

8th August 2007
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Mr.Koichiro Matsuura
Director General
UNESCO-United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

Dear Mr. Matsuura,

Please be advised that as a Turkish Cypriot Sustainable Environment Platform, protecting, conserving and presenting the cultural and natural values of northern Cyprus is one of our main responsibilities. We know that this heritage is for all the nations of the world. Under difficult situation, we, the Turkish Cypriot Sustainable Environment Platform is trying to do the best with limited resources. We know that it is not enough.

It is a great pleasure for us to live together with this valuable national and cultural heritage open it to the all nations of the world and transmit it to the future generations. In spite of our efforts, without international financial and technical assistance, it is becoming almost impossible to allocate our limited resources to this area.

Until now we managed to contain National Park in Karpaz from construction boom that we are experiencing in northern Cyprus since the Annan Plan discussions. This is one of the important areas in the world and we and international experts believe that this area will become internationally accepted National Park that will be visited millions in the future. However, recently we are experiencing pressure from some of the investors that would like to build big tourism establishments in the National Park area. Responding this demand the Turkish Cypriot authorities tendered a project and signed contract with the company to bring electricity with utility poles to Karpaz National Park (the area from village of Dipkarpaz to the Cape St. Andreas) without any kind of planning. We have concern that this electricity project will open the way to illegal concrete buildings in the region. Currently we have about 6 illegal establishments in the region that are operating. The EU Task Office in north Cyprus is trying to do some studies with 259 million Euro. They will also do the managerial plan for National Park. However, they do not have any leverage to stop this electricity project until this study finishes.

We know that the UNESCO already knows how important our cultural and national heritage in Karpaz, so I would not give long list of our values in Karpaz. We, the Platform of environmental NGO with 40.000 supporters tried to do some actions and we are still doing some actions. However, we did not receive any response from the TC authorities.

At this stage, we need support from international community. The electricity project has to stop until proper planning is finalized. We believe that if plans require having electricity with poles in that region nobody will object this. So, we would kindly ask you to advise Turkey that is an important authority in northern Cyprus to discuss this issue with Turkish Cypriot authorities. Our urgent request is to have internationally accepted proper planning for this area before having the electricity. We believe that you could use your contacts related with the national and cultural heritages in Turkey to contribute our case. We also believe this will contribute us as well as all citizens of the world to protect and have internationally accepted National Park at Karpaz.

Waiting your immediate response

Best regards,

Doğan Sahir
President
Green Peace Action
On behalf of Sustainable Environment Platform

Members of the Sustainable Environment Platform