



PREFACE

Starting the First Issue of JoPAR...

The concept of Nature is broadly defined in the macro scale, the concept of "Universe". However, it is accepted as identical with the concept of The Earth (=Blue planet-Ecosphere) we live in. The Earth is an alternative living space in which human beings have been in close relationship and interaction in the context of perception, understanding, and meaning from the moment they existed. Every living and non-living thing on Earth is a part or component of the natural system.

The natural system is the state of balance and harmony that occurs as a result of the relationship and interaction of the producer, consumer, and decomposer components, and is a very complex cyclical system. Each component or asset has a unique value because of the unique roles, services, and contributions of these components.

Nature, in the World we live in, is capable of constantly renewing itself outside of human will and activities, designed as a combination of producer-consumer and decomposer components, and internal and external factors, formed as a result of the relationship and interaction of all living and non-living beings in unity with each other. After all, it is a magnificent design with its laws.

Since the day he moved to settled life, human beings have tried to dominate nature instead of living in harmony and balance with nature, exploited, used, changed, and shaped irresponsibly and excessively. In the last 50 years, human beings have negatively affected nature and natural processes as a result of their multi-faceted activities and caused an average of 0,5°C warming as a result of the increase in greenhouse gas emissions. In the last 100 years, the global climate means that even if no emissions are released from today, the global temperature will continue to increase by 0,5° to 1°C in the coming decades, and according to the climate models made, if measures are not taken to significantly reduce these emissions, the world will be in the next century. predicts that it will be warmer by 1.4° to 5.8°C in.

The basic approach to climate change, which is of vital importance for natural life and humanity on a global scale, includes determining the possible effects and level of climate change, how to combat it, adaptation policies, and what measures to take. For this purpose, PROTECTED AREAS are accepted as a powerful tool and important life insurance in terms of their richness in biodiversity, their ability to capture and store carbon in the atmosphere, and to ensure the sustainability of natural systems.

Protected areas not only provide biodiversity conservation (protection of species and ecosystems) but also provide essential ecological, social, and economic services such as clean water, carbon storage, genetic reservoirs, disaster reduction, soil stabilization. They also offer important opportunities for the protection and sustainability of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Today, protected areas with natural and cultural characteristics are increasing numerically and spatially. In the World protected areas database 2021 Report, jointly managed by UNEP-WCMC and IUCN; On the world; The number of terrestrial protected areas is 248,709 and covers about 15.7% of the world's



terrestrial areas and inland waters. The number of marine protected areas is 17,852, covering only 7.91% of the ocean (Protected Planet, 2021).

However, there are multifaceted problems in terms of discourse and action in legal, ecological, social, cultural, economic, planning-design, management, and political dimensions related to protected areas on a national and international scale. For this reason, it requires researching, relating, discussing, and sharing on an International scale by considering all their dimensions of protected areas.

Journal of Protected Areas Research (JoPAR) is a blind, peer-reviewed, and international e-journal that accepts original research articles and review articles dealing with all aspects of protected NATURAL and CULTURAL values and areas in Turkey and the World. **JoPAR** is the first scientific journal published online on natural and culturally protected areas in Turkey. It is published twice a year.

In this context, **JoPAR** is aimed at all components related to the conceptual and theoretical framework, legal situation, planning, design, implementation, management, scientific, artistic, ecological, social, cultural, economic, philosophical, tourism, and technology of protected natural and cultural values or areas.

JoPAR's mission is to publish an international, scientific, quality, and original journal, to provide access to current research to stakeholders, and to raise awareness of nature/environmental protection.

The journal mainly addresses the following topics; Conservation and Protection, Preservation, Natural Protected Areas, Cultural Protected Areas, Ecology, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, Recreation, Visitor Management, Sustainability, Wildlife, Wild animals & Wild plants, Global warming and Climate change, Ecosystems, Landscape repair (Restoration, Rehabilitation, Reclamation), Urban Conservation & Revitalization, Rural Conservation & Revitalization, Human health& Well-being, and others.....

We would like to thank all authors, Editorial Board, Science, and Advisory Board, The Referees for their contributions to academic production in our field, and all our The Readers for their support. As **JoPAR**, we welcome all your comments, contributions, and suggestions about us.

We hope that **JoPAR** Journal will be beneficial to protected natural and cultural areas, people, and all stakeholders...

"In the true sense, nature conservation and sustainability can be achieved through the collective effort of an organized society and living in harmony with nature".

Prof. Dr. Atila GÜL

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