



PROJECT INFORMATION

Status: November 2009

Establishment of the first national parks in Turkmenistan



Juniperus turcomanica – sparse woodlands in the Kopetdag Mountains. Foto: W. Wucherer

Background

The biodiversity of Turkmenistan is of global and local importance due to its biogeographical location as a part of the European, Mediterranean, Asiatic, and Middle Eastern faunal and floral regions.

The country harbours manifold ecosystems. Its geographical and climatic characteristics make these ecosystems susceptible for human impact, e.g. desertification induced by over-grazing and global climate change.

Additionally soil erosion in the mountainous regions is severely increased by deforestation of the sparse woodlands for fuel and pasturing purpose.

The first feasibility study proved the practicability of the first two national parks: Archabil and Sumbar both located in the Kopetdag Mountains. The result of the planned project is a baseline study for all further nature conservational enterprises of the Ministry of nature protection (MNP).

Project

The preparation of the national park implementation is still deficient but of utmost urgency for the MNP.

Therefore the primary focus of the project will be on practice-oriented implementation planning.

Within this project, the Turkmen partners, guided by the Michael Succow Foundation, will be enabled to perform the following tasks:

- personal and organizational capacity building in order to build up the parks,
- definition of specific requirements on ecosystem level for the development of management concepts,
- stimulate expertise and personal capacities for the planning and management of conservation areas,
- development of economic frameworks for the aimed areas, and
- design of programs for research and monitoring.

The project partners closely cooperate with UNDP and further national and international initiatives in Turkmenistan. Besides bilateral workshops and thematic field trips in Turkmenistan, two Turkmen M.Sc. students take part in the project according to the project aims at Greifswald University.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification (FKZ): 380 01 214
- Country: Turkmenistan
- Duration: 01.10.2009 - 28.02.2011
- Project management: Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)
- Project partner in Germany: Michael Succow Stiftung; www.succow-stiftung.de
- Local project partners: Ministry for Nature Protection (MNP) Turkmenistan (www.Natureprotection.gov.tm); National Institute for Desert, Flora and Fauna