



DESTRUCTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR MONEY IN TURKEY

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

GÖKTUĞ DOĞRUL 21501124

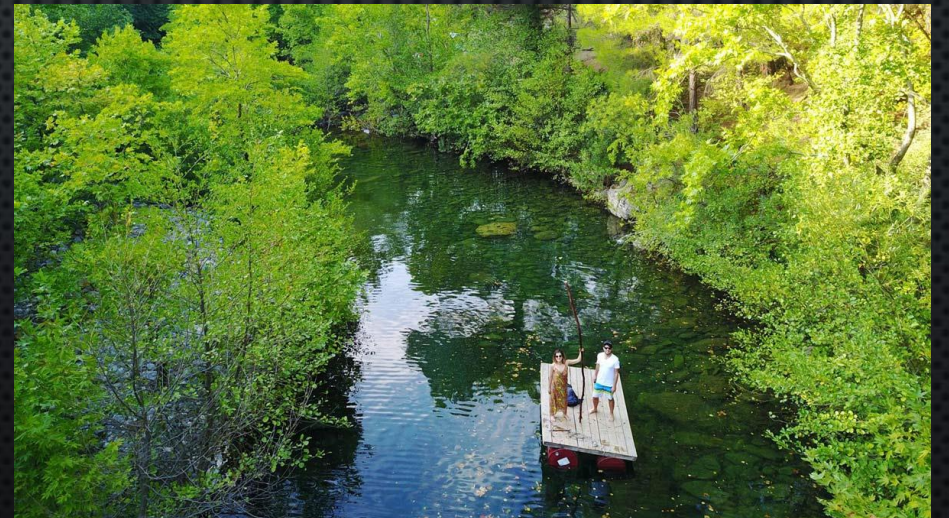
- Natural environment has suffered too much in Turkey in recent years. A lot trees are cut down and burned, animals' habitats are destroyed, waters are polluted. But why ??

TO EARN MORE MONEY



DESTRUCTION OF KAZ MOUNTAINS

- Located in the north of Edremit region, the Kaz Mountains are among the most striking natural beauties of our country with their lush nature, clean air and rich vegetation.
- The most important feature of Kaz Mountains is that after Alp Mountains, the most abundant oxygen is located in Kaz Mountains.
- Of the 800 plant species in Kaz Mountains, 32 are endemic plants and 29 are located within the national park borders.



- However, the Kaz Mountains were severely damaged because of the permission to search for minerals in the Kaz Mountains in 2019.
- Canadian Alamos Gold company cut nearly 200,000 trees in Kaz Mountains as part of its gold and silver mine project. An example to show how big this number is
 - An adult pine tree converts the carbon dioxide released into the air by 40 people in an hour into oxygen in 1 hour.
 - 200.000 trees that are cutted in Kaz Mountains converts the carbon dioxide released into the air by 8.000.000 people in an hour into oxygen in 1 hour.
 - This number means that approximately carbon dioxide that one tenth of the Turkey population produces could be converted to oxygen by these trees.

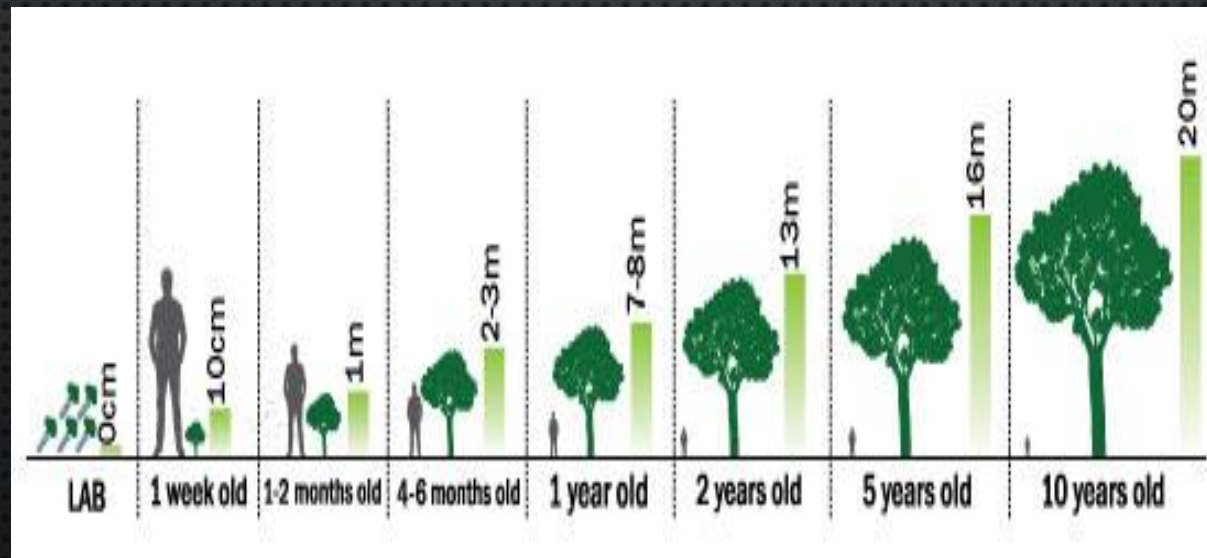


- The only evil they did while searching for mines was not only cutting down trees, they also used cyanide in Kaz Mountains.
- 25 percent of the cyanide used in Kaz Mountains will be released into the atmosphere during the application as gas. 75 percent will be treated with the crumbled rock removed. At 25 percent that enters the atmosphere, it will affect the photosynthesis of plants, cause the death of plants, enter the plants from the leaves, or we or animals will inhale this cyanide into our lungs.





- **And here the mine was not found ...**
- Canadian Alamos Gold company withdrew from the field with compensation from the state after cutting 195,000 trees and using cyanide, because the mine was not found in 2020.
- Alamos Gold has delivered the site without fulfilling the conditions it had promised at the time of delivery and is leaving even without spilling the living soil it dug.
- A tree becomes an adult in approximately 12-20 years.
- The destruction here will take decades to recover.



MINERAL EXPLORATION WITH CYANIDE IN FATSA/ORDU

- Cyanide has been used for 5 years to search for minerals in Fatsa.
- Due to gold mining with cyanide, water cannot be drunk, fruits and vegetables cannot be consumed.
- According to the water analysis reports received from the Ministry of Health in 2018, the rate of aluminum in water is 8 times higher, and iron is above the values it should be. The pH value turned out to be 4.6. (Recommended pH value for healthy water: between 7.2 - 8.5)



- Ordu ranks high in hazelnut production in Turkey.
- Villagers said there has been mold on hazelnuts for 4 years and before 2014, such things did not happen.
- Hazelnut producers said that "Nobody in here eats the fruits grown here, they say 'there is cyanide here, we do not eat it', we are faced with cancer. We produce hazelnuts, we cannot eat them, but these hazelnuts will go to the factory, people will eat. This is a danger and precautions must be taken".



Tomatoes grown in Fatsa became like this after cyanide.



- According to data of the Ministry of Energy, 4 thousand 500 tons of cyanide used in gold mining in Turkey for years.
- Mineral exploration with cyanide continues in many parts of the Turkey.
 - MANİSA-TURGUTLU-ÇALDAĞ
 - ERZİNCAN-İLİÇ-ÇÖPLE
 - GÜMÜŞHANE-MASTRA
 - UŞAK-EŞME-KIŞLADAĞ
 - İZMİR-BERGAMA-OVACIK
 - KÜTAHYA-TAVŞANLI-GÜMÜŞKÖY



Harm Of Cyanide

- Today, the most common method used in gold production in the world is the cyanidation method.
- It is very likely that cyanide will enter air and water. In fact, cyanide mixed into rivers and lakes causes the death of all living creatures in that water. In addition to all these, it can enter the human body not only with water and soil, but also with the respiratory system by mixing the poison with the air.
- Cyanide taken into the human body causes poisoning in a short time. It is a scientifically proven fact that cyanide can affect the brain, heart and lungs very rapidly.



How Does Cyanide Kill?



Immediate Symptoms

Headache
Nausea/vomiting
Dizziness
Rapid heart rate

Symptoms of Longer Exposure

Unconsciousness
Convulsions
Respiratory failure
Coma
Death

Treatment

Get to fresh air
Rapidly wash body with soap and water

Seek medical care
Remove clothing

- In 1971, the cyanide wastewater dam of the Certej gold mine in Romania overflowed, 89 people died in the town of Certeju de Sus.
- The last of the dozens of cyanide accidents around the world occurred in 2015 at the Veladero gold mine operated by the Canadian Barrick Gold company in Argentina. The poison that reached 5 rivers after the cyanide leak caused thousands of fish and living species to die.



BURNING THE FOREST IN MUĞLA GÜVERCİNLİK

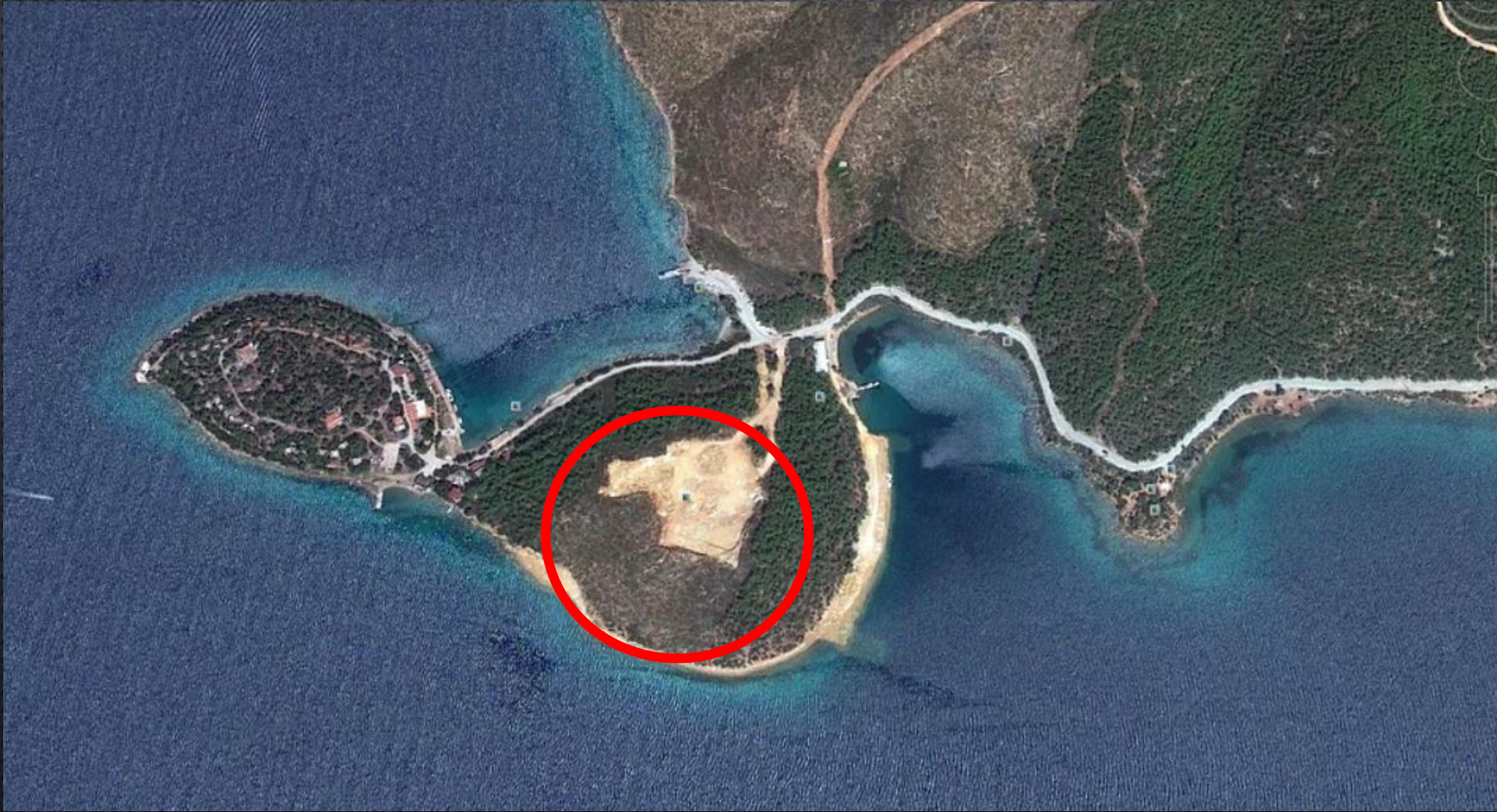
- In 2007, 150 hectares of Aleppo pine and red pine forest burned in a fire in Muğla/Güvercinlik.
- It has been announced by the authorities that the region will be afforested again.
- After the fire in Bodrum Güvercinlik in 2007, the bay, which was declared to be a forest area again (!), was opened for construction and a hotel was built.





- At that moment, when the fire broke out, a citizen named architect Soner Danyıldız, who was one of the eyewitnesses in the bay with his boat; He claimed that he first saw smoke, and then that the smoke rose to the sky in the form of a ball, as in the aftermath of an explosion, and moreover, smoke rose two kilometers away at the same time.
- The cause of the fire and the perpetrators were not found !!!
- At that time, Muğla Regional Director of Forestry, who rejected the allegations of sabotage and said that the area would be afforested and that it would not be opened to zoning, became a deputy from the AKP.





- **A FEW YEARS AFTER THE FIRE**



BURNING THE FOREST IN TRABZON

- The fire that occurred in Çamburnu, Sürmene District of Trabzon in January 2017, burned 15-20 hectares.
- Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, denied the allegations that the region would be opened to development and said, "It is out of question to use it for any other purpose. "We will prepare it for afforestation as soon as possible and the saplings will meet the soil here." However, 15 villas started to rise in the region.
- CHP Istanbul Deputy Barış Yarkada claimed that the land was sold to Qataris on the day of the fire and he said that we see that the land was sacrificed for development. He said that the people of Trabzon should react to this plunder and the owners of those villas should be announced immediately.
- Constructions have three partners, and **one of the partners is the Mayor of Sürmene** in the region.





FOREST FIRE IN ANTALYA / KAS

- A fire broke out in the forested area of Peninsula , where there are villas in Kaş district of Antalya in 2020. The view of the forest area that appeared at dawn increased the suspicions about the fire.
- The fire that broke out in Kaş, Antalya brought questions about the conscious burning of the forest area.
- However, the remarkable detail about the fire was the location of the area where it originated in terms of tourism and sea.
- While the effect of the fire could not be observed at night, the image of the area that disappeared after the extinguishing process raised questions in mind.





- Do you have any idea what will happen here in 5-10 years? Will it be afforested again or will luxury villas be built?





ONLY WHEN
THE LAST TREE
HAS DIED
AND
THE LAST RIVER
BEEN POISONED
AND
THE LAST FISH
BEEN CAUGHT
WILL WE REALISE
WE CANNOT
EAT MONEY.

CREE INDIAN PROVERB

What can be done for these problems?

- These cyanides evaporate and fall to the ground from the sky as a rain. Therefore, it also falls on our heads, leaves, plants, and vegetable. We consume them unknowingly. We will see their effects in the future.
- If gold exploration and production companies are using cyanide, they must set up refining plants for cyanide. In these treatment facilities, it is aimed to purify sulfur dioxide and cyanide from their harmful effects.
- Mining companies must reforestation in that area by fulfilling their commitments after their work is complete.
- Governments should also increase their control over mines about cyanide and reforestation.





- These forests are very important not only for us, but also for the thousands of animals and plants living there.
- Government shouldn't allow building in woodland and if there is a fire, that area should be afforested again.
- The basis of preventing this problem is to reduce bribery. If there were no bribery incidents, nobody would have built houses or hotels in burning places, because it would not be allowed.



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