Summary of the Call for a New Water Policy

1) The government of Turkey has to cancel urgently its “wrong water policy“ and has to stop all dam and hydroelectric power plant (HEPP) projects under construction or in planning.

2) Together with the society – including dam and HEPP affected people, local authorities, environmental and human rights organizations, experts, profession organizations etc. – a new discussion has to be started with the aim to develop a new water policy.

3) Our intention to start a discussion process is to ensure a social and ecological use of the water resources for the people, based on the social equity and egalitarian participation principle. As the conclusion we request the transfer of the authority on the use of water resources in the framework of a „democratic water basin management“ to the local authorities and local civil society organizations.

4) There must be established competent institutions and organizations with adequate finance in order they can do gather data and do researches on the different aspects of the water related ecosystems like: conserving the functions of the eco-systems, biodiversity, settlement, irrigation, eco-tourism, health tourism.

5) In the light of the above requests we propose the establishment of a „water commission“ in order to develop the discussion process for a new water policy. Every sector and organization in the society must have the opportunity to participate in this commission. In long-term this water commission has to exist and monitor the implementation of the request new water policy.