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Tourism pressure in protected areas; Butterflies Valley case

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Abstract

Tourism sector has been one of the leading sectors growing and developing most all around the world. However, it has been an incontrovertible fact that this development leads to many negative effects in terms of the natural environment, environmental pollution as the leading. Protected areas which are one of the protection statuses as a requirement of providing sustainable use of our natural and cultural values have been exposed to several negative effects in regions where tourism is intense. Butterflies Valley located near Faralya Village as one of the bays in eastern coasts of Ölüdeniz-Belcekız Bay on 12 km south of Muğla province Fethiye district takes its name from more than 80 butterfly species and especially from “*Euplagia quadripunctaria*” (jersey tiger). Butterflies Valley which was declared as the 1st degree natural protected area on 8th February, 1995 and closed to any kinds of settlement has had a rich flora. Within the valley, there have been nearly 150 plant species of families more than 50. In this study, the tourism pressure in Butterflies Valley grabbing the attention through the spectacular natural views, the biodiversity it has and its wilderness was analyzed and the required precautions that should be taken to provide the sustainable use of Butterflies Valley were mentioned.

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1. Introduction

Natural and cultural inheritance values are the most important, invaluable and irreplaceable properties of a nation. However, the importance of this inheritance is not only prevailing for that nation but also for the whole humanity. Losing these properties either through the corrosion or disappearance means the inheritance loss of whole nations in

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the world. For this reason, those are evaluated as the properties having splendid universal value and can be taken under a private protection against the threats that have been increasing gradually (Gül&Şahin, 2010). In this sense, taking 1972 Paris Convention regarding the protection of natural and cultural inheritance in the world as reference, within the scope of 2863 numbered (amendment in 3386 numbered code) Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties, activities related to managing and taking cultural and natural properties that have privileged qualities under protection were started.

These areas are grouped into 3 categories; **a**-Cultural Properties **b**-Natural Properties **c**-Protected Areas. The procedures related to protection of cultural and natural properties in our country have been carried out in accordance with the clauses of 2863 numbered Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties amended with 3386 numbered Code (Anonymous, 1983; Gül&Şahin, 2010). In TR Ministry of Culture and Tourism, High Council Resolution of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties, Natural Protected and Grade 1 Natural Protected Area definitions were made.

Natural Protected Area: These are the areas above the ground, under the ground or under the water required to be protected in terms of their being rare, properties, and beauties belonging to geological eras, prehistoric ages and historical periods.

Grade 1 Natural Protected Area: These are the areas that will be exactly protected apart from the scientific studies related to protection and required definitely to be protected in terms of the public welfare due to its having universal, interesting properties and beauties in terms of the scientific protection (Anonymous, 2007).

According to 2011 protected area statistics of our country; totally 11.859 protected areas including 10976 archeological protected areas, 255 urban protected areas, 151 historical protected areas, 32 urban archeological protected areas, and 445 other protected areas (Anonymous, 2011). These important and valuable areas defined as the protected areas in general are one of the most important instruments of managing the natural inheritance on site and one of the cornerstones of international natural protection strategies (Dudley et al., 2005; Dudley, 2008). In protection plannings, the factors efficient upon the ecosystem are important in whole of the area biologically, socially and economically. In this sense, the researchers remark the danger caused by the man-induced activities and inadequate protection (Sanderson et al., 2002).

While the environment has the feature of being a source of the tourism, its most important effects are also upon the environment (Demir&Çevirgen, 2006). Utilization for tourism is one of the efficient samples in which people are a negative part of this concept. In such areas, protection and utilization conditions should be evaluated within touristic utilization and pressure conditions. The local people as the host complain about the unresolvable social disagreements and environmental problems occurring with the mass tourism although they want the economic return of the mass tourism (Husbands et al., 1996).

In order to decrease negative social, physical, economic, socio-cultural, etc. effects of tourism and attribute responsible and sustainable development of world tourism to a series of principles, The World Tourism Organization accepted Global Code of Ethics in Tourism including 10 items on 1st October, 1999. In declaration, protective sense of environment, sustainable tourism and tourism ecology in this sense have all been discussed. Considering the issue of meeting the needs of future generations on development of tourism, the responsibility for protecting the environment was mentioned within the framework of permanent and sustainable economic growth (Dolmacı et al., 2013).

Butterflies Valley which was declared as the 1st degree natural protected area on 8th February, 1995, closed to any kinds of settlement and taking its name through the butterflies in species more than 80, especially through “*Euplagia quadripunctaria*” (jersey tiger) has had a rich flora. Within the valley, there have been nearly 150 plant species of families more than 50 (Anonymous, 2013). In this study, the tourism pressure in Butterflies Valley grabbing the attention through the spectacular natural views, the biodiversity it has and its wilderness was analyzed and the required precautions that should be taken to provide the sustainable use of Butterflies Valley were mentioned.

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