

# **Conservation values, current status and nature conservation issues of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve**

## **Agenda**

**Date: October 30, 2025, 9:00-17:00 (EEST)**

**Venue: PELICAN Green Tourism Complex,  
54 Bogdan Khmelnytskyi St., Vylkove town, Izmail District, Odesa Oblast**

**Format: in-person**

## Conservation values, current status and nature conservation issues of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve

October 30, 2025, 9:00-17:00 | Vilkove, Odesa Region

### Background

This workshop is one of nine capacity-building events organized as part of the World Bank-led activities under EU4Environment Program sub-component 4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems, aiming to advance the establishment of the Emerald Network and 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:

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

This event will familiarize participants with the conservation values of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve and support a joint determination of the main conservation goals.

### Organizers

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

### Participants

Representatives of the Odesa Regional State Administration, local authorities and self-government bodies (village heads), the State Environmental Inspectorate, the Municipal Police, the Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the media, the agricultural sector - landowners and land users, farmers, land managers, hunters, teachers.

### Practical Information

The workshop will be held in the form of an in-person person meeting in PELICAN Green Tourism Complex, 54 Bogdan Khmelnytskyi St., Vylkove town, Izmail 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.

## ПОРЯДОК ДЕННИЙ

Time	Topics & Speakers
9:00-9:15	<i>Registration, welcome coffee</i>
	Moderator: Igor Studennikov, Project Expert; Fundraising and Admin Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.
9:15-9:30	<i>Opening remarks.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Igor Studennikov, Project Expert, Fundraising and Admin Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.</li> <li>Matviy Ivanov, Mayor of Vylkove .</li> <li>Oleksandr Voloshkevich, Direct, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NASU.</li> </ul>
9:30-9:45	<i>A brief overview of the requirements of the Bern Convention and Ukrainian legislation regarding the designation and management of Emerald sites.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine.</li> </ul>
9:45-10:00	<i>Danube Biosphere Reserve as an Emerald site and Nature-Reserve Fund site of Ukraine.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oleksandr Voloshkevych, Director, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine.</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	<i>Conservation values of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve: natural habitats 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"> <li>Olena Bronskova, Project Expert; Research Fellow, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine.</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45-11:15	<i>Conservation values of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve: fauna species of Resolution No. 6 of the Bern Convention, their status, spatial distribution and conservation problems.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oleksandr Gaidash, Project Expert; Research Fellow, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine.</li> </ul>
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 lesson).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.</li> </ul>
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 Danube Biosphere Reserve (discussion).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.</li> </ul>

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12:15-13:00	<p><i>Defining and discussing conservation goals for the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve (interactive lesson).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine.</li></ul>
13:00-14:00	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14:00-16:00	<p><i>Field trip to Ermakiv Island to make the participants aware of the results of the restoration of the island's ecosystem and the role of large wild and semi-wild herbivores in the maintenance of the landscape diversity, including wetland, grassland and riverine forest habitats, and its ability to provide ecosystem services for the local community sustainable development in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta.</i></p>
16:00-17:00	<p><i>Wrap-up and closing remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oleksandr Voloshkevich, Ph.D., Director of the Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine.</li><li>• Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine.</li></ul>

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