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Ecotourism Planning of Murat Mountain (Usak, Kutahya/Turkey)

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Abstract

In today's life, people are tightening urban environments and search of recreation in natural habitat that turning to mountainous areas and natural resources for tourism activities. Mountain areas with a wide variety of use options for different users these areas of the state makes a focal point for tourism. In this study were investigated original natural and cultural values of Murat Dagi and the immediate surroundings where geographical located in Usak and Kutahya cities. For the ecotourism of the existing and improved features of the area were included of high potential for tourism activities. The environmentally sensitive tourism development and tourism potential of the area and immediate surroundings to the suggestions were made ensure the sustainable development of rural areas.

Keywords: Ecotourism, alternative tourism, mountain tourism, sustainable development, Murat Dagi (Usak, Kutahya/Turkey).

1. Input

Difficult with each passing day ecological conditions in urban areas directs the movement of people and ecotourism. These movements, especially in tourism as the activities carried out in regions rich in natural and cultural values. These visits are not for people just to rest and have fun at the same time developing person's thoughts, providing socialization, enhance awareness of nature, is in the form of visits, including cultural activities. Thus, for natural area tourism activities and resources of significant interest in recent years.

Protection of natural and cultural values, tourism, preserve, evaluate, and play a leading role in the promotion. However, uncontrolled tourism, bringing with it a steadily growing interest in the fields of the original nature, mountainous areas of natural and cultural values is corrupt. Long-term attractiveness and diversity of the mountains, resources, stable, based on prudent and sustainable management. Therefore, the management of mountainous areas, requests for tourists, local people's needs and the need to ensure a sustainable balance between conservation of natural resources [1]. Alternative to natural and cultural resource values of Murat Mountain is a significant potential for tourism.

However, to avoid damage to the structure of ecological tourism, is an absolute must operate within the plan. Murat Mountain surroundings with the aim of this study demonstrate the potential of ecotourism, tourism planning and emphasize the necessity of sustainable development.

1.1. Ecotourism and Mountain Tourism

Removed from the influence of contemporary living and urban ecosystems in time living with nature, human beings found in nature, but it belongs at every opportunity created by nature, if only temporarily, returning to break [2]. Mountains, water, energy, agriculture, forestry and tourism activities are important resources in terms of biodiversity has a key role to. Mountain tourism in mountainous environment, having the cares of beaches and mountain resorts, including recreation and tourism movement. Mountain tourism capital of the mountain and nature itself. The mountains, rocky, forested, mountain ecosystems and water of various qualities, including areas for different activities, allowing each season. Recreation and tourism activities in the purpose of vacation, as well as migration of health tourism in these areas, nature studies, nature and winter sports training is also widely used for such purposes. Usually the mountains from a height of 800 meters above sea level to 2000 meters altitude ranging from the healthy generation and protection of human health to climate areas are attractive places. Heights of 1650-3000 meters in the mountain, winter sports, and sports fields daily heights of 1600-2000 meters, 2000-3000 meters, the planned residential areas, and thus the heights of the mountain is high up in each of the different alternatives are awarded for a tourism activity [3].

Today, tourism and increase the variety of tourism activities and tourism, countries have made steps to extend the season to be benefited from the mountain and winter tourism facilities have engaged effectively. In 2002, the United Nations by the "World Year of Mountains" were announced. Mountaineering, consisting of only the top of a mountain or a rock face climbing but hiking, mountain sports, camping, wildlife viewing, such as a wide range, covering the various activities. Mountain tourism is an activity that can be places where people live close to the environment such as the activities with accommodation in remote areas is carried out in [1]. Positive effects on human health, clean air and microclimate in mountainous areas is a natural demand for the environment increases. Will be possible with ecotourism planning in order to meet this demand.

1.2. Tourism Planning and Sustainable Development

Increasing environmental awareness of the changing trends in world tourism and the development of natural areas, tourism activities necessitate a controlled manner. Tourism planning a rational relationship between requirements and organizes the resources for such purposes. Tourism planning purposes this. relationship between rational resources requirements Ensuring the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources to the evaluation of the physical planning decisions in the field of ecological planning strategies.

The potential that exists to protect nature and take advantage of the maximum level, improving the offer to benefit future generations, do not conflict with each other, basing it on a plan it is possible to determine the usage options [4]. Ecology, sustainable use of natural and cultural resource values are increasing, the need for basic land use planning. This obligation, which continued to increase pressures on natural and cultural environment (land speculation, population growth, environmental degradation, inadequate legal and clearances, improper resource management, etc.). Has become a necessity due to [5]. Important criteria for use of natural and cultural areas, and determination of the planning and promotion, tourism potential and the development of these regions provides an opportunity for economic development of rural areas [6]. One of the most important source of tourism values of the local culture. Crafts and foods, such as peculiar to the region by increasing the demand for local products as a means to protect the local culture, take on an important task [7].

2. Material Method

Murat Mountain and vicinity workspace and material creates. Area of natural and cultural elements carry with attractive features is the potential for tourism and recreation activities. In this study, pre-made materials to help research, domestic and foreign sources and internet data used to establish the relevant literature. To investigate the structure of the natural and cultural areas of field observations made at different times, area photos and on-site evaluations have been taken. Topographic map of the area and the data obtained from field studies revealed the potential for ecotourism Murat Mountain. And sustainable development in light of the evaluations under the proposals have been made for the use of ecotourism.

3. Findings

3.1. Murat Mountain Location and limits

Murat Mountain and the surrounding area has a history older. The old name of Murat Dağı Ddymus. MÖ.1200 'lü years later the Phrygians in Macedonia has experienced with the Byzantine Empire Period. Murat Mountain Germiyanogulları Turks, and later the Ottoman Empire upon has taken place in the territory. Murat Dagi in the name of the hero of the Murat Gazi \ martyred 1313 from falling. National Park is within the eastern extensions of the mountain, the Commander in Chief. Murat has been fighting in the War of Independence in 1922 foothills [8].

Geographical Features: Murat Mountain, Aegean Region, Department of Domestic Gediz Basin is located in western Anatolia. Kütahya and Usak Usak province in the southern parts of Muratdagi forming the boundary between the northern sections remain within the boundaries of the city of. The study area-29057'38'' 29046'50'' 38049'54''-38055'02'' east longitude and is situated between north latitudes Kütahya [9]. In General, a Northwest-Southeast direction, extending East of the Başkomutanlık National Park, to the West of Mount Murat Gediz Valley and to the South of the mountain, and the Valley of Banaz Çayı Şaphane Elmadag Mountain is located in the North with the Skillet (Figure 1).

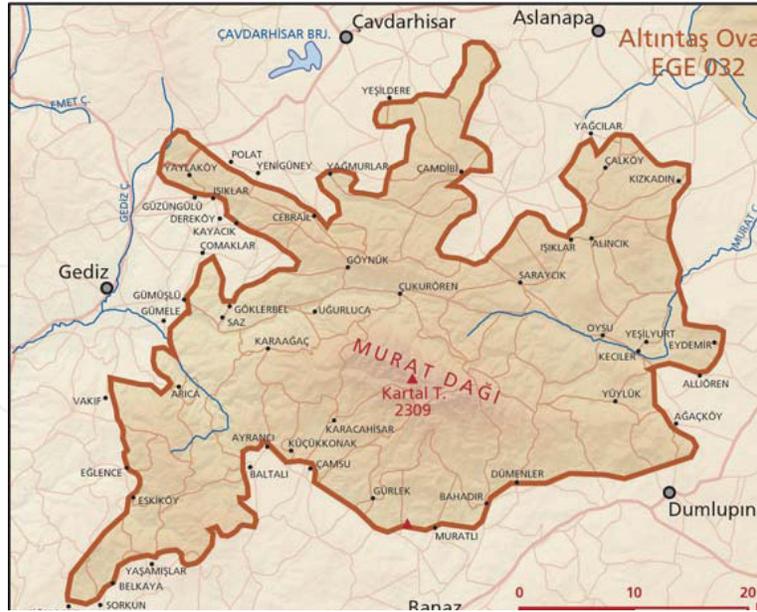


Figure 1. Murat Mountain location (taken from www.dogadernegi.org)

Geomorphological Features: Murat Mountain geomorphological high mountainous areas, valleys and low plains can be considered. Average of Murat Mountain is located on a plateau of the Inner Western Anatolia between 1000-1250 m. Creates the highest point of the mountain, 2309 m and Kartaltepe. Mountains; Kırkpınar T (2218 m), Öküzkaya T (2213 m), Tinaz T (2097 m), Çatmalmezar T (1990 m), Kazıkbatmaz T (1857 m) the high peaks are also available. The average height of 1586 m and geomorphological aspects are of a high mountainous terrain [10]. Faults is limited to the northern edge of the upper part of Muratdagi flattened, and this has led to separation of the plains and plateau areas in the form of steep slopes. Field BAF (Western Anatolian Fault) line is located within the earthquake zone is present. Circus in the higher parts of the mountain lakes (Lake location, Lamb Lake) were also observed.

Climate Features: Muratdagi continental climate, with some features of the transition climate of Mediterranean and Black Sea climate type. Due to its geographical position and topographical characteristics of the study area in summer and winter seasons remain under the influence of different pressure centers. Winters are cold, depending on the rainfall seen in the frontal activity, cool and wet summers than in the Mediterranean climate, the climate characteristics of the transition is observed [8]. Which is closest to the mountain meteorological stations (Uşak, Kutahya and Gediz) analyzed data from an annual average temperature values were determined to be between 10.5 to 12.3 0C. Soaring heights of Mount Murat is estimated that this value falls to C 3-4. Field is exposed to winds, especially in the northern sector. During the summer winds called etesian effect. Ranged between 534-571 mm of annual rainfall of the area in the northern slopes are much higher than the amount of rainfall [11].

Hydrography: Murat Mountain is located within three major river catchment. Gediz Basin in western and northwestern parts of the field (Murat River) eastern and northeastern parts of the Sakarya River Basin (Badger Creek) in the southern parts of Great Menderes Basin (Great Menderes River) enters into. There are five lakes around Mount Murat [8].

Vegetation: The vegetation is different from the northern and southern slopes. Northern slopes of the Black Sea or the European-humid and semi-humid forests of Siberia, biogeography, dry forests of the southern slopes of the Iran-Turan seen biogeography. 22 000 34 000 hectares and hectares of forested Muratdagi high forest, 12 000 hectares of forest is damaged or coppice form. The study area in terms of elevation-climate zones 3 major red pine (900-1150), Larch (1150-1550), Scotch Pine (1600-1750) and two intermediate Red Pine+Larch, and Larch+yellow pine(1550-1600m) divided into generation. Type of climate transition Murat Mountain ensured that type of climate is very rich in endemic species. Taksondan 114 were grown in 890 endemic for Turkey. 3 One of these species (*Alyssum davisiasum*, *Verbascum coropifolium*, *Sedum hispanicum*) Murat Mountain endemic for [12].

3.2. Potential for Tourism and Ecotourism Events Murat Dagi

Murat Mountain, with the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 11 608 dated 18.03.1987 "Tourism Center" has been announced. Ottoman history dating back to 1450 meter high mountain is located in the hot springs. The total flow of spring water 45.26 l / s, the temperature is 29-50 0C sulfate, calcium, magnesium and contains bromide. Kocahamam, Hacethane, Sarıkız, five baths are available with the name of Governor and Scabies Bath. The center of the spa 18 bungalows, 154 rooms, 13 apartments, 80 wooden houses 616 beds, 2 baths, 2 swimming pool, guest house and conference center with 15 beds serving 200-bed camp. According to the records more than 15000 visitors per year of thermal tourism center, and visitors coming for tourist purposes' type have been the residence of Murat Mountain is an area rich in permanent and seasonal water sources. Murat Mountain is the source of three major rivers. An important source of the rivers for water-based tourism activities. Value as a major tourist flows through the northeast part of the Badger Creek Kesiksöğüt Pınarı'ndan source of the water, forms a part of the source of the Gediz River flows towards the northwest. Menderes River in the south of the mountain, the source of the River of Tepelene [8].

They are created by splitting the beds of rivers waterfalls deep in the field (Gürlü Dere) important elements of the landscape. Near the summit of the mountain formed part of a circus element in lakes is a major tourist attraction, especially Lake Lamb. Initially, caused by thermal tourism Murat Mountain and then in a large pine forests because of the rich vegetation and clean air has become the center of mountain tourism plays an important role. Gökoluk Murat Mountain tourism center, Municipal, Dokuzçam, Cherry and the ability to stay on the plateau is called Kıcıroğlu. Tourism around the yellow flowers close to the center, İkizce, Arif Tosun, there are plateaus Söbealan and other so-called Karaağıl [10].

Murat Mountain in winter other climatic charm. Plateau and Ridge Söbealan Karakötek length, width, ideal for winter tourism in terms of examination. Changes in climatic conditions within short distances seen Murat Mountain. This area has made a rich floristic cover. Areas in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and is a land climate, plant species. Space enthusiasts have flocked especially in spring and summer herbs. Tepelene Baklan Pine hill south of the so-called black pine (*Pinus nigra*) are memorial trees. Memorial tree 11 meters long, 3.05 meters in diameter, a large tree is 500 years old.

As an alternative to other types of tourism on Mount Murat is made; hiking, nature observation, plant / animal observation, mountain biking, rock climbing, paragliding, moto cross, horseback riding, fishing, camping, picnicking, photo safari, nature photography, documentary shooting, scenic viewing, religious tourism (Murat Dede Mausoleum) such activities (Figure 2, 3).

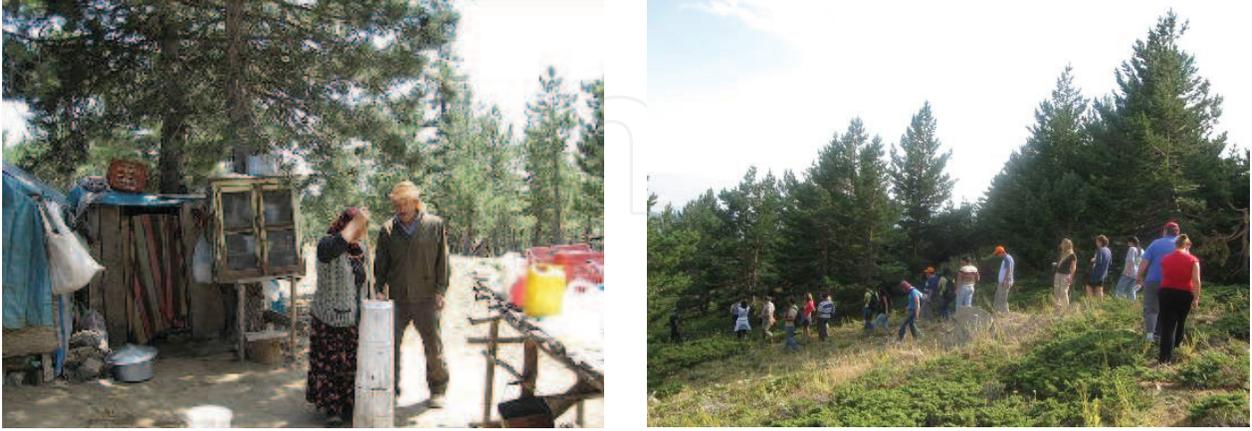


Figure 2. Nomad life and nature walks in Murat Mountain



Figure 3. Nature photography and a picnic in Murat Mountain

Murat Mountain is also important for wildlife. Area suitable for hunting tourism nature. Spa 2 km far away from the speakers are producing farm lara. Murat Mountain animals are protected species of wildlife such as otter and badger includes monitoring and research opportunities. Murat Mountain rocks formed in different geological periods, a tourist attraction and has the geomorphologic structure of visual beauty. Geomorphology and geology is the structure of space-science education and as a practice field for the potential. Murat Mountain and around the village settlements on the plains there are under 1300 meters. Those of authentic village houses in the villages and settlements in the forest farm tourism, farm tourism and provide opportunities for activities such as examination of the traditional ways of life. At these locations, the tarhana soup unique to the region, Gediz kebab, halvah, bending an important food for the tourism sector are foods such as pancakes. In addition, local crafts and gift market of products of wood, embroidery products.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

In case of physical improvements and provide for tourism and conservation policies in the field of Murat Mountain will be a center for ecotourism, sustainable development, will provide the people of the region.

Murat Mountain is an area up to now has succeeded in preserving the habitat of. However, the current situation in tourism development plan achieved. Tourist area of hardware and infrastructure, the necessary accommodation for organized tours, such as lack of food and beverage facilities include the physical deficiencies. Daily or weekend visitors picnic and camping environment pollution is waste. This issue is not enough supervision. It is not sufficient to control later in this topic. In addition, the lack of awareness of the protection of the field with the introduction of such problems. Field trips and nature walks suitable for tourism, local product outlets, cafes, restaurants, tea garden, tea house, living and recreation areas, kayakevleri, camping and picnic areas will be the charm and the space to portray the socio-cultural life.

Tourism management plan for tourism infrastructure, and the local people's support is required. The scope of the project; village units and sales of products grown locally established guidelines. Local people, lived through the region's natural and cultural values from all walks of life without losing the economic income would be the protector of these values. Documentary films and festivals should be done visually in the form of promotion. Space that makes it an attractive spa services. In order to use resources more efficiently the thermal rearrangement of the existing accommodation facilities in and near the modern way to bring sports facilities will be positive. Field is located near the villages, gardens and farm tourism for tourists from the area of a portion of the improvement can be edited. Walking on the route of tourists and villagers sell their interest in local products such as fruits and vegetables are an expression of this need. All of these natural and cultural resource values in the Inner Western Anatolia, Murat Mountain primarily a source of important alternative for the country.

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