

Including Local Communities in Biodiversity Offset Planning in Turkiye



Meliha Beyza Kozak

Sustainability Services Division Lead / WSP Turkiye

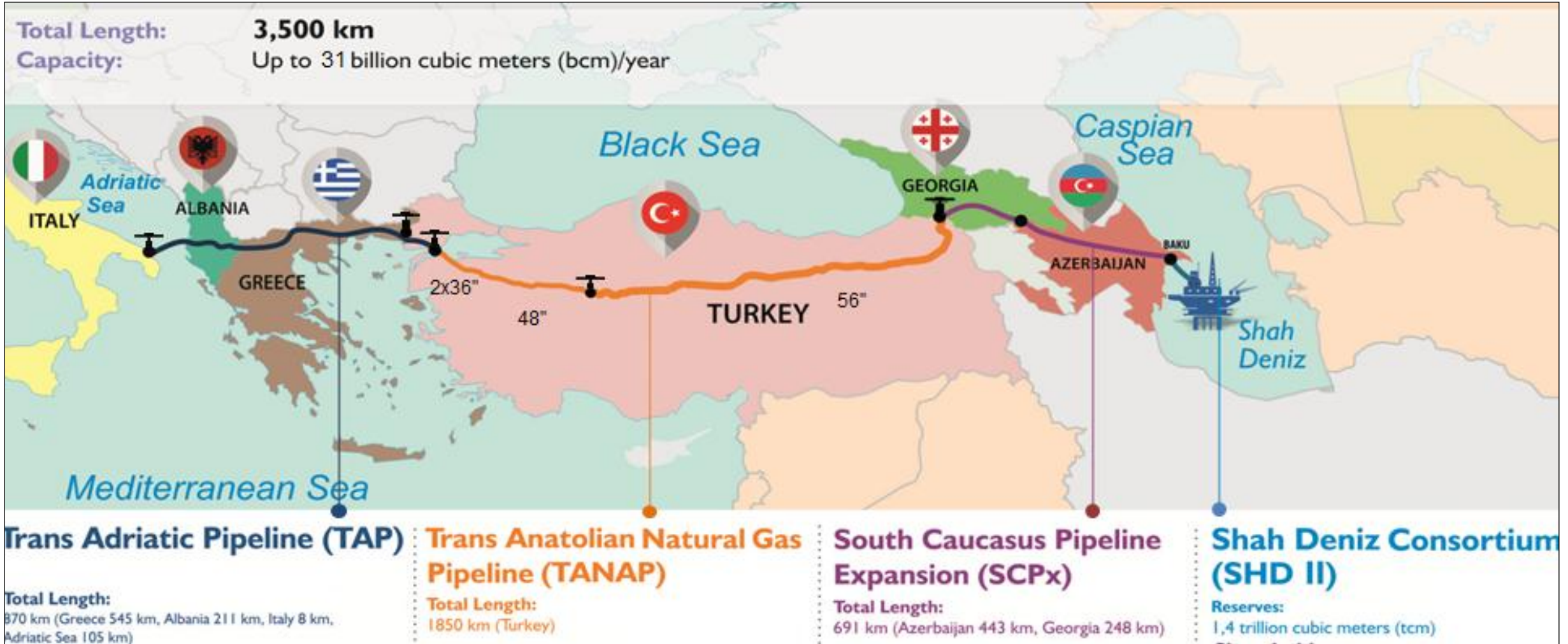
Turkiye

www.linkedin.com/in/mbeyzaykozak

Wsp.com



The Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) & TANAP



Total length in Turkey: 1811.7 km – longest part of SGC
 Across 20 provinces in Turkiye

Biodiversity Offset Program



Goal: No Net Loss / Net Gain (IFC PS6 / EBRD PR6)

Türkiye's First landscape-scale offset in Türkiye Steppe & forest ecosystems (7 provinces)

Led by WSP with NGO partners (DKM – Nature Protection Centre, Anadolu Meraları – Anatolian Pastures)

Integrated rangeland & forest management

Affects local communities (shepherds, villagers)

Requires behavior change (grazing restrictions)

Requires strong collaboration (local communities and regulators)

BOMP completed in 2020. Implementation and Monitoring ongoing since 2021.

Biodiversity Offset Projects

Resilient Steppe Offset Sites:

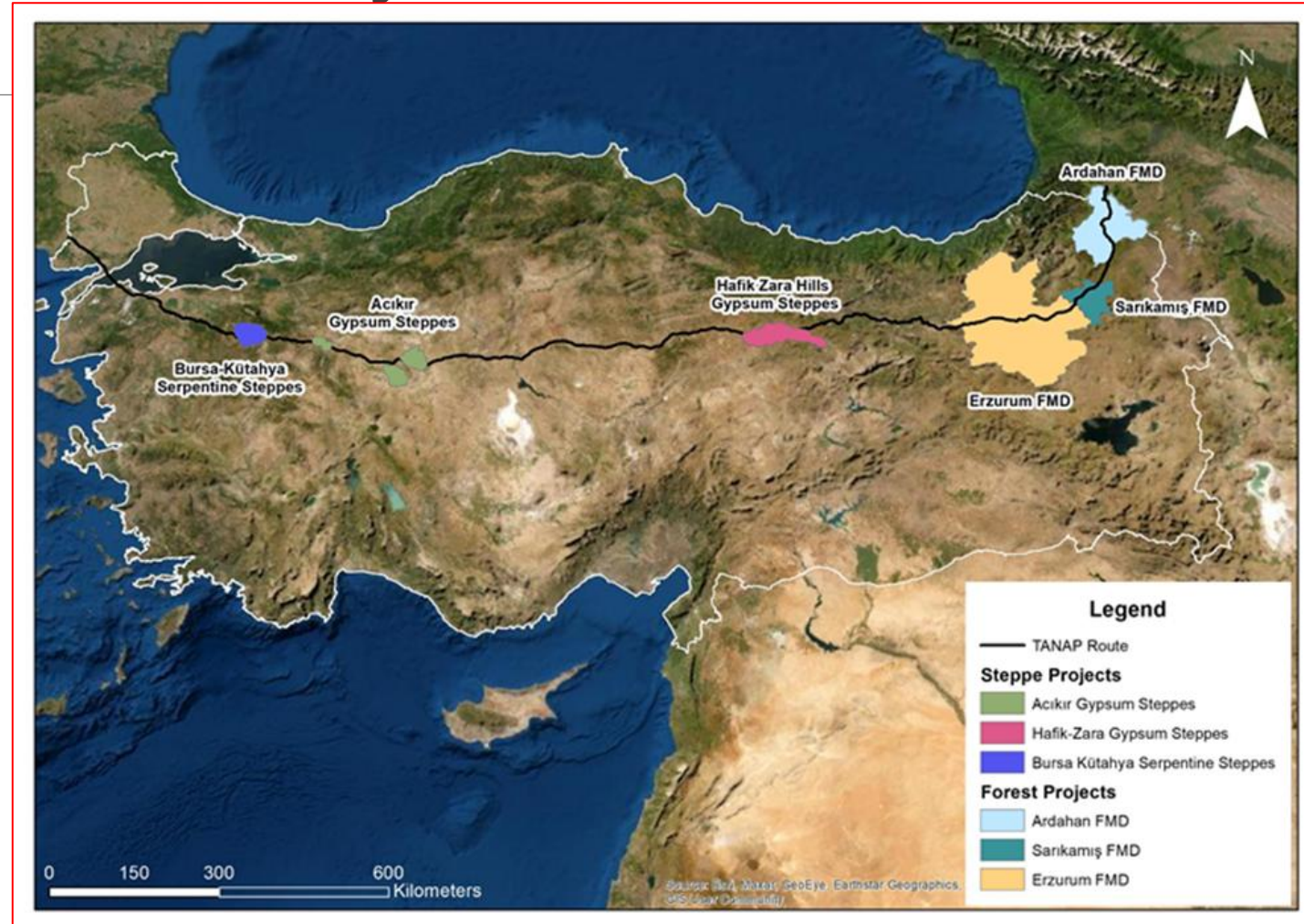
- Bursa-Kütahya Serpentine Steppes
- Acikır Gypsum Steppes
- Hafik-Zara Hills Gypsum Steppes

«Increase the resilience of the socio-ecological system for steppes within the changing social, ecological, economic and climatic conditions»

Forest Biodiversity Conservation Offset Sites:

- Erzurum Forest Management Directorate
- Sarıkamış Forest Management Directorate
- Ardahan Forest Management Directorate

«Enhance sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation in three Forest Management Directorates within the Erzurum Regional Directorate of Forestry»



Deliberative Approach

BOMP DESIGN

From consultation → co-design

Multi-stakeholder workshops:

- NGOs
- Ministries
- Local authorities

Site-level engagement:

Villagers, shepherds, land users

Iterative dialogue:

Surveys → workshops → field validation



SITE SPECIFIC OFFSET PLANS

Participatory land planning and participatory grazing planning in each village

Working closely with local branches of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Adaptive management of grazing plan implementations

Local meetings, trainings and workshops

Supporting local communities:

- Water throughs and piping
- Solar panels for water pumping
- Trailers as shepherd shelters
- Fencing systems as overnight herd shelters
- Portable electric fencing systems for temporary paddock division



Challenge: *Resistance to changing traditional grazing practices*

CONCERNS

Restrictions = perceived loss of livelihood

Low initial trust in “offset” concept



RESULT:

Strong local ownership

Community satisfaction: 4.18 / 5

SOLUTION:

“DESIGNING AND ACTING TOGETHER: ACTIVE PARTICIPATION INCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRAZING PLANS.”

Onsite local staff

Early and continuous dialogue

Training, capacity development

Transparent trade-offs (access vs benefits): Investment

Co-development of:

Grazing rules

Restoration priorities

Continuous engagement & training



Key Take aways

Behaviour change needs building trust and takes time

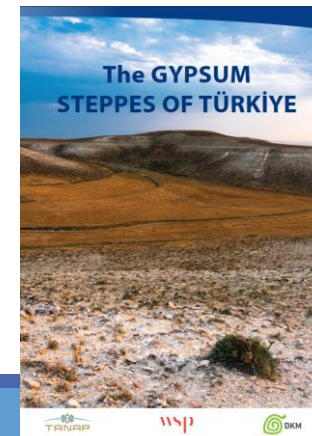
Essential elements:

- Participatory engagement
- Local presence

Deliberation is not just engagement → it impacts the design itself

Local knowledge = critical for implementation feasibility

Time + flexibility + continuous engagement are part of the solution





IAIA26
QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA

Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

Meliha Beyza Kozak

Sustainability Services Division Lead / WSP Turkiye

Turkiye

www.linkedin.com/in/mbeyzaykozak

#iaia26

Wsp.com