

Full Length Research Paper

Participation of the local community in the tourism development of Imbros (Gokceada)

Tulay Cengiz^{1*}, Ferah Ozkok² and Cigdem Kaptan Ayhan³

¹Department of Landspace Architecture, Faculty of Agriculture, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale, Turkiye.

²School of Tourism and Hotel Management, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale, Turkiye.

³Department of Landspace Architecture, Faculty of Agriculture, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale, Turkiye.

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Planning is essential in order to ensure sustainable development of the regions where tourism starts to develop. Adoption of a participatory planning approach enables the community to benefit from the positive effects of tourism, while alleviating its negative effects. This paper aims to set forth the tourism potential of Gokceada, the largest island of Turkey, to determine the problems in relation with the development of tourism and to provide suggestions on the planning of the Island for the sake of sustainable development. Within this framework, the opinions of the local community on the island's tourism have been called upon by utilizing the Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) method. By evaluating the data obtained from RRA, which is considered as a form of the participatory approach, suggestions have been developed.

Key words: Rapid rural appraisal, community participation, sustainable tourism, Gokceada, island.

INTRODUCTION

When the regions where tourism develops in connection with its sustainability are examined, it is observed that the process of development is not hazarded or left to the circumstances in such regions. In this sense, tourism activities in a region should be conducted in connection with a planning process, in order to develop such activities in a conscious, stable and most importantly, sustainable way and to keep them under control (Olali, 1990). Realizing planning with a participatory approach for ensuring the sustainability of a region's tourism, growth needs to be emphasized on (Inskeep, 1994; Simmons, 1994; Tosun, 2006). In this sense, a substantial evolution has been experienced in the understanding of tourism planning. A flexible, comprehensive, responsible, systematic and participatory planning approach supersedes a strict, conservative, inflexible and short-sighted approach (Inskeep, 1994; Simmons, 1994; Tosun, 2006). Ensuring the participation of the local community when planning tourism development of a region is important in terms of the

sustainability of tourism, enabling the local community to benefit from tourism and alleviating the negative effects of tourism (Jamal et al, 1995; Okazaki, 2008). A local community which benefits from an activity embraces such activity stronger and supports its development. The concept of the participation of the local community depends on the basis that the development of the rural population is in itself. World Rural Development and Agricultural Reform Conference manifests that by predicating on participation in planning, these communities will be governed in a more autonomous, democratic and voluntary way and thus the poor can be represented as they need to be (Ozer, 2004).

Participatory appraisal has to have the qualities of making up for the biases, and particularly doing so through rural development tourism, observing the poorest individuals and women and learning about their priorities and anxieties in a relaxed -not hasty- way by listening -not explaining-, delving into the problem -not passing to the next item, and by being a simple person -rather than a glorious one- (Chambers, 1992a). Three phenomena have been important in the development of RRA. While the first of these are biases and dissatisfaction, especially the anti-poverty biases of the rural development tourism

*Corresponding author. E-mail: cengiztulay@yahoo.com.

and the case of short-rural visit of the urban professionals, the second are questionnaire investigation studies and their continuances for years; although the fact that their normal processes and results are disappointments, and the third is the fact that the demand in the more cost-effective learning methods have also brought in the failure of researches. These circumstances have aided the development experts to determine the bitter truth that local communities are aware on many subjects that interest their own lives. Thus, it has been understood that local technical information is a must-have for practical objectives (Chambers, 2002).

Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) is one of the few qualitative methods that use the participatory method together with the analytic approach. In many studies RRA is used together with Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), and PRA is stated to be an enhanced form of RRA. In practice, there is continuity between RRA and PRA (Garces et al., 2010; Chambers, 1992a, 1994). Due to the fact that RRA is a method that is advantageous in terms of time, it has gained acceptance within a short while (Beebe, 1995; Brown, 2006; Due and Temu, 2000; Takasaki et al., 2000). In their studies, Chambers (1992b), Gulcubuk (2000) and Cengiz (2005) state that RRA method, in which the local community is included and informed regarding the subject, have become more attractive due to the fact that the standard data collection and analysis techniques have started to bore people, and are time consumptive and expensive. They also emphasize that RRA method has emerged as a reaction to many high-cost questionnaire surveys and differs from traditional methods on many aspects. The facts that the result is obtained rather rapidly, it is time and cost advantageous, that it acknowledges traditions, its success in utilizing and evaluating information and its quality of conformity with the structure of rural evaluation have enabled the method to be developed and gain wide acceptance within a short duration (Cengiz, 2005). It is defined as a systematic but semi-structured formed, multidisciplinary teamed method in the rural area, organized for obtaining new data and developing new hypotheses. The quality which differentiates this method from others is its multidisciplinary approach and it is defined as a survey method (Food and Agriculture Organization, 1997). Also, Chambers (2002b) has defined the method as a "fairly quick and fairly clean" approach.

The project's area, Gokceada, is an important tourist attracting area. Gokceada has recently become an important center of attraction in terms of the recreational activities which refresh the visitors both physically and psychologically. The island constitutes a significant potential with its humane, architectural, historical and natural characteristics. It is very important, in mobilizing the potential of tourism, to maintain the sensitive balance between the community, the economy and the environment by avoiding the adverse impacts that will distort such balance. It should not be ignored that tourism may have

adverse effects on the natural environment, economy and architecture of Gokceada, as well as positive effects. For a sustainable tourism development, the potential of the island, which possesses significant attractions, has to be set forth, planned and developed. With this purpose, in this paper, the tourism potential of Gokceada has been set forth at first, then the perceptions of the community of the island on the effects of tourism have been examined by determining the current state of tourism and the problems related with tourism, with the participation of the local community. Finally, a roadmap has been tried to be developed and suggestions have been made in the light of the obtained data for a sustainable tourism development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Being a district of the city of Canakkale, Gokceada is located on the northwestern part of Turkey, and with a surface area of 289.5 km², it is the largest island of the country (Figure 1). Located between the eastern longitudes and the northern latitudes of the Northern Aegean Sea, Gokceada is 40 km west from Canakkale and with its Ince Cape (Avlaka), it constitutes the further most western point of Turkey.

Gokceada consists of a county town and 9 villages. The importance of Gokceada, in terms of political geography, has led the government to follow a different policy within the Island. The population policy has played a role in the development and the settlement characteristic of the Island. Geographical circumstances have been influential on the formation of settlement characteristics. Except for the new housings in the center, it has been observed that the Island generally has a rural characteristic. Turkish citizens and citizens of Greek origin live together in the Island. For this reason, Turkish and Greek ethnicities are reflected on the housings and the Island's culture. With the increasing population, county town has gradually grown. Besides the old, stone Greek houses under protection in the county town, there are also concrete structures that are unsuited with the architectural texture. Yenimahalle and Cinarli have the urban-identity where collective housings are present. Collective housings have started to create the new texture of the Island's architecture. Such formations cause the housing texture and originality to be gradually lost. Architecture of the Island is generally constituted of stone masonry and brick material. Also, the later villages are made of concrete houses. While dates of establishment of Tepekoy, Zeytinli, Eski (Old) Bademli, Derekoy and Kalekoy, among the Island's villages, go back to many years ago, the villages of Ugurlu, Yeni (New) Bademli, Eselek and Sirinkoy were established relevantly in recent years (Kahraman, 2005). Throughout the Island, in the villages of Kalekoy, Bademli, Zeytinli, Derekoy and Yeni Bademli, Turkish citizens and citizens of Greek origin live side by side. While only the citizens of Greek origin live in Tepekoy Village, in the villages of Sahinkaya, Eselek and Ugurlu, the only residents are Turkish citizens. Older settlements are established on hillsides for protection purposes. On the other hand, newer settlements are established on seaside plains.

Olive raising and cereal production constitute the most significant activities of the Island in terms of economy. Although viticulture had been an important activity in the periods when there had been a dense Greek population, with the decrease in their population, viticulture activities have also diminished. A carbonized grape seed has been found at the archaeological excavation carried out in Yeni Bademli mound, by the Department of Archaeology and Art History of the Hacettepe University. As the results of the examination

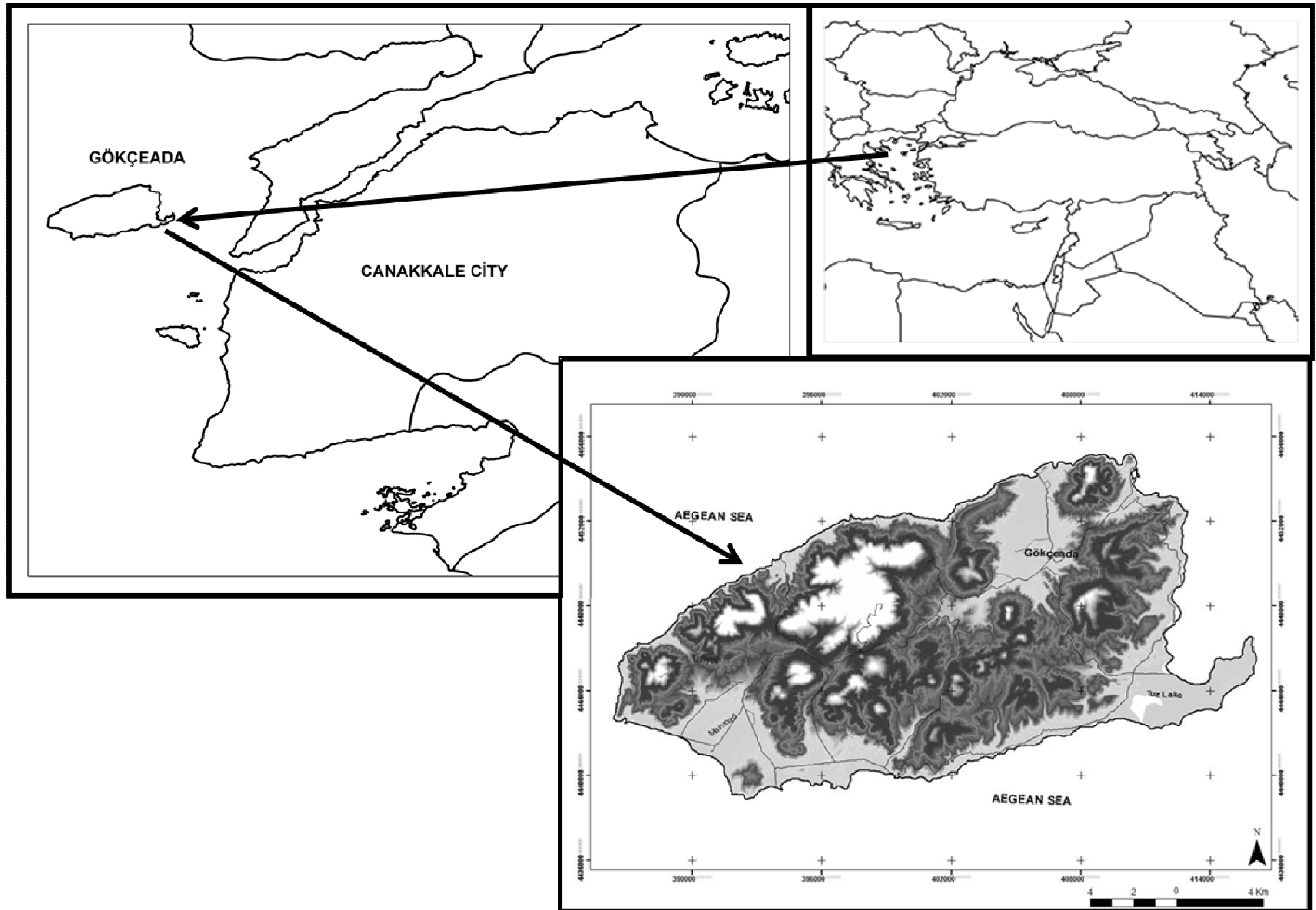


Figure 1. Geographical position of Gokceada.

Table 1. Natural tourism resources and the characteristics of the resources.

Resource name	Resource characteristic	Tourism - recreation potential
Aydincik Beach	Windsurfing, Beach, Sunken Wreckage	Coastal Tourism, Scuba Diving tourism
Aydincik Salt Lake	Has high concentrations of sulphur. Mud cure treatment is good for diseases as rheumatism, psoriasis and calcification. Bird watching	Health tourism, bird watching
Gizli Port	Beach	Coastal tourism
Dam	Watering, Drinking, Fish	Water based recreation
Laz Bay	Beach, Scenery	Coastal tourism
Yildiz Bay	Beach	Coastal tourism
Marmaros forrest	Biological diversity, recreation, visual quality	In-forest recreation
Marmaros Waterfall	Visual quality	Water based recreation
Cheese rocks	A picturesque formation made by sea waves, visual quality	Nature walks, nature watching, mountain tourism
Tepekoy plane tree	Monumental Tree, Visual quality	Botanic tourism, Nature watching
National Underwater Park	Rich fauna and flora within the underwater rocks, Underwater caves, Hot-cold spring water, Visual quality	Cave tourism, Scuba Diving tourism, Water based recreation

made and the carbon test carried out in Switzerland, the grape seed has been determined to be from the years of 2900 B.C. According to this result, it has been determined that viticulture was dealt with approximately five thousand years ago in Gokceada (Avci, 2008). Prospective projects, especially on organic agriculture and livestock farming are supported in the Island. The Organic Agriculture project that aims a return to food safety and sustainable agricultural production by utilizing conscious agricultural techniques and natural inputs, is being implemented in Gokceada since 2002. According to the data of the Gokceada District Directorate of Agriculture (2007), with the implemented projects, production of organic olive and olive oil takes the first place. Projects also on the fields of organic beekeeping, organic viticulture and organic vegetable gardening are being implemented.

Gokceada has rich tourism and landscape values. The natural-cultural resource values and tourism potentials in the Island are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

As the method, a literature review has been conducted at first and then on-field examination surveys and RRA meetings have been realized. Also, the village headmen have been asked questions other than the RRA questions.

The flowchart of the study was presented further when an effective data collection stage was realized for area use. In this stage, area-related data were collected from various institutions of Canakkale city center and Gokceada, and the literature review was then carried out.

Field surveys

Examination: With the field surveys carried out at various times in the Island, detailed examinations regarding the Island's natural features (surface features, vegetation cover, soil conditions, etc.), cultural characteristics (historic values, archaeological features, socio-economic status, socio-cultural life style, etc.) and land usage types (agricultural potential, recreation and tourism, settlement and transportation, special areas under protection, etc.), have been carried out.

Rapid rural appraisal (RRA) meetings

With the purposes of determining the tourism opportunities in the Island and to receive the opinions of the local community on tourism development, in other words to ensure their participation, RRA method has been utilized (Figure 2). For the application of the RRA method, meetings that bring together the multidisciplinary team of an agricultural engineer (expert on pasture and farming), a landscape architect, a tourism expert, a geographer and an architect with the local community. The meetings have been held in the hall of the Gokceada Municipality. Semi-structural questionnaire forms have been implemented within the meetings. Through the assistance of the District Governorship, the participation of the local community and especially the village headmen have been tried to be achieved. An approximate of 30 people besides the project team have attended the group meetings. The meetings have been held in a conversational mood, as it is required by the method. It has been ensured that the conversation is focused on the matter. In the meetings the developmental state of the Island, its main sources of income and recreation-tourism status have been determined and the problems experienced in the Island regarding these matters have been set forth. The economic, environmental and socio-cultural effects of land use have been examined. The importance of tourism in local development, problems, solutions and potentials have been discussed in the meetings. Also, when examining the villages, a specific second questionnaire have been implemented on the village headmen by the research team in order to get to know their villages better. These semi-structured interview question forms have been used as materials for the purpose of forming the village inventory.

STUDY FINDINGS

The findings obtained from the rapid rural appraisal carried out for achieving the participation of the local community in planning the tourism development of

Table 2. Socio-cultural resources and their characteristics.

Resource name	Resource characteristic	Tourism - recreation potential
Central District	Ottoman architecture mosque, Washhouses, Water fountains, Historic Greek houses,	Culture tourism
Derekoy	Historic Greek houses, Washhouses, Church, Marina, Natural spring water	Culture Tourism, Health tourism
Yeni Bademli Village	Archaeological site (Mound)	Culture Tourism
Eski Bademli Village	Historic Greek houses, Water fountain, Washhouse	Culture Tourism
Kalekoy	Historic Greek houses, Castle, Marina, National Underwater Park, Church, Monastery, Plane tree, Samothrace silhouette	Culture tourism, Botanic tourism
Tepekoy	Historic Greek Houses, Old School, Folklore Museum, Roxado Dam, Fair, Watermills, Marine Church, Panaiye Church, Graveyard	Culture Tourism
Zeytinlikoy	Historic Greek Houses, Washhouses, Dibek coffee, Church, Monastery, Metropolit Cathedral, Plane tree	Culture tourism, Botanic tourism
Rock Tombs	Double sepulture Rock Tombs considered to be of the Roman Age	Culture Tourism

Gokceada, have been evaluated as "determination of tourism resources and the perceptions regarding the effects that tourism will create". The Island's local community considers tourism as one of the most important tools for the development of the Island. Furthermore, tourism is considered to be the preferred sector by the villages of Ugurlu, Derekoy, Tepekoy, Zeytinli and Kalekoy.

In the meeting, the significant attractions of the Island in terms of tourism and recreation have been determined and the perceptions on the effects of tourism on the Island have been established. In consequence of the meeting, it has been determined that tourism is an important sector for the development of the Island. It has been stated that also agriculture and stock breeding need to be supported, as well as tourism. It has been underlined that in villages where heavy tourism activities are present, tourism also enables the villagers to sell their products. Another point that has been determined is the fact that in the villages where tourism is intense, the villagers use their products while entertaining the tourists and that the tourists buy from these products when leaving the Island. As this provides the villagers with an economic resource, because they use their own products when hosting the tourists, it also allows the villagers to obtain further income by selling their products. Also, the tourists buying products from the Island is important because of the fact that they will introduce such products

to their immediate circles and thus, promote Gokceada in a sense. The general opinion is that tourism and organic agriculture need to be developed.

The biggest problem in tourism is experienced in the decisions of protected areas. The local community face tiresome procedures when they need to carry out restorations on their houses and due to this reason, they avoid doing various repairs of their houses. This causes the original urban texture, which is in fact tried to be protected, to be gradually lost. Also, outsiders who want to come and settle in the Island or who want to buy land from the island and deal with agricultural activities usually abandon such intentions due to the protection decisions.

In order to determine the probable and material effects of tourism on the Island, its effects on income and employment, social and cultural effects and environmental effects have been evaluated in the RRA meeting.

Evaluation of tourism in terms of its effects on income and employment

One of the most important economic effects of tourism is that it creates employment. Tourism creates direct, indirect and stimulated employment effect. Tourism deals with human and the industry of tourism is heavily dependent on the human factor. Since it is a labor-intensive production, it is considered that tourism



Figure 2. Images of meetings and Imbros.

will generate more employment for labor force, in comparison with other production factors such as capital and nature. The labor-intensiveness of tourism is due to the fact that many tourism products are in nature dependent to a substantial level of individual service. This is one of the important reasons that as an economic development strategy labor force rate is, in comparison with other inputs, more adopted in less developed countries (Mak, 2004).

In the RRA meeting, it has been stated that

throughout the Island stockbreeding and tourism are the two most important sources of income and that tourism creates employment opportunities to many families. It has been also emphasized that, with the increase of the income level, through tourism, changes in spending behavior have also occurred.

It is stated that, the increase in the prices of goods and services, as an adverse effect created by tourism (Icoz and Kozak, 1998) has already started to manifest itself also in the Island. As for

the tourist facilities, the pensions and motels owned by the local community are preferred and desired over larger establishments. Particularly, most of the community of the village of Ugurlu have received short term courses in this direction. They provide certified pension services.

The increase in income that comes with tourism is mostly witnessed in the villages of Ugurlu, Eselek and Yeni Bademli. It has been determined that the tourism-related increase in income in these villages is generally in balance.

Evaluation of tourism in terms of its social and cultural effects

Another one of the most important effects of tourism on the local community is its social and cultural effects (Avcioglu, 2003). In order to raise the awareness of the local community of Gokceada on the social and cultural effects of tourism, determinations in relation with the socio-cultural effects of tourism have been made. In line with the increase in the income level and the behavioral attributes of the tourists, it has been stated that the local community, and especially women, started to be more conscious and take a more significant place in the communal life. The attitude of the headmen toward the matter is quite positive. In the evaluation meeting held, they have stated that it is an expected situation that there are some changes in the living conditions and understanding, and that the entire local community, either be it men or women, is ready to adapt to these changes.

The historic structures and the cultural riches are protected only on paper, and no projects intended to protect and sustain such values in practice are implemented. The local community also has its problems with this. It is observed that some structures face the danger of collapsing and constitute a risk in terms of human life.

It has been indicated that, migration from the Island had been a common matter before the increase in the tourism activities, but with tourism becoming a source of economy in the recent years, both newcomers and those who had migrated from the island do return back and resettle in the island. The local community has no worries whatsoever regarding an increase in the crime rate with the increasing tourism activity.

It has been stated that activities such as festivals and fairs are held frequently in the Island and especially high rates of Greek participation to the celebrations/activities held by the citizens of Greek origin in the month of August is achieved.

Evaluation of tourism in terms of its environmental effects

Tourism has both positive and negative effects on the environment. The positive effect is sometimes ensured with the measures taken in order to protect the environment. But it has mostly harmful effects on the environment.

It is foreseen by the village headmen that environmental impairments may occur along with increasing tourism activities. However, due to the fact that tourism is a very important source of income, the headmen require the tourism not to be interrupted. Various projects at this point, intended for the prevention of environmental pollution (such as prohibition of the usage of nylon bags, establishment of garbage separation units, placement of recycle bins, etc.) are requested.

The local community is not concerned about the probability that with the increasing tourism activities, a traffic problem, noise pollution and the harms that the hotels, motels and other such usages may cause would occur. It has been stated that, in summer seasons, there is an increase in the density of traffic which has not yet constituted a significant problem.

Although the local community finds the current means of transportation satisfactory, they still think that some development would be beneficial. They also demand that the airport in the Island be brought into active service. They have also underlined that with the development of tourism, more open and green spots such as parks or sporting facilities need to be formed in the Island. Their opinions and attitude towards the plans that intend to transform Gokceada into a "Gambling Center" are negative. They believe that it would disrupt order and peace of the Island.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thanks to its natural attributes such as beaches, bays, forests, rocks, waterfalls and its cultural riches such as castles, mosques, monasteries, churches, historic Greek villages and houses, rock cemeteries, mounds and festivals; Gokceada has recently started to become a center of tourism. The Island has several spots that constitute potentials in terms of tourism and recreation. Such spots, together with other land usages (such as farming, forests, etc.), should be reconsidered with an integrated planning, and the infrastructure needs should be fulfilled in the light of ecological criteria.

Further suggestions can be set forth for the usage, development and protection of the natural and cultural resources of Gokceada, that are important in terms of tourism and recreation:

- i. Gokceada has rich natural resources such as beaches, lakes, bays, forests, rocks and waterfalls;
- ii. Photo safari tourism: The Island in general constitutes an important potential for photography, especially the northern shores of the Island that are primarily protected areas and constitute a photo shooting center from the visual perception. Surroundings of Kalekoy and the Greek villages, Marmaros Forest, Marmaros Waterfalls, Peynir Rocks, Tepekoy Plane Tree, etc., are all locations that are important for photography tourism. Observation terraces should be established at strategic points in order to benefit from such a natural treasure;
- iii. Bird watching: It is an observation tourism that enables one to get to know the birds' world better. The Salt Lake located at the southeast edge of the Island is another center of attraction due to its being as a haunt for the birds and mud-bath opportunity. Also the fact that this area is close to the Aydıncik Beach, strengthens the tourism potentials of both of the locations. Facilities intended to enable watching various kinds of birds around Salt Lake should be established;

iv. Sea tourism: The triangle of sea, sun and sand is an important factor for tourism and recreational usage purposes. June, July and August are the months that are convenient for sea tourism in Gokceada. The tourism season of the Island is pretty short due to the climate. Aydincik Bay, Kuzu Port Beach, Kapikaya, Laz Bay, the area between the Secret Port and Aktas Cape, Marmaros Bay, Yakacik Cape are the areas where swimming conditions are most convenient;

v. In the Island which is rich in terms of water potential, areas where water based recreational activities can be realized (such as Gokceada Dam, Aydincik Pond, Ugurlu Pond, etc.), should be established;

vi. Windsurfing: The Aydincik Bay located at the southeast edge of the Island has very convenient characteristics for windsurfing. In this area, where especially Bulgarian tourists visit, a controlled tourism should be conducted. Although the fact that this area is classified as a primary protected area, it is observed sometimes that the nearby Salt lake is used for windsurfing. Since Salt lake is a lagoon, sustaining its protection is very important. For this reason, and for the sustainability of the area, control mechanisms should be established in the protected areas;

vii. Mountain and nature walks: Tourism and recreational values need to be bring in the geographic characteristics of the Island. Opportunities for activities such as mountain climbing and trekking should be created. Currently, the Island has convenient trekking paths. Trekking routes should be determined by analyzing geographic heights in details. A trekking circulation should be planned particularly by protecting the forestlands around the Dam and the Marmaros waterfall.

viii. Mounted nature riding: Ideal areas for "mounted nature riding" should be established by determining certain routes Island-wide. Although the fact that bringing live animals to the Island is prohibited, with special permits to be obtained a stud farm can be established and can serve visitors from different age groups;

ix. Sportive hand-line fishing: Controlled hand-line fishing can be developed as a recreational activity in the Island. It is determined from the investigations that in several shores of the Island hand-line fishing is implemented;

x. Scuba diving tourism: The sunken wreckages of World War I in Kuzu Port, the islands of Orfoz and Karayer that have very convenient means to observe the sea life around the Esek Island, also Cape Mermer, Tuzburnu, Canak Port, Bakla Tasi and Pinar Dere that step forth as the diving points of the Island should be actively promoted both nationally and internationally;

xi. Agricultural tourism: Attaching importance to the farming and vineyards and orchards farming, developing stockbreeding activities and implementing organic farming would enable the Island to obtain an important income from agricultural tourism. The optimal areas determined with the analyses conducted in the project can be suggested as agricultural areas. Locations for

farming tourism should be determined by examining the necessary conditions on the areas of the Island convenient for stockbreeding and farming. The local community should be encouraged to deal engage in farming tourism. This kind of tourism should be integrated with pension keeping;

xii. Organic growing gardens for the visitors that stay for long terms should be formed and rented. The calm and silent characteristics of the Island should be integrated with ecologic tourism and it should be turned into a kind of resting and rehabilitation center;

xiii. Culture-history tourism: The island possesses historic values. Mosques, churches, monasteries, old Greek houses and modern samples of architecture are together in the Island where various cultures meet.

The findings obtained from the archaeological digs that started in 1996 in the Island, have shown that settlement coincides with the period of Troia I. Traces of 5000 years old are found here. These findings and the place they are found should be effectively evaluated in terms of historic tourism. Around Kalekoy, on the southwest of Bademli, in the location between Sirinkoy and Derekoy, and within Derekoy Gokceada has many archeological values. The conscious use and visiting of such values should be enabled. Also the works required for the archeological sites should be enabled.

As part of history tourism, the landscape planning of the area in which the Island's most impressive ancient remain, the double tomb Rock Cemetery which was found around Kokina and believed to belong to the Roman Period should be carried out.

The houses and texture that reflects Greek culture in Gokceada are attraction centers for tourism-recreation. However the Island's center and the villages of Ugurlu, Sahinkaya, Eselek and Yeni Bademli, which was all established after 1970, do not exhibit the unique architectural characteristic. With the purpose of utilizing these values effectively as part of culture tourism, at first the architectural structures should be restored according to their original states and their landscape planning should be made. Pension keeping which will probably develop with the increase in the tourism activities should be planned as single storey or double storey house pension in conformity with the unique local identity. Due to the population policy, the Island is constituted of a mosaic of different cultures brought in from various parts of Turkey. The local community should be encouraged to preserve and sustain their traditional life styles, and the folkloric values such as traditional cloths should be kept alive. Organizing the cultural attractions the local community have carried from past to today, that are identified with the Island such as the Gokceada Movie Festival, the Mother Marry Festival and the Easter in a better way should participate in the promotion of the Island. Promoting the local food culture in the Island will aid in preserving the culture and developing the potential of tourism;

xiv. Health tourism: Physical infrastructure possibilities for the effective implementation of the curing activities in the Salt Lake, which has an importance in terms of health tourism, should be developed and such a value should be advertised.

Although the Island has a rich tourism potential, it could not show the desired development in the field of tourism-recreation. The problems that prevent the development of tourism, such as the infrastructural problems, the problem of solid wastes, insufficiency of promotional and marketing activities, the problems originating from the protection decrees, the low level of tourism education, capital insufficiency, unplanned structuring and lack of tourism plans should be solved. Tourism may have adverse effects on the natural environment, economy and architecture of Gokceada, as well as positive effects. For this reason, the tourism developments in the Island should be planned very carefully. The negative factors that may disrupt the sensitive balance between the society, economy and the environment should be avoided. The island constitutes a significant potential in terms of culture potential with its humane, architectural and historical characteristics. It creates environmental and geographical beauties, settlement advantages and economic activities.

In conclusion, while tourism brings in socio-economic and socio-cultural benefits, it can also bring along some costs. Tourism plans are very important for preventing the eagerly supported tourism to become something undesired and for avoiding problems. Tourism may also have some social costs such as the facts that it increases the local infrastructure usage demand, increases investment expenditures, it may harm the natural, social and physical environment, it may harm cultural environment and it may increase seasonal difficulties (Icoz et al., 2002). For this reason implementing ecologic tourism in areas that are ecologically sensitive will minimize such problems. Ecotourism is a movement in which those who have natural values as well as social motives and who want to see the natural values and live together with them participate to the daily life together with the local community without disrupting such values. For the sake of the principle of sustainability, an understanding of a participatory tourism that does not harm natural and cultural sources, that protects recreational tourism sources, that do not harm the environment, and that aims development should be adopted. The matter of tourism for Gokceada, which has a sensitive ecology, need to be solved together with the local community on protecting-using basis and on environment sensible ecologic tourism basis. Through this way, tourism can be benefited from.

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