

EIGHT DAMS AT RIVER MUNZUR AND THE END OF TUNCELI!

The Province Tunceli (DERSIM)

Is one of the mountainous parts of turkey. The hills which most of them are more than 3000 meters high are so unexceptional, that not only its people, but also the foreigners are amazed about the alpine pastures of this region. This landscape which is not opened for tourism is waiting to welcome the people.

The national park of Munzur Valleys is in the east Anatolia and within the border of tunceli only eight km far from the Centrum.

In this beautiful national park you are able to do camping, picnicking, climbing or even fishing. The Tree Rivers, Munzur, Plümür and Peri which flow through the province allow you to do several kinds of water sporting.

At the top of the mountains (height 3370m), which is in the county of Ovacik, the snow doesn't melt through the whole year. There is 3meters high snow in the winter in the

Oak forest. The 3292 meter high mountains KARASU-ARAS and Begirpasa hills are also welcoming for nature lovers to do some climbing's, which is very neat in the months of June to august.

The Munzur Hills are located between the Karasu-Murat-Vallys which is the northern part of Tunceli. The geological structures of these mountains are made of volcanic metamorphic and sedimentary cliffs. The hills are 3300m high and you will find 1600m long eis rivers in the Mercan Valleys. By going further down into the valley you will find some cold springs, fountains and also waterfalls.

At the peak of the Munzur hills are the oak forests which are being used by the nature which you can't find anywhere in the country. There are several kinds of trees such as walnut, spruce, ach, meadow, aspen and plane trees. There are wild animals such as bears, foxes, goats, wolfs, sables, hawks and golden Eagles feeling at home in this forest.

Project

There are eight dams planed to be built in Tunceli (DERSIM). Two of the dams have been practically finished and the instruction for building the other six has been already instructed and will start shortly.

Due to detailed researches, there are no economical reasons to build these dams. It has only political reasons for building the dams which will not affect in any ways the Turkish economy in long term.

MUNZUR-PROJECT AND A CATASTROPHE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS PEOPLE

Research of Murat Cano

The Title explains the results of the research itself:

- The nature, its people and the next generation of Tunceli are in big danger
- It is spoiling the living standards and our ecosystem
- The danger in which this project leads, becomes clear by knowing the facts and consequences of this project
- The Real-Existence can only lead to one decision:

STOP BUILDING THE DAMS

The threatening danger of this project comes from the government whose purpose is winning energy for the Environment in the name of "MUNZUR PROJECT".

We received a written answer from Turkey's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources dated May 21st, 2001, according to which the construction of the Konaktepe Dams 1 and 2 have already been awarded to a Turkish-American Company by decision of the Turkish Government. So, it is obvious that the Turkish state is determined to implement the project. The involvement of the United States in this project creates another difficulty for us to achieve our aim.

Am I wrong or is the government how is in charge of this Project?

The answer to this question is the amount of electricity which is going to be produced through the "MANZUR PROJECT" in contra to consequences of damaging the forests, the Plants, animal husbandry, Beekeeping, Fishing and the tourism in this area.

The total established power of the hydroelectric power plants within the Munzur Project is 37.079 MW. According to the figures given by DSI, the Turkish State Water Work, the whole established power of Turkey's hydroelectric power plants in operation in the year 2000 is 358.45 MW. The energy aimed to

be produced by The Munzur Project is %0.9 (nine in thousand) of the Turkey's total. This small amount does not worth to destroy the nature and displace more people. It is a negligible quantity which cannot be the main reason behind the Munzur project.

Here I like to give some information about Turkey's water potential and Turkey's play with it:

In the region from Middle Asia to Balkans, Turkey has the highest potential in terms of water. Turkey has some economical, social and strategically aims based on water. One can understand the logic of this. Because water has began to become more precious than oil both in the Middle East including Turkey and in the world, which brings Turkey face to face with the great advantages and questions of our century. On international level there is not a water-regime agreed upon by all countries. When taken into consideration together with the technological backwardness on the use of water resources and the wrong-deeds of the governments in their implementations these facts make the water dangerous either. Following figures shows the importance and great value of water in Turkey:

Rain per year is 501 milliards cubic meter. 186 milliard m³ of this it turns into the water.

Sweet-water potential including underground water and the water that flows into Turkey from other countries is 205 milliards m³.

The surface and underground water usable for various ends is 110 milliards m³ per year.

The annual water consumption in Turkey is 39 milliard m³. Six milliards of this are supplied by underground water and 26, 4 milliard by dams water. 29 milliard m³ of water is used for irrigation, 5.7 milliard for drinking and other, 4 milliard m³ for industrial purposes.

The one-third of Turkey's land, i.e. 28.05 million hectare (one hectare is equal to 10.000 square meters), is cultivable. Only 4.8 million of this is irrigated whereas it is possible to bring this figure up to 25.85 million. The water in the dams is used to irrigate 2.5 million ha of the land.

The total established power of Turkey's rivers is 34.740 MW.

The potential of hydro electrical energy is 123.040 GWh.

Turkey consumes 110.526 GWh electrical energy as of the end of the year 1999. Only 38.000 Gwh of this, i.e. 34.3 % supplied by the hydroelectric power stations. 37 power plants are yet to be built. Their total established power is 4.190 MW. Which produces 13,578 GWh energy?

Up to now 1135 dams (195 large, 940 small) had been constructed in Turkey. They are all in operation. The constructions of 135 dams, large and small are still in progress. 94 more dams and 485 power plants are at the stage of planning.

The above figures points to the extreme importance and great value of the water in Turkey. There is a great potential to be dealt with by the state. But the state has only been interested in producing electricity, supplying water for drinking and irrigation whereas there are "other values", as important as water. By "Other values" I mean human being, nature, environment and cultural heritage.

In modern thought economy and ecology can no longer be separated from one another.

Economic activity might harm the nature and pollute the environment. These conditions might even destroy a healthy life. At least make it difficult. The

construction work that is supposed to aim development might become a tool of destruction. This is not something that has not been seen. That is why the protection of nature and environment is one of the basic questions of both the day and the century.

Due to this fact the living has become more difficult for all human beings at its kind.

All dies building enterprises in the name of "Progressive Development" have demolished our environment. For this reason the protection of our nature and our environment should have the highest priority in this century. The population and all nations are starting to understand these problems and trying to find solutions to this matter.

Since our country does not attach importance to our environment and our cultural heritage, the geographical and archeological values in turkey, from Keban to Karganis, and the river of Euphrat and the Flora, Fortuna areas would lose their agricultural values and be destroyed. Due to the facts of the current report about the Ilisu Cizre dams and the HES Project these

215 civilization fields, including Hasan Keyf would lose their historical values.

Even so the cities Allianoi, Marsias in the Anatolia, the areas Firtina, Coruh, Zap and Munzur would lose their antic values, although there has been a warning from the scientists' organization doing researches in these areas. This leads to that the civilization living in these areas going to exile and will destroy our mother nature.

It is necessary to adopt a model which combines development with the protection of our nature and the environment.

Since we are here today to talk again on "The Question of the dams and environment", which is one of the main issues of the Festival's program, I have to explain in detail what the consequences of the Munzur Project would be if implemented:

*The climate would change (for more information

about this subject see the report on climate given by Mikdat Kadioglu, of The Technical University of Istanbul).

Due to this report it is going to have big effect on the thermal attributes and the lakes in this area, so that we would have colder winters and milder summer seasons. It has also big impact on the direction of the wind. In this case the steam pressure would let more humidity run into the ground. With the increment of the humidity, it is more than likely that we would be having lots of frog and frost, avalanches and lots snowfalls. The affect of this oases in these areas have changed the humidity balance and the climate.

There has also been a research report on the Keban and Seyhan reservoirs, which has been in use since 1975 have changed the climate. Its has been also proven that since then, the world atmosphere is changed, fossil fuels, gases and other particles have been found.

Because of the greenhouse affect and its consequences we have to deal with global warming.

According to the report of the international climate change, from 1990, there will be massive problems in the arid regions like the area of Munzur Project, which will cause changes of the rain behavior.

Through the climate scenarios by the scientists, in the beginning of the 21 century the subtropical anticyclones would extend and the project areas of Munzur will become more dry and warm air. It has been forecasted that countries of the Mediterranean region will have warmer weather by 2 degrees and much more Rainfalls in the summer, till year 2030.

There is no statement from the government about the climate changes through the Munzur Project.

The Munzur's rich flora (all the existing plants in the valley) would be destroyed

According to the scientific researches some of the existing plants in this valley are:

Erysimum, Graellsia, Hymenophysa, Didymophysa, Delphinium, Astargalus, Pistacia, Heliotropium,

Verbascum, Echinops and fabaceae, asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Lamiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Poaceae and asrtagalus, trifolium, Alyssum, Silene and Vicia and many other plants. The forest would be damaged and the fauna, i.e. all the animals living in the valley, would be destroyed.

Some of them are: Mastacembelus simack, Salmo trutta, Salmo trutta macrostigma, Cypripus carpio, Acanthobrama mirabilis, Alburnoides, Garra rufa and many others.

The existing archaeological heritage which is not yet known would be destroyed.

Although trough the years parts of the Euphrat valleys have been destroyed, the intensity of the nature haven't been died out. We all know that forests are not only because of their economical reasons important, it is also necessary to keep the environment in balance.

There are five different sorts of Oak-trees in the forests of Munzur, which are been used for industrial purposes. And so if, the importance of Oaks would be recognize, it would save our forests, our environment in the Euphrat Valleys and much more areas in the Anatolia.

There has also been a research in the seventies, which scientists recommend plants living in the Anatolian-Diagonals, between Gümüşhane, Tunceli, Maras and Amanoshave different structures. It includes also the Euphrat valleys which are in the northern part of Anatolian-Diagonal and its floral differences are due to the climate changes.

The dumpy geographic position of east Anatolia and its cold climate, which is very different from the west, allows different Mediterranean plants to grow in these valleys. This is a very special plant life and it is enrichment for this area. Besides the plants (Aracea, Liliaceae, Bellevalia, Fritillaria, Hyacinthus, Hyacinthella, Muscari, Scila, Tulpa, Crocus, Orcgidaceae, Dactylorhiza) several herbs (Melissa officinalis, Melilotus officinalis, Mentha, Thymus, Verbascum, Glycirrhiza glabra, Berberis), some scented plants

(*Thymus*, *cyclorticum*, *Calamintha*, *Salvia*) and also (*Isatis*, *Alkanna*, *Rubia*) growing in this area.

There are also some other 17 plants (*Pistacia*, *Terebintus*, *Rhus coriaria*, *Aristoöpchia bottae*, *Gundelia tournefortii*, *Alkanna megacarpa*, *Anchusa aurea*, *Azurea*, *onusma serceum*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Que-reus spp.*, *Ajuga chamaepitis subps. Laevigata*, *alcea calvertii*, *Reum ribes*, *Armeniaca vulgaris*, *Rosa canina*, *Rubus sanctus*, *Alnus glutnosa subsp glutinosa* in the higher valleys of the Euphrat region.

The researches made up to now show, that only some few percentage of the floristic and plants are known and have been discovered. There are much more studies and vegetations needed to understand and use the benefits of these extra ordinary plants and flowers in this region.

For this reason there should be a floristic and botanic garden opened in this area.

The Munzur national park should be enhanced and get protected.

It should also be possible for people to use the variety of the 60 different funguses

(sort of *Amanita*, *Beletus*, *Russula*, *Lycoperdon*, *Calvatia*, *Polyporus*, *Fomes*, *Morchella* and *Pleurotus*) which are to be found in this area besides the floristic and plants referred befor.

Unfortunately no researches have found about the plants, seas and rivers in our geographical area. Our report is only based on appointed special sorts of plants and mushrooms.

There are also various fish species such as (*mas-taecembulus simaek*, *salmo trutta*, *salmo trutta macrostigma*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Acanthobrama mirabilis*, *acanthobrama marmid*, *alburnoides bipunctatus*, *leiciseus caphalus*, *leiciseus lepidus*, *cyprinion macrostomum*, *garra rufa*, *garra veriabilis*, *chondrostome regium*, *aspius vorax*, *tro grypus*, *carossobarbusluteus*, *B. Plebejus lacerate*, *barbus rajanorum*, *barbus capito*, *B. Capito pectoralis*, *B.*

Xanthopterus, *B.Subquincuncinatus*, *Chalcalburnus mossulensis*, *capoeta capoet*, *capoeta trutta*, *copitis elongatibseli*, *nemacheilus tigris*, *nemacheilus panthera*, *nemacheilus insignis*, *nemacheilus malaptererus*, *nemacheimus argyrogramma*, *turcinemacheilus kosswigi*, *mystus halepensis*, *glyptothorax armeniacus*, *glyptothorax kurdistanicus*, *aphanius cypris*, *parasilurus triostegus*, *mugil (liza)*, which some have been extinct since the dams Atatürk and Keban-Karya have been built.

Due to the long term development plans for Munzur's national park which has been done by 22 governmental institutions in Turkey, confirm that the park is very important for its climate and nature researches. It also has a significant importance for cultural issues.

It is also mentioned that there are lots of rear wild animals living in this area such as, *Culver*, *Owl*, *Squirrel*, *Crane*, *Woodcock* and many more. For these reasons it is also important for hunting purposes.

The existing archaeological heritage which is not yet known would be destroyed

The Valley of Munzur had been named as a National Park and seen as such for decades by the state itself.

Archaeological data are considered in literature as part of cultural heritage

In the agreements that signed under the guidance of UNESCO and European Commission, "cultural heritage" is being defined as below:

"the items or buildings in various fields such as monuments, paintings, caves, sites, etc that have a rare universal value in terms of history, art and science..."

According to these documents "cultural heritage" is the common memory source of humanity and is "a tool for scientific and historical research".

The term "archaeological heritage" doesn't only cover the work, but findings or data too, which have been facing danger posed by construction works. Destroy-

ing these findings means to destroy the data through which we gather more information and knowledge about the past.

We have the right to assume knowledge and the duty to transmit these to the future generations. One cannot acquire or improve a world-historical knowledge if he or she is denied access to it.

We are living in information age. To be able to produce new knowledge the data must be available for everyone. The knowledge cannot be reached if information or data is destroyed. Therefore it is out of the age to harm damage or pose threat to the cultural heritage. Every construction work that destroys cultural heritage or creates ecological problems by damaging the natural balance is an assault to the freedom of information and knowledge.

This kind of activities prevent and damage the human conscious of living together in a peaceful manner, threaten the basic rights which are under the protection of international community.

We have the right to ask protection for these basic rights from the individual states or international community. This is a legitimate demand whatever the conditions are.

In Turkey the code for the protection of cultural and natural substance accepted for the first time in 1983, 60 years after the establishment of the Turkish Republic. This is called "the Law for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Substance". Some other laws in this respect were adopted during the later years.

Since 1957 to 2000, Turkey has signed up the following agreements, treats, conventions or protocols:

- The Paris Convention (European Cultural Agreement)
- The Barcelona Convention (for the Protection of Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution)
- The Granada Convention (Convention For the Protection of World's Cultural and Natural Heritage)
- The Bern Convention (European Convention For the Protection of Wild Life and Living Environ-

ment)

- Vienna Convention, Montreal and London Protocols
- The Ramsar Convention
- The Basel Convention
- The Malta/Valetta Convention (European Convention For the Protection of Archaeological Heritage)
- The environmental agency Convention of European Union.

Although Turkey has signed the international conventions mentioned above and a number of other protocols, there has always been problems in their implementations.

As a result:

- Turkey has lost the valleys of Euphrates civilization together with its sites, agricultural fields and species, as a consequence of the dams and power plant constructions from Keban to Kargamis

*If the current dam and power plant projects implemented many other historical population centers and valleys, such as those of Tigris, Firtina, Munzur, Coruh, Zap, Cine-Marsias, Bergama-Alionai and others would be lost either.

In short Turkey has to learn to develop without destroying the cultural heritage. Otherwise Turkey won't be a land worth to live in.

There is not a public interest in implementation of the Munzur Project.

Simple because:

- a) The "water" and "mountain" are the economic basis of life in Dersim.
- b) Dersim has no industry. Business and service sectors are yet in progress. The basic economic activity is agriculture (farming, animal husbandry and beekeeping). The province has its greatest potential in the fields of animal husbandry, beekeeping and tourism, especially water- and mountain-related tourism. To overcome the underdevelopment one must at first invest in these sectors, make use of whatever the nature offers while preserving the nature as it is, even making it untouchable. This is

the way that development can be achieved. Besides, this certainly costs far less than the dam project. One must also remember that dams and power plants have a very limited life whereas animal husbandry, beekeeping and tourism are constant activities.

- c) Let alone for the already displaced people to return to their villages, nearly people of a hundred more villages will be forced to migrate if this project implemented. Thus newly started returning-back process will be interrupted.
- d) The Munzur valley was declared as National Park in 1971 and has been remained so up until recent years while this project emerged.

In short, the state is mistaken.

The dam project is not what the province needs.

The decision of the Turkish State is a violation:

- article 63 of Turkish Constitution
- the code of Nature and Environment
- the UNESCO's convention on the protection of the World's cultural and natural heritage which is signed by Turkey too
- the environmental criteria of the European Union, to which Turkey wants to join in.

Finally during the archaeological researches in the Keban Dam region archaeologist Mr Kilic Kökten founded many sites that believed to have been related to the Paleolithic age. Many other evidences point to the archaeological importance of the region of Dersim (Tunceli). In spite of this no archaeological work has yet been done. The dam project is being implemented without archaeological considerations. This is also a violation of European Agreement on the protection of archaeological heritage.

Dear people of Dersim,

We are not against the economical development of Turkey or against the use of energy resources including water power to produce electricity. We are well aware of the importance of energy for the economy. This is not the point.

The point is that, the amount of energy that Turkish state aims to provide from the eight dams altogether is 362 MW per year, which is only 09.7 % of the Turkey's annual energy if the amount for 2000 taken as national average. This amount of energy does not worth to destroy the nature and historical inheritance of the province.

Sure, we are in favor of economic development. What we are asking is to adopt a model which combines economical growth with the preservation of nature. Nothing against patriotism can be seen in this opinion.

I call upon you to oppose this project by using your legitimate rights both in Turkey and abroad.

To overcome of this threat you have to get united. Let's not be deceived by a few opportunists, whose only intention is nothing else than to get richer. Only a few of you can get a job in this occasion. It would a temporary job and won't worth what you are losing.

Let's get united against this immediate threat.