with the online meeting.
14 answers



The conversations were informative.
14 answers



What did you like the most about the meeting? If there is anything you don't like, please specify.

- Everyone who could attend the subject was present. The purpose and the content were explained very well. We got out of the question-and-answer session.
- It was an open, clear and honest environment.
- They presented the program in a very clear way.
- Everyone was very kind and helpful.
- The program used was very good for the meeting.
- The program used was very good. The explanations at the beginning were very clear, the language of the managers, their approach was sincere and energizing.
- Everything was good.
- We and our students

School Wall Painting and Nature Corner



Art is one of the ways to discover nature and raise awareness of nature conservation in early childhood. With this approach, wall painting activities were carried out in 10 schools in the implementation sites of the project. Wall painting activities were carried out under the leadership of children's book illustrator Ayşe İnan. The aim was to convey to children the diversity of the steppe ecosystem and to ensure its recognition. The drawing workshops aimed to enrich the nature experience of children, increase their creativity and make them inquire their environment.

Kızilkuyu Wildlife Development Area

Keberli School

Kızilkuyu School

Güzelkuyu School

İkizce School



Tek Tek Mountains National Park

Özkent School

Yağmurlu School

Küçüksenemağara School



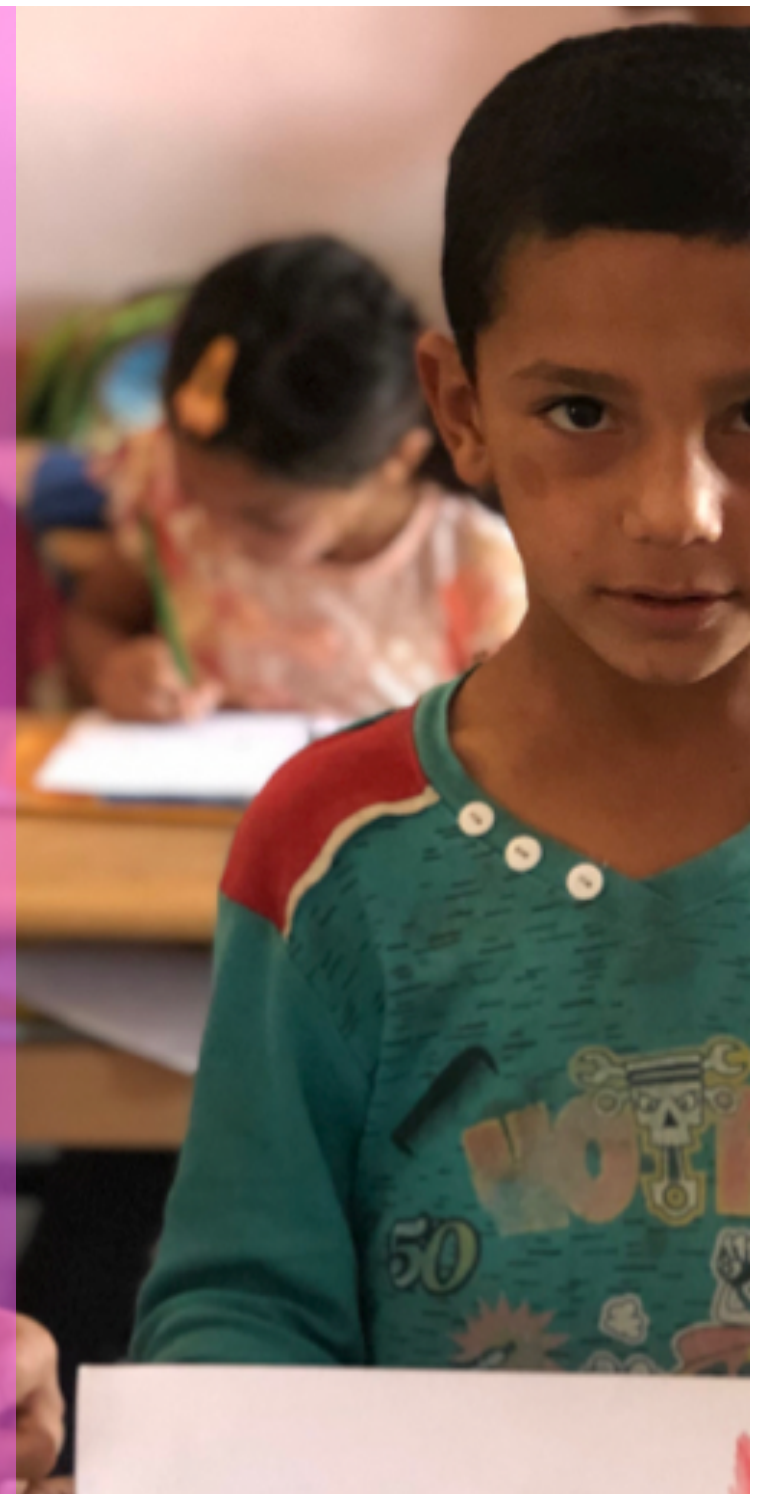
Karacadağ Steppes

Karacadağ School

Karabahce School

























TÜRKİYE'NİN BOZKIR EKOSİSTEMLERİNİN KORUNMASI VE SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR YÖNETİMİ PROJESİ



Steppe Fairy Tale Theater



Theater, which is an activity of the steppe educational events, is designed as an important tool to develop nature conservation awareness in children. Today's people face deep dilemmas in life and these dilemmas delay the measures that should be taken immediately. Certainly, creative drama activities teach children events and concepts through play, prepare them for social roles, and improve children's readiness for these dilemmas by addressing them. However, due to the pandemic, and as preparing a theater play requires working with students, the activity was designed and transformed into the Steppe Fairy-Tale Theater.

The Steppe Fairy-Tale Theater has been prepared for primary school students to raise awareness about knowing the steppe, understanding its importance, and protecting it. The Steppe Fairy Tale Theater, 25 of which are produced, includes a box, 6 puppets, 2 decors, and a tale about the steppe. Teachers can reenact this tale, or a tale about the steppe that they will write themselves, together with their students. They can also increase the number of puppets by designing new figures and printing them on frosted acetate.



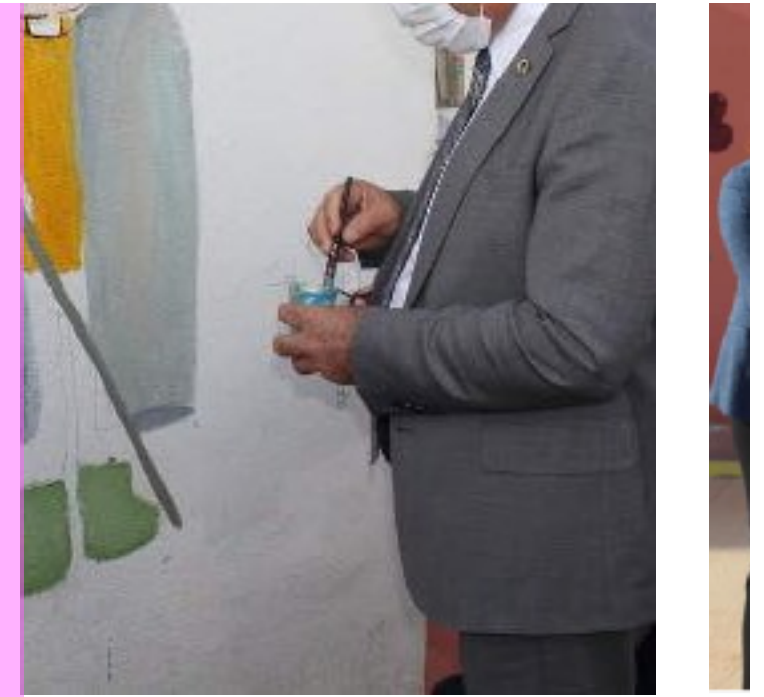
Life in the Steppe



Poetry and Painting Competition

Another aim of the Steppe Educational Events is to raise active citizens who take responsibility for the future. Competitions and games are important in developing societies where individual understanding, commitment, responsibility, action, and cooperation prevail. Encountering difficulties motivate children to solve problems, be active, and promote in-depth learning.

"Life in the Steppe Poetry and Painting Competition" was organized in two categories; poetry and painting, for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students at the schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education throughout Şanlıurfa. The competition, which was organized to draw attention to the plant and animal species of the steppe, biodiversity, the invisible and unknown values of the steppe, and to raise awareness, was announced between March and May 2020.



Life in the Steppe

Poetry and Painting Competition



Jury members of the competition; Nihan Yenilmez Arpa, FAO Project Manager; Tuğba Usta, GDNCNP - Project Focal Point; İdris Ölmez, GDNCNP Education Branch; Reşat Ektiren, GDNCNP - 3rd Region Representative; Esra Esina, GDPP- Project Focal Point; Mehmet Gözoğlu, GDPP - Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate Representative; Adnan Yetkin, GDPP - Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate Representative; Şenay Çelik, GDF - Sincap Magazine Editorial Team Member; Türkan Özdemir, GDF - Project Team Member, Yıldırar Lise, Nature Conservation Centre Deputy General Manager; Deniz Şilliler Tapan, Nature Protection Centre Director; Sevim Ak, Children's Book Writer; Ayşe İnan, Children's Book Illustrator.

Although the poster and specification of the competition, which consists of two categories, poetry and painting, were announced through the web pages of the Ministry of National Education and project partners, increasing the participation was difficult due to the



workers, and communication was hindered as families were not able to attend the schools. Upon evaluation, attention was focused on the online group interviews with the teachers and administrators working at the schools in the project area. One-to-one interviews, and participation of a total of 29 students was ensured, especially as a result of the devoted effort of the project administrators from the schools located in the project area: Mountains National Park and Karacadağ steppes.

The winners as a result of the assessments by 10 jury members are listed below:

Winners in the poetry category:

1. Büşra Toprak, Özkent İÖO, 7th grade (Tek Tek project site)
2. Rukiye Yüksel, İkizce İÖO, 6th grade (Kızılkuyu project site)
3. Ömer Efe Bengisu, Şanlıurfa Türk Telekom MİTİ, 7th grade (? project site)

Winners in the painting category:

1. Zemzem Akar, Özkent İÖO, 5th grade (Tek Tek project site)
2. Tuba Kılıç, İkizce İÖO, 5th grade (Kızılkuyu project site)
3. Esmâ Ekinci, Güzelkuyu İÖO, 5th grade (Kızılkuyu project site)

The award ceremony was held on 18 November 2021.

Winning Poems



BOZKIRDA ÇOCUKLAR

Esintili bir yaz akşamında
"Yoncaya" hasret koyunlarımla
Yumak dokuları burnumda
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Ufukta gözlerim kilitlenir bir "ceylana"
"Ceren"i ardında kayalıklarda
Usul usul kaybolur karanlıklarda
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Derken bir "varan" çıkar karşıma
Toprak rengine bürünmüş sırtıyla
Varlığımdan uzaklaşır bir hışımla
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Eksik kalır mı "süremeli" akşamlarda?
Nasiplenir suya hasret topraklarda
Avı biter, yuvalanır ağaçlarda
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Yol alır ayaklarım Harran Ovası'nda
Bir "sümbül" gülümser taşların arasında
Eğilir kalırım bükük boynuna
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Cenneti sunar bana arkadaşlarıyla
"Hatmi ve "peygamber çiçeği" günbatımında
Bir selam salarlar bozkır çocuklarına
Geçer çocukluğum bozkırlarda

Gün biter, koyulurum dönüş yoluna
Çağrımızdır, arzumuzdur insanlara
El değmesinler nazlı bozkırlarımıza

BOZKIRIN SIRRI

Bozkır'ı bir taş, bir çiçekten ibaret sandık!
Bozkır'ı bir avuç toprak sandık!
Sandık ki; kuru dağ, kuru otlak.
Bozkır'ın ihtişam ve muazzamlığını çözmedik
belki de.

Bak! Ne de güzel açmış gevenler!
Bak! Ne de güzel uyuyor kınalı keklik!
Bak! Ne de tatlı ötüyor kuşlar!
Bak! Gör işte canlıları; bak tanı işte Bozkır'ı.

Duymadık belki de Bozkır'ın çağılayan sesini
Bilemedik Bozkır'ın derindeki sırlarını.
Duyuracağız sesimizi, anlatacağız nesillere,
Okuyacağız ilerde Bozkır hikayelerini.

Bozkır türküleri devirecek ozanlarımız!
Bozkır'ın şiirini yazacak şairlerimiz!
Bozkır destanları yazacak kalemlerimiz!
Bozkır için atacak yüreklerimiz!

Rukiye Yüksel (Poetry Competition 2nd place winner)
İkizce İÖO Kızılkuyu WDA
Class: 6/A

BOZKIRIN HOŞ TATLI

Soyu uzun ağaçlar
Arpa, yulaf tarlaları
Birçok günü karanlıkta
Bozkırın hoş tatlı

Dağda gezen
Güneşlidir sak
Havasını güze
Bozkırın hoş tatlı

Şifa akan tahıl
Ekmek gerek
Çok canlının a
Bozkırın hoş tatlı

Ömer Efe Ber
place winner)
Şanlıurfa Türk
School, Class:

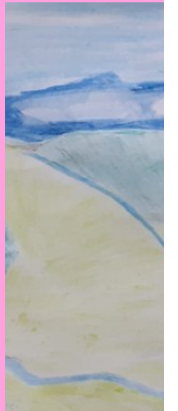
Winning Paintings



Zemzem Akar (Painting Competition 1st place winner) Özkent School, Tek Tek Mountains NP, Class: 5/A



Tuba Kılıç (Painting Competition 2nd place winner) İkizce School, Kızilkuyu WDA, Class: 5/A



Esmâ Ekinç (Painting Competition 3rd place winner) Kızilkuyu WDA, Class: 5/A



Kite Festival and Build Your Own Garden Activity

Examination of nature through play enables students to experience their relationships with nature and the environment, make observations, and express themselves by analyzing and synthesizing these observations. For this reason, the Kite Festival was also included in the educational activities. In addition, a garden was created at the school with olive saplings and rosemary seedlings provided by the Şanlıurfa Regional Directorate of Forestry, and tomato, pepper, and eggplant seedlings provided by the National Project Coordinator. The festival was planned as a big event where the project schools would come together, but because of the restrictions and closures due to the pandemic, the MoNE decisions were followed and it could be held on April 22, 2021, with the 8th-grade students of Güzelkuyu High School. In the event, the children first made a Self-Watering Garden by planting vegetable seedlings in the plastic bottles they had collected. They planted the seedlings provided by FAO in the school gardens, and then 50 kites were flown with a group of 45 students from 8th-grade students, teachers, and representatives from FAO and the Ministry.



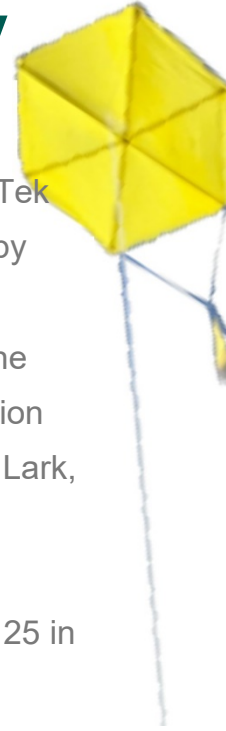






International Day for Biological Diversity

The additional educational activity was planned for May 22, International Biodiversity Day. On May 23, 2021, the wall of Tek Tek Mountains National Park Visitor Information Center was painted by children's book illustrator Ayşe İnan and DKM Nature Education Specialist Tuğba Can. Nihan Yenilmez Arpa, the coordinator of the project, also contributed to the team. The stony steppe of the region and species such as the Desert Monitor, Crested Lark, Calandra Lark, and Lapwing are included and the legumes and cereals such as lentils, chickpeas, and wheat are depicted to emphasize the importance of the region in this respect. In the event held on May 25 in the garden of Şanlıurfa Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Fatih Metin and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative for Turkey Viorel Gutu, children made paintings, played a memory game with steppe species and they also flew kites. 135 kites were distributed to the participants. Since schools were closed due to the pandemic, only 20 students from Güzelkuyu and İkizce schools could attend the event with their teachers.





Educational Events

"With the "Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project", biodiversity of the steppe was introduced to our children, a steppe corner was built in our school, and wall painting activities related to species living in the steppe were carried out. These activities increased the awareness of our students about the species living in the steppe. As Güzelkuyu Primary School, we were happy to take part in the project. We thank all who have contributed.

Aynur Demir / Güzelkuyu School Principal

It was a summer day. It was Wednesday. You taught us steppe animals that we do not know. You made us paint. You let us draw pictures and I was very happy. Thank you for leaving a story for our school. I would like you to come to our school again.

FAO officials, who visited our school on 4-5 December 2019, organized various activities in our school within the framework of the project they started.

During the activities, the students at our school learned about the plant and animal species living in the steppe areas around them and participated in the activities with great pleasure. We would like to express our endless thanks to all project participants, especially Mrs. Nihan Yenilmez Arpa.

İsmail Yıldız / Güzelkuyu School Vice-Principal.

All our elders who came to teach us all the beauties of nature; first of all, thank you very much for teaching us the beauty of life, animals, and our environment. You entertained us, made us laugh, and most importantly, made us love animals. You taught us that we are not the only ones living in life. Us, the students were very happy when you came. Thank you so much for teaching us not to give up in every field. I think everyone had a lot of fun.

To our elders who visited our school in Urfa, You made us learn a lot. I hope you learned a lot from us. I hope you learned a lot from the animals in Urfa. I hope you learned a lot from the steppe. It turns out that the steppe is the home of most of them, but we learned a lot from everything. Everything went very well. You were very kind. We made pictures we messaged to you. We made my friends very happy. Best regards,

Emine Demir / Güzelkuyu School
7/A

As part of the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project, we studied the unique species with painting activity. The powerful and miraculous and paints mixed to experience for me. I hope you had a good time. I hope you had a good time. I hope you had a good time.

Feedback on Educational Events

Wall painting was done in our school. Firstly, our students were informed about the conservation of the steppe when they came to our school. In addition, a workshop was held with our 4th-grade students. A steppe wall painting was made with the students participating in the workshop. Other students looked at it with envy. We even reported this to Ms. Tuğba and Ms. Ayşe. We are also looking forward to the theater event, which was postponed due to the virus. Of course, we hope that it will be in Yağmurlu Primary School. Bless the hearts of those involved.

Gülsüm Rözgar / Yağmurlu School Principal

Wall painting has been done. In addition, presentations were made about all animal and plant species, and pictures were drawn with the children. You gave the children unforgettable moments. Thank you very much to everyone involved.

Selin Yıldırım / Koberli School Principal

I would like to state that, having a fairy tale theater scene that can be used in the lesson instead of attending an event once, which is also impossible due to the period we are in, is a good decision. In this way, we will be able to introduce the species of the steppe, surrounding our school, to our students more effectively. By using the Fairy Tale Theater during the lessons, our students will gain the skill of creating stories suitable for every subject and animating them on the stage, which will contribute to the development of vocabulary, self-expression in front of the group, and self-confidence. I am sure that it will be very useful for our Science teachers when they teach the subject of Light and Shadow in the Science lesson. It is also important in terms of keeping the shadow play, which is one of the oldest performing arts, alive and transferring this culture to future generations. I would like to thank those who contributed on behalf of my students for preparing a Fairy Tale Box, which the whole school can use.

Aynur Demir / Güzelkuyu School Principal

As part of the activity, wall painting was first made by our students. Thank you very much for giving more meaning to our school.

Ahmet Muhtar / Ömerli School Principal

The Steppe Fairy Tale Theater is a very good idea. Congratulations. The whole school can use it. It can be used in every school. I think that giving more meaning to the mental world of children is a very good idea. Gaining positive behavior is a very good idea. As a school, we should have a room last year. Our room is very good. Our shadow play materials are very good. Thank you to those who contributed.



News Articles

<http://www.fao.org/turkey/news/detail-news/tr/c/1378006/>

[http://sanliurfa.meb.gov.tr/www/turkiyenin-bozkir-ekosistemlerinin-korunmasi-ve-surdurulebilir-
yonetim-projesi/icerik/2794](http://sanliurfa.meb.gov.tr/www/turkiyenin-bozkir-ekosistemlerinin-korunmasi-ve-surdurulebilir-yonetim-projesi/icerik/2794)

<https://www.haberler.com/ogrenciler-okullarinin-duvarlarini-bozkirin-13745528-haberi/>

[https://beyazgazete.com/video/webtv/guncel-1/sanliurfa-ogrenciler-okullarinin-duvarlarini-bozkirin-
canlilariyla-renklendirdi-889182.html](https://beyazgazete.com/video/webtv/guncel-1/sanliurfa-ogrenciler-okullarinin-duvarlarini-bozkirin-canlilariyla-renklendirdi-889182.html)

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renklendirdi-2875042](https://www.haberturk.com/sanliurfa-ogrenciler-okullarinin-duvarlarini-bozkirin-canlilariyla-renklendirdi-2875042)

[https://www.dunya.com/ekonomi/fao-sanliurfanin-bozkir-ekosistemini-korumaya-alacak-
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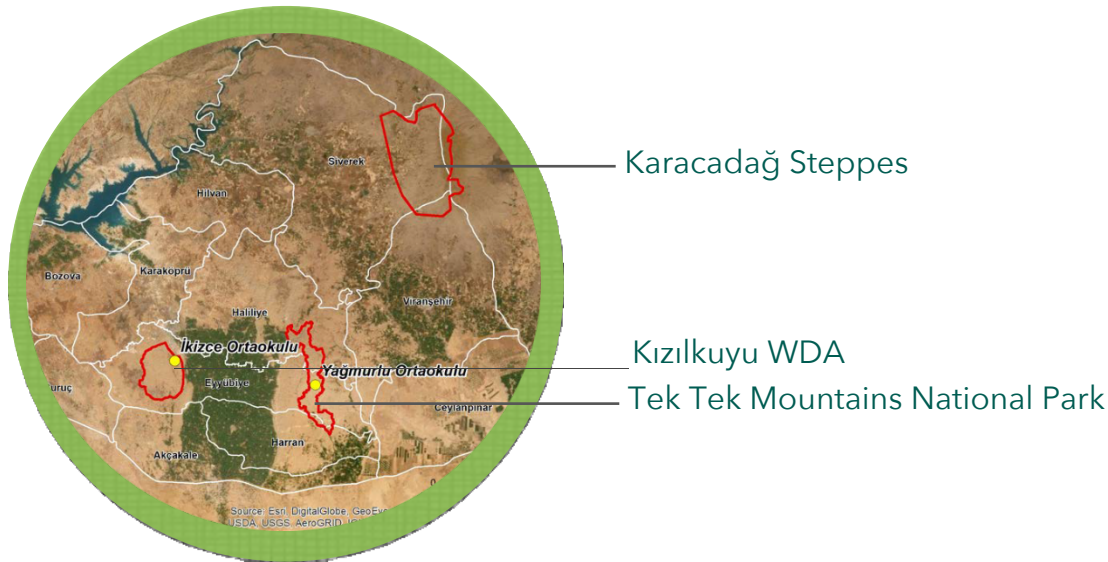
[https://sanliurfaguzelkuyuilkokulu.meb.k12.tr/icerikler/odul-toreni-okulumuzda-
duzenlendi_10333561.html](https://sanliurfaguzelkuyuilkokulu.meb.k12.tr/icerikler/odul-toreni-okulumuzda-duzenlendi_10333561.html)

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7xl3ly>

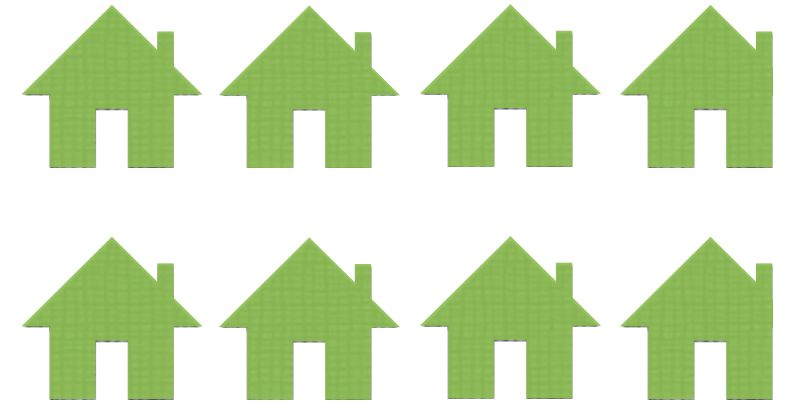
[https://www.haberturk.com/sanliurfa-haberleri/87503422-sanliurfada-dunya-biyocesitlilik-gunu-
kutlanditarim-ve-orman-bakan-yardimcisi-fatih-metin](https://www.haberturk.com/sanliurfa-haberleri/87503422-sanliurfada-dunya-biyocesitlilik-gunu-kutlanditarim-ve-orman-bakan-yardimcisi-fatih-metin)

<https://www.haberler.com/ogrenciler-okullarinin-duvarlarini-bozkirin-13745528-haberi/>

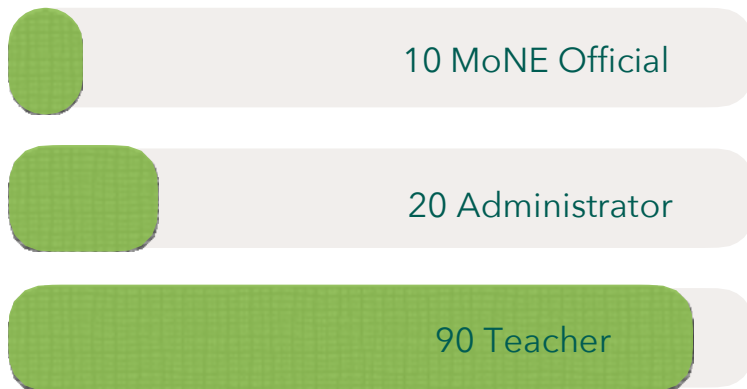




Work was carried out in 3 project areas.

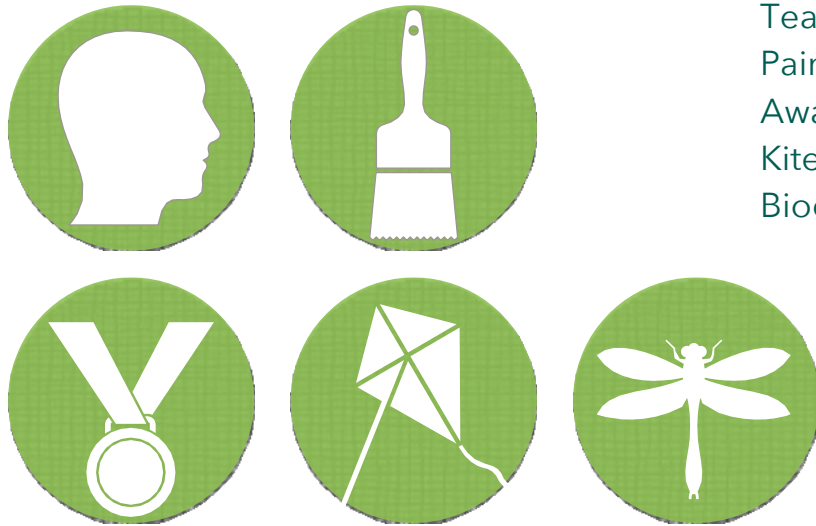


10 Schools and 1 Visitor Infor were visited, and school activ held.



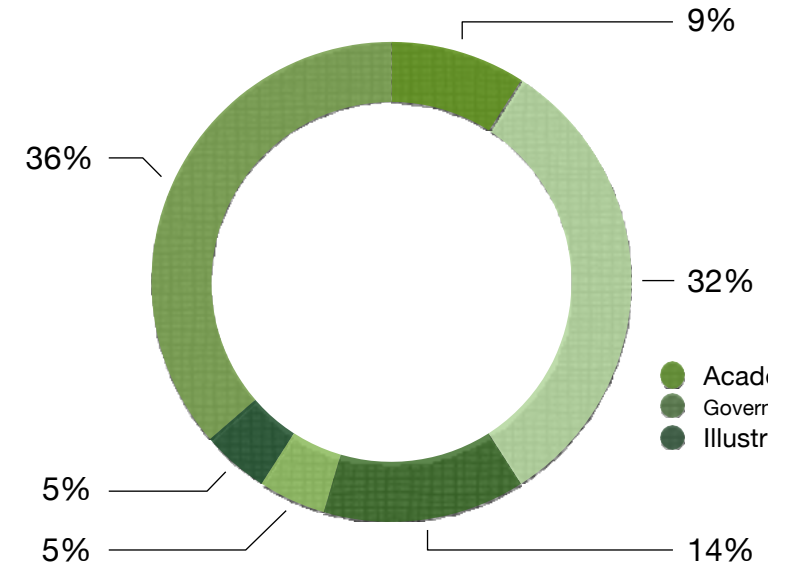
1 colorful and content-rich Te

Conclusion



Teacher Seminar
Painting Event
Award Ceremony
Kite Festival
Biodiversity Day

5 events were organized that brought the project partners together.



The participants of the events fields.



Gazelle
Great Bustard
Crested Lark
Calandra's Lark
Green-underlined blue
Hoopoe
Lapwing
Terebinth
Gundelia
Milkvetch
Sainfoin



Indeed, schools shed light on their surroundings. Considering the Ministry of National Education officials, administrators, teachers, students, and families of the students, the importance of schools, where future decision-makers are raised, in the conservation of steppes can be appreciated. School activities have been planned with this maxim through the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project. The backbone of the school activities carried out by the DKM team is the training set containing the activity sheets.

The most important feature of the Training Set is that the included 40 activity sheets are ready for application. Teachers stated that such auxiliary resources are an important part of extracurricular activities. The dissemination of the Training Set through the Ministry of National Education is deemed necessary for the sustainability of the project in the long run. Again, the impact of the Fairy Tale

the steppes, will be observed in the long run. However, the presence of such creative materials in schools will lead



children in the region to develop in different areas. Thanks to the Wall Painting events, impacts of which are observed within a short period of time, "illustrator" has entered the list of answers to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?". Painting activities, which attracted the attention of students of all ages and even many adults, were the

the scope of the event be held in the school activity project encourage and research enable learn while having supported by NC provincial organi:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



“Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey’s Steppe Ecosystems” Project GCP/TUR/061/GFF

For more information

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Parks <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/NCNP>

General Directorate of Plant Production
<https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/GDPP>

General Directorate of Forestry
<https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/GDF>