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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

Other complaints

**Presumed threat to Emerald site “Black Sea
Biosphere Reserve” (UA0000017) from military
trainings (Ukraine)**

- COMPLAINT FORM -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*



**MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF
UKRAINE**

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Kyiv, September 04, 2018

To: Mrs. Iva OBRETENOVA
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Head of the Biodiversity Unit
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Directorate General II
Council of Europe

Title: complaint submitted by the NGO «UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP» on March 29, 2018 and letter of the Secretariat on June 4, 2018

Dear Mrs. Iva OBRETENOVA,

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and informs about state of protection of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, Kherson oblast of Ukraine, which is officially adopted Emerald Network site UA 0000017 (complaint submitted by the NGO «UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP» on March 29, 2018 and letter of the Secretariat on June 4, 2018).

The territory of the Emerald Network site UA 0000017 is protected within the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve established by the Decree of the President of Ukraine on November 26, 1993, No. 563. This territory also has the status of a biosphere reserve within the framework of the UNESCO «Man and Biosphere» program (Black Sea Biosphere Reserve) and wetlands of international importance of the Ramsar Convention («Tendrivska zatoka» and «Yagorlytska zatoka»).

At the same time, after the annexation of the Crimean peninsula, this territory is the only possible place for testing new weapon examples, which is a very important for Ukraine under the temporary occupation by Russia the part of our country's territory.

In order to reduce the negative impact on the species of flora and fauna, and habitats protected under the Emerald Network site UA 0000017, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources:

- organized the meeting on April 3, 2018 for Working Group on Coordination of Activities During Military Exercises and Other Activities of the Units of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine in the Territories of the Nature Reserve Fund;
- organized two meetings (July 26 and August 9, 2018) with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and scientists;
- took part in the meetings organized by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine;
- provided the Ministry of Defense detailed information about conservation value and territory regime of the Emerald Network site UA 0000017.

As a result of these meetings, agreed decisions were made and the following work is managed:

- the Project for the organization of the territory of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the protection of its natural complexes (Management Plan) is developing, taking into account the issue of flora, fauna and habitat conservation under the testing of weapon and military equipment;
- recommendations on environmental restrictions during testing in the reserve are developing;
- proposals for expanding the reserve area based on valuable natural sites are preparing;
- agreements on keeping the silent season from April 1 to June 15 were reached according with Article 39 of the Law of Ukraine «On the Fauna», which prohibits the works and activities that are the sources of increased noise and anxiety due to the mass reproduction of many bird species; localization of the aim point in order to minimize the negative impact on the species of flora and fauna and natural habitats are protected on the territory of the reserve.

In addition, we inform that in the framework of the Annual National Program under the aegis of the NATO-Ukraine Commission for 2019, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources together with the Ministry of Defense will work on issues concerning:

- measures implementation to manage the borders of protected areas of national and international importance during the planning of military exercises and tests of weapon and military equipment;
- development and implementation of guidelines for conservation of flora and fauna species and types of natural habitats in the protected areas located within the military training ground;
- protected area creation within military training grounds, etc.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Best regards,

Deputy Minister for
the European Integration

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