World Bank-Turkey Forest Socioeconomic Surveys in 2016 and 2017

The Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice of the World Bank (Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice- https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment) conducted in 2016 a household survey called Turkey Socio-economic Household Survey (SEHS) in a random sample of 203 forest villages of Turkey (picture below) stratified in terms of poverty and migration.

The survey collected data on 2000 households in these 203 villages between February and August 2016 to document the links between poverty, forest dependence, and out-migration in forest villages.

The survey was implemented by a private firm (UDA Consulting) and received support from the General Directorate of Forestry to categorize villages in each stratum.

The study had an innovative questionnaire being the first of its kind to implement the LSMS/FAO Forestry modules. This questionnaire had the following sections.

- A first section looked at socio-economic conditions collecting data on key household demographic characteristics (age, gender, relation to household head), on educational outcomes, and labor force participation.
- A second section allowed the team to collect information on income sources, e.g. agriculture and livestock, forest-related activities (forest collection and wage), non-forest wage activities, pension, looking at participation and earnings from these activities.

Thanks to these questions, it was possible to look at forest dependency and livelihood diversification. Based on income levels, the World Bank team measured poverty in Turkish forest villages looking also at asset ownerships and access to basic services (water and electricity).

- The questionnaire also had a section on forest and pasture management for energy, health, housing and livestock raising.
- Another section was on migration, estimating the number of households who have members who migrated, when they migrated, and factors that push members to migrate.

The results from this survey were published in a report titled "***Poverty, Forest Dependence and Migration in the Forest Communities of Turkey: Evidence and policy impact analysis***" available here.

In 2017, the World Bank's Poverty Global Practice in collaboration with the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice carried out a follow-up survey on a sub-sample from the 2016 SEHS sample. (The Social Emotional Health Survey-Secondary (SEHS-S)

The aim of this follow-up survey was to test a new methodology to measure poverty and forest dependence based on a limited set of indicators.

This methodology called Forest-SWIFT (Survey of Wellbeing via Instant and Frequent Tracking) allows to collect poverty measures based on the most recent comprehensive poverty survey (usually the National Household Survey or similar) and to track poverty changes over the population of interest.

The 2017 Forest-SWIFT/SEHS in Turkey was financed by the **PROFOR T**rust Fund and implemented by UDA Consulting in 143 villages from the original 203 villages and 1265 households from the original 2000 households. *(The Program on Forests (PROFOR) was a multi-donor trust fund for forests and poverty reduction administered by the World Bank. It began at the United Nations Development Programme in 1997 and moved to the World Bank in 2002. It closed in June 2020, replaced by a new trust fund with a landscape focus, PROGREEN- https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/progreen)*
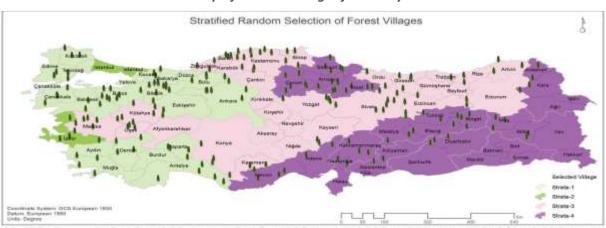
The questionnaire focused on the following sections:

- household composition,
- income from multiple sources,
- migration,
- harvest of forest products,
- cooperatives,
- assets and dwellings.

The consumption and forest income indicators were estimated using characteristics of household heads, asset ownerships and dwellings. There are no monetary measures of income in this survey and the income and consumption measures are only obtained when running the Forest-SWIFT model.

The results from this work was shared as part of an output with three countries titles "Forest-Swift : Testing High Frequency Data Collection in Armenia, Tunisia, and Turkey", available here.

https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/650641573632833174/pdf/Forest-SWIFT-Testing-High-Frequency-Data-Collection-in-Armenia-Tunisia-and-Turkey.pdf

Picture 1 Map of selected villages for Turkey SEHS 2016