

Sustainability Newsletter





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News from Türkiye

Türkiye Faces Severe Drought Crisis in January!

Türkiye experienced the lowest precipitation levels in its history in January 2023. According to the data of the General Directorate of Meteorology (MGM), the total precipitation in January this year was 33.2 mm, 52% below normal and 62% less than January of last year. This situation marks the lowest precipitation level in the last 22 years. Especially in the Southeastern Anatolia, Central Anatolia and Eastern Anatolia regions, there were decreases of up to 74% in precipitation.

According to MGM's drought maps, a large part of Türkiye is at risk of "severe drought." The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry assessed this situation as "critical," and emphasized that urgent measures should be taken to save water. In some parts of the Aegean and Mediterranean regions, the risk of drought remains at lower levels.

This dramatic decline poses the risk of rapid depletion of water resources across the country and negative impacts on agricultural production. Experts point out that if early measures are not taken, even greater crises may occur. Water conservation and effective water management have now become a necessity!

March 30 International

Zero Waste Day Enthusiasm at UNESCO!



March 30 International Zero Waste Day brought environmental awareness to the global agenda with an event held at the UNESCO building in Paris. This special day, declared by the United Nations in 2022, provided an important platform to raise awareness on waste management and sustainability.

Türkiye's Zero Waste Project was highlighted at the event, and Ambassador Gülnur Aybet emphasized the success of the project with the following words: "Thanks to this project, Türkiye earned 185 billion TL, saved 490 million trees from being cut down and prevented 5.9 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions." The Zero Waste Project draws attention as a transformation model that not only protects the environment but also offers economic opportunities.

UNESCO 42nd General Conference President Simona-Mirela Miculescu touched on the damage caused to ecosystems by the 2.24 billion tons of waste produced every year worldwide, stating that this problem must be addressed urgently. UNESCO Executive Board President Vera El Khoury Lacoueilhe reminded individuals to take environmental impacts into consideration in their consumption habits and to raise recycling awareness in children.

Among the important names present at the event was Antonio de Sousa Abreu, while Emine Erdoğan drew attention to the global impact of the Zero Waste Project with a video message. The project's rapid transformation into a movement spreading around the world is considered a promising development for sustainable development.

Can Türkiye Keep Up with the Global Fashion Revolution Through Sustainable Cotton Production?

The fashion industry is looking for sustainable cotton instead of conventional cotton that is harmful to the environment. Türkiye must seize this opportunity to maintain its strong position in cotton production.

Aydın-based Söktaş has reduced water consumption by 80% and fuel costs by 60% with regenerative farming practices; soil health has improved while carbon sequestration capacity has increased 15-fold. Worms are back, chemical use has been completely eliminated. This success has attracted the attention of luxury brands such as Stella McCartney and LVMH.

However, 90% of cotton production in Türkiye is still done using traditional methods. Experts say that if it is too late, Türkiye will lose its advantage in the global market. Although organizations such as the Good Cotton Practices Association (IPUD) support the transformation, the transition process is still costly and risky for farmers.

Certified, traceable and environmentally friendly cotton production can make Türkiye a leader in the sustainability race and also secure the future of the textile sector.



Türkiye's Wetlands in Danger: Lakes Meke, Salt and Van Are Drying Out!

Critical ecosystems such as Lakes Meke, Tuz, Van, Burdur and Manyas are drying up, water resources are being polluted and groundwater is being depleted. The Turkish Environment Platform emphasized in its statement on February 2, World Wetlands Day, that wetlands worldwide are rapidly disappearing and that these areas in Türkiye are also under threat. In the last 50 years, 81% of the species living in wetlands have disappeared. Agriculture, construction and uncontrolled water use are threatening these vital areas. The increase in temperature and the decrease in groundwater levels are accelerating drought and hydrological deterioration, especially in the basins in Anatolia. If urgent measures are not taken to protect and restore Türkiye's wetlands, we may face an irreversible disaster!

Climate crisis and
wrong policies are
rapidly destroying
Türkiye's most
valuable wetlands!



Türkiye Will Neutralize Carbon Emissions In 30 Years

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar announced that Türkiye will neutralize carbon emissions within 30 years and create a more environmentally friendly, green economy. Stating that they aim to meet Türkiye's energy demand with renewable resources, Bayraktar emphasized that the potential of wind, geothermal and biomass energy will be maximized.

Minister Bayraktar also stated that important discoveries have been made in the gas fields in the Black Sea in order to increase domestic resources for Türkiye's energy independence. He said that by investing in nuclear energy, the country aims to reach the same level as developed countries.

Stating that Türkiye is stepping into a sustainable future, Bayraktar stated that they aim to become a carbon neutral economy by 2053 and that they will work day and night on this path.

News From The World

Davos World Economic Forum 2024:

Rebuilding Trust and a Sustainable Future

Davos continues to be a catalyst that accelerates global cooperation to find solutions to environmental and social problems. At the World Economic Forum, which was held on January 15-19 with the theme of "Rebuilding Trust", the issues of biodiversity loss, climate change and sustainable energy came to the fore. While emphasizing the necessity of global cooperation, states and companies were invited to take more responsibility to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. While the environmental impacts of technology and the correct use of artificial intelligence were discussed, the contributions of young leaders to the sustainability movement drew attention.



Earth Hour 2024:

The Biggest Light Shutdown Move For The Planet!



Earth Hour is a global event held every year in March to raise environmental awareness. The one-hour light-off action aims to draw attention to environmental issues and promote sustainable lifestyles.

On March 23, at 8:30 p.m. local time, millions of people around the world came together to support our planet. This year's World Hour was well attended, with more than 1.4 million hours from more than 180 countries contributing. This was the biggest Earth Hour event to date, and the celebrations continued in many places.

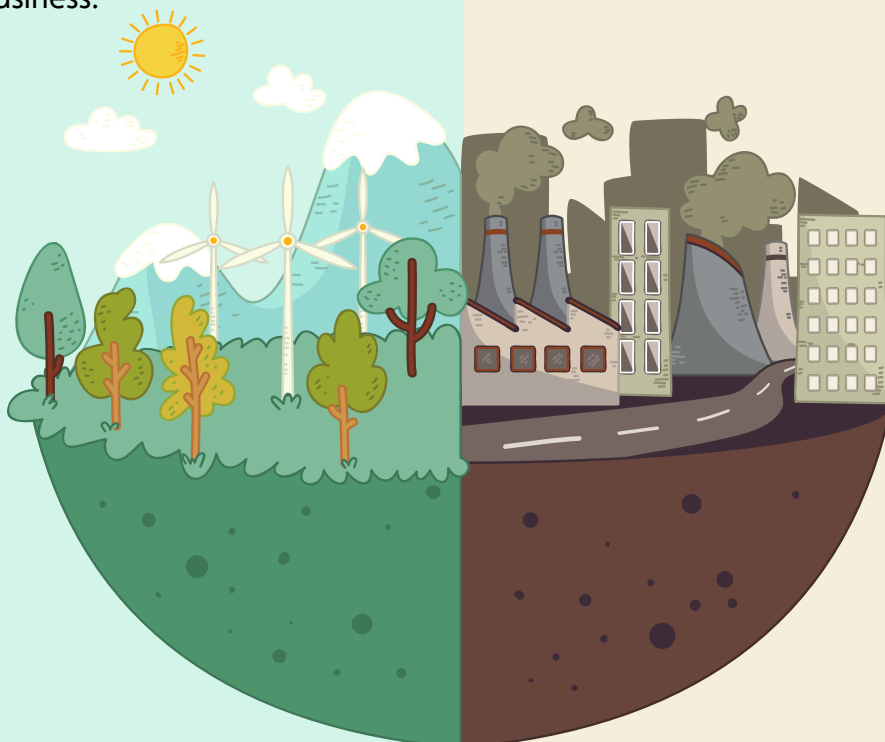
Real Deals ESG Conference 2024

The Real Deals ESG Conference 2024 was held in London on January 29-30 and focused on the private equity sector and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) strategies. The event provided a valuable opportunity for investors and industry professionals to understand the importance of ESG in business strategies and innovations in this area. The conference discussed how companies can integrate sustainability goals into their business processes and how to report these processes more effectively.



One of the most striking topics of the conference was the discussions on biodiversity credits and the complex structure of these credits. This new concept was discussed as a way for companies to compensate for the damage they cause to biodiversity. However, the speakers emphasized that biodiversity is not limited to the protection of just one species, but that the entire ecosystem should be protected. For example, it was stated that protecting the habitat of a single animal species is not sufficient for ecological integrity.

The event also addressed topics such as how ESG connects to financial return, investors' expectations regarding sustainability, and measuring ESG performance. These discussions have shown that ESG is no longer just an ethical requirement, but also a driver of competitive advantage in business.



Europeans Prefer Solar Power for Low Prices!

According to new research from the Potsdam Institute for Sustainability Research, citizens in Denmark, Germany, Poland and Portugal prefer solar energy for low electricity prices and reduced dependence on energy imports. The study also found that citizens are willing to compromise in order to secure more preferred features in the energy system.

The research showed that electricity prices had the greatest impact, with citizens preferring an energy system that was decentralized, rooftop solar-heavy, community-owned, and less dependent on imports. In addition, it was stated that solar energy is more preferred over wind energy and rooftop solar energy systems received the highest approval.

These results reveal a strong desire of citizens to transition to greener and lower-cost energy systems on Europe's path to sustainable energy transition.



GreenBiz 24

GreenBiz 24 took place on February 12-14, 2024 in Phoenix, Arizona, bringing together sustainability leaders and business professionals.

The event focused on critical topics such as net-zero targets, circular economy, biodiversity, supply chain resilience, and social justice. Participants presented a roadmap to reshape the role of the business world in this field by developing solutions to environmental problems.



In particular, GreenBiz 24 offered insights into how companies can transparently share their environmental initiatives. In addition, in-depth discussions were held on topics such as the implementation of circular economy strategies, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable supply chain management. The event offered companies practical solutions and innovative approaches in the process of achieving their sustainability goals.

European Countries Will Say Goodbye to Fossil Fuels by 2035!

On March 7, 2024, ten member states of the European Union committed to completely phasing out fossil fuels in electricity generation by 2035. These countries account for more than 60% of the EU's total electricity generation capacity. Austria, Denmark, Lithuania and Luxembourg have committed to fully transitioning to renewable energy, while other countries have uncertainties about the transition or plans to phase out fossil fuels entirely. This step stands out as an effort to limit global warming in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. Tara Connolly stated that these commitments will accelerate the energy transition and facilitate the provision of financing. This development reinforces Europe's global leadership in the fight against climate change.



European Union Recognizes Ecocide as International Crime!



In 2024, the European Union took a historic step towards criminalizing environmental crimes. The European Parliament approved a bill that would recognize ecocide as the "most serious universal crime." 499 MEPs approved criminalizing illegal acts that cause serious environmental damage, while 100 voted against and 23 abstained. The law aims to combat environmental impunity and ensure that environmental crimes in Europe will now be punished. French

lawyer Marie Toussaint describes the law as "one of the most ambitious environmental laws in the world."

Toussaint says that this step opens a new page in European history. EU member states will have to incorporate this regulation into their national laws within two years. The law strengthens environmental protection efforts and sets an important example for global environmental movements. This development is a major step towards strengthening environmentally friendly laws globally.



Sustainability Live Net Zero



Sustainability Live Net Zero is a major sustainability event held in London on 6-7 March 2024. The event brought together leaders, experts and industry stakeholders on the path to achieving net zero emissions. The event focused on combating climate change, clean energy technologies, sustainable supply chains and environmentally friendly business practices.

At this year's event, topics such as how the business world will develop its sustainability strategies, the challenges faced in achieving net zero targets and the innovative technologies required to achieve these goals were discussed, as well as how artificial intelligence and digital technologies will play a critical role in achieving sustainability goals.

It has been emphasized that achieving net zero targets is not only an environmental necessity, but also offers a great opportunity from an economic and social point of view. The event developed strategies on how companies can reduce their carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency, while also providing practical recommendations for the adoption of sustainability practices in different sectors around the world.



CMS COP 14

CMS COP 14 is a major step towards the protection of migratory species and the development of sustainable environmental policies. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) provides an international framework for the protection of migratory animal species and this conference focuses on developing common solutions for the survival of species. The protection of migratory species is of great importance for the sustainability of biodiversity. These species face many threats as they travel between different ecosystems. Factors such as climate change, habitat loss, overfishing and pollution endanger the existence of these species.

CMS COP 14 aims to develop strategies between countries by calling for global solidarity and cooperation against these threats.

The conference's focus areas will include securing habitats where migratory species are protected, strengthening conservation strategies, and establishing common policies between countries. In addition, the need for scientific research and policies to consolidate sustainable collaborations for the protection of biodiversity was emphasized.

CMS COP 14 is important as a critical platform to consolidate international collaboration for the protection of ecosystems, combating climate change, and sustainable management of biodiversity.



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

COP 14

SAMARKAND

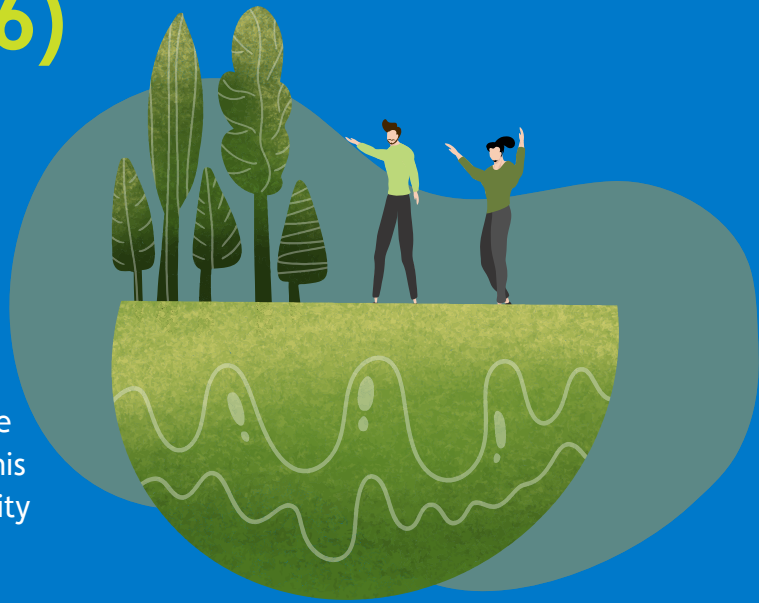
UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

What is CMS COP 14?

CMS COP 14 is the 14th **conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Conventional Types of Migrants (CMS)**. This meeting is organized to ensure international cooperation for the conservation of migratory animal species. Strategies are developed at this conference to protect against threats such as migratory species, habitat loss, climate change and pollution. **CMS COP 14** took place on **12-17 February 2024** in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)

The 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), which took place in Nairobi, Kenya from February 27 to March 1, 2024, is an important milestone in the field of global environmental issues and sustainability. UNEA is one of the world's largest platforms that come together to discuss and implement global solutions for the environment. The main themes discussed in this year's session were environmental sustainability and the fight against climate change.



Here are some of the highlights and objectives of UNEA-6:

- **Combating Environmental Pollution**

UNEA-6 will develop action plans to reduce global environmental pollution and propose stricter regulations and innovations through international cooperation.

- **Conservation of Biodiversity**

New strategies will be developed to accelerate biodiversity conservation efforts and protect ecosystems.

- **Climate Change and Carbon Emission Reduction**

Global cooperation to combat climate change will be strengthened, renewable energy and low-carbon technologies to reduce carbon emissions will be discussed.

- **Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

It will be emphasized that environmental problems should be addressed systematically and sustainable development goals should be achieved.

- **Promotion of Nature-Friendly Technologies**

Concrete steps will be taken to disseminate environmentally friendly technologies.

- **Environmentally Friendly Development Policies in Developing Countries**

It will be stated that environmentally friendly development policies should be encouraged in developing countries.

- **Increasing Global Environmental Collaborations**

The integration of global environmental policies will be strengthened and effective action plans will be created at local and national levels.

- **Balancing Environmental Sustainability and Economic Growth**

Attention will be drawn to the balance between environmental sustainability and economic growth.

- **Time to Act: Global Environmental Action**

UNEA-6 will ensure concrete steps that underscore the need for global environmental action.

Equality: A Fairer World for All

Equality is not just a word, it's a goal we all share on the road to a fairer, more equal world. We advocate that we should all have equal opportunities and that everyone should live with the same rights. However, sometimes it is not so easy to achieve this goal. That's why equality is so important to us. Because in an equal society, everyone is happier, more peaceful and more successful!

What is Equality?

Equality is the recognition of equal rights to every individual regardless of gender, race, language, religion or other differences. In other words, he argues that everyone should have equal opportunities, whether they are men or women, or in any other identity. A world where we all have the same opportunities means a brighter future for all of us!

International Women's Day: Celebrating the Power of Women

Every year, March 8 becomes a special day as International Women's Day, when women around the world celebrate their achievements, struggles, and strength . Today, it not only reminds us of women's struggle for equality, but also makes us think about what we can all do together to build a fairer world.

International Women's Day not only defends the rights of women, but also reminds us that women should take part in all areas of society. Progress has been made on many issues, from women's participation in the workforce to their place in politics, but there is still much work to be done with unity and solidarity!



Steps to Be Taken for Equality

International Women's Day once again emphasizes the importance of every step towards equality. So, what can we do?

1. Support Women: Greater participation of women in the business world is one of the things we would like to see in leadership positions. Supporting women and providing them with equal opportunities is important not only in the workplace but also in everyday life.

2. Provide Equal Opportunity: Women should be offered equal opportunities in all fields, from education to work, from sports to politics. Women should have opportunities and support to make their dreams come true.

3. Challenge Gender Stereotypes: We need to stand up against the existing stereotypes about what jobs men and women should work in.

4. Make Women's Voices Heard: It is crucial to value women's ideas, opinions and voices, ensuring that they are actively involved in decision-making processes. A society in which every individual can be heard equally is a fairer society.



After all...

While International Women's Day reminds us of the great struggle of women in the past, it also causes us to look to the future with hope. Women in every field, at every point of life; Motherhood, Teaching, Engineering, Science, Art, Sports...

When women have equal rights in all areas, society becomes stronger and happier. On March 8, it is necessary not only to celebrate women, but also to remember how important it is to act together for an equal world. Because a world where everyone is equal means a better world for everyone.

You can access Teknosa's equality efforts on the [Teknosa Integrated Report 2023](#) .

Sustainable Finance:

The Future of Financial Decisions

Sustainable finance is an approach that integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into financial decision-making. In recent years, the concept of sustainable finance has come to the fore as an understanding that includes not only environmentally friendly investment options but also social and economic responsibilities. This content provides a glimpse into how sustainable finance is taking shape on a global scale and transforming financial decisions, with data from official sources.

Fundamentals of Sustainable Finance

Sustainable finance considers three main factors: environmental, social, and governance aspects. These factors provide a model that evaluates not only financial return, but also the societal and environmental impact of companies and investors.

- 1. Environmental Factors:** Environmental sustainability is the shaping of financial decisions in areas such as reducing carbon emissions, efficient use of natural resources and protecting biodiversity. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement set global targets in this area and emphasize the role of the financial sector in achieving these goals.
- 2. Social Factors:** Social sustainability takes into account the societal impact of companies, employee rights, and their contribution to local economies. In the European Commission's 2020 "Sustainable Finance Action Plan", it was emphasized that social sustainability elements should be integrated with financial decisions.
- 3. Governance Factors:** Governance encompasses the management of companies in a transparent, accountable, and ethical manner. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank state that effective governance is an essential building block for sustainable growth.

ESG Investing: Global Trends

Investments based on ESG criteria have gained great momentum in recent years. These investments consider not only financial gains, but also environmental and social impacts. The Sustainable Finance Action Plan, adopted by the European Union in 2018, introduced certain regulations to encourage the increase of ESG investments. By setting ESG reporting standards for financial instruments, the EU aims to provide investors with products that comply with these criteria.



Global Policies of Sustainable Finance

The global strength of sustainable finance has enabled many international regulators and governments to sign active policies in this area. Documents such as the European Union's Sustainable Finance Action Plan (2018) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) argue that financial systems should serve sustainable development. One of the most important tools in this direction is new financial instruments such as Green Financial Products and Social Responsibility Investments (SRI).

The United Nations' UN Global Compact and ESG reporting frameworks oblige companies to report not only their financial but also their environmental and social responsibilities. In addition, organizations such as the Association of Social Responsibility Investors (SRI) and the Association for Climate and Sustainability Investments (CFA Institute) offer training and resources for the expansion of ESG investments.

The Future of Sustainable Finance

It is expected that sustainable finance will become even more important in the future. In this process, with the transformation of financial markets, companies will need to develop sustainability-oriented strategies and investors will need to make decisions in line with these strategies. Financial instruments will have a structure that takes care not only of making profits, but also of the welfare of societies and the planet. Sustainable finance solutions will play a critical role in tackling issues such as global climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality.

Sustainable finance is increasingly recognized today as a model that enables financial decision-makers and investors to consider not only the profit motive but also environmental and societal impacts. While global regulations and international agreements determine the basic principles of sustainable finance, companies and investors are reshaping their strategies in line with these principles. In addition to adding long-term value to financial markets, sustainable finance also aims to secure the future of the planet and societies.



Fair Trade and Sustainable Supply Chains: A Step Towards Responsible Production and Consumption

Fair trade and sustainable supply chains have become an important sustainability issue that is becoming increasingly important in today's business world, bringing ethical and environmental responsibilities to the forefront. With the growth of global trade, the transparency and sustainability of supply chains requires a business approach that takes into account not only environmental but also social impacts. In this context, fair trade practices and sustainable supply chains play a critical role in increasing the awareness of environmental and social responsibility of companies and consumers.



What is Fair Trade?

Fair trade is a business model that allows producers in developing countries to trade at fair prices and have better working conditions to make a living. This model promotes the economic development of local people while also considering social responsibilities such as environmental sustainability and labor rights. Fair trade certified products provide producers with higher revenues and create a fairer trading environment.

Sustainable Supply Chains

Sustainable supply chains aim to minimize environmental, social and economic impacts in the process from the production of materials and products to final consumption. This includes adopting more ethical and environmentally friendly practices at every stage, from raw material procurement to production processes, from labor conditions to transportation. Companies' adoption of sustainability principles in their supply chains contributes to ensuring social justice while reducing direct environmental impacts.

Benefits of Fair Trade and Sustainable Supply Chains

1. Reducing Environmental Impacts:

Fair trade and sustainable supply chains encourage manufacturers to produce products in environmentally responsible ways. This enables more efficient use of natural resources, reduction of waste, and adoption of carbon-free production processes.

2. Social Benefit:

Sustainable supply chains protect the rights of workers, especially those living in developing regions. Fair trade certified manufacturers have better working conditions, higher salaries, and safe working environments. This contributes to the reduction of social inequality and the development of local economies.

3. Consumer Trust and Brand Image:

When companies focus on fair trade and sustainable supply chains, they gain the trust of consumers and strengthen their brand reputation. Consumers are more inclined to opt for ethical and eco-friendly products, which increases the demand for brands with sustainable business practices.

4. Regulatory Compliance:

Many countries and regions introduce legal regulations on environmental sustainability and labor rights. Companies that focus on fair trade and sustainable supply chains are at an advantage in terms of complying with these regulations and avoiding criminal penalties.

Fair trade and sustainable supply chains are a great opportunity to make our world a better place, both socially and environmentally. As consumers, we can contribute to a fairer and greener future by making informed choices on these issues. Remember, together we can make a big difference by taking small steps!



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