

Turkey procures Chinook choppers for fire fighting

TEKİRDAĞ- Demiroren News Agency

Two of the 10 Boeing Chinook choppers Turkey has purchased to utilize for firefighting purposes have arrived in Çorlu Atatürk Airport.

The helicopters were brought to the airport via Antonov 124 cargo planes.

One Model 234 and another Model 107 series helicopters, which landed from the An-124 with the blades removed, will be taken to be used after assembly and tests.

Three more helicopters will be brought during the day.

The helicopters, with their heavy payload capacity, were first used last year. The General Directorate of Forestry achieved great efficiency in the fire extinguishing operation of the Boeing Chinook series heavy-duty helicopters.

Chinook, also known as twin-engine, heavy-tonnage fire extinguisher, distinguishes itself from other helicopters with its maneuverability and high speed in narrow spaces, and can be used in the most difficult terrain conditions with its water baskets with a 10-ton water capacity mounted on its body.

"Turkey is the first country to use UAVs to monitor forest fires," said Agriculture and Forestry Minister Vahit Kirişçi in the 2022 Forest Fires Preparedness Evaluation Meeting.

Kirişçi said that one of the important technologies used in firefighting is smart fire watchtowers. On the other hand, Kirişçi stated that they have strengthened their air and land power against fires, increased the number of helicopters from 39 to 55, the number of aircraft from 3 to 20, and the number of drones from 4 to 8.

'Turkey ranks 1st in forestation in Europe'

The minister stated that according to the International Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 report, Turkey ranks 1st in Europe and 4th in the world in afforestation.

"We protect and develop our forests with approximately 40 thousand colleagues who are devoted to this work, and we continue our struggle to pass on our green homeland to future generations," Kirişçi said.

"On the one hand, we implement systems to prevent forest fires, on the other hand, we bring more than 600 million saplings to the soil every year," he added.

Kirişçi also said that Turkey's target for 2023 is to bring 7 billion saplings to the soil and thus increase the country's forest area, which was 20.8 million hectares in 2002, to 23.4 million hectares.

