



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

FIFTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Sustainable Landscapes and Economy

On the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape

Urgup, Nevşehir, Turkey
1-2 October 2014

Gülhan ÇETİN SÖNMEZ

Chief of Landscape Protection Division, Department of Vulnerable Areas, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks

In Turkey, the European Landscape Convention was signed on October 20, 2000 and approved by the General Assembly of the Parliament, with the rule of 4881, on June 27, 2003.

After the administrative structure of the Convention took place in 2011, when the focal point of the Convention was the Ministry of Environment and Forestry from 2003 until 2011, the international and national focal point later became the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. Located within this Ministry, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Department of Vulnerable Areas, Landscape Protection Division is responsible for implementing the European Landscape Convention. At the same time, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation study the topics related to the landscapes.

Officially, the main mission of the Landscape Protection Division, which is a part of the Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, has been stated as below:

- to fulfil obligations arising from the European Landscape Convention, to follow international developments, to ensure the coordination among the institutions and organisations;
- to determine landscape character types and areas, to provide the preparation of a landscape database and to carry out landscaping operations, to ensure to take landscape inventory and to ensure the preparation of a landscape plan and to carry out related processes, landscaping operations;
- at the national level, in order to landscape protection, planning and management, to enhance strategies, policies, principles and measures and to prepare legislation;
- out of protected areas, degraded landscapes are to be reintegrated into the nature, to prepare restoration, rehabilitation and reclamation projects, to prepare and implement prepared projects and to monitor the implementation.

The studies of the Landscape Protection Division have been done within the context of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention's 5th and 6th items since 2003 have been stated as below:

- Under the coordination of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, four working groups, including all related Ministries, institutions, organisations and experts at universities have been established.
- Within the framework of Turkey-France dual collaboration, an awareness-raising organisation has been established concerning "Landscape Policies in France and implementations of those policies." by Mr. François Seguin who is chief of the Ministry of Environment and Ecology in France.
- A job-oriented education program was prepared on issues related to landscape planning, landscape management and landscape practices in Turkey. A workshop on the European Landscape Convention was held on 4-7 September 2006 in Gökçeada - Çanakkale. During this workshop a lot of information was given about the issues of the European Landscape Convention, landscape planning, landscape management and landscape implementation.
- On May 17 and 20, 2007 a symposium - international participated - called "On the way for Implementation of European Landscape Convention in Turkey", was organised under the coordination among the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, the Chamber of Turkish Engineers and Architects Union and the Chamber of Landscape Architecture. The conclusions of the proceedings were published with the support of Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Landscape Architecture and TÜBİTAK (Turkey Scientific and Technological Research Council).
- In the concluding declaration of "On the way for Implementation of European Landscape Convention in Turkey" symposium, it was deducted that landscape classification studies and landscape planning links could be established with a pilot-study. Within this aim, the project called "Landscape Management, Protection and Planning" had been launched in 2008, in Konya county including Bozkır - Ahırlı - Yalıhöyük - Seydişehir districts and Suğla Lake's surroundings

in an area of 74 000 ha, was terminated in 2010. The project that is mentioned was the first project in Turkey made in this context.

- Since 2008 “Cultural Heritage and Landscape Management Board Meetings (CDPATEP)” and Conferences of the Parties which were monitored, discussed and decided concerning the progress of the European Landscape Convention have been held.
- In collaboration between İstanbul University and the International Association of Danube Research General Secretary, a meeting on “Landscape Planning in the Danube and Black Sea Region and Sustainable Development” was held at the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, in 2008.
- As a part of TAIEX program, during the visit to Germany, Nature Conservation, Natura-2000 and Landscape Protection Areas were analysed on their places in 2000. The institutional functions of Germany's Nature Protection Studies were also examined about running of the institution.
- In 2009 a “Landscape Character Analysis and Assessment” meeting was held including the participation and coordination of Germany’s environment expert Dirk Wascher who has been working for the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Ankara University.
- Also in 2009, a project called “Biodiversity and Resource Management” was represented on behalf of Turkey for the "Landscape Award" that is given by Council of Europe in context of the European Landscape Convention.
- An international meeting called “2nd Pan-Caucasian Landscape Policy, Planning and Biodiversity Conservation” was organised by the participation of Germany, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Iran and Russia between April 29 and May 01, 2010.
- In April 2010 a presentation called "Turkey Infrastructure Policy and Landscape” was practised during a meeting that was held in Spain on behalf of Turkey.
- Every year, congresses and symposia which have been organised by the Chamber of Landscape Architecture (CLA) are held.
- Landscape Restoration Plan belonging to energy projects will take place in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which has been prepared. Since 2012 the general format of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report required under Scientific Report format in the annex of Landscape Restoration Plan Report is requested for the activities of dams, Wind Power Plants (WPP) and Hydroelectric Power Plants (HEPP) that are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations which are evaluated by the General Directorate of Natural Conservation and National Parks and concepts is given by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.
- The Landscape Restoration Plan Reports have been prepared for 130 Hydroelectric Power Plants (HEPP) and 140 Wind Power Plants (WPP) since 2012.
- Starting with the determination of improving, restoring and transforming into another land usage of landscapes which are in the European Landscape Convention, the “Draft Regulation of Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation” has been prepared by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. The draft regulation includes the subjects of “general and specific principals, levels, planning, implementation, monitoring and inspection, repairing responsibility and sanction of ecological restoration and rehabilitation”.
- Within the collaboration of the General Directorate of Forestry and the General Directorate of National Parks and Nature Conservation an “Action Plan for Rehabilitation of Mine Areas” has been prepared by the General Directorate of Desertification and Combating Erosion from 2014

until 2018. In this context, four types of mine areas (limestone, marble, chrome etc.) have been searched in Muğla, Antalya, Düzce and Çorum for preparing the technical specifications and the sample repairing projects is continuing.

- The subject of “Rehabilitation of Landscapes” has been discussed in the Commission of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity” and “Protection of landscapes, planning and management must be fulfilled”. Deduction has been taken as the 6th item in “Forestry and Water Supreme Council” in 21-23 March 2013. For implementing this decision, strategies and policies which are going to applicate were specified.

The strategies and policies

- Management strategy for protecting and planning of national landscape and action plan.
- Preparing the national landscape inventory; establishing the landscape information system and relating with the current database.
- Enable for preparing “National Landscape Map” which has been configured for level of watershed.
- Making the legislative arrangements within the landscape repairing on national level.
- Preparing the ecosystem assessment reports which involve landscape repairing reports on the required areas for assessing the impacts of the sectors to the nature.

The projects that the Landscape Protection Division has made within the context of implementation of European Landscape Convention’s 5th and 6th items since 2003 have been stated as below:

The name of the project:

“Konya Province, Bozkır- Ahırlı- Yalhöyük- Seydişehir Districts and The Location of Suğla Lake Landscape Management, Conservation and Planning Project (2008-2010).

The aim of the project:

The aim of this project is to determine the landscape character types belonging to the planning area using the method of landscape classification at the national, regional and local levels. A second aim is the creation of the first official landscape plan that will include development of the sectorial landscape policies with an ecology-based approach. The third aim is to introduce landscape management procedures for the implementation of the landscape plan developed above.

The consequences of the project:

A method on local, regional and national level analysing the techniques of identifying and assessing landscape character types have been done peculiar to Turkey as parallel the applications to other countries which are side with European Landscape Convention. Within this method’s framework, structure and function of the landscape have been assessed and the decisions of management, protection, usage and planning concerning identified landscapes in the area. A landscape planning period has been identified and a first landscape plan and a landscape management type have been created. Sectorial landscape policies’ identification has been displayed. Landscape planning’s importance on sustainable management of natural resources and the place within the physically planning period has been stated.

The project outputs:

- Survey and Inventory Report,
- Landscape Analysis Report,
- Sectorial Landscape Guidelines and Landscape Planning and Final Report,
- “Landscape Management” and “Landscape Planning” Books,
- “European Landscape Convention and Turkey, Landscape Management, Conservation and Planning Project “ Booklets,
- Turkish and English film Cds,
- During the Project, in 2009 in Konya, the first landscape management training was provided to provincial directorates of public institutions, civil society organisations, local governments the latter training is for village headmen and a two-stage training were given,
- “landscape planning” studying meeting was held in Erzurum Ataturk stadium on May 17, 2012.

The name of the project:

“Landscape Character Analysis and Its Assessment for Tourism/Recreation”

The aim of the project:

Depending on the 5th and 6th article of the European Landscape Convention contract, it is the preparation of a national guide and development of a method of landscape character analysis and assessment, which can be used for studies in regions and subregions scale.

The results of the projects:

On the province-scale, a landscape character analysis and evaluation method has been revealed and the landscape character analysis method has been integrated into the environmental plan. On a sub-regional scale, an environmental plan of Malatya will be integrated. The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs continues the implementation and dissemination studies which are prepared within the framework of the project implementation plan. To this end, at regular intervals, education and information sessions are being held and public agencies, non-governmental organisations and the public have joined this sessions. Identified methods are used by working up in the other projects which are made.

The outcomes of the project:

- Planing language and data coding standards have been established for landscape planning works on the regional and sub-regional scale.
- At the end of the project, the study of landscape character analysis assessment was carried out for Malatya pilot which included Malatya landscape character areas, general landscape protection and development strategies guide, Malatya landscape corridors maps are formed.
- On the regional and sub-regional scale, landscape character analysis and an evaluation of a national technical guide has been prepared, involving method and standard about assessment process of landscape character analysis.
- Web-based, Landscape Information System/LIS have been created.

The name of the project:

“Producing Landscape Atlas of Yeşilirmak Basin Project (2012-2015)”

The aim of the project:

The aim of the project is to evaluate the landscape character in Yeşilırmak Basin, based on a natural and cultural landscape inventory together with landscape character analyses, landscape function analyses, change and pressure analyses, visual landscape analyses and then designate the landscape character types and their areas, diversity of landscape, biodiversity and landscape quality map to generate the "Yeşilırmak Basin Landscape Atlas" with the strategies of conservation/development strategies to constitute sectorial landscape guidelines.

The consequences of the project:

It is aimed to designate the method for producing Basin Landscape Atlas (Map), generalisation to other 25 basins, combining the studies on the basis of basin, determination of national scale landscape character types and preparing the landscape atlas. Further to produce national and regional landscape policies derived from landscape inventory and atlas and integrate them with the current acts and regulations. It would be possible to follow and evaluate the landscapes within the part of landscape inventory (landscape information system). It would be the first step for producing national landscape atlas and contributes to the national biodiversity inventory.

The name of the project:

“Reintegration to Nature, Landscape Restoration and Recreation Project, (2012-2013), Kırşehir Province, Poplar Plantation Area.”

The aim of the project:

- Sustainable saving, management and use of natural and cultural values should be visible in a specific plan.
- To ensure continuity of ecosystems, species and their habitats.
- It is intended to take the necessary measures to reduce losses in a variety of biological and degraded landscapes arising from human pressures, other uses and demands.

The results of the project:

- Analyses and assessments were made by making the landscape inventory along the river corridors.
- Landscape restoration in degraded areas and repair criterias, techniques and processes which is required to give them back to nature have been identified.
- At the end of the project, a national technical manual was obtained about repairing of degraded areas along the river corridor.

The outcomes of the project:

- Landscape inventory (research, investigation, preliminary study);
- Landscape analysis and evaluation;
- Landscaping projects;
- Pre-project (scale:1/2000);
- Final Project (scale:1/1000);
- Implementation projects:

- Structural landscape implementation projects (1/500)
- Herbal landscape implementation projects (1/500)
- Detail projects;
- Discovery and metering;
- Technical manuals.

The works belonging to the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs continue under the European Landscape Convention targets we have set for this purpose. In addition, when it comes to other goals, our goal is to:

- make regulatory studies which are required for conservation, planning and management of landscape;
- integrate the landscape to the national planning legislation;
- prepare a “National Landscape Strategy and Action Plan”.
- ensure the participation of all segments of society to the preservation, development and management of landscape and to increase their awareness;
- supply exchanging of information and experience with other countries.

Resources

Anonymous “Landscape Protection Division”’s archive.

Uzun, O., Kargin, S., 2013, Forestry and Water Supreme Council.

Uzun, O., İlke, E. F., Çetinkaya, G., Erduran, F., Açiksöz, S., Landscape planning: Konya province,Bozkır-Seydişehir-Ahırlı-Yalıhüyük districts and Suğla Lake locality, Protection of Landscape Management and Planning Project, Republic of Turkey, The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, General Directorate of National Parks and Nature Conservation, Ankara, 2012.

Şahin, Ş., Perçin, H., Kurum, E., In Regional and Sub-Regional Scale, National Technical Manuals of Analysis of Landscape Character and Assessment.