



CHAPTER 6

Evaluation of the FSC Forest Management Certificate on Forest Management Plans: An Example of Aladağ Planning Unit

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Introduction

To address the challenges associated with forestry, including the destruction of forest resources, pollution, and increasing deforestation with industrialization, governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector have reviewed previous policies and sought more effective solutions for forestry problems. This situation led to the establishment of a strong relationship between nature-friendly customers and customers who want to present their products to the market with the principle of sustainability and the emergence of the concept of “forest certification”, which was developed for better management of forests (1,2).

Certification in the field of environmental sciences involves the systematic development, implementation, and maintenance of policies and strategies aimed at maintaining the integrity of the natural environment. Certification, as a general practice, involves assessing the degree to which a product or service

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Conclusion

This research examines the qualitative assessment of the forests managed by Aladağ PU subsequent to the getting of the FSC forest management certificate. The results reveal a notable increase of 10,8% in the forest area, accompanied by a 9% rise in growing stock and a 4,5% increase in the increment amount. These positive outcomes can be attributed to the certification process. The regeneration area experienced a substantial increase of 97,7%. Consequently, the final allowable cut also saw a notable rise of 36,2%, while the intermediate allowable cut witnessed a significant surge of 300,8%. A significant rise of 88.6% was observed in the annual allowable cut when compared to the period prior to the implementation of the certification process. The study results indicate that the certification process has been found to result in tangible improvements. Due to this rationale, it is imperative to enhance the certification process and system pertaining to forest areas in Türkiye.

The presence of a nationally recognized organization responsible for conducting certification processes holds significant importance in terms of employment prospects and financial outcomes. Furthermore, it is essential to establish an upper audit mechanism and a robust legal framework in order to effectively manage the certification process. The certified forest area should be increased, and it should compete in the international market. The prioritization of rehabilitation efforts in degraded forest areas is crucial for enhancing forest areas, promoting economic prosperity, and fostering sustainable forest structure. It is imperative to conduct an inventory of non-wood forest products, initiate their production, and orchestrate awareness campaigns to foster public engagement on this matter. Furthermore, as part of the Ecosystem Based Functional Planning framework, it is crucial to establish measurable indicators that are tailored to each function. These indicators will enable the monitoring of changes and advancements in areas beyond the realm of wood production.

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