

## **The Village-Based Determination of Ecotourism Potential of the Küre Mountains National Park<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

So as to develop ecotourism as an important opportunity for rural development and nature conservation, primarily researches for determination of the ecotourism potential and solutions for rural poverty problems of the region is needed. This study was accomplished to identify and promote the cultural and natural values of which meant the source of ecotourism including the villages located along the buffer zone of Küre Mountains National Park (KMNP). Based on a comprehensive literature study, ecotourism potential of villages was evaluated by a team of different fields of expertise via fieldworks and the notes taken at face-to-face conversations with villagers and the Heads of Villages including photographs taken at the site. The presentations prepared for each village were evaluated and the villages were scored after mutual conversations. Considering the ecotourism potential of the villages, three groups are allocated according to priority. 15 in the primary priority group, 13 in the second group and 29 in the third group are listed. An action plan has been developed on the basis of the territories where the villages are located and on the total area. It is clear that researches which will determine ecotourism potential for rural development and nature conservation and the ones of which provide solutions to rural poverty problems should be defined correctly. It is believed that this study may constitute an important base for the right definition of the relationship between protected areas and ecotourism experiences in our country.

**Keywords:** Ecotourism Potential, Rural Development, Protected Area, Kure Mountains National Park, Turkey.

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<sup>1</sup> This article is the revised version of the congress paper from the '1st International Sustainable Tourism Congress' held in Kastamonu on 23rd-25th of November 2017.

## **Introduction**

The rural areas are the places where human beings interact with nature (Berkowitz, 2000). In these areas, while agriculture and forestry are the most common industries, along with that tourism and handcraft activities are performed as well. Because of their importance in terms of ecology, these are the spaces that also urban people continuously interact (Uzunpınar, 2008).

Being defined as initiatives developed for sustaining the rural areas and improving life quality of the rural society, rural development (Turhan, 2005) means increasing access to decent living conditions for the rural people (Diaror, 2008), supporting demands for change based on development, for individuals discovering one's self-power, ensuring a fair income distribution, increasing income, expanding access to education and health services, using natural resources by preserving them, and bringing the richness of rural area to the life of an individual in the countryside (Ekin, 2008). In addition, the rural development is defined as "a process which allows combining the attempts of small communities for improving their economic, social, cultural conditions and the government's efforts concerning this issue, to integrate these communities with the rest of the nation and include them in national development efforts (Gülçubuk, 2006).

The common aspect of the rural development policies at the national and international level in various scales is to immediately improve the working and living conditions of the rural communities. Therefore, extending the ecotourism studies that serve to protect the environment and the natural resources and increase employment is concerned as a primary target.

The starting point of the ecotourism characterized as "a conscious tourism in terms of economic efficiency, social responsibility and natural environment..." is to "minimize its effect on environment without harming the economic basis of tourism." (Tekin, 1991; İnceoğlu and Aysu, 1992; Atmiş, 1994).

Being referred as soft tourism, green tour, nature based tourism, environment-friendly tourism, alternative tourism, responsible tourism, etc. and known as an "ecology-based" tourism activity, the ecotourism "is a kind of tourism which aims to preserve natural and cultural values, includes promotion and training activities that allow to introduce these values to people together with their functionality, and embraces several events that promote small-scale and individual activities instead of larger ones (Simpson, 1993). Ecotourism is defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "a segment of tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with the specific objective of admiring, studying and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural features, both past and present, found in these areas... [and] that advances or supports the conservation of natural and cultural resources of protected areas" (Cobb, 1992).

In the World Ecotourism Summit, held in Canada, Quebec City, the distinctive features of ecotourism are listed as following (Kuvan, 2012): Active contribution to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, contribution to the wealth of local people, inclusion of local people to planning, developing and operation stages, informing visitors on natural and cultural heritage, offering better opportunities to individual tourists as well, along with the participants of small group tours.

The Küre Mountains National Park (KMNP) is located on the Küre Mountains, Western Black Sea part of the Black Sea region. The National Park has an area of 37,753 ha in total, while 19,129 ha of it resides on Bartın province, the remaining (17,871 ha) falls within Kastamonu province. Diverse

features of the area, designated as national park in the year of 2000, have nationally, regionally or internationally significance; for instance its endemic and local culture have a regional importance, whereas its animal species, geological structure and old-growth forests have an international importance, and also its recreational and tourism values have a national significance (Akbulut, et al. 2015). Based on these features, two primary target of the national park management are to conserve the biological diversity and to protect the landscape and its unique karstic geomorphology (narrow valleys, etc.). The most prominent facts threatened the national park are poverty of the people resided in the vicinity of the national park and growing fragmentation of the landscape around it due to investments (Görmüş, 2013).

One of the critical solutions which will eliminate the poverty of local people and contribute to rural development is to project the local ecotourism activities so as to benefit from the potentials of the natural park. At this point, along with the natural and cultural values embodied in the park, the natural and cultural values of the nearby villages should be determined as well (Görmüş, et al., 2015). This study is intended to appoint the village-based ecotourism potential of the villages located in the buffer zone in Bartın side of the Küre Mountains National Park.

### **The Material and The Method of the Study**

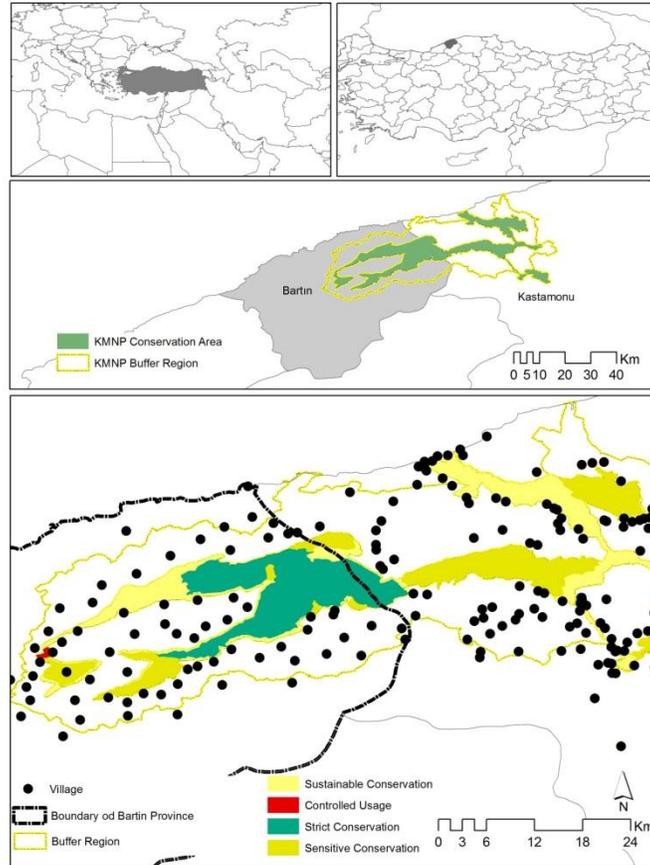
**Study area and data sources:** The internationally important Küre Mountains National Park and its buffer zone host great examples of wildlife in the endangered “Black Sea Moist Karst Forest” ecosystem, and it ranked among 9 protected areas from Turkey in the “100 Forest Hotspots” of European forests list - forests that need urgent protection - which was selected by WWF in 1999 (Lise, 2011). The Küre Mountains National Park (KMNP) has importance both at the national and international level as well as to its rich ecosystem, intact nature, social structure, history and cultural history. KMNP is one of the 311 Key Biodiversity Areas in Turkey (UNDP, 2010). The National Park was selected as one of the Important Plant Areas in Turkey of 122 Key Botanical Sites by WWF (KMNP, 2012). Also, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), it is a part of “Northern Anatolia and Caucasus Temperate Forests”, one of the Global 200: Priority Ecoregions for Global Conversation.

In order to ensure the integrity of natural sites and tourism/recreational sites, and the applicability of the plan; the Küre Mountains National Park were segmented based on intact level of the natural structure, endemism, ecological and biological importance, human activities, effects of natural disasters and land use pattern. With regional segmentation, by determining an absolute preservation area, a critical preservation area, a sustainable use area, a controlled use area within the park and a buffer zone around the park, developing proper specific plan decisions for these areas and defining human activities, it's aimed to apply restriction and control based on areas, ensure the applicability of the plan decisions, and improve the administrative organization (UDGP, 2012).

KMNP is regarded as one of the most abundant points in terms of canyons and caves in Turkey. The region where the Küre Mountains extends is considered as the second important karstic area of Turkey after the Taurus Mountains (WWF, 2010; Akbulut et al., 2015).

Around the Küre Mountains National Park, within the residential areas belong to Bartın and Kastamonu provinces 221,000 inhabitants live in total. 30% of the population resides in urban whereas the remaining (70%) lives in the rural areas (Görmüş, 2012).

Since the Küre Mountains National Park, extended on the east-west direction in the Western Black Sea Region, constitutes a physical and social barrier (borderline) for its surroundings, there is no settlement within its borders. In the Long-Term Development Plan of the National Park (UDGP), it is observed that the total population of 123 villages within the borders of Kastamonu (Azdavay, Pınarbaşı, Şenpazar and Cide districts) and Bartın provinces (Centrum, Kurucaşile, Amasra and Ulus districts) which approved as the buffer zone has decreased in the recent thirty years (Görmüş, 2017). The basic means of living for the villages in the buffer zone are forestry, agriculture, beekeeping, woodwork, weaving, collecting non-wood forest products (NWFP) and tourism. Having a rich cultural history reveals the folkloric tourism potential of the region. The cultural values which may be subject to tourism activities of the region comprise traditional products, organic food market, historical houses, and waterfalls, etc. Within KMNP, there is an Information Center in Centrum district/Söğütlü Village and a Visitor Center in Ulus district/Ulukaya Village in Bartın province, and an another Visitor Center in Pınarbaşı district in Kastamonu province. The entrance gates of the national park are in Kurucaşile (Kapısıyu and Paşahılar), Centrum (Arıt/Çöme Gorge), Ulus at Bartın side and Pınarbaşı, Azdavay, Şenkaya and Cide at Kastamonu side.



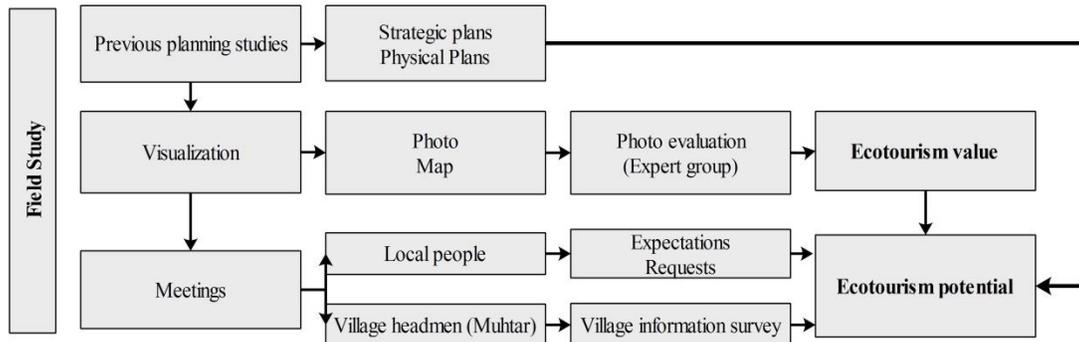
**Figure 1.** Location map, and segments and village settlements in the Küre Mountains National Park

In this study, not only the villages reckoned within the buffer zone in Long Term Development Plan (UDGP) were taken into consideration. Also, by overlapping the borders of the villages and the buffer zone, the villages whose borders match with the buffer zone were included as well. Accordingly, 71 villages in total within the buffer zone located in Bartın side of KMNP were investigated (Figure 1). On the report of TUIK (2014), total population of these villages is recorded as 17.015: totally 9069 people in 27 villages of Bartın-Art region, 3954 people in 26 villages of Ulus region, 2785 people in 14 villages of Kurucaşile region, and 1207 people in 4 villages of Amasra region. Due to problems on gathering data and accessing local people, 4 villages of Amasra region were excluded and ecotourism potential of 67 villages could be determined.

**Method:** The methodology of the study was structured based on targets which aims to extend participation. Comprised of planning studies, visualization studies and meetings, the three stages are interlinked and each stage supports the previous one through a feedback mechanism (Figure 2).

**The planning studies:** The Priorities and the objectives of each plan were proposed by analyzing physical and strategic plans regarding the area.

**The Visualization Studies:** The village information survey created at the stage of detecting rural landscape structure, the proposed ecotourism activities (national, regional and local actions), the location of the proposed activities in the KMNP Management Plan and the village settlements were mapped via Arcview 9.1. geographic information system software. Based on slope, aspect and altitude, a suitability analysis was performed for trekking paths and tour routes.



**Figure 2.** The methodology of the study

**The meetings:** In 2015 February and March, seven meetings in total were held under the title “Village Design Guides Workshops” for informing the relevant stakeholders by analyzing national, regional and local strategies/documents on rural landscape structure and ecotourism potential of the area, as well as survey data from field studies, and photography studies (Figure 3). These meetings were took place with the participation of different interest groups such as public institution representatives, non-governmental organizations, field-guides, private sector, tourism operators, and village communities. At the meetings, the ecotourism values of the villagers were determined using the brainstorm technique (Türker et al., 2014). At the end of the village meetings, individual interviews with the village headmen (muhtar) were conducted regarding confirmation of the village information survey (Table 1), the presence of ecotourism substructure, and how it can be enhanced.



**Figure 3.** Meetings with public institutions, local people and village headmen

**Table 1.** The variables of the village information survey

<b>Topography</b>	Slope, altitude, erosion factor
<b>Substructure</b>	Accessibility, access to basic services, the number of household in the village, the number of empty residence, gastronomy facilities
<b>Distance</b>	Distance of the village to the wood production area of forest enterprises, distance to the national park, variety of attraction places, distance to village center and accessibility
<b>Economy</b>	Mining, animal production, plant production, marketing, means of living in the area, female labor etc.
<b>Population</b>	Population of the village, rate of youth, elderly, and disabled population
<b>Recreation</b>	Values of rural life, available recreational activities, number of attraction places
<b>Ecology</b>	Wildlife, flora/endemic
<b>Social life</b>	Personal skills of the village residents, social interaction, being organized, economic activities of the immigrants from village in their residential places

Determining ecotourism potential of the village: Ecotourism potential of the villages were determined by a project team which consists of various specialists from various areas, through evaluating the objectives proposed in planning studies, expectations of local people, field observations of professionals, demands of local people, the village information survey and photography study. These evaluations were carried out firstly by probing presentations prepared for each village, then upon an interactive opinion statement, and as a result of rating the villages by different specialists. The scale used for rating system was designed based on Likert scale.

### Findings

In the study, the villages located within the Küre Mountains National Park Buffer Zone were analyzed by segmenting four different regions; Bartın-Arı, Ulus, Kurucaşile and Amasra. Although in the Long-Term Development Plan of the Küre Mountains National Park, it is stated

that there are 54 villages within the buffer zone, during mapping and visualization studies 71 villages in total were detected within Bartın side of the KMNP Buffer Zone and these villages were included in the study.

From Amasra district, only Acarlar, Çanakçılar, Şükürler and Yukarısal villages are located within the KMNP Buffer Zone. Due to absence of the village headmen in meetings during project studies, it couldn't be possible to gather sufficient data from Amasra Region. Therefore, evaluations concerning these villages couldn't be performed in this study.

### **Bartın Centrum-Arit Region**

In Bartın section, partially-interconnected wide valley floors and plains in various sizes were formed due to segmentation of a wide valley, extended from Küre Mountains to Bartın city center, by small hills. It is seen that agricultural areas (garden cultivation and greenhouses) and pastures cover the plains. Floras and poplar gardens along the rivers on plains and valley floors form a linear corridor.

Arit region intensely hosts high rocks, a characteristic feature of the Küre Mountains National Park, due to its bowl-shaped topography. Besides, trekking paths, tour routes and daily use areas accumulate in this region. The landscape texture of the region comprise of pastures, rocks and valleys. The Zoni Upland, The Gürdek Rocks, The Çöme Gorge, The Arit and The Karadere Valleys are important characteristic areas. The Karadere Valley and The Zoni Upland are among the regions in which the bear population is high.

Out of the villages located in the KMNP Buffer Zone and belong to Bartın Centrum district, 27 of them interact within this region. In Table 2, local people stated their opinions regarding attractive places for ecotourism, the places correlated with their village and used by them.

**Table 2.** The Villages and the attractive points for ecotourism (Bartın Centrum and Arit Region)

<b>Villages</b>	<b>Attraction Points for Ecotourism</b>
<b>Aydınlı Village</b>	The Gürdek Rocks, wooden houses, caves, water basins, haylofts
<b>Cöcü Village</b>	The Üçdiş Rock
<b>Çöpbey Village</b>	Spring water
<b>Darıören Village</b>	Stone cemetery, fresh fish restaurant
<b>Fırınlı Village</b>	The Gölderesi and Gökyer Waterfalls
<b>İmamlar Village</b>	Areas suitable for eco-agriculture, wooden houses
<b>Kumaçorak Village</b>	The Kuduzlar Castle
<b>Ören Village</b>	Caves
<b>Söğütlü Village</b>	The Zoni Upland, Göçükkaya, The Karagöl Brook, Ayıni Waterbed, Little Rock, Kayabaşı, the Gürdek Rocks, Atakdibi recreation area
<b>Turanlar Village</b>	Wooden Houses, the Zoni Upland, the Ayı Lake Cave, the Church Rocks
<b>Yeni Village</b>	Cave, Wooden House
<b>Yukarışeyhler Village</b>	The first observation point of the Arit Water Basin

### **Ulus Region**

Ulus locates in the southern part of the Küre Mountains National Park. The region is widely covered with mixed forests. The villages are settled on hillsides. Due to the topographical structure, the mixed forests and the aspect, autumn colors offer a spectacular landscape watching. The remarkable characteristic elements of the region are the Drahna Valley, the Ulukaya Canyon and Waterfall, the Ulus Brook, the Kemerli Cave and the Köklü Monastery. In Ulus district, there are 26 villages located within the KMNP Buffer Zone. The prominent villages in terms of ecotourism and attractive points for ecotourism in the region are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** The Villages and the attractive points for ecotourism (Ulus Region)

<b>Villages</b>	<b>Attraction Points for Ecotourism</b>
<b>Ulus (Centrum district)</b>	The Hasandede Religious Tomb and Mosque, the Kocagöz Mansion and Bathhouse, the Tophan and Altaş Mills, historical houses, trekking paths in forest, water tank
<b>Abdurrahman Village</b>	School, village mansion and its vicinity, mosques and around, village fountains
<b>Arpacık Village</b>	Small caves
<b>Aşağıçamlı Village</b>	The Kemerli Cave, vertical and horizontal caves, old forests, The Gavur Bazaar, The Aşağı (Down) Bazaar.
<b>Aşağıçerçi Village</b>	Küre Mountain Hut, mill
<b>Aşağıdere Village</b>	Historical church stones, nail-free village warehouses made of wood
<b>Aşağıköy</b>	Religious tombs, mills
<b>Çubukbeli Village</b>	Mill, Religious Tomb
<b>Dörekler Village</b>	School garden, rocks
<b>Düzköy</b>	Kadıharmanı, Kokurdan, village mill
<b>İbrahimderesi Village</b>	The Mill Waterfall, fresh water lake and picnic area
<b>İğneciler Village</b>	Waterfall, Odalaryanı, the Buz (Ice) Cave
<b>Kadıköy</b>	Valley landscapes
<b>Karahasan Village</b>	The Uzun (Long) Bazaar, the Gavur Bazaar
<b>Kozanlı Village</b>	The Kozanlı Central Bazaar, the Kozanlı ground water
<b>Köklü Village</b>	Religious tombs, snow well, the Keyfan Cave, the Köklü Monastery
<b>Ulukaya Village</b>	Waterfall, canyon, mill, and religious tomb
<b>Yukarıdere Village</b>	Waterfalls, caves, traditional architectural works

### **Kurucaşile region**

Harboring hills and valleys, the most important characteristics of Kurucaşile Region are its coastal areas, narrow valleys and old forests. The Kapısuyu Valley, the Kapısuyu Beach, the Kapısuyu Brook and high viewpoints (Kömeç, Ziyaretköy and Kaleköy) are among its significant landscape features. Within the KMNP Buffer Zone, there are 14 villages of Kurucaşile. The attraction points for ecotourism within the region's villages are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** The Villages and the attractive points for ecotourism (Kurucaşile Region)

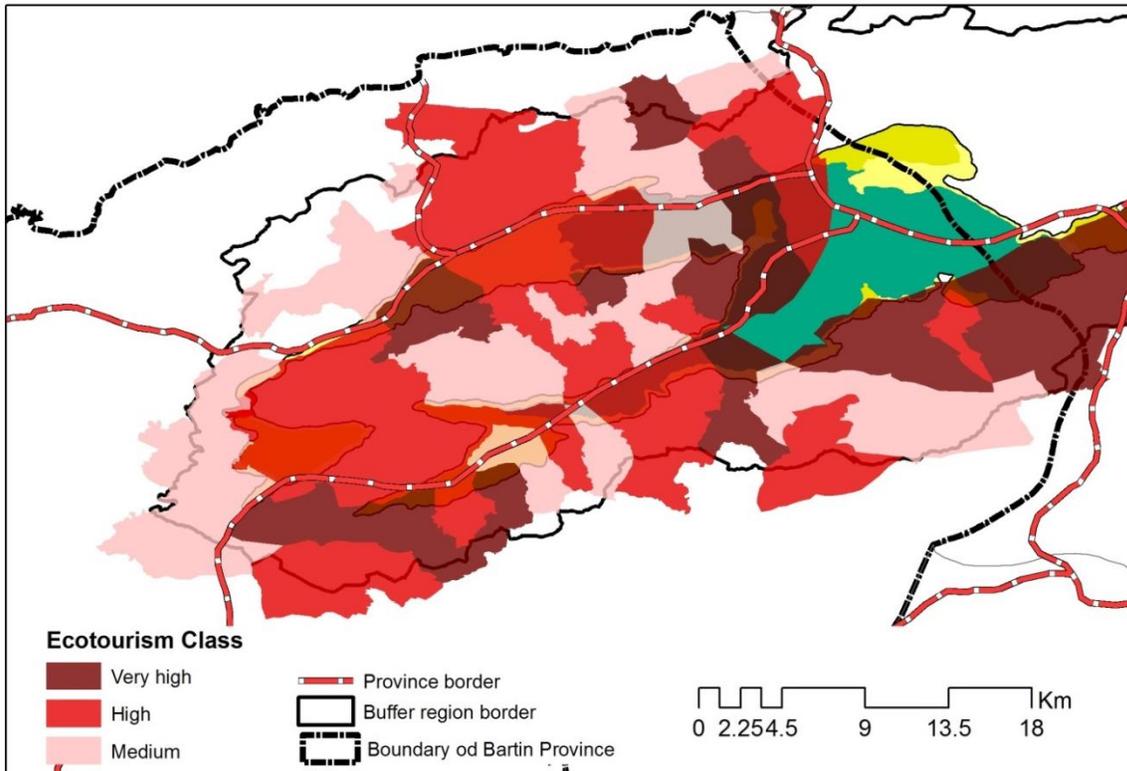
Villages	Attraction Points for Ecotourism
<b>Aydoğmuş Village</b>	The Köktence Waterfall, the Taşlı Boğaz Waterfall, the Up and Down Cascade, Local Fish Species of Freshwater
<b>Başköy</b>	Wildlife viewpoints, waterfalls, spring water, village mill, wooden bridges, panoramic viewpoints
<b>Çayaltı Village</b>	The Örencik Cave, the Kumlucu Path, Dalıdor, the Dikmen Waterfalls, the Tekkeönü Beach, pathways
<b>Demirci Village</b>	The Dede Rock, the Ambar Rock
<b>Dizlermezeci Village</b>	The Genek Stream Waterfall, the Gölderesi Waterfall, 100 years old hazel tree gardens, 100 years old wooden houses, old warehouses, the Mezeci Coffeeshop, the Paşa Castle, the Asar Castle, the Gökköy Mill, bakeries, cascades, waterfalls, lakes, mills, routes in nature
<b>Kömeç Village</b>	Nature and wildlife, valley landscape viewpoint
<b>İlyasgeçidi Village</b>	Waterfall, century-old plane tree, hazel tree gardens
<b>Kapısuyu Village</b>	The Kapısuyu Beach, <i>Pancreatum maritimum</i> plant, the Akperi Rocks, the Kapısuyu Brook, seascape, mountain landscape, forests, mill, boat manufacturing
<b>Kavaklı Village</b>	The Göldere Waterfall, the Gökyer Waterfall, the Gelin Rock
<b>Paşahlar Village</b>	Historical ruins, wooden houses, stone houses, walkway (path)
<b>Sarıderesi Village</b>	The Kayabaşı Brook, the Alukaya Cave, Kokcüvez, ground water, waterfalls, mills, village house decoration
<b>Şabanlar Village</b>	The Old Küre Mountains, mosques, chestnut oven, Lake Kocagök
<b>Tekkeönü Village</b>	Wooden boat workshops, hillsides overlooking the sea, shore, beach, historical ruins, old neighborhood roads
<b>Yeniköy</b>	Chestnut tree gardens

#### Classifying ecotourism potentials of the villages

As a result of the evaluation on 67 villages by the research team, three potential ecotourism classes are defined accordingly; “very high”, “high”, and “normal”. Upon this evaluation, it is found that among 15 villages which have “very high” ecotourism potential, 3 villages locate in Bartın-Arit Region, 9 of them locate in Ulus Region and 3 of them locate in Kurucaşile Region. The number of the villages which have “high” ecotourism potential is 4, 6 and 3 in Bartın-Arit region, Ulus region and Kurucaşile Region respectively. Most of the villages classified within “normal” ecotourism potential reside in Bartın-Arit and Ulus Region. While the villages in the class of “high” and “very high” ecotourism potential accumulate mostly in Ulus Region, and the villages classified as “normal” cluster mainly in Bartın-Arit Region. The villages in Kurucaşile Region exhibit an even distribution between very high, high and normal ecotourism potential classes (Table 5; Figure 4).

**Table 5.** Ecotourism potential of the villages in the region

Ecotourism potential	Villages	Regions
The villages having very high ecotourism potential	Çöpbeý, Ören, Söğütlü	Bartın-Arıt Region
	Alıçlı, Aşağıçamlı, Aşağıçerçi, Aşağıdere, Çerde, Çubukbeli, Kadıköy, Şirinler, Yukarıdere	Ulus Region
	Kavaklı, Kaleköy, Kapısuyu	Kurucaşile Region
The villages having high ecotourism potential	Darıören, Karaköşeyhler, Kayacılar, Turanlar	Bartın-Arıt Region
	Arpacık, Düzköy, İbrahimderesi, İğneciler, Kirazcık, Köklü	Ulus Region
	Kömeç, Dizlermezeci, Ziyaretköy	Kurucaşile Region
The villages having normal ecotourism potential	Alibaş, Balat, Cöcü, Fırınlı, Gençali, Hasanlar, İmamlar, Kayadibi, Kayadibikavlak, Kumaçorak Sipahiler, Şahin, Yeniköy, Yukarışeyhler	Bartın-Arıt Region
	Abdurrahman, Çukurbük, Alpi, Aşağıköy, Dereli, Gökpınar, Karahasan, Sarıfasıl, Ulukaya, Dörekler, Hasanören,	Ulus Region
	Sarıderesi, Aydoğmuş, İlyasgeçidi, Paşalılar	Kurucaşile Region



**Figure 4.** Ecotourism potential of the villages

It is obvious that in order to realize this classification, there is a need of national park management which has sufficient budget and staff, and also a need of public administration approach which shows interest to the national park requires as well. However, issues which prevent promotion of the Küre Mountains National Park and rise of ecotourism activities in the nearby villages can be listed as follows:

- Lack of technical and administrative personnel in the Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, and its limited management capacity due to insufficient budget,
- Apathy on the part of other public institutions in the province to the national park,
- Apathy on the part of local societies and civil society organizations in the province to the national park,
- Deficiencies regarding promotion,
- Deficiencies regarding accommodation facilities and area guidance,
- Insufficient relationship between the national park management and local people, and unsatisfying participation of local people,
- Blaming the national park and the national park management for the damages of wildlife.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions**

Upon meetings, observations, investigations and analyses in the study area, the villages were separated into three groups according to their priorities concerning ecotourism potentials. In consequence of the evaluations, the overall tendency is to develop village design guides initially in the villages that have “very high” ecotourism potential, and promote ecotourism in general. In the context of developing ecotourism in the region, it is very crucial to consider these priorities while investing on ecotourism and planning ecotourism activities.

It is acknowledged that there are various problems such as lack of personnel in the Küre Mountains National Park Administration, deficiencies in promotion, apathy on the part of public institutions in the province. In order to eliminate these known issues, several suggestions are proposed as below. The responsible institutions regarding the suggestions are also mentioned:

- Conducting archeological excavation and research in order to highlight the archeological and historical value of the area (*The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and universities*).
- Taking photos and videos for the promotion of the region (*The Turkish Aeronautical Association, The Turkish Radio and Television Association, İz TV Channel, Photography groups, organizations, etc.*)
- Promoting the Küre Mountains National Park and nearby villages in national and international tourism expos (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism , the Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, local societies*)
- Preparing promotional materials such as flyer, poster and videos (*the Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism , the Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, local societies*)
- Opening stands in order to promote and sell local products in Amasra and Bartın (*Local societies and cooperatives*)

- Organizing a Küre Mountains National Park tour for tourism operators in the region and letting them to know the region well (*The Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park*),
- Creating an effective network between field guides and tourism workers (*The Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, the Association of Area Guides, the Amasra Tourism Association*).
- Organizing special tours ie for cycling, photography, trekking, mushroom hunting, botanical activities, etc. (*The Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, relevant associations, tourism agencies* )
- Using the Internet and Social Media effectively (*The Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park*)
- Arranging website and social media trainings, ecotourism and “Green Star” trainings for tourism workers (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism , The Directorate of Küre Mountains National Park, local societies*)
- Preserving and constructing the Art-Ulus-Kerpiçli village road network, the old Cide road and the Loç Valley road network which locate in the buffer zone and surround the National Park as a landscape road (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Special Provincial Administration and the KMNP Management*).
- Developing “organic agriculture”, “good agricultural practices” and “eco-friendly agriculture” within the Küre Mountains Buffer Zone (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, the Directorate of KMNP*).
- Developing beekeeping and husbandry within the buffer zone, improving marketing opportunities by branding (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, the Directorate of KMNP, the Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cooperatives*)
- Ensuring the sustainability of traditional crafts in the region (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, the Directorate of KMNP, chambers of merchants and craftsmen*).
- Advancing the production of non-wood forest products, supporting local people and cooperatives for certification, branding and marketing (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Bartın Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bartın and Ulus Forestry Departments, the Directorate of KMNP, the Provincial Directorate of Science, Industry and Technology, cooperatives*).
- Promoting and developing entrepreneurship within the buffer zone, creating job opportunities for young people and women by on-site employment (*The Governorship of Bartın, the Bartın Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Directorate of KMNP, the Provincial Directorate of Science, Industry and Technology, BAKKA (Western Black Sea Development Agency), İŞKUR (Turkish Employment Agency)*)
- Establishing the required collaborations in order to apply sustainable natural resources management and sustainable tourism development plan (*Particularly the Directorate of KMNP and Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism, and all public institutions*).
- Offering and applying solutions for preventing the wildlife-human conflict within the buffer zone, creating funds in order to compensate the damages caused by wildlife

(The Governorship of Bartın, the Special Provincial Administration, the Directorate of KMNP, Bartın and Ulus Forestry Departments).

In addition to the suggestions above, diverse attraction points should be planned within the buffer zone of the national park, for introducing the national park firstly to local people and then at the national and international level. If different facilities such as museums (Wildlife, archeology, ethnography, etc.) arboretum, botanical gardens, wildlife viewpoints are built in the settlements like Art, Aydınlar, Kurucaşile, Ulus, Drahna Region and Amasra, there would be more visitors firstly from the vicinity, and then across the country. The center which will be built in Amasra should be designed as an information center in the city. These facilities can even be constructed by restoration of old public buildings (e.g. evacuated school buildings).

### Acknowledgement

This article was written down under the project “Preparing Village Design Guides by Determining Ecotourism Potential in Bartın Side of the Küre Mountains National Park (TR81-14-SOSYAL-0051)” which is financed by the Western Black Sea Development Agency (BAKKA). We thank to BAKKA for its support.

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