

Reserves and National Parks of Kazakhstan



Almatykitap baspasy
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Reviewers

L.Ya.Kurochkina, doctor of biology, professor
R.Kh. Kadyrbekov, kandidat of biology
B.M. Sultanova, kandidat of biology

Compiler A.A. Ivashenko

The authors of the texts

Z.Zh. Alimbetova, N.N. Beryozovikov, E.A. Bragin, T.M. Bragina, Yu.A. Grachov, A.D. Dzhanyspayev,
L.A. Dimeyeva, A.A. Ivashenko, Ye.V. Ishkov, L.Ye. Ishkov, V.A. Kovshar', Yu.A. Kotuhov,
N.V. Nelina, N.P. Ogar', S.V. Starikov, R.V. Yashenko.

The photographers

O.V. Belyalov, N.N. Beryozovikov, E.A. Bragin, T.M. Bragina, P. Gernot, L.A. Dimeyeva,
Yu. K. Zinchenko, V.L. Kazenas, V.A. Kovshar', B. Rubinich, S.V. Starikov, A.V. Ustinenko

Ivashenko A.A.

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“Reserves and National Parks of Kazakhstan”- is a unique book that describes the nature and animal world of 10 reserves and 8 national parks in the Republic; about problems connected with the deterioration of the environment—one of the main threats that humanity faced with on the boundary of XX – XXI centuries; and about the role of Kazakhstan in the development of world-wide system of protected natural territories.

This book consists of separate essays that are written by different scientists: ecologists, botanists, biologists, who have dedicated their lives to the protection and restoration of Kazakhstan’s nature.

The issue is intended for schoolchildren, students, nature-lovers and a wide range of readers.

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*Dedicated to the 80th anniversary
of the first reserve in Kazakhstan
and Central Asia – Aksu Dzhabagly*









The deterioration of the environment is one of the main threats that humanity faced with on the boundary of XX – XXI centuries. Therefore, preservation of ecosystems is considered to be the primary task in a common strategy of protection for nature on the global, regional, and national levels. The biggest and most reliable nature-protecting organization in the world is the International Union Conserving Nature (IUCN, in Russian abbreviation – МСОП), whose members are many countries, international and national non-governmental associations. Moreover, the IUCN unites several thousands of experts from all over the world, who work with six special-purposed commissions. One of them, The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), deals with theoretical and practical questions for the protection of natural ecosystems, provides evaluation and monitoring of conditions of natural refuges, elaborates recommendations of governments of independent countries on creating a network of protected natural areas.

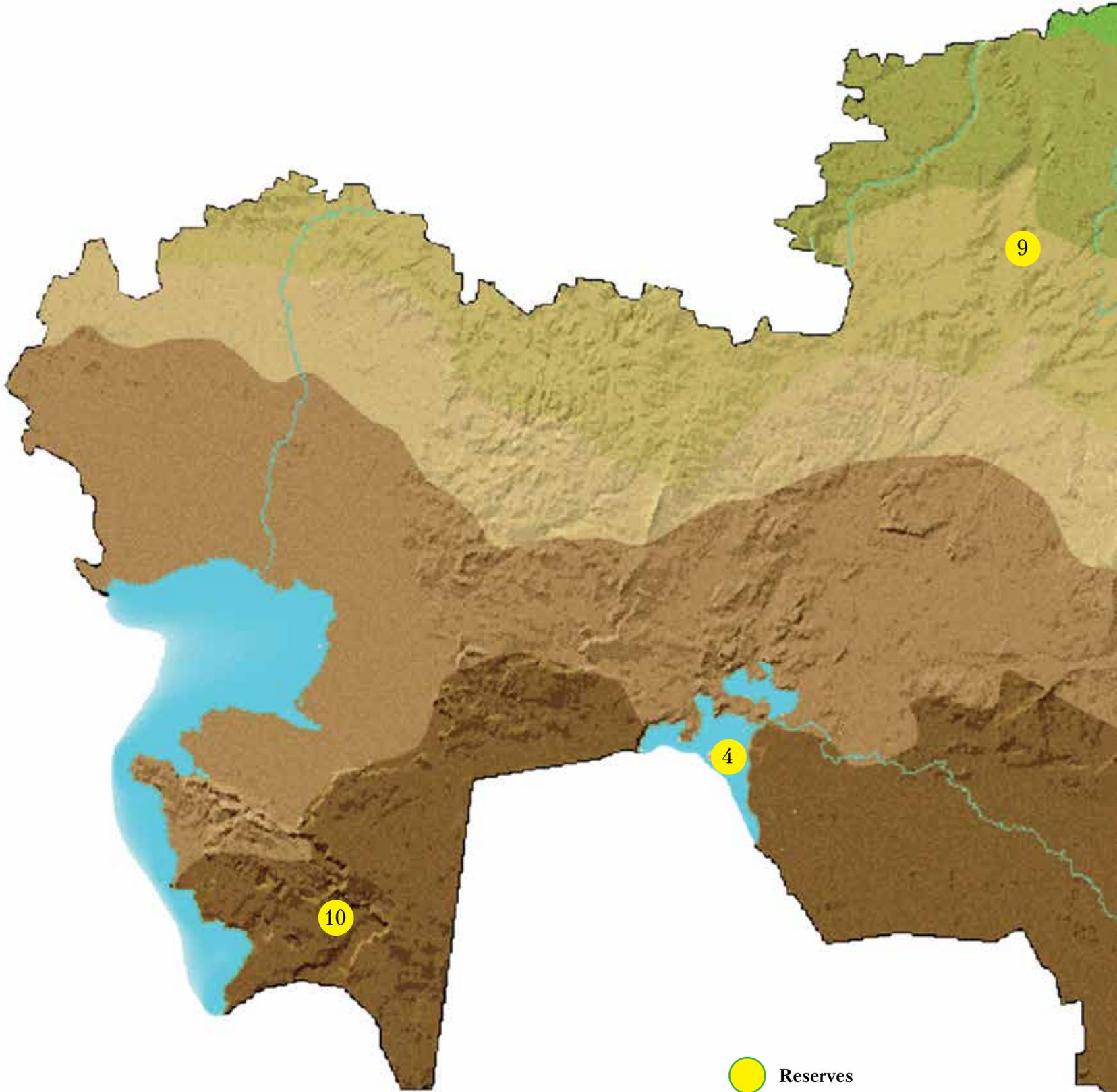
Once every decade the IUCN holds a World Congress of protected areas where questions of the current situation in the sphere of preservation of natural ecosystems are discussed and elaborated plans for the future. The Fifth World Congress was held in 2003 in Durban (SAR), concluding the activity of the commission, it made a re-evaluation of the importance of Protected Natural Areas (PNA) for the preservation of biological diversity and sound development. It was emphasized that during the preceding decade in the sphere of real natural resource protection the IUCN has had the following results:

- Protected areas were recognized as the key link in the fulfillment of the principles of the Convention on Biodiversity;
- Since 1992 the total amount of PNA in the world and their area more than doubled: at that time over 12 percent of the world's land surface is under protection, except for the Antarctic where the procedure of strict protection is occupies only 10 percent of that area;
- the amount of natural and natural-cultural objects of the world inheritance has increased from 101 to 172, moreover, the need for protection of natural values together with cultural values is becoming more obvious.

In the past, the protected natural areas were not sufficiently linked with other spheres of human interests. Therefore, the Durban Congress accepted the creation of a common global network of protected natural areas as the main priority in the future. The fact that the territory of the protected natural areas should not occupy less than 10 percent of the territory of the country has now become a world standard.

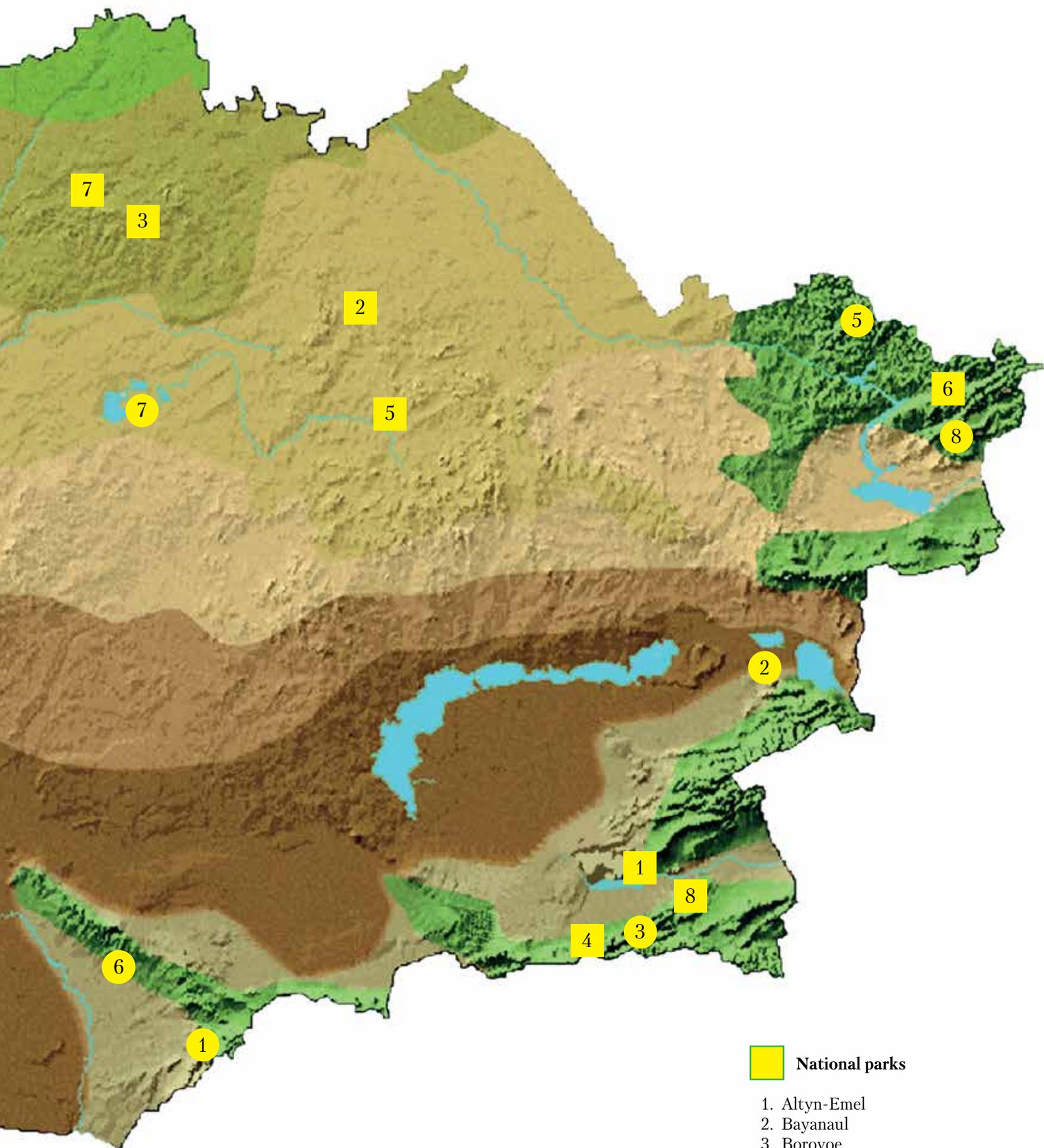
Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world and it plays an important role in the development in the world system of protected natural areas. The history of creating reserves in our country began in 1922 when the Turkestan Committee on protection of natural monuments, antiquity and art (Turkomstaris) was created. This organization was the first to address the question and necessity of reserves creation. The first reserve in Central Asia and Kazakhstan—Aksu-Dzhabagly—was established in 1926. Five years later the government had established Naurzum and Almaty reserves, in 1936 Borovoe reserve was created, and in 1939 Barsa-Kelmes reserve founded. Henceforth, along with these reserves, there were others established to include other types of protected natural areas – geological, zoological and botanical (game) reserves, nature memorials, etc. The first national park of our country, Bayanaul, was organized in 1985.

During Soviet times, reserves, national parks, game reserves and nature memorials of the Kazakhstan Republic were parts of the common system of protected areas of world's largest country that covered one-sixth of the globe's land surface. During the first years of independence, Kazakhstan endured a severe economic crisis that inflicted economic damage to PNA. The lack of financial resources has led to staff reductions and deteriorating conditions for natural resource preservation. The situation has improved during the last 6-7 years. During this period, Kazakhstan has strived to integrate into the world economic system and to become a full member of the world community. Therefore, Kazakhstan has pursued rectification and reformation of the multifaceted process of state building and social life. One of the demands for this is the development of a national system of PNA, the area of which should not be less than 10 percent of the territory of the country; and its integration into the global network of protected natural areas. In this way, our country has achieved considerable success.



 Reserves

- 1. Aksu-Dzhabagly
- 2. Alakol
- 3. Almaty
- 4. Barsakelmes
- 5. West-Altai
- 6. Karatau
- 7. Kurgaldzhinskii
- 8. Markakol
- 9. Naurzum
- 10. Ustyurt



 National parks

1. Altyn-Emel
2. Bayanaul
3. Borovoe
4. Ile-Alatau
5. Karkaralinskii
6. Katon-Karagai
7. Kokshetau
8. Charyn

The law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “about specially protected natural areas” that was adopted on 15 July 1997 has become the foundation of a new legislative base. The law regulates questions related to the creation of natural resource protection organizations and their work. According to this legislation, specially protected natural areas are plot of the lands, waters, woods and bowels of the earth within the legal protective regime of protection, or with regulated regime of management that guarantees the safety and restoration of a national-preservation fund.

The legal regime of protection is subdivided into prohibited (preserved) – when any economic activity that destroys natural, environmental conditions is prohibited; and reserved – when economic or other activity is permitted only in particular seasons and terms, if the purported activities will not threaten the safety of the object of national natural-reserve fund and will not depreciate their production. The legislation of Kazakhstan foresees the existence of 11 types of PNA, depending on the purposes for their creation, regimes of protection and peculiarities of using objects for:

- Natural reserves, including biospherical;
- State national parks
- State natural refuges
- State natural parks
- State memorials of nature
- State preserved areas
- State wildlife areas
- State zoological parks
- State botanical gardens
- State dendrological parks
- State natural reserves

New reserves and national parks were created during the last several years. The country maintains 113 protected natural areas that by the end of 2005 constituted 21036283,2 hectares (ha) (according to the list of PNA in Resolution of the Government of RK from 19 July 2005 under #766 and Resolution of the Government of RK from 17 November 2005 under the #1133), that is 7.72 percent of the territory of Kazakhstan.

The determination of state natural reserves in the legislation of the RK exactly corresponds to the determination of the Category I (strictly protected natural refuge) of the IUCN system, as well as the determination of the Category II (national park).

Determination in the legislation of the RK	Determination in the system of SPNA categories
<p>State natural reserve – is SPNA, intended for preservation and exploration in natural condition and development of natural processes, typical and unique ecological systems, biological diversity and genetic fund of flora and fauna. Reservative regime of protection is held on the whole territory of state natural reserves, which excludes economical exploitation of natural resources.</p>	<p>I. Strictly protected natural refuge/ untouched natural area – is protected area, created mainly for scientific purposes or for preservation of the untouched nature. I a. Strictly protected natural refuge – the land surface and/or part of the sea with unique or typical ecosystems, geological or physiological peculiarities and/or species that are suitable mainly for scientific research and/or monitoring of the environment. I b. Untouched natural area – the main part of the low-lying or low land and/or sea that keeps its natural character, which is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions.</p>
<p>State national natural park – is SPNA, intended for preservation, restoration, side-view exploitation of natural, historical-cultural complexes and objects that have special ecological, recreational and scientific value. In state national natural parks there are distinguished zones of reservation and preservation regimes.</p>	<p>II. National park (protected area, mainly for the defense of ecosystems and for recreation) – is natural area of the land and/or water surface, intended for: a) protection of ecological integrity of one or several ecosystems for present-day and future generations; b) prohibition in exploitation or usage for improper purposes; c) providing for organization of spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourist activity.</p>

At present, there are 10 state natural reservations with the area of 1165552 hectares and 8 state national parks with a total area of 1456597 in our country.

No	The name of protected area	Date of foundation	Area in ha.
Reserves			
1.	Aksu-Dzhabagly	1926	128 118,1
2.	Alakol	1998	19773
3.	Almaty	1964	71 700
4.	Barsakelmes	1939	16 795
5.	West-Altai	1992	56 078
6.	Karatau	2004	34 300
7.	Kurgaldzhinskii	1968	258 963
8.	Markakol	1976	75 048
9.	Naurzum	1931	191 381
10.	Ustyurt	1984	223 342
National parks			
1.	Altyn-Emel	1996	161 235
2.	Bayanaul	1985	50 688
3.	Borovoe	2000	83 511
4.	Ile-Alatau	1996	199 702
5.	Karkaralinskii	1998	90 323
6.	Katon-Karagai	2001	643 477
7.	Kokshetau	1996	134 511
8.	Charyn	2004	93 150

The system of protected national areas of the republic is in the process of development and is gradually integrating into the regional and global network of PNA. Projects on creation of trans-border protected areas and ecological corridors in West Tian-Shan and Altay were made by the support of World Bank and the Global Ecological Fund during the last few years. One of the results of the realization of these projects is the creation of a new protected natural area in 2006 – Ugam-Sayram national Natural Park with an area of about 150,000 hectares.

By sustaining these reforms, Kazakhstan is confidently joining the assembly of developed countries.

R. V. Yashenko
President of the Central Asian Department
of World Commission on Protected Areas
International Union of Conserving Nature (WCPA IUCN)





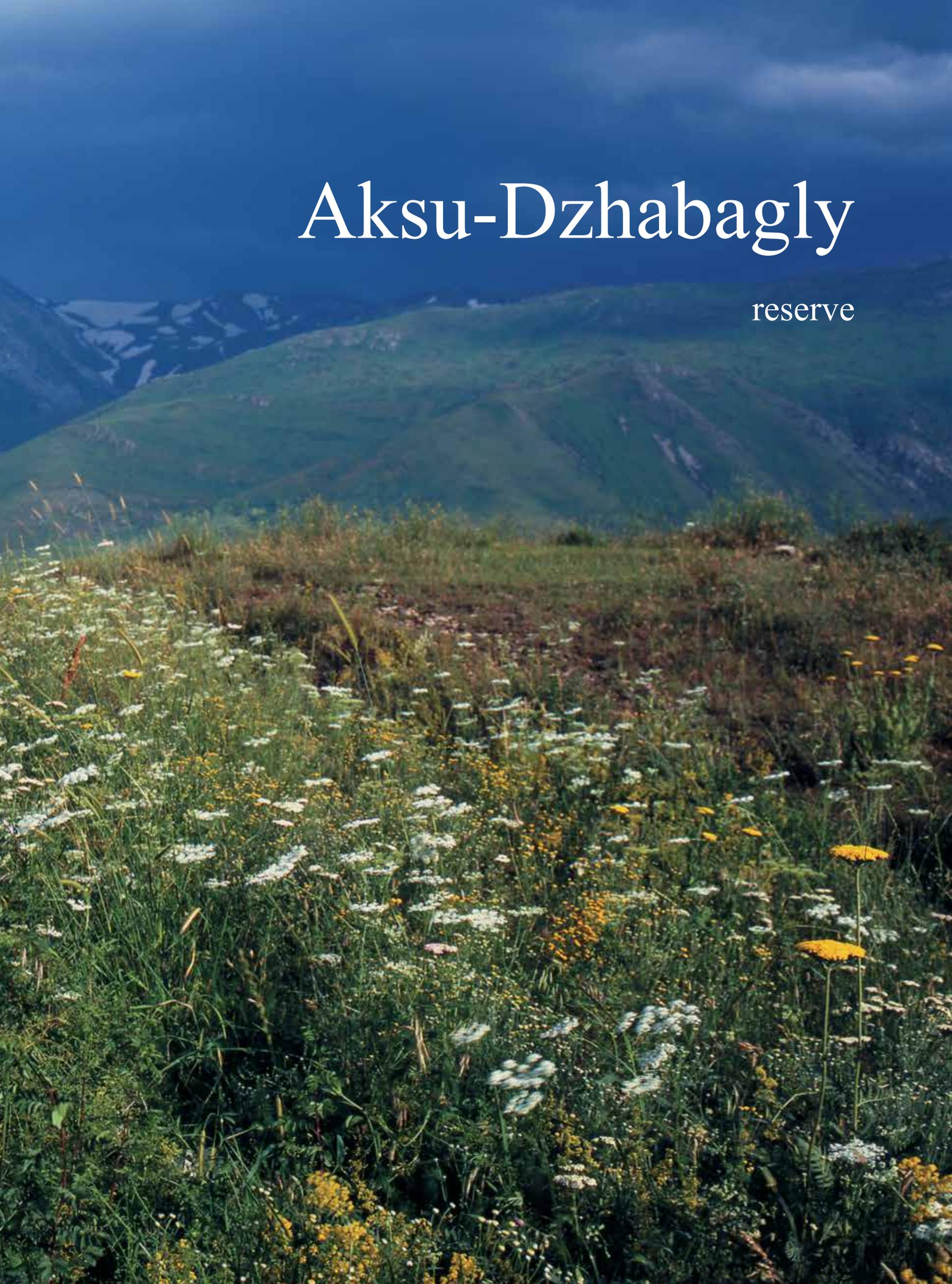
Reserves





Aksu-Dzhabagly

reserve



Aksu-Dzhabagly Reserve

A.A. Ivashenko, L.Ye. Ishkov

The state natural reserve Aksu-Dzhabagly is the oldest reserve in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. In 2006 it celebrated its 80th anniversary. The initiative for the reserve's creation belongs to the well-known hydrobiologist A.L. Brodskiy, who had visited the upper reaches of the Dzhabagly and Aksu rivers for the first time in 1920. Two years later this territory was investigated by a group of professors from Tashkent University: D.N. Kashkarov, Ye.P. Korovin, M.V. Kultiasov, M.G. Porov and N.A. Dimo. They confirmed the importance of the territory and its required preservation.

By a resolution of Chimkent's uzemotdel in May 1925 the land was appropriated for the purposes of a reserve and border-marking notices were set up a year later. Sovnarkom of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued a special decree (report №25) about the establishment of

