



PROJECT INFORMATION

Towards the establishment of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve in Armenia – nomination and enabling framework



Caucasian Snowdrop

Source: Ivan Gabrielyan

Background

Armenia is located in the Caucasus, which according to Conservation International's criteria ranks among the 36 "Global Biodiversity Hotspots." The country's biodiversity comprises representative ecosystems of the Caucasus hotspot and is characterized by a high degree of endemism. Dilijan National Park is renowned for its forest landscapes, mineral springs, and various natural and cultural monuments, and also exhibits exceptional species diversity. Simultaneously, this area and the surrounding region face significant threats, particularly from climate change risks and anthropogenic pressures such as intensive exploitation of natural resources and pollution.

Project details

To address these challenges and promote sustainable regional development, the Armenian Government decided to initiate the establishment of the country's first Biosphere Reserve (BR) according to the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" (MAB) concept. Building on the preparatory work for capacity development and planning, the next critical step is the formal nomination of Dilijan BR to the UNESCO MAB Programme. The project will, in collaboration with the Armenian Ministry of Environment and local stakeholders, support the preparation of the nomination document, advance participatory planning processes, and develop a management plan and other foundational documents of the BR. The objective is not only to achieve successful recognition as a BR but also to establish prerequisites for operational functionality. This includes strengthening governance structures, identifying financing mechanisms, and consolidating stakeholder engagement, which will be central to the long-term sustainability of the BR.

Updated: June 2026

Project country: Armenia

Duration: 05/2026 – 04/2028

Beneficiary: Environmental Ministry of the Republic of Armenia

Implementing organisations: Michael Succow Foundation, Soluton

Project number: 3725 580015

Thematic management:

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

Irina Kozban

Tel.: +49-228-8491-1786

Irina.Kozban@BfN.de

Project coordination:

AAP Project service unit

Dr. Hendrik Freitag

Tel.: +49-340-2103-2819

Hendrik.Freitag@uba.de

Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

AAP Project service unit:

AAP-info@uba.de

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