



Challenges of Having an Ecoland; an Evaluation in The Context of Tourism and Ecological Life

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EXTENSIVE SUMMARY

Farm tourism, which is a type of tourism formed due to the need and demand of people living in the city to learn and practice farm life, has become one of the most demanded tourism types in Turkey as well as in the world. Farm tourism activities in Turkey, which are carried out on a voluntary basis, provide benefits to both the volunteers and the ecolands, but also bring some challenges. Within the scope of the research, both the difficulties caused by the current volunteering activity in Turkey and the difficulties brought by the ecological life were evaluated together and possible solutions were developed. The research was carried out in the ecolands where the residents lived and accepted volunteers for 12 months due to the aim of addressing the challenges holistically. In this respect, the study shows the feature of situation analysis. A total of 15 ecolands meeting the necessary conditions were visited, and on-site observations and face-to-face interviews were conducted. In order to create the general picture, the main problem of the research is; “What are the challenges facing eco-farms?”. In order to reach the answer, questions of “What were the biggest personal and non-personal problems you have experienced here? How did you go about solving it?” has been asked to the residents. In order to obtain supporting data, observations were made in order to understand the operation, human relations, technical knowledge, skills and infrastructure by spending 1 to 3 days in the ecolands.

As a result of the research, the difficulties experienced in ecological fields were evaluated under 3 main titles and each title was divided into sub-titles in itself. Accordingly, the first title expresses the challenges arising from human interaction, including sub-titles such as security, operational problems, waste, not respecting the way of life, and land problems. The second title is the challenges caused because of life in nature including the ecological product, the destructions by wild animals, transportation problems, seasonal problems. The last type of

challenge was determined as the challenge of financial and technical support deficiencies caused by technical knowledge, skills and infrastructure deficiencies such as alternative energy, ecological building design, gray water separation.