PROJECT UPDATE: 05.09.2023

Our project “Tree Microhabitats: A Key for Forest Conservation Planning” aims to use tree microhabitats for the ecological evaluation of forests under heavy human pressure, as tree microhabitats have a key role in the context of sustainability for biodiversity and therefore are used as an indicator of biodiversity in forest ecosystems in many studies. Within the scope of our project, we have completed our first two major steps: “Inception phase” and “Fieldwork phase”. At first step, as the research team, we visited officers from Nature Conservation and National Parks and get/give information on conservation and recreation activities of Yedigöller National Park. We also conducted intensive research on studies and projects on tree microhabitats national and international. In line with information we obtained, we started planning for fieldwork sampling.

First, we formed our study team by selecting M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, local NGOs, researches from universities and local foresters and national park managers. After the training of the study team, we carried out our field work with the research and study team together in 20 days. We used IBP (Index of Biodiversity Potential) and Marteloscope methods which are only methods using tree microhabitats for the ecological evaluation of forests. As our aim is to compare the human impact of the National Park in the ecological sense, we selected 5 sampling sites in the recreation area and 5 in protected area. Thus, we gathered tree microhabitat data in 10 sampling sites total.

In the terms of the next project activities, we will complete the digitization of the field data and integrate our data to the global databases (IBP and Marteloscope) that gathering studies on tree microhabitats. Following analysis and evaluation phases, we will share our results and recommendations with the national park managers, local foresters, local NGOs and researches from universities familiar with conservation projects.