

## RURAL TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS: A CASE STUDY FROM KURE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK-TURKEY

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**ABSTRACT:** The harder people work, the more essential they see their holiday needs. Besides sea, sun, sand tourism, cultural tourism and religious tourism, alternative and special interest tourism activities have been more popular recently. Although the term of “rural tourism” was started to be known early 1990s, it has become important in Turkey recently. Lots of projects were started for rural tourism in Turkey. The most important one is in Kure Mountains National Park which is the one of 9 European biodiversity hotspots in Turkey. It is crucial both national and international biodiversity. Küre Mountains National Park is certified as Protected Area Network Parks (PAN Parks) in April 2012 as a result of Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported “Enhancing Forest Protected Areas Management System in Turkey Project” activities, becoming the first PAN Park in Turkey and one of only 13 parks in the selective PAN Parks network in Europe.

This paper provides a comprehensive description of the rich biodiversity in KMNP and describes the sustainable tourism strategy approach. Moving from PAN Park process of KMNP case, current state of the protected area is discussed and suggestions are made.

**Keywords:** PAN Park, Kure Mountains National park, protected areas, rural tourism.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Forests are crucial for the well-being of humanity. They provide foundations for life on earth through ecological functions, by regulating climate and water resources and serving as habitats for plants and animals. Forests also furnish a wide range of essential goods such as wood, food, fodder and medicines, in addition to opportunities for recreation, spiritual renewal and other services. Forests cover 23.789.216 ha which is approximately 30% of surface area of Turkey (OGM, 2012). Forests are the most popular ecotourism destinations because of their unique values for tourists interested in nature, local value and culture. Sustainable development approach in the management of mountains and forests is very important because biodiversity must be conserved in the long term to minimize the negative impacts of tourism.

A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeography region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is under threat from humans (Myers, 1990). In 1988 British ecologist Norman Myers led to determine “Hotspots” that means priority area in nature conservation. In this context, Myers and Conservation International (CI) determined 25 hotspots that cover 1.4% of the world surface (Kalem, 2005). Vegetation was considered as a priority to determine hotspots in order to affect primary of the productivity of an ecosystem. These are the areas known “Global Biodiversity Hotspots” that show the geographical and ecological diversity from the tropical parts of the Andes in South America to the islands of Polynesia (Kalem, 2005).

Nowadays, over 50 percent of the world’s plant species and 42 percent of all terrestrial vertebrate species are endemic to the 34 biodiversity hotspots. The biodiversity hotspots hold especially high numbers of endemic species, yet their combined area of remaining habitat covers only 2.3 percent of the Earth’s land surface. Each hotspot faces extreme threats and has already lost at least 70 percent of its original natural vegetation (Conservation International, 2012).

#### 1.1 The case of Turkey

Turkey has a special location in the Global Biodiversity Hotspots Map of CI. Because the territory of Turkey is located in three of these 34 major areas that are Mediterranean Basin, Irano-Anatolian and the part of Caucasus vegetation (Conservation International, 2012; Medail and Quézel, 1998). It is a scientific truth that Turkey has one of the richest natural heritage in temperate zone with approximately 11.000 plant taxa-one thirds of them are endemic, 160 mammal, 450 bird, 120 reptile, more than 500 fish species and habitats provide living area for them (Conservation International, 2012; Guner *et.al.* 2000; Kalem 2008).



**Figure 1:** Map of hotspots in Mediterranean Basin



**Figure 2:** Map hotspots in Irano-Anatolian&Caucasus

Turkey contains a great variety of natural habitats, ranging from Mediterranean, Aegean, and Black Sea

beaches to towering coastal and interior mountains, from deeply incised valleys to expansive steppes, from fertile alluvial plains to arid, rocky hillslopes. A myriad of community types and habitat mosaics occur, containing a rich mixture of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic (Guclu and Karahan 2004).

**Table I:** The Number of Species in three major areas and Turkey (Conservation International, 2012)

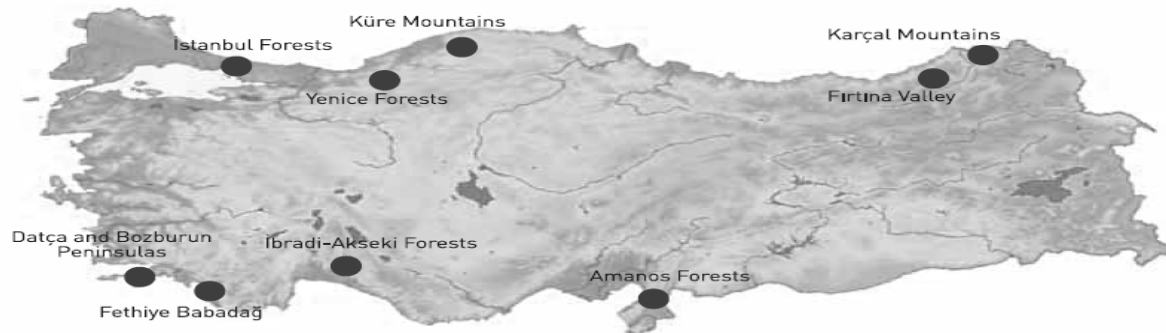
	Mediterranean Basin	Irano-Anatolian	Caucasus	Turkey
Flora	22,500	6,000	6,400	11,000
Fauna	1,240	728	739	80,000
Endemic species	11,917	2,554	1,653	3,500

Turkey's diverse natural ecosystems, its geological history and its geographical position between three continents have given rise to an astonishing plant and animal diversity. Three WWF "Global 200" ecoregions and three global biodiversity hotspots are located in the country, and the national network of protected areas comprises more than 4.1 million ha, or about 5 percent of the total territory of Turkey (UNDP, 2012). 1856 protected areas are found in Turkey as it can be seen on Table II.

**Table II:** Number of protected areas in Turkey (Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, 2012)

Conservation Status	Nm	Related Law
National park	40	Law on National Parks
Nature reserve area	31	Law on National Parks
Nature parks	182	Law on National Parks
Wild life reserve areas	80	Law on National Parks
Conservation forest	55	Law on Forest
Genetic conservation areas	14	Law on Forest
Seed stands	337	Law on Forest
Specially protected areas	15	Law on environment
Nature sites	1273	Law on Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage
Ramsar sites	13	Ramsar Convention by-law on Conservation Wetlands

Over 100 forests are located in Europe and its environs according to WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre), WWF (World Wild Fund) and few experts in 1999. These areas were chosen by taking into consideration such specialties that were biological richness, the representation of specific forest types in Europe and magnitude. Nine of European Hotspots are in Turkey (Fig. 3) (Kalem, 2005).



**Figure 3:** 9 Biodiversity Hotspots in Turkey (Source: Blumer, 2010; Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy of Kure Mountains National Park, 2007; pg: 6)

One of the biodiversity hot spots of European forests is the Kure Mountains in Turkey. 37.000 hectares area was declared as "National Park". About 50 rural settlements of 8 counties are located in the buffer zone around the area. One of the sources of living for these rural settlements is tourism lately.

## 2 PROTECTED AREAS

Protected areas are locations which receive protection because of their recognized natural, ecological and/or cultural values. There are several kinds of protected areas, which vary by level of protection depending on the enabling laws of each country or the regulations of the international organizations involved (World Database in Protected Areas, 2012). Protected areas are the cornerstone of global biodiversity conservation. Over the past 40 years, governments and non-governmental organizations alike have made unprecedented investments in the establishment of protected areas around the world. As a result, the world's terrestrial protected areas encompassed more than 18 million sq km in 2011, compared with just over 2 million sq km in 1970 (Rosser, *et al.*, 2012). Protected areas are expected to do more- in terms their ecological, social and economic contributions-than ever before. Not only are they expected to provide habitat for endangered wildlife, but also to contribute to livelihoods for local communities, to generate tourism revenues to bolster local and national economies, and to play a key role in mitigation of an adaptation to climate change, among many other diverse functions and contributions (PAN Parks, 2012). The following report looks at how changing 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations about the roles and functions of protected areas are beginning to shape protected area management around the world and identifies emerging best practices for protected areas under a new paradigm that views protected areas as part of a planetary life support system. The report is based on case studies drawn largely from the portfolio of projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The GEF is the world's most significant multilateral funding source for protected areas. Since the Convention on Biological Diversity's Program of Work on Protected Areas was ratified in 2004, UNDP/GEF has supported work in more than 700 protected areas around the world, covering nearly every goal, target and action under the Program of Work (UNDP and Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, 2012).

There are 6 IUCN protected area categories:

- Strict Nature Reserve
- Wilderness Area
- National Park
- Natural Monument or Feature
- Habitat/species Management Area
- Protected Landscape/Seascape
- Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (IUCN, 2012).

All protected areas in all categories in the world like in Turkey should aim to:

- Conserve the composition, structure, function and evolutionary potential of biodiversity
- Contribute to regional conservation strategies (as core reserves, buffer zones, corridors, stepping-stones for migratory species etc.)
- Maintain diversity of landscape or habitat and of associated species and ecosystems
- Be of sufficient size to ensure the integrity and long-term maintenance of the specified conservation targets or be capable of being increased to achieve this end
- Maintain the values for which it was assigned in perpetuity
- Be operating under the guidance of a management plan, and a monitoring and evaluation program that supports adaptive management
- Possess a clear and equitable governance system (OECD, 2012).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

Case study method was used in this study. All data were collected through literature review, observations and interview.

#### 3.1 Literature review on Kure Mountains National Park

##### 3.1.1 General characteristics of National Park - valuable biodiversity

Located on the Kure Mountains, on the west of Black Sea Region, the National Park bears all the characteristics of a plateau. The area of the KMNP is 37.753 ha, whereas the surrounding buffer zone accounts for 134.366 ha. Daily life activities around the National Park do not spread into the boundaries of the National Park; consequently there are not any settlements within the boundaries. In other words, the National Park, located on an east-west axis, is a physical and social barrier for its surrounding (KMNP, 2012). Located on the Kure Mountains, on the west of Black Sea Region, the National Park bears all the characteristics of a plateau. Kure Mountains start from Bartın River on the west and runs 300 kilometers on to Kizilirmak River toward the east. Thanks to its varied topographical structure, the area hosts a diverse landscape. It owes its rich habitat, which include all the main ecosystem types such as forest, maquis, cliffs, caves, river, coastal and traditional agricultural areas, to being a part of the coastal mountain system that covers the north of Anatolia from one end to the other. There is both national and international importance of this area. This area is located in "North Anatolia and Caucasia Temperate Zone Forests" that is prior to in terms of natural protection of WWF on a global scale. Two endangered plant taxon in the world that are *Acer cappadocicum* var. *stenocarpum*, *Trifolium*

*euxinum* are in this area. Thirty-three endangered plant taxon in Europe are in this area, too. It is also one of the Important Plant Areas (ÖBA) and Important Natural Areas of Turkey. Twelve endangered plant taxon were found on a national scale. As stated above, it is one of the nine hotspots in Turkey. It has rich landscape, habitat diversity and also species varieties (675 plant, 40 mammals, and 129 bird species) (Ekim et al, 2010). National Park holds the character of a tableland reaching forth east to west and it is a threshold for its neighborhood. There is no accommodation in the national park; social life is still going on in immediate surroundings. The buffer zone surrounding the park comprises approximately 60 villages with a total of 20,000 to 30,000 inhabitants, mainly middle-aged and older. The main economic activities include forestry, agriculture, apiculture, wood-carrying, weaving, chestnut farming and tourism. The average annual income is below € 400 per capita. The settlements in the buffer zone are rich and diverse in folklore. In addition to the natural assets of the park, these folkloric values and traditional wooden houses are highly important for tourism. The area represents a unique carstic system which is the result of a malm-cretaceous old shallow marine transgression as well as wildlife and old-growth forest formation, which are of both social and environmental values. The Kure Mountains provide a rich variety of habitat diversity (Gunes and Hens, 2007). The western section of the mountains has been identified as one of the 122 important plant areas in Turkey. The site represents the best remaining example of the deciduous and coniferous forests of the North Anatolia sub eco-region as well as one of the highly endangered carstic mountains of the Black Sea humid forest ecotype. There are 80 endemic and 45 endangered plant taxon, 32 of which are rare species. The Kure Mountains are also one of the important bird habitats of Turkey. Additionally, they provide habitats for approximately 30 of the 132 mammal species of Turkey like Bobcat (*Lynx lynx*), Catamount (*Felis sylvestris*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) and deer (*Cervus elaphus*) (Gunes and Hens, 2007). It is known that there are 129 bird species living in the area. Especially high rocky places which are faced towards broad valleys are suitable places for some kind of animals to shelter like; vulture, falcon, eagle and other night predators. With this feature it is one of the 255 Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Turkey. There are approximately 100 caves that are situated on Kure Mountains. According to recent studies around 200 species collected, and there are five new species which is likely to belong to the Crustacea, Arachnida, Myriapoda classes (KDMP, 2012).

Natural and old forests are forests in which there is no production of wood or usage of other sources, in which humans don't have negative effect on the balance of nature and in which there are relationships between components that constitute natural ecosystem. The most distinctive feature of these forests is that there are not only young individual, but also old trees with folded, brittle and dry trees. Natural old forests declining rapidly in the world hold key for their healthy structures and biodiversity. High carstic plateaus such as the region Kizilcasu, between Cide-Azdavay, in the Kure mountains; Sorkun uplant near Pınarbasi and the region Zoni near Arıt constitute rich plant composition with their old trees and forest meadows. Linden tree (*Tilia rubra*), hazel (*Corylus colurna*), ash-tree (*Fraxinus*

*angustifolia*), ilex (*Ilex aquifolium*), elm tree (*Ulmus glabra*), sycamore (*Acer platanoides*), Uludağ abies (*Abies nordmanniana* ssp. *bornmuelleriana*) and oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*), which reach preternatural length and diameter, show maturity of ecosystem. In region Bartın, virgin forests reach the present day in places that are hard to reach because of rocky structure. Söğütlü Village in Arıt the forest, almost 1000 hectares, located in North of Gürdek have the distinct characteristics of virgin forests (KDMP, 2012).

### 3.1.1 Geographical structure (canyons, caves, waterfalls and other carstic shapes)

Kure Mountains National Park is in the west Black sea region carstic zone. There is an interesting range of national and international examples of four basic abrasion surfaces because of the lower-middle Miocene geomorphologic processes. National Park is regarded as one of the richest geographical formations that are occurred after the rain both in Turkey and in Europe. There is a living hydrologic system in Kure Mountains, ground and surface waters are still forming different structures. Kure Mountains National Park which hosts approximately 100 caves is a west-east ranging mass of chain mountains. With this characteristic, it is the second National Park hosting that much caves coming after Carlsbad Caverns in US. The most famous cavern in the Kure Mountains is Ilgarini Cave where there is a lot of historical remains, situated on Kastamonu. Horizontally it is 858meters long, and it is 250 meters deep. There are a lot of cemeteries, chapels and tombs thought to belong to Roman-Byzantine Empire. However in Bartın, Aşağıçamlı Sipahiler and Söğütlü caves are rich in the visual context and can be reached easily by visitors. The biggest of all the canyons in Kure Mountains, Valla Canyon; with its 10 km length and 1120 meter depth and spectacular view is a significant landscape beauty. As the most important figures of Kure Mountains, canyons are very important with their peculiar botanic variety, wildlife and hydrologic function. Canyons in the region of Bartın, made by carstic reefs are more vertical and high. Karadere canyon which is a green canyon is an important carstic structure. Also, Ulukaya canyon where Ulukaya waterfall took source is an important value. The rocky and uneven territory and dense forest covered botanic texture of Kure Mountains contains not only caves and fountains, but waterfalls as well. Ilıca waterfall which is situated near Ilıca village, Ulukaya waterfall which is pouring down from 20 meters and Gölderesi waterfall which hides into the dense forest botanic texture are three of the well-known waterfalls (Arıcak, 2011).

### 3.1.3 Rural tourism and recreational values

Turkey has a continental characteristic with 77,1 million ha. There are only a few countries with such biotope diversities, except for tropic regions on the earth. Rural tourism is integrated to rural culture, natural environment and agriculture besides it is closely relevant to the other tourism types. Therefore it is varied by local, national and international enterprises attracted lots of people all over the world to the rural areas (Soykan, 2003). As the meaning of rural word in rural tourism concept is perceived directly as “rural areas” in Turkey, it is identified to tableland tourism, hunting tourism, speleological tourism, ecotourism and outdoor activities. As well as that is not wrong, the real aim in rural tourism to accommodate in a village, in a farm, in a bungalow

etc., to meet rural culture and socialize that are differences because of aims and activities between the other tourism types and rural tourism. In recent years rural tourism becomes widespread in Turkey. Rural restaurants, handcraft stores, fish farms, rural ways meet to tourists or overnight tourists. In addition to individual trips, excursions or trips are arranged by travel agencies to rural areas contains them (Soykan, 2003).

All of these progresses in recent years are indicated that rural settlement is used by the purpose of tourism usage is widespread in Turkey. We all know there is a real great potential. Rural tourism features are as follows:

- Rural tourism is a type of tourism could be done in every season,
- Rural tourism is a balance element in the geographical distribution of tourism,
- Rural tourism is integrated to lots of tourism types,
- Recreational activities are various and characteristic in rural tourism,
- Tourist profile in rural tourism is different,
- Rural tourism contributes the protection of natural habitat and cultural heritage,
- Rural tourism serves the concept of sustainable tourism,
- Rural tourism is an important tool for the promotion of a country.

Kure Mountains with its internationally important biodiversity values, different habitats, canyons, caves, fountains, waterfalls, internationally significant history, architectural and cultural values; is the most significant natural protection area. Valla Canyon, Ilgarini Cave and the surrounding caves, Ilıca waterfall near Pınarbaşı, Çatak Canyon in Azdavay and Aydos Canyon in Cide, Ulukaya waterfall and canyon are remarkable visual values. Ilıca waterfall which is situated on the ending point of Horma Canyon can be reached with a short walk from Ilıca village. The refreshing water which is poured from approximately 15 meters high above could attract visitors. There is a historic Turkish bath which named the village over there near the waterfall. Gürdek reef situated in Arif has a spectacular view. Villages which forms the south wall of the National Park as Arpacık, İğneciler, Kadıkoy, Abdurrahman, Asagidere, Asagicerici, Cerde are very rich both visual beauty and botanic texture. Odaaryanı which is situated at the top is an old Byzantine settlement. There is a little path from the top to the Arıt. Aşağıçamlı Village is a settlement which is nested with National Park. It is a village which is prominent by its natural beauty in Ulus-Drahna Valley region. Old wooden houses, Aşağıçamlı cave and Drahna-Kurucasile is the starting point of trade ways (Avcioglu, 2012). Kure Mountains are considered one of the richest spots regarding canyons and caves in Turkey. The Kure region is considered the Turkey's second most important karstic area after the Taurus Mountains (Blumer, 2010). In a relatively confined area, there is a large diversity of vegetation structure and flora composition that make KMNP very valuable from the conservation point of view. The daily life in the rural areas is one of the most important cultural values of the area. Wooden houses, traditional colorful clothes worn by women, layback atmosphere in the villages especially during “tea time”, and local handicrafts make a rich cultural experience for travelers in the region. Delicious local cuisine and the slow-down path of life bring additional charm to the

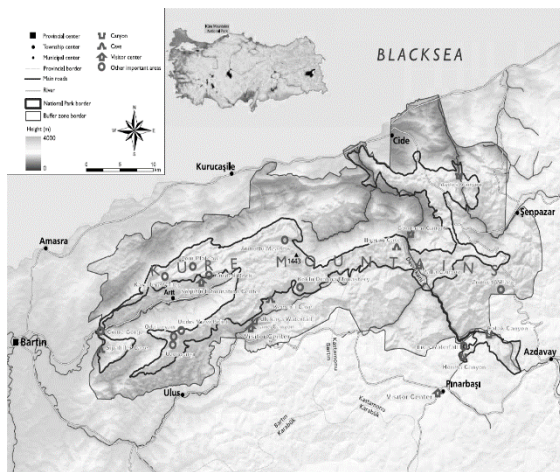
present cultural assets. The rural population has limited alternative for development excepting their traditional activities, which has started to be abandoned by the younger generation that moved out from mountain communities. However, ecotourism can and already brings a new innovative economical activity that can stimulate local families and young people to remain and blend their traditions with the new activities necessary for developing a quality ecotourism. Tourism facilities are not very developed in the area (buffer zone). However, there are already options for accommodation both in the mountain communities and in the nearby towns. Subtotal bed capacity in Park area is 284 beds; near locations' are 2769 beds. It is possible to find kinds of tourism activities like hiking and backpacking trails, mountain biking and cycling, canyoning, wildlife and bird-watching, picnicking, nature sightseeing, rural heritage tours.

### 3.1 Interview

Mr. Ercan Yeni who is Bartın Regional Director of Forestry was interviewed about the projects in the region. KMNP's nomination of PAN Parks (since 2003) was accepted in April - 2012. 2011-2012 PAN Park management plan has been prepared by the project consultant Andrei Blumer and competent authorities. Also SWOT analysis has been done for KMNP (Yeni, 2012).

According to interview results:

The project "Enhancing Forest Protected Areas Management System in Turkey" started in 2008 and is implemented jointly with the General Directorate of Forestry within the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, together with WWF Turkey as an NGO partner. Building on the foundation of an earlier GEF financed project, this project has focused on establishing the basic regulatory and operational mechanisms required to ensure conservation or sustainable management of 600,000 ha of globally significant old-growth forests and grasslands across nine forest hotspots. The starting point has been to develop models of good practice in the Kure Mountains National Park and its Buffer Zone (UNDP, 2012).



**Figure 4:** The Map of KMNP (Source: Blumer, 2010; Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy of KMNP, 2007 32)

The main objectives of the project are:

- to implement a cost-effective conservation management approach for forest protected areas at the Kure Mountains National Park,
- to demonstrate sustainable natural resource management at the buffer zone of Kure Mountains National Park,
- to disseminate the lessons learned from the pilot implantation at Kure Mountains National Park to other forest hotspots in Turkey, thus contributing to the improvement of national protected areas system (KDMP, 2011).

Besides this project, a number of projects were developed to involve these local communities. The second was implemented by the Kastamonu Foundation for Development, Health, Environment, Education and Tourism with financial support from WWF Mediterranean Program in 2000. Involving local communities in protecting their environment was the primary aim of the project. Ecotourism was identified as one of the best options for developing alternative livelihoods for these local communities. Educational activities for local communities and the local authorities included seminars on the sustainable use of forest resources and conservation of biodiversity. In addition, a traditional village house was renovated as an ecotourism center. After opening the Pınarbaşı Ecotourism center in 2001, tourist guide training courses were organized and certificates were issued to 20 local nature guides. This number has been 37 in 2010. In 2002, ecotourism guide maps were published to inform both domestic and international visitors about multifunctional forests in the Kure Mountains. In 2003, income from the maps was used to establish the Kastamonu Ecotourism Association, which brings local nature guides together and aims to enhance the attractiveness of the villages around the park for tourists. Both publication of the maps and the foundation of the Kastamonu Ecotourism Association helped to draw media attention to biodiversity conservation and ecotourism activities in the another successful undertaking is the Zumrut Village Ecotourism Project, financially supported by the UNDP Small Grants Program and executed by the Kastamonu Ecotourism association between 2004 and 2006. Zumrut village in Azdavay district in the southeast of the national park has more than 350 inhabitants, but only 35 of them live permanently in the village. Most of the people migrated to Istanbul to find a job or obtain education. The village has experienced economic loss as a result of the designation of the national park, which creates a negative attitude among local people towards the national park and nature conservation in general. Now 172 of them live permanently in the village (WWF, 2011). In 2006, a public awareness program was finalized; one village house and one mansion with 25 beds were restored in the traditional architectural style. The old village school building was refurbished as the Visitor and Public Awareness Center. The village house and mansion are now operated by the local public; training courses on packaging and preparation of organic products are very popular among women. Probably the most important contribution of the project to the local community, especially for women, foresters, and unemployed youth, was to offer alternative livelihoods in local nature guidance, organic and traditional hand-made products, bicycle and horse rental, and accommodation in village houses (Gunes and Hens, 2007). Setting an example as

one of the 25 best practice examples of Turkey, the Kure Mountains National Park activities were promoted to thousands of participants of the UN Sustainable Development Conference in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro (Rio +20) by way of speeches, posters, brochures and short films. The ‘‘Enhancing Forest Protected Areas Management System’’ project that is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Kure Mountains National Park and the buffer zone around it has become a model implementation for protecting the environment, supporting sustainable development and green growth through tourism (UNDP, 2012).

#### 4 RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Nowadays nature conservation organizations are increasingly starting to realize that socio-cultural and economic sustainability in a region with a (protected) natural area are equally important when it comes to nature preservation. Tourism could be an instrument in sustainable development and nature conservation, giving nature economic value (and as such preserve it) and at the same time it benefits socio-cultural sustainability (e.g. improving quality of life and maintaining cultural heritage). This way a region can grow and develop itself in a sustainable and controlled way. Finally, careful planning and strategy formulation and management make it possible to minimize negative impacts and to maximize the positive impacts of a development. As such a region can develop in a sustainable way; therefore the formulation of a sustainable tourism development strategy is needed. According to Sustainable Tourism Strategy of of Kure Mountains National Park, some important rules are in the followings:

- Be educational and informative. Park visitors are particularly interested in discovering and learning about the park and adjacent region. For the most part, they also want to learn how to help sustain its character while deepening their own visitor experiences. Residents will also learn the value of resources they may have been taking for granted.
- Support the Values of the Region. International travelers to the region and the park are particularly interested in supporting the local values and resources. There they seek out businesses that emphasize local character in terms of architecture, cuisine, heritage, aesthetics, and ecology. Tourism revenues in turn raise local perceived value of those assets.
- Benefit local residents. Tour operators, particularly those from Turkey, should try to employ and train local people, buy local supplies, and use local services.
- Conserve resources. Environmentally responsible tourists prefer to support businesses that minimize pollution, waste and energy consumption, water usage, chemicals and toxic materials, and that provide accommodation which is respectful of the environment.
- Be sensitive to local conditions. Stakeholders anticipate development pressures and apply limits and management techniques to prevent unnecessary changes to the existing conditions. Local and external businesses cooperate to sustain natural habitats, heritage sites, scenic appeal, and local culture.
- Emphasize quality over quantity. Communities

measure tourism success not by sheer numbers of visitors, but by length of stay, money spent, and quality of experience.

- Provide a quality travel experience. Satisfied, excited visitors bring new knowledge home and send their friends and relatives off to experience the same thing - which will provide continuing business for the region.

Management objectives:

- Developing good visitor infrastructure accommodating mainly day visitors
- Offering high quality nature interpretation and education
- High volume of visitors/ low environment and social impact
- Playing the function of hubs for the whole region

While those management objectives and necessities are overseen, mainly villages in the Southern part of Kure Mountains are determined as rural tourism hotspots (Table III).

**Table III:** Rural Tourism Hotspots in KMNP (Blummer, 2010; pg, 38)

Name of Sub-Zone	Main Feature
Zone 2A- Aşağıcamlı- Kemerli	Traditional wooden houses preserved; Good local human resources for guiding/accommodation; Interesting surroundings; hiking to core area, natural forest, caves and etc.
Zone 2B- ZümrütEcovillage	Successful tourism projects: excellent start of community based tourism services; Beautiful cultural landscape; Well preserved wooden houses.
Zone 2C- Şenpazar	Handicraft project; Good basic effort agro-tourism Good human resources for local guiding;
Zone 2D- Ilgarini	Potential for local guesthouse development;
Zone 2D- Asagicerci	Women development Project

Preserving wooden houses is given priority in villages in Kure. ‘‘Nature Guide’’ studies start. The term of ‘‘Nature Guide’’ means people are well educated about KMNP (flora, fauna education given also). When a tour comes to KMNP, nature guide meets them then tells everything about the national park. Modern villages markets start to open, villagers can sell organic food in the market. Village houses renovate as a pension/ guest house. While all things have been made, all villagers’ demands have been considered. 17 of 35 villagers took donation fund to renovate their houses. Education of agro and eco tourism is going on rapidly. Natural beauties and tourism activities are determined as mentioned in the text before. After interview travel agencies, new tour programs for KMNP will start.

As a PAN PARK:

- Importance of natural and cultural values of KMNP will perceive better and contribute to the protection will be provided at the global level.
- Sustainable conservation policies in Turkey is not yet at the desired level, and most of the deterioration of the national park’s resource values in KMNP will be reduced to minimize the risk of occurrence.

- It will be provided at the international area to create an alternative source of revenue with eco tourism activities of the local people living around protected area.
- It will be provided prestige for Turkey in the field of nature protection.
- It will create an example other protected areas in Turkey.
- Due to open to innovations for sustainable natural resource, flow of information will be provided fast globally.
- Especially, it will contribute to the exchange of the wrong understanding of tourism in and around protected areas.
- Protection of traditional culture will be important.

Before anything else, the expansion of network of PAN Parks includes Turkey will be a very big step. On the other hand, the targets of PAN Parks, aimed in the projects supported by UNDP, GEF and SGP being implemented by the Government of Environment and Forestry, around KMNP will be realized. Human resources and financial support on this field should be increased to become fast KMNP's accession process to PAN Parks by GEF, SGP and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Because of being one of nine hotspots in Turkey, KMNP is the only one and first PAN Park in Turkey and 13. In Europe besides it is also important globally to be old growth forest and its different characteristics as mentioned before. It is not enough only sense of protection causes conflicts with local people. However, people living in and around protected areas should be raised awareness, alternatives livelihoods should be created. If tourism is managed well, it can provide opportunity for these issues. Revenue from tourism can be used both area protection and raising awareness of local people for sustainable uses.

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