



Climate Change Perception in Turkey 2019



KONDA
ARAŞTIRMA VE DANIŞMANLIK

ABOUT IKLİM HABER

İklim Haber is a Turkey based online outlet covering latest global and national developments on the field of climate science, climate economy and policies. It is an impartial, specialized and non-biased climate news hub in Turkey that produces data driven articles and news to secure Turkish pioneers among the government and non-state actors to access latest developments in climate change debate.

İklim Haber, established by EKOLOGOS is a non-profit media oriented climate information hub aims to contribute climate change debate in Turkey by providing most recent, genuine content. Established in 2017, İklim Haber has become one of the most followed Turkish outlets on climate change through publishing more than 200 stories and 40 analyses and disseminating of those stories.

www.iklimhaber.org



ABOUT KONDA RESEARCH

KONDA, founded in 198 as a research and consultancy company, is fundamentally engaged with knowledge production with a specific purpose of providing insight for the specific needs of policy-makers, business leaders and academics. As the company collects data, it also processes it to suggest novel ways of challenging established orthodoxies and existing prejudices in the analyses of politics, society and the individuals in contemporary Turkey.

KONDA has conducted face-to-face surveys with almost 1 million people in the last 30 years. Therefore it would not be an understatement to suggest that the company has acquired the most extensive knowledge and experience on the social, economic and political behavioral codes of the contemporary society in Turkey.



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Executive Summary

There are only 11 years remaining to solve the climate crisis, as scientists stated. IPCC 1.5 Degree Report presents the climate reality. We have already started to experience the consequences of it through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes.

Turkey has also started to face these consequences. Extreme events such as floods are increasing and the social and economic impacts are also everywhere, as the country is located one of the most vulnerable regions. This global threat is upsetting thousands of years of natural balance, and deeply impacts not only on the environment but our lifestyles, the economy and all other layers of society in Turkey.

To understand the Turkish perspective on climate change, İklim Haber and Konda Araştırma cooperated in 2018 for the first time. The survey in 2018 showed that 8 out of 10 people, regardless of political preference, economic and social status, say that climate change is happening in Turkey. It was an important and interesting finding. Turkey is one of the countries in which political climate has been fragmented society. People are divided in a number of political,

social and economic issues; however, climate change was an exception. Seventy six percent also confirmed what the science says and stated that irregular weather events had increased. The vast majority also indicated that they were concerned about this crisis.

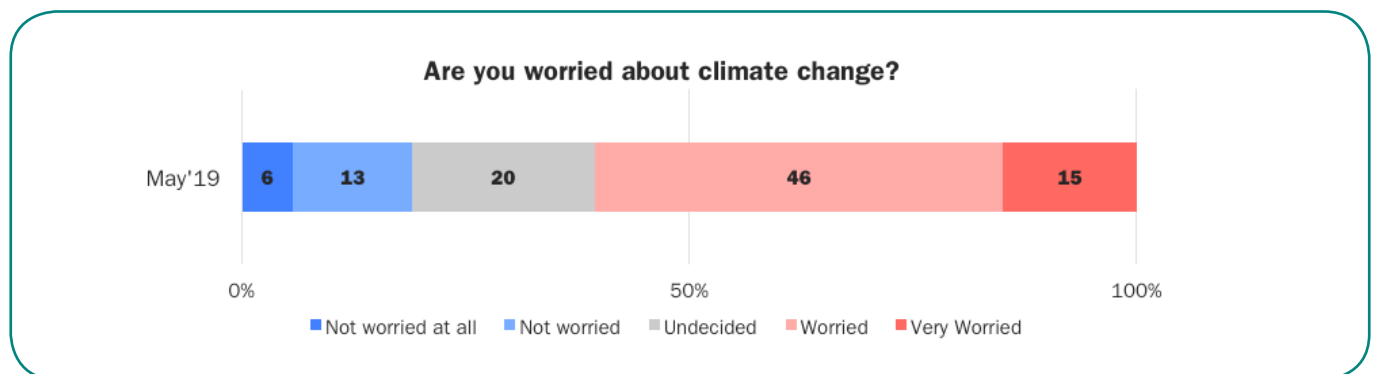
This year, İklim Haber and Konda Araştırma cooperated again with a further focus on climate impacts and climate action. Climate Change Perceptions 2019 aims to understand what society in Turkey thinks about the climate impacts and how they perceive ongoing national and local efforts in Turkey.

The sample was selected through stratification of the data on population and educational attainment level of neighborhoods and villages based on the Address Based Population Registration System (ADNKS), and the results of the 1 November 2015 General Elections in neighborhoods and villages. Six questions were asked in face-to-face surveys to 2,745 people residing in 29 provinces, 100 districts and 151 neighborhoods and villages in May 2019. Later, the answers were compared to other answers on political and social preferences and trends.

Turkey society is worried about climate change

Survey started by repeating one of last year's questions: "Are you worried about climate change? And, how worried are you?" The results revealed that at least 6 out of every 10 people in Turkey are worried about climate change.

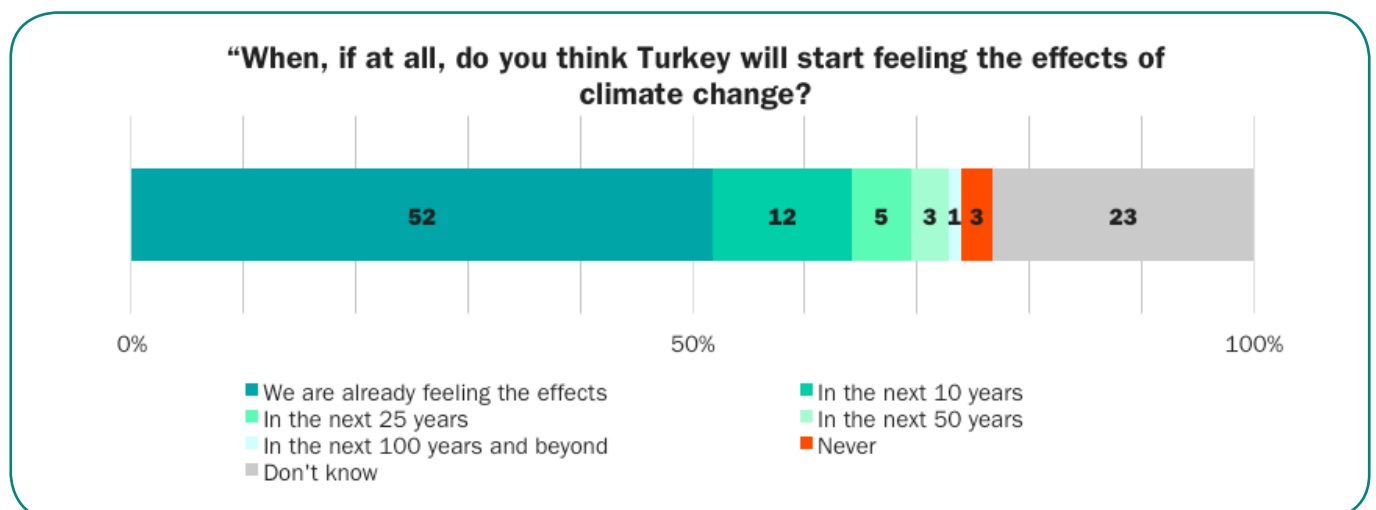
Fifteen percent of respondents expressed that they were very worried and 46% said they were worried. Even though, the share of those who are "very worried" decreased from last year, we can state that climate change continues to be an important concern for the majority of the population.



They think climate change is happening in Turkey and feel the impacts right now

One of the focuses of the Climate Change Perception in Turkey – 2019 survey was to measure what society in Turkey thinks about current impacts. One out of every 2 people in Turkey said they were already feeling the impacts of climate change. Twelve percent of the respondents thinks the impacts would be felt in the next 10 years. Only 3% stated that the impacts of climate change will never be felt in Turkey and 23% chose the response "I don't know."

It is not surprising to see that 23% say they do not know as there are very few studies on the national and local impacts of climate change. İklim Haber and Konda Arastırma as well as many climate experts agree that although Turkey is very prone to climate risks, there are few institutions and organizations focusing on unrevealing the social, economic and environmental impacts in the country. Lack of information and capacity are another reflection of insufficient climate action.



Climate disasters are increasing due to climate crisis

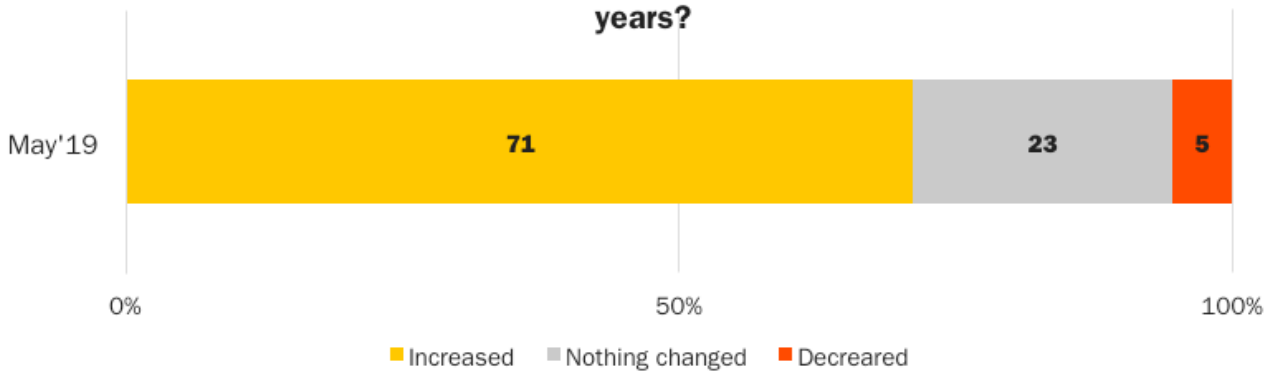
There is a significant correlation between climate change and extreme weather events such as drought and forest wildfires. Scientists affirm that climate change increases the frequency and magnitude of disasters.

The 2018 Survey had revealed that 7 out of 10 people believed the number of disasters were increasing and the same question was asked again this year. Another question was also asked in the survey to see whether

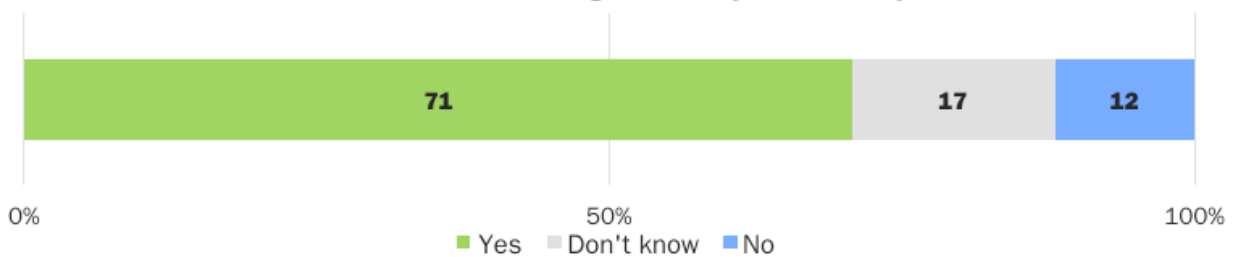
the public is connecting these disasters with climate change.

Seventy one percent of the society in Turkey thinks that disasters have increased and 7 out of every 10 people think that climate change plays a part in these disasters. Also, 62% of respondents who say “weather disasters have increased in Turkey” think that climate change plays a role.

Do you think irregular weather events in Turkey such as floods, storms, extreme heat and drought increased or decreased in recent years?



Do you think that climate change plays a role in the irregular weather events (such as floods, storms, extreme heat and drought) that we have been seeing in Turkey in recent years?



Majority of people in Turkey think the central government does not take enough climate action

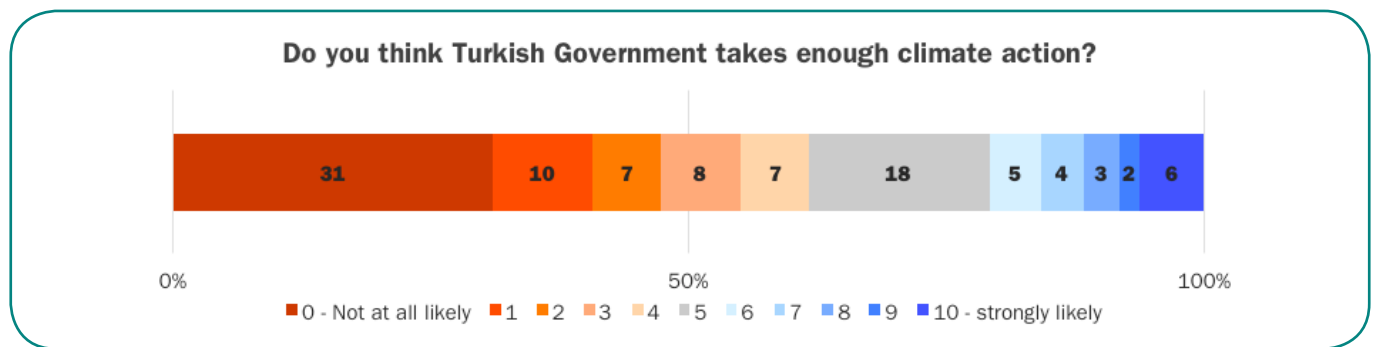
Climate actions taken by national government and local governments are also covered in the survey. First, the central government's efforts to tackle climate change was asked.

The majority of the population (55%) indicates that Turkish Government does not take enough climate action. Only 16% states that the central government show enough effort to deal with it.

■ One out of 3 people say that the Turkish government is “definitely not taking any action at all.”

■ Thirty one percent AK Parti (Ruling Party) voters states there is not enough action from their government.

1 Total number of People responded 0 – 3 out of 10 scale.



The municipalities are also not taking enough climate action!

We also asked respondents whether or not the municipalities in their vicinity were taking enough climate action. The answers were similar to their opinion on the government's climate actions. Society in Turkey thinks that neither the central government nor the local administrations, or in other words the public sector is not taking action to tackle climate change.

■ Fifty five percent of the population believe that the municipality in their vicinity is not taking any action. Twenty nine percent think that the municipality is taking some action and only 15% say that it is taking action to tackle climate change.

■ One out of 3 people say that their municipality is “definitely not taking any action.”

