

Flora and fauna

The natural and geographical position of Zangazur is such that the climatic conditions in the plain on the bank of the Araz river and high mountain range are completely opposite to each other. Mountain ranges, impassable deep valleys separate large areas in many places, the large depressions between the two mountains are in complete contrast with the peaks of the mountains.

As the most part of Zangazur is mountainous, the winter is very harsh, cold and snowy in two thirds of its territory. In the areas 1800 meters above sea level, winter begins in late October and lasts until mid-March, and in some places until April.

A large part of the Zangazur mountain range is vast alpine meadows. The nature of Zangazur is very suitable for livestock, agriculture, horticulture, silkworm breeding and tobacco growing. From ancient times, the Turkic tribes of lowland Karabakh, Javad and Nakhchivan provinces used to migrate to the pastures of the Zangazur mountains in spring and return in autumn.

The nature and climatic conditions of Zangazur, a chain of mountains, forests between mountains, steep cliffs, impassable passes, rushing, fast mountain rivers are the main factors determining the diversity of vegetation and fauna of this region.

The landscape of Zangazur varies from the height of 450 m (Yazi plain) above sea level to 4000 m (Gapichik Mountain), and each elevation strip has given its flora to this land. Hayfields, pastures and arable lands take turns in the plains and foothills.

Wheat, barley, rhubarb, rice, and partly rice paddy (in Gubadli), from technical crops - tobacco, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, melons and watermelons (in Meghri, Zangilan and Gubadli) are grown in the fields. Walnuts, apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherry plums, cherries, sweet cherries, mulberries, plums, quinces, pomegranates, and other fruits were planted in the gardens and would produce a rich and delicious harvest.

The forests of Zangazur are mainly in Gubadli, Gafan and Gorus regions, and partly in Lachin, Sisyan and Meghri regions. Oak (black oak and red oak), hornbeam, beech, maple, juniper, elm, etc. trees predominate in the forests. Countless crab apples, wild pears, hips, hawthorn, currants, blackberries, raspberries grow in the woods and on the slopes of the forest.

Basitchay reserve was established in 1974 on the instructions of the national leader Heydar Aliyev. Rare plane trees were protected there by the state on more than 100 hectares. It was actually a rare plane tree forest. The age of the felled trees here was about 200-300 years. During the occupation, the Armenian vandals cut, chopped, looted and burned most of the plane trees. This is another sign of Armenian vandalism.

Basitchay State Nature Reserve (107 ha), Garagol State Nature Reserve (240 ha), Gubadli State Nature Reserve (20000 ha), Arazboyu State Nature Reserve (2200 ha) and Lachin State Nature Reserve (20,000 ha) in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for about 30 years were savagely destroyed by Armenians. In these areas, 24 fauna and more than 70 species of flora included in the "Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan" were protected, most of which have already been destroyed.

The fauna of Zangazur is also rich and colourful.

All large and small animals living in the plains, foothills and mountainous areas live in Zangazur. Among them are bears, wolves, foxes, badgers, loirs, jackals, rabbits, lynxes, hedgehogs, wild boars, roe deer, pheasants, partridges, wild pigeons, quails, blackbirds, eagles, sparrows, crows, magpies, vipers, lizards and other animals.