

## **Project Update: October 2021**

The project named "Capacity Building to Connect Severely Fragmented Populations of Kazdagi Fir, an Endemic Subspecies in Turkey" aimed to analyse the possibilities to connect 4 distinct populations of Trojan fir (*Abies nordmanniana* subsp. *equi-trojani*) located in Kazdağları (Mt. Ida). The forest corridor application required 2 types of analyses: understanding if it is ecologically possible & the attitude of stakeholders to this application.

In the first project design, we only focused on the ecological conditions of connection corridors. But, after our first visits to local forest managements, we realized a negative attitude towards Trojan fir, it turned out that the first activity to do should have been the analysis of the attitude of stakeholders.

Due to COVID-19 pandemics, we had to make changes our project activities to avoid travel bans & lock-downs and reduce human contact. We turned this obstacle to an opportunity to focus on the attitude of forest managers which we neglected in the first place.

We visited 5 local forest management office (Bayramiç, Çan, Edremit, Kalkım, Yenice) and conducted surveys with 40 forest managers & forest officers, between 20.09.2021 & 20.10.2021. Our survey was constructed as eight Likert-type (5 scale) questions with two control questions. To be more statistically specific, the same questions were asked for firs, oaks, and pines. (You can find the question form in Project Update: June 2021 [2]).

Since the size of the focus group is relatively small, we did not divide the group based on locality, gender or age group. One-way ANOVA is applied by using R [1]. We applied Tukey's Test for post-hoc analysis (Table 1). The results show significantly higher negative attitude toward Trojan fir than Anatolian black pine and oak species (Figure 1). Results also show significantly higher negative attitude towards Anatolian black pine than oak species.

This results confirms our first insights about the attitude of foresters in Çanakkale region. Our next hypothesis to test that this negative attitude effect management plans of Trojan fir. (Figure & table below).

### **References**

R Core Team (2020). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL <https://www.R-project.org/>.

Nurbahar Usta Baykal - Capacity Building to Connect Severely Fragmented Populations of Kazdagi Fir, an Endemic Subspecies in Turkey - The Rufford Foundation – Project Update June 2021. URL <https://www.rufford.org/projects/nurbahar-usta-baykal/capacity-building-to-connect-severely-fragmented-populations-of-kazdagi-fir-an-endemic-subspecies-in-turkey/>

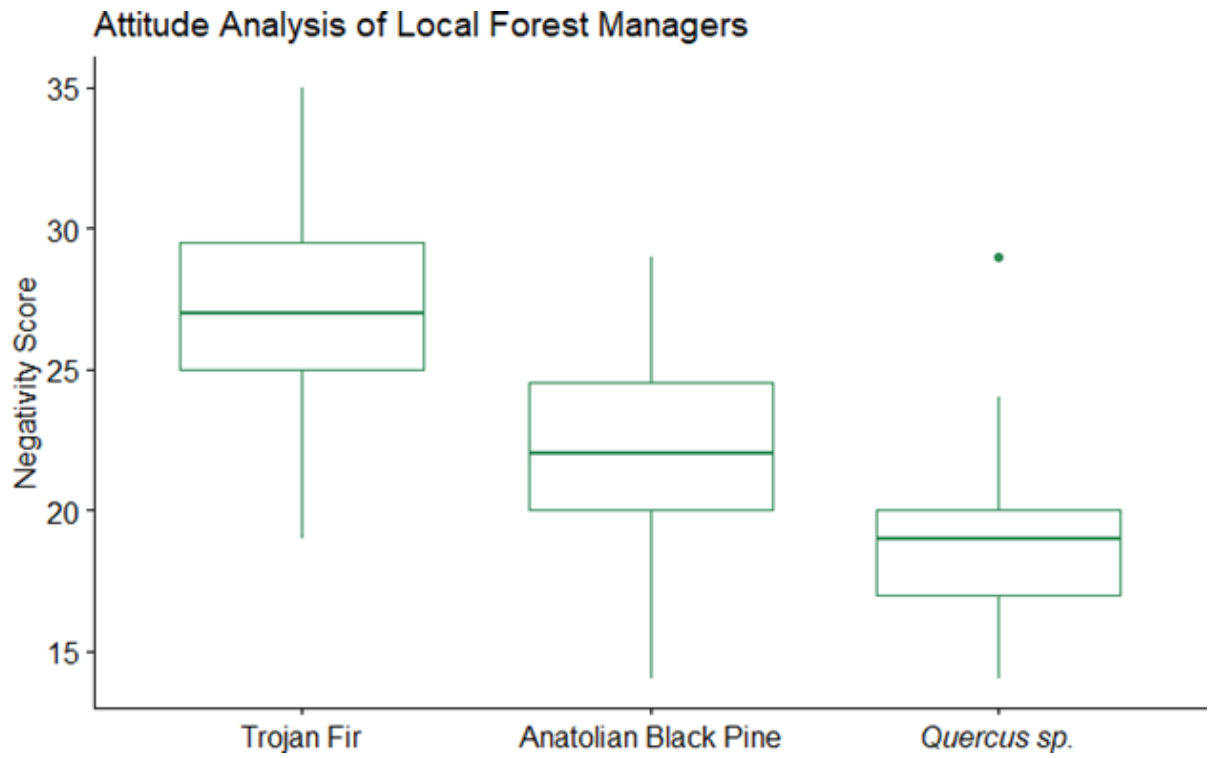


Figure 1: The results of attitude analysis of 40 local forest managers & forest officers in Çanakkale region.

	<b>diff</b>	<b>lwr</b>	<b>upr</b>	<b>p adj</b>
pinus-abies	-8.51429	-10.4464	-6.58214	0.00E+00
quercus-abies	-4.97143	-6.90358	-3.03928	1.00E-07
quercus-pinus	3.542857	1.610711	5.475004	9.14E-05

Table 2: The results of Tukey's HSD test shows significant attitude difference between species.