

**Improving Policy, Institutions, Legislation and
Practices
for Sustainable Use and Conservation
of Wildlife Resources
Prague/Zidlochovice, Czech Republic
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**Country Report on Turkey
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Facts and figures of wildlife resources



- Over 11000 plant species, 4000 of which are endemic in Turkey,
- 141 species of reptile,
- 716 species of fish,
- 161 species of mammal,
- 460 species of bird live in Turkey and ¼ of these are endemic)
- Endemism in Turkey is about 35%
- 460 bird species
- 716 fish species
- 480 saltwater - ?
- 236 freshwater - ?
- 141 reptile species

Facts and figures of wildlife resources (cont.)

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- A great number of National Parks (39), Natural Parks (30), Natural
 - Protection Areas (32), Natural Monument (105), Caves (3000) that are the homes of the wildlife resources,
 - 750 Wetlands (135 International Importance),
 - 947 Nature Site And Archeological And Historical Site,
 - 350 Geological Values,
 - 14 Specially Protected Areas,
 - 350 Hunting Ground,
 - 18 Breeding Station Of Wildlife,
 - 188 Seed and Gene Conservation forests,
 - 56 Conservation Forests and 337 Seed Station,
 - 81 Wildlife Protected Areas

Legal Basis for Wildlife resources and Hunting- International Conventions of which Turkey is the Party

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- Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (BERN)(1984)
 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar-1994)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1997)
 - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2004)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1996)
 - Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (BERN) (1984)
 - European Landscape Convention (2001)
 - Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona) (1981) and its protocols including the Protocol on Special Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean (1988)
 - Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest) (1994) and its protocols including the Protocol for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Black Sea (2004)
 - Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1983)
 - Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) (1998)
 - European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals
 - IUCN Works 1998



Legal Basis for Wildlife resources and Hunting- Domestic Legislation

- Article 168 of the Constitution
- Terrestrial Hunting Law
- Law of Aquatic Products
- Law of National Parks
- Forest Code
- Law of Animal Improvement
- Law of Animal Protection
- Ramsar Regulation
- Cites Regulation
- Draft Law of Nature and Biodiversity Conservation
- Several Regulations



Institutional Structure of Wildlife Management and Hunting

- **Central level**
 - The Ministry of Environment & Forestry
 - The General Directorate of Nature Protection & National Parks
 - Department of Wildlife,
 - Central Terrestrial Hunting Commission
- **Local level**
 - Provincial commission of terrestrial hunting
 - Municipalities
 - Associations, foundations
 - Voluntary organizations,

Protection Efforts - Activities launched and achievements realized

- 20 Caretta caretta's nesting and protection areas (250 km coastway from Mediterranean Sea),
- %27 Survey of Turkey (¼ general area) is important natural areas,
- EUNIS NATURA-2000 Database which is species and habitat based has been constituted,
- Project, BIOTOP map (45 layer) has been actualized for the first time in Turkey (Belek OCK ve Bafa lake TP),
- The integration of biological diversity to forest plans was provided (GEF-2 Project),
- Biological Diversity Monitoring Database "NUH'UN GEMİSİ-The ship of Nuh" has been constituted in 2004
- In 2006 and 2007 about 1700 Hunter's Training Courses were organized and more than 60 thousands of hunters got their "certificates",
- In line with the CITES Directive, 600 number of CITES Certificates prepared and roughly 100 thousand \$US revenue provided.

Protection Efforts - Activities launched and achievements realized (cont.)

TRAINING OF HUNTERS; OBLIGATORY..

With the Land Hunting Law enacted in 2003; Training of hunters was made obligatory and it lead to the opening of private hunter training courses. Thus a new sector has been created. Except our Ministry; there are 16 private hunter training courses in 11 provinces

Number of Hunters who Attended the Hunter Training Courses and Obtained a Hunter's Certificate

Years	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007*	TOTAL
Number of Hunters with Certificate	37.220	28.417	6.991	69.095	28.527	18.868	189.118

Protection Efforts - Activities launched and achievements realized (cont.)- Inventory Studies

6000 - 7000 Red Deer,
15 000 – 20 000 Roe Deer,
100 - 150 Fallow Deer,
4000 - 5000 Chamois,
25 000 – 30 000 Wild Goat,
1500 - 2000 Anatolian Wild Sheep,
2500 - 3000 Gazelle
250 000 – 300 000 Wild Boar –
(above 600)

Inventory studies have been conducted from 2000 to 2007 to determine the populations of large mammals in our country

Years	Number of Inventory Study	Total Inventory Area (hectares)
2000-2007	458	7 456 443

Activities launched and achievements realized (cont.)

Distribution Of Wildlife Conservation Areas According to the Target Species

Species	Number Of Conservation Area	Total Area (Ha.)
Anatolian Wild Sheep	2	77.581
Wild Goat	22	350.543
Wild Goat – Roe Deer	1	26.077
Great Bustard	1	13.679
Pheasant	2	31.966
Water Birds	16	88.731
Hyena	1	35.811
Roe Deer	7	15.585
Red Deer	15	193.985
Red Deer-Roe Deer	4	82.442
Eleonora's Falcon	1	937
Fallow Deer	1	28.972
Gazelle	1	28.480
Chamois – Brown Bear	1	4.320
Chamois – Wild Goat	4	182.709
Caucasian Black Grouse	1	59.589
T O T A L	80	1.205.599

Activities lunched and Achievements realized

REINFORCEMENT PROJECTS GAZELLE PROJECT

86 Gazelles are reinforced to the natural population in the Sanliurfa-Payamli region in the year 2005. 6 of them are mounted with telemetry transmitter. They are now followed through satellite in their natural habitats in a study conducted together with Harran University. This region is searched in an inventory study carried out in 2007 and 180 Gazelles were observed.



ANATOLIAN WILD SHEEP PROJECT

215 Anatolian Wild Sheep are reinforced to the nature in different places. 131 of them in Ankara-Nallihan, 61 of them in Karaman-Karadağ, 8 of them in Malatya, 15 of them to the outside boundary of Wildlife Conservator Area of Konya

1 ANATOLIAN WILD SHEEP = 300 DOMESTIC SHEEP

30 of them are mounted transmitters and followed in nature through satellite in a study with Middle East Technical University.

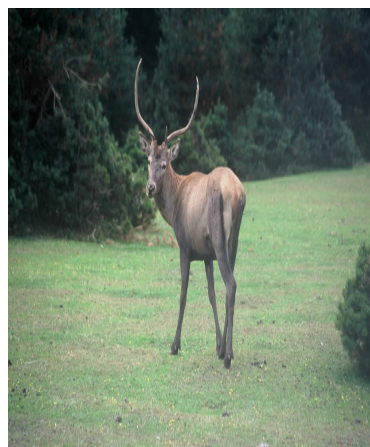


Activities lunched and Achievements realized

RED DEER AND ROE DEER PROJECT

546 Red Deer reproduced in our breeding stations were released to nature. 9 of them will be followed through telemetry transmitters.

We have reached to the level that we can now make consultancy to other states about wild animal translocations.



Activities lunched and Achievements realized

GLOBALLY "CR" BALD IBIS PROJECT

They are bred in Urfa-Birecik Bald Ibis breeding station in half-wild habitat and released to nature.

They are critically endangered worldwide, world population is not more than 50, (Morocco, Syria, Spain)

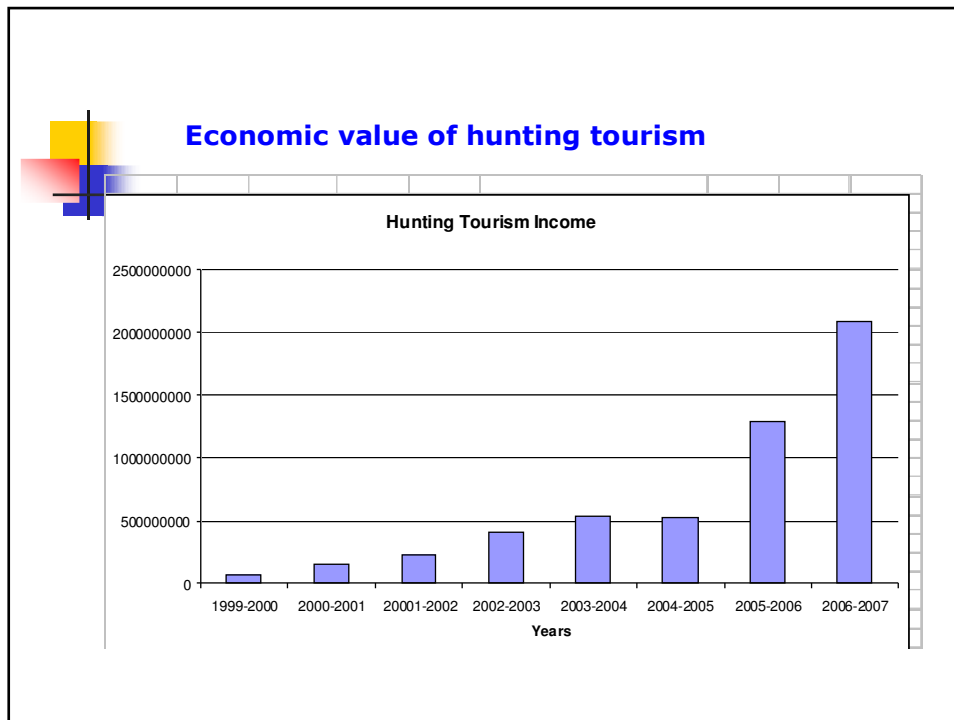
With the appropriate preventive measures, they reached to a number of more than 100 by the year 2007,

5 of them released for migration, watched by radio-transmitters. Unfortunately, all found dead around Oman.



Contribution to public livelihood in Rural communities

- The 40 % of the income from Hunting Tourism is transferred to nearby rural communities and/or municipalities, around 400,000 \$US was transferred in the year 2007
- Service is purchased from Village Juristic Personality or Municipalities for Wildlife Conservation. 34 service purchasing which make a total of 200,000 YTL in the year 2007
- In accordance with the recent regulation, %50 of the hunting revenue of wild pig and %33 of the other species is being given to the villages
- In order to improve the welfare and increase the economic income of rural people, contracts for conservation of wildlife reserve areas were made with 34 villages in 2007. By having these contracts, that villages got 150 thousands \$US of extra income from the conservation activities they conducted accordingly
- 2 million USD revenue from Mouflon and Wildgoat
- 800.000 USD revenue from illegal hunting as a punishment



Main problems of sustainable use and wildlife conservation in your country prior to the **1st Conference 2006 in Prague**

(check <http://www.fao.org/forestry/26841@101900/en>)

Sectoral management

(e.g. lack of monitoring, inappropriate quotas establishment mechanism, underdeveloped hunting tourism, institutional deficiencies, etc.)

1. Unplanned urbanization- regional, provincial and country level planning
2. Unplanned use of natural resources
3. Weak economic structure
4. Weak legal infrastructure and low governmental resources for management
5. Disorganized non-governmental organizations
6. The lack of counting of game animals
7. Habitat fragmentation
8. Lack of participation at local level and hunting level, conflict between State and hunters
9. Lack of population- about 10% of optimal capacity
10. Legal prohibition of importing game animals

Main problems of sustainable use and wildlife conservation in your country prior to the **1st Conference 2006 in Prague**

(check <http://www.fao.org/forestry/26841@101900/en>)

Policy and Legislation

(e.g. weak legislation, lack of strategy / action plan, lack of wildlife management policy, corruption, inappropriate allocation of revenues from hunting, weak control of international trade in trophies and other hunting products, etc.)

1. Illegal poaching and hunting
2. Loose implementation for Cites
3. Unsatisfactory legislative provisions
4. Loose implementation for privileged hunters
5. Alien and invasive species
6. No revenue for property owners
7. No species action plan
8. Migratory birds are uncontrolled
9. Import and export issues

Main problems of sustainable use and wildlife conservation in your country prior to the **1st Conference 2006 in Prague**

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Socio-economic problems

(e.g. lack of local community awareness regarding their rights, legislation, regulations, private sector lacking incentives to invest, restricted access to hunting (economical and administrative reasons), etc.)

1. All hunting areas under public ownership
2. Property owners do not have any rights on wild animals
3. Lack of insurance policy for hunters and damages incurred
4. Time limitation for hunters
5. Hunting methods like teyp recording prohibited

Main problems of sustainable use and wildlife conservation in your country prior to the **1st Conference 2006 in Prague**

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Inter-sectoral management

(e.g. weak technical and human capacities, lack of specialists, conflicts of interests (between hunting, forestry and agricultural sector), competition between domestic animals and game, habitat degradation / Overexploitation etc.)

1. Lack of species experts at customs,
2. Agricultural fertilizers,
3. Timber harvesting and human being threaten animal breeding and bird nests
4. Conflicts between hunters and local people
5. Ownership structure causes problems
6. Habitat fragmentation, degradation and damaging
7. The quality of species is poor
8. Import opportunity for game animals

**Benefits of workshops in Prague and Antalya
for you country**

What has been improved:

1. Several activities have been launched for conservation
2. Information exchange
3. Establishing expert network
4. Opportunity of intergovernmental help and cooperation

Current most important and expected problems for sustainable use and wildlife conservation in your country

1. Decreasing of populations due to poaching and habitat loss
2. Deficiency in hunter control
3. The most threatened games are waterfowls due to mass and continuing damage in wetlands
4. Inharmonious hunting rules with EU countries
5. Unconscious agricultural applications and excessive use of agricultural fertilizers
6. Not being considered at national development plans
7. Hunting Tourism not developed
8. Scattered legislation and institutional structure
9. Habitat fragmentation

Existing conflicts between hunting, environment and wider public (if any)

1. The popularity of hunting has been decreasing in society in the last decades
2. Narrowing of hunting grounds (due to loss of wetlands and prohibition of hunting in these areas), especially for waterfowls creating poaching and conflict with society
3. Increasing of sample (semi-privatized) hunting grounds create narrowing effect on huntable areas
4. Restriction for hunting days (contrarily with EU countries) create over-populated hunting times
5. Habitat fragmentation
6. Habitat poisoning with all chemicals including lead and mercury
7. Damaging farm animals and crops

Problems for which help of international experts is needed most in your country

1. Organizing of hunting management
2. Organizing and acting roles of hunter organizations
3. Organizing of governmental management authorities
4. Organizing of legal basis for hunting and wildlife
5. Game management
6. Help for harmony with EU countries
7. Help for planning at all levels, country, regional, provincial and hunting ground
8. Help for completing all inventories
9. Help for hunting planning
10. Help for species identification at customs particularly Cites species
11. Help for combating against black market for CITES species and poachers

Challenges ahead



SLOGAN:

- ✓ PROTECT-REPRODUCE-BREED,
- ✓ REINFORCE THE NATURAL POPULATION,
- ✓ HARVEST WISELY!

TARGETS:

- ✓ To reduce the poaching pressure to the minimum,
- ✓ To keep 5 Million Wild Animal Alive!
- ✓ To raise the number of Pilot Hunting Grounds, which is 44 now, to 120 within 5 years and 350 within 25 years..
- ✓ To forbid hunting outside Hunting Grounds except for agricultural and disease control...