FOREST PROTECTION: THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT

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**Basic Dynamics of Forest Protection**

The forests are the common values of the whole world and mankind. They are distributed according to the geographical and ecological conditions without depending on the political borders of the countries. Forests sharing the same geography are similar to each other. In this respect, international cooperation, experience and technology sharing are very important in forest protection. In the same way system sharing, management understanding and sharing of applications have vital importance.

Forest fires and forest diseases (insects, fungus, damage caused by air pollution, etc.), which are the most important forest pests, do not recognize country boundaries.Customs walls do not apply to these damages.Fires often pass easily from one country to another.Although the management systems of the countries are different from each other, the conditions of the boundaries are similar so that common struggle and cooperation are important.

This similarity also affects forest products and services. Increasing cooperation will not only prevent illegal activity but also increase legal trade on the other side. This will support countries' cooperation and understanding of common destiny.

On the other hand, cooperation between countries should not be considered only as "cooperation between states and public institutions". Today, cooperation between civil society organizations is one of the basic elements of democracy.

NGOs and CSOs which are “Non-state organized structures”, are both the “solution partner” of the public agencies and “volunteered participation” organizations in every matter relating to human and society. Therefore, NGOs are more competent than the public agencies in representing the free will of the society and the individuals. Mutual sharing of knowledge and experience will increase the number of national and international events. Hence, developing “mutual language”, “mutual agenda” and “cooperation” amongst NGOs is important.

When forest protection is called, "forest fires" usually come first to minds. This is very important for Turkey, a Mediterranean country. It is also an important issue for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Fighting with forest fires can be considered in three parts as "pre-fire preventive activities, fire extinguishing and post-fire activities". Countries are mainly concerned with "firefighting”. The visibility of the fires, the possibility of loss of property and life; the public pressure can demonstrate this approach reasonably. However, it is obvious that the same precaution should be given before and after the fire.

The application of silvicultural activities before the fire keeps the forests healthy. Healthy forests are more resistant to fire. In addition, the forest products obtained in this way will support the development of the forestry industry and industrialization. Wood is the most healthy and environmentally friendly, domestic and renewable construction material.

A great deal of fires is caused by human errors. Here, non-governmental organizations play a major role in informing the public.

The extinguishing of fires requires a common alignment of elements such as "technology-human resource-management system-land-combustible matter-weather". In fact, the only thing people cannot intervene here is "weather". All remaining elements, including land, can be managed, intervened, and can be avoided without fires.

In the aftermath of the fire, in some countries, due to the pressure of public opinion, forestation is going on in the same year. This method should be reevaluated when it is taken into account that the fires usually occur in monoculture forests. The burning areas can be supported with natural methods, renewed with natural methods, and the field can meet its own natural species.

KEYWORDS

*Forest Protection, NGOs, Forest Fires*