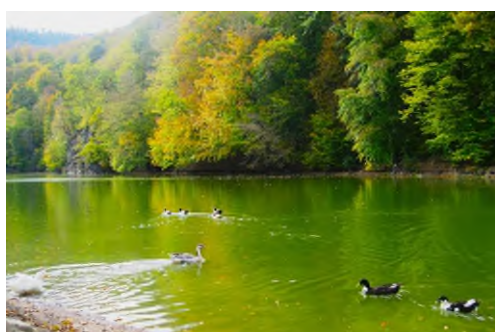


PROJECT INFORMATION

Capacity development for the establishment of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve in Armenia



Dilijan National Park

Source: Soluton LLC

Background

Armenia is located in the Caucasus ecoregion, which is rated as one of 36 "Global Biodiversity Hotspots" according to the criteria of *Conservation International*. Biodiversity here is characterized by a high degree of endemism and encompasses almost all important natural ecosystems of the Ecoregion. Dilijan National Park is known for its forest landscapes, mineral springs as well as natural and cultural monuments. Although the region has an outstanding wealth of species, it is extremely endangered, especially in terms of climate change risks and anthropogenic threats such as intensive exploitation of natural resources or environmental pollution.

Project details

To address the challenges and foster sustainable regional development, the Armenian government initiated the establishment of Armenia's first biosphere reserve (BR) under the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" (MaB) concept. To support this, an Armenian-German project-team conducted comprehensive studies to assess the local ecological, social, and economic conditions. In workshops, training activities and a study tour to Germany, local and national participants strengthened their capacities and facilitated a participatory conceptualization and planning process for the Dilijan BR. This process included agreeing on the BR boundaries and zones, defining key functions and objectives, identifying main sectors, values, and threats, as well as discussing suitable governance structures and potential financing mechanisms. Broad stakeholder participation was ensured through a local working group of more than 30 members and regular intersectoral meetings. The comprehensive preparatory measures laid a strong foundation for the establishment of Armenia's first biosphere reserve and its nomination to the MaB Programme.

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Project country: Armenia
Duration: 12/2023 – 11/2025
Beneficiary: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
Implementing organisation: Michael Succow Foundation
Project number: 3723 580001

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