

»» Project Information

Environmental policy, protection, sustainable use of natural resources – Ukraine

Project – Support of Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine

Ukraine, considering its area, has an over-proportionately large share of biodiversity in Europe. In the country’s north and south, there are still natural landscapes which are huge and unique in Europe. However, this diversity of species and habitats is under high pressure, which is mainly caused by a non-sustainable use and a progressive transformation of natural habitats into agricultural and infrastructure areas. The government of Ukraine is trying to meet its international commitments to biodiversity protection, however facing severe budgetary constraints. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) KfW Development Bank supports the Ukrainian government in order to improve conservation of biodiversity, natural resources and environmental services in Ukraine.

Context

In Ukraine, there are globally important habitats, e.g. Beech forests, which are part of UNESCO’s World Natural Heritage, extensive wetlands and peatlands, steppe areas as well as valuable coastal and marine areas. Out of 104 vertebrate species occurring in Ukraine, 82 are under threat and included into IUCN’s Red List.

On the other hand, there is a considerable pressure upon biodiversity resulting from environmentally damaging land use (incl. illegal logging, poaching or unsustainable fisheries, agriculture and livestock). On the other hand, protected areas in Ukraine suffer from

chronic underfunding. In spite of this limitation, the Ukrainian government acknowledges its responsibility to protect biodiversity and wants to meet its international commitments.

These include the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as the development of the so-called Emerald Network in accordance with the Berne Convention and the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN). In recent years, also some new large-scale protected areas have been established.

Project approach

In order to counteract the continuing loss of biodiversity

Project name	Support of Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Ukraine / Emphasis on Carpathian Region
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Energy and Environment of Ukraine





Beech forests of Ukrainian Carpathians are part of UNESCO's World Natural Heritage. Source: FZS & USPB, photographer: Kantsyrenko

and rare natural habitats, KfW Development Bank, on behalf of BMZ, supports improvement of the management and effectiveness of selected protected areas in Ukraine. A fundamental prerequisite for the success of the project is seen in the acceptance of these areas by the local population. This objective will be achieved by participation of the population in the planning and management of the protected areas and by investing into socio-economic measures.

The Project-Executing Agency (PEA) is the Ministry of Energy and Environment of Ukraine, which is supported with a total investment of EUR 14.0 million (grant). The Ministry is supported by a consulting consortium consisting of AHT Group AG, Frankfurt Zoological Society (ZGF), WWF Danube-Carpathian Program and Ukrainian Society for Protection of Birds (USPB).

The project will invest into the elaboration of planning documents (e.g., management plans), infrastructure (e.g., administration buildings, visitor centres, shelters), equipment (e.g., cars, uniforms, computers, communications), and training of personnel primarily in already existing protection areas.

The local population benefits from the project at several levels: On the one hand, the staff of the selected nature reserves, which is mostly recruited locally, benefits from better education and investment into infrastructure and equipment. At the same time, the local population in the vicinity of the protected areas is to be supported by smaller investments into rural development. In addition,

many protected areas play an important role developing tourism of the region. Since the project will also invest in tourism-relevant infrastructure in the protected areas (for example, visitor centres, route networks, information material, etc.), a positive effect on the promotion of this economic sector is expected.

Impact

The main impact of the project is aimed at preserving biodiversity, natural resources and environmental services in Ukraine.

Furthermore, the civil society and socio-economic situation of the population shall be improved. Through the involvement of the residents into the design of the usage restrictions and promotion of rural development, the project also promotes participation, transparency and equal opportunities.



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