

Planning in Fragile Sites in Turkey: in Case of Hasankeyf

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1 ABSTRACT

Hasankeyf is a small town in the Batman Province in southeastern part of Turkey, and located along the Tigris River. Hasankeyf is an ancient city and is rich in history. It hosted many different cultures like Byzantine Empire, Atudiks, Ayyubids, Ottoman Empire and contains more than 300 important archeological monuments like The Old Tigris Brige, The Citadel, Small Palace, Ulu Mosque, Süleymaniye Mosque etc., also thousands of caves exist in the cliffs in the city. Along these, it has a very sensitive and unique ecosystem. It has been declared a natural and cultural conservation area the Turkish government in 1978. Specialists and scientific researchers claim that Hasankeyf meets the criteria defined by the UNESCO-World Heritage Center and should be added to the World Heritage List.

However, the Ilisu Dam Project seriously threatens Hasankeyf, the potential World Heritage Site. This project was prepared many years ago without the evaluation of Environment Impact Assessment Report and without consideration of the unique heritage qualities of Hasankeyf. Ilisu Dam Project was designed to be the second biggest dam and the 4th highest power and energy production plant in Turkey and planned as one of the most important investments in GAP-Southeastern Anatolia Project, which is the primary element of the long-run regional development plans of the southeast of Turkey. There were even international supporters at the beginning such as Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Even though there were so many objections and protests by Non-governmental organizations, the project has not been canceled yet. This site will be inundated, and the identity and memory of the Hasankeyf will be lost if the construction of hydroelectric Ilisu Dam Project comes to an end. As a solution, they plan to transfer all the settlements lay on that area to another place in the same region.

This paper aims to discuss the critical situation of planning in fragile sites in Turkey with regards to the case of Hasankeyf in context defined by the following question: How to plan for a ‘unique’ potential World Heritage Site (WHS) whilst taking into account, both past history and future development possibilities? In this context of the paper, suggestions are made in relation to the planning regulations and organizational structure for the sustainability of conservation areas.

2 GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HASANKEYF SITE

Hasankeyf is a historical place located near the Tigris River in the southeastern Turkey, north to the Mesopotamia (see figure 1). With the advantages of Tigris River, which is rich in water resources, the region had hosted more than twenty civilizations including Rome, Byzantine and Seljuk, and survived until today. Due to the water resources, it had been strategically important in every period of history as well as an economically active site due to being on the historical Silk Road and accordingly with its traditional architectural buildings, such as inns, caravanserai etc. in the course of history. It is a well-known fact that this historical city and its surrounding attract a great number of local and foreign tourist each year.

The exact date of the establishment of Hasankeyf has remained in dark so far; due to the insufficient data and information in hand, the opinions on its establishment have been nothing but a possibility. The geopolitical location of the city, its importance as well as many caverns occupied for settlement purposes indicate that Hasankeyf is a very old settlement. The history of the Hasankeyf dates back to the ancient age. The name of the city which is Hisnkeyfa is translated as ‘Kayahisari’. It had been stated that these words mean a place ‘which is easy to defend’ in the old history and by tribes. Since the fortress is massive stone, Hasankeyf means ‘Stone Fortress’ in various languages (Hasankeyf Town Governorship). Unique quality of buildings in the site and ruins embodying the basic settlement characteristics of a Middle Age Islam city as well as its unique landscaping make Hasankeyf a WHS which must be protected with care. The genuine Middle Age city texture of the site, worth-to-see artifacts and the co-existence of nature and history dramatically spellbound the visitors. With its natural elements, cultural landscape, high quality work of arts, first-class architectural buildings and engineering structures, Hasankeyf is not only important for its region but also for the world (Ahunbay & Özge, 2010, p:1).



Figure1. Location of Hasankeyf, the WHS in Turkey. Source: <http://maps.google.com/>

This unique and sensitive historical place is declared as first degree Conservation Area (CA) by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture in 1978. Since then the 2005 United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Operation Guidelines set out the generic key qualities of the unique World Heritage Sites which are also valid for the Hasankeyf CA. The function of UNESCO is to protect and preserve the cultural and natural heritage properties which were developed by different cultures and civilizations through the human history and enlighten the different phases, stages, richness and differences of this common past, by drawing attention on the fact that these properties are increasingly in danger due to not only conventional destruction but also the changing social and economic conditions.



Figure 2: Settlements of Hasankeyf. Source: <http://www.dogadernegi.org>.

UNESCO evaluates the natural and cultural heritages in the world according to 10 criteria. Hasankeyf fulfills the 9 of these criteria which are set out below as follows:

1. To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

Hasankeyf is an outstandingly valuable site with its masterpieces such as the tomb of Zeynel Bey, Sultan Süleyman Mosque and Bridge and Citadel towering above the waters of Tigris River. In particular, the doors of the fortress and bridge design are unique artifacts.

2. To display an important exchange of human values, over a certain period of history or cultural area, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.

With several examples, Hasankeyf was a source of inspiration to its visitors and persons who had an influence on their own culture by carrying their experience with them. Hasankeyf had hosted many persons through the centuries and had been the melting pot of many rich and interesting experiences. For instance, Iranian architect of the tomb of Zeynel Bey was the person who introduced the glazed brick to this city which has a very solid background in stonemasonry. The architectural structure of the tomb is also new for the site; a style which born in Samarkand, the capital of Greater Timur Empire, and crossed beyond the Iran reaching up to this city. A trip towards east or west to the Hasankeyf reveals that such kinds of structures also reach up to Istanbul. As another example, Hasankeyf Bridge is famous with its 40 meters central arch. The remnants of the bridge give an idea about the exquisite details of its design. The tradition of building bridges with single span on the great rivers is repeated around the 16th century by Architect Hayreddin who constructed the Mastar Bridge, which is today inscribed on the World Heritage List.

3. To bear a unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition, living or disappeared civilization.

The attributes which make Hasankeyf unique are its exceptional location on the Tigris River and urban elements survived until today. In the recent excavations, interesting findings which belong to Roman age and previous ages are brought to the light, which gives us the hint on the deep-rooted history of the city. Site is geographically under the influence of Syria and Iran architecture. Also the modernization waves of 19th and 20th centuries has not destroyed city, which makes the site more important as a rare ruin.

4. To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

Hasankeyf is a host which welcomes very rare architectural types of Anatolian-Turkish architecture. The building called as Kızlar Mosque is an interesting example of the tomb architecture. With its cylindrical walls ornamented with the glazed bricks and double-wall dome, Tomb of Zeynel Bey is the only mausoleum under the influence of Timur period. Göreme, located in the Cappadocia and one of the World Heritage sites is a World Heritage protected area with its churches carved into the rocks and underground cities. Also in Hasankeyf, many house, religious and business buildings are carved into the rocks. These traditions provide us important historical and aesthetic data on the civilizations existed near the Tigris River for very long years.

5. To be an outstanding example of an human settlement, land use or sea use, in particular, this example should have not lost its durability under the impact of irreversible change.

Taking its special position and uniqueness, this historical settlement which conserved the traditional living spaces carved into the rocks is an extraordinary protected area with its reputable Middle Age buildings. The city water supply system, caverns, stone houses and the store complex carved into the rocks on the road rising above the Fortress illustrate a thousand years of art and mastership as well as skills and cultural tradition of the residents. In the recent period, traditional lifestyles of the residents have changed dramatically; in 20th century, they moved from the caverns to the Down Town. Today, the dam project, pressures of change due to the contemporary lifestyles as well as tourism expectations are the risks with which this Middle Age town faces.

6. To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Hasankeyf is located in the north to the Tigris River, one of the two great rivers making up the Mesopotamia. The river is the most basic potable water resource and for hundred thousands of years everything in the site has been shaped according to the river flow. This also includes the human settlements dating back around 10.000 years. The riverbed is alone a unprecedented natural miracle, since in its flow direction from Turkey to the Persian Gulf, it created a unique system of geological formations and a wide range of riverbank systems. This system of geological formations includes deep canyons, moist gallery forests, sandy places just a few meter to the half-deserted sites and calcareous steps occupying a very wide area. Also human history which developed monumental civilizations contributes in the natural geography of the Tigris River.

7. To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

The section of Tigris River in the territory of Turkey is in the south to the collision zone of the Arabia and Anatolia continental planes. It deeply digs the bed of the Tigris River especially around Hasankeyf and continues to flow towards the south. It seems that most of the Valley of Botan Creek (Uluçay) springing from Siirt and emptying into Tigris will remain under the water after the launch of Ilisu Dam. This valley which is shaped as a result of massive tectonic elevations is a sort of Great Canyon of Turkey. The slopes of the Tigris Valley are full of with the limestone which is easy to dissolve when contacted with the water. This attribute allows for the formation of natural caverns which had been used as a house by the residents in the past.

8. To be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

Following the rapid destruction of the river and canyon ecosystems in the Euphrates basin, Tigris Valley remains the sole and last example which has these attributes in the southeastern Turkey. The uniqueness and irreplaceable of the site can also be understood from the number of types of migratory birds sensitive and in danger and the sizes of the biological diversity specific to this basin (Welch 2004; Eken et al. 2006). Eken et al (2006) identified five Important Natural Sites (INS; globally significant sites in order to protect the biodiversity) in relation with the section of Tigris River in the territory of Turkey. In addition to these INSs, Welch talks about five 'Priority Sites' which compose of one single and complete ecosystem along the Tigris Valley (Ahunbay & Özge, 2010, p:2-8). All the freshwater aquatic species in the area are the species irreplaceably specific to that region. The section of Tigris in the territory of Turkey is still a river part which is protected and untouched.

9. To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

As it will be conceived by the existence of five difference INSs within the territory, this stream system is very important in terms of natural habitats and threatened species. 1. INSs of the Tigris River can be listed as Bismil lowland, Tigris Valley, Küpeli Mount, Eruh Mountains and Cizre Silopi NSI. Under the influence of Mediterranean, step and desert climates, Tigris Valley is a very wide biodiversity area for many endemic species which are extremely in danger and have the priority of protection such as Cicer Echinosperrum. The cliffs dominating the Site are the habitat of species such as Hiertus Fasciatus, Falco Naumanni, Nephron Percnopterus and Gyps Fulvus, which are globally in danger. Steep and arid sandy hills are important reproduction habitat for rare bird species such as Apus Affinis, Emberiza Cineracea and Ceryle Rudis. Rafetus Euphraticus is endemic specie living in the Tigris and Euphrates stream systems. This turtle specie lays their eggs in the sands around the riverbank of Tigris. Capra Aegarus uses the rocky cliffs and steep canyons of the Tigris Valley. Hyaena Hyaena living in the caves and caverns of the Site is one of the priority mammal species in INSs (Ahunbay & Özge, 2010, p:2-8). However, the CA universally is a 'World Heritage Site' due to housing natural and cultural remnants of various ages.

In order to protect Hasankeyf and Tigris Valley, which is under the large urban development pressures in the context of current changing social and economic conditions and which must absolutely be protected as a WHS, the Turkish Government must apply UNESCO to enlist the Site as an official World Heritage Site.

3 ILISU DAM PROJECT AND ITS IMPACT ON THE HASANKEYF CONSERVATION AREA

Designed in 1950s and approved in 1980s, Ilisu Dam Project is currently being constructed on the Tigris River as a part of Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP). It is a multi-sector, integrated regional development project launched in the region of Southeastern Anatolia, one of the relatively less developed regions in the country, comprising 9 administrative provinces (Adiyaman, Batman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Sanliurfa and Sirmak) in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris and in Upper Mesopotamia. The GAP had been planned in the 70s consisting of projects for irrigation and hydraulic energy production on the Euphrates and Tigris, but transformed into a multi-sector social and economic development program for the region in the 80s. Social processes have become important for environmentally resilient planning and resource management. The basic strategies of the project include fairness in development, participation, environmental protection, employment generation, spatial planning and infrastructure development.

Its basic objectives include the improvement of living standards and income levels of people so as to eliminate regional development disparities and contributing to such national goals as social stability and economic growth by enhancing productivity and employment opportunities in the rural sector. As an integrated project, it goes beyond physical investments in such facilities as dams, power plants and irrigation schemes and encompasses activities and investments, in a coordinated manner, in many diverse fields including agricultural development, industry, rural and urban infrastructure, communication, education, health, culture, tourism and other social services.

State Water Authority which operates the project on behalf of the ex-Ministry of Environment and Forest describes the purpose of Ilisu Project as follows; 'Ilisu Dam Project will contribute to the development of Southeastern Anatolia Region, notably of provinces of Diyarbakır, Batman, Mardin, Siirt and Şırnak. When completed, it will provide an annual added value of 400 million US Dollar in our economy with the annual average energy generation of 3,833 billion kWh. Ilisu Dam and Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is the Second Largest dam and HPP in terms of water volume and the Second Largest in terms of installed power and the largest dam and HPP on the Tigris River and when completed, it will provide an annual added value of 400 million US Dollar just in terms of electricity generation. It impacts 144 settlements, including 1 town, 101 villages and 42 arable fields and a total of 37100 citizens living on the project boundaries. A new settlement area is created named 'New Ilisu Village' as an alternative to the citizens living in these settlements under impact of Project. Tigris River is the last river of which ecosystem has not been intervened by such as dam etc. on the Southeastern Anatolia. However, with the construction of the Ilisu Dam, Tigris River will lose this attribute and the historical Hasankeyf settlement will remain under the water.

On the grounds of Dam construction which began before 1993, it is legally exempted from requirement of issuing Environmental Impact Assessment. Pursuant to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation published in Official Journal No 26939 dated July 17, 2008, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): defined as the identification of positive or adverse impacts of the projects planned on the environment; of the measurements which will be taken in order to minimize or eliminate the adverse impacts on the environment, of the works which will be executed in the monitoring and control of the project implementations as well as of the evaluation of the alternatives to the project sites and technologies to be adopted. However, pursuant to the provisional article of this regulation; provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation are not applicable on the exempted projects which are started before publication of the Regulation in Official Journal No 21489 dated February 7, 1993.

It is certain that the impacts of the Ilisu Dam will cause the irreparable consequences. Ilisu Dam, at the same time, does not fulfill the Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Framework Directive, Habitat and Bird Directives, Strategic Environmental Analysis Directive of the European Union, EU Human Rights standards and World Bank standards Bern Convention, World Bank Committee principles, which are undersigned by Turkey. The Environmental Report issued by three European companies in 2005 was very poor and insufficient work and adopted the approach which ignores the consequent fact of Hasankeyf remaining under the water and resulting damages on the ecosystem.

As indicated in the working report 'Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment Report' published in 2006 for the Ilisu Dam and Hydroelectric Power Plant (Ilisu Project) by Doğa Association;

- (1) Ilisu Project will cause a great environmental impact since it will change and deteriorate irrecoverably the critical natural habitats.
- (2) The impacts which will be caused by the project are not explicitly stated in the Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment Report, the measurements required for alleviating the impacts of the project and World Bank's OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment and OP 4.04 Natural Habitats Implementation Policies, which are among the international conditions Environmental Action Plan (EAP) of the project are not fulfilled. Thus, the measurements for minimizing the adverse impacts of the project suggested by the project are not capable of offsetting the biological diversity to be lost due to the project.
- (3) Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not suggest other alternatives of the project at a sufficient level.
- (4) The activities which must be performed for the public participation and public opinion pooling at the start and during the Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment process were not fulfilled comprehensively at the level required by OP 4.01.

In addition, Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment Report is intended to fulfill the standards of Work Bank, it shortly mentioned on the publication ‘World Bank Environmental Resource Book’ (1999). Particularly 8th and 10th sections of this resource book provide suggestions on the ‘Dams and reservoirs’ and ‘Hydroelectric projects’. Although the 2nd Section of the ‘World Bank Resource Book and Environmental Assessment Resource Book Version No. 12 (October 1997) and the book Biological Diversity and Environmental Assessment Tools (March 2000) are relevant to the issue, surprisingly enough even their names are not mentioned in the Evaluation of the Ilisu Dam Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Doğa Association, 2006, p: 14).

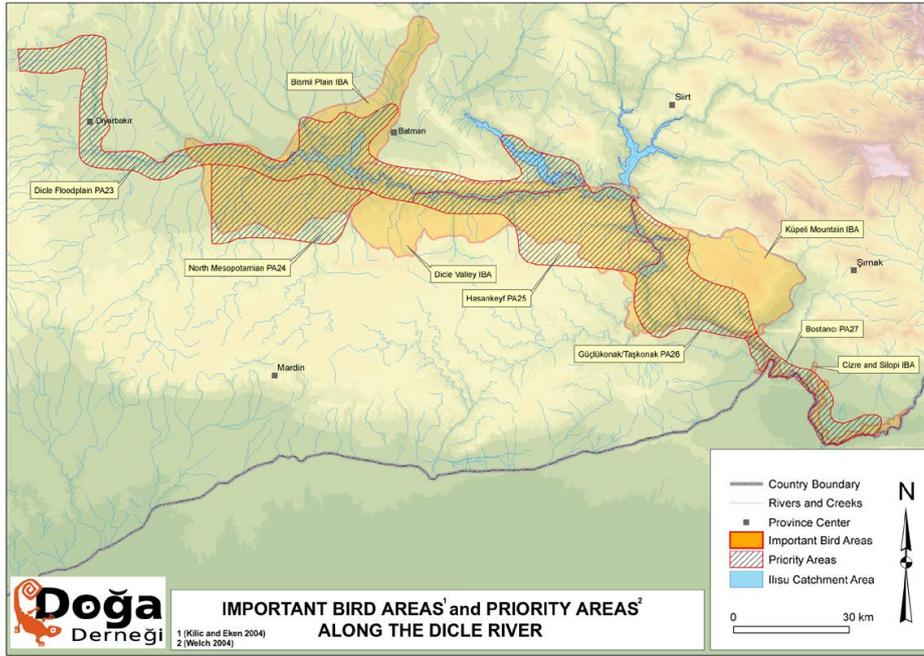


Figure 3: Important Bird Habitats and Priority Sites along the Tigris River. Source: Doğa Association, 2006, p:10.

Notably of Doğa Association, many non-governmental agencies, academicians, intelligentsia and public take initiatives for many times to inscribe the Hasankeyf on the World Heritage List and brought the issue to the world agenda and found supports from the international arena. Nevertheless, Turkish Government has not given up this project and has not applied UNESCO for inscription of the Hasankeyf on World Heritage List.

Despite of worldwide protests, Germany, Austria and Switzerland agreed on the project with Turkey in 2007. As a result, European companies are incorporated in the Ilisu Project. However, three European countries demanded the fulfillment of the 153 criteria for the development of the project. The Project was required to meet to the World Bank Standards. However, during the time, Turkish Government did not perform the demands in order to fulfill the standards, Germany, Austria and Switzerland cancelled the agreement they made with Turkey in 2009 and withdrew their loans (Doğa Association Publications, 2010). Nevertheless, Ministry of Environment and Forest which insisted on the implementation of the project, procures financing from two local banks. When the Ilisu Dam Projects is brought into life, it will have irrecoverable damages on the natural and cultural values of Tigris Valley and Hasankeyf as well as tourism industry, which is important for the region as well as the country.

4 EVALUATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS OF THE SITE

While the resolutions concerning the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural structure of the region are incorporated in the Report on the ‘Environmental Plan (Scale: 1/100.000) for the Region encompassing Mardin, Batman, Siirt and Hakkari Provinces’ (unconfirmed) issued by the Ministry of Environment and Urban Development, the Ilisu Dam is accepted as a postulate under the title of projects and investments which govern the plan decisions, which is in contrary to these resolutions adopted. In the Report: it is stated that there are dam, HPS, Airport, Railroad and Industrial investments which will support the development of the Region. The transportation projects increase the accessibility of the plan region and open the gate for new suggestions. By benefiting from the water potentials in the region, the launch of Dam and HPS projects will play an important role in the meeting the irrigation and electricity need. The

evaluation process of the HPS projects of which applications made by the private sector should be facilitated and pave the way for the investments and 23 HPS Projects are estimated. Among them, Ilisu Dam which will be one of the largest dams of Turkey is legally exempted from the requirement of preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment due to the fact that its construction began before 1993. This is very mistaken attitude. In the recent years, the establishment of the HPSs of which adverse impacts on the natural cycles and ecosystem are very well-known has become widespread under the privatization scopes, the number of which has been increasing in an uncontrolled manner.

Again in the same Report of Environmental Plan; although it is said that concerning the protected areas ‘this areas shall be subjected to the Law on Protection of Culture and Natural Properties No 2863 and relevant regulations as well as relevant resolutions of the boards’, and without considering the ‘protected area’ attribute of Hasankeyf and most probably without consulting the Protection Board, new plan resolutions are brought about the settlement. Since the Hasankeyf will remain under the water as a result of Ilisu Dam Project, it is intended to change the settlement site. In the Report it is stated that ‘Especially, Ilisu Dam will have important effects on the region. The dam which will cause the historical values to remain under the water will contribute in the region in terms of agricultural and electricity generation..... By resolving on the Sub-Zone Development plan of Ilisu Dam Lake Surrounding; Hasankeyf has an important historical and cultural potential at the intersection of the civilizations. However, since the settlement will remain under the waters of Ilisu Dam of which construction started in 2006, it will be moved to the area which is proposed by the Mass Housing Administration to the north of Kuru Neighborhood across the Tigris River‘.

The public who was still living in the rock caverns according to the climatic characteristics which is generally hot and arid and warm in the winter, are expelled from the caverns without pooling the public opinion and compelled to live in reinforced concrete houses planned new under the name of modern settlement area during the 1970s. Again with this project, despite of all protests, relocation is planned without pooling the public opinion and participation.

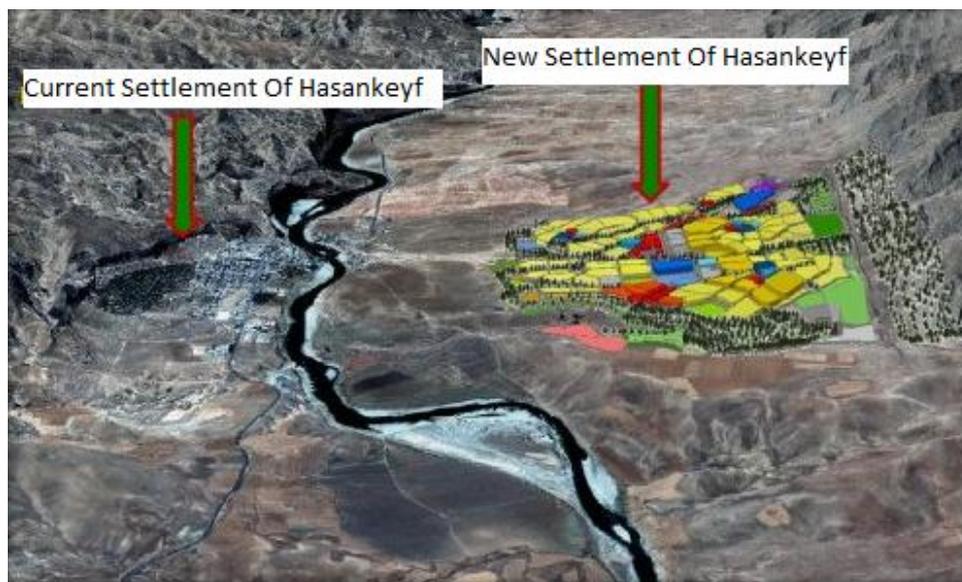


Figure 4: Current Settlement of Hasankeyf & New Settlement of Hasankeyf in Ilisu Dam Project Plan. Source: DSI.

Under the resettlement works to be carried out in New Hasankeyf Town, the 1st Phase infrastructure tender is completed in 2010 under the Development Plan works with the budget transferred by DSI General Directorate to TOKİ Administration. It is claimed that the new settlement will be a modern town with its 58 houses, technical infrastructure, school, government office, municipality service building and green areas etc. and an attraction for water sports and tourism. According to the Ilisu Dam project plan, certain monuments of the cultural and historical importance will be demounted and rebuilt in an ‘Archeological Park’ in a new zone to be constructed near the dam reservoir. New area which is 10 km to the current Hasankeyf is at the hills of Raman Mount. Although feasibility and archeological diggings has not been completed in the Hasankeyf, specialists emphasize that demounting of these monuments from their places is technically impossible. Furthermore, the genuine texture of the Hasankeyf, the nested togetherness of the natural and cultural values, rock caverns, tumulus etc. will be destroyed irrecoverably. Council of State adjudicated on

the imposition of the EIA requirement on the Ilisu Dam Project and suspension of the execution thereof in the course of action filed by TMMOB Chamber of Architectures and Chamber of Landscape Architectures in relation with the Project which will submerge Hasankeyf town in the waters and has adverse impacts on the ecosystem of Tigris Valley on 7th Januar 2013.

Area Status	New Hasankeyf	Current Hasankeyf	Increase
Settlement Area (Hectare)	294.86	50.82	6 times
Green area (Hectare)	78.7	0.87	90 times
Green Area (Ratio)	27 %	2 %	14 times

Table1: Comparison of Current Settlement and New Settlement of Hasankeyf in Ilisu Dam Project Plan. Source: DSI..

5 CONCLUSIONS

Each town/region in Turkey houses very unique and rich history, cultural and natural values. However, due to the lack of awareness both of these values as well as of protection of them, very sensitive, fragile and important CAs are adversely affected. Despite of the increasing awareness on the values attached to the historic areas and their protection in the recent years, actions taken are insufficient. Tigris Valley which houses Hasankeyf is the home of both natural and historical and cultural values which must be preserved. The settlement which has the attributes of the World Heritage is threatened to be remained under water once the Ilisu Dam Project is completed. When Hasankeyf case is considered in terms of planning, two issues are apparent: firstly, preservation of the Tigris River is essential and secondly protection of the natural and historical cultural structure of the Hasankeyf is essential. Tigris River is one of the most important rivers and the most sensitive ecosystems of the world in terms of water resources. In this respect, regional strategic planning approach is required to protect this exclusive structure of the Tigris River and valley to ensure its sustainable development.

Today, urban developments pressures on natural environment present problems. Planning and management perception that is sensitive to ‘water’ resources respecting nature and taking sensitive ecological thresholds in to consideration intended for providing sustainability and also resiliency is gain importance. This approach, which is based on the ecologically centered planning, is directed beyond the planning of the water sources towards the integrated planning and management, which evaluates the natural systems and the social, economic and cultural systems all together. Basins become important as a strategic planning unit in ensuring the balance between protection-utilization and protection from the natural disasters/risks. In this context, innovative basin planning and administration approaches needed to ensure sustainable development in CAs. Today, in Turkey the function of planning and administration of the water resources is mainly delegated to the State Water Authority the moreover, uncoordinated and conflicting decisions between authorities may results in favour of development in CAs; (such as in the Hasankeyf example, development of the Ilisu Dam Project of DSI despite of the protected area decision of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism).

Development of an integrated planning and coordinated administration approach at the Basin-scale would enable various actors both at central and local levels to work as a team. In addition such a transparent and innovative organizational structure would enable participation of the local actors who will consider the sensitive ecosystem of the basin. This restructuring will pave the way for the creation of the inventory of genuine ecosystems of the basin, analyses of the environmental impact assessment of the plans and projects designed and an integrated assessment of them. Moreover, all the residents, workers etc in the basin would receive awareness trainings whilst contributing the planning processes. In this context, legislation must be amended to include the establishment of the ‘Basin Agencies’ as well as issuance of the ‘Basin Management Plans’. Basin Management Plans which would provide a roadmap at the regional scale must also be in compliance with the decisions on sub-scale areas of protection inside the basin (natural, historical and archeological protected areas etc). The natural, historical and cultural values of region should be protected and its tourism potential should be improved.

Although Hasankeyf is declared as a protected area, it does not have a Conservation Plan. The protection plans must be prepared for the area for the immovable cultural properties and artifacts in the CA. As stated by Article 20 of Law on Protection of Culture and Natural Properties No 2863 ‘The in-situ protection of the immovable cultural properties and artifacts is an essential principle’.

Moreover, with the 1992 Valetta/Malta European Treaty on Protection of Archeological Heritage to which Turkey is a party, Parties to the Treaty have to take necessary measurements to protect the archeological heritage, to take archeological research activities under the scientific assurance, to ensure preferably in-situ protection and care of the archeological heritage. Turkish Government must apply to the UNESCO for inscription of the Hasankeyf on the World Cultural Heritage List by preparing CA Plans.

Turkey inscribed 2 mixed (cultural/natural) and 35 cultural, a total of 37 properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1994, its first inscription. The requirements on 'Area Administration' and preparation of 'Area Management Plan' which are defined by UNESCO as the indispensable elements for the protection of the Heritage Sites/ Conservation Areas just began appearing in our national legislation. Site administration is a unit which brings the authorities and agencies together and enables all the works to be performed with collaborative and participative processes by identifying goal-oriented protection policies under the main principles. There are number of Area Management Plans prepared for relevant sites in example Edirne, Istanbul, Çatalhöyük. In this respect, 'Area Management Plans' can be prepared for Hasankeyf under the current legislative framework.

The main Regulation governing the protection of CAs is on the 'Law on Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties' No 2863. Article 2 of the legislation state that; 'The scope of this regulation is the procedures and principles concerning the identification of the functions, authorities and responsibilities of the advisory board, site president, coordination and audit board which will take charge in the identification of the administration sites of the protected areas, archeological ruins and interchange field and junctions, the preparation, approval, implementation and audit of the administration plans as well as execution of the site administration'. In the Regulation, the targets of the site administration are to ensure following;

- a) the accurate identification of the site borders, its interaction zones in an integrated historical, social, cultural, geographical, natural, artistic perspective and the junction points with which it is related due to the historical, cultural, social, geographical and artistic reasons in terms of protection, development and assessment of the site,
- b) indication in the administration plan of the ways to create an appropriate balance between protection, accessibility, sustainable economic development needs and local community,
- c) the development of the general strategies, methods and tools to raise the value of the site up to the international level, determination and creation of the financial resources for such purposes,
- d) The establishment of an activity network which will create an international collaboration and exchange in order to develop the cultural tourism,
- e) the development of implementation plans in order to improve the regional cultural systems in the protected areas having the potential to create an industry by associating them with each other within a certain region,
- f) the cooperation between local community and public authorities and agencies, non-governmental organizations, persons with ownership rights in the site, voluntary legal or real persons in protection and evaluation of the administration sites,
- g) Care, repair, restoration, restitutions of protected areas and archeological ruins as well as interaction fields. The identification of the utilization and development principles and limits as well as keeping it alive by preservation under the international protection principles and provisions of treaty in line with the site administration goals together with the display, organization and landscaping,
- h) Adoption of high standards in the administration of the cultural properties, conservation area, design and implementation, professions and equipments.

Given the current legislative framework, it is possible to prepare an 'Area Management Plan' for Hasankeyf would have a paramount importance in order to ensure balance between protection in the region with a view to sustainable overall development complying with the upper scale plan decisions.

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7 ABBREVIATIONS:

- CA: Conservation Areas
DSI: State Water Authority
EAP: Environmental Action Plan
EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment
EU: European Union
HPP: Hydroelectric Power Plant
INS: Important Natural Site
OP: Operational Policy of the World Bank.
TOKİ: Housing Development Administration of Turkey
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHS: World Heritage Sites