Aida Sdykova 2008. Compatibility of Selected Natural Protected Areas of Kazakhstan with the Requirements of the World Heritage Convention for the Nominated Sites [Compatibilité de certaines aires naturelles protégées du Kazakhstan avec les exigences de la Convention du patrimoine mondial pour les sites proposés]. *Master of Environmental Sciences and Policy,* **Central European University.**

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Marmota menzbieri, marmotte de Menzbier, Aksu-Dzhabagli State Nature Reserve, Western Tien Shan, Katon-Karagai State National Nature Park, *Marmota baibacina,* Altyn-Emel State National Nature Park, Ile- Alatau State National Nature Park, Almatinskiy Nature Reserve, Northern Tien Shan.

The lands of Kazakhstan are rich with natural resources. And not only oil and gas were given to the people by the nature. It shared with us the most valuable of its treasures - the diversity of life forms.
Having inherited this beauty, we are to be dignified heirs and to save it. However, paying attention to the economic development, we forget about the nature. Some of the developed countries passed through the stage of active lands exploration and natural resources use and learned how to protect their natural wealth. Kazakhstan can learn from their experience and avoid the mistakes connected with the inappropriate use of natural resources.
The whole system of creation and protection of natural areas was developed, and it is quite effective. This system w as not created in one day, many countries step-by-step were involved into its work. At the moment there are more than 160 natural protected areas in various states of the world united on the grounds of their exceptional value into one system of protected areas, organized according to the UNESCO's World Heritage mission and known more as the World Heritage.
Natural protected areas of Kazakhstan have a great value on the local and international levels. They deserve being included in the World Heritage. But to be nominated and included it is necessary to prove the compatibility of these areas with the requirements of the World Heritage. Partially the assessment of the natural sites was done by the IUCN experts, who made an analysis of the biodiversity state, having marked the most prominent sites. They gave some recommendations concerning necessary changes on the sizes of the natural sites, necessity of further studying and implementation of new management standards. Despite the big volume of work done by the IUCN, there are some uncovered aspects, which are very important from the point of view of the WH nomination. And first of all, this is the environmental legislation.
The effective legal protection is one of the main requirements of WH. That is why in this work it was decided to make an analysis of the active environmental legislation of Kazakhstan and to point out its pluses and minuses. It was also planned to hold the interviews with the people directly involved into the protection of the natural sites of Kazakhstan. The results have shown that the active legislation of Kazakhstan does not provide the effective protection of the natural sites. The interviews have also confirmed the existence of obstacles for the WH nomination.
The analysis of the environmental legislation of Kazakhstan and the recommendations, which follow the main research, are the main value of this research. By making the analysis of compatibility of the natural sites of Kazakhstan it was determined which changes should be done in the legislation in order to make the protected areas really protected and to save their beauty for the future generations.

V.2.The Aksu-Dzhabagli State Nature Reserve

In the process of preparation of data for WH, IUCN representatives and the local experts were considering the Aksu-Dzhabagly State Nature Reserve (hereinafter – Aksu-Dzhabagly) together with a group of other reserves, as part of a larger area supporting common ecosystems (IUCN 2005). And Aksu-Dzhabagly was regarded as a key site in the cluster, by the IUCN experts, who consider it as the richest for animal and plant species (IUCN 2005).

Fauna: Many years of zoological research show that the fauna of the Western Tien Shan is a mixture of different for their geographic background species, which inhabit the landscapes of Europe, Northern America, Central Asia (Kovshar 1972). At least 42, according to other sources 54 (Baitulin 2000), mammal species inhabit the area, including characteristic species such as the brown bear *Ursus arctos*, snow leopard *Uncia uncial*, Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx*, roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*, Tien Shan argali *Ovis ammon karelini*, Asiatic ibex *Capra sibirica*, and Menzbier's marmot *Marmota menzbieri* (endemic to the Western Tien Shan). Over 240 bird species (255 subspecies) have been recorded, including Himalayan snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis* and chukar partridge *Alectoris chukar*, as well as golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, booted eagle *Hieraeetus pennatus*, saker falcon *Falco cherrug*, lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* and black stork *Ciconia nigra*. There are also at least nine species of reptile, two amphibians and five fish; insect species account around 5000 species (Kovshar 1972).

Northern Tien Shan

The Northern Tien Shan has a potential for nomination as one relatively contiguous site. Having all the features of integrity, it represents one geographic region of the Zailiyskiy Alatau Range. Its northern site consists of Altyn-Emel State National Nature Park (hereinafter – Altyn- Emel); while the southern site would be a cluster consisting of the contiguous reserves of Ile- Alatau State National Nature Park (hereinafter – Ile-Alatau) and Almatinskiy Nature Reserve (hereinafter – Almatinskiy) (IUCN 2005; Table 7).

Fauna: According to data provided by IUCN, based on the Red Book of Kazakhstan and researches of local experts, Altyn-Emel supports 70 species of mammal, including populations of montane species such as snow leopard *Uncia uncia*, Tien Shan brown bear *Ursus arctos*, and Tien Shan argali *Ovis ammon karelini*; and lowland species such as kulan *Equus hemionus kulan*, sand or goitred gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*. Eurasian otter *Lutra lutra*, stone marten *Martes foina* and marbled polecat *Vormela perugnusa* are also found. The 155 species of birds recorded include golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Barbary falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*, bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* and ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*. There are also 25 reptiles, four amphibians and 28 fishes. Mammals in Almatinskiy include marmot *Marmota baibacina*, vole *Clethrionomys frater*, birch mouse *Sicista concolor*, wolf *Canis lupus*, maral *Cervus elaphus* (Picture 2, Annex), stoat *Mustela erminea*, stone marten *Martes foina*, Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx*, red deer *Cervus elaphus*, roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* and Asiatic ibex *Capra sibirica*. The snow leopard is a rare visitor to the high mountains. Birds include lammergeier *Gypateus barbatus*, golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetus*, Himalayan snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis* and chukar *Alectoris chukar*. Of the passerines, there are whistling thrush *Myiophonus caerulens*, grosbeak *Mycerobus carnipes* and Guldenstadt's and blue-headed and Eversmann's redstarts *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*. Ile-Alatau also supports a diverse fauna: 47 mammals, including Tien Shan argali and Asiatic wild dog *Cuon alpinus*, 148 species of nesting birds, 10 reptiles, 2 amphibians, 8 fish and at least 1,500 insects (IUCN 2005).

Katon-Karagai State National Nature Park

“Altai” in Mongolian means “golden mountains”. The first explorers, visited this area, were amazed with its untouched bright beauty. And today, they continue to impress visitors with its almost unspoiled nature. Four states have parts of the Altai Mountains within their territories (Figure 2, Annex), each of which have established their own parts as protected national reserves. In Russia, these include the Katun State Biosphere Reserve, situated at the Russian border, and a special zone “Plateau Ukok”. On the Chinese side there is the National Park of Khanasi (at the lake of Kanas), and in Mongolia – the Altai Tavn Bogd National Park.

Fauna: The above-mentioned forests are home to 360 species of vertebrates, of which around 40 are listed in the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan. Globally threatened species include the Altai argali *Ovis ammon ammon* (VU), Menzbier's marmot *Marmota menzbieri* (VU) and Asiatic wild dog *Cuon alpinus* (VU), the last information about this animal referred to the 1960’s. Probably, it still exists in the most unexplored places. Birds include the Altai snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus.* The park is inhabited by mountain goats (*Capra sibirica* Pallas). Red deer (*Cervus elaphus L.*), Siberian deer (*Capreolus pygargus Pallas*) live here too. Very careful Kabarga (*Mosehus mosehiferus L.*) can be found by the traces left at the mountain foots. Brown bears (*Ursus arctos L.*), lynx (*Lynx lynx L.*) and many other endangered species, like Menzbier's marmot (*Marmota menzbieri),* e.g., live within the protected area (IUCN 2005).
In 2003 in the area of the Yazovoi Lake there were held research works: by analyzing the soil layers the scientists were studying changes of climatic periods. Despite the logical incompleteness of the works they pointed out that the Yazovoi Lake refers to the most ancient water-wet land areas in the Altai montane system.