

# **ECOLOGICAL – AESTHETIC AND RECREATIONAL VALUES OF NATIONAL PARK MALI SHARI IN KOSOVO**

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## **Abstract**

Geographical location, geological, pedology and hydrological factors, the landscape and climate have enabled Kosovo to have a rich biology and diverse landscape. The most important areas of Kosovo's biodiversity are considered the Sharr Mountains, Bjeshket e Nemuna, Pashtrik, Koritnik, etc. The number of preserved natural areas is 97 and includes an area of 47,842.34 ha (4,39% of the territory of Kosovo). These areas include: 11 Nature Reserves, 1 National Park, 82 Nature Monuments, 2 Regional Nature Parks and 1 Forest Park. Nature protected areas are managed for the following purposes: Scientific research, taking care of environmental services, protection of wild species, habitats and ecosystems, tourism and recreation, etc. Sharr Mountains lie in the region of Kosovo and Macedonia (1600 km<sup>2</sup>). To Kosovo belong the northern branches of the Sharr Mountain, including an area of about 1100 km<sup>2</sup> which represents approximately 1/10 of Kosovo's territory. Sharr Mountain is known for botanic, faunal, ecological, tourist, recreational, sporting and cultural values. Forests cover 48% of the area, 49% pasture, 1.6% meadows, 1.4% cliffs. The climate is diverse, from mild continental climate to the alpine climate above 2000 m. State of rare grass plants, which give special value to the National Park's flora, is good and stable. These plants are found mostly in higher areas (above 2000 m) of the National Park and are integral part of the high mountains pastures.

**Key words:** *national park, ecological value, tourism, recreation.*



