

ROLES OF STATE TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DEVELOPMENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, TURKEY

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The Development-Environment Relations and Public Administration in Turkey

- Industrialisation and environmental protection efforts are carried out synchronously according to national laws and international conventions in Turkey.
- The State Territorial Representatives are devised with a broad range of powers on both developmental and environmental matters, in Turkey.
- Governors of cities and towns have miscellaneous **encouraging, guiding and coordinating** roles and functions in the domains of industrialisation and development. On the other hand, they have assumed liabilities and commitments for protection of the environment and endowment of citizens with the right to live in a healthy environment.

The Development-Environment Relations and Sustainable Development in Turkey

- This concept was first introduced with an attempt of transposition into the industrial policy instruments of Turkey, following enactment of the ending protocol of **Rio Summit** in 1992.
- The term sustainable development was first used in the lexical context of a document titled “**National Strategy and Action Plan on Environment (NSAPE)**”, in 1998.
- The policy for sustainable development in Turkey was also **incorporated into the 9th Development Plan. (2007-2013)**

Right to Environment in Turkish Constitution

Section 56 of the Constitution provides: “Everyone has the right to live in a healthy and stable environment. It is the responsibility of both the Government and citizens to improve the environment, safeguard environmental health and prevent environmental contamination”

By this constitutional provision in effect, every member of our country has the right to live according to the “clean air, clean water and clean earth” principle.

Responsibility of State Territorial Representatives

- The State Territorial Representatives are both charged and commissioned with ensuring the enforcement of laws and other regulatory arrangements.
- The Turkish Constitution rules that such international conventions that are adopted by the TGNA have the force of law. In this regard, the STRs monitor and follow enforcement of international conventions, as well.

Duties of State Territorial Representatives concerning Development - Rural Development-1

- The Law of Provincial Administration vests a number of roles and responsibilities unto State Territorial Representatives for ensuring development.
- At the level of provinces, there are investment support services in place and running within governorships. If you allow me, i would like to point out something.
- Turkey has become a centre of attraction for both local and international investors, owing to the economic development she has had achieved in the last decade.
- Additionally, the Provincial Governors are the presidents and board members of locally organised Development Agencies.

Duties of State Territorial Representatives concerning Development - Rural Development-2

- In the Law of Local Government Associations, a number of duties have been laid with regard to ensuring rural development.
- It is the Chairperson of Investment Monitoring and Coordination Centres who realises and coordinates the investments of central administration.
- Governors are Heads of Executive Board of Organised Industry Zones located at cities. They have tremendous roles in establishment of Organised Industry Zones.

Powers and Duties of State Territorial Representatives concerning the Environment-2

Within the framework of the “Law of Environment”, which was adopted in 1982, an extremely broad range of authorities have been recognised for State Territorial Representatives (i.e. city and township governors). These include:

- Information
- Authorisation
- Ceasing activity at premises not withholding a Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate
- Punishment of those premises which have violated law and international conventions.

Powers and Duties of State Territorial Representatives concerning the Environment-2

In many sub-regulatory texts other than the Law of Environment

- State Territorial Representatives are authorised to **supervise, monitor and take measures for or against:**
- The preservation of Air Quality
- Noise Control,
- Solid Waste Management, and
- Disposal of Hazardous and Medical Wastes, among others.



Committees Chaired by State Territorial Representatives

- **Provincial Environment Committees**
- **Soil Conservation Boards**
- **Provincial and District Committees on Human Rights**

Local Environment Committees

- Are formed under the leadership of Governor, with participation of Ministerial representatives and heads of local administration.
- Host the chairpersons and presidents of industrial,, commercial chambers and stock and commodity exchanges, representing the civil society.
- Make decisions, as necessary, for the conservation and improvement of the environment and prevention of contamination
- Identify the plants and operations which do or might cause environmental pollution in the province
- Sets up and maintains coordination between Ministerial organisations to monitor and lead activities pursued at provincial level.

Soil Conservation Boards

- Are formed up of the local representatives of public entities and organisations holding power to set up plans within provincial borders and of professional organisations as well as of universities and NGOs, under leadership of the Governor.
- Conduct studies, assessments and monitors for the conservation, development and effective use of lands in all activities performed thereon.

Provincial Committees on Human Rights

- Are formed up of mayors and representatives of universities, professional organisations, political parties, bar associations and NGOs, under leadership of the Provincial Governor.
- Examine and decide, through comprehensive reviews, on matters that might potentially bar the right of people to live in a healthy environment.

Exemplary Projects Implemented by State Territorial Representatives

- Land reclamation and modern farming practices project (Governorship of Kinik District) (found worthy for a Prize by our Association)
- The Recycling of Solid Wastes Project (Governorship of Golbasi District)
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- Expanding Certified Agricultural Practices Project (Governorship of Menderes District)
- Clean Gumuldur and Clean Ozdere Project (Governorship of Menderes District)
- Women at Greenhouses Project (Governorship of Menderes District)
- Water, Health and Sun Road Project (Governorship of Menderes District)

Exemplary Projects Implemented by State Territorial Representatives

- Ergene Basin Development Project (Governorship of Tekirdag Province)
- Rural Development Through Use of Drip Irrigation Systems Project (Governorship of Konya Province)
- Climatic Data Repository Project (Governorship of Canakkale Province)
- Upper Afsin Basin Sewage System Project (Governorship of Gumushane Province)
- Landscape Survey for Manisa-Izmir Highway Segment (Governorship of Manisa Province)
- Kemer Central District Community Cow Milking-Maintenance Centre Project (Governorship of Kemer District)

Exemplary Projects Implemented by State Territorial Representatives

- Natural Homes Project (Governorship of Ayvacik District)
- The Singing Voices Violin Production Project (Governorship of Canakkale Province)
- Alternative Tourism Trekking Routes Mapping Project (Governorship of Canakkale Province)
- Reforestation Projects (Governorship of Malatya Province)
- Corak Lake Organic Farmland Transformation Project (Governorship of Yesilova District)