

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on  
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

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**Republic of Turkey  
Country Report**

The establishment of the first forestry organization extends back to 1839 in Turkey. The first forest management plan was prepared in 1917 and the first law specific to forests was enacted in 1924.

Today, with its 21 million ha of forests, 27.2 % of the total land area, Turkish forestry has well established institutional, legal and political system. Forestry organization is structured under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The General Directorate of Forestry, which is responsible for the protection, development and management of forests, has separate and semi-independent status. It is quite strong organization with its big institutional, technical, personnel and financial source capacity. It is operating with 27 regional directorates, 217 Forest District Directorate and 1312 Forest Sub-district Directorate.

Other responsible General Directorates under the Ministry are **(1) General Directorate of Afforestation and Erosion Control** responsible for activities of afforestation, nursery, erosion control etc, **(2) General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks** responsible for activities of national parks, natural parks, nature protection zones, in-forest water resources, protected areas, wild-life etc, **(3) General Directorate Of Forest Village Relations** responsible for providing economic, social and technical support for local people in forests to reduce poverty and improve social and cultural structure for the aim of decreasing their pressure on forest and forestry.

National Development Plan has long been main source of traditional Forestry policy and the forestry master plan, under the Development Plan, has been the main policy instrument for forestry. The core traditional policies are, (1) Protection of forest areas including wildlife reserves,(2) Sustainable provision of wood and non-wood forest products as well as forestry services, (3) Rehabilitation of degraded forests, (4) Extension of protected areas and national parks, (5) Contribution to rural development in forest dependent communities,

These policies had been existed for long, but toward 2000, a series of significant work was initiated to develop new political instruments, complied with the changing and evolving forestry concept, as a response to the decisions taken in international process and emerging issue in the field of international forestry. Membership process of EU accelerated the political development in Turkish Forestry too.

The first work carried out with the help of the World Bank, "Forestry Sector Review", was a response to the decision of IPF. With this study the forestry sector in Turkey was analyzed and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation were identified. The report, released in 2001, was also put forward a series of recommendations for Turkish Forestry.

The second important step was the preparation of National Forestry Program. The program was prepared in a participatory manner and put under implementation in 2003. But the forestry environs agree that the program should be updated and revised.

For the future projections, and under the FAO work of "Forestry Outlook for Western and Eastern Asia – FOWECA", Turkey has prepared its national report called "Forestry Towards the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation of Turkish Republic 2023".

Meanwhile, the method of forest management planning which had been focused on wood production, promoted and multifunctional Forest Planning method was started to implement in 1999. This planning method was based on the principles of economic viability, socially benefit and ecologic balance.

Finally, Strategic Plan of General Directorate of Forestry is being drawn up for 2010-2014. GDF significantly advanced its forestry policies by the strategic plan. The mission and vision of GDF were defined according to international forestry trends besides increasing and diversifying domestic expectations from forestry. In the draft plan; strategies, principles and ambitious targets under the 6 strategic objectives were set and activities will be achieved and measures will be taken to reach targets were decided. Some of ambitious targets for 2014 are to finish cadastre and ownership problem, to boost productive forests area up to 12 million ha. by 13% increase and to raise round wood production up to 19.5 million m<sup>3</sup> by 26% increase.