

National Protected Areas

Turkey has made progress in protecting nature and biodiversity rich areas.

Since 1990, the extent of protected areas has almost doubled to reach 7.2% of the territory.

About 1.2% of these areas are protected under IUCN categories I-II.

Protected areas are managed under different laws and regulations by different governmental institutions (Küçük & Ertürk 2013).

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS RATIFIED BY TURKEY

1. Convention on Biodiversity (Rio Convention -1997)
2. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2004)
3. Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES Convention -1996)
4. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention - 1988)
5. Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention - 1994)
6. Protection of Cultural and National Heritage (1983)
7. Convention on Combating Erosion (1998)
8. European Landscape Convention (2000)
9. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention - 1984)
10. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar Convention -1994)
11. Kyoto Protocol (2009)

- Protected areas are named as National Parks, Natural Reserve Areas, Natural Parks and Natural Monuments pursuant to the Law no. 2873 on National Parks.

https://webdosya.csb.gov.tr/db/ced/editordosya/tcdri ng_2015.pdf

- National parks are defined as “a natural area having, from scientific and aesthetic standpoints, both natural and cultural values of rare national and international stand, and natural, recreational and touristic sites. Turkey possesses 40 National Parks as of 2015.
- National parks have great importance in protecting biodiversity in forest, steppe, wetland and coastal ecosystems. The “Law on National Parks” entered in force in 1983 and the term “natural areas” was also used in the law as well as the term “forest”. This means that the law can be applied to other areas to be protected besides forests.

- Since the main purpose is to conserve nature, “Natural Reserve Areas” phrase was also added to the law. Natural Reserve Areas are defined in the law as “natural areas that are designated to be used only for scientific and educational purposes containing rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems and/or species and outstanding samples brought about by natural phenomena, and which should definitely be protected”.

There are 31 Natural Reserve Areas in Turkey as of 2015.

- Natural Parks are natural areas containing characteristic vegetation and wildlife features, and is suitable for recreation activities and repose of public in its scenic wholeness. According to 2015 statistics there were 204 Natural Parks in Turkey, and this number rose to 208 in 2016.

PAN Parks (<http://www.panparks.org/>)

One National Park from Turkey was included in this system: Küre Mountains National Park

Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park

Central Balkan National Park / Bulgaristan

Cepkeliai-Dzukija National Park / Litvanya

Fulufjallet National Park / İsveç

Küre Dağları Milli Parkı / Türkiye

Majella National Park / İtalya

Oulanka National Park / Finlandiya

Paanajarvi National Park / Rusya

Peneda-Geres National Park / Portekiz

Retezat National Park / Romanya

Rila National Park / Bulgaristan

Soomaa National Park / Estonya

Archipelago National Park / Finlandiya

Nature conservation efforts set for specially protected areas of Turkey

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Abstract Environmental pollution and degradation of ecosystems considerably affect the natural resources. The Turkish Government is aware of the importance of the preservation of natural ecology and thereby the environmental conservation of many species in their natural habitat. This paper provides critical assessments of the problems and possible solutions in the identification, implementation and management of the Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) system by giving basic information about stakeholders and their responsibilities that currently offer nature conservation in Turkey. The goals of the article are to analyze how the SPAs interface with the local people, especially the villagers who have dwelt there before SPA designation and how people-SPA conflicts resolved; to show how effective the SPA conservation objectives have been; to outline the significance of informing and empowering people in nature conservation for the protected area management and to show the importance of planning at all levels during protection of the natural, archeological and cultural values of the SPAs.

Keywords Issues · Local people · Nature conservation · Protected area · Turkey

1 Introduction

Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea each with different ecological characteristics. Various ecosystems provide shelter to thousands of animal and plant species. Also it should be noted that two of the four migration routes used by the birds pass through Turkey which represents an important biological factor for the natural richness. In Turkey there exist:

- 32 national parks (while they may offer protection to wild flora and fauna against logging, hunting and fishing, national parks may also be exploited for recreation and tourism purposes),
- 35 nature protection zones (aimed specifically to conserve rare and endangered species and ecosystems, nature protection zones offer strict protection and human activities are limited to scientific research and educational activity),
- 15 nature parks (areas rich in flora and fauna and suitable for recreational use),
- 54 nature monuments (areas formed by nature or natural events and having exceptional scientific value),
- 699 cultural and natural heritage protected sites,
- 118 wildlife protection areas,
- 9 RAMSAR wetlands, and
- 14 Specially Protected Areas (SPAs).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Protected Areas of Turkey and Sustainability Dilemma: The Case of National Parks

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Abstract. The EIA Directive was entered into force in 1993 and has been changed several times in Turkey. This study presents a conceptual perspective on the EIA practices in protected areas of Turkey. The study emphasizes the importance of the EIA process in all protected areas, particularly in the areas of national parks. The study also draws attention to the importance of the elimination of political, economic, sectoral pressures on the EIA process in Turkey. In this context, it is required to generate an active and balanced protection usage against encountered difficulties during environmental impact assessment (EIA) of either protected areas or investments near these areas. The aim of this study is start a debate on the relationship between protected areas and the EIA process.

Keywords. Protected Areas, EIA, National Parks, Sustainability, Turkey.

Marine protected areas in Turkey: History, current state and future prospects

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Summary

Marine protected areas (MPAs) serve as a means to conserve important ecological systems and to manage human activities in a sustainable manner in the surrounding zone as well as within the protected area. There are several important habitats for threatened species, and some vulnerable ecosystems, which are sensitive to human impact along the coasts of Turkey. The arising awareness to environmental issues and related protection efforts in the country has led to institutional, legal and financial arrangements which have been resulted in designation and establishment of protected areas with different categories, particularly for the last two decades. The progress will seemingly speed up in the following years during ongoing processes for integration to the European Union.

Keywords: Marine Protected Areas, Turkey, Biodiversity, Sustainability, Integrated Coastal Zone Management