

Project Update: August 2011

Training held on 18th - 20th July 2011 in "Shikahogh" State Reserve; this is in the south of Armenia, Syunik region. The participants were those who work on research and tourism in that area and also rangers who know the reserves area well and could contribute in the monitoring of the species and habitats. So the lecture and field programme has been designed the way that provided basic knowledge on the flora and vegetation, the main research methods and tools and certain activities, that the research can be implemented to collect process and store the herbarium, to identify the species with our help and learn about them. Also monitoring tasks have been discussed too. The field trips were done towards the most botanically remarkable sites on the reserve's territory, included the yew grove, which is different than the one in the north.

Participants have been told about the threatened trees and ecosystems that are found on the reserve's territory (plane, yew) and some herbaceous Red Data listed species have been introduced to them too. New contacts have been established for further collaboration. The reserve's staff received the herbarium presses, the standard size sheets, herbarium labels designed especially for 'Shikahogh" State Reserve and all the necessary materials for processing herbarium specimens. We mounted and passed to them some specimens previously collected on that territory, thus establishing the herbarium of "Shikahogh". Further on, during the project we plan to identify the plants that have been collected during the field trainings for the herbarium and that will be collected on our other visits, the rest of the work will be done by the reserve staff members.

Special thanks to the director of the reserve, who helped in organisation of the training and took part in it himself.



