

# **TURKEY COUNTRY REPORT**

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Focal Point

**Technical Workshop on National Action Programme Information  
Needs  
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**Population:** 65 million (2000 est.)

**Area:** total: 780,580 sq km  
land: 770,760 sq km  
water: 9,820 sq km

**Elevation extremes:** Mediterranean Sea 0 m  
Mount Ararat 5,166 m

**Climate:** hot, dry summers with mild,  
wet winters in coastal areas  
continental in interior parts

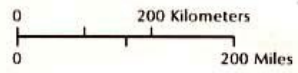
**Age structure:** 0-14 years: 29%  
15-64 years: 65%  
65 years and over: 6%

**Labor force:** agriculture 45.8%  
services 33.7%  
industry 20.5%

# Land Use



- Woodland/forest
- Meadows and pastures
- Permanent crops
- Arable land
- Irrigated farming
- Citrus
- Cotton
- Grapes
- Hazelnuts
- Olives
- Potatoes
- Sugar beets
- Tobacco
- Tea
- Wheat



## Land use:

**Agricultural lands: % 34**  
**Meadows and pastures % 16**  
**Forests and woodland: % 26**  
**Non-agricultural use: % 10.6**

# **Factors contributing to desertification in Turkey:**

## **NATURAL CAUSES:**

### **▼ Climate**

- highly variable rainfall, 300 mm to 2300 mm**
- lack of rainfall in interior and SE parts**
- severe drought in last 2 years**

### **▼ Erosion**

- water and wind erosion at 79 % of the land area**
- severe erosion in 59 % of the land area**
- 68 % of the prime agricultural land is prone to erosion**

### **▼ Topography**

- very mountainous in the Eastern Anatolia**
- in 62 % of the land, slope is higher than 15 %**

### **▼ Forest Fires**

- 63,000 forest fires between 1937-1998**
- 1.47 million hectare area destroyed as a result**

# **HUMAN-INDUCED CAUSES:**

## **▼ Improper land use**

- **conversion of forested land into agricultural land**

## **▼ Salinity**

- **salinization in 2.7 million hectare land**
- **improper irrigation techniques and lack of drainage**

## **▼ Degradation of forest lands**

- **nearly half of the existing forest lands**

## **▼ Overgrazing**

- **12 million ha decrease in pastureland in past 40 years**
- **livestock doubled in the same period**

## **▼ Population Growth**

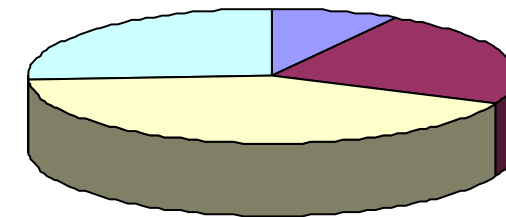
- **1.27 percent increase in 2000**
- **Ratio of rural population to total population:**
  - **0.58 in 1975**
  - **0.40 in 1990**
  - **0.34 in 2000**

## AREAS UNDER EROSION (IN MILLION HECTARE)

17,36 (very  
severe)

5,61(slight)

15,59  
(moderate)



28,33(severe)

# **BACKGROUND OF THE CONVENTION**

- ▼ **Signed in 1994**
- ▼ **Ratified and assented on February 1998 at the Parliament**
- ▼ **Member of Annex IV country**

# **MAJOR STEPS TAKEN**

- ▼ **National Awareness Seminar held in İzmir in May 1998**
- ▼ **Formulation of the NAP – Bolu meeting in July 1999**
- ▼ **Establishment of NCB in May 2000**
- ▼ **Efforts are underway to give legal status to NCB**

# **NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

## **▼ Desertification Mitigation Actions**

- ↳ erosion control**
- ↳ afforestation**
- ↳ sustainable agricultural practices**
- ↳ rural development**

## **▼ 5-year Development Plans**

## **▼ National Agenda 21**

## **▼ Local Agenda 21**

## **▼ National Environmental Action Plan**

## **▼ Institutional approaches**



# **FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

- ▼ **Integration of environmental issues into development**
- ▼ **Integration of environmental policies with social policies**
- ▼ **Securing a balance between environmental policies and development**
- ▼ **Highlights cross-cutting issues in each sector**
- ▼ **7 th Five-year Development Plan (1996-2000)**
  - **has 20 structural reforms**
  - **one is one “Preservation of Environment”**
  - **addresses administrative, institutional, and legal issues**
- ▼ **8 th Five-year Development Plan (2000-2004)**
  - **approved by the Parliament in June 2000**
  - **98 Specialty Commissions were established**
  - **more than 5000 experts involved**
  - **special commissions on forestry, soil and water, environment**

# **NATIONAL AGENDA 21**

- ▼ sets out priority issues in all areas of sustainable development
- ▼ addresses:
  - ↓ preservation and management of land resources
  - ↓ sustainable forest management
  - ↓ conservation of biological diversity
- ▼ important reference to preparation of the 8 th Five-Year DP
- ▼ participation of women, children and local communities

# **LOCAL AGENDA 21**

- ▼ involvement of local authorities and NGOs in formulation of NEAP
- ▼ embraces all aspects of local government and local stakeholders
- ▼ carried out as pilot projects, mainly by Metropolitan Municipalities

# **TURKEY NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN**

- ▼ **a significant effort for determination of environmental requirements**
- ▼ **identifies priority initiatives on environment and air pollution**
- ▼ **guided by State Planning Organization, Ministry of Environment, and the World Bank**
- ▼ **various stakeholders provided recommendations and priority actions are identified (over 900 experts in 19 working groups)**
- ▼ **Proposed Projects:**
  - **strengthening and harmonizing institutional and legal framework**
  - **improving information and raising awareness**
  - **investment on natural resources management**
  - **identifies coordinated works and responsible agencies**

# **INSTITUTIONAL APPROACHES TO DESERTIFICATION**

## **▼ POLICY MEASURES**

- **development plans**
- **public investment programs**
  - **use of public funds for infrastructure**
- **environmental policy regulations**
- **Regional Master Plans**
  - **urban development plans**
  - **sectoral plans (forest village development plans)**
- **rural development projects**
- **reducing the risks of land and water investments**

## **▼ LAND DEGRADATION**

- **sustainable forest management - afforestation**
- **erosion control**
- **rehabilitation and restoration of salinated lands**
- **soil erosion studies (GIS + remote sensing)**

## ▼ **AGRICULTURE**

- **sustainable agricultural practices**
- **recovery of agriculturally productive land**
- **range rehabilitation**
- **organic agriculture**
- **proper and efficient irrigation**
- **education of farmers**

## ▼ **WATER RESOURCES**

- **sustainable utilization of surface and ground waters**
- **control erosion and sedimentation in river beds and**

**dams**

## ▼ **CLIMATE**

- **establish meteorological and climate data base**
- **archive climate and meteorological data**
- **use satellite technology to determine and monitor drought-prone areas**

# **LEGAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED**

↓ **Forest Law (1937)**

↓ **Regulation for the Use of Ecological Production Methods**

**Plants (1994)**

↓ **National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization**

**Law (1995)**

↓ **Law on Land Usage and Conservation (draft)**

↓ **Preparation of “Land Code”**

↓ **Grazeland Law (1998)**

↓ **Directive on Utilization of Agricultural Lands for Non-**

**agricultural**

**Purposes (1998)**

# LOCAL AUTHORITIES

▼ produce infrastructure and services for protecting and managing environment

▼ 3 main authorities:

- **Special Provincial Administrations (SPA)**

- ▶ health and social aid
  - ▶ public works
  - ▶ agriculture
- ▶ economy

- **Municipalities**

- ▶ Municipalities Act – 1924
- ▶ Similar functions with SPA

- **Villages**

- ▶ most important for desertification combatting
- ▶ public awareness at local level

# **NAP PROCESS**

- ▼ **In preparation stage**
- ▼ **Turkey has a long history of combatting desertification**
  - ↓ **well-developed institutional mechanisms and infrastructure**
  - ↓ **lack of concerted action – NAP will aim to solve this !**
- ▼ **What to elaborate further?**
  - ↓ **tackling with improper use of land**
  - ↓ **data management – data and information requirements**
  - ↓ **legal and regulatory problems in implementing the Convention**
  - ↓ **mobilization of national and international resources in NAP financing**
  - ↓ **planned to be coherent with present environmental plans and strategies**
  - ↓ **cooperation with international communities (NM countries)**



# **NATIONAL COORDINATION BODY**

- ▼ Coordination and follow up the UNCCD implementation
- ▼ Composed of experts from various agencies
- ▼ will gain a legal capacity
- ▼ No separate budget allocated
- ▼ Meets regularly once a week and when necessary

# FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

▼ NCB does not have a separate financial structure

▼ Mainly implementing agencies provide support

▼ Afforestation Fund (1995)

↓ Afforestation, range improvement, erosion

↓ provides support for private afforestation activities

▼ An umbrella project – partially funded by the UNDP

↓ two priority areas are identified

protection ⌚ Sustainable energy and atmospheric

USD) ⌚ Combatting with desertification (200.000

↓ funding of preparation of NAP and pilot projects

↓ aims to set-up a coordination mechanism for:

stakeholders ▶ further interest among the relevant

▶ implementation of pre-selected sub-projects

▶ resource mobilization

▼ Rural Development Fund for Forest Villages

▼ Grazeland Fund: rehabilitation of grasslands; open to

# **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

## **▼ Access to available information**

[www.ccdturkiye.gov.tr](http://www.ccdturkiye.gov.tr)

## **▼ Access to web sites of various agencies involved**

## **▼ Numerous Educational Activities**

- ↓ mainly for farmers on sustainable agricultural practices
- ↓ demonstration projects involving local communities
- ↓ summer schools and camps by the NGOs
- ↓ regional meetings with “Farmers Unions”
- ↓ education of technicians and other staff



# **General Directorate of Rural Affairs**

## **Soil and Water Resources National Information Centre**

### **Mission:**

□ **is to meet the Nation's need for basic geospatial data, and ensure access to and advancing the application of these data.**

### **In support of mission, the center aims to:**

- **Ensure the production and availability of basic cartographic and geographic spatial data of the country.**
- **Acquire, process, archive, manage, and disseminate the data**
- **Improve the understanding and application of geospatial data and technology.**

# **MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCCD IN TURKEY**

- ▼ **Lack of coherent work among the agencies involved**
- ▼ **Legal obstacles**
- ▼ **Complex legal structure and overlaps in authority of the agencies**
- ▼ **Mobilization of the civil society, NGOs, and private sectors**
- ▼ **Poor linkage among the scientific institutions and agencies**
- ▼ **Legal gaps in land-use**
  - ↑ **inadequacy of land reforming regulations**
- ▼ **Lack of financial sources to support farmers**
- ▼ **Lack of awareness among the public and decision-makers**

# WHAT PLANNED FOR FUTURE ?

- /// **Integration of previous works with the present efforts in the context of the UNCCD**
- /// **Enhancement of legislative responsibility**
- /// **Proper sharing of responsibility among the agencies involved**
- /// **Set up a better and more efficient coordination and mechanism to facilitate information exchange**
- /// **Enhancing funding opportunities and exploring new funding opportunities**
- /// **Promotion of more active participation of NGOs and local people**
- /// **Establishment of partnership among the local communities and organizations involved**
- /// **Learn and apply experiences of the other countries under similar circumstances**
- /// **Developing community projects at grassroots level**

# MAJOR CHALLENGES IN AHEAD OF US:

- /// Integrate the previous efforts in the UNCCD context
- /// Eliminate overlaps among the different agencies involved in land management practices
- /// Promote more participatory approach to include more stakeholders to mobilize their resources in the process
- /// Take required legislative actions to prevent further decrease of land below an optimum size
- /// Seek for alternative income opportunities for the local communities to prevent overexploitation of the land (economic incentives/motivations)
- /// Finding means to enhance of financial resources for desertification mitigation activities