



INVESTIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ARISING FROM TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN CAPPADOCIA



Project Leader

Assoc. Prof. Hakan DULKADİROĞLU

This study is conducted within the scope of the
DKMP24-5 Specialization Project.



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“ THE AIM OF THE PROJECT ”

The ultimate goal of the project is to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Cappadocia region, including its geological and geographical formations as well as historical monuments. In line with this objective, the project aims to identify and assess, using concrete data, the negative impacts of tourism activities conducted with land vehicles on both natural and cultural heritage elements—such as fairy chimneys—as well as on environmental factors like air quality and flora. Based on the findings, recommendations will be developed to mitigate the adverse effects of land vehicle-based tourism activities and to ensure that the region's rich heritage, which serves as the main source of tourism, is preserved with minimal deterioration for future generations.



“ THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT ”

Tourism worldwide is an activity carried out for various purposes such as nature, history, culture, religion, and gastronomy. It is increasingly promoted due to its economic benefits and continues to grow more intense each day. One common issue is that the increasing concentration of tourism activities, particularly in areas with natural and cultural assets, often leads to the deterioration of the very features that make these regions attractive to tourists. This intensification does not only refer to the rising number of tourists but also to the increase in the number and variety of activities designed to make the region more appealing and boost economic revenue. The fact that many of these activities involve the use of various types of vehicles (land, air, and water), depending on the characteristics of the region, is significant in terms of their negative environmental impact.

As stated in the NEVÜ Specialization Strategy Document, tourism activities involving land vehicles—primarily ATVs and off-road vehicles (jeep safaris)—are estimated to have a significantly greater impact on the degradation of Cappadocia's natural landscape compared to natural factors. This project proposal is based on this hypothesis and aims to determine, through concrete data obtained from measurements and observations, whether these activities have negative effects on both natural and cultural heritage as well as environmental factors.

A review of previous studies shows that research on the Cappadocia region has primarily focused on topics such as the area's geology, history, and tourism sector. In general, studies addressing the environmental impacts of tourism at both national and international levels are quite limited. Therefore, there is a need for research that examines the effects of tourism in general—and specifically tourism activities in Cappadocia—on natural and cultural heritage as well as environmental factors. Such studies are essential for the preservation of this heritage, its transmission to future generations, and the sustainability of tourism. The proposed project not only holds unique value in this regard but is also of great importance in filling a gap in the literature and serving as a foundation for future efforts to protect the region.