

Determination of Cultural Characteristics of Hunters for Hunting and Wildlife Management (The Case of Istanbul Province)

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Abstract

Turkey has a rather important potential from the point of view of wildlife resources which includes both species diversity and sheltering capacity. On the other hand, wildlife in Turkey has been endangered since wilderness ecosystem and habitats have been damaged and managed badly. There is a rather important role of hunters in this process.

Hunting, which means catching of either living or lifeless animals that live freely in the nature, has attracted attention of mankind almost in every term. Hunting has been accepted as an important activity also today as well as in the past. It is not a realistic approach considering the hunting passion which comes to today with the traces from the past as nothing. Today, hunters have become a guaranty of biodiversity and wilderness by getting an environmentalist status.

Associations, institutions and enterprises attach importance to knowing cultural elements and factors that affect them. It has been used as an active instrument to convey cultural data and to reach aims. In this context, researches that determine human structure and cultural sensitiveness fields in the management of wildlife resources are very important.

This article includes hunting clubs and their members in Istanbul. For this aim, according to sample size, there were reached primary data using questionnaire method which is prepared for hunters. Some data based on literature research constitute secondary data of research. In the research, questionnaire form;

cultural elements of hunters, profile of hunters and level of importance on the issue of hunters were determined. Nine-point Likert Scale was used in some questions to determine hunters' thinking on the issue. The hunter form was designed in three sections. The first part is related to the demographic characteristics of the hunters. The second part reflects culture of Hunters' Associations. In the last part; the levels of the perception of the cultural components of the hunters have been included.

In this study, values forming culture of hunters were investigated in context of leaders and heroes, ceremony and symbols, story and legends, language, customs, norms and organizational socialization. Results of research project will be used as basic data in controlling and training of hunters, providing coordination and planning and sources.

Keywords: Hunting, Hunting Culture, Hunting and Wildlife Management, Istanbul, Turkey.

Introduction

In the past, wildlife sources played an important role for livelihood and development of communities. In this period, hunting and wildlife is used as nutrient (meat), clothing material (leather and fur), rope and thread (sinews and musculocutaneous nerves), fuel (fats), decorative ware (antler, tooth), beverage container (horns), musical instrument (skin, horn), weapon (bone) etc. (Mbaiwa, 2002). As a matter of fact, in many countries even today, people still make use of most of these benefits including nutritional element.

Hunting and Wildlife resources managers are faced with a situation such as to meet hunting demands of a section of society without any harm to the environment and by improving the existence of hunting and wildlife. While doing all these things there is an obligation to act in accordance with the Principle of Sustainability. Resource management must ensure coordination between nature (ecosystems), hunters and the institutions managing these resources so as to be able to complete this process successfully. Planning by ignoring the nature which offers hunting and wildlife resources or by not taking hunters into consideration, will result in failure.

Hunters should take their place in the organization of hunting and wildlife, thus take on important tasks in combating with poaching and illegal hunting. Planning hunting in Turkey and increasing the contribution of hunting to the national economy depend on the hunters taking place in the organization in a conscious and systematic way. Also, the first way of achieving this is to know the hunters together with their various aspects.

In Turkey; studies conducted in relation to hunting and wildlife focus on the biology of game and wild animals and hunting methods. Studies on the social dimensions of hunting and wildlife management have not been dealt with adequately. However, the continuous decrease in the presence of hunting and wildlife day by day, efforts to make hunting and wildlife resources sustainable, cause attentions to focus on the users of these resources. In fact, discussions on the management of hunting and wildlife in Turkey gained momentum in the late 1990s. The workshop (Izmir 23-25th March 1999) focused on the theme of new

approaches in hunting and wildlife management and the final report of the relevant workshop prepared by Geray (1999) are very important in terms of hunting and wildlife management. Synergies gained in the workshop were also continued later on so that the law called 4915 Land Hunting Act, which was necessary for a legal solution to the problems encountered on hunting and wildlife management, was enacted in 2003.

In the doctoral dissertation prepared by Iğircık (2001) and entitled "Socio-Economic Analysis on the Development of the Hunting Potential of Turkey"; the importance of the sustainability in the hunting and wildlife resources management strategy was emphasized and the socio-economic dimension of hunting was also given in comparison with other countries. Edited by Bora (2001) and published by General Directorate of National Parks and Game Wildlife, "The Book of Basic Education for Sustainable Hunting" forms the primary resource of training courses for the hunters.

Also, researches on profile of the hunters, which have a very effective role in the use of game wildlife resources, have been carried out since 2002. For this purpose, 4 pieces of researches, aimed at determining the profile of hunters in the Aegean, Marmara, Eastern and South Eastern Regions, were encountered. Elbek et al. (2002) conducted a study to determine the profile of the land hunters in the Aegean Region. Also, Ay et al. (2005) determined the profile of the hunters who had hunting cards in the Aegean region. Iğircık et al (2005) investigated the profile of the hunters in the Marmara Region. Fidan et al (2007) interviewed with the land hunters in a total of 16 provinces including 8 cities representing the hunters and huntees in the Eastern Anatolia Region and 8 cities representing the hunters and huntees in the South-eastern Anatolia Region. Bora (2002) announced the results of the survey carried out for the hunters participating in hunter training courses. In Özbay (2006) it was aimed to create a glossary of Elazığ Territory Hunting Terminology by compiling the terms hunters used between each other as a rapid communication medium and which have specific meanings and by analyzing them with regards to structure and origin. In Şafak (2006a) a research was also applied on 96 hunters on İzmir-scale in order to determine the organization culture. Also, in Şafak (2006b) the issue of conflict management in hunting was investigated. Within the scope of this research, "conflicts" that might be subject to the management of game wildlife resources by taking hunters' associations in the province of Izmir and the registered hunters of these associations as an example. In Oğurlu (2008), place of wildlife resources in the economy, the need for resource planning, resource planning method and how to create a model of wildlife management plan unique to Turkey were discussed and the most remarkable major political and administrative errors in today's wildlife management and current managerial problems were mentioned. Also, in Çetinkaya (2010), hunting and hunting provisions in Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence) were analyzed in terms of Quran, Sunni and different opinions of Islamic sects and the provisions Islam religion presented were tried to be determined.

In recent years, the cultural dimension is considered to be very important in terms of management. The fact that "Hunting in Turkish Culture" themed International symposium was held between 15 to 16th November 2006 by the Marmara University Turkic Studies Research and Application Center also reveals research dimension of the subject matter. This symposium shortly aimed to examine and document hunting forms in our culture, hunting regime, kinds of the animals hunted, which animals are hunted in which regions, hunting-related traditions, beliefs, legal regulations, prohibitions, hunting in literature and etymology of hunting-related words.

The culture of the hunter is the total of the results of the beliefs, values, feelings and thoughts, manners and customs created by certain human communities together with the results of

relations between other people; which affect the outcomes of the ways and activities of hunting. The basic elements of the culture of the hunter; can be grouped under the headings of the *values, leaders and heroes, rituals and symbols, stories and legends, language and manners and norms*. The culture of the hunter gives a distinct identity to the hunters, helps them latch on to hunting and is shared by the hunters (Şafak, 2009). In Geray and Iğircik (2002), it is indicated that the culture of hunting in Turkey has not yet been established and one of the most important threats to wild animals also comes from the hunters themselves. Once again, it is emphasized that the vast majority of hunters do not have any idea about the animals they hunt, that without obeying any of the rules they can fecklessly hunt wild animals that come their way; of all types and all ages. In the same publication it is expressed that this attitude the hunters have towards game animals and wildlife resources needs to change and it is obligatory that they should adopt new values to become an environmentally-conscious community (Geray and Iğircik, 2002).

Studies are required in order to identify the cultural characteristics of the hunters in Turkey. Most of the problems arise from not knowing the human nature and areas of cultural sensitivity. The Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks needs to be aware of the cultural characteristics for an effective and efficient resource management. When training, rewarding, punishing the hunters, when making them peaceful and happy and in efficient management the share of the knowledge of cultural features, in other words, the knowledge of mental, and psychological structure is of great importance (Şafak, 2009).

If hunting and wildlife management problems analyzed in terms of their causes, and solution methods, these problems seems to be in a very close relationship with the cultural structure of the society. Indeed, in this study, the hunters in the province of Istanbul are determined by considering them within the scope of cultural characteristics, values, leaders and heroes, rituals and symbols, stories and legends, language, manners and norms and organizational socialization. The aim of this study is to support the creation of a culture oriented and effective strategy by putting forward the recognition of the hunters as of their cultural features so as to protect, develop and attain sustainable management of the hunting and wildlife resources.

Material and Method

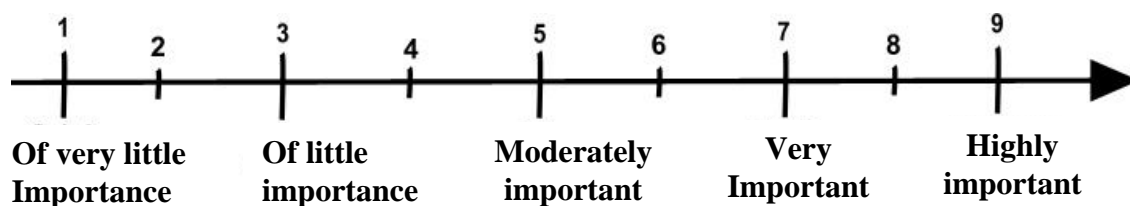
There are 80 hunters' associations in the province of Istanbul. This study has been carried out in 14 of hunters' associations which are effectively active in Istanbul such as Bakırköy, Beykoz, Büyükçekmece, Çatalca, Kadıköy, Kartal, Kazasker, Kemerburgaz, Silivri, Sultangazi, Şile Oruçoğlu, Ümraniye and Zeytinburnu associations.

The data presented in this study have been obtained from field studies carried out together with the managers of the hunter associations and the hunters. In this context, *survey method* which is considered to be a systematic data collection technique has been utilized. The questionnaire form consists of three sections. In the first part; demographic characteristics of the hunters, in the second part; choices such as personal tendencies of the hunters, hunting ground, and type and frequency of hunting and also in the last part; the levels of the perception of the cultural components of the hunters have been included.

Within the scope of the cultural components, the importance the hunters attach to the issues such as values, leaders and heroes, rituals and symbols, stories and legends, language, manners and norms and organizational socialization has been questioned.

For some of the questions which would take place in the hunters' questionnaire form, the Nine-point Likert Scale was used in order to determine the importance the hunters attach to the relevant issues. This scale is described in Figure 1. Their meanings in the Scale are; 1. Of very little Importance, 3. Of little importance, 5. Moderately important, 7. Very Important and 9. Highly important. 2, 4, 6 and 8 are used as preceding and subsequent mid-point of the degrees of importance.

Figure 1 Nine-point Likert Scale



Findings

Demographic Findings with reference to the hunters

The average age of hunters participating in the study in the province of Istanbul is 49.9. As can be seen in Table 1, 54.4% of the hunters are above the age of 50 and approximately 34% of those are in the 35-49 age range. When it comes to the distribution of occupation of the hunters, 33% of the hunters are the artisans, 9.7% are the workers, 8.7% are the drivers and 8.7% are the farmers (Table 2). The professions in the "others" group include biologists, the hospital managers, the fireman, accountants, and the self-employment. On the other hand 49.5% , approximately half, of the hunters are retired.

When occupational groups and age distribution are paired with, the state of having ability to create leisure times and having the opportunity to act freely are thought to be effective in cases where individuals turn towards hunting. Because, occupational groups such as artisans, workers, farmers, being at the forefront and nearly half of the participants in the survey being retired people draw this conclusion.

Table 1: Age Distribution of the Hunters

Age Groups	%
18-29	1,9
30-34	9,7
35-49	33,9
50-59	28,2
60 and above	26,1

Table 2: Distribution of Hunters by Occupational Groups

Occupational Group	%
Farmers	8,7
Workers	9,7
Students	1,0
Artisans	33,0
Officers	4,9
Drivers	8,7
Engineer	5,8
Technicians	4,9
Teachers	1,9
Others	21,4

On the other hand, the lower ranks of teachers and students can be explained by their lifestyles not being suitable for hunting. However there are no female hunters who participated in the survey. All of the questionnaires were made with male hunters.

Table 3: Television channels watched (related to hunting)

TV Channel Name	%
Yaban TV	86,4
Chasse&Peche	13,6
Documentary Channels	7,8
I do not watch	7,8

Hunters participated in the study were seen to prefer visual media usually related to hunting and wildlife as field of training and communication. In Table 3, it can be seen that whether hunters follow TV channels about hunting and wildlife or not. Accordingly, percentage of those who do not follow any channels is 7.8%. Therefore, approximately 92% of the surveyed hunters were confirmed to follow visual media related to hunting and wildlife. In the area the survey was conducted 86.4% portion of the hunters follow Yaban TV, one of the national TV channels in Turkey. Within the documentary channels, TRT Documentary, Chasse & Peche, National Geographic, Discovery, Animal Planet, Toprak TV, and Köy TV are preferred. At all associations where the survey was made it was observed that that one of the mentioned channels was absolutely open. On the other hand, it was also observed that magazines about hunting were followed. Also, it was seen that there are library sections at some hunters' associations.

Findings in Concern with the Association Which Hunters are affiliated to and the Culture Maintained in that Association

Table 4 shows association membership period of the hunters. Accordingly, mean membership duration of hunters' association is 20,3 years. 58,2 % of the hunters are the members of a hunters' association for more than 15 years. Zeytinburnu Hunting and Shooting Sports Club Association have the longest membership duration of hunters' association of 65 years. On the other hand, Arnavutköy Hunters Shooters and Amateur Fishers Club Association have the shortest membership duration of 1 year.

Table 4: Membership duration of hunters' association

Membership period	%
1-5 year (s)	17,5
less than 6-10 years	14,6
11-15 years	9,7
16-20	14,6
21-25	15,5
more than 25 years	28,1

Whereas 63.1% association members know the establishment story of the relevant association, 36.9% do not. In Table 5 the hunters were asked why they had become a member of the association and they are asked to tell their 3 most preferred choices for the

membership. % 75,7 of the hunters stated that they became a member of the association since they believed in "the necessity that the hunters should be organized". Accordingly, "hunters' association should schedule various hunting programs" is in the second place (35.0%), also for the hunters "the desire to receive training in hunting" is in the third place (30.1%). Besides, the associations were observed to be the environments where the hunters are socialized and where they exchange information on various topics.

Table 5: Reasons for Being a Member of the Hunters' Association

Reasons for Being a Member of the Hunters' Association	%
Since I believe that the hunters should be organized	75,7
Since it schedules various hunting programs	35,0
To receive training in hunting	30,1
To buy a hunting license at a cheaper price	15,5
No particular reason	10,7
To take advantage of opportunities such as clubhouse and amusement arcade	8,7
Others	16,5

According to the 74.8% of the hunters who are the current members of the association, the relevant association refers to a location where they meet with their friends. Other reasons are presented in Table 6. Accordingly, "a location where they can hand down to the next generations of the culture of hunter " is in the second place (51.5%), also "conscious hunting" is in the third place (45.6%).

Table 6: Meaning of the Hunter Association Which Hunters are affiliated to

The things Hunters' Association refers to	%
A location where I meet with my friends	74,8
A location where the culture of hunter will be handed down to the next generations	51,5
Conscious hunting	45,6
Love of nature	32,0
A place full of my memories	26,2
Training and application centre for the hunters	18,4
A place where I spend my free times	16,5
Dues payments and the bureaucracy	4,9
Other (Specify)	2,9

When Table 5 and Table 6 are taken together, it was seen that the hunters usually get together at the associations they are affiliated to, exchange information on all matters and they socialize at the same time.

Among the ones listed in table 7, the objectives the associations the hunters are affiliated with attach importance to have been scored by the hunters via 1-9 scale. Accordingly, preferences of "to help members fulfill bureaucratic procedures such as hunting permit and hunting license", "to provide solidarity and cohesion among hunters" and "to ensure gathering of the local hunters under a single roof" got the highest scores. There is a contradiction between "Dues payments and the bureaucracy" option, which was preferred by 4,9% in Table 6, and the one that is on the first rank here. In Table 7 it can be seen that whereas hunters ignore "dues payments" title so as to be affiliated with the hunters' associations, the associations make a lot of effort in this regard. The fact that associations are recently entitled to get a share in dues payments to be transferred to public institutions

is thought to be among the main reasons for this situation. Besides, we can say that associations less care about sociological activities or objectives. For example, "Social activities for hunting, carrying out hunting organizations", option got the minimum score. Similarly, "carrying out studies for the care, protection and reproduction of the game and wildlife animals", "ensuring that new generations teach hunting" and "combating hunters who hunt in an irregular and illegal way" options are scored less than the others.

Table 7: The Objectives the Hunters' Associations

The Objectives of the Hunters' Association	Importance score
Carrying out studies for the care, protection and reproduction of the game and wildlife animals	6,3
Ensuring that new generations learn hunting	6,3
To ensure gathering of the local hunters under a single roof	7,1
To provide solidarity and cohesion among hunters	7,2
To help members fulfil bureaucratic procedures such as hunting permit and hunting license	8,2
To ensure hunters hunt lawfully	7,2
Carrying out social activities and hunting organizations	6,0
Combating hunters who hunt in an irregular and illegal way	6,4
Help hunters receive training in hunting	6,6

According to the hunters the strengths of the Hunters' Association they are affiliated to be shown in Table 8. Accordingly, "game chats and banter", "love of nature", "making friends", "sharing the game animals" are the prominent headings. None the less, it is possible to say that the hunters are in good condition in the fields of helping and supporting each other.

Table 8: Strengths of the Culture at the Hunters' Association

Powerful Components of the Culture	Importance score
Game chats and banter	7,8
Love of nature, conscious hunting, environmental awareness, nature conservation	7,7
Making friends with the hunters of all ages and social classes	7,6
Affection and respect	7,5
Hunting with group of friends and sharing the game animals	7,5
Friendship and fraternity	7,4
Continuous implementation of hunting from past to present	7,4
Participating in the activities of solidarity such as hunting festival, banquet and Islamic rituals and ceremonies	6,8
Participate in the special days, wedding and engagement of the members and sending flowers	6,7
Sharing members' problems such as illness, death, economic hardships and so on	6,5
Exhibiting the pictures of the members	5,9
Going on a hunt organized by the association management	5,4
Exhibiting mounted game animals	4,0

When the hunters are asked whether there is someone they consider as a leader or they hailed as a hero among themselves, current president of the association is highlighted.

Association's president, who appears to be the leader in Table 9, has been put forward by 44%. In fact, the question asked has not fully served the purpose. The perception in answering the question has turned towards the principle of the association who has the ability to represent. On the other hand, it was expressed that at some of the associations, there were also prominent members who came to the forefront with the leadership they showed during the hunting activities.

Table 9: Leaders or Heroes at Hunters' Association

Leaders or Heroes	%
Current president of the association	43,8
Some of the members	17,9
One of the members of the Board of Directors of the Association	8,0
Former president of the association	5,3
I have no idea	10,7
No, there aren't any	14,3

In Table 10, the hunters were asked about the images expressing the cultural bond they established with the associations they were affiliated. Accordingly, the vast majority of the associations do not have an emblem. In these emblems, often components of the nature such as dogs, rifles, hunters, birds, lakes and mountains are used. Of about 80% of the associations do not have a standard outfit. Also, the majority of the "Yes, respondents" assumed that as a dress. Associations do not usually have a special form of salutation. It was seen that when hunters quit hunting, a special ceremony is held mostly for the members who gained a place in the association (% 40). Substantially, an event is organized at season openings.

Table 10: Cultural Images and Activities Reflecting the Hunters' Association

Preferred Images and Cultural Activities	Yes %	No %	I have no idea %
Badges, Flags and Emblems	65	28,2	6,8
Standard Outfit	15,5	77,7	6,8
Salutation	23,3	69,9	6,8
Common Terms and Concepts	13,6	59,2	27,2
Holding a Jubilee Ceremony for Those Who Quit Hunting	35,9	45,6	18,5
Organizing events such as banquet, entertainment, etc. at seasonal openings or closings	84,40	10,70	4,9

The hunters were asked about the sort of activities organized for the newly joined members at the beginning. According to Table 11; it is seen that introduction/acquaintance response comes forward. On the other hand, "shooting techniques", "weapons maintenance" and "hunting techniques" altogether are significantly answered in relation to hunting.

Table 11: Activities for Your Newly Joined Members

Name of the Event	%
We are introducing our friends	57,3
We are teaching dog care and training	13,6
We are teaching hunting techniques	30,1
We are giving first aid training	9,7
We provide information about gun care	16,5
Nature conservation	23,3
Respect for elders	21,4
We are teaching shooting techniques	21,4
We do not organize any events	10,7
I have no idea	16,5

Findings on Hunting Culture

Surveyed hunters answered the question "What is the motive that sparked your interest in hunting?" by choosing alternatives on 1-9 scale. According to Table 12 it is understood that the most important motivational tool was "love of nature". The response "motive to be with friends" takes the second place and the response "physical activity" is also in the third row. Preferences of "to provide economic benefits" and "to get nutrients" appeared in the bottom rows. "Sense of shooting" and "motive of animal hunting" were in the middle rows of the table. Both the options "to provide economic benefits" and "to get nutrients" got highly low points. This is the point to be considered. Also, the score of "animal hunting" option is in the middle ranks. This situation can be interpreted as a transformation in hunting. Hunting has transformed from absolute activity of animal hunting to a form of recreation. Looking at the results; "love of nature", "being together with "friends", and "physical act" scored greater. As a matter of fact, the observation of the hunting styles of the hunters hunting out with group of friends accompanied by food and drinks, supports this finding.

Table 12: The Factors Effective in Sparking Interest in Hunting

Factor	In the period you first started hunting	Now
Love of nature	7,5	8,7
Being together with my friends	7,3	7,9
Physical act	6,5	8,0
Animal hunting	5,6	4,2
Shooting	4,8	4,1
To be alone in nature	3,8	4,3
To get nutrients	2,2	2,0
To provide economic benefits	1,5	1,6

When asked about the change of these factors pushing people to hunt in the course of time, in other words, when looked into "whether or not there are changes in motivational tools which are effective in hunting as of the first day when they go hunting and today"; significant changes has not been determined. Just in time, the senses of animal hunting and shooting are (albeit small) on the decline.

It has been determined that a large portion of hunters, nearly 71.8%, often wants to go hunting with the same group of friends (Table 13). The rate of those who are open to new friendships is 31%. Considered together with the results of the above table, hunters often prefer to go on the hunt as friends and to socialize by doing so.

Table 13: Making New Friends for Hunting

New-friendship-relations	%
In general, I go hunting with my same friend	71,8
I prefer new friends even a little	31,1
I prefer new friends a lot	8,7
It does not matter with whom I go on hunting	8,7

A large portion of the hunters surveyed does not have any belief that they consider that it brings good luck before or after the game. As can be seen in Table 14, 89% of the respondents answered "no" to this question. Similarly, a large portion of the hunters surveyed does not have any belief that they consider that it brings bad luck before or after the game. 93% of the respondents answered "no" to this question.

Table 14: Superstitious Beliefs of the Hunters

Superstition	Yes (%)	No (%)
Do you have any beliefs that you consider that they bring good luck before or after the game?	10,7	89,3
Do you have any beliefs that you consider that they bring bad luck before or after the game?	6,8	93,2

In Table 15 various thoughts of the hunters about hunting activity are included. Hunters stated their ideas on this subject by choosing alternatives on 1-9 scale. Looking at the importance scores in Table 14, it is seen that hunters enjoy talking about the things done in the previous game. Similarly, shooting related issues are also among the outstanding conversation pieces. Escape of the game animals, return home empty-handed, unsuccessful hunting activities are expressed as the situations which do not bother hunters. On the other hand, it was observed that the hunters do not have a certain feeling about envying the friends who realize a successful hunt.

Table 15: Thoughts on the Hunting Activity

Topics	Importance Score
To what extent do you talk about the things you did in the previous game in your conversations with the hunters?	7,5
To what extent do you talk about the issues in relation to handing down to the next generations of the natural resources in your conversations with the hunters?	6,7
To what extent do you talk about weapons, sighting and shooting techniques in your conversations with the hunters?	6,3
To what extent do you question the negative hunts you did in the past?	5,8
How much does it upset you when the game animal escapes?	3,3
How much does it bother you to return home empty-handed after the game?	2,5
How much do you like to show the animals you shot to your relatives after the game?	3,3
How much do you like to fill the legal limits at the end of the hunting?	4,9
What is your level of jealousy during hunting?	2,0
What is the priority of your passion for hunting in your social life?	6,2
To what extent do unsuccessful hunts affect you psychologically?	2,5
How much support does your spouse or family provide you for hunting?	4,9
How much do you like if your child or grandchild goes hunting?	7,3
How much will photo hunting, which is carried out by a camera instead of the rifle hunting, become widespread in future?	5,0

Hunters surveyed seemed to be willing about their children or grandchildren becoming hunters. However, it has clearly been determined that hunting prevents their social life from time to time and consequently the families do not support the hunters.

Conclusion

It is obvious that game and wildlife resources management in Turkey faces with a mission such as restoring the hunting activity with the permanent principles, norms and values. At present, the situation of the game and wildlife assets makes it a priority to propose this solution offer. Not only the hunters but also those who manage the resource are required to comply with the mentioned paradigm shifting. In other words, those who manage resources in question and those who carry out the activity of hunting must be integrated. The best way to accomplish this is to let hunters participate in game and wildlife management. Therefore, the hunters should primarily be recognized with their all value judgments. Without having information about social, economic and cultural structures of the hunters who want to take advantage of hunting and wildlife resources, it is not possible to plan hunting and to create effective strategies on a going forward basis.

In this study, with the data obtained from questionnaire study carried out face to face in Marmara Region of Turkey distinguished in terms of industrialization and natural resources and in the most important province of Turkey, the cultural state of the territorial hunters has been revealed. The size of Istanbul in terms of population and industrialization necessitated the changes in the socio-cultural characteristics of the hunters. In comparison with the similar studies carried out in Anatolia it is seen that this study differs from the other ones.

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