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EU4ENVIRONMENT - GREEN ECONOMY

Stakeholder and Public Engagement Meeting “Advancing the Establishment of
the Emerald Network and Management of the
Emerald Sites in Armenia”

Summary record

17 March 2023 (11:00 – 14:40, Yerevan time)
Institute of Botany aft. A. Takhtajyan NAS RA
(Acharyan 1, 0063, Yerevan, Armenia)

Action implemented by:



Summary of the key conclusions and decisions

On March 17, 2023 the first stakeholder and public engagement meeting was organized as part of the World Bank-led activities under EU4Environment Program sub-component 4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald network). The meeting was held at the Institute of Botany in Yerevan, where several key stakeholders were invited to attend. The meeting was split into two sessions that focused on Emerald sites and ways to advance them in Armenia. The Ministry for Environment, Focal point of Bern Convention, ArmForest, the scientific community, and other national and international environmental organizations were among the attendees.

During the first session, the overall project goals and objective were presented to the participants, along with the status of Emerald sites. Possible synergies with other ongoing projects, such as the EU Twinning project, were also discussed. In addition, knowledge and experiences from managing Natura 2000 sites in Greece were shared and discussed based on the project's needs.

In the second session, an extensive discussion took place among key stakeholders and the project team. Several challenges were identified, with the key one being the need for a separate scientifically based discussion and exchange of opinion per site. It was agreed that a working group meeting with the Ministry should be organized as soon as possible to ensure transparency at this decision-making phase of site identification.

Stakeholders expressed their concerns about the possible economic impacts of the restrictions, such as in areas of forest enterprises and community lands. The international experts clarified that management practices are habitat and species specific, and that a series of awareness actions in each site location should be included in the action plan with the involvement of more stakeholders.