

The Formation and Institutionalization Process of Environmental Norm in Turkey¹

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ABSTRACT: The environmental norm emerged in Turkey under the influence of international environmental policies that developed in the 1970s and was included in the policy agenda. The UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment played a leading role in global environmental governance and strengthened environmental awareness. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP meetings are also important for countries to express and strengthen their climate protection goals. There are basically two problematic areas in these platforms, which are also important for Turkey's environmental policies: the classification of countries and the inadequacy of climate funds.

Environmental security and sustainable development norms, which came to the fore at the international level, have been internalized and localized at the national level over time, despite economic and political problems. However, the adoption and institutionalization of the environmental norm has been slow due to economic and political reasons. The Green Party, which carries out environmentally focused policies, was founded in 1988 and became the voice of the social reaction against nuclear power plants, especially on the political platform. However, the Green Party's inability to take an effective role and its unstable policy delayed the formation of environmental policy.

KEYWORDS: Turkey, Environmental Norm, Institutionalization, Climate Policy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Green Party was established three times in Turkey and could not gain a permanent place in the current order. The Green Party, which was first established in Turkey in 1988, was closed in 1994. About fifteen years later, a new initiative was made to strengthen green politics and the party was re-established in 2008 under the name of the Green and Left Future Party. This Party, which operated until 2012, could not make the desired contribution to the development of environmental policies. On November 25, 2012, the Green Left Party was established and green policy continued its existence. The party's goals are based on green politics. The last step in green politics, which did not find enough response in society, was taken with the establishment of the Green Party in September 2020. Although the party has created an effective policy plan in the fight against climate change, it has been met with reaction due to the identity and gender equality politics it emphasizes. The Green Party has not yet received approval from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and has encountered legal and political obstacles ("Greens Party (Turkey)", 2023). The table below discusses the historical development of the Green Party's institutionalization process:

Table 4: The Institutionalization of the Green Party in Turkey²

The Institutional Development of the Green Party	
1988-1994	Green Party
2008-2012	Greens and Left Future Party
2012- Nowadays	Green Left Party

¹ This article is derived from my PhD thesis titled "The Formation and Consolidation of the Environmental Security Norm in the European Union and its Diffusion in Turkey", prepared by me at Sakarya University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Relations and defended on 9 August 2023.

²This table is a summary table showing the turning points of green politics in Turkey and was prepared by me.

2020- Nowadays	Greens Party
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There are some reasons why an effective green policy cannot be carried out specifically for the Green Party: the dominance of the economy over environmental policy, the delay in sustainable urbanization and the problems of party formation. The weak political power of the environmental movement delayed the spread of the environmental norm in Turkey. However, Turkey's taking the EU's environmental policies as a role model and the subsequent opening of the environmental chapter through official means during EU membership negotiations has increased the social and institutional effectiveness of the environmental norm. With the follow-up of international conferences and conventions, environmentalism has become an official norm. The practices and effectiveness of the environmental norm can be analyzed with the development chart of environmental awareness in society and the environmentally friendly activities of NGOs and various institutions. As a matter of fact, actors and stakeholders form the basis of environmental policy and environmental activities. In this context, the word stakeholder includes parties that influence environmental policies and cause environmental problems or are affected by environmental problems. The way environmental policy is carried out in Turkey is an example of a multi-actor policy-making process (Şahin, 2014, p. 59). Below is the table of the actor map:

Table 5: The Actor Map in Turkey's Environmental Policies

Key Actors	Classification of Actors
State	Public Institutions, Governments, Political Parties
International Organizations	International Organizations
Non-State Actors	NGOs, Private Sector, Academy, Media Sector
Society	Individuals and groups ³

Reference: (Şahin, 2014, s. 16-18,64)

As can be understood from the classification in Table 5, the main actors effective in Turkey's climate/environmental policies are the public sector, private sector, international organizations, civil society, academia and media organizations. In addition, another important actor that is ignored in academic studies on the environment is society. Individuals and groups that make up society are the smallest units in which environmental awareness occurs. The legal infrastructure of environmental policies consists of official reports, decisions taken, laws enacted and action plans (Erdem & Yenilmez, 2017, pp. 93-95). These sources were examined in the thesis in order to understand the role of actors in Turkey's environmental policy.

It is possible to say that the UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972, was a breaking point in Turkey's environmental policies. In another sense, this conference is also the turning point of the internationalization of environmental policies. This conference, which is important in the development of environmentalism in Turkey, is also of critical importance in addressing environmental problems as a separate policy area. In the light of these developments, between 1960 and 1983, the Fisheries Law ("Fisheries Law", 1971, p. 2056), the Law on the Protection of Antiquities ("Ancient Monuments Law No. 1710", 1973) and the Shanty Houses Law ("Slums") were passed in order to prevent unplanned urbanization ("Shanty Houses Law", 1966, p. 2626). These developments in the legal field paved the way for the enactment of the Environmental Law in 1983. At the constitutional level, environmental policies were included in the 56th article of the 1982 Constitution under the title of environmental rights ("Constitution of the Republic of Turkey", 1982, p. 3).

In this article, environmental right is defined as the individual's right to live in a healthy environment. However, it should be noted that the right to the environment in Article 56 is largely limited due to the statement in Article 65 that "the state meets the duties specified by the constitution in social and economic fields, taking into account economic stability and financial resource adequacy." The most important development in 1983 was the enactment of the environmental law and the establishment of the basic principles of Turkey's environmental policies. These are the polluter pays principle, the principle of clean energy and the use of environmentally friendly technology. Another contribution of the Environmental Law is that it has given a legal status to EIA reports and the evaluation process. Following the Environmental Law, the Cultural and Natural Assets Protection Law, the Bosphorus Law, the Zoning Law, the Coastal Law were enacted and regulations were made on the management of special environmental protection zones ("Environmental Law", 1983, p. 499).

Another important issue in the analysis of environmental policies is the examination of environmental issues in five-year development plans. The environment issue was not addressed in a separate section in the First and Second Five-Year Development Plan. Although the title "Environmental Problems" was added to the Third Five-Year Development Plan (1973-79), the environmental issue remained overshadowed by economic policies. In this period, environmental policy could not go beyond preventing environmental destruction caused by

³ The society, one of the main actors in Table 5, and the individuals and groups that constitute the units that make up the society, have been added to the table by me.

industrialization. Therefore, before the 1980s, Turkey's environmental policy could not be fully integrated into development plans ("Third Five-Year Development Plan (1973-1977)", 1972, pp. 910-920).

The striking point in the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan covering the years 1979-1983 is the emphasis on preventive environmental policies, which is a new type of policy. Thanks to the preventive policy approach, environmental problems were prevented before they occurred and measures were increased ("Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (1979-1983)", 1979). Sustainable development has been adopted as a principle for the goals of effective use of natural resources and leaving productive resources to future generations, which are the focal points of the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1985-1989) ("Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1985-1989)", 1984, p. 171-172). The 1980s and 1990s were a period in which environmentalism became socialized in Turkey, and the 1990s and 2000s were a period in which environmentalism became institutionalized nationally. In the first period of socialization, it was observed that attention was drawn to environmental problems with some protest actions and mass movements. Green Peace Environmental Association, which started operating in Turkey in 1992, emerged as a result of these mass movements and played an important role in the spread of environmentalism. Although it is possible to analyze the establishment of the Green Party in 1988 as a sign of the politicization of the environmental movement, this party continued to exist more as a pressure group and political tool of environmentalism. As a matter of fact, the main aim of the party is to create environmental awareness (Sulak, 2018, p. 50-60; Kırımhan, Tel & Afet, 2005, p. 51).

As environmental awareness increased in the international/national arena in the 1980s, the dilemma of environment and development came to the fore. However, with the influence of international environmental policies and the "Our Common Future" report published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, it was understood that this was not a dilemma and that environment and development were norms that complement each other (Brundtland & Khalid, 1987). Therefore, the damage caused to the environment by post-industrialization development and economic growth policies has reached a point where it can no longer be ignored and it has been understood that development policies should be continued together with environmental protection policies. This new understanding of the environment has revealed the concept of "sustainable development" (Lefevre, Metzger & Werk, 2016, p. 94-105).

In Turkey, there are administrative/institutional regulations as well as constitutional and legal regulations made to protect sustainable development and environmental security. Thanks to these regulations, which started with the establishment of the Undersecretariat of Environment in 1978, and ultimately the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2011, a high level of representation of environmental policies was ensured. Environmental principles adopted by the EU constitute the focal point of Turkey's harmonization process with EU legislation and are among the priority issues. The basic principles stated are as follows: integration principle, high level protection principle, precautionary principle, precautionary principle, prevention at source principle and polluter pays principle (Yaman & Gül, 2018, pp. 208-213).

It is possible to read the spread of the environmental norm and the reflections of environmental policy in Turkey-EU relations through five basic sources: Government Programs, Development Plans, development of the environmental acquis, Accession Partnership Documents and Progress Reports. The rapid urbanization and development steps experienced in Turkey since the 1950s required that environmental problems and the goals of creating a healthy environment be addressed more sensitively. However, when environmental policies are analyzed through institutional, legal and political developments, it is seen that the sensitivity towards the environment was not reflected in official policies until 1973. As a matter of fact, since the priority position of economic development policies over environmental policies continues, the fight against environmental problems has remained at the discursive level. In 1972, thanks to the global impact of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, interest in environmental problems increased worldwide. Since Turkey is one of the countries affected by international environmental developments, it has started to include environmental problems in its policy agenda, development plans and government programs. At this point, one of the most effective steps is development plans (Neziroğlu & Yılmaz, 2013a).

In the First and Second Five-Year Development Plans, the environmental issue was only associated with concepts such as environmental health and the right to live in a healthy environment. Therefore, environmental problems were evaluated as a separate policy area for the first time in the Third Five-Year Development Plan covering the years 1973-1977. It is not a coincidence that the environmental issue is addressed directly and for the first time in this plan. The environmental issue, which was addressed for the first time in the Third Five-Year Development Plan (1973-1978), lagged behind economy-based and development-oriented policies. It has been stated that environmental policies should not constitute an obstacle to development plans. In the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan covering the years 1979-1983, it was emphasized that environmental problems should be prevented under the title of "environmental problems". In the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (1979-1983), the need for cooperation with local governments in environmental policies was revealed. In the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1985-1989), which was published at a time

when urbanization problems were experienced and migration from villages to cities accelerated, more importance was given to the concept of sustainable development and it was aimed to leave a livable environment to future generations (“Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1985-1989).”, 1984; Terzi, 2017, pp. 62-64).

Stakeholders in carrying out the environmental protection policy were determined as NGOs, professional chambers and institutions (Orhan, 2015, pp. 17-20). In the 1980s, the legal framework shaping institutional functioning began to emerge. However, it can be seen that these developments and the strategies put forward in the 1980s repeated the environmental policy paradigms adopted in the 1970s. The Environmental Law was enacted in 1983, and the reactions and protest activities arising from the negative effects of industrial and production activities on the environment became the pioneer of political and institutional developments. The protests basically wanted to draw attention to the damage caused by factory production to the environment, and initially actions were taken at the local level. Thermal power plants and the damage they cause to the environment formed the basis of the protests. With the establishment of the Green Party in 1988, these actions were moved to a political level. The role of NGOs in environmental policies between 1987 and 1999 will be discussed under a separate heading as it contributes to our understanding of the development of environmental policy.

Since no distinction was made between environment and development in the 1980s, the integration of environment and economy could not be achieved. Environmental policy, constrained by political problems such as the military coup, declined in this period and lagged behind other policy areas. This period actually contained the dilemma of environment and security, as it was a period in which environmental policy declined and environmental studies strengthened institutionally and legally. In the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan implemented between 1985 and 1989, transferring resources to future generations in the most efficient way was on the agenda and an important step was taken for the sustainability of environmental policy (Erdem & Yenilmez, 2017, pp. 15-20).

In the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan, the principles adopted in the previous plans continued and it was prioritized to carry out all economic policies by taking ecological sensitivities into account (“Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (1990-1994)”, 1989, pp. 312-318). The main principle adopted during this period was to protect the natural balance and human health in harmony with economic development. In addition, issues such as waste management and the correct use of chemicals were among the primary issues. Although similar targets were repeated and sustainable development was emphasized in the Seventh Five-Year Development Plan (1996-2000), the failure of other development plans was attributed to the lack of sanctions (“Seventh Five-Year Development Plan (1996-2000)”, 1995, pp. 189-195 ; Evin & Demiral, 2018, pp. 280-285). In addition, issues such as problems in the implementation of environmental legislation and financing problems were discussed and the effective functioning of the Environmental Impact Assessment System was aimed. Reconsidering the Environmental Law No. 2872 also came to the agenda during this period.

The Ministry of Environment was established in 1991 and efforts were made to monitor and control environmental policy. In the 1990s, discussions on the environment developed within the framework of environment and sustainable development, especially in Turkey, under the influence of international developments. The Brundtland Report and Agenda 21 documents have become the main reference sources on sustainability (Brundtland & Khalid, 1987). In the "Agenda 21" report published as a result of the UN Environment and Development Conference held in 1992, sustainability was emphasized and the development agenda of the international public was reshaped. In parallel with these developments in the world, II. The Habitat Conference was held in Turkey in 1996. At this conference, important steps were taken to institutionalize environmentalism in Turkey and environmental non-governmental organizations began to benefit from international funds through projects. By the 2000s, it was seen that the environmental movement in Turkey began to become politicized and institutionalized. Environmental protest movements during this period were about energy and mining activities. The reaction against Hydroelectric Power Plants (HEPP), thermal power plants and gold mining formed the focal point of the demonstrations (Uğurlu, 2009, pp. 65-70).

In this process, although sustainability has manifested itself in both five-year development plans and government discourses, it has been analyzed in a limited way. The integration and coordination of decision-making mechanisms, actors and stakeholders that will play a role in ensuring sustainable development have not been sufficiently established. Environmental protection and sustainability have been considered as a condition for ensuring economic interests and development, and have been seen as a means of ecological modernization. As a matter of fact, it accelerated environmental modernization and institutional innovations in many sectors during the European Union candidacy process. International environmental policy, pioneered by the UN and later by the EU, ensured that the environmental issue was included in the agenda of countries. In this way, environmental awareness has increased.

The Institutional and Legal Development of Environmental Norm in Turkey

Under this heading, the institutionalization and legal development of the environmental norm in Turkey will be discussed. Institutionalization is the management of the goals set by institutions with accepted norms, values and principles. Institutionalization is actually the result of the concretization and acceptance of the norm. When norms become institutionalized, actors begin to express common preferences, values, and ideas more strongly. Norms can be institutionalized in many different ways, four of which are the most common. The first method is their international acceptance by many states through actors defending the norm. This sometimes manifests itself as an international agreement, sometimes as an organization, and sometimes as a multilateral initiative/project. The second method is their institutionalization through state or non-governmental institutions. The third method of institutionalization occurs through the press and visual media. Accordingly, the constitutive effect of social and political communicative processes and norm advocates results in the institutionalization and widespread acceptance of certain norms. Finally, identities have the effect of institutionalizing norms. This is true at both the society and the state level (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, pp. 895-900).

These institutionalization stages are also observed in the Turkish example. After Turkey adopted the environmental norm, it took institutionalization steps and supported environmental protection policies by taking part in international platforms. Through NGOs, it has ensured the spread of the environmental norm in society socially and communicatively. The most fundamental factors in this process were the UN and EU's consistent activities on environmentalism and EU candidacy negotiations. Under this heading, how the environmental safety norm has been strengthened institutionally will be examined with the example of Turkey. The six basic processes that contribute to the institutionalization of the environmental norm in the context of EU-Turkey relations are: Establishment of the General Directorate of Environment (1984), Establishment of the Turkish Environment Agency (2020), Establishment of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (2021), Climate Change Establishment of the Change Presidency and the Climate Change Adaptation and Coordination Board (2021), harmonization process with EU legislation.

Legal developments have completed the institutionalization process and the development of the norm has been strengthened. These legal developments include the enactment of the Environmental Law, compliance with major EU directives, and laws and regulations issued to protect the environment in other sectors that support the environmental norm. The most basic sources through which we can ensure regular monitoring of environmental norms and environmental policy are government programs and five-year development plans. The extent to which the environmental issue is included in these sources and what developments have been made to protect the environmental norm have been examined in the thesis.

The Institutional of Environmental Norm in Turkey

Institutionalization is a process in which various structures such as rules, norms, practices and routines are adopted in a social and political context. Institutionalization occurs through various institutions. When norms begin to be implemented and disseminated through various tools, they become standards by being repeated over time. States also conduct policies according to these standardized patterns and norms. The extent to which a norm is internalized or accepted is an important criterion for understanding the effectiveness of the norm (Keman, 2017). Institutionalization of environmental policy is one of the most important steps to strengthen and spread the environmental norm. Therefore, it is important to monitor institutional developments and understand the context in which environmental problems are addressed at each stage. For this reason, the institutional transformation in the environmental field has been tabulated and analyzed in the thesis. The positive contribution of international developments, especially the activities of the UN and the EU, to the institutionalization of environmental policies in Turkey has been taken into account. The encouraging effect of these positive developments on the protection of environmental safety norms in Turkey has been taken into consideration.

In the field of environmental protection, law, principles, measures, institutions and standards should be considered as a whole. The purpose of environmental regulations is to prevent environmental destruction and pollution, to ensure the improvement of the environment and to impose deterrent sanctions on those who destroy and pollute the environment. While Turkey established its institutional structure on environmental pollution in the 1970s, the EU also struggled with this environmental transformation process in the same years. Institutions responsible for environmental policy in Turkey can be divided into two main categories: central institutions and local governments. The Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of Environment, which was established in 1978 to protect and improve environmental quality, was among the central institutions responsible for various areas of environmental quality and aimed to ensure coordination between the central government and local governments. This organization was transformed into the Ministry of Environment in 1991. The Ministry of Environment was merged with the Ministry of Forestry in 2003. In 2021, it completed its institutional transformation by being renamed the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. The Ministry of Agriculture and

Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Industry and Trade have also included environmental issues in their areas of responsibility over time. Since its establishment, the Ministry of Health has pursued a consistent policy on protecting a clean environment and environmental health. The Ministry has undertaken important responsibilities within the scope of environmental problems such as public health, improving air quality and preventing water pollution. The Ministry regularly makes water quality measurements every year and carries out the inspection and licensing of health facilities (Ergün, 2008, pp. 41-46).

Another dimension of environmental institutionalization at the level of ministries is disaster management mechanisms. Environmental safety norm and disaster management are two basic ecological phenomena that affect and interact with each other. When environmental policy and disaster management are mentioned, the first concept that comes to mind is security, that is, ensuring an environment of trust. Safety can also be expressed as being away from danger or the absence of an environment of fear and anxiety. In this context, security refers to human and environmental security. Environmental security means protecting important ecosystem resources and securing the supply of natural resources, including water, soil, energy and minerals, to ensure continued economic and social well-being (Bruch, 2002, pp. 10430-10436).

Disaster Risk Management, which forms the basis of disaster management, has its own conceptual framework and timeline. This concept, defined as the organization and management of resources and responsibilities to cope with all human aspects of emergencies, aims to increase the resilience of societies by ensuring environmental security and human security. Preventive policies and preparedness are important in both environmental policies and disaster management. Some tools are used in this direction. The Instant Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT), one of the leading tools, is an important tool that facilitates the monitoring of environmental governance and disaster management together. This warning and tracking tool was announced in its updated form (FEAT 2.0) by the United Nations (UN) in 2014 and its scope was expanded. FEAT identifies actual or potential acute environmental impacts that pose risks to humans, the human environment and ecosystems following sudden onset natural disasters. This system ensures the restoration and, where appropriate, improvement of the facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities by reducing disaster risk factors ("Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) Version 2.0", 2014, pp. 7-10). These tools create a road map for making our existing structures and infrastructure climate and disaster resilient in order to increase social resilience and environmental awareness towards disasters. To increase environmental and disaster awareness in all sectors, to establish institutions for these areas, to integrate environmental safety and disaster management into education curricula; It is among the effective strategies in combating environmental problems and disasters. While the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change assumes the institutional role in environmental policies, the Republic of Turkey, together with many NGOs, plays a role in disaster management. The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible (Benli et al., 2018, pp. 60-63).

These institutional developments, which are also a reflection of the principle of integration of environmental policy, have strengthened environmental policy. Institutionalization steps in central units have also found response in local governments, and urbanization problems have begun to be addressed with environmental sensitivity. The multi-faceted environmental policy practices of the European Union have also found a response in the formation of Turkey's environmental policy. Many economic, social and political problems and different policy areas are integrated with environmental policy. With this policy approach based on sustainability, the permanence of the environmental policy was aimed to be ensured and institutional developments were completed with many constitutional and legal steps.

Ultimately, these institutional development and transformation efforts reflect the multidimensional aspect of Turkey's environmental policy. The principle of integration aimed to be implemented in environmental policies has manifested itself in various sectors in Turkey. The environmental policy planned to be developed with a holistic policy approach has been gradually reflected in policy actions. The institutional and legal transformation, accelerated by the influence of membership negotiations with the EU, has facilitated the monitoring of environmental policies. This process has revealed the importance of control mechanisms and the principle of transparency. The following table lists the stages of corporate transformation:

Table 6: The Institutionalization Process of Turkey's Environmental Policy (1972-2021)

1972	Ministry of Public Works - It was renamed the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement in 1983.
1973	Environmental Problems Coordination Board - It was named Environmental Coordination Board in 1974.
1978	Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of Environment

1984	General Directorate of Environment
1988-1994	Green Party
1989	Special Environmental Protection Agency - was closed in 2011 and continued its activities under the name of the General Directorate of Protection of Natural Assets.
1991	Ministry of Environment - It was renamed the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in 2003.
2008-2012	Greens and Left Future Party
2011	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Urbanization
2012-Günümüz	Green Left Party
2020	
2020-Günümüz	Turkish Environment Agency (TÜÇA) established within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Urbanization.
2021	Green Party

Reference: (Şengün, 2015, s. 110-118)⁴

II. METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research method was preferred in this study. There are different methods and perspectives on creating a research plan in a qualitative research process (Morese & Richard, 2002, s. 28). One of the researchers who care about the integrity of method, purpose and research questions is John Creswell. Creswell revealed the basic features of qualitative research in his book "Research Design: Qualitative Quantitative And Mixed Methods Approaches" (Creswell, 2017, s. 185-187).

In the study, Turkish and foreign sources (scientific reports, academic articles, books, papers, etc.) will be used by using university, libraries, online databases within the scope of source review, theoretical research and case study, which are qualitative research methods. In the study, existing legal regulations on international labor migration to Turkey are included and the framework of the article is drawn with the concept of "sustainable development". The Eleventh Development Plan was also considered as a reflection of this conceptual review and the relevant sources were analyzed through qualitative methods.

III. DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Public Works, with its new name in 1983, the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, gave importance to urban planning and general environmental planning. Rather than environmental problems, zoning, urbanization and slum settlement problems have been addressed as a priority. Until 1973, environmental policy was examined within other policy areas and priority was given to economic policy. For this reason, the "Environmental Problems Coordination Board" established in 1973 is important as it is the first independent board focusing on environmental policies. During this period, waste disposal and renewable energy sources were among the priority issues. In 1974, the "Environmental Coordination Board" was established by using the more inclusive term "environment" instead of "environmental problems" in the name of the Board ("History of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change", 2021). With this change, not only environmental problems but also policy suggestions that can be developed to combat these problems have begun to be brought to the agenda. Therefore, this institutional step taken is important in the context of showing the transformation of Turkey's environmental policy.

The Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of Environment, established in 1978, ensured coordination between ministries and organizations regarding environmental policy. The establishment of this organization was an effective step for a holistic environmental policy (Şengün, 2015, pp. 113-114). The enactment of Environmental Law No. 2872 in 1983 was the legal complement of institutional developments. Thus, concepts such as "sustainable development" and "the right to live in a healthy environment" have taken their place in the terminology of environmental studies in Turkey. Following the preparation of the Environmental Law, the General Directorate of Environment was established, which is responsible for implementing the Environmental Law ("Environmental Law", 1983). Thanks to the activities of the General Directorate for the Protection of Natural Assets, which is the continuation of the Special Environmental Protection Agency established in 1989, protecting natural resources and ensuring sustainability has become a priority. The contribution of institutions and organizations affiliated to the Ministry and/or the Prime Ministry to the institutionalization process and environmental policy is very valuable. However, the main actor in ensuring coordination between institutions, organizations and NGOs in the fight against environmental problems and in executing environmental policy is the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, as it is called today. Therefore, it is important to examine the institutional transformation of the Ministry. The Ministry of Environment, established in 1991,

⁴ It was created by me based on the information in the mentioned reference.

was renamed the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in 2003. During this period, the issues of protecting environmental health and protecting forests were discussed together (Baykal, 2010, pp. 3-4).

IV. FINDINGS

An important contribution to the institutionalization of environmentalism in Turkey is the process of harmonization with EU legislation. With this process, the EIA Regulation was issued in 2002. In 2004, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was approved and the main topics of environmental protection policies were determined. The main headings of the environmental policy that Turkey has developed in direct proportion to international developments and accelerated in the process of harmonization with the EU Acquis are as follows: improving air quality, harmonizing waste management legislation, increasing water quality, compliance with the nature protection acquis, improving industrial pollution control capacity, control of chemical substances, Alignment with the climate change acquis. Ultimately, development plans and the process of harmonization with the EU Acquis reflect the development of environmentalism and environmental policies and have significantly changed the relationship between environment and development. Especially with the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan, the idea that the concepts of environment and development are concepts that can be sustained together, not in conflict, has been adopted (“Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2019-2023)”, 2019, p. 166-168).

V. CONCLUSION

In 2011, the Ministry, which continued its activities under the name of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Urbanization, integrated the issue of urbanism into its environmental policy, as well as other issues mentioned. The establishment of the Turkish Environment Agency (TÜÇA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change in 2020 has contributed significantly to the development of environmental policies. With its innovative environmental approach, TÜÇA has enabled the creation of the deposit management system, green certificate program and air monitoring portal. These environmentally friendly steps taken through the agency are a result of the policy focused on recycling and sustainability.

In particular, the deposit management system encourages the recycling of waste and offers a solution to prevent waste. With the green certificate system, environmentally friendly transformation of companies and institutions is ensured and compliance with international environmental standards is facilitated. The air monitoring portal, which is another environmentally friendly step taken by the Agency, is a platform that facilitates the monitoring of air pollution on a provincial basis, which is increasing due to reasons such as climate change, unconscious fuel consumption and urbanization problems (Öner, 2023, p. 36-37; “Turkish Environment Agency”, 2023). With the influence of the Green Deal prepared by the European Union and current environmentalist steps, the name of the Ministry was renewed as the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change in 2021. This change aims to minimize the inevitable and destructive effects of global warming. Another important step taken in 2021 is the establishment of the Climate Change Directorate and the Climate Change Adaptation and Coordination Board under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. The creation of climate and environment focused units and the establishment of TÜÇA have facilitated the supervision and monitoring of environmental policies. Although the institutionalization process of Turkey's environmental policy has not progressed at the same pace as global developments, there has been regular and continuous progress in line with the goals of preventing climate change and protecting environmental security (“Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Urbanization”, 2011, p. 1 -5).

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