

## İstanbul Belgrad Forest's wild animals and habitat problems

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**Abstract:** Istanbul's green areas and water resources are under pressure due to rapid population growth from one side and adverse effects of industrialization on the other. Many wild animal species that prefer these areas as habitat. Population growth has caused the city to expand horizontally and vertically and new settlements to be built on open spaces, agricultural areas, water basins and forests. Population growth effects natural areas. Activities such as picnics, hiking, jogging, mountain biking, motocross, off-road in-forest and hunting are made in natural areas. In addition, the number of stray dogs is increasing day by day in natural areas. Stray dogs attacks the wild animals. Located on the old forest in the north of Istanbul. Belgrad Forest is one of the important habitats of wild animal species. The Belgrad Forest continues to preserve its biodiversity under the pressure of the city. This process is getting harder and harder day by day. The faunistic diversity of Belgrad Forest is a very important place for Istanbul city. Today, the Belgrade Forest hosts 24 frogs and reptiles, 160 birds and 23 mammals. Our observations in the Belgrad Forest since 1996. The projects and researches carried out in the study area reveal the problems faced by forest animals and forest wildlife. In these studies, direct and indirect observations, game camera studies, point and line observations and counting methods were used to obtain data. The problems encountered by wild animals in the Belgrad Forest include stray dogs, forestry operation practices, poaching, increasing traffic intensity, off-road, motocross sports, increasing number of recreation areas, picnic outside the recreation areas. Other factors include the plowing of pets in the jungle, water wells and stations opened to the run, illegal cuts, rubble and garbage. In this study, wild animal species which are important elements of the wildlife of the Belgrad Forest were examined and factors affecting their habitat negatively.

**Keywords:** Belgrad Forest, Wildlife, Fauna, Birds, Mammals, Stray dog