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EVALUATION OF HUNTING TOURISM IN TURKEY

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Abstract

Turkish tourism is concentrated in coastal bands in general, unfortunately, it has a sea-sand-sun-focused appearance. It is important for the future of Turkish tourism that the coastal area and the intensified tourism should be concentrated in different destinations and low season. Among alternative tourism types, hunting tourism has a significant potential for diversification of Turkish tourism. The purpose of the study is to determine the spatial distribution of species that are allowed to hunt. In addition, it has been assessed in which regions the animal species allowed to be hunted and the superiority of the upper structures in these regions for tourism in this study. The species of animals allowed for hunting in 2018-2019 were identified within the scope of the research. As a result of the research, it is obvious that the destinations determined for hunting tourism have been significantly improved compared to previous years, but there are still planning problems in these destinations.

Key words: Hunting tourism in Turkey, animal species for hunting tourism, map of hunting tourism areas, trophy hunting.

Introduction

Hunting is an effort that has begun with the existence of mankind and has been changing continuously. It was a necessity for people to survive in ancient times and has become an activity for sports and entertainment by the time. It is perceived in many different ways for people living in different countries or even within the same country. In order to be able to hunt, many people travel around the country and abroad. Hunting tourism is the activity of the hunter with the principles determined for the purpose of hunting. Hunting tourism aims to use of hunting and wildlife resources under the supervision of domestic and foreign hunters, and contribute to the national economy by the evaluation of these resources in terms of the recreational and touristic aspects of the country tourism (Özdönmez et al., 1996). Another type of it is trophy hunting which is the hunting of animals for sport

purposes to keep the head, skin or horns of the killed animal for souvenir purposes. Meat is sometimes used as food (Ulusoy, 2015: 75).

Hunting tourism is growing day by day with the tendency of people to return to nature. People are looking for new alternative tourism types besides mass tourism, exploring new cities and seeing beautiful beaches. This can be called the transition from mass tourism to special interest tourism. The desire to find the alternative pushes people to explore and travel. Here is one of the motivations that push people to travel, perhaps the most unusual is the risk. In this context, it may be necessary to build a bridge between risk, excitement and adventure (Sarıbaş and Öter, 2013: 53-57). Hunting tourism is rapidly developing and becoming an important source of foreign currency in recent years. The wealthy hunters of some countries prefer hunting in other countries in order to satisfy their hunting feelings and to have an adventure. The countries observing this situation open their hunting areas to hunters in order to meet the demands of foreign hunters and thus to obtain foreign exchange income (Ukav, 2012: 6).

Contributing to the national economy by allowing game animals to have enough population is the most important aim of hunting tourism. Hunting tourism can be seen as an additional employment and income-generating industry in traditional rural sectors such as agriculture and forestry. It is a type of tourism with high income level due to the large amount of monetary expenditure. The importance of hunting tourism in Turkey is emerging at this point (Yıldızbakan and Keleş, 2011). Tourists participating in hunting tourism are those with a high tendency to spend. Therefore, they spend high rates on purchases. In some settlements, village mansions are offered to the hunters. Along with the accommodation fee, the products produced and the dishes made by the peasant women constitute a significant source of income for the region. Hunting tourism brings more income on a person basis than other types of tourism. While a normal tourist spends \$750, the expenses for hunting tourism go up to \$2000 per tourist. In some cases, this amount can reach 10-20 thousand dollars (www.milliparklar.gov.tr).

When the history of hunting tourism is examined in our country, it is seen that domestic and foreign hunters started hunting in the 1950s without paying any price and until 1975s foreign hunters continued their hunting with many hunting animals without any rules. Turkey became a member in 1967 for the "International Council for Hunting and Game Animals", which was established for the purpose of regular development of hunting among the countries, and for the protection of game animals and living environments. In order to organize the activities of travel agencies, in 1973, "Hunting Tourism Regulation" was issued and various arrangements were made for hunting tourism (Demir et al., 2012: 28). In 1977, arrangements were made for the hunting of foreign tourist hunters by paying a price through travel agencies and the first hunting tourism practice in Turkey in 1977 was started with wild boar hunting. In 1981, wild goats were included in hunting tourism. In 1984, foreign hunters, such as domestic hunters started the season in the scope of tourism (Ulusoy, 20015: 76).

Geographical structure, vegetation and wildlife of Turkey is appropriate for the development of hunting tourism. In contrast to the general belief, hunting tourism does not destroy the wild life and develops in line with the principle of protection-use. Nowadays, many countries in the world are able to protect and develop their natural life with their income from hunting tourism. Turkey hunting is permitted to hunt the animal husbandry is far behind. Hunting tourism will not be enough share unless the value and importance is given to hunting tourism (Kırıkçı, 2012: 49). Hunting tourism development of the system as a precondition for the arrival of hunting can be shown in Turkey. Hunting tourism allows hunters to come to the courtyards individually or as a group. In hunting tourism, the consumer has to buy the produced product directly from the place where the production is made. In other words, it is not possible to deliver the product to the consumer by means of distribution channels. In this

context, the company accepting domestic or foreign hunters has carried out an export in terms of balance of payments within the borders of the country without incurring costs (Şafak, 2003: 139).

Hunting periods of game animals for hunting tourism in Turkey is regulated by the Hunting and Wildlife Protection Department. Arrangement and planning are based on the fact that prey animals are not disturbed during breeding and they are not hunted while they are puppies. In this way, the balance of natural life is preserved. This is also important for sustainable hunting tourism to increase and stabilize the populations of game animals. If the balance cannot be established and the game animals cannot be protected, the extinction of the game animals will be faced. Since poaching is the first reason for extinction of prey animals. The hunters shall be subject to legal proceedings except for the specified dates; they are given a prison sentence and a fine. All applications will be made under hunting tourism in Turkey is determined by the commission to include every hunting year. In these decisions, the species allowed to be hunted, the areas allowed to be hunted, hunting dates, wages, fishing principles, prohibited methods are specified. Hunting tourism in Turkey is carried out under the following principles (<http://yigm.kulturturizm.gov.tr/Eklenti/810,avveyabanhayatindaavturizm.doc>):

- 1- To ensure the continuity of the numbers of wild animals, to maintain the populations by taking measures to protect against pest and to prevent the maintenance and reproduction of animals.
- 2- To ensure the sustainable management of wildlife resources by allowing hunting animals to reach enough population by taking into account the carrying capacity with inventory studies.
- 3- To ensure that hunting is carried out consciously without damaging the natural life.
- 4- To ensure sustainable use of natural resources for tourism purposes.
- 5- To ensure that local people benefit from the added value of the wildlife resources by taking into consideration the basic principles of supporting rural development.

The majority of hunters come to Turkey for wild boar hunting. The most basic reason is completely about wildness and sizes of the boars in Turkey. Since they have a reputation in the world. Anatolian wild goat hunting is also effective on foreign tourists coming to Turkey. The reason for this is that Anatolian Wild Goat, as the name suggests, is unique to Anatolia. The 2018 - 2019 Hunting Year (1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019) includes the following species of animals to be hunted (http://www.milliparklar.gov.tr/dosyalar/avturizmi_talimat.pdf):

- 1) Large mammal hunting and wild animals
 - a) Anatolian wild sheep
 - b) Wild goat
 - c) Mountain goat with hook horns
 - d) Red deer
 - e) Hybrid wild goat
 - f) Gazelle
 - g) Roe
 - h) Wild boar
- 2) Predators
 - a) Coyote
 - b) Fox

The purpose of the study is to determine the spatial distribution of species that are allowed to hunt. Also it is aimed to evaluate of the hunting tourism in terms of geographical distribution of the animal species.

Method

Screening method was used in this study. The data were defined by calculating the percentage distribution tables and frequency analysis. Within this research, animal species and quotas set for hunting tourism in Turkey has been mapped. The allocated hunting areas in Turkey which are concentrated in the region, and the regions are assessed by the investigators as to whether suitable for alternative tourism.

Table 1. 2018-2019 Hunting Season by Animal Species

Animal Species	Start Date of Hunting Season	End Date of Hunting Season	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Anatolian Wild Sheep	1.09.2018	31.01.2019	X								X	X	X	X
Coyote	20.08.2018	31.01.2019	X							X	X	X	X	X
Gazelle	1.09.2018	15.11.2018									X	X	X	X
Hook Horned Mountain Goat	1.08.2018	31.01.2019	X							X	X	X	X	X
Roe	1.05.2018	31.10.2018					X	X	X	X	X	X		
Red Deer	Stag	1.09.2018	31.01.2019	X							X	X	X	X
	Pile Horn													
Fox	15.10.2018	15.01.2019	X									X	X	X
Wild Goat	Billy (Individual)	1.08.2018	31.03.2019	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
	Hybrid	1.08.2018	31.03.2019	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
	Faulty Horn	1.08.2018	31.10.2018								X	X	X	
		1.02.2019	31.03.2019		X	X								
Nanny (Individual)	1.07.2018	31.01.2019	X						X	X	X	X	X	
Wild Boar	Battue	1.09.2018	20.02.2019	X	X							X	X	X
	Track	1.04.2018	31.03.2019	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	The hunt for fighting purposes	2018-2019 - Central Hunting Commission decides.												

Results

The dates determined for specific animals according to the 2018-2019 hunting calendar are shown in Table 1. The hunting season is more intense in autumn and winter, as opposed to seasonality in mass

tourism. Animal hunting is not allowed especially in the spring and summer seasons determined as the breeding period of animals.

The locations where animals are allowed to hunt are generally natural parks. It is shown in Table 2 that the cost of entering into the areas for hunting purposes. Even if hunting activity is not done, the fees are collected in order to support the sustainability of the courtyards and to support the nature. It is possible that these fees directly contribute to the living space of animals. It is important that some of the economic problems brought about by the lack of interest in nature parks in our country can be solved by buying activity. Although the cost of hunting is different according to the type of hunters, high hunting fee is generally taken from foreign hunters. The cost of hunting for local hunters is generally the lowest. The highest cost of hunting is for Anatolian Wild Goat. Anatolian wild sheep followed by wild goats and red deer respectively. The species with the lowest hunting costs are wild animals such as wild boar, jackal and fox which can damage local areas like plantation, pasture and domestic animals.

Table 2. Hunting Permission Fee

Animal Species		Foreign	Domestic/Local
Anatolian Wild Sheep		1000	
Hook Horned Mountain Goat		300	
Gazelle		350	
Roe		300	150
Red Deer	Billy	750	350
	Pile Horn	200	
Hybrid Wild Goat		350	
Wild Goat	Billy	400	300
	Nanny (Individual)	100	
	Faulty Horn	0	100
Wild Boar	Governmental / General / Operational Sample Hunting Area / Battue and Track Hunt For Fighting Purposes/ Battue and Track Hunt	50	25
	Operated Sample Hunting Area	25	0
Special Hunting Areas		25	0
Poultry Courts	Operated Poultry Sample Hunting Area	25	0
Other Species	Coyote and Fox	25	

The number of species allowed to be hunted in the 2018-2019 hunting season is shown in Table 3. For 2018-2019, a total of 511 animals are allowed to hunt for 10 different species. The number of these animals varies according to the species grown by year and the quota determined by the ministry. In 511 animals, the most allowed animal species is the wild goat with the 281 amount. Roe and red deer follow the wild goat. For the pile horn species in 10 different species, only 1 quota is reserved for the local hunters. Apart from this, the Anatolian Wild Sheep is the least permitted species allowed to hunt due to be cultivated and taken under the protection of them. It is followed by gazelle and nanny (female) wild goats.

Table 3. Hunting Fees of Animals Allowed to Hunt

Name of the Animal Species	Foreign	Domestic	Local	Diplomat	Total	Distribution Rate by Animal Species
Wild goat	180	72	26	3	281	54,99
Faulty Horned Wild Goat	0	9	14	0	23	4,50
Nanny (Female) Individual Wild Goat	0	0	8	0	8	1,57
Hybrid Wild Goat	13	5	1	0	19	3,72
Hook Horned Mountain Goat	14	9	0	0	23	4,50
Anatolian Wild Sheep	5	0	0	0	5	0,98
Red Deer	23	21	2	0	46	9,00
Pile Horned Red Deer	0	0	1	0	1	0,20
Gazelle	4	2	0	0	6	1,17
Roe	37	60	0	2	99	19,37
Total	276	178	52	5	511	100,00
Distribution Rate by Hunter Types	54,01	34,83	10,18	0,98	100,00	

Table 4 shows the animals in which hunting areas are allowed. The areas designated for hunting are away from of mass tourism regions in Turkey, and it is important to spread the tourism to different regions. Since hunting tourism is inherently built in rural areas or mountainous areas, it does not coincide with mass tourism activities. In these regions, hunting tourism can be a kind of tourism with a significant economic return.

Figure 1 shows the areas that can be done hunting tourism in Turkey. In Turkey, hunting tourism is generally done in the interior part of the country where tourism activities are low. In addition to this, in most of the provinces like Erzincan, Bingol, Artvin, Karabuk, Duzce, Nigde, Kahramanmaras, Giresun, Gumushane and so on where the cluster is formed, tourism is almost negligible. Hunting tourism can be considered as an important tourism activity in these regions. Hunting tourism can be an important opportunity for tourism enterprises in provinces such as Antalya and Mugla to continue their activities in low season.

Hunting tourism contributes to the protection of local species. In particular, it is important to reintroduce endangered animals. It is also effective in raising awareness about animal protection.

Their contribution to providing employment to local people cannot be ignored. Thanks to the hunting tourism, idle areas such as mountains, grasslands and plateaus can be used as income generating areas for local economy what they need. It is also known that the local people contribute to their economic revenues.

Particularly on the tourism activities in locations that continuous migration from Turkey's far-flung areas, will help to stimulate the local economy. It is a kind of tourism will contribute to the spread of tourism activities in all seasons in Turkey. The creation of the distribution maps of other game animals in Turkey will be useful for tourism planners.

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