

Project “Conservation of Natural Heritage for Life in Ukraine”



Co-funded by
the European Union



October 03, 2025



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

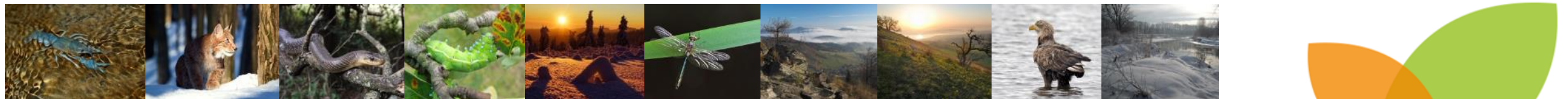
Consortium

- NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC (NCA CR) – lead partner, coordinator
- ENVIRONMENT – PEOPLE – LAW (EPL) – financial partner
- UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP (UNCG) – financial partner
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MEPR) – non-financial partner



Work packages (and deliverables)

- WP1 Project management and coordination
- WP2 Common legislative space for Ukraine and the EU for nature protection (20)
- WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine (5)
- WP4 Promotion of Natura 2000 network in Ukraine: moving from knowledge to application (11)
- WP5 Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results (5)



WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

- **D3.2 Materials of the analysis of financial aspects**

The study examined the current state of funding, the economic feasibility of investments (with estimated benefits of €238.3/ha/year, significantly exceeding the costs), the cost of establishing a new agency (Model 1 – centralized without regional branches: €14.3–15.7 million/year; Model 2 – with regional offices: €25.9 million/year; Model 3 – with a full regional network: €33.3 million/year), as well as the overall budgetary impact and potential sources of funding.

- **D3.3 Policy paper**

Analysis of the Compliance of National Legislation with the Habitats and Birds Directives

- **Provisions on Habitat Conservation**

- Level of Transposition – Low

- *Main Gaps:*

Absence of definitions for terms provided in the Directives (such as «habitat», «favourable conservation status of natural habitats», «conservation»)

Absence of a definition for “conservation status of a species” and lack of approaches for determining and ensuring a “favourable” conservation status

Insufficient mechanisms (defined measures) for conservation

Impact assessment on habitats is conducted within the framework of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – only for types of planned activities subject to EIA

Plans and programmes that may affect areas with conservation status are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), but the habitat-based approach is not clearly specified in such assessments

WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

D3.3 Policy paper

Main Gaps and Issues to Be Addressed:

- 25% of wild flora and fauna species protected in the EU are not subject to special protection in Ukraine (i.e. not included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine or in regional lists of species subject to special protection)
- Lack of alignment between the legal status of species lists protected under EU law and national lists (Red Data Book of Ukraine, regional protection lists)
- Incomplete alignment of the lists of game species with EU requirements
- No prohibition on the sale, transport for sale, keeping for sale, or offering for sale of live or dead specimens of protected species
- No defined exceptions to such prohibitions
- Absence of criminal liability for killing, destruction, capture, possession, sale, or offering for sale of specimens of protected wild fauna and flora species, as required by Directive 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law



WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

D3.3 Policy paper



Institutional and administrative capacity

1. *A description of the issues in the institutional sphere has been provided:* 1) lack of an effective, efficient, transparent institutional system of biodiversity conservation management capable of ensuring proper and full implementation of the Bird and Habitats directives, 2) imperfection of separate elements of management: mechanisms of defining Emerald Sites, conservation, restoration and management, accumulation of monitoring and reporting data in the sphere of biodiversity conservation, 3) lack of strategic planning and a system of public reporting on the formation and implementation of policy in the sphere of conservation of species of wild flora and fauna, natural habitats.
1. *Models for solving institutional problems have been provided:* A. Leaving things as they are, B. Enhancement of the Ministry of Environment, establishment of its representative offices at the regional level, C. New agency with no regional divisions, and no strengthening of regional administrations, D. New agency and strengthened regional administrations, E. New agency with regional offices.
1. *A description of institutional solutions has been provided:* 1) in order to eliminate the existing problems in terms of biodiversity conservation management, it is necessary to take a comprehensive approach aimed at strengthening institutional capacity in this area, 2) improvement of separate elements of management: mechanisms of defining Emerald Sites, management, recording and monitoring in the sphere of biodiversity conservation, 3) ensuring implementation of strategic planning and system of public reporting on the formation and implementation of policy in the sphere of biodiversity conservation.
1. Ultimately, our conclusion is that it is necessary to establish an institutional structure in which the ministry will formulate policy, the environmental inspection will carry out control measures, and a newly created agency will implement this state policy.

WP2 Common legislative space for Ukraine and the EU for nature protection

Current work UNCG:

- **D2.14 Analysis and proposal for adding species/habitats into the annexes of the Nature Directives (Natura 2000) - UNCG**
List of proposed species and habitats, and completed forms in accordance with the requirements of EU Nature Directives
- **D2.15 Analysis and proposal for adding species into the annexes of the Nature Directives (species protection)**
List of proposed species and completed forms in accordance with the requirements of EU Nature Directives
- **M14 - Analysis of compliance of Emerald network with Natura 2000 in respect to designation and management practice**
Analysis (document) (Ukrainian, English)
- **M15 - Analysis of gaps in the list of habitats and species that the Natura 2000 shall be designated for in respect to the Ukrainian natural values and proposal for inclusion of the species into Nature Directives**
- **M16 - Analysis of sufficiency of the current monitoring, mapping, and data management practice**
Analysis (document) (Ukrainian, English)



WP2 Common legislative space for Ukraine and the EU for nature protection

Work UNCG in the coming months:

- **D2.20. Developing guidelines on reporting on conservation status (Arts. 12 BD & 17 HD) including the assessment of the mapping data and compiling the reports on threats and pressures.**
- **D2.19. Developing guidelines on reporting on Emerald sites / Natura 2000 sites (SDF). This includes acquiring information and reporting on condition of the target features and site conservation objectives and measures.**
- **D2.13. Proposals for transformation of the Emerald network to Natura 2000 network**
- **D2.4. Document of analysis of comparing the system of reporting on derogations in Ukraine in the frame of Bern Convention and Habitats Directive. Identification of ways of ensuring their concordance.**



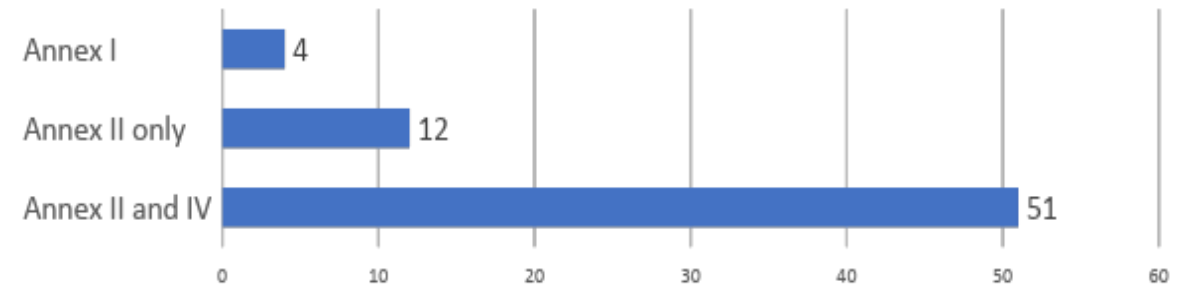
WP2 Common legislative space for Ukraine and the EU for nature protection

- D2.14 Analysis and proposal for adding species/habitats into the annexes of the Nature Directives (Natura 2000) - UNCG
- D2.15 Analysis and proposal for adding species into the annexes of the Nature Directives (species protection)

Table 1. Species proposed to be included to the annexes of the Habitat Directive.

N	Species	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Vernacular Name	*Res. #6	*BC	*RB U	*Anne x	UA expert
1	<i>Desmana moschata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Хохла руська	+	+		II, IV	Rusin M.
2	<i>Spalax graecus</i> Nehring, 1898	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Сліпак буковинський	+	+		II, IV	Rusin M.
3	<i>Allium regelianum</i> A.Becker ex Iljin	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Цибуля Регеля	+			II	Shapoval V.
4	<i>Steniola satyrioides</i> (Spreng.) Schltr.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Стевенієла сатириподібна	+	+		II, IV	Kuzemko A.
5	<i>Achillea glaberrima</i> Klokov	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Деревій голий	+	+		II, IV	Kuzemko A.
6	<i>Crepis purpurea</i> (Willd.) M. Bieb.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Скереда пурпурова	+	+		II, IV	Didukh Y.
7	<i>Crambe koktebelica</i> (Junge) N.Busch	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Катран коктебельський	+	+		II, IV	Didukh Y.
8	<i>Lepidium turczaninowii</i> Lipsky	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Хрінниця Турчанинова	+	+		II	Didukh Y.

The number of animal and plant species and habitat types in relation to the annexes of the Habitats Directive where they are proposed to be included.



Habitats



Continental dry rocky steppic grassland and dwarf scrub on chalk outcrops



Pine forests on chalk in the steppe zone



Depressions (pody) of the Steppe zone



Woods of Dnieper birch, pedunculate oak and aspen on sandy terraces of the Steppe zone

Proposal form example (fauna)

Habitats Directive – Annex II and /or IV or V

PROPOSAL FOR ANNEX II ☒ ADDITION ☐ GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTION
and/or
ANNEX IV ☒ ADDITION
or
ANNEX V ☐ ADDITION

Proposal

Species Name

Latin Name *Spermophilus pygmaeus* (Pallas, 1778)

English Name: **Pygmy Ground Squirrel**

Systematics:

Phylum Chordata	Order Rodentia
Class Mammalia	Family Sciuridae

Short Description / Distinguishing Characteristics

Spermophilus pygmaeus (Pallas, 1778) is a medium sized rodent living in open grasslands of Eastern Europe. Body is elongated with short legs; head is massive and rounded with no ears and big eyes. Tail is relatively short, app. 1/3 body length. Body length of adult individuals app. 20cm, body mass app. 200g. Fur coloration is yellowish light brown, sometime greyish. Spots on the back are hardly pronounced and almost invisible. It is the smallest species of European ground squirrels.



Figure 1. Adult pygmy ground squirrel, Crimea, Ukraine. Photo: Igor Sikorskiy.

Community Interest

Please mark with "X" for which of the following subparagraphs of Article 1 g of the Habitats Directive the species is proposed

- ☒ endangered, except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the western palearctic region
- ☐ vulnerable, i.e. believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating
- ☐ rare, with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but at risk. The species is located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range
- ☐ endemic and requiring attention by reason or the specific nature of its habitat or the potential impact of its exploitation on its habitat or the potential impact of its ~~expl.~~ conservation status.

Remarks: In IUCN Red List listed under global assessment is listed as LC, but on European scale recognized as CR (Rusin, 2024). Included to the national Red Books in Ukraine.

Is the Species present in EUR 28:

☐ Yes ☒ No

Proposal for Annex II : additional information needed

* Comments on restrictions to the proposal (if necessary):
(only certain subtypes, only certain parts of Europe etc.)

* Name of Biogeographical Region(s) (please mark with "x")

* Is the Species proposed as a priority one:

☐ Yes ☒ No



Figure 2. Distribution map of *Spermophilus pygmaeus*.

International Conventions and Instruments:

(Please mark with "x" if mentioned)

Bern Convention: Annex 1
Annex 2
Annex 3

Important references / literature / publications:

(especially those relevant for the taxonomy, conservation status and geographical distribution)

Popov, N. V., Yakovlev, S. A., Lidzhi-Garyaeva, G. V., Matrosov, A. N., Sludsky, A. A., Badmaev, T. V., ... & Karavaeva, T. B. (2020). Influence of modern climate warming on the terms of basic phenological phases in the population of *Spermophilus pygmaeus* Pallas, 1778 (Rodentia, Mammalia) on the territory of the Yergenin uplands. *Biology Bulletin*, 47, 1398-1403.

Simonov, E., Lopatina, N. V., Titov, S. V., Ivanova, A. D., Brandler, O. V., Surin, V. L., ... & Ermakov, O. A. (2024). Traditional multilocus phylogeny fails to fully resolve Palearctic ground squirrels (*Spermophilus*) relationships but reveals a new species endemic to West Siberia. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 195, 108057

Further remarks

Contact Person for additional questions concerning this species:

Name: Mikhail Rusin
Country: Ukraine
Phone No: +380669921168
E-mail: ellobius.talpinus@gmail.com

If not identical with Contact Person, author of this data form:

Name:
Postal Address:

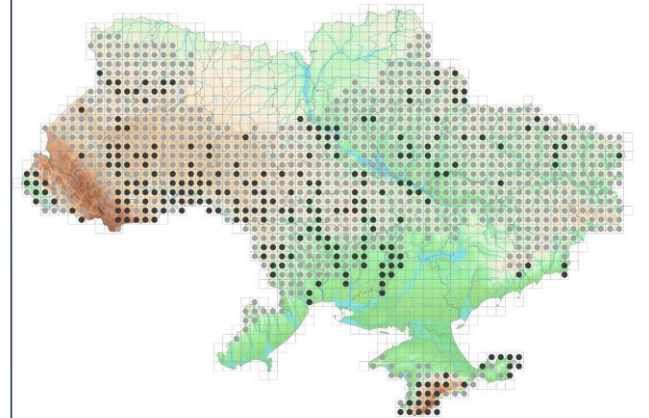
WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

D3.5 Action plan for one selected species/habitat - UNCG

ПЛАН ДІЙ ЩОДО ЗБЕРЕЖЕННЯ ТА ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ ТИПУ БІОТОПУ (ПРИРОДНОГО ОСЕЛИЩА) Е1.2 PERENNIAL CALCAREOUS GRASSLANDS AND BASIC STEPPES / БАГАТОРІЧНІ ТРАВ'ЯНІ КАЛЬЦИФІТНІ УГРУПОВАННЯ ТА СТЕПИ



1. Inventory
2. Representativeness and conservation status
3. Management
4. Inclusion in management plans
5. Restoration
6. Monitoring
7. Protection from plowing and afforestation
8. Environmental education
9. Cooperation and coordination

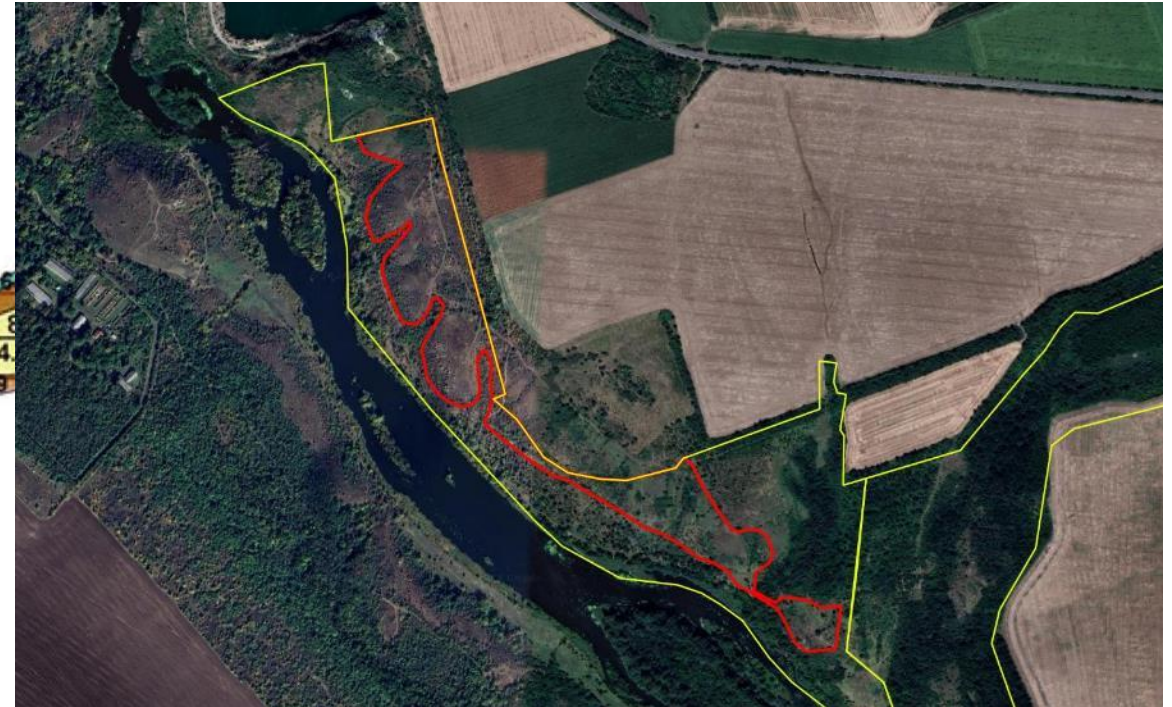
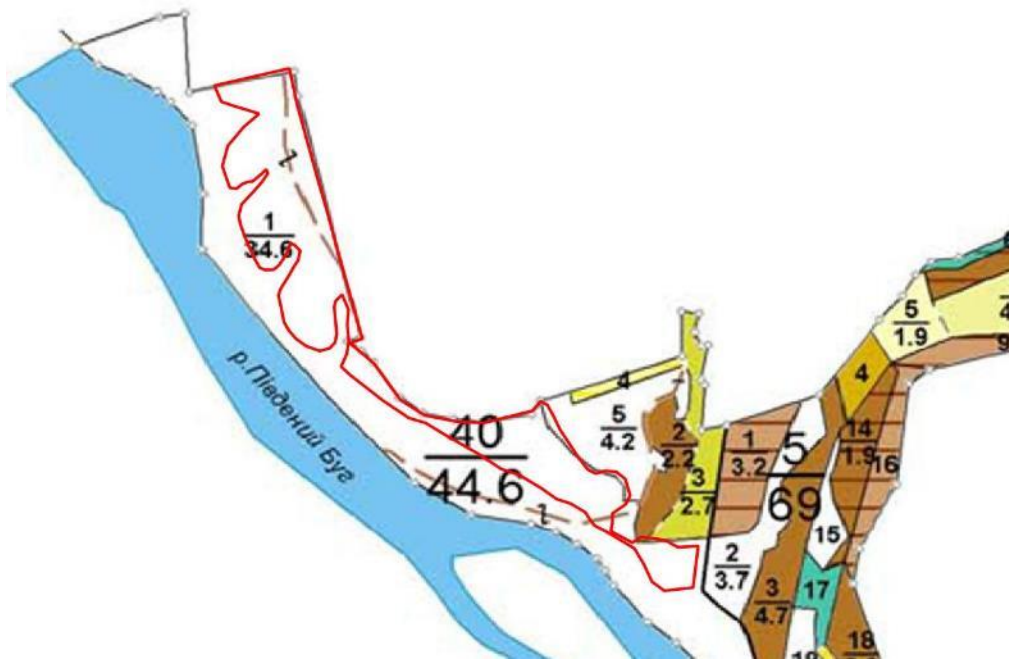


Map of the distribution of meadow steppes

WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

Piloting the case of steppe habitats restoration of enhancing management practices of Emerald Sites

Buzkyi Gard National Nature Park



1.2 Perennial calcareous grasslands and basic steppes / Багаторічні трав'яні кальцифітні угруповання та степи

WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

Piloting the case of steppe habitats restoration of enhancing management practices of Emerald Sites



Measures for conservation of grassland ecosystems

- Livestock grazing control
- Restoration of degraded areas
- Educational programs for the population



WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

Piloting the case of steppe habitats restoration of enhancing management practices of Emerald Sites

Mechanisms and tools provided by the Nature Fund of Ukraine



Workshop of experts and stakeholders on the restoration and maintenance of E1.2 habitat through controlled grazing in the target national parks



WP3 Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine

Piloting the case of steppe habitats restoration of enhancing management practices of Emerald Sites

Stage I. Start of Work: March 19, 2025

Mowing of the grass cover and shredding of excessive dead plant material



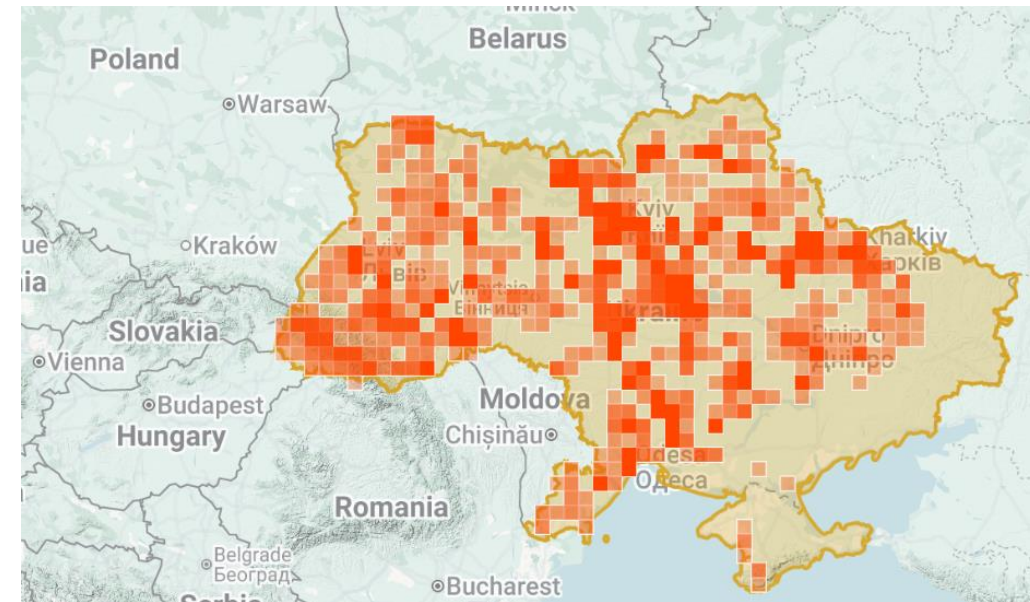
WP4 Promotion of Natura 2000 in Ukraine

D4.8 Holding iNaturalist Day in Ukraine – UNCG

May 19 - June 8, 2025

First Bioblitz for the entire Ukraine (results still under review)

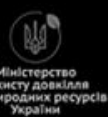
- 105 900 entries
- 5 285 species
- 729 observers



Co-funded by
the European Union



Ministerstvo životního prostředí



Міністерство
захисту довкілля
та природних ресурсів
України



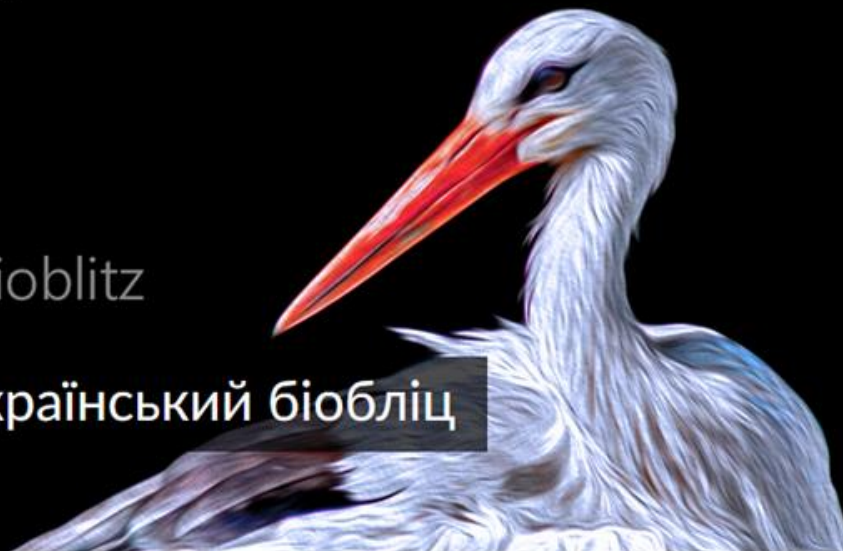
May 19, 2025 - June 8, 2025

First All-Ukrainian Bioblitz



Перший загальноукраїнський біобліц

kvě 19, 2025 - čvn 8, 2025



Členové 1199

Цей біобліц присвячений природі України



Це унікальна можливість зібрати цінну інформацію про природу нашої країни в усіх її куточках у форматі змагання. Бажаєш долучитися? - Натискай "Приєднатися" и читай умови.

Číst dál >

Pouze členové projektu

Deník projektu



**ENVIRONMENT
PEOPLE LAW**
The rule of law for the protection of the environment



NATURE IS OUR HERITAGE AND THE FUTURE

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



Co-funded by
the European Union

