



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## “Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey’s Steppe Ecosystems Project”

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# ŞANLIURFA: HEART OF THE PAST BEATS HERE

The region where Şanlıurfa is located serves as a bridge connecting the Middle East to Asia Minor. It is a city with a history of approximately 12,000 years. It has hosted many civilizations because of its geopolitical location, historical background, cultural background, and religious importance.

**Haleplibahçe Mosaics:** These are among the most important mosaics in the world due to their construction technique, artistic work, and the use of original stones from the Euphrates River.



Suayip Şehri

Şanlıurfa province is one of the first places to come to mind when steppes of Turkey are considered. Steppes have been home to people for thousands of years, nurturing and protecting them, and over the years they have met the basic needs of the local people and shaped their culture. Steppe culture manifests itself in the lives, folk songs, handicrafts, and architecture of the local people.



**Göbeklitepe World Heritage Centre:** Known as the oldest temple in the world, Göbeklitepe is one of the most important archaeological riches of the region.

### Important Archeological Sites

**Balıklıgöl Statue:** It is the world’s oldest life-sized sculpture of a human from the hunter-gatherer period.



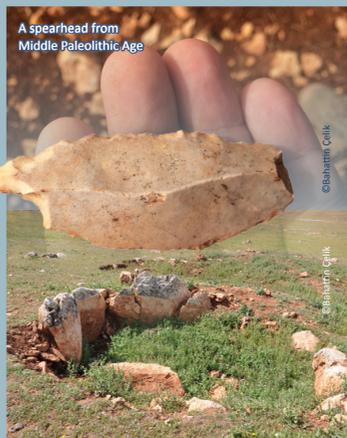
Balıklıgöl Statue

## Kızılkuyu Wildlife Reserve



View of Deyr Yakup Monastery ruins from the west

Dated from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period (10000-8000 BC), Hamzan Tepe is the oldest settlement in the region. Presence of Hamzan Tepe, a contemporary settlement, and Göbeklitepe shows that Kızılkuyu Wildlife Reserve (WR) was an important region where hunter-gatherer communities lived in the Neolithic Period.



A spearhead from Middle Paleolithic Age

It is rich in terms of ruins from the Early Byzantine, Byzantine, and Roman Periods. There are rock tombs, cisterns, and cemeteries from the Ottoman Period as well as Byzantine and Roman Period ceramics, pottery and tile remnants, quarries, and sarcophagi. According to recent studies, more than 20 ruins were found within the boundaries of Kızılkuyu WR.

A circular planned architectural structure exposed to illicit diggings in Hamzan Tepe Ruins

## Tek Tek Mountains National Park

It is a region with a very old history (Epi-Paleolithic Period, 12000-10000 BC), encompassing especially important areas and ruins. Presence of Karahantepe and Harbetsuvan Mound, which are the same size as Göbeklitepe and the same period, shows how historically important Tek Tek Mountains are.



Soğmatar Ancient City



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It is an archeologically significant region with ruins of the Roman Period such as Soğmatar, Büyüksenemağara Ancient City (Senemiğar), Şuayip Şehri Ancient City, and Senemağara.

## Karacadağ Steppes



View of Zinnare Zıçey Ruins from north

There are important ruins and archaeological sites in the Karacadağ steppes, including Zinnare Zer Ruins, Kamer Sekü Site Ruins, Acem Hill, Selamün Aleyküm Hill Tumulus, Mendel Ruin, Zinnare Zıçey Ruins, and Zinnare Zıçey Temple Site. The most critical element of Karacadağ’s history is that the oldest known ancestor of wheat was found in this region and taken into culture. It has been established that *Triticum monococcum* subsp. *boeoticum*, which exists in Karacadağ naturally, is the oldest ancestor of the 338 wheat species collected from the Fertile Crescent Region.

A lunated stel representing the moon goddess found in Karacadağ Zinnare Zıçey Temple



A broken tombstone in the shape of a lion from the Islamic Period

For the details

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This poster was prepared by the Nature Conservation Centre within the scope of the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey’s Steppe Ecosystems Project.