

Conservation values, current status and nature conservation issues of the Emerald site Besarabkyi Kolkhicum

Agenda

Date: October 23, 2025, 9:00-17:00 (EEST)

**Venue: Session hall of Bessarabske Borough Council, Shyroka Street, building 1,
Bessarabske Borough, Bolgrad district, Odesa Oblast**

Format: in-person

Conservation values, current state and nature conservation issues of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum

October 23, 2025, 9:00-17:00 | Bessarabske, Odesa Oblast

Background

This workshop is one of the nine capacity-building events organized as part of the World Bank-led activities in the framework of the EU4Environment Program sub-component 4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems that aims to facilitate the establishment of the Emerald Network and to improve the management of the Emerald sites in Ukraine.

This sub-component includes technical assistance to relevant Ukrainian counterparts focused on strengthening the methodological capacities for ensuring the long-term survival of species and habitats listed in Resolutions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). The work is focused on developing methodological guidelines for assessing anthropogenic (including military) impacts and methodological guidelines for preparing management plans for Emerald sites in line with the European standards and best international practices.

Objectives

A capacity-building workshop will raise awareness on Ukraine's commitments under the Bern Convention, focusing on:

- the conservation values of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum and their importance for the local community sustainable development,
- threats to flora and fauna species, natural habitats and the Emerald site,
- the setting up of conservation goals to ensure the preservation and restoration of species and habitats.

This event is aimed at familiarizing participants of the conservation values of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum and support a common understanding of the main conservation goals.

Organizers

The workshop is organised by the World Bank jointly with the international consulting company Particip GmbH and the NGO Rewilding Ukraine, implementing activities under sub-component 4.1.

Participants

Representatives of the Odesa Oblast State Administration, local authorities and self-government bodies, the State Environmental Inspectorate, the Municipal Police, the National Police, media, the agricultural sector (landowners and land users, farmers, land managers), hunters, and teachers.

Practical Information

The workshop will be held in the in-person format in the Session hall of Bessarabska Borough Council, Shyroka Street, building 1, Bessarabske, Bolgrad District, Odesa Oblast.

About EU4Environment

Since 2018, the “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) Action has helped the Eastern Partnership 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. The programme was funded by the European Union and principally implemented over the 2019-2024 period by OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank. Over 2025-2026 period, the World Bank will finalise the implementation of programme's Result 4 area.

AGENDA

Time	Item
9:00-9:15	<i>Registration, welcome coffee</i>
	Moderator: Igor Studennikov, Project Expert; Administrative, Legal and Fundraising Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.
9:15-9:30	<i>Opening Remarks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Igor Studennikov, Project Expert; Administrative, Legal and Fundraising Officer, Rewilding Ukraine. Sava Chernev, Chairman of Bessarabska Borough Council.
9:30-9:45	<i>A brief overview of the requirements of the Bern Convention and the Ukrainian legislation regarding the designation and management of Emerald sites.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine.
9:45-10:00	<i>Besarabskyi Kolkhicum as an Emerald site in Ukraine.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine.
10:00-10:30	<i>Conservation values of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum: natural habitat types and flora species of Resolutions No. 4 and 6 of the Bern Convention, their status, spatial distribution and conservation issues.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viktor Shapoval, Project Expert; Director; Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve, NAAS of Ukraine.
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee-break</i>
10:45-11:15	<i>Conservation values of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum: fauna species of Resolution No. 6 of the Bern Convention, their status, spatial distribution and conservation issues.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oleksandr Bronskov, Project Expert; Head of the Research Department, Meotida National Nature Park.
11:15-11:30	<i>Key factors affecting the status of flora and fauna species and habitats: assessing their impact and nature conservation issues (interactive session).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.
11:30-12:15	<i>The role of local authorities, owners and users of land plots and natural resources in preserving conservation values of the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum (discussion).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.

12:15-13:00	<p><i>Defining and discussing conservation goals for the Emerald site Besarabskyi Kolkhicum (interactive session).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine.
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00-16:00	<p><i>Field trip to the enclosure for the adaptation and reproduction of steppe animals in the Tarutynsky Steppe local landscape sanctuary. This field trip is aimed at familiarizing participants with preserved and disturbed steppe, wetland, and forest habitats, an integrated approach to the preservation and restoration of species and habitats, in particular through the reintroduction of key steppe animals, examples of sustainable natural resource use and prevention of wildfires.</i></p>
16:00-17:00	<p><i>Wrap up and closing remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sava Chernev, Chairman of Bessarabska Borough Council. • Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.