



An Assessment of Forestry Policy in The European Union, Türkiye and Various Countries

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ABSTRACT

In many parts of the world, forests have been seen only as an economic value and forestry policies have been in this direction. Later, when forests started to disappear, the protectionist period started and forest policies were shaped in this direction. In this study, the reflections of sustainable forestry policy and environmental and forest protection in the European Union (EU), Turkey and a few other countries are examined and the protection measures and recommendations of the countries are analyzed. The aim of the study is to reveal the development process of forestry policies and to reveal what has been done to ensure the protection of forests. When we look at the policies followed by the countries, it is seen that the world is now pursuing a conscious forestry policy.

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Introduction

Forests have been an important resource for human beings to sustain their lives since creation. In addition to meeting their basic needs such as food, shelter, protection and heating, people have benefited from forests in terms of providing economic value in the future. These basic needs and the desire to earn money have left forests in danger of extinction over time. Forestry policies have been developed to prevent the destruction of forest. Forestry policy is the process that plans forestry in order to meet the needs of society for forest products and services. After determining the objectives of forestry policy, it investigates how these objectives can be achieved (Gümüş, 2014). Looking at the history of initiatives and developments related to taking forestry forward, it is seen that a planned forest management first emerged in Europe (Birben, 2008). If the history of forestry in our country is examined, it is seen that forestry started in the Ottoman period.

In this study, the development of forestry policy in Turkey and the EU is analyzed and development of forestry policy of different countries is examined. In addition, issues such as protection of forests, increasing their area, rural development, trade in forest products, global warming, etc. were examined. Articles related to this subject in Turkey and in the world have been examined and synthesized.

Forestry Policies Development Process

Ottoman State Period

During the Ottoman period, the majority of the population lived in rural areas and the people had free access to forests. There were restrictions on the utilization of forests, which were only used to meet the needs of the palace, shipyard and artillery. Following the westernization movements of the Ottoman state in 1839, the first forestry organization was established in İstanbul to protect forests (Gümüş, 2014). Forests gained an economic dimension with the outbreak of the Crimean War and the advice of the French in order to pay foreign debts due to the war. As a result of the developing bilateral relations, French expert foresters were brought to the country (Kılıç, 2004; Birben, 2008 & Gümüş, 2014). The expert foresters prepared a forestry regulation, which is the first and most important document that determines the forestry policy for the protection and operation of our country's forestry (Birben, 2008). On the one hand, The Ottoman Empire tried to protect the forests by establishing the Forestry School, the General Directorate of Forestry and the Forestry Provincial Organization, and on the other hand, it sold the forests rich in the timber through tenders (Erdem & Başkan, 2016). In 1840, the Directorate of Forestry under the Ministry of Commerce was established and a draft law was enacted to protect forests (Karabulut, 2021 & Keskin, 2010). Although it did not contain detailed

provisions, the Land Ordinance of 1858 included articles on the use of forests and coppices. Some of these provisions paved the way for forests to be cut down and turned into fields (Karabulut, 2021; Koç, 1999; Özer, 2020; Köprülü, 1949; Cin, 1978 & Kutluk, 1948). According to the Forestry Regulation issued in 1870, forests were divided into four groups as forests belonging to the State, forests belonging to foundations, forests belonging to towns and villages and forests belonging to individuals (Dönmez, 2020). Due to the inadequacy of the Land Code in forest policies, new searches began. Louis Tassy was one of the most important names behind the regulation. Tassy prepared two important texts on the subject. First, in 1861, a 38 -article charter was prepared. With this layiha, the rules to be applied to those authorized to cut trees from the state forests through favoritism, privilege and undertaking were determined. Later in 1862, the Forestry Layiha, consisting of 4 parts and 68 articles, was prepared, which determined the management of miri forests and the duties and classes of forest officers. With the last layiha, the penalties for forest abuses were also determined (Akagündüz & Nizamoglu, 2021).

In 1908, during the Second Constitutional Monarchy period, efforts were made to ensure that the forests were managed in a good way, and although some laws were enacted, they did not yield positive results. In 1920, the government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey inherited from the Ottoman Empire a heavily degraded forest estate, forest contractors who exploited forests for their personal interests and a society that did not understand the benefits and importance of forests (Gülen & Özdönmez, 1981). With the Regulation, the period of unauthorized utilization of miri forests came to an end. The process of managing the forestry of the Ottoman period with technical methods and from a single source was initiated and Miri lands gained a status in the eyes of the state. Compulsory utilization of forests was legalized and controlled, the period of unlimited use was ended, and a penalty system was introduced for unauthorized use of forests. Miri forests were tried to serve the commercial objectives of the state (Koç, 2008).

In 1917, with the influence of German and Austrian forester experts who came to the country, the Law on the Management of Forests with Scientific Methods was enacted. With this law, the obligation to manage state forests according to management plans was introduced. However, the conditions of World War I and then the War of Independence made the implementation of this law impossible (Erdönmez, 2020).

Forestry experts from Austria stated that the condition of the forests in Turkey was not good, but the condition of those parts of Anatolia that had been protected from human destruction was quite good. The experts stated that there was no reliable data on the quality of the forests and according to estimated figures, the amount of forests in the Ottoman Empire was 7 million hectares. The forests were divided into 88% miri, 6% private, 3% vacant, 2% village and town coppices, and 1% land of evkaf. Assuming that every wooded area is called forest, it is stated that only 20% of the woodlands are fully forested. Experts state that if it is assumed that the amount of new trees grown each year is 3,5 m³, the timber obtained in the Ottoman Empire each year is 24.000.000 m³ (Karabulut, 2021).

Republic Period

Most of the regulations on forestry in the first years of the Republic were the implementation of policies that were on the agenda in the 1900s but could't be implemented due to wars. In 1920, the Coppice Law was enacted and it was decided to give 18 acres of coppice per family to villagers living at a maximum distance of 20 kilometer from forests. With this law, it was aimed to remove the problems between the state at war so that it could fight together with its nation (Saribey & Haykiran, 2023). Although this law intended to meet the wood needs of the forest villagers, the villagers turned the areas allocated to them into fields and caused the destruction of a large part of the country's forests.

In 1922, the Law on Permission to Add Timber Meccanen came into force. According to this law, timber deemed necessary to repair the damage caused by natural disasters, insurrection and war was allowed to be obtained free of charge from state forests with a report issued by the Ministry of Economy (Yurtoğlu, 2023). In 1924, during the transition from the Ottoman land system to the Republican land system, forests on miri land were transferred to private ownership (Şimşek, 2023).

The management of forests was linked to management plans with Article 1 of the Law No. 504 on the management and Operation of Turkey's Forests with Scientific Method, which came into force in 1924. With this approach, forests gain an economic content. With the binding of forests to the management plan, the understanding of regular operation prevails. The purpose of management is to ensure continuity in the forest and to regulate the revenue. However, the state was only satisfied with the management plans and left the forests in the hands of contractors (Gümüş, 2018).

The most important regulation in the transition to technical forestry in the Republican period was the draft forestry law prepared in 1926 but not enacted. Law No. 3115 formed the basis for Laws No. 3116 and 4785, and the transition of forests to state ownership and state control in private forests were ensured (Birben, 2008). The economic depression that affected the whole world in 1929 also affected Turkey. Since there was a decline in agriculture, there was a decrease in growth rates. These factors also negatively affected Turkish forestry (Gümüş, 2018 & Pulatoğlu, 2021).

In 1927, the state forest revenue was recorded as 1.450.156 liras, while in 1929, forest revenue reached its highest level with 1.982.697 liras. After this year, the revenue values started to decrease. As the effects of the World Economic Crisis began to disappear, the forest revenue value only increased to 1.830.000 liras in 1936 (Yurtoğlu, 2023). In the 1930s, the policy of statism started to be implemented in the economy.

In 1937, the state forest management system was introduced. In the same year, the Forestry Law No. 3116 entered into force (Polatoğlu, 2021). The law stipulated that a place must be at least 5 hectares in size in order to be a forest. With this provision, areas smaller than 5 hectares were excluded from forest status and the expansion of forest areas was prevented. The lack of adequate infrastructure for the implementation of the law has increased forest destruction. Peasants and forest traders who lost their right of access and the declarations of forest

traders to change the law caused the need for wood to be met too much and too quickly, so the forest were rapidly destroyed. In 1927, the amount of forested area covering our country was 18%, while it decreased to 10% in 1938 (Benli, 2014).

A local newspaper, Bartın Newspaper, announced the forestry policies to the public. After reading the new regulations in the newspaper, the people thought that they would not be able to meet their wood needs from the forests, so they cut too much from the forests and stored enough wood in their homes for maybe 10 years. Some of the news in the newspapers were perceived as warnings by the General Directorate of Forestry and new regulations were made in line with these warnings. In the period from 1937 to 1957, different forestry practices and policy changes were made with the regulations made in Law No. 3116. As the practices in this period formed the basis of the Republican Period forestry, we can say that their effects have continued until today (Atmış & Gençay 2014).

During World War II, various laws were enacted on tree communities and legal gaps related to forests were tried to be eliminated. With the effect of the war, while trying to meet the country's need for wood raw material, new species such as eucalyptus and sweetgum trees were started to be planted. In addition to the felling of forests to obtain wood, fires set due to the war and for land acquisition caused a decrease in forest areas. However, during the war, railroad construction, road construction, telephone lines and power plants were constructed and fires were intervened in a timely manner, preventing the waste of timber and reducing costs (Yurtoğlu, 2021).

During the multi-party period, many legal arrangements were made regarding forests. For example, in 1946, Article 7 of the Law No. 3444 supplementary to the Forestry Law No. 4914 was amended, stating that the forests operated by the Forestry Enterprises and their activities for their revolving capital shall be operated according to the principles and commercial justifications to be determined by the Council of Ministers, not according to the laws of auction, auction, general accounting and tender. The operating balance sheet of these enterprises, together with the final accounts, shall be submitted to the Court of Accounts within 7 months as of the end of the year. The Court of Accounts conducts its examinations by looking at the commercial structure and legislation of forest enterprises. Law No. 4920 and the first article of the Law on the Exemption of State Forest Enterprises from Certain Taxes exempted the tree communities belonging to the General Directorate of Forestry from taxes. The articles of many other laws were amended during this period. In addition to afforestation activities during this period, nurseries were established in various places and the need for saplings to be used in afforestation activities was met from these nurseries. In addition, in order to combat smuggling and fires, one of the biggest problems of the country's forests, guards and watchmen were employed and watchtowers were built. Thus, the opportunity to intervene in fires and illegal logging in larger forest areas increased (Yurtoğlu, 2022).

In the following periods, the development of technology, change and increase in human needs led to policy changes in forestry. This period is characterized as the modern forestry period.

Contemporary Forestry Period

According to a widespread belief in our country, forestry is not a practice characterized as logging or lumbering. Modern science has shown that such characterizations are an important misconception. It has proven the multifaceted effectiveness of forestry for societies (Pehlivanoğlu, 1979).

Modern forestry has brought a new perspective to forest resources that depend on biological qualities. Foresters' need for socioeconomic knowledge such as management, planning, business, mathematics and economics has increased (Daşdemir, 1999).

The European understanding of forestry, which imitated nature and prioritized the wishes of the society, has expanded in the USA and transformed into a new system based on demands, multifaceted utilization and intervention in nature. This sector has a very different importance from Europe in terms of the allocation of very large forest areas to various economic activities, watershed and management, and the conversion of accumulated wealth into liquidity. In addition to the principle of continuity that Europe brought to forestry, the United States has incorporated the principle of multifaceted utilization on a universal scale. The principle of multi-directional utilization brought a new scope to the practice and planning in forestry and the biological orientation of the forest, and new analysis techniques were introduced to forestry (Geray, 1989).

Modern forestry is a sustainable work that covers all economic, sociocultural, managerial, biological and technical studies carried out with the aim of providing goods and services to the society by systematically utilizing forest resources (Daşdemir, 2016). In addition, after a large part of the world's forests were plundered, it was realized that forests produce many ecological values (Türker et al.; 2002).

Forest Law No. 3116, which pioneered the transition to modern forestry in our country, was replaced by Forest Law No. 6831 in 1956, which is still in force (Gümüş, 2014). Forest Law No. 3116 is the first Forest Law that considers the real and ideal values and functions of the forest as a national asset, wants to ensure the establishment and development of high quality forestry enterprises, and aims to increase the quality and quantity of forest assets (İnal, 1964). Law No. 3116 introduced state forest ownership and management in forestry. Forestry directorates were closed and replaced by "Forestry Directorate of Translation", "Forestry Inspectorate" and as of 1945, "Forest Management Directorates", which is the current structure, were established (Özden, 2019).

Forests are strictly defined by law to be operated by the state. Resources that can be exhausted or renewed are subjected to the pressures of economic developments due to the increase in human population and developing technology. For this reason, continuous forest management has been abandoned in many countries and a system of progressive forest management and cultural forest management has been adopted. With this system, a form of management that can be grown by human hands according to industrial needs and requires economic planning has been introduced. Considering that the world's resources have an international value, we can reveal the importance of resource management of countries (İstanbulu, 1974).

Until 1961, the constitutions enacted did not include provisions on forestry. However, the fact that forest-public relations were not regulated and the provisions of the law were not enforced made it impossible to protect forests and led to an increase in forest crimes. In addition, the use of forests by political parties in their propaganda, the frequent amendment of forest laws by the ruling parties and the enactment of new laws to provide amnesty for forest crimes have revealed the necessity of constitutional security for the protection of forests (Akar & Tolunay, 2018).

The provisions on the protection of forests were first secured by the 1961 Constitution. The 1961 Constitution included some provisions on the protection of forests together with the principles that the development and protection of forests, supervision and control of forests is the duty of the state, and forest management is under state control. However, this approach could not be maintained for a long time. Article 131 of the Constitution was amended by Law No. 1255, which entered into force in 1970. With this amendment, approaches and practices that will cause the destruction and reduction of forests in our country have become a constitutional provision (Erdönmez & Yurdakul Erol, 2021).

In the 1982 Constitution, Articles 169 and 170 become an important basis for the protection of forests. Paragraph 2 of Article 169 states that "The ownership of State Forests cannot be transferred. State forests are managed and operated by the State according to the law. These forests cannot be acquired by prescription and cannot be subject to easement rights except for public benefit." When the Forestry Law No. 6831 is analyzed, it is seen that the law contains regulations on the use of forests for non-forestry activities in fourteen articles. Three of these articles include regulations on the granting of permits from forests, one on the leasing of existing facilities, one on their use as recreation areas, and one on the regulation of the establishment of easement rights (Olgun & Tolunay, 2018).

The Forestry Law No. 6831, which is a special law and also regulates the penal provisions, is evaluated together with the Turkish Penal Code system. Since the amendments made in the Criminal Law or Laws directly or indirectly affect the Forest Law, they also cause amendments to be made in the Forest Law. For example; from Article 70 to Article 116 of the Forestry Law No. 6831, a total of 33 articles related to penal provisions have been amended. Some of the amendments have been radical changes in terms of the penal provisions of the Forestry Law and have caused significant changes in the judiciary and forestry practices (Elvan, 2009).

Factors Affecting Forestry in Turkey at National and International Level

Founded in 1958, the European Economic Community (EEC), which initially included 6 countries in Europe, was later renamed the European Union (EU). The EU is a common market established to create economic cooperation between member states. After 1973, other countries started to join the community. Turkey became a candidate member of the European Union (EU) with the signing of the Ankara Treaty in 1963 and applied for full

membership in 1987 (Haliloğlu & Tolunay, 2009; Yıldırım & Budak, 2010 and Atmış & Gençay, 2014). The European Union held a Summit in Helsinki on December 10-11, 1999. In this process, Turkey was accepted as a candidate country to the EU. Following the preparation of the Accession Partnership Document by the EU Commission, Turkey announced its National Program. Within this framework, our country has started to work on this issue by committing to organize its legislation in the field of forestry according to the EU legislation (Dölerslan, 2007).

In the late 1970s, the European Union drew attention to the fact that environmental pollution, combating forest fires and deforestation issues related to forestry were on the agenda of the union (Yurdakul Erol; Akgün, 2005) and gave importance to the protection and increase of forest areas by giving up seeing forests as a trade commodity. It has also started to take measures within the framework of global warming and climate change. For this reason, they have tried to promote the use of biomass in order to ensure efficient and smart utilization of forests, to prevent the waste of wood and forest products, and to increase the use of renewable energy sources and recycling (Ciccarese et al. 2014).

The main objective of the EU forestry strategy is to strengthen sustainable forest management as stated in the Forest Principles and defined in the Ministerial Conference. For this purpose, it is stated in the strategy that active participation in all international transactions is valid for the forestry sector (Velioglu & Yıldırım, 2007).

Although the developments in the field of forestry are closely followed in EU member states, forestry has not been an independent policy branch in the EU. It has only been recognized as a sub-branch of policy branches such as agriculture and environment. Although there are some specific regulations on forestry in the EU Acquis, a detailed common forestry policy has not been established (Özcan, 2008). In 1992, the Principles of Forestry adopted at the end of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, made an impact in the EU and forestry gained a different dimension after these documents. The aim of the conference is to ensure that sustainable development is adopted as a global understanding (Orman Genel Müdürlüğü [OGM], 2020). Sustainable Development is a development model that can meet the needs of today's people without depriving our future generations of the right to meet their needs (Rahmanlar, 2016).

Under the umbrella of the United Nations (UN), the Intergovernmental Panel on Forestry (IPF), the Intergovernmental Forestry Forum (IFF) and most recently the United Nations Forestry Forum (UNFF) were established and 270 decisions agreed upon by all member countries to be implemented at the global level were taken and grouped under 16 headings. In order to implement the 270 decisions taken under UN supervision, the world was divided into nine regions. Turkey is included in both the Pan-European and the Near East Process. The criteria do not vary much from country to country. For this reason, six criteria for sustainable forest management have been determined by a global consensus. These criteria are as follows: forest resources, health and vitality of forests, conservation functions of forests, socio-economic functions of forests and biodiversity. In some regions,

political, legal and institutional framework criteria are added to these criteria and classified as seven items (Erdoğan, 2010).

An independent forestry policy has not been established in the EU. In 1998, the forestry strategy prepared to determine the status and objectives of forestry and forests within the EU and the obligations of member and candidate countries was an important step in establishing a common forestry policy of the EU. The EU Forestry Strategy, made in the light of common decisions, will be the basis of a common forestry policy in the future (Yıldız & Atmış, 2014). In addition to vital activities such as regulating the water regime, protecting the soil and preventing environmental pollution, which are of great importance in the life of society and the environment, the role of forests in the protection of biodiversity is also extremely important. Our country has an important potential in terms of "biodiversity" and "protected areas", which are becoming increasingly important both at national and global level. Protection of biodiversity and development of protected areas both in terms of area and functions are among the main objectives of the sector (Başbakanlık Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı [BDPT], 2007).

Among the EU's core principles on forestry; Ensuring the proper functioning of the EU forestry sector in rural areas as well as the sustainable development of forests for their conservation, mitigating the effects of climate change, protecting forests by preserving biodiversity and restoring degraded forests, reducing exposure to abiotic and biotic factors, developing Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) in the EU economically, socially and ecologically, protecting the environment and forest assets as well as erosion and soil protection, water management, carbon storage and air quality improvement, development of forest monitoring tools and equipment within the framework of environmental agreements, ensuring competition in the EU forestry sector depending on industries, increasing the use of environmentally friendly wood and other forest products, increasing the SOY, certification and labeling of related products, contributing to the EU's development policy by ensuring sustainable management of forests as one of the ways to reduce impoverishment (Özcan, 2008).

EU trade policy states that it will ensure full implementation of biodiversity provisions included in all trade agreements, further assess the impact of trade agreements on biodiversity and work to strengthen biodiversity provisions in new agreements. An agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the Council in December 2022 on the Draft Anti-Deforestation Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains prepared by the Commission. According to the Regulation, traceability is a prerequisite for entry into the EU market, especially for products such as palm oil, soy, cocoa, coffee, cattle, rubber and timber. It is aimed to ensure that the products within the scope of the legislation do not cause deforestation for entry into the EU market, that they are produced in accordance with the legislation of the relevant country and that the obligation to show that the products are produced in a way that does not cause deforestation is fulfilled. At the international level, the EU will support sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices to protect and restore the world's forests, paying particular attention to sustainable

water resources management, restoration of degraded landscapes and biodiversity conservation (URL1, 2023).

The EU forest strategy is based on the European Green Deal and the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy. It is expected to contribute to achieving a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and a climate neutral EU by 2050 (URL2, 2023). In this framework, it aims to increase the contribution of forestry and forest-based values in order to increase and protect the welfare of prosperous rural areas by achieving a sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050 (Aşan, 2023).

National development plans determine strategies for the development of the forestry sector and ensure their realization. The latest development plan (12th Development Plan) covers the years 2024-2028. According to this plan, it is aimed to increase the forest wealth by managing forests in accordance with sustainable forest management criteria and indicators, taking into account international conventions and national commitments, including the United Nations Global Forest Goals and Rio Conventions. For this purpose, forests will be established with species resistant to climate change and management plans will be developed to increase sink areas. By reducing deforestation, biodiversity and water resources will be protected and their contribution to energy, health, food and tourism sectors will be increased. Landslide, flood and avalanche control projects will be implemented to combat erosion. Carbon and green certification activities related to forestry will be developed. Recycling of forest products will be ensured. Compliance of forestry statistics with world standards will be ensured. Organized industrial zones will be established in regions with dense forests. International trade of forestry companies in Turkey will be supported. The share of the sector in the economy will be increased. Certification procedures will be increased throughout the country to facilitate the trade of forest products. Industrial afforestation activities of the private sector will be supported. The use of wood in workplaces and residences will be increased. Price stability will be ensured in forest products. Development of forest villagers will be ensured and migration from villages to cities will be prevented. Measures to prevent forest fires will be increased and effective response capacity will be improved. Buffer zones will be established in sensitive areas by using fire resistant species (Onikinci Kalkınma Planı, 2023).

In Turkey and in many other countries of the world, forestry was seen only as an economic activity. The first thing that came to mind when forest and forestry were mentioned was timber and firewood production. For this reason, forests have been destroyed for many years and even their amount has decreased day by day. The transition from consumption forestry to conservation forestry took time. However, recently, globalization and environmental protection have been among the most important issues on the world agenda (Yıldırım; Budak, 2010). Environmental problems and deforestation have gained a global dimension and international solutions have been sought. The EU is a very strong and effective organization on environmental problems. EU member countries have to be a party to the environmental conventions to which the EU is a party and they have to bring their countries into compliance with the terms of the conventions in order to fulfill the requirements

of these conventions. Otherwise, those at the membership stage will not be able to become full members and full members will face the danger of having their funds cut off or being prosecuted in the courts.

Turkey is striving to join the EU because it wants to be economically and politically strong in its geography. Turkey is a productive power with a competitive advantage in economic and trade compared to other members of the EU. The Turkish economy has made a certain economic progress and then stabilized. Turkey's trade potential will contribute to its full membership of the EU. In this way, as a result of mutual trust and views in trade, management and technical problems that occur in market conditions can be eliminated (Akyüz et al., 2010).

In July 2016, the European Commission (EC) transformed land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework for greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the Paris agreement, the Climate and Energy Framework aims to reduce total emissions by 40% by 2030 for all sectors. Sustainable forestry management has become climate-oriented. Reducing the impacts of climate change is the main goal and forests have started to be considered as carbon sinks (Nabuurs et al., 2017).

On average, there are 215 million ha. of forests and woodlands on the European continent. This number corresponds to 30% of the total area. There are differences between forest areas in terms of climatic, ecological, geographical, socio-economic conditions. In the whole of Europe, the EU's forest area is around 130 million hectares. This amount corresponds to 35% of the Union. After the recent enlargement in 2004 with the accession of new member states, the forest area of the Union has increased by about 7 million hectares. On the other hand, the species diversity of the Union also varies among member countries. There are even differences between countries in terms of ownership. The difference in ownership stems from cultural and historical differences. In 15 member countries of the Union, privately owned forests constitute 65%. However, public ownership is dominant in forests in 10 of the countries that became members after 2004 (Yurdakul Erol & Akgün, 2006).

As environmental awareness is gradually increasing in our country, the legislative infrastructure is also being developed rapidly. In this context, the high potential of renewable energy resources in our country provides an advantage. The fact that environmental legislation is very comprehensive is among the factors affecting Turkey's harmonization efforts since it concerns not only the present but also the future of the society (Turan Bayram et al., 2011).

Discussion

Forestry activities were first seen in China around 400 BC. During this period, studies were carried out on how to ensure a continuous supply of wood for a long time. In Sri Lanka and India, rules on the control of hunting and logging and the management of forest resources began to be established about 2000 years ago. In Western countries, on the other hand, protective measures began to be taken much later. For example, it was discovered in the 13th century in England that the reason for the decline in hunting animals was due to the decrease in the presence of

forests. In Switzerland, a legal regulation was enacted in 1343 to protect forests in order to ensure a continuous supply of wood and to protect against avalanche disasters. In Germany in the 16th century, deforestation was tried to be prevented by limiting the supply of wood and imposing sanctions to prevent the use of wood (URL3, 2023).

Forestry activities in our country started earlier than many countries with the influence of Germany and France. Forestry organization has been continuing its duty since 1839. Many regulations have been made until today in order to protect, develop and ensure the sustainability of forests. The regulations have been secured by laws. In addition, public participation is among the management strategies to ensure effective management of forests.

The concept of management has two meanings. The first means to direct and manage, while the second refers to the organization that operates an activity and all its offices and employees. The function of management is to organize and carry out forestry activities. The most important function is the sustainability of management. Sustainable forest management can be defined as a management that ensures the integrity, productivity, rejuvenation capacity, biodiversity, ecological, economic and social benefits of forest areas and resources today and in the future, at national and global level, in a sustainable manner for the benefit of society and that does not harm other ecosystems. Participation is the development process between local people and development officials in which the target groups are the guides and even determinants in analyzing the situation for solving problems, planning, implementing and evaluating development. Participatory management means project design, implementation, supervision, evaluation, correction, cooperation with the affected people and supporting institutions (Velioglu & Yıldırım, 2007). Local community participation in forest management and forest ownership is increasing. However, forest-based communities have overridden some of the positive effects of increased participation on ownership. Instead of supporting poor and indigenous people, forestry and regulatory policies favor access to forests for the rich so that they can use forest resources for urban needs. This leads to negative discrimination between the poor and the rich. However, retaining forest benefits locally can provide options for improved prosperity in these areas. Indeed, the great commercial and livelihood value of forests in poverty reduction has attracted attention (Larson & Ribot, 2007). The fact that poor people see forests as a livelihood asset and rely on forests for most of their vital needs has led to the emergence of social forestry. However, at first it was perceived only as the sale of wood to meet the need for wood, but over time it has reached its current evolution (Hobley, 2005).

As an institution intertwined with the public, the General Directorate of Forestry carries out various activities within the scope of participatory management policies. The most important of these is the training of volunteers from the civilian population in extinguishing forest fires. In addition, trainings on sapling planting are also organized. Thus, by ensuring the participation of the public, we raise awareness of our institution and the work we do, as well as raising individuals who are helpful to our organization.

Public participation must be ensured in environmental protection activities, problem solving and rural development. The basic plan of rural development is to increase the living standards of rural people by increasing their income. Rural development is a problem in Turkey as in many parts of the world. In the EU, the problems related to rural development are gradually coming to light. The EU is constantly making program and policy changes in an effort to create financial resources to solve the problems. Process changes are also closely related to our country in the EU membership process. Rural development policies in Turkey have generally consisted of projects. Emphasis has been given to agricultural production and marketing with practices supported by external resources (Gülçubuk ve Karabıyık, 2002). In addition, the relationship between forest resources and forest villagers makes rural development a privileged issue in Turkey. Rural development has a critical importance for forest villagers. Because forest villagers are the group with the lowest income level as well as low education, health services, infrastructure works and social opportunities (Yurdakul Erol & Yıldırım, 2017). Therefore, forest villagers have caused pressure on forests in terms of the use of forest resources and land. They have made a large amount of clearing from forests to use the land as agricultural land. In the following periods, with the cadastral law, the qualifications of such places changed and they became fields. Forests remained dense in hilly and roadless areas. After the forests were put into operation, the need for forest road construction arose. In our country, the general lines of forest roads were completed in 1979. However, an average of 1000 km of roads are constructed every year. The standards of forest roads in our country are similar to the standards of Austria, one of the EU member countries (Çağlar & Acar, 2009). With the opening of roads, production has increased and forest products have contributed to the increase in trade volume.

Within the scope of rural development, the Forestry Organization supports rural development by producing various afforestation and non-wood product cultivation projects, as well as providing jobs for forest villagers to gain income, producing various afforestation and non-wood product cultivation projects, providing cattle and sheep loans to villagers through Orköy projects, solar energy systems for houses, renewal of electrical installations, and providing drums and tractors. In addition, the increase in forest revenues has increased the share transferred to the treasury up to 15 percent.

Apart from European forestry, the forestry policies and strategies of some countries in Asia, Africa and South America: In Ethiopia, the development of forestry policy is intertwined with the evolution and conscience of the state structure. An organized state structure in Ethiopia emerged after World War II. The forestry policy process first emerged under the Italians. However, the Italians were expelled before they could introduce forestry policies. The first forestry law was published in 1965. An autonomous forestry sector came after the mid-1970s. The famine and drought of 1985 turned the country's attention to forests and environmental problems. Since the 1990s, with the impact of economic growth, both forestry and environmental protection problems have been focused on (Ayana et al., 2012).

During the war years, as in many other countries, the number of forests tended to decrease in our country. Later, thanks to the measures taken and the policies followed, the forest presence has increased until today. The forest presence, which was 6 million hectares at the beginning, reached 10.5 million hectares in 1949 (Evsile, 2018). It was recorded as 20.2 hectares in 1973, 20.8 hectares in 1999, 21.2 hectares in 2004, 21.7 hectares in 2012, 22.3 hectares in 2015, 22.9 hectares in 2020 and 23.1 hectares in 2021 (URL4, 2024).

After the deterioration of forestry management in Nepal, the forest-people relationship was managed by the government by making laws. The law-making process was not based on the opinions of the people and non-governmental organizations, but only on the opinions of parliamentarians. Decreasing forest areas started to increase again with the harsh laws of the government (Ojha et al., 2007).

In general, forestry management and policies in our country are under the influence of political parties and governments. Governments can cause the destruction of forests by amending laws and regulations. For example, the 2B law paved the way for the clearing of forests. With the opening of forests to sectors such as mining, construction and tourism by introducing easement rights, the destruction has increased.

Forest areas are very low in Bangladesh. However, forests are of great importance for the livelihood of local people. Forest management in Bangladesh started in 1864. 60% of the forests in the country are state forests. This is one of the countries that will be most affected by global warming and climate change. In 1989, forest laws tried to prevent deforestation by providing stricter penalties. The actions were based on forest protection but did not support social forestry. In 2000, a new law tried to adapt to social forestry (Alam, 2009).

In our country, 99.9% of forest ownership, almost all of it, belongs to the state. While forest protection is supported by law, rural and social forestry policies are prioritized in order to contribute to the livelihood of the people living in rural areas. At the same time, these policies prevent the destruction of forests.

Brazil's tropical forests experienced a major forest loss between 2000 and 2012, with forest cover loss reaching 32%. Increasing population and consumer demands will increase pressure on forests. Balancing increasing demand for different land uses, reducing competition for land, increasing biodiversity conservation and improving ecosystem services could be a potential solution. Increasing agricultural productivity could accelerate deforestation. The development of cattle ranching can contribute to the development of forests (Alves-Pinto et al., 2016).

In our country, forests are being destroyed to gain agricultural land. In addition, grazing in forests due to the insufficiency of grasslands and pastures also causes the destruction of saplings. Grazing plans and increasing pastures will prevent deforestation.

Approximately 82 percent of forests in Poland are managed by the state. Forest area is 9.483.000 ha. Looking at the history of forestry in Poland, it has been determined that the increase in the demand for wood has decreased the forest presence. The products obtained from forests are

generally industrial wood. In 2021, 42.2 million m³ of wood was produced. 97 percent of the forests have FSC certification. The Polish forestry law entered into force in 1991. Forestry activities started in Turkey much earlier than in Poland. In terms of forest area, Turkey has 3 times the area of Poland. The amount of FSC corresponds to 28 percent of the forests. In Turkey, it was determined to be approximately 27.7 million m³ in 2021. Although Turkey has more forests in terms of area, it is seen that Turkey's forests are inefficient when the production amounts are compared (Gedik et al., 2023).

If the political development of Turkey and some countries in the world is analyzed:

Gümüş (2014) analyzed the forestry policy from the Ottoman Empire to the present day in his study. The forestry organization of our country was established to generate income. The value of wood has had an important place in the organizations from the first establishment, which aimed to protect forests and regulate the sale of wood, to the present day. Over time, ecological concerns started to emerge and this situation started to have an impact on political approaches. With the beginning of conscious forestry in our country, the developments in forestry have been examined and it has been emphasized that there are structural defects in the forest organization today. It is said that the organization is unable to work due to unnecessary staffing and unnecessary units. In addition, it is argued that resources are wasted due to the excessive number of staff, and it is stated that the ministry should be closed and a new organizational structure should be arranged.

Birben (2007), in his research, evaluated the forestry policy of Turkey after 1937. The year 1937 is considered as the milestone of transition to technical forestry in Turkey. In this year, the Forestry Law No. 3116 came into force. The socio-economic and political development of the law was analyzed. Between 1937 and 1950, forests were tried to be protected in accordance with the principle of statism. However, it is seen that the forest laws enacted in the 1950-1960 period and after 1980 were not based on the protection function and focused only on the financial return of forests.

The forestry policy in our country was generally based on wood production during the Ottoman period and there was a lot of forest destruction due to the lack of controlled forestry and wars. During the Republican period, the destruction of forests continued for a while. In 1937, with the introduction of technical forestry in the modern sense, conservation forestry started. Today, our forest cover tends to increase.

Alam (2009) examined the historical development of Bangladesh's national forest policy in his article. In order to increase government revenues, the trade of forest resources is at the forefront. This led to the decline of forests. Later on, the extreme impact of climate change on the country made the need to protect forests evident. New laws were passed to protect forests and develop social forestry.

Ayana et al. (2012) examine and explain the historical development of Ethiopia's forestry policy in their study. The use and management of forests were designed as social and institutional arrangements. During the imperial period, resources such as timber from natural forests were seen as

the main source of income to fuel the economy. The rapid depletion of forest resources raised the question of conservation. To protect forests, the Empire established an autonomous forestry organization to enforce laws and ensure forest maintenance.

Ojha et al. (2007) examined the social and historical process of forestry policy decision-making in Nepal. Forest-people relationship was managed by the government through law-making after forestry management deteriorated. In the law-making process, the opinions of the people and non-governmental organizations were not taken from the public and only the opinions of the parliamentarians were taken as basis. 15 laws were content analyzed. In general terms, the content analysis examined issues such as the government's toughening of laws and exclusion of technical staff in law-making, sale of forest products, increasing taxes, inventorying, biodiversity strategy, non-wood forest products sales policy, etc. Citizens' perspectives on these issues were also assessed. It shows that the governmental management of Nepal's forests after the 80s has had positive results in terms of forestry. In the first period, non-governmental organizations and the public were excluded from law-making, but in the second period, cooperation was ensured.

Larson and Ribot (2007) gave examples from Honduras and Senegal in their study. In both countries, as in forest policies in many parts of the world, laws are heavily skewed against local communities due to economic and social disadvantages. Forest policies create a double standard between the rich and the poor. Poor communities remain subject to these privileged elites.

Although the names of countries change, when it comes to forestry, the first thing that comes to mind is wood production and its contribution to the economy. The forestry policies of countries generally lead to the destruction of forests. The presence of quality forests has shown a tendency to decrease in many countries. With the inadequacy of the products obtained over time and the effect of climate change, forestry policies have been tried to be changed to protect forests. In our country, the protection of forests has been tried to be ensured by establishing laws. However, the laws have paved the way for the destruction of forests by granting permission easement rights from forests. In addition, with the issuance of the 2B article implementation regulation, land acquisition has been legalized by opening up forests.

As an answer to questions such as what is the place of the European Union in the forestry sector, what does the union do about forestry, what are the things that the member states of the union should do?

Gülçubuk and Karabıyık (2002), in their study, mentioned the importance and objective of rural development policies of the EU in order to eliminate the balance difference between rural and urban regions. The main objective of rural development is to improve the living standards of the rural population by increasing their income level. Rural development is an important problem in Turkey as well as in many other parts of the world. In the EU, rural development policies are planned according to economic, environmental and social needs. In Turkey, there is no outlined rural development policy and a policy needs to be developed. The country's policy should see

rural development and agricultural development as a whole. Agricultural productivity and quality should be increased. Projects should be produced at regional and local level. Financial resource and budget shortage should be solved. Rural development strategies should be developed in line with EU policies and the institutional structure should be organized accordingly.

Yurdakul Erol and Akgün (2005), in this article the development process of EU forestry policy is discussed. When EU member countries are evaluated in terms of forestry, differences between forest ownership in the countries stand out. Most of the countries have private ownership and species diversity is not very high. International policies have been influential in the formulation of EU forestry policy. However, forestry structure, biodiversity, rural development, climate change and forest industry are also influential. Important issues related to forestry in the EU are listed as participation, the relationship between rural development and forestry, protection of biodiversity, intersectoral and international cooperation, increasing the service production efficiency of forests, trade in forest products, ensuring ecosystem balance and environmental protection. In the new regulations to be made in the field of forestry in our country, it would be appropriate to take into consideration the EU forestry principles and objectives as well as the decisions taken in international meetings on forestry. Turkey is one of the countries in the process of EU membership.

Velioglu and Yıldırım (2007), In this study, firstly the concepts of public participation in forest management in Turkish Forest Legislation and then the concepts of participation in forest management according to EU Legislation are examined. The views on participation in forestry management are mostly related to participation in the decision-making process. The right to access information and documents in participation is not regulated in the Turkish Legal System. However, it is used through interpretation.

Haliloğlu and Tolunay (2009), Turkey became a candidate member of the EU in 1963 but became a full member in 1987. Countries wishing to become a member of the EU have to comply with the conditions of the union and the agreements signed by the union. Turkey will have to adapt its forestry policies to the EU policies. Initially, forestry policies in the EU were based on lumbering because they were evaluated from an economic point of view and they did not have a proper forestry policy. With the new global approaches to forests being environmentally oriented, conscious forestry policies have been adopted. International negotiations and agreements on deforestation and global warming have begun. These processes have directed policies towards protection and development. In the reports of Turkey-EU negotiations, it was stated that our country has an advanced and good structure in forestry issues but needs to make efforts in implementation.

Özudoğru and Duygu (2009) mentioned the advantages and disadvantages of Turkey in Turkey's EU accession negotiations. The biggest advantage of our country is the richness of biodiversity. When the Natura 2000 Network is evaluated, the protected areas of our country are 5.49% of its surface area. And this ratio is very insufficient. Special

protection measures should be taken within the scope of Natura 2000. Although our natural resources and forests are in the process of extinction and degradation, we have an advantage over the EU. Because our number of wild species and endemic species is quite good. The fact that our membership process is long will also give us an advantage in terms of implementing the EU criteria.

Yıldırım and Budak (2010) discuss the changes in the environmental policies of cultural, social, economic and political life, especially in the environmental field, in the process of full membership to the EU. Turkey is seen to have made progress in terms of increasing administrative capacity and administrative authorities at the central level. EU environmental policies have an impact on the policies of countries wishing to become a member. Turkey's environmental policy will be insufficient compared to the EU environmental policy.

Yıldız with Atmış (2014) examined the similarities and differences between EU forestry strategies and Turkish forestry policies. It is seen that rural development in the EU is realized systematically and financially supported, unlike in Turkey. While the use of wood biomass is encouraged in the EU because forests are carbon sinks, in Turkey the rural population is directed to alternative energy sources other than wood. The forestry program of our country, which is in the process of full membership to the EU, should be revised to adapt to changing conditions.

Ciccarese et al. (2014) focused on the use of wood as biomass in EU Member States and its widespread use as a renewable energy source, industrialization, which mainly uses wood raw materials, and the efficient use and recycling of wood. However, increased wood utilization will increase wood market prices. Cascade system was evaluated within the scope of energy utilization. The cascade system is the re-evaluation of wood according to its added value, derivation of new uses and recycling. As this will reduce the supply problem, forest fragmentation can be prevented, climate and environment can be protected and carbon balance can be contributed. Effective use and recycling of wood should be included in EU environmental policies. The amount of wood waste should be reduced to zero by increasing the use of biomass to ensure the carbon cycle.

Alves-Pinto et al. (2016) mentioned in their article that managing land use well will ensure ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. It will also provide social, economic and environmental benefits. However, in Brazil, which has a rich biodiversity, intensive cattle breeding, which has a good economic return, shows that soil and forest lands are sacrificed. This leads to rapid deforestation. Sustainable policies should be developed to ensure the continuity of forests. Forests should be restored and sectors should be diversified to reduce pressure. Recommendations for rural development include beekeeping, development of rural tourism and increasing potential food production to protect forests and biodiversity.

Yurdakul Erol with Yıldırım (2017) considered the relationship between forest resources and forest villagers as a privileged part of rural development forestry policy. The development and protection of forest villagers and forest resources depend on supporting forests. By improving the living standards of forest villagers, their

pressure on forests can be reduced. Forest laws also support the development of forest villagers by providing some funds and granting some rights. In addition, forest laws define the protection of forests, afforestation, protection from forest fires and the inclusion of certain areas as protected areas. Basically, supporting forest villagers and ensuring rural development are among the objectives of Turkey's forestry policy. Rural development will contribute to the protection of forests.

Nabuurs et al. (2017) focused on issues such as improving forest management, expanding forest areas, energy substitution, and building forest reserves. In order to ensure sustainable forestry, which they call smart climate forestry, it has been suggested that carbon sequestration should be ensured as well as providing energy and protecting forests by considering all chains from forest to wood products. For this, abandoned agricultural lands can be forestized to reduce carbon emissions. EU member states are indebted due to carbon emissions and this should be alleviated. The EU will mitigate forestry and forest sector carbon emissions by 20% by 2050.

Conclusion

Forest policies have developed gradually over the years according to changing conditions and the needs of the time. As a result, in Turkey and in many other parts of the world, the concept of forestry policy was initially conceived only in terms of generating economic income from forests. Governments all over the world have accompanied the destruction of forests with their laws in order to generate income. In fact, in many places, laws have been enacted that do not support the people living in rural areas, but rather favor the rich. As such, forests have become extinct over time. Until the Helsinki Summit, the member states of the European Union saw forests only as a source of income. After global warming and the importance of forests came to the agenda at the summit, the EU decided to change its policies. The EU also obliged the member countries to comply with the decisions it took and the international agreements it abided by. These developments are important in terms of understanding the importance of forests. Countries have started to pursue conservation and development policies instead of pursuing consumption forestry policies. They have developed rural development and social forestry policies to protect forests. They have proposed various solutions to protect the environment and force the countries of the world to comply with the policies they have developed. In short, after understanding the importance of forests, all countries have united on this issue. The world is now pursuing a conscious forestry policy.

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