

Welcoming Speech

Dear guests, dear audience

Let me welcome you for the opening of the The 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities” in Yerevan.

Currently the movement to mitigate climate global change is going on in the world and the whole progressive humanity concentrates its efforts to reduce harmful anthropogenic impact on the environment and to ensure ecological balance, preserve biological and landscape diversity.

Landscapes are inseparable parts of the natural ecosystems and play a pivotal role in the conservation of biodiversity.

Armenia is situated in the intersection of three biogeographical regions distinguished by diverse climatic conditions and the active geological processes have led to the emergence of a variety of different landscapes and ecosystems. As a result in a not very large area ten landscape zones were formed beginning from semi-desert to snowy highlands.

A considerable part of Armenia's landscape diversity is included in the specially protected nature areas. At present 3 state reserves, 4 national parks, 27 nature reserves and 232 monuments are included in the specially protected nature areas which constitute 400 thousand hectares.

A significant work is being done towards the conservation of biological and landscape diversity in the Republic of Armenia. It is sufficient to mention that only in recent years in our country "Arpi Lake" and "Arevik" national parks, "Zangezur", "Zikatar" and "Khustup" state sanctuaries were created. In the coming years it is planned to expand this list. Landscape conservation is currently an urgent problem and we all have to combine our efforts to solve it.

Dear audience let me again welcome you for the opening of this conference, thank the organizers for organizing this beautiful event on a high level and to wish you fruitful work.

Mr Simon Papayan
First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection