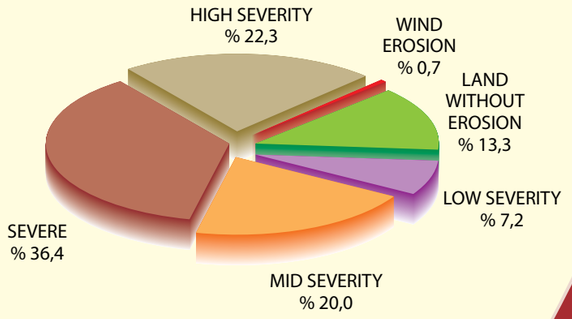
Desertification and Erosion in Turkey

- Turkey; because of it's climate, topography and soil characteristics, has a lot of different ecosystems. And it's very sensitive to erosion and flood disasters.
- 40% of our soils are 0-20 cm, 33% are 20-50 cm in depth.
- 2% of lands are not suitable for plant growing, because of alkali and salinity problems.
- Because of these reasons, the growing conditions in Turkey vary over short distances.
- Total amount of arid and semi-arid areas in Turkey is 51 million hectares. (65%)
- Rainfall is generally inadequate and irregular.
- One of the main problem of watersheds is erosion.
- 54% of forest lands, 59% of agricultural lands and 64% of rangelands have moderate and severe erosion problem.
- Because of it's geographical position and different climate characterictics, Turkey is among the countries that is most affected by desertification and drought.
- 65% of Turkey, possesses arid and semi-arid characteristics.

Erosion in Turkey



International Our Works

- **"Arid and Semi-arid Areas Workshop"** was held in Konya with the cooperation of FAO and attended by 45 countries' experts.
- Training and Technical Cooperation Project on Combating Desertification, Land Degradation, drought and Forestry for African Countries (DLDD)
- International Education Project (The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Combating Desertification)
- As a result of the decision taken at the **"Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia"** (CICA) Special Working Group meeting, International Research and Training Center on Combating Desertification will be established in Konya.
- International training course on **"The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Combating Deresertification"** was held between 13-18 June 2012. Participant from Asian, African and Balkan NGO's attended to the training course

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS
General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
Söğütözü St. 14/E 12. Floor - 11. Floor A Block ANKARA / TURKEY
Phone: +90 312 207 57 76 • Fax: +90 312 207 57 56
www.ormansu.gov.tr • www.cem.gov.tr

www.celatantitim.com

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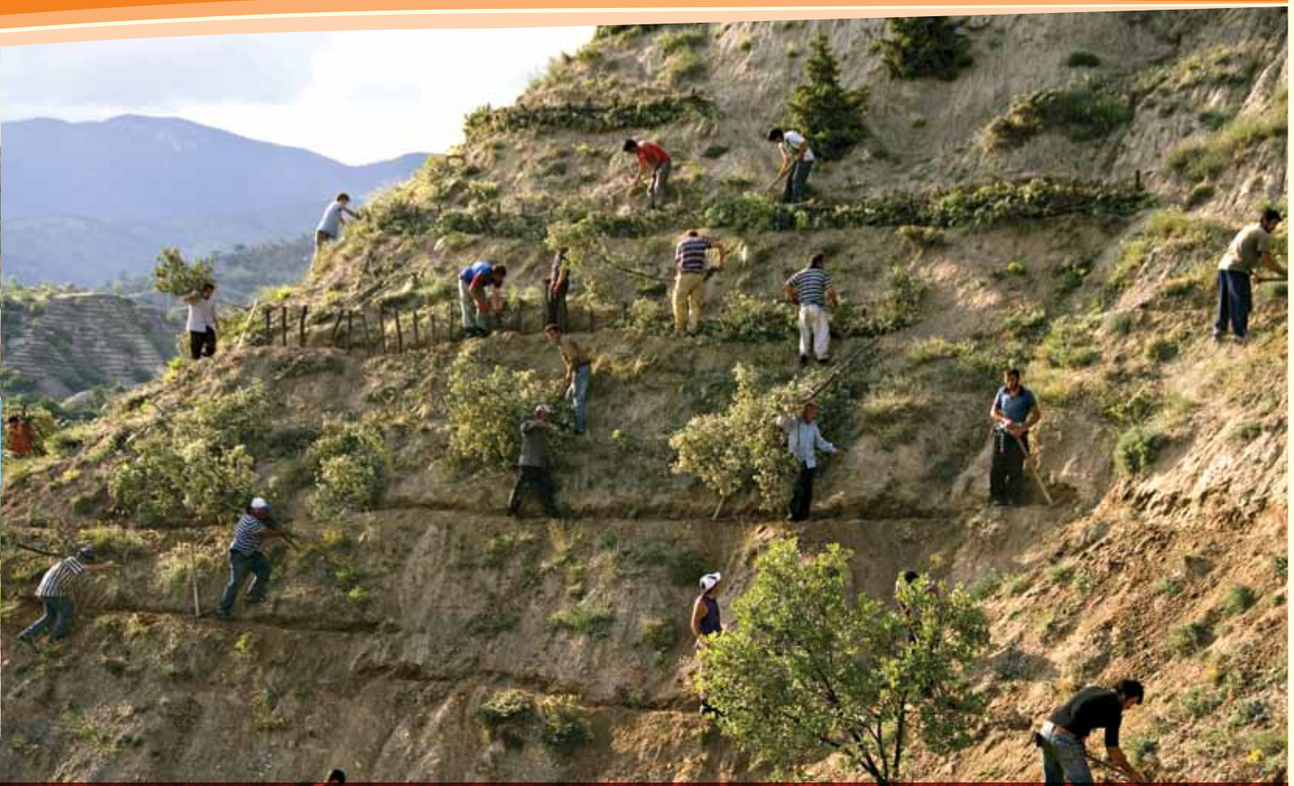


GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND EROSION

For this aim;

- To protect and develop natural resourches,
- To combat desertification and erosion,
- To determine policies and strategies related to avalanche, landslide and flood control activities,
- To ensure coordination and cooperation between relevant institutions and organizations,

"General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion" has been established in 2011.

Our Missions

About combating desertification and erosion

- Determine policies and strategies,
- To ensure coordination and cooperation between relevant institutions and organisations,
- National and regional level planning, monitoring and evaluation,
- Research and development,
- Survey, inventory, job description analysis and determination of the unit price,
- Training, publication and promotional activities.

Projects

- Combating desertification and erosion,
- Avalanche, landslide and flood control,
- Integrated watershed rehabilitation,
- International plans and projects, providing support to projects

International Relations

- Effective cooperation with international organizations,
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with countries, providing support to projects.

Our Priorities

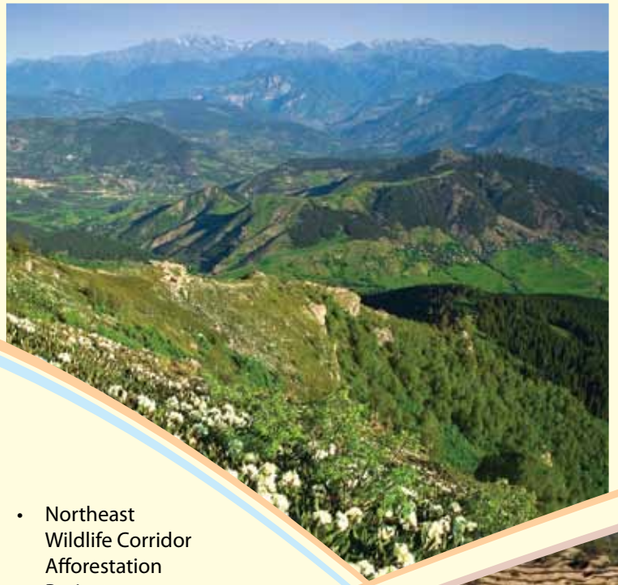
- Preparation of National Watershed Management Strategy Documents,
- Preparation of Combating Erosion Action Plan,
- Establishing Turkey's Desertification and Erosion Monitoring system,
- Revision of Combating Desertification National Action Program,
- Monitoring forest and vegetation change with remote sensing,
- Establishing experimental areas and stations with the aim of education and research in different regions of Turkey,
- Determination of afforestation, erosion, flood, avalanche potential areas and planning and preparing projects for priority areas,
- Implementing erosion, flood, avalanche control model works,
- Institutional capacity building and training experts,
- Establishment of climate change resistant forests,
- Sharing our country's knowledge and experiences in combating desertification and erosion with Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Africa and neighbouring countries and developing international projects,
- Coordinating all units related to Combating Desertification and Erosion.

Activities

- For more effective and sustainable combat with desertification and erosion throughout the country, draft text of National Watershed Strategy Document is finished.
- Production of **"Action Plan for Combating Erosion in Turkey"** covering the years 2013-2017, started.
- To provide new insights, suggestions and creating models in General Directorate's projects, cooperation with national and international institutions and organizations are made.

Our Works

- The Identifying, Transfering and Cultivation of Endemic Plant Species Which Remained Beneath the Artvin-Deriner Barrage Lake Project.



- Keban Dam Watershed Erosion Control Project
- Ergene Watershed Right Shore Forestry Activities Plan

- Northeast Wildlife Corridor Afforestation Project

- Constructing Erosion Maps at watershed level by using National Watershed Database which was completed in 2011.
- Murat River Watershed Rehabilitation Project
- Konya Closed Watershed Combating Desertification and Erosion Project and model implementations.

- Rehabilitation in upper parts of watersheds causing floods and overflows, hillside land reclamation and gully erosion prevention activities project.

- Erosion Monitoring System studies.