



Funded by
the European Union



MUNICIPAL STRATEGY FOR WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE





Funded by
the European Union

This publication is funded by the European Union. The entire responsibility of its content belongs to Pozantı Municipality and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.





Funded by
the European Union

Table of Content

1. Introduction	5
2. Current Situation Analysis: Fire Risks and Response Strategies in the Taurus Mountains	8
Environmental Overview of Taurus Mountains	8
Types of Fires and Their Behaviours	9
Fire Response Strategies and Gaps in Current Management	10
Current Gaps in Preparedness	11
3. Local Disaster Risk Overview	13
Focus on Wildfire Risks	13
Historical Data and Recent Incidents	13
Other Relevant Natural Disasters	14
Impact of Insufficient Preparedness	14
4. Legal and Policy Framework	16
5. Strategic Goals and Objectives	20
Enhancing Municipal Preparedness	20
Integration into the Local Disaster Response System	21
Promoting Inter-Municipal Cooperation	22
Capacity Building and Training	22
Stakeholder Engagement and Roles	24
Capacity Building Programs	25
Coordination Mechanisms	26
Resource Allocation and Sharing	26
7. Preparedness and Response Systems	28
Early Warning Systems	28
Evacuation and Safety Procedures	29
Community Engagement	30
8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Feedback	31
Progress Tracking	31
Evaluation of Response Effectiveness	31
Feedback and Continuous Improvement	32
9. Timeline for Implementation	34
Milestones and Deliverables	34
Risk Mitigation Measures	35





Funded by
the European Union

Publication and Dissemination	36
-------------------------------------	----





1. Introduction

Objective of the Strategy

The primary objective of this strategy document is to facilitate the **integration of participant local authorities**—namely **Pozantı Belediyesi, Karaisalı Belediyesi, Aladağ Belediyesi, Kozan Belediyesi, and İmamoğlu Belediyesi**—into a **comprehensive disaster preparedness and response system** with a special focus on **wildfire risks**. This integration is crucial to enhancing the capacity of these municipalities to **plan, mitigate, and respond to wildfires** and other natural disasters.

Wildfires are a significant threat to the natural environment and the populations residing in the **Adana province**. As part of their legal obligations, municipalities must be equipped not only with **response mechanisms** but also with proactive **disaster mitigation strategies** that reduce the likelihood of catastrophic impacts. This strategy seeks to align local preparedness efforts with the overarching frameworks mandated by **Municipality Law No. 5393** and the **AFAD National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)**.

The successful integration of these municipalities into a unified disaster management system will enable them to **work collaboratively**, sharing resources, information, and expertise to ensure a **cohesive regional response** to wildfire risks. The strategy is designed to build **resilience at the municipal level**, fostering better cooperation and coordination, while ensuring that all municipalities comply with national disaster management standards.

Key objectives include:

- **Enhancing municipal capacity** to respond to wildfires through training, drills, and the development of standardized response procedures.
- **Establishing mechanisms for inter-municipal collaboration**, including resource sharing and joint emergency management protocols.
- **Strengthening the integration** of local disaster preparedness plans with the national AFAD system, ensuring alignment with national standards for disaster risk reduction and response.
- **Increasing public awareness** and community engagement in wildfire preparedness, thus improving overall resilience at the local level.

This strategy will be developed and implemented with the **collaborative involvement** of all participating municipalities, AFAD, and other key stakeholders, ensuring that the approach is tailored to the specific needs and risks of the Adana region.

Legal Framework

Municipality Law No. 5393 is the foundational legal mandate guiding municipal responsibilities in disaster management. It clearly stipulates that municipalities must develop and implement plans to mitigate and respond to natural disasters, including **wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and other hazards**. The law also requires municipalities to **coordinate**





with neighboring municipalities and collaborate with national and regional disaster management bodies such as **AFAD** (Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority).

Key provisions under Law No. 5393 relevant to this strategy include:

- **Disaster Preparedness:** Municipalities are required to prepare and maintain updated disaster response plans that include both mitigation measures (such as reducing wildfire risk through vegetation management and firebreak construction) and emergency response protocols (such as evacuation plans and firefighting coordination).
- **Inter-Municipal Cooperation:** The law emphasizes the need for municipalities to **work together**, particularly when responding to disasters that may affect multiple jurisdictions. This is critical for addressing wildfires, which often spread rapidly across municipal boundaries, requiring a **coordinated regional response**.
- **Support for Neighboring Municipalities:** The law mandates that municipalities must assist their neighbors during disasters. This means that local authorities must have systems in place for sharing resources, such as firefighting equipment, personnel, and expertise, ensuring that no municipality is overwhelmed during a wildfire event.
- **Public Safety and Education:** Municipalities are also tasked with educating the public about disaster risks and preparedness measures. This requires **public awareness campaigns, community training**, and regular fire drills to ensure that residents understand how to respond effectively in the event of a wildfire.

AFAD's National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP) further provides a comprehensive framework for managing disasters at the national level. TAMP sets standards for **early warning systems, resource mobilization, disaster risk assessments, and community preparedness**. It mandates that local authorities must align their disaster management activities with the **national system**, ensuring that **all levels of government** work together seamlessly during disaster events.

Key elements of **TAMP** relevant to this strategy include:

- **Early Warning and Risk Monitoring:** TAMP emphasizes the importance of establishing and maintaining reliable **early warning systems**. Municipalities must connect their local monitoring systems with the national platforms operated by AFAD to ensure that they receive real-time data on wildfire risks and can issue timely alerts to their communities.
- **Coordination of Resources:** The national plan outlines mechanisms for **mobilizing resources** (e.g., firefighting equipment, emergency shelters, medical supplies) across regions. Municipalities must integrate their resource-sharing systems with AFAD to ensure that they can access additional support when needed.
- **Standardized Response Protocols:** TAMP provides guidelines for **standardized response protocols**, including evacuation procedures and communication systems. Municipalities must align their local procedures with these national standards to ensure consistency and reduce confusion during a disaster.





Funded by
the European Union

By integrating these legal requirements and aligning local efforts with TAMP, the strategy ensures that participating municipalities are not only compliant with national laws but are also part of a **comprehensive, multi-level disaster management system** that enhances regional preparedness and response capabilities.





2. Current Situation Analysis: Fire Risks and Response Strategies in the Taurus Mountains

Environmental Overview of Taurus Mountains

The Taurus Mountains, particularly in the regions of **Pozanti**, **Karaisali**, **Aladağ**, and **Kozan**, are a critical ecosystem in Turkey, encompassing diverse **climatic and topographical conditions** that shape the fire risks in the area. The Taurus Mountains' climate, which is primarily Mediterranean, is characterized by **hot, dry summers** and **mild, rainy winters**, conditions that contribute significantly to the **likelihood of wildfires** during the summer and early fall. These climatic patterns, combined with human activities such as **agriculture, urban expansion**, and **quarrying**, increase the chances of fire outbreaks, particularly during the region's most vulnerable months from **July to November**.

The varying **elevations of the Taurus Mountains** play a significant role in fire behavior and forest composition. At **lower altitudes**, closer to the Mediterranean Sea, the climate is typically warmer, and the vegetation includes **red pines** (*Pinus brutia*) and **maquis scrublands**, which are highly flammable during the dry summer months. Moving to **higher altitudes**, the regions experience more **continental climates**, characterized by cooler temperatures and heavier snowfall during the winter, which support the growth of **black pines, cedars, and junipers**. These high-altitude forests are generally less prone to fires, but when fires do occur, they tend to spread rapidly due to the steep terrain and dense vegetation, making firefighting efforts more challenging.

The **Karaisali**, **Aladağ**, **Pozanti**, and **Kozan regions** also have complex **topographies** featuring **steep slopes, deep valleys**, and **glacial landforms** at higher elevations, which further complicate fire suppression efforts. In areas like **Aladağ National Park**, the combination of **glacial valleys, karstic formations**, and **rugged terrain** makes it difficult for firefighting teams to access the most vulnerable regions, often allowing fires to spread uncontrollably before adequate suppression efforts can be deployed. Additionally, the complex geomorphology contributes to microclimates that can intensify fire behavior. For example, **karstic landscapes** with **limestone bedrock** facilitate the rapid flow of water underground, meaning that surface vegetation dries out faster and remains highly flammable for extended periods.

In the **Kozan region**, located at lower altitudes, the **Mediterranean climate** is more pronounced, with hotter and drier conditions that exacerbate the risk of **surface fires**, particularly in areas where agriculture is practiced. The presence of **citrus orchards, olive groves**, and other flammable vegetation increases the fuel load, contributing to the high likelihood of fire outbreaks. Human activities, such as **marble quarrying** and **land clearing**, have also significantly altered the natural landscape, creating fragmented habitats and increasing the susceptibility of the region to fire. Overall, the climatic conditions and diverse topographies of the Taurus Mountains necessitate a detailed and region-specific approach to wildfire risk management and mitigation.





Surface fires are the most common type of wildfire in the Taurus Mountains. These fires typically burn through low-lying vegetation, including **shrubs**, **grass**, and **small trees**, while generally sparing the canopy. In the **Pozantı region**, surface fires are particularly prevalent due to the dry Mediterranean climate, which causes underbrush and grass to dry out and become flammable during the summer months. Surface fires can be beneficial in some cases, as they clear away dead organic material and promote the regeneration of certain plant species. However, they can escalate into more dangerous forms, such as **crown fires**, if not properly managed.

Ground fires, also known as **subsurface fires**, are less common in the Taurus Mountains but can occur in areas with thick layers of **organic soil** or **peat**. These fires burn beneath the forest floor, consuming tree roots, dead vegetation, and decomposed material. Although they spread slowly, ground fires can smolder for months, causing long-term damage to forest ecosystems by destroying root systems and impacting forest regeneration. In the **high-altitude regions** of **Aladağ** and **Kozan**, where the soil contains more organic matter, ground fires can pose significant risks, particularly during drought periods when the soil becomes dry enough to ignite.

Additionally, the region occasionally experiences **mixed-severity fires**, which combine the characteristics of surface fires, crown fires, and ground fires, burning at varying intensities across different areas. These fires are particularly challenging to manage, as they can cause localized damage in some areas while leaving others relatively unscathed. For example, in the **Aladağ region**, mixed-severity fires have been observed in areas where the forest transitions from lowland pine to high-altitude cedar forests. These fires can create a **mosaic pattern** of burnt and unburnt areas, altering the natural landscape and impacting biodiversity.





Traditional fire suppression techniques in Turkey include the use of **water-based suppression**, **firebreaks**, and **chemical retardants**. **Water drops** from helicopters and planes are commonly used to combat fires in remote areas, particularly in the steep and inaccessible regions of the Taurus Mountains. However, this method has limitations, especially in areas with **difficult terrain**, where **accessibility** is a significant challenge. In places like **Aladağ National Park**, steep slopes and deep valleys prevent firefighting teams from accessing key areas, reducing the effectiveness of water drops and leading to delays in fire containment.

Technological advancements, including the use of UAVs (**Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**) and **remote sensing technologies**, have significantly improved fire detection and response times. UAVs equipped with **thermal sensors** and **fire detection algorithms** are increasingly being used to patrol the Taurus Mountains, detecting early signs of fire and providing real-time data to ground teams. **GIS-based models** and **machine learning algorithms** have also been employed to predict fire behavior and identify high-risk areas, helping forest management authorities allocate resources more effectively. Despite these advancements, the integration of such technologies is still in its early stages, and more widespread use is needed to fully leverage their potential.

Another significant gap is the need for **more robust community engagement**. While public awareness campaigns and **fire preparedness workshops** have been conducted in some areas, there is still a lack of widespread **community involvement** in fire prevention efforts. In rural regions where **agricultural practices** and **land clearing** increase the risk of accidental fires,





involving local communities in **early detection** and **fire mitigation strategies** is essential. Training local populations to create **firebreaks**, manage **flammable materials**, and respond to fires before they escalate can significantly reduce the impact of wildfires on both natural ecosystems and human settlements.

In conclusion, while Turkey has made significant progress in developing **fire suppression strategies**, there are still critical areas that require improvement. Addressing improving **fire management** in the Taurus Mountains. **Surface fires**, which are the most common type of wildfire, could be better managed with more **controlled burns** and **mechanical thinning**, reducing the amount of flammable vegetation and preventing small fires from escalating into larger crown fires. At the same time, **community education programs** should be expanded, particularly in rural areas, to involve local populations in **fire prevention** and **early detection**. By addressing these gaps and improving **infrastructure**, **resource allocation**, and **community engagement**, Turkey can build a more effective and resilient fire management strategy that protects both the **biodiversity** and **human settlements** of the Taurus Mountains.

Current Gaps in Preparedness

The **current state of preparedness** among the participating municipalities is inadequate, particularly concerning **inter-municipal coordination** and **wildfire risk mitigation**. Although municipalities have developed disaster plans, many of these plans exist only on paper and have not been fully implemented or integrated into a **regional disaster management framework**. This lack of practical preparedness leaves municipalities vulnerable to the rapidly increasing threat of wildfires.

Several key gaps in preparedness have been identified:

- **Insufficient Inter-Municipal Coordination:** While Municipality Law No. 5393 requires coordination among municipalities, the **level of collaboration** between the participating local authorities is minimal. Municipalities often operate independently, without sharing resources or aligning their response protocols. This fragmentation weakens the region's overall ability to respond to large-scale wildfires, which can easily cross municipal boundaries.
- **Limited Resource Sharing and Joint Planning:** There is a **shortage of shared resources**, including firefighting equipment, trained personnel, and emergency shelters. Without a structured system for **resource pooling**, smaller municipalities may struggle to respond effectively to wildfires, particularly if multiple fires occur simultaneously or if a fire spreads across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Lack of Capacity for Training and Drills:** Many municipalities lack the capacity to conduct **regular fire drills**, **community training sessions**, and **response exercises**. Without these activities, local authorities and residents may not be adequately prepared to respond to wildfire emergencies, leading to slower evacuations, higher risk of property damage, and loss of life.
- **Inadequate Public Awareness:** Public understanding of wildfire risks and disaster preparedness measures is low across the region. Municipalities have not implemented sufficient **public awareness campaigns**, leaving many residents unaware of the steps





Addressing these gaps requires a **coordinated, multi-municipal approach** that improves **integration into the national disaster response system**, strengthens **inter-municipal cooperation**, and ensures that both **municipal leaders and the public** are fully prepared to manage wildfire risks. This strategy document outlines the steps necessary to close these gaps and build a more **resilient, prepared region**.





These examples underscore the region's vulnerability to wildfires and the urgent need for a more **coordinated and well-resourced response system**.

Other Relevant Natural Disasters

In addition to wildfires, the Adana province is vulnerable to several other natural disasters that may **compound the challenges posed by wildfires**. While the primary focus of this strategy is wildfire preparedness, it is essential to recognize how **secondary risks** could complicate disaster management and strain local resources.

- **Earthquakes:** Adana is located near several active seismic zones, making it prone to **earthquake risks**. Earthquakes can trigger secondary disasters such as **fires from gas line ruptures, building collapses, or infrastructure damage**, which can impede firefighting efforts during a wildfire.
- **Floods:** Seasonal **flooding** is another hazard in the region, especially during the rainy winter months. Floods can erode firebreaks, wash away emergency equipment, and create logistical challenges for municipalities trying to respond to wildfire threats.
- **Droughts:** Extended periods of **drought**—increasingly common due to climate change—further heighten wildfire risks by drying out vegetation and reducing the availability of water for firefighting efforts. Drought conditions also make it difficult to replenish water sources needed for community consumption and fire response.

The interplay between these disasters complicates the response landscape for local authorities. A large wildfire could coincide with an earthquake or a period of drought, making disaster management more complex and resource-intensive. Addressing these interrelated risks requires an integrated approach to disaster planning, which this strategy seeks to implement.

Impact of Insufficient Preparedness

The current **gaps in preparedness** across the participating municipalities have left the region vulnerable to **severe damage** from wildfires. Despite legal mandates requiring disaster planning and inter-municipal cooperation, several challenges continue to undermine effective response efforts.

1. Lack of Inter-Municipal Coordination

Municipality Law No. 5393 requires municipalities to **coordinate their disaster response efforts**, but in practice, many municipalities in the Adana province operate in isolation. This lack of coordination has serious consequences during wildfire events, as fires frequently spread across municipal boundaries. When municipalities do not **share resources** or **align their response protocols**, firefighting efforts can become fragmented, leading to delayed responses and inefficient resource use.

For example, during the 2021 wildfires, firefighting teams from different municipalities struggled to communicate and coordinate their actions, resulting in **duplication of efforts** in





some areas while other high-risk zones went unprotected. This fragmented response hindered the overall effectiveness of wildfire containment.

2. Resource Shortages

Many of the municipalities involved in this strategy, particularly smaller ones like **Aladağ** and **Karaisali**, face significant resource constraints. **Limited access to firefighting equipment**, such as fire engines, water pumps, and protective gear, hampers the ability of local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to wildfires. The **shortage of trained firefighting personnel** and volunteers exacerbates this problem, as there are not enough skilled responders to manage large-scale fires or multiple simultaneous fires.

Without the capacity to **share resources** across municipalities, smaller towns may be left without adequate protection during fire emergencies. This lack of resource-sharing arrangements also means that neighboring municipalities may not be able to provide timely assistance, even when required by law.

3. Insufficient Public Engagement

Public awareness and participation in disaster preparedness activities, such as **fire drills** and **community training**, are currently low in the region. Many residents are unaware of the **specific fire risks** facing their communities or the **evacuation procedures** they should follow during a wildfire. This lack of preparedness increases the potential for **panic**, **delayed evacuations**, and **higher casualty rates** when a fire occurs.

Additionally, **rural areas** and communities living in close proximity to forests are often the least informed about wildfire risks, despite being the most vulnerable. Without targeted public outreach and engagement efforts, the population will remain ill-prepared to respond to wildfire threats.

4. Potential for Increased Damage

The combination of **insufficient inter-municipal coordination**, **resource shortages**, and **low public awareness** heightens the risk of **catastrophic damage** from wildfires. As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of wildfires, these gaps in preparedness will only exacerbate the situation, resulting in more **widespread destruction of property**, **loss of life**, and **damage to the natural environment**.

To mitigate these risks, municipalities must work together to **build a more resilient disaster response system**, ensuring that they are better equipped to manage the growing wildfire threat. This strategy aims to address the identified gaps and build a **coordinated, well-resourced, and informed response** that can effectively protect the region from future wildfires.





4. Legal and Policy Framework

The legal and policy framework for municipal disaster preparedness in Turkey is shaped by a combination of national laws, directives, and response plans that outline the roles and responsibilities of local authorities. This section details the legal obligations of municipalities under **Municipality Law No. 5393**, the **AFAD National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)**, and **Turkey's Disaster Law (Law No. 7269)**, while also addressing additional national and regional regulations that influence local disaster management. These laws form the backbone of disaster preparedness and response efforts, ensuring that municipalities are equipped to handle wildfire risks and other natural disasters in a coordinated and legally compliant manner.

Municipality Law No. 5393

Municipality Law No. 5393 serves as the fundamental legal framework governing municipal responsibilities in Turkey, especially in terms of disaster management. This law requires municipalities to engage in a comprehensive range of activities, from planning for disaster mitigation to coordinating with neighboring municipalities and national bodies during emergency responses. Wildfire prevention and mitigation fall squarely within the obligations outlined in this law, particularly for municipalities in regions such as **Adana**, where fire risks are high due to environmental conditions.

Disaster Preparedness and Planning

One of the core tenets of Municipality Law No. 5393 is that all municipalities must have up-to-date and actionable disaster preparedness and response plans. These plans should be specifically tailored to address the **local risks** faced by each municipality. In **Pozanti, Karaisalı, Aladağ, Kozan, and İmamoğlu**, for instance, wildfire risks should be a primary focus, given the region's susceptibility to such hazards.

Municipalities are required to identify potential hazards in their areas, assess vulnerabilities, and develop both **mitigation** and **response strategies** to protect lives and property. These plans must outline detailed actions that municipalities will take before, during, and after a wildfire event. This includes defining roles for municipal staff, coordinating emergency services, and preparing evacuation procedures that residents can follow during an emergency.

Collaboration and Inter-Municipal Cooperation

Law No. 5393 places a strong emphasis on the need for **inter-municipal cooperation** during disasters. This is particularly important for municipalities like those in Adana, where wildfires can easily spread across municipal borders, affecting multiple towns and jurisdictions simultaneously. The law mandates that municipalities must not only have their own disaster response plans but must also be prepared to assist neighboring municipalities when needed.

This legal requirement means that municipalities are obligated to create systems for **sharing resources**, such as firefighting equipment, personnel, and communication tools. In practice, this could involve establishing **mutual aid agreements** that outline how municipalities will support one another during a wildfire, ensuring that resources are mobilized quickly and





efficiently across the region. Additionally, neighboring municipalities must synchronize their **evacuation plans** and **communication strategies** to avoid confusion and ensure a coordinated response.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Municipalities are also required to take an active role in **educating the public** about disaster risks, mitigation strategies, and response actions. Public awareness campaigns are mandated under Law No. 5393 to ensure that residents are informed about wildfire hazards, know how to reduce fire risks on their property, and understand what to do if an evacuation is ordered.

This includes organizing **community workshops**, distributing **educational materials**, and conducting **fire drills** to ensure that residents are familiar with evacuation routes and safety procedures. The law makes clear that municipalities have a responsibility not only to manage the operational aspects of disaster response but also to ensure that communities are **proactively engaged** in disaster preparedness.

AFAD National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)

The **AFAD National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)** is a comprehensive national-level plan designed to manage and coordinate disaster response efforts across Turkey. It integrates local, regional, and national authorities into a single framework, ensuring that disaster responses are standardized, efficient, and well-coordinated. For municipalities in Adana province, aligning local disaster plans with TAMP is essential to ensuring that wildfire response efforts are coordinated both locally and nationally.

Multi-Level Coordination and Communication

TAMP emphasizes the importance of **multi-level coordination** between municipalities, regional authorities, and national agencies such as **AFAD**. Under TAMP, municipalities are required to communicate regularly with regional disaster coordination centers to ensure that information about wildfire risks and response actions is shared promptly and accurately.

This coordination is particularly important for ensuring that **early warning systems** are activated as soon as wildfire risks emerge. Municipalities must have the ability to integrate their local early warning systems (such as SMS alerts and siren systems) with AFAD's national platforms. This ensures that residents receive **real-time information** about impending wildfires, evacuation orders, and safety protocols, no matter where they are located.

Resource Mobilization and Shared Assets

TAMP provides the legal framework for **resource mobilization**, enabling municipalities to access national and regional resources during large-scale disasters. This includes accessing **firefighting equipment**, **medical supplies**, and **emergency shelters** provided by AFAD.

Municipalities must also be prepared to share their own resources with neighboring municipalities as part of a **regional response strategy**. For instance, if a wildfire in one municipality spreads to another, both municipalities would be required to pool their resources,





including firefighting personnel and equipment, to contain the fire. TAMP ensures that this process is **well-organized** and that resources are distributed based on real-time needs.

Standardized Response Protocols

TAMP outlines standardized protocols for disaster response, including specific actions that municipalities must take during a wildfire event. These protocols are designed to ensure that all municipalities follow a **cohesive set of guidelines** when responding to wildfires, reducing confusion and streamlining emergency actions.

For example, TAMP requires municipalities to implement **firebreaks** in high-risk areas, conduct **controlled burns** to manage vegetation, and ensure that **firefighting teams** are well-trained and equipped. Municipalities must also adhere to standardized **evacuation procedures**, ensuring that residents in all affected areas are evacuated safely and efficiently, with clear communication about routes, timelines, and safe zones.

Turkey's Disaster Law (Law No. 7269)

Turkey's Disaster Law (Law No. 7269 on Measures and Assistance in Disasters Affecting Public Life) is another critical piece of legislation that governs disaster management in Turkey. Enacted in 1959 and regularly updated, this law provides the **legal foundation for disaster management** at all levels of government, including municipalities. It outlines the responsibilities of municipalities to **protect lives and property** during disasters and establishes mechanisms for **state assistance** to local authorities when disasters occur.

State Responsibilities and Municipal Obligations

Law No. 7269 defines the state's overall responsibility to protect public life and property during disasters. It requires municipalities to take **preventive measures** to reduce the impact of disasters, including wildfires, and to be **prepared to respond** effectively when disasters occur.

Under this law, municipalities are legally obligated to take proactive steps to prevent wildfires, such as **managing forested areas**, **creating firebreaks**, and ensuring that critical infrastructure (such as schools and hospitals) is protected from fire risks. In the event of a wildfire, municipalities must mobilize their resources and respond according to the protocols established in their disaster response plans.

Legal Framework for Evacuations and Public Safety

Law No. 7269 grants municipalities the authority to issue **evacuation orders** during disasters, including wildfires. It outlines the procedures for conducting safe and orderly evacuations and mandates that municipalities must have detailed **evacuation plans** in place. These plans should include designated **evacuation routes**, **safe zones**, and **emergency shelters**.

The law also requires municipalities to ensure the **safety and welfare of evacuated residents**, including providing them with basic necessities such as food, water, and medical care. Municipal authorities must coordinate these efforts with AFAD and other national agencies to





ensure that evacuation operations are well-executed and that residents are protected throughout the process.

Compensation and Recovery

A key feature of Law No. 7269 is its provisions for **disaster recovery** and **compensation**. After a wildfire or other disaster, municipalities can apply for financial assistance from the state to help rebuild infrastructure, restore public services, and compensate residents for property damage.

Municipalities must also work with AFAD to manage **recovery efforts**, ensuring that damaged areas are rehabilitated and that displaced residents can return to their homes as quickly as possible. The law provides a clear framework for how municipalities can access state resources to support recovery, making it an essential tool for long-term resilience planning.

Relevant National and Regional Policies

In addition to the core laws and plans outlined above, several other **national and regional policies** play a role in shaping disaster preparedness and response at the municipal level. These policies address environmental protection, emergency management, and land use planning, all of which are crucial for reducing wildfire risks and enhancing local resilience.

Environmental Protection Laws

Turkey's **Environmental Law** and regulations on **forest management** are important for municipalities to consider when managing wildfire risks. These laws require municipalities to work with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** to implement **sustainable land management practices** that reduce the likelihood of wildfires. For example, municipalities must ensure that forests are properly managed, that **fire-prone vegetation** is cleared, and that **urban development** near forests is regulated to minimize fire hazards.

National Emergency Management Directives

Turkey's **National Emergency Management System** provides additional guidance for municipalities on how to prepare for and respond to disasters. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of local, regional, and national authorities in managing disaster risks and requires municipalities to establish **disaster response centers** that can coordinate emergency actions during a wildfire event.

Regional Development and Land Use Planning

Municipalities must also incorporate **disaster risk reduction** into their urban planning processes. Regional development policies require municipalities to ensure that new developments are built with **disaster resilience** in mind and that areas prone to wildfires are **zoned appropriately** to minimize risks. By integrating wildfire risk assessments into **land use planning**, municipalities can reduce the vulnerability of new infrastructure to wildfires.





5. Strategic Goals and Objectives

Enhancing Municipal Preparedness

1. Capacity for Wildfire Response

- **Equipping municipalities with necessary resources**, including **firefighting equipment, protective gear**, and **communication systems**. Municipalities must ensure that they have access to adequate **fire trucks, water tanks**, and other tools that can be deployed quickly during a wildfire emergency.
- **Developing response protocols** that are specific to wildfire events, such as firebreak construction, controlled burns, and efficient evacuation procedures. These protocols must be standardized across municipalities and regularly updated to reflect new threats or advancements in firefighting techniques.
- **Establishing local volunteer fire teams** who can provide immediate support to professional firefighters, especially in smaller municipalities where fire departments may be under-resourced. These volunteer teams will undergo rigorous training, coordinated with AFAD's standards, to ensure they are prepared to handle initial wildfire outbreaks while waiting for reinforcements.

2. Measurable Targets

- **Conducting fire drills** at least twice a year in each municipality, with participation rates tracked to ensure that both municipal staff and residents are involved.
- **Increasing the number of trained personnel** by 50% over the next 12 months. This includes both professional firefighters and volunteers.





- **Establishing fire safety inspection programs** that ensure 100% of critical infrastructure (schools, hospitals, municipal buildings) is protected by fire prevention measures such as defensible spaces and accessible evacuation routes.

Integration into the Local Disaster Response System

A key goal of this strategy is the full **integration of local municipalities into the national and regional disaster response systems**, particularly **AFAD's National Disaster Response Plan (TAMP)**. Municipalities must not operate in isolation; they need to be fully synchronized with regional and national disaster management bodies to ensure a coordinated, multi-level response to wildfire threats.

1. Aligning with AFAD Standards

Municipalities will work to align their local disaster response plans with **AFAD's standards** for disaster preparedness. This includes:

- **Integrating local early warning systems** with AFAD's national alert platforms to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of fire warnings. Municipalities will adopt AFAD's guidelines for issuing **SMS alerts, radio broadcasts, and public announcements** to residents, ensuring that all communication systems are synchronized across municipal and national levels.
- **Participating in regional disaster simulations** organized by AFAD, where municipalities can practice responding to large-scale wildfire events in coordination with regional authorities and national agencies. These simulations will test communication systems, resource mobilization, and the effectiveness of evacuation procedures.

2. Regional Collaboration and Inter-Agency Coordination

Municipalities must also establish strong ties with regional agencies and nearby municipalities to ensure seamless collaboration during wildfire emergencies. This includes:

- **Setting up formal coordination channels** with regional disaster management offices and establishing clear lines of communication that can be activated immediately when wildfire risks escalate. Municipalities will have designated points of contact who liaise directly with AFAD and regional bodies to coordinate resource deployment and information sharing.
- **Developing joint response protocols** that outline how local and national agencies will work together during a wildfire event. These protocols should include clear **escalation procedures**, determining when and how municipalities can request additional resources or national-level support from AFAD.





Promoting Inter-Municipal Cooperation

Wildfires do not respect municipal boundaries, making **inter-municipal cooperation** a critical component of effective disaster management. This strategy aims to **strengthen collaboration, communication, and resource sharing** among neighboring municipalities to ensure a unified and coordinated response to wildfire risks. By promoting cooperation, the municipalities can pool resources, share expertise, and respond more effectively to wildfires that threaten multiple jurisdictions.

1. Developing Resource-Sharing Agreements

To ensure that all municipalities are adequately equipped to respond to wildfires, this strategy will promote the development of **formal resource-sharing agreements** between participating municipalities. These agreements will detail how **firefighting equipment, personnel, and logistical support** will be shared during a wildfire emergency. Key elements of these agreements include:

- **Pooling of specialized equipment:** Some municipalities may have access to specialized firefighting tools (e.g., water pumps, aerial support) that others lack. Resource-sharing agreements will ensure that these tools are available to all municipalities in the region when needed.
- **Mutual aid commitments:** Municipalities will pledge to provide **mutual aid** during large-scale wildfire events, ensuring that neighboring towns can assist each other by sending **personnel** and **equipment** to the areas most in need. These mutual aid agreements will be legally formalized to avoid delays or confusion during emergencies.

2. Joint Training and Drills

In addition to resource sharing, municipalities will participate in **joint training sessions** and **fire drills** to improve coordination between different local authorities. These exercises will simulate large-scale wildfire events that affect multiple municipalities, testing how well they can work together to manage **evacuations**, deploy firefighting teams, and communicate with the public.

- **Cross-municipal coordination:** During joint drills, municipalities will practice **coordinating fire suppression efforts** and sharing critical information, such as the location of fire outbreaks and the status of evacuation efforts. This ensures that municipalities can work together efficiently when real emergencies occur.

Capacity Building and Training

Building long-term disaster resilience requires a strong emphasis on **capacity building and training** for municipal authorities, volunteers, and community members. This strategy focuses on developing **knowledge, skills, and resources** through targeted training programs and participation in **AFAD's disaster preparedness programs**. The goal is to ensure that all





6. Implementation Strategy

This strategy outlines a coordinated and comprehensive response to wildfires across the municipalities of **Pozantı, Karaisalı, Aladağ, Kozan, and İmamoğlu**, as well as the key forest management directorates responsible for forest fire prevention and suppression in the region. The inclusion of relevant **Forest Management Directorates (Orman İşletme Müdürlükleri)** ensures that municipalities and forest authorities are fully aligned in their approach to managing wildfire risks.

Stakeholder Engagement and Roles

The success of this strategy relies on the participation of all key stakeholders, including local municipalities, forest management authorities, national agencies such as **AFAD**, and local fire departments. The **Pozantı Forest Management Directorate, Karaisalı Forest Management Directorate, and Kozan Forest Management Directorate**, among others, are critical partners in both preventing and suppressing wildfires.

1. Municipal Roles and Responsibilities

The municipalities of **Pozantı, Karaisalı, Aladağ, Kozan, and İmamoğlu** are responsible for disaster preparedness and response at the local level. Each municipality must ensure that it has an up-to-date wildfire response plan, trained personnel, and the necessary equipment to manage fire outbreaks.

- **Pozantı Municipality (POZB):** Pozantı will coordinate inter-municipal activities and serve as the lead in managing communication with the forest management directorates and national agencies. It will also oversee joint fire drills and public awareness initiatives.
- **Karaisalı (KISB), Aladağ (ALB), Kozan (KOB), and İmamoğlu (IMB):** These municipalities will implement localized wildfire prevention measures, organize evacuation plans, and manage the initial firefighting response in collaboration with their respective forest management directorates.

2. Forest Management Directorates' Roles

The **Pozantı Forest Management Directorate, Karaisalı Forest Management Directorate, Kozan Forest Management Directorate**, and other relevant directorates are responsible for managing forests in the Toros region and playing a frontline role in wildfire prevention and suppression. Their responsibilities include:

- **Wildfire Suppression:** The forest management directorates will lead **fire suppression efforts** in forested zones, working in collaboration with municipal fire teams. Their **firefighting crews** are equipped with specialized tools for managing forest fires, ensuring that fires are contained before they spread to urban areas.
- **Forest Management and Risk Reduction:** These directorates are tasked with conducting **fire prevention activities**, including the creation of **firebreaks, controlled**





Funded by
the European Union

burns, and forest thinning to reduce the risk of large-scale fires. They are also responsible for managing forest fuel loads and ensuring that forest areas are maintained to minimize fire hazards.

- **Coordination with Municipal Fire Teams:** The forest management directorates will work closely with municipal firefighting teams to ensure that both forest and urban fire zones are protected. **Joint protocols** will be established for communication and resource sharing during wildfire events, ensuring seamless collaboration between forest management authorities and municipalities.

3. AFAD's Role

AFAD, as the national disaster management authority, plays a critical role in ensuring that all municipal and forestry disaster response efforts are integrated into the broader national framework.

- **Technical Guidance and Monitoring:** AFAD will provide **technical guidance** to municipalities and forest management directorates, ensuring that local wildfire response plans align with national disaster preparedness standards.
- **Resource Mobilization:** During large-scale wildfire events, AFAD will manage the **allocation of national resources**, including additional firefighting equipment, personnel, and logistical support.

4. Local Fire Departments

Local fire departments will collaborate with both municipal authorities and forest management directorates in wildfire suppression efforts. They are responsible for:

- **Wildfire Response:** Local fire departments will work with the forest management teams to suppress fires that threaten both forested and urban areas.
- **Training and Support:** Fire departments will provide **training** for municipal staff and volunteers, ensuring that all personnel are prepared to manage fire containment efforts and evacuations.

Capacity Building Programs

To enhance the preparedness of all stakeholders, capacity-building programs will focus on improving disaster readiness through **training sessions, workshops, and fire drills** that involve both municipalities and forest management directorates.

1. Training Sessions

Training sessions will be organized to improve the firefighting capabilities of municipal authorities, forest management teams, and local fire departments. These sessions will cover:





- **Wildfire Suppression:** Training on wildfire suppression techniques, including **fireline construction**, the use of specialized equipment, and strategies for controlling large-scale fires.
- **Coordination and Response:** Training sessions will also focus on **emergency response coordination**, ensuring that municipalities and forest management teams can work together during fire events.

2. Fire Drills and Public Workshops

Fire drills and public workshops will be held to test the preparedness of all stakeholders and engage the local community in wildfire preparedness.

- **Inter-Municipal Fire Drills:** Municipalities and forest management teams will conduct joint fire drills at least twice a year. These drills will test the effectiveness of **evacuation procedures, fire suppression efforts, and resource-sharing agreements**.
- **Community Workshops:** Workshops will be organized to educate the public about wildfire prevention and evacuation procedures. These workshops will involve local leaders, schools, and volunteers to ensure community-wide participation.

Coordination Mechanisms

Effective coordination between municipalities, forest management directorates, and AFAD is critical to a successful wildfire response. Formal coordination mechanisms will be established to facilitate communication, resource sharing, and emergency management.

1. Real-Time Communication Channels

A **communication platform** will be established to enable real-time data sharing between municipalities, forest management directorates, and AFAD. This platform will provide up-to-date information on fire risks, containment efforts, and resource needs.

2. Integration with AFAD's Systems

Municipalities and forest management directorates will integrate their disaster response systems with **AFAD's national emergency management platforms**, ensuring that they receive real-time updates and can request additional support during wildfire events.

Resource Allocation and Sharing

Municipalities and forest management directorates will develop formal agreements for **resource sharing**, ensuring that all parties have access to the equipment and personnel needed to manage wildfires effectively.

1. Shared Firefighting Equipment and Personnel





Funded by
the European Union

Municipalities and forest management directorates will maintain a shared inventory of firefighting equipment, including **fire engines**, **water tanks**, and **protective gear**. Personnel from both municipal fire teams and forestry divisions will be available to assist during large-scale wildfires.

2. Public Outreach and Awareness

Municipalities and forest management directorates will collaborate on public awareness campaigns, providing residents with educational materials on wildfire prevention and evacuation procedures. These materials will be distributed through local media, social media platforms, and community events.





7. Preparedness and Response Systems

This section focuses on the systems that will be established and enhanced to ensure the **timely and efficient response** to wildfires in the municipalities of **Pozantı, Karaisali, Aladağ, Kozan, and İmamoğlu**, with strong integration into national systems, particularly **AFAD's National Disaster Response Plan**. The components outlined include **early warning systems, evacuation procedures, and community engagement**, all of which are essential to a coordinated and effective wildfire management strategy.

Early Warning Systems

A critical aspect of wildfire preparedness is having an effective **early warning system** that can provide timely alerts to residents and authorities, ensuring they have adequate time to respond to fire threats. The goal is to develop a **localized early warning system** that is fully integrated with AFAD's national alert platforms, allowing for **real-time notifications** and coordination across all stakeholders.

1. Local Early Warning Systems

- **SMS Alerts and Notifications:** Municipalities will work with AFAD to establish or improve local **SMS-based alert systems**, ensuring that residents receive immediate notifications about wildfire risks. This system will allow local authorities to send mass text alerts to residents' mobile phones, providing instructions on evacuation routes, safety protocols, and the locations of safe zones. These alerts must be synchronized with AFAD's national platforms to ensure that both local and national authorities are issuing consistent messages.
- **Public Announcement Systems:** **Public announcement systems**, including sirens and loudspeakers, will be installed in key areas of each municipality, particularly in high-risk zones near forests and urban-wildland interfaces. These systems will be used to alert the public in areas where mobile network coverage may be limited or where residents may not have access to mobile devices.
- **Radio and TV Broadcasts:** Municipalities will collaborate with local and national media outlets to ensure that **radio and television stations** broadcast wildfire warnings and updates in real time. These media channels will provide ongoing updates on fire status, evacuation orders, and safety information to ensure that all residents are informed, regardless of their access to mobile phones or internet services.

2. Integration with AFAD's National Platforms

The local early warning systems will be integrated with AFAD's national **Disaster and Emergency Management System**, allowing local authorities to benefit from **real-time data** on wildfire risks, wind patterns, and other factors that affect fire behavior. This integration will ensure that local municipalities receive **up-to-date alerts** from national authorities and can relay those alerts quickly to the public.





- **Data Sharing with AFAD:** Municipalities and the **forest management directorates** will also be responsible for sharing real-time data with AFAD, particularly regarding fire outbreaks, containment efforts, and resource needs. This ensures that national authorities can deploy additional resources or issue broader public warnings when necessary.

Evacuation and Safety Procedures

Developing standardized evacuation and safety procedures across the participating municipalities is essential for ensuring **efficient and safe evacuations** during wildfire emergencies. These procedures must be **consistent with AFAD's guidelines** and tailored to the specific needs of each municipality, considering factors such as local geography, population density, and proximity to fire-prone areas.

1. Standardized Evacuation Plans

- **Evacuation Routes:** Each municipality will develop or update its **evacuation plans**, identifying safe routes that residents can use to evacuate from high-risk areas. These routes will be marked with clear signage and integrated into local **public transportation systems** to facilitate rapid evacuations. Evacuation routes will be designed to avoid congestion, particularly in areas with narrow roads or difficult terrain, which can hinder the evacuation process during wildfires.
- **Safe Zones and Shelters:** Designated **safe zones** will be established in each municipality, providing residents with safe areas to gather during a wildfire. These zones should be located away from forests and other fire-prone areas and be easily accessible from all evacuation routes. Municipalities will also establish **emergency shelters** equipped with food, water, medical supplies, and first aid personnel to support residents during evacuations.

2. Coordination with Forest Management Directorates

Given the proximity of many municipalities to forested areas, it is essential to have **coordinated evacuation plans** that involve both municipal authorities and the **forest management directorates**. Forest authorities will provide real-time updates on fire behavior, allowing municipalities to adjust evacuation orders and routes based on the **fire's direction and intensity**. This coordination will ensure that residents are evacuated from high-risk areas before fires can spread into urban zones.

3. Communication During Evacuations

During evacuations, clear and consistent communication is critical to prevent confusion and panic. Municipalities will establish **crisis communication teams** responsible for issuing evacuation orders, providing real-time updates on evacuation routes, and informing the public about changes in fire conditions.





- **Emergency Apps and Mobile Platforms:** Municipalities will promote the use of mobile apps that provide residents with real-time information on evacuation routes, traffic conditions, and safe zones. These apps will be integrated with AFAD's national platforms, ensuring that residents receive accurate and up-to-date information throughout the evacuation process.

Community Engagement

Engaging the community is a critical component of wildfire preparedness. It ensures that residents are not only informed about wildfire risks but also actively participate in **preventive measures** and **preparedness activities**. The aim is to build a culture of **resilience** by involving community members in public awareness campaigns, fire drills, and emergency planning.

1. Public Awareness Campaigns

Municipalities and the **forest management directorates** will collaborate on public awareness campaigns to educate residents about **wildfire risks**, **prevention measures**, and **evacuation procedures**. These campaigns will use multiple platforms, including local media, social media, and in-person events, to reach a broad audience. Key components of the campaigns include:

- **Wildfire Prevention:** Educational materials will inform residents about how to reduce wildfire risks around their homes, such as clearing dry vegetation, creating defensible spaces, and avoiding activities that can spark fires, like open burning or using machinery near dry grass.
- **Preparedness Measures:** Campaigns will emphasize the importance of being prepared for wildfires by creating **emergency kits**, knowing **evacuation routes**, and having a family emergency plan in place.

2. Community Drills and Simulations

Regular **community fire drills** will be conducted to simulate wildfire scenarios and test the readiness of both residents and local authorities. These drills will help familiarize residents with evacuation routes, safe zones, and the procedures they need to follow during an actual wildfire.

- **Public Participation:** Residents will be encouraged to participate in these drills, particularly those living in high-risk areas near forests. Local schools, businesses, and community centers will also be involved, ensuring that wildfire preparedness becomes a community-wide effort.

3. Involvement of Local Leaders

Local leaders, including **mayors**, **council members**, and **community influencers**, will play a key role in driving community engagement. These leaders will participate in public events, speak at community meetings, and actively promote wildfire preparedness through local media outlets. Their involvement will help build **trust** in the disaster response system and ensure that residents take wildfire risks seriously.





8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Feedback

Monitoring, evaluation, and feedback are essential for ensuring that the wildfire preparedness and response strategy remains effective and adaptable to changing conditions. This section outlines how municipalities, forest management directorates, and other stakeholders can systematically track progress, assess response effectiveness, and gather feedback to continuously improve the disaster management system.

Progress Tracking

To measure the success of the strategy and ensure continuous improvement, clear and measurable metrics must be established. These metrics will help track the efforts made by each municipality and forest management directorate to enhance wildfire preparedness and response capabilities.

1. Metrics for Preparedness and Response

- **Training Sessions Completed:** Municipalities and forest management directorates will track the number of **training sessions** and **workshops** conducted for municipal personnel, forest management teams, and community volunteers. This will include tracking the **participation rates**, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are involved in wildfire preparedness training.
- **Fire Drills and Simulations:** The frequency and effectiveness of **fire drills** and **simulation exercises** will be monitored. Municipalities will record the number of **joint drills** conducted with local forest management teams, ensuring that these exercises involve both forest and urban firefighting teams. The success of these drills will be assessed based on **response times**, **coordination efficiency**, and **public participation**.
- **Resource Allocation:** Progress tracking will also include monitoring the allocation of **resources** such as firefighting equipment, personnel, and public outreach materials. Municipalities will document how many resources have been acquired, shared, or mobilized during wildfire events or preparedness activities. This includes tracking whether **critical firefighting tools** (e.g., fire engines, water tanks, protective gear) are adequately distributed across high-risk areas.

2. Data Collection and Reporting

Municipalities and forest management directorates will be required to submit **regular reports** on their progress in achieving the metrics outlined above. These reports will be shared with **AFAD** and other stakeholders to ensure that all levels of government are aware of the preparedness levels across the region. AFAD will provide guidance on areas requiring improvement based on these reports.

Evaluation of Response Effectiveness

While tracking preparedness activities is important, it is equally essential to evaluate how effective the actual **response** to wildfire events is. This involves assessing the outcomes of fire





drills, the real-time response to fire outbreaks, and the **coordination efforts** among municipalities, forest management directorates, and national agencies.

1. Effectiveness of Fire Drills and Simulations

After each **fire drill** or simulation, municipalities will conduct an **after-action review** to evaluate the effectiveness of the exercise. Key aspects of the evaluation will include:

- **Response Time:** How quickly were firefighting teams able to respond to simulated fire outbreaks? Was the communication between teams seamless, and were the evacuation orders issued promptly?
- **Coordination Among Stakeholders:** The effectiveness of **coordination** between municipalities, forest management directorates, and AFAD will be evaluated. This includes assessing how well teams worked together, shared information, and deployed resources during the exercise.
- **Public Engagement and Evacuation:** If the drill involved the local community, the success of the **evacuation procedures** will be reviewed. Did residents understand the evacuation routes and safe zones? How well did they respond to the alerts issued during the drill?

2. Real-Time Response to Wildfires

Evaluating the **real-time response** to actual wildfire events is crucial for identifying strengths and weaknesses in the overall disaster management system. Municipalities and forest management directorates will assess the outcomes of wildfire responses based on the following criteria:

- **Containment Success:** How quickly and effectively were the wildfires contained? Were the firefighting teams able to prevent the fire from spreading to residential areas or high-risk zones?
- **Resource Deployment:** Was the allocation of firefighting resources adequate? Were the **mutual aid agreements** between municipalities and forest management directorates successfully implemented?
- **Impact on Residents:** The effectiveness of public safety measures, including the evacuation process and the provision of emergency shelters, will be reviewed. Municipalities will assess whether residents were adequately protected and whether any improvements are needed in the future.

Feedback and Continuous Improvement

Regular feedback from all stakeholders—**municipal authorities, forest management directorates, AFAD**, and community members—will be gathered to refine and adapt the wildfire response strategy over time. This ensures that the strategy evolves to address new risks, technological advancements, and changes in wildfire behavior due to climate change.





1. Feedback from Local Authorities and AFAD

Local authorities and **AFAD representatives** will provide feedback on the effectiveness of the strategy, identifying areas where improvements are needed. This could include suggestions for better coordination mechanisms, updated fire suppression techniques, or new training programs for municipal staff and firefighters.

- **Post-Event Debriefings:** After significant wildfire events or large-scale drills, formal **debriefing sessions** will be held with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the outcomes of the response efforts and identify lessons learned. These debriefings will provide actionable insights into how future wildfire responses can be improved.

2. Community Feedback

Feedback from local residents and community groups is equally important for understanding how well the public is prepared for wildfires. After each fire drill or wildfire event, municipalities will conduct **community surveys** to assess how well residents understood the evacuation process, whether they received timely alerts, and how confident they feel about their preparedness for future wildfires.

- **Engaging Community Leaders:** Local leaders, including **mayors** and **community influencers**, will be encouraged to collect feedback from their constituents and share this information with municipal authorities. This ensures that the feedback process is inclusive and captures the perspectives of all community members, particularly those in high-risk areas.

3. Refining the Strategy

Based on the feedback collected from local authorities, AFAD, and the community, municipalities will **refine and update the wildfire preparedness strategy** regularly. This process will involve making adjustments to:

- **Training Programs:** New training programs or workshops may be introduced to address specific skills gaps or to update personnel on the latest wildfire suppression technologies and techniques.
- **Evacuation Plans:** If feedback indicates that certain aspects of the evacuation process were unclear or ineffective, municipalities will revise evacuation routes, update signage, or improve public awareness efforts.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:** The **coordination protocols** between municipalities, forest management directorates, and AFAD will be continuously evaluated and enhanced based on lessons learned from real wildfire events.





9. Timeline for Implementation

The timeline for implementing the wildfire preparedness and response strategy is structured to achieve key milestones over a **12-month period**, ensuring that all stakeholders—municipalities, forest management directorates, and national authorities—are fully engaged and that necessary measures are put in place to enhance wildfire resilience. This timeline outlines critical steps for training, coordination, community engagement, and the finalization of the strategy document.

Milestones and Deliverables

The following key milestones are set for the **12-month implementation period**:

1. First Quarter (Months 1-3)

- **Kick-Off and Planning:**
 - Conduct an initial **stakeholder meeting** involving **municipal authorities, forest management directorates, AFAD**, and local fire departments to discuss the strategy's objectives, roles, and responsibilities.
 - Begin the development of **training materials** and schedules for wildfire response, tailored to the needs of each municipality and in coordination with **AFAD's national standards**.
 - Establish coordination protocols between **municipalities** and **forest management directorates**, setting up real-time communication channels for wildfire alerts and data sharing.
- **Early Warning System Development:**
 - Review the current **early warning systems** and identify necessary improvements for integration with AFAD's national platforms.

2. Second Quarter (Months 4-6)

- **Capacity Building and Training:**
 - Conduct the first series of **fire response training sessions** for municipal and forestry personnel, including joint drills involving **municipal firefighting teams** and **forest management crews**.
 - Organize the first **public workshops** on wildfire preparedness, with a focus on educating residents about **evacuation routes, fire safety protocols**, and **emergency preparedness**.
- **Implementation of Early Warning Systems:**
 - Install and integrate local **SMS alert systems, public announcement systems**, and other technologies to connect with AFAD's platforms, ensuring that all residents receive timely wildfire alerts.





3. Third Quarter (Months 7-9)

- **Fire Drills and Simulations:**
 - Conduct the first **inter-municipal fire drill**, simulating a large-scale wildfire event that affects multiple municipalities and involves coordination with **forest management directorates** and **AFAD**.
 - Evaluate the success of the drill, focusing on **response times**, **coordination effectiveness**, and **public evacuation**. Use insights from the drill to improve protocols.
- **Refinement of Evacuation Plans:**
 - Finalize **evacuation plans** and establish **safe zones** and emergency shelters, ensuring that all infrastructure is in place for a rapid evacuation if necessary.

4. Fourth Quarter (Months 10-12)

- **Strategy Document Finalization:**
 - Finalize the **strategy document**, incorporating all feedback from stakeholders, and make necessary adjustments based on the **training**, **drills**, and **public engagement** activities conducted throughout the year.
 - Conduct a **final review meeting** with all stakeholders to assess progress, identify gaps, and ensure that the strategy is fully aligned with **AFAD's National Disaster Response Plan**.
- **Final Fire Drills and Workshops:**
 - Conduct one final round of **fire drills** and **community engagement workshops** to ensure that all residents and personnel are fully prepared for future wildfire events.

Risk Mitigation Measures

Throughout the implementation process, there are several potential risks that could delay or hinder the effectiveness of the strategy. To mitigate these risks, the following contingency plans will be put in place:

1. Resource Limitations

- **Contingency Plan:** If certain municipalities or forest management directorates face **budget constraints** or **lack access to necessary equipment**, AFAD will be requested to provide **additional support** through national or regional funding mechanisms. Resource-sharing agreements between municipalities will also be established to ensure that equipment and personnel are available where they are needed most.

2. Lack of Engagement

- **Contingency Plan:** If there is a lack of engagement from local communities or stakeholders, additional public awareness campaigns will be launched to emphasize the





Funded by
the European Union

importance of wildfire preparedness. Local leaders will also be mobilized to encourage participation, particularly in high-risk areas.

3. Delays in Training or Drills

- **Contingency Plan:** If training sessions or drills are delayed due to **scheduling conflicts** or other logistical issues, a backup schedule will be developed, allowing for flexibility in planning. Virtual training sessions may also be utilized to ensure that stakeholders receive the necessary instruction, even if in-person sessions are postponed.

Publication and Dissemination

To ensure that the wildfire preparedness strategy is accessible to all stakeholders, the document will be published in multiple formats and languages, making it widely available for use by both local and national authorities.

1. Hard Copy and Electronic Formats

- The finalized strategy document will be published in **hard copy (250 copies)** and **electronic formats**. The document will be distributed to **municipal authorities, forest management directorates, and AFAD** to ensure widespread accessibility.

2. Languages

- The document will be translated into **Turkish, English, and Greek**, ensuring that it is accessible to all relevant stakeholders and partner organizations, including those in cross-border or international collaborations.

3. Online Dissemination

- The strategy will be made available on the **project website** and other relevant digital platforms, where it can be downloaded by the public, researchers, and disaster management professionals. Links to the document will be shared through **social media, local government websites, and AFAD's disaster management portal**.

