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THE DETERMINATION OF THE CARRYING CAPACITY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF VISITOR MANAGEMENT IN PROTECTED AREAS: CASE OF DEĞLE RUIN

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EXTENSIVE SUMMARY

It is of great importance to take into account the negative effects of tourism on natural, cultural and cultural values as well as its positive effects on economic, social and cultural aspects. As a matter of fact, natural and cultural values and the resources that create these values are used intensively by tourists due to being the center of attention. Due to the intensive demand, the historical and cultural areas that are important for the tourism sector are destroyed and damaged by the conditions of the environment they are in. The demand for conservation area and the increase in the number of visitors accordingly have negative effects on these values. The intensive use of these values damages the quality and quantity of conservation area results in decreases in visitor satisfaction. Conservation areas; In order to ensure the use of existing cultural and natural values, the management of visitors is of paramount importance in order to ensure the use of existing and future generations. The balancing of the demand for these areas and the minimization of the negativities can be achieved by determining the visitor management and carrying capacity. In this context, in order to protect the conservation areas from the negative impacts of tourism and to ensure sustainable protection, the carrying capacity of various sizes of visitors at the Değle ruins is presented. In the study; physical, social, real and effective carrying capacity are determined. The main strategy in the context of visitor management is to control the number of visitors and to contribute to the maintenance of sustainable protection. The research is important in terms of protecting the resources of Değle ruins from the negative effects of tourism and ensuring sustainable protection. The area of application of the research is located in the region called the Binbir Church in the central district of Karaman. Değle is located on the northern part of the city of Karaman, which is a volcanic mountain located 37 km away from the center. In this area which has important archaeological values, there are no arrangements or facilities for visitors. It is of great importance that the number of people visiting the area will increase as a result of the facilities and arrangements to be made after the conservation plan and the landscaping project at the site. Four different carrying capacity calculations were made by using 'Carrying Capacity Estimation Method' in the research. When calculating the carrying capacity in conservation areas, it is observed that the most sensitive carrying capacity calculation method is Effective Carrying Capacity in terms of the climatic, physical, managerial (staff number) and the climatic factors affecting the number of visitors, such as climatic factors, accessibility, built-up area, agricultural area of livestock. In this context, the effective carrying capacity calculated as 2.444 visitors / day per day should be taken into consideration for the arrangements to be made for the site and for the decisions to be developed. Carrying capacity calculation methods contribute to reducing the possible dissatisfaction, increasing the quality of the service to be provided to the visitors, and ensuring sustainable protection in a way may avoid to harm existing cultural and archaeological sites. In this study aims to determine the carrying capacity of Değle Ruins Place, determining the needs of the ruins of the values obtained as a result of the calculations, monitoring of the carrying capacity is seen as an important step in terms of achieving sustainable conservation for the historical sites planned to be opened for tourism. It is expected that

the study will benefit from the practical level of transport-oriented visitor management models in order to ensure sustainable conservation in conservation areas such as Değle ruins.