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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November – 3 December 2020

New complaint: 2021/4

**Threats to wild flora and fauna and their
natural habitats in Irpin river valley Emerald
Network site from constructions
(Ukraine)**

- COMPLAINT FORM -

*Document prepared by
Irpin community*

**Convention on the Conservation of
European Wildlife
and Natural Habitats**



COMPLAINT FORM

NB: Complaint forms must be submitted in electronic word format, and not exceed 3 pages, including the first administrative page. A maximum 5-page report can be attached. The Secretariat will request additional information on a case-by-case basis.

Please, fill in this form and send it to the attention of:

Bern Convention Secretariat

Directorate of Democratic Participation
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

E-mail: Bern.convention@coe.int

First name: Dina

Surname: Haman

On behalf of (if applicable): Irpin community

E-mail: dina.hamany@gmail.com

Web site: -

Date: 22 April 2021

Electronic Signature *Dina Haman*

1. Please state the reason of your complaint (refer also the Contracting Party/es involved and the Articles of the Convention which might be violated).

The Government and Local Authority destroy wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats in Irpin river valley (15039.0 Ha) included into Emerald Network under Site Code UA0000342 in Updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites.

2. Which are the specific specie/s or habitat/s included in one of the Appendices of the Bern Convention potentially affected? (Please include here information about the geographical area and the population of the species concerned, if applicable)

Site Code UA0000342 in Updated list of officially adopted Emerald sites.

Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude 30.1713

Latitude: 50.3558

Area [ha]: 15038.97

Marine area [%]: 0.0

Sitelength [km]: 95.9

Administrative region code and name: NUTS level 2 code - UA32; Region Name - Kyiv oblast

Biogeographical Region(s) Continental (100.0%)

The following specifically species are threatened by Government and local Authority on 200Ha Irpin river valley: *Milvus migrans*, *Circus pygargus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Picus canus*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Castor fiber*, *Falco cherrug*, *Luscinia luscinia*, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, *Luscinia (Cyanosylvia) svecica*, *Crex crex*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa stagnatilis* (red book in Ukraine as well), *Emberiza citrinella*, *Podiceps grisegena*, *Anser erythropus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco tinnunculus*.

I would pay your attention that *Luscinia luscinia*, *Luscinia megarhynchos*, *Luscinia (Cyanosylvia) svecica*, *Crex crex*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa stagnatilis* (red book in Ukraine), *Emberiza citrinella*, *Podiceps grisegena*, *Anser erythropus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco tinnunculus* are included into Appendix II of the Bern Convention. All these species migrated through Irpin river valley and by building all these territory our Local Authority can destroy all of these species. Also all these species are included into Appendix II of *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, into European IUCN Red List of Threatened Species under category «LC» (exception is *Anser erythropus* which is under category "EN") and Appendix I of Europe Council Directive per Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. As you can see, a lot of birds migrate through the Irpin river valley but our Local Authority and Government (included Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine) do not want to protect Irpin river Valley. We have several requests to Local Authority and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, however they rejected all of them. We need to protect wild flora and fauna and the place of birds migration from Europe and Africa. We very hope that Bern Convention can organize inspection to Ukraine. From our side we can organize a tour through Irpin river valley and show the real picture.

3. What might be the negative effects for the specie/s or habitat/s involved?

The wild flora and fauna of Irpin river valley which is included into Emerald Network , is under destruction by Local Authority and Government. On this territory Local Authority and Government allow to build multi-storey buildings. At the same time, they allow to developer company to take out soil, sand and peat on this territory and to cover these places with construction waste. Building

developers are planned to build about 200 Ha Irpin river valley with multi-storey buildings (more than 16 floors). At least this is what I know, because more territory of Irpin river valley (included into Emerald Network) is under destruction by building developers. If you will come to Ukraine with inspection, I will show you all threatened territory included into Irpin river valley. All available buildings and planned buildings are/will not have sewerage and all sewage is poured into the Irpin river valley, the land is peat, the sand is taken out and trees are cut down. That all is catastrophe and can totally destroy fauna in Irpin river valley (included into Emerald Network).

Another very important point is that Irpin river valley is the place for at least 12 types of birds migration from Europe and Africa. To destroy these territories will directly impact Europe and Africa. We tried to contact with Local Authorities, President and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, however they do not want to hear us and do not wish to protect Irpin river valley. Irpin community is very worried that the Local Authorities and Government allow to destroy wild flora and fauna on Irpin river valley. Even worse is that Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine does not help to protect flora and fauna.

4. Do you know if potentially affected species or habitats also fall under the scope of other international Conventions, (for instance: RAMSAR, CMS, ACCOBAMS, Barcelona Convention, etc) or if the area has been identified as a NATURA 2000/Emerald network site?

Potentially affected species or habitats fall under the scope of other international Conventions like Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, European IUCN Red List of Threatened Species under category «LC» (exception is *Anser erythropus* which is under category "EN"), Europe Council Directive per Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. The area has been identified as an Emerald network site.

5. Do you know if there are any pending procedures at the national or international level regarding the object of your complaint?

YES. Two weeks ago we had inspection from Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. They could see all this catastrophe, however we received feedback from them that they will not do anything because many departments should be involved to resolve this issue and they do not want to work on it. But we received not official information that building developers paid 20000USD to close this issue. That is why, we do not expect help from Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Also, there is opened pre-trial investigation of the legality of land ownership of one of the building developer located on the territory of Emerald Site.

6. Any other information (existence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), size of projects, maps of the area, etc)

YES, I have the map of the area closest to me (I locate in Romanivka), however the territory which are included into Emerald Network and planned for building is much bigger (about 200 Ha). The map is below. Also I would say that Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine closed this issue after inspection and does not want to continue conduct Environmental Impact Assessment. That is why we really need your help, because we did request directly to president however any reaction from the Government. We did request to other departments on Government and local level but did not received any reaction and support.

