

NATURE



Report



Ministria e Mjedisit dhe
Planifikimit Hapësinor



Agjencia për Mbrojtjen
e Mjedisit të Kosovës

KOSOVO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**REPORT ON THE STATE
OF NATURE
2008 - 2009**

Prishtina, 2010

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"Nature and biodiversity, living environment and national heritage are everyone's responsibility" "

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Dear Readers, Well-Wishers of Nature

Man and nature have cohabitated in full harmony from the time of prehistoric era, having always been inseparable parts. Generations of humanity have survived by utilizing the benefits of nature and using them correctly. Forestry, fodder, water resources, animals and plants play a crucial role in the development of human society.

Unfortunately, human generation of modern era, more than ever before, is demolishing the ecological balance of nature on our planet. Destruction of forests, habitat fragmentation, and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources are just some of the human activities where the consequences are now obvious. As never before, the number of endangered species and those under risk of extinction is taking on alarming proportions. Reduction of water resources, expansion of drought, natural disasters, melting of polar glaciers are just some of the manifestations of climate change that we see today in every part of the globe.

Despite the fact that current generations have many demands to meet, it is a moral obligation to leave to future generations the legacy of a rich and diverse nature, as we have inherited from our predecessors. Human consciousness today must think of the future generations; it is in our hands to decide the fate of many endangered species and their extinction. Therefore, it is the final time for us to guide our actions to the benefit of nature and the future of our planet. Although the protection of biodiversity is considered one of the greatest challenges that humanity faces today, we have to think that any living creature of this globe has the importance and the right to exist, as the man himself.

Kosovo, although a small country on the map of the globe, is characterized by rich nature, landscapes, and a diverse world of plants and animals. The value of our natural heritage is also facing constant pressure from uncontrolled and unplanned exploitation. Despite this, our orientation is to intensify our efforts for the protection and conservation of this natural, rare heritage. Drafting effective policies for environmental protection, increasing the territory of protected areas, raising the management quality of these areas, protecting rare species of plants, animals and forests; we fulfill the obligation to give successive generations the chance to enjoy the unique natural value of Kosovo.

Dr. Sc. Ilir Morina,
KEPA Chief Executive Officer

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Abbreviation indicator

ACE	Association for Culture and Education
KEPA	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
KFA	Kosovo Forestry Agency
EU	European Union
BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Protection
KCB	Kosovo Consolidated Budget
CISES	Convention on International Sales of Endangered Species
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DNP	Directorate of National Park
ENVSEC	Security and Environmental Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
KOG	Kosovo Official Gazette
KHI	Kosovo Hydro-Meteorological Institute
KINP	Kosovo Institute of Nature Protection
SPI	Spatial Planning Institute
WUNP	World Union for Nature Protection
FMPY	Final Meeting of Planet's Year
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KFOS	Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
MAB	Man & Biosphere Program
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
UN	United Nations
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NP	National Park
KEAP	Kosovo Environmental Action Plan
ProGEO	European Association for Conservation of Geological Heritage
Government	Government of the Republic of Kosovo
REC	Regional Environmental Center
KES	Kosovo Environmental Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNSECO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment

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Introduction

Geographical location, geological, pedology and hydrological factors, the landscape and climate have enabled Kosovo to have a rich biology and diverse landscape. The most important areas of Kosovo's biodiversity are considered the Sharr Mountains, Bjeshket e Nemuna, Pashtrik, Koritnik, etc.

Based on previous research, there have been over 1800 species of vascular plant flora identified, 250 vertebrate species, 200 species of butterflies and over 500 macro-zoobenthos water taxon. However, survey and inventory of biodiversity are not yet complete.

The number of preserved natural areas is 97 and includes an area of 47,842.34 ha (4,39% of the territory of Kosovo). These areas include: 11 Nature Reserves, 1 National Park, 82 Nature Monuments, 2 Regional Nature Parks and 1 Forest Park. In further proceedings on the remaining there are 159 other proposed areas, including the territory of the "Bjeshket e Nemuna" with an area of about 60,000 ha for the National Park.

During the years of 2008 – 2009, several other important activities were conducted for protected areas and biodiversity. Preparation of three new draft laws (Draft Law on Nature Protection, Draft Law on "Sharr Mountain" National Park and Draft Law on "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park); beginning of the preparation of the Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan for 2010-2020, preparation of "Sharr Mountain" NP's Spatial Plan, "Sharr Mountain" National Park zoning, the research in the "Gryka e Madhe" cave etc.

However, still remains disturbing the use of nature without a sustainable criterion, which significantly damaged ecosystems and biological diversity of protected areas. Greatest damage was suffered by the "Sharr Mountain" National Park which includes 84% of the total territory of protected areas. These impacts have not spared the other protected areas either, such as "Cave of Gadime", "Germia" and "Mirusha" Parks, "Nerodime Bifurcation", etc.

Report on the State of Nature for 2008-2009 has been prepared in accordance with the obligations arising from the Law on Nature Protection, which among many duties under Article 2, aims at: Ensuring the right to public information and public participation in the field of nature protection;

The report includes diverse information, starting from the background of nature protection, chronology of the declaration of protected areas and the introduction of the natural values of protected areas and biodiversity. In the main part of the report, the actual nature situation is presented, legal and institutional framework as well as problems and recommendations.

The report contains: 96 pages illustrated with 41 figures and 9 tables, through which the situation in the field of natural values and the increasing tendency of the impact of human activity on nature are presented.

For provision of information during the preparation of this report, we thank: The Directorate of the "Sharr Mountain" National Park, Environmental Inspectorate of MESP, the "Finch" NGO from Prizren, Speleological Association "Aragonit" from Peja, environmental officials of Kosovo Municipalities and all those who helped us.

I. BRIEF HISTORY OF NATURE PROTECTION IN KOSOVO

First steps of nature and environmental protection in Kosovo begun in late 60s. In 1968, the nature protection unit is established within the Office for Protection of Cultural Monuments of Kosovo. In 1974, with the Decision on the division of Nature Protection Section from the Kosovo's Office for Protection of Cultural Monuments of Kosovo, the Office for the Protection of Nature is established¹, which continued to work with the same name under the Law on Kosovo Office for Nature Protection². While in 1988 the Assembly of Kosovo adopted the Law on Protection and Development of Natural Values and the Values Created by the Work of Human Environment³, whereby in Article 78, paragraph 2 of this Law the activity of the Office is determined. Under this Law, a year later, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted the Law on the Kosovo Office for Protection of Nature and Environment⁴.

After the war in Kosovo, new governing circumstances are established. All legislative and executive powers in Kosovo are vested to UNMIK "under the Regulation 1999/1". In 2000, former Kosovo Office for Protection of Nature and Environment gets registered in the UN Interim Civil Administration with the name "Institute for Protection of Kosovo's Nature and Environment" based in Prishtina.⁵ In May 2000, the Environmental Protection Department is established, and the following existing institutions are incorporated and operate within it: Institute for the Protection of Kosovo's Nature and Environment, Hydrometeorology Institute of Kosovo and "Sharr Mountains" National Park Directorate.

After the general elections (2001) and the formation of Kosovo's governing bodies, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is also established⁶, which inter alia is responsible to "create policy, implement laws and supervise the environmental protection activities, including water, air, land and biodiversity resources".

Currently, the protection of nature is carried out by a section within the Environmental Protection Agency of Kosovo.

1 Decision for division of Nature Protection Section ("KOG". 42/74)

2 Law on the Establishment of Provincial Office for Nature Protection ("KOG". 15/81)

3 Law on Protection and Development of Natural Values and Values created by the Work of Human Environment ("KOG" 39/88)

4 Law on Kosovo Office for Nature and Environmental Protection ("KOG" No. 38/89)

5 Kosovo Institute for Nature and Environmental Protection: No. of provisional registry of the business entity 80156359, date 14.08.00)

6 Establishment of MESP (Reg. 2001/19 and 2002/5).

2. AIMS OF NATURE PROTECTION

The legal basis for nature protection and sustainable development as well as nature protection purposes are regulated by the Law on Nature Protection⁷.

- Protection, maintenance, renewal and sustainable use of nature and renewable natural resources;
- Revitalization of damaged areas of nature or parts of it and compensation for damages caused;
- Conservation and restoration of ecological balance in the nature;
- Setting up the system for planning, management, inventory, monitoring, information and funding for nature protection;
- Carrying out the goals set out in the policies of nature protection;
- Reduction of extreme use and endangering species of flora and fauna, especially those of particular importance, rare and endangered, as well as their habitats;
- Ensuring the right to public information and public participation in protection of nature;
- Ensuring the right of citizens to a healthy environment, rest and recreation in nature;
- Protect biodiversity through the conservation of important natural habitats and important species of flora and fauna in a favorable conservation status;
- Bringing Kosovo standards in line with those of the European Union.

⁷ Law on Nature Protection 2005/02-L18 (Reg. No. 2006/22)

3. CLASSIFICATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

"Nature protected area is an area declared in order to protect and take care of biodiversity, landscapes, natural features and cultural heritage and to provide effective management through legal and other means"⁸.

Categorization of Protected Areas in the Law on Nature Protection is made according to the World Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN⁹.

Nature protected areas under this Law are classified in 6 categories:

3.1. STRICT NATURE RESERVES

Strict nature reserves are land or water territories that possess ecosystems known with geological features and species, intended primarily for scientific research and environmental monitoring.

Reserves are source parts or very little changed from the nature, with own composition of plant and animal forms and their communities as part of ecosystems intended above all to preserve the genetic fund. Reserves may be of botanical importance, whereby plant species and plant communities are stored in the form of "in situ", or for animal importance because of conservation of animal species in natural resource habitats. Also, reserves may also be areas in which one or more natural value have appeared, which should be protected or phenomenon to be followed and taken care of.

The management goals of strict nature reserves are: conservation of habitats, ecosystems and species from disturbance, taking care of genetic resources in dynamic and evolving situation, taking care of ecological processes, conservation of structural features of rocky landscapes or sceneries, conservation of nature environmental samples for scientific studies, environmental education and monitoring, reduction of concerns through careful planning of research implementation and other activities, etc.

For strict nature reserves, 1st degree of protection is applied which is declared by the Government.

From the territory of protected areas, nature reserves take up 847 ha. In Kosovo, so far we have three types of protected reserves: plant reserves (7), animal reserves (2) and special reserves (2).

⁸ Law on Nature Protection 2005/02-L18 (Reg. No. 2006/22)

⁹ It was established in 1948 as first global environmental organization. It includes over 1000 member organizations (200 Government and 800 Non-Government) from 140 world states. Its head office is in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland.

3.2. NATIONAL PARK

National Park is a natural territory which is declared for:

- Protection of ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations;
- Exclusion from use or usurpation with the purpose of changing and damaging the nature;
- Ensuring the basis for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational, cultural purposes and opportunity of visits, in accordance with the principles of environmental protection.

Aims of the National Park management are:

- Protection of natural areas with national and international importance for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourism purposes;
- Conservation of the original state, the representative examples of physiographic zones, biotic communities, species and genetic resources to provide ecological stability and biodiversity;
- Assure usage in the inspirational, scientific, educational, cultural and recreational terms to keep the area in natural or nearly natural state;
- Mining exclusion of usages or visits which may cause changes and damage to the nature;
- Maintenance of ecological, geomorphologic and aesthetic characteristics for which the area was declared protected.
- The Assembly of Kosovo declares the National Park.

In Kosovo, so far there is only one National Park declared by the Assembly of Kosovo (1986), "Sharr Mountain" with an area of 39,000 ha. While the proposal is for the second national park as well, Bjeshket e Nemuna with proposed area of 62.000 ha.

3.3. NATURAL MONUMENTS

Natural monument is an area that contains one or more specific natural and cultural features, with special or unique values, for reasons of rarity, natural, representational, recreational and aesthetic features or special cultural values.

Natural monuments can be of the following character:

- Geological (*paleontological, mineralogical, hydrological, geological, sediments*),
- Geomorphologic (*cave, pit, rocks*);
- Hydrologic (*cascades, waterfalls, lakes*);
- Botanic (*rare samples of plant world*);

Nature monuments are declared by the Municipality, except for those of special importance to Kosovo which are declared by the Government, by the proposal of KEPA.

The purpose of natural monument management is:

- Protection and conservation of natural sustainable features with special importance, unique qualities and inspiring values;
- Provide opportunities for scientific, educational, interpretative and assessment research by the public;
- Prohibition and obstruction of the use and visits that can cause changes or damages;
- Provision of benefits to the extent permissible for the people who live in those territories, in accordance with management goals.

Within the Protected Areas, Monuments of Nature as far as the number, fall in first place with 82, while second place as far as territory, with 6.296.93 ha. Out of these, 55 are natural monuments with botanic character, 15 with hydrological character, 7 geomorphologic character, 4 with speleological character and 1 memorial.

3.4. HABITAT AND SPECIES' MANAGEMENT AREAS

Habitat and species' managed area (natural reserves management) is a land or water area undergoing active intervention for management purposes to provide care for habitats and meeting specific requirements of species.

Habitat and species managed area is declared by the Government of Kosovo. The goals of habitat and species managed area are:

- To provide and maintain the habitat conditions necessary to protect specific species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment which require specific action for human management;
- To facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring as primary activities associated with sustainable resources management;
- Develop specific areas for public education and evaluation of habitat characteristics and management of wild species;
- Stop and prevent the use or usurpation that is inconsistent with the purposes of protection;
- Provide benefits to the extent possible, to people living in those territories, in accordance with the purposes of protection.

Within this category of protection, no protected area is classified.

3.5. PROTECTED LANDSCAPE WITH THE PURPOSE OF CONSERVING LAND SCENERIES

Protected landscape is a land or water area, in which the interaction of man and nature for long time has established characteristic area, with emphasizes aesthetic, ecological and cultural values and often with emphasized biodiversity. Maintaining the integrity of this traditional interaction is essential for the protection, care and development of this area.

Kosovo Government declares a protected landscape. The purposes of the protected landscape management are:

- Maintain stability in the mutual actions of nature and man in land and water scenery protection, and the traditional use of land, construction, social and cultural events;
- Support the livelihood and economic activities that are in harmony with nature;
- Maintain diversity of landscapes, habitats of similar types and ecosystems;
- Stop and prevent the use or usurpation of land and undertaking activities that are not consistent with the purposes of protection;
- Create opportunities for recreation and tourism which correspond to the area categories;
- Promote scientific and educational activities for long-term benefit of the population, and increase public support for protection of those areas;
- Provide benefits and contribution to the community welfare through the provision of natural products such as: ecological forest products and fishing and other services such as clean water and income from tourism).

Two regional nature parks fall within this category, Mirusha Park (555.80.70 ha) and Germia Park 1126 ha. Regional parks occupy an area of 1.681 ha, or 3% of the total territory of protected areas.

3.6. NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AREA

Natural resources protected area is an area of unchanged natural systems, used for the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, providing at the same time production of products and use of nature to meet the needs of society.

There is no area in Kosovo within this category.

4. CHRONOLOGY OF PROTECTED AREAS

Declaration of the nature protected areas in Kosovo can be divided into three very important periods of time. In the initial period of declaration of protected areas, in the period of their greater institutional intensification and declaration of the largest territory of natural areas, including a National Park. As well as in the postwar period, whereby a considerable number has been taken under protection, but also the largest number of nature areas was proceeded in the history of nature protection in Kosovo.

• Period of 1953 – 1970

This period of time, otherwise known as the initial phase of nature protected areas and the declaration of the first nature protected areas in Kosovo. It starts with the declaration of the first area and includes activities until the establishment of a Central Institution for Nature Protection. The first area was declared in 1953, it was "Gazimestan", peony plant reserve (*Paenonia decora* Anders) in the Municipality of Prishtina.

In 1955, three other nature reserves are declared. "Maja e Ropsit" (plant reserve) and "Kozhnjeri" (animal reserve) in the Municipality of Deçan, and "Rusenica" (animal reserve) in the Municipality of Suhareka.

In 1960, five more reserves of nature plant species are declared: Gubavci, Maja e Arnenit, Pisha e Madhe Oshlak and Prilep Mountain.

During this period, the Gadime Cave was also taken under protection as a monument of nature and some other monuments of botanical importance such as: plane in Marash, trunks in Isniq, etc.

Until the beginning of 70s, the number of protected areas was gradually increasing thus reaching up to 19 areas.

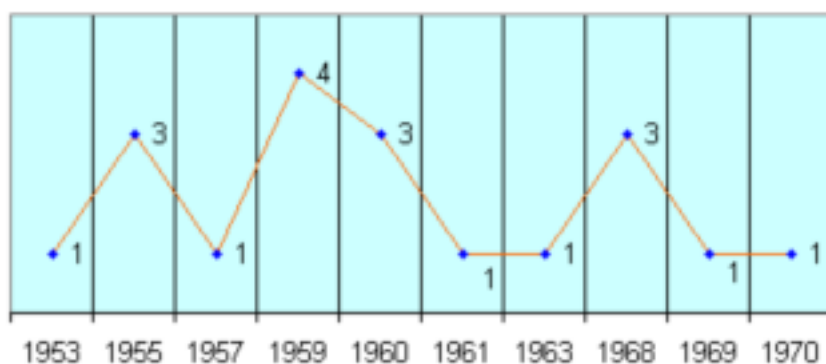


Fig.1. Nature Protected Areas in Kosovo (1953-1970)

• **Period of 1970 – 1988**

This period is characterized by the declaration of the greatest number of nature areas. The reason for this success is the establishment of the Kosovo Office for Protection of Nature in 1974, by the Assembly of Kosovo.

At the end of 70s the "Nerodime River Bifurcation" reserve is declared as well as and some other monuments of nature of botanic character were declared. 80s are the most successful years of nature protection in Kosovo. During this time the first "Sharr Mountain" National Park was declared (1986), then "Mirusha" Regional Park (1982), "Gërmia" Regional Park (1987), Rugova Gorge (1985), Spring of Drini i Bardhë with the Cave and Waterfall in Radavc (1983), etc.

During this period, 32 nature areas have been put under protection in total.

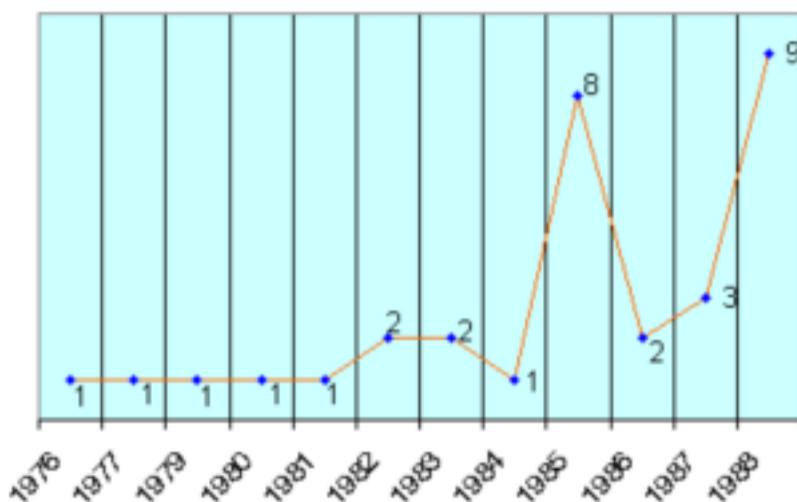


Fig. 2. Nature Protected Areas in Kosovo (1976 - 1988)

• **Period of 2000 – 2009**

This period matches the postwar situation in Kosovo and characterizes reestablishment and re-functioning of Kosovo institutions. Institutions also recommence their work for nature and environmental conservation. At this time the work is resumed by the former Office for Nature and Environmental Protection of Kosovo which was later renamed as the Institute for Protection of Nature and Environment in Kosovo.

During this time period, 54 new nature areas have been taken under legal protection and over 159 others have been proposed. Among the protected areas, most of them are natural monuments with botanic, hydrologic, geomorphologic character, etc.

Within the proposed areas, the second National Park of "Bjeshket e Nemuna" was proceeded as well, and many monuments of nature.

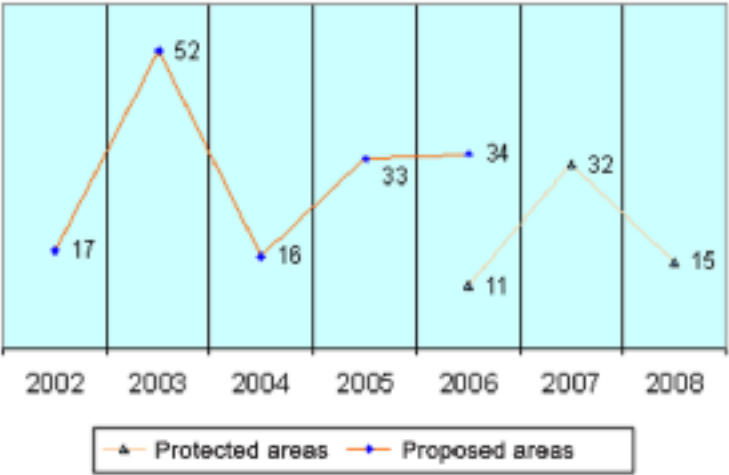


Fig. 3. Nature Protected Areas in Kosovo (2002 - 2008

5. NATURE PROTECTED AREAS

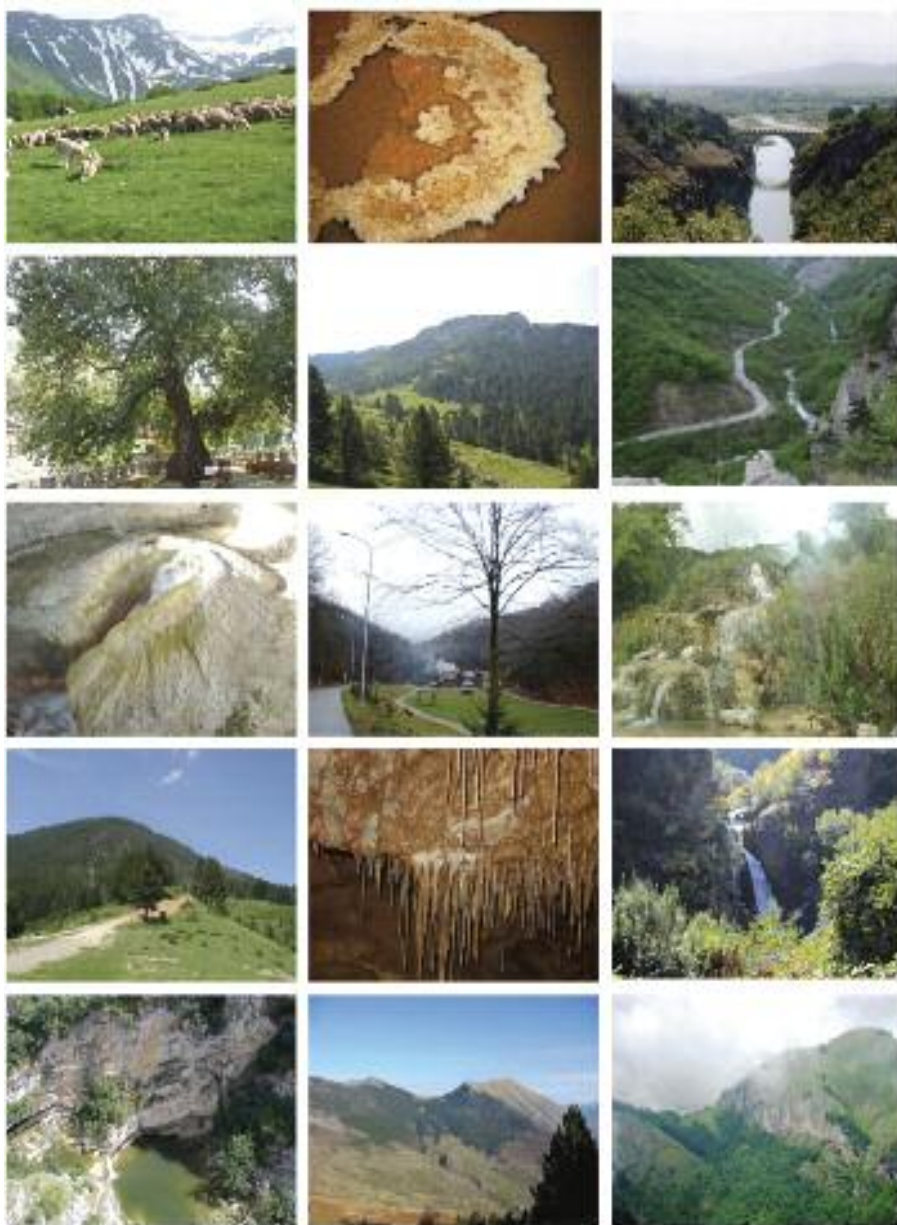




Fig. 4. Scenery from "Sharr Mountain" National Park

5.1. "SHARR MOUNTAIN" NATIONAL PARK

Sharr Mountains lie in the region of Kosovo and Macedonia (1600 km²). To Kosovo belong the northern branches of the Sharr Mountain, including an area of about 1100 km² which represents approximately 1/10 of Kosovo's territory. In 1986 Kosovo Assembly declared one part of "Sharr Mountain" a National Park with 39,000 ha. The park lies on the borders of four municipalities: Prizren, Therandë, Shtërpçë and Kaçanik.

Sharr Mountain is known for botanic, faunal, ecological, tourist, recreational, sporting and cultural values. Forests cover 48% of the area, 49% pasture, 1.6% meadows, 1.4% cliffs. The climate is diverse, from mild continental climate to the alpine climate above 2000 m.

Regarding floristic aspect they fall into the range of richest mountains in Kosovo and the Balkan's Peninsula and represent a treasure of plant species with a large number of endemic, relicts, rare and endangered species. Approximately 2000 plant species and 360 species of fauna. Within the forest vegetation we find different kinds of oak, beech, fir, hormoq, white pine, endemic pine and relicts of high mountains: Bosnian Pine (*Pinus heildreichii*) and Macedonian Pine (*Pinus peuce*), the common oak (*Quercus baccata*), Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*), etc. Sharr fauna consists of: largest mammals such as brown bear, deer, chamois, wolf, wild boar, etc.



Fig. 5. Nerodime River Bifurcation

5.2. NERODIME RIVER BIFURCATION

Nerodime river bifurcation represents the only example in Europe, flowing of a river into two seas. The river springs in the Jezerc Mountains and in the village of Nerodime, it splits irreversibly into two branches, which are pouring in two different seas. Northern branch (left branch) flows into Sitnica River and continues its route to Ibar river, Morava and through Danube flows into the Black Sea, while the southern branch (right branch) through Lepenc river and through Vardar river flows into the Aegean Sea. This natural curiosity is quite attractive for researchers and visitors and is of great educational, scientific and tourist importance. Since 1979 it has been put under legal protection as special nature reserve. Protected reserve area is 12.78,71 ha.



Fig. 6. View from Rusenica Reserve

5.3. LYNX RESERVE IN RUSENICĂ

Rusenica is home to Balkans' lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*), which is rare and endangered species. It is located inside the "Sharr Mountains" National Park in the Municipality of Suhareka, and it is a Protected Nature Reserve with a protected area of 300 ha. This reserve was declared in 1955, in order to protect the residence of lynx.

Rusenica is characterized by limestone cliffs and two forest communities: coniferous and firry forests (*Abieti-Fagetum*) and low forests of *Orno-Ostryio carpinetum*.

This location is also important in floristic terms, whereby from other types of plants we must emphasize the presence of endemic species: *Burnmullera dieckii*, greek maple (*Acer heldreichii*), etc.



Fig. 7. Rrobull Forests in Prevala Reserve

5.4. MAJA E ARNENIT RESERVE

Bosnian Pine area is rich with endemic type forests - relict of Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*), which in southern slopes of Oshlak limestone forms *Pinetum Seslerio heldreichii* community, while in south-eastern slope, which has more moisture, forms a community of *Luzulo maximae* - *Pinetum heldreichii*. These communities lie to the altitude of 1946 m. One part of these forests with an area of 30 ha, in 1960 has been declared as strict nature reserve. In the eastern part of the area under Bosnian Pines' forests, coniferous forest community *Fagetum montanum* is located.

Bosnian Pine forest area proposed as I protection area (strict nature reserve) is rich in endemic plants, of which we emphasize: Sharr fish grass (*Vrbascum scardicolum* - st. end.) Bulgarian Gentian (*Gentianella bulgarica* var. *Albanica*), Kartusian's clove (*Dianthus cartusianarum*), rock clove (*Dianthus integer*) Albanian bell-flower (*Campanula albanica*) Albanian Thyme (*Thymus albanus* etc).



Fig. 8. Scenery from Oshlak Reserve

5.5. OSHLAK RESERVE

This reserve is characterized by specific floristic, faunal, phytocenologic and geomorphologic values. Within the rich biodiversity of flora, many species of endemic - relict and their rare phytocenosis could be emphasized.

From the tree types, except for Bosnian Pine, Macedonian Pine and hormoq present are the following as well: fir (*Abies alba*), Macedonian Pine (*Pinus peuce*), wild willow (*Salix caprea*), etc.. Special symbol of Oshlak is local endemic type of *Achillea alexandri* Regis glacial age, where with the other endemic type from the central Balkans *Onobrychis scardica*, forms specific community of *Achilleo alexandri* Regis - *Onobrychis scardica*.

From many other types of endemic, which Oshlak area is rich in we emphasize: Hoary rockrose (*Helianthemum canum*), Sharr clove (*Dianthus scardicus*) Stone clove (*Dianthus integer*), Albanian lily (*Lilium albanicum*) etc. The area is rich with numerous species of birds and mammals: capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), the rock partridges (*Alectoris graeca*), hazel grouse (*Tetrastes bonasia*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), etc.



Fig. 9. View from Pisha e Madhe Reserve (to the left) from Oshlak

5.6. PISHA E MADHE RESERVE

Pisha e Madhe is characterized by old forests of Bosnian Pine from the community of *Seslerio-Pinetum heldreichii*, which represent the prettiest and the most interesting complex of Bosnian Pine forest in the Balkans. An area of this forest of 35 ha, in 1960 was declared as strict nature reserve.

The area is rich with numerous species of flora which are mostly cosmopolite (widely spread in the national park). Particular value are of endemic type *Sedum flexiosum* and curative character types, such as: white asphodel (*Asphodelus ALBUS*) leech without stalk (*Carlina acaulis*), cross gentian (*Gentiana cruciata*), fever grass (*Centaureum erytrea*) etc.

Pisha e Madhe represents a habitat for numerous species of wild animals, while the most important are: brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild cat (*Felis sylvestris*), badger (*Meles Meles*), Marriage foina, mountain hawk (*Falco biarmicus*) mouse-eating eagle (*Buteo buteo*), etc.



Fig. 10. View from Rugova Gorge (photo Tosi)

5.7. RUGOVA GORGE

It is created by Peja Lumëbardhi. Rugova Gorge is the most beautiful and most attractive gorge in Kosovo. Rugova Gorge was created with the performance of vertical fluvial erosion, mainly in Triassic limestone before and after glacial period.

Rugova Gorge, was declared in 1985 a nature monument with hydro-geomorphologic significance, with an area of 4.301.05.49 ha. It is one of the areas of special natural values. Besides richness in terms of flora and fauna (biodiversity), the Rugova Gorge introduces prettiness of sceneries, geo-diversity and hydrological features that can be rarely found.



Fig. 11. Crystals in Gryka e Madhe Cave

5.8. GRYKA E MADHE CAVE

Located at the eighth (8) kilometer of the Rugova Gorge, on the right side, about 90 m above Lumëbardhi bed in Peja. The length of the passable corridors and galleries is about 13,450 m. This cave is one of the largest caves in Kosovo and the region, created in rocks of Triasik from the water flow. Inside the cave there are several underground rivers and lakes that have influenced the expansion of underground corridors and galleries. In the Gryka e Madhe cave, all kinds of cave ornaments are presented, but there are mostly stalactites and stalagmites which are present in most parts of the cave. Grand Gorge cave possesses rare natural, scientific, educational and tourist values, and is one of the most important facilities for the implementation of exploration and tourist expeditions, not only in the massif of Bjeshket e Nemuna but also beyond.



Fig. 12. Thermal spring in Istog Spa

5.9. THERMAL SPRING IN ISTOG SPA

In Kosovo, there is a large number of mineral, thermal and thermo mineral springs. However, the majority of them have little water flow. From the thermo-mineral springs, of particular importance is the Peja Spa (Ilixha). The spring has a water flow of about 17.5 l/s and temperature around 49 °C. According to chemical mixture, the water contains calcium-magnesium-hydro carbonate. Whilst, according to the balneology classification, the Peja Spa springs (Ilixha) fall in hyper-thermal springs. Bathrooms, besides the curative importance, are characterized also by an interesting hydro phenomenon with scientific, aesthetic and educational values.



Fig. 13. Plane Tree (*Platanus orientalis*) in Marash, Prizren

5.10. PLANE TREE IN MARASH (*Platanus orientalis*)

Situated on the shores of Prizren Lumëbardh river; at the place called Marash. It is put under legal protection in 1959, with an area of 0.5 ha. It is assumed that the tree has an age of 200 years (according to tradition over 500 years). With dimensions that it has (over 18 m height, trunk diameter of 2.70 m), represents a natural rarity. Considering the sensitivity to temperature changes, especially those low, this type is found only as cultivated among us and is quite rare. Also known as one of the oldest trees, most decorative and most distinctive in Kosovo and has scientific, cultural, educational, landscape, recreation and economic importance.



Fig. 14. Complex of trunks *Quercus pubescens* in Likoshan

5.11. SIX TRUNKS OF LIKOSHAN

Complex of trunks (*Quercus pubescens*) with seniority and special structure is rare in Kosovo. This complex represents natural, historical and educational values for Kosovo. In 2006 it has been taken under protection as a monument of nature with botanical character.

On February 28, 1998, the first battle of the KLA happened in the vicinity of these trunks.

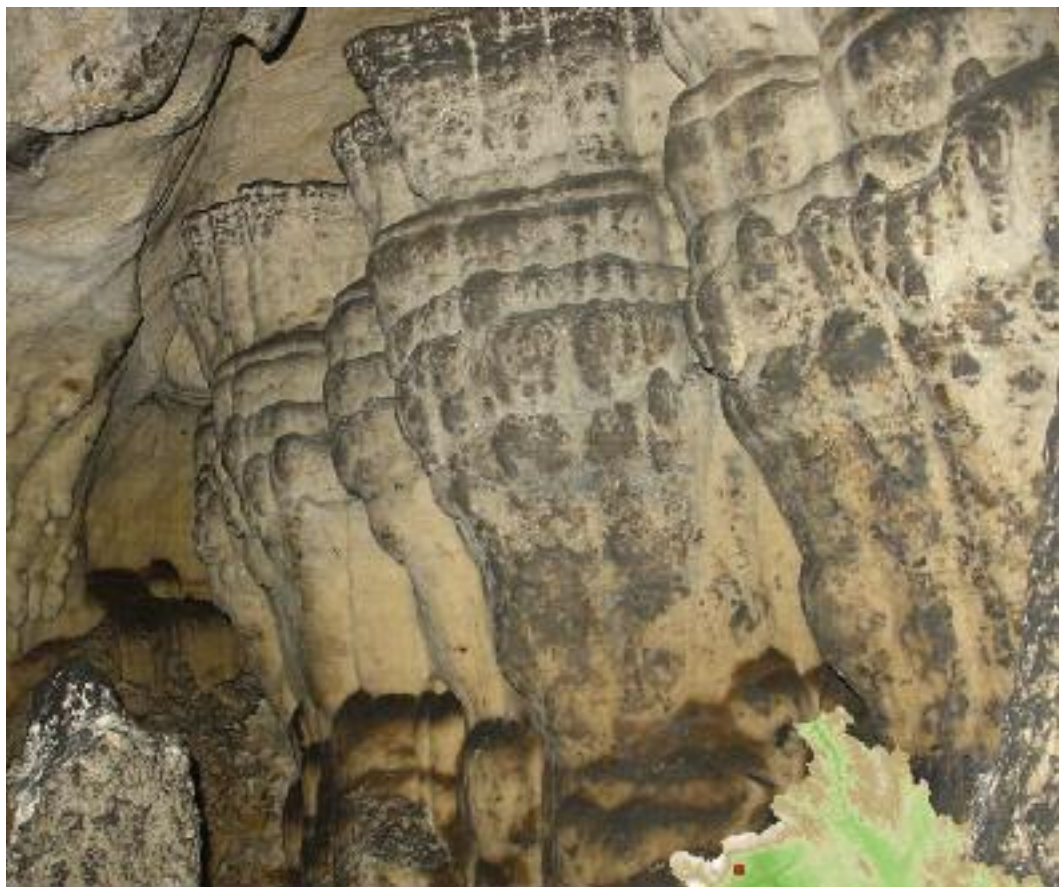


Fig. 15. Baths in Radavc cave

5.12. RADAVC CAVE

The cave is located near the village of Radavc near the source of Drini i Bardhe, about 11 - km from the town of Peja, near Peje-Rozhaje road. The cave is located in the northeastern side of the Albanian Alps (Bjeshket e Nemuna) mountain range. Its formation is associated with the erosion and groundwater chemical work of the Drini i Bardhe. The length of passable corridors in the cave of Radavc is about 1420m. This cave is rich with stalactites, stalagmites, columns and main characteristic of this cave are baths. Inside the cave there are a large number of bats that have not been explored so far.



Fig. 16. Thermal spring in Skenderaj Spa

5.13. SPA THERMAL SPRING Skenderaj

Thermal spring is located on the slope of the village of Banje in Skenderaj Municipality. The spring has rare hydro values and average flow of about 15 l/sec, constant temperature throughout the year (24.8 /0C). These features make this spring with special values.

In 2007 it was taken under protection as a monument of nature with hydro character. Protected area is 1000 square meters.



Fig. 17. Drini i Bardhë Canyon at Fshajtë's Bridge

5.14. DRINI I BARDHË CANYON AT FSHAJTË'S BRIDGE

Canyon lies in the middle part of the Drini i Bardhe river. It is a morpho-hydric phenomenon with genetic, visual and educational values. The canyon was formed in the post-lacustrine period of Dukagjini Neogen Lake. However, the intensity of the cutting and deepening of the epigen canyon was conditioned by processes of later tectonic movements. The gorge has typical canyon features and was developed in carbonate formations of the upper cretaceous

Canyon of the Drini i Bardhe at Fshajtë's bridge due to hydro-geomorphologic value in 1986 was taken under protection as a Natural Monument.



Fig. 18. View from Drini i Bardhe waterfall



5.15. DRINI I BARDHË SPRING

The spring is located in the northern part of Dukagjini basin in an altitude of 585 m. The average water temperature ranges around 9°C. Spring water is rich in calcium – nitrate and bicarbonate. Radavc spring creates the largest waterfalls (25 m) and the largest river in Kosovo, Drini i Bardhe. Drini i Bardhe spring in 1983 was declared Natural Monument with hydro-morphological and tourist importance.



Fig. 19. Gadime Cave Stalactites

5.16. GADIME CAVE

Situated in Lypjan vicinity (near the road Prishtina - Ferizaj), in the village of lower Gadime. It is called marble cave because it is built in marble rocks and is one of the most beautiful caves not only in Kosovo but also in the Balkans and beyond. In this cave are presented all kinds of ornaments, stalagmites and stalactites in various shapes and sizes, and particularly the attention drawn by aragonite ornaments. The cave is tens of millions of years old. It was discovered and put under protection in 1969.



Fig. 20. Mirusha waterfalls and lakes



5.17. MIRUSHA CANYON

Mirusha canyon is located at the bottom of Mirusha river flow, left branch of the Drini i Bardh river. The gorge was formed in carbonate formations of the Upper Cretaceous. The canyon besides having impressive morphological forms, it is also known for numerous lakes and waterfalls (13 lakes and 12 waterfalls) with various territories, shapes and heights.

In 1983, one part of Mirusha river flow with an area of 555,80,70 ha, which includes the Canyon area was declared a Regional Nature Park.



Fig. 21. Gërmia Park recreational area



5.18. “GËRMIA” REGIONAL PARK

It lies northeast of Kosovo epicenter (Pristina) and covers an area of 62 km². Thanks to its geographical, pedology position, climate conditions, Gërmia mountain massif is quite rich in floristic, vegetative and fauna terms. From previous studies there have been identified about 600 species of vascular flora, five of which are endemic. Also five types of terraqueous, 7 types of reptiles, 19 mammals and 30 species of birds have been recorded.

Because of special natural beauty, aesthetic and natural resource values, which are of cultural - educational, scientific and tourist – recreational importance, in 1987, Prishtina Municipal Assembly has taken under protection the “Gërmia” complex in the category of the Regional Nature Park, with an area of 1.126.01.00 ha.



Fig. 22. Mountain mass of Bjeshket e Nemuna



5.19. BJESHKËT E NEMUNA (CURSED MOUNTAINS) PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK

"Bjeshket e Nemuna" in regards to geological, geomorphologic, fauna and floristic composition represents important and interesting massif to Kosovo and beyond. In Cursed Mountains according to studies, there are over 1,500 plant species, many of them are relict species such as: *Acer heildreichii*, *Asyneuma trichocalicinum*, *Campanula lingulata*, *Cardamine glauca*, etc. Based on research made so far, the fauna of the "Cursed Mountains" consists of: 8 fish species, 13 species terraqueous, 10 reptile species, 148 bird species, 36 mammals species (not counting bats), 129 species of butterflies from the Lepidoptera type, etc.

The initiative for the declaration of "Bjeshket e Nemuna" as a National Park started in 1970 to continue later in 2002. Under this initiative it was anticipated that the National Park should include parts of the Municipal territory of Peja, Junik, Istok, Deçan and Gjakova with an area of 60,000 ha.

6. THE STATE OF PROTECTED AREAS



6. THE STATE OF PROTECTED AREAS

During the years 2008 - 2009 several important activities were conducted for protected areas and biodiversity.

- 54 new nature areas have been taken under protection, whereby their number has increased to a total of 97.
- Due to loss of natural values, 12 nature monuments have been deleted from the central register of protected areas.
- Three draft laws are being prepared: Amendment to the draft law on Protection of Nature, the draft law on the "Sharr Mountain" National Park and draft law on "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park.
- During 2009, a preparation for the Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan for 2010-2020 has started.
- "Sharr Mountain" National Park zoning took place and 10 other natural reserves have been proposed for protection.
- Draft Spatial Plan of "Sharr Mountain" NP was prepared which is being considered by relevant municipalities that fall within it.
- Exploration continued in the "Gryka e Madhe" cave in Rugova Gorge and Radavc cave by Slovak speleologists, in collaboration with the Association of Speleologists "Aragoniti" from Peja and KEPA experts. The overall length of canals and galleries in the "Gryka e Madhe" cave is about 13 km.
- Due to the use of nature without a sustainable criterion, ecosystems and biological diversity of protected areas have been significantly damaged,
- Biggest consequences of this development were suffered by the "Sharr Mountain" National Park in which in addition to problems in its management, many other problems have also been identified such as: house construction continued at Prevalla area, illegal forest logging, forest and scenery damaging as a result of the use of stone, natural disasters' damage from the wind and snow, damages from harmful insects, the dumping of waste, etc.
- These impacts have not spared the other known protected areas either such as: "Gadime" cave, "Germia" and "Mirusha" parks, "Nerodime Bifurcation" and other areas.

6.1. NATURE PROTECTED AREAS

Currently the number of nature protected areas is 97 and includes a territory of 47,842.34 ha (4.39% of the territory of Kosovo). These areas include: 11 Nature Reserves ("Nerodime River Bifurcation", "Arnen's Reserve", "Maja e Ropsit", "Rusenica", etc.), 1 National Park ("Sharr Mountain"), 82 Nature Monuments ("The spring of Drini i Bardhe", "Gadime Cave", "Rugova Gorge", "Fshajtë's Bridge" many bio-monuments", etc.), 2 Regional Nature Parks ("Germia" and "Mirusha") and 1 Forest Park ("Deçani Pines").

Greatest territory of protected area is taken up by the "Sharr Mountain" National Park with 84% of the total territory of protected areas.

Table 1. Nature Protected Areas according to categories

Category	Name	No.	Area /h
I	Nature reserves	11	846.92
	Plan NR	6	
	Animal NR	2	
	Special NR	3	
II	National Park	1	39.000
III	Nature Monuments	82	6.296,93
	Speleological NM	4	
	Hydrological NM	15	
	Geomorphologic NM	7	
	Botanic NM	55	
	Memorial NM	1	
V	Protected landscape	2	1.683,49
	Forest park	1	15
	Total	97	47.842,34

MAP OF PROTECTED ZONES

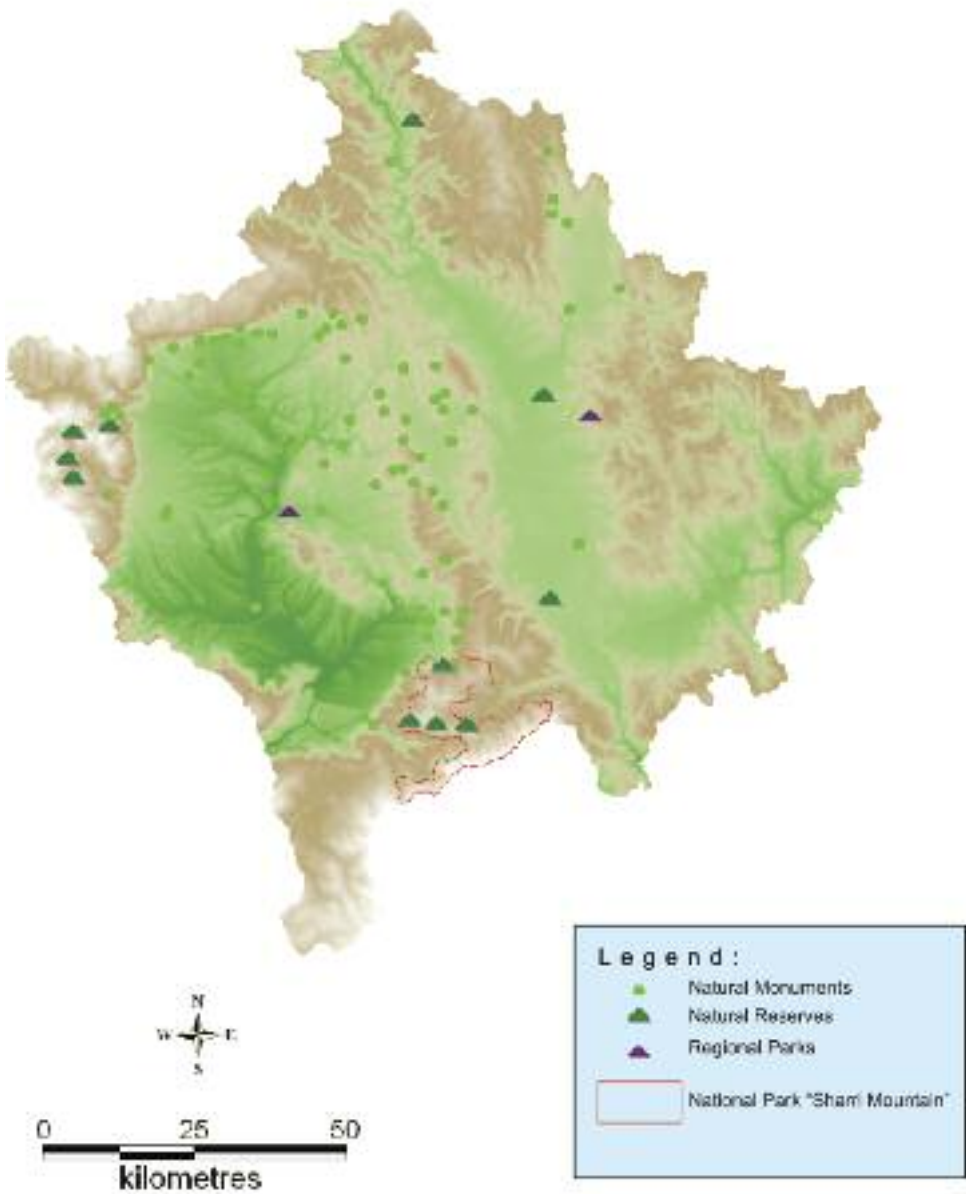


Table 2. Protected areas

Area Name	Municipality Year of Protection	Area (ha)	Cat.	Value description
NATURE RESERVES				
1. Maja e Ropot	Deçan 1966	20.00,00	I	Plant reserve of Macedonian Pine, fir-tree, pine and beech types
2. Gubavc	Pejë 1969	58.00,00	I	Plant reserve of endemic-relict arisa type (<i>Forsythia europaea</i>)
3. Maja e Armerit	Prizren 1960	30.00,00	I	Plant reserve with deer composition of (<i>Pinus heidreichii</i>)
4. Gazimestan	Pristine 1953	12.00,00	I	Peony plant reserve (<i>Paenonia decora Anders</i>)
5. Koshinjer	Deçan 1966	150.00,00	I	Chamois type animal reserve (<i>Mupicapra rupicapra L.</i>)
6. Oshlak	Prizren 1960	20.00,00	I	Aman's natural reserve (<i>Pinus heidreichii</i>)
7. Prikop Mountains	Deçan 1963	0.92.00	I	Mountain maple plant reserves (<i>Acer heidreichii</i>)
8. Rusanica	Therandë 1955	300.00,00	I	Lynx animal reserve (<i>Lynx lynx L.</i>)
9. Narodine River Bifurcation	Ferizaj 1979	13.00,00	I	Special nature reserve.
10. Pista e Nache	Prizren 1960	35.00,00	I	Pure Bosnian Pine forest plant reserve (<i>Pinus heidreichii</i>)
11. Kamijs	Leposaviq 1988	228.00,00	I	Limestone cliff is a special nature reserve with paleontological characteristics.
NATIONAL PARK				
1. Sharr Mountain	Prizren, Suharekë, Kacanik, Shtërpçë 1988	59.000	II	Rare values: botanical, fauns, ecologic, touristic, recreational, sports, educative and cultural.
NATURE MONUMENTS				
1. Gadime Cave	Lyjan 1969	58.84,95	III	Nature geo-monument rich with natural ornaments, is one of the prehistoric caves in Kosovo and beyond. It has scientific, educational and tourist values.
2. Baica Cave	Drenas 1987	00.11,55	III	Nature geo-monument with speleological values
3. Gilasellë Cave	Drenas 1987	00.50,17	III	Geo-monument with geomorphologic and speleological character.
4. Bistrica River Gorge	Prizren 1976	200.00,00	III	Nature monument with hydrologic and scenery character
5. Spring of Drini i Bardhë with the Rodave cave and waterfall	Pejë 1983	69.94,00	III	Nature monument with geo-morphologic, hydrologic and tourist nature.
6. Mirusha River Flow	Therandë, Kinë Malashëve 1983	10.03,35 1.93.94	III	Hydrologic, geomorphologic and scenery importance

7. Mineral water spring in Drenik	Kinë 1935	00.05.75	II	Nature monument with hydrologic character.
8. Thermo-mineral spring in Vuçë	Lesosaviq 1938	16.60.13	II	Nature monument with hydrologic character.
9. Mineral water spring in Salabaje	Podujevë 1938	00.31.47	II	Nature monument with hydrologic character.
10. Water spring in Shajkovic	Podujevë 1938	1.40.54	II	Nature monument with hydrologic character.
11. Kina river gorge	Kinë 1935	1.204.54	II	Nature monument with geo-morphological, hydrological and botanica values
12. Rugova Gorge	Pejë 1935	4.301.05		Geological, hydrological, scenery, speleological and botanical importance.
13. Orni i Bardhë Canyon by the Ura e Sherrit	Gjakovë, Rahovec 1936	73.88.47 124.06.09	II	Nature monument with hydro-geomorphologic importance
14. Plane tree (Platanus orientalis) in Marash	Prizren 1939	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic, educational, scientific and cultural character
15. Marj Sham (Marus sp.)	Pejë 1937	00.03.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
16. Poplar (Populus tremula) in Dagjine	Podujevë 1939	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
17. Lime tree (Tilia argentea) in Isniq	Dëcan 1938	00.02.11	II	Nature monument with botanic character
18. Lime tree trunks (Tilia argentea) in Isniq	Dëcan 1938	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with rare botanic values
19. Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Lozicë	Malishevë 1935	00.05.00	II	Important natural monument for scientific research with botanic character
20. Turkish Oak (Quercus cerris) in Zllakuçan	Kinë 1935	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic and tourist character
21. Turkish Oak (Quercus cerris) in Pollacë	Podujevë 1933	00.44.20	II	Nature monument with botanic character
22. Turkish Oak (Quercus cerris) in Dobratrin	Podujevë 1933	00.00.70	II	Nature monument with botanic character
23. Black peak	Pejë 1877	112.50.00	II	Nature memorial monument
24. Minerals – Crystals	Stan Tërg, Mitrovicë 1970		II	Minerals and crystals preserved in the Crystals Museum in Stan Tërg.
25. Root tree (Quercus robur) in Nekovic	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
26. Root tree complex (Quercus robur) in Negroc	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
27. Shpandh tree in Negroc	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
28. Keshnareka cave	Drenas 2006	02.00.00	II	Nature geo-monument with speleological values
29. Turkish Oak (Quercus cerris) in Kraqovë	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with botanic character
30. Guri i Gradinës in Ujapushnik	Drenas 2006	02.00.00	II	Nature monument with geo-morphological character
31. Mineral water spring in Puklek	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	II	Nature monument with hydrologic character

32 Oak tree – six trunks (Quercus sp.) in Likoshan	Drenas 2006	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
33 Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Tërstenik	Drenas 2006	00.06.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
34 Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Likoshan	Drenas 2006	00.06.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
35 Guri i plakës in Dobroshec	Drenas 2006	00.06.00	III	Nature monument with geo-morphological character
36 Pubescent Oak (Quercus pubescens Willd.) in Agarevi	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
37 Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Polac	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
38 Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Likoc	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
39 Spa thermal water spring	Skenderaj 2007	00.10.00	III	Nature monument with geo-morphological character
40 Oak tree (Quercus sp.) in Prellovc	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
41 Oak tree complex (Quercus sp.) in Rrezallë	Skenderaj 2007	00.02.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
42 Pubescent tree complex (Quercus pubescens Willd.) in Kllademidë	Skenderaj 2007	00.10.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
43 Turkish Oak (Quercus coccinea L.) in Kolom	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
44 Turkish Oak (Quercus coccinea L.) in Patakshtë	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
45 Pubescent Oak (Quercus pubescens Willd.) in Çitak	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
46 Turkish Pine (Quercus coccinea L.) in Runk	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
47 Salt water spring in Leginë	Skenderaj 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with hydrologic character
48 Beech trunk (Quercus sp.) in Lubovec	Skenderaj 2007	00.06.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
49 Root trunk (Quercus robur) in Deiq	Kinë 2007	00.03.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
50 Root trunk complex (Quercus robur) in Gllarevi	Kinë 2007	00.26.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character
51 Turkish Pine (Quercus coccinea L.) in Naglavitë	Kinë 2007	00.12.05	III	Nature monument with botanic character
52 Mineral water spring in Rucibë	Kinë 2007	00.07.85	III	Nature monument with hydrologic character
53 Oak trunk (Quercus pubescens) in Ljelmir	Kinë 2007	00.19.62	III	Nature monument with botanic character
54 Oak trunks (Quercus sp.) in Breshnicë	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	III	Nature monument with botanic character

(<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Brashanë	2007			
55. Kompleksi i trungjeve të dushkut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Samovë	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
56. Trugu i pishes (<i>Pinus sp.</i>) në Dolkoc	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
57. Trungjet e dushkut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Greqkoc	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
58. Trugu i plepit (<i>Populus sp.</i>) në Reçan	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
59. Burimi i ujit mineral në Reçan	Suharekë 2007	00.10.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter hidrologjikë
60. Kompleksi i trungjeve të dushkut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Munian	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
61. Trugu i vodhes (<i>Sorbus domestica L.</i>) në Budakovë	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
62. Kompleksi i trungjeve të dushkut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Papsz	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
63. Dy trungjet e burgut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Dllacë	Suharekë 2007	00.10.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
64. Trugu i qanik (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) Vranq	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
65. Lokalesiti i buçent (<i>Quercus trojana</i>) në Dlscë	Suharekë 2007	00.05.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
66. Kompleksi i trungjeve të burgut (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) në Luzhnicë	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
67. Guri i Xhamisë në Luzhnicë	Suharekë 2007	00.15.00	II	Monument natyror me karakter geomorfologjik
68. Dy trungjet e mant të zi (<i>Menus nigra L.</i>) në Carrë	Istog 2008	00.10.53	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
69. Trugu i blirit të argjendë (<i>Tilia tomentosa Moench</i>) në Lubozhdë	Istog 2008	00.10.17	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
70. Trugu i blirit të kuq (<i>Tilia sp.</i>) në Istog të Pashtim	Istog 2008	00.04.91	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
71. Trungjet e bungëbutës (<i>Quercus pubescens Willd.</i>) në Sitaraj	Istog 2008	00.18.71	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
72. Trugu i blirit të argjendë (<i>Tilia tomentosa Moench</i>) në Shushicë të Epërme	Istog 2008	00.04.91	II	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
73. Burimi i ujit natyral në	Istog	03.88.19	II	Monument natyror me karakter hidrologjik

Islog	2008			
74. Trugu i vodhës (Sorbus domestica L.) në Ujë	Islog 2008	00.07.07	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
75. Trugu i olnit të ergeridës (Fila tomentosa Moench) në Kallan	Islog 2008	00.04.91	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
76. Burimi i ujit termal në Banjë	Islog 2008	00.05.04	III	Monument natyror me karakter hidrologjik
77. Trugu i olnit të kuq (Tilia sp.) në Lubovë	Islog 2008	00.07.07	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
78. Trugu riënjës (Quercus robur L.) në Zallq - Zabllaq	Islog 2008	00.11.33	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
79. Trugu riënjës (Quercus robur L.) në Trubuhovë	Islog 2008	00.07.07	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
80. Trugu riënjës (Quercus robur L.) në Saradhan	Islog 2008	00.04.15	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
81. Trugu i qenit (Quercus robur) në Gurakoc	Islog 2008	00.01.26	III	Monument natyror me karakter botanik
82. Burimi i ujit në Vrellë	Islog 2008	00.28.43	III	Monument natyror me karakter hidrologjik
PARK REGIONAL				
1. Parku Regional Mruha	Kinë, 1982 Rahovec, 1983 Malishevë,	357.01.72 196.77.98	V	Kanioni me ujëvarat e njëpasnjëshme dhe peizazhet specifike, përfaqësojnë fenomen të rrallë natyror që ka rëndësi natyrore, shkencore, kulturore dhe turistike
2. Parku Regional Gërnia	Pashinë 1987	1.128.01.00	V	Me rëndësi të madhe shkencore, edukative, kulturore dhe turistike rekreative.
PARK PYLLI				
1. Pishat e Deçanit	Deçan 1988	15.00.00	V	Përbërja e pastër e pishës së zezë të Marasitit i Deçanit

6.2. MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Nature protected areas are managed for the following purposes:

- Scientific research;
- Protection of wild species, habitats and ecosystems;
- Conservation of genetic diversity and species;
- Taking care of environmental services;
- Protection of specific features of natural and cultural heritage;
- Tourism and recreation;
- Education and assuring public access to information;
- Sustainable use of resources from nature ecosystems;
- Maintenance of cultural and traditional features.

Status of nature protected areas is defined by bylaws in accordance with the laws that will determine the degree of protection and management principles under each category. According to the Law on Nature Protection, for every nature protected area, protection level I, II and III are defined.

Act for declaring the nature protected area sets the management goals and specific measures for the protection of nature and techniques that will apply to the nature protected area. After issuing the act for declaring the nature protected area, management plan is issued by the body that puts it under protection and which is approved by the Ministry. Only three areas have management bodies up to date.

Park Directorate based in Prizren which operates within the MESP manages the "Sharr Mountain" National Park. The Directorate currently manages the National Park territory with an area of 22,230 ha, located in Prizren Municipality (19,500 ha) and Suhareka (2730 ha). **Whilst, part of the National Park that belongs to Municipality of Shterpce is not managed by the institutions and laws of the Republic of Kosovo.**

Reserves situated within the territory of the National Parks: Maja e Arnenit, Pisha e Madhe, Oshlak and Rusenica are managed by the Directorate of "Sharr Mountain" NP, while other reserves ("Pika e Ropsit", "Gubavci", "Gazimestan", "Kozhnjeri", "Mountains of Prilep", "Nerodime River Bifurcation", "Kamilja" have no management bodies.

Gërmia Regional Park is managed by the public enterprise "Hortikultura", while the Regional Park "Mirusha" has no management body. "Gadime Cave" is managed by a body that is not under government's supervision, while other nature monuments are managed by the respective municipal authorities.

6.3. THE STATE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE “SHARR MOUNTAIN” NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVES WITHIN THE PARK

Assessment of the National Park natural resources for 2007 - 2008 was made on the basis of continued activities (research, monitoring and controls) on the ground that have been applied to all areas of National Park management which are located in the territory of the Prizren and Suhareka Municipalities. Whereby negative impacts of biotic factors (human, insects and plant diseases) and abiotic (fire, natural disasters: wind, snow, etc.) have been analyzed in flora and fauna as well as forest and herbs ecosystems of the NP.

The state of forest ecosystems

The state of National Park forests, in particular of the pine is difficult, due to the negative influence of biotic and abiotic factors. These factors have led to the deterioration of health condition of forests, causing considerable damage to the forest. In some forests, especially the Bosnian Pine, the impact of these factors threatens their existence.

Most of the beech forests, which are widespread in the National Park, are in good condition, while a portion of these forests have been damaged by illegal logging and natural disasters.

The overall forest damage by illegal logging in the NP in 2008 was 1608.04 m³.

Most severe damage occurred in the region of Delloc, while in other management regions of the NP there have been damages in the amount of 271.3 m³.

As a consequence of massive cuts of forests in this region of the National Park, caused to the Republic of Kosovo a considerable ecological, social and economic (financial) damage up to the value of 412,356.00 €, from the total amount of forest damage of 498,247.00 €.

In Mushtisht the most severe cutting are shown in the areas of “Laz” and „Guri i Gjatë”, while in Rusenica region as a result of the rock use by the “United Brothers” company from Mushtisht, lower forests are entirely damaged, in an area of about 1 ha.

Illegal logging in the territory of Prizren Municipality compared to that of Suhareka is considerably lesser and mainly occurs in the regions of Manastrec, Ljubinjë and Prevalla.

Sporadic damage in beech forests in 2008 were verified by the natural disaster (wind and snow), but their intensity has no significant negative impact on the development of forests.

Health state of Bosnian Pine forest (*Pinetum heldreichii*) is bad, as a result of forest fires that occurred in 2000 and 2007, and the great development of harmful insects (the pine under-skin insects *Blastophagus* sp.), which occurred massively after fires as a result of weakened immunity of damaged trees. It should be emphasized that within the damaged forests, there are also strict natural reserves of Bosnian Pine: Maja e Arnenit, Oshlak and Pisha e Madhe that also suffered considerable forestry damage. Bosnian Pine woods, due to endemic relict character represent the most important forests of the National Park; however, precisely these forests are also the most damaged. Dry trees have undergone processes of rotting and breaking caused by strong mountain winds.

There is a lack of natural restoration of Bosnian Pine forest, as a result of significant damages to forests, weakening the vitality of trees, the presence of dense woods and herbal species. The state of these forests, considering the large intensity of their drying, may be regarded as natural disaster.

Since we are dealing with the Bosnian Pine endemic-relict forests, where sanitary measures in some areas are late, we should look into the opportunity of leaving some biological processes to the nature, whilst from the sanitary measures to apply pheromones only (biological traps) to destroy under-skin insects.

The state of grass vegetations (pastures)

The state of high mountain pastures is good, since their use has decreased significantly after the 1999 war, as a result of drastic reduction in the number of cattle in villages around the territory of National Park and in the Prizren region in general. The state of endemic plants appears good, but the recovery is limited as a result of tough climatic conditions, their small number and domination of other species.

The deterioration of situation in Prevallë grass vegetation was affected by the parking of vehicles and throwing of waste from numerous visitors that visit this site. During the last two years at risk of degradation was also grass vegetation in the region of the Guri i Zi, as a result of increasing the number of visitors during the summer, especially on weekends.

The state of flora

State of rare grass plants, which give special value to the National Park's flora, is good and stable. These plants are found mostly in higher areas (above 2000 m) of the National Park and are integral part of the high mountains' pastures.

Types that have special value for the National Park have been verified in a good state the following steno-endemic plants: barpezmi of King Alexander (*Achillea alexandris regis*) in Oshlak, bormylera of Diecki (*Brunmullera dieckii*) in Pashallar, Sharr Crocus (*Crocus scardicus*), Sharr clove (*Dianthus scardicus*) Albanian lily (*Lilium albanicum*) at Sharr Mountain etc.

Some rare species of curative plants are subject to illegal use by irresponsible people. The most endangered plant is gentian (*Gentiana lutea*), which is picked by the local residents and different people who use it for trade (personal gain) since it has special curative value. During 2008, attempts for illegal collection of this plant have been limited due to the increased control of terrains from the Directorate of National Park, in locations where it is present.

State of fauna

State of the fauna in the National Park, taking into account economic and social situation and level of awareness of the population and the lack of law enforcement, can be assessed to be good. It should be emphasized that the situation of wild animals has improved after the establishment of the Directorate of National Park under the MESP, whereby these natural resources have received institutional protection. That has led to the development and continuous growth of the number of wild animals, especially for brown bear, deer and chamois. From the investigations made in the field most wild animals are verified that have been recorded by previous surveys, while data for some of the most important species that are present in the territory of the National Park are presented in the following table:

Table 3: The state of wild animals in the “Sharr Mountain” National Park for 2008

Type of wild animal	State of the fund at the beginning of the year	Annual reproduction	Natural losses	State of the fund at the end of the year
Brown bear	22	7	1	28
Deer	40	10	3	47
Lynx	4	-	-	5
Chamois	170	38	10	198
Wild boar	50	25	15	60
Rabbit	130	60	40	150
Wolf	9	6	4	11
Gray eagle	4	-	-	4
Stone partridge	150	50	30	170

Most mammal species, which have been recorded in previous surveys, have been verified in the field, however, to determine their number more intensive inquiry is required in all National Park areas. Health situation of wild animals is good, while continuing danger to wild animals comes from illegal hunting by irresponsible people. The most endangered species from illegal hunting are dears and chamois.

“Sharr Mountain” National Park Zoning

Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) in collaboration with the Spatial Planning Institute (SPI) and the Directorate of "Sharr Mountain" National Park, based on the zoning project for the National Park, for the purposes of drafting the Spatial Plan, during 2008 - 2009 have performed the following professional works:

- Exploration of natural values of the National Park in all existing and proposed reserves,
- Proposition of protected areas I, II and III and determining the boundaries of these areas,
- Preparation of maps and reports for the National Park zoning etc.

Based on the natural values verified in the field, MESP professional team has proposed, in addition to four existing reserves (**Pisha e Madhe, Oshlak, Bosnian Pine and Rusenica**), declaring 10 other areas as protected areas of category I, respectively as strict nature reserves:

- **Kopilica, Dupnica and Lumbardhi** in the territory of Prizren Municipality
- **Bistra, Prrocka e Durlës, Livadhishte and Gryka** in the territory of Shterpce Municipality,
- **Pashallare and Lendina e Shenjtë** in the territory of Suhareka Municipality and
- **Luboten** in the territory of Kaçanik Municipality.

The following have been proposed for the protected area II:

- All forests outside nature strict reserves,
- Herbal ecosystems that surround strict nature areas (buffer areas),
- Herbal ecosystems which are characterized by rich biodiversity (plant species diversity) which are found in the slope terrains endangered by erosions.

As a protected area III proposed are herbal areas that are designated for grass pastures, development of tourism, sports and recreational activities and construction of tourist facilities, and private properties (meadows) of the local community, located near villages bordering the National Park territory.

6.4. THE STATE OF OTHER RESERVES

Besides 4 reserves located inside the "Sharr Mountain" National Park (Maja e Arnenit, Rusenica, Koxhaballkani and Oshlak) taking up an area of 385 ha or 45.5% of the total reserves' area, there are 7 other reserves. There are 4 other that serve in the territory of the Bjeshket e Nemuna: Kozhnjeri, Gubavci, Prilep Mountains and Maja e Robit with an area of about 209 ha or 24.7% of the protected reserves area. About 30% of the reserves protected area respectively: Nerodime River Bifurcation Kamilje Hill and Gazimestan are situated outside these two areas.

Negative impacts of anthropogenic factors such as: illegal construction and interventions without any scientific criteria, uncontrolled logging, but also other non-anthropogenic factors on the nature reserves in Kosovo, such as: illness, fire, etc, have been in a direct clash with the objectives of protection, applicable legislation and international norms. Such effects and lack of institutional and scientific care are making these reserves to permanently lose their natural characteristics for which they are placed under protection¹⁰.

One such example is Nerodime River Bifurcation which still is not functional, due to numerous obstacles in the river bed, especially in the left branch.

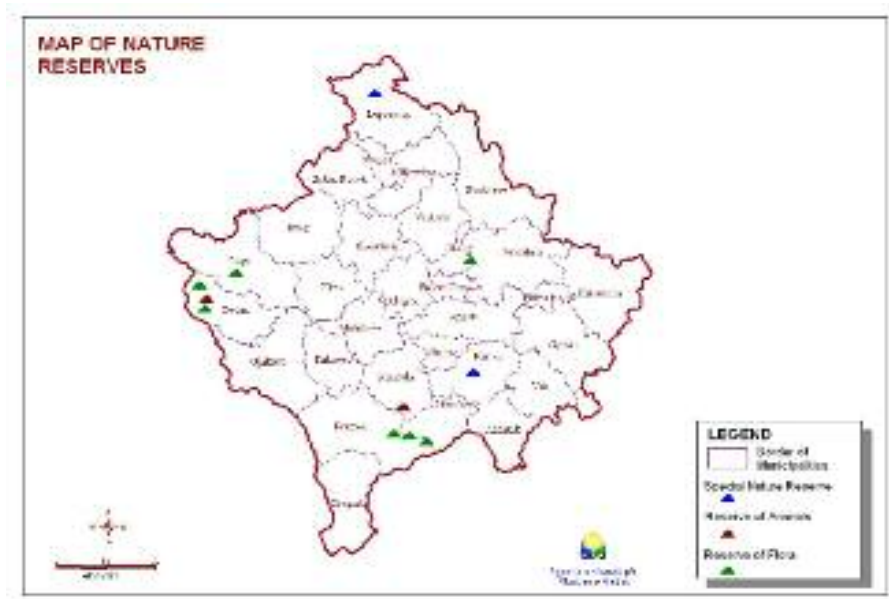


Fig. 24. Nature Reserves Map

10 Veselaj et al. (2008)Some aspects of biodiversity threatening strict nature reserves of Kosovo, Albshkenca Institute, Tiranë

6.5. THE STATE OF NATURE MONUMENTS

Within Protected Areas, Nature monuments according to number occupy first place with 82 of them, and second place regarding the area with 6296.93 hectares. Out of these, 55 monuments area of the botanical character, 15 hydrological, 7 geomorphologic, 4 speleological and 1 memorial.

Areas which had effects in these two years are: Gadime Cave, Rugova Gorge, Drini i Bardh Spring with the Cave and Waterfall in Radavc, Mirusha River Flow, etc.

Due to the loss of natural values, 12 nature monuments have been removed from the central register of protected areas.

Table. 4. Nature monuments removed from the protected areas' register

No.	Name	Municipality	Year	Category
1	Amen in Nerodime (<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>)	Ferizaj	1959	Nature Monument
2	Lime-tree in Upper Srelic (<i>Filix argentea</i>)	Disqan	1961	Nature Monument
3	Field elm-tree in Luliraj (<i>Ulmus campestris</i>)	Prizren	1981	Nature Monument
4	Turkish Pine in Lower Podling (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	Klinë	1985	Nature Monument
5	Elm-tree trunk in Çabiq (<i>Ulmus minor</i> M.)	Klinë	1985	Nature Monument
6	Turkish pine trunk in Bërkevi (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	Klinë	1985	Nature Monument
7	Turkish pine trunk in Lower Dumnica (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	Podujevë	1988	Nature Monument
8	Poplar trunk in Grlan (<i>Populus tremula</i>)	Podujevë	1988	Nature Monument
9	Çaheti	Çikove	1984	Memorial Monument
10	Rahovec	Therandë	1980	Memorial Monument
11	Ramjan	Viti	1982	Memorial Monument
12	Beruçiq water spring	Podujevë	1988	Nature Monument

• The state in Gadime cave

During 2009, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the Gadime Cave was taken under protection as Nature Monument of special importance. But there is still no result from the implementation of this decision. Also this year a redefinition of the Gadime Cave's boundaries has taken place and the map was prepared.

In Gadime Cave, the are same problems that started years ago which still remain. Actions form outside and their impact to the cave such as:

- The occurrence of eroding the rocky material from rains,
- Construction of buildings in the protected area and in the cave's vicinity,
- Operations of stone grinders from which they exploit limestone,

- Affect of mining in the cave's destabilization,
- Different operations at the river bed of Klysy River opposite the cave, etc.

Whilst serious problems can be noticed in the inner part of the cave such as:

- Big cracks on the wall and at the beginning of Tear Gallery canal.
- The risk of landslide and rockslide in the corridors having a lot of visitors;
- Obvious hydro-geological changes which were considerably manifested in the reduction of underwater circulation.
- Appearance of moss and mushrooms due to microclimatic changes conditioned by the hermetic closure of the gate as well as long-term and inadequate lighting;
- Physical damages (breaking etc) as well as mechanical washing of ornaments
- Inscriptions and graffiti's through the cave corridors, damage the cave's originality;
- Inadequate lighting and electrical network in the cave is damaged and poses a risk for visitors;
- Illegal explorations of other corridors, without consultations with responsible institutions;
- Non-professional management of the cave etc.

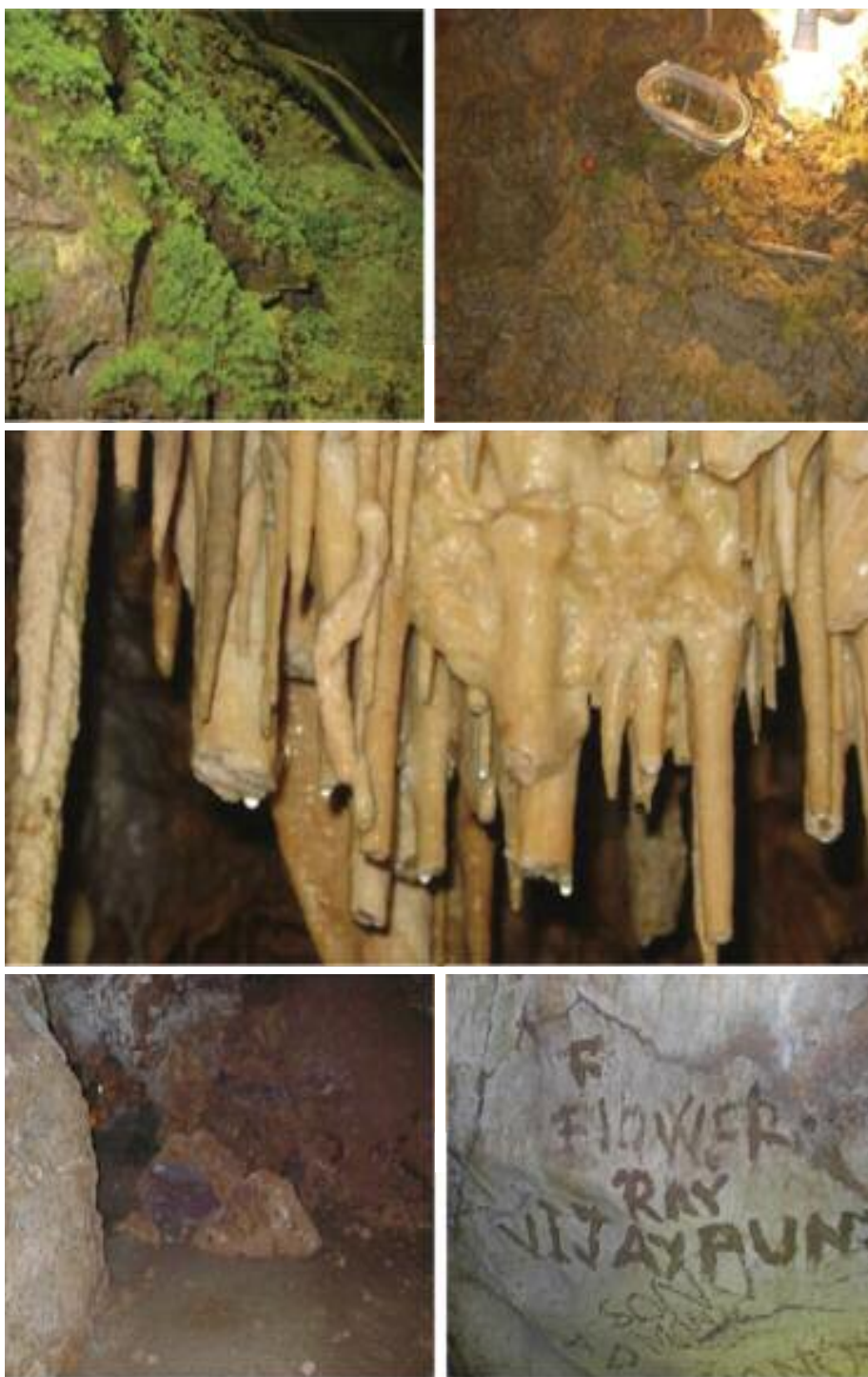


Fig. 25. Gadime cave damages



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosovo-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government

Nr. 04/57
Datë: 13.05.2009

Në mbledhjeje të numrit 92 paragrafi 4. dhe 93 paragrafi (4) të Kushtetutës së Republikës së Kosovës, të numrit 25 paragrafi 1. të Ligjit Nr. 02/L-18 dhe Rregullores Nr. 2006/22), për Mbrojtjen e Natyrës së dhe të numrit 4 paragrafi (3) të Rregullores së Punës së Qeverisë së Kosovës nr. 01/2007, Qeveria e Republikës së Kosovës, në mbledhjen e mbajtur në 13 mars 2009, mori:

V E N D I M

1. Vihet nën mbrojtje "Shpella e Gadimes" në Gadime të Ullit të komunës së Lypjanit, në rreze të kodrës "Murtar" në kategorinë e monumentit të natyrës me rëndësi të veçantë.
2. Monumenti i natyrës "Shpella e Gadimes" vihet nën mbrojtje si ndërkombëte unike e specifike historike, gjeologjike, gjeomorfologjike dhe hidrologjike e formuar në marmar. Vlerë e veçantë e këtij monumenti të natyrës paraqet shfaqja e stollve taurante.
3. Monumenti i natyrës "Shpella e Gadimes" shtrihet në territorin e komunës së Lypjanit, Komuna bashatale Gadime e Ullit dhe përfshin sipërfaqen prej 38.64,95 ha. Në parcelat kadastrale në pronësi shpirtërore, nr. 700, 699, 698, 694, 690, 689, 688, 686 dhe 682 me sipërfaqe prej 36.75,21 ha. dhe parcelat kadastrale në pronësi private nr. 697, 695, 693, 692, 691/1 në sipërfaqe prej 1.91,74 ha.
4. Me hyrjen në fuqi të këtij vendimi shfuqizohet vendimi 01. nr. 1174-50 ("GJK" nr. 50/55).
5. Vendimi hyn në fuqi ditën e nënshkrimit.

Hasim HATIRI
Kryeministri i Kosovës

ku dërgohet:
- të gjitha ministrave (ministrave)
- Sekretariatit të Përbashkët të ZRM-dës
- Kuvendit Komunal Lypjan
- Arkivit të Qeverisë



Fig. 26. Border of Gadime Cave

Exploration of Radavc and “Gryka e Madhe” caves

During 2008, 2009 in the Cave of "Gryka e Madhe" at Rugova Gorge and Radavc Cave, exploration continued by the Slovak speleologist, in cooperation with the Association of Speleologists "Aragonit" from Peja and the Environmental Protection Agency of Kosovo.

Radavc cave consists of four morphological elements: the main gallery, left gallery, bottom gallery and vertical canal. The overall length of explored canals in Radavc Cave is about 1,420 m, while the horizontal canal is over 700 m. The cave entrance is located at altitude of 578 m.

Radavc cave's characteristic is the bath canal which appears as a continuation of the central gallery. Bath canal length is about 80 m, width from 4 - 8 m, whereas height between 3 - 5 m.

Baths are in line and have smaller dimensions at the bottom, they are often in pairs of twos and threes that give the canal mosaic view. Most baths are without water; while in some of them lakes remain throughout the year.

Most of the galleries and corridors are contaminated by the big presence of bats and different graffiti and engravings. Worrying phenomenon for Radavc cave is irresponsible persons entering the cave.



Fig. 27. Entrance to Radavc cave



Fig. 28. Baths in Radavc cave

Explorations in “Gryka e Madhe” Cave began in May 1992, by some Slovak speleologists, although this cave has been known by local residents for a long time.



Fig. 29. Entrance to the cave of “Gryka e Madhe” at Rugova Gorge

Five levels have been explored in the cave so far. The first level is the river level, which is quite active. This level reaches the height of 66 m from the entrance from where one can get to the riverbed, through some narrow canals in the shape of inclined pipes. Here we encounter sediments or colorful riffraff.

The second level is situated approximately 15-20 m above the active flows of the underground river. After the first half siphon, the cave is wonderfully decorated with all sorts of possible speleo-decoration as: stalactites, stalagmites, columns, lakes with crystals and pearls from calcite etc.

Another feature of the cave is several areas in which usually there are some water flows. These are flat, but passages through them are considerably inclined, more than 60 degrees and end up with some minor water filled dam-rock.

During expeditions (2008 - 2009), work was carried out on measuring the corridors and other galleries in the cave where the cave digital map was prepared with the scale 1:200.¹¹

Survey of galleries and corridors in the Grand Gorge and Radavc caves will continue in next years.

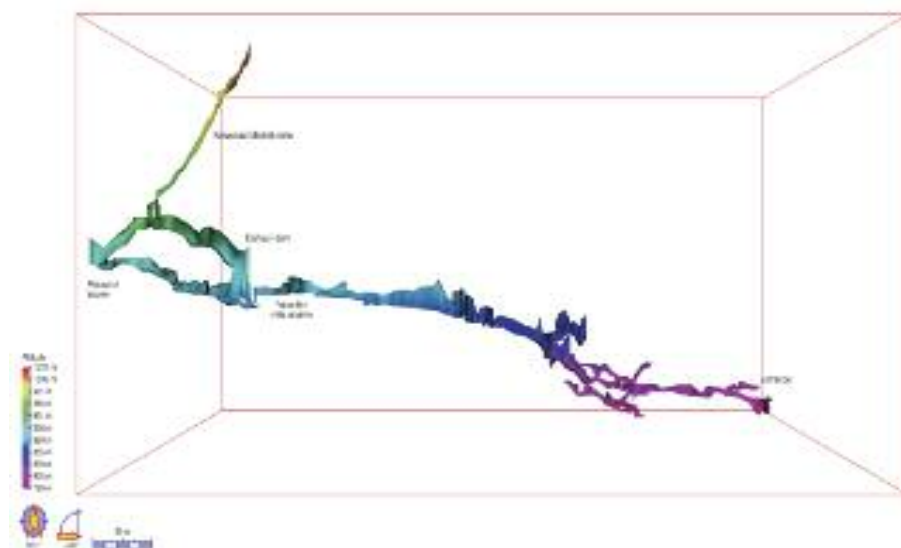


Fig. 30. Part of the profile of Gryka e Madhe cave was prepared by Slovak Speleologists



Fig. 31. Crystals from Gryka e Madhe cave



Fig. 32. Information table at the Gryka e Madhe cave

- **Mirusha river flow**

At the middle of Mirusha river flow (GZK protected area no. 44/76, 1982), a dam was built with the length of 20 m and width of 10 m. Construction of the dam has led to the degradation of the bed and the normal flow of water. This reservoir represents a concern for local residents as well, because it represents the risk of flooding during the spring and winter season, while during the summer season it contributes to the drying of Mirusha river bed. Consequently, massive death of fish and other living creatures have been ascertained in Mirusha river; this has also affected Mirusha river waterfalls, disrupting the normal flow of water. (Photo xx).

The construction of the reservoir was carried out without a proper hydro-geological study as well as without environmental consent.



Fig. 33. Degradation of Mirusha river bed (29.05.2009)

- **Drini i Bardhë Spring**

Emphasized interventions in two localities of the protected area have been noticed in the protected area of Drini i Bardhe spring and Radavc cave.

- There was human interference at the spring of Drini i Bardhe, a water reservoir was built for Radavc hydropower plant located beneath the Drini i Bardhe Spring. This intervention is made with concrete and iron, which damages the natural authenticity of this monument.
- In the vicinity of about 100 meters from the Drini i Bardhe spring, there are considerable damages to the vegetation, cutting of hornbeam trees (*Caprinus betulus*), cerri trees (*Quereous puberscens*). This massive tree cutting directly impacts the demolition of landscape and the appearance of erosion.



Fig. 34. Intervention to the Drini i Bardhe spring

6.6. THE STATE OF REGIONAL NATURE PARKS

- **Mirusha Regional Park**

During these two years, construction of new hotel facilities has continued, whereby three restaurants have been built. These interventions and vegetation damages are identified problems affecting the natural values and biodiversity of the area. But worrying is the lack of a management body for Mirusha Regional Park.

Also the state of geo-morphological heritage in the river basin of Mirusha river is alarming. Caves although in significant number with rare natural, scientific, tourist, historical and cultural values are almost forgotten and without adequate provision by municipal bodies, central institutions. Although evidenced, they are still unexplored, not marked, without protection status, unclear and with undetermined management. Irresponsible and unprofessional persons enter illegally in these caves and often damage rare crystals, interior of the cave and throw garbage as well¹².



Fig. 35. Crystal breaking in Ponorc cave

12 Bajraktari F. (2009): Natural heritage at Mirusha river basin (master thesis) Prishtinë

- **Gërmia Regional Park**

Despite the good maintenance of recreational area by the managing organization, problems are identified regarding the conservation of values in other areas.

Significant damages during 2008 - 2009 are caused to ecosystems and tree mass through the exploitation of forests and the influence of insects (Fig. 36, b). The following interventions have also been identified: building the fountain (Fig. 36, c), the placement of antennas on the highest peaks (Fig. 36) and inside the recreational area (Fig. 36, a), the presence of dry trees and mine areas (photo 36, d), debris in remote parts of the park, etc. Problem remains the lack of management plan, marking and zoning of the park, etc.

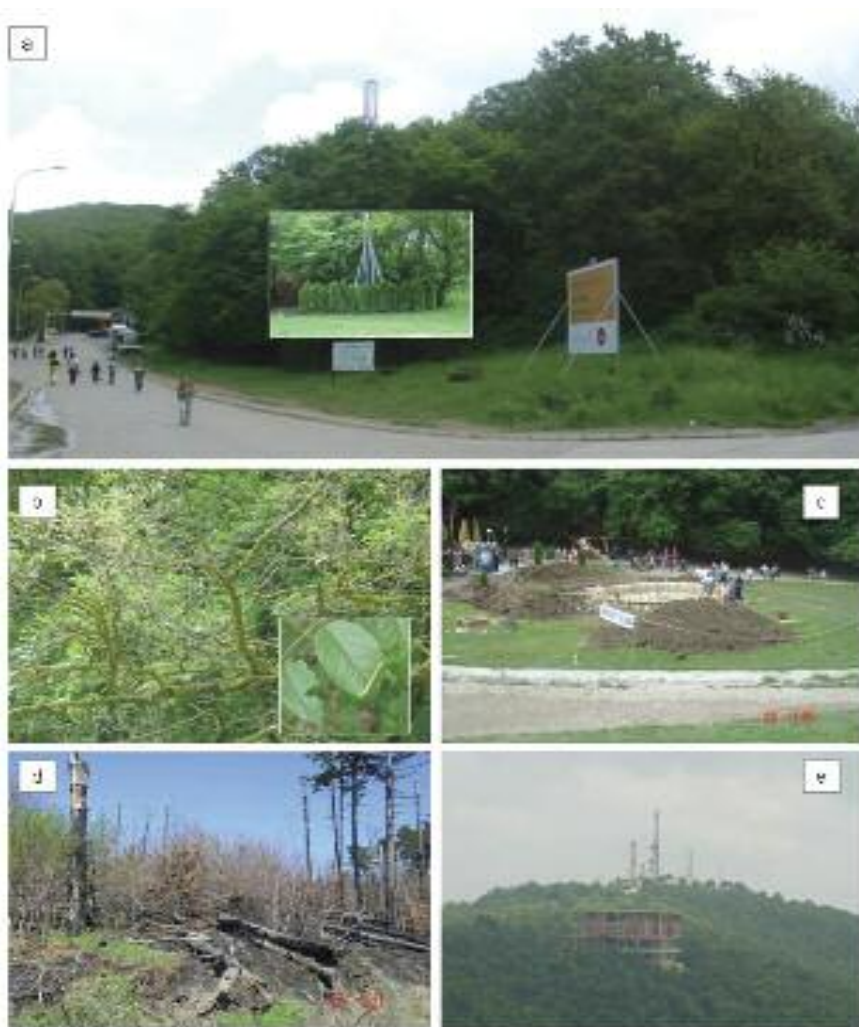


Fig. 36. The state of Gërmia Park

Table 5. Illegal interventions in the protected areas 2008-2009

No.	Protected Area	Municipality	Type of activities	Category
1.	Maja e Armerit (P.K.)	Prizren	• Mobile telephony antenna	Nature reserve
2.	Rusenica (P.K.)	Therandë	• Stone grinder	Nature reserve
3.	Gadime Cave	Lypjan	• Hotel Building • Interventions in the depths of the cave	Nature monument
4.	Nerodime River Bifurcation	Ferizaj	• Hotel Building	Nature reserve
5.	Drini i Bardhë spring and Radavc cave	Pejë	• Hotel building • Opening a canal to the HC	Nature monument
6.	Mirusha river flow	Malishevë	• Dam at the river bed	Nature monument
7.	Gërmia Regional Park	Prishtinë	• Hotel building • Mobile telephony antenna • Fountain • Sports terrain for children	Regional Park
8.	Rugova Gorge	Pejë	• Hotel building	Nature monument
9.	Mirusha Regional Park	Klinë	• Hotel building	Regional Park

Source: MESP Inspectorate

6.7. PROPOSED AREAS FOR PROTECTION

During the period of 2002 – 2006, Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection has made the recognition and recording of new nature values in the 19 Municipalities. During this process, over 200 new areas of various categories of protection were proposed for protection, most of them are nature monuments with botanical, hydrological, geomorphologic character, etc.

During 2006-2009, the number of protected areas has significantly increased. Out of the proposed areas, 58 of them have been taken under protection: 11 in Drenas Municipality, 13 in Skenderaj Municipality, 5 in Klina Municipality, 14 in Suhareka Municipality and 15 in Istog (Burim) Municipality.

In 2003 an initiative started to declare another second National Park "Bjeshket e Nemuna" under protection. KINP in collaboration with the University of Prishtina and other institutions has prepared a professional reasoning. Declaration of the territory of "the Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park, with an area of about 60,000 ha, is pending the approval of the law. Upon taking under protection of this area and other proposed areas, protected areas in Kosovo would increase significantly. In further proceeding there are 159 other proposed areas.

Table 6. Proposed areas of protection according to Municipalities

No.	Municipality	Number of areas proposed	Year of recognition
1.	Gjilan	12	2002
2.	Malishevo	13	2002
3.	Gjakova	28	2003
4.	Kastriot	6	2003
5.	Vushterri	17	2003
6.	Rahovec	7	2004
7.	Podujevo	9	2004
8.	Mitrovica	14	2005
9.	Viti	15	2005
10.	Fushë Kosovo	1	2005
11.	Lipjan	24	2006
12.	Shkime	10	2005
13.	Leposaviq	1	2005
14.	Zveçan	2	2005
	Total	159	

“Bjeshket e Nemuna”, proposed National Park

The initiative for the declaration of the "Bjeshket e Nemuna" a National Park started in 1970 by the Office for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and continued again in 1985 by the Kosovo Office for Protection of Nature.

Under this initiative, the "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park will include part of the territory of Peja and Decan Municipalities. As Deçani Municipality gave no consent to it, it was decided that only the part that belongs to the Municipality of Peja will be declared, and at the same time "study on the rational of the declaration of mountains in Peja Municipality a National Park" was prepared. But even this initiative did not succeed in finalizing the declaration.

In 2002, Kosovo Institute for Protection of Nature initiated again the declaration of "the Bjeshket e Nemuna" as a National Park. Under this initiative it was provided for the National Park to include part of the territory of the Municipalities of Peja, Istog, Deçan and Gjakova. Respective Municipal Assemblies have given the consent¹³ for this initiative.

In 2003 a "Study on the rational of the declaration of "Bjeshket e Nemuna" National Park was prepared and at the same time the draft law was prepared for it. The initiative was supported by the Government of Kosovo and the Assembly of Kosovo in the session held on 03.04.2003. But later the draft law did not find the right support.

But the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has this goal again. In 2009 it has established a working group again to draft on the draft law of declaring the "Bjeshket e Nemuna " a National Park.

Also there has been no lack of civil society initiatives either for the Bjeshket e Nemuna. In December 2009, the "Bjeshket e Nemuna - National Park, pro et contra" project started. The project is financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society KFOS and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center, REC Office in Kosovo.

One of the biggest problems in the territory of the "Bjeshket e Nemuna" are uncontrolled logging of forests that have irreparable consequences that besides losing the wood mass, it also directly reflects the disruption of ecosystems, threatening the animal world, ruining the landscape, appearance of erosion etc.

Another problem is the lack of spatial and development plan for the area, hotel construction, etc.

Constructions are more expressed in tourist areas: at Rugova Gorge, Bogë, Leqinat etc.

¹³ Pejë Municipality - Decision No. 352-5339/2002; Deçan Municipality - 01/63, 3 September 2002; Gjakova Municipality – decision 01No. 372/2002; Istog-Burim Municipality- Consent 01 No. 41/2002

7. BIODIVERSITY



Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Length: up to 2m, **weight:** 150-250 kg.

Description: Brown bear is one of the largest carnivorous and most widespread bears in the world.

Status: In general, in Europe they are considered endangered and thus are protected by law. Even in Kosovo, the brown bear is protected by law. Populations are usually small and located in areas that are left in their wild state, but are surrounded by areas with human activity. As animals that eat everything, the brown bears tend to find areas where they find food that is consumed by humans. Threat to the bear is hunting and habitat fragmentation.

Spread and habitat: This species is widespread in Northern, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In the region, the brown bear spread coincides with the spread of beech forest. In addition to Sharr and Cursed Mountains we find it in other mountain areas as well, covered with forests and scrubs.

Food: Bears' food is quite variable and contains herbs, spices, roots, leftovers, forest berries, mammals and bird eggs, honey and fruits.

Behavior: In general, the brown bear is active at night, but sometimes during the day as well. Although not totally lethargic and can be easily awakened, both sexes like to enter a protected place such as a cave, crevice or cavity during the winter months. The brown bears are usually afraid, but can become aggressive to protect their young.

Reproduction: Breeding occurs from May until July. They give birth in January or early February, when the mother is in lethargic state and makes 3 to 10 young.

Sound: snickers



Lynx (*Lynx lynx*)

Length: 80-130 cm, **weight:** 32 kg.

Description: Large cat with short tail and dark brown spots over the reddish fur. Cubs' distinguish easily from other cat species from tufts on their ears that are kept up.

Status and habitat: rare species and in danger of extinction. Small sub-populations remaining in Central Europe; they are isolated and suffer from habitat fragmentation. In Kosovo they enjoy the status of legal protection as rare and endangered species.

Spread and habitat: In Central Europe, species survive in some regions only. One of the regions of Central Europe which is characterized by the presence of this species is part of the Dinaric mountains in Kosovo (Rusenica reserve in "Sharr Mountain" NP), Albania, Republic of Macedonia and Greece. Balkan lynx has a very small population of less than 100 individuals. The territory of "Sharr Mountain" NP contains strict Rusenica reserve where this rare species can be found.

Behavior: Mostly nocturnal and solitary. When food is insufficient, it searches in an area with a radius of 30 km. It does not immigrate and does not fall in lethargy.

Food: Lynx is fed with hoof-animals, other mammals but also birds that it kills with a single bite to the throat.

Reproduction: Mating takes place once a year in early spring. Gives birth 1-4 blind and hairy young, which mature in the second year.

Sound: rarely heard. Purring and growling.



Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

Length: 1.1-1.8 m, **weigh:** 35-50 kg.

Description: common inhabitant of the pasture areas of the region's highlands, found in isolated colonies. The adults of this mammal that resembles the goat have two short horns and a white face with two black stripes. In summer the fur is gray and in winter it looks almost black.

Status: The population of chamois is small and threatened by meat consumption, both by humans and dogs, habitat fragmentation and tourism activities. Here it enjoys the status of legal protection as a rare and endangered species.

Spread and habitat: spread in Europe. Balkan subspecies (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*) lives in the most mountainous regions of Kosovo, particularly in the Sharr Mountains and in the Cursed Mountains (Kozhnjer's Reserve) Populations number several hundred individuals. Live in massive mountain bluff, rocks and forests, but also in alpine pastures, mixed forests and areas planted with coniferous trees.

Food: Mostly eats leaves, grass, fruit, etc.

Behavior: The wild goats are sociable, living in small batches in the summer and join in groups of over 100 individuals in winter. Females and the young are found in batches of 50-30 animals, while adult males tend to stand alone most of the year. Chamois does not migrate and does not fall in lethargy.

Reproduction: Mating takes place once a year in spring. It gives birth of 3-12 young that develop quickly and follow the adult goat. Matures in the second or third year and can live up to 20 years.

Sound: Grunts and squeals like domestic goat.



Mountain Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Length: 76-89 cm, **wingspan:** 190-227 cm.

Description: Very known carnivorous bird usually encountered in mountainous areas of the region. It has great flying skills and great maneuvering speed. Easily distinguishable from afar due to neck and long and wide tail and long broad wings. Adults have yellow feathers on the neck and head and are completely brown, with pale stripes on the upper arm. Young have white spots on the wings and tail base, which makes them easily differentiate from adults.

Spread and habitat: Prefers rocky and mountainous areas. We can find it in Sharr Mountains and the Cursed Mountains.

Reproduction: Reproduces on the rocks and large trees. The female lays two eggs, spotted brown to red. Nesting begins in April and egg incubation lasts for about six weeks. Often only one young survives the first 11 weeks, and manages to grow fully.

Food: Consists mainly of rabbits and partridges, but also the dead cattle, small mammals and carrion.

Sound: In the form of "kjek-jek-kjek ...".



Prairie Chicken (*Tetrao urogallus*)

Length: 60-87 cm, **wingspan:** 87-125 cm.

Description: They are very big birds. Takes off flying with loud wing flapping. Flying is short, fast and straight. Prairie Chicken is famous for spectacular flirting behavior of males, long neck and tail held straight up when strutting. The male has heavy beak, curved, yellow in color. Females are brown with black stripes on the chest.



Spread and habitat: Here they live in coniferous or mixed forest areas, old pine trees areas in rocky places such as Sharr and Cursed Mountains. At the end of the spring they get down to the meadows where male do flirting parades.

Reproduction: Nesting begins by the end of April. The female lays 7-11 eggs, incubation lasts 24-26 days and young are capable of short flying when they are 2-3 weeks old. They are able to fly fully after 2-3 months.

Food: pine and fir needles, leaves and flower buds.

Sound: In the evening the "co-krekcorok" song can be heard. Males have a slow and repeated cackling "grak". The entire song lasts from 5-7 seconds and can be heard up to 200-300 m distance.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Length: 100-115 cm, **wingspan:** 195-215 cm.

Description: Clearly distinguishable from other types of gull family because of the white body, black arm purl, the beak and red legs. During flying it is majestic with visible fingers. White chest. Prefers flying plane and uses best the warm air currents.



Spread and habitat: Nesting bird, very common up until 50s-60s, especially in the lowlands. Often found in agricultural and marshy land. Noticed in small groups during autumn migration.

Reproduction: we still do not know the exact number of stork nests in Kosovo. Nests are built on the top of high buildings or trees, as high-voltage poles. Nests are of a huge size composed of sticks' knitting. Lays 3-5 white eggs that incubate for 33-34 days. The young fly after 56-64 days.

Food: Consists mainly of small animals such as frogs, snakes, fish, small rodents, worms, small birds, etc.

Sound: Usually silent, the strong beak hitting, especially when partners meet with one another in the nest.

7.1.THE BIODIVERSITY SITUATION

Geographical position, geological, pedology, hydrological, landscape and climate factors are among the factors that enabled Kosovo to have a rich biological and landscape diversity.

The state of flora and vegetation

Most important areas for Kosovo flora are considered Sharr Mountains, Bjeshket e Nemuna, Pashtrik, Koritnik, etc.

Based on up-to-date floristic research, over 1800 species of vascular plant flora have been identified, although it is assumed that their number is higher (around 2500). Within explored species, about 200 of them are endemic, endemic-relict and sub-endemic. Especially important is the local endemic group, whose number is still not fully defined, some of which have quite limited spread.

Although Kosovo's phyto-diversity is used for centuries, worrying is the fact that recently this use is not rational and without planning, which in future may result with unpredictable consequences. Great damages are caused to the curative, aromatic and industrial plants flora, by their collector.

The state of fauna

In terms of fauna Kosovo is characterized by a large variety of species, although research in this aspect has not been completed. The richest areas of fauna in Kosovo are all Kosovo mountain's massif, but it is worth emphasizing: Sharr Mountains and Bjeshket e Nemuna. It is estimated that 250 vertebrate species live in Kosovo, 200 species of butterflies and over 500 macrozoobenthos water taxon.

Fish explorations

Despite the rich network of rivers, Kosovo still has no full inventory of fish species, due to lack of ichthyofaunistic exploration. Until today some of Kosovo's rivers are explored and in total 30 species of fish are identified. Out of these, 18 species are known in Drini i Bardhë¹⁴, 12 species in Llap river¹⁵ and 17 fish species in Drenica river¹⁶.

14 Grapci – Kotori, L. (2006) Ndikimi i faktorëve ekologjik në dinamikën e popullatave të llojeve të peshqve në lumin Drini i Bardhë, disertacion i doktoraturës, UP-FSHMN, Prishtinë

15 Gashi, A. (2006) Analiza biocenologjike dhe ekologjike e makrozoobentosit dhe nehtonit të lumit Llap, disertacion i doktoraturës, UP-FSHMN, Prishtinë

16 Maxhuni, Q. (2009) Uticaj ekoloških faktora na dinamiku populacija riba rijeke Drenice, magistarski rad, US – PMF, Sarajevo

Table 7. Types of fish recorded in the rivers: Drini i Bardhë, Llapi and Drenica

Type name	Names in English	Drini i bardhë	Llap	Drenicë
1. <i>Salmo trutta m. Fario</i>	Trout	+	+	
2. <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	California trout	+		
3. <i>Salmo marmoratus</i>	Marble trout	+		
4. <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	Small leuciscus	+		
5. <i>Barbus barbus</i>	Carpfish	+	+	
6. <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	White Amur	+		
7. <i>Squalius cephalus</i>	The European chub	+	+	+
8. <i>Leucaspis delinotus</i>	Belica	+	+	+
9. <i>Gobio gobio</i>	Gobio		+	
10. <i>Gobio obtusirostris</i>	Gobio obtusirostris	+		+
11. <i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i>	Zander	+		
12. <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Eel	+		
13. <i>Cornus gobio</i>	Chinese fish	+		
14. <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Red eyed fish			+
15. <i>Alburnoides bipunctatus</i>	Wide belly fish			+
16. <i>Barbus balcanicus</i>	Large-spot barbel			+
17. <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	Pond roach			+
18. <i>Rhodeus amarus</i>	The European Bitterling			+
19. <i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Silver carp	+	+	+
20. <i>Chondrostoma nasus</i>	Nase	+	+	+
21. <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Wild carp	+	+	+
22. <i>Alburnus alburnus</i>	Alburnus			+
23. <i>Scardinus erythrophthalmus</i>	Scardinus	+	+	+
24. <i>Cobitis elongatoides</i>	Wild cobitis			+
25. <i>Barbatula barbatula</i>	Stone loach			+
26. <i>Silurus glanis</i>	Carpfish			+
27. <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	The European Perch	+	+	+
28. <i>Tinca tinca</i>	The tench		+	
29. <i>Vimba vimba</i>	Vimba		+	
30. <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	European Weather Fish	+		

- **Henc's wetlands' Biodiversity** ¹⁷

First Wetlands in Kosovo was explored during 2008 - 2009. It is Henc's Wetlands with an area of 50 ha. It has been created artificially in the late 60s of the past century for the purpose of carp breeding. Due to natural successions during over 40 years it has taken a complete character of wetlands and today it is a suitable biotope for many types of plants and animals. There were identified 19 species of vascular plants, while the animal world: 4 species of fish, 2 species of amphibians, 3 species of reptiles, 41 species of birds, two species of mammals and 8 species of butterflies from odonata family. But this number is estimated to be even higher.

Fig.37. Ligatina ne Henc



- **Activities within the Bird Flu project**

During 2008-2009 within the Bird Flu project, in cooperation with the officials of the Food and Veterinary Agency and those of FAO, monitoring was carried out in several areas (habitats) with wild migrating and domestic birds such as: wetlands in Henc, Batllava lake, Badovc lake and Radoniqi lake, and some major rivers such as: Drini i Bardh, Sitnica etc.¹⁸

¹⁷ Sherifi, Y.(2010) Ekosistemi i Ligatinës në Henc / Radevë, mundësitë e menaxhimit të qëndrueshëm të sajë, Punim Master, UP-FSHMN, Prishtine

¹⁸ Maxhuni, Q. (2009): *Some aspects of birds fauna in Kosovo*, International Wader Study Group Conference, Texel, Netherland.

8. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Balkans' Peace Park

According to IUCN, Cross-Border Parks are defined as, "cross-border protected areas that are formally dedicated to the protection and care of biological diversity, the values of natural and cultural heritage and promotion of peace and cooperation".

The initiative to establish Cross Border Park in the border triangle of Kosovo - Albania-Montenegro, has derived from the civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations. In the context of activities and commitments for the establishment of this park, we must emphasize the empowerment of environmental associations of the three-border area, known as "Cross-Border Park Coalition in the Balkans."

These areas are threatened by depopulation therefore their declaration as cross-border protected area would be welcomed to the local population that would remain in these areas through ecotourism and other benefits, which is also one of the purposes of establishing the Cross-Border Park. In addition to this, the park will encourage foreign investors and will at the same time provide for better protection of natural and cultural heritage.

Meetings are held at various levels in three countries and thus managed to find support and agreement as well as a support from donors such as: GTZ, UNEP, IUCN, the Austrian Development Agency, REC, KFOS etc.

European Green Belt Initiative

IUCN South-East European Program Office in cooperation with local partners in Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia as well as with the support of ENVSEC (Environment and Security Initiative), implemented the project "Civil-military cooperation on promotion of nature conservation along the "European Green Belt" (South-East Europe)" in the tripartite border between Kosovo - Albania and Macedonia. The project was implemented in 2008 and was funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection (BfN). The main objective of this project was to get closer the civilian and military sectors, combining nature protection with provision of tripartite peace in the area, which forms an integral part of ecological network of the European Green Belt ¹⁹.

European Green Belt Initiative has the vision of creating the backbone of an ecological network that runs from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea, including some of the most important habitats in the field of biodiversity and almost all geographic distinct regions of Europe.

¹⁹ <http://www.europeangreenbelt.org/>



Fig. 38. Participants of this project during the training in Kukës

During the implementation of this project players came together from nature protection, army and border police and local government representative, to discuss common interests in nature protection and find ways of cooperation between them. This was achieved through meetings and training activities with the aforementioned stakeholders on environmental and socio-political issues of the border region.

Activities organized within this support

- Work meeting with identified stakeholders from the three participating countries to the project, in Shkodra on 22-23 September 2008.
- Training for responsible actors for the border line in Kukes project area on 23-24 October 2009.
- Training for responsible actors for border line in project area in Mavrovo (Macedonia) on 29-31 October 2009.
- Training for responsible actors for border line in project area in Prevala (Kosovo) on 3-4 November 2009.

As a training product under this project is the publication of an excursion material, intended to serve as a tool to enjoy and protect the precious nature of the region, representing a shared wealth of people living here. This publication aims to assist the border police, persons in charge of nature conservation and local authorities in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, by making available a tool for cooperation in the field of nature conservation in the cross-border region. The publication aims at being an instrument to enjoy and protect the values of the shared border area's precious natu-

re, which, at the same time falls part of South-Eastern European Green Belt as well as increase the levels of awareness about the natural values of the region among the members of border police and other stakeholders.



Network of green areas consisting of protected areas will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity - first of all by harmonizing the management methods on both sides of the border. The Green Belt unites national parks, biosphere reserves and cross-border protected and unprotected areas, along or across the border and supports the regional development initiatives based on nature conservation.

The initiative itself is overseen by the IUCN Green Belt coordinator. IUCN Regional Office for Europe in Brussels serves as a Secretariat for the European Green Belt Initiative. National authorities authorized by relevant state agencies for nature conservation and regional development serve as a focal point for the 23 countries that adhered to the Green Belt Initiative.

Accepting such a structure, the initiative pays appropriate importance to the fact that the Green Belt may have different meaning and weight to different stakeholders in this initiative.

GeoTrip-2009 “Bjeshket e Nemuna” organized by ProGEO - Albania in cooperation with ProGEO - Kosovo

Bjeshket e Nemuna form a majestic Alpine geo-park, extending in three countries: Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro. 2009 Geo-trip took place at the verge of the Final Meeting of the Planet Year (IYPE) which was held on 20-22 November 2009 in Lisbon, Portugal. The particularity of 2009 GeoTrip is a joint organization with ProGEO members from Albania and Kosovo. 2009 GeoTrip is organized in the form of a three-day project in the Bjeshket e Nemuna of Albanian Alps and their further north-east continuation in Kosovo territory. 2009 Geo Trip is supported by the Albanian Geological Service.

2009 GeoTrip itinerary was Shkodër-Koman, Bajram Curri-Valbonë, Rugov Gorge, Drini i Bardhë Spring, Istog Spring, Spa Thermal Spring, Mirusha Waterfalls and Gadime Cave.



Fig 39. Participants in “GeoTrip 2009” by ProGEO-Albania and ProGEO-Kosova

Participation within MAB-UNESCO activities

From 11 to 15 November 2008 in Central Balkan National Park of the Republic of Bulgaria an international seminar was held for the role players regarding the nature protection through the MAB in South-East Europe. Organizer was the Office of UNESCO – BRESCHE, Italy in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian MAB Committee. Special importance of inclusion of Kosovo in these meetings was the engagement of Kosovo among the member states of South-East Europe and obtaining the experience for the promotion of nature protection.



Fig. 40. Participation at MAB activities

Marking 22nd of May – International Biodiversity Day

With the motto "Biodiversity, life assurance for our changing world", the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning respectively Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with the Association of Culture and Education – AKEA during 2009 has marked 22 May, World Biodiversity Day.

Marking this day in Kosovo aimed at sensitizing the public that biodiversity should not only be considered as the value of direct consumption and use and short-term, but its conservation and protection should be considered as moral responsibility, as to leave to our offspring a rich environment as we have inherited it from our predecessors.

Hereby, besides the messages from the representatives of governmental and non-governmental environmental institutions there were presentations on the importance of biodiversity. Distribution of posters and leaflets specifically prepared for this event also took place, and an exhibition was organized with photographs from the biodiversity values of Kosovo.



Fig. 41. View from marking the activity for the biodiversity day

9. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Table 8. Laws promulgated by the Assembly of Kosovo related to the environment

Law Name	Law No.	Approval Date	Promulgation No. and Date
LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	2002/08	16.01.2003	2003/09 15.04.2003
LAW ON KOSOVO FORESTS	2003/03	13.02.2003	2003/05 20.03.2003
LAW ON SPATIAL PLANNING	2003/14	03.07.2003	2003/30 10.09.2003
LAW ON PESTICIDES	2003/20	16.10.2003	2003/35 06.12.2003
LAW ON ENERGY	2004/08	29.04.2004	2004/21 30.06.2004
LAW ON WATERS	2004/24	08.07.2004	2004/41 14.10.2004
LAW ON AIR PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION	2004/30	28.07.2004	2004/48 25.11.2004
LAW ON KOSOVO LIVESTOCK	2004/33	08.09.2004	2004/39 14.10.2004
LAW ON IRRIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND	02/L-09	23.03.2005	2005/49 25.11.2005
LAW ON NATURE PROTECTION	02/L-18	23.03.2005	2006/22 24.04.2006
LAW ON AGRICULTURAL LAND	02/L-26	24.06.2005	2006/37 23.06.2006
LAW ON GARBAGE	02/L-30	22.07.2005	2006/21 05.05.2006
LAW ON HUNTING	02/L-53	16.12.2005	2006/41 11.08.2006
LAW ON HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL ACTIVITY	02/L-79	15.06.2006	2007/02 09.01.2007
LAW ON CULTURAL HERITAGE	02/L-88	09.10.2006	2006/52 06.11.2006
LAW ON PRINT PROTECTION	02/L-95	22.12.2006	2007/06 31.01.2007
LAW ON PROTECTION OF PLANTS' VARIETIES	02/L-98	26.01.2007	2008/24 16.05.2008
LAW ON PROTECTION FROM NOISE	02/L-102	30.03.2007	2008/15 17.03.2008
LAW ON BEEKEEPING	02/L-111	30.03.2007	2008/05 06.02.2008
LAW ON CHEMICALS	02/L-116	27.04.2007	2008/08 06.02.2008
LAW ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE	02/L-122	17.08.2007	2008/02 06.01.2008
LAW ON PRODUCTS FOR PLANT PROTECTION	03/L-042	07.11.2008	Decree No. DL-061-2008
LAW ON AMENDING THE LAW ON SPATIAL PLANNING	03/L-108	10.11.2008	Decree No. DL-056-2008
LAW ON FOOD	03/L-016	12.02.2009	Decree No. DL-004-2009
LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT	03/L-015	12.02.2009	Decree No. DL-003-2009
LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	03/L-024	26.02.2009	Decree No. DL-006-2009
LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	03/L-025	26.02.2009	Decree No. DL-007-2009
LAW ON INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL	03/L-043	26.03.2009	Decree No. DL-010-2009
LAW ON BIOCIDES PRODUCTS	03/L-119	27.05.2009	Decree No. DL-014-2009
LAW ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	03/L-098	11.06.2009	Decree No. DL-015-2009
LAW ON NATURAL GAS	03/L-133	02.11.2009	Decree No. DL-030-2009

Table 9. Draft Laws in progress

Draft Law Name	No. and date of receipt	Date when distributed to MPs	First review
LAW ON PROTECTION FROM NON-IONIZING, IONIZING RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SECURITY	03/L-104 21.10.2008	22.10.2008	20.11.2008
LAW ON AMENDING THE LAW NO. 2003/03 ON KOSOVO FORESTS	03/L-153 12.06.2009	19.05.2009	25.06.2009
LAW ON AIR PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION	03/L-160 12.06.2009	16.06.2009	24.07.2009
LAW ON MINES AND MINERALS	03/L-163 12.06.2009	17.06.2009	09.07.2009
LAW ON TOURISM AND TOURIST SERVICES	03/L-188 20.08.2009	26.08.2009	17.09.2009

Administrative Instructions

Other important bylaws are:

- Administrative Instruction: On the Form and Mode of keeping the Central Registry for Nature Protection Areas (No. 04/2006-MESP, September 2006)
- Administrative Instruction: For the way of marking Nature Protected Areas (No. 01/07-MESP, December 2006)
- Administrative Instruction: for Nature Protected Areas' Management Plans. (No. 11/07 –MESP, November 2007)
- Administrative Instruction: on Criteria and Procedures on Cave Usage
- Administrative Instruction: on Issuance of Ecological License (No. 26/05-MESP, November 2005)
- Administrative Instruction: on Criteria for Determination of Water Protected Areas and their Protection Measures for Water Resources Used for Drinking (No. 13/07-MESP)
- Administrative Instruction: on the Implementation of the Law on Spatial Planning on the Essential Elements of Spatial Plans' Substance for Special Areas (No. 2005/42-MESP, March 2005)
- Decision on Protected Areas

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is preparing several more very important draft laws on nature protection, such as:

- Draft Law on Nature Protection,
- Draft Law on "Sharr Mountain" National Park,
- Draft Law on "Bejshket e Nemuna" National Park.

Environmental Strategy and Action Plan

In June 2004, the Government of Kosovo adopted the Kosovo Environmental Strategy, whilst in support of this document and obligations arising from the Environmental Protection Law, Kosovo Action Plan on Environment 2006-2010 was also drafted during 2006.

The main objective of this plan concerning the protection of nature was, "Creating a more efficient legal and institutional system for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage, and the introduction of 10% of the Kosovo territory under protection."

To achieve this objective, although several projects have been prepared, none of these so far has started the implementation.

Preparations for the Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020 have also commenced during 2009.

NATURE PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS

Assembly of Kosovo

The highest legislative body in Kosovo comprised of 120 MPs. There is a functional Committee on Environment and Spatial Planning within the Assembly, which in 2005 merged with the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development with 15 members. The Assembly promulgates the Law on the Nature Protection, declares National Parks, and approves Nature Protection Strategy, etc.

Kosovo Government consists of 18 ministries, under which is the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) among other things is responsible to "establish policies, implement laws and supervise environmental protection activities, including water, air, land, biodiversity resources".

Within the MESP is the Department of "Sharr Mountain" National Park, which deals with National Park territory's management.

The Ministry, through the Nature Protection Inspectorate within the Environmental Inspectorate carries out the supervision of these laws and other bylaws issued accordingly.

Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency

KEPA was established following the approval of the Law on Environmental Protection by the Assembly of Kosovo. The Agency includes: Kosovo Institute of Nature Protection (KINP) and Kosovo Hydrometeorology Institute (KHMI). Duties of the Agency are to monitor the environment, inform the public and local as well as international institutions on the environmental situation in Kosovo as well as scientific research projects in the field of environment.

Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection

It was established in 1974 under the name of the Kosovo Office for Nature Protection. According to the Law on Nature Protection²⁰, the Institute carries out professional work for nature conservation within KEPA such as:

- Data collection and processing related to the protection of nature;
- Drafting certain databases for species of plants, animals, mushroom, habitats, ecosystems and sceneries;
- Monitoring biological and scenery diversity and proposition of measures for nature protection'

²⁰ Article 9.2. Law on Nature Protection No. 2006/22

- Carrying out statistical analysis, summarizing results and drafting report on the nature protection situation;
- Implementation of international instruments on nature protection.

Virtually this Institute does not function, for nature protection is accomplished through a Section within the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, drafts policies for agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing etc

Kosovo Forestry Agency

KFA is responsible for regulating issues related to forests and forest lands, administration and management of public forest lands and forests in National Parks in Kosovo, except for those issues that the law specifically assigns to any other authority of the Government.

Kosovo Museum – Nature Section maintains Kosovo nature heritage within it.

Municipal Assemblies, in accordance with the Law on Nature Protection, Strategy and Action Plan and spatial planning documents, they are obliged to:²¹ take care of the conservation of biological and landscape diversity in their territory, declare protected areas that are their competence, provide conditions for the protection and conservation of protected areas that are under their competence, participate in the drafting of management plans for protected areas under their competence, inform public about the state of nature in their own territory and measures taken to protect and conserve it, etc.

Scientific Institutions

Kosovo Science Academy and University of Prishtina, are dealing with scientific exploration and research in the field of nature and biodiversity.

Environmental Civil Society Organizations

According to recent estimations made in 2006, it shows that there 30 active environmental NGOs registered in Kosovo. These NGOs regarding the outreach come from 15 Municipalities of Kosovo, and are mostly active in Prishtina. According to this assessment, in half of Kosovo Municipalities there are no registered environmental NGOs.

Although despite the considerable number of environmental NGOs, almost none of them have their own program for nature and biodiversity conservation oriented only.

21 Article 10 LNP 2006/22

10. PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Problems:

- Unsatisfactorily implementation of the existing laws;
- Unsatisfactorily reflection of Birds and Habitats Directive in the Law on Nature;
- Lack of the Strategy and Action Plan on Nature and Biodiversity;
- Lack of an institution dealing exclusively with the nature protection (Nature Protection Institute);
- Lack of management bodies for protected areas;
- Lack of spatial and management plans for protected areas;
- Uncontrolled use of natural resources in protected areas;
- Lack of scientific research on biodiversity;
- Lack of full inventory for flora, fauna and habitat;
- Insufficient budget for nature protection;
- Lack of sufficient staff for nature protection.

Recommendations:

- Approval of 3 new Laws: on Nature Protection, “Sharr Mountain” National Park and “Bjeshket e Nemuna” National Park,
- Support of exploration project for making the inventory of species and habitats, cave etc.
- Drafting the Red List of flora and fauna;
- Support of cross border project for nature protection;
- Preparation of spatial and management plans for nature protected areas;
- Drafting programs and projects on awareness raising and sensitizing on nature protection;
- Establishment of the coordination office for identification, ratification and implementation of conventions and other international agreements on nature protection.

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