

Population status, problems and proposal for solutions of wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*) distributed in Antalya Düzlerçamı Wildlife Development Area

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Abstract: The wild goat, one of the most important rings of the biodiversity chain, is the most important game animal of Turkey. The wild goat (*Capra aegagrus* Erxleben 1777) is one of 9 species belonging to the genus *Capra* around the world. The others; *C. hircus* Linnaeus 1758, *C. ibex* Linnaeus 1758, *C. caucasica* Gldenstaedt & Pallas 1783, *C. cylindricornis* Blyth 1841, *C. pyrenaica* Schinz 1838, *C. falconeri* Wagner 1839, *C. nubiana* F. Cuvier 1875 and *C. lervia* Pallas 1777. The study area is between the boundaries of Korkuteli, Dşemealtı, Kepez and Konyaaltı districts of Antalya. The distance to the south border of the area by road from Antalya city center is 15 km. The total area of the area is 29,033 hectares. The study is carried out each year to determine the size of wild goat populations between 2014-2016 in cooperation with Suleyman Demirel University Faculty of Forestry Department of Wildlife Ecology and Management and 6th Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. In the inventory studies, "Count on Point" method is used for counting in big mammal populations. As a result of the inventories, a total of 660 individuals (403 female, 132 kid, and 125 male individuals) in 2014, a total of 1040 individuals, (556 female, 245 kid and 239 male individuals) in 2015 and a total of 745 individuals (456 female, 117kid and 172 male individuals) in 2016 were identified respectively. Considering the activities of the wild goat during the day, it can be seen maximum at sunrise and sunset times. In the observations we made in the area, it became clear that the most important problem of the wild goat was the illegal hunting activities and the human pressure. The habitats of the wild goat are getting narrower. The biggest reason for this is; Local people are settled in small neighborhoods near wild goat living areas, excessive recreation in the area and other human activities. So it is exposed to human pressure and can not move freely. This study focuses on the results obtained from the 3-year inventory studies on Dzlerçamı Wildlife Development area, the dynamics of wild goat populations, problems, and proposal for solutions.

Keywords: Wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*), Dzlerçamı, Population, Inventory