

# Final Report

***Eva Kleinn Fellowship***

***Succow Foundation***

***Title of the Project: "Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Capacity Development for the Establishment of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve in Armenia"***

**Prepared by:** Yeva Danielyan

**Date:** November 2024

---

## Introduction

The establishment of a biosphere reserve is a complex process that requires scientific research, stakeholder engagement, and effective communication. As an Eva Kleinn Fellow with the Succow Foundation, I have had the privilege of contributing to the groundwork for Armenia's first biosphere reserve, centered around Dilijan National Park. My activities during this fellowship spanned baseline data collection, preparation of spatial analyses, map-making, event coordination, and the development of communication materials. This report provides a detailed overview of my contributions and the progress achieved toward the project's objectives.

The fellowship has been an invaluable learning experience, enabling me to expand my knowledge and develop essential skills. When I began this journey, the concept of biosphere reserves was entirely new to me. Through my involvement in the project, I gained a thorough understanding of the fundamental principles of biosphere reserves, including their purpose, structure, and global significance. Building on this foundation, I engaged in tasks such as data collection, spatial analysis, planning, and governance, which provided me with practical insights into the processes of biosphere reserve establishment. Additionally, my interactions

---

with stakeholders from various communities and government agencies offered a unique perspective on the importance of collaboration in addressing ecological and socio-economic challenges. This experience not only deepened my expertise in environmental management but also equipped me with transferable skills and methodologies that I can apply in future initiatives.

---

## Activities and Contributions

### Baseline Data Analysis and Spatial Planning

A major focus of my fellowship was the collection, analysis, and preparation of data necessary for the planning and initial zoning of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve. To ensure a robust understanding of the biosphere reserve concept, I gathered information from trusted sources, including the UNESCO online library, official biosphere reserve websites, and other relevant scientific publications. These resources provided insight into global best practices in biosphere reserve governance, management, and zoning.

In parallel, I compiled and processed spatial layers vital for the future mapping and zoning of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve. These layers included data on:

- **Land use:** Detailed cadastral information on agricultural lands, forests, and urban areas.
- **Biodiversity areas:** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Emerald Sites, and protected areas within and around the reserve.
- **Hydrology:** Rivers, streams, and other water bodies to assess the ecological services.
- **Transportation:** Roads and access routes to analyze human connectivity and its implications for the reserve.
- **Settlements:** Population centers, including nearby towns and villages, for socio-economic assessments.

- 
- **Other relevant spatial layers.**

Using this data, I created maps (Annex 1) essential for identifying the planning area of the biosphere reserve. The maps incorporated ecological, geographical, and socio-economic factors, facilitating further discussions on the future Biosphere Reserve. These visualizations were presented during workshops and stakeholder meetings to guide relevant discussions.

---

## **Event Organization and Participation**

Throughout the fellowship, I contributed to the planning, organization, and execution of key project events. These events provided platforms for stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and collaborative decision-making.

### **1. Inception Workshop**

- **Date:** 20 February 2024
- **Location:** Dili Town Hotel, Dilijan
- **Participants:** 30
- My role included ensuring smooth logistics, preparing introductory materials, and facilitating discussions on the project's objectives and initial steps.

### **2. Kick-Off Workshop**

- **Date:** 22 February 2024
- **Location:** Ani Grand Hotel, Yerevan
- **Participants:** 32
- This workshop introduced national stakeholders to the biosphere reserve concept and the Dilijan project. I contributed to the logistical arrangements of the event.

### **3. Second Local Working Group Meeting**

- **Date:** 10 June 2024
- **Location:** Dilijan Central School (AYB School)

- 
- **Participants:** 29
  - The focus of this meeting was the identification of key ecological, socio-economic, and cultural values within the planned Dilijan Biosphere Reserve. I assisted the project team by managing logistics, selecting appropriate maps to support the working group members in their discussions, and contributing to the development of the methodology for assessing and categorizing these values. My efforts ensured that the meeting was well-structured and provided participants with the tools and information needed for productive discussions.

#### 4. **Autumn School**

- **Date:** 4–6 October 2024
- **Location:** Best Resort Aghveran, Armenia
- **Participants:** 35
- At the Autumn School, I delivered a presentation on the planning area of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve, addressing socio-economic and ecological considerations.
- I served as a mentor to working groups focused on governance, guiding participants through participatory governance exercises.
- Additionally, I prepared final reports summarizing the school's outcomes, which will inform ongoing project activities.

#### 5. **First Steering Committee Meeting**

- **Date:** 10 October 2024
- **Location:** Holiday Inn, Yerevan
- **Participants:** 16
- I contributed to the discussion titled '**Analysis of the Legislative and Policy Frameworks of the Republic of Armenia in the Context of Biosphere Reserve Establishment**' during this high-level meeting, ensuring the smooth execution of the event and its reporting.

#### 6. **Third Local Working Group Meeting**

- **Date:** 2 December 2024

- 
- **Location:** Dili Town Hotel, Dilijan
  - **Participants:** 28
  - My role included organizing materials, presenting of the planning area and ensuring all technical aspects are addressed.
- 

## **Development of Communication Materials**

Recognizing the importance of effective communication, I contributed to the creation of professional materials (Annex 2) aimed at raising awareness about the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve.

- I translated key project information into Armenian to ensure accessibility for local stakeholders.
- Collaborating closely with designers, I helped produce visually appealing and informative leaflets that communicated the reserve's purpose, benefits, and future plans.
- I coordinated with printing houses to oversee the production process, ensuring timely delivery and high-quality outputs. These materials were distributed at workshops, meetings, and the Autumn School to support stakeholder engagement and knowledge dissemination.

## **Report Preparation**

- In addition to my other responsibilities, I contributed significantly to the preparation of all reports written within the framework of the project. This included drafting, reviewing, and finalizing documents to ensure clarity, coherence, and alignment with the project's objectives. My involvement ensured that the reports effectively communicated the progress, findings, and recommendations to stakeholders and partners.

---

## Achievements and Outcomes

Over the course of my fellowship, I have achieved the following:

- **Baseline Data and Mapping:** Established a comprehensive repository of spatial and textual data to support the planning of the Dilijan Biosphere Reserve. The maps I prepared have become essential tools for guiding decisions on the biosphere reserve's structure.
- **Event Contributions:** Played a pivotal role in organizing and facilitating five major events, which engaged a wide range of stakeholders and strengthened understanding of biosphere reserve principles.
- **Communication and Awareness:** Developed and distributed high-quality communication materials, fostering greater awareness and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Capacity Building:** Mentored participants at the Autumn School, equipping them with practical tools and knowledge to enhance their understanding of biosphere reserves.

---

## Conclusion

My work as an Eva Kleinn Fellow has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to a project of national and international significance. From spatial analysis and map-making to event coordination and communication material development, I have been deeply involved in various facets of the project. I look forward to continuing my contributions and witnessing the realization of Armenia's first biosphere reserve.

---

---

**Yeva Danielyan**

Eva Kleinn Fellow

Succow Foundation

## Annex 1: Maps of the Proposed Planning Area and Values of the planned Dilijan Biosphere Reserve







