

Advancing the Emerald Network in Ukraine: Practice and Perspectives of Special Protected Areas Management

Agenda

Date: February 19, 2026, 14:00-17:00 (EEST)

Format: online (Zoom)

Languages: Ukrainian, English

Please, register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9r1Tl6qyTiu8jfO5hUP6_w

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For any questions related to the event, please contact: valeriia.nemykina@rewilding-ukraine.com

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Background

This workshop supports Ukraine's commitments under the Bern Convention by focusing on the management design of Emerald sites. It addresses key aspects of management planning using the example of pilot sites, and current legislative requirements, and highlights the need for methodological and legislative frameworks to ensure effective Emerald site management in Ukraine.

This is the ninth and final capacity-building event under the World Bank-led activities of EU4Environment Programme sub-component 4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald network). The sub-component aims to advance the establishment of the Emerald Network and strengthen the management of Emerald sites in the Eastern Partnership countries, including Ukraine.

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the target audience regarding the implementation of the Bern Convention in Ukraine;
- To present the experience of developing management plans for pilot Emerald sites in Ukraine;
- To discuss the possibilities of managing Emerald sites within the framework of the current legislation of Ukraine;
- To discuss the perspectives for the development of national legislation to ensure the implementation of the requirements arising from the Bern Convention;
- To outline options to scale up the development and implementation of Emerald site management plans.

Participants

The meeting will gather representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture, the State Forestry Agency, the State Water Agency, the State Fisheries Agency, the State Environmental Inspectorate, stakeholders of the three pilot Emerald sites, representatives of the Protected Areas' administration, the World Bank, EU Delegation to Ukraine, research institutions, academia civil society organisations, and media.

Practical Information

The seminar will be held online. ZOOM link will be shared with the participants upon registration https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9r1Tl6qyTiu8jfO5hUP6_w at their email addresses. The working languages of the seminar are Ukrainian and English.

About EU4Environment

Since 2018, the "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) Programme 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
	Moderator: Olesya Petrovych, Team Leader, Particip GmbH
14:00-14:15	<p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine ● Torsten Woellert, Minister Counsellor for energy, environment and climate, EU Delegation to Ukraine ● Fisseha Tessema Abissa, Task Team Leader for EU4Environment Programme, Sr. Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank
14:15-14:30	<p><i>Lessons learned in preparing management plans for pilot areas of the Emerald Network of Ukraine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine
14:30-14:45	<p><i>Recommendations for the management plan of the Emerald site Tarutynskiy Steppe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine ● Ivan Küsse, Chairman of Budjak Borough Council, Bolgrad district, Odesa oblast
14:45-15:00	<p><i>Recommendations for the management plan of the Emerald site Danube Biosphere Reserve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleksandr Gaidash, Project Expert; Research Fellow, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine. ● Oleksandr Voloshkevych, Director, Danube Biosphere Reserve, NAS of Ukraine.
15:00-15:15	<p><i>Recommendations for the management plan of the Emerald site Besarabkyyi Kolkhicum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleksandr Bronskov, Project Expert; Head of the Research Department, Meotida National Nature Park ● Representative of Bessarabske Borough Council (TBC)
15:15-15:30	<i>Q&A session</i>
15:30-15:45	<p><i>Joint management of Emerald sites: from plan to action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oleg Diakov, Project Technical Advisor; Executive Director, Rewilding Officer, Rewilding Ukraine

15:45-16:00	<p><i>Emerald Network regional consultancy project: key outcomes for Ukraine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valts Vilnītis, SIA Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment
16:00-16:15	<p><i>Legally binding requirements of the Bern Convention and the possibility of organizing the management of Emerald sites in accordance with the current legislation of Ukraine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Olesya Petrovych, Team Leader, Particip GmbH ● Viktor Demchenko, Project Management Expert; Deputy Director for Research, Institute of Marine Biology, NAS of Ukraine
16:15-16:30	<p><i>Proposals for amendments to the legislation of Ukraine to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Bern Convention and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives regarding special conservation areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dmytro Skrylnikov, key legal expert, project “Conservation of Natural Heritage for Life in Ukraine 2024–2026” (101148569 — LIFE23-PRE-CZ-ConNaturLIFE Ukraine LIFE-2023-PLP)
16:30-16:50	<p><i>Moderated discussion</i></p>
16:50-17:00	<p><i>Wrap-up and closing remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roman Romanik, Deputy Director of the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity - Head of the Department for Organization of Activities and Coordination of Institutions of the Nature Reserve Fund ● Oksana Kovalenko, EU4Environment Programme Coordinator, World Bank