SEHRA ATABAY

ABSTRACTS



AESOP

XIII AESOP CONGRESS

BERGEN - NORWAY
JULY 7 - 11 1999

ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GELIBOLU AND BIGA PENINSULA (TURKEY)

Ayasligil, Yahya and Ayasligil, Tülay
University of Istanbul, Department of Landscape Architecture.
Bahçeköy 80895/Turkey
Phone: +90 212 2261527
Fax: +90 212 2261113
E-mail: yahya@istanbul.edu.tr

Gelibolu and Biga Peninsula which are on the europaen and asien part of the Dardanelles respectively, have served as home for many people through the ages, and have always been of importance because of its strategical position. In every stages of history this region was very important from the military point of view. As a result of this the region was neglected, and its economical development has been rather limited. The Gelibolu Peninsula, where during the World War I nearly 500 000 people died, was declared in 1973 as "Gelibolu Peninsula Historical National Park" which has an area of ca. 33.000 ha. As a result of many efforts at both national and international level the area has been renamed as "Park of Peace". Gelibolu Peninsula has an undulate topography and varied geology. Due to geomorphological features of marine or terrestrial origin it has also very pleasant landscape and interesting biotopes. Therefore, the whole area of Penisula has a great potential with regard to recreation and nature conservation. Biga Peninsula where the antique cities such as Troy, Assos are located has also an undulate relief. The massive of Kazda_ı and its promountaries dominates the geomorphology. The Peninsula has a very long shoreline and very rich flora and fauna as well as vegetation. All these features leads to a very attractive rural cultural landscapes which comprise also the ruins of antique settlements. The ruins of Troy and its surroundings with a buffer zone with an area of 14 000. ha. declared as national park in 1995. Troy was also put by in the list of World Heritage Sites UNESCO. The Kazda_ı-Mountain is also a National Park with an area of 21 300 ha. declared in 1993. Here the endemic fir "Abies equi-trojani" forms pure and mixed stands. The area has a very rich flora and fauna; several local endemic plant species and large mammals like braun bear, wild boar, roe-deer etc.

As the above mentioned characteristics of region show the Gelibolu and Biga Peninsula has an unique position from the landscape ecological point of view. Proved this also the field works which done by us in the period of 1995-1998. On other side the trends in economic development both national and regional level threaten the regional ecology and unique rural cultural landscape.

The intercontinental bridge between Kilitbahir and Çanakkale which is planned and connects the Anatolia to Europe will have negative impacts on the surroundings. The highways and main-roads will run through the National Park areas and this will effect the regional ecology directly or indirectly. The town of Çanakkale with nearly 75 000 inhabitants the largest settlement in the region will face with an rapid urbanizaton. That a great deal of the agricultural land in the vicinity of Çanakkale has already been bought by speculators, indicates of this. The main important industry branch of region is ceramic and has been settled in the town of Çan. Beside this the town of Çan has also coal-mines where is planned to build a termic plant. This will have also an impact on the foret ecosystems, especially on the fir- stands in the Kazda_ı-region.

The beaches and coasts of the region which are scarely changed by human activities and several antique settlement areas which are important from the historical and archeological point of view are influced by the recent developments. Many places which are important from historical and archeological point of view and rural landscapes which have been shaped through traditional land use practices are disturbed and changed as a result of building activities. Landscapes of this kind are disappering as a result of rapid urbanization: To find out the impacts of these activities on the regional ecology and to put forward the proposals aiming at preventing the negative effects the works have been conducted in the region from 1995 to 1998 . In this paper the results of these studies are reperesented.