THE “AKYAKA VISION”

A community based process for a sustainable future

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AKYAKA
Population = 2,500 - 10,000

*Biodiversity (SPA + IBA)*
*Special architecture*
*Tradition orientated population*
### GÖKOVA SPA

**Wetland/ Delta**

Specially Protected Area
1. Degree Nature Protection Site
Important Bird Area

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#### Birds: 192 species

* Red List species = 40
* „lost species“ = 20 min.
* Breeding species = 64
* Resident species = 69

#### Mammals: 29 species

* endangered species = 10
* „lost species“ = 2 min.

#### Amphibians/ Reptiles: 33 species

* endangered = most
* „lost species“ = 2 min.

#### Others:

* Salt and Fresh Water Fish
* Insects
* Mediterranean Monkseals
* Sea Turtles: *Caretta caretta*  
  *Chelonia mydas*  
  *Dermochelys coriacea*
History of the “VISION” (Exemplary Action for Turkey):

→ Necessity = Loss of cultural and natural heritage
→ Aim = Community based sustainable tourism system with an integrative effect on the whole basin/region
→ Players = NGO / Municipality of Akyaka, Decision Makers and other Stakeholders

Ecological Process
Economical Process
Political Process
Socio-Cultural Process

Plans and Strategy (Idealistic):
Implementation (Realistic)
Results (Illusion and Disillusion)
Future
**Necessity:**

Protection – Use Conflict!

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**Wrong Incentives:**

* MOPAK/ Eucalyptus Planting
* Contract Agriculture/ Lettuce
* Traditional Tourism
* Exchange Law

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**Extern Factors:**

* Thermal Power Plants
* Unification of Ministries (Tourism+Culture, Environment+Forestry)

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The State Departments and organisations that should implement the concerned laws (APSA, Prov.Gov., Distr.Gov., Local Admin., NGO)

are in constant conflict with traditions and bad habits of the local population.

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People earn less money!!!
Plans and Strategies (Idealistic):

2004

The communal election changes the political platform

“Environmental friendly” local administration is elected

Public Participation and Consultancy is required

New connections and cooperation ideas are born

Tourism and Development should be transformed

NGO and Municipality are planning this transformation together

Plans for action are drawn AND followed

Social gaps are closing

Participatory processes in every detail
Implementation (Realistic):

1- Constant exchange between Municipality and NGO (2004)

2- Round Table Discussion with the Province Decision Makers
   = Governor and Administrative Directories (3rd October 2004)

3- 2 days Vision Workshop with representatives of the private sector and all cooperatives (4/5th November 2004)
THE AKYAKA VISION:

We see an Akyaka that has protected its natural and architectural structure, perfected its infrastructure, leads a vivid social and cultural life, unites communal values and shares this fortune all year round with its visitors.

Mission:

To agree on contemporary and participatory methods to evaluate any approach that can have an impact on natural diversity.

To protect the nature in the area between the two rivers by planning further building on the slopes of the hills, using the typical architectural style of the town.

To cooperate with all involved groups to overcome problems that may eventual arise in the future.
Tools:

Perfection of infrastructure as streets, canalisation, waste water treatment, waste collection and systems, subterranean cable systems and park areas with contemporary standards and methods.

Social capacity building to enhance public abilities and to enrich social and cultural life without destroying the local character and to offer places where all people can meet to follow this aim.

A tourism strategy that makes Akyaka to a trademark and is valid all year round.

Offering regional organic products to local inhabitants and visitors.
4- Separate strategic meetings of the Municipality and the NGO (December 2004)

5- NGO Vision Workshop (6th January 2005)
In an Akyaka that has protected its natural and architectural structure, perfected its infrastructure, leads a vivid social and cultural life, unites communal values and-shares this richness all year round with its visitors...

our NGO has gained expertise in the protection of natural and cultural heritages, operates from its own properties, has united with the people by furthering public participation in social, cultural and educational events, is open to interaction, has constituted an alternative regional life style through its environmental knowledge, has become an organisation of global format through strong and intensive communication skills.
Mission:

The Society of the Friends of Gökova-Akyaka works towards an auto-protection mechanism of the region in cooperation with the people of the basin, using its own organisational structure for regional activities;

* by organising educational activities to further people's sensitivity towards nature and environment

* by cooperating with the people of the region to sustain the society's activities

* by taking a lead role through scientific work, especially concerning nature protection

* by doing research and consultation and sharing the results

* by cooperating on national and international level

* by networking on national and international level to keep its work updated

* by producing and coordinating projects for a sustainable and nature protecting development

Additional / Parallel:

- Change of institutional structure of NGO (work groups, branching etc)
The „Friends of Gökova-Akyaka“
(G.A.S.-Der)

Local:
* Wetland Protection + Bird Work
* Organic Farming
* Responsible Tourism

Regional:
* Wetland Monitoring, Protection, Bird Work
* Consultancy

National:
Bird Work
Fishotter Work
Networking

International:
Consultancy
Networking

Bird Branch:
Networking
Monitoring
Rehabilitation
MWC’s
Atlas

Stray Animal Branch:
Networking
Monitoring
Rehabilitation
Neuter + Return

Women Branch:
Social Events
Support

Art Branch:
Exhibitions
Support

Spring 2005
6- Public meetings to address diverse subjects and promote THE VISION organized by the Municipality and the NGO (from January 2005 on)

Additional:

- Capacity building programs for Municipality
- Public participation programs (NGO and Municipality)
Results (Illusion and Disillusion):

*Wrong Promotion
*Wrong Target Groups
*Wrong Incentives
*Wrong Measures

*Unfeasible Numbers of Visitors
*Insufficient Infrastructure

*Degradation of Habitats
*Destruction of Nature

*Loss of Pride
*Loss of Motivation
*Loss of Credibility
*Loss of Good Will
Future
First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

Mahatma Gandhi

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

www.akyaka.org