

Mirak Reservation, Chatkal Reservation // Uzbekistan's Reservations and Natural Monuments. XIV General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1978. Pp.9-11

MIRAK RESERVATION

The reservation, founded in 1976, has an area of 46,795 hectares and is situated on the north-western spurs of the Hissar ridge (Pamir-Alai system), Kashkadarya Region. It has a typical, heavily dissected, mountainous terrain. The lowest point is 1,800 metres above sea level. Some of the mountain peaks rise higher than 4,000 metres above sea level, reaching the snow line. There are several glaciers, including Academician Severtsev's glacier, one of the country's largest.

The snow and glaciers give rise to the reservation's two mountain rivers, the Ak-Su and Tankhaz-Darya.

There is a distinctly zonal pattern in the distribution of vegetation. Surveys show that 6,600 hectares are wooded land, the principal forest species being juniper (semiglobular and Zaravshan species).

The juniper is accompanied by a variety of shrubs-honeysuckle, barberry, dog rose, etc. Medicinal dye, food and decorative plants also occur. These include ferula, ephedra, St. John's wort, licorice, onion, rhubarb, tulip and eremurus.

The **snow leopard**, bear, Siberian mountain goat, wild boar, lynx, fox, ermine, weasel and red marmot inhabit the reservation. The most interesting birds are the bearded vulture, golden eagle, imperial eagle, snow vulture, violet thrush, Alpine wall creeper, stone partridge, mountain partridge, etc. The desert partridge occurs in the foothills.

Near the reservation boundary is a picturesque waterfall called Suvtushar.

CHATKAL RESERVATION

The Chatkal Mountain Forest Reservation is Uzbekistan's oldest protected territory. Founded in 1947, it now has an area of 35,200 hectares on the western spurs of the Chatkal Ridge, part of the Great Tien-Shan

Range. The reservation is in Tashkent Region, and its central office is in the village of Parkent, 50 km from Tashkent.

The landscape is typically mountainous. The lowest point is 1,100 metres above sea level. The mountain peaks rise to heights of 4,000 metres, reaching the snow line.

There are two separate sectors, one of them being surrounded by a 12,200 hectare protective zone.

The reservation has a variety of ecological systems. Of particular importance are the mountain forests. The chief forest-forming tree is juniper- three species. There are vast tracts of deciduous plantings—birch, poplar, willow, maple, pistachio, nettle tree, etc. There are also many wild-growing fruit trees, among them cherry plum, apple and rowan. There are several rare and endemic species.

The fauna includes the **snow leopard**, bear, goat, wild boar, roe, porcupine, Menzbir marmot, stone marten, ermine, a relict gopher, mountain partridge, stone partridge, griffon, black and bearded vultures and many other birds and animals. The numerous mountain streams abound in stone loach, osman (Diptychus), Amu-Darya loach and small Turkestan sheatfish.

The ancient petroglyphs found in the reservation are a unique outdoor museum of great scientific value.

To investigate changes occurring in nature, permanent areas of ecological profile have been set aside and checked up lines and routes established at the Chatkal reservation. Estimated records carried on all the main animal species.