

Additional information

Ecosystem services:

Social and cultural values:

The site doesn't have any archaeological, religious or economical functions. However as it was mentioned above, not only in the local level but also nationally Meke Maar is known as "the eye of Anatolia". It's a common cultural belief and according to aerial photos this description is quite reasonable. People come to see it from all around Turkey, it means that Meke Maar has a significant eco-tourism potential.

On the other hand, a part of the annual festivals of Karapınar is being organized around the site. In the framework of these ceremonies, swimming contests and some other local activities are being realized. Another cultural value of the site is that the local people believe that the caldera lake has a healing effect for some diseases such as psoriasis and rheumatism.

Current scientific research and facilities:

The basis of all scientific knowledge was established by different scientists. On the other hand, a local university (University of Selcuk, Konya) is currently implementing research activities on different disciplines (geology, hydrogeology, biology, chemistry, etc.). Also, the area is regularly being observed by ornithologists and bird watching groups.

Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

Following the designation of Meke Maar as a Ramsar Site, relevant educational and tourist guides and materials will be prepared. A visitor center is not planned to be established, because no one wants to disturb the virginity of the site, even with a visitor center. The site will be promoted to primary schools in order to be included in their annual field trip schedule.

Current recreation and tourism:

As it was mentioned above, regularly a festival is being celebrated each year in the surrounding area. As regards this festival, the site is very important. Instead of this, the site is known as "the eye of Anatolia" and this belief brings a lot of visitor to the area. Following the declaration of this location as Ramsar site, some indicators and arrows will be installed on main routes in the area and it's obvious that the number of these visitors will be increased.