

The Law of the Republic of Armenia
"About Nature Reserves"

This Law regulates the relations that arise in the field of formation and preservation of nature reserves.

Part I
General Provisions

Article 1. The Legislation on Nature Reserves

The order of formation, organization, preservation and use of nature reserves are determined by this law and by other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia enacted in conformity with it.

Article 2. Aims of the Legislation on Nature Reserves.

The aims of the legislation on nature reserves are the following:

- preservation and reproduction of nature standards and of ecosystems;
- preservation of natural monuments;
- preservation of diversity of biological species;
- scientific research of natural phenomena;
- supervision over the state of the environment;
- ecological education as well as use of natural objects for recreational and learning purposes in cases stipulated by law.

Article 3. Status of Nature Reserves.

Nature reserves are those allocated (in a manner stipulated by law) tracts of land with surface and subterranean waters, mineral resources, flora and fauna, as well as individual natural objects which are of special ecological, scientific, medicinal, cultural, aesthetic value and which entirely or partially, for a time or forever are not subject to economic exploitation.

The nature reserves can be of international, Republican or local significance.

The nature reserves can be granted the status of State conservancies, National parks, State preserves and of natural monuments.

To minimize or exclude negative impact of economic activities on natural reserves, the protective belts are fixed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The size, conditions and regime of a protective belt are set by the Statutes of a given nature reserve and are to be subsequently confirmed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The nature reserves are taken into consideration when programs of economic and social development and land-use schemes are designed and when the frontiers of administrative and territorial units are determined. Privatization of land of the nature reserves is prohibited.

Article 4. State Cadastre of Nature Reserves.

The State cadaster of nature reserves is a system of documents and information about their legal status, qualitative and quantitative descriptions, about objects of ecological, scientific, cultural and other national economic value therein, and about land-use.

The State cadastre of the nature reserves is compiled with the aim of securing their planning and preservation, of ensuring the State supervision over scientific research and implementation of proper regimes, as well as of taking them into consideration when the plans of socio-economic development are worked out and the decisions on distribution of forces of production are made.

The State cadastre of the nature reserves is compiled at the expense of the national budget.

The order of keeping the State cadastre of the nature reserves is determined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Part II

The Formation Order of the Nature Reserves

Article 5. The Formation of Nature Reserves.

The nature reserves are formed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The decision on granting the tracts of land (water areas) and the objects the status of State preserve or that of a natural monument is made by the local body of the State administration and is subsequently submitted to the Government for confirmation.

Article 6. The Order of Organization of Nature Reserves.

The organization of the nature reserves is done on the basis of the systematized long-term projects and specially elaborated schemes for environmental protection which are drawn by the respective research, research-and-production and design institutes and organizations at the expense of the national budget.

Article 7. The Order of Conservancy of Nature Reserves.

Simultaneously with the discussion of an application containing the proposal to grant a nature reserve status to an ecosystem or an object for their better preservation, the local body of State administration makes a conservancy decision for the tract of land viewed as a nature reserve and issues a corresponding Act whereby the economic activities of the users of this tract of land are restricted or, if needs be, terminated.

The State plans for the use of this land for economic purposes are brought into conformity with the enacted Conservancy act.

Part III

State Conservancies

Article 8. The Status of State Conservancies.

The State conservancy is an area (of land or water) which presents ecological, scientific, historical cultural interest and which is endowed with special aesthetic and environmental protection features and where the development processes of natural environment take place without the immediate interference of humans.

A State conservancy has the status of an establishment for environmental protection and research and enjoys the rights of a juridical person.

Article 9. The Conditions and Regime of a State Conservancy.

Any activities which might violate the development of natural processes are prohibited on the territory of the State conservancies (nature conservancies).

Within the area of the State conservancies the following activities are prohibited:

- exploitation of water resources and any activities that might disturb the water balance;
- construction and exploitation of economic and housing facilities, buildings, etc., construction of roads, pipelines, power transmission lines and of other service lines (with the exception of buildings, facilities and installations necessary for the activities of a given establishment);
- hunting, fishing, infringement on the environmental conditions of the animal wildlife;
- introduction of new species of animals and plants as well as any activities aimed at increasing the total number of individual species;
- making a collection, with the exception of the materials intended for the research work to be conducted within the territory of the State conservancy;

- utilization of chemical weed-killers and pest-killers for the purposes of fertilization and fighting the pests;
- geological explorations, exploitation of mineral resources, damage of topsoil, exploitation of ore strata, juts and rock outcrops;
- felling of trees, collection of plants, flowers and seeds, grazing of livestock, mowing and other damage to undergrowth;
- traffic of engine- and caterpillar transport beyond the roads and waterways in general use;
- traffic of mechanical transport and its parking beyond the roads or specially assigned parking-lots;
- any other activities which cause damage to ecosystems and objects or threaten the preservation of objects of cultural or scientific value.

Part IV National Parks

Article 10. The Status of National Parks.

The National park is an area (of land or water) which incorporates ecosystems and objects of special ecological, historical cultural and aesthetic value which, due to favorable conjunction of natural and artificial scenery, can be made use of for the recreational, historical cultural and scientific purposes.

A given area is assigned to a National park for permanent use in the manner stipulated by the legislation.

According to the functional purposes of its individual sections, to the nature of the preservation and utilization order, a National park is divided into the respective zones,

of which the areas of the conservancy are declared closed for economic exploitation.

A National park enjoys the status of an establishment for environmental protection and research and enjoys the rights of a juridical person.

Article 11. The Conditions and Regime of National Parks.

The specific regulations are adopted for preserving the individual sections of a National park (the section of conservancy, the recreationground, etc.) and of utilization of ecosystems and other objects (taking into consideration their ecological, recreational, cultural and aesthetical value).

Within the area of a National park (with the exception of the section of the conservancy which has the regime set for the State conservancies) the following activities are prohibited:

- construction and exploitation of industrial and other buildings and facilities which are not related to the functioning of the park;
- geological explorations, exploitation of mineral resources;
- felling of trees (except for reasons of environmental sanitation);
- introduction and acclimatization of new species of plants and animals;
- any other activities that run counter to the aims and Statutes of a National park.

Part V

State Preserves

Article 12. State Preserves.

The State preserves are the areas that are set aside (forever or for a specified period of time) in a manner stipulated by

law and within the boundaries of which safeguarded are the preservation and reproduction of ecosystems (and the varieties of their components), which are of scientific, historical cultural and economic value and of value as standards. Any activity which causes damage to the ecosystems of State preserves or threatens the preservation of objects of special scientific or cultural value is prohibited on the territory of a State preserve.

Article 13. The Conditions and regime of State Preserves. Any activity that does not answer the purposes of a State preserve is restricted or prohibited within the territory of a State preserve.

Principal goals and the peculiarities of the regime of State preserves are fixed by their Statutes.

Part VI

Natural Monuments

Article 14. Natural Monuments.

Natural monuments are the exceptional or typical natural objects of special scientific and historical cultural value. The list of these objects is compiled by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 15. The Conditions and Regime of Natural Monuments.

The preservation regime of natural monuments is set by those State bodies which make a decision to grant the status of a natural monument to an object.

These bodies draw up a preservation Certificate and determine the establishment which is to be responsible for safeguarding the preservation of the natural monument.

Part VII

Liability for Violation of Regime of Nature Reserves

Article 16. Liability for Violation of Regime of Nature Reserves.

Persons guilty of violation of the regime of nature reserves are liable to prosecution in the manner stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Part VIII

International Agreements

Article 17. International Agreements

Should the rules and regulations, stipulated by an international agreement concluded by the Republic of Armenia, differ from the rules and regulations of this law, those of the international agreement are effective.

President of the Republic of Armenia
Petrosian.

L. Ter-

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City of Yerevan.