

## Human-wildlife conflict in national parks: Examples from Turkey

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**Abstract:** Although useful as a way of protecting many natural areas, declaration of an area as national park is not sufficient to protect these natural resources. Especially, the implementation of strict preservationist conservation approaches has often aggravated feelings of disenfranchisement and injustice among rural communities, as well as frustration toward national parks. For example, conflicts between human and wildlife have been widely recognized as one of the most challenging issues for wildlife protection worldwide. In this study has been investigated human & wildlife conflict in national parks. The research is covering the years between 2011-2013 and has been carried out in various stages such as preliminary study, population determinations, interviews, surveys, habitat identifications and data evaluation in office environment. During the preliminary study stage, observations have been made in order to recognize the field after the acquisition of literature scans and topographical maps. In order to determine the habitat preference of wild animals, their habitat sharing was determined with the use of presence - absence method by considering the seasonal, geographical and elevation values. Night observations and camera traps were also used to support the research; investigations were conducted with local people residing in or outside the borders of national park through survey and interview methods within the scope of the study. The local people's wildlife experiences, approaches, conflicts have been identified and the necessary solutions were tried to be determined through these investigations. According to research results, there are occasional conflicts between human and wildlife living in protected areas. For instance; wildlife may harm agriculturalists and their domesticated animals. On the other hand the fertilizers and agrochemicals used by agriculturalists may harm the wildlife. In order to prevent said conflicts, instead of implementing only passive protection based prohibitions, approaches should be adopted that emphasizes the participation of both parties and their educations.

**Keywords:** Human&wildlife conflict, National park, Kovada National Park, Kızıldağ National Park, Turkey