

Human - wildlife conflict in Kastamonu Region

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Abstract: It is significantly important to include a human dimension to wildlife management. Human-wildlife conflict existed since humans and wild animals have shared the same resources and areas. Human-wildlife conflict is defined by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as "any interaction between humans and wildlife that results in negative impacts on human social, economic or cultural life, on the conservation of wildlife populations, or on the environment". Human-wildlife conflict could result to injuries, death, disease transmission and economic losses. Invasion of people to wildlife areas, pressure of carnivorous animals, destroying natural habitat of wildlife and unsustainable consumption of natural resources makes the human - wildlife conflict worse. Kastamonu is an important area with its rich geographic advantages having agricultural areas, forests, wetlands, mountains, caves and canyons. Having these habitats is also makes Kastamonu is an important area for the wildlife fauna. Local people of Kastamonu mostly complaints about brownbear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and boar damages (*Sus scrofa*). In this study Human – Wildlife conflict in Kastamonu region will be explained by direct observations and analyzing damage records of Ministry of Forestry and Water Management 10th District Directorate.

Keywords: Human – Wildlife conflict , Wildlife, Kastamonu