

CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE HARVEST AND USES OF WILD PLANTS IN KILIS (TURKEY)



Plant diversity of Turkey

Turkey has 12.500 different plant taxa

4.000 taxa of this diversity is endemic
to Turkey (about 1/3)

Wild useful plants around Kilis district

- Thyme (Zahter)
- Sumach
- Teucrium
- Terebinth
- Orchids
- Hawthorn
- Rosehip
- Tribulus
- Other wild vegetables, ornamentals etc.



Threats for wild plants

- Invasive and parasitic plants
- Unsuitable harvest techniques
- Excessive collection
- Timeless and excessive grazing
- Plants collection for scientific purposes
- Field opens
- Forest fires, disasters, drought etc.

Invasive - parasitic wild plants



Some quick-spreading plant species do not let other plants grow around them, and they are called as invasive plants. Removing these species from the field is important for our economic plants life and productivity.



These kind of plants are commonly known as parasitic and useless. But, some of them such as mistletoe, dodder etc. have great importance especially in medicinal purposes. So, we need to protect them in their habitat.

Unsuitable harvest techniques

In the nature, all the living things have special life habits. When properly collected and used, plants in natural environment can re-new themselves annually and consequently, serve for other living organisms.

However, when these plants are exposed to a damage during their flowering stage, they cannot sustain their life span for the following year.



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Excessive gathering



Excessive gathering for some purposes will lead to plant death or decrease the yield for the following years. For the conservation of wild plants, the plants must be collected in proper quantities, and should not be damaged their reproductive organs.



Let the plants to reproduce themselves in their nature by their reproductive organs like bulb, tubers etc.

Timeless - overgrazing

Grazing in the early spring when the plants start to grow, and late fall when the plants prepare themselves to hard winter conditions is the biggest threat for wild plants to survive.

Furthermore, frequency of the grazing is also the major problem for plants to survive.



Field opens



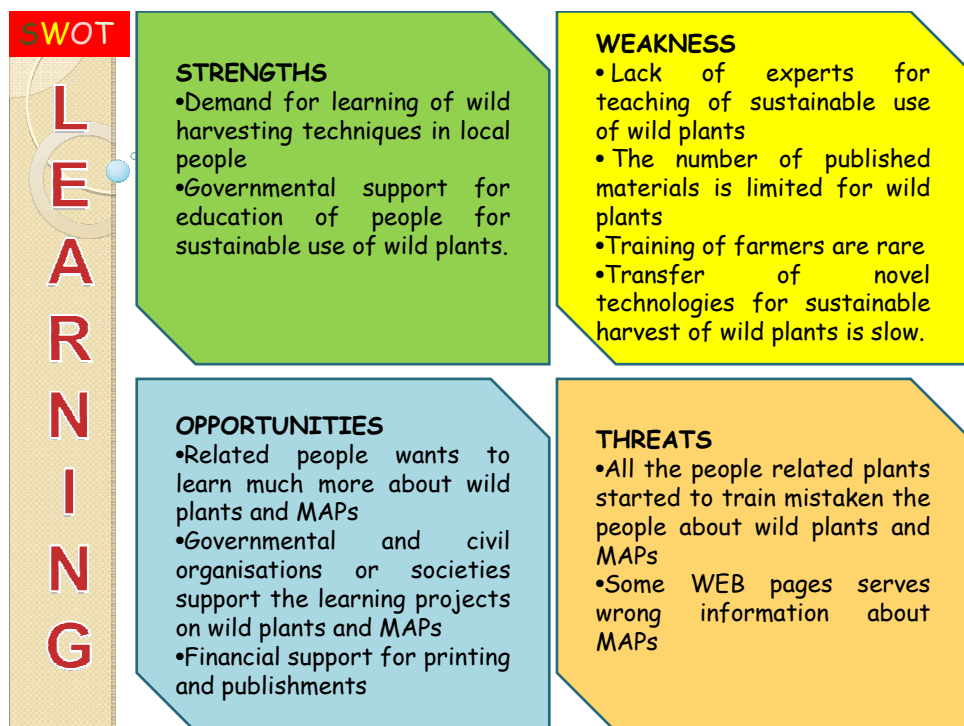
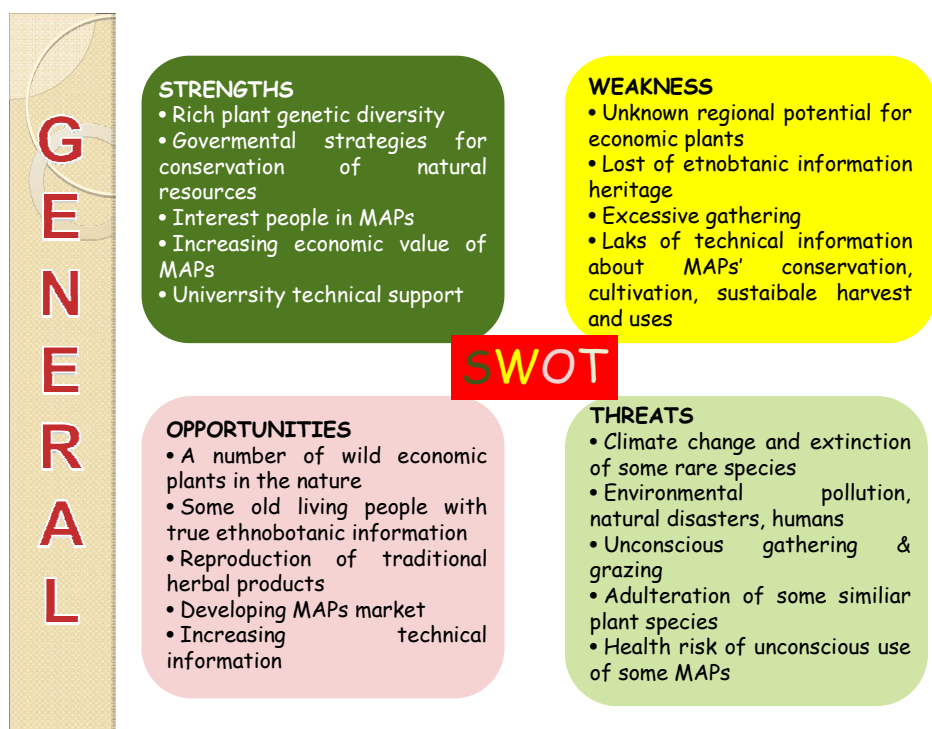
To destroy the pasture, shrubs and forest for new residence and cultivation fields cause to extinction of rare plant species.

After destroying the pasture and forest, we can temporarily gain some fertile soils. These fields will not continue the same fertile levels, and lost their quality.

Forest fires, disasters, drought etc.



Grundtvig Plant Wild - MAPs wild harvesting training State of Art - Turkey



The aim of the project

The main objective of the project is to "conservation of wild plants in their original places and learning novel sustainable harvest techniques of them".

Under this project all the participant countries will make some research for conservation and sustainable harvest of their own wild plant species that have especially economic value. Furthermore, they collect some ethnobotanic information, give the courses related inhabitants and share them with other partners.

Expected outcomes of the project

The outcomes of the project can be summarized as:

1. To determine conservation strategies of the wild plants
2. To determine regional wild plant sources and their potentials
3. Learn traditional harvesting techniques for wild plants
4. To teach some novel and sustainable harvest techniques to selected learners
5. To investigate marketing opportunities not only raw plant materials but also processed plant products

To determine conservation strategies of the wild plants

Most of the plants have been collected from the nature for a number of purposes such as food, traditional medicine, herbal tea, natural dyes, ornamentals, construction materials, decorative etc. Limited plant species have been cultivated in some purposes compared to our plant diversity. Thus, determining conservation strategies of wild plants are vital for the next generations.



Determining regional wild useful plants and their potential

To determine useful economic plants and serve to rural people use is important.

Conservation, sustainable harvest and in-situ cultivation is also useful for the regional development.

Besides their local uses, production of traditional products will be useful for rural development as well.





Cultivation of wild plants

Domestication and cultivation of wild plants are difficult in the first stage. They need special care and technical background. Whether if they are used for medicinal purposes, special growing techniques must be applied for higher secondary metabolite yield and compositions.



Sustainable harvest & processing of the plants is important for:

1. Conservation of the environment
2. Conservation of natural resources
3. High quality with desired level
4. Cooperation of the farmers
5. Sharing the information
6. Determining the marketing opportunities with sustainable production



Thank you