



# SHARRI NATIONAL PARK: A NATURAL GEM OF THREE STATES

The Sharri Mountains represent a chain of mountains that stretch from the southern part of Kosovo to Northwestern of North Macedonia and Northeastern Albania. This chain also marks the tripartite border that passes from the top of Sherupa.

Sharri National Park was established to protect the region's natural assets and promote sustainable tourism. In Kosovo, the park was officially established **in 1986**, while in North Macedonia, it received its protected **status in 1980**.

The operation of the National Park began **in 1995**, while it was interrupted during the period **1999 - 2002** and was reactivated again in May 2002. With the new Law no. 03/ L-087 (2013) **the surface of the Park has increased to 53,469** ha, which lies in the territory of five municipalities: **Kaçanik (4.1%), Suhareka (4.7%), Prizren (22.2%), Shterpce (23.9%) and Dragash (45.1%)**. This Park is managed by the Directorate for the Administration of the Sharri National Park with an office in Prizren, which operates within the Environmental Protection Agency of Kosovo, namely the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure.



The landscape of Sharri National Park is characterized by high mountains and deep valleys. These mountains connect three major watersheds and are rich in resources such as rivers, lakes and waterfalls. The climate is continental with cold winters and cool summers. **The highest point is "Korab",** which reaches a height of 2,764 meters and is located on the border between the two countries. This region offers spectacular views and ample opportunities for exploration and adventure.

The flora and fauna of the Sharri National Park is rich in rare natural resources that have special scientific, educational, recreational, sports-tourist and aesthetic values. Within the framework of natural values, the variety (biodiversity) of flora and fauna is distinguished. **This Park has: 2500 species of plants; 112 associations of forest, shrub and herbaceous vegetation; 165 species of wild animals; 200 species of birds; 147 species of butterflies.**

The flora includes a variety of rare and endemic plants, including various species of pine and fir. Moreover, the park is characterized by an array of rare flowers and medicinal herbs that make it an important site for botanical studies. The fauna is also rich with many rare and endangered animals. **This includes a number of mammals, such as brown bear, lynx, wild boar, wolf, roe deer, wild goat, and birds such as the mountain eagle, mountain partridge, wild turkey, white-clawed hawk, owl, and vulture.**

The Sharr Mountain region carries many different vegetation communities that are found distributed in different habitats. Their appearance depends on the height above sea level, exposure and type of soil or rock content. Various forest communities are found here, which have partially degraded into montane shrub communities, especially in areas where forests have been repeatedly cut down. Most of the areas above the forest belt are covered by montane pastures, vegetation of rocky-limestone and rocky-silicate soils, grassland plants, vegetation of moist soils located high in the mountains, and vegetation of grassy plains.

Consequently, these mountains are rich in a very large number of plant species. The fact that many species from the Tertiary period and the glacial period, which have disappeared in other parts of Europe, have survived here is a special occur. One of these relict species **is the needle-leaf pine (Pinus peuce)**, with its typical short shoots and five needle-shaped leaves, and the Bosnian pine (Pinus heldreichii), which is found in drier and rockier areas than the above species.

The rich biodiversity, extraordinary landscapes and opportunities for outdoor activities make this region a special place to visit and explore. With a common commitment to conservation and sustainable development.

**Sharri Mountain can remain a natural treasure for future generations and an excellent example of cross-border cooperation in environmental protection.**

