

THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

The objective of this law is to set forth the legal principles of State Policy for sustainable development, restoration, conservation and use of ecosystems, nature complexes and separate objects of Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Republic of Armenia representing environmental, economic, social, scientific, historical-cultural, aesthetic, health, climate regulating, recreational and spiritual values.

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The main definitions apply in this law.

The main definitions used in this law have the respective meanings:

“National Park” means an area set apart under the statutory order of environmental, historical, cultural, aesthetic, recreational and other values, which combined with natural landscapes and cultural values can be used for scientific, recreational, cultural and economic purposes.

“Reserve Zone of the National Park” means an area in the national park set apart pursuant to the statutory order, where the set forth regime for the state reserve operates.

“Recreational Zone of the National Park”^{a)} means an area in the national park set apart pursuant to the statutory order, where organization of the citizens’ recreation and tourism and relative services are allowed.

“Economic Zone of the National Park” means an area in the national park set apart pursuant to the statutory order, where economic activities in conformity with the regime of the national park are allowed.

“The use of flora and fauna for industrial purposes” the use of flora and fauna for beneficial purposes pursuant to the order of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, which is carried out based on the approved registration data, limited quantities and the terms of use.

“Natural Park” means an area of environmental, historical, cultural, aesthetic, recreation and other values, where ecosystems, nature complexes and separate objects can be used for environmental, ecological awareness and recreational purposes.

“Specially Protected Natural Area” means lots and separate natural objects of ground and surface waters, the entrails, land flora and fauna and appropriate air space, set apart under the statutory order under the law, which represent an environmental, scientific, health care, cultural, tourism, aesthetic values, which are fully or partially, temporarily or permanently exempted from economic exploitation and civil circulation and for which a special conservation regime is set forth.

“Management Plan for Specially Protected Natural Area” means an official document regulating the conservation, restoration and use of the given area.

“The Monitoring of Specially Protected Natural Areas” means a system of observation and assessment of plant and animal organisms, their habitats, ecosystems, the state of historical-cultural monuments and the use of natural resources, as well as prediction and prevention of negative impacts.

“State Cadastre of Specially Protected Natural Area” means a summary of continuously updated information and documentation, which involves data on quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the status, geographical distribution and frontiers, conservation regime, biological diversity, natural resources, the state, nature users, forms of ownership, scientific, economic, social, historical and cultural values of the given area.

“Natural Monument” means a natural object of special scientific, historical, cultural and aesthetic values.

“Natural models” means a natural area, which has preserved the original state of natural landscapes and has been subject to minimal modifications under the historical interaction of natural and anthropogenic factors.

“Natural Chronicle” means an annual collection of data on ecosystems of specially protected natural areas and their components, necessary for the assessment of the state and changes of natural complexes.

“Ecological Balance” means a dynamic balance of nature components, natural phenomenon, and anthropogenic factors which leads to the long lasting and sustainable survival.

“Ecological Corridor” means a functional component of ecological net, targeted to improvement of interaction between the natural ecosystems and provision of the integrity of the net.

“Ecological Net” means a system of specially protected natural areas of different statuses, which combines the functions of conservation and use to ensure the ecological balance.

“Ecosystem” means a dynamic set of cenoses of plants, animals and microorganisms, as well as their abiotic environment, where interaction is presented as a combined functional integrity.

“Biological Diversity” means the variability among living organisms, which are the components of terrestrial, air and aquatic ecosystems which includes the diversity within species, among the species and of ecosystems.

“Biosphere Reserve/Reservation” means an area set apart pursuant to the statutory order, affected by natural and anthropogenic impacts, which ensures the combined conservation, restoration, use, regeneration of landscapes, ecosystems and their components of regional importance and promotes their sustainable development

“The Transitional Zone of Biosphere Reserve/Reservation” means an area of the biosphere reserve/reservation, set apart pursuant to the statutory order, where economic activities targeted to the development of sustainable management of natural resources are allowed.

“The Main Area of Biosphere Reserve/Reservation (nucleus)” means an area of the biosphere reserve/reservation, set apart pursuant to the statutory order, which is exempted from economic exploitation and where the regime set forth for the state regime is operating.

“Buffer Zone of Biosphere Reserve/Reservation (nucleus)” means an area of the biosphere reserve/reservation, set apart pursuant to the statutory order, where land use appropriate to the conservation of the main area of the biosphere reserve is allowed.

“Specially Protected Natural Areas of National Importance” means an area, which encompasses ecosystems and their components unique for the Republic of Armenia..

“Specially protected Natural Areas of International Importance” means an area, which encompasses unique ecosystems and their components of international or regional importance, where global ecological monitoring is implemented.

“Buffer Zone” means an area separated pursuant to the established order, which buffers the areas of a state reserve, national park, state sanctuary, natural park, natural monument, where economic activities having negative influence on the environment is restricted or prohibited.

“State Sanctuary” means an area, set apart pursuant to the statutory order, ensuring the conservation and natural regeneration of sample natural ecosystems of scientific, historical, cultural economic values and their components, and plant and animal species.

“State Reserve” means an area representing scientific, historical, cultural values of unique environmental, aesthetic features, where the processes of natural habitats are developed without direct anthropogenic interaction.

“Specially Protected Natural Area of Local Importance” means an area, which encompasses ecosystems and their components of environmental importance having marz and community significance for the Republic of Armenia.

Article 2. The Legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas

Public relations in the sphere of establishment, management, conservation, use and restoration of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, this law, International Covenants of the Republic of Armenia, Land Code, Water Code, Forest Code, Civil Code, the laws of the Republic of Armenia on “Flora”, “Fauna”, “State Non-Commercial Organizations”, “Local Self-Governing Bodies”, “Expertise of Environmental Impact Assessment”, “Nature Protection and Nature Usage Fees” and other legal acts.

Article 3. The Issues of the Legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas

The issues of the legislation on Specially Protected Natural Areas is the following:

- a) Conservation of biological and landscape diversity, natural monuments;
- b) Provision of sustainability of natural ecosystems and ecological balance;
- c) Provision of restoration of natural ecosystems of local, regional and international importance and sustainable development;
- d) Maintenance of nature models, biodiversity and ecological balance;
- e) Prevention or mitigation of anthropogenic influence on sustainable development of ecosystems;
- f) Scientific research of natural course of natural phenomena;
- g) Promotion of sustainable use of natural objects and bio-resources in the statutory cases;
- h) Promotion of ecological education and training activities;
- i) Regulation of public relations in the sphere of conservation and use of specially protected natural areas.

Article 4. Classification and Status of Specially Protected Natural Areas

Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are State ownership. It is prohibited to transfer the state owned lands of specially protected natural areas to a private ownership.

By their significance the Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are classified as: international, national and local importance specially protected natural areas.

By their status the Specially Protected Natural Areas are classified as: biosphere reserve/reservation, state reserve, national park, natural park, state sanctuary and natural monument.

The specially protected areas of different statuses could be combined in an ecological net, the sample elements of which are the ecological nucleus, ecological corridors and buffer zones. The already established specially protected natural areas can be considered as ecological nucleuses.

Article 5. Establishment of Specially Protected Natural Areas

Specially Protected Natural Areas are established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The basis for establishment of Specially Protected Natural Areas can serve the proposals and decrees of stakeholders set forth in Article 13 of this law, which are based on the scientifically justified recommendations, submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia to make an appropriate decision pursuant to the established order by the legislation.

After the government decree on granting an appropriate status of Specially Protected Natural Area to the respective area, the Government of the Republic of Armenia, before making any corrections, amendments and compliments in the state projects, adopts a decree on its conservation, according to which the economic activity in the given area is restricted and if necessary is ceased from.

In case new Specially Protected Natural Areas are established, the necessary areas are taken away by the Government pursuant to the established order by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, upon compensation of its price to the owner.

The conservation of biosphere reserve/reservation, state reserve, and the national park of Specially Protected Natural Areas is implemented and the use is regulated by the state environmental organizations (hereinafter state organization)

After making corrections, amendments and compliments in the state projects, the territories mentioned in the fifth part of this Article are allocated to the state organization free of

charge with the right of permanent use pursuant to statutory order under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Specially Protected Natural Areas are taken into account for elaboration of economic and social development programs, territorial planning designs, land zoning and usage schemes, land, forest and city planning project documents and definition of boundaries of administrative units.

Article 6. The Zones of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The territory of biosphere reserve/reservation, according to functional significance of conservation and use regimes is divided into the main area (nucleus), conservation and transitional zones, of which the main area (nucleus) is exempted from economical exploitation to which the regime set forth under Article 18 of this law is applied.

The territory of the national park according to functional importance of conservation and use regimes and ecological, scientific, recreational, cultural and aesthetic values is divided into reserve, recreational and economic zones, where economic exploitation is excluded in the reserve zone to which the regime set forth under the Article 18 is applied.

The territory of a natural park, according to functional importance of conservation and use regimes and environmental, historical, cultural aesthetic and recreational values can have different functional zones: environmental, recreational, ecological awareness, agro-technical, etc, to which the regime set forth under the Article 20 is applied.

A buffer zone is established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the purposes of restricting or ceasing from the economic activity having a negative influence on Specially Protected Natural Area. The dimensions and regime of the buffer zone are set forth pursuant to the Charter of the given Specially Protected Natural Area.

CHAPTER 2

THE STATE GOVERNANCE OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 7. The Jurisdiction of the Government of the Republic of Armenia

The jurisdictions of the Republic of Armenia in the sphere of establishment, management, conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Government of Republic of Armenia are the following:

- a) Ensure the formulation and conduct of state policy of management of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- b) Approve the state projects and management plans for conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- c) Adopt the decrees on establishment, zoning and status changes, as well as on dimensions and boundaries of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- d) Approve the list of natural museums;
- e) Establish a procedure of cadastre maintenance of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- f) Establish a procedure of organization and implementation of a monitoring of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- g) Definition of cadastre maintenance order of specially protected natural areas;
- h) Approval the state order for conservation of Specially Protected Natural Areas and conducting science-research and other activities in them;
- i) Other powers established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the law hereof.

Article 8. The Jurisdiction of the State Governing Body Authorized by the Government of the Republic of Armenia

The jurisdictions of State Governing Body /hereinafter referred to as “Authorized State Governing Body”/ authorized by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the sphere of establishment, management, conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are the following:

- a) Development and coordination of implementation of the state policy of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;

- b) Development of state projects and management plans and coordination of implementation in the sphere of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- c) Insurance of conservation of Specially Protected Natural Areas of international and national importance;
- d) Maintenance of the cadastre of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- e) Conduct the monitoring of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- f) State control over the conduct of the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia in Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- g) Elaboration of the list of natural monuments and approval of passports;
- h) Elaboration and definition of norms and rules for conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- i) Creation of a database of Specially Protected Natural Areas; their landscape and biological diversity, as well as conservation and use, organization, implementation of its maintenance and provision of information pursuant to the order established by the legislation of Armenia.
- j) Acceptance of reports on conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas from the state organizations;
- k) Submission of recommendation to the Government of the Republic of Armenia on establishment, zoning and status changes, as well as on dimensions and boundaries of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- l) Formulation of state order for conservation of Specially Protected Natural Areas, implementation of science-research and other activities in them;
- m) Other powers established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the law hereof.

Article 9. The Jurisdictions of Territorial State Governing Bodies

The jurisdictions of Territorial State Governing Bodies in the sphere of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are the following:

- a) Participation in development of state projects and management plans, and their implementation within the limits of their jurisdiction;
- b) Submission of recommendations to the Authorized State Governing Body for giving or changing the status of Specially Protected Natural Area of the given

areas and natural objects located within the administrative borders of the marz, out of the administrative borders of the communities;

- c) Assisting the state organizations located within the administrative borders of the marz;
- d) Management of Specially Protected Natural Areas of local importance located within the administrative borders of the marz, out of the administrative borders of communities;
- e) Implementation of measures for the purposes of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas located within the administrative borders of the marz conforming them with the authorized state governing body;
- f) Creation of a database of Specially Protected Natural Areas located within the administrative borders of the marz; their landscape and biological diversity, as well as conservation and use, and provision of information pursuant to the order established by the legislation of Armenia.
- g) Other powers established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the law hereof.

Article 10. The jurisdictions of Local Self-Governing Bodies

The jurisdictions of Regional State Governing bodies in the sphere of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia are the following:

- a) Participate in development of state projects and management plans;
- b) Give the status of natural parks, sanctuaries or natural monuments of local importance to the areas within the administrative borders of the community and natural objects as well as submit a proposal to the Authorized State Governing Body for changing the status;
- c) Assist the state organizations located within the administrative border of the community;
- d) Management of Specially Protected Natural Areas of local importance located within the administrative borders of the community;
- e) Implement measures for the purposes of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas located within the administrative border of the community, conforming them with the authorized state governing body;
- f) Create a database of Specially Protected Natural Areas located within the administrative borders of the community; their landscape and biological diversity,

as well as conservation and use, and provision of information pursuant to the established order under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

- g) Other powers established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the law hereof.

CHAPTER 3

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREA

Article 11. The Objective of the Management Plan of the Specially Protected Natural Area

The objective of development of the management plan /hereinafter referred to as “Management Plan”, for Specially Protected Natural Area is to ensure the processes of conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Areas.

The management plan ensures:

- a) Participation of all stakeholders in the management process of the conservation and use of Specially Protected Natural Area;
- b) Analysis of current condition of Specially Protected Natural Area and assessment of the influence of anthropogenic factors on natural phenomena;
- c) Identification of those problems, which are impediments to sustainable development of Specially Protected Natural Area and are threats to conservation of natural systems, valuable natural, historical and cultural objects;
- d) Development of methods and ways for problem solution, alleviation and eradication of threats;
- e) Definition of forms of use and rates of natural resources of Specially Protected Natural Area.

Article 12. Development of a Management Plan for Specially Protected Natural Area

The management plan is developed for five years, in accordance with the methodological instructions developed and approved for the purpose hereto by the authorized state governing body and is subject to annual revision.

The management plan includes:

- a) The main information on Specially Protected Natural Area, including ecosystems and their components, description of the values of the territory /including the conditions thereof and threatening danger/ and scope of changes and development trends;
- b) Assessment of social-economic conditions and nature-use specification of the Specially Protected Natural Area;
- c) Specifications of management system of Specially Protected Natural Area, including the staff, infrastructure, etc;
- d) Thematic maps and layouts of zoning boundaries, biological diversity, including distribution of biological diversity, landscape, land use, etc of Specially Protected Natural Area;
- e) Monitoring data on Specially Protected Natural Area;
- f) Annual plan and timetable of activities of Specially Protected Natural Area;
- g) Necessary expenditures and financial sources for conservation, conducting science-research observations and other activities in Specially Protected Natural Area.

CHAPTER 4

STUDY ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 13. The Objective of the Study of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The objective of the study on Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia is to:

- a) Develop indicators for implementation of state monitoring of ecosystems and their components;
- b) Organize and implement the state monitoring of ecosystems and their components;
- c) Implement the state registration and cadastre maintenance of ecosystems and their components;
- d) Establish a coordinated database on ecosystems and their components;
- e) Develop forms and methods for conservation and use of ecosystems and their components;
- f) Plan an efficient management of Specially Protected Natural Areas.

Article 14. Conducting a Study of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The study of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia is conducted under the state order by the state organization.

The state order for the study of Specially Protected Natural Areas is formulated and established by the state governing body authorized to carry out the management of Specially Protected Natural Areas pursuant to the established order by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 15. Monitoring of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The objective of the monitoring of the Specially Protected Natural Areas is the following:

- a) Identify the current condition of distribution, species, quantity, habitats and migration routes of biological diversity;
- b) Assess and predict the process of qualitative and quantitative changes of components natural systems;
- c) Identify the factors of negative anthropogenic impact on ecosystems and their components;
- d) Develop facilities for prevention and mitigation/eradication of negative impacts on ecosystems and their components;
- e) Assist in development of management plans.

Article 16. State Registration and State Cadastre of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The objective of maintenance of state cadastre of Specially Protected Natural Areas is the following:

- a) Accumulate and classify the data obtained during the scientific researches and monitoring;
- b) Take the stock, summarize and analyze the forms and specification of the use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- c) Identify the optimal caring capacity for the use of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- d) Maintain the nature chronicle;
- e) Assist in development of management plans.

CHAPTER 5

THE REGIMES OF THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 17. Conservation Regime of Biosphere Reserve

The conservation regime of the biosphere reserve is the following:

- a) It is prohibited in the main part of biosphere reserve:
 - i. Activities disturbing the water regime;
 - ii. Construction and operation of economic and residential objects, roads, pipelines, electrotransmission cables, and other communication facilities, except the construction of objects necessary for the operation of biosphere area (forest guard hut, entanglements, marking signs, etc) and roads;
 - iii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats;
 - iv. Hunting and fishing;
 - v. Harvest of plants, flowers and seeds, except the collection of collections envisaged for scientific observations of the reserve's territory;
 - vi. Loggings, cattle grazing, hay harvest and other distractions of vegetation cover;
 - vii. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads and streams envisaged for conservation of biosphere territory and parking out of the roads' net or in the places not planned for that purpose;
 - viii. Introduction and acclimatization of new flora and fauna species, as well as any activity carried out for increasing the quantity of individual species;
 - ix. The use of pesticides and herbicides for plant protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
 - x. Geological investigations, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptsions of stratum;
- b) It is prohibited in the buffer zone of biosphere reserve:
 - i. Activities disturbing the water regime;
 - ii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats;
 - iii. Introduction of new flora and fauna species;

- iv. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads and streams envisaged for conservation of biosphere territory and parking out of the roads' net or in the places not planned for that purpose;
- v. Cattle grazing;
- vi. The use of pesticides and herbicides for plant protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
- vii. Geological investigations, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptions of stratum;

c) It is prohibited in the transitional zone of the biosphere territory

- i. Activities disturbing the water regime;
- ii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats;
- iii. Introduction of new flora and fauna species;
- iv. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads and streams envisaged for conservation of biosphere territory and parking out of the roads' net or in the places not planned for that purpose;

Article 18. Conservation Regime of the State Reserve

The conservation regime of the state reserve in the Republic of Armenia is as follows:

a) It is prohibited in the territory of the state reserve:

- i. Exploitation of water resources and any activity disturbing the water regime;
- ii. Construction and operation of economic and residential objects, roads, pipelines, electrotransmission cables, and other communication facilities, except the construction of objects necessary for the operation of state reserve (forest guard hut, entanglements, marking signs, etc) and roads;
- iii. Hunting, fishing, disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats;
- iv. Introduction of new flora and fauna species, as well as any activity carried out for increasing the quantity of individual species;
- v. Harvest of plants, flowers and seeds, except the collection of collections envisaged for scientific observations of the reserve's territory;
- vi. Loggings, cattle grazing, hay harvest and other distractions of vegetation cover;

- vii. The use of pesticides and herbicides for plant protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
- viii. Geological investigations, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptions of stratum;
- ix. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads and streams envisaged for conservation of biosphere territory and parking out of the roads' net or in the places not planned for that purpose;

Article 19. Conservation Regime of the National Park

The conservation regime of the national park in the Republic of Armenia is:

- a) It is prohibited in the reserve zone of the national park:
 - i. Any activity disturbing the water regime;
 - ii. Construction and exploitation of economic and residential objects, roads, pipelines, electrotransmission cables and other communication facilities, except the construction of objects necessary for the operation of the national park (forest guard hut, entanglements, marking signs, etc) and road construction;
 - iii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats, including loggings and animal grazing;
 - iv. Introduction and acclimatization activities of new plant and animal species;
 - v. The use of plant and animal objects and their products for industrial purposes;
 - vi. Harvest of plants, flowers and seeds, except the collection of collections envisaged for scientific observations of the reserve's territory;
 - vii. The use of pesticides for plants' protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
 - viii. Geological survey, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptions of stratum;
 - ix. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads of general use and streams and the parking out of the road net or in the places not planned thereof.

b) It is prohibited in the recreational zone of the national park:

- i. Any activity disturbing the water regime;
- ii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats, including animal grazing;
- iii. Introduction and acclimatization activities of new plant and animal species;

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- v. The use of pesticides for plants' protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
- vi. Geological survey, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptions of stratums;
- vii. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads of general use and streams and the parking out of the road net or in the places not planned thereof.

c) It is prohibited in the economic zone of the national park:

- i. Any activity disturbing the water regime;
- ii. Disturbance of conditions of flora and fauna habitats, including loggings and animal grazing;
- iii. Introduction and acclimatization activities of new plant and animal species;
- iv. The use of pesticides for plants' protection, as well as the use of mineral fertilizers;
- v. Geological survey, mining activities and mineral processing, destruction of soil cover, exploitation of ore minerals, ore protuberances and abruptions of stratums;
- vi. The traffic of motor or caterpillar transport out of roads of general use and streams and the parking out of the road net or in the places not planned thereof.

Article 20. The Conservation Regime of the Natural Park

Any activity in the territory of the natural park of the Republic of Armenia causing changes of the landscapes of historical formation and having negative influence on environmental, historical, cultural, aesthetic and recreational values of the area is prohibited.

The environmental zone of the natural park is exempted from economic exploitation and the regime set forth under Article 18 of this law is applied to.

The recreation zone of the natural park is used for organization of the population rest and the regime set forth under point “b” of Article 19 of this law for the recreation zone of the national park is applied.

The ecological awareness zone of the natural park is used for cognitive tourism, introduction of picturesque sceneries of the area, nature and historical-cultural monuments, and any activity disturbing the conservation regime of the natural park is prohibited here.

In other zones of agro-technical and economic significance it is allowed:

- a) Organization of agricultural production with ecologically clean methods;
- b) Organization of regeneration of rare and valuable plants and animals specific to the area;
- c) Organization of national handicraft production;
- d) Organization of services for tourists and visitors.

The problems, zoning and specifications of conservation regime of any natural park are set forth under the charter of the given natural park.

Article 21. Conservation Regime of the State Sanctuary

Any activity in the territory of state sanctuary disturbing the stability of ecosystems of the sanctuary or threatens the conservation of objects of scientific and cultural value is prohibited.

Any activity in the territory of state sanctuary, which contradicts the expedient significance of the sanctuary is restricted or prohibited.

The problems and specifications of each state sanctuary are set forth under the charter of given state sanctuary.

Article 22. The Conservation Regime of the Natural Museum

Any activity in the territory of the natural monument threatening the conservation regime of natural museums is prohibited.

The conservation regime of the natural museum is set forth with the passport elaborated for each natural museum.

The passport of the natural museum includes:

- a) The name and the classification;
- b) The importance, description and measurements;
- c) Geographical position and coordinates;
- d) The occupied area (together with the buffer zone);
- e) Conservation regime;
- f) The body and the organization implementing the conservation;
- g) The responsibilities of the body and the organization implementing the conservation.

The land owners, in the territories of which the natural museum is located, are obligated to ensure the conservation regime of the natural museum.

CHAPTER 6

THE CONSERVATION OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 23. The Conservation Objective of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The conservation objective of Specially Protected Natural Areas is:

- a) Ensure the sustainable development of Specially Protected Natural Areas;
- b) Study and prohibit any activity related to disturbing the natural processes;
- c) Ensure the integrity of natural and cultural heritage;
- d) Ensure the integrity of biological diversity and natural regeneration opportunities;
- e) Investigate and prohibit law infringements conducted by nature users, as well as people entering into the specially protected natural area;
- f) Ensure the implementation of the regime assigned for the specially protected natural area.

Article 24. Conservation and Implementation of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The conservation of territories of the biosphere reserve, state reserve, and national park is implemented by the state organizations mentioned part five of Article 5 of this law:

The conservation of the territory of the state sanctuary and the natural museum is implemented by the state organizations, territorial state governing bodies and local self-governing bodies implementing the conservation of state owned lands.

The cost for implementing the conservation of specially protected natural areas are reimbursed by the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

The Conservation of Specially Protected Natural Areas is implemented as well on the account of funds of state organizations implementing the conservation thereof. These funds are formed from the allocated transfers from the state budget, and other payments against implementation of different measures and provision of different services, from sponsoring, contribution and other sources not contravening the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 25. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Official Implementing the Conservation of Specially Protected Natural Areas

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The rights and responsibilities of the official implementing the conservation of specially protected natural areas are as follows:

- a) Ensure the conduct of requirements of environmental norms and rules assigned by the charter of specially protected natural areas;
- b) Carry a uniform by the assigned order;
- c) Carry service arms and other self-defense facilities upon conducting official duties in accordance with the order established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;
- d) Use communication and transport facilities upon conducting official duties;
- e) Check the passports of persons entering the specially protected natural area under the passport order;
- f) Take the infringement tools or direct object of items and documents of people violating the regime of specially protected natural area;
- g) If it is impossible to clarify the identity of a violator in the infringement place, bring him in the nearest police station;

- h) Upon conducting the official duties carry a pertinent document approving the identity;
- i) Check the documents of a person violating the regime of specially protected natural area;
- j) Check the presence of the license (permission) of the user of specially protected natural area;
- k) Prevent any activity violating the assigned regime of specially protected natural area.
- l) Develop protocols on violations of assigned regime of specially protected natural area, submit them to the state authorized bodies and officials.

The official implementing the conservation of specially protected natural area is subject to compulsory state insurance, in accordance with the established order under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

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Article 26. Supervision of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The supervision of Specially Protected Natural Areas in the Republic of Armenia is carried out in accordance with the order set forth in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 7

THE USE OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 27. The Use of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The users of specially protected natural areas and their resources in the Republic of Armenia can be physical and legal entities.

Article 28. The forms of use of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The forms of use of specially protected natural areas are consistent with the established regime of Chapter 5 of this law.

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The forms of use of Specially Protected Natural Areas are as follows:

- Implementation of science research activities;

- Scientific cognitive excursions and tourism;
- Field studies;
- The use of plant and animal objects for industrial purposes;
- Recreation;
- Ecologically clean agricultural activities;
- Sanitary and maintenance cuttings;
- Amateur and sports fishing;
- The use of water resources;
- Maintenance of a nursery, and the harvest of forest seeds and growing of seedlings for this purposes;
- The entrance of transport and parking in parking lots.

The use of specially protected natural areas is payable (except from the purposes for the use of scientific researches) and is based on the permission given by the authorized state governing body and the contract signed with the state organization.

The relations for the use of the lands of specially protected natural areas and other existing resources in them are regulated under the pursuant law of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 29. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Users of Specially Protected Natural Areas

The user of the specially protected natural area reserves the right to:

- a) Choose the forms of use of specially protected natural area;
- b) Realize the proceeds of sale and take charge of the incomes.

The user of specially protected natural area is obligated to:

- a) Operate in accordance with the requirements of the legislation on specially protected natural areas and an Environmental Expertise;
- b) Ensure the conservation and sanitary hygienic norms of land/water body of specially protected natural area allocated to him, without disturbing the integrity of natural systems;
- c) Assist the official implementing the conservation of specially protected natural area and scientific staff to carry out their employment duties;
- d) Timely pay the fees assigned for the use of specially protected natural areas;
- e) Not to break the rights of other users of specially protected natural area;

- f) Carry out contractual duties.

Article 30. Ceasing the right of the use of specially protected natural area

The right of the use of specially protected natural area is ceased:

- a) In case the assigned order for the use of specially protected natural area is violated;
- b) In case the requirements of Article 28 of law thereof is violated;
- c) In case the user's volunteer refusal or death;
- d) In case legal entity of the user of specially protected natural area is liquidated;
- e) In case the contract term is terminated;
- f) In other statutory cases.

Article 31. Economic Incentives for the Users of Specially Protected Areas and Entrepreneurs, Owners and Population of the Buffer Zone

For the purposes of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of specially protected natural areas the Government applies the following economic incentives for the users of specially protected natural areas and entrepreneurs, owners and population of buffer zones:

- a) Long-term pay off budget loans for organization of ecologically clean production;
- b) Exemption from nature use fees set forth pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for organization of conservation and regeneration of unique and valuable plant and animal wild species;
- c) Other economic incentives set forth pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 8
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMETN PROCESS OF SPECIALLY
PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

**Article 32. Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens in
Management Process of Specially Protected Natural Areas**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and citizens of the Republic of Armenia assist the relevant legal entities (hereinafter legal entities) envisaged under the Articles 7-10 of this law to implement measures directed to the conservation and use of specially protected natural areas.

State authorities provide the necessary information to the NGOs upon implementing the measures herein, consider the recommendations of NGOs and citizens, organize public discussions.

Article 33. Information Provided to the NGOs and Citizens

Legal entities provide information to the NGOs and citizens under the established order of the legislation in the Republic of Armenia:

- a) On the planned activities of specially protected natural area;
- b) On every draft decree on the specially protected natural area;
- c) On the forms of public participation in discussion, adoption and exercising of the decree specially protected natural area;
- d) On the state authority, to whom the comments and recommendations on the draft decree envisaged under the Point “b” of the first Part of this Article, as well as alternatives drafts can be submitted;
- e) On ecological condition of specially protected natural area.

The facilities to provide information to the public by state authorities on specially protected natural area are as follows:

- a) Mass media;
- b) Electronic communication facilities;
- c) Organization of public hearings.

Article 34. The Right of Public to Obtain Information on Specially Protected Natural Area

NGOs and the citizens reserve the right to demand and obtain any information regarding the conservation, use and state of specially protected natural area.

To obtain information on specially protected natural area NGOs and the citizens may apply to:

- a) The state official appointed for the management of specially protected natural areas;
- b) State organization implementing the conservation of specially protected natural area;
- c) The territorial state governing body, in the administrative border of which the specially protected natural area is located;
- d) Local self-governing body, in the administrative border of which the specially protected natural area is located;

State officials are obligated to provide the required information to the NGOs and citizens within the terms specified under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

In case the required information is not provided within the specified terms, the NGOs and citizens reserve the right to restate their right of obtaining information under the established order of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 9

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATING THE LEGISLATION ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

Article 35. Accountability for Violating the Legislation on the Specially Protected Natural Areas

The violation of the legislation on specially protected natural areas will institute accountability in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 10

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 36. International Covenants

If other norms are set forth in the International Covenants of the Republic of Armenia, other than specified in the law thereto, then the norms of international covenants shall apply.

CHAPTER 11

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 37. The Law Enters into Force

This law enters into force ten days after the date of official promulgation.

Acknowledge the revoking of the law on “Specially Protected Natural Areas” adopted on December 17, 1991 with entering into force of this law.

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