**Policy Frameworks and Governance Styles of Forestry: Turkey Case Study**

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# Background

After the first edition published in 2013, <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/89603/en/> we are in the process of preparing the second edition of the SoMF2018.

The structure of the new edition has already been agreed upon, with 13 chapters distributed in three parts:

•             General introduction

•             **Part 1: The Mediterranean landscape: importance and threats**

o   Chapter 1. Contribution of Mediterranean forests to the global agenda

o   Chapter 2. Importance of Mediterranean forests

o   Chapter 3. Forests and trees outside forest (urban forest, agroforest, etc.)

o   Chapter 4. Drivers of degradation and threats

•             **Part 2: Mediterranean forest-based solutions**

o   Chapter 5. Human needs and ecosystem services

o   Chapter 6. Forest and landscape restoration

o   Chapter 7. Adaptation and mitigation

o   Chapter 8. Biodiversity conservation/protected areas

•             **Part 3: Enabling environment to scale up solutions**

o   Chapter 9. Contribution of Mediterranean forests to the green economy

**o**   **Chapter 10. Policy frameworks and governance styles or International policies**

o   Chapter 11. Local approaches to community engagement or Governance and community engagement

o   Chapter 12. Valuing the ecosystem services for the decision-maker agenda or New value chains from Mediterranean forests

o   Chapter 13. Financial incentives and tools

•             Conclusions

Chapter 10 of the new SoMF 2018 deals with policy frameworks (international, regional and national) affecting the Mediterranean Region and their implementation (if any).

This article was prepared for  **“Chapter 10. Policy frameworks and governance styles or International policies”**

Here, Turkey's political framework (institutional structure, legislation etc.) and international activities related to forestry will be examined and examples will be given from the applications. Messages from Alessandra Schioppa, Irina Buttoud and Valentina Garavaglia from FAO and a 7-page information note as of April 12, 2017 have been reviewed during the preparatory phase.

# Methodology

First of all, the legislation related to forestry was scanned through "Legislation Information System e-Legislation" <http://mevzuat.basbakanlik.gov.tr/> developed by the General Directorate of Legislation Development and Publication of the Prime Ministry.

All laws, including the laws issued in the Ottoman period, which are accepted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TGNA) <https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/index.php/EN/yd/icerik/12> , international agreements, Decree-Law, are on the relevant page of the Prime Ministry.

It has also benefited from the authors' own writings and **experiences. On** the other hand, international reports made by Turkey were also reviewed.

# Regulations

## Turkish Constitution

<http://www.anayasa.gen.tr/1982Constitution-1995-1.pdf>

The referendum held on April 16, 2017 made significant changes in the Turkish Constitution and the Parliamentary system was replaced by the Presidential Government system. Execution work and operations will be carried out by the Presidency and Ministries from now on. The office of the Prime Minister has been abolished.

The Constitution consists of a total of 177 articles. Four of them are related to forestry in some way. In addition, the Constitution is structured in 6 chapters and Section " IV. Forests and the Inhabitants of Forest Villages ".

This is very important in terms of showing the place of forestry in the Republic of Turkey legislation.

Articles 44, 46, 169 and 170 of the present Constitution, together with their titles, are given below.

### Article 44 Land Ownership

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| Article 44: The State shall take the necessary measures to maintain and develop efficient land cultivation, **to prevent its loss through erosion**, and to provide and to farmers with insufficient land of their own, or no land.  For this purpose, the law may define the size of appropriate land units, according to different agricultural regions and types of farming. Providing of land to farmers with no or insufficient land shall not lead to a fall in production, **or to the depletion of forests** and other land and underground resources. |

### ARTICLE 46 Expropriation

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| Article 46: The State and public corporations shall be entitled, where public interest requires it, to expropriate privately owned real estate….  Compensation shall be paid in cash and in advance.  However, the procedure to be applied in paying compensation for land expropriated in order to carry out land reform, major energy and irrigation projects, and housing and resettlement schemes and **afforestation**, and to protect the coasts and to build tourist facilities shall be regulated by law. |

### Article 169 Protection and Development of Forests

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| Article 169: The State shall enact the necessary legislation and take the necessary measures for the protection of forests and the extension of their areas.  Forest areas destroyed by fire shall be reforested; other agricultural and stock - breeding activities shall not be allowed in such areas.  **All forests shall be under the care and supervision of the State.**  The ownership of State forests shall not be transferred to others.  State forests shall be managed and exploited by the State in accordance with the law. Ownership of these forests cannot be acquired through prescription, nor shall servitude other than that in the public interest be imposed in respect of such forests.  Acts and actions which might damage forests shall not be permitted. No political propaganda which might lead to the destruction of forests shall be made; no amnesties or pardons to be specifically granted for offenses against forests shall be legislated. Offenses committed with the intention of burning or destroying forests or reducing forest areas shall not be included within the scope of amnesties or pardons on other occasions.  The restraining of forest boundaries shall be prohibited, except in respect of areas whose preservation as forests is considered technically and scientifically useless but whose conversion into agricultural land has been found definitely advantageous, and in respect of fields, vineyards, orchards, olive groves or similar areas which technically and scientifically ceased to be forest before **31 December 1981** and whose use for agricultural or stock- breeding purposes has been found advantageous, and in respect of built - up areas in the vicinity of cities, towns or villages. |

### ARTICLE 170 -Protection of the Inhabitants of Forest Villages

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| Article 170: Measures shall be introduced by law to secure co-operation between the State and the inhabitants of villages located in or near forests in the supervision and exploitation of forests for the purpose of ensuring their conservation and improving the living conditions of their inhabitants; the law shall also regulate the development of areas which Technically and scientifically ceased to be forests before 31 December 1981, the identification of areas whose preservation as forest is considered technically and scientifically useless, their exclusion from forest boundaries, their improvement by the State for the purpose of settling all or some of the inhabitants of forest villages in them, and Their allocation to these villages.  The State shall take measures to facilitate the acquisition, by these inhabitants, of farming equipment and other inputs, The land owned by villagers resettled outside a forest shall immediately be reforested as a state forest |

In Turkey, forest villagers constitute a significant proportion of the country’s poor and are viewed as an important resource for managing forests. Similarly, forests provide the villagers with an important source of direct employment, and the supply of subsistence goods and services. Over the past 35 years, migration to urban areas has reduced the population of forest villages from 18 to 7 million—a level that forest authorities consider critically low to adequately manage upland ecosystems sustainably.

In addition, many of the migrants were of working age, leaving the work of properly managing the forests and pastures to the remaining population that now consists of the old and/or very young.  However, the declining rural populations and the changing demographics of the villages frequently lead to issues such as the overgrazing of livestock near settlements; increased use of fire for managing pastures, with increased risks of uncontrolled burning; ecological changes in the habitat area that may threaten endangered species; and a decline in important forest maintenance activities, such as tree thinning[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Laws**

Many laws on forestry have been issued. Some of these are:

* Forest Law
* Law on Organization and Duties of General Directorate of Forestry
* Law on Forestry Engineering, Forestry Industrial Engineering and Woodworking Industrial Engineering.
* National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization Law
* National Parks Law
* Hunting Law
* Laws on the Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs

# Current Institutional Structure

## Ministry and Units

The institutional structure in Turkey changes frequently. With the recent changes made in 2011, the forestry organization has taken the existing shape.

It is anticipated, however, that there may be new changes in the structures of the Ministries in connection with the system change on the basis of the referendum held on 16 April 2017.

On the other side, the forestry issue was generally represented in the Council of Ministers, sometimes with the ministries that are sometimes independent, and sometimes also with other issues (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).As of May 2017, the current structure of the forestry sector is as follows.

At the top is the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. The Ministry's forestry-related units are:

1. General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
2. General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
3. General Directorate of Forestry

The General Directorate of Forestry is the oldest and most powerful institutions of Turkey with its establishment up to 1839.

General Directorate of Forestry has Forest Regional Directorates. These are divided into Forest Management Directorates and Forest Management Chiefs. Production of forest products, firefighting, and forest maintenance services works are carried out by the forest management chiefs.

There are also 12 Forestry Research Institutes and 28 Forest Nurseries Directorates. There are also units serving in international level such as "International Forestry Education Center" which serves in Antalya.

## Universities

In Turkey, state universities are affiliated to the Higher Education Institution, which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Education. As of May 2017, there are 112 State Universities, of which there are 12 Forest Faculty.

The names of these faculties and web pages are given below.

1. Artvin Coruh University Forestry Faculty- <http://www.artvin.edu.tr/tr/menu/140/131/orman-fakultesi>
2. Bartın University Forestry Faculty - <http://orman.bartin.edu.tr/>
3. Bursa Technical University Forestry Faculty- <http://of.btu.edu.tr/index.php>
4. Cankiri Karatekin University Forestry Faculty- <http://of.karatekin.edu.tr/>
5. Duzce University Forestry Faculty - <http://www.of.duzce.edu.tr/>
6. Istanbul University Forestry Faculty- <http://orman.istanbul.edu.tr/>
7. İzmir Katip Celebi University Forestry Faculty- <http://of.ikc.edu.tr/>
8. Kahramanmaras Sutcu İmam University Forestry Faculty - <http://orman.ksu.edu.tr/>
9. Karabük University Forestry Faculty - <http://orman.karabuk.edu.tr/index.aspx>
10. Black Sea Technical University Forestry Faculty - <http://www.ktu.edu.tr/orman>
11. Kastamonu University Forestry Faculty - <https://orman.kastamonu.edu.tr/index.php/tr/>
12. Suleyman Demirel University Forestry Faculty - <http://orman.sdu.edu.tr/>

Every year, about 450 Engineers graduated from these faculties. These engineers are mainly employed in the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. Some of them work in the private sector.

# Civil Society Organizations

Non-governmental organizations related to forestry are very strong. Some of them are in the form of chambers and trade unions established according to the related Laws, while others are structured in the form of associations, foundations and platforms.

Here are some of the NGOs established according to the relevant Laws.

1. **Chamber of Forest Engineers** - <http://ormuh.org.tr/index.aspx> The Chamber of Forest Engineers is an affiliate of the Association of Turkish Architects and Engineers Chambers. **As of 2017 there are about 16 thousand members**. On the other hand, it is estimated that 6-7 thousand of the existing forest engineers **are still unemployed**, which is a serious problem. Approximately 450 engineers graduate each year from Forestry Faculties in recent years. According to the latest statistics, the number of forest engineers who have obtained a license for their own work is around 2 thousand persons.
2. **Union of Agriculture and Forestry Workers**-TOÇBİRSEN- [www.tocbirsen.org.tr](http://www.tocbirsen.org.tr) This Union serves for the civil servants working for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forests. It has about 40.000 members.
3. **OZ ORMAN Trade Union** which is one of the biggest trade unions in agriculture and forestry in Turkey with the members reached 35.000. <http://www.ozorman-is.org.tr/default.asp>
4. **The Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives-** [**http://www.orkoop.org.tr/eng/**](http://www.orkoop.org.tr/eng/)

Apart from these, there are many non-governmental organizations that carry out their activities under the related Laws of Associations. Some of them are listed below.

* Green Turkey Foresters Association- [www.yesilturkiye.org.tr](http://www.yesilturkiye.org.tr)
* OSTİM Renewable Energy and Environmental Technology Cluster- www.ostimenerjik.com
* Soil Science Society of Turkey-SSST- www.toprak.org.tr
* The Foundation of the People Caring for the Future -CARFU- [www.gonder.org.tr](http://www.gonder.org.tr)
* The Nature Conservation Center-DKM- [www.dkm.org.tr](http://www.dkm.org.tr)

They welcomed to the new members and also they discussed the agenda and other logictical issues of the First International Workshop of PLANFOR <http://www.carfu.org/?p=1322>

# Private Sector

There are many forestry enterprises in Turkey on a large scale, small and medium scale. A significant part of them are structured under the umbrella of association’s.[[2]](#footnote-2).

Here are a few examples:

1. [**Turkish Forestry Products Council**](https://www.tobb.org.tr/TurkiyeSektorMeclisleri/Sayfalar/Eng/SektorMeclisleriListesi.php)**-** It is one of the 59 Industry Councils of Turkey established under the **“The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)”.** TOBB is the highest legal entity in Turkey representing the private sector. Industry Council of Turkey aim to foster sectoral policy making, ensure the formulation of sectoral interest and sectoral position and develop cooperation and collaboration between public and private sector. Industry Council of Turkey also provide major benefits to our sectors and economy with its national and international character and its vision and strategy. Operating and continuing their efforts with a growing momentum since 2006, councils which represent sectors on behalf of TOBB, are an important meeting point which consist of public authorities, non-governmental organizations operating in the sector and leading firms as members. As of today, there are 59 Industry Council of Turkey, designed as structures where economic sectors are put under spotlight with through dimensions, sectoral road maps are drawn. Industry Council of Turkey also provide a significant contribution to EU negotiation process including managing regulatory impact analysis.
2. Turkish Exporters Assembly Wood and Forestry Products Sector- <http://www.tim.org.tr/en/about-tim-sectors-council.html>
3. TORİD- Turkey Forest Products Industrialists and Business Association- <http://www.torid.org.tr/>

# Economic Structure

Turkey's forest sector 2023 target is to be a sector of 19 billion dollars. <http://www.gonder.org.tr/?p=2084>

There are about 20 thousand in-forest and forest side villages in Turkey. About 7 million people live in these villages. This amount is about one tenth of the country's population.

A significant portion of these people are engaged in forestry-related jobs, and they conduct small and medium-sized contracting services.

Mining activities are carried out largely in forested areas. According to the 2012 figures, 8.713 in-forest inland mining operations were granted. This corresponds to a total of 27 thousand hectares of forest.

One of the basic elements of tourism is the forests. 117 fields corresponding to a total of 29,200 hectares are allocated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. At 102 points corresponding to 1,350 hectares, permission was granted to set up tourist facilities.

Hunting tourism is also practiced in the forests.

In Turkey, animal husbandry is generally carried out by traditional methods; Forests are the largest grazing areas.

Cutting and feeding of trees and leaves of trees is the most important contribution of forests to animal husbandry.

Forests are the basis of food safety and food production. For example, 80% of honey, an extremely important food product for Turkey, is produced in forests and forests. Laurel, thyme, chestnut, lime, gum, pine nuts, mushrooms and so on. When products are added, the contribution of forests is better understood. Honey production forests, thyme, laurel, peanut pine products perform extremely important services.

1. <http://www.profor.info/knowledge/turkey-forest-villages-socioeconomic-study-forest-villagers-better-understand-causes-out> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.carfu.org/?p=357> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)