



# SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN TURKEY







**The 1982 Constitution recognizes the right of all Turkish citizens to a healthy environment, as well as the duty of the State and of citizens to upgrade the environment, protect environmental health and prevent pollution. Turkey is a party to all key international environmental conventions which provide appropriate policy frameworks and promote cooperation and coherent action at global, regional and national levels to address environmental problems.**

**Now Turkey has been experiencing environmental pressures due to population growth, industrialisation and rapid urbanisation. These pressures translate into a range of environmental challenges such as climate change, desertification, deforestation, water shortage, nature degradation and marine pollution. To address these challenges, Turkey has adopted new legislation and institutional practices as part of an effort to comply with the EU environmental acquis.**



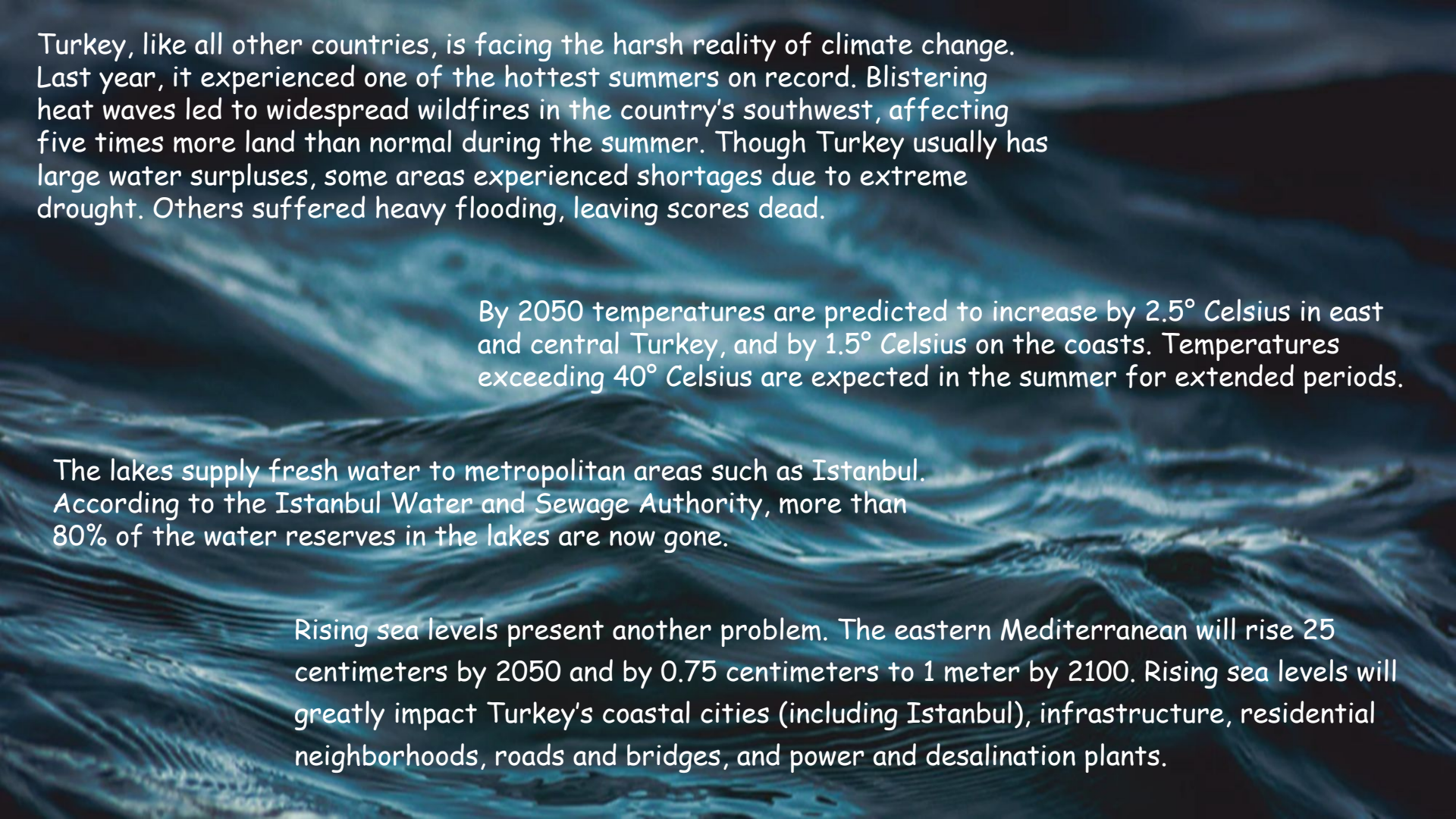


National State of the Environment Reports are published every four years. The data for these reports is mostly provided by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation (MoEU), which collects the data by its own monitoring activities. Other institutions, particularly the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), are also important data suppliers for the reports. Environmental Indicator Reports and Provincial State of the Environment Reports are published annually. These two documents are the main sources of the National State of the Environment Reports.

So according to these reports and scientific researches;

Turkey became a party of the Kyoto Protocol in 2009 and the Paris Agreement in October 2021. By taking these steps, Turkey committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2053.

Turkey has established ambitious goals in areas including pollution control, waste management and combating climate change. However, enforcement remains weak. The continued use of coal for energy production and the instance on being ranked as an emerging country for climate-policy purposes renders environmental policy efforts ineffective.




Turkey, like all other countries, is facing the harsh reality of climate change. Last year, it experienced one of the hottest summers on record. Blistering heat waves led to widespread wildfires in the country's southwest, affecting five times more land than normal during the summer. Though Turkey usually has large water surpluses, some areas experienced shortages due to extreme drought. Others suffered heavy flooding, leaving scores dead.

By 2050 temperatures are predicted to increase by 2.5° Celsius in east and central Turkey, and by 1.5° Celsius on the coasts. Temperatures exceeding 40° Celsius are expected in the summer for extended periods.

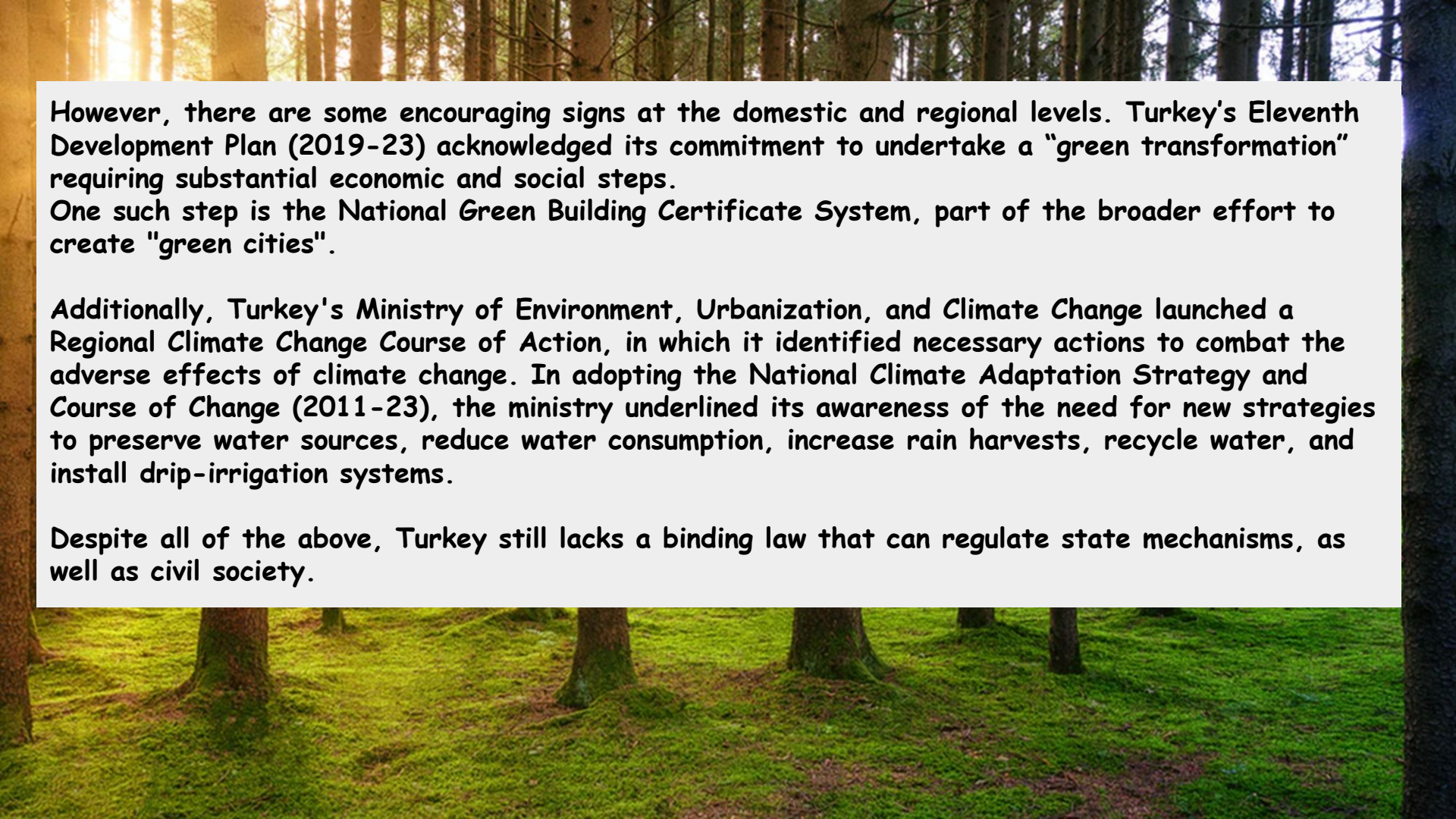
The lakes supply fresh water to metropolitan areas such as Istanbul. According to the Istanbul Water and Sewage Authority, more than 80% of the water reserves in the lakes are now gone.

Rising sea levels present another problem. The eastern Mediterranean will rise 25 centimeters by 2050 and by 0.75 centimeters to 1 meter by 2100. Rising sea levels will greatly impact Turkey's coastal cities (including Istanbul), infrastructure, residential neighborhoods, roads and bridges, and power and desalination plants.



A photograph of a grocery store produce section. The top row shows bins of green leafy vegetables, red and green bell peppers, green avocados, and yellow lemons. The bottom row shows bins of white cabbages, green broccoli, small white mushrooms, green cucumbers, and yellow bell peppers. A white text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

Water scarcity will also lead to greater food insecurity. Turkey will have to reallocate water use away from the agriculture sector, which currently accounts for 74% of the country's water consumption. Inevitably, strict regulations will be enacted for the farming and animal husbandry sectors. The reduction of water flows in the rivers that power Turkey's great hydro-electrical industry will also have a significant impact, and the energy sector will need to adjust its strategy as a result.



However, there are some encouraging signs at the domestic and regional levels. Turkey's Eleventh Development Plan (2019-23) acknowledged its commitment to undertake a "green transformation" requiring substantial economic and social steps.

One such step is the National Green Building Certificate System, part of the broader effort to create "green cities".

Additionally, Turkey's Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change launched a Regional Climate Change Course of Action, in which it identified necessary actions to combat the adverse effects of climate change. In adopting the National Climate Adaptation Strategy and Course of Change (2011-23), the ministry underlined its awareness of the need for new strategies to preserve water sources, reduce water consumption, increase rain harvests, recycle water, and install drip-irrigation systems.

Despite all of the above, Turkey still lacks a binding law that can regulate state mechanisms, as well as civil society.



# SCHOOL INFLUENCE

## LET'S HELP OUR PLANET! ISTANBUL ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL MANIFESTO

*Let's help to make our planet a better place by changing our lifestyle habits to reduce carbon emissions.*

- 1 Preparing meetings, surveys, posters to our school's staff and students to encourage them for change.*
- 2 Putting 'turn off, unplug all appliances when not in use' signs into the classrooms and other rooms.*
- 3 Putting 'all faucets are not leaking, and don't leave them running when not in use. Every drop counts!' signs into toilets.*
- 4 We will have walking, cycling and scooting clubs as after-school activities. So we can encourage our students to cut their carbon footprints.*
- 5 We will plant wildflowers and herbs in our school garden. We will have hedgehog and cat houses. As an after school activity we will make and hang bird feeders to the trees in our school garden.*
- 6 We will have recycling bins for plastics, glass, paper, battery and encourage our students and staff to use them.*

**EVERY STEP COUNTS!**