

Annual report for the year of 2020/2021

State: Republic of Armenia

Name of the area: Khosrov Forest State Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

Resolution CM/ResDip(2013)2

on the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas

to the Khosrov Forest Reserve (Armenia) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 July 2013

at the 1176th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)14

on the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected

Areas awarded to the Khosrov Forest Reserve (Armenia) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 July

2018 at the 1321st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

Council of Europe takes over the area under its auspices until 2028 July 10.

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment

Address: 3 Government Bldg. Republic sq., Yerevan,
Armenia

Tel: +374 11 818 510

E-mail: minenv@env.am, interdpt@mnp.am

Web: www.mnp.am

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO

Address: Kasyan 79, Vedi, Ararat Province, Armenia

Tel: +374 234 21352

E-mail: khosrovreserve@gmail.com, officekhosrov@mail.ru

Web: www.khosrovreserve.am

1. Conditions:

1. The new management plan of Khosrov Forest State Reserve is still in the discussion phase, in which all conditions submitted to the SNCO will be included. The draft management plan will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption.
2. By the new management plan is to expand the boundaries of the reserve, as well as establish a buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, which will ensure the integrity of rare and endangered plant and animal species. It will also reduce the probability of anthropogenic pressures (grazing, poaching) and will improve the effectiveness of conservation of the reserve.
3. The legal regime of Khosrov Forest State Reserve as a strictly protected nature area will be maintained in the future law on the Specially protected nature areas of Armenia.

2. Recommendations:

1. An awareness and training programme as part of the new management plan will be implemented. In 2021 Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO organized eco-educational programs in 15 communities of Ararat Province. The main goal of eco-educational programs is to connect pupils with nature and help them to see its beneficial effects, to understand the importance of environment as well as to behave ecologically friendly without polluting and destroying the entire ecosystem.
2. The management of Khosrov Forest State Reserve SCNO is funded by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and international donors: WWF/ World Wildlife Fund/, CNF/Caucasus Nature Fund/, which provides staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value.
3. Since 2013 until now a number of vertebrate species (predatory mammals, hooved animals, birds of prey) including wolves have been monitored in the territory of Khosrov Forest State Reserve. The state of conservation of the wolf population (*Canis lupus*), both at national level and in the diploma-holding area are assessed by specialists.

3. Site Management:

There have not been changes in the management of Khosrov Forest State Reserve.

4. Boundaries:

The borders of Khosrov Forest State Reserve are planned to change after the adaptation of the new management plan. Currently there are no changes.

5. Other information:

Since January in 2018 until today camera traps installed in Khosrov Forest State Reserve have regularly captured a leopard. The Caucasian leopard subspecies (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) also known as the Persian or Central Asia leopard is common in Armenia. The species is qualified as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the Red Data Book of Armenia. The leopard is one of the rare and valuable representatives of the fauna of Armenia and its presence in Khosrov Forest State Reserve has an important environmental significance as its protection is currently one of the most important environmental challenges not only in Armenia but also for the entire region. The leopard protection program is implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Armenia in cooperation with WWF Armenia and Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO since 2002. The main goal of the project is to restore population of the endangered leopard, preserve both habitat and main prey species and stabilize ecological processes in the region. The leopard is one of the symbols of Armenia. It can be found in petroglyphs, ancient sculptures, stories, coats of arms of Armenian kings as a symbol of wisdom and power.