

## **Project Update: December 2015**

The following activities have been accomplished or are in progress for our project in Central Alborz Mountains.

-Two pilot study sites were carefully checked. Golestanak Protected Area in the western parts and Sheshrudbar Protected Area in the eastern parts of Central Alborz. Agreement with Mazandaran branch of Department of Environment on establishing the study plots was performed.

-All materials for collecting the plants and the measurement of plant diversity and endemism were purchased and brought to the stations in May-June 2015.

-A preliminary workshop on the endemism and plant diversity was carried out in the protection station of Golestanak site.

-A checklist of plants of the area and its surrounding was distributed among the local guards from June to August 2015.

-The area was classified into three long transects ranging from ecotone area with high species richness to the alpine area. These three lines were studied based on 100 m interval plots. In each plot every plant was carefully collected and determined. Endemic plants were counted and collected for further assessments.

-Plants were determined based on Flora Iranica and deposited to Herbarium of University of Mazandaran during September to December 2015. There were some visits of local school students in the Herbarium and the endemic plants.

-Since the Sheshrudbar Protected Area has been under the pressure of severe destruction, we decided to have only floristic survey rather than doing a plot-based study.