

# **CHAPTER 3**

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSCEPTIBILITY, HAZARD AND RISK MAPS IN DISASTER RECOVERY**

**Kerem HEPDENİZ<sup>1</sup>**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Natural disasters are natural processes and events that pose a potential threat to human life and property. The processes and events themselves are not a hazard, but become a hazard due to human use of the land. A disaster is a dangerous event that occurs in a defined area within a limited time frame. In terms of the criteria, in order to define a disaster, ten or more people should die, 100 or more people should be affected by the event, a state of emergency should be declared or international aid should be requested. If any of these criteria apply, the event is considered a natural disaster [1].

Considering the number of disasters occurring around the world, it is seen that there has been a great increase especially after the 1960s. Among the reasons for this increase, population growth in the world comes first. The fact that human beings reached stable food sources from the hunter-gatherer period with the agricultural revolution accelerated the increase in the population. While the population was limited to only 1 billion until the beginning of the 1800s for more than 40,000 years; by 1930, the population had reached 2 billion. In other words, the population growth over a period of more than 40,000 years is the same as the population growth in 100 years. By 2000, this number had reached 6 billion. According to estimations, this number is predicted to reach 9 billion by 2050. This means that the world population will increase by 1 billion every 13 years. Among the other reasons for the increase in the number of disasters are the settlement of regions with a high probability of disasters, the recording of disasters with the advancing technology and their regular processing into databases [2,3].

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