



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY,
ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE
OF UKRAINE



THE WORLD BANK

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPONENT 4 “ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES”, EU4Environment in Ukraine: achievements, challenges, prospects

Final Regional Meeting

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Sub-component 4.1.



Supporting the protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald Network) in Ukraine

Sub-component 4.1.2.



Promoting cooperation and exchange between EPc and EU Member States, as well as strengthening communication and raising awareness of the Emerald Network 2025-2026

OUTPUTS UNDER THE SUB-COMPONENT



Draft **Guidelines** on preparation of **management plans** for Emerald Network sites



Recommendations to the management plans of 3 Emerald Network sites



Draft **Guidelines on assessment of human-made and military impacts** on Emerald Network sites and the preparation of site restoration strategies



Analysis of the **impact of war on Emerald Network sites**, compilation of a list of affected sites, and identification of 28 factors of war impact (CEOBS)



Training and knowledge-sharing, involving local communities



Analysis of available data on species and habitats to prepare for the next round of biogeographical workshops, with recommendations on next steps



Online course on the Emerald Network and Natura 2000 available in Ukrainian



Information materials on the Emerald Network for awareness-raising

IMPACT OF THE WAR ON THE UKRAINE'S EMERALD NETWORK SITES

EMERALD NETWORK OF UKRAINE - KEY FACTS:

538

sites

12,2 mln ha

total area

377

Designated and approved sites
area 8,098 mln ha

161

Proposed sites
area 4,280 mln ha

THE WAR IMPACT

250 sites

(47%), ≈7.2 mln ha

Occupied, de-occupied or on the frontline

160 sites

2.9 mln ha

Threat of degradation

93

Emerald Network sites affected due to the need to protect Ukraine's state border



The Bern Convention has limited tools for addressing the impact of military factors on Emerald Network and lacks procedures for responding to the impact of hostilities



The Bern Convention Secretariat has been informed of the impact of Russian armed aggression on Emerald Network sites

KEY CHANGES

achieved with the support of the World Bank under EU4Environment,
in the management of the Emerald Network



Raised awareness of the requirements of the Bern Convention and the management of Emerald Network sites at all levels of government



Approaches to the management of Emerald Network sites have been identified



Developed a methodology for assessing the impact of military factors on Emerald Network sites



Communities and other stakeholders understand the conservation value and are **ready to manage 3 pilot sites**



Results of assessment of the impact of military factors on Emerald Network sites have been **submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention**



Preparedness at the national level for the next biogeographical workshops under the Bern Convention has been enhanced

NATIONAL POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES WHERE THE RESULTS OF SUB-COMPONENT 4.1 ARE IMPLEMENTED



The **Ministry received Methodological Guidelines** and is considering ways to implement them in legislation



Policy and governance **decisions are based on the results of assessments** of the impact of military factors and the restoration of protected areas



Issues relating to the **conservation and restoration of Emerald Network sites are taken into account** when drafting new legislation and formulating policy



The Ministry is **consulting with the Secretariat of the Bern Convention** on further steps regarding areas affected by military factors



An updated **draft law 'On Emerald Network/Natura 2000 Areas'** is being prepared, taking into account the results of the Project on approaches to the management of sites



Stakeholders in pilot areas are working to **establish new nature reserve areas** as a means of their management



The Ministry is better informed and is exploring possible mechanisms for conducting research to ensure **successful completion of biogeographical workshops**

EXPECTATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

regarding the development of the results of Sub-component 4.1 'Support for the protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald Network) in Ukraine'



Approval of management plans for Emerald Network sites and the corresponding Methodological Guidelines



Coordination of **efforts to assess the impact of military factors** on Emerald Network sites



Scaling up management actions for Emerald Network sites



Strengthening **efforts to organise research and the necessary practical measures** to complete the nomination processes for the 161 proposed Emerald Network sites and to prepare nominations for Natura 2000 sites



POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN UKRAINE



National Biodiversity Strategy is prepared:

- Strategic Goal “To restore and enhance nature’s contribution to people’s lives, and to **manage ecosystem functions and services through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches**” is set

Operational Plan to the Strategy includes:

- ✓ Preparation of a **draft law** and other legal activities relating to **ecosystem services**
- ✓ Preparation of the **Strategy on ecosystem services**
- ✓ activities on the **economic evaluation of ecosystem services**
- ✓ Other activities at national and local level aimed at **supporting nature-based projects** (wetland farming, green and blue urban infrastructure), international cooperation on the policy

Biodiversity Strategy identifies the key factors contributing to ecosystem degradation:

- **Russia’s armed aggression** and the effects of hostilities
- **Unbalanced land use** and spatial planning
- High levels of natural resource exploitation, **poor implementation of resource-efficient practices**
- **Climate change**
- **Pollution** (wastewater, agrochemicals, waste)
- **Biological invasions**
- Low **institutional capacity in nature conservation**

Other key actions

- ✔ **Draft law on a national green taxonomy** Under preparation – enabling support for green projects, including nature-based initiatives
- ✔ **Sectoral assessment of risks and vulnerabilities to climate change** in the water sector is planned
- ✔ Resolution of the CMU No. 579 of 6.05.2026 was adopted regarding the specific features of the legal regime for the **use of land under peatlands (with the aim of conserving wetlands** and reducing climate risks)