

Game and Wildlife in Turkey

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Existence of Life Depends on Forest and Water.

THE COUNTRY

The area of Republic of Turkey is 814 578 squ.km

3% in Europe (Trace), 97% in Asia (Anatolia)

Population of Turkey is 75.6 millions (65% urban)

35% arable, 27% forest, 27% Steppe, 11% settlements

Turkey consists of three different biogeographic regions; Caucasian mountain forest with the temperate deciduous forest including alpine meadows, Central and Eastern Anatolian Steppe Grassland, and the Mediterranean Region









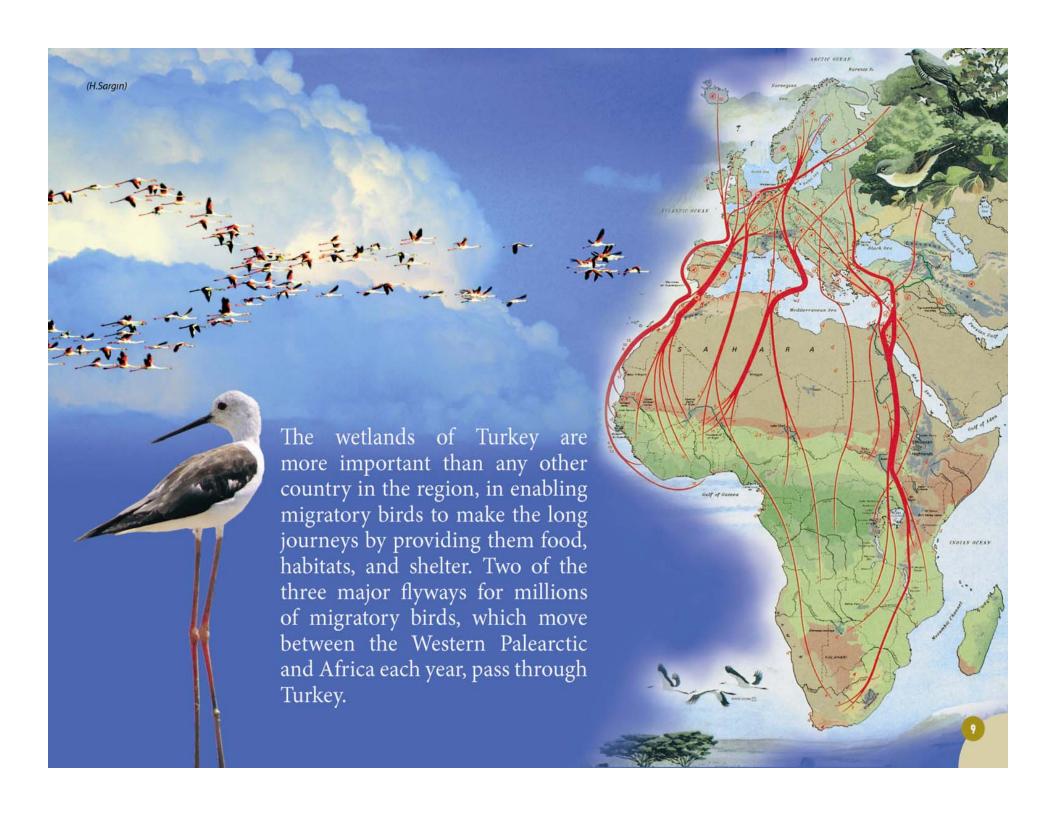


WETLANDS:

Home For Many Breeding and Migratory Birds

Together with the dam lakes, wetlands of Turkey covers an area of 1 851 000 hectares and provides food, habitat, and shelter for large number of water birds and other aquatic species. There are around 3000 wetlands, of which 135 have international significance.

(F.A.Dürüs)







Biodiversity: Unification and Display Ground of Three Continents



Great Bittern (Botaurus stellaris) (Z.Tekin)

Both the climate and topography have played an important role in maintaining astonishing biodiversity in Turkey. Turkey has a very rich flora and fauna with more than 11 000 species of plants, 162 species of mammals, 460 species of birds, 716 species of fish and 141 species of reptiles. More than 3900 species of plants are endemic to Turkey.

Threats and Pressures

The biodiversity Turkey represents is indicative of a delicate and natural balance in the environment. Recently, however, the rapidly developing industry, agricultural mechanization, and rapid population growth are becoming real threats to the natural balance of these ecosystems and to their sustainable management. For these reasons, the magnitude of degradation in wildlife habitats has reached to dangerous levels and, thus, the populations of many plant and animal species are threatened or endangered.



of Ecosystems and Wildlife Resources

Legal Framework

The Turkish Constitution, laws, regulations, and international conventions such as Paris, Ramsar, Bern, Washington (CITES), Barcelona, Combatting Desertification, and Biological Diversity provide the legal framework for nature conservation, sustainable resource use and management. Forest Law coded 6831 enacted in 1956, National Parks Law coded 2873 enacted in 1983, and Land Hunting Law coded 4915 enacted in 2003 authorizes Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs for conservation, improvement, and sustainable management of forests, wildlife resources, and biodiversity.





PROTECTED AREAS

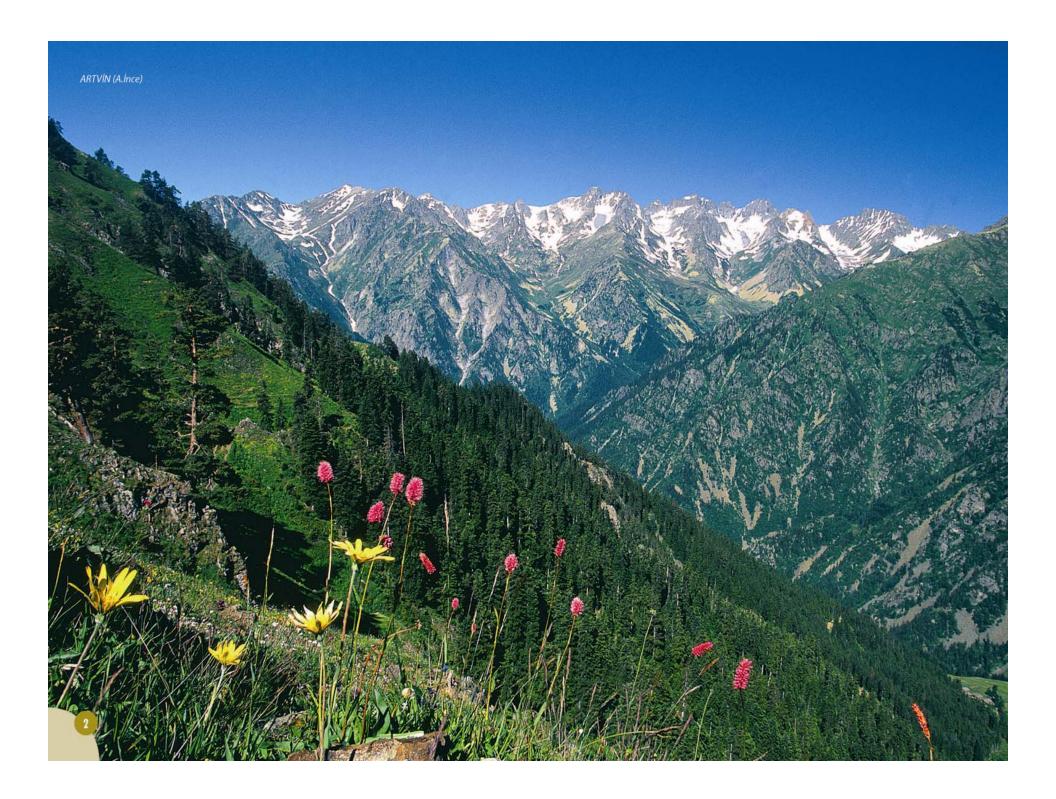
- 80 wildlife conservation areas totaling to 1.2 million hectares of land have been legally put aside by the Land Hunting Law for the protection of rare game species
- In addition, there are 362 protected areas covering almost 1 million hectares of land designated under the National Parks Law (2873)
- Besides, there are 2379 other protected areas established by the Forest Law (6831), the Cultural and Natural Resources Protection Law (2863), and the Environment Law (2872)
- Altogether 2821 protected areas covering 5.64 million hectares of land account for 7.24 % of Turkey's total land surface.











GAME MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks (GDNPNP) under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.

- Organization of GDNPNP is comprised of 7 departments and 41 divisions at the Headquarters.
- Country organization of GDNPNP has 15 regional directorates, 81 provincial directorates, 10 national park directorates, and 105 district offices.
- A total of 1784 people is employed (233 administrative,
- 578 tecnical, and 973 supporting staff).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Hunting Law coded 3167 (1937-2003)
- Land Hunting Law coded 4915 enacted in 2003

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Land Hunting Law coded 4915 was prepared in accordance with the legislation of EU and enacted in 2003.
- The new law includes amendments concerning the ecological, socio-cultural, and economical dimentions of game and wildlife management.

SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSION

Compulsary training in obtaining hunting license

Compulsary broadcasting

Voluntary wardens to control illegal hunting

Cooperation with village governing council

Reorganization of Central Hunting Commission

ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION

Measures for protection of species and their habitats including predators

Establishment of hunting grounds with appropriate game management plans

Legal framework for rehabilitation of ecosystems

Regulation on trade of wild animals and their trophies

Regulation on captive breeding

ECONOMICAL DIMENSION

Revenue generated from hunting permits and leased hunting grounds

Revenue generated from hunting tourism

Contribution of hunting equipment store owners

Contribution of wild animal breeders and traders

Fines paid for hunting offences

IMPLEMENTATION

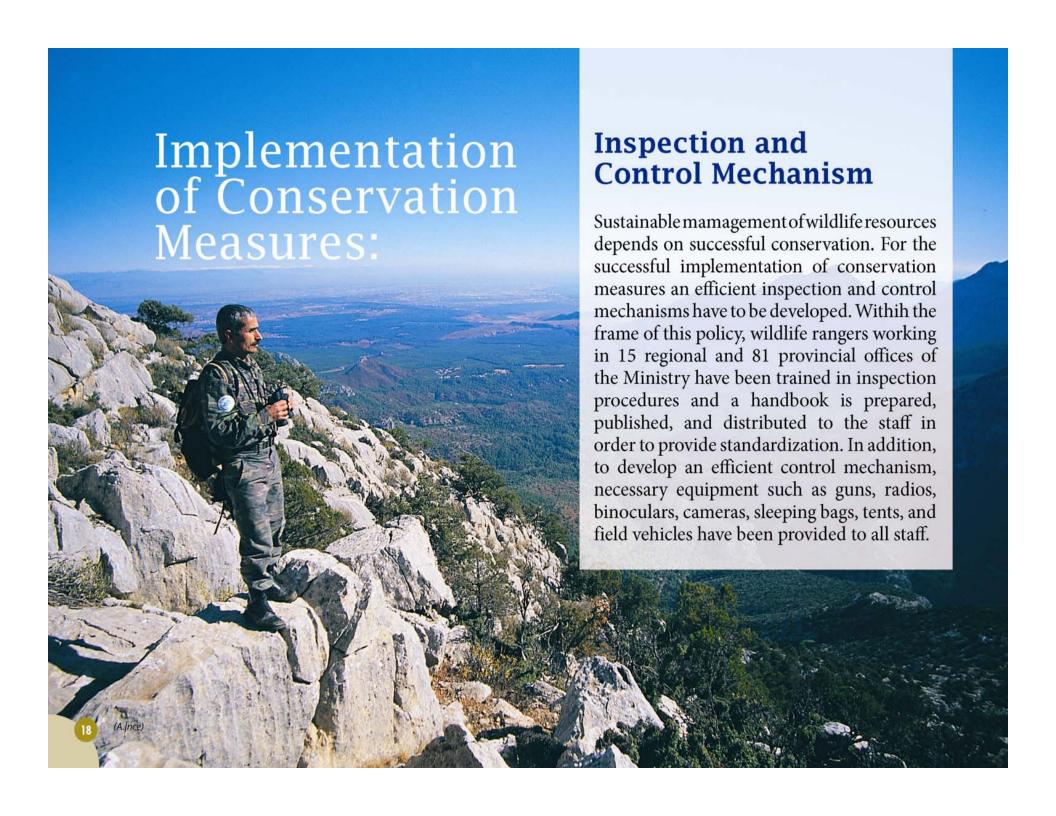
Implementation of Land Hunting Law coded 4915 was enforced by the annual decisions of Central Hunting Commission on the following issues.

- Determination of species to be protected and species to be hunted
- Determination of permitted and prohibited hunting grounds
- Opening and closing date of hunting season for species groups accoording to regions
- Bag limits per hunter
- Determination of permitted hunting methods
- Determination of permitted hunting days

IMPLEMENTATION

The following implementation regulations are prepared;

- Education of Hunters
- Hunting Ground Management
- Working Principles and Procedures of Central Hunting Commission
- Working Principles and Procedures of Voluntary Hunting Inspectors
- Establishment and Management of Wildlife Protection and Improvement Areas
- Establishment and Management of Wildlife Breeding Stations
- and Rescue Centers
- Principles and Procedures of Hunting Tourism
- Wildlife Trade
- Protection of Game and Wild Animals Together with Their Habitats



Successful Conservation Depends on the Understanding, Co-operation and Participation

Successful conservation depends on the understanding, co-operation and participation of mankind. With this policy in mind, participation has become our guiding principle in the management of the game and wildlife. Within the frame of this principle, the decisions concerned with the game and wildlife management are being taken in a participatory manner. Hunter associations and similar civil community organizations provide support to our protection efforts by working as voluntary wildlife wardens.

For an efficient protection, a recently developed model for participatory protection is the protection through Village Governning Consul. Implementation of this project is based on the collaborative work with the villagers in close cooperation to protect and sustain game species and wildlife areas. Within the framework of this project villagers participate in conservation activities and in return, they are paid for their services according to a protocol signed by the villagers and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. A substantial success has been achieved by this project in conservation activities.



Conservation Efforts have to be Supported by Social and Economical Measures

We should remind ourselves the slogan "if it pays, it stays". Therefore, conservation efforts have to be supported by relevant social and economical measures. In order to reduce the presure on wildlife resources, economic state of local people who share wildlife habitats has to be improved or, in other words, rural poverty has to be reduced as a first step. For this purpose, GDNCNP has developed a program for initiation and development of international game and hunting tourism in Turkey. In the areas selected for game tourism, local village governing councils also participate in the conservation work and they are paid for their effort. In addition, villagers are also employed by the tourists as guides and carriers.

When social aspect of conservation is considered, public education and awareness campaigns are important measures for active participation of citizens to conservation efforts. For sustainable use of wildlife resources including game stock, an education program for hunters has been developed. Within the framework of Hunters Education Program, more than 300 thousant hunters have been trained and were certified.

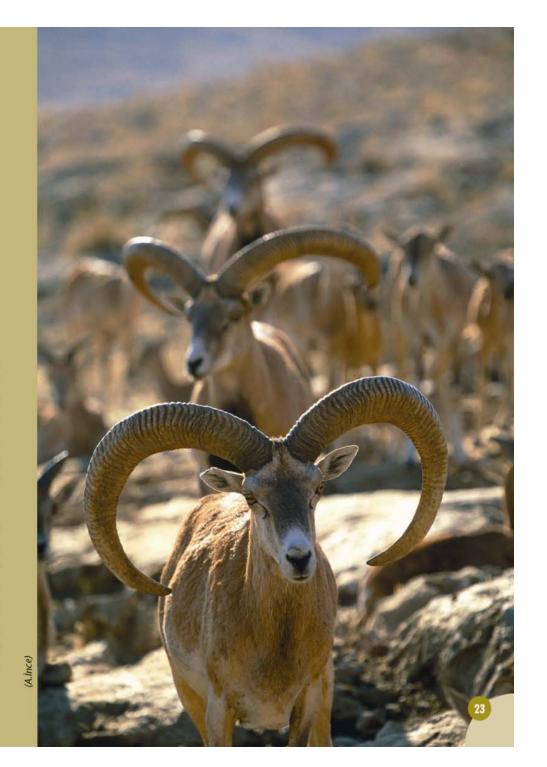


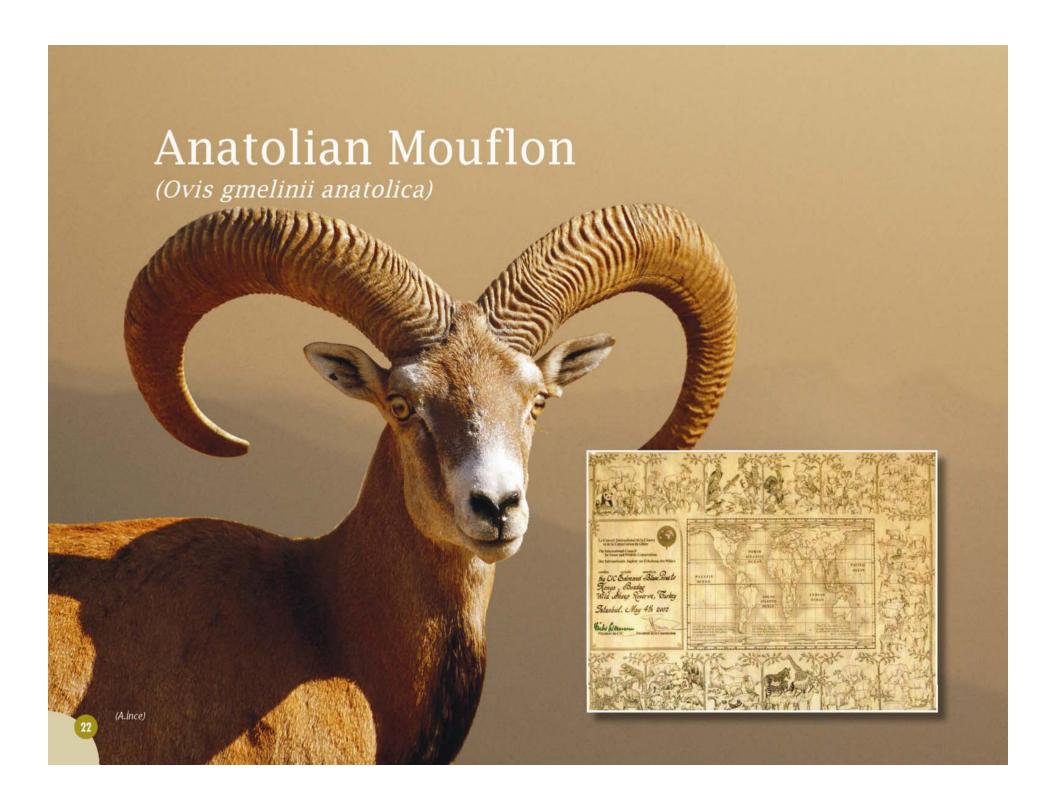
Improvement of Wildlife Resources:

Turkey received prestigious EDMOND BLANC PRICE

Wildlife managers have been working to maintain or restore rare and declining wildlife populations for more than 50 years in Turkey. There are 20 wildlife breeding stations in Turkey for raising species of birds such as Bald Ibis, (Geronticus eremita), pheasants, partriges, and species of big mammals such as Anatolian Mouflon, red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, and gazella.

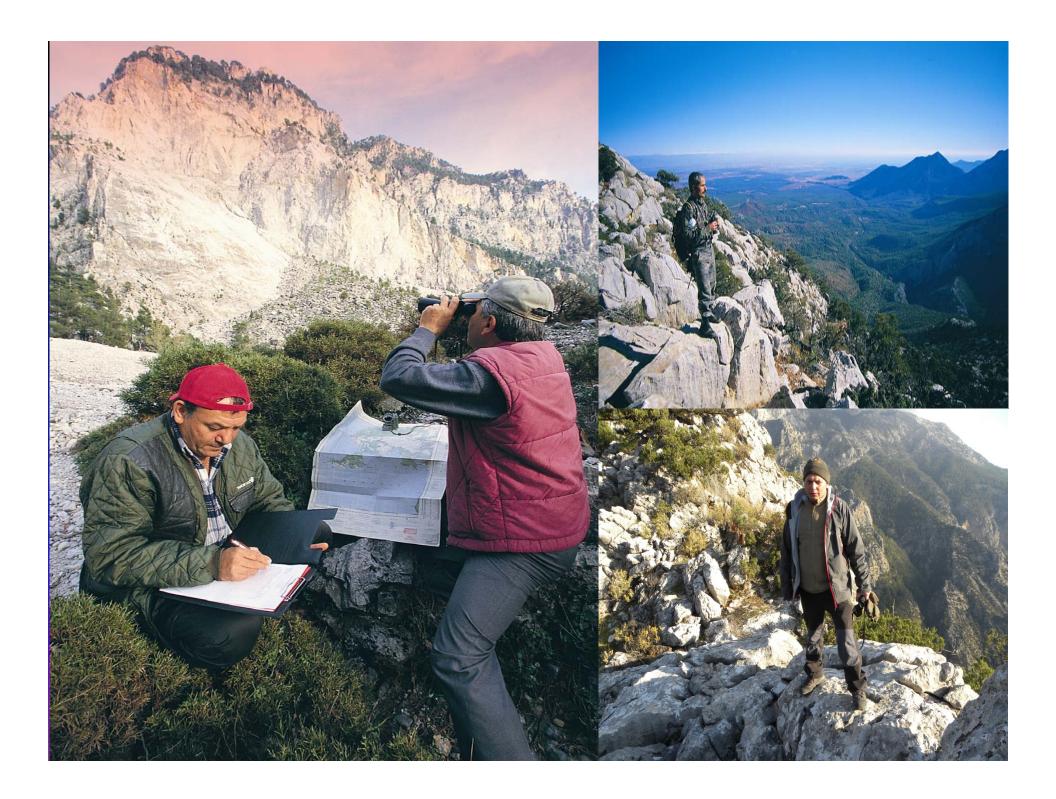
Wild animals raised in captivity are released into wild at selected sites according to IUCN guidelines for re-introduction and restocking purposes. Turkey is rewarded with the prestigious Edmond Blanc Prize of the CIC for the conservation of Anatolian Mouflon in Konya Province. The Price is rewarded for outstanding efforts of Turkey in wildlife conservation and game management based on the principles of sustainable use of wildlife resources.





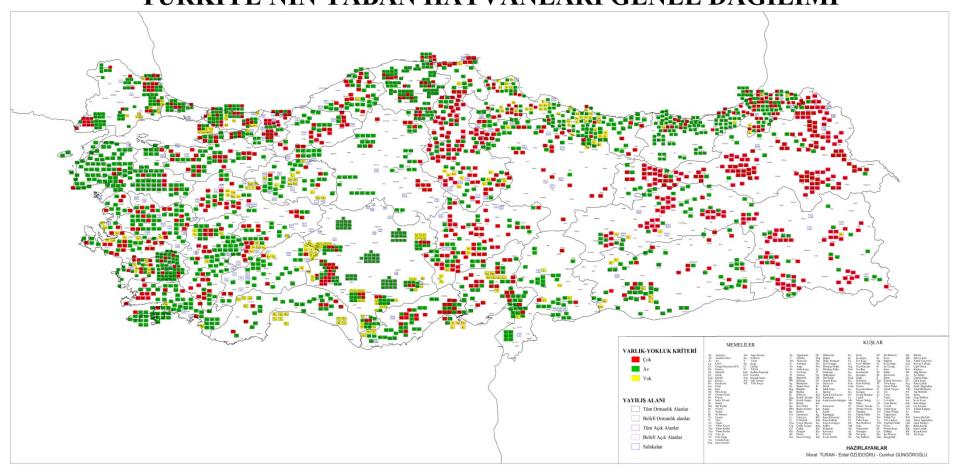
WILDLIFE INVENTORY

- Rapid appraisal of wild fauna of Turkey
- Inventory of big game species which are allowed to be hunted within the scope of hunting tourism
- Inventory of water birds for trend analyses
- Inventory of other small game species on hunting ground basis



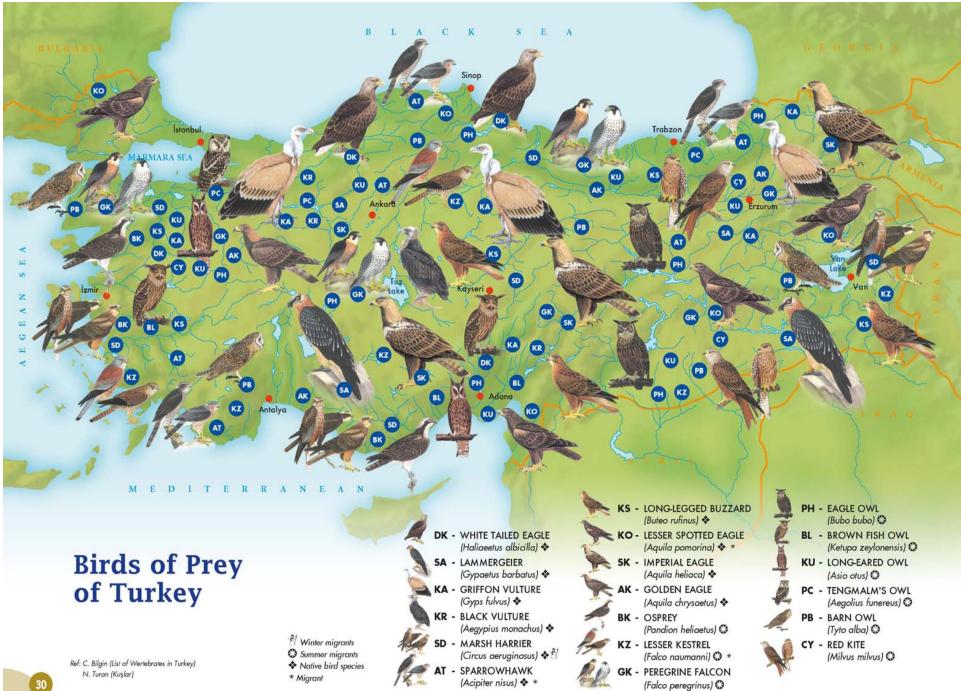
DISTRIBUTION OF WILD ANIMALS IN TURKEY

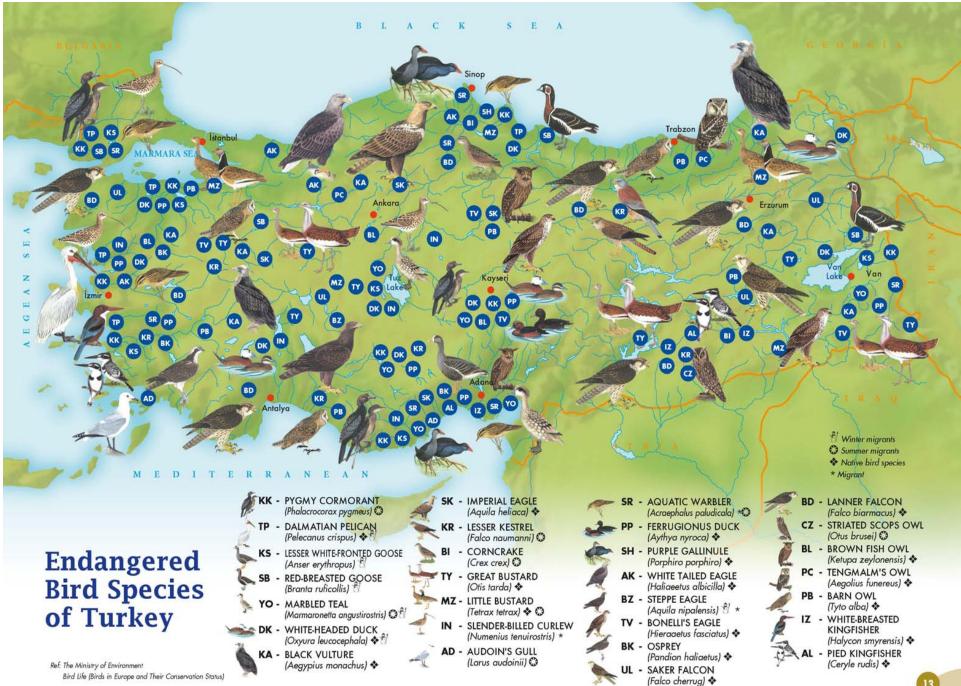
TÜRKİYE'NİN YABAN HAYVANLARI GENEL DAĞILIMI









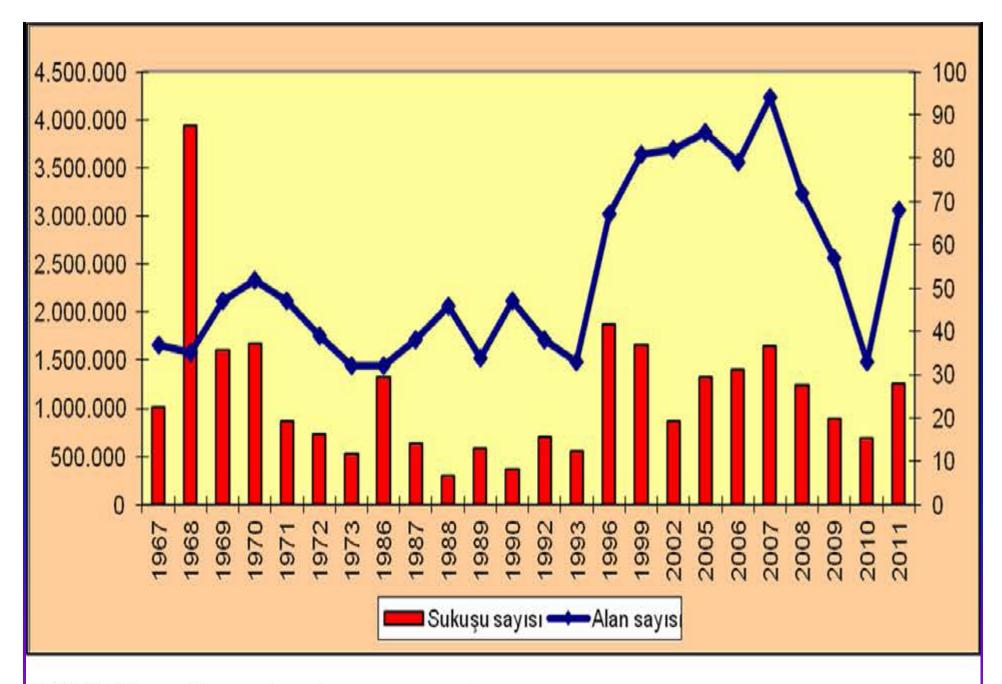






POPULATION ESTIMATES of BIG MAMMALS

SPECIES	ESTIMATED POPULATION SIZE		
Red deer	6000 - 6500		
Fallow deer	150 - 200		
Roe deer	15000 - 20000		
Wild goat	50000 - 60000		
Anatolian mouflon	800 - 850		
Mouflon	300 - 500		
Gazelle	1500 - 2000		
Mountain gazelle	400 - 500		
Chamois	6000 - 7000		
Wild boar	400 000 – 450 000		
Brown bear	4000 - 4500		
Wolf	6000 - 7000		
Unione	300 – 500		
Hyena	Work is in progress		
Lynx	5.8 individual/10000 ha		
	Work is in progress		
Caracal	High density in some areas		
	Work is in progress		



Şekil 1. Yıllara göre sayılan alan sayısı ve sukuşu sayısı



DETERMINATION of ANNUAL HUNT PER SPECIES

AH = ((TAUSHG X HGCC)/100)) X HC

AH: Annual Hunt

AUSHG: Area used by the Species within Hunting Ground

HGCC: Hunting Ground Carrying Capacity

HC: Coefficient of Hunting



AMOUNT OF WATERBIRDS HUNT PERMITTED PER YEAR

SPECIES	AUSHG (Milyon ha)	HGCC Individual/100 ha	нс	АН
Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)	1	10	2.00	200 000
Coot (Fulica atra)	1	10	2.00	200 000
White-Fronted Goose (Anser albifrons)	1	6	1.00	60 000
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	1	12	1.00	120 000
Gadwall (Anas streperas)	1	12	1.00	120 000
Wigeon (Anas penelope)	1	8	1.00	80 000
Teal (Anas crecca)	1	12	1.50	180 000
Red-Crested Pochard (Netta rufina)	1	12	1.00	120 000
Tafted Duck (Aythya fuligula)	1	8	1.00	80 000
Pintail (Anas acuta)	1	10	1.00	100 000
Scaup (Aythya marila)	1	8	1.00	80 000
Pochard (Aythya ferina)	1	10	1.00	100 000
Common Scooter (Melanitta nigra)	1	6	1.00	60 000
Garganey (Anas querquedula)	1	8	1.50	120 000
Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)	1	6	1.50	90 000
TOPLAM				1 710 000



2012-2013 OPEN SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS OF BIRD SPECIES

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	BAG LIMITS
Chukar Partridge (Alectoris chukar) See-see Partridge (Ammoperdix griseogularis) Rock Partridge (Alectoris graeca)	October 13-January 27	2 in total
Grey Partrigde (Perdix perdix)	October 13-January 27	2
Rock Dove (Columba livia)	October 13-February 24	6
Wood Pigeon (Columba palumbus)	October 13-February 24	3
Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur)	August 18-November 25	8
Quail (Coturnix coturnix)	August 18-November 25	10
Blackbird (Turdus merula)	October 13-February 24	3
Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)	October 13-February 24	4
Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)	October 13-February 24	1
Coot (Fulica atra)	October 13-February 24	3
White-Fronted Goose (Anser albifrons)	October 13-February 24	3
Pintail (Anas acuta) Scaup (Aythya marila) Common Scooter (Melanitta nigra) Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) Gadwall (Anas strepera) Wigeon (Anas penelope) Common Teal (Anas crecca) Red-Crested Pochard (Netta rufina) Tafted Duck (Aythya fuligula) Pochard (Aythya ferina) Garganey (Anas querquedula)	October 13-February 24	6 in total (Only 1 Goldeneye or, Common Scooter or, Pintail or, Scaup is allowed among the group of 6 ducks)



TROPHY HUNTING

Big mammals are allowed to be hunted in the light of game management plans within the scope of hunting tourism by the permission of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. A foreign hunter can apply individually to GDNCNP or by an agent who has permit to conduct hunting tourizm operations in Turkey. A foreign hunter is allowed to hunt for 10 days in Turkey. Turkey offers the best trophies of these species to the international hunters.

BIG GAME SPECIES ALLOWED TO BE HUNTED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HUNTING TOURISM

Brown Bear (Ursus arctos)

Wolf (Canis lupus)

Wild Boar (Sus scrofa)

Red Deer (Cervus elaphus)

Fallow Dear (Dama dama)

Roe Deer (Capreolus capreolus)

Gazelle (Gazella marica)

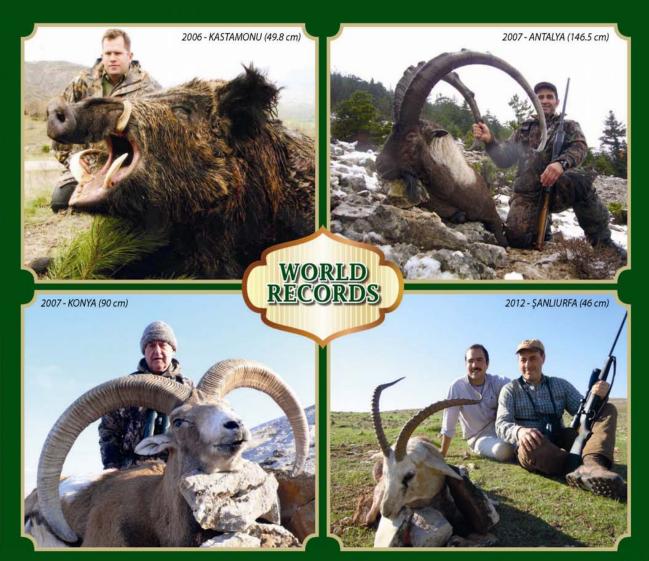
Mountain Gazelle (Gazella gazella)

Chamois (Rupicapra rupicapra)

Wild Goat (Capra aegagrus)

Mouflon (Ovis gmelinii gmelinii)

Anatolian Mouflon (Ovis gmelinii anatolica)

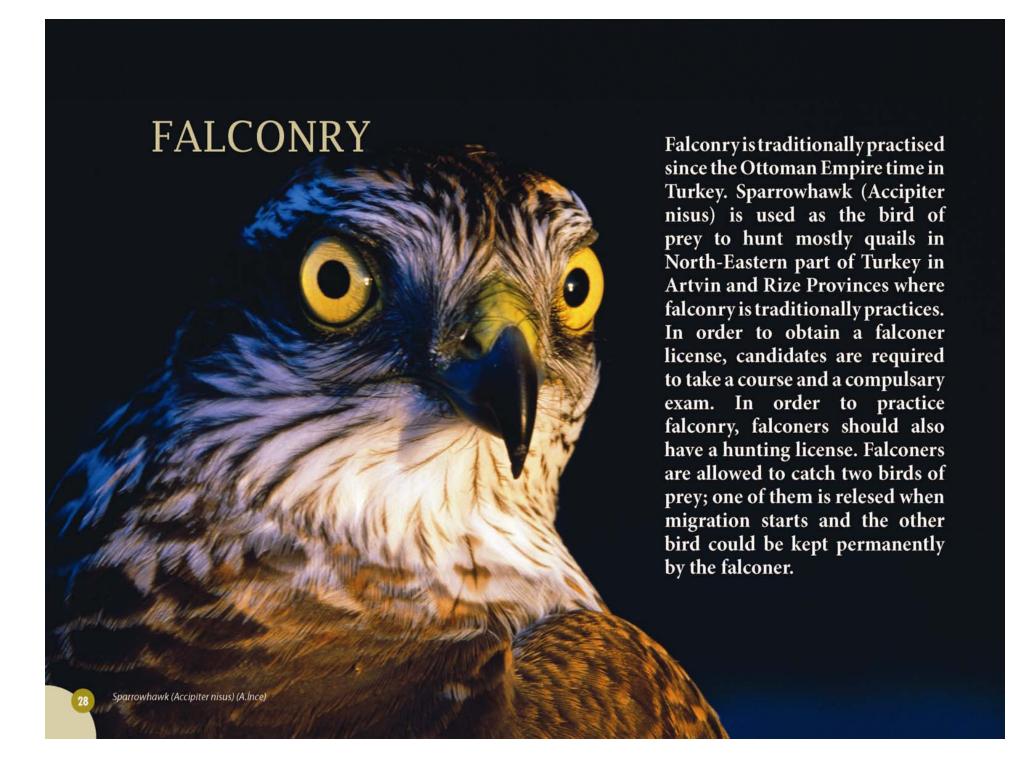


MANAGEMENT of PREDATORS

- Predators are managed according to the international conventions.
- All birds of prey are under protection except Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus) used in Falconry.
- Big predators such as bear, wolf, hyena, Caracal, and lynx are also under protection.









Participation: The Key to Progress

"Time has come when scientific truth must cease to be the property of the few, when it must be woven into the common life of the world; for we have reached the point when the results of science touch the very problem of existence."

Louis Agassiz

It is perhaps fitting that we remind ourselves from time to time of the elegant and powerful words of Louis Agassiz, the great Swiss zoologist. Too many of us work in isolation and hesitate to share our findings and observations. Indeed, when it comes to the environmental issues, the world can not wait: facts must be made known and questions debated in open and frank discussions. The wildlife problems of Turkey are not exceptions.





Thanks for your patience