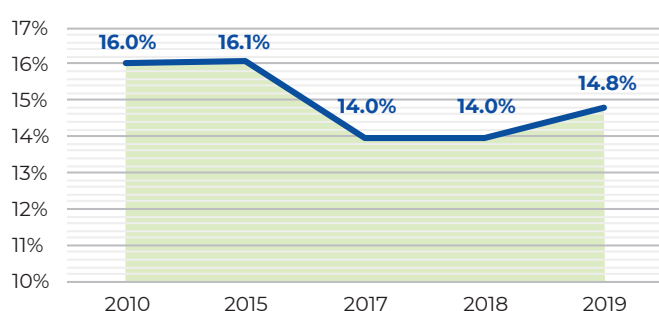


## In a nutshell: Natural asset base of Ukraine in 2021

**Over the last ten years, the pressure on freshwater resources has decreased.** In 2019, water abstraction from natural water bodies amounted to 11.1 billion m<sup>3</sup>, which is 3.7 billion m<sup>3</sup> less than in 2010. This reduction is explained by the temporary occupation of Crimea (1.5 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2010), as well as by a significant reduction in water intake in most regions of Ukraine.

### Forests cover share in total territory



Source: Ukrstats.

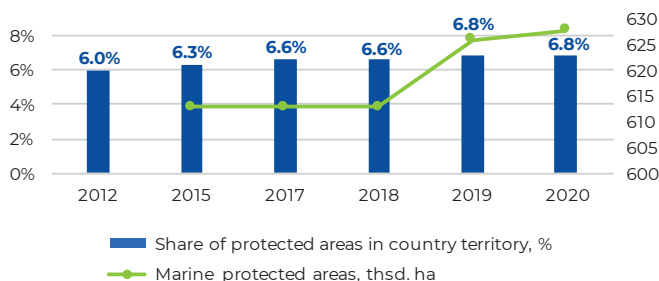
**Ukraine's forest cover has decreased over the last ten years to 14.8%.** The area of forests and other areas covered with forest vegetation have decreased by 749 000 ha since 2010. This decline has been especially sharp over the past five years (8%). It is partly due to changes in land use and forest accounting, and is not related to the temporary occupation of the territories of Ukraine.

**Fishing for fish and other aquatic bioresources has declined due to the occupation of Crimea and continues to decline.** The total extraction of aquatic bioresources in 2020 amounted to 76 508 tons, which is five times less than in 1996, three times less than in 2013, and 20% less than in 2019.

**Ukraine has significant world reserves of manganese and significant reserves of cobalt, but the latter is not mined.** Ukraine ranks second in the world in total manganese reserves, estimated at 2.2 billion tonnes of ore. In 2019, production in Ukraine amounted to only 3.9 million tons of ore. Cobalt reserves in Ukraine amount to 26.7 million tonnes of ore or 8 800 tonnes of cobalt, but there is no extraction.

**Agricultural lands comprise two-thirds of Ukraine's total land resources, but the share of built-up lands is high and growing.** The area of built-up land in Ukraine is the highest in Europe and among OECD countries (897 m<sup>2</sup>/capita, while the average in OECD countries is 290 m<sup>2</sup>). **In Ukraine, there is a further degradation of agricultural land, especially in humus content.** In the last ten years, the balance of humus in the soils of Ukraine has remained negative, although its dynamics have improved somewhat in recent years. As of 2015, the balance of humus in Ukraine was -130 kg/ha, while the average for 2011-15 was -210 kg/ha.

### Protected areas



Source: Ukrstats (2021).

**The dynamics of the populations of hunted and Red Book species indicate their excessive capture. Ukraine lacks systematic accounting of animal populations, including protected ones.** The Red Book, which is compiled using data from hunting farms, indicate that some species are losing their populations by 10-40%.

**Despite the positive dynamics, the share of protected areas in Ukraine remains low.** Since 2012, the share of protected areas has increased by 12% and is 6.8% of the country's territory today. This figure is much lower than in most European countries.

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## Background

Monitoring and assessment of progress towards a green economy is important for improving government policies and their implementation. The green growth indicators help track progress in greening economic growth, inform decisions, demonstrate accountability, raise public awareness and compare data between countries.

In 2022, the third monitoring report was released using the OECD-based green growth indicators to provide a snapshot of Ukraine's progress in greening the economy. This nutshell zooms into the natural asset base of Ukraine to inform policy makers about progress but also to underline actions needed to accelerate green transformation.



## Acknowledgements

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## About EU4Environment

The "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Programme helps partner countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts. Read more here about [EU4Environment](#).

## Disclaimers

Data presented in this nutshell come from the report "Towards Green Transformation of Ukraine: State of Play in 2021". All sources are available and properly acknowledged in the report.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors only and can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union, its members, the governments of the Eastern Partner countries or the implementing partners. This nutshell and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries, and to the name of any territory, city or area.

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