



The necessity of establishing the movement was discussed at the ecological movements assembly within the 'Ecology Forum', a thematic forum organized by the Mesopotamian Social Forum. After a consensus was reached, a joint decision was made to further deepen the existing efforts.

PRINCIPLES

- The Mesopotamian Ecology Movement is against hierarchy and domination. It is a movement open to multilingual, multicultural solidarity and dialogue.
- It is against the historical pressure between the genders. It fights against the reproduction of social roles between the genders. It aims to be the supporter and advocate of the women's struggle.

From the Mezopotamian social Forum...



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- It acknowledges that representative democracy is insufficient in the regulation of the living spaces of the urbanised society. It advocates the establishment of assemblies for local self-government and the application of the principles of direct democracy in these assemblies.

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- It encourages the establishment of eco-villages where direct democracy is practiced, living in harmony with nature, producing energy from renewable sources, and three generations living together. It supports the transformation of existing villages into ecologically compatible ones.

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- The Mesopotamian Ecology Movement is against Capitalist Modernity's use of soil, water and air without consideration, destroying it for more profit; therefore, it is the defender of the right to life of all living things.

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- The earth is a whole, it cannot be divided or limited by sovereign powers. As a geographical formation, the Mesopotamian Ecology Movement adopts a common and pluralistic struggle with all creatures on Earth against the ecological destruction experienced in the region.
 - The Mesopotamian Ecology Movement is working for a world without war.

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- While these are our main principles, while the assembly structure is established in all cities in terms of operation, it took part in the work of all institutions and organizations carried out in an ecological context in Turkey, the Middle East and all over the world.
 - In addition, by establishing various platforms among the locals, it met all the layers of society inside them.



ORGANISATIONS THAT WE TOOK PART IN CREATING

- Turkisk ecologic union
- Ecology-Politic conference in Turkey
- Turkish dig-drop coordination
- Hasankeyf coordination
- Hasankeyf Survival Initiative
- Hewsel Protection Platform
- Munzur Protection Platform



Various activities

Van'da "Ekolojik Sanat"



Van ecology assembly "ecologic art" work



Hewsel Garden vigil 2014



**Protest against dam in Dargeçit
2015**



Creation of Urfa's ecology assembly
2015



**Creation of Batman's ecology assembly
2015**



**Protest against dam in Dersim
2015**



Our 1st conference held in Van in 2016 started with the Vandana Shiva greeting.



Our Van assembly established a 'Healing Garden' by collecting the seeds of endemic plants.

2016



From the press conference against the transport of historical artifacts in Hasankeyf



**Creation of Antep's ecology assembly
2016**



In order for the rivers to flow freely, events are held in many parts of the world on the second Sunday of July every year under the name of “The Big Jump”.



An Exchange event was organized by Amed Ecological council in 2016



A city garden was established by the Amed Ecology assembly.

2016



**Press conference against forest burning in Cudi
2020**

Orman Yangınlarıyla İlgili Heyet Oluşturma Çağrısı

*Duyarlı tüm ekolojistleri ve kuruluşları son zamanlarda
yaygınlaşan orman yangınlarını yerinde araştırmak için
oluşacak bir heyet çerçevesinde bölgemize gelmeye
davet ediyoruz!*

Mezopotamya Ekoloji Hareketi

**Call to extinguish forest fires in Lice
2016**



The poster features a blue background with a stylized cityscape and a central circular logo. The logo contains the text 'iklim için BEN DE VARIM!' and the website 'www.iklimcin.org'. To the right of the logo, there are three yellow horizontal bars with icons: a calendar icon for the date, a location pin icon for the venue, and a clock icon for the time.

iklim forumu oturumları

iklim için BEN DE VARIM!
www.iklimcin.org

13 Kasım Cuma

GKM Salon 3

16:30-18:00

Düzenleyen	Hasankeyf'i Yaşatma Girişimi, Mezopotamya Ekoloji Hareketi
Oturum Adı	Ekolojik Çöküş: Orman Yangınları ve Ilısu Barajı

Climate Forum sessions held / 2015



Visit with groups from Turkey during forest fires in Dersim



Ecology and women panel in 2022



Agriculture and food crisis panel 2022



**Work in our sapling field
2022**



**Work in our field
2022**

16/04/2022



From film event in 2022

Major activities we carried out :

- Environment-Health workshop was held in Antep in 2015.
- Water workshop was held in Wan in 2015.
- In 2015, an Ecological City workshop was held in Wan.
- Communal Economy workshop was held in Batman in 2015.
- In 2016, a Natural Agriculture workshop was held in Mardin.
- Energy workshop was held in Halfeti in 2016.

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- In 2016, Amed Eco-Technology workshop was held.
 - In 2016, "ecology law workshop" was held in Amed.
 - In 2016 Forest workshop was held in Dersim.
 - In 2018, the Water Forum was held in Sulaymaniyah.
 - In 2019, Agricultural Symposium was held.
 - In 2019, the Local Governments Workshop was held and the guiding document was announced.
 - In 2020 we were invited as an organizer and invited guests in the international arena at the Water Workshop held in Rojava.

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- Before and during the pandemic process, despite conflict and pressure in the cities, although there were some deficiencies in organization and activism, we achieved studies and reports in partnership with social media, law org. and various structures.
 - During the pandemic, in addition to internal trainings, online meetings and workshops with various institutions, petitions, hashtag campaigns, applications were made on legal grounds.
 - In the same period, the works in our agricultural and sapling fields continued with the same system.

16/04/2022

Here are some photos from agricultural and sapling fields



16/04/2022



16/04/2022



16/04/2022





Problems encountered since the establishment of the movement

- First of all, due to the imperialist siege and conflicts in the Middle East, especially in Kurdistan, we immediately face criminalization and “terrorism charges” for all the work carried out and our actions.

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- As the Mesopotamian Ecology Movement, we are not the only ones exposed to this situation, but every institution/person that carries out civil society activities in local areas is at risk.
 - For example, the young people with whom we set up tents together against the Ilusu dam in Hasankeyf are on trial for "*membership in a terrorist organization*" and some of our young friends have been sentenced for decades just because of this.

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- Although the activities we carried out as delegates in the area of ecology in the Democratic Society Congress were completely nature-oriented and openly carried out activities, 6 of our friends were punished within the scope of "*membership in a terrorist organization*", while some of our friends were dismissed from their work.

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- While legal problems have been ongoing, the EIA (environmental impact assessment) processes are not announced to the public in nature plundering projects. For example for HEPP (hydro electrical powerplant) and WPP (wind power plant) to be carried out in an area, neither the public nor us have the ability to talk with those responsible for the projects or to access information about them.
 - From Hewsel gardens to Hasankeyf, walks or press releases are not allowed in places where there are various nature plunders, and areas can be closed for various security reasons.

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- It is not possible to enter the areas after forest burning and tree cutting, the security forces say that entering the area is too dangerous.
 - And in cases such as panels, seminars, conferences that we are organising, security forces come to the place where the meetings are held and create a situation of harassment.

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- While these are the problems we face, we believe that the 21st century will be the struggle of ecology and women, which will save the planet, change it and completely revolutionize it.
 - If we look at the struggles against the system, we can see the struggle for ecology started on the basis of opposition to nuclear energy. Then in the 60s and 70s with creation of more right/left contradictions were socialist and anarchist-oriented struggles. The ecology struggle was overshadowed. Today's ecological struggle is at the crossroad of crises. The ecology struggle is positioned against the hegemonic system.
 - The ecological crisis is created by the system and the struggle against it will accelerate the overcoming of this system.

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- Today, while the Ecology Struggle is a transformative force in being anti-system, it can still be united with the women's struggle, whose paths have crossed.
 - A struggle based on social ecology should create radical change and construction. For this reason, we believe that social construction is our duty, as well as defending the society and the universe.

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- We have to lay the foundations of social construction well. From this point of view, the "system" needs to be defined first.
 - We accept the definition of Capitalist Modernity, which outlines the power that destroys the universe and humanity beyond the definition of capitalism based only on the exploitation of labor; it goes beyond it. We think the problem is deeper than the current mode of labour exploitation.

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- We need to have a holistic view of the theory of hierarchy and domination that Capitalist Modernity outlines, which means the exploitation of nature and women is central.

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- Capitalist Modernity should be questioned and systemic criticism can be started from here.
 - While the problem is a system, it's working in coordination with the ideology of industrialism, positivist science, nation-state logic, gender-based oppression, and then an exploitation of labor.
 - Capitalist Modernity creates a systemic crisis every time it gets stuck, causing it to change it's mask.

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- o Capitalist Modernity changed its outward strategy, adding neoliberal and imperialist policies, polarizing the world, starting wars and expanding its influence; drought, floods, earthquakes, food crises, outbreaks such as Covid-19 and creating Ecological Destruction.

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- We can clearly identify the problem and the solution.
 - While the basis of our anti-capitalist Struggle for Ecology is based on social ecology, it aims to build ecological society together with the Democratic Ecological Women's Liberation paradigm.
 - Instead of the destruction that is caused by Capitalist Modernity, we will build a world that will be completely changed with social construction and the structure of Democratic Modernity.

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- o We are also working on various alternative socialized models from Rojava and from different parts of the world. We are doing academia and institute work for the first stage. We are working with a common ideology both in the field and ideology of Democratic Modernity in Rojava.

Our Activities in This Context

- o First of all, we proposed opinions on the constitutional studies based on the paradigm in Rojava. We take an example from the Social Contract

Article 89 : "This convention defends the rights of nature with the help of citizens and considers the protection of nature as a moral, national and virtuous duty"

Ecology Gardens

- o As a movement, in 2016, the International Ministry of Food and Rojava Water and Agriculture built school gardens in Kobanê for children to learn about biodiversity in the region and how to deal with it. In these gardens fruit trees, fig trees and pomegranate trees are grown instead of growing corn and wheat.



And cooperatives

- o Stating that the problem is the capitalist economy, we have supported the people in Rojava in terms of self-government, as well as in the discussions of the cooperatives model in carrying out ecological production, as well as the support of seeds from our agricultural areas in Turkey.

Purpose of Cooperatives

- In addition to "building the spirit of social responsibility for the development of a self-based moral and political society", the aim of the cooperatives is "the production of the basic needs of the society according to the conditions of the war economy".

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- o "Meeting the basic needs of the society and adapting to the environment are taken as the basis of cooperative activities".
 - o "Cooperatives fight sexism decisively and healthily in everyday life and at work. It is based on promoting the will of women and solidarity with women."



Working Culture of Cooperatives

- The majority of cooperatives are agricultural cooperatives that grow vegetables, fruits and crops. However, as in the animal farm (lamb, cow, chicken) business, there are also those engaged in low-density production and service areas such as bakeries, restaurants, clothing shops, tailor, barber, sewing, salt production and electricity.

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- o The power of self-education and communality can be seen with cooperatives. In addition, it is essential that women move to widespread participation - guiding and developing all areas of life, from defense to education and health.

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- In addition to co-operatization, social models without urbanization, health, education, economy were discussed.

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- While we are exchanging practical experiences with Rojava, we aim to invigorate the Democratic, Ecological, Gender Paradigm.
 - For this purpose, we aim to establish academies that carry out theoretical and practical training and studies.
 - We will strive for the long-term integration of academies within society.

Goal: Academy of Ecology

THE PURPOSE OF THE ACADEMY

- We see the need to explain why an academy is needed before explaining our purpose. Due to years of conflict in Kurdistan, nature is very damaged.
- Due to the physical deaths and injuries experienced, we could not prioritize the plundering of nature.
- We are faced with species extinction from migrations, highland destruction, increasing drought, floods, insect decimation.

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- We want to bring this to all cities in Kurdistan and the world by creating a model with the academy, that we will launch in Amed, and the institute which we will establish afterwards.
 - In this context, while our target group in Kurdistan is children, young people and women in particular, we strive to lead a major transformation by meeting with all of the layers of society - from institutions to individuals by providing social ecology education.



Introduction to the Project

- Although our project is long-term work, the first stage is to actualize the academy project of the Ecology Institute.
- In the academy we will establish, we will primarily provide ecology education to children, women and young people, as well as to educate individuals who are educated or active in the field of ecology.

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- In short, while raising awareness about the ecological devastation experienced in Kurdistan as a result of these situations, we also aim to create the ecological mentality, via social ecology education, that will create an ecological society.



Content of Training

- Our main idea is to be not only indoors, but also in our agricultural-seed and sapling area.
- In addition to practical trainings, heritage seed preservation, sapling production, vegetable production, moving away from industrial agriculture, providing livelihoods through agricultural economic models, making discoveries in nature with the students participating in our education, making trips, conducting discussions in nature.

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- And most importantly, all our training studies will be based on theoretical and practical trainings.

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- From these new perspectives, what will the creation of ecological villages and cities look like, on which foundations will a new urbanization, eco-technology, eco-industry alternatives be founded.



TARGET: ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- The aim of practical and theoretical studies is to create a Democratic Ecological Society based on Social Ecology relying on a mindset transformation.

Activities to Be Carried Out

- Printing an ecology bulletin and journal.
- Preparation of training materials for the courses to be given in the ecology academy.
- To prepare a report about the destruction of the provinces we are in and to carry out archival work by taking photographs and writing books of the destroyed areas.

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- To make informative posters about the environment.
 - To organize panels and seminars, consequences and effects of these ecological crises on women, young people and children in the context of social ecology.
 - To produce, store, share thousands of local seeds with the community.

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- By planting thousands of tree saplings, for sharing and reforestation.
 - To ensure that the produced seeds are shared by producing thousands of seedlings through reproduction.
 - To take steps that will pave the way for cooperatization in the next process by creating a livelihood economy, firstly by producing vegetables (bostan).

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- A web page will be established to provide educational calendars, events and a channel of communication with the community
 - The training work will be shared on the website as a video
 - All training, sightseeing, and discussions will be broadcast to the public by releasing video recordings.