

# Overview of Environmental Issues and Destruction of Soils in Turkey

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## Abstract

This study examines environmental issues are becoming increasingly important and demanding immediate solution to the question of destruction of agricultural land in the country and foreign experience in this area.

**Keywords:** soil degradation, environmental problems, balance of nature, land reorganization, management techniques

## 1. Introduction

Due to the sharp increase in world population mankind continues to master new place to live and build new lines of communication. Moreover, the development of technologies and increasing purchasing power, humanity destroys the old and builds new. The destruction of the soil and the environment is often a product of the extractive industries, that is the result of an incorrect, ill-conceived human activity. In developed countries, has long been carrying out research programs aimed at solving the problems associated with the environment and the destruction of agricultural land, moreover, to develop appropriate criteria and standards, which, as we know, are the product of joint activities of universities, private organizations (civil society associations) and public institutions and structures (Tibet, 2009).

As a result of improper, ill-conceived activities, formed over centuries environment and the soil in particular, strongly destroyed and to restore the operational characteristics of the soil, requires serious investments. But even in this case, sometimes it is already impossible to return the soil of its former state. Therefore, our task - to be able to consider and evaluate all required elements in this area, without losing any of them.

## 2. Main Part

The lack of responsibility for the destruction of the soil and the environment among the enterprises (land users) Turkey allow these companies - with the exception of model - to get an easement on forests or dispose of the landed property worked out and pour the ground, where it is convenient. In the countries - members of the European Union, such as Germany, Belgium, France and Italy, there are similar practices in the management and reorganization of the quarries. That is the procedure for recovery of land and soil in these countries has a legal basis and to the enterprises in this sphere imposed a great responsibility.

In addition to the European Union, the activities to restore the land, in particular carried out in the field development of minerals mining companies, the creation of agricultural land, forests and agricultural land is carried out in countries such as USA, Canada, Australia, in the former Eastern bloc - Poland, Czechoslovakia as well as in the former East Germany, currently has become part of a unified Germany. Practical methods in these countries do not have significant differences, particularly in the US agricultural land returned to their owners after restoration. In East Germany, there is a requirement to restore agricultural soil for 5 years, and forests - within 7 years. In this country between mining companies and firms operating in the future, there is an arrangement for 1-5 years.

However, in the world there are not only the country attaches great importance to the environment, there are also backward or developing States where almost no measures are taken to prevent environmental destruction or reclamation. Despite the fact that to this day in our Constitution and other legislative acts were various provisions for the protection of forests and arable land, unfortunately, in the mountain right acutely felt the absence of any rules governing the prevention of destruction of soils and environmental pollution as a result of Extractive industries (Atik, Erdoğan, & Taşcıoğlu, 2009). Finally, 31.8.1956 on the conservation of natural

sources was enacted number 6831, which was attended by regulations that protect forests and prohibit activities, causing damage to forests. Later in the article 131 of the Constitution of 1961 were given points governing the protection and development of forests, forbidding ownership of the forest after some time, to eliminate servitude rights on the forests for the benefit of the public interest, prevented the decrease of forest boundaries and stimulate their expansion forbidding all agricultural and livestock activities within those limits. Studying the Subsoil Law №3213 from 15.06.1985 city, you will notice the absence of any provisions relating to the prevention and liability for the destruction of nature and soil resulting from the activities of mining companies. Perhaps in the next Law on Subsoil no measures to prevent this destruction. However, the Law on the environment, despite the lack of definition of the destruction of the soil itself, there is the following statement, which describes the activities for the protection of nature: "It is a complex work for the protection of the ecological balance, prevent violations and pollution of air, water and soil pollution and improve the environment" Despite on the definition in the Law on Environment number 2872, still lacks the necessary requirements for reorganization and recovery of land and soil. If now, as in previous years, that is, in the last 30-35 years, nothing is done, the destruction quietly reached its peak, and then take what ever measures or procedures is already meaningless. This situation requires immediate introduction of laws on subsoil use, the environment and other relevant provisions of legislation and start active work to resolve this issue. Reorganization and reclamation naturally needs funding. All of these costs can be included in the cost of mining, and this is true for those who use the income from the subsoil. Otherwise, the cost of environmental destruction will exceed government revenues derived from subsurface. At the same time the price for the damage caused by mining companies and mining companies to the environment, may have to pay the next generation, who probably will not be able to take advantage of the fact that these companies have extracted. To avoid this, you can more closely and efficient use of resources and land due to the optimal engineering and other activities, the company must act in harmony with the environment. Besides restoring the performance of the land, mining company to pay a smaller amount for temporary possession than full ownership, and if the land is still owned by the company, its recovery will return either to bring its cost. In any case, the measures taken in a timely manner and reduce the associated costs subsequent costs. The state in this area, too, must have its own project. If there is such a project, the proposal prepared by the mining company, will issue requiring careful consideration in terms of creating a new source. As can be seen from the above reduction and reorganization of land requires finances that are in accordance with the difference determined by the terms of the company would require new spending. However, the restoration of the land will not only reduce the damage to the environment, but will also use it in a variety of positive purposes, increasing the number of jobs and total employment. From this perspective, recovery and reorganization of land several enterprises to increase spending, but on the other hand, some others will reduce their costs and, furthermore, will provide new sources of income. The first step is to prepare plans for liquidating the damage caused businesses (users) of the soil and the environment. These plans should be implemented on a statutory basis under the control and supervision of institutions with a legal basis for it. The purpose of works covering natural objects, the operation of which is finished and which are at the stage of recovery, is the creation of new areas of residence, the respective natural socio-economic, cultural, human living conditions (Akpınar, Kara, & ve Ünal, 1993).

In the How to restore the land to a natural state, subjected to destruction as a result of mining activities, published in Turkey's Official Gazette number 27471, dated 23 January 2010, in the part of the "purpose" of Article 1 "Reconstruction of destroyed natural structures" touched sensitive issues. How to use the territory to failure? To what extent will be useful for the local population and environmental actions taken to restore? Reasons for work on the restoration of the destroyed natural structures are presented in subparagraph (i) of Article 7, where the reconstruction of areas suitable for agricultural activities should be made taking into account the decisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

### 3. Conclusion

However, the fact that the characteristics of the soils of the area suitable for agriculture does not mean that exploitation of this territory must obtain permission from the Ministry. (Anonim, 2010) By the fact that, before the soil in the area have been destroyed must specify the provisions clarifying what this territory will be used and how these actions are harmful to humans and nature. If the area previously used for recreation, is now used in agricultural purposes, then what is the use of the area and the people living here? Is there a need for areas designated for relaxation of people? Or before the destruction of the area was a meadow or forest? What are the benefits they bring to people? Whether it be a corridor for the flora and fauna or restricts the movement? Without answering these questions, we can not say whether the area is suitable for agricultural or recreational interests or here you can create a pond or used for other purposes; in addition, should take into account the opinion of the

local population and satisfying its needs to restore the natural state of the territory (Anonim, 2010).

In close connection with the restoration of the land is creation of a fund in which to invest by guarantees provided by mining companies (landowners) from the use of the territory. If companies or landlords behave irresponsibly, guarantees received in respect of the Fund, which was later paid work to restore the land (Tibet, 2009).

Office of forestry affairs, agricultural production and animal husbandry shall provide technical and information assistance in the restoration of the environment and management of tourism and culture - in the protection of historical and cultural values.

From the mining, processing and other companies should be required not only of the activity license, but plans to restore use of the territory in the absence of such a plan - to prohibit activities of the company.

Forests need to recover the relevant forest management in accordance with the requirements of the authorities.

The Constitution and other legislative acts of the Republic of Turkey, there are many provisions on the prevention of reduction of forests, protection of cultivated areas and natural water sources and tanks, but despite this many mining companies continue to destroy the land and the environment, and exponentially. By destroying the soil and its properties, we break the ecological balance. That damage - a multilateral and multi-factor, so for Turkey and other developing countries, measures to prevent and prevent the destruction and restoration of the land has become an urgent issue that needs immediate solution.

Extraction plants efforts to prevent the destruction of the territory and the restoration of soil should be carried out simultaneously with the core business. Otherwise, if you leave the recovery activities for later, it costs rise dramatically, and the actions themselves are ineffective. To achieve this goal in the first place from the very beginning should prepare a plan of action. In essence, the main methods of extracting enterprises do not contradict the measures to restore the land, on the contrary, the use of elaborate methods allow to cope with both tasks simultaneously.

Except for a small number of countries in the world association of the main activity of the enterprise to the measures to restore the land is enshrined in law. The United Nations understands that if all countries do not protect the environment and prevent the destruction of nature, the world is in danger, which at some point can not be avoided, therefore, the organization supports the work in this direction.

To prevent the destruction of nature mining companies, as well as improve the efficiency of legislation and regulations in this area, the legislation is necessary to add new articles to prepare practical regulations requiring the mandatory restoration of natural objects. Those companies, which, together with the business plan does not present a plan to restore the land, will not be permitted to work (2013).

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