

Perceptions of Residents Towards The Impacts of Tourism in the Küre Mountains National Park, Turkey¹

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Abstract

Recognizing the importance of tourism in rural areas of developing countries, this paper aims to identify the perceptions of host communities, living in the boundaries of the Küre Mountains National Park (KMNP), towards tourism development. Küre Mountains is a PAN Parks certified area and has been involved with tourism since 2000. A survey approach was used to collect data from residents of KMNP. The research was conducted in three towns (Pınarbaşı, Azdavay and Şenpazar) located in the buffer zone of KMNP. A two-page questionnaire was conducted, along with structured interviews with 207 residents, local authorities, and members of NGOs between January-March, 2011. Two main conclusions can be reached from the research: first, residents of KMNP had neutral or somewhat positive perceptions towards tourism. Second, the location of the residents affected their perceived impacts on tourism, with the residents living in Pınarbaşı perceiving higher positive impacts of tourism compared to residents of Azdavay and Şenpazar.

Key words: Residents' perceptions, tourism impacts, community, tourist-resident interaction, Küre Mountains, Turkey

1. Introduction

Government and local authorities in Turkey have been trying to exploit tourism industry for its economic benefits in many rural areas since 1990's. It is obvious that the tourism industry has a great contribution to the regional, local and national economy as it offers both economic development and employment opportunities. Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism outlined several strategies for tourism planning and development in order to provide regional development. In Turkish Tourism Strategy Action Plan (2007-2013) the Western Black Sea Region which is covering Küre Mountains National Park has been designated as an Ecotourism Region.

KMNP is one of the potential ecotourism destinations of Turkey because of its unique values for tourists who are interested in nature and local culture. Its rural life and cultural values, lush forests, extraordinary deep and long canyons, dolines, cliffs, waterfalls and caves have increasingly attracted ecotourists in recent years.

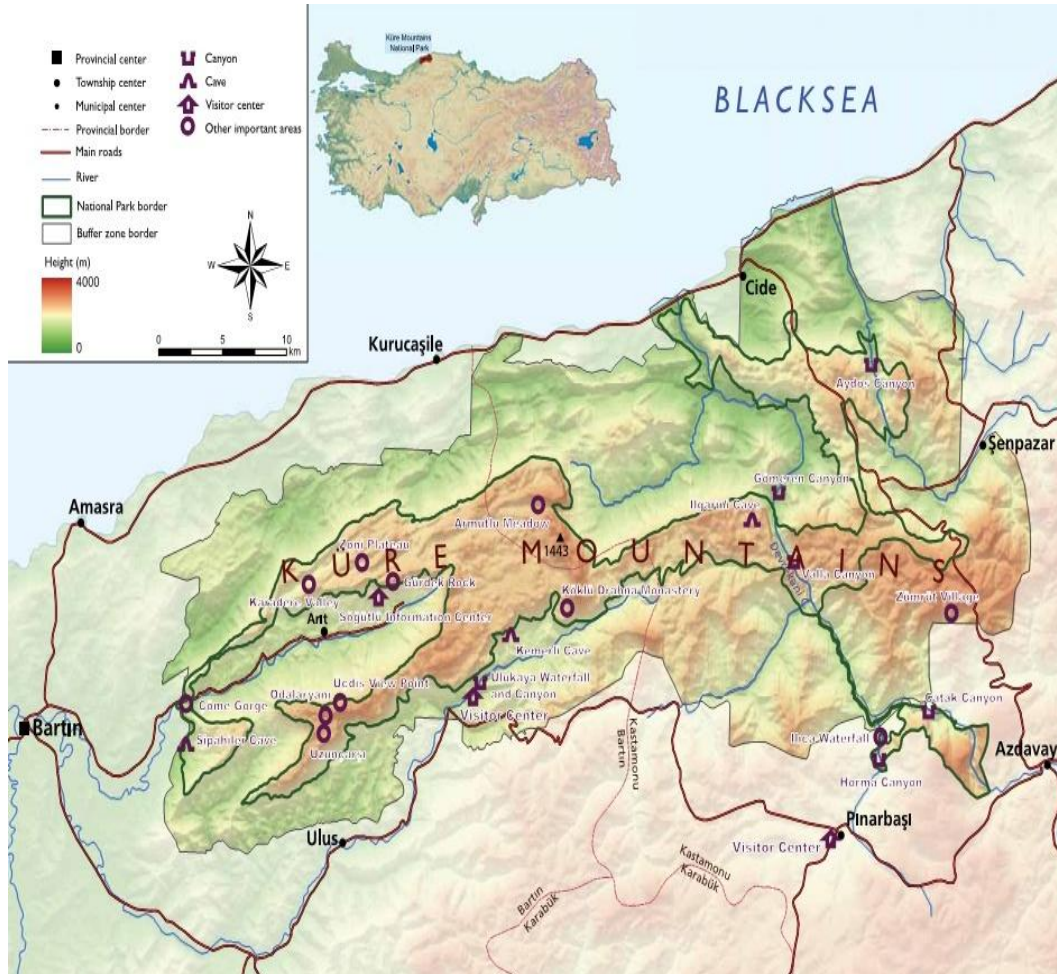
KMNP is situated along the Central Black Sea coast in northern Turkey between Kastamonu and Bartın provinces. It has 37,000 hectares of core area, lying on a mountainous plateau at an average altitude of 2000 m (see Figure 1). There are 80,000 hectares nominated as buffer zone where there are generally forests with ongoing production operations and rural settlements.

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There are almost no settlements in the core area. With a seasonal variation approximately 20,000-30,000 people are living in the surroundings of the park in about 60 rural settlements (Blumer, 2010; kdmp.gov.tr, 2011).

Figure 1. Küre Mountains National Park.

Figure 1: Küre Mountains National Park



Source: kdmp.gov.tr (2011).

The KMNP is one of the privileged protection areas of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF has listed the area as one of a hundred forest “Hot Spots” in Europe deserving priority conservation. The area was designated as National Park in 2000 after a project carried out with the cooperation of the United Nations Worldwide Programme (UNDP) and the WWF (kdmp.gov.tr, 2011; wwf.org.tr, 2011). The Küre Mountains National Park has been the first PAN Parks certified protected area in Turkey.

Küre Mountains, with its unique vegetation and wild life species, accommodate about 100 endemic plants for Turkey and 50 rare taxa of plants. 40 mammals are found in the area, including endangered species of brown bear, lynx, gray wolf, roe deer, red deer, European otter and wild boar. The area with 129 bird species, including 46 endangered, is one of the 255 Important Bird Areas (IBA) (Blumer, 2010; kdmp.gov.tr, 2011).

Accommodation facilities inside the KMNP buffer zone have been increasing since local investors have started to renovate old houses near the park for tourism purposes. There are 284 beds in the research area (see Table 1). Total bed capacity in the Park area including the coast of Black Sea Region is 2.769 (Blumer, 2010).

Table 1: Accommodation Facilities in the Study Area

Name of Enterprise	Type of Accommodation	Number of beds
Zümrüt Village	Local guest-house	30
Ilca-Kerte	Bungalow type	25
Aşıklı Village	Local guest-house	10
Kemerli Village	Local guest-house	15
Pasha's Mansion	Restored mansion	24
Pınarbaşı	Small hotel run by the municipality	50
Pınaroba	Bungalow (not wooden)	50
Sümenler Village Guest House	Guest-house	15
Yanık Ali Mansion	Traditional guest-house	40
Azdavay	Small hotel of municipality	25
Total		284

Source: Blumer, 2010

KMNP has a low tourism profile at the national and international level. Estimated number of visitors for the Park area is 5,000 per year and for the buffer zone 7,000. However, the potential number of visitors is estimated by Bann (2010) up to 30,000 per year for the Park area and 70,000 per year for the buffer zone. The growth of the tourism industry at national and international level constitutes a very important and potentially positive factor for KMNP and its communities. Bann (2010) suggests a business plan which sets out how communities around the park could maximise their financial returns from economic activities such as ecotourism.

Development of tourism industry in the KMNP was started by 2000's following the designation of the national park and governmental policies of the diversification of tourism types and creation of new job opportunities in rural areas. KMNP was drawn attention in recent years and some tourist groups especially ecotourists began to seen in the area. The first ecotourism centre, opened in 2002, called the PınarbaşıPaşaKonağı, is run by WWF of Turkey. KüreMountains Ecotourism Association (KED) has been working at improving the ecotourism activities in the national park since 2001. The improvement and expansion of tourism industry in the area caused some positive and negative impacts on the host community which change the social and economic life and their environmental concerns of the residents.

The aim of this paper is to identify the perceptions of host communities towards tourism development in the KMNP Buffer Zone. The research has two main objectives: (1) To explore local people's perceptions on the economic, social and cultural impacts of tourism in the area (2) To identify the results of tourism development and their effects on local people.

2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have focused on the impacts of tourism and residents' attitudes towards tourists and tourism development (Andereck et al., 2005; Ap and Crompton 1993; Brunt and Courtney, 1999; Demirkaya and Çetin, 2010; Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Johnson, Snepenger and Akis, 1994; Jurowski et al., 1997; Lankford and Howard, 1994; Lankford 1994; Pizam, and Milman, 1984; Ross, 1992; Upchurch and Teivane, 2000).

The impacts of tourism can be classified as negative when they contribute to disruption of society's components, and as positive when they upgrade vital attributes. Tourism and its influence on host communities have given rise to highly controversial beliefs: some suggest that it is an opportunity for underdeveloped countries to provide economic growth and social development. On the other hand, some researchers point out that mass tourism may hinder the permanency of local cultures (Perez and Nadal, 2005). The majority of studies have shown that residents, who perceive a greater level of economic gain or personal benefit, tend to have more positive perceptions of impact than others (Brunt and Courtney, 1999; Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Jurowski et al 1997; Lankford and Howard, 1994; Sirakaya et al, 2002).

Community impacts emerging from tourism development are often divided into three categories. First, economic category includes elements such as tax revenue, increased jobs, additional income, tax burdens, inflation, and local government debt.

Second, sociocultural elements, encompass resurgence of traditional crafts and ceremonies, increased inter-cultural communication and understanding, increased crime rates and changes in traditional cultures. Third, environmental category includes protection of parks and wildlife, crowding, air, water and noise pollution, wildlife destruction, vandalism, and litter (Andereck, 1995). Table 2 shows the perceived impacts of tourism in the economic, social and environmental basis.

Table 2: Key economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism perceived by host communities

Writer(s)	Issue/Impact
McCool and Martin 1994; Perdue et al., 1990	Tourism boosts economic quality of life by improving tax revenues and increasing of personal income.
Johnson et al., 1994; Liu and Var, 1986	Tourism creates more employment opportunities, new investments, and profitable local businesses.
Johnson et al., 1994; Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; King et al., 1993; Sathiendrakumar and Tisdell, 1989; Sharpley, 1994	Tourism improves standards of living through business opportunities and investment in infrastructure.
Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Liu and Var, 1986	Some negative economic impacts of tourism include an increase in the prices of goods and services, and inflation in property values.
de Kadt, 1979	The nature of contact with tourists can influence attitudes/ behaviour/values towards tourism.
Sharpley, 1994	Tourism instigates social interaction within the host community.
Dogan, 1989; Rosenow and Pulsipher, 1979	In areas with high levels of tourism development, there is often a loss of resident identity and local culture such as habits, daily routines, social lives, beliefs, and values.
Dogan, 1989	There are a variety of negative consequences such as a decline in traditions, materialism, social conflicts, and crowding.
Kousis, 1989	Tourism has negative effects on traditional family values.
Burns and Holden, 1995	Culture is seen as a commercial resource.
Brunt and Courtney, 1999; Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Mok et al., 1991; Tosun, 2002	Tourism is a potential determinant of crime.
Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Mok et al., 1991; Tosun, 2002	Tourism increases drug and alcohol use.
Liu and Var, 1986	Tourism declines the level of resident hospitality.
Brunt and Courtney, 1999, Gilbert and Clark, 1997; Perdue et al., 1990	Tourism can improve recreation opportunities, cultural activities and cultural heritage.
Liu and Var, 1986	Tourism increases cultural events, entertainment facilities, historical and cultural exhibits, and cultural exchange.
Burns and Holden, 1995	Hosts develop coping behaviours.
Sharpley, 1994	Tourism contributes to the preservation of religious and historic buildings.
Andereck, 1995	Tourism has potential negative environmental consequences such as air and water pollution; destruction of wetlands and soil; plant destruction and deforestation; wildlife destruction as a result of hunting and fishing, disruption of natural habitats; forest fires.
Andereck, 1995; Brunt and Courtney 1999; Johnson et al., 1994; King et al., 1991; Liu et al.1987b; McCool and Martin, 1994; Perdue et al., 1990	Traffic and noise are some negative impacts of tourism.
Burns and Holden, 1995	The biggest problem is congestion/overcrowding.
Brunt and Courtney, 1999; Gilbert and Clark, 1997; Lankford, 1994	Tourism increases the amount of litter.

The general theme emerging from the literature is that the industry has great potential to affect the community life. Development of tourism in rural areas has wide-ranging positive and negative impacts on host communities, especially those living in and around the destination. Residents in most of the communities seem to have positive perceptions towards tourism. This does not imply that they do not have concerns on its negative impacts of tourism in their communities. In the tourism context, it has been argued that resident reactions are affected by extrinsic factors such as the stage of development (Butler 1980; Doxey 1975), involvement in decision making process, seasonality in patterns of activity (Sheldon and Var, 1984; Belisle and Hoy, 1980), tourist type, economic dependence on tourism and the degree of cultural difference between residents and tourists (Horn and Simmons, 2002; Lawson, Timothy, 1999; Brown, 1998; Williams, Young, and Cossens, 1998; Brohman, 1996; Simmons, 1994; Drake, 1991).

There is a noticeable relationship between the impacts and the stage of tourism development in the host community (Allen et al., 1988). Butler (1980) described tourism development as a series of stages through which a destination evolves—exploration, involvement, development, consolidation, stagnation and decline or rejuvenation. Residents' attitudes depend, in part, on these stages. In each life cycle stage there are changes in residents' attitudes towards tourism. Residents' attitudes are positive during the initial stages of tourism development because they have high expectations from the tourist in long term basis but become increasingly negative as the destination evolves towards stagnation.

Similar to Butler's model, Ap and Crampton (1993) attempted to profile the intricate relationship of resident perceptions and tourism impacts by measuring the stage of tourism development in a host community. Development stages are described as "embracement, tolerance, adjustment and finally withdrawal". The model describes the way in which tourism development affects local people's attitudes towards tourism. Embracement takes place when local people, especially those who benefit from tourism, accept it and feel positively about its impacts. In the tolerance stage, local people begin to feel the impacts of tourism. They become indecisive between being for or against tourism development. Depending on the degree of their involvement in tourism, some of them adjust as per the adjustment stage while others do not. Finally, withdrawal takes place when local people can no longer cope with the impacts of tourism and so their negative perceptions take over.

Results of the studies have suggested that community support for tourism development is essential for successful operation and sustainability of tourism. Choi and Sirakaya (2005), advocated that residents are major stakeholders in leisure and tourism management. According to Trakolis (2001) human communities, especially those living in and around protected areas, often have important and long-standing relationships with these areas. Local and indigenous communities may depend on the resources of these areas for their livelihood and cultural survival.

Ap (1992) and Lankford (1994) point out that the perceptions and attitudes of residents towards the impacts of tourism are likely to be an important planning and policy consideration for the successful development, marketing, and operation of existing and future programs and projects. Tourism can develop and grow when local residents have a positive attitude toward it and when they see their role in the process of the tourism development (Ambroz, 2008).

3. The Research Method

In this research the perceptions of local communities towards social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of tourism in the KMNP are analysed. In order to analyse the host perceptions, three towns (Pınarbaşı, Azdavay and Şenpazar) and 19 villages located in the KMNP Buffer Zone were selected as the study area. The population of three residential areas, comprising a total number of 8037 people, distributed as follows: Azdavay (2.739), Şenpazar (1.726) and Pınarbaşı (1.751) (TurkStat, 2008). This study also investigates the differences in residents' perceptions of tourism impacts in KMNP by their location of residence.

In this research a structured survey was conducted with residents, local authorities, and NGO's face to face. The questionnaire developed for the study was based on the research of Upchurch and Teivane (2000). However, a number of modifications had to be included, given the special characteristics of the KMNP. A 2-page questionnaire was designed. There were two sections with 25 impact statements on the positive and negative economic, social, and environmental impacts that tourism caused in the KMNP.

The respondents were asked to rate the items on an ordinal scale ranging from 1= 'greatly decreasing' to 5= 'greatly increasing'. The mean of 3.0 represents neutral attitude toward tourism impacts or the perception that the current level of tourism has no significant positive or negative impact on the community.

The first part, consisting of 8 statements, was a list of potential tourism impacts upon the host community, such as an increase in standard of living, employment opportunities, entertainment facilities or human relations. The second part, with 17 questions, explored the respondents' perceptions of impacts by the influx of tourists into the community such as crime, pollution or traffic congestion. The questionnaires were distributed among the local people, living or working in the vicinity of the area.

The survey was conducted by the authors in winter 2011. A total of 207 completed questionnaires were collected. The SPSS 15 for Windows was used to analyse the data by applying descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviations. In order to accomplish a correct data analysis, the reliability of the scales was examined. The result shows a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.847 which is a satisfactory level of reliability.

To identify the existence of statistical significances between the variables such as the location of the residents, analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used at the statistical significance level of 0.01.

4. Results

Demographic characteristics including gender, age, occupation, the length of residency in KMNP are presented in Table 3. While 84% of respondents were male, 16 % of them were female. Regarding the age group, the majority of participants were over 45 years old with a percentage of 39, followed by 35-44 category (30%). The mean degree for or average length of residence was more than 31 years. The majority of residents (69%) had interactions with tourists in their host community.

Table 3: Respondent profile

		Frequency	%
Gender	Male	174	84.1
	Female	33	15.9
Age	16-24	12	5.8
	25-34	52	25.1
	35-44	61	29.5
	Over 45	82	39.6
Occupation	Shopkeeper	79	38.2
	Retired	37	17.9
	Farmer	28	13.5
	Government official	15	7.3
	Housewife	13	6.3
	Worker	12	5.8
	Head of village (Muhtar)	10	4.8
	Student	9	4.3
	Tourism operator	4	1.9
Length of residency	Less than 10 years	10	4.8
	11-20 years	14	6.8
	21-30 years	46	22.2
	More than 31 years	137	66.2

“interaction with tourists” in the area 142 (69% = Yes), 65 (31% = No)

The finding of the study indicates that there has been no relationship between demographic variables such as gender, age, occupation and attitudes towards tourism which is consistent with the literature (McGehee and Andereck, 2004; Sirakaya et al., 2002; Tosun, 2002; Johnson et al., 1994; Lankford, 1994; McCool and Martin, 1994; King et al, 1991; Mok et al., 1991; Perdue et al., 1990; Lui and Var, 1986). From a theoretical standpoint, in some research (Sheldon, 2001; Lankford, 1994; Allen et al, 1988) the results show that long-time residents have more positive attitudes towards tourism than short-time residents.

Conversely in some studies (Ayers and Potter, 1989; Patton and Stabler, 1979) residents who have lived in a community for a longer period perceive lower levels of positive impacts than those with shorter residency. In this study results showed that the length of residency did not influence the perception of the residents. So perceptions of the impacts were unrelated with socio-demographic characteristics.

In this study interaction with tourists was examined as a predictor variable that proves the respondents are knowledgeable about tourism and can recognize the benefits as well as costs that can affect the community.

Economic perspectives towards tourism

Community impacts are segmented by economic, social and environmental factors. According to Table 4, the residents of KMNP perceived that tourist arrivals had not increased local revenues (M=3.16), raised their standard of living (M=3.20) nor caused an increase in local employment (M=3.02) in KMNP. So some researcher's (Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Johnson, Snepenger and Akis 1994; Perdue, Long and Allen, 1990; Liu and Var, 1986) stand that tourism creates new employment opportunities, increases local revenues, raises the standard of living are not conclusive in this study.

Table 4: Tourism impacts

Type of Impact	Mean	S.D.
Economic Impact		
Standard of living	3.20	0.60
Transportation	3.48	0.68
Employment	3.02	0.79
Arts and handicrafts	2.91	0.93
Agriculture	2.67	0.87
Revenue	3.16	0.79
Prices of services and goods	3.46	0.72
Prices of houses and land	3.43	0.71
Restaurants and souvenir shops	3.43	0.68
Social Impact		
Entertainment	3.31	0.72
Human relations	3.48	0.64
Theft and burglary	2.91	0.73
Alcohol and drugs	3.25	0.81
Friendliness	3.57	0.66
Begging	2.93	0.77
Conflict between family members	2.79	0.60
Trust in people	3.44	0.78
Changes in personal appearance	3.67	0.67
Conflicts on the use of lands	3.00	0.51
Environmental Impact		
Litter	3.12	0.60
Pollution	3.29	0.73
Preservation of natural environment	3.30	0.60
Preservation of cultural resources	3.29	0.64
Traffic congestion	3.51	0.64
Peace and silence	3.37	0.83

Note: Responses were based on a five-point scale (1 = greatly decreasing, 3 = no impact, 5 = greatly increasing).

However, the residents did indicate that transportation facilities (M=3.48), restaurant and souvenir shops (M=3.43), prices of houses and lands (M=3.43), and prices of goods and services (M=3.46) were increasing due to the development of tourism in their community. There were some consistent surveys (Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996; Liu and Var, 1986) stating that tourism could lead to increased real estate prices. The results of this study support the findings of Korca's (1998) research which state that the most negative impacts of tourism in Antalya, Turkey, were increased cost of land and housing, and increased prices for goods and services.

In addition, residents indicated a slight negative impact upon local arts and handicrafts ($M=2.91$), agriculture ($M=2.67$) as an outcome of tourism development. Decrease in agriculture is an unfavourable result for the local community of KMNP that agriculture is one of the major economic activities in the region. Economic activities are very limited in the area.

The results indicate that there has been not a favourable economic impact of tourism upon local economy of KMNP as tourism industry is in the involvement/development stage. However the findings are encouraging that the residents do not have negative perceptions towards tourism development as it is stated in the Butler's model because of having high expectations from tourism in the long term.

Social Perspectives towards Tourism

The respondents indicated that the social categories of theft and burglary ($M=2.91$) and begging ($M=2.93$) were decreasing in the community (see in Table 4). Conversely, residents believed that friendliness ($M=3.57$) and human relations ($M=3.48$) had improved with the advent of tourism in KMNP and there have been changes in personal appearance ($M=3.67$). This study is consistent with Sharpley's (1994) view that tourism is a social process which brings people together in the form of social interaction. Brunt and Courtney (1999) stated that tourism has an impact on residents' way of life. Results show that the residents' way of life has been changing with the effect of tourism.

The residents indicated slight changes in entertainment facilities ($M=3.31$), alcohol and drug use ($M=3.25$), and no conflicts in the use of the lands ($M=3.00$). However it is difficult to differentiate 'tourism induced changes' from those that are the outcome of other processes of development and modernization (Brunt and Courtney, 1999).

Environmental perspectives towards tourism

The residents indicated a no change trend in litter and pollution as an outcome of tourism development. They also believe that there has been little changes in the preservation of natural ($M=3.30$) and cultural ($M=3.29$) resources. However residents believe that traffic congestion ($M=3.51$) was increased. Traffic congestion which is frequently cited one of the negative impacts of tourism within the literature are clearly evident in this study (Brunt and Courtney 1999; Andereck, 1995; Johnson et al, 1994; King et al, 1991; Perdue et al, 1990; Liu et al 1987).

The items of conflicts between family members, trust in people and peace and silence were eliminated from analysis since it appeared that the respondents had poor understanding of the question as found in the reliability test.

Location of residents

Since residents in this study live in three different towns, an analysis of variance was used to determine whether differences existed among residents' perceptions towards tourism impacts. The towns examined in this paper are not different from each other in terms of their economic, social, and governmental structures (see Table 5). Although these three towns are not far from each other Pınarbaşı, is 23 km to Azdavay, and Azdavay is 27 km to Şenpazar a significant difference was found between the perceptions of residents who live in Pınarbaşı and the other two towns for the economic, social and environmental impact items.

Table 5: ANOVA results: difference in perceptions of tourism development impacts by residents' location

Type of Impact	Mean Degree			F Value	Significance
	Pınarbaşı (n=74)	Azdavay (n=71)	Şenpazar (n=62)		
Standards of living	3.47	3.18	2.90	17.945	0.000
Transportation	3.88	3.23	3.29	24.586	0.000
Employment	3.51	2.73	2.77	27.846	0.000
Arts and handicrafts	3.41	2.61	2.68	19.315	0.000
Agriculture	3.30	2.31	2.34	40.909	0.000
Revenue	3.66	2.76	3.03	32.454	0.000
Prices of services and goods	3.62	3.27	3.48	4.651	0.011
Prices of houses and land	3.84	3.28	3.13	23.830	0.000
Restaurants and souvenir shops	3.70	3.37	3.16	12.128	0.000
Entertainment	3.76	3.04	3.08	27.715	0.000
Human relations	3.64	3.45	3.32	4.187	0.017
Theft and burglary	3.22	2.70	2.77	11.521	0.000
Alcohol and drugs	3.51	3.28	2.89	11.084	0.000
Friendliness	3.68	3.61	3.40	3.129	0.046
Begging	3.11	2.65	3.05	8.061	0.000
Conflict between family members	2.77	2.77	2.84	0.265	0.768
Trust in people	3.42	3.52	3.37	0.653	0.521
Changes in personal appearance	3.72	3.80	3.47	4.487	0.012
Conflicts on the use of land	3.14	3.04	2.81	7.870	0.001
Litter	3.31	3.06	2.95	7.055	0.001
Pollution	3.82	3.10	2.89	44.622	0.000
Preservation of natural environment	3.38	3.44	3.05	8.592	0.000
Preservation of cultural resources	3.35	3.38	3.10	3.987	0.020
Traffic congestion	3.77	3.31	3.44	11.076	0.000
Peace and silence	3.20	3.42	3.52	2.678	0.071

Note: Responses were based on a five-point scale (1 = greatly decreasing, 3 = no impact, 5 = greatly increasing). There is a difference in means for 'positive economic impact' between the residents of Pınarbaşı and the residents of Azdavay and Şenpazar, at a p value of 0.01.

The results suggest that people who live in Pınarbaşı perceive a significantly higher positive economic impact such as increased employment (M=3.51), revenue (M=3.66), prices of real estate (M=3.84), restaurant and souvenir shops (M=3.70) and transportation facilities (M=3.88) as well. There have been significant differences between the perceptions of residents of Pınarbaşı and other towns in terms of standard of living, arts and handicrafts, agriculture.

Horn and Simmons (2002) found that destinations at similar stages of tourism development can have very different attitudes. One explanation of that is the difference in the relative economic importance of tourism at each destination. Lindberg and Johnson (1997) stated that residents' who place a greater amount of importance on economic development had more positive attitudes toward tourism. Likewise, Smith and Krannich (1998) found that communities interested in economic development had better attitudes about tourism than communities' content with their level of development. Communities interested in development were labelled "tourism hungry" This label fits Pınarbaşı perfectly. The reason is that the tourism activities and local tourism investment efforts began by 2000 but earlier than the other towns. The residents of Pınarbaşı were the first initiators who want to take the advantage of tourism industry.

On the other hand, respondents living in Pınarbaşı, perceived a higher positive social impact in terms of entertainment (M=3.76), and negative impact of alcohol and drug use (M=3.51) when compared with those who live in other towns. There have been also significant differences between the towns related to theft and burglary and begging. The residents living in Pınarbaşı, perceived more negative impacts of litter (M=3.31), pollution (M=3.82), traffic congestion (M=3.77).

The possible reason behind this is that Pınarbaşı was the first town which initiates tourism enterprises and tourism activities and have more tourist arrivals than other towns. Therefore higher tourism activity might cause more concerns of pollution. These results revealed that the residents of Pınarbaşı have more positive perceptions on the economic impacts of tourism than the residents of other two towns. There was no evidence of differences in residents' perceptions for other impacts.

5. Conclusion

The findings of the study identified that residents of KMNP have both positive and negative perceptions towards tourism impacts in their community. From a general point of view, it seems clear that the host community acknowledges the economic benefits of tourism. The cultural and social benefits are also perceived as an advantage by residents, but to a low degree. At the same time, it is recognized that tourism creates different problems, including traffic congestion. Writers observation shows that the residents are tolerant of tourism development in their area.

The findings prove that the residents of KMNP are positive towards tourism development by the reason of the economic impacts in their community. As stated by Bann (2010) ecotourism has been identified as one of the most important alternative livelihoods for local communities living in the vicinity of KMNP. In the area there has been significant out migration and the remaining population is old. Therefore, tourism is viewed as a means of rejuvenating the area, creating jobs and attracting people back to the area to work in the tourism industry. If this is indeed the case, it appears that the community is looking towards tourism as a mechanism that can, directly or indirectly, stimulate the local economy and increase the standard of living. It is assumed that residents believe that the development of tourism in KMNP will bring more benefits than costs to local residents, especially in improving the residents' quality of life. Tourism has not yet created enough economic benefits for local people in the area but developments are encouraging for the future.

The socio-cultural impacts of tourism such as friendliness and human relations were perceived positively by the residents of KMNP. Although the residents of the area are conservative, they generally welcome tourists. There have been a friendly atmosphere and people are helpful to tourists. The researchers regularly observed that residents interact with tourists in a positive way in the area. For example, residents routinely offered directions or other voluntary assistance to tourists.

Despite this overall positive feelings residents of KMNP identified some negative environmental impacts of tourism such as traffic congestion and pollution. With regards to the environmental impacts residents believe that tourism would provide an incentive for the protection of natural and cultural resources.

The findings show that there was no difference in residents' perceptions according to their gender, age group, occupation and length of residency. However perceptions of residents towards tourism development were influenced by the location. Residents of Pınarbaşı have more positive perceptions on the economic impacts of tourism. One of the contributions of this study is that little research is available which analyzes the perceptions of residents on the impacts of tourism in protected areas as most of the similar studies have conducted in holiday destinations of Turkish Riviera where negative impacts of mass tourism can be seen. However more studies concerning the impacts of tourism in protected areas are required. What is encouraging about the results here is that the KMNP is not affected by the negative impacts of tourism like other holiday destinations in terms of mass tourism.

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