

Project Update: February 2020

Field Studies

- We started our field studies by visiting all the four fragmented populations of Kazdağı fir.
- We tried to analyse the population sizes and the degree of fragmentation.
- We conducted surveys with the local foresters to understand their attitude towards the species.
- We conducted local interviews to learn if the local people use the species in daily life.
- We photographed the species in detail to form an identification guide.
- Additionally to the project, we surveyed a recently introduced pest (*Leptoglossus occidentalis*) in Kazdağı fir stands.

GIS Studies

GIS studies are the part of the study which helps to detect and design potential corridors between fragmented populations. All the data needed for analyses are completed. Further, we will start the analyses and aim to detect four potential corridors.

In the first design of the project, we weren't considering the experience and opinions of the local forest managers in the detection of forest corridor which was solely based on the GIS analyses. However, we realised that we could use the help and deep knowledge of the local foresters about the topography of the area and the distribution of all species around there.

Project Promotion and Publication

As a part of the project, we are reviewing all studies which are related to Kazdağı fir. Besides an online literature review, we visited the archives of Middle Anatolia Forestry Research Institute and collected the previous study reports of the institute since the 1940s. At the end of this research process, a review paper will be published in Turkish to make the paper more accessible for local foresters.

A promotion presentation was made at KazDağı Koruma Derneği (KazDağı Conservation Association). The members of the association were very interested in the project and very generous to offer help with different stages of the project. After the presentation, potential collaborations with the association were discussed.

Lastly, we are promoting the project on social media on different platforms. We regularly share information about the species with a photograph. The information generally includes extinction risk of the species, information for identification, its habitat and threats to species.

Seed Collection and Seedling Carriers Network

Seed collecting was part of our study to distribute seeds among the volunteers and then use the seedlings for further research. Also, we expect this process will create bonding between the seedling carriers and the species itself and the seedling carriers will become more active to conserve both the species and its habitat, Mount Ida.

In the seed collecting season (late November – early December) there was a parallel study which GDF conducts on the effects of the recently introduced pest *Leptoglossus occidentalis* on conifers of Mount Ida. Kazdağı fir is one of the species whose seeds were collected by the foresters and based on a request, they shared the seeds with us.

Laboratory Experiments

Laboratory experiments were not part of the project. However, we realised before we shared the seeds of the species with volunteers, we needed a germination guide. To be able to form a guide, two different sets of germination experiments were set. Based on the results of the experiment, the seeds and the guide will be distributed in following months.

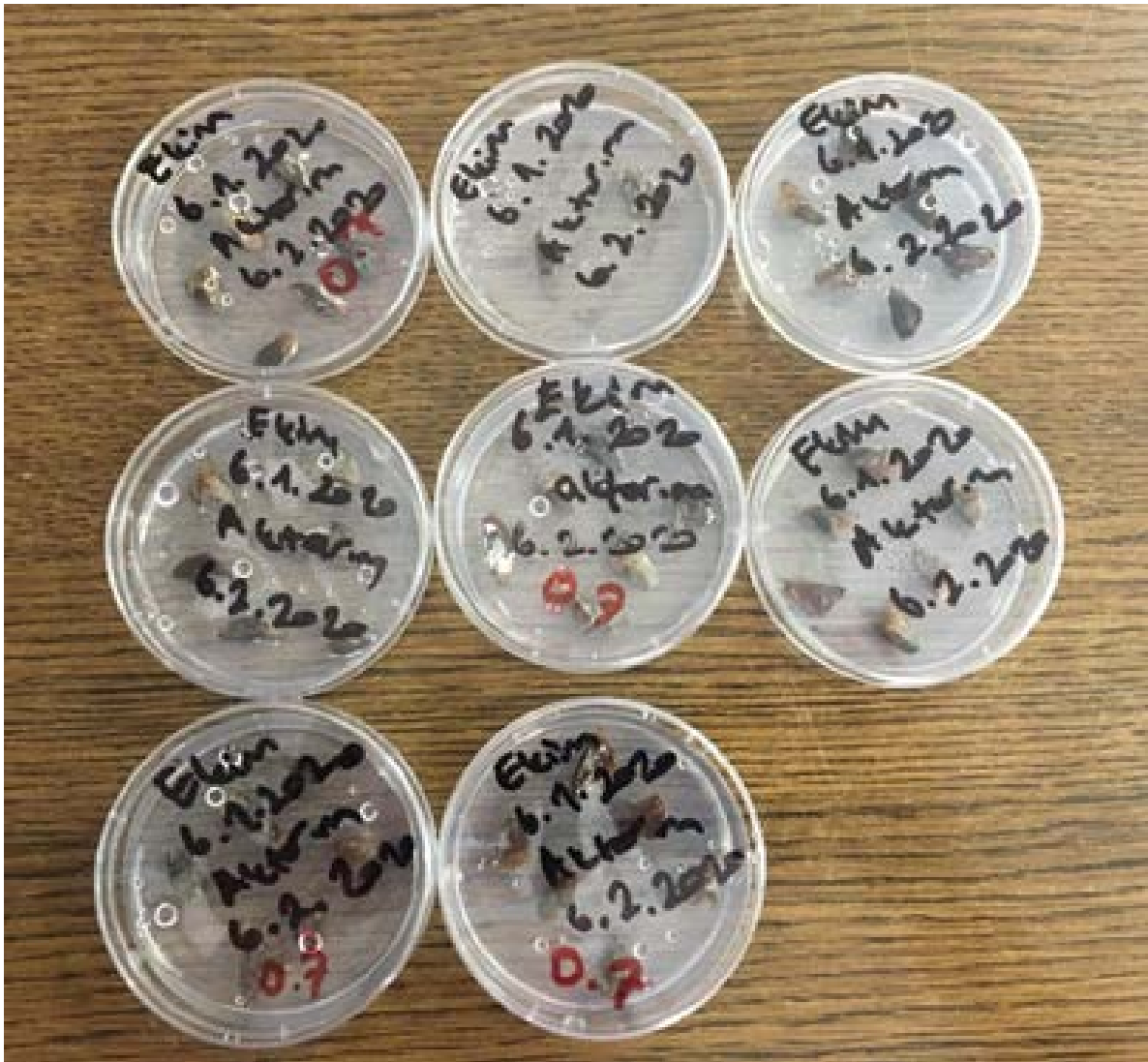


Figure 1: Germination Experiments



Left: Under Canopy Kazdagi Fir Stand. Location: an. Right: Dr. Kahraman İpekdal & Nurbahar Usta (Coordinator). Location: Kalkım.