

CERTIFYING TURKISH FORESTS: A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PRACTICES

Editors

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Preface

Climate change represents a paramount global challenge in the current century we inhabit. The intricate nature of global changes has a profound effect on various aspects of ecological, economic, and social disciplines. Consequently, it also amplifies the significance of sustainable natural resource management. In the context of natural resource management, it is crucial to protect and strategically utilize these resources to meet the growing global demands. Forests, in particular, play a significant role in maintaining ecological processes and biodiversity, while also possessing economic values. Forest certification has a direct impact on the comprehension of sustainable forestry, which seeks to ensure the preservation of forests for future generations without compromising their existence, while simultaneously addressing the present needs and desires of society.

One of the approaches developed to prevent the negative effects of all adverse conditions and ensure the sustainability of forest resources is certification systems. Certification endeavors to enhance and elevate forestry practices. The undeniable contribution of certification systems to development lies in their role in promoting sustainable management practices that consider both dynamic and static forest functions. Indicating that products come from a certified forest source is important in terms of meeting the demand for certified products by consumers, ensuring the sustainable management of forest resources.

This book comprises various sections that comprehensively address the certification process in forestry, focusing on different disciplines within the field of forestry. This study, comprising significant and current contributions in the field, caters to a diverse readership. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to our esteemed colleagues in the field who have provided invaluable assistance throughout the process of preparing this book. We are also deeply grateful to all the authors who have generously contributed their insightful chapters, as well as to the *Akademisyen Yayinevi* for facilitating the dissemination of these scholarly works to the readership. We anticipate that this book will make a valuable contribution to the policy-makers, managers, researchers and students of forestry and other natural resource management.

At the core of this book, we embark on an enlightening exploration of forest certification. The book begins with a comprehensive introduction to forest certification systems, delving into their origins, principles, and potential for transformation (Chapter 1). The perspectives of auditors involved in forest management certification, particularly within the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), are shared, providing insights into the challenges and successes of this crucial process (Chapter 2). The book examines how forest certification influences the perceptions of forest-dependent communities (Chapter 3), and uncovers the potential of non-timber forest certification within this unique context (Chapter 4). Additionally, the book scrutinizes whether certification standards adequately address the impacts of forest road construction (Chapter 5) and investigates the significant influence of certification on forest management planning (Chapter 6). From the perspective of the wood-based panel industry (Chapter 7) to a regional SWOT analysis (Chapter 8), the book traverses diverse areas of knowledge, all united by the common goal of understanding the transformative power of forest certification in shaping sustainable forestry practices, industries, and communities, with a specific focus on Türkiye.

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