CHAPTER 14

KONYA PROVINCE SUĞLA LAKE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION AND PLANNING

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Introduction

According to the European Landscape Convention, the landscape is a field which is formed by people's activities and interactions as perceived by the people. Humans are a constant part of the landscape so, protecting, planning, and managing the landscape are important for the sake of improving society's quality of life. Therefore, landscape planning aims to protect nature, maintain or increase food production and also improve the life conditions of local people (IUCN, 2006). When we consider that the landscape has changed and also can change in the future as a result of human activities and natural elements, integrating landscape with urban/regional planning and the policies of environment, agriculture, culture and economy contributes to achieving the stated goals.

Integrating the landscape with all the other policies which have indirect effects on the landscape in addition to the cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies of the country is guaranteed by the act of Turkey's acceding to the European Landscape Agreement (Uzun et al., 2010; Çetinkaya and Uzun, 2014).

The aims of the study are to determine landscape characteristic types (Wascher, 2005; Swanwick, 2002; Mücher et al., 2003; Van Eetvelde and Antrop, 2007) related to the planning area with reference to the method of landscape categorising which is created on national, regional and local scales; based on the landscape functions (Buuren, 1994; Forman, 1995;

Mapa/Icona, 1983) to create the first official landscape plan with a landscape ecology-based approach in Turkey where sectoral landscape policies are also defined, to ensure the unifying of all these policies with existing laws and regulations and also to reveal the landscape management type in order to apply this.

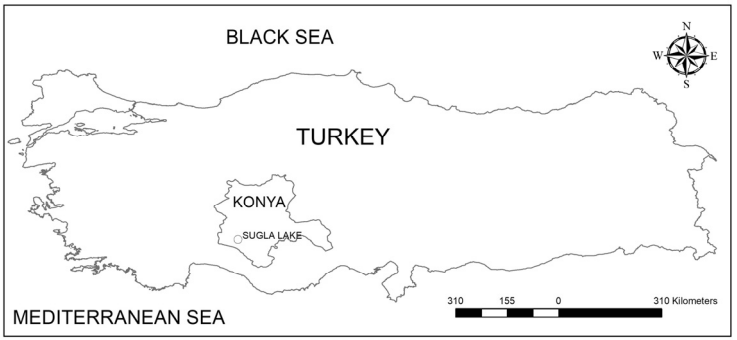


Fig. 1: Location of Suğla lake

Material and Method

The project field is an area of 74.152 ha within the ecologically-based boundaries including Konya Province, the Bozkır-Seydişehir-Ahırlı-Yalıhüyük districts, Suğla Lake and the immediate surroundings (Fig. 1). The method of the study consists of 9 successive stages (Table 1). The method used in the study was improved by taking advantage of the studies of Lewis, 1964; McHarg, 1967; (Angus Hills) Belknap, 1967; Steinitz, 1995; Ahern, 1999; Steiner, 2000; Ahern, 2006; Uzun et al., 2010; Uzun et al., 2012.

The method of study consists of 9 stages (Table 1).

Table 1: Stages of the study method (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012)

1	Determining the Targets of Landscape Planning
2	Inventory belonging to the Planning Field: Natural and Cultural Landscape Elements
3	Participation of Communities of Interest
4	Landscape Analysis
	4.1. Landscape Characteristic Types Analysis (Determining Characteristic Types and Landscape Units)
	4.2. Landscape Function Analysis: Landscape's Water Function, Landscape's Erosion Process Function, Landscape's Habitat

	Function, Landscape's Cultural Function, Landscape's Bio-diversity Function
	4.3. Visual Landscape Analysis
5	Participation of Communities of Interest
6	Strategies of Landscape Progress and Sectorial Landscape Guide
7	Landscape Plan
8	Landscape Management
9	Control and Monitoring

Results

The first stage of the method consists of determining the targets of landscape planning. This study aims to constitute a landscape plan within the frame of protecting Suğla Lake and its immediate surroundings and brings forward proposals to different sectors.

During the Data Collection and Research Report stages of the method, natural landscape elements in the field and some data belonging to cultural landscape elements were collected and stored in Geographic Information Systems. In this stage, some presentations were given about inventory works which were done both in the field and at meetings. In this way, missing and escaper points were completed by local people and directors.

The countries which signed the European Landscape Convention are responsible for classifying country landscapes. In defining landscapes, the human-centred interaction of natural and cultural resources particularly stands out. In this sense, there should be a balance between human beings and nature in classifying studies. The study focuses on four main purposes to determine landscape's characteristic types: political, administrative, functional and scientific purposes. To identify the landscapes in Turkey, some parametric methods were used based on 25 main river basins (Başal et al., 1983; Swanwick, 2002; Mücher et al., 2003; Uzun, 2003; Washer, 2005; Van Eetvelde and Antrop, 2007; Uzun, 2009). A landscape characteristic type map was created for the study field (Uzun et al., 2010, 2011a, 2012).

Regarding the data collection process in the study field, five functions were emphasised: Landscape's Water Function, Landscape's Erosion Process Function, Landscape's Habitat Function, Landscape's Cultural Function, and Landscape's Bio-diversity Function.

To map the landscape's water function, soil textures and rock permeability values were brought together and compared by using the degrees of infiltration zones (Buuren, 1994; Şahin, 1996; Şahin and Kurum, 2002; Uzun, 2003; Dilek et al., 2008; Uzun et al., 2010; Uzun and Gültekin, 2011).

The erosion function was carried out by comparing a "Wearability Map" obtained from the comparisons of Geology and Education maps and a "Soil Conservation Degrees Map" obtained from the comparisons of Vegetation and Education maps (Mapa/Icona, 1983; Mopu, 1985; Mapa/Icona, 1991; Atucha et al., 1993; Şahin and Kurum, 2002; Dilek et al., 2008; Uzun et al., 2010; Uzun et al., 2012; Uzun and Gültekin, 2011).

In the study, a Landscape Ecology-based approach which has been used in different stages of landscape planning since the 1990s was used to evaluate landscape's habitat function. Patch classes in the forest matrix of Suğla Lake Basin were interpreted in terms of habitat patches in the framework of four criteria: patch size and number, patch form, patch edge and core areas (Forman and Godron, 1986; McGarigal and Marks, 1994; Forman, 1995; Hobbs, 1997; Uzun, 2003; Opdam et al., 2002; Leitao and Ahern, 2002; Tunçay et al., 2009; Rempel, 2010; Uzun et al., 2010, Uzun et al., 2012).

Biological diversity is categorised under the three hierarchical titles: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. Species diversity is considered to evaluate biological diversity. The Landscape Bio-diversity Function Map of Suğla Lake and its immediate surroundings was created by comparing maps obtained from the reports of flora (Duran and Şanda, 2010) and fauna (Mergen, 2010) prepared in the study field (Uzun et al., 2011b).

The cultural diversity function of the landscapes in the region of Suğla Lake was investigated by data collection, a literature review and a site survey. The results of this assessment revealed that the study area includes important tangible (e.g. archaeological and historical sites such as Yalihoyuk) and intangible (e.g. festivals) cultural landscape components. The cultural landscape components were evaluated in accordance with the 12 criteria by using the 1-4 score system at the base of each village. Thus, the total value of the cultural landscape components in each village was estimated (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012; Erduran et al., 2012; Gültekin and Uzun, 2012).

The Scenic Beauty Estimation Method, based on showing representative photographs of visual landscape types to participants, was used in the study. The method—including three stages (e.g. the development of a questionnaire)—was implemented by using data obtained from 104 individuals at two universities. As a result of this assessment (based on a 1-6 scale evaluation), eight visually rich landscape types were determined in accordance with the preferences of the participants. The main parameters in selecting these landscape types were "naturalness" and "vividness". Assessment of the major components of each landscape type

and the relations between the components (based upon a 1-4 scale evaluation) showed that the main components forming the visual quality for each landscape type were "vegetation type" and "degree of naturalness". Finally, two approaches (e.g. eco-aesthetic) were discussed for providing the sustainability of the landscapes with the highest visual quality in the region (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012; Çetinkaya et al., 2014).

In the fifth stage of the method, the analysis results and all the data obtained from the study field were shared with local people and the issues related to different sectors (agriculture, forest, settlement and water management, etc.) were especially put into the final form with the participants.

In the sixth stage of the method, with the information from the previous stage, problems threatening forests; excessive grazing, illegal cutting, forest management, increase in forest pests, stubble burning, main problems threatening the agricultural sector, problems related to agricultural products, watering problems, marketing-sale problems, producer organization problems, animal husbandry and fishery industry problems were determined.

The main problems of water management were determined as stated: the uneven distribution of water, technical problems in the watering system, inadequate modern watering systems, the limitation of the passage of living creatures to the two parts of the water channels and the problems of wild life. The main problems related to Cultural Landscape were stated as: agricultural production (a decrease in traditional agricultural production models like apples, chickpeas and melons; a decrease in sheep-goat farming), a decrease in Traditional Fishery on the lake, Social Life (abandoning the rural life and the disappearance of traditional life models in the region, quitting traditional handicrafts, a decrease in customs and traditional entertainments, quitting the transhumance tradition, a lack of non-formal education for women to learn handicrafts and an inability to create alternative livelihoods for women, and the deterioration in forest villages because of grazing pressure), and Historical-archaeological Items (destruction of the structure, area and elements constituting the cultural items because of non-use, destruction of the ruins, traditional highland and village houses relocating to reinforced houses, and not taking adequate care of historical mosques built with traditional handicrafts and their surroundings).

Landscape Development strategies and guides related to Forestry, Agriculture, Highlands, Leas, Water Management, Cultural Landscape, Settlement, Tourism, Ecotourism, Recreation, Technical and Social Substructure (Transportation, Logistics, Energy, Education, and Landscape

Mending) were constituted on the basis of the problems that occurred (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012, 2016).

A landscape guide set the ground for landscape planning studies. As emphasised in the European Landscape Convention, natural and cultural interactions can be used in shaping agricultural, forestry and urban developments. This situation has come into prominence in most of the landscape and ecological planning studies in recent years. Landscape guidelines prepared for Suğla and its immediate surroundings for forestry, agricultural and urban areas have been defined for the implementation of some actions for decision-makers within the three zones (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012, 2016). Based on these data, a landscape plan was prepared for Suğla and its immediate surroundings (Fig. 2).

The borders of the area determined in the landscape field were defined based on the usage of land, ownership status, and intervention level in nature. According to these criteria, planning was separated into three parts: Absolute Preservation Area according to the Landscape Character Function, Limited Landscape Use Area according to the Landscape Character Function, and Controlled Landscape Use Area according to the Landscape Character Function.

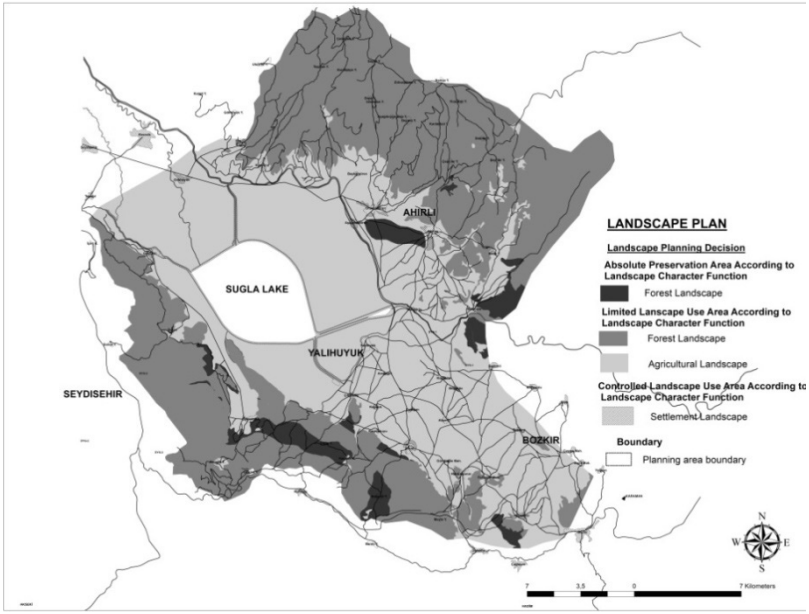


Fig. 2: Landscape Plan (it has been created by simplifying the original plan) (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012)

The Absolute Preservation Area According to Landscape Character Function: The Absolute Preservation Area includes the areas which require absolute protection and have rare natural beauty. These areas consist of the forest landscape which has high biodiversity and habitat functions including *Centaurea iconiensis*, a domestic endemic kind which has very high biodiversity functions. In absolute preservation areas, some proposals stated below were presented: any activities except for the ones strengthening, supporting and improving the biodiversity-habitat functions and research and education activities for scientific purposes are not allowed, precautions are taken for keeping flora and fauna alive, activities threatening and destroying wildlife are not allowed, pasturing is not allowed, activities causing soil and water pollution are not allowed, etc. (Uzun et al., 2010, 2016).

Limited Landscape Use Area According to Landscape Character Function: The Limited Landscape use area involves areas establishing a buffer zone, related to the absolute preservation area, having integrity with the ecological structure and natural beauty, but open to use at a certain level. These areas include Suğla Lake: very high levels of water/soil functions; high, middle and low levels of agricultural landscape; high, middle and low levels of lea landscape, a nature-oriented ecotourism area, an agriculture-oriented ecotourism area and hiking routes. Some proposals were presented to be used in a limited landscape use area: any dust, debris and solid or liquid fuel tanks are not allowed, keeping available habitats, keeping the available cultivated areas as long as new agricultural areas are not opened up, detecting the primary fields in cultivated areas like vineyards, grain, fruit growing, organic plant breeding, forage plant breeding, controlling the usage of stable manure, not allowing the use of fertilizer without analysing the soil and giving medicine to control diseases and pests like chemicals (Uzun et al., 2010, 2016).

Controlled Landscape Use Area According to Landscape Character Function: The Controlled Landscape use area involves areas that are more influenced by human activities than absolute preservation and limited landscape use areas and also maintain the establishment of tourism and recreational activities. These areas include very high, high and middle establishment landscapes, a landscape character function which has a middle to low highland landscape, a culture-oriented ecotourism area, a highland tourism area, a recreation area, logistics centres, storage yards, farmer marketing and roads.

Moreover, general and specific landscape notes were made related to landscape planning (Uzun et al., 2010, 2012).

In the eighth stage of the study, a landscape management organization

was initiated to apply the landscape plan according to the principles indicated in landscape guides and the establishment of a basin committee was proposed for effective and productive landscape management.

It was proposed that the following should take part in the basin committee: central administration (representations of the Governorship of Konya, Provincial Special Administration, General Directorate for State Hydraulic Works, Ministry of Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Food, Agricultural and Livestock, Local Health Authority, etc.), local governments, non-governmental organizations (local non-governmental organizations, voluntary agencies, agricultural and forestry credit units, trade associations, industrialists, farmers, village headmen, water unions, etc.), the private sector, political parties, unions, and the media (Öke, 2002; Uzun, 2003; Uzun et al., 2010). Targets for Forestry and Biodiversity, Highlands and Leas, the Agricultural Sector, Settlements, the Cultural Landscape, Tourism/Ecotourism and Recreation, and Biological-Landscape Repair were determined and each target's time length and institution were also identified (Uzun et al., 2010).

As a result, and in accordance with the vision of landscape planning, control and follow-up systems were identified in order to measure the application level of some basic decisions. Performance measurement in control and follow-up systems was built on developing controlling functions, measuring productivity, and developing institutions and organizations. Success is the numerical evaluation of how many goals are achieved. A general framework of the control and follow-up programme was formed for comparing the goals according to the criteria given below (Belde, 2006; Uzun et al., 2010): whether or not sectoral landscape guides are applied according to the landscape plan, whether the principles provided by the plan and the principles to be applied by different institutions are carried out, whether the developmental directions of the settlements in the plan predictions are appropriate for the determined axes, whether or not the predicted landscape management and protection statutes are legally defined and a specific strategy has been achieved or not, actualisations in the main infrastructure envisaged in the landscape plan, whether transportation systems are developed or not, developments in irrigation systems, whether all the stakeholders related to the water sector come together, whether there are predicted improvements in agriculture and animal husbandry, developments in ecotourism, and the participation rates of the people in the basin to be made within the scope of the landscape plan, etc.

Conclusion

Within the context of European Union harmonization studies, the environmental issue is the most important and difficult topic title. Landscape planning approaches are important solutions in the sections of this title, especially those belonging to spatial planning. It is a contradiction that although the studies on landscape planning in Turkey are based in the 1930s, it still cannot become a legal and administrative necessity.

Within the scope of the project, "Landscape Character Assessment" and "Landscape Character Type Determination" approaches that are taken at national, regional and local scales towards my country are the first aspects of the scale being worked on in the project. In this context, related analyses were applied and mapped at the Konya Closed Basin scale (Uzun et al., 2010, 2016).

This project, run by the Ministry of Forestry Water Affairs was completed during the period 2008-2010. Then, the "Landscape Character Analysis on the City Scale and the Evaluation of it in Tourism/Recreation" and the Yeşilırmak Basin Landscape Atlas (the Landscape Character, Variety of Landscape and Biodiversity projects) were run based on some data and methods obtained from this project.

As a conclusion, the Yeşilırmak Basin Landscape Atlas can be a guide to managers of public organizations and institutions (governor, district governor, city manager, village headman and field services of ministries, etc.) and members of civil society organizations. It is quite easy to use the atlas since it is created in a language and a mapping system that everyone can understand. Furthermore, “the project of preparing the Yeşilırmak basin landscape atlas” is a project that will be an inspiration to make up for the deficiencies in spatial and sectoral plans of Turkey. However, the most effective way to carry out these projects is to enact the law on landscape protection, management and planning and to make it applicable (Uzun et al., 2015; Uzun, 2015).With the related projects, Turkey has made great progress in terms of fulfilling the commitments in the European Landscape Convention.

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