

**COMMENT OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT ON THE FOURTH
SITE VISIT REPORT OF THE COE-CH**

July 1, 2009

On Page A of the report it is being mentioned that the baseline data for the Phase 1 area is nearly completed. However, detailed ethnographic surveys had been completed and a detailed, comprehensive report on the ethnographic study carried out in the Phase 1 area was submitted on June 11, 2009 to CoE-CH and all relevant parties, under the title of “Ethnographical Study for the Phase 1 Villages”. This 141-pages long report, devoted solely to the detailed ethnographical studies carried out in the Phase 1 villages completes the required baseline information for Phase 1 villages. Entire report, regardless of need to give a specific page number, is solely devoted to the required subject. So, the collection of baseline data for the Phase 1 villages is not ‘nearly completed’, but ‘completed’ in fashion.

On page B and F of the report it is being mentioned that vernacular architecture surveys are missing. As is now known by all parties, the vernacular architecture studies have been carried out as a part of the ethnographical studies by the experts and scholars of the subject, and successfully reported and listed in typological point of view, in both the latest version of “Cultural Heritage Action Plan”, “Ethnographic Evaluation Report”, as well as the “Ethnographical Study for the Phase 1 Villages” reports. The most typical single storey houses with “I” or “L” shape, and rarely seen duplex houses are recorded, as can be seen on pages 6, 32, 50, 71, 89, and 119 of the “Ethnographical Study for the Phase I Villages”, and on pages 200, 201, 206, 210, 212, 229, and 236 of the “Ethnographic Evaluation Report”. The typical house typologies, plans, and materials were all recorded respectively and clearly show the results of a completed survey, regarding the vernacular architecture of the region.

There is a constant mentioning in the Report that the feasibility works of Hasankeyf has to be accomplished, before the start of all construction works. The studies regarding the cultural heritage preservation issues have been and are being conducted in a highly scientific manner, which will be embraced by entire world community at the end, with its highly convincing, scholarly results. So, the statement made on pages 34 and 36 does not necessarily reflect the real situation, since the widely acknowledged scholars are currently running purely scientific works on the monuments. The results and reports, regarding the cultural heritage aspects of Hasankeyf, will be published in winter 2009/10. The time interval from now to the first

quarter of 2010 corresponds to a period when no single construction will affect Hasankeyf so far, even if they start just today. PIU-CH has planned all its works, alongside to the construction plans of the consortium, and all the necessary cultural heritage actions are planned to be finalized before the arrival of construction phase to the indicated areas. This plan has not changed, and repeatedly discussed with the members of CoE-CH in various occasions, and no objections were made so far. We are having a major difficulty to understand, why the works on the entire reservoir area (all three phases) are expected to be finished before the start of the construction works, which will only affect the construction site and Phase 1 villages for the year 2009, not Hasankeyf or any other Phase 2 or 3 settlements. Plans for the entire monumental architecture restoration, conservation, and relocation feasibility studies about Hasankeyf; including the geo-stability studies, were also given in the report, entitled “Technical Feasibility Study on Conservation and/or Relocation Issues in Hasankeyf” which was distributed on June 11, 2009.

Another repeated statement in the Report is about the completion of C-1, C-2 and C-12A before the start of the construction activities. It has to be said that all necessary surveys and immediate actions (e.g. salvage excavations) needed to be carried out in the Phase 1 area, are all completed by now. In case of commencement of construction only the Phase 1 area would be affected from the construction activities in year 2009, as mentioned above, the TOR related studies regarding the cultural heritage issues in this area, were already carried out. The construction activities will be run on the construction site and some parts of the Phase 1 area. Thus, the entire archaeological, architectural, and ethnographical studies in this area have been finalized and delivered; as can be seen on the “Cultural Heritage Action Plan” (along with its annexes), that was published on April 14, 2009 for the archaeological and architectural (both historical and vernacular architecture) records; and on the “Ethnographic Evaluation Report” of May 4, 2009, and the “Ethnographical Study for the Phase 1 Villages” of the date June 11, 2009 for the ethnography.

The plans regarding the further studies on cultural heritage aspects for the entire reservoir area were given either during the field visit or with the presentations made during the workshops between May 17-24, 2009, and also on the related reports for each activity. As is easily seen and already mentioned in the Report, the on-going feasibilities and reporting actions will be completed by the winter 2009/10 for the other two phases of the construction plans. The construction activities that would be carried out in 2009, with the lifting of the suspension, are

limited to the Phase 1 area, where all requirements regarding cultural heritage issues are already met.

Similarly the Park Concepts and Tourism Feasibility for Hasankeyf, under the ToR C-12A (pages C, F, I of the Report) are not to be considered in the scope of Phase 1 area. The studies on the park concepts are at initial phase, whereas the tourism feasibility studies (with the “Conceptual Analysis and Tourism Development” report on April 30, 2009; and the latest “Description of Possible Negative Influences in Tourism Sector in Hasankeyf” report on June 11, 2009) are finalized. Cultural Park and Museum concept and the Archaeological Park and Open-Air Museum concepts are, again the projects about Hasankeyf, and will all be finalized much earlier than the arrival of construction activities to Hasankeyf (pages 35, 36). The international participation of universities and scholars, and an international congress regarding the subject, as offered by CoE-CH, will be taken into consideration, and would be realized as discussed in the workshops held in May 2009 (pages 21, 35). Such an effort will meet the missing point that was mentioned for C-3 (pages E, 20, 21).

The logistic support and administrative handling of excavations and documentations will be handled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, according to the Turkish laws and regulations (page 21). All relevant information and announcements regarding the excavations will constantly be announced publicly on a web-site, as mentioned in pages 2, and 52 of the “Cultural Heritage Action Plan” (page 21). It should be stated here that (as was mentioned in the workshops held in May 2009) PIU is preparing its reports and presenting them as a team, and there is no obstacle or different thoughts within, and all presented documents and/or presentations are accepted by all parties, including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (page 33).

The methodology of consulting the PAPs about the cultural assets is given in details, in the report “Consultation of the Project Affected People in Hasankeyf”, of June 11, 2009. This methodology is prepared for Hasankeyf as indicated, but the methodology is not to be accepted as a system solely for Hasankeyf. The methodology will be used and applied for the entire reservoir area, where the examples of monumental architecture do exist (pages F, 27).

The criticized system of exchanging official reports and documents between the ECAs and PIU (page 13) is actually clarified with the report “Communication Strategy”, published on December 6, 2008; and the initiation of the Ilisu Dam and HEPP Web-Portal, which is online at <http://www.ilisubaraji.com>. Further improvements were also made with regard to exchange of technical documents, but further recommendation to improve the communication will be taken into account as they are raised.

The repeatedly mentioned problems about the budget proposals have been already answered in the report of Martin ter Woort, the financial analyst expert of the project, in June 2009. The estimated budget and costs will be finalized, with the accomplishment of feasibility studies. However, this will not affect the current and short-term situation of construction activities by no means (pages 19, 20, 33).

The reports that had been sent on June 11, 2009 included all necessary information for the updating of the Cultural Heritage Action Plan (CHAP) meeting the requirements of the CoE-CH mentioned during the workshops held in May 2009. The CHAP, as mentioned in the Report, is a living document which needs updating as necessary in the course of the studies and all necessary revisions would be made accordingly. This was also agreed during the workshops held in May 2009.

In conclusion PIU-CH believes that there was an achievement on the FAM related “Terms of References” and the schedules for the remaining activities were presented which acknowledged by the CoE-CH during the workshop. It is also our understanding that, at least but not the all, Prof. Erkanal mentioned in his e-mail dated July 4, 2009 that, *“At the end of the site visit, I would say that the progress achieved on all sub-items of CH activities was remarkable.... andThese activities (some missing points) can be carried out within the context of ongoing studies parallel to the construction works”*. It is clearly understood from this message that the CoE-CH evaluation report was not prepared by the participation of all CoE-CH members and from this perspective could not reflect the opinions of all the members. In case this is the reality, CoE-CH report is not accepted (as the mutually agreed) evaluation report by the PIU.