

## Geographical features and development prospects of protected areas of Adjara

*ივერი შავაძე*

E-mail: [iveri.shavadze492@ens.tsu.edu.ge](mailto:iveri.shavadze492@ens.tsu.edu.ge)

Department of Geography, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

3, I. Chavchavadze Ave., Tbilisi, 0179, Georgia

Over the past 50 years, human activities have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than at any comparable time in our history, these changes have brought many economic gains, but at increasing environmental costs, including loss of biodiversity and land degradation, which in turn have led to many economic, social and cultural loss. Evidence is emerging that long-term investments in globally protected area systems by national governments and communities have high returns.

Protected areas are the most effective tool for protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services. They are effective in preventing large-scale land-use conversion in well-preserved terrestrial ecosystems. However, land stock changes around settlements threaten biodiversity and ecosystem services within their boundaries and reduce ecological connectivity.

Expanding the network of protected areas is also an important issue for the world. To contribute to the significant expansion of the natural area, more than 35 million hectares of new forest have been protected in the last few years. Protected areas must be effective in fulfilling fundamental objectives; Conservation, environmental management, and protection of world cultural heritage. It is a complex and constantly evolving task that requires the ability to manage natural resources effectively. To manage well, we need to know the strengths and weaknesses of existing protected areas and better understand the critical factors that ensure their effective management.

The network of protected areas is an important step in the preservation of natural resources, in the promotion of cultural and natural attractions, and in the development of educational and tourism programs. Defining the guidelines for land policy and infrastructure development, zoning, etc is important.

The fundamental essence of the work is the functional purpose, purpose, perspectives, and challenges of the protected area.