**The Importance of Participatory Governance for**

**Riperian Zone: A Case Study of**

**Gediz River**

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**Abstract**

The concept of governance is based on political science and corporate governance, and involves

institutions, non-governmental organizations, private citizens, experts and so on. It is a process

in which important interests and policies are actively engaged and produced through a transparent and participatory approach. The most important concern in river governance is the fact that poor governance will lead to inefficient planning and inefficient planning will lead to mismanagement of water resources. In the management and planning of riverside , it is beneficial to evaluate the natural and cultural values that form the source of the activities in a geographical area, river type, to analyze and synthesize them along with the socio-economic structure and administrative / political interactions, and to consider all of them in a holistic framework.

The aim of this study is to propose a river governance model at the levels of local, regional and national level for Gediz River which is one of the most important fluvial systems in the west part of Turkey. With this study, a preliminary study was carried out to ensure the baseline data for the creation of similar riverside management organizations for the other main rivers in Turkey. In addition, with a universal approach, it can be adapted as a resource guide for European countries.

**Keywords:** Governance, Riparian, Land Management, Participatory Planning, Turkey