

# Peatland protection in Ukraine

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# UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP (UNCG)



In 2014, a group of Ukrainian biologists united to preserve the wild nature of Ukraine.

In 2018, we officially registered as the nonprofit non-governmental organization "Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group".





## Our Mission:

Conservation of biodiversity, establishment of protected areas, and implementation of international environmental legislation in Ukraine.





We are an organization of professional biologists and activists engaged in wildlife protection in Ukraine.

The organization includes more than 50 nature conservation professionals and activists from all over Ukraine.

Analysts and young specialists also work in the organization.

We achieve our goals thanks to professional knowledge and mechanisms provided by legislation.



# Areas of our work:



## Protected Areas

Creating new protected areas, supporting the effective operation of those already existing.



## Environmental Impact Assessment

Monitoring projects and providing comments to eliminate damage to biodiversity.



## Emerald Network

Creating and monitoring Emerald Network territories and working with international nature conservation conventions.



## Wetlands

Preserving rivers from new dams and other harmful infrastructure projects, protecting wetlands from drainage, reducing anthropogenic impact on grasslands, swamps, watercourses, and water bodies.



## Forest conservation

Protection of valuable forest ecosystems and biodiversity, promoting the principles of sustainable forest management, civic oversight over the legality and sustainability in forest management.



## Biodiversity Research

Collecting, assessing, and analyzing information on rare species and valuable natural habitats for conservation purposes; popularizing biodiversity topics and modern research methods among scientists and the general public



## Steppes and Grasslands

Preserving valuable herbaceous ecosystems from destruction, construction, and afforestation.

## Some of our results:



**75% Conservation areas**

in country were created with our participation for the last 6 years



**143,706ha**

Protected forests with our participation



**36,853ha**

Protected grasslands and steppes with our participation



**213,099ha**

Protected wetlands with our participation



**1,600,000ha**

Emerald Network Sites approved



**>449,308**

Species occurrence records published on GBIF



**>202**

GBIF datasets published



**>425**

Research articles referencing our GBIF data

**We work towards improving legislation.** In recent years, with our participation, a law introducing the conservation of naturally afforested agricultural lands, steppes, and grasslands was adopted; Cabinet of Ministers resolutions were passed on creating protective zones for biodiversity preservation and new rules for forest management planning.



**Peatlands are incredible, valuable areas.  
You know :)**



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# There is no specific legislation on the protection and use of peatlands in Ukraine

The **Land Code** of Ukraine.

Article 150.

1. Particularly valuable lands include:

...

b) peatlands with a peat depth of more than one meter and drained regardless of the depth, peatlands within wetlands of international importance.

...

3. The peculiarities of the legal regime of land use under peatlands and possible types of their designated purpose are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.



2020-08 Google Earth Pro



2024-09-17 Sentinel-2 L2A



2025-03-06 Sentinel-2 L2A



2025-03-07

## Plowed peatland





**Corn**

**Peat**

2024-10-  
10

**Plowed peatland**

  
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група

Kutianka

2024-06-21

# Peat mining







## Amber mining

# Problems of peatland protection

- no specific obligation to preserve peatlands;
- no responsibility for peatland destruction;
- peatlands are not digitized on the map.

**Where is the legislation?**





# Solutions for peatland conservation

- develop a Regulation on peatlands;
- create protected areas and zones;
- fulfill obligations to preserve valuable habitats;
- implement state environmental and climate policies;
- to unite with foreign partners to preserve the world's wildlife and prevent climate change.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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