

ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE VALUES AND THEIR PROTECTION STATUS IN IHLARA VALLEY

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ABSTRACT

In this study, Ihlara Valley, which is rich in terms of cultural landscape values and formed as a result of the volcanic activities of Hasan Dağı and Melendiz Mountain in Central Anatolia and used by people for the purpose of sheltering and worshipping from the early days of Christianity was selected as the study area. In this study, it is aimed to determine the cultural landscape values in the area and their characteristics and to evaluate its state of protection and to compare it with the World Heritage Site of Göreme National Park and Cappadocia Rocky Sites in terms of protection and location.

Field studies were carried out in the Ihlara Valley and in its settlement areas in order to determine the cultural landscape values in the research area. In the study area, in compliance with the fossil landscape definition of UNESCO, there are some of the elements of the cultural landscape such as rock churches, cave paintings (frescoes), caves, underground caves, and cathedrals.

KEYWORDS: Cultural Landscape, Ihlara Valley, World Heritage Site, Rock Caves

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