

Annual report for the year of 2018

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)*

Central authority concerned:

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Authority responsible for its management:

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1. Conditions:

1) by 2020, design and adopt a management plan for the long-term conservation of the area which will include strategic aims and targets, an estimated budget and a time frame for its full implementation, as well as a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the implemented management measures; the management plan should also consider a strategic approach for the development of sustainable tourism compatible with the carrying capacity of the Khosrov Forest Reserve and the preservation of its integrity as a strictly protected area; the draft management plan should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption;

The new management plan of the reserve is still in the discussion phase, in which all the conditions will be included. The draft management plan will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention prior to its adoption.

2) launch a political and administrative process aiming to sustain the preservation of the European interest of the area by means of expanding the territory of the reserve to better preserve the state of conservation of the key species (large carnivores and herbivores); removing the existing 11 enclaves along the border of the Khosrov Forest State Reserve; establishing a buffer zone with a clear protection regime and limits, minimising hunting and the effects of grazing on the reserve; addressing the issue of the “transit routes” that cross the reserve; and working to minimise their general impact on the natural assets of the diploma-holding area;

The new management plan will include 2602 hectares in the reserve territory, from which;

- **About 358 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Dvin Community,**
- **About 59 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Narek Community,**
- **About 755 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Qaghcrashen Community,**
- **About 1460 ha of state property lands located at the administrative border of Urtsadzor Community.**

3) maintain and sustain the legal regime as a strictly protected area for the Khosrov Forest State Reserve in the future law on the protection of nature currently under discussion in the parliament;

The Law Project has been returned to the Ministry of Nature Protection from the Government and it is in the discussion phase now.

2. Recommendations:

1) as part of the new management plan, create and fund an awareness and training programme for local people, visitors and members of the staff of the reserve, in particular in relation to the management of litter and other waste, and to the development of sustainable tourism;

Khosrov Forest State Reserve SNCO has contracts with the relevant service providers for the purpose of garbage disposal. The programme is included in the new management plan of the reserve which is still in the discussion phase.

2) secure the Khosrov Forest State Reserve administration capacities in the future, with the support of the Armenian authorities and external donors; provide staff with specific incentives to foster their interest in the preservation of the reserve and its value;

The proper management of the State Reserve is funded by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and international donors. At present work is underway to cooperate with new donor organisations.

3) assess the state of conservation of the wolf population (*Canis lupus*), both at national level and in the diploma-holding area, and adapt the current legal and administrative regime of protection accordingly; design a “wolf concept” providing a general legal and administrative framework for the management of this species in Armenia, in line with the Bern Convention and the regulation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas.

According to the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Armenia, the processes of natural environment development are carried out without direct human intervention. Therefore in the territory of Khosrov Forest State Reserve, it is prohibited to hunt not only the wolf but also any animal species. Since 2013 wolves monitoring programmes have been carried out.

1. **Site Management:**

2. **Boundaries:**

There were no changes of the boundaries.

3. **Other information:**

On the 23rd of January in 2018 for the first time in the past 18 years a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) has been shot by trap cameras in Khosrov Forest State Reserve. The species is qualified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the Red Data Book of Armenia. The leopard’s 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. By protecting the leopard we also protect its prey species.