

Turkey's Monthly
Eco-Watch

**POLEN
EKOLOJİ
BULLETIN**

**APRIL
2025**

The monthly Polen Ekoloji Bulletin in English comprises a selection of news on environmental destruction and environmentalist resistance from the more comprehensive monthly bulletin in Turkish.

Both bulletins are available [here](#).

02.04.2025

23 thousand trees will be cut for the wind farm to be constructed by a German corporation

📍 Çanakkale

🔗 [Cumhuriyet](#)

The German corporation PNE AG plans to construct 11 wind power plants in an natural and archeological conservation zone. It is anticipated that 23 841 trees will be cut and forest roads to be expanded. The initial plan of building 17 power plants was revised in account of natural conversation zones and the mounting critique from environmental organizations.

07.04.2025

Ecologists appeal against the positive environmental impact assessment report for the thermal power plant

📍 İzmir / Aliğa

🔗 [Mezapotamya Ajansı](#)

Environmental organizations (Platform of Foça against Historical and Natural Plunder, and Aegean Platform of Environment and Culture) apply for the annulment of the positive environmental impact assessment report with respect to the İzdemir Thermal Power Plant in Aliğa/İzmir. EGEÇEP co-spokesperson Arif Ali Cangı emphasized that all prior EIA approvals for the İzdemir-II plant had been annulled by courts, and that the power plant has been operating illegally since 2014 without a proper industrial license.

08.04.2025

Areas of agricultural land located along the planned route of Canal Istanbul now zoned available for construction

📍 İstanbul

🔗 [Yeni Yasam](#)

1,935,000 squaremeter land next to the Sazlıbosna Dam in İstanbul-Arnavutköy, formerly classified as conserved prime agricultural land in the landscape design, is now zoned by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change as a site for residential and commercial housing. A project with an anticipated investment value of 65 billion liras, including the residential construction of 24,874 units has been developed. Since the end of 2024 numerous public biddings have been organized, 14 of which have been finalized.

09.04.2025

Mining Expansion Threatens Artvin's Villages and Ecosystems

📍 Artvin

🔗 [ETHA](#)

Koza Altın is expanding its mining operations in Artvin across nearly 80 hectares. With the Ministry of Environment ruling that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are “not required” for these four new projects, the company bypasses public participation and scientific review. The mines, concentrated in Yaylalar and Yüncüler villages, pose significant risks to local residents, whose homes lie dangerously close to planned blasting zones. Agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods are at risk, alongside the region's ecological integrity. Koza Altın has avoided EIA obligations by splitting applications into plots under 25 hectares, exploiting a legal loophole. Local activists and residents are preparing legal action, though state backing of mining projects continues to pose serious challenges.

13.04.2025

Explosion at Çayırhan Mine Nearly a Year After Privatization: 13 Workers Injured

Ankara

[Sendika.org](https://sendika.org)

A gas explosion occurred during the night shift at the Hırkatepe Mine Site in Çayırhan injuring 13 workers – one critically. The mine, part of the Çayırhan Thermal Power Plant complex, had been privatized nearly a year earlier, on April 7, 2024, when it was sold by the Turkish Privatization Administration to Akçadağ Construction Energy Mining Inc. The privatization process faced strong opposition from mine workers, who staged underground protests and marches to Ankara throughout late 2024 and early 2025. Although their efforts failed to reverse the decision, the recent explosion has renewed public concern over labor safety and regulatory oversight in the privatized mining sector.

13.04.2025

Forest at Risk: Mining Expansion Threatens Kazdağları Region

Çanakkale

[Cumhuriyet](https://cumhuriyet.com.tr)

A limestone quarry project by Çöllüoğlu Madencilik in Çanakkale's Kazdağları region has received an official Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval to expand its mining area to 37.81 hectares. Despite being designated for reforestation, the site will see the cutting of over 500 red pine and black pine trees. The area lies just 20 km from Kazdağı National Park and contains rivers that have already been disrupted by current mining operations. Additionally, permission has been granted to use agricultural land, and other companies like Cengiz Holding are operating nearby, intensifying ecological concerns.

15.04.2025

Van Lake in Crisis: Water Levels Drop, Pollution Rises

Van

[Mezapotamya Ajansı](https://mezapotamyaajansi.com)

Van Lake, the world's largest soda lake, faces an ecological crisis due to a sharp drop in water levels and increasing pollution. Erdoğan Edük from Van Ecology Association attributes this decline not only to climate change but also to unregulated irrigation, drilling, and industrial waste. Over 500 bird species are at risk as wetlands are burned and habitats destroyed to make way for agriculture. Sewage and agricultural runoff are contaminating the lake, threatening its unique ecosystem. Edük calls for immediate regulation and sustainable farming policies to protect the lake and its biodiversity.



Artvin

