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INSTITUTE OF POPULATION STUDIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND POLICIES IN
TÜRKİYE: COMBINING MICRO AND MACRO
PERSPECTIVES**

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Environmental Concerns and Policies in Türkiye: Combining Micro and Macro Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates the intricate relationship between environmental concerns, population dynamics, and economic development within the context of Türkiye. Through comprehensive literature reviews and empirical analyses, this study examines public attitudes, policy frameworks, and international benchmarks. Utilizing theories such as Post-Materialist Value Explanation (PMVE), Objective Problems Explanation (OPE), and Dependency Theory, the research explores demographic, socioeconomic, and ideological factors influencing environmental priorities.

The study employs data from the 2018 World Values Survey (WVS) and the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) to provide a multifaceted analysis. The WVS data helps identify key demographic and socio-economic determinants of environmental concern among the Turkish population. The CCPI, on the other hand, offers a macro-level assessment of Türkiye's climate change policies in comparison to international standards. Climate change policy space, the climate habitus, was chosen as an assessment criterion because it provides an inclusive approach to the balanced management of the three policy areas in the thesis. In this regard, the thesis employed the CCPI as a valuable parameter for evaluating the globe, countries, and Türkiye.

Logistic regression analyses, both univariate and multivariate, reveal significant determinants of environmental attitudes, including settlement size, number of children, occupational status, income level, and political orientation.

The multivariate analyses of this thesis reveal that being an environmental protector (EP) is significantly associated with holding political views aligned with the left or center of the political spectrum, belonging to a higher income group, working in a professional or technical capacity, having two children, and residing in a settlement with a population above 5,000. Age, educational attainment, gender, and household size were not significant factors in the same analysis, indicating little change in an individual's level of environmental sensitivity across these variables.

These results underscore the critical role of demographic science in addressing global environmental challenges and offer practical implications for policymakers. The study emphasizes the necessity for targeted strategies that consider demographic characteristics to balance environmental protection, economic development, and population dynamics, ultimately contributing to sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Türkiye, World Values Survey, Climate Change Performance Index, climate change policy

ÖZET

Bu tez, çevresel kaygılar, nüfus dinamikleri ve ekonomik kalkınma arasındaki karmaşık ilişkiyi Türkiye bağlamında incelemektedir. Bu çalışma kamu tutumlarını, politika çerçevelerini ve uluslararası kıyaslamaları kapsamlı literatür taramaları ve ampirik analizler yoluyla, incelemektedir. Post-Materyalist Değer Açıklaması, Nesnel Sorunlar Açıklaması ve Bağımlılık Teorisi gibi teorileri kullanan araştırma, çevresel öncelikleri etkileyen demografik, sosyoekonomik ve ideolojik faktörleri araştırmaktadır.

Çalışma, çok yönlü bir analiz sağlamak için 2018 Dünya Değerler Araştırması (DDA) ve İklim Değişikliği Performans Endeksi (İDPE) verilerini kullanmaktadır. DDA verileri, Türkiye yaşayan bireyler arasında çevresel kaygıların temel demografik ve sosyo-ekonomik belirleyicilerinin tespit edilmesine yardımcı olmaktadır. İDPE ise Türkiye'nin iklim değişikliği politikalarının uluslararası standartlara kıyasla makro düzeyde bir değerlendirmesini sunmaktadır. İklim değişikliği ulus-üstü politika alanı, bu çalışmadaki üç politika alanının dengeli yönetimine kapsayıcı bir yaklaşım sağladığı için bir değerlendirme kriteri olarak seçilmiştir. Bu bağlamda, tezde İDPE dünya, ülkeler ve Türkiye'yi değerlendirmek için değerli bir parametre olarak kullanılmıştır.

Hem tek değişkenli hem de çok değişkenli lojistik regresyon analizleri, yerleşim yeri büyüklüğü, çocuk sayısı, mesleki durum, gelir düzeyi ve siyasi yönelim gibi çevresel tutumların önemli belirleyicilerini ortaya koymaktadır.

Bu tezin çok değişkenli analizleri, çevre korumacı olmanın siyasi yelpazenin solunda veya merkezinde yer alan siyasi görüşlere sahip olmakla, daha yüksek gelir grubuna mensup olmakla, profesyonel veya teknik bir işte çalışmakla, iki çocuk sahibi olmakla ve nüfusu 5.000'in üzerinde olan bir yerleşim yerinde ikamet etmekle önemli ölçüde ilişkili olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Yaş, eğitim durumu, cinsiyet ve hane halkı büyüklüğü aynı analizde diğer değişkenlerin kontrolü altında önemli faktörler olarak bulunmamıştır. Bu değişkenler arasında bireyin çevresel duyarlılık düzeyinde çok az değişiklik olduğunu göstermektedir.

Bu sonuçlar, küresel çevre sorunlarının ele alınmasında demografi biliminin kritik rolünün altını çizmekte ve politika yapıcılar için pratik çıkarımlar sunmaktadır. Çalışma, çevre koruma, ekonomik kalkınma ve nüfus dinamiklerini dengelemek ve nihayetinde sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine katkıda bulunmak için demografik özellikleri dikkate alan hedefli stratejilerin gerekliliğini vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkiye, Dünya Değerler Araştırması, İklim Değişikliği Performans Endeksi, iklim değişikliği politikası

TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
ÖZET.....	x
TABLE OF CONTENT	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURE.....	xiv
ABBREVIATIONS.....	xv
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1. The Historical Dynamics of Population, Development and Environment.....	7
2.1.1. Population Growth and Development.....	7
2.2. Population Growth and Environment.....	8
2.2.1. Development-Dependency Theories.....	11
2.3. The Policy-Making Crossroads; Population, Development and Environment	13
2.4. Türkiye's Approach to Population, Development and Environment	25
CHAPTER 3. EVALUATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES	31
3.1. Overview and Methodology of the Climate Change Performance Index	31
3.2. Evaluating Türkiye's Position in the Global Climate Policy Framework	37
CHAPTER 4. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY	45
4.1. Data Source: The World Values Survey (WVS).....	45
4.2. Methodology	46
4.2.1. Logistic Regression.....	46
4.3. Limitation.....	56

CHAPTER 5. RESULTS	58
5.1 Descriptive Results.....	58
5.2. Binary Logistic Regression Analysis	62
5.3. Multivariate Results: Binary Logistic Regression Analysis	66
CHAPTER 6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....	72
REFERENCES.....	91



LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1. Country Perspectives on Development, Environment, and Population Issues.	17
Table 2.2. SDGs' Policy Inquire Areas.	18
Table 2.3. UN Agencies and Corresponding SDG's.	19
Table 2.4. Türkiye's International Environmental Agreements.	27
Table 2.5. Incorporation of Population Policies in Türkiye's Development Plans.	28
Table 2.6. Türkiye's International Population Agreements.	29
Table 3.1. GHG Emission (40% of total score).	34
Table 3.2. Renewable Energy (20% of Overall Score).	35
Table 3.3. Energy Use (20% of Overall Score).	36
Table 3.4. Climate Policy.	36
Table 4.1. Türkiye's Sample Size in WVS (1990–2022).	48
Table 4.2. Valid Frequency Distribution of Dependent Variable.	49
Table 4.3. Sample Distribution.	51
Table 5.1. Sub-Group Percentage Distribution.	59
Table 5.2. Results of Univariate Regression Analysis.	63
Table 5.3. Statistical Testing Results.	67
Table 5. 4. Results of Multivariate Regression Analysis.	68

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 2.1. Common Implementation Tools of UNFCCC.....	22
Figure 2.2. UNFCCC Complex Governing and Implementation System.....	23
Figure 2.3. Environmental Consideration of Five-Year Development Plans (1963-2018)	26
Figure 3.1. Weightings of Indicators under each Categories of CCPI.	33

ABBREVIATIONS

KP	Kyoto Protocol
PA	Paris Agreement
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
UN	United Nations
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
COP	Conference of the Parties
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
GST	Global Stocktake
CRI	Climate Risk Index

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The complex relationship between environmental concerns, population dynamics, and economic development has captivated social scientists and policy makers for decades. Environmental concerns have become increasingly prominent in global discussions due to the growing recognition of the adverse effects of climate change, resource depletion, and pollution. Population dynamics, including growth rates, urbanization, and demographic transitions, significantly influence environmental sustainability. Economic development, on the other hand, can either exacerbate environmental degradation or provide the means for adopting cleaner technologies and practices. This thesis explores these themes within the specific context of Türkiye, by examining public attitudes, policy frameworks, and international benchmarks.

This study encompasses two comprehensive literature reviews within population, environment and development policy areas. The first literature review is extensive and spans multiple disciplines (economics, sociology, demography, political science, etc.), as three major issues cannot be confined to a single social science or even natural sciences domain. This extensive review is critical for the thesis to carefully examine the theoretical framework without exceeding the scope of the research question.

During this research, the theories that constitute the theoretical framework of the thesis have been obtained. For the micro analysis, "Post-Materialist Value Explanation (PMVE)", and "The Objective Problems Explanation (OPE)" were utilized, while for the macro analysis, dependency theory was employed.

The PMVE formulated in the 1970s by Inglehart, it proposes that once basic material needs such as food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter are met, people in wealthier countries or societies tend to focus on not vital quality of life issues such as education, autonomy, justice, and participation in government. According to this theory,

wealthier individuals are more likely to prioritize environmental conservation because they already have their basic needs met and can focus on enhancing their quality of life and preserving natural areas for recreational purposes.

The second explanation focuses on environmental degradation, which motivates people to prioritize environmental protection. “The Objective Problems Explanation (OPE)” accounts for changes in environmental attitudes by focusing on individuals who have experienced environmental deterioration or harmful events. Unfortunately, the WVS data did not question the attitudes/concerns of individuals towards climate risks. Therefore, this approach could not be tested by statistical analyses. Nevertheless, The OPE theory is very valuable in terms of enabling some assumptions to be made within the scope of the thesis. An example assumption is that urban dwellers are more sensitive to the environment because they are more exposed to climate risk such as heat island effect, urban floods, etc.

Dependency Theory is also very useful in this thesis in terms of macro analysis that is, in evaluating the position of the countries of the world relative to each other and understanding the place of Türkiye in this picture.

The second literature review investigates how international policy processes operate and how the world navigates three policy implementation areas. It was observed that these three major topics were initially evaluated together and then separately. However, with the international acceptance of the climate crisis, it is acknowledged that these topics are so intertwined that they cannot be assessed independently. Therefore, in this thesis, these three topics are evaluated under the umbrella concept of climate change policy. This necessitates presenting the complex international climate change policy process in a detailed yet simplified manner, especially considering Türkiye's close monitoring of EU policy-making processes, providing a rich background for evaluation within this context.

Despite the challenges posed by such a broad background, it is invaluable to demonstrate that individuals in Türkiye are not exempt from the effects of these international and national policies.

The central research question guiding this thesis is: What demographic, socioeconomic, and ideological factors most significantly influence environmental concerns and policies in Türkiye? Based on the literature, the research proposes the following hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: Individuals living in settlements with a population over 5,000 are more likely to prioritize environment than those living in settlements with a population under 5,000.

Hypothesis 2: Individuals with children are prone to prioritize environment than those with no children.

Hypothesis 3: Individuals employed in professional and technical occupations, higher administrative positions, or clerical roles are more likely to prioritize environment compared to those working in agricultural sectors.

Hypothesis 4: Individuals with a medium income level are more likely to prioritize environment compared to those with low or high incomes.

Hypothesis 5: Individuals who identify with the left side of the ideological spectrum are more likely to prefer the side of environment than those who identify with the right or center.

The research incorporates insights from the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) to assess the status of the world and Türkiye in major policy axes covered by the thesis is utilized. It measures the effectiveness of climate change policies in preventing the global climate crisis and provides an international context for evaluating the Türkiye's climate change policies. The CCPI evaluates countries based on their climate policy

greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and renewable energy usage. The index is a good tool to measure the strength of the world's climate policies and to evaluate the success or failure in the three main axes of the thesis subject. However, it is not applicable at the settlement level within Türkiye, so the index is used for macro-level assessment in the thesis.

For micro-level analysis data utilizes from the 2018 World Values Survey (WVS) to examine environmental concerns within the Turkish population. The WVS is a valuable source for understanding public attitudes and values on a wide range of issues, including the environment. The survey includes valuable questions related to individual environmental concerns, perceived environmental threats, and willingness to support environmental policies over development. The WVS also has a questionnaire on the demographic, socio-economic and political attitudes of individuals.

Logistic regression analysis, encompassing both univariate and multivariate approaches, is employed to explore the factors influencing environmental prioritization. Univariate logistic regression helps identify individual factors that may influence environmental concerns, while multivariate logistic regression considers the combined effects of multiple factors. This approach allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of environmental position of citizens in Türkiye.

The findings presented in this thesis shed light on the demographic characteristics associated with a heightened focus on environmental protection in Türkiye. The analysis considers factors such as political ideology, income level, occupation, number of children, and settlement size.

Political beliefs significantly affect environmental attitudes. Left-leaning individuals support environmentalist policies. This finding is consistent with the existing literature and is also valid for Türkiye. However, the univariate analysis shows that individuals with center political views prioritize the environment 1.55 times more than the

reference group. This may be a valuable contribution to the literature; not only leftists but also those with centrist political views prioritize the environment.

Economic status is another significant factor. Higher-income individuals significantly prioritize environmental protection. While the middle-income group was found to be significant in a univariate analysis, its significance diminished when subjected to multivariate analysis. Middle-income may have sufficient resources to support environmental initiatives without feeling overly burdened, unlike Low-income who prioritize urgent economic needs.

One of the key factors influencing environmental concern is the size of the settlement where individuals reside. Urban residents may have greater exposure to environmental issues, such as air pollution and waste management problems, which could heighten their awareness and concern. Considering the lives of these urban individuals who put the environment before development, they lead a more insensitive life than a townsman in the consumption of energy, transport, waste and all kinds of resources. This contradictory situation is discussed in this thesis.

Occupational status also plays a significant role in shaping environmental concerns, with professionals potentially having higher levels of education and access to information about environmental issues, influencing their tendency to be environmental protectors (EP).

Throughout this thesis, the intricate relationship between demographic variables and environmental protection is carefully analyzed. Factors such as political orientation, income level, occupational group, number of children, and place of residence are identified as significant influencers of environmental attitudes. The insights derived from this research contribute to a deeper understanding of how these demographic parameters shape environmental behaviors in Türkiye.

The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders as they strive to achieve a balance between environmental protection, economic development, and population considerations in the ongoing pursuit of sustainable development goals.

This understanding is pivotal for designing more effective environmental policies that not only promote sustainable development but also serve to the diverse needs and priorities of different population groups. By integrating the theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches of demography into climate change research, this study underlines the critical role of demographic science in addressing global environmental challenges.

Ultimately, this thesis not only advances academic knowledge but also offers practical implications for policymakers. It emphasizes the need for targeted strategies that consider the unique demographic characteristics of various communities. This research demonstrates the profound utility of demography as a discipline in fostering sustainable and equitable development in the face of environmental crises.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review of thesis is divided into three sections. Firstly, the historical dynamics of population, development and environment discussion on social science perspective are summarized. In the next section, United Nation policy making on population, development and environment and historical evolution of those policy and existing policy apparatus on three major areas are narrated. Finally, in this context how the perspective of Türkiye's policy making on those three big policy areas is the emphasis of the last section of this chapter.

2.1. The Historical Dynamics of Population, Development and Environment

2.1.1. Population Growth and Development

The discourse surrounding the relationship between population growth and economic development has traversed two distinct historical trajectories. One perspective, exemplified by Thomas Malthus, posits that population growth exerts a detrimental effect on economic progress. Malthus, a seminal figure in demography literature, famously articulated this viewpoint in his 1798 essay contending that unchecked population growth follows a geometric progression, outpacing the arithmetic growth of resources.

Conversely, Karl Marx championed an optimistic outlook on population growth, arguing that the limitations imposed by nature are a consequence of societal deficiencies rather than inherent human needs. In Marx's view, unlike Malthusian point of view, poverty and hunger stem from inadequacies in social organization rather than population expansion.

Contemporary debates continue to oscillate between these two paradigms, shaping discussions on the nexus between population dynamics and economic development.

However, a nuanced understanding of the historical evolution of this discourse elucidates three distinct stages, according to Furedi (1997).

In the first stage, spanning from 1940 to 1955, experts from academia, international organizations, and the media acknowledged the absence of empirical evidence linking population growth to poverty. Nonetheless, they advocated for development as a cure all for addressing perceived population-related challenges.

The second stage, spanning from 1955 to 1975, witnessed a shift in perspective, wherein population growth was construed as a barrier to economic development, necessitating population control measures as a prerequisite for progress.

In the third, which commenced around 1975, the significance of the link between population and development has diminished. While acknowledging the historical trajectories delineated by Malthus and Marx, contemporary discourse on population and economic development reflects a more nuanced understanding, transcending simplistic causal relationships.

In the next section, the environment is evaluated together with the topics of population and development. Under the heading of environmental theories, how population is viewed will be discussed.

2.1.2. Population Growth and Environment

When environmental deterioration concerns became seen as an important global problem, the population was seen as being at risk for environmental degradation. Malthusian or neo-Malthusian theories claim to explain the negative relationship between population growth and environmental degradation (pollution, acid rain, loss of biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, ozone layer depletion, greenhouse gas buildup, and soil erosion). It perceived growth of population as the root cause of various adverse conditions, ranging from disease and poverty to dictatorship, revolution, war, slow

economic growth, and environmental degradation (Furedi, 1997). Similarly, the ecological version of the Malthusian model attributes every form of environmental crisis to population growth.

Biologist Paul Ehrlich was among the pioneers of the Malthus's resurgence. In his book 'The Population Bomb,' published in the late 1960s, he portrayed environmental degradation as the consequence of overpopulation. "Too many cars, too many factories, too much pesticide, too little water, too much carbon dioxide—all can be easily traced to too many people" (Ehrlich, 1968).

"Carrying capacity" is the key idea that reflects the neo-Malthusian approach. "Carrying capacity" in biology usually means to the highest number of a particular species that a finite habitus can sustain forever. This idea has been extended to human populations by Neo-Malthusians, who contend that as the planet's resource base is depleted, population declines because of exceeding the maximum sustainable population limit. They argue that resources on Earth are limited and have a fixed carrying capacity. Consequently, the crucial variable is the rate of population growth (Furedi, 1997).

The most notable attempt to expand Malthusian environmental analysis is the I = PAT equation proposed by Paul Ehrlich

I = PAT Equation

Environmental Impact (I) = Population (P) * Affluence (A) * Technology (T)

The population's environmental impact is determined by multiplying the size of the population (P), its level of affluence (A), and the influence of the technologies that support the level of affluence (T) with each other. This formula has a simple implication: the more people there are, the more they consume and use technology, and the more harm

they cause to the environment. It is believed that the influence in the IPAT formulation will have an unavoidably detrimental impact on the environment.

They favor population stability above reducing consumption or creating ecologically friendly technology because they view population expansion as an independent phenomenon. In "The Population Explosion," Paul and Anne Ehrlich make the case that achieving population control must be given priority due to the time lags involved. The Limits to Growth, written by US economist Dennis Meadows and his colleagues in 1972, was the next major contribution to the revival of Malthus. In this Club of Rome study, population, resource consumption, food production, industrial output, and pollution trends were predicted using a basic computer model. According to Harrison, if current trends were to continue, a catastrophic population decline was predicted by 2025 due to a sharp decrease in land and mineral resources. However, as of 2024, this prediction has not materialized, and there has not been a significant decline.

Theories of population diverge significantly, ranging from Malthusian to Anti-Malthusian perspectives. The Marxist theory stands as a pioneering view within the Anti-Malthusian framework. According to this theory, social institutions and technology play a mediating role in how populations interact with nature and the environment, rather than populations exhibiting uniform tendencies.

The rise of anthropocentrism marked a shift from solidarity to dominance in the interaction between humans and nature as capitalism became the predominant mode of production. While Marx and Engels viewed the expansion of capitalism as a necessary step towards the transition to socialism, the extent of the negative consequences on the ecosystem was not well defined. Nevertheless, foreseeing that environmental degradation could occur during this growth, Engels, in his essay "The Condition of the Working Class in England," emphasized the detrimental effects of industrial growth on the environment.

2.1.3. Dependency Theory and Explanations that Comprise the Theoretical Framework

According to dependency theory, underdevelopment stems from unequal relationships between wealthy, developed capitalist nations and poor, developing ones. This theory highlights historical factors, such as the impact of colonialism, as contributors to environmental problems in the Third World. It argues that powerful developed countries like the US, Europe, and Japan dominate weaker, less developed countries (LDCs) through the perpetuation of unequal power and resource distribution within the capitalist system.

This theory focuses on development patterns that have left the Global South reliant on the Global North, such as natural resource exploitation and export to North-based industrial hubs. The "dependency perspective" emphasizes the importance of shared international political and economic processes in affecting both demographic parameters, such as population increase, and environmental consequences, such as pollution, in developing nations. Furthermore, this perspective argues that significant global environmental challenges, such as ozone depletion, greenhouse gas emissions, hazardous waste accumulation, and biodiversity loss, are direct outcomes of the current growth paradigm. (Marquette, 1997)

They primarily challenge the expansion of transnational corporations and the overconsumption prevalent in more developed countries as the primary causes of environmental issues. Barry Commoner's assertion in his book "The Closing Circle," which contended that pollution rather than population growth was the primary driver of environmental damage, resonates with this perspective. Commoner emphasized the significant impact of technology and Western consumption patterns on environmental degradation (Furedi, 1997).

Population growth itself isn't the root cause of environmental problems, so population control measures alone cannot solve them. Instead, addressing ecological issues requires tackling poverty and altering the consumption patterns of developed countries. This entails increasing consumption levels in less developed countries while decreasing those in more developed nations.

It has been understood from “dependency theory” that economic development is a particularly important factor when comparing countries. So, can the economic differences of individuals living within a country change their perspective on the environment? Two approaches those are the important element of theoretical framework of this thesis, stand out around this question.

The first one is “The Post-Materialist Value Explanation (PMVE)” which is common hypothesis for explaining individuals' concern for the natural environment, particularly in wealthier countries or societies. Former American political scientist Ronald Inglehart developed the original theory of post-materialism in the 1970s. It contends that once basic material needs such as access to clean water, enough food, shelter, and health care, are satisfied, people tend to concentrate on non-essential quality of life issues like intellectual growth, personal freedom, justice, and government participation.

This explanation suggests that people's wish to protect the environment is driven by concerns about their quality of aesthetics in their life. It proposes that individuals who prioritize environmental issues often have post-materialist values, meaning they place importance on things beyond basic needs, such as enjoying nature and preserving outdoor spaces. According to this explanation, wealthier individuals are more likely to prioritize environmental conservation because they already have their basic needs met and can focus on enhancing their quality of life and preserving natural areas for recreational purposes.

Environmental deterioration motivates individuals to prioritize environmental protection, which is the second most significant frequent argument for environmental care.

“The Objective Problems Explanation (OPE)” explains changes in environmental attitudes by focusing on measurable environmental deterioration or harmful events. Indeed, indirect evidence suggests that environmental fragility has encouraged certain countries to endorse robust action during international climate discussions.

Scientific research has also shown relationships between environmental vulnerability and environmental concern at the individual level. Support for international climate action is positively correlated with perceptions of objective risk from climate change, according to research by Vedlitz, Zahran, Grover, and Brody, (2006). Moreover, they found that unfavorable environmental conditions raised people's perceptions of the danger posed by climate change. Overall, these data indicate that frightening physical circumstances raise perceived issues and the possibility of environmental hazards, resulting in increased support for pro-environmental legislation.

These two theories form the theoretical framework of our research. The PMVE is highly explanatory in the context of differentiation based on income status and settlement size, while the OPE, as the name suggests, explains the increase in sensitivity in terms of risk experience. In these contexts, they offer valuable space for interoperating the results of this thesis.

2.3. The Policymaking Crossroads, Population, Development and Environment

Throughout history, policy decisions have been heavily influenced by the interactions between development, environmental, and population-related challenges. The dynamic connections and difficulties that arise when tackling these interconnected concerns in the context of policy making are examined in this chapter. It considers the complex interrelationships between economic advancement, environmental sustainability, and demographic trends while examining significant historical turning points,

conferences, agreements, and initiatives that have affected the growth of policies intended to achieve sustainable development goals.

The post-World War II period saw the realization of the interconnection of development, environment, and population challenges. Unchecked economic growth and population expansion caused rapid industrialization and urbanization, which increased concerns about environmental damage. Global environmental challenges were first addressed by coordinated international initiatives, which began with the historic 1972 “United Nations Conference on the Human Environment” in Stockholm. “The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)”² and the acceptance of the “Stockholm Declaration” were the outcomes of the meeting.

“The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro” in 1992 represented a turning point for global environmental diplomacy. Building on the principles set forth in Stockholm, the summit produced “Agenda 21”, all-encompassing plan of action for sustainable development, and “the Rio Declaration”, highlighted the necessity of global collaboration to address environmental issues. Additionally, key conventions such as “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)” and “The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)” were opened for signature, laying the groundwork for future environmental treaties.

Population dynamics have become a crucial element in determining the paths of global development, impacting social demographics, land use patterns, and resource use. Academic gatherings that emphasized the value of demographic studies in development planning were the First and Second World Population Conferences in the 1950s and 1960s. The result of “The International Conference on Population and Development” in

² “UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment,” stated its web site.

Cairo (1994) was a substantial movement toward incorporating population concerns into development policy.

Until the 1994 Cairo Population Conference, it was envisaged that population, development and environment would be brought together under a single international umbrella. During this summit, it was decided to separate population from other important issues such as development and environment. The rationale for this choice was based on the understanding that population is not a politically negotiable issue, but a dynamic area that needs to be constantly monitored. In addition, the conference began to focus on issues such as women's empowerment and reproductive health. (Cliquet and Thienpont, 1995)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which provides scientific advice and expertise in population research, was also established during the Cairo Population Conference. This institutional change separated growing understanding of the importance of population dynamics and how they are linked to broader development and environmental goals.

An important turning point in the complex interactions between development, population dynamics, and environmental concerns was main subject of the ICPD in Cairo. The conference proceedings were fragmented due to the substantial obstacles provided by the inherent complexity in each of these fields. It was challenging to prioritize, measure, and monitor any of these aspects due to the significant complexity involved.

In Cairo, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was established, whose purpose was primarily focused on population issues and measurable criteria within demographic frameworks. Today ICPD and UNFPA are focused on reproductive health, gender equality, and human rights while stressing a rights-based approach to population concerns,

It was further emphasized by subsequent international conferences and agreements how important it is to mainstream population and environmental issues into frameworks

for sustainable development strategy. Agenda 21, which covered environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainable development, was the result of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. Similar to this, a renewed commitment to combining environmental sustainability, population dynamics, and socioeconomic development into a single framework was signaled by the adoption of “The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” in 2000 and “The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” in 2015.

Development, population, and environment were all addressed independently in Cairo in 1994, but now they are all part of a global framework called “The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, which are overseen by various UN agencies. An international environment is created where the progress towards these goals is evaluated by tracking indicators under each goal to assess the targets' progress.

The relationship between development, the environment, and population issues has established more consideration in latest years due to the necessity of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. In 2015, the Paris Agreement was ratified, signifying a historic commitment to dialog climate change and advance sustainable development in parallel with SDG's.

2.3.1. Economic Status and Climate Policy Positions of Countries

International conferences and negotiations have yielded the progress described above, as countries have conveyed their perspectives through international deliberations. Within the triple dilemma of development, environmental pollution, and population pressure, developed, developing, and transition economies have positioned themselves and assessed other country groups.

Within the framework of international discussions and policy-making processes, Table 2.1. offers insights into how various country groupings see and prioritize population, development, and environmental challenges.

Table 2.1. Country Perspectives on Development, Environment, and Population Issues.

Country Group	Position on Development	Position on Environmental Pollution	Position on Population Pressure
Developed Economies	Prioritize sustainable development with focus on technology and innovation.	Advocate for stringent environmental regulations and emissions reduction targets.	Emphasize population stabilization through access to family planning and education.
Developing Economies	Strive for economic growth and poverty reduction as primary development goals.	Address environmental pollution as a secondary concern, often due to limited resources.	Acknowledge population growth as a challenge but prioritize economic development.
Transition Economies	Aim to balance economic growth with environmental protection, often facing challenges in transitioning from heavy industries.	Focus on reducing environmental pollution while promoting sustainable industrialization.	Acknowledge population pressure as a factor in development, with efforts to manage urbanization and migration.

2.3.2. The United Nations' Approach to Finance and Development

Throughout history, the United Nations has funded least developed nations at different points in time, starting with its founding initiatives. The UN and other international organizations stepped up their efforts to provide financing and assistance for the development of least developed nations, particularly in the 1960s and beyond.

The UN and other international bodies usually take several factors into account when allocating funds. These comprise the state of human rights violations, income inequality, economic development, and the effects of natural disasters, health, education, and other social indicators. Funding decisions can also be influenced by political considerations like involvement in peace efforts, the existence of wars, and regional and international security conditions.

Developed countries attempt to disseminate their preferred methods for addressing environmental and demographic challenges to other countries, frequently through financing structures, to match other groups' ideas with their own political positions.

2.3.3. UN Agencies and their Contributions to the SDGs

The contemporary international community's approach to development, environment, and population issues is advanced through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which articulate measurable targets. Below is a brief description of the SDGs, along with Table 2.2. illustrating allocation of SDGs into United Nations' Agencies.

Table 2.2. provides a clear overview of the alignment between UN agencies and specific SDGs, demonstrating the coordinated efforts of various agencies to advance sustainable development goals.

Table 2.2. SDGs' Policy Inquire Areas.

Policy Areas	
SDG 1	No Poverty
SDG 2	Zero Hunger
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being
SDG 4	Quality Education
SDG 5	Gender Equality
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
SDG 10	Reduced Inequality
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13	Climate Action
SDG 14	Life Below Water
SDG 15	Life on Land
SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals

Source: UN., (2015).

UNEP oversees six of the SDGs, while the FAO is involved in two of them. UNDP carries the second-heaviest burden, overseeing the execution of five goals. It is stated that environmental issues and development are the key topics of concern. Except for migration, population-related concerns are promoted by UN Women and UNFPA.

Table 2.3. provides a clear overview of the alignment between UN agencies and specific SDGs, demonstrating the coordinated efforts of various agencies to advance sustainable development goals.

Table 2.3. UN Agencies and Corresponding SDG's.

UN Agencies	SDG(s)
UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)	SDG 1, 8, 10, 16, and 17
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	SDG 2, 12 and 14
WHO (World Health Organization)	SDG 3, 6, and 7
UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)	SDG 4, and 5
UN-Water	SDG 6
UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)	SDG 5
UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)	SDG 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)	SDG 9
ILO (International Labour Organization)	SDG 8
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	SDG 4
UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	SDG 16
UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	SDG 16
UN Women	SDG 5

Source: UN., (2015).

UNEP administers of six SDGs, while the FAO is involved in two of them. UNDP carries the second-heaviest burden, overseeing the execution of five goals. It is stated that environmental issues and development are the key topics of concern. Except for migration, population-related concerns are promoted by UN Women and UNFPA.

2.3.4. Framework and Tools of Global Climate Governance: UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement

“The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)” was established in 1992, and today all environmental issues are also discussed under its framework. The UNFCCC's implementation tools include “the Kyoto Protocol” (KP), which entered into force in 1998, and “the Paris Agreement” (PA), which followed in 2015. I will first describe the Convention and then its implementation tools in turn.

UNFCCC is a worldwide treaty that was agreed in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. The goal of the UNFCCC is “to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC has 198 Parties, including all 193 UN Member States and 5 observer States. The UNFCCC is the parent treaty of the KP and the PA.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty that was adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 2005. The goal of the Kyoto Protocol is to diminish greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries. It has 192 Parties, including all developed countries except for the United States. The KP was the first international treaty to set legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emission. (UNFCCC).

The KP established a framework for developed countries to commit to and monitor carbon emission reductions. It introduced a carbon trading mechanism, allowing countries with surplus emission allowances to sell them to those exceeding their limits. While not a complete success, the KP served as a pioneering effort in addressing climate change through international cooperation. Its legacy continues to influence current climate change negotiations and policies.

The KP specifically mandated developed nations to make concrete commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and established mechanisms to track and verify their progress. It introduced a market-based approach known as carbon trading, enabling countries with emission allowances below their allocated levels to sell them to those surpassing their limits. This mechanism incentivized emission reductions by creating a financial incentive for countries to lower their emissions or acquire additional allowances.

While the KP's effectiveness has been debated, its significance as a pioneering effort in addressing climate change through international cooperation is undeniable. It set a precedent for legally binding emission reduction commitments among developed nations and nourishing future international framework of climate agreements. Despite its shortcomings, the Kyoto Protocol's legacy continues to influence current climate change negotiations and policies, shaping the global response to this pressing environmental challenge.

The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 and entered into force in 2016. The aim of the PA is to limit global warming to well below 2 C⁰, rather to 1.5 C⁰, compared to pre-industrial intensities (UNFCCCb). It has 196 Parties, including all 193 UN Member States and 3 observer States. The PA is the first international treaty to cover all greenhouse gas emissions from all countries.

The PA marked a significant step forward in addressing climate change by introducing the concepts of historical responsibility and capability principle. This shift in approach moved beyond the traditional developed-developing country dichotomy and emphasized collective global action. Developed nations acknowledged their historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and committed to providing financial, technological, and capacity-building support to developing countries (UNFCCCb).

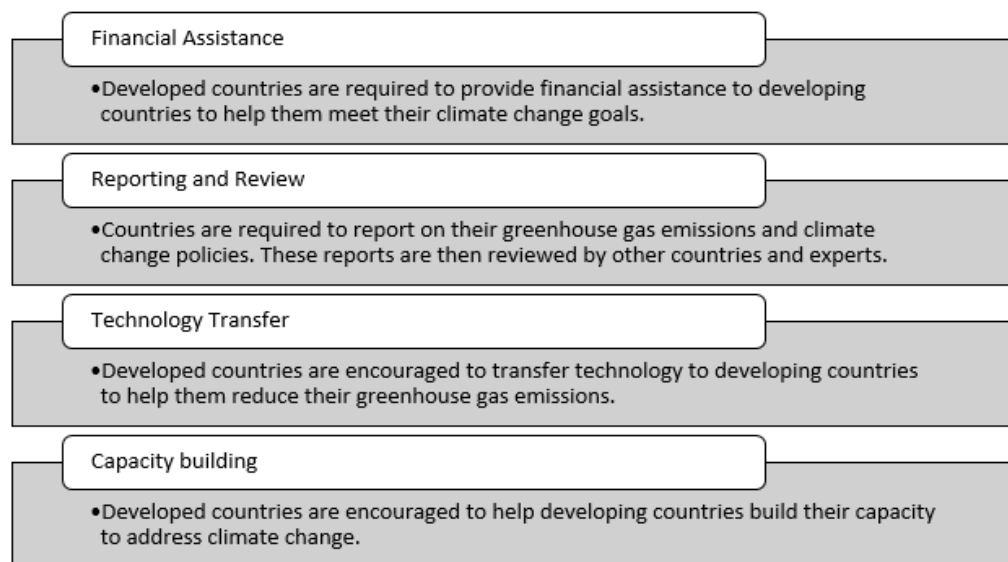
In return, developing countries pledged to take ambitious actions to reduce their emissions while respecting their respective capabilities. This emphasis on national

circumstances and differentiated responsibilities aimed to ensure a more equitable and effective global response to climate change.

The PA places a strong focus on accountability and openness. All parties are expected to submit and maintain their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and developed nations have a duty to give financial resources to help poor countries' climate measures. Each nation's planned emission reductions and adaptation strategies are outlined in these NDCs (UNFCCC).

The UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement all have their own implementation tools. These tools are enumerated in Figure 2.1. and they used to help countries meet their commitments under the treaties.

Figure 2.1. Common Implementation Tools of UNFCCC.



Source: (UNFCCC).

Intergovernmental negotiations are the core of the UNFCCC process, bringing parties together to reach consensus on the way forward on all matters considered under the governing and subsidiary bodies. The UNFCCC operates under a complex governance

system with distinct bodies and functions. The Figure 2.2. try to give clear understanding on complex mechanism of climate policy apparatus of UNCCCC.

The Figure 2.2. also, outlines the subsidiary bodies for each treaty and protocol. While governance and administrative bodies are separate, scientific and implementation bodies continue to operate for each treaty.

The UNFCCC secretariat organizes and supports two to four negotiation sessions per year. The COP is the largest and most significant session, conducted yearly in various cities across the world. This is the largest United Nations meeting, with an average yearly attendance of around 25,000 people. Negotiations between specialists from international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, and scientific community.

Figure 2.2. UNFCCC Complex Governing and Implementation System.

	The Convention	“The Kyoto Protocol”	“The Paris Agreement”
Supreme Governing Bodies	“Conference of the Parties COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention.”	“Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)”	“Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)”
Process Management Bodies	“The Bureau of the COP”	“The Bureau of the CMP”	“The Bureau of the CMA”
Subsidiary Bodies	Bureaus assist the work of the governing bodies by providing advice and direction on continuing work under the Convention, the KP, and the PA, as well as the organization of their sessions and the secretariat. The Bureau functions during and between sessions. “The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)” aids the governing bodies by providing timely information and advice on scientific and technology problems pertaining to the Convention, the KP, and the PA. In addition, the SBSTA works with important international organizations on scientific, technological, and methodological issues. “The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)” aids the governing bodies in assessing and reviewing the implementation of the Convention, the KP, and the PA. Furthermore, the SBI is the body that considers the secretariat's biennial work programmes, which provide strategic direction on how the secretariat can best serve the Parties and the UNFCCC process in achieving “greater ambition in climate change action and support” that is fully consistent with the objectives of the Convention, the KP, and the PA.		

Entities entrusted with the operations of the “Financial Mechanism”

“The Green Climate Fund (GCF)” is an operating institution of the Convention's financial system that reports to and is guided by the COP. It is controlled by a Board of 24 members (equally drawn from developed and developing countries) and is designed to serve as the primary fund for global climate change financing, with a goal of raising USD 100 billion by 2020. The GCF was formed by the COP at its sixteenth session through resolution 1/CP.16, prepared by a Transitional Committee during 2011, and inaugurated at COP 17 via decision 3/CP.17, which included the GCF's governing document. The GCF, as the institution in charge of “the Convention's Financial Mechanism”, also serves the PA.

“The Global Environment Facility (GEF)” is an operational element of the Convention's financing system that funds the activities and projects of developing-country Parties. The COP gives frequent guidance to the GEF. The GEF, as also the institution in charge of operating the Convention's Financial Mechanism, also serves the PA.

Cooperation with intergovernmental organization

“The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)” is an international group that assesses climate change science. “The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)” and “the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)” established the IPCC in 1988 to provide policymakers with periodical evaluations of climate change's scientific foundation, consequences, and future risks, as well as adaptation and mitigation alternatives.

IPCC assessments offer a scientific basis for governments at all levels to establish climate-related policies, and they serve as the foundation for talks at the COP under the UNFCCC. The assessments are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive: they may give forecasts of future climate change based on various scenarios, as well as the hazards that climate change poses, and analyze the consequences of response choices, but they do not direct policymakers on what measures to take. The IPCC is now on its “seventh assessment cycle”, which started in July 2023.

The IPCC serves as a one-of-a-kind interaction between science and policy. Because of their scientific and intergovernmental nature, these assessments offer decision-makers with robust and balanced scientific information. All WMO and UN member nations can participate in the IPCC. It presently has 195 members. The Panel, which is made up of members from each member state, meets in “Plenary Sessions” to make key decisions.

Hundreds of eminent scientists contribute to the IPCC assessments. IPCC reports go through numerous rounds of drafting and review to ensure they are complete, objective, and generated in an open and transparent manner. Thousands of additional specialists examine the findings, ensuring that they reflect the entire variety of scientific perspectives.

Source: UNFCCC, UNFCCCa, UNFCCCb, UNFCCCc, UNFCCCd, UNFCCCe, and IPCC

Each Party to the Convention is represented in the Conference of Parties (COP), where decisions are made to support the successful implementation of the Convention,

including institutional and administrative arrangements, as well as reviews of the Convention's implementation and any additional legal instruments enacted by the COP.

The outcome of the first week of the COP is a set of draft decisions and proposals. During the second week of the COP, the focus is on political negotiations and decision-making among high-level government officials. These negotiations are aimed at reaching agreement on the draft decisions and proposals and adopting final decisions.

The secretariat arranges yearly sessions of the subsidiary bodies as well as various workshops and meetings throughout the year. The SBSTA and the SBI meet twice a year. Decisions can be made at each COP, and some work is carried over to the intersessional meetings. Every year in June, a two-week meeting primarily attended by technical experts is held in Bonn, Germany, known as the intersessional meeting. Decisions refined here can be finalized during the next COP session.

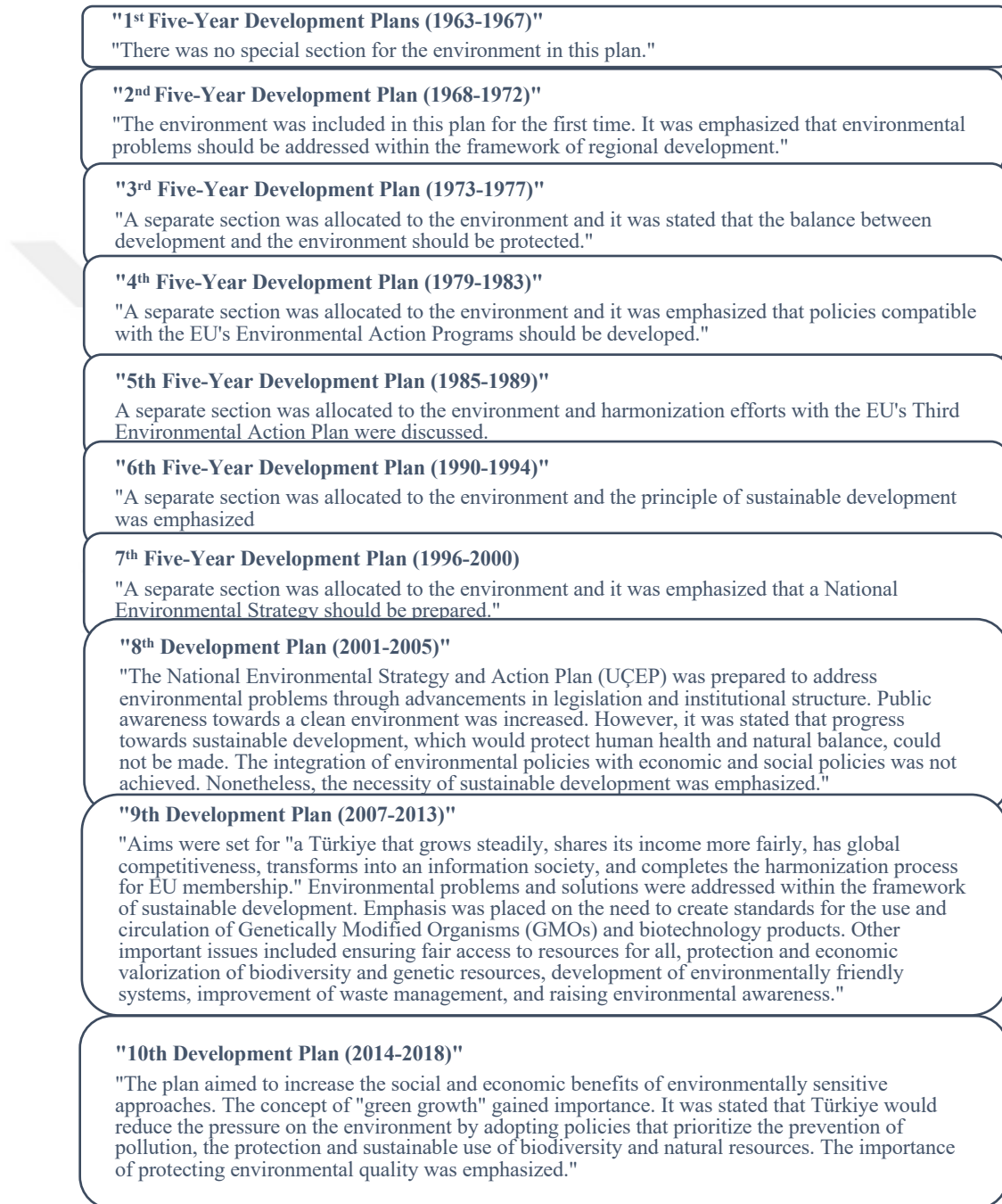
2.4. Navigating Key Policy Areas in Türkiye: Population, Development, and Environment

Since its establishment until the planned development period, Türkiye had limited implementation of environmental and population considerations within its economic development policies.

Particularly during the planned economy era post-1960s, Türkiye began to align its policies with those of the European Union (EU), where the negative relationship between environmental concerns and economic development became apparent. This analysis delves into Türkiye's historical approach to environmental and population issues within its planned development policies, divided into two main sections.

Environmental concerns were initially absent from Türkiye's development plans until the late 20th century. The first significant incorporation of environmental issues occurred in the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1984–1988).

Figure 2.3. Environmental Consideration of Five-Year Development Plans (1963-2018)



Source: Derivate from Erdem and Yenilmez (2017) and evaluated plans by author.

2.3. presents the environmental consideration of “Five-Year Development Plans” of Türkiye for the period 1963-2018. It can be said that the emphasis on the environment has been more prominent in the plan texts in recent plan periods. Various environmental problems such as environmental pollution, erosion, deforestation and wastes can be said to have increased and accumulated during these periods and need to be managed.

The approaches listed below are proposed as solutions in these plans.

- Development and implementation of environmental legislation and raising environmental standards to EU standards
- Use of environmentally friendly technologies and widespread dissemination of environmental education
- Involvement of civil society organizations and local governments in environmental protection efforts and development of international cooperation.

Table 2.4. Türkiye's International Environmental Agreements.

Agreement	Entry into Force	C.Signatories	Purpose and Objective
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	1988	195	Assessment of scientific research related to “climate change”
Montreal Protocol	1989	198	“Phasing out ozone-depleting substances”
Basel Convention	1992	187	“Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes”
Black Sea Commission	1992	6	“Protection and sustainable development of the Black Sea Region”
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1993	196	“Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of resources”
European Environment Agency	1994	33	Providing “environmental information to policymakers and the public”

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1994	197	“Framework for international cooperation to combat climate change”
Middle East Desalination Research Center	1996	10	“Research and development in desalination and water treatment”
Rotterdam Convention	2004	165	“Prior informed consent procedure for hazardous chemicals”
Stockholm Convention	2004	183	“Elimination or restriction of persistent organic pollutants”
Kyoto Protocol	2005	192	“Addressing global climate change through emission reductions”
Union for the Mediterranean	2008	43	“Enhancing cooperation on environmental issues in the Mediterranean region”
Paris Agreement	2016	195	Combating climate change through international cooperation

Source: UN, UNa, UNECE, UNEPa, UNEPb, UNEPc, UNEPd

Table 2.4. clearly stated that Türkiye has been a party to various international agreements, conventions, and protocols and a member of some regional organizations aimed at addressing environmental issues. Remarkable agreements include the KP (1997) and the PA (2015).

Table 2.5. Incorporation of Population Policies in Türkiye's Development Plans.

Development Plan	Year	Population Policies
Sixth Five-Year Plan	1996	Introduction of population policies and family planning
Seventh Five-Year Plan	2001	Continued focus on population control and demographic targets
Eighth Five-Year Plan”	2006	Strengthening of family planning programs and demographic policies

“Ninth Five-Year Plan	2012	Emphasis on sustainable population growth and demographic dynamics
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Türkiye established close relations with the European Union by signing the Ankara Agreement with the EEC in 1963. In the Five-Year Development Plans, efforts were made to develop policies compatible with the EU's environmental policies, considering these close relations. These harmonization efforts gained momentum in the 1990s. Türkiye's. (Erdem and Yenilmez, 2017).

Population policies started gaining attention in Türkiye's development plans relatively late. The Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (1996–2000) marked the first explicit incorporation of population issues. Subsequent plans emphasized population control, family planning, and demographic targets. It has been summarized in Table 2.5.

Türkiye has also ratified international agreements (see Table 2.6.) concerning population issues, such as the ICPD Programme of Action (1994).

Table 2.6. Türkiye's International Population Agreements.

Agreement	Entry into Force	Current Signs	Purpose and Objective
World Population Conference Bucharest, Romania	1974	135	Addressing the link between population growth and development. The Conference adopted the “World Population Plan of Action”
World Population Conference Mexico City	1984	157	Monitoring “Action Plan”, at the time 123 countries were promoting family planning.

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo	1994	179	Promoting “reproductive health and gender equality” worldwide. “Integrating population issues into development strategies”, “ICPD Programme of Action”, “Cairo Declaration”
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	1995	189	Achieving “gender equality and women's empowerment”
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2015	193	Advancing “sustainable development” worldwide
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	2000	Universal	Addressing various development issues, including population dynamics

Source: United Nations (1984, 1994, 1995, 2000 and 2015)

The international population agreements presented in Table 6. are limited to those in which Türkiye has taken part. They reflect Türkiye's commitment to addressing population challenges and improving the well-being of its population in line with global efforts.

Türkiye's approach to environmental and population issues in its development policies has evolved over time, with increasing recognition of the importance of sustainability and demographic dynamics. Through international agreements, Türkiye demonstrates its commitment to addressing global challenges in these areas.

Türkiye's internal and international approaches to the problem have been assessed thus far. The international evaluation of the nation's recent achievements in the field of climate change policy, which addresses concerns related to the environment, development, and population in tandem.

CHAPTER 3. EVALUATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

The international policy discussions that the thesis was conducted in three broad policy areas were conveyed in the previous chapter. Based on that background, it has been detected that these three issues are evaluated together in the field of climate change policy. Hence, the question that comes to mind is how capable the policies are carried out in the world to cope with the risks of climate change. In order to make an assessment in line with this question, we have made use of the CCPI.

In this section, firstly, information about the index will be given to show how the index measures and evaluates. Then, by using this index, the index positions of countries according to different levels of economic development will be mentioned. Finally, Türkiye's place in the index will be evaluated.

3.1. Overview of the CCPI and its Methodology

It is challenging to comprehend both national and international climate policy because of the many nations which must be considered, as they all had different starting points and areas of interest. Therefore, Germanwatch created the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). Currently, the index covers more than 92% of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are attributable to 63 nations and the European Union (EU).

Türkiye has been a part of this ranking since its inception in 2006. International conventions like the Kyoto and UNFCCC country separation categories, as well as high emitting and transition countries, are evident in the initial country categorization indexes. But after 2015 and the Paris Agreement, when the global fight against climate change gained worldwide recognition, it no longer matters whether a country belongs to a developed, developing, or transitional economy. The index is seeing an increase in the

number of new countries included. Once more, over time, the objectives of these international accords have been added to the index.

The index's current main rationale is that energy usage and renewable energy will be impacted by climate policy, which will lead to GHG emissions, which account for 40% of a nation's overall score. This is because countries who have made progress in their climate change policies have demonstrated a reduction in emissions. Four components are used to evaluate the climate change performance:

1. GHG Emissions are weighted at 40% in the CCPI. This category mainly focuses on current levels, trends, and alignment with well-below-2°C pathways for emissions reduction.

2. Renewable Energy is weighted at 20% in the CCPI. This category mainly evaluates the current share of renewables in energy supply, recent changes, and alignment with a well-below-2°C pathway.

3. Energy Use is weighted at 20% in the CCPI. This category mainly assesses current energy consumption, trends, and alignment with a well-below-2°C pathway.

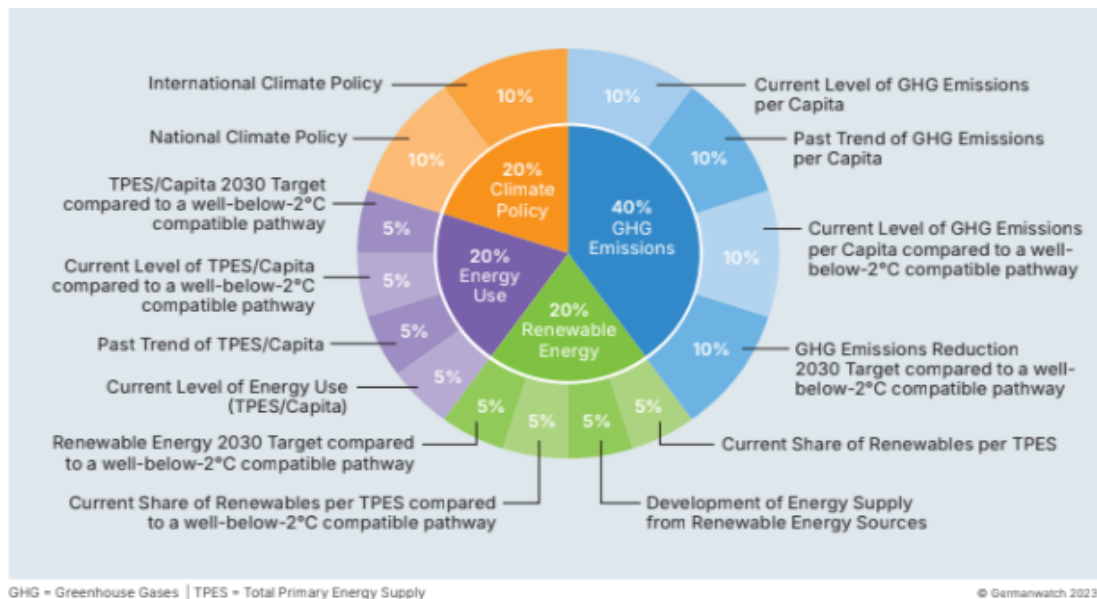
4. Climate Policy (Expert-based) is weighted 20% in the CCPI. This category mainly evaluates a country's performance in international and national climate policy through expert surveys

The way a nation performs in the first three categories is determined by how well it performed in relation to four distinct equally weighted indicators, which show several aspects of the categories: "Past Trend (5-year trend)", "Current Level", "well-below 2°C-Compatibility of the Current Level" as well as stated "well-below 2°C-Compatibility of 2030 Target".

International and national climate Policy which are two additional indications are included in the set of twelve. The "Climate Policy" category, calculating the countries-

performance in relation to its national climate policy at establishment and implementation in addition to addressing inter-national diplomacy on climate change.

Figure 3.1. Weightings of Indicators under each Categories of CCPI.



Source: (Burck et, al. 2023)

Despite being the rationale's main motivator of index, Climate Policy has a relatively low index weight. Moreover, throughout the application this is so that it won't take long for politics to influence reducing emissions period, governments have the option to reverse course and stop implementing. Political weight is less than that of the emission category because of these factors.

The listed data sources four are used first three categories in the CCPI Background and Methodology 2024 publication are as follows:

- PRIMAP is a data source used to assess all GHG emissions across all sectors.

The PRIMAP-hist dataset combines various published datasets to create comprehensive greenhouse gas emission pathways for countries and Kyoto gases from 1750 to 2022.

- FAO provides data on Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) emissions.

International Energy Agency (IEA) is a key data source for energy-related data in categories like Renewable Energy and Energy Use. The CCPI assessment utilizes IEA data for assessing GHG emissions and renewable energy, following IEA definitions.

- The UNFCCC submissions and reports are used for data related to GHG emissions and other climate-related information.

These data sources play a crucial role in providing the necessary information for evaluating countries' performance in terms of GHG emissions, renewable energy, and energy use. Those three categories use numerical secondary data to calculate countries' position. However, the data for the category "Climate Policy" is assessed annually in a comprehensive questionnaire. Its basis is the performance rating by climate and energy policy experts from non-governmental organizations, universities and think tanks within the countries that are evaluated. In a questionnaire, they provide a rating on a scale from one ("weak") to ten ("strong") on the most important measures of their supervision.

Through the tables made for each of the CCPI Categories, it will be possible to assess the weighting and scores of the indicators. Now, each category will be addressed in turn.

Table 3.1. GHG Emission (40% of total score).

	CCPI (%)	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Current Level of GHG Emissions per Capita (Unit: CO ₂ te/Capita)	10	0 – 2.5	>2.5 – 5	>5 – 7.5	>7.5 – 10	>10
Past Trend of GHG Emissions per Capita (Unit: %)	10	<-20%	-20% – -10%	-10% – 0%	>0% – 5%	>5%

	CCPI (%)	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Current Level of GHG Emissions per Capita Compared to a Well-Below-2°C Compatible Pathway (Unit: CO2te/Capita)	10	>2	>0 – 2	- 2 – 0	-4 – -2	<-4
GHG Emissions Reduction 2030 Target Compared to a Well- Below-2°C Compatible Pathway (Unit: CO2te/Capita)	10	<-2	-2 – <0	>0 – 2	>2 – 4	4

GHG Emission category encompasses four variables, as briefly described below. The Table 3.1. further outlines the scoring ranges and overall index weights for these four variables.

Renewable Energy category encompasses four variables, as briefly described below. Table 3.1.2. further outlines the scoring ranges and overall index weights for these four variables.

Table 3.2. Renewable Energy (20% of Overall Score).

	CCPI (%)	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low
“RE/TPES (Unit: share in %)”	5	>35 %	>25% – 35%	15% – 25%	5% – 15%	5%
“RE/TPES Trend (Unit: %)”	5	>75 %	>30% – 75%	>15%– 30%	>5% – 15%	5%
“RE/TPES Benchmark (Unit: Distance from a Well-below 2°C pathway in percent-age points)”	5	>0	<0 – -10	-10 – -15	-15 – -20	-20
“RE/TPES Target (Unit: Distance from a Well- below 2°C pathway in percentage points)”	5	>0	<0 – -10	-10 – -20	-20 – -30	-30

TPES data excludes values for non-energy use and traditional biomass

“Energy Use” category encompasses four variables, as briefly described below. Table 3.1.3. further outlines the scoring ranges and overall index weights for these four variables.

Table 3.3. Energy Use (20% of Overall Score).

	CCPI (%)	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low
TPES/Capita (Unit: TPES/Capita)	5	>0 – 60	>60 – 90	>90 – 120	>120 – 150	>150
TPES/Capita Trend (Unit: %)	5	< -15%	> -15% – -7.5%	> -7.5% – 0%	>0% – 7.5%	>7.5%
TPES/Capita Benchmark (Unit: %)	5	< -15%	> -15% – 0%	>0% – 10%	>10% – 30%	>30%
TPES/Capita Target Benchmark (Unit: Distance from a Well-below 2°C pathway in percentage points)	5	< -20	> -20 – 0	>0 – 20	>20 – 40	>40

The Climate Policy’s indicator is unique in other categories of index, as it is based on expert opinion. This assessment procedure comprises country-specific specialists from universities, academia, think tanks, or NGOs evaluating their countries using a systematic questionnaire. Table 3.4. below provides details on the scoring process and weight distribution within the overall index.

Table 3.4. Climate Policy.

	Overall value in CCPI (%)	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Policy International (Unit: Grades)	10	>9	7	>5	>3	<3
Policy National (Unit: Grades)	10	>9	7	>5	>3	<3

Within each policy area, experts assess both the strength of the policy framework and the quality of implementation. Furthermore, in accordance with the Paris Agreement, experts review a country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for ambition and consistency with a target of far below 2°C. They also assess progress toward reaching the NDC goals.

The last thing to discuss is the constraints imposed by the CCPI. These limitations are mostly due to data conflicts, expert pool discrepancies, and methodological changes. In addition, indicators are collected at the county level rather than the municipal level. Thus, that we are unable to compare the climate change policy achievements or failures in Türkiye's different settlement level, due to the methodological perspective of CCPI.

3.2. Evaluating Global Climate Policy Framework including Türkiye

How the international policies are advanced in the three major policy axes (development, environment, and population), which are the focus of this thesis, has been comprehensively described in the relevant chapter. In the light of this information, it can be said that in recent years, the climate change policy area has become a "global umbrella policy area" serving all these axes. In this thesis, I will henceforth refer to the "climate habitus" as the global climate change policy making habitus³. Therefore, it may be sufficient to measure the success of "climate habitus" to test the axes addressed in this thesis in a global sense.

In section 2.2. including all the international activities, organizations and framework agreements carried out in the world, and where Türkiye stands in this

³ Pierre Bourdieu brought this concept to the science of sociology and used it in a completely different context, and this concept was preferred in this thesis to easily transfer the complex field of climate policy making. As a result of different value systems, different scientific knowledge, different organizations and their cultures, written or unwritten rules, with the help of the UNFCCC (including the KP and PA sub-working groups) and other scientific institutions that feed it (IPCC, EEA, OECD, WMO, etc.), the concept of climate habitus is meant by the current whole structure.

international picture has been conveyed in detail in the relevant section of the thesis. Within the scope of the literature study, depending on the level of development of the countries, including Türkiye, because of all these efforts and policy implementations, the question of whether they have been globally successful (?) on the "the habitus" has been raised. Of course, this is a very comprehensive and big question, and there is probably no single answer. The reason why it is big is that it is located at the intersection of these three major policy hangers, as is this thesis.

In fact, one of the main objectives of the "climate habitus" is to find the answer to this question. For example, the heart of the "climate habitus", "Article 14" of the Paris Agreement (PA) has created the "Global Stocktake (GST)" to try to find an answer this question. "GST" is an apparatus of the PA, designed to enable the PA to determine the global proximity or remoteness to the targets set by the PA. GST findings are planned to mobilize the "climate habitus", such as accelerating the increase in financial-technological support or setting new more ambitious targets. However, the "first synthesis report of the GST" announced at COP28 last year disappointed the public. The second of the "GST Synthesis Reports", which are planned to be published every five years, will be presented at the COP 33 to be organized in 2028. It is hoped that progress will be made during this time.

Climate-induced international migration is a major factor that exacerbates current climate change policy difficulties. As climate change continues to have an impact on vulnerable places, more people are being forced to move because of extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and depletion of natural resources. This movement puts additional burden on both the nations of origin and the receiving countries, which must handle the influx of climate refugees ⁴ while also addressing their own environmental and socioeconomic difficulties. As a result, it is critical to consider climate-induced migration

⁴ The concept of climate refugee is not a defined concept in the context of international law.

in the global climate habitus and design comprehensive strategies to address it. Such policies should prioritize addressing the underlying causes of climate migration in vulnerable areas through sustainable development and climate resilience measures. Furthermore, international collaboration and assistance structures must be formed to aid countries. Additionally, international cooperation and support mechanisms should be established to assist countries in managing the socio-economic impacts of climate migration effectively. Incorporating these strategies will not only enhance the overall success of climate change policies but also ensure a more equitable and humanitarian approach to global climate challenges

Alongside the UNFCCC, independent institutions like the Germanwatch institute, its CCPI, seek to monitor “climate habitus” and by looking at country level success or failure, or rather, the extent to which “the habitus” targets have been met or missed, and all developments in this field. Within the scope of this study, all CCPI published reports (2006-2024) were utilized. In the data source section, the benchmarks that stand out in the climate habitus and the sub-components and weighting of the index measuring the countries' performance in this habitus are explained in detail.

A notable feature of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) lies in its evaluation of countries' performance against the habitus' milestones, including target levels and benchmarks years, established within the international climate regime that began with the 1992 UNFCCC, continued with the Kyoto Protocol, and reached a culmination in the Paris Agreement. Just like the GST, it provided valuable findings in terms of evaluating the habitus from within.

However, since the index indicators are not accessible at the micro level if desired and country comparison is beyond the scope of the research, an evaluation will not be made on CCPI categories and their indicators in this part of the thesis. Because many indicators of CCPI provide the opportunity to compare between climate pledges of the countries, i.e. NDC declarations and the policy actions implemented by the countries. In

other words, it is designed to make comparisons between countries. This is not due to the classical data supply problem. It is necessary to develop a document such as NDC at the city level so that local targets can be set by the municipality.

In order to measure the success or failure of “the habitus” and to describe Türkiye's place in it, CCPI is considered as a valuable tool in this thesis. In order to do this, firstly; the performance of developed, developing, and transition economies might be observed, with a focus on the patterns and changes in their rankings over time. Then, a relationship was tried to be established by ranking place of countries and the level of economic development. In addition, the relevance of all these with the conceptual framework, if any, will be conveyed in this section.

Developed economies exhibit less fluctuation in their rankings, holding comparatively steady and elevated positions throughout time. Although these nations demonstrate consistent efforts in their climate policy, there is still opportunity for development as seen by their lack of a top ranking. Developed economies routinely score highly on the CCPI, including Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Sweden is the country with the highest performing emerging countries, regularly ranking in the top places, typically in the top 5. Furthermore, the United Kingdom and Germany consistently rank in the top 10, indicating effective climate policies and execution.

Since these countries are wealthier, it would seem to be directly tied to the OPE in this study's theoretical framework that they will be more environmentally conscious. Investment and energy transformation concerns are highly esteemed in CCPI. Additionally, funds are needed for these investments. This is an accepted standard for the nations in this group. The affluent nations also required to feel obligated by the "climate habitus" to support the less developed nations and strive towards this goal.

It can be assumed that these countries have high EP levels both at the citizen and governing level. It is also assumed that their basic needs have been fulfilled enough to

focus on secondary areas of concern, such as the environment, which can be considered more luxurious. It seems reasonable that this group of countries reached the knowledge that climate change is a global threat earlier than other countries. They have mobilized the world for this threat in a global sense. Most of the countries in this group act as quarterbacks in “the climate habitus”. They are facilitators towards developing countries in terms of financial and technology transfer, and on the one hand, they want to bring their own experiences and good practices to the attention and use of “the climate habitus”.

Also, of course, developed countries are affected by the impacts of climate change. In connection with the OPE theory; this may be the reason why they focus on issues such as climate change induced risk reduction and adaptation to climate change and argue that financing should be allocated for these issues. In these issues, they invest a lot of money in their own countries, ranging from infrastructure investments where climate change risks are assessed to green energy transformation. According to “the habitus”, this group is expected to provide financial and technological assistance to underdeveloped and island countries for such preventive investments. Due to the concern to transfer the financial resources of developed countries to the right projects, “the habitus” causes them to fall far behind their financial targets of adaptation.

Developing Economies show significant variability in their rankings, reflecting diverse challenges and progress in climate action. Because those are/may face greater challenges in balancing economic growth and climate action, leading to more variable performance. Despite of the fact that countries like India, Brazil, and Morocco have shown commendable improvements, often ranking within the top 20. Financial and technological constraints may often limit the effectiveness of climate policies. For example, Brazil initially ranked high but shows fluctuations, it may indicate to inconsistent policy implementation. Notable performers of that group of country is India and Morocco, display consistent progress, with Morocco achieving remarkable ranks in the top 10 in recent years.

Developing countries face greater challenges in balancing economic growth and climate action, leading to more variable performance. This understandable looking the very perspective of PMVE. It can be accepted that the basic needs of all citizens of the countries in this group are not met. Most of the countries in this group do not have a developed economy. Therefore, they may care about the environment in a way that does not hinder development.

“The climate habitus” requires countries in this group to sign all relevant international conventions and to submit mandatory reports and NDCs arising from the conventions. In these documents, they are expected to be transparent and specify their risk and adaptation finance, technology and expertise needs. In the light of this information, adaptation and risk investments will show that they are suitable and willing for habitus grants.

“The habitus” expects this group to do all these and attract financing resources to their countries. However, “the habitus”, which is constantly updated from reporting criteria to projection methods, makes it difficult for the countries in this group to keep up with “the habitus”. All these slow down the flow of finance. The theory of dependency, which is a vicious circle, easily explains this situation. Dependency will never end. Until the countries in this group understand the rules of the “the habitus” and start to apply them, the playmakers and owners of the new clean energy regime will again be the developed countries.

Transition Economies are characterized by inconsistent climate policies and varying degrees of commitment to climate action. Transition economies, including countries from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, exhibit significant fluctuations in CCPI rankings. Notable Performers are Latvia and Estonia, occasionally ranked high, demonstrating potential for effective climate policies despite economic transitions. Transition economies struggle with legacy issues from past economic systems, making the implementation of comprehensive climate policies more challenging. This is exactly

what happens in underdeveloped countries. Therefore, no detailed evaluation will be made for this group of countries within the scope of this thesis. However, they share some disadvantages of developing countries with several characteristics

In fact, “the climate habitus” plans to allocate more resources to the least developed and island states. “The habitus” has assigned the responsibility for the historical emission burden to developed countries. These small states do not have the slightest contribution to this emission burden, neither historically nor currently. However, this group, which is likely to be flooded with the melting of glaciers and rising seas, is the group considered by “the habitus” to be most affected by the negative effects of climate change. “The habitus” plans to make special financial and technological investments for this group. It expects the financial resources for this from developed countries with a high historical burden. However, these small island states and very underdeveloped countries are not included in CCPI countries, as it is known, the index focuses more on emitting countries. Therefore, within the scope of this thesis, the success or failure of these countries in habitus could not be evaluated.

The CCPI rankings reveal critical insights into the effectiveness of climate policies across different economic classifications. develop economies maintain relatively high and stable rankings but fall short of achieving the top rank, indicating potential areas for policy enhancement. Developing economies demonstrate significant improvements but face inherent challenges that lead to greater variability in performance. Transition economies show the most fluctuations, reflecting the complexities of their ongoing economic and political changes. Having mentioned that least developed countries and small island states cannot be assessed in the CCPI, it will now be explained how Türkiye is ranked in the same index.

Türkiye has been included in the index since its first year. Initial years (2006-2010) Türkiye's ranking showed significant variability. Starting at 22st in 2006, its position fluctuated.

As a developing economy, Türkiye faces the dual challenge of sustaining economic growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. According to CCPI 2024 report, reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal, for energy production has been a significant barrier to achieving higher position for Türkiye. However, Türkiye has made strides in renewable energy, particularly in wind and solar power. In the index, Türkiye's investments will have been considered insufficient against developed countries, so that it could not progress to high scores.

Examining Türkiye's ranking value in 2008, which is a relatively higher value of 21, indicating a closer position to the top ranks. However, this initial value experienced a rapid decline until 2012, falling to 58th place. Türkiye's resurgence to near the 40th rank in 2022 can be attributed to the country's parliamentary approval and subsequent implementation of the PA during that period. This stance served as a clear demonstration of Türkiye's sensitivity towards climate policies. However, the precipitous drop in Türkiye's index value in 2023 and 2024 casts doubt on the significance of the country's move to sign the PA. Perhaps, remaining outside the PA is an anomaly, considering it is one of the most widely signed agreements globally. Therefore, merely signing the agreement does not guarantee a country's stable position in the index.

Despite its overall low ranking in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), Türkiye has shown some progress in specific areas related to renewable energy and infrastructure development. The country has received a medium ranking in the Renewable Energy category, indicating some positive strides. Notably, Türkiye has increased the share of renewables in its energy mix, with significant projections for further expansion, particularly in solar energy, as outlined in the National Energy Plan published in January 2023. This plan envisions a gradual reduction in the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation.

CHAPTER 4. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, an exploration of environmental concerns and policy alignment in Türkiye is undertaken. The World Values Survey (WVS) data is primarily relied upon for this analysis.

4.1. Overview and Relevance of WVS Data

The World Values Survey (WVS) serves as the primary data source for this demographic thesis, specifically focused on exploring environmental concerns and policy alignment in Türkiye. Established in 1981, the WVS is a leading worldwide investigation program studying on political, social, economic, cultural values and religious across the globe. It delves into the impact of value stability and change on societal development, building upon the legacy of “the European Values Study”.

The Survey currently operates in over 120 world societies, conducting a representative comparative social survey every five years. This extensive geographical and thematic coverage, coupled with its commitment to free data availability, has solidified the cross-national surveys in the social sciences and other fields that make extensive use of WVS data. Notably, the WVS holds the distinction of being the largest non-commercial cross-national time-series study of human values and beliefs undertaken.

The comprehensive nature of the WVS data aligns perfectly with the multifaceted field of demographics and is particularly relevant to the exploration of environmental concerns in Türkiye. Its broad scope encompasses diverse domains relevant to demographic research, including social change and development, family structures, social inequalities, health and well-being, and environmental concerns. The WVS facilitates a global network of social scientists. The expertise of the Turkish team involved in the WVS data collection in Türkiye will be particularly valuable for understanding the nuances of

environmental attitudes and policy perceptions within the country, due to their familiarity with the specific context of Türkiye.

The WVS data might have provided a rich resource for examining the environmental concerns of the Turkish public, their engagement with environmental issues, and their support for environmental policies. It allows for a deeper understanding of the factors influencing environmental attitudes and behaviors in Türkiye, enabling insights into potential policy directions and strategies to promote environmental sustainability.

4.2. Methodology

In this thesis, logistic regression analysis was conducted using 7th wave of WVS data. This section will first make available a short overview of the regression analysis methodology employed in the study. Both univariate and multivariate analyses will be explained. SPSS will be the primary tool for conducting both univariate and multivariate analyses in this thesis.

4.2.1. Logistic Regression

When the dependent variable contains two or more levels of categorical data, logistic regression may be used to investigate the cause-and-effect relationship between the dependent variable and the independent factors. (Agresti, 1996; Girginer and Cankuş, 2008). In logistic regression analysis, which tries to classify and investigate the associations between dependent and independent factors, the dependent variable is categorical and takes discrete values.

In addition to being useful when the dependent variable has more than two levels or is a discrete variable with two levels, like 0 and 1, logistic regression is more popular because of its adaptability and simplicity of understanding. (Lemeshow and Hosmer, 2000). The above technique ascertains the risk factors and the effect of explanatory

variables on the dependent variable. (Girginer and Cankuş, 2008). Logistic regression examines the Odds, which are the ratio of the likelihood of one event to the chance of other occurrences, as well as the ratio between the Odds values of two separate events evaluated. In the logistic regression equation, Odds is written as $\text{Exp}(B)$. Odds is the ratio of an event's probability to its non-occurrence (Çolak, 2002; Gujarati, 2004). $\text{Exp}(\beta p)$ indicates the likelihood of the Y variable being observed with the effect of the Xp variable (Gujarati, 2004; Girginer and Cankuş, 2008).

Both univariate and multivariate analysis are implemented in this study. Univariate analysis offers a baseline knowledge of the interactions between the variables, whereas multivariate analysis enable the investigation of potential group-level impacts, such as income level and level of education in environmental concern.

SPSS will be the primary tool for conducting both univariate and multivariate analyses. Univariate analysis will be performed within SPSS to establish initial understanding of variable relationships. Following this, multivariate analysis will be conducted using SPSS's hierarchical linear modeling capabilities to account for the nested structure of the data, with individuals nested within households.

The WVS dataset, coupled with the selected demographic variables and logistic regression analysis techniques, offers a robust methodological framework for investigating environmental concerns and policy alignment in Türkiye. The analysis will shed light on the demographic factors that shape environmental attitudes and behaviors, providing valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to promote environmental sustainability in Türkiye.

For the logistic regression analysis in this thesis will use the World Values Survey (WVS) 2018 data from the wave, which covers the 2017–2022 period. Türkiye has been an active participant in the WVS since the 1990s, providing valuable insights into the evolving cultural change, policy preferences, etc. of its citizens. While this thesis focuses

on the most recent wave of data, it helps to acknowledge differentiated perspectives on the environment and development dilemma within the country level of Türkiye.

The WVS employs a rigorous, a multi-stage stratified random sampling approach with steps to guarantee data representativeness. In the case of Türkiye, the 2017–2022 wave involved face-to-face interviews with 2415 respondents, carefully selected to reflect the country's demographic composition.

This thesis focuses on the 2017–2022 wave of the WVS which provides the most recent and up-to-date insights into environmental concerns and policy alignment in Türkiye.

While the WVS has collected data in Türkiye since the 1990s (see Table 4.1.), this thesis does not delve into a comparative analysis across waves. This decision stems from the distinct historical and contextual factors influencing each wave, making direct comparisons challenging and potentially misleading. Instead, the thesis focuses on an in-depth analysis of the 2017–2022 wave, providing a nuanced understanding of environmental concerns and policy alignment in contemporary Türkiye.

Table 4.1. Türkiye’s Sample Size in WVS (1990–2022).

Time Series	Türkiye Sample Size
1981-1984	-NA
1989-1993	1030
1994-1998	1907
1999-2004	3401
2005-2009	1346
2010-2014	1605
2017-2022	2415
Total	11704

Türkiye presents a compelling case study for exploring environmental concerns and policy alignment due to its unique position at the crossroads of Europe. The country faces complex environmental challenges, including rapid urbanization, water scarcity, and air pollution. Additionally, Türkiye's economic development aspirations and political

dynamics intersect with environmental considerations, making it a critical arena for examining the interplay of these factors.

The Türkiye case study in this thesis seeks to illuminate how environmental issues and policy coherence are developing in a dynamic and quickly growing society. By utilizing the rich WVS data from the 2017–2022 wave, the thesis will provide valuable insights into the factors shaping environmental attitudes, behaviors, and policy preferences in Türkiye, contributing to a profounder considerate of the complex relationship between environmental stewardship and societal progress.

4.2.1.1. Dependent Variable

The WVS question is, “Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own values? 1) Protecting the environment should be given priority, even if it causes slower economic growth and some loss of jobs or economic growth, or 2) Creating jobs should be the top priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent?” will serve as the dependent variable in the regression analysis. These variables capture individuals’ prioritization of environmental protection over economic growth, providing a measure of their environmental concern. In order to achieve this goal, missing values and NA were removed from the data for this question. This resulted in the creation of two categories: 1. Environmental Protector (EP) and 2. Economy Growth Supporter (EGS).

Table 4.2. Valid Frequency Distribution of Dependent Variable.

	Frequency
Environmental Protector (EP)	1339
Economy Growth Supporter (EGS)	979
Other answer	7
Valid answer	2325
Missing	90

Those who gave a valid answer to this question constitute 95.9% of the respondents, therefore, evaluations will be made based on the answer of 2318 individuals (see Table 4.2.)

This question offers useful data for assessing the degree of sensitivity between the environment and development. But do those who opt for the first proposal really make environmental conservation their top priority in their day-to-day activities? Based only on their response, we are unable to determine if they manage their waste, carbon, or water footprints or otherwise behave in “an environmentally conscious” manner. The end customer gets referred to in the literature by terms like “environmentally friendly”, “eco-conscious”, and “eco-friendly consumer”. Consequently, even if the EP concept developed in this thesis does not include all these concepts, it has been applied in a manner that is nearly like to it within the parameters of this investigation.

In Türkiye, 58% of the respondents preferred the first proposition that is protecting the environment should be given priority, even if it causes slower economic growth and some loss of jobs or economic growth (EP). Other remaining part of the respondents selected second choice which is creating jobs should be the top priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent (EGS). This shows that more than half of Türkiye's population, regardless of demographic, socioeconomic and political perspectives, prefer an environmentally benign development. This indicates that more than half of Türkiye's population, regardless of demographic, socioeconomic, and political perspectives, expressed a preference for development that does not cause environmental damage.

4.2.1.2. Independent Variables and Categorizations

The WVS dataset provides a rich source of demographic variables that can be employed in the regression analysis as independent variables to see environmental concern differentiation. These variables, including settlement size, household size, number of children, educational level, occupational group, income level, and political

affiliation, offer valuable insights into the demographic factors that could be shape environmental attitudes and behaviors.

A total of 2415 people were interviewed, with an equal distribution of men and women. Here is the Table 4.3. display distribution of sample group under the sub-group categories.

The political orientation of being a leftist or rightist was examined in the WVS 2018 question paper with the following question: "We often hear about 'left' and 'right' in politics. Below is a 10-point left-right scale, where '1' is the farthest left and '10' is the farthest right" was asked. In the context of this thesis, we recoded the responses into three categories “Right (8-10)”, “Center (5-7)”, and “Left (1-4)”. “The Right” category was used as the reference value in the logistic regression analysis.

Table 4.3. Sample Distribution.

	Percentage Distribution (%)	Number of Respondents
SETTLEMENT SIZE		
Under 5000	4,5	108
5000-20000	5,5	132
20000-100000	20,5	494
100000-500000	52,7	1273
500000 and more	16,9	408
AGE		
16-29	29,5	712
30-49	45,0	1086
50+	25,5	616
GENDER		
Male	50,0	1207
Female	50,0	1208
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD		
1-2	21,6	520

3-4	55,2	1329
5+	23,2	560
NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
No children	40,3	974
1 child	15,9	384
2 children	24,3	588
3 children and more	19,4	469
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL		
No education	11,5	277
Primary school	36,4	876
Secondary school	10,6	256
High school	24,3	585
University	17,1	412
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP		
Never had a job	28,3	651
Professional and technical	6,7	154
Higher administrative	9,0	208
Clerical	8,2	188
Service	2,9	66
Skilled worker	31,3	722
Semi-skilled worker	2,9	66
Unskilled worker	8,1	186
Farm worker	1,0	23
Farm owner, farm manager	1,7	40
INCOME LEVEL		
Low	14,9	347
Medium	74,6	1738
High	10,5	244
LEFT-RIGHT POLITICAL SCALE		
Left (1-4)	21,9	471
Center (5-7)	42,0	903
Right (8-10)	36,1	777
TOTAL	100,0	2415

The “income” question was divided into 10 categories in the WVS data, and the respondents were asked which groups they were in. According to the answers given by

the respondents, three main sub-groups were formed within the scope of this research. Income level was categorized into three main groups: low income, medium level of income, and high income. Our sample is represented by 14.9% in the low-income category, 74.6% in the medium-income category, and 10.5% in the high-income category.

Regarding the occupational group variable, in the WVS questionnaire, the respondent is asked which of the following occupational groups he/she belongs to. And the categories under this question are listed below.

1. “Professional and technical” (for example: engineer, teacher, doctor, accountant, artist, and nurse)”
2. “Higher administrative” (for example: banker, executive in big business, high government official, union official)
3. “Clerical” (for example: bookkeeper secretary, office manager, clerk, and civil servant,
4. “Sales “(for example: sales manager, shop assistant shop owner, buyer, and insurance agent)
5. “Service” (for example: barber, police officer, caregiver, restaurant owner, and waitress)
6. “Skilled worker (for example: foreman, motor mechanic, printer, seamstress, tool and die maker, electrician) “
7. “Semi-skilled workers (for example: cannery worker, bricklayer, carpenter, bus driver, baker and still-metal worker,)
8. “Unskilled worker” (for example: unskilled factory worker, porter, laborer, and cleaner)

9. "Farm worker" (for example: tractor driver, farm laborer, etc.)

10. "Farm proprietor, farm manager"

11. "Never had a job"

The data provided a comprehensive understanding of the occupation status of our sample. To get 10 categories, keep the "never had a job" category and make little adjustments while attempting to maintain this variate as much as possible.

The original survey has eight categories based on population size of residences. The "settlement size" variable was recoded into five categories, for the purposes of this thesis. From small to large "under 5000", "5000-20000", "20000-100000", "100000-500000" and "500000 and more". First category "under 5000" is the reference value of logistic regression analysis.

In the WVS questionnaire, to find out the number of children, the question "how many people, including you and children, live in your household permanently" was asked. Within the scope of the research, this variable was classified into 4 categories: "no children", "1 child", "2 children", "3 + more children".

In addition, persons other than children living in the same household were analyzed with a separate question, which gave us enough information to calculate the household size for this survey. In line with the objectives of the thesis, the "Household size" variable was recoded into three categories: "1-2", "3-4", and "5+", with the "5+" category used as the reference value. The same question also helps to find the number of children in the household.

The "education level" question in the survey was structured as "What is your level of education? What is the highest level of schooling you have completed or left unfinished?" The initial 12 categories were recoded into five categories: "University",

“High school, “Secondary school”, “Primary school”, and “No education. The "No education" category was used as the reference category in the logistic regression analysis



4.3. Limitation

In the marketing context, access to large digital datasets or the ability to design small-scale studies is feasible. However, identifying vulnerable groups and developing policies in this area is challenging due to the lack of available data. This limitation makes it difficult to tailor and implement effective strategies for promoting environmental sustainability among different demographic segments.

Throughout this research, numerous studies measuring consumer environmental sensitivity for market research purposes were encountered. In our daily lives, even platforms like Instagram analyze our data to identify our needs and market products to us. This highlights how adeptly big data is optimized in the context of sales. Yet, when it comes to formulating climate change policies to protect vulnerable countries and societal structures, and to develop strategies for more efficient use of natural resources, there is a constant challenge of data scarcity.

If an individual is not within the target audience of a brand, their data is often unavailable, rendering them invisible in the dataset. This lack of data presents significant obstacles to developing inclusive and effective climate policies. The absence of comprehensive data on vulnerable populations impedes the ability to design targeted interventions that address the specific needs and challenges faced by these groups. Consequently, this limitation not only affects policy formulation but also hinders the monitoring and evaluation of implemented strategies, reducing the overall effectiveness of efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainability.

Additionally, the dynamic nature of environmental issues and the rapid pace of technological advancement necessitate continuous data collection and analysis. However, limited resources and infrastructural challenges in many regions exacerbate the difficulty of maintaining up-to-date and accurate datasets. These constraints underline the need for

improved data collection methodologies and increased investment in research infrastructure to support the development of robust and responsive climate policies.



CHAPTER 5. RESULTS

The results of the regression analysis completed within the scope of the thesis will be presented in a separate sub-section as univariate and multivariate findings, respectively.

In this section, the percentage distribution of individuals in the sample who prioritize either environmental protection or economic development across various demographic subgroups will be firstly presented. Next, the findings from the univariate regression analysis will be shared. This analysis examines the impact of each variable on environmental concern, providing a clear understanding of the isolated effects of factors such as settlement size, income, and number of children, household size, occupation, and political ideology. Finally, the results of the multivariate regression analysis will be presented. This comprehensive analysis considers the combined effects of multiple variables on environmental concern, offering a more detailed and nuanced understanding of the relationships and interactions among the various factors influencing environmental awareness and protection behaviors in Türkiye.

5.1 Demographic Profile of Environmentalists in Turkey

Table 5.1. exhibits the percentage distribution of dependent variable by independent variables. That presents the distribution of preferences between prioritizing economic growth and job creation versus protecting the environment among various demographic and socio-economic groups in Türkiye.

The gender distribution of the total respondents is balanced, and there appears to be little difference between men and women in terms of prioritizing environmental protection. Overall, 57.8% of the respondents prioritize protecting the environment, while the remaining respondents prioritize the creation of new job opportunities and economic growth.

Table 5.1. Sub-Group Percentage Distribution.

	EGP	EP	Total %	Number of observations
SETTLEMENT SIZE				
Under 5000	59,2	40,8	100,0	98
5000-20000	39,7	60,3	100,0	126
20000-100000	44,7	55,3	100,0	472
100000-500000	39,6	60,4	100,0	1226
500000 and more	43,9	56,1	100,0	396
AGE				
16-29	39,7	60,3	100,0	668
30-49	43,9	56,1	100,0	1054
50+	42,2	57,8	100,0	595
GENDER				
Male	41,9	58,1	100,0	1161
Female	42,6	57,4	100,0	1157
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD				
1-2	38,7	61,3	100,0	506
3-4	41,9	58,1	100,0	1287
5+	46,5	53,5	100,0	520
NUMBER OF CHILDREN				
No children	40,3	59,7	100,0	931
1 child	42,6	57,4	100,0	376
2 children	40,1	59,9	100,0	569
3 children and more	48,9	51,1	100,0	442
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL				
No education	46,9	53,1	100,0	258
Primary school	43,3	56,7	100,0	843
Secondary school	42,2	57,8	100,0	249
High school	41,2	58,8	100,0	566
University	39,0	61,0	100,0	395
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP				
Never had a job	41,3	58,7	100,0	625
Professional and technical	29,3	70,7	100,0	150
Higher administrative	37,1	62,9	100,0	202
Clerical	36,5	63,5	100,0	181
Service	54,0	46,0	100,0	63
Skilled worker	44,7	55,3	100,0	698

Semi-skilled worker	61,3	38,7	100,0	62
Unskilled worker	47,5	52,5	100,0	179
Farm worker	45,0	55,0	100,0	20
Farm owner, farm manager	57,9	42,1	100,0	38
INCOME LEVEL				
Low	47,8	52,2	100,0	337
Medium	42,4	57,6	100,0	1687
High	31,3	68,8	100,1	240
LEFT-RIGHT POLITICAL SCALE				
Left (1-4)	36,9	63,1	100,0	447
Center (5-7)	39,6	60,4	100,0	882
Right (8-10)	51,0	49,0	100,0	755
TOTAL	42,2	57,8	100,0	2415

Left-leaning individuals (63.1%) and centrists (60.4%) prioritize environmental protection, whereas right-leaning individuals show a stronger preference for economic growth (51.0%).

Higher income groups demonstrate a significant preference for environmental protection (68.8%) compared to lower income groups, who prioritize economic growth (47.8%). In addition, 57.6% of the middle-income group preferred EP.

Professionals and technical workers exhibit the highest preference for environmental protection (70.7%), contrasting sharply with farm owners/managers, who prioritize economic growth (42.1%).

Households with fewer members (1-2 people) have a stronger preference for environmental protection (61.3%) compared to larger households (5+ people) who prioritize economic growth more (46.5%). Interestingly, households without children lean more towards environmental protection (59.7%), whereas those with three or more children prioritize economic growth (48.9%).

According to Table 5.1., there is no substantial variation in environmental sensitivity between age groups, with a minor difference between 56.1% and 60.3%.

Younger respondents (ages 16–29) are more concerned than those in middle age (30–49) and elderly respondents. (50+) exhibits a somewhat lower predisposition toward environmental concerns.

Respondents from smaller settlements (under 5000 residents) predominantly prioritize economic growth and job creation (59.2%), while those from larger urban areas (100000-500000 residents) show a significant preference for environmental protection (60.4%) It cannot be generalize that environmental concern increases with the size of the settlement. However, it is evident that the sensitivity towards the environment varies according to the size of the settlement.

Higher education correlates with a stronger preference for environmental protection. University graduates (61.0%) are significantly more inclined to prioritize the environment compared to those with no education (53.1%).

Both males and females prioritize environmental protection similarly, with females (57.4%) being slightly more inclined than males (58.1%).

The data reveals a general preference for environmental protection across most groups, with significant variations based on political orientation, income level, occupational group, household size, number of children, settlement size, and education level. Notably, smaller settlements and lower socio-economic groups tend to prioritize economic growth and job creation more than their counterparts.

This distribution highlights the multifaceted nature of environmental concern, influenced by demographic and socio-economic factors, reflecting diverse priorities within the Türkiye population.

This structured analysis provides a clear understanding of how different groups within the sample prioritize environmental protection versus economic growth, which can be valuable for interpreting the regression analysis results in this thesis

5.2. Binary Logistic Regression Interpretation: Who Prefers Environment?

Univariate analysis explores the factors influencing environmental concern in Türkiye using logistic regression model. The dependent variable is binary, categorized as "Environmental Protector (EP)" and "Economy Growth Supporter (EGS)". The results presented in the Table 5.2. focus on the impact of various socio-demographic characteristics on the likelihood of being an "Environmental Protector" compared to the reference category "Economy Growth Supporter".

Table 5.2. summarizes the relationship between various socio-demographic characteristics and the likelihood of prioritizing environmental protection in the Turkish population. It could be interpreting the results to see which factors are statistically significant predictors of environmental concern.

Individuals who identify with left-wing or centrist political ideologies are more likely to embrace environmental protection compared to those who align with right-wing views. This is supported by statistically significant values and Exp(B) values greater than 1 for both left-wing (1.78) and centrist (1.59) groups.

The analysis reveals a significant association between income level and environmental concern. Particularly, the high-income group has a significant value of 0.000, and since the value of 1 is within the confidence interval, a strong relationship can be inferred compared to our reference group, the low-income group.

People with medium or high income are much more likely to be EPs compared to those with low income. The statistical significance is strong, especially for high-income and reasonably strong for medium income (Sig. =0.069). The odds ratios show that medium income people are 1.24 times more likely, and high-income people are 2.01 times more likely, to be EPs compared to those with low income.

The analysis also reveals a significant association between occupational groups and environmental concern. "Farm Owner/Manager" is likely the reference category in this analysis.

People in some professions are much more likely to be environmental protectors. These professions include "Professional and Technical", "Higher Administrative," and "Clerical", with high odds ratios and significant statistical evidence supporting this. The category "Never had a job" also has a sensitivity difference of 96%.

On the other hand, "Skilled Workers", "Unskilled Workers", "Service Workers", and "Semi-skilled Workers" do not show a significant difference in environmental concern compared to "Farm Owner/Manager". Despite having odds ratios higher than 1 (except for "Semi-skilled Workers"), their statistical significance is low, meaning there's no strong evidence that these professions are more likely to be EPs.

Table 5.2. Results of Univariate Regression Analysis.

	Sig.	Exp(B)	95%C.I. Lower	95%C.I. Upper
SETTLEMENT SIZE				
Under 5000		1,00		
5000-20000	0,004	2,20	1,29	3,78
20000-100000	0,010	1,79	1,15	2,79
100000-500000	0,000	2,21	1,45	3,36
500000 and more	0,007	1,85	1,18	2,90
AGE				
16-29	0,364	1,11	0,89	1,39
30-49	0,493	0,93	0,76	1,14
50+		1,00		
GENDER				
Male		1,00		
Female	0,715	0,97	0,82	1,14
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD				
1-2	0,012	1,38	1,07	1,76
3-4	0,071	1,21	0,98	1,48
5+		1,00		

NUMBER OF CHILDREN					
No children	0,003	1,42	1,13	1,78	
1 child	0,071	1,29	0,98	1,70	
2 children	0,005	1,43	1,11	1,84	
3 children and more		1,00			
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL					
No education		1,00			
Primary school	0,308	1,16	0,87	1,53	
Secondary school	0,284	1,21	0,85	1,72	
High school	0,123	1,26	0,94	1,70	
University	0,046	1,38	1,01	1,90	
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP					
Never had a job	0,047	1,96	1,01	3,80	
Professional and technical	0,001	3,31	1,59	6,90	
Higher administrative	0,019	2,33	1,15	4,71	
Clerical	0,016	2,40	1,18	4,88	
Service	0,701	1,17	0,52	2,64	
Skilled worker	0,115	1,70	0,88	3,29	
Semi-skilled worker	0,737	0,87	0,38	1,98	
Unskilled worker	0,246	1,52	0,75	3,09	
Farm worker	0,351	1,68	0,56	5,00	
Farm owner, farm manager		1,00			
INCOME LEVEL					
Low		1,00			
Medium	0,069	1,24	0,98	1,57	
High	0,000	2,01	1,42	2,85	
LEFT-RIGHT POLITICAL SCALE					
Left (1-4)	0,000	1,78	1,40	2,26	
Center (5-7)	0,000	1,59	1,31	1,93	
Right (8-10)		1,00			

Having “no children” or “2 children” significantly increases the odds of being EP compared to having “1 child” or “3 or more children”, with a significance level of less than 0.05. Although having “1 child” is not statistically significant, the odds value, with a confidence interval between 0.98 and 1.48, is greater than 1, indicating that having one child is somewhat meaningful. Those without children are the most environmentally

conscious compared to those with three or more children. Sensitivity and significance decrease with “1 child”, but those with “2 children” are almost as environmentally conscious as those with “no children”. Those with “3 or more children” are our reference group and are the least sensitive compared to other categories.

Individuals living in households with “1-2 people” are more likely to be EPs compared to those in households with “3-4 people”. The effect weakens for households with “3-4 people”. While the odds ratio is still greater than 1, it's closer to 1 compared to the “1-2 people” category. Additionally, it can be roughly said that the sensitivity decreases as household size increases.

The Table 5.2. shows that the significant values greater than 0.05 for all age groups (16-29 and 30-49) compared to the reference category (50+). This suggests that there is not statistically relationship between age groups and environmental concern. Even if a significant relationship had existed, the odds values would have shown only very small differences. The youngest category, aged 16-29 years, has a high sensitivity of only 11 per cent, but this is not statistically proven.

Gender doesn't have a significant effect on environmental concern. It shows that there is not much divergence in the context of our dependent variable for men and women.

Settlement Size: Individuals residing in larger settlements (5000-20000, 20000-100000, 100000-500000, and 500000+) have significantly higher odds of being an environmental protector compared to those in settlements under 5000 residents.

All settlement categories (5000-20000, 20000-100000, 100000-500000, and 500000+) have a significance value less than 0.05., which indicates a statistically significant relationship between the variable, settlement size, and the dependent variable which is environmental concern.

In simpler terms, the fact that all settlement categories have a low Sig. value (p-value), confidence intervals excluding 1, and odds ratios greater than 1 (except the reference category), provides strong statistical evidence that settlement size is a significant factor influencing environmental concern. People residing in larger settlements are more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those in smaller towns with less than 5000 residents.

There's a statistically significant relationship between educational attainment and environmental concern. This is evident from the Sig. values in the Table 5.2., where "University" (0.046) is likely less than 0.05. The odds values increase from no education to university level but not significant.

Compared to people who have "no education" or "primary school education," individuals who have "higher education" are more likely to be EPs. This is supported by the finding that those with a university degree had a higher propensity to safeguard the environment than those in the reference group, who have no formal education.

Overall, this univariate analysis provides valuable insights into the socio-demographic factors associated with environmental concern in Türkiye. The findings are highlighting the importance of political orientation, income level, occupational group, household size, number of children, education level, and settlement size in shaping environmental sensitivity.

5.3. Combining the Effects of Multiple Factors in Determining Environmental Preference

The results of the univariate analysis, which analyzes dependent variables individually, independently of each other in terms of their impact on the state of being EP, areas described above. When all variables are included in the regression analysis together,

that is, multivariate analysis, the categories that appear statistically significant are political scale, income level, occupational group, number of children, and settlement size.

As a result, regression analysis covers a total of 2318 instances, with 90 missing. The omnibus tests show that the model is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). The variables are also provided in Table 5.3.

Before presenting the findings, the results of the statistical tests of the regression analysis are shown in the table below.

Table 5.3. Statistical Testing Results.

Number of Cases	Missing Cases	Omnibus Tests			Variables in Analysis
		Chi-square	P Value	Nagelkerke R Square	
2318	90	97.372	0.000	0.067	Left-right political scale, Income level, Occupational group, Educational level, Number of children, Household size, Settlement Size, Gender, and Age.

When examining the results of the statistical analysis, it can be observed that the political spectrum itself plays a significant role in shaping attitudes towards the environment. The results of the multivariate analysis for political ideology reveal a statistically significant association with environmental protection prioritization.

Individuals who identify themselves on the left are 1.71 times more likely to prioritize environment than those who identify themselves on the right of the spectrum. This relationship is statistically significant ($p = 0.000$) and the 95% confidence interval (1.35 - 2.27) indicates that the true odds ratio is within this range.

Individuals, who has a central political view, are also 1.55 times more likely to prioritize environment compared to those on the right view. This association is statistically

significant and the 95% confidence interval (1.24 - 1.95) so that it indicates resilient relationship with political affiliation and environmental concern.

The results of the multivariate analysis for income level indicate a statistically significant association with environmental protection prioritization. Table 5.4. shows an odd value of 1.76 for high income, with a significance level and confidence interval that includes 1. These findings indicate a strong relationship, proving that high-income individuals are more environmentally conscious compared to low-income individuals.

People with Medium income tend to be slightly more likely to care about environmental protection compared to those with Low income. However, this difference is not statistically significant (0.100), the 95% confidence interval between 0.96 and 1.67 indicates the possibility of positive association or even no real difference.

Table 5.4. Results of Multivariate Regression Analysis.

	Sig.	Exp(B)	95%C.I. Lower	95%C.I. Upper
SETTLEMENT SIZE				
under 5000		1,00		
5000-20000	0,002	2,56	1,41	4,66
20000-100000	0,036	1,70	1,03	2,79
100000-500000	0,002	2,12	1,32	3,40
500000 and more	0,010	1,95	1,17	3,24
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD				
1-2	0,368	1,16	0,84	1,62
3-4	0,713	1,05	0,80	1,39
5+		1,00		
NUMBER OF CHILDREN				
No Children	0,361	1,18	0,83	1,70
1 Child	0,134	1,32	0,92	1,91
2 Children	0,010	1,53	1,11	2,12
3 Children and more		1,00		
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL				
No Education		1,00		
Primary School	0,397	1,15	0,83	1,61

Secondary School	0,772	1,06	0,70	1,61
High School	0,619	1,10	0,76	1,60
University	0,858	0,96	0,63	1,46
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP				
Never had a Job	0,172	1,68	0,80	3,52
Professional And Technical	0,033	2,49	1,08	5,73
Higher Administrative	0,229	1,61	0,74	3,52
Clerical	0,150	1,80	0,81	3,99
Service	0,829	0,90	0,37	2,24
Skilled Worker	0,509	1,28	0,62	2,65
Semi-Skilled Worker	0,514	0,74	0,30	1,84
Unskilled Worker	0,503	1,31	0,60	2,85
Farm Worker	0,151	2,53	0,71	8,99
Farm Owner, Farm Manager		1,00		
INCOME LEVEL				
Low		1,00		
Medium	0,100	1,26	0,96	1,67
High	0,008	1,76	1,16	2,66
LEFT-RIGHT POLITICAL SCALE				
Left (1-4)	0,000	1,71	1,32	2,22
Center (5-7)	0,000	1,55	1,25	1,94
Right (8-10)		1,00		

“Professional and Technical” workers are 2.49 times more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to farm owner/managers. Only this association is statistically significant in this category. Higher administrative workers are 2.61 times more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to farm workers.

“Clerical workers”, individuals in this occupation are 1.80 times more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to farm workers.

No statistically significant differences were found in environmental protection prioritization for “Never had a job”, “Service”, “Skilled worker”, “Semi-skilled worker”, or “Unskilled worker” compared to “farm workers”.

Additionally, it should be noted that the odds value of each category, except for semi-skilled and service sector workers, is greater than 1.

There is no statistically significant difference in environmental protection prioritization between individuals with no children and those with three or more children ($p > 0.268$). This is reflected in the Exp (B) value of 1.23 for no children and more, indicating no change in odds compared to the reference category 3 children and more.

Individuals with 1 child have a 32% increased likelihood of prioritizing environmental protection compared to the reference category, but this increase is not statistically significant ($p = 0.104$).

Having two children is linked to a higher likelihood of prioritizing environmental protection. This finding is statistically significant (0.010) and supported by an odds ratio, individuals with two children are 1.53 times more likely to be environmentally conscious compared to the reference group and individual with three children or more.

The results for settlement size indicate that individuals residing in settlements with a population of more than 5,000 are significantly more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those living in smaller settlement size like under 5000 which is the reference category. With a population of 500,000 or more. The coefficient for the Btw 5000-20000 category is statistically significant ($p = 0.002$), and the odds ratio ($\exp(B)$) is 2.62. This means that individuals living in settlements with a population of more than 5,000 to 20000 are 2.62 times more expected to prioritize environmental protection associated with the reference category.

The coefficients for the settlement size category of 20000-100000 are not statistically significant, but they still provide some information about the relationship between settlement size and environmental protection prioritization. For example, the coefficient for the category is not statistically significant ($p = 0.053$), but the odds ratio is 1.63. This means that individuals living in settlements with a population between 5,000

and 20,000 are 1.63 times more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to the reference category.

For settlement sizes of 100,000 and above, both categories show significant values, such as 0.004 and 0.019, with the value of 1 falling between their upper and lower confidence interval values. Considering all this, it can be said that the size of the settlement where a person lives makes a significant difference in their environmental sensitivity.

Education level is significant in the context of confidence interval level. However, the difference in the odd value according to education level is around 15% and none of the odd values in this category is significant.

In this sense, the number of children category is like the education level category. No odd value was significant under this category, and Table 5.4. shows that the maximum difference of 16% in terms of environmental sensitivity is for individuals with 1-2 children.

The significant relationships observed in the multivariate analysis indicate that those on the left side of the political spectrum, those with higher incomes, those working in certain occupational groups (professional and technical), those with two children, and those residing outside small settlements are more likely to prioritize environmental protection among the Turkish population.

CHAPTER 6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Who preferred development or the environment more? The preceding section contained the initial results of the studies performed using the information gathered from 2318 individuals who represented Türkiye in 2018.

In this chapter, based on the statistical analysis completed in the thesis, will demonstrate that several variables have a substantial influence on being Environmental Protector (EP) in Türkiye. First, the significant findings of statistical analysis by independent variables of this study will be given particularly (political orientation, income level, occupational group, number of children, and settlement size). In addition, of course, comments on some statistically insignificant indicators (like age, gender, education level, and household size) will also be shared. After that, existing studies' results, which also investigate the power of demographic variable on environmental attitudes of respondents, will be compared to our findings. Then, prospective new study fields indicated by the thesis findings will be addressed. Finally, the chapter will end with the thesis' conclusion.

Political ideology has a significant impact on the formation of environmental protector. Individuals situated on the left or center of the political spectrum are demonstrably more inclined to prioritize environmental protection than those on the right. This aligns with the general observation that left-wing ideologies tend to emphasize environmental values such as sustainability, conservation, and social justice, which are also the outcomes of this thesis. Hypothesis 5, which posits that individuals who identify with the left side of the political spectrum are more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those who identify with the right or center, is not rejected.

Already in Running's 2012 study, left lean's political ideology was taken as a control variable. In that study, environmental concern across developed, transitioning, and developing countries was examined using World Values Survey (WVS) data. However,

within the scope of the research of this thesis, individuals with central political views as well as leftists prioritize the environment. It is pleasing that this central group, which has a high representation in Turkish society, is 55% more sensitive to the environment than the reference group. This may be a valuable contribution to the literature; not only leftists but also those with central political views prioritize the environment.

Running also used, "high level of education" as control variables too. However, when all variables were included in the multivariate analysis, no education category emerged as statistically significant. Interestingly, when education was analyzed individually, only the 'university' category reached significance, with a 38% effect. This finding suggests a trend of increasing environmental concern with higher education levels, which aligns with existing literature. The lack of significance for the broader 'high education' category in the multivariate analysis might be attributed to the fact that occupation, rather than general education level, plays a more influential role. This will be explained in more detail in the following pages.

The Post-Materialist Value Explanation (PMVE) is found to align with the overall results related to income variables. When the power of income data as a single variable was examined, it was revealed that the high-income group exhibits a statistically significant 76% increase in environmental consciousness compared to the low-income group. Similarly, a 26% increase in environmental consciousness is observed for the middle-income group when compared to the low-income group.

In the univariate analysis, it can be assumed that this middle-income group will become more sensitive to the environment. This is a good thing for the environment, if the middle class's share in society is considered.

That is what the thesis revealed, Higher level of income is integrated with a greater likelihood of prioritizing environmental protection. This is in line with the already existing literature, besides individuals with medium income also significant 1.24 times larger than

the reference category in the univariate analysis. It can be suggested that this is a significant finding respectively their high or low level of representation of them in the society.

When examining the impact of economic affluence on environmental sensitivity, our analysis indicates that as income levels rise, so does environmental awareness. This finding aligns with a study conducted using WVS data in 2005, which stated that economic wellbeing has minimal absolute influence on environmental sensitivity and no changing impact on environmental behavior. Income equality, subjective wellbeing, and urbanization are directly affecting environmental sensitivity. Whereas there is a high correlation between environmental behavior and happiness, population pressure, and education. (Duroy, 2005). It is understood that while affluent groups may have environmental awareness, other factors determine their positive action towards environmental issues.

While higher income levels correlate with increased environmental awareness, the transition to positive environmental action among affluent groups depends on additional determinants such as urbanization, subjective well-being, and income equality, as well as personal motivation to manage their carbon footprint effectively.

Numerous studies in the field of marketing (Heydari, et al, 2021; Bai, et, al, 2020) have explored individuals' eco-friendly consumption habits. Income is an important parameter in consumption research, those with higher income are more likely to spend. The group most capable of acting on environmental issues is the high-income group. However, it is essential that they have the motivation to control their carbon budget and act accordingly.

Other significant independent variable of this study is “occupation”. In the univariate analysis, nearly all categories of occupation were statistically significant, with odds ratios differing from one (except Semi-skilled workers odd value (0.87)). However,

in our multivariate analysis, where we controlled for all other variables, only the professional group had a significant value less than 0.05.

Certain occupational groupings are more likely to be concerned about the environment. Professionals in technical professions, upper-level administrative jobs, and clerical occupations are more likely to emphasize environmental preservation than farm owners/managers. Although "never had a job" has an almost double (1.96) significant odd value in the univariate analysis compared to various profession groups (such as skilled worker, unskilled worker, service, semi-skilled worker, and farm worker). It's a strange conclusion that an unemployed person appreciates the environment despite job losses. Housewives are likely to make up the bulk of that population. A group that has never worked in the public realm or sought for work is more susceptible than many other job-holding sectors. When seen from this perspective, housewives who labor 7/24 without pay at home demonstrate their sensitivity at this moment.

Only those in the professional group were significant in the multivariate analysis of occupations that were significant in the univariate. This group's significant odd value is over 2.5 times greater than the reference group. This group includes jobs such as engineer, teacher, doctor, accountant, artist, and nurse. As can be observed, persons working in this category must have previously completed their university studies. As a result, it is usual that university graduates are not noteworthy in multivariate analysis. Because of the fact that, it may be claimed that education status has transferred the explanatory power of EP to the occupation indicator.

The professions, housewives, farmers, and public servants showed greater environmental knowledge than the other categories studied. (Gürbüz et al., 2021). While the occupation groups differ slightly from those in this thesis, there are notable similarities. In this analysis, "Professionals in technical fields", "higher administrative" positions, "clerical" roles, and "never had a job" are more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to "farm owners/managers".

The agricultural sector is directly affected by environmental degradation, and agricultural workers are thought to see first-hand shifts in climate and other impacts from year to year, however the most EP group was not agricultural workers. Actually, in multivariate analysis it has higher odd value (more than 2.5 times) but insignificant possibly it is related to low observation level of that group. However, within the same sector, employers or managers, who were used as the reference group in our analysis, exhibited even less EP than “the never had job” group. This indicates that not everyone working in the agricultural sector should be assumed to be environmentally conscious. This suggests that recommending educational awareness programs for all categories may not be meaningful. Therefore, if educational awareness programs are to be implemented, targeting this particular group (employers and managers in agriculture) might be more effective.

The number of children plays a role in shaping environmental concern. Individuals with two children are 1.5 times more likely to prioritize environmental conservation than those with more than three children. As the number of children increases and thus the size of the household increases, they become less protective of the environment. Considering that crowded and multi-child households are economically backward, it may appear more vital to ensure the development and survival of the entire household at the level of fundamental needs. It is fully compatible with the PMVE.

In univariate analysis, those without children had greater levels of EP than those with three or more children. As a result, the mere presence of children may not motivate people to take action to safeguard the environment. This rejects Hypothesis 2, which states that people with children are more likely to prioritize environmental protection than people without children, assuming that parents desire to provide a safe environment for their offspring.

When examining the category number of persons in the household, it is important to note that larger families tend to have lower rates of environmental protection compared

to households with 1-2 or 3-4 members. Although not all categories show a statistically significant relationship between household size and environmental concern, as the number of people in the household increases, the strength of the relationship with environmental concern decreases.

Individuals from households with larger sizes may exhibit lower levels of environmental sensitivity in univariate analysis compared to other groups. In fact, no household size was significant in the multivariate analysis. In the category of the number of children, which can be related to household, people who has two children has 55% more EPs. Therefore, according to this analysis, household size can only have an indirect explanatory role.

In addition, although households with 5 persons or more are insensitive in our univariate analysis, empirical evidence indicates that individuals residing in households with a high population density tend to exhibit a more sustainable consumption of natural resources per capita. Yu and Liu (2007) conducted a study highlighting how divorced families increased spatial needs within the home (such as the need for separate rooms for each child and other adjustments) can lead to significant differences in energy, water, waste management, and heating and cooling requirements. Therefore, despite household size five and above have lower levels of sensitivity, their lifestyle choices enable them to sustainably maintain their impact on the environment by consuming fewer resources.

Regarding educational status, in univariate analysis, EP spreads as education level increases, particularly among university graduates, who showed statistical significance. In studies focusing on energy consumption, university and middle school graduates were initiate to be more conscious about their energy use than other educational categories (Gürbüz et al., 2021). However, keep in mind that individuals who prioritize the environment or development make no substantial difference in our multivariate study of educational status. The study cited above also shows that education level has an impact on taking action to prioritize the environment, such as energy use.

The size of the settlement emerged as a significant factor influencing environmental concern. Individuals residing in larger settlements, such as those with populations between 5000 and 500,000 or more, are more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those living in smaller settlements with fewer than 5000 residents.

It is crucial to consider that exposure to environmental hazards and pollution, in addition to settlement size, can influence an individual's environmental awareness and perception. Perhaps the urban dwellers in our study emerged as more environmentally conscious due to their exposure to and experience of risks associated with urban floods, flash floods, and heat waves. It is a finding compatible with the first hypothesis formed within the scope of the research question. In our research, those living in settlements with a population above 5000 were almost twice as sensitive as those below 5000. In this context, urbanization may indeed have an effect on risk perception. As already mentioned in the Objective Problem Explanation (OPE) perspective in our theoretical framework, direct risks and experiences of harm can heighten environmental sensitivity. However, since the environmental risk perception of individuals was not asked in our data set used in this study, the relationship with the sensitivity difference at the settlement size could not be statistically revealed.

Moreover, if smaller settlements do not directly experience environmental pollution or frequently face climate change-induced disasters like floods and other extreme events, they may not develop an EP approach. In such cases, the need for a clean and safe environment for those living in large cities who suffer from health problems due to air pollution or are trapped in underpasses during climate change-induced urban floods can serve as a stronger motivator for adopting an EP approach compared to the risks faced by individuals in larger settlements.

According to the PMVE, environmental sensitivity is expected to be higher among individuals who have reached a certain level of affluence, where their basic needs are fully

met. In the context of our research, perhaps individuals living in smaller settlements may be more preoccupied with concerns related to development and improving their overall well-being. While some job losses may be associated with environmental protection measures, these measures could also pose a significant threat to the overall living conditions in these communities.

Cheng and Wu (2015) statistically demonstrated that individuals in smaller settlements are more environmentally conscious, attributing this to a sense of place attachment. Our findings, however, diverge significantly from this conclusion. In the multivariate analysis, there is no linear increase in sensitivity as the size of the settlement increases. Where the city size is the largest (500000 and more), there is a nearly 2-fold increase, whereas smaller cities (5000-20000) are more than 2.5 times more sensitive. Perhaps the differences observed in certain categories such as these can be attributed to factors such as place attachment.

In the multivariate analysis, as the size of the settlement increases, different levels of sensitivity are observed. In contrast to Cheng and Wu (2015), settlements below 5000 were found to be insensitive. According to their study, they statistically showed that individuals in small settlements were more sensitive to the environment and attributed this to a sense of place attachment. In the largest towns (500000 and above) there was a nearly 2-fold increase, while smaller towns (5000-20000) were more than 2.5 times more sensitive. Perhaps the fluctuations observed in such specific categories are due to subjective factors such as place attachment.

In our study indicates that the age variable does not significantly impact the likelihood of becoming an EP. In the context of the dependent variable of this study, the age variable did not make much difference. Maybe it can be said that the youngest group was slightly more sensitive, but no statistical evidence was found. Nevertheless, age remains a critical factor to consider in environmental policymaking for example due to its

influence on energy consumption patterns. Bardazzi and Pazienza conducted a study examining how aging and changing energy needs of generation may affect future culture of energy consumption. The researchers considered the anticipated alterations in the demographic composition of the population, with respect to age, socioeconomic status, and geographic distribution. Their research showed that the usage of natural gas and electricity increases with age and from older to younger individuals. (Bardazzi and Pazienza 2020).

The findings of this study shows that gender is not a significant determinant. Traditionally, women are considered to be among the vulnerable groups, including climate habitus. They are vulnerable both economically and in terms of access to resources and participation in decision-making mechanisms. This group is most affected and harmed in environmental disasters. Such a fragile group cannot be expected to say yes to the question of whether they care about the environment despite some job loss. In addition, if we were to measure environmental sensitivity behaviorally from the WVS data, women would probably be even more sensitive. For example, based on Şentürk and Dumludağ research, it is acceptable to state that gender may affect one's capacity to utilize resources effectively. Their study was based on investigating perspective of Turkish citizens on legislative arrangement about reducing use of plastic bag⁵. Şentürk and Dumludağ controlled for participant views regarding the bag policy in their 2022 study by applying demographic information. The study revealed that the utilization of both free and paid plastic bags was impacted by environmental consciousness and many socio-demographic factors, including gender, marriage status, income bracket, and employment position.

Bülbül, Büyükkelik, Topal, and Özoğlu (2020) in their study “The Relationship between Environmental Awareness, Environmental Behaviors, and Carbon Footprint in Turkish Households” present the following findings. They emphasize that organizing and

⁵ To reduce plastic bag usage, Türkiye implemented a paid plastic bag policy on January 1, 2019, taking microplastic pollution into account.

carrying out initiatives to lessen the carbon footprint require understanding of home environmental habits. The influence of demographics on these factors was also examined, as was the link between environmental consciousness, shopping behaviors, household activities, and carbon footprint (Bülbül et al., 2020).

According to their analysis, the willingness component of environmental awareness was associated to all variables except gas, whereas the sensitivity dimension was only related to efficiency and purchase. While improvements in wealth, education, and female work status have a favorable impact on environmental awareness, they also result in an increase in the carbon footprint associated with automobile use. Willingness is only influenced by an increase in money. Income has been found to favorably influence purchases made for the environment (Bülbül et al., 2020).

These findings of those studies highlight the complex interplay between demographic factors and environmental behaviors and suggest that certain improvements in income level can increase environmental sensitivity and aspiration, while at the same time contributing to higher carbon footprints in certain areas, such as the greater energy needs of people living in large settlements.

A study by Gürbüz, Nesirov, and Özkan (2021) examined variables such as gender, income, employment, place of residence, and level of education in relation to environmental awareness, specifically measuring ecological footprint. Their findings revealed that residents of smaller settlements, such as towns, were more conscious of their ecological footprint concerning water usage. This finding contradicts with the findings in this thesis. It seems logical that rural dwellers are more sensitive about water use and conservation. On the other hand, there was no statistically significant difference in their studies by gender, which aligns with our analysis (Gürbüz et al., 2021).

When the effect of place of residence was examined, it was found that awareness on water consumed by town residents was far more than that of city residents. (Gürbüz et

al., 2021). This contradicts the research findings of this thesis. Perhaps the group that causes the least damage to the environment within the scope of the research is the population under 5000 living in settlements. However, the data to produce information in this context is not included in the WVS data.

In our study, the most notable statistically significant findings have been presented in relation to the theoretical framework and other studies. Additionally, the impact of demographic factors on environmental sensitivity was discovered. One of the most serious issues with climate habitus is the lack of data to quantify the hazards posed by climate change for undeveloped and developing countries. The science of demography, along with its concepts and methods, has been recognized as playing a greater role in the field of climate research. Muttarak (2021) convincingly supports the idea that demographic science and its parameters should be integrated into research on climate change and environmental issues. He further elaborates that demographers need to incorporate climate change-induced demographic shifts into their methodological approaches, going beyond traditional methods.

Muttarak's statement that the use of demographic science tools is fundamental for accepting the impacts of climate change and intervening in its negative effects, as well as adapting to its other consequences, is admirably articulated. At the same time, his emphasis on the need for demographers to evaluate influence of climate change-induced vulnerabilities on the fundamental research areas of demography, such as mortality, fertility, and migration, is also noteworthy.

“The human population is at the center of research on global environmental change. On the one hand, population dynamics influence the environment and the global climate system through consumption-based carbon emissions. On the other hand, the health and well-being of the population are already being affected by climate change. A knowledge of population dynamics and population heterogeneity is thus fundamental to improving our understanding of how population size, composition, and distribution influence global environmental change and how these changes affect population subgroups differentially by demographic characteristics

and spatial distribution. The increasing relevance of demographic research on the topic, coupled with availability of theoretical concepts and advancement in data and computing facilities, has contributed to growing engagement of demographers in this field. In the past 25 years, demographic research has enriched climate change research-with the key contribution being in moving beyond the narrow view that population matters only in terms of population size-by putting a greater emphasis on population composition and distribution, through presenting both empirical evidence and advanced population forecasting to account for demographic and spatial heterogeneity. What remains missing in the literature is research that investigates how global environmental change affects current and future demographic processes and, consequently, population trends. If global environmental change does influence fertility, mortality, and migration, then population estimates and forecasts need to adjust for climate feedback in population projections. Indisputably, this is the area of new research that directly requires expertise in population science and contribution from demographers.” (Muttarak 2021,p:77)

It should be noted that very recently, 1.5 years ago, a conference was organized for the first time dealing with demography and climate change. "Population and Climate Change: The Defining Relationship of the 21st Century"⁶ was organized by the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital in Vienna, 30 November - 2 December 2022. In the opening speeches, it was stated that population growth does not have a direct effect on GHG emissions and that the high level of emissions is related to the over consumption of wealthy countries and their citizens. The conference, where various research were presented, can be considered as a good start in terms of the inclusion of demography into the climate habitus. Such conferences should perhaps be organized every year. Demography should be more involved in the climate habitus not only with its useful tools but also with its theoretical framework and critical perspective.

During this study, several recommendations for further research topics emerged as particularly fascinating and in need of further investigation.

⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l4urhsyWq0&list=PLNxGCu8j-xgJPJ64oe21fh0cAzlRf7Ekv&index=2&ab_channel=ViennaInstituteofDemography

One significant finding is that individuals with higher incomes tend to exhibit greater EP but not necessarily environmental consciousness. It remains unclear whether this group genuinely benefits the environment given their consumption patterns.

Currently, it seems necessary to alter behavior regarding waste management and energy use to reduce carbon emissions. Most studies examine consumption patterns within the context of market research by using the demographic characteristics of individuals. It is crucial to recognize that this high-income group has a substantial carbon footprint, and reducing it could have a positive impact. Therefore, not only market research companies but also social scientists, particularly demographers, should collaborate in this field. Such unity would allow for the comparison of consumption patterns among countries with different economic levels, as well as among people with varying income levels within a country. These collaborative studies can help develop strategies for countries and individuals to act in accordance with sustainability goals.

The demographic variable "settlement size" was significant, with the strength of EP sensitivity varying across different sizes. This finding suggests that new research should be designed to explore this variability further. By generating data suitable for both urban and rural settings, such research could lead to the development of policies aimed at adapting to the effects of climate change and protecting both the environment and people.

There may be considerable differences in what people in large cities understand about environmental conservation compared to those in smaller, rural communities. For example, a rural resident may have practiced sustainable waste management since childhood, such as burying organic food waste or feeding it to animals. While such acts are common in modern waste management procedures, these individuals may not necessarily see themselves as engaging in EP. On the other hand, an urban and EP individual produces mountains of waste with each takeout meal and generates carbon on their route to work, all while claiming to be an environmentalist. These nuanced

differences necessitate detailed studies to ascertain which individuals are genuinely leading sustainable lives and what kinds of behaviors must be encouraged.

The first research direction should involve detailed studies on environmental awareness, examining individuals' perceptions, actions, and behaviors at home or work. This could reveal that individuals who consider themselves environmentally sensitive may not be taking significant actions to protect the environment. Conversely, those living in rural areas, who may not see themselves as environmentally conscious, might be engaging in more environmentally friendly behaviors. Urban planning at both the city and regional levels should consider the significant differences in EP across settlement sizes. Specifically, smaller rural areas with populations under 5000 need targeted research to address their environmental insensitivity.

The second research direction should focus on collecting and scientifically analyzing traditional, action-oriented experiences at the local level. This could contribute to the sustainability literature by incorporating traditional agricultural practices into modern sustainable food management. For example, a project could be designed to gather critical knowledge about preserving and producing heirloom seeds and utilizing natural agricultural protectants instead of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. The scientific documentation of such practices could provide valuable insights for climate change adaptation policies.

Finally, it has been observed in the analyses within the scope of this thesis that having children alone is not enough to be an environmental protectionist. When the world resources are considered, having a child is the biggest carbon footprint that an individual will take throughout his/her life. It is not a footprint but a big step and two big footprints. Especially in wealthy countries and the reproduction of individuals in high income groups creates a much larger carbon footprint. In this respect, the carbon footprint of the babies of developing countries, which have chosen to reduce their fertility rates in the name of economic development, is smaller. It is important to evaluate this issue in the context of

carbon footprint in the population studies because the carbon burden of countries is calculated with very rough calculations, such as carbon emitted per capita.

This chapter has demonstrated that political orientation, income level, occupational group, number of children, and settlement size significantly influence environmental protection, while age, gender, education level, and household size show less significance. The findings align with existing literature and offer new insights into the complex relationship between demography and environmental attitudes. Future research should focus on the nuanced differences in environmental behaviors across different settlement sizes and income levels, as well as the integration of traditional practices into modern sustainability efforts. By doing so, we can develop more targeted and effective policies to enhance environmental protection and sustainability.

Conclusion

This thesis has explored the intricate relationship between environmental concerns, population dynamics, and economic development, particularly within the context of Türkiye. Drawing from social sciences literature, the history of United Nations policymaking, and the evolution of these processes, the study has examined the approach of Turkish state policies to these interconnected issues. The relative importance of these concerns to Türkiye has varied over time, and this research has sought to highlight the perspectives of Turkish citizens on these critical matters.

The main research topic of this thesis is to investigate the demographic, social and ideological factors that shape people's environmental priorities in Türkiye and to understand their impact on the individual's prioritization of the environment.

The primary data source for this study is the 2018 “World Values Survey (WVS)”, which provides comprehensive insights into Turkish citizens' environmental concerns. This survey captures public attitudes and values on various subjects, including the environment, by asking questions related to environmental concerns and exploring demographic, socio-cultural, and political attitudes. The data obtained from the WVS has been instrumental in addressing the research question and understanding the demographic segments more sensitive to environmental protection (EP).

As suggested by the thesis, climate change policies today comprise these three primary policy sectors. Measuring climate change success gives insight into how the world is performing in these three areas. In addition to the WVS data, the research has utilized “the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” to assess the effectiveness of climate policies at the national and international levels. This includes an evaluation of Türkiye's efforts to combat climate change.

The study employed logistic regression analysis, both univariate and multivariate, to explore the factors influencing environmental prioritization. Univariate logistic regression identified individual factors affecting environmental concerns, while multivariate logistic regression considered the combined effects of multiple factors, providing a comprehensive understanding of the determinants of environmental attitudes in Türkiye.

The multivariate analyses of this thesis reveal that being an environmental protector (EP) is significantly associated with residing in a settlement with a population above 5,000, having two children, working in a professional or technical capacity, belonging to a higher income group, and holding political views aligned with the left or center of the political spectrum. Age, educational attainment, gender, and household size were not significant factors in the same analysis, indicating little change in an individual's level of environmental sensitivity across these variables.

While all population sizes significantly prioritize environmental protection, only those living in settlements with a population size of 5,000 and below prioritizes development. This could be attributed to the limited representation of this group in the sample (4.5%).

The study highlights the importance of evaluating how exposure to environmental risks and pollutants, as well as settlement size, affect an individual's environmental awareness and perception. Urban inhabitants may be more environmentally aware due to their exposure to urban floods, flash floods, and heat waves, supporting the OPE theory. Conversely, individuals in smaller settlements may lack direct experiences with environmental pollution or climate change-induced disasters, leading to a lower prioritization of environmental protection.

Political ideology emerged as a significant factor, with left-leaning and centrist individuals more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those on the

right. This finding aligns with the established association between environmentalism and left-wing ideologies and highlights the significance of centrist views in environmental prioritization. This may be a valuable contribution to the literature; not only leftists but also those with central political views prioritize the environment.

The study also found that individuals with two children exhibited a statistically significant increase in environmental prioritization. Household size, while significant in the univariate analysis, was not significant in the multivariate analysis, suggesting that having two children is a more important parameter than household size.

Income level was another significant factor, with individuals with high incomes more likely to prioritize environmental protection compared to those with low incomes. This finding aligns with the PMVE, indicating that environmental sensitivity increases as basic needs are met and individuals have greater resources available. The high-income group is the group with the highest ability to act on environmental issues. For this, it is very important that they have the motivation to control their carbon budgets and act accordingly. It is not enough to prioritize the environment, acting accordingly will ensure the protection of the environment. Issues such as the fact that this group harms the environment more than other groups in terms of energy use and waste production are discussed in the thesis.

Occupational status also plays a crucial role in shaping environmental concerns, with professionals in technical fields, higher administrative positions, and clerical roles demonstrating a greater likelihood of prioritizing environmental protection compared to farm owners/managers.

These findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders working to develop strategies that promote environmental protection and sustainable development in Türkiye. By considering the demographic characteristics associated with environmental concern, policymakers can tailor interventions and educational programs to reach specific

population segments. The findings also underscore the need to address income inequality and integrate environmental considerations into economic development programs.

This thesis has provided a foundation for further research. Future studies could explore the reasons behind the observed relationships and investigate additional factors influencing environmental concern in the Turkish context. Longitudinal studies could track changes in environmental attitudes over time and assess the effectiveness of environmental policies. In-depth qualitative research could provide a more nuanced understanding of the lived experiences and perceptions of individuals with varying levels of environmental concern.

In conclusion, the tools from the field of demography are essential for comprehending the implications of climate change, mitigating its adverse effects, and adapting to its various ramifications. Further research integrating demographic considerations with environmental concerns is crucial for building a more sustainable future. This study demonstrates the profound utility of demography as a discipline in fostering sustainable and equitable development in the face of environmental crises. The insights gathered can help design more effective environmental policies that ultimately promote sustainable development and demonstrate the critical role of demographic science in addressing global environmental challenges.

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