

Mediterritage

Valorisation économique du patrimoine naturel et culturel des montagnes méditerranéennes

SOUS-PROJET « MEDITOUR »

Présentation de la contribution de Communauté des communes de Bogazici, Dodurga et Karaagac Région de MUGLA (Turquie)

1. Présentation générale du territoire/village *Overall presentation of the territory / Village*

1.1 The area is situated at the eastern end of the Mediterranean basin (latitude 36.15....longitude 26.50) at a distance of between 1500 metres and 5000 metres from the sea, at a height of between 400 and 1100 metres, covering an area of approximately 500 square kilometres..



1.2 The demographic statistics of the area are as follows. The area is one of the least populated within the Mugla Eyalet. All villagers have access to basic health care free of charge, including family planning and vaccination programmes. As all over Turkey people over the age of 65 without any income and those who are disabled have access to a minimal state pension. All children between the ages of 6 and 14 are obliged to attend school. Their schoolbooks are subsidized by government programmes. There is a tendency for three generations to live under one roof. Most families have 2-6 children. The villagers apart from four of the districts have 'imam's who are government employees, and are responsible for the running of the mosque services etc. They also help the villagers with day-to-day problems. Land use has greatly diminished due to migration to towns. Where there is scenic attraction there has been land sales for speculative reasons. However due to lack of infrastructure and fragility of local family culture, FETAV does not support such a trend.

Bogazici village: 5 districts spread over an area of 65 square kilometres at heights of 300m to 900m.

Total population: 702

Children of school age 6-14: 57

Of these all attend school except for one.

Educational level of adults is primary school (5 years).100 people never attended school, some of whom have basic reading and writing skills. 3 people reached higher education, and have since left the village.

Occupation: subsistence farming and bee-keeping.

Migration: Over the last 30 years there has been a migration from the village of 30% of the population, but no recent migration.

Average family income: 2000-5000 YTL per year.

Use of agricultural land: half of the agricultural land is no longer farmed.

Dodurga Village: 6 districts at heights ranging from 400 to 900 metres

Total population: 500

Children of School Age: 35. Of these one does not attend school

Educational level: of inhabitants is primary school (5 years) 90 never attended school, some of whom have basic writing and reading skills.

Occupation: subsistence farming and some beekeeping

Migration: Over the last 40 years there has been a migration of 50% of the population. This migration continues today

Average Family Income: 1500 to 4000 TL per year.

Karaagac Village

Total population: 400

Children of school age: 25. All attend school

Educational level of inhabitants is primary school (5 years) 70 never attended school, some of whom have basic writing and reading skills.Those with higher education have left the village. In the Kirme district those with higher education tend to return after retirement.

Occupation: subsistence farming, several families keep bees

Migration: Over the last 40 years there has been a migration of over 50% of the population. This migration continues today

Average Family Income: .1500-4000 YTL per year.

1.3 The soil is stony, with an average Ph of 7.5 There is little access to running water. Subsistence farming is practiced. Tobacco growing used to be the main source of agricultural income, but since a quota has been put on tobacco, no alternative has yet been found to support the villagers.



Main Activities

Seeds: wheat barley and oats are grown for human and animal consumption. on terraced fields.

Trees: Fruit-bearing trees which do not require water such are Almonds and Olives are grown in areas where the plough cannot enter with the exception of two higher districts.

Animal husbandry: At present the only source of income comes from goat-herding, grazed on communal lands and in the forests. The goats provided wool for mat, rope and sack-making, milk for family consumption. Young animals are sold for their meat. Due to increasing consumption of battery-farmed chicken in the area, goat meat has lost value.

Beekeeping is practiced by approximately 60 families.

Stonemasonry has been the trade of some of the men.

Spinning and weaving of the goats' wool is practiced by some of the women

Trends.

Over the last 50 years there has been a trend to migrate from these villages to the plains and local towns. This has led to erosion of the terracing and an aging population. Due to the tobacco quota and recently passed laws forbidding the grazing of Goats in forests, which is about to be enforced the villagers if they continue to live in their villages will have no future source of income unless alternatives are found.

Main Problems

Apart from the poorness of soil, and the above trends the main problem has been lack of communication and education coupled with the inability of the villagers to unite and voice their problems. Due to today's sparse population government spending has until now been concentrated in more productive areas.

Solutions Under Consideration, and Ongoing Projects.

The immediate problem is to improve the infrastructure of the area. This will be given impetus by the Meditour project. By the end of 2007, drinking-water problems in most of the districts of the 3 villages should be solved.

Today the Ministry of Forestry is undertaking projects to stop the human erosion from mountain areas and encourage migrants back again.

The Ministry has several projects to provide alternatives for the villagers One is to offer the villagers the possibility to exchange their goats for sheep or cattle with provision to grow or obtain the necessary fodder. Research will be carried out into marketing of alternatives to tobacco such as Safflower. Once the water problem has been solved the Ministry of Forests with the Orkoy project intends to provide solar panels to all houses and double-glazing. This will stop illegal use of forest timber for heating purposes. The villagers will be encouraged to plant orchards of young trees on their deserted terraces They will be encouraged to start Organic farming on a small scale, which includes the gathering and drying of aromatic herbs.

2. Situation du territoire / village par rapport au thème du sous-projet

Situation of the territory / village with regard to the sub-project

The Lycian Trail project is ideal for the area. It allows for the protection of the very important mountain ecosystem, with increased potential to the benefit of those living there, and will reverse the de-population of these villages the historical interest of the area, is also extremely important as the area has several important Lycian settlements, and numerous as yet unsurveyed Byzantine sites (this due to the fact that the area stood on the pilgrims' sea route to Jerusalem). The project has drawn attention to the weakness of the local infrastructure. Raising the standard of living of the locals will stop ongoing speculation in land prices caused by de-population. It will provide jobs and careers for locals as the project gets underway. Over the years this will increase, as new projects start.

Among these projects are:

- gathering and drying of aromatic herbs
- introduction of feasible dairy herding and cheese making.
- rehabilitation of the mastich tree (*Pistachio lenticus*)

Visits have been made to local government officials, and applications made to speed up the improvements necessary to the local infrastructure for locals and visitors.

This includes

1. Tapping of local sources for drinking water.
 2. Construction of W.C.'s and water taps at four places along the 50 km route.
- Improvements and repairs to the trail.
 - Increased trail markers.
 - Lessons on environmental and forestry issues in the local school.
 - Lessons on local flora and fauna which will interest visitors.
 - Lessons on hygiene to the local women.
 - Basic English lessons.
 - Lessons in First Aid.

Up to date there have been two general meetings with the village headmen and villagers. These meetings have explained the project and the government support to be given.

Preliminary First Aid and Hygiene lessons have been given.

As many of the locals, especially the women are out with their flocks, it is difficult to gather them all together at one time. Therefore it is necessary to return to give the same information several times. The Headmen are taking the project very seriously.

The locals have shown great interest.

Several requests have been made for improvements to homes. There has been special interest in the young trees to be handed out by the Ministry.



To Introduce The Territory Of The Three Villages: Karaagac, Bogazici And Dodurga.

Set on limestone plateaux from where glacial canyons drop down to the Mediterranean, this is an area of great natural beauty and biological interest; some relic-endemic species have been discovered. The Babadag range urgently awaits scientific investigation. The three villages all have four or more districts, some fairly remote. The villages are surrounded by typical East Mediterranean Maki; pine-clad slopes reach down to the sea, while above 900 metres centuries old Cedar forests take prominence. However up-to-date beautiful views and botanical species have meant little to the locals whose daily lifestyle has been programmed around goat herding and obtaining what sustenance they can from their soil. As they invite foreigners to share their homes, watching the interest of the visitors, they themselves are discovering the beauty of their area. Village lifestyles and the historical context of the area need to be protected

3. Les attentes par rapport au sous-projet

Expectations from the sub-project

3.1 We hope to achieve an improved infrastructure so that we can obtain drinking water at certain points along the trail and construct toilet facilities.

Trans-nationally though we were considered for a budget for the project, it has not yet materialised.

3.2 We have started our educational activities, which are mainly aimed to those of school age. This will encourage them to continue at school to train in fields, which will in the future benefit the local environment. With government co-operation and support from universities both within Turkey and abroad we hope to draw attention to obtain research into the important flora and fauna of the mountain system.

With a local airport and beach resorts, we are confident that with an improvement to the local infrastructure and the walking trails, it should not be difficult to attract visitors to the area. We should at the same time realise that it is our responsibility and that of the villagers to preserve our mountain ecosystem against speculation and other negative activities which can emerge from the growing popularity of the area.

At the first meeting at Basilicata in Italy, I personally as the representative for the Mugla Turkey project was very happy to spend time with the other members of the project and to be shown such hospitality.

The other project-members of our group have few infrastructure problems. As we do not have a budget for the Mugla project I cannot now say what our expectations are, apart from the fact that it will hopefully provide good publicity for the area.

As in many countries attempting to improve conditions where the ecosystem is still in tact, and promoting sustainable lifestyles, though feasible, may be overlooked. This is due for the immediate gain which can be obtained from short-term projects at the expense of the environment.