

IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS FOR NATURE-BASED TOURISM IN MARGINALISED MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF TÜRKİYE

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Abstract

Türkiye's surface area consists of approximately 78% mountainous areas. Mountainous areas are generally low population density and unsuitable for settlement. The areas where the imbalances between regions in terms of development are most intense are mountainous areas. Nature-based tourism is one of the prominent sectors with the aim of proper management of mountain resources and socio-economic development of the rural people. Mountain communities can use sustainable tourism initiatives that natural resources as an outlet to create new job opportunities, develop on-site, improve infrastructure opportunities, solve environmental and social problems and reduce their effects. In line with the nature-based tourism opportunities offered by mountainous areas, plans and specific policies can be created. It is necessary to identify the groups that are affected by the plans carried out in the planning process, to classify these defined groups according to their contributions, and to identify and analyze the stakeholders on how all this information can improve the nature-based tourism activities and the wellbeing level of rural communities living in mountainous areas.

Within the scope of the study, all stakeholders that may be relevant within the framework of nature-based tourism activities in marginalized mountainous areas in Türkiye were determined on a local, regional, national, European and global scale. The interests, behaviors and intentions of each stakeholder were evaluated. Universities, research centres, and companies, SMEs, NGOs, etc. are some of the identified stakeholders in tourism activities on marginalized mountainous areas and vulnerable ecosystems.

Keywords: *Marginal areas, mountainous region, nature-based tourism, rural human wellbeing, stakeholder analysis.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Mountainous areas have many natural and human resource potentials such as water, biodiversity, tourism and recreation, mining, forestry activities (Dal and Gönençgil, 2018). They are unique and fragile geographical areas with important ecological functions, where natural disasters are frequent and the landscape changes with increasing altitude (Peng et al. 2019). Mountain areas are recognised as the most fragile, remote and marginal ecological systems in the world (Sati, 2014). The European Commission in partnership with several European organisations has defined the mountainous areas. Therefore, areas with altitudes between 0 and 2500 m are considered mountainous areas (Ciolac et al. 2017).

Today, mountain ecosystems, which face environmental degradation as a result of increasing population pressure, are rapidly changing negatively. (Dal and Gönençgil, 2018). Mountainous areas are also less socially developed areas (Peng et al. 2019).

It is an important problem for mountainous regions that they cannot utilise their potentials sufficiently due to their environmental conditions as well as their social, economic and cultural structures. Therefore these areas cannot reach the sustainable development and remain at the level of relatively underdeveloped regions.

Mountainous areas are becoming increasingly popular tourism destinations (FAO, 2005). Many reasons make mountainous areas attractive such as clean air, scenic beauty, wildlife, local culture, being intertwined with nature and nature sports (river sports) (Duran, 2012). In many parts of the world,

mountain communities see tourism initiatives that utilise natural values (ecotourism, mountain tourism, rural tourism, sustainable tourism, etc.) as an outlet for creating jobs, local development, improving infrastructure, solving problems and reducing environmental impacts. Mountains offer a wide variety of sportive activities that can be taken part in, as well as creating places for people who want to experience different lifestyles and traditions, who enjoy attractive landscape features associated with natural ecosystems combined with human activities and land use (Gürer and Eke, 2012).

Nature-based tourism is one of the fastest growing tourism sectors, and many public lands and protected areas have become important tourist destinations (Winter et al. 2019). Items and features of natural environments are inherent to naturebased tourism (Fossgard and Fredman, 2019) and it also presents essential benefits to individuals, communities, and society and thereby contribute to sustainability (Ballew and Omato, 2018). For example, activities such as driving off-road vehicles or having a picnic at a waterfall are nature-based tourism experiences. Nature-based tourism is a type of tourism consisting of nature, activities that can be done in nature and individuals who will do these activities (Uyar Oğuz, 2021). Saraçoğlu and Kanca (2022) emphasised the need for local stakeholders to come together in nature-based tourism activities and to make strategic plans and projects with a participatory approach in the field of tourism.

According to Körezlioğlu (2002), stakeholder analysis includes the identification of all stakeholders who may be positively or negatively affected by the studies and practices carried out, and the identification and analysis of the interests, problems, potentials and other characteristics of these groups (Yenilmez Arpa 2011).

In order to conduct a stakeholder analysis, stakeholders should be identified, their priorities should be ranked, their needs should be assessed and their opinions should be collected with a participatory approach. The information obtained in this way provides integration in strategic management processes such as formulating strategic objectives, formulating and implementing strategies. Decision makers and plan makers can understand the needs and potential strengths of their stakeholders through stakeholder analysis (Garriga and Mele 2004).

Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA) (2018) and A European forum for revitalisation of marginalised mountain areas (MARGISTAR)(2022) projects are the successful examples of social innovation in rural areas and mountainous areas. Researchers, who are engaged in the international project Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA) (2018), defined social innovation as “reconfiguring of social practices in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance the outcomes on societal well-being”, and emphasized that social innovation shall cover at least inclusion and participation of the civic society actors (Atkočiūnienė and Vazonienė, 2019). MARGISTAR (2022) reflects collaboratively on natural, environmental, social, and economic inter-relationships and interactions in mountainous areas, and identifies a range of environmental, social, economic, and political challenges. It enables innovation through a range of physical and virtual meetings to co-design pathways for the transformation of marginalised mountainous areas towards their green, digital and healthy futures (Anonymous, 2023a).

In the process of nature-based tourism planning in marginalised mountainous areas, it is necessary to identify the stakeholders affected by the plan implementations, to classify these identified groups according to their contributions and to analyse how all this information can improve nature-based tourism activities. Aim of this study is to determine all stakeholders on a local, regional, national, European and global scale that may be relevant within the framework of nature-based tourism activities in marginalized mountainous areas in Türkiye.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Materials

Approximately 78 per cent of Türkiye's surface area consists of mountainous areas. The proportion of Türkiye's mountainous areas within its borders with European countries is 36 per cent (Duran, 2012). Only 1/5 of the entire area of Türkiye is out of mountainous areas (Table 1).

Countries	National (km ²)	area Mountainous (km ²)	area Mountainous ratio
Türkiye	780120	605062	78
European Union Countries	4231683	1247773	29
All European Countries	6672759	2409601	36

Table 1. Mountainous areas of Türkiye, European Union and all European countries

Source: Anonymous 2010; Duran 2012

As seen in Figure 1, Türkiye has the highest elevation areas in the physical map of Europe. The highest areas of Türkiye are mostly located in the Eastern Anatolia Region.

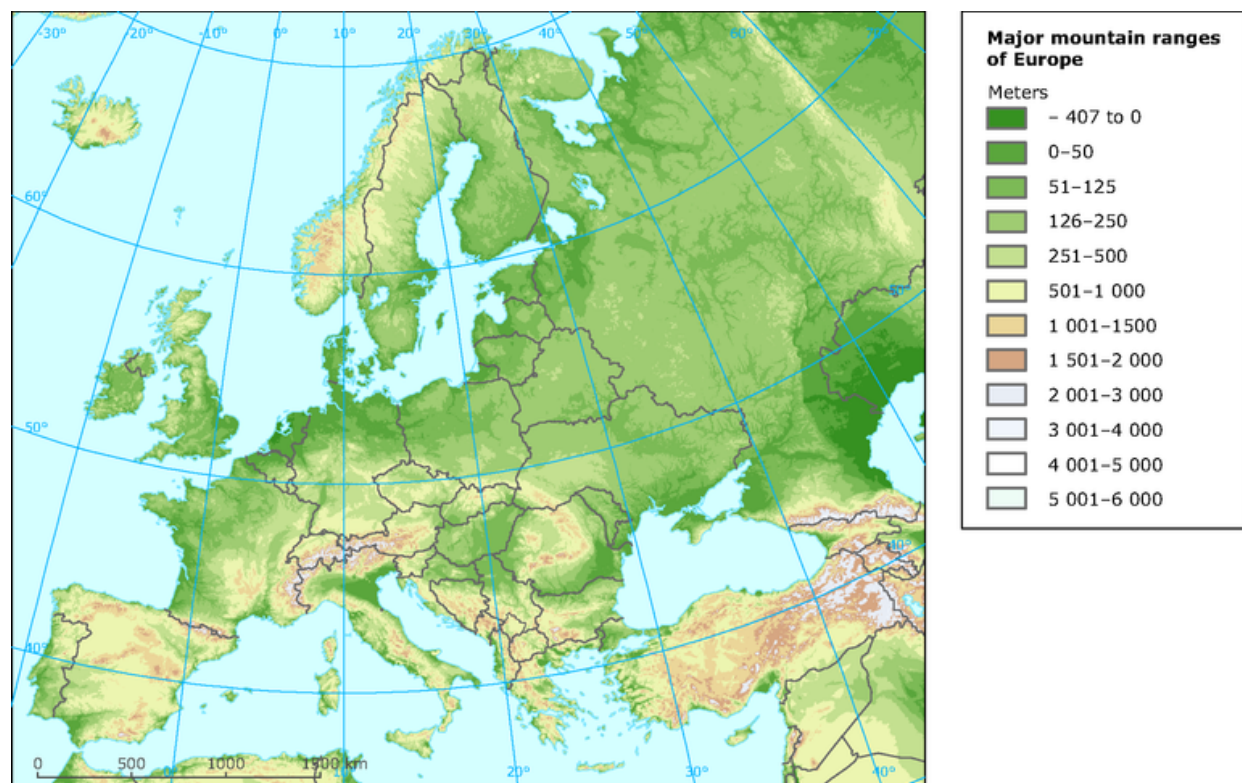


Fig. 1. Major mountain ranges of Europe

Source: European Environment Agency, 2023

The altitude increases gradually from west to east in Türkiye. More than half of Türkiye's territory consists of high mountainous areas exceeding 1,000 meters. Figure 2 shows the most important mountainous areas in 7 different geographical regions of Türkiye.

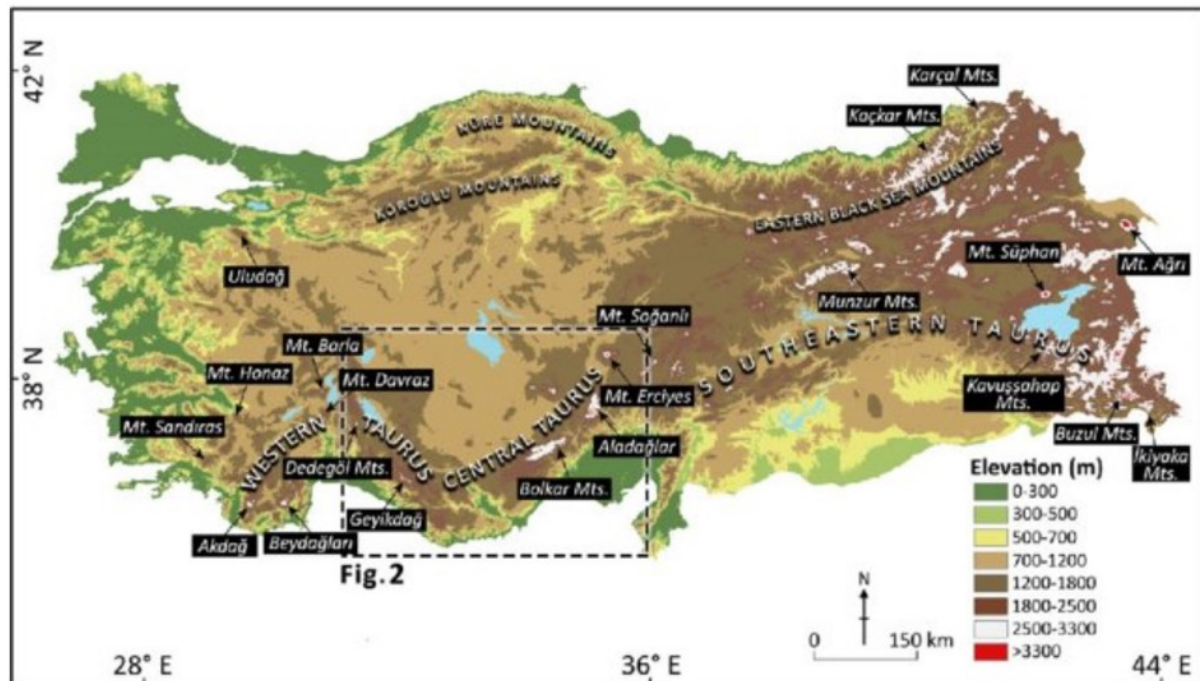


Fig. 2. Map of Türkiye Mountain

Source: Altınay et al. 2020

The highest mountain in Türkiye is Mount Ağrı (known as also Ararat) in the Eastern Anatolia Region with 5137 meters. Kaz Mountains in the Aegean Region, Kaçkar Mountains, Ilgaz Mountains and Küre Mountains in the Black Sea Region, Aladağlar and Bolkar Mountains in the Mediterranean Region, Erciyes Mountain in the Central Anatolia Region, Yıldız Mountains and Uludağ in the Marmara Region, and Mardin Mountains in the Southeastern Anatolia Region can be listed as the most known mountainous areas.

Within the scope of the study, examples of nature-based tourism practices in Kaçkar Mountains, Küre Mountains, Uludağ, Kaz, Ilgaz Mountains are emphasized.

2.2. Methods

In this study, a stakeholder analysis focused on nature-based tourism in marginalized mountainous areas in Türkiye has been conducted. In this context, the relationship and cooperation of the nature-based tourism sector were defined in detail, and the roles and positioning of the actors were determined.

"Document analysis" was used in the methodology of the study. Within the scope of the method, policy documents, strategic plans, development plans, scientific studies on marginalized mountainous areas, scientific studies on nature-based tourism activities, projects, Türkiye's tourism strategy document, national forestry program and forestry master plan were analyzed to identify stakeholders in the nature-based tourism planning process in mountainous areas in Türkiye. Good practice examples in different regions of Türkiye and the relationship between stakeholders and marginalized mountainous areas are explained.

Within the scope of the study, all stakeholders that may be relevant within the framework of nature-based tourism activities in marginalized mountainous areas in Türkiye were identified at local, regional,

national, European and global scales. CA21125 MARGISTAR COST Action “selected stakeholders relevant to MARGISTAR and the plan to involve them” (MARGISTAR, 2022) chart has been used in the focus of nature-based tourism, modified for Türkiye applications. The interests, behaviors and expectations of each stakeholder were assessed. Universities, research centers and companies, SMEs, NGOs, etc. are some of the identified stakeholders in tourism activities in marginalized mountainous areas and in vulnerable ecosystems.

2.2.1. Document analysis

With document analysis, also known as documentary scanning, data are obtained by examining existing records and documents. Document analysis involves finding, reading, noting and evaluating sources for a specific purpose (Karasar, 2005; Sak et al., 2021). Document analysis is a qualitative research method used to meticulously and systematically analyse the content of written documents (Wach, 2013).

Geray (2006) classifies documents (information and documents) according to their qualities and the environment in which they are found. (A) Documents according to their qualities: (1) Text-based (such as texts, books, encyclopedias, reports, dictionaries, journals, diaries); (2) Image-based (such as photographs, posters, maps); (3) Audio-based (such as sound recordings, music broadcasts, radio broadcasts); (4) Audio-visual-based (such as documentaries, TV programmes, videos, cinema films); (B) Documents according to the medium in which they are found: (1) written documents (such as books, reports, magazines), (2) film-based documents (such as photographs), (3) computer-based documents (such as databases), (4) portable magnetic documents (such as CDs, flash drives) (Kıral, 2020).

Researchers usually review the literature by examining previous research and incorporate this information into their research. Unlike literature review, document analysis involves an analytical method. It involves finding, selecting, interpreting, evaluating and synthesising the data in the documents. Document analysis helps to classify the data subject to the research by organising them into main themes, categories and case examples, especially through content analysis (Labuschagne, 2003; Kıral 2020).

3. RESULTS

Within the scope of the study, some of the nature-based tourism activities carried out in marginalised mountainous areas in Türkiye were analysed. Then, using the MARGISTAR stakeholder table, the main framework of nature-based tourism stakeholders related to marginalised mountainous areas in Türkiye was determined. In the context of Turkish policy documents, strategic plans, development plans, scientific studies on marginalised mountainous areas, scientific studies on nature-based tourism activities, projects, Türkiye's tourism strategy document, national forestry programme and forestry master plan, all stakeholders that may be relevant within the scope of the study are listed at local, regional, national, European and global scales.

3.1. Examples of Nature-Based Tourism Activities in Marginalised Mountainous Areas of Türkiye

3.1.1. Küre Mountains National Park

The Küre Mountains geographically form a part of the Northern Anatolian Mountain System in the central Black Sea region of northern Turkey. The Küre Mountains, also known as the Isfendiyar Mountains, consists of a mountain range approximately 250 km long along the central Black Sea coast and is located within the borders of Bartın, Kastamonu and Sinop provinces (Anonymous, 2023b; Küre Mountains National Park 2018). Küre Mountains National Park is located on Küre Mountains within the borders of Kastamonu and Bartın provinces (Yıldız, 2019). The borders of Küre Mountains National Park are shown in Figure 3.

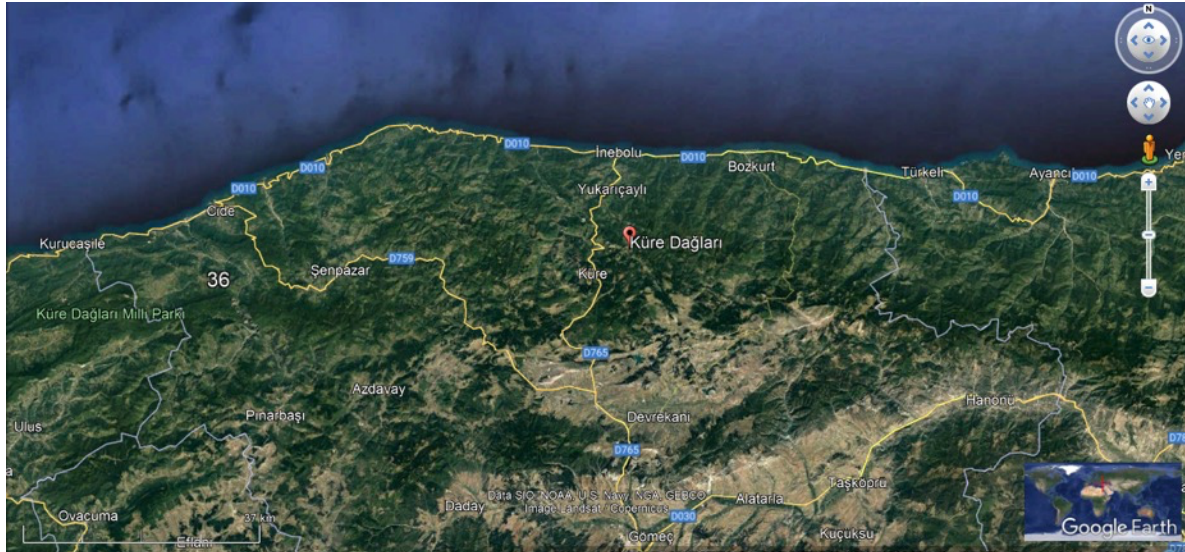


Fig. 3. Location of Küre Mountains National Park

Source: Google Earth, 2023.

Küre Mountains National Park has national and international importance. As stated by Lise (2011), WWF identified 100 forest hotspots in Europe in 1999 and Küre Mountains National Park was among the 9 forest hotspots identified in Türkiye (Yıldız, 2019). The Küre Mountains are considered to be one of the richest spots in Türkiye in terms of canyons and caves. The region of the Küre Mountains is considered to be the second most important karst area in Türkiye after the Taurus Mountains (WWF, 2010).

Küre Mountains National Park was declared as a national park in 2000. Various researches and studies have been carried out on the management of the national park until today. Within the scope of these studies, there are few studies carried out to raise awareness of the local people about the national park. There is a need for research and practices that will ensure public participation in the effective management of the national park (Akbulut et al. 2015). Küre Mountains National Park is the 13th national park in Europe and the first and only national park in Türkiye (Atmış, 2009; Akbulut et al., 2015; Görmüş et al., 2015., Yıldız and Atmış, 2021). Trekking, canyoning, caving, mountaineering, camping, rafting, angling, photo safari, picnic and wildlife watching are the main recreational activities that can be done in Küre Mountains (Öztürk, 2009).

3.1.2. Ilgaz Mountains National Park

Ilgaz Mountains are mountain ranges located in the Western Black Sea Region. The Ilgaz Mountains are one of the highest mountains in the region, extending roughly in the west-east direction between the Kastamonu Basin and the Devrez Valley and having a length of approximately 160 km (Fide, 2023). The area covered by the National Park is 1,118 ha and 750.9 ha of this area is located within the borders of Kastamonu province (Figure 4).

Ilgaz Mountains, located in the transition zone between the Black Sea and Central Anatolia Regions, was declared as a national park on 02.06.1976 and has a rich species and habitat diversity (Şen and Buğday 2015; Çoban and Göktuğ 2019).



Fig. 4. Location of Ilgaz Mountains National Park

Source: Google Earth, 2023.

The geomorphological structure of the Ilgaz Mountains (peaks, plateaus, valleys, cliffs, plains), soil and water resources (streams, lakes), climate characteristics (rain, snow, sun, fog, etc.) varying according to various elevations and aspects, rich plant formations (coniferous and leafy forests, oak groves, shrubs, meadows, etc.), which are the product of these different conditions, create suitable habitats for mammals, birds and other fauna (Çakır, 2007). Ilgaz Mountain National Park is one of the important attraction centres of Central Anatolia and the Western Black Sea region. The number of visitors to the area started to increase with the construction of accommodation facilities at the end of the 1980s and this increase has continued until today. This has made the area well-known in the region and the country and made it a winter tourism centre (Karaçar, 2019).

The national park is a potential region for tourism with its topographic structure, rich forest and vegetation cover, high wildlife potential, unique landscapes, rich recreation resources, winter tourism opportunities and an atmosphere beneficial to human health (Öztürk and Aydoğdu, 2012). The existing nature tourism activities in the area include trekking, cycling, mountain climbing, photo safari, wildlife observation, botanical tours, bird watching, orienteering, daily recreation, landscape viewing, cultural tourism, nature education. Among the existing activities, the most preferred one is trekking (Fide, 2023).

3.1.3. Uludağ Mountain National Park

Uludağ is located within the borders of Bursa province and is 2,543 m high and is the highest mountain in the Marmara Region (Figure 5). Uludağ National Park is one of the leading centres of winter tourism with its ski facilities as well as natural beauties and one of the oldest nature conservation areas (Eltan et al. 2016). Due to the geographical features of Turkey, there are winter tourism destinations where winter sports can be performed. The first developments in winter tourism destinations in our country took place in Uludağ in the 1930s. Uludağ destination, which attracts great attention today, has started to be preferred for people of all age groups (Kafa and Bozkurt, 2022).



Fig. 5. Location of Uludağ Mountain National Park

Source: Google Earth, 2023.

Uludağ is one of the mountains with suitable conditions for alpinism thanks to its suitable climate and geomorphological conditions; winter tourism as a result of abundant and long-lasting snowfalls; climatism with its clean air; plateau tourism with its high and green plateaus; rural tourism with its historical villages located at the foot of the mountain; ecotourism with its rich flora and fauna; and congress tourism with meetings and conferences held in its large hotels (Doğaner, 2001; Atasoy et al. 2008). As stated by Akat and Taşkın (2005), Uludağ is the oldest ski centre in Türkiye. Uludağ ski centre is a very suitable place for alpine skiing sports and the ski slopes are located on Fatintepe and Kuşaklıkaya. The problems of Uludağ are multidimensional and of very different character, including administrative, administrative, ecological, touristic, transport, infrastructure and planning (Atasoy et al. 2008).

3.1.4. Kaçkar Mountains National Park

Kaçkar Mountains National Park consists of approximately 52.970 ha area. Located in the Eastern Black Sea Region in the northeast of Turkey, most of the area is within the borders of Rize province (Figure 6). A small part of the national park is located within the borders of Erzurum (İspir) in the south and Artvin (Yusufeli) in the east (Kaymaz et al. 2020). Due to its natural and cultural resources, various nature-based recreational activities are carried out in Kaçkar Mountains National Park, which has important attractions such as mountain tourism (trekking/trekking, rock and summit climbing) and plateau tourism, thermal tourism, cultural tourism, rural tourism, wildlife and bird watching (ornitho-tourism), hunting tourism, botanical tourism, river tourism (sport fishing, canoeing and rafting), congress tourism, rafting, heliskiing, camping and caravanning, photography (photo safari), mountain biking, paragliding, horse trekking, film-documentary production, scientific research training camps (Zaman, 2008; Kaymaz et al. 2020).

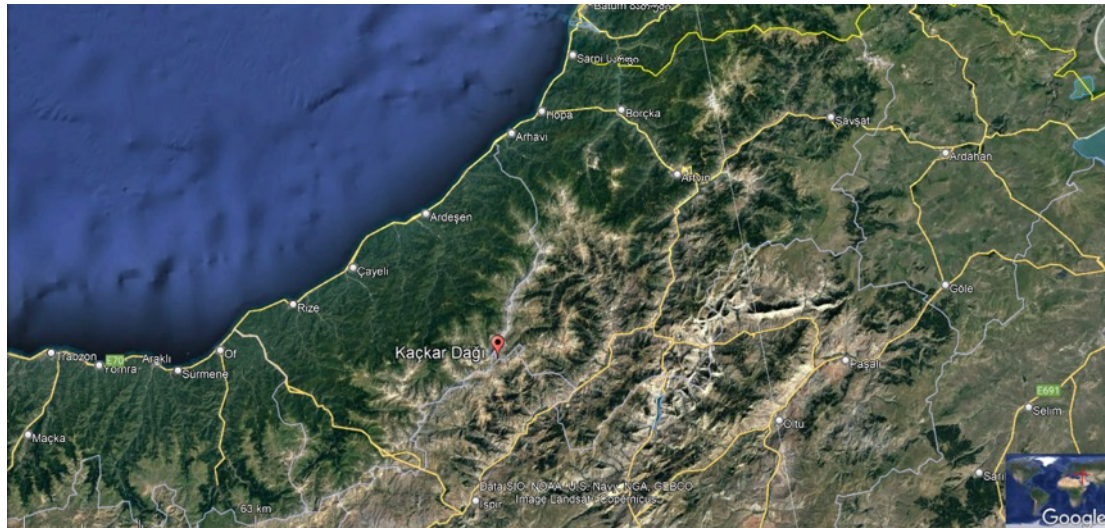


Fig. 6. Location of Kaçkar Mountains National Park

Source: Google Earth, 2023.

Kaçkar Mountains, with its various geomorphological units at different altitudes, forests with rich flora and fauna and a unique silhouette, as well as its hunting and wildlife features, provides both winter tourism and related sportive activities (Zaman and Birinci, 2009).

In Rize, Artvin and Erzurum provinces, public institutions and organisations, associations, mountaineering clubs, travel agencies, guides, NGOs, private sector, local people and universities have efforts in different fields for Kaçkar Mountains National Park. Many studies are carried out within the framework of sustainable approaches for the future within the national park on many issues such as the promotion of Kaçkar Mountains, protection of its natural environment, survival and development of traditional values, project generation, realization of public investments, planning and management (Kaymaz et al. 2020). According to the data of Rize National Parks Branch Directorate in 2020; Ekodiyalog project, sustainable tourism project in Kaçkar Mountains National Park, national biodiversity inventory and monitoring system project, Kaçkar Mountains National Park nature education project, Kaçkar Mountains National Park tourism development project, urban transformation project in Ayder Plateau, Kaçkar Mountains winter tourism ski resort project are some of these initiatives (Kaymaz et al. 2020).

3.1.5. Kaz Mountains National Park

Kaz Mountains are located in the west of the Southern Marmara Region, on the northern shores of the Edremit Gulf. Known as the highest place on the Biga Peninsula, the Kaz Mountains are located within the borders of Çanakkale and Balıkesir provinces of Turkey. Mount Ida is the second highest mountain in the Marmara Region after Uludağ and has high peaks such as Karataş (1774 m), Babadağ (1765 m) and Sarıkız (1726 m) (Kibrit, 2019; Tür, 2023) (Figure 7). The Kaz Mountains, known as "Mount Ida" in ancient times, separating the Aegean Region from the Marmara Region, is the highest area of the Biga Peninsula (Yılmaz, 2018).



Fig. 7. Location of Kaz Mountains National Park

Source: Google Earth, 2023.

Kaz Mountains is an important destination for nature-based tourism. The villages within the borders of this province and district where Kaz Mountains are located have natural, historical and cultural values (Yılmaz, 2018). The destinations considered within the scope of tourism in the region are Kaz Mountain National Park, Hasanboğuldu Pond, Sütüven Waterfall, Mıhlı Stream, Şahinderesi Canyon, Daridere Nature Park, Pınarbaşı Picnic Area, Zeus Altar, Kızılkeçili Village, Çamlıbel Village, Yeşilyurt Village, Adatepe Village, Tahtakuşlar Village, Sarıkız Hill and Antandros Ancient City. In addition, Jeep Safari tours, bicycle tours, botanical excursions, trekking and nature walks can also be organized in Mount Ida (Tür, 2023). According to the data of Balıkesir Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism (2022); Kaz Mountains, in addition to being the region with the highest oxygen ratio in the world after the Alpine Mountains, also includes a different tourist profile with its unique endemic plant species and medicinal herbs. (Tür, 2023).

3.1.6. Selected stakeholders relevant to MARGISTAR

Within the scope of the study, the stakeholders of marginalized mountain areas within the project "A European forum for revitalization of marginalized mountain areas (2022)" were accepted as the main reference for determining the stakeholders with a focus on nature-based tourism in marginalized mountain areas in Türkiye. As stated in the MARGISTAR (2022) project; *Mountainous areas are characterized by disparity, poorer territorial cohesion, unbalanced use and conservation of ecosystem services, rich and exploited natural resources, and marginalization. MARGISTAR forum reflects collaboratively on natural, environmental, social and economic inter-relationships and interactions in mountainous areas, and identifies a range of environmental, social, economic, and political challenges. It enables innovation through a range of physical and virtual meetings to co-design innovative pathways for the transformation of marginalized mountainous areas towards their green, digital and healthy futures. It establishes an online society-science-policy platform of Fairway in Europe to stimulate the dialogue between scientists, policy makers, mountain actors, NGOs, SMEs, public bodies and private organizations and the establishment of local Knowledge and Information Systems.*

The "selected stakeholders relevant to MARGISTAR" identified in the MARGISTAR Project are given in Table 2.

Stakeholders Plan to engage and reach them	Stakeholders Plan to engage and reach them
Mountain stakeholders (pastoralists, farmers, foresters, nature-based tourism entrepreneurs, SMEs, social enterprises, local and rural development agents)	• Each country team member will be in frequent contact with stakeholders in their country through face-to-face interactions and digital communication through social media • Local co-creation workshops in selected locations to envision hindering, and enabling preconditions and factors for the success of post-marginalization. • The wider audience will be reached through 1) active use of social media (blogs, Twitter, etc.) 2) popular articles (in native languages) in local and regional newspapers and media outlets on the project's progress and results. • Collaborative and rotational social media account (Twitter & Instagram) to present and collect visions and concerns in form of short statements and pictures on mountainous areas. • Three policy briefs will be published during the latter part of MARGISTAR in native languages by each partner. • Novel ways to reach citizens and stakeholders by the innovative use of social media (e.g. Instagram and Snapchat) and the digital platforms (FAIRWAY in Europe) will be developed.
NGOs	Engaging environmental, rural development, and other NGOs in knowledge co-creation and exchange.
EU policymakers	Will be informed throughout the project (policy briefs, online forum, active blogging). a participatory video about project results. Mid-project workshop with EU policy makers and interest groups such as Copa-Cogeca to collect feedback and plausibly address concerns in the last half of the project. Final brokerage event in Brussels to showcase findings and related policy recommendations
Scientists, Planners consultants,	Delphi panel; invited keynote speakers at MARGISTAR meetings. Conference presentations, scientific open-access papers, website, social media (LinkedIn, ResearchGate, Facebook, Twitter, blogs).
Decision-makers	National and subnational decision-makers will be reached by each country team contacting relevant ministries. Also, through popular and scientific articles, policy briefs, and news releases and participatory video will be used.
Citizens	Via online forum, newspaper articles, and online citizen juries in selected locations.

Table 2. Selected stakeholders relevant to MARGISTAR and the plan to involve them

Source: MARGISTAR 2022

3.1.7. Document analysis results

Within the scope of the document analysis method; policy documents, strategic plans, development plans, scientific studies on marginalized mountainous areas, scientific studies on nature-based tourism activities, projects, Türkiye's tourism strategy document, national forestry program and forestry master plan were evaluated.

In Turkey Tourism Strategy 2023 (2007), it is emphasised that Türkiye has unique opportunities in terms of tourism types such as alternative tourism (health and thermal tourism, winter sports, mountain and nature tourism, plateau tourism, rural and eco-tourism, congress and fair tourism, cruise and yacht tourism, golf tourism, etc.) as well as coastal tourism. In the strategy document, it is suggested to develop alternative tourism types such as mountain and nature tourism with a special focus on winter tourism. The development of ecotourism, highland tourism and winter tourism are among the initiatives to diversify tourism and spread it over the whole year. In terms of stakeholders and their inclusion in the process in nature-based tourism activities in the Turkish Tourism Strategy Document, it is aimed to ensure the coordinated work of public institutions and organisations and local administrations in ecotourism regions, to ensure the recycling of eco-tourism outputs to the local people and to involve local people in planning and implementation activities with a participatory approach. In addition, the importance of taking necessary initiatives for the establishment of "Infrastructure Unions" at local scale with the contributions of public institutions, local administrations, private sector and local non-governmental organisations in the regions where ecotourism will be implemented has been mentioned. It is aimed to create an environment in which stakeholders will work in active co-operation and interaction by determining their authorities and responsibilities within the framework of governance principles.

When the issue is evaluated within the scope of Turkey's Forestry National Programme (2004-2023), it is emphasised that it is an important need to closely monitor the policies and strategies in other sectors that interact with forestry, to eliminate their inadequacies and to ensure the necessary coordination and harmony with forestry policies and strategies. Agriculture, animal husbandry and rural development in communities in mountainous regions, nature-based tourism based on local communities in mountainous areas, protection of the culture and traditions of mountain and forest villagers are recommended. It is stated that joint initiatives and studies should be carried out by interest groups to strengthen the allocation of resources by the state to rural development programmes (ORKÖY budget, etc.) for poor mountain and forest peoples.

The Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations (UN), the Brundtland Our Common Future Report and the Management of Sensitive Ecosystems, Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas, which are also included in the Agenda 21 report, which directly refers to mountainous areas, have developed precautions and management skills for hazards that may arise from natural conditions. This knowledge and experience were addressed in the Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Sendai Conference organised by the UN in 2015 (Kaymaz et al. 2020).

In addition to global and national studies and policy documents, when scientific studies on nature-based tourism activities in sensitive mountain ecosystems in Türkiye are analysed, it is seen that it is important to decide on the types of nature tourism activities that can be carried out according to the resource value of the area, the place where the activity will take place and who will take part in it, in line with the development of the local community and the protection of ecosystems.

3.1.8. Nature based Tourism Stakeholders of Marginalised Mountainous Areas in Türkiye

In line with nature-based tourism studies in mountain ecosystems in Turkey and important approaches at national and global level, nature tourism stakeholders in marginalised mountainous areas in Turkey have been identified as follows (Table 3):

- National/international organisations providing input to nature-based tourism activities in marginalised mountainous areas
- Units to cooperate in nature-based tourism activities in marginalised mountainous areas

- Target groups to be served by nature-based tourism activities in marginalised mountainous areas, to use and purchase their outputs
- Those negatively affected by nature-based tourism activities in marginalised mountainous areas and other interested parties
- Expectations of stakeholders in marginalised mountainous area nature-based tourism activities, effectiveness and importance of stakeholders, how to monitor the degree of stakeholders' satisfaction with the activities,

Stakeholders	Stakeholders' Goals / Reasons for Existence	Expected Benefit	Scale
Ministries -Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry -Ministry of Culture and Tourism -Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change -Ministry of Treasury and Finance	-Effective and efficient utilisation, protection and sustainability of the country's resources -Identification and planning of regions and areas with high tourism potential and protection of archaeological sites -Agriculture and animal husbandry activities, creating employment, providing income to the country -To help institutions and economic actors to act in a more coherent and conscious manner in forward-looking decision-making processes for Turkey, to direct the resources of our country to areas that produce more welfare -Determination of strategies for the production of spatial plans that evaluate the resources of Türkiye by taking into account its economic and social potentials, targets and strategies, transport relations and physical thresholds; for the utilisation of underground and above-ground resources for the economy; for the protection and development of natural, historical and cultural values; for the orientation of settlements, transport system and urban, social and technical infrastructure -National import, export, agreements, European Union harmonisation process studies, foreign investment, services, product inspection, economic research	-Effective and efficient utilisation, protection and sustainability of the country's resources -Ensuring the sustainability of cultural and tourism values -Evaluation of agricultural potential, sustainability -Mountain ecosystems, sustainability of forest areas -Employment, ensuring the welfare of the people of the country -Improving the quality of life of mountain communities -Nature conservation -Income growth	National
Regional Development Agencies Regional Development Unions	-Sustainable economic development, -Creating employment -To utilise the potential of natural and cultural resources	Ensuring economic development and quality of life in the region	Regional
Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forest	Creating employment, providing income to the country Nature conservation; Forest management	Effective and efficient utilisation and protection of national resources	
NGO's	Promotion and protection of the region as local non-governmental organisations	Awareness raising in line with its objectives and support and implementation of some local projects	National/ Regional/ Local

Universities/ Scientists/ Researchers	Education, community service, scientific research	Nature conservation and protection of cultural heritage, education and awareness raising, consultancy services during the preparation of plans	National/ Regional/ Local
Local Public Institutions -Governorate -District Governorate -Ministry representative offices/provincial directorates	Central administrative responsibility at local level	Ensuring the sustainability of cultural and tourism values, increasing environmental quality, producing spatial plans, evaluating agricultural potential, sustainability, carrying out necessary studies for the efficient use and development of soil and water resources, welfare of local people	Local
Entrepreneurs, SMEs, social enterprises, private sector	Local entrepreneurs, investors	Economic gain	
Municipalities	Local manager	Sustainable economic development, job opportunities	
Citizens	The user and owner know the area best	Revenue growth and co-operation	

Table 3. Nature-based tourism stakeholders in marginalised mountainous areas in Türkiye

Within the scope of this study, it is aimed to identify the key parties for nature-based tourism activities in Marginalised mountainous areas. It is important to identify the interests of the relevant parties, to determine the power and influence of the relevant parties, and to create a strategy that will ensure the participation of the relevant parties is important for the success of the activities.

4. DISCUSSION

In order to seek sustainable solutions in different sectors such as agriculture, tourism and forestry in mountain ecosystems in Türkiye, as in the rest of the world, it is necessary to ensure that all relevant ideas, experiences and contributions are taken into account and that participation is handled on a multi-scale at international-national-regional and local levels, including public officials, scientists, experts, local communities, private sector and non-governmental organisations (Gültekin et al. 2016; Kaymaz et al. 2020).

In Türkiye, there is a confusion of authority and responsibility in different management units for different areas in nature-based tourism practices. Identifying all stakeholders and all units that should be included in the national nature tourism organisation and defining the authority and responsibility definitions will be an important step in ensuring coordination in ecotourism activities (Gültekin et al. 2016). In Marginalised mountainous areas for nature-based tourism activities, the challenging living conditions of mountainous geography should also be taken into consideration.

Societies in mountainous areas have social differences in terms of types of economic activities, lifestyles and cultural characteristics shaped by geographical and climatic factors. Spoken languages, dialects and ethnic origins, traditional and accumulated agricultural knowledge support sustainable production systems in mountainous areas (Körner et al. 2005). Earthquakes, floods, avalanches, rock falls, landslides and erosion events that occur in connection with natural conditions in mountainous areas are among the most important factors that threaten natural environment features, tourists directly or indirectly within the scope of tourism, basic economic activities and settlement areas of people living in mountainous areas (Kaymaz et al. 2020).

When nature-based tourism activities are considered in terms of mountain communities, cultural values, religious beliefs, traditions, lifestyles, situations related to foreigners, managerial tourism investments and the welfare level of the people can be listed as important issues (Wall & Mathieson, 2006).

Another important stakeholder in nature tourism activities in mountainous areas is the visitors who come to the area. There is a strong relationship between destination and visitor satisfaction. This situation reveals the necessity for destination managers to increase tourist satisfaction (Yüksel et al., 2010; Turpçu et al. 2017). The most important problem in mountainous areas is to carry out promotional activities of the area, to reach the target tourist group and to ensure the safety of tourists coming to the area. In this context, safe tourism routes and support units should be established.

5. CONCLUSION

Global climate change and the destructive effects of societies on nature have particularly negative consequences in mountainous areas with sensitive ecosystems. Mountainous areas also harbour rare cultural features that are in danger of being lost in cultural terms. Nature-based tourism activities are recommended for the societies living in mountainous areas in order to eliminate income inequalities, increase the quality of life, increase the level of economic welfare, provide social, economic and cultural opportunities and realise rural development.

In order to implement nature-based tourism activities in mountainous areas with high social, environmental and economic damage capacity, it is necessary to discover the local potential, support local entrepreneurs, raise awareness of the local people and direct them correctly. It is essential to determine which nature-based tourism activities will be carried out in accordance with the potential of the area with the right planning method. Bird and plant observation tourism, trekking, rafting, camping, mountain biking, heliskiing, winter and ski tourism, photo safari are common activities in mountainous areas in Türkiye. Local-specific planning in mountainous areas is another important issue that should be considered. The examples given within the scope of the study show that nature-based tourism activities in mountainous ecosystems in Türkiye are mostly carried out in protected areas. Ensuring the sustainability of the natural and cultural resource values of protected areas should be evaluated together with the efforts to ensure development in marginalised mountainous areas.

Nature-based tourism is a sector with an increasing demand day by day. It is necessary to carry out planning studies that will enable sustainable conservation and utilisation without causing pressures on nature, and at the same time enable the social and economic development of mountainous areas, and compromise solutions should be produced by revealing the positive and negative aspects of all stakeholders in the planning process.

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