UfU Independent Institute for Environmental Issues

Innovative Education Center

DKM

NBS SEMINAR

Local Governments, Neighborhoods, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society

April 30, 2026

14.00 – 16.30

Ankara City Council



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PREPARED BY



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1. GENERAL INFORMATION



This report has been prepared by DKM (Nature Conservation Center) following the first stakeholder seminar of the Co-ADAPT (Nature Adaptation Project) held in Ankara on April 30, 2026. The project's full name is “Community-Based Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity through Small-Scale Nature-Based Solutions (Co-ADAPT),” co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ KA2 Adult Education Programme (project duration: November 2025 – August 2027). The project is carried out in partnership with DKM together with UfU Independent Institute for Environmental Issues from Germany, Innovative Education Center from Austria, and Ľudia a voda (People and Water) from Slovakia. The project's aim is to create more resilient, livable, and green cities against the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss in urban areas, through small-scale nature-based solutions developed with the active participation of communities. DKM, as a project partner, coordinates local mplementation and stakeholder engagement in Ankara. Under the project's activities, two seminars are planned per city in each participating country; this report covers the first of these seminars.

PARTICIPATION AND ORGANIZATION

Project	Co-ADAPT
Date	April 30, 2026
Place	Ankara City Council Ankara/Türkiye
Organisation	DKM
Participants	28
Groups	5
Materials	Solution Evaluation Checklist, Maps of the Pilot Sites in Ankara, and Descriptive Documents
Material Sharing	Solution Evaluation Checklist, Maps of the Pilot Sites in Ankara, and Descriptive Documents

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The seminar aimed to increase participants' awareness of WTC (Wholesale Environmental Protection), to discuss small-scale WTC applications that could be implemented in Ankara to make it a more environmentally friendly city, and to develop suggestions. Accordingly, participants were first given a project introduction (Appendix 1), then their opinions and expectations from this meeting were collected through a mentee application (Appendix 2), and finally, the participants, divided into 5 small groups, were presented with the following, as in the first seminar:

• Solution Assessment Checklist (a 7-item assessment tool including ecological impact, climate adaptation, social benefit, feasibility, multiple benefits, connectivity, ownership & participation criteria) (Appendix: 3), and

• By working with maps and site descriptions of 5 different application areas in Ankara, they developed a proposal for a Technical Framework for Proposals (TFP) and presented this work to other participants at the end of the seminar. At the end of the program, anonymous evaluation forms were collected from the participants and evaluated within the scope of this report.

2. APPLICATION AREAS AND GROUP WORK

In the seminar, 5 groups developed a WTO proposal for their assigned application area. Below, for each area, are: a map of the area and preliminary assessment notes prepared by the WTO, followed by a transcribed summary of the work presented by the group spokesperson during the presentation.

LARGE MEDIAN AREA

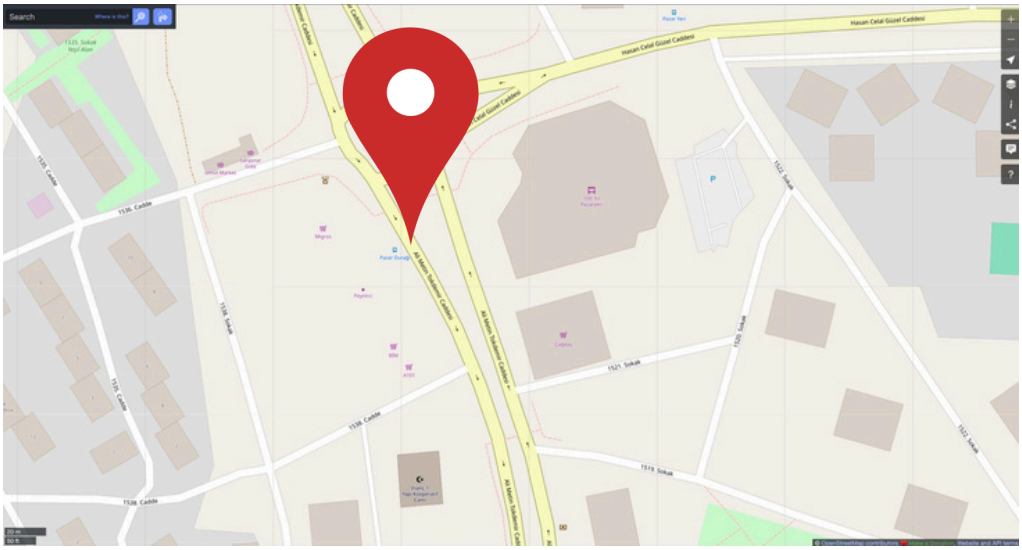


Figure 1: Wide Median Area

Regarding the Application Area: Due to its long and narrow linear structure, accessibility, visibility, and maintenance are important criteria. Traffic impact, dust, noise, and safety must be considered. Plants that reduce air pollution, rainwater ditches focused on "ecological connectivity," and a green corridor approach can be evaluated.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation: Small rain gardens on the sloping area; flood prevention and water reuse with a water drainage system that functions as a reservoir in the middle of the median.**
- **Social Benefits: Reduction of dust, noise, safety, and air pollution; preference for low shrubs to allow vehicles to see each other on the return journey.**
- **Connectivity: Creating a wildlife passage for pine species and small animal species (e.g., squirrels) along the median edges.**

Multiple Benefits: Water control, dust/noise reduction, and biodiversity transition all addressed together in a single median design.

The group highlighted the need for water control along with general dust, noise, safety, and air pollution issues in the median. Therefore, it was proposed to create a sloping area in the median and design small rain gardens with water-resistant, cooling plants. To prevent flooding, the central area of the median was supported by a water drainage system that could be used as a reservoir, allowing water to be reused when needed. It was suggested that tall plants be avoided on the return route, pine species be planted along the edges of the median to reduce dust and noise, and shorter shrubs be used to improve visibility for vehicles. As a bonus, it was suggested that a wildlife passage could be created for any small animals (e.g., squirrels) that might be present in the area.





ESAT MARKET AND ITS SURROUNDING

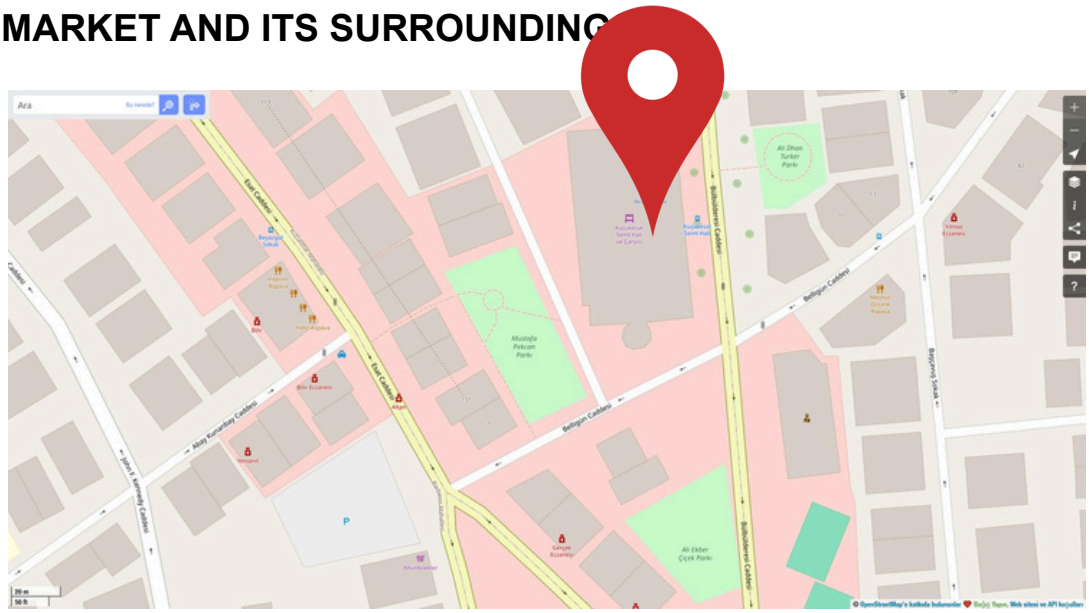


Figure 2: Esat Market and its surroundings.

Application Area: Areas with high building density and hard surface pressure. Shading, permeable surfaces, and facade/vertical green elements that reduce the heat island effect may be prominent.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation: The rooftop garden on the terrace of Esat Hal reduces the heat island effect, and rainwater harvesting areas and complementary biological ditches are determined according to the direction of water flow.**
- **Ecological Impact: Ecological corridors and green fronts against soil compaction and ecological fragility.**
- **Social Benefit: Utilizing Mustafa Pekçan Park in the central area as both a park and a potential public square, instead of a hard surface.**

It has been determined that soil compaction in this area leads to water impermeability and ecological weakness, and that the heat island effect is also present along with dense construction. The group designed a rooftop garden on the terrace of the top floor of Esat Hal, creating ecological corridors and green facades, thus aiming to reduce the heat island effect. For a community meeting area, which is another need in the area, it was suggested that Mustafa Pekçan Park, located in the central area, be considered as both a park and a potential square, instead of a hard surface. In addition, a rainwater harvesting system was established, determined according to the direction of water flow; in other areas where harvesting cannot be done, biological ditches positioned at the exact midpoint of the water flow were proposed.





PARK NEAR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (MAMAK)

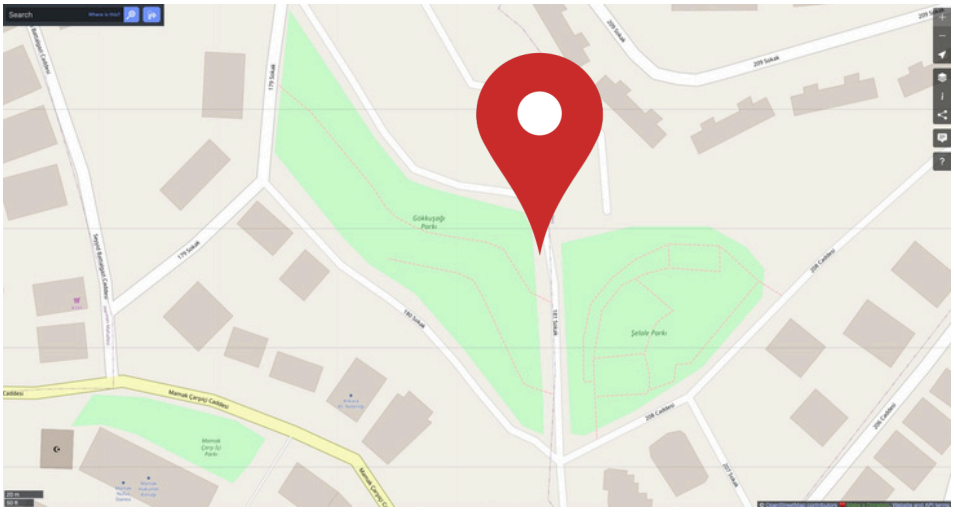


Figure 3: Park near the Municipal Building (Mamak)

Regarding the Application Area: Although partially green, it should be considered a functionally weak area. It is important that the existing green space is transformed into a functional, inclusive, and attractive use.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation: A water catchment area that takes advantage of the natural slope of the terrain; rainwater is collected downstream along the slope.**
- **Connectivity: A green pathway system connecting the two parks, with shade-providing plants.**
- **Ecological Impact: Choosing more suitable tree species such as Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis) instead of completely shade-providing ground cover species.**
- **Social Benefit: Creating a safe space for women.**

The study focused on reducing the heat island effect. To this end, it proposed creating a green pathway system connecting the two parks and using shade-providing plants, while also creating a water catchment basin by utilizing the natural slope of the area. The aim was to collect rainwater downhill along the slope and integrate the area by separating it slightly from the usage area. In the "see the unseen" assessment, it was determined that there was no connection between the two parks and other green areas, and that there was no accessible area for people living in the immediate vicinity. Therefore, the goal was to establish a system that does not obstruct airflow from the park and is integrated with other green areas. Creating a safe space for women emerged as a primary need. Furthermore, it was suggested that more suitable tree species, such as Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis), be used instead of ground cover trees that provide complete shade in the park.




BU SEVİRDE
HERKES KAPTAN

AYRANCI BACKYARD GREEN LINE

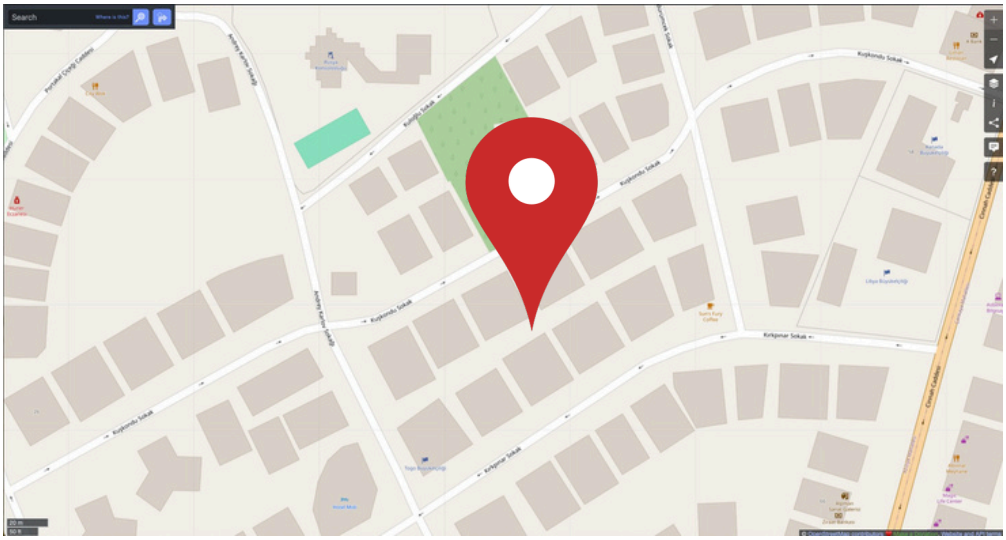


Figure 4: Ayrancı Backyard Green Line

About the Application Area: The linear structure offers opportunities in terms of ecological connection and pedestrian experience within the neighborhood. Continuity and a corridor concept should be encouraged instead of fragmented use.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation: Slowing down water flow with buffer plant areas that absorb water on impermeable surfaces along the roadside, and slowing and redirecting water flow with raised ditches and redirection to green areas.**
- **Ownership & Participation: To address the lack of a sense of belonging among residents, a pocket park/storage area where residents can plant and cultivate crops.**
- **Community Benefit: A space where neighborhood residents can plant trees and develop a sense of belonging to the area through the work they do themselves.**

It has been noted that the area suffers from sudden rainfall and flooding. Therefore, it is suggested that water be slowed down by creating buffer zones of vegetation to absorb water before it reaches the impermeable surfaces along the roadside. One of the two large areas in the site is green, and the other is empty; after checking the map to see if it is a green area, elevated ditches have been planned to slow down the water and then direct it to these areas. It has been determined that the residents lack a sense of belonging; therefore, a green area and a section where residents can plant and cultivate trees have been proposed. It is thought that a sense of belonging to the area can develop as a result of the work they do themselves, and the area has been designed as a pocket park/storage area and a place where the neighborhood residents can plant trees.





5. THE NEGLECTED AREA BETWEEN TWO SCHOOLS

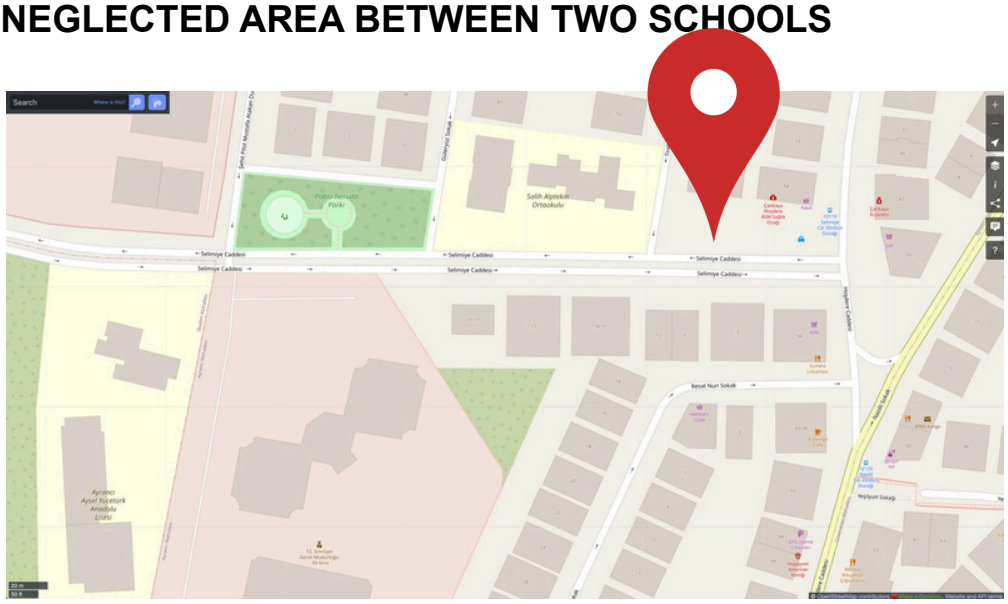


Figure 5: Neglected Area Between Two Schools

Regarding the appplication Area: The space between the two structures could be a potential shared open area for children and nearby users. Water management, shade creation, nature play, and safety should be considered together.

Group Work Summary

- **Climate Adaptation: Water management through rainwater harvesting systems and groundwater replenishment.**
- **Multiple Benefits: The rooftop garden designed on top of the two structures increases pollination and biodiversity (lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, chamomile).**
- **Social Benefits: Pine and medlar trees placed along the road for safety purposes; an interactive activity area for children such as pine cone collecting; an outdoor workshop for interaction among different age groups; and fruit trees in the front garden of the health center.**

In the area, environmental protection measures have been implemented in conjunction with water management, shade areas, nature play, and safety. Trees and plants have been placed along the road axis for safety purposes. Pine trees or shrubs were considered as suitable conifers, and medlar was chosen. An entrance/passage from the school area has been provided; an activity area for children has been designed, where they can interact with nature by collecting pine cones. A rooftop garden has been designed on top of the two structures, using species such as lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, and chamomile to increase pollination and biodiversity. Furthermore, a water management area has been established with rainwater harvesting to replenish groundwater. An open-air workshop has been planned as an interaction space for different age groups; the aromatic [illegible] plants produced here are intended to serve as a source for tea and [illegible] activities. Fruit trees have been proposed for the front garden of the local health center, aiming to provide a space where people can come and taste these fruits.





3. EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

AAn anonymous evaluation form was collected from participants at the end of the seminar. A total of 17 forms contain analyzable quantitative data (1 form was left completely blank; the participant attended the presentations saying “I just came out of curiosity” and noted general views on nature conservation in the free-text field; this form was not included in the numerical statistics). The scale anges from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

DID THE MEETING MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

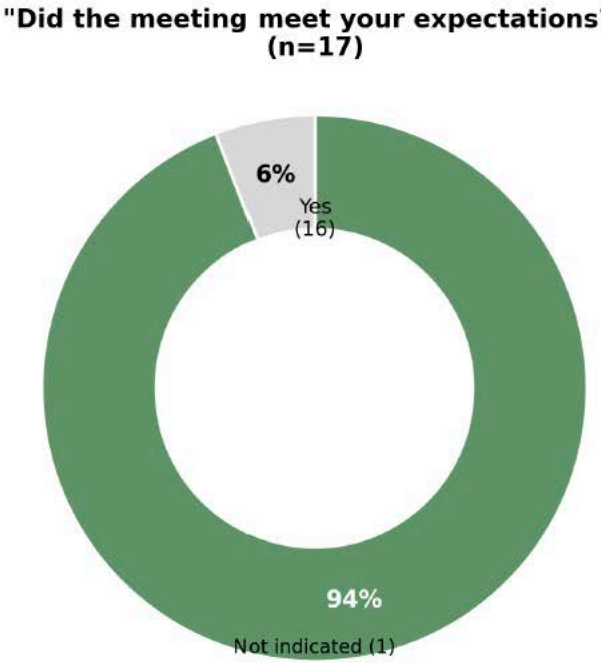


Figure 6: Proportion of participants whose expectations were met

Of the 17 participants who responded, 16 (94%) indicated “Yes,” stating that the meeting met their expectations; 1 participant left this question unmarked. No “No” responses were given. Some of the reasons participants gave for this answer: “It was a very nice and useful meeting,” “It being an interactive meeting, addressing knowledge and experience together, was very useful,” “It was an impressive, participatory meeting that valued group work,” “I heard practical nature-based solution proposals,” “An event that broadened my horizons and could give me ideas for my projects.

3.2 Likert Scale Item Results

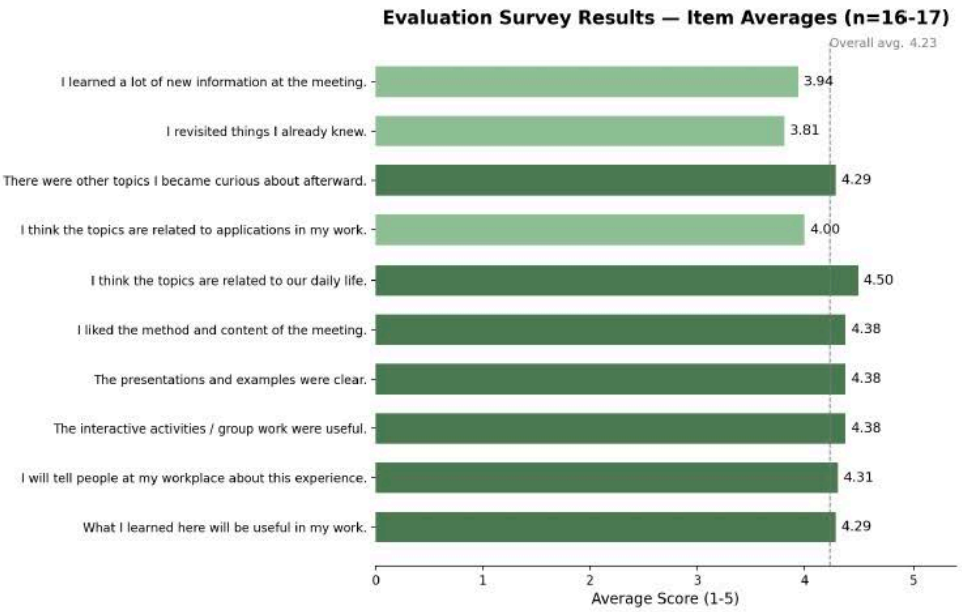


Figure 7: Evaluation survey item averages (1–5 scale)

#	Item	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Distribution (1→5)
1	I learned a lot of new information at the meeting.	17	3.94	1.26	1:1 · 2:2 · 3:2 · 4:4 · 5:8
2	I revisited things I already knew.	16	3.81	1.01	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:4 · 4:7 · 5:4
3	There were other topics I became curious about afterward.	17	4.29	0.96	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:8 · 5:8
4	I think the topics are related to applications in my work.	17	4.00	1.24	1:1 · 2:2 · 3:1 · 4:5 · 5:8
5	I think the topics are related to our daily life.	16	4.50	1.00	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:4 · 5:11
6	I liked the method and content of the meeting.	16	4.38	0.99	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:6 · 5:9
7	The presentations and examples were clear.	16	4.38	0.99	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:6 · 5:9
8	The interactive activities / group work were useful.	16	4.38	0.99	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:6 · 5:9
9	I will tell people at my workplace about this experience.	16	4.31	0.98	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:0 · 4:7 · 5:8
10	What I learned here will be useful in my work.	17	4.29	1.02	1:1 · 2:0 · 3:1 · 4:6 · 5:9

Overall average (all items, all forms): 4.23 / 5
The findings show that participants generally rated the seminar's content and method very positively. The highest-rated item was “I think the topics are related to our daily life” (4.50), while the lowestrated (though still leaning positive) items were “I revisited things I already knew” (3.81) and “I learned a lot of new information at the meeting” (3.94). This suggests that a significant portion of participants were already familiar with the topic, but still found the meeting content relevant to daily life and professional practice.

4. QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

Below is a summary of the key views compiled from the free-text fields of the evaluation forms.

ELEMENTS THAT WERE LIKED AT THE MEETING

“The presentations and procedures / project were explained at the meeting.”
“The opportunity to work with materials and real sites.”
“The presentations, the site-study methods, being open to ideas.”
“Participants' comments; the presentations being illuminating and delivered in clear language.”
The application and group work were very useful.”

THE MOST ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES

“Group work (the most frequently repeated answer).”
“Field / workshop work.”
“Participation in planning and group presentations.”
“Nature exercise and idea generation on-site.”
“Interaction and conversations with stakeholders.”

3. IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

“Extending the meeting's duration and allocating more time for detailed idea generation.”
“Extending the time for group work and presentations; more time for the work to be better understood.”
“Planning the distribution of participants in groups (NGO, student, citizen, public) in a more balanced way.”
“Sharing the evaluation and results report with participants; continuing to share information about ongoing/planned projects.”

4. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Overall, participant feedback shows that the seminar's interactive format — particularly the group work and field/application-based exercises — was perceived as its strongest aspect. constraints and more careful planning of group composition stand out as areas for improvement. This feedback can be used directly as input for the project's planned second seminar.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Co-ADAPT stakeholder seminar held in Ankara on April 30, 2026, was a participatory exercise in which 28 participants, divided into 5 groups, developed nature-based solution proposals for real sites in Ankara. The evaluation survey results (overall average 4.23/5, 94% “Yes” rate) show that the meeting was generally very well received by participants.

Key Findings

- **Participants found the meeting content related to daily life (4.50) and to professional practice (4.00).**
- **Group work and interactive activities (4.38) were among the elements participants found most useful.**
- **The large majority of participants plan to share their experience at their workplace (4.31) and to use what they learned in their work (4.29).**

Recommendations for the Second Seminar

→ Increase the time allocated for group work and hands-on activities.
→ Plan group compositions in advance (distribution of NGO, student, citizen, and public
→ representatives, or homogeneity of expertise).
→ Share this seminar's evaluation results and next steps with participants.
→ Continue the flow of information about ongoing and planned projects.

This report has been prepared by DKM, as a Co-ADAPT project partner, based on the evaluation forms, group presentations, implementation area studies, and seminar materials from the April 30, 2026 seminar.

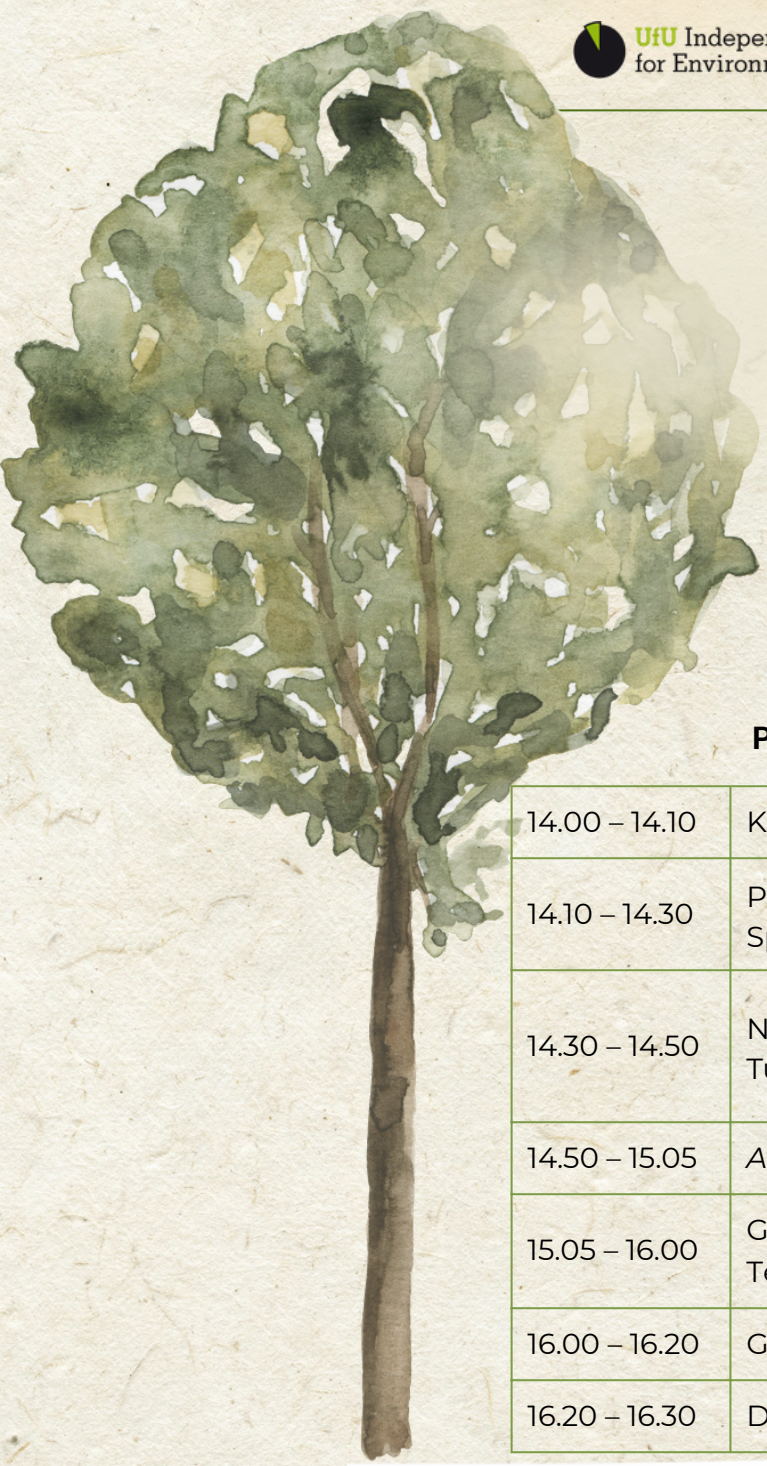
APPENDICES

1. PROGRAM

UfU Independent Institute for Environmental Issues

Innovative Education Center

DKM



NbS Meeting

DATE: 30.04.2026 TIME: 14.00-16.30 LOCATION: ANKARA CITY COUNCIL

WOMEN

PROGRAM FLOW

14.00 – 14.10	Karşılama ve Açılış
14.10 – 14.30	Project Presentation for Harmony with Nature. Speaker: Tuğba CAN
14.30 – 14.50	Nature-Based Solutions and Examples from Türkiye Speaker: Prof. Dr. Nilgül KARADENİZ
14.50 – 15.05	*Ara*
15.05 – 16.00	Grup Çalışması: Mahalle Ölçeğinde Doğa Temelli Çözüm Tasarımı
16.00 – 16.20	Grup Sunumları
16.20 – 16.30	Değerlendirme & Kapanış

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2: SOLUTION EVALUATION CHECKLIST

The following checklist was used to assess participants' nature-based solution proposals during group work. The list included thinking questions under seven headings: ecological impact, climate adaptation, societal benefit, feasibility, multiple benefits, connectivity, and ownership & participation.



For more information about the project:

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