



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FORESTRY

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

GCP/TUR/061/GFF

# Neighborhood guide book - III Karacadağ steppes



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



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

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**Neighborhood guide book - III**

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**Karacadağ steppes**

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

DKM	Doğa Koruma Merkezi (Nature Conservation Centre)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GDF	General Directorate of Forestry
GDNCNP	General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks
GDPNA	General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets
GDPP	General Directorate of Plant Production
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IUCN	International Union on Conservation of Nature
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
TÜİK	Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (Turkey Statistic Institution)

## this document

This booklet was prepared by Doğa Koruma Merkezi within the scope of the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), General Directorate of Plant Production (GDPP) and General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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**Design:** Güngör Genç









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# Introduction

Steppes constitute one of Turkey's most important ecosystems in ecological, economic, and social terms. Steppe ecosystems in Turkey include natural steppes, meadows, and rangelands. Steppes are found mainly in Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, and Southeastern Anatolia regions. Şanlıurfa is a province of Turkey hosting vast areas of steppes. Steppes of Şanlıurfa that comprise the natural vegetation and are important sources of biodiversity, cover approximately 39 percent (756 098 ha) of the overall surface area of the province.



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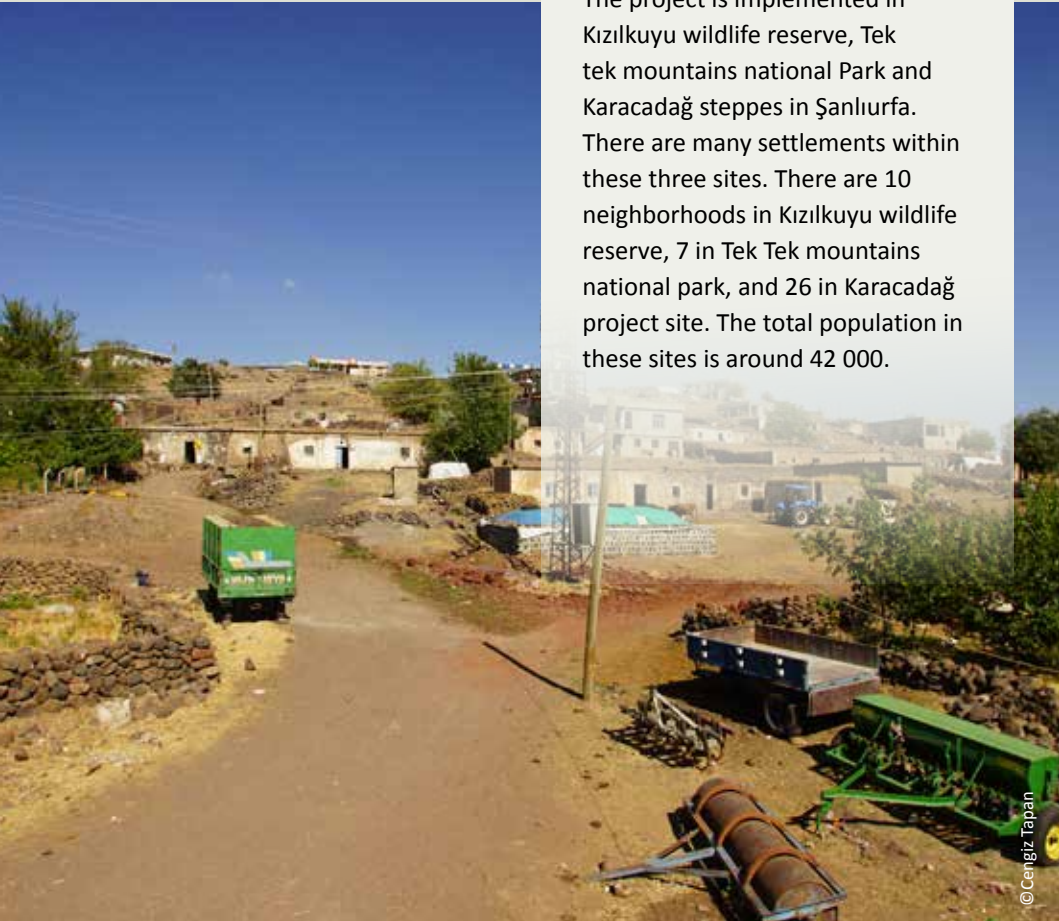
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project is implemented by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), General Directorate of Plant Production (GDPP) and General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) with the financial support of Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The project aims to improve the conservation of Turkey's steppe ecosystems through effective management of protected areas and mainstreaming of steppe biodiversity conservation into production landscapes. The activities within the scope of establishment of enabling environment for the effective conservation of steppe biodiversity across large landscapes are carried out by Doğa Koruma Merkezi (DKM).

*Ranunculus bingoldaghensis*



The project is implemented in Kızılkuyu wildlife reserve, Tek tek mountains national Park and Karacadağ steppes in Şanlıurfa. There are many settlements within these three sites. There are 10 neighborhoods in Kızılkuyu wildlife reserve, 7 in Tek Tek mountains national park, and 26 in Karacadağ project site. The total population in these sites is around 42 000.





Neighborhood guide books were prepared separately for each of the three project sites and aim to provide information about the social, cultural and natural characteristics of the project site settlements, especially about the biodiversity and historical importance of these areas and the life of the local people.

These guides were prepared by evaluating the reports prepared within the scope of the project, as well as the findings obtained via the interviews with the headmen of the settlements.

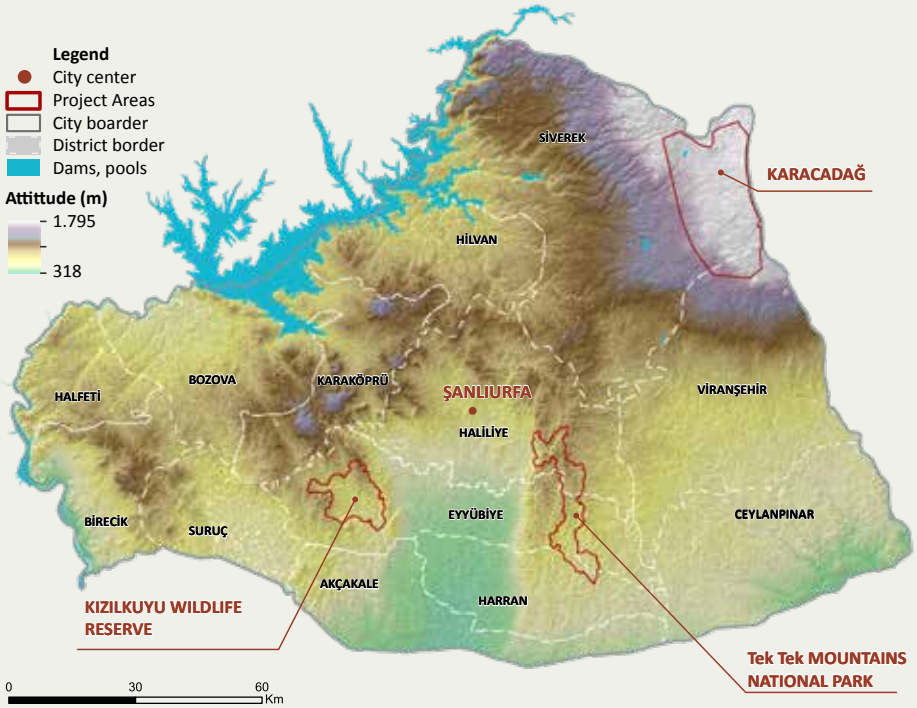


Figure 1. Şanlıurfa Project Sites



# Tek Tek mountains national park



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Karacadağ steppes, one of Turkey's 305 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), does not presently hold an official protection status. This area, which is 35 km to the east of Siverek district center, is situated on the Şanlıurfa-Diyarbakır-Mardin border and a small part of it falls within the provincial borders of Diyarbakır and Mardin. Karacadağ, which has geomorphology of an extinct volcanic area, is covered with snow from December to March. Altitude in the area varies between 1 000 and 1 981 m.

There are predominantly lowlands and high mountain steppes in the area. The regions rich in plant species in Karacadağ are Karabahçe mountain road, Kollubaba hill



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and Simo creek. Plant diversity in the area is currently under considerable grazing pressure. A total of 332 plant taxa, 15 of which are endemic, belonging to 44 different families and 199 different genera were identified in the area. Three of these species are endemic to Karacadağ (*Hesperis hedgei*, *Lathyrus trachycarpus* and *Paracaryum kurdistanicum*).



*Sylvia conspicillata*  
(Spectacled warbler)

The spectacled warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata*) and great bustard (*Otis tarda*) are important bird species for the area. Soydan Pond located within the boundaries of the Karacadağ steppes and Brank's oak (*Quercus brantii*) stands nearby stand out as important regions for bird species. In addition, there are habitats suitable for endemic bushcricket species, that is to say *Isophya sikorai* and *Bradyporus karabagi*, in the higher parts of Karacadağ. One of the rare grasshopper species, namely *Paranothrotres opacus rectus*, was recorded in the afforestation area. The giant bushcricket, *Saga ephippigera syriaca*, which can be considered an indicator species for the steppes, was also recorded here (FAO-MAF 2019).

The most serious threat to the area remains to be excessive and uncontrolled grazing. Due to intense grazing pressure, the vegetation structure dominated by milkvetches

*Astragalus gummifer* (Gum tragacanth milkvetch)



©Ömer Faruk Kaya



©Mehir Karataş

© Mustafa Akça

*Otis tarda*  
(Great bustard)

(*Astragalus* spp.) has been degraded, and the vegetation formed by the participating species has weakened or disappeared in certain places (Kaya *et al.*, 2009). Another major threat is the contamination of ground and surface waters from livestock and pesticide use. Conversion of some of the lands into agricultural fields by stone-rock clearing, encroachment of residential areas, and winter tourism also pose considerable threats to the area. Collection of stones/rocks, which form a substantial habitat for many reptile species, with a view to converting lands into agricultural fields is also an important threat particularly to the reptile species existing in the area. Other threats identified in the area are picking of milkvetches by the local people and cutting of oaks for fuel purposes.



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### Gözler Neighborhood

Collection of plants by local people for domestic or outdoor use is among the human-induced pressures on the species such as foxtail lily (*Eremurus spectabilis*), Ferula orientalis, Persian lily (*Fritillaria persica*), and star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum* spp.). In addition to plant collection, frog gathering is also seen in the area. Animal deaths as a result of poaching and vehicle collisions are also considerable threats.

Within the Karacadağ steppes project site, there are 26 neighborhoods

with approximately 35 000 inhabitants (TUIK, 2019). The main source of livelihood for the local people is animal husbandry. According to 2018 data, there are about 280 000 head of livestock in the region (TUIK, 2018; FAO-MAF, 2019). Apart from the residents, nomads coming from the surrounding regions also use the area intensively for grazing their livestock; therefore, the number of livestock grazed in the region grows further during these periods.

Mainly, barley (*Hordeum* spp.), wheat (*Triticum* spp.), lentil (*Lens* spp.), chickpea (*Cicer* spp.) and rice (*Oryza* spp.) are cultivated in the region. In addition to grain, vegetable growing is also carried out in some neighborhoods

Most commonly grown vegetables are peppers (*Capsicum* spp.), tomatoes, and eggplants (*Solanum* spp.). Detailed information is given in this guide book on a neighborhood scale. Among these products, rice known as ‘Karacadağ rice’ is one of the significant agricultural products of Şanlıurfa as it grows on soil with volcanic properties that is fed with spring water and cultivated without chemicals or tilling. It has become a product with a geographical indication as it is different because of where it is grown and it has a certain quality (<http://www.ci.gov.tr> erisim tarihi 2021).



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Rice harvesting

Studies conducted so far show that there has been human settlement in the Karacadağ region since the Chalcolithic Period (6000-3000 BC). It is believed that animal husbandry has been carried out intensively since this period, especially since the Iron Age (1000-600 BC) (Çelik, 2008). Past civilizations also used the steppes in the region as rangelands.

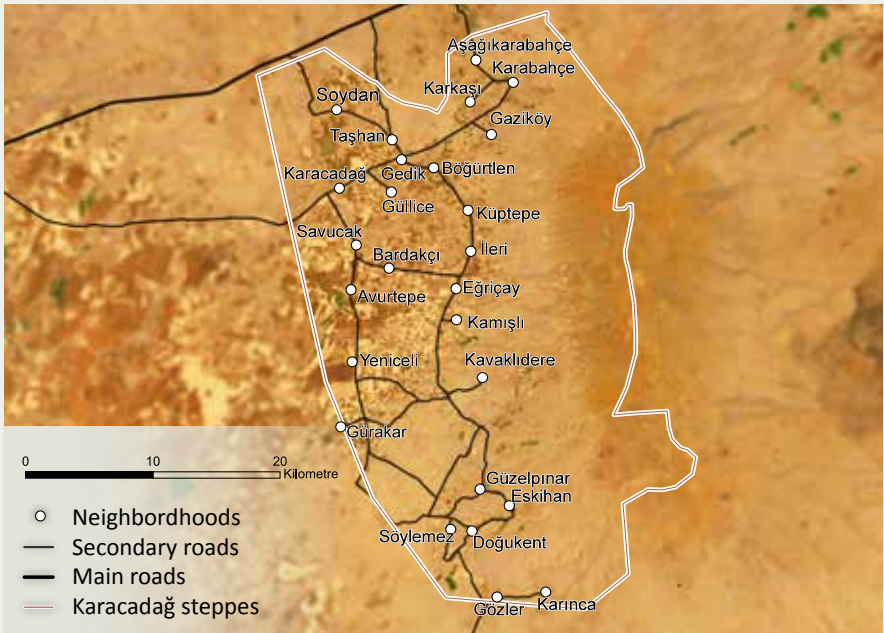
Another feature that makes Karacadağ important is that the ancestors of wheat were found in the region and it is one of the areas where agriculture first began. Studies reveal that the oldest known ancestor of wheat was cultivated in this region. The oldest ancestor of 338 wheat species collected from the



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*Triticum sp. (Grain) and Hordeum sp. (Barley)*

Fertile Crescent Region is *Triticum monococcum* subsp. *boeoticum* (Heun *et al.*, 1997).



**Figure 2.** The neighborhoods within the boundaries of Karacadağ Steppes (www.arcgis.com,2021)

# Aşağıkarabahçe neighborhood



*One of the neighborhoods where Tournefort's gundelia is naturally grown and gathered*

Aşağıkarabahçe neighborhood of Siverek, one of Şanlıurfa's districts, is approximately 44 km from Siverek district center.

According to TUIK (2019) data, 1 428 people live in the neighborhood, of whom 724 are men and 704 are women. Residents of the neighborhood meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery and from the district center that is accessible by public transportation.

There are no accommodation facilities. There are two schools in the neighborhood. In the 2019-2020 academic years, 102 students attended the Aşağıkarabahçe primary school and 141 students attended the Aşağıkarabahçe secondary school.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	1 428
Distance to the nearest city/district center	44 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 806476, Longitude: 39 733788
Accessibility by public transportation	Var
Muhtar (Headman)	Adil Karaca

The main source of livelihood for the residents is animal husbandry. There are around 1 500 head of cattle and more than 3 000 head of sheep and goat in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018).

The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood. There is little agriculture around the neighborhood. The cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, tomato, eggplant, and pepper.

The animal species observed in the natural habitats around the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*).

Residents collect Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) for their own consumption and harvest plants of the meadows and rangelands such as medicks (*Medicago* spp.) to feed their livestock.

*Gundelia tournefortii*  
(Tournefort's gundelia)



Aşığıkarabağçe neighborhood

# Avurtepe neighborhood



*One of the neighborhoods where Tournefort's gundelia, drooping star-of-Bethlehem and Biarum are naturally grown and gathered*

Avurtepe neighborhood is administratively affiliated to Siverek district, and its distance to the district center is approximately 38 km.

The population of the neighborhood is 293, of whom 139 are men and 154 are women (TUIK, 2019). There are neither health centers nor groceries or accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. During the 2019-

2020 academic years, 10 students attended the Otlu primary school, which is located in the Otlu hamlet of the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	293
Distance to the nearest city/district center	38 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 678351, Longitude: 39 649690
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Sinan Kiran

Residents make a living from agriculture and animal husbandry. More than 3 500 head of livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018).



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The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, rice (Karacadağ rice), and tomato.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.

Residents collect plants such as Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*), drooping star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum nutans*) and *Biarum carduchorum* for various purposes.

*Biarum carduchorum*



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Avurtepe neighborhood

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# Bardakçı neighborhood

*One of the smallest neighborhoods*



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Bardakçı neighborhood, formerly known as Kantir, is administratively affiliated to Şanlıurfa's Siverek district. It is approximately 38 km from the district center.

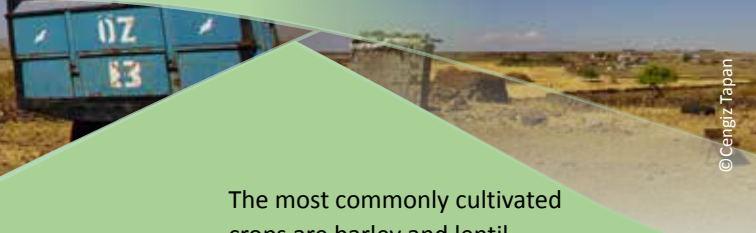
A total of 133 people, specifically 67 men and 66 women, live in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2019).

In the 2019-2020 academic years, 24 students attended the Bardakçı primary school. In the neighborhood, there are neither health centers nor groceries or accommodation facilities.

Former name of the neighborhood	Kantir
Population	133
Distance to the nearest city/district center	38 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 690813, Longitude: 39 676808
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Hacı Arıkçı



The main sources of livelihood for the residents are agriculture and animal husbandry. There are nearly 1 000 head of livestock, mostly sheep and goats in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018). The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.



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The most commonly cultivated crops are barley and lentil. Landless residents travel to Aegean and Central Anatolia provinces to work as seasonal agricultural workers.

Wild animals such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.

Residents harvest meadow and pasture plants such as medicks (*Medicago* spp.) to feed their livestock.



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Bardakçı neighborhood

# Böğürtlen neighborhood



*The asset of Şanlıurfa:  
Karacadağ rice*

©Cengiz Tapan

Böğürtlen neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 38 km away from the district center.

©Cengiz Tapan

Böğürtlen neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 38 km away from the district center.

Residents meet their daily needs from the neighborhood grocery. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 158 students attended the Böğürtlen primary school and 141 students attended the Böğürtlen secondary School.

Former name of the neighborhood	Boglan
Population	925
Distance to the nearest city/district center	38 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 746013, Longitude: 39 708418
Accessibility by public transportation	No
Muhtar (Headman)	Vehip Çelik

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income for the local people. Nearly 1 000 head of sheep and goat and 500 head of cattle graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018).

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The most commonly cultivated crops are grains such as barley, wheat, lentil and rice (Karacadağ rice) and vegetables such as tomatoe, pepper, and eggplant. Landless residents travel to western provinces to work as seasonal workers.

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*Meles meles*  
(Eurasian badger)



© Kubilay Toran

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed in the natural habitats near the neighborhood.

# Doğukent neighborhood

*An important environment for wild animals*



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Doğukent neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is closer to Viranşehir district. Its distance to Viranşehir district center is approximately 40 km.

The population of the neighborhood is 486, of whom 238 are men and 248 are women (TUIK, 2019). There are neither health centers nor accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. Residents of the neighborhood meet their needs

from the neighborhood grocery and from the district center that is accessible by public transportation. A total of 118 students attended the Eyyüp Cemal Gülpınar primary school and 116 students attended the Eyyüp Cemal Gülpınar secondary school during the 2019-2020 academic years.

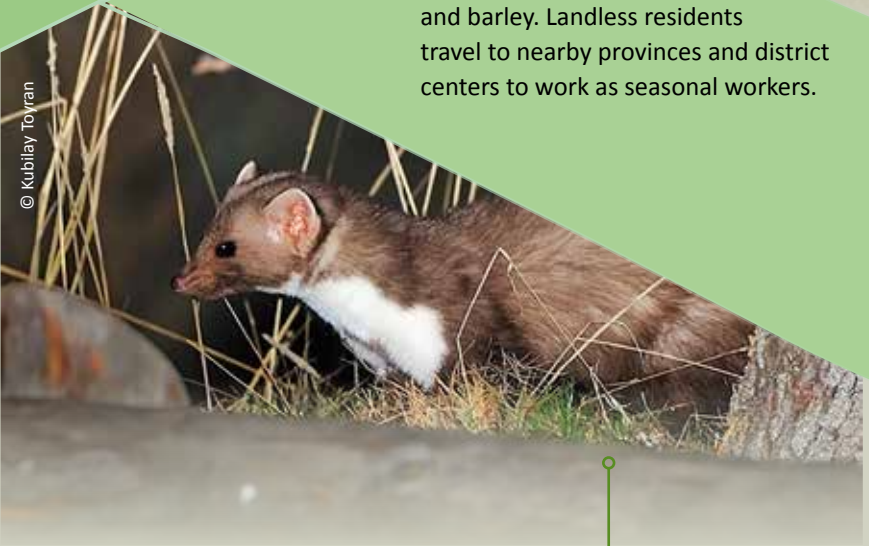
Former name of the neighborhood	Taşdıbek, Hirbereş
Population	486
Distance to the nearest city/district center	40 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 540705, Longitude: 39 731759
Accessibility by public transportation	yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Mehmet Yıldırım

The livelihood of the residents is based on agriculture and animal husbandry, and there are more than 2 500 head of livestock in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018). The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.



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The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat and barley. Landless residents travel to nearby provinces and district centers to work as seasonal workers.



© Kubilay Toyran

*Martes foina*  
(Beech marten)

In natural habitats around the neighborhood, species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) can be observed.

Neighborhood residents engage in Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) collection for consumption as food.

# Eğriçay neighborhood

*A nomadic life for grazing*



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Eğriçay neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 43 km from the district center.

The population of the neighborhood is 1 221 of whom 603 are men and 618 are women (TUIK, 2019). In the neighborhood, there are neither health centers nor accommodation or public transportation facilities. Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery. During

the 2019-2020 academic years, 207 students attended the Eğriçay Ercan Koşan primary school and 222 students attended the Eğriçay Ercan Koşan secondary school. Students receive high school education in Siverek district center by means of subsidized transportation for education.

Former name of the neighborhood	Büyükşeyhli, Şehuliyajerin
Population	1 221
Distance to the nearest city/district center	43 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 678508, Longitude: 39 721328
Accessibility by public transportation	no
Muhtar (Headman)	Mehmet Çağır

Residents who make a living mainly from animal husbandry also cultivate wheat and barley.



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In the neighborhood, where there are more than 17 000 head of sheep and goat (TUIK, 2018), the livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood. Yet the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood fail to meet the need, so herd owners lead a nomadic life to feed their livestock.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.



© Cengiz Tapan

Eğriçay neighborhood

# Eskihan neighborhood



*An area where the environment is important for wild animals*

© Cengiz Tapan

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Eskihan neighborhood, formerly known as Haniharab, is administratively affiliated to Şanlıurfa's Siverek district but is closer to Viranşehir. It is approximately 44 km from Viranşehir district center.

The population of the neighborhood is 1 043 of whom 537 are men and 506 are women (TUIK, 2019). There are neither accommodation nor public transport opportunities in the neighborhood.

Residents meet their needs from the groceries in the neighborhood. In the 2019-2020 academic years, 240 students attended the Eskihan primary school and 256 students attended the Eskihan secondary school.

Former name of the neighborhood	Haniharab
Population	1 043
Distance to the nearest city/district center	44 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 553790, Longitude: 39 760879
Accessibility by public transportation	-
Muhtar (Headman)	Ali Ay



Residents earn a living from agriculture and animal husbandry and have more than 7 000 head of livestock, mostly sheep and goats (TUIK, 2019). They graze their livestock on the rangelands of the neighborhood.



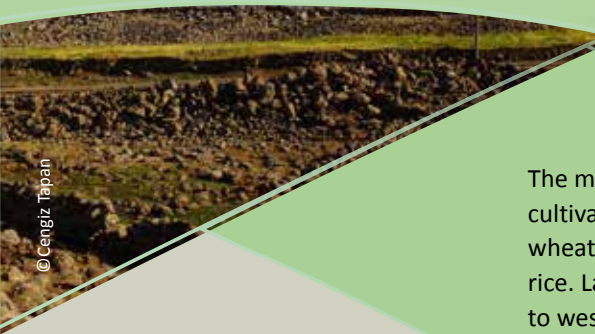
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The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat, lentil, and Karacadağ rice. Landless residents travel to western provinces to work as seasonal workers.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed in the steppes near the neighborhood and common quails (*Coturnix coturnix*) can also be seen especially in the rice fields.

The streams situated between Eskihan, Söylemez, and Karınca neighborhoods are important in terms of biodiversity (FAO-MAF 2019).

Residents harvest plants from meadows and pastures to feed their livestock.



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Eskihan neighborhood

# Gaziköy neighborhood

*A neighborhood where grain farming is most intensive in the region*



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Gaziköy neighborhood is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa. Its distance to the district center is approximately 43 km.

In the neighborhood, where 1 313 people live, the male population is 686 and the female population is 627 (TUIK, 2019). There are neither health centers nor accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery and from

the district center that is accessible by public transportation. Students receive education in the Gazi primary school and the Gazi Imam Hatip secondary school. In the 2019-2020 academic years, 205 students attended the Gazi primary school and 169 students attended the Gazi Imam Hatip Secondary school.


Former name of the neighborhood	Gazek
Population	1 313
Distance to the nearest city/district center	43 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 763755, Longitude: 39 51034
Accessibility by public transportation	yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Sinan Akpınar



There are more than 3 000 head of sheep and goat and 2 500 head of cattle in the neighborhood, where the livelihood is based on agriculture and animal husbandry (TUIK, 2018).

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The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood. The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, tomato, pepper, and eggplant. Landless residents travel to various provinces to work as seasonal workers.

Species observed in natural habitats near the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*).

Collection of plants is also common in the region. Local people engage in collection of Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) for consumption as food and various other plant species for consumption as food or herbal tea. Meadow and pasture plants that are used as animal feed such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.) are also harvested.



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Gaziköy neighborhood

# Gedik neighborhood

*A neighborhood with three schools*



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Gedik neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek, is approximately 36 km from the district center.

A total of 268 men and 301 women live in the neighborhood, making up a population of 569 (TUIK, 2019). There are neither accommodation facilities nor public transportation in the neighborhood. Residents

meet their daily needs from the neighborhood grocery. There are 1 primary school and 2 secondary schools in the neighborhood. In the 2019-2020 academic years, 158 students attended the Gedik primary school, 58 attended the Gedik secondary school, and 58 attended the Gedik Imam Hatip secondary school.

Former name of the neighborhood	Gedük
Population	569
Distance to the nearest city/district center	36 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 748390, Longitude: 39 684830
Accessibility by public transportation	No
Muhtar (Headman)	Vahap Minigül

Residents earn a living from agriculture and animal husbandry.

There are approximately 300 head of sheep and goat and 800 head of cattle (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood.

The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, and rice (Karacadağ rice). There is migration from the neighborhood to metropolitan cities due to economic reasons.

Species observed in natural habitats near the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) and common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).

GEDİK

# Gözler neighborhood

*A historical neighborhood*



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Gözler neighborhood is administratively affiliated to Viranşehir district of Şanlıurfa, and is approximately 38 km from the district center.

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There are 428 men and 394 women in the neighborhood, making up a population of 822 (TUIK, 2019). There are neither groceries nor health centers, accommodation facilities, or public

transportation in the neighborhood. A total of 70 students attended the Tiftil primary school in the neighborhood during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	822
Distance to the nearest city/district center	38 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 505076, Longitude: 39 749530
Accessibility by public transportation	no
Muhtar (Headman)	Münir Atılğan

Residents earn a living from animal husbandry. There are approximately 6 000 head of sheep and goat and 3 000 head of cattle in the neighborhood and the livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018).



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Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) can be observed in the natural habitats around the neighborhood.

Residents harvest plants such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.) from the meadows and pastures of the steppes around the neighborhood for consumption as animal feed.

A new archaeological site was found near the neighborhood and was declared a historical site. There are historical artifacts in the cave-shaped area (FAO-MAF, 2019).



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Gözler neighborhood

# Güllice neighborhood



*One of the neighborhoods that feed their livestock in the surrounding steppes all seasons long*



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Güllice neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 36 km from the district center.



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The population of the neighborhood is 443, of whom 230 are men and 213 are women (TUIK, 2019). There is no public transportation to or from the neighborhood.

The residents of the neighborhood meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery. A total of 51 students attended the Güllice primary school in the neighborhood during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	443
Distance to the nearest city/district center	36 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 733971, Longitude: 39 676653
Accessibility by public transportation	no
Muhtar	Şihmus Güllice



Residents earn a living mostly from agriculture. The cultivated crops are wheat, lentil, barley, chickpeas, and rice (Karacadağ rice).



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There are very few rangelands in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018) and approximately 500 head of cattle and 100 head of sheep and goat.



© İdris Ölmez

*Erinaceus concolor*  
(Southern white-breasted hedgehog)

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) are observed in the steppes near the neighborhood.

In order to feed their livestock, residents harvest plants such as clover (*Trifolium spp*) from the meadows and pastures of the steppes around the neighborhood.

# Gürakar neighborhood

*An area where the environment is important for wild animals*



©Hüseyin Gökmen

©Hüseyin Gökmen

Gürakar neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 39 km from the district center.

According to TUIK (2019) data, a total of 5 008 people, specifically 2 457 men and 2 551 women, live in the neighborhood. There are no accommodation facilities available in the neighborhood. Residents meet their needs from

the neighborhood grocery or by travelling to the district center by public transportation. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 162 students attended the Gürakar primary school and 257 students attended the Gürakar secondary school in the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	Harbeheşyan, Hirbeheştiya
Population	5 008
Distance to the nearest city/district center	39 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	latitude: 37 604499, Longitude: 39 636329
Accessibility by public transportation	yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Mehmet Ay

Main income generation activities are agriculture and animal husbandry.



@Cengiz Toprak

The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat, lentil, chickpea, corn, tomato, and pepper. The number of livestock in the neighborhood is close to 1 000 (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), and common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) are the species observed in the steppes near the neighborhood.

The narrow-striped dwarf snake (*Eirenis decemlineatus*) is also distributed in the natural habitats around the neighborhood (Üçeş, 2011).

*Gundelia tournefortii*  
(Tournefort's gundelia)

Residents collect Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) for consumption as food and harvest plants such as medicks (*Medicago* spp.) from the meadows and pastures for consumption as animal feed.



@Nihan Yenilmez Alpa

# Güzelpınar neighborhood




*One of the neighborhoods that feed their livestock on pasture plants all seasons long*

Güzelpınar neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is closer to Viranşehir. Its distance to Viranşehir district center is approximately 45 km.

The population of the neighborhood is 751, of whom 374 are men and 377 are women (TUIK, 2019). There are neither health centers nor schools, groceries, or accommodation facilities in the neighborhood.

Residents meet their needs from the district center by using public transportation. Students in the neighborhood receive education in schools located in nearby neighborhoods by means of subsidized transportation for education.

Former name of the neighborhood	Elidirnaj
Population	751
Distance to the nearest city/district center	45 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 565032, Longitude: 39 741728
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Ömer Aktimur



Residents earn a living from agriculture and animal husbandry. Nearly 1 000 head of cattle and sheep and goat owned by the residents of the neighborhood graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018).

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The most commonly cultivated crops are barley and wheat. Landless residents travel to other provinces to work as seasonal workers.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.

Residents harvest forage (meadow and pasture plants) from the steppes near the neighborhood to feed their livestock.

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# İleri neighborhood



*Three thousand-year-old Mendel ruins are in this neighborhood*

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İleri neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 48 km from the district center.

A total of 1 705 people, that is to say 812 men and 893 women, in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2019). There are no accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery or from the district center that is

accessible by public transportation. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 196 students attended the İleri Primary School and 181 students attended the İleri secondary school in the neighborhood. High school students receive education in Siverek district center.

Former name of the neighborhood	Şeyhli
Population	1 705
Distance to the nearest city/district center	48 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 688036, Longitude: 39 766660
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Orhan Atilla

The main sources of livelihood for the residents are agriculture and animal husbandry. There are around 80 000 head of sheep and goat and 1.000 head of cattle (TUIK, 2018).

There are species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and various species of birds of prey in the steppes near the neighborhood.

Residents of the neighborhood collect plants such as Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) and pepperweed (*Lepidium* spp.) for their own use and harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.) to feed their animals.

Mendel Ruins, which was inhabited from 1000 BC until the 6th century AD, is situated approximately 15 km to the east of İleri neighborhood. Archaeological studies show that ceramics in the region date back to

The rangelands of the neighborhood fail to meet the feeding requirements of the livestock; therefore, the residents who engage in animal husbandry go to neighboring provinces and districts to graze their livestock, thus leading a nomadic life. The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, tomato, and pepper.

#### Aerial View of Mendel Ruins

the Early Iron Age and Roman and Byzantine Periods.

There is the Selamün Aleyküm Hill Tumulus dating back to the Roman Period approximately 14 km to the east of the neighborhood and the Acem Hill, which contains Roman and Byzantine ceramics, approximately 1 km to the east of the area. Nomads set up tents in these areas in summer. Ruins in the region were destroyed due to illegal excavations.

# Kamışlı neighborhood



*A neighborhood where malva and stinging nettle are abundant in nature*



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Kamışlı neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 46 km from the district center.



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A total of 1 123 men and 1 087 women live in the neighborhood, making up a population of 2 210 (TUIK, 2019). Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery and from the district center that is accessible by

public transportation. There are no accommodation opportunities in the neighborhood. A total of 20 students attended the Kamışlı primary school in the neighborhood during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	Emeni
Population	2 210
Distance to the nearest city/district center	46 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 661448, Longitude: 39 723712
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Seydo Hezer



Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income for the local people. There are nearly 20 000 head of livestock in the neighborhood, mostly sheep and goat (TUIK, 2018).



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*Urtica* spp.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed in the natural habitats around the neighborhood.

*Meles meles*  
(Eurasian badger)



©Kubilay Toran

*Malva sylvestris* (Common mallow)



©Nihan Yenilmez Arpa

The livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood, but existing rangelands fail to meet the needs. The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat, and lentil. Landless neighborhood residents travel to western provinces to work as seasonal workers.

Local residents harvest plants such as medicks (*Medicago* spp.) from the meadows and pastures in the steppes near the neighborhood to feed their livestock. They also collect species such as malva (*Malva* spp.) and stinging nettle (*Urtica* spp.) for consumption as food. In addition to these species, local people collect various herbs to be used as spices.

# Karabahçe neighborhood



*The neighborhood where wild emmer, one of the ancestors of wheat, is found naturally*



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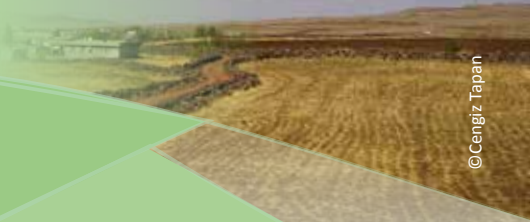
Karabahçe neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 45 km from the Siverek district center.

There are around 5 000 head of cattle and over 13 000 head of sheep and goat in the neighborhood, where the livelihood is based on agriculture and animal husbandry (TUIK, 2018). The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, tomato, pepper, and eggplant. A local variety, known as “Karabahçe tomato” stands out among these crops.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	1 721
Distance to the nearest city/district center	45 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 794275, Longitude: 39 766081
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Mehmet Delidolu

It is believed to have the potential to be branded and geographically indicated like Karacadağ rice if the studies on this variety are encouraged and supported (Karacadağ Development Agency, 2010).



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As for the low-income families without land and livestock, those who cannot afford the costs of animal husbandry migrate to western provinces.

Mammal species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), and Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and bird species such as chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), some owls and birds of prey are observed in the natural habitats around the neighborhood.



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steppes around the neighborhood (Kızılgeçi and Yıldırım, 2014).

The steppes around the mountain road from Karabahçe to Kollubaba Hill and the Simo Creek sections nearby are considered important plant areas as they host endemic plant species. *Bradyporus* (*Callimemus*) *karabagi*, an endemic bushcricket species with limited distribution, has also been recorded in this region (FAO-MAF, 2019). Furthermore, wild emmer (*Triticum dicoccoides*), one of the wild ancestors of wheat, grows in the

Residents collect plants such as Tournefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*), *Biarum carduchorum*, mint (possibly *Mentha longifolia*), pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) and drooping star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum nutans*) for food and medical purposes. They also harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), bromes (*Bromus* spp.), and ryegrasses (*Lolium* spp.) for use as animal feed.

# Karacadağ neighborhood



*The neighborhood that hosts the Hesperis hedgei which exists nowhere else around the world*

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Karacadağ neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 32 km from the district center.

The population of the neighborhood is 1 515, of whom 777 are men and 738 are women (TUIK, 2019). In the neighborhood where accommodation and public transportation are not available, residents meet their needs from the neighborhood groceries.

During the 2019-2020 academic years, 287 students attended the Karacadağ primary school and 364 students attended the Karacadağ secondary School of the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	Kaynak, Kanah
Population	1 515
Distance to the nearest city/district center	32 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 734392, Longitude: 39 639879
Accessibility by public transportation	No
Muhtar (Headman)	Zeki Kenrü

Local people who make a living from agriculture and animal husbandry mainly cultivate wheat, barley, lentil, rice (Karacadağ rice), tomato, and pepper.

There are very few rangelands and approximately 3 500 head of sheep and goat and 1 700 head of cattle in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018). The livestock graze on the lands of the residents.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and various bird of prey species are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood. There are records of the dice snake (*Natrix tessellata*) in the natural habitats near the neighborhood (Üçeş, 2011).

One of the most important species distributed in the steppes around the neighborhood is *Hesperis hedgei*, which is endemic to

Karacadağ (local endemic) and is listed as “Critical” (CR) on a global scale (Duran and Çetin, 2015).

Residents harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.) in the steppes near the neighborhood to feed their livestock.

*Hesperis hedgei*



# Karınca neighborhood



*The neighborhood of streams rich in biodiversity*



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Karınca neighborhood is administratively affiliated to Şanlıurfa's Viranşehir district and is approximately 35 km from the district center



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The population of the neighborhood is 1 220, of whom 603 are men and 617 are women (TUIK, 2019). In the neighborhood, there are neither accommodation facilities nor groceries, health

centers or public transportation opportunities. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 23 students attended the Karınca primary school of the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	-
Population	1 220
Distance to the nearest city/district center	35 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 509660 Longitude: 39 787389
Accessibility by public transportation	No
Muhtar (Headman)	Sinan Satmaz

Stony lands not suitable for agriculture dominate the neighborhood. Residents of the neighborhood earn a living from animal husbandry.



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Residents have over 21 000 head of sheep and goat and around 2 500 head of cattle (TUIK, 2019). The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

Residents of the neighborhood, who still have difficulty in making a living, migrate to Şanlıurfa and other metropolitan cities.

Species that can be observed in the steppes near the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*). The creeks between Karınca, Söylemez, and Eskihan neighborhoods represent important biodiversity areas (FAO-MAF, 2019).

Residents harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clover species (*Trifolium* spp.) in the steppes near the neighborhood to feed their livestock.

Iron Age, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, and Islamic Period ceramics were found in Kamer Sekü Mevkii Ruins, approximately 15 km to the east of Karınca neighborhood. The ruins were damaged due to illegal excavations (FAO-MAF, 2019).



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# Karkaşı neighborhood



*The neighborhood of Simo Creek, an important plant area*



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Karkaşı neighborhood is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa. Its distance to the district center is approximately 46 km.



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The population of the neighborhood is 1 018, of whom 501 are men and 517 are women (TUIK, 2019). Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood groceries and from the district center that is accessible by public transportation. There are no accommodation

facilities in the neighborhood. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 216 students attended the Karkaşı primary school and 92 students attended the Karkaşı secondary school in the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	Kergaşı
Population	1 018
Distance to the nearest city/district center	46 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 791312, Longitude: 39 745055
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Mahmut Eskimiş



There are approximately 2 000 head of sheep and goat and 1 000 head of cattle in the neighborhood, where the livelihood is based on agriculture and animal husbandry (TUIK, 2018).



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The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood. The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, tomato, pepper, and eggplant.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are the species observed in the natural habitats near the neighborhood. Simo Creek, which is considered an important plant area, is situated to the south of Karkaşı neighborhood.

The Tounefort's gundelia (*Gundelia tournefortii*) consumed as food is commonly collected by the local people. Meadow and pasture plants such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.), which are used as animal feed, are harvested in the steppes around the neighborhood.



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# Kavaklıdere neighborhood

*A neighborhood high up*



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Kavaklıdere neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 52 km from the district center.

A total of 208 men and 201 women live in the neighborhood, making up a population of 409 (TUIK, 2019).

Former name of the neighborhood	Kori
Population	409
Distance to the nearest city/district Center	52 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 628698, Longitude: 39 742560
Accessibility by public transportation	-
Muhtar (Headman)	Salih İrgen

Main income generation activities are agriculture and animal husbandry.

There are approximately 350 head of cattle and 450 head of sheep and goat in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood.

*Ablepharus chernovi*  
(Chernov's Snake-eyed skink)

Species observed in the steppes around the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*).

Large whip snakes (*Dolichophis jugularis*) are also distributed in natural habitats around the region (Üçeş, 2011).

# Küptepe neighborhood



*A neighborhood with one of the most intensive forms of livestock breeding in the region*

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Küptepe neighborhood, formerly known as Tiftil, is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, and is approximately 42 km from the district center.

A total of 679 men and 710 women live in the neighborhood, making up a population of 1 389 (TUIK, 2019). Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood groceries or from the district center that is accessible by public transportation.

There are no accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. A total of 192 students attended the Küptepe primary school and 227 students attended the Küptepe secondary school of the neighborhood during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	Tiftil
Population	1 389
Distance to the nearest city/district center	42 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 722612, Longitude: 39 734279
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Halef Çakmak

Residents earn a living from agriculture and animal husbandry. There are approximately 15 000 head of sheep and goat and 700 head of cattle in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood.

The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, rice (Karacadağ rice), tomato, and pepper. Residents who have financial difficulties migrate to metropolitan cities.

In the steppes near the neighborhood, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed.

Residents engage in collection of plants such as mint (*Mentha* spp.), sage (*Salvia* spp.) and wild mustard (*Sinapis arvensis*).

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# Savucak neighborhood

*A neighborhood with a primary school*




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Savucak neighborhood, formerly known as Küçük, is administratively affiliated to Siverek district of Şanlıurfa and is about 35 km from the district center.

A total of 193 men and 197 women live in the neighborhood, making up a population of 390 (TUIK, 2019). Moreover, 32 students attended the Savucak primary school during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	Küçük
Population	390
Distance to the nearest city/district center	35 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 702119, Longitude: 39 653302
Accessibility by public transportation	-
Muhtar (Headman)	Mehmet Reşat Özkaynak



Main income generation activities are agriculture and animal husbandry.

There are around 200 head of cattle and over 2 600 head of sheep and goat in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands allocated to the neighborhood.

Species observed in the steppes around the neighborhood are red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*).

# Soydan neighborhood



*An important bird area, namely Soydan Pond, is in this neighborhood*



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Soydan neighborhood is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa and is approximately 34 km from the district center.



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According to TUIK (2019) data, a total of 1 520 people, of whom 807 are men and 713 are women, live in the neighborhood. There are neither accommodation facilities nor health centers or public transportation opportunities in the neighborhood.

Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery. A total of 200 students attended the Ekinci primary school and 167 students attended the Ekinci secondary school of the neighborhood during the 2019-2020 academic years.

Former name of the neighborhood	Darabi, Darbi
Population	1 520
Distance to the nearest city/district center	34 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 776634, Longitude: 39 637769
Accessibility by public transportation	No
Muhtar (Headman)	Mustafa Kirti



Residents earn a living from agriculture and animal husbandry. The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat, lentil, and chickpeas.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*) and Isabelline wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) are the species observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.

Soydan pond situated to the south of the neighborhood is an important bird area. Many waterbirds were reported in this area. Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) garganey (*Anas querquedula*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) are the bird species observed in the pond.

Vegetables are also grown in irrigated fields. The number of cattle in the neighborhood is around 1 300 whereas the number of sheep and goats is close to 14 000 (TUIK, 2018). The livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

The Brant's oak (*Quercus brantii*) stands, located about 4 km to the northwest of Soydan Pond, also represent an important bird area (FAO-Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2019).

Local people harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clover (*Trifolium* spp.) in the steppes near the neighborhood to feed their livestock.

*Phoenicopterus roseus*  
(Greater flamingo )



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# Söylemez neighborhood



*A neighborhood dating back to the Chalcolithic Age*

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Söylemez neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is physically closer to Viranşehir. It is approximately 41 km from the Viranşehir district center.

A total of 6 330 people live in the neighborhood, of whom 3 181 are men and 3 149 are women (TUIK, 2019). Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood groceries or from the district center that is accessible by public transportation.

There are no accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 29 students attended the Söylemez primary school in the neighborhood.

Residents of the neighborhood make a living out of agriculture and animal husbandry.

Former name of the neighborhood	Solmez
Population	6 330
Distance to the nearest city/district center	41 km to Viranşehir district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 542773, Longitude: 39 719305
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Ali Kaya

There are around 21 000 head of sheep and goat and over 2 500 head of cattle (TUIK, 2018) in the neighborhood and the livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

The most commonly cultivated crops are wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, and rice (Karacadağ rice).

The streams between Söylemez, Eskihan, and Karınca neighborhoods represent important biodiversity areas (FAO-Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2019).

Residents of the neighborhood engage in *Thymbra* spp. ("zahter") collection for consumption as herbal tea.

Zinnare Zıçey ruins, Zinnare Zıçey temple area and Zinnare Zer mevkii ruins are located approximately 15 km to the east of Söylemez neighborhood. Research carried out in Zinnare Zıçey Ruins led to the discovery of ceramics dated from the Chalcolithic Age, Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, and Islamic Period as well as a lion-shaped tombstone dated from the Islamic Period. The area containing the ruins was determined to have been populated since the Chalcolithic Age, that is to say during the Iron Age, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, and Islamic Period. Works carried out in the Zinnare Zıçey Temple located to the south of the ruins led

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) are observed along the steppes around the neighborhood.

Zinnare Zıçey ruins



to the finding of ceramics from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, and Islamic Period. A stela piece from the Moon God was also found in this area. Ceramics from the Iron Age, Roman Period, Byzantine Period, and Islamic Period were also found during the surveys carried out in the Zinnare Zer Mevkii Ruins. All of these ruins are currently in poor condition owing to illegal excavations. There is also a historical fountain in the neighborhood, which is believed to be thousands of years old, with running water that is warm in winter and cold in summer (FAO-MAF, 2019).

# Taşhan neighborhood



*A neighborhood with a primary and secondary school*

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Taşhan neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 38 km from the district center.

According to TUIK (2019) data, a total of 514 people, specifically 253 men and 261 women, live in the neighborhood. Residents meet their needs from the neighborhood grocery or from the district center that is accessible

by public transportation. There are no accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. During the 2019-2020 academic years, 74 students attended the Taşhan primary school and 81 students attended the Taşhan secondary school in the neighborhood.

Former name of the neighborhood	Daşa, Daşan
Population	514
Distance to the nearest city/district center	38 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 760746, Longitude: 39 677634
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Hikmet Beyaztoprak

Main income generation activities are agriculture and animal husbandry. The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat,

and lentil. There are about 600 head of cattle and over 1 000 head of sheep and goat in the neighborhood (TUIK, 2018) and the livestock graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood. Landless residents travel to other provinces to work as seasonal agricultural workers.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and birds of prey are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.

Local people harvest meadow and pasture plants such as clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) for use as animal feed.



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# Yeniceli neighborhood



*The neighborhood where birds of prey stop by*

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Yeniceli neighborhood, which is administratively affiliated to the Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, is approximately 39 km from the district center.

The population of the neighborhood is 472, of whom 230 are men and 242 are women (TUIK, 2019). There are neither health centers nor schools,

groceries or accommodation facilities in the neighborhood. Students go to schools in nearby neighborhoods by means of subsidized transportation for education.

Former name of the neighborhood	Gayınterk, Kantara
Population	472
Distance to the nearest city/district center	39 km to Siverek district center
Coordinates	Latitude: 37 637891, Longitude: 39 651228
Accessibility by public transportation	Yes
Muhtar (Headman)	Celal Göymen

Main income generation activities are agriculture and animal husbandry. Nearly 1 200 head of livestock, most of which are sheep and goats, graze on the rangelands of the neighborhood.

The most commonly cultivated crops are barley, wheat, lentil and chickpea. TLandless residents travel to western provinces to work as seasonal workers.

Species such as red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), southern white-breasted hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) and birds of prey are observed in the steppes around the neighborhood.



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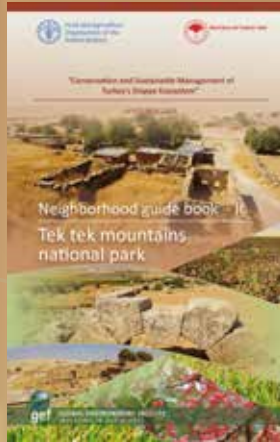
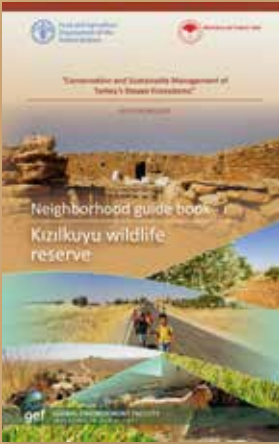


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