



Land degradation on the Taurus Mountains (Southern Turkey)

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Although Taurus mountains has suitable climatic, hydrologic, lithologic and soil conditions for growing of natural vegetation, degraded and bare lands are very common in the area. However, present abundance and distribution of vegetation formations is determined essentially by anthropogenic impacts of different intensities, e.g. grazing, wood consumption for building, fire and other purposes. It has been observed that habitat changes caused by extensive and intensive economical influence very often resulted in soil erosion. Human activities such as; cutting the trees for fire wood, building, overgrazing affect the existing vegetation. In the end, degraded plateau surface and slopes have occurred due to increasing erosion. As a result of heavy overgrazing cosmopolite species grow on mountainous area. The plant formations change from tree formation to bush and cosmopolite annual and perennial species. *Euphorbia* sp., *Verbascum* sp., *Acontholimon* sp., *daphne oleides*, *Astragalus*, are undesirable cosmopolite species for animals, because of their characteristics. Some of these species have thorns, and some others are bitter so they adapt the intensive land use conditions. This study aims to explain the human effect on the land degradation in the Taurus mountains of Southern Turkey.