

Options for conflict management in protected areas

Damla Yıldız^{1,*}, Erdoğan Atmış²

¹ Bartın University, Vocational School of Higher Education, Bartın

² Bartın University, Faculty of Forestry, Bartın

* Corresponding author: damlayildiz@bartin.edu.tr

Abstract. Because it is considered as a phenomenon that affects not only humans but all living beings that live in communities and use common living spaces, it is often said that conflict is inevitable in every environment where people interact. In order to be able to talk about its presence, it is necessary that conflict is noticed by and disturbs all parties involved. It is observed that the subject of conflict is among the most popular topics that the scientists examine today. It is almost impossible to make a generally-accepted definition of conflict, as scientists study the concept of conflict from different angles. Concepts such as, disagreement, irreconcilableness, opposition, contradiction, incompatibility, frustration, etc. particularly attract attention. The theme of conflict management in protected areas first appeared in a workshop held during "IV. World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas". As is the case in the world, conflicts are experienced in protected areas, especially with regards to use, preservation, and management of resources such as forests, water, wildlife, pastures etc. in Turkey as well. A variety of methods are utilized globally for managing such conflicts and steps are being taken towards their resolution. In protected areas, conflict is addressed considering its three dimensions (structure, attitude, behavior or position, interest, need) and these are considered as factors that lead to the formation and continuation of the conflict. In addition, the causes of conflict are explained more clearly by analyzing relationships, data, interests, structural factors and values which are dimensions of the source of conflict. Surveys and focus group workshops are frequently used as investigation methods, and, meetings, seminars, and workshops are organized to analyze program outputs and plans are prepared for conflict management and resolution. Concepts such as information about and perception and attitude towards the protected area, public relations in protected area management, participation, reconciliation, communication, and anger management are examined, and, it is ensured that the strategies and actions to manage the conflict are produced more easily. Since the field of conflict management in protected areas is a fairly new subject in Turkey, the number of studies conducted in this regard is low. Although the wildlife-human conflict has become a current issue, it is evident that it has not been analyzed in detail. However, in the protected areas, there are many other conflict issues outside this area, and it is essential to carry out studies in these areas as well. Accordingly, this study has given information about which conflicts are experienced, who are the parties to these conflicts, what are the causes and the consequences of the conflicts, and conflict management approaches and conflict management styles in the protected areas in Turkey, taking into account the examples from around the world.

Keywords: Conflict, Conflict analysis, Conflict resolution, National park, Local community

Acknowledgement

This research was supported by Bartın University Scientific Research Project Unit, by the project number 2016-FEN-C-008.