



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

GCP/TUR/061/GFF

ŞANLIURFA’S HIDDEN TREASURE LET’S PROTECT OUR STEPPE PLANTS!



Pistacia palaestina
(Terebinth)

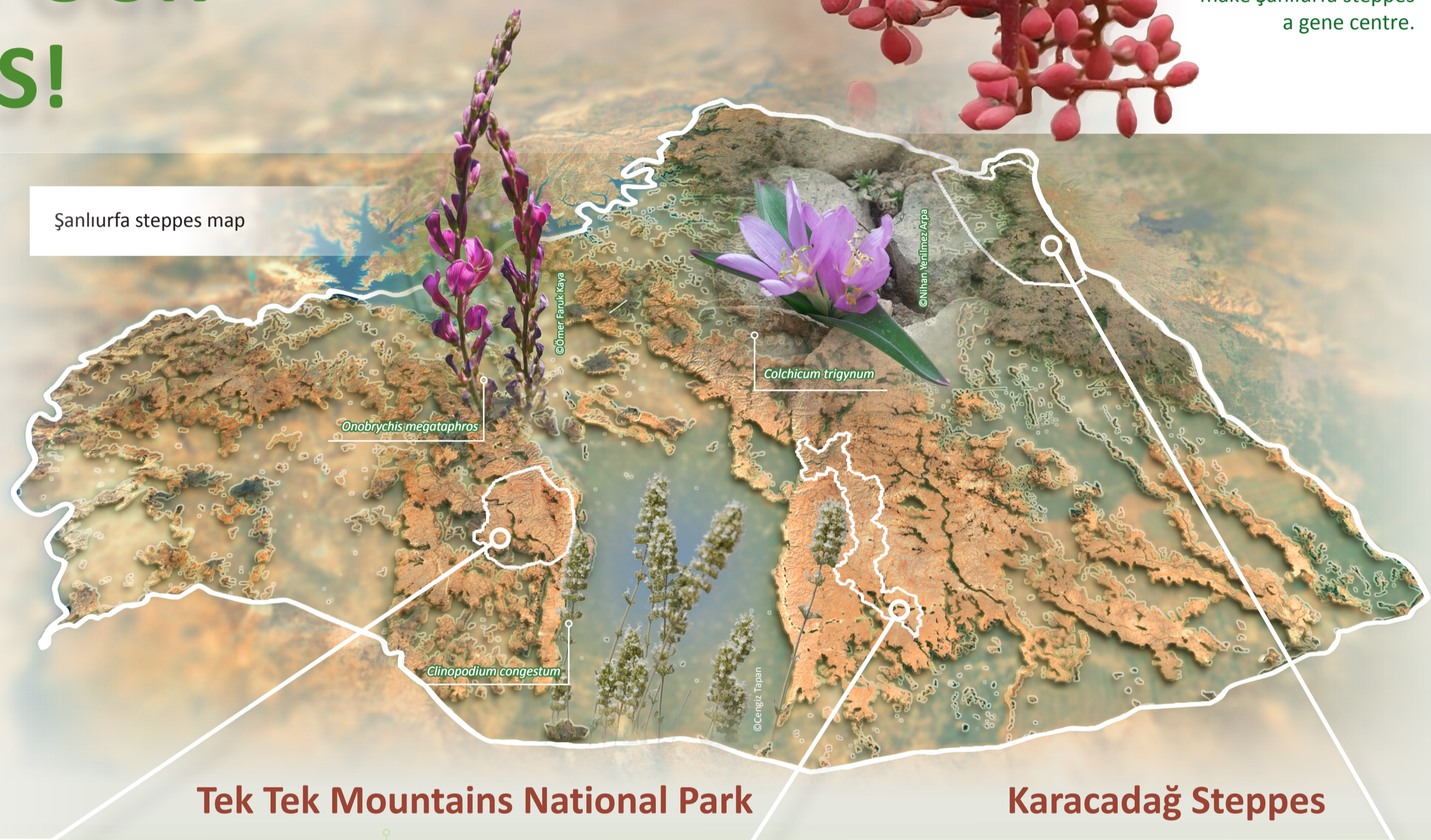
An Important Gene Centre:
The natural distribution of
ancestral forms of wheat,
barley, lentil and chickpeas
make Şanlıurfa steppes
a gene centre.

Şanlıurfa province is one of the first places to come to mind when steppes of Turkey are considered. Şanlıurfa steppes host ancestors of grains and many endemic plants. Steppe plants are collected by local people for various uses such as food, fuel, medicinal and cosmetic.

In Şanlıurfa, steppes cover 39% of the surface area of the province and there are various steppe types classified according to their appearance: Steppes dominated by grasses and broad-leaved plants, the ones dominated by milkvetch and prickly thrift species and sometimes lowland and mountain steppes with rare and endemic plants.

Of the project implementation sites, which were selected based on their representativeness of the aforementioned steppe types, Kızılkuyu Wildlife Reserve has steppes dominated by broad-leaved plants whereas Tek Tek Mountains National Park has steppes dominated by sea hollies. Both steppe types can be seen in Karacadağ.

Şanlıurfa steppes map



Kızılkuyu Wildlife Reserve

Tek Tek Mountains National Park

Karacadağ Steppes



It is a protected area that hosts rare examples of natural steppe ecosystems in our country. A total of 252 plant taxa, 5 of which are endemics, have been recorded in this site.



Astragalus plumosus
(Milkvetch)

Grasses (Poaceae) such as bulbous bluegrass, winter wild oat, barbed goatgrass and Japanese brome as well as thorny plants such as hillside milkvetch and oriental globe thistle and broad-leaved perennials such as Phlomis species (*P. kurdica* and *P. bruguieri*) are the prominent ones among the widespread herbaceous plants in the area.



Poa bulbosa
(Bulbous bluegrass)

Tek Tek Mountains National Park is an important protected area that hosts examples of lowland steppes and shrubland habitats in Şanlıurfa.

There are 254 plant taxa, 6 of which are endemic, recorded in this site. Rüstem Valley and Silesor Stream are among the important natural areas in the National Park. Notably, these valleys host the wild ancestors of plants that have been taken into culture.

Additionally, the terebinth, a plant of economic value, is naturally distributed within the National Park.



Pistacia palaestina
(Terebinth)



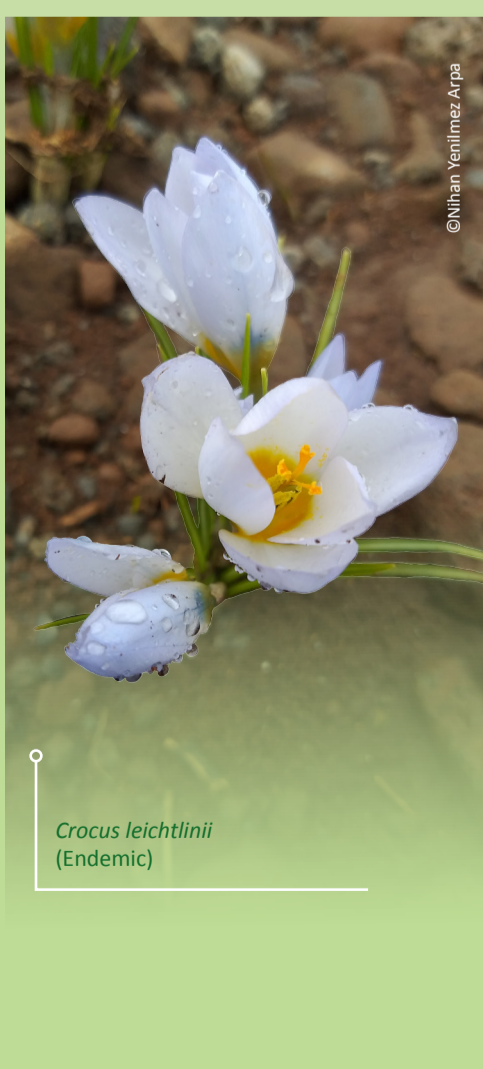
Pisum sativum
(Green Pea)

Karacadağ steppes present examples of lowland and mountain steppes in its relatively protected parts such as the vicinity of the TRT transmitter and the military area. Karabahçe mountain road, Kollubaba Hill and Simo Stream are the outstanding places in terms of plant species they host.



Ranunculus binoeloidaghenensis
(Regional endemic)

A total of 332 plant taxa, 15 of which are endemic, have been recorded in this site. Three of these endemic taxa, namely “Dost akşam Yıldızı” (*Hesperis hedgei*), “gelin burçağı” (*Lathyrus trachycarpus*), and “karaca çarşığı” (*Paracaryum kurdanicum*), are distributed nowhere in the world but in Karacadağ.



Crocus leichtlinii
(Endemic)

For the details

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