

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit [www.armenia-environment.org](http://www.armenia-environment.org) to learn more about AEN and to find out how you can help.

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## ARMENIA'S ENVIRONMENT

Armenia is a small and isolated country in the Caucasus region with a tumultuous history. Wars and natural disasters have damaged the country and it now suffers from corruption, unsustainable development, lack of transparency and civic involvement, pollution, illegal hunting, insufficient enforcement of environmental laws, and many other problems typical of the former Soviet region. Despite its current challenges, Armenia boasts some of the most diverse ecosystems per capita in the world. In fact, major environmental organizations, including Conservation International, have declared the region to be one of 34 global biodiversity hotspots. However, most people, including Armenians themselves, are unaware of Armenia's ecological importance and the severity and implications of the threats to its environment.



The Republic of Armenia has an official population of 3 million. However, there are roughly 8 million Armenians living abroad, many of whom maintain strong personal ties to their ancestral homeland. The Armenian Diaspora has proven that it can be a very influential voice in Armenia's development; however, Diasporan groups have largely avoided wide scale environmental or domestic human rights issues. Most Armenian Diasporans are completely unaware of the environmental challenges facing Armenia, as is most of the larger global conservation community, due to the dearth of accessible Armenian environmental information available outside of Armenia. Even within Armenia, informational networking is in its early stages

## ABOUT US

The Armenian Environmental Network (AEN) was founded in 2007 and is an environmentally focused network of groups and individuals aimed at promoting awareness of environmental and energy concerns for Armenia's development.

The mission of AEN is to serve as an umbrella organization or "one-stop shop" which organizes information from various sources at one destination to increase information sharing and distribution among Armenians, as well as between Armenia, the Armenian Diaspora and the wider conservation community. AEN's long-term goals include the development of projects and programs to benefit Armenia's environment and its development community and publication of relevant research.

We work with local and grassroots organizations, as well as NGOs, international organizations, and government authorities to promote sound environmental policymaking, enforcement mechanisms, increased awareness and participation of local stakeholders, and tangible contributions to Armenia's sustainable development.

