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## The employability of socio-economic resources in tourism-oriented rural development: The case of Kilistra

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### **Abstract**

Different periods and events have brought about changes in people's perspectives on tourism. The isolation and travel restrictions that emerged during the recent pandemic process have directed people to low-density areas where they will meet their basic needs. The interest in rural areas has increased with the fear and the need to get away from the crowd. When this transformation process, which offers opportunities to rural areas, is evaluated, it is predicted that the planning and arrangement studies to be carried out in these regions will also solve the problems of rural areas such as equipment, education and infrastructure deficiencies. In this way, it is expected that the quality of life of people living in rural areas will increase. In this study, "How should the situation of socio-economic resources be evaluated for rural development? seeking an answer to the question. In the study, points were given according to the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of the area and the development of tourism, in line with expert opinions. With this scoring system, the adequacy status of each criterion related to the socio-economic structure has been determined. As a result, by evaluating the socio-economic resources of the Kilistra settlement, suggestions are developed to support tourism-oriented rural development.

**Keywords:** Kilistra; rural development; socio-economic resources; tourism

### **1. Introduction**

Crises or changes in history have transformed the concept of tourism along with the changes in the city and helped to increase diversity. With the effects of the events, alternative types of tourism have always been revealed. Today's pandemic also drives people, who want to avoid the harsh conditions of urban life, to rural areas. In and after the process, nature-integrated, community-isolated areas have become more attractive to tourists and have come to the forefront in this way. Although this transformation has enabled economic mobility in the countryside, it has become necessary to improve the quality of life in rural settlements with these economic mobilities and to regulate socio-economic infrastructure needs. Rural area planning should be handled more sensitively both for the continuity of ongoing activities and rural resources in rural areas, for people in rural areas to have equal rights throughout the country, to ensure social welfare, to prevent accumulation in cities, and for rural settlements to grow evenly.

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With the changes in the aftermath of modernism and the motivations coming from social, economic, natural, artificial, and physical environmental factors, the form of migration carried out by relatively persistent tourists in the desire to reach the life in which individuals seeking a good quality of life, trying to improve happiness, are called lifestyle migration. Prosperity is at the forefront in this form of migration, which is described as a privileged migration movement carried out by relatively wealthier individuals to tourism zones in search of a better life. Lifestyle migration, which comes true in the form of permanent, temporary, cyclical, full or part-time, or a combination of them, is conceptualized as a temporary or cyclical form of migration within the tourism phenomenon. In addition to classic forms of migration and various types of migration such as pensioner migration, permanent tourist migration, second resident migration, climate-dependent migration, Citta slow migration, and sun-seekers migration, the concept of "pandemic migration" should be regarded today as of 2020. It has been observed that in the tourism mobility observed during the pandemic process, people turned to tourism activities such as housing rental, farmhouse or vineyard house rental, camping, and caravan, which are called "places of escape" from the density of cities and operate in rural areas (Aydın and Doğan, 2020; Kılıç et al., 2020; Zoğal and Emekli, 2020).

The rapid increase in the world's urban population, globalization, and, ultimately, the shortages of urban life brought about by the recent pandemic, are making rural areas increasingly important for improving life and enhancing environmental quality. In the stages of new normal and controlled normalization, the tourism sector has sought to compensate for the damage it has received from this situation and is focused on attracting more tourists. It is a fact that should not escape the attention that people who want to avoid adverse conditions as much as possible in the process turn to local tourism activities within lifestyle migration. This local tourism demand should be seen as an opportunity for rural areas and there should be investments to contribute to the development of these areas. This situation is expected to help the development of rural areas and increase the livability in these areas along with the employment opportunities that will be created. Increasing alternatives due to regional diversity will be an opportunity for rural development (Çeken et al. 2012; Kılıç et al., 2020; Péter, 2020; Torun, 2013). At this point, a sustainable and resilient understanding of tourism needs to be considered intertwined with planning.

This period, when user demand is increasing especially in rural areas, should be seen as an opportunity, and the low-density rural areas should be designed as attractive and preferable areas in terms of tourism by making arrangements. Furthermore, providing the deficiencies of equipment found in rural areas, infrastructure deficiencies, and action to be taken on unconscious approach to tourism will both help these areas to be brought to rural tourism and to meet the growing demand in the current situation.

The issue of increasing tourism in rural areas also needs to be addressed in terms of the development of rural areas. The development of the structured environment is necessary through infrastructure efforts to meet future demand in rural tourism areas, equipped areas, open green space arrangements, and digital infrastructure development works. In these regions, studies to reduce environmental pollution and spatial arrangements should be made to improve the quality of life. Health services should be improved and measures should be taken to overcome security problems. At the same time, to ensure self-sufficiency in rural areas, it is necessary to provide digital infrastructure and raise public awareness on issues such as technology and the environment. In these areas, it is necessary to ensure the needs of culture and recreation and to use the development of the city by leaving out its bad features such as density. Since rural tourism is focused on locality and the natural environment, investments to be made in this area should also be sustainable (Péter, 2020). However, at this point, the fragility of rural areas should be taken into account, and moves that will cause them to lose their own cultures should be avoided. Nowadays, the problem of identity loss, especially in large cities, should not be allowed to occur in rural areas. The studies carried out for the development of these areas should be conducted with sustainable and respectful approaches to natural values. The issue of protecting the local and natural accumulations of rural areas should be considered a priority in the planning and regulatory works to be carried out.

Socio-economic resources that are the subject of tourism involve infrastructure, human resources, and evaluation of different economic sectors. It is quite difficult to understand the relationship of these resources, which are connected to each other but contain different factors, with the development of tourism very clearly at first glance. Since they contain information on social and economic resources, infrastructure, human resources, and different economic sectors, they provide important clues for determining the criteria for rural development and competitiveness. For example, the quality of infrastructure not only reveals the quality of life of the local population but is also considered a prerequisite for tourism development. Healthy drinking water, equipment of health services, storage of solid waste, water and soil pollution, and the state of road networks play important roles in creating a vision for the development of the region. In the same way, the population of the region, demographic status, social consistency and flexibility capacity, the quality of social networks, collaboration skills, attitudes toward tourism development, active population structure, and existing local institutions and governments are other key roles for the governance structure in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. On the other hand, different economic sectors are extremely important in terms of ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation based on their degree of concentration and structure in the geography where they are located.

Due to the necessity of approaching the problems that might be involved in tourism-oriented planning studies in rural development searches and the decisions to be taken for their solutions, in this article, comprehensive determinations were made regarding the socio-economic structure of the sample area of the Kilistra settlement in Meram district of Konya province, and solution proposals were developed. Within the scope of the study, spatial, social, and economic research related to the planning process of the area were investigated. In the study, basic criteria related to the socio-economic structure were determined and the tourism development potential matrix formed by sub-criteria appropriate to these basic criteria was used. Thus, the development potential rates of the socio-economic criteria determined in the area were found and the intervention forms for their development or revival were revealed.

The aim of this research is to determine the effects of socio-economic tourism components on tourism development in Kilistra. In addition, suggestions will be made to ensure the sustainability of the resources that have a positive impact on tourism and to improve the resources that have a negative impact. In this context, the aim of the study is to reveal an intervention process that will support rural revitalization and tourism development up to sub-scales by detailing the holistic analyses for the whole of Kilistra in terms of socio-economic resources. Forms of intervention to be created based on the results of the detailed development potential matrix are aimed at preventing the economic and social collapse of the region, increasing the livability level of the village, gaining attractiveness and setting an example for other rural areas, and regulating the development conditions at different scales.

## 2. Literature Review

Changes in agricultural production processes in rural areas, the insufficiency of economic activity such as public education and health services that will improve the quality of life of rural areas, and the scarcity of public services that will improve the quality of life of rural areas, such as education and health, cause migration from rural areas to cities, and with the increase in migration, public services are unfortunately shifting from rural areas to urban areas. Many rural areas are still underdeveloped, and there is a disproportionate development distinction between urban and rural areas (Schmidt and Uriely, 2019; Sun et al., 2020).

Rural areas lose their socio-economic, cultural, and natural characteristics due to the reasons including the division of agricultural land (Arıcı and Akkaya Aslan, 2014; Yavuz and Topuz, 2015), poverty (Tickamyer, 2006; Ilter, 2019), and migration (Bilsborrow, 2002; Beauchemin and Schoumaker, 2005; Güreşci and Yurttaş, 2008). It is stated by many researchers that the original natural structures and textures of rural areas should be expressed in a different planning language in

terms of their culture (Kut Görgün and Yörür, 2018; Bishop and Phillips, 2004; Dereyurt Şahin and Gündüz, 2019; Ceylan and Somuncu, 2018; Öğdul et al, 2018; Şahin et al., 2015; Sancar et al., 2015).

When the studies addressing the quantitative and qualitative factors in the development of tourism-oriented development strategies in rural development are examined, studies on rural development (Blancas et al., 2011; Gülümser et al., 2010; Cawley and Gillmor, 2008; Kiper and Yılmaz, 2008, Akçi, 2015, MacDonald and Jolliffe, 2003; Temiz and Yenigül, 2021), evaluation of rural tourism potential (Yazgan and Kadanalı, 2012; Topçuoğlu, 2018), effects and sustainability of tourism in rural areas (Kaptan Ayhan et al., 2020; Kubickova and Campbell, 2020), attitudes of local people (Ertuna et al., 2012; Hasse, 2003; Güdücüler, 2012) and spatial and economic impact assessments (Pato and Kastenholz, 2017; Argobast et al., 2017; Park and Yoon, 2011; Ilberry et al., 2007; Eceral and Özmen, 2009) are noteworthy.

Erdoğan and Şahin (2018), starting from the concept of village cluster, examined the Dağca Peninsula, which has rural settlements with a population of over 2000 and natural assets that are in danger of losing the quality and originality of local products. In the study area, the social, cultural, and economic characteristics, which include safe, healthy, and high quality of living spaces, differentiated locally, were examined, and they carried out a study for the smart village model within the scope of rural development principles, which include spatial arrangements that maintain natural and historical values and allow for improvement. In the study, population data were obtained for various years, a database was created in line with on-site observation and detection studies, pointwise data were set on the digitized map and by making threshold analysis, spatial, social, and economic decisions regarding rural settlements were produced.

Jeong et al. (2014) defined an operational spatial planning method to evaluate the suitability of an eco-tourism site in La Vera County, Spain. The model proposes a method for demonstrating the participatory attitude of local residents in the assessment of sustainable planning. This study presents a process for locating the rural region as the second home using the multi-feature decision-making method based on the understanding of all possible aspects and consequences of the current regional planning. In the research, the criteria used together with the primary screening and supporting opportunities for environmental protection and economic growth were evaluated through the analytical hierarchy process (AHP). For this purpose, a field survey and a group discussion with a panel of experts were conducted with local residents, after which they assessed the suitability of the working area for the optimal placement of a rural second home. As a result, they proposed a new empirical approach and management tool to assess the existing infrastructure and the environment, as well as to predict their future improvements, which can be re-applied to other destinations.

Serdaroglu Sağ and Yıldız (2020) evaluated the Ermenek district of Karaman, which is important at the national level with its natural, historical, and cultural values, using SWOT analysis in their studies aimed at assessing the potential of rural tourism in the settlement and defining guide strategies. They concluded that Ermenek can be a national and regional rural tourism destination.

Topçuoğlu (2018) aimed to determine rural development-oriented strategies in rural settlements of Saray district of Tekirdağ province, in his master's thesis titled "A research on the determination of rural development-oriented strategies: Tekirdağ, Saray case". Proceeding from this point, analyzes and evaluations were made regarding rural settlements, the values of the natural and cultural landscape and identity cards were prepared. Also, SWOT analyzes were carried out and various strategies were determined.

In the study titled "Sustainable Tourism Development in Rural Areas and Local People's Attitude: Kilistra Sample, Turkey", Gündüz (2021) chose Kilistra, which is a settlement with rural and limited tourism development, as the field of study. He conducted a study to determine the attitudes of local people towards the development of sustainable tourism, as well as to study the differences between demographic characteristics and their view on the dimensions of tourism. In this context, to measure the attitudes of the local people living in the Kilistra neighborhood of Konya province towards the development of sustainable tourism, he conducted a survey and evaluated the results with the SUS-TAS scale using factor analyses. Within the scope of the obtained data, various

suggestions and strategies related to the tourism-oriented rural development approach were developed.

### 3. Material & Method

The main material of the study is Kilistra, a rural neighborhood settlement in the central Meram district of Konya Province, Turkey. Kilistra is located 14 km from Konya –Antalya highway, about 70 km from Konya Airport, and about 45 km from Konya train station (Figure 1).

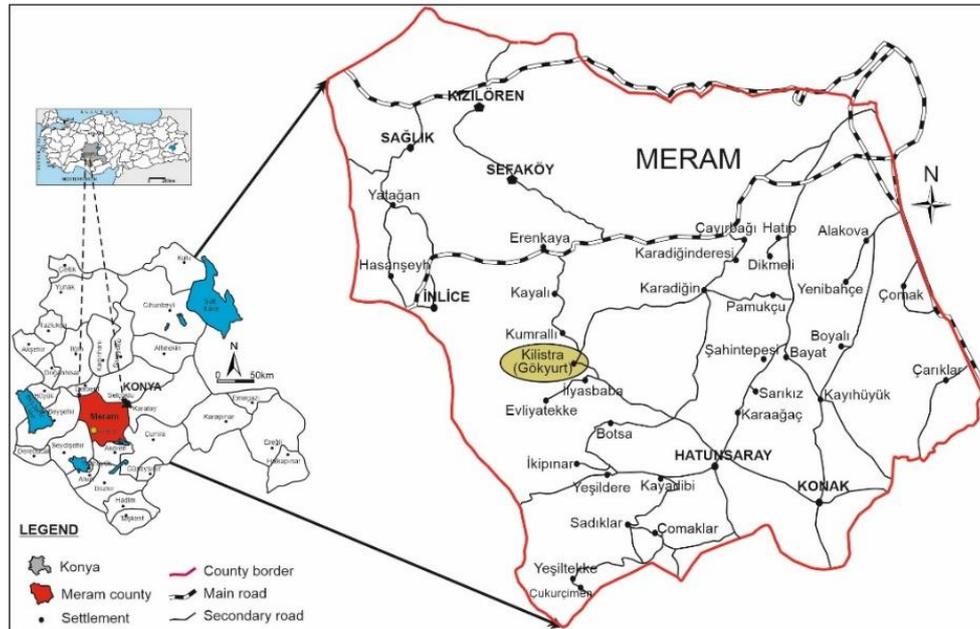


Figure 1. Location of Kilistra.

In this study, it is intended to identify the impact of socio-economic components on development processes in tourism-focused rural development studies and to develop various strategies for rural development based on these points. The study was carried out in four stages. In the first stage of the study, a literature search was conducted with the keywords of changing tourism understanding and rural areas, socio-economic resources in rural development, and tourism-oriented rural development. Investigations into these issues and other obtained documents were explored. The settlement was studied in terms of spatial and socio-economic structure based on the historical development process. In the second stage, planning experiences and status decisions that will affect the socio-economic structure of the settlement were examined. Plans for protection purposes and high-scale plans were handled at this stage. With these assessments, advanced solutions or problems can be identified in the planning-implementation process. The third stage involves an on-site observation of the Kilistra. The content of this stage is made up of the assessment form created to determine the impact of tourism on socio-economic components and rural development and the SWOT analysis to determine the current state of settlement in general. For the assessment of the socio-economic structure, a group of 35 experts was interviewed by the researcher. This stage is important for identifying functional and spatial priorities for the future. The last stage is the creation of tourism-oriented rural area development strategies that define policies for socio-economic structure in rural areas. At this point, the strategies developed should be evaluated as a solution map from the upper scale to the lowest scale, from defining the planning-implementation process for the protection and development of the socio-economic infrastructure of Kilistra, to producing socio-economic development policies.

### 3.1. The Research Model

The basis of the model constructed in the study is to make a comprehensive SWOT analysis of the natural, economic, social and administrative structure of the study area and to evaluate the socio-economic resources. SWOT analysis has been performed based on opinions of scholars, administrators and residents. A detailed matrix was created by determining the sub-criteria constituting socio-economic resources, and expert opinions and main and sub-criteria were scored and weighted by experts. The main components used in the determination of socio-economic resources in this study; 1) human resources, 2) different economic sectors, and 3) infrastructure. From this point of view, it is designed to determine the spatial, functional and managerial intervention forms for good, inadequate or developable resources. The source of the model is the Sustainable Tourism Development Guide in and Around the Protected Areas in Turkey (Anonymous, 2007).

#### 3.1.1. Study group

Within the scope of the study, face-to-face interviews were conducted with responsible and relevant institutions/organizations (Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Meram Municipality, Konya Technical University, Necmettin Erbakan University, Selçuk University, Konya Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board, 3rd Regional Directorate of Highways, Agricultural Credit Cooperative, Chamber of Agriculture, etc.) and experts (urban planner, architect, survey engineer, civil engineer, sociologist, economist, art historian, geological engineer, agricultural engineer, and various professional groups) to determine the status of socio-economic factors in tourism-oriented development approaches in Kilistra. Within the framework of expert interviews, 35 interviews were conducted.

#### 3.1.2. Data Collection Tools

Information about the socio-economic structure of the field of study was obtained from on-site examinations, observations, determinations, reports, and documents obtained as a result of studies conducted by the public and other institutions and organizations, etc. By evaluating the functional structure and spatial information of the field from past periods to the present, its current situation and potential for its socio-economic structure were revealed.

Socio-economic resources are based on the analysis of 3 main concepts under the heading infrastructure, human resources, and different economic sectors. Criteria for infrastructure include providing quality drinking water, quality of communication infrastructure that can adapt to modern technology, quality of health services and levels of expertise, dependence on fossil fuels in energy resources, safe discharge of wastewater and hygiene, the existence of efficient and environmentally friendly solid waste storage systems, quality of transportation infrastructure and accessibility, opportunities to provide security measures to ensure public safety and order. The criteria regarding human resources are the population of the local people, demographic structure, active population structure, general education levels, professional skills and knowledge levels, general approach and attitude of the people to tourism development, improvability of local handicrafts, special knowledge and skills, unique traditions, common values and the relations with local institutions and administrations. Different economic sectors were evaluated in terms of their geographical location and degree of concentration.

#### 3.1.3. Data Collection and Analysis

In the study, face-to-face interviews were preferred to collect data. In the interviews, a total of 21 sub-criteria determined by using the relevant resources in accordance with the purpose of the research were asked to be scored. To understand the opinions of the participants in the interviews about the socio-economic infrastructure, the frequency rating consists of a status assessment determined as 5 criteria (1: Excellent 2: Good 3: Adequate 4: Inadequate, but can be improved 5: Inadequate). The aim here is to be able to determine the participation levels of experts and their thoughts on the subject. First of all, the participants were asked their opinions about the main criteria.

In general, after evaluating 3 basic criteria, their opinions on the subcomponents were asked and their evaluations were requested. All obtained data were analyzed with SPSS (Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences) program and were presented in the Tables with basic frequency analysis, frequency (Number), and arithmetic mean.

### 3.2. Study Area

In this section of the study, socio-economic characteristics that shape the rural structure in Kilistra are discussed. In this context, infrastructure, human resources, and different economic sectors, as well as planning experiences and status decisions that can affect the socio-economic structure are evaluated.

Kilistra (Gökyurt), which has attracted attention with its natural and cultural structure and has undergone tourism development in recent years, was founded in the ancient city of Kilistra, the town of Hatunsaray (Lystra) in the central Meram district. The "Ancient City of Kilistra" is also among the prominent archaeological values. It is the center of the surrounding settlements of Güneydere (Botsa), Yeşildere (Detse), Kayalı (Tolasa), Erenkaya (Bulumea), İlyasbaba-Tekke, Evliya and Kumralı. The settlement, which houses unique religious and traditional structures of stone architecture that have emerged as a result of human interaction with the natural structure, is known as a special "cultural landscape area" in the region (Figure 2).

It is known from written sources that Kilistra and its surroundings have been dominated by Assyrians, Hittites, Lydians, Persians, Kingdom of Pergamon, Alexander the Great, Rome, Byzantium, Seljuks, Karamanids, and Ottomans since the 2000s BC. The settlement of Kilistra also gained importance with its proximity to Lystra, one of the regions where St. Paul, one of the apostles working for the spread of Christianity in Anatolia, came from fleeing from oppression in the first years of Christianity.

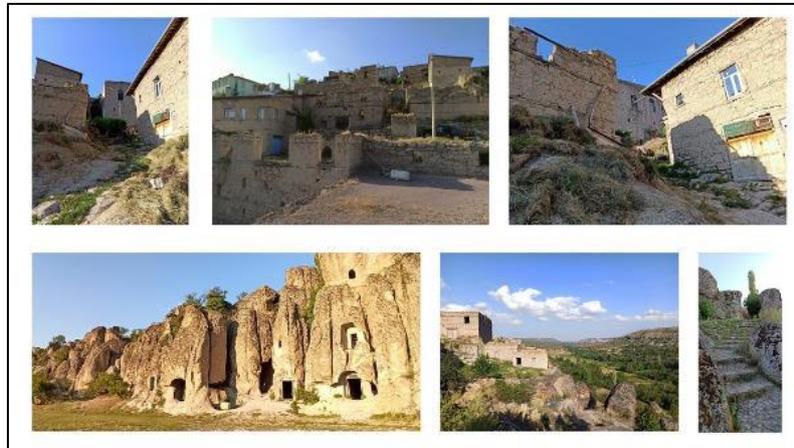


Figure 2: The scenes from rural structures of Kilistra (pictures belong to the author, 2021)

#### 3.2.1. Infrastructure

Although there has been a potable water pipeline in Kilistra since 1989, there is a shortage of drinking and potable water. There is 1 water tank serving the settlement. There is no sewage system, leaching cesspools are used for household waste. Solid wastes are regularly collected by Meram Municipality. It is seen that there are electricity and telephone lines in the technical infrastructure for energy and communication. Electricity came in 1978 and the telephone in 1991 (Aydın, 2008). PTT Agency and Power Plant Building is located in the area where village square is located. There is 1 health center.

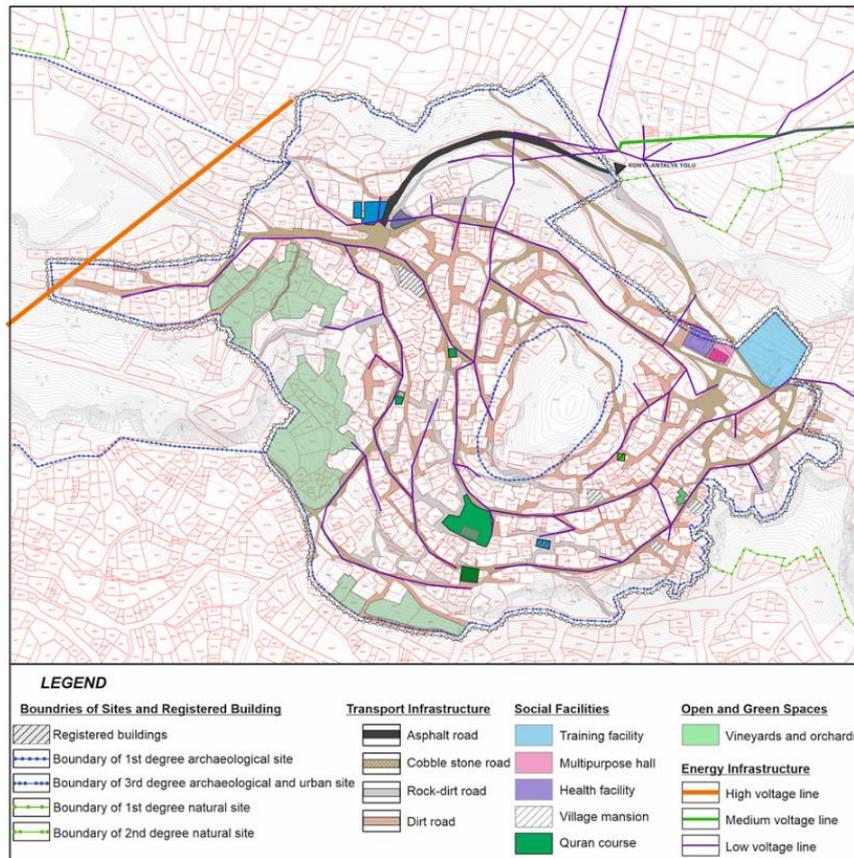


Figure 3. Map showing the infrastructure and social facilities of Kilistra (Anonymous, developed from a, 2017)

### 3.2.2. Economic structure - Different economic sectors

In the Kilistra neighborhood, the economic structure is based on agricultural activities in general, and it is known that the residents of the village make their living from agriculture and animal husbandry. There are no activities aimed at the service and industrial sectors in the settlement. In the settlement where there are no commercial or industrial enterprises except for a grocery store that meets daily needs, those who are engaged in labor generally work as workers in Konya. Women contribute to production in the field, animal care, and barn work (Gürbüz, 2006). Because the settlement has rural characteristics, the participation of most of the female workforce in agricultural activities leads to high female employment (Anonymous a, 2017).

There are studies aimed at the development and dissemination of organic agriculture in Kilistra. Kilistra, on the other hand, stands out with its pumpkin production in terms of vegetable production. Viticulture is also carried out. Cattle and ovine breeding activities are also carried out in Kilistra as part of the agricultural sector. Those who are engaged in animal production get cheese, milk, and meat from their animals. However, animal husbandry activities are mainly aimed at meeting the needs of households, but production capacity is low. Honey production is also carried out in Kilistra by the classical method. Apart from agricultural and livestock activities, there is no ongoing economic activity in Kilistra. Business areas other than agriculture are not developed in Kilistra. There are no activities related to the service and industrial sectors (Anonim, a 2017).

Viticulture is widespread throughout the history of the region. The presence of workplaces in an independent structure or in houses indicates intensive wine production. These workplaces and wineries continued their functions by taking the name “şirahane” during the Islamic period, which shows that the evaluation of the products obtained from viticulture has been continued for centuries. Honey production is carried out in the village by the classical method and “Kilistra Karakovan

Honey” is a recognized product in the region (Özkan, 2001). Even if it disappears over time, the existence of milling is known in the past due to the prevalence of grain production. Hand knitting and weaving also have a long history. Although some households still have weaving looms, they are no longer used for production (Akca, 2017).

### 3.2.3. Human resources

Kilistra also has rural settlement characteristics due to its social life. There are united type families and nuclear family structures in the settlement (Aydın, 2008). The average number of households is four people. According to the TUIK data, the population is 518 people as of 2021.

Kilistra's proximity to the city center has allowed young people to live in the city center for reasons such as education, job opportunities, and getting married. The elders of the family continue to live in Kilistra. The summer population is partly higher than the winter population due to the return of households living outside the settlement. There is also a tradition of moving to the plateau during the seasonal cycle in the settlement. The average age is quite high (around 50 years old). The young population is quite small. There is a school in Kilistra where children will receive their primary and secondary education. Women have a role in the family by contributing to livelihood and raising children. Winter preparations are made by women at home, so tarhana, dried foods, jam, syrup, etc., are being prepared (Aydın, 2008). There is no bazaar for shopping in the settlement, shopping is done by going to the Meram district. In case of need, joint work is done for the needs of the neighborhood in accordance with the traditional community structure (Anonymous a, 2017).

It is known that in the past periods there were more than 300 households in the village of Kilistra. Over time, due to the negativity of economic conditions and the division of lands by inheritance, there have been migrations from settlements to big cities. Those who did not emigrate and stayed in Kilistra are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. Hunting is also carried out. It is known that there are few employees in official jobs (Anonymous a, 2017).

The economic activities that Kilistra residents are limited to agricultural activities. The size of agricultural areas owned by those engaged in agricultural activities is also usually close to each other. The size of the area owned and similar styles of production also equalize the numerical size of revenues from agricultural activity. In order for social stratification to occur, first of all, it is necessary to obtain surplus value from the activities carried out and use this value to change the social status. The economic structure of the settlement is not of such dimensions as to allow the formation of surplus-value. Because income levels and social status are equal, it is not possible to talk about a social and economic differentiation/stratification among the inhabitants of Kilistra (Anonymous a, 2017).

Within the scope of social-cultural heritage items, the "pumpkin meal" service continues as a tradition on wedding tables. Local cuisine includes pickles from hawthorn and wild plum, compote from wild pear, and soft drinks from cramp bark. In addition, grape molasses made from beets is also widely consumed. Hand knitting and weaving have a long history. Although hand knitting is carried out within the scope of women's daily work, weaving has lost its former importance (Akca, 2017).

The ability to organize economic activities has recently been improved. Kilistra Culture and Tourism Association was established in 2002 to promote historical and natural values and to develop tourism. In addition, the Promotion and Assistance Association of Konya Kilistra, Tekke, and Gomralli Villages, which also covers nearby settlements, is an association established to develop and promote the tourism activities of the region. It is known that entrepreneurship training is also organized from time to time in cooperation with Meram District Administration, Mevlana Development Agency, and Seljuk University (Anonymous a, 2017).

### 3.3. Planning experiences and status decisions that will affect the socio-economic structure of the study area

The settlement of Kilistra and the region surrounding it have been protected by various protected site statuses. The settlement is bordered by Urban Archaeological Sites and First Degree

Natural Site to the east and First Degree Archaeological Site covering the Ancient City of Kilistra to the west (Table 1).

### **3.3.1. Decisions to protect the workplace**

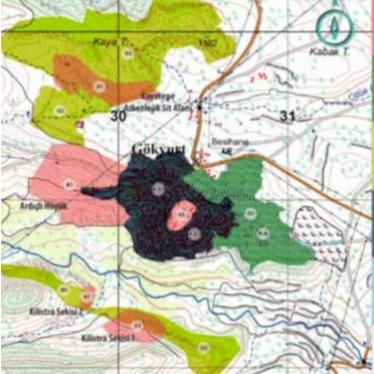
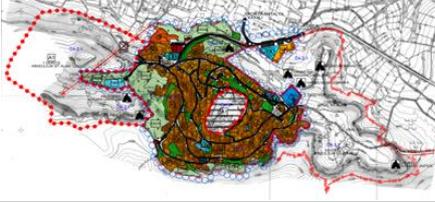
In 1987, with the decision of the Konya Regional Board for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets, the settlement of Kilistra, Ardıçlı mound, and other caves were declared to be first-degree archaeological sites. Since the ancient urban structure seen around the settlement was not very much in the region where the current settlement was located and only irregular rock-carved places were seen, it had to be evaluated not as an Urban-Archaeological Site but as an Urban Site and 3rd Degree Archaeological Site, and the sites in Kilistra (Gökyurt) were revised by the Konya Regional Board for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in 2016 (Figure 4). In the same year (2016), the transitional protection and use principles for the protected areas in the Kilistra (Gökyurt) settlement, whose borders were revised with the decision of Konya KVKBK, were determined. It was decided to forward the issues related to the region remaining in the Natural Protected Areas to the Natural Assets Protection Commission. Within the scope of the reconstruction plan for protection (2017) prepared by the Konya Metropolitan Municipality for archaeological sites (first and third-degree) and urban protected areas in Kilistra, it was concluded to make conservation decisions for "preserving the traditional texture as a whole", developing a modern protection policy, and maintaining sociological and folkloric features alongside the physical environment" (Anonim a, 2017).

### **3.3.2. Decisions regarding the field of work in high-scale plans**

In the decisions of the Konya Province 1/100.000 Scaled Environmental Layout Plan, which is still in force, for the areas covering the Kilistra Neighborhood and its surroundings, which are the subject of the planning study; the neighborhood is shown with the symbol of "Rural Settlement" and is within the areas reserved for "Agricultural Area" and "Pasture" use. The Strategic Decision-10 (ST-10), which was created for strategic decisions to identify important tourism locations within the framework of the planning study, covers the ancient city of Kilistra in the Kilistra Neighborhood (Table 1). Under the title of Strategic Planning Decisions of the provisions of the Plan, there is a provision that the applications for the development of tourism in areas that are important in terms of tourism and historical, cultural, or natural values will be supported to increase tourism activities in important tourism centers within the provincial borders of Konya. In accordance with the Special Provisions, it was stated that decisions will be developed to support the acquisition of tourism functions to existing structures that will be protected in accordance with the decisions of the principle in the archaeological sites in the works of the zoning plan for the protection of the Ancient City of Kilistra and the settlement of Kilistra.

Within the scope of Konya Metropolitan Municipality 1/25.000 scaled land use plan, the area covering the sites around the Ancient City of Kilistra and extending to Inlice in the west and Hatunsaray in the east has been designated as Kilistra Special Project Area within the scope of Konya Central Planning Sub-Region (Table 1). In accordance with the provisions of the plan, the Kilistra Special Project Area where the archaeological sites are concentrated around the Ancient City of Kilistra (Gökyurt) is a Conservation-Oriented Tourism Development Zone. A strategic plan for tourism will be prepared, which will address the areas within the special project area including the Kilistra Ancient City, Güneydere (Botsa) urban protected area, and mounds under protection as an archaeological site, as well as the settlements within the border. It is stated that sub-scale plan decisions regarding the use of accommodation facilities for tourism and trade in the settlements located within the border and around can be prepared in accordance with strategic plan decisions for tourism purposes to be prepared by Konya Metropolitan Municipality.

Table 1. Planning experiences and status decisions

Conservation plans			
Conservation plans	Site boundaries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 1st degree archaeological site</li> <li> 1st degree natural protected area</li> <li> 2nd degree natural protected area</li> <li> Urban and 3rd degree archaeological site</li> <li> K-A: Urban and archaeological site</li> </ul>
	1/5000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Preservation of the traditional settlement pattern as a whole</li> <li>* Developing a contemporary conservation policy</li> <li>* To keep the sociological and folkloric features alive besides the physical environment</li> </ul>
	1/1000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Roads that residents will use daily, controlled-use vehicle and pedestrian routes for touristic trips</li> <li>* Commercial uses such as restaurants, cafes, etc. at a point overlooking the view on the main vehicle road connecting to the highway</li> <li>* Rehabilitation of the headman's office and meeting hall for accommodation</li> <li>* Parks, playgrounds for visitors</li> <li>* Restoring existing traditional buildings and buil. groups, using them for tourism purposes</li> </ul>
High scale plans	Environmental Plan of Konya-Karaman Planning Region- 1/100.000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* General land use decisions: Rural settlement Area</li> <li>* Agricultural land and meadow-pasture uses</li> </ul>
	Konya Province 1/100.000 Environmental Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* General land use decisions: Rural Settlement</li> <li>* Use of Agricultural Land and Pasture</li> <li>* Representation of natural and archaeological sites with symbols</li> <li>* Strategic decisions (ST-10)-Supporting applications for tourism development in areas that are also important in terms of tourism and important in terms of historical, cultural or natural values</li> <li>*Special Provision: Supporting the provision of tourism functions to the existing structures to be protected within the scope of the principle decisions in the archaeological sites</li> </ul>
	1/25.000 Master Development Plan Konya Central Planning Sub-region		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Conservation Oriented Tourism Development Zone</li> <li>*Preparation of a strategic plan for tourism: In addition to Kilistra settlement, Güneydere (Botsa) urban protected area and mounds under protection as archaeological sites, areas within the special project area, settlements within the border</li> <li>*Introducing accommodation and daily facilities for tourism and commercial use for tourism purposes</li> </ul>

The KOP Region Tourism Master Plan was prepared by the KOP Regional Development Administration and completed in 2015 to determine the principles, policies, goals, and strategies for the tourism sector in the KOP Region (Aksaray, Karaman, Konya, Niğde provinces) by evaluating them with a spatial dimension. Within the scope of the study, spatial plan decisions were made in the provinces and throughout the region. Within the scope of Konya city plan decisions, it is suggested that the excavation and cleaning works should be completed first of all at the source consisting of rock settlements and churches spread over a wide area in the settlement of Kilistra, and after this work is completed, arrangements should be made covering the excursion route, lighting, information and direction signs, etc. It has been stated that Kilistra, which contains the Ancient City of Kilistra, is a settlement with tourism potential with its historical buildings and settlement texture, it has been emphasized that strengthening and restoring the structures that are being demolished will be important for Kilistra to increase the number of visitors over the long term (Anonymous a, 2017). In 2011, Mevlana Development Agency (MEVKA) evaluated the TR52 Region with approaches related to its potential on a district, provincial and regional basis with the holistic approach of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's 2023 Tourism Strategy. In the document referred to as the "Tourism Sector 2023 Vision Strategy", Kilistra was included in the field of implementation of the goal of completing the transportation infrastructure for the tourism sector within the scope of the strategy of activating the tourism potential of the region and completing its deficiencies, and the completion of the transportation infrastructures and tourism routes of the tourist areas in the countryside (Web - 1).

## 4. Findings and Discussion

### 4.1. SWOT analysis of settlement

To reveal the role of socio-economic resources in tourism-oriented development in Kilistra with its current situation and to shed light on future research related to the field, a SWOT analysis was carried out within the scope of field observation, literature data and expert interviews. Strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats were determined. (Table 2)

Table 2. SWOT analysis of Kilistra settlement

INTERNAL FACTORS		EXTERNAL FACTORS	
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<p>[S1] Rich natural resource presence</p> <p>[S2] Increase in protected areas</p> <p>[S3] Rich forest presence in the immediate vicinity</p> <p>[S4] Uncontaminated agricultural areas</p> <p>[S5] Proximity to the population and urban centers, including Konya and its subordinate large districts</p> <p>[S6] Quiet environment for having fun and relaxing</p> <p>[S7] Original landscape</p> <p>[S8] Original rural architecture</p>	<p>[W1] Inability to adequately protect the natural and environmental structure</p> <p>[W2] Lack of tourism infrastructure</p> <p>[W3] Lack of publicity</p> <p>[W4] Unwillingness of tourism investors</p> <p>[W5] Lack of accommodation facilities</p> <p>[W6] Underdeveloped tourism awareness</p> <p>[W7] The use of modern materials contrary to the original architecture, and construction contrary to typology</p>	<p>[O1] Low population density and lack of pressure on natural resources due to undeveloped industry</p> <p>[O2] Increased interest in rural tourism</p> <p>[O3] Greater emphasis on planning and investment in the tourism sector</p> <p>[O4] Longing for traditional village life</p> <p>[O5] Suitability for alternative tourism activities</p> <p>[O6] Being located within the tourism region with high development potential</p>	<p>[T1] Pressure on natural resources as a result of the increasing need for energy</p> <p>[T2] The pressure created by the leisure time demands of the urban population on natural resources</p> <p>[T3] Ruins formed by neglected and abandoned structures</p> <p>[T4] Poor perception of rural tourism at the regional level</p> <p>[T5] Loss of traditional culture of indigenous people due to tourists</p> <p>[T6] Disconnection of family-owned enterprises that are</p>

<p><b>[S9]</b> Widespread agricultural culture</p> <p><b>[S10]</b> Increasing mechanization in agriculture</p> <p><b>[S11]</b> The potential of organic farming</p> <p><b>[S12]</b> Increasing investments in irrigation</p> <p><b>[S13]</b> Continuation of the traditional lifestyle</p> <p><b>[S14]</b> The strength of the desire for social assistance and solidarity, perseverance, and culture of work</p> <p><b>[S15]</b> The existence of 1/100.000, 1/25.000 scaled zoning plans for conservation purposes</p>	<p><b>[W8]</b> Limited income from agricultural production</p> <p><b>[W9]</b> Low productivity in agricultural production, lack of awareness of diversification</p> <p><b>[W10]</b> Low-income level, high unemployment rate</p> <p><b>[W11]</b> Free family labor in agriculture, lack of social security</p> <p><b>[W12]</b> Scattered and small agricultural parcels</p> <p><b>[W13]</b> Poor entrepreneurship and innovation culture</p> <p><b>[W14]</b> Lack of education and health infrastructure</p> <p><b>[W15]</b> Lack of social equipment and activities</p> <p><b>[W15]</b> Conflict and difference between tourist culture and rural people</p> <p><b>[W16]</b> Insufficient attendance of indigenous people in the decision-making process</p> <p><b>[W17]</b> Lack of coordination and cooperation between institutions</p>	<p><b>[O7]</b> Development Agency's tourism-oriented supports, EU grant funds</p> <p><b>[O8]</b> Increasing demand for agricultural products produced by traditional methods</p> <p><b>[O9]</b> Suitability for family vegetable growing</p> <p><b>[O10]</b> Growing products with high market potential</p> <p><b>[O11]</b> Improvement of irrigation projects</p> <p><b>[O12]</b> Innovative approaches in rural service delivery</p> <p><b>[O13]</b> Increase in rural-urban interaction</p> <p><b>[O14]</b> Dissemination of information and communication technologies</p> <p><b>[O15]</b> Capacity of institutions to make and implement projects</p> <p><b>[O16]</b> Increase in legal regulations that care about rural areas</p> <p><b>[O17]</b> Grant supports for investments in rural areas</p> <p><b>[O18]</b> New legal regulations on public lands</p>	<p>experiencing a shortage of livelihoods from agriculture</p> <p><b>[T7]</b> Lack of interest of young people in farming</p> <p><b>[T8]</b> Continued migration from the countryside to the city</p> <p><b>[T9]</b> Ignoring the rural area by social policies that prioritize urban areas</p>
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As a result of the SWOT analysis, it is noteworthy that the weaknesses and opportunities of the region are more. Strengths should also be evaluated in terms of development dynamics.

Within the scope of the data obtained from the analysis of the area, a matrix was created to evaluate the impact of the existing socio-economic structure on tourism development in Kilistra. In the matrix consisting of the basic and sub-components of the socio-economic structure, the basic components and their sub-components were evaluated with the judgments of "1: Excellent 2: Good 3: Adequate 4: Not adequate but can be improved 5: Inadequate". The answers given to each component were summed and analyzed by taking the arithmetic average. The findings are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Socio-economic potential development matrix

Main Components	Number of people	Score	Weighted average	Sub-Components	Score	Weighted average	Value
Human Resources		112	3,2	The size and structure of the active population	109	3,11	3
				Level of education and professional knowledge	133	3,8	4
				Skills, trends	143	4,08	4
				Original/characteristic/traditional community	110	3,14	3
				Economic activities and arts	147	4,2	4
				Informal knowledge and skills	143	4,08	4
				Approaches to tourism development	56	1,6	2
				Hospitality, service tendencies	92	2,62	3
				Governance (Local organizations and administrations)	49	1,4	1

	35			Image and perception	65	1,85	2
				Culture and identity	71	2,02	2
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29,9</b>	<b>2,71</b>
<b>Different Economic sectors</b>	162		<b>4,62</b>	Agriculture	102	2,91	3
				Forestry	-	-	-
				Industry	-	-	-
				Other	-	-	-
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,91</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	139		<b>3,97</b>	Transportation	82	2,34	2
				Communication	146	4,17	4
				Healthcare	150	4,28	4
				Water systems	139	3,97	4
				Sewage systems	136	3,88	4
				Waste storage/disposal	140	4	4
				Security	96	2,74	3
				<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25,38</b>	<b>3,62</b>
For tourism development 1: Excellent 2: Good 3: Adequate 4: Not adequate but can be improved 5: Inadequate							

Participants were first asked to evaluate the main components of socio-economic resources in general (human resources, different economic sectors, infrastructure) without taking into account any sub-criteria. In arithmetic averages, the value to which the mean is closest was taken as the basis (for example  $4,62=5$ ) and the evaluation was made in this way. Participants stated that they found human resources "Adequate" (3,2), different economic sectors "Inadequate" (4,62), and infrastructure "Not adequate but can be improved" (3,97). They were then asked to evaluate the subcomponents of each parent component individually.

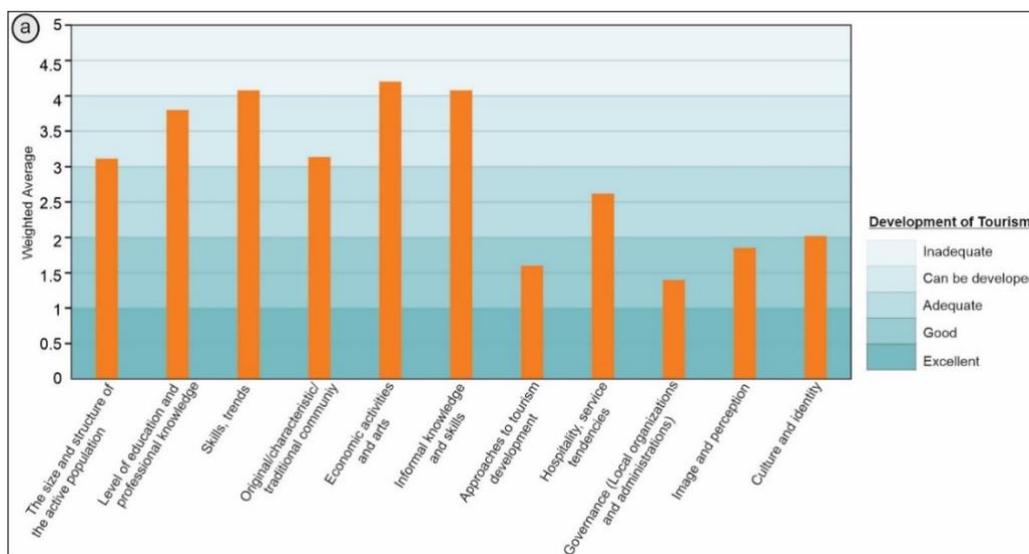


Figure 4a: Evaluation of the sub-components of human resources

The size and structure of the active population in human resources were found to be "adequate" (3,11) for the development of tourism. The level of education and professional knowledge of the indigenous people living in Kilistra were evaluated as "Not adequate but can be improved" (3,8). Local people stated that they found their skills and tendencies "Not adequate but can be improved" (4,02) for the development of tourism. The originality, characteristics, and traditional community of the settlement were found to be "Adequate" (3,14), while the economic activities and

arts in Kilistra were evaluated as "Not adequate but can be improved" (4,2). The informal knowledge and skills in the settlement are again expressed as "Not adequate but can be improved" (4,08) for tourism development. The approaches of the people living in the region to tourism development were evaluated as "Good" (1,6), while the hospitality understanding and service tendencies were found to be "Adequate" (2,62). The governance capacity of local institutions and administrations was expressed as "Excellent" (1,4), and the image and perception of the region (1,85) and its culture and identity (2,02) were found to be "Good" for tourism development. The average of the evaluations of the 11 expressions that constitute the sub-criteria of human resources regarding tourism development is "Adequate" (2,71). Although there are differences in the weighted averages of the general evaluation (3,2) and the detailed evaluations (2,71), it is possible to conclude that the presence of the human resource is "adequate" for the development of tourism (Figure 4a). In assessing the impact of different economic sectors on tourism development, the assessment of "Inadequate" (4,62) draws attention. The forestry, industry, and other sectors sub-criteria were not answered because they were not available in the economic sectors, and these criteria could not be considered as a resource. The agricultural sub-criterion was found to be "Adequate" (2,91) for the development of tourism. The title of different economic sectors found "Inadequate" in the general evaluation is considered "Adequate" in terms of agricultural activities in the sub-criterion.

The experts who were asked to evaluate the impact of infrastructure on tourism development found that infrastructure is "Not adequate but can be improved" (3,97) in the general assessment. When asked to evaluate the sub-criteria for detailed evaluation, transportation was evaluated as "Good" (2,34); Communication resources (4,17), health services (4,28), water systems (3,97), sewage systems (3,88), waste storage/disposal systems (4) were evaluated as "Not adequate but can be improved". Security (2,74) was found to be "Adequate" for tourism development. The averages of the general assessment of infrastructure resources (3,97) and detailed assessments of its sub-criteria (3,62) are consistent with each other with the results of "Not adequate but can be improved" (Figure 4b).

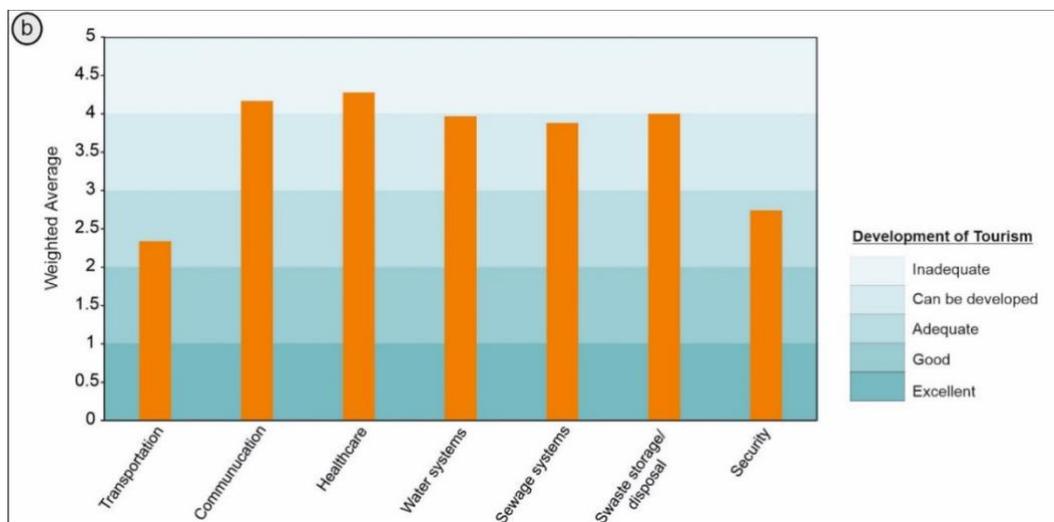


Figure 4b: Evaluation of sub-components of infrastructure

## 4.2. Discussion

Accurate identification of the site-specific problems and opportunities of Kilistra is important for the creation of conservation and development approaches. In the study, it was determined that the region is sufficient in terms of human resources and different economic sectors, but in terms of infrastructure, business and services, it is in a situation that can be improved. Innovative spatial,

functional and managerial strategies and actions that transform the limitations into solutions are needed in the process of developing the socio-economic values of the countryside.

Thanks to the spatial strategies and actions to be developed, the improvement of the technical infrastructure of the settlement will enable both the improvement of the quality of life of the local people and the improvement of the tourist experience. Developing infrastructure facilities in Kilistra together with its immediate surroundings will bring different opportunities for tourism diversity (Gündüz, 2021). In this way, ecological resources in the region will become more sustainable and usable. Its strong culture and identity, as well as its image and perception, were evaluated as good by experts. Areas with these features are often more attractive to tourists. With the arrangements to be made, buildings that have local architectural features but are not used will gain value and an opportunity will be created for the local people to protect, develop and benefit from the countryside.

Functional strategies and actions will enable to increase income level, employment and job opportunities. Rural tourism occurs in areas where agricultural activities are available. Therefore, the products obtained from agricultural production should be transformed into varieties that will provide an important return for tourism. Local people in Kilistra generally have a supportive attitude towards tourism (Gündüz, 2021). According to the results of the present study, experts also found the size and structure of the active population as adequate. Thus, the actions to be taken to increase the income level, working and job opportunities will yield positive results for sustainable tourism development. The traditional economic activities specific to the field, as well as non-professional, informal technical knowledge and skills and handicrafts were evaluated by experts as not adequate, but can be improved (Table 3). In the study area, there is no infrastructure yet to present the products produced and offered for sale for tourism, diversifying the products and having touristic value specific to the region, to certain quality standards (Gündüz, 2021). In order for the people to benefit from the tourism economy, actions should be organized in such a way that rural production provides input to tourism.

It is aimed to ensure social participation and coordination with administrative strategies and actions. Considering that the developing tourism in the region will bring with it different problems day by day, local governments should adopt an approach that prioritizes the people as a collaborative and main actor at every stage of planning. It is possible to say that local governments follow a successful policy in Kilistra (Gündüz, 2021). However, according to the expert opinions obtained as a result of the current study, the existing local institutions and organizations were evaluated as adequate (Table 3). Thus, for all kinds of results that may be encountered, regular training events, seminars, festivals, etc., by public institutions and implementing mechanisms. It is clear that organizing events will positively affect the awareness and motivation of the public.

Within the framework of the findings obtained by the scope of the study, strategies and actions were formed under 3 main headings: spatial, functional and managerial for the rural development approach, with the evaluation of the socio-economic resources of Kilistra by making use of the SWOT analysis and the evaluations of the experts (Table 4).

Table 4. Strategy-action table

STRATEGIES		ACTIONS	RELATED SWOT ISSUES
Spatial		Improving sewage infrastructure taking into account the structural properties and conservation status of the village	[S1], [S4], [W1], [W2], [O18], [O19], [T1], [T2], [T3]
		Strengthening transport links	[S5], [O2],[O3], [O4], [O5], [O6], [O15]
		Installing a wastewater disposal system suitable for the village and developing systems for collecting, decomposting and removing solid waste	[S4], [S10], [S11], [S15], [W1], [W2], [W7], [O1], [O7], [O8], [O13], [T1], [T2], [T3]

	Developing infrastructure to conserve natural resources	Ensuring that the clean water system can safely and healthily serve the entire village	[S1], [S4], [S10], [W2], [O1], [T3]
		Ensuring the recycling of animal and organic household waste in a way that does not create environmental pollution	[S1], [S3], [S8], [W7], [W10], [O4], [O11], [O12], [O13], [T3], [T8]
		Initiation of restoration or repair works of the original housing stock	[S6], [S7], [S12], [S14], [W5], [W8], [W11], [W15], [O2], [O3], [O4], [O5], [O6], [O7], [O14], [O15], [O18], [T5], [T10]
		Organizing sightseeing routes for tourism purposes and creating sales units in the square	[S1], [S2], [S3], [S5], [S6], [S7], [S12], [W11], [W12], [W15], [O2], [O5], [O10], [O11], [O15], [O19], [T8]
		Providing recreation, and seating in landscape-point areas to serve the village	[S6], [S7], [S12], [S13], [S14], [W18], [W19], [O2]
		Identifying suitable areas for shopping or retail commerce	[S5], [S8], [S14], [S15], [W3], [W4], [W8], [W9], [W11], [W12], [W13], [W15], [O2], [O9], [O10], [O11], [O12], [O14], [O15], [O16], [O18], [O19], [T7], [T9]
Functional	Increasing income level, working and job opportunities	Ensuring the sustainability of the function of existing farmland	[S2], [S4], [S5], [S8], [S9], [S10], [S11], [S12], [S13], [S14], [W9], [W10], [W11], [W12], [W13], [W14], [W15], [O1], [O2], [O4], [O6], [O7], [O8], [O10], [O11], [O12], [O13], [O14], [O17], [O19], [O20], [T7], [T8], [T9]
		Arrangement of storage and sales places of fresh vegetables and fruit products offered for consumption	[S5], [S10], [S15], [W9], [W10], [W11], [W12], [W15], [W21], [O6], [O10], [O11], [O12], [O15], [O18], [O19], [T7]
		Ensuring organization and cooperation towards agricultural production and marketing (creating a structure to organize the cultivation, production, and distribution of products)	[S5], [S7], [S12], [S13], [S14], [W15], [W18], [W19], [W20], [O12], [O15], [O16], [O17], [O19]
		Organizing events such as festivals promoting the village (fruit, vegetable growing), etc.	[S8], [S12], [S13], [W15], [W20], [W21], [O14], [O15], [O17], [O19], [T10]
		Projecting natural and cultural assets in a conservation-utilization balance and offering them to local entrepreneurs	[S1], [S2], [S15], [W1], [W2], [W3], [W4], [W5], [W6], [W7], [W15], [W20], [O1], [O2], [O3], [O4], [O5], [O6], [O7], [O8], [O14], [O15], [O17], [O18], [O20], [T1], [T2], [T3], [T4], [T5]
		Evaluation of some of the traditional buildings with architectural value in the village by making them suitable for the accommodation function	[S5], [S15], [W3], [W4], [W5], [W6], [W7], [W8], [W9], [W11], [W12], [W15], [W20], [O2], [O3], [O4], [O5], [O6], [O7], [O8], [T5], [T6], [T7], [T8]
Managerial	Ensuring participation and coordination	Establishing vocational courses for all people in cooperation with public organizations and making non-formal education activities continuous	[S13], [S14], [W9], [W12], [W15], [W16], [O7], [O8], [O16], [O17], [O19]
		Establishment of management mechanisms to ensure the effective operation of social facilities that will be owned by the village entity	[S15], [W18], [W20], [W21], [O17], [O20], [T10]
		Transformation of the “Kilistra assembly”, where the people of Kilistre and the management come together, into an effective action that is held regularly at least once a year	[S12], [W18], [W20], [W21]

	Ensuring the village management and local people work together on all issues of interest to the village; The creation of the Village Planning Board consisting of women, men, and young people elected to represent each neighborhood and the approval of all decisions regarding the village by negotiating in this board	[S13], [S14], [W20], [W21], [O6], [O14], [O18], [O19], [T6], [T9], [T10]
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## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Today, rural areas have been overshadowed by cities and the development of cities has attracted people and destroyed the attractiveness of rural life. This situation has led to the decrease in agricultural activities and problems such as equipment, education and infrastructure deficiencies in rural areas. It is foreseen that the development and arrangement studies to be carried out in rural areas that can utilize the resources they have through tourism will also solve these problems of the countryside. In this way, it is expected that the quality of life of people living in rural areas will increase and they will become a center of attraction in terms of tourism (Çeken et al. 2012; Péter, 2020; Torun, 2013). Rural areas have different socio-economic resources due to their different local and natural cultural backgrounds. In Kilistra, which has an important potential for the future of tourism, if tourism is desired to gain momentum, socio-economic resources should be invested. Planning approaches that are protected with all their values but that do not ignore today's change process and needs should be developed. Thus, diversity in tourism will increase, while contributing to the increase in employment opportunities and the improvement of living conditions for the local people.

With the data obtained within the scope of this study, the adequacy of socio-economic resources in Kilistra in tourism-oriented development has been revealed. For a sustainable tourism development, priority spatial, functional and managerial arrangements to be followed are included. In the study, it was seen that the strengths and opportunities of the region outweighed the weaknesses and threats. From this point of view, it is necessary to make spatial arrangements that will improve the quality of life, to diversify economic activities, to increase jobs and services and to provide them with a certain quality, and to increase the skills for tourism services. Thus, by creating diversified and sustainable livelihoods, the negativities that the region is exposed to can be reduced. Socio-economic resources ranging from transport to food to be designed with a local planning approach in Kilistra are expected to be an important milestone for both tourism and rural development. The possibility to live without being deprived of the requirements of urban life should be treated as an important input that will trigger the development potential of rural areas. The works carried out and to be carried out are expected to keep the economy and the tourism sector alive and pioneer a new and sustainable understanding of tourism.

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