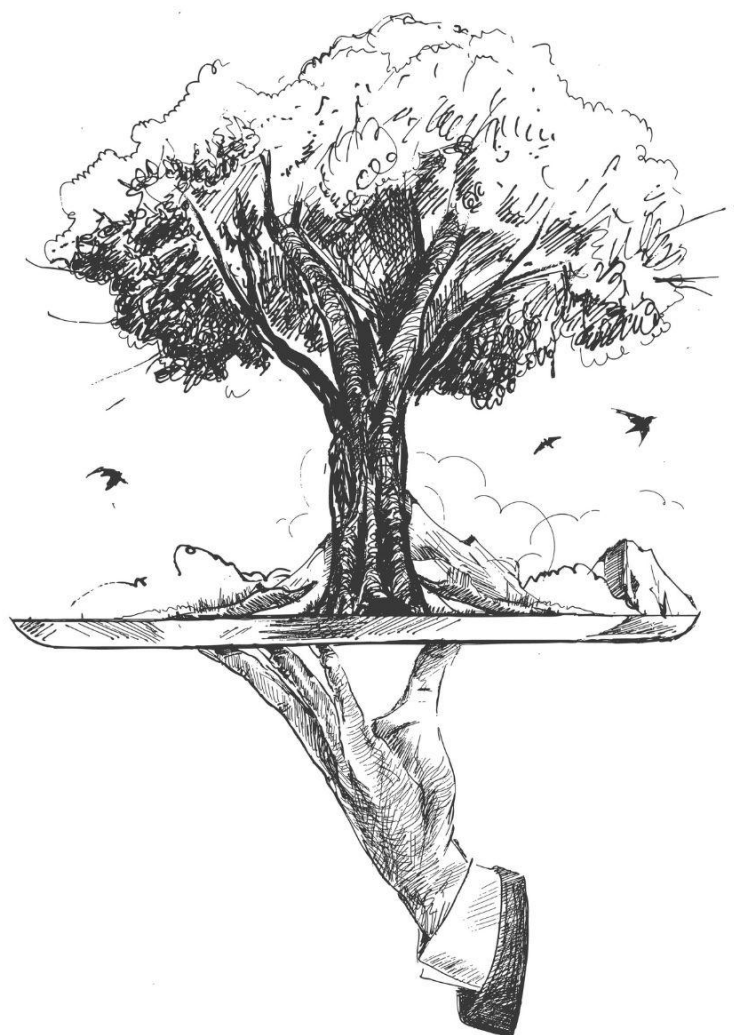




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POLICY DOCUMENT FOR NECESSARY MUNICIPAL ACTIONS IN LAND USE, CONSTRUCTION POLICY, AND PUBLIC WORKS





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Policy Document for Necessary Municipal Actions in Land Use, Construction Policy, and Public Works

Introduction

This policy document aims to guide the municipalities of Pozantı, Karaisalı, Aladağ, Kozan, and İmamoğlu in Turkey, and Rafina Pikermi in Greece, in adopting necessary policy actions for land use, construction policy, and public works. These policies are essential for protecting forests and responding to wildfires, especially in the context of climate change adaptation. The document will serve as a guiding framework for both local and neighboring communities in both countries. It is important to note that while the main responsibility for wildfire fighting lies with the Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and disaster response and resources are managed by AFAD, municipalities play a crucial supporting role.

Objectives

1. **Enhance Forest Protection:** Implement land use policies that prioritize the preservation and protection of forests.
2. **Promote Safe Construction Practices:** Establish construction policies that minimize wildfire risks.
3. **Improve Public Works and Infrastructure:** Develop public works initiatives that support effective wildfire response and community resilience.
4. **Support Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and AFAD:** Provide necessary support to the main agencies responsible for wildfire fighting and disaster response.

Land Use Policies

1. Zoning and Land Management

1.1. Forest Conservation Zones

Designating specific areas as forest conservation zones is a critical step in preventing deforestation and environmental degradation. These zones will be areas where any form of development is either heavily restricted or completely prohibited. The main aim is to preserve the natural habitat and biodiversity, ensuring that forests remain intact and healthy. Municipalities will collaborate with environmental experts to identify and map these zones accurately. Enforcement measures will be put in place to monitor and ensure compliance with the regulations set forth for these conservation areas.

1.2. Buffer Zones





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Buffer zones serve as transitional areas between urban developments and forests. Establishing buffer zones around forested areas allows for limited development, which acts as a safeguard against the encroachment of urban sprawl into sensitive forest lands. These zones will reduce the risk of wildfires spreading from urban areas to forests and vice versa. Buffer zones can also be used for controlled agricultural activities and green spaces that help in mitigating the heat island effect often seen in urban settings. Municipalities will need to develop clear guidelines on what types of activities and developments are permitted within these buffer zones to ensure they effectively serve their purpose.

1.3. Wildfire-Prone Areas

Identifying and mapping wildfire-prone areas is essential for effective land use planning and risk management. These areas, once identified, will be subject to specific land use restrictions to minimize the potential for fire outbreaks. This could include limitations on residential and commercial development, stringent building codes, and the implementation of mandatory vegetation management practices. By restricting certain types of developments in these high-risk areas, municipalities can significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires. Public awareness campaigns will be conducted to inform residents and developers of these restrictions and the reasons behind them.

2. Sustainable Land Use Practices

2.1. Agroforestry and Reforestation

Promoting agroforestry and reforestation projects can significantly enhance forest cover and biodiversity while providing economic benefits to local communities. Agroforestry integrates trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes, which can help reduce soil erosion, enhance water retention, and provide habitat for wildlife. Reforestation efforts will focus on planting native species that are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. Municipalities will partner with local farmers, NGOs, and environmental organizations to develop and implement these projects. Financial incentives and technical support will be provided to encourage participation in agroforestry and reforestation initiatives.

2.2. Controlled Burns and Vegetation Management

Supporting Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü in implementing controlled burns and vegetation management practices is crucial for reducing fuel loads and preventing uncontrolled wildfires. Controlled burns are a land management technique where small, controlled fires are set under carefully monitored conditions to clear out accumulated vegetation that could fuel larger, uncontrolled wildfires. Vegetation management includes activities like thinning dense underbrush, removing dead trees, and maintaining firebreaks. Municipalities will work closely with Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü to identify areas where these practices are most needed and to ensure that they are carried out safely and effectively. Training programs for municipal workers and local volunteers will be established to build capacity for conducting these activities.





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Construction Policies

3. Building Codes and Standards

3.1. Fire-Resistant Materials

Mandating the use of fire-resistant materials in all new constructions and renovations, especially in wildfire-prone areas, is essential. These materials can significantly reduce the risk of buildings catching fire and help contain the spread of fires if they do occur. Municipal building codes should specify the types of fire-resistant materials that must be used and provide guidelines on their proper installation.

3.2. Building Design

Establishing building design standards that include firebreaks, defensible space, and adequate water supply for firefighting is crucial. Firebreaks are gaps in vegetation that can slow the spread of wildfires. Defensible space is a cleared area around a structure that reduces the risk of fire reaching the building. Adequate water supply ensures that firefighters have the resources they need to combat fires effectively. Municipalities should incorporate these standards into their building codes and ensure compliance through inspections and enforcement.

4. Permitting and Inspections

4.1. Stringent Permitting Process

Implementing a stringent permitting process that includes an assessment of wildfire risks for new developments is vital. This process should require developers to demonstrate how they will mitigate wildfire risks through building design, materials, and site planning. Municipalities should establish clear criteria for these assessments and provide guidance to developers on how to meet them.

4.2. Regular Inspections

Conducting regular inspections of buildings and infrastructure to ensure compliance with fire safety standards and building codes is necessary. These inspections should focus on the use of fire-resistant materials, the maintenance of defensible space, and the availability of water supplies for firefighting. Municipalities should establish a schedule for these inspections and ensure that they are carried out by trained personnel.

Public Works and Infrastructure

5. Emergency Infrastructure

5.1. Firefighting Infrastructure

Developing and maintaining adequate firefighting infrastructure, including fire stations, water reservoirs, and access roads for firefighting vehicles, is essential. This infrastructure should be strategically located to ensure quick response times and effective firefighting efforts.





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Municipalities should collaborate with Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and AFAD to identify the most critical areas for these investments and to secure funding and resources.

5.2. Emergency Shelters

Designating and equipping emergency shelters that can accommodate residents during wildfire evacuations is crucial. These shelters should be located in safe areas away from high wildfire risk zones and should be equipped with basic necessities such as water, food, medical supplies, and sanitation facilities. Municipalities should work with community organizations and AFAD to identify suitable locations for these shelters and to develop plans for their use during emergencies.

6. Community Preparedness

6.1. Evacuation Routes

Planning and maintaining clear and accessible evacuation routes is critical for ensuring that residents can quickly and safely evacuate in the event of a wildfire. These routes should be well-marked and regularly maintained to ensure they remain unobstructed. Municipalities should conduct regular drills to test these routes and to familiarize residents with them.

6.2. Public Awareness Campaigns

Conducting public awareness campaigns to educate residents about wildfire risks, prevention measures, and evacuation procedures is essential. These campaigns should use a variety of media, including local newspapers, radio, television, and social media, to reach as many residents as possible. Municipalities should collaborate with community organizations and AFAD to develop and deliver these campaigns.

Policy Implementation and Review

7. Approval and Adoption

7.1. Municipal Assembly Approval

Ensuring that these policies are approved by the municipal assemblies of the target municipalities is crucial. This approval will give the policies the legal authority needed for enforcement and will demonstrate the commitment of municipal leaders to protecting their communities from wildfires.

7.2. Implementation Plans

Developing detailed implementation plans for each policy area, including timelines, responsible parties, and required resources, is necessary. These plans should outline the specific steps that municipalities will take to implement the policies and should provide clear guidance to municipal staff and partners.





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8. Monitoring and Evaluation

8.1. Regular Reviews

Conducting regular reviews of policy effectiveness and making adjustments as necessary based on new research, technology, and feedback from stakeholders is important. These reviews should evaluate the success of the policies in achieving their objectives and should identify areas for improvement.

8.2. Reporting

Establishing a reporting system to track progress on policy implementation and outcomes is essential. This system should include regular reports to the municipal assemblies and to the public on the status of implementation and the results achieved. Transparency in reporting will help build trust and support for the policies.

Integration with Provincial and National Frameworks

9. Coordination with Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and AFAD

Ensure that municipal policies are aligned with the disaster response frameworks of Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and AFAD. This coordination will ensure that municipal efforts are supportive and complementary to the primary responsibilities of these agencies.

10. Collaboration with Neighboring Municipalities

Foster collaboration with neighboring municipalities to create a cohesive regional approach to wildfire management and forest protection. Sharing resources, information, and best practices will enhance the overall effectiveness of wildfire response and forest conservation efforts.

11. Supporting Role

Recognize the primary roles of Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü in wildfire fighting and AFAD in disaster response, and focus municipal efforts on supporting these agencies through resource allocation, public education, and logistical assistance.

Conclusion

By adopting these policies, the municipalities of Pozantı, Karaisalı, Aladağ, Kozan, İmamoğlu, and Rafina Pikermi will enhance their ability to protect forests and respond effectively to wildfires. These actions will not only safeguard the environment but also increase the resilience of local communities in the face of climate change. The policy document will be published in Turkish, English, and Greek, both in hard copy (250 copies) and electronically, and will be accessible from the project website. The policies outlined will guide municipalities in supporting Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü and AFAD, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to wildfire management and disaster response.

