

Report on the HBS Future Workshop on Resources in Turkey

Hasankeyf (Turkey), 6.-10. October 2012

By Ralph Griese



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Organisational arrangement: Banu Yayla (HBS Istanbul)

Schedule

Saturday, 6th of October 2012

- Field excursion to the Ilisu dam construction site and Mor Gabriel Monastery

Sunday, 7th of October 2012

- 9:00-17:30: Problem Phase

Monday, 8th of October 2012

- 9:00-17:30: Vision Phase

Tuesday, 9th of October 2012

- 9:00-17:00: Realization Phase

Monday, 8th of October 2012

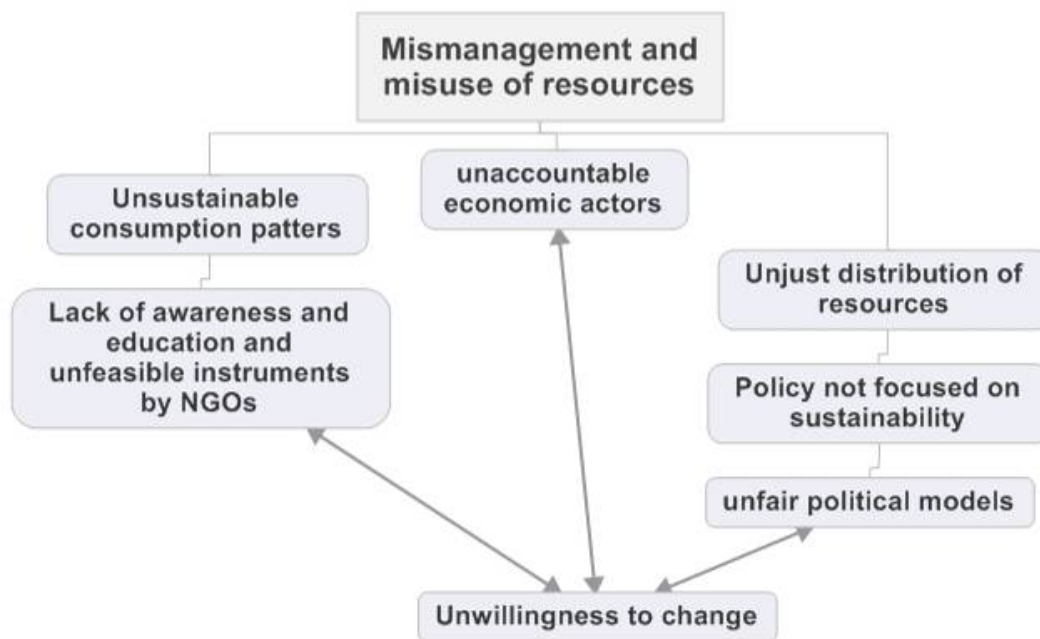
Get together

The workshop started with the participants presenting themselves and stating their main expectations from the workshop. The main expectations of the participants can broadly be classified as follows:

- Exchange experiences and ideas with others and discuss different approaches
- Learn about resources in other countries
- Networking
- Learn about a new methodology

Problem Phase

After identifying the individual topics that are annoying the participants most in regard to the global resource topic the following problem chart has been discussed summarizing the mentioned issues:



After the following group discussions this resource related topics have been identified as the most important challenges:

- Water
- Land & soil
- Energy (including nuclear power, oil and gas)
- Waste.

In the next exercise four groups developed a mind map on one topic each in order to further carve out the reasons for the situations, the hindrances and actors in order to get a clear picture of the problems related to the chosen resource topic.

In the scoring at the end of the day the following aspects have been rated high due to their importance for the region:

- Absence of using local resources for production for local needs (energy)
- People/ consumption patterns (land & soil)
- Global Economy and trade (land & soil)
- Lack of coordination between government and civil society (waste).

Due to the rating these four topics should have been chosen for the next phase. Nevertheless two participants of the water group protested as such an important topic for the region should not disappear (the water issues were rated not or very low). After some discussion where some participants pointed out that the small working group should have better prepared and presented the topic, it was decided to continue with the water topic but to delete the *global economy and trade* issue.

Tuesday, 9th of October 2012

Utopian phase

The working groups were divided into; water; Absence of using local resources for production for local needs (energy), people and consumption patterns (land & soil) and lack of coordination between government and civil society (waste).

The main discussion points in this phase were:

- Energy: which are suitable forms of renewable energy for the region?
- Land & soil: how to increase awareness? How to mobilize people to change consumption patterns? How to change the political framework?
- Waste: how to make it possible that governments, civil society and private sector work together?
- Water: how to convince masses and decision makers not to build dams and how to empower people?

In a next step the four working groups were discussing how the developed visions could have been achieved from a future perspective. It should be pointed out that three out of four groups set a disaster as a starting point (cancer epidemic due to GMO, natural disasters causing food insecurity and war).

The presented results of the groups have been clustered at the end of the workshop day to the following five main categories showing the main areas of intervention:

- Political system
- Economical system
- Education
- Rural areas/ agriculture/ food
- Urbanization.

Wednesday, 10th of October 2012

Implementation phase

After choosing and further developing the most appropriate approaches for the region four concrete action and working plans were developed and presented.

The topics the groups were evaluating as most appropriate were:

- Need-based, impact-aware consumption, aiming to empower consumers by labeling and awareness.
- Change of the educational system, aiming to spread environmental awareness to all segments of society through students from schools and universities.
- Education to learn how to be self-sustainable, aiming to promote education for sustainable living.
- A sustainable development strictly endorsed in policy making, aiming to reform the decision making processes, to create national training programs for political decision makers and to raise environmental awareness.