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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 Tarutino
(UA0000137) from cultivation developments
(Ukraine)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

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

- September 2018 -



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

DEPARTMENT OF ECONET AND PROTECTED AREAS

35 Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivskiy Str., Kyiv, 03035, Ukraine, Tel/Fax: +380 44 206 31 19,

e-mail: parks@menr.gov.ua

Kyiv, August 31, 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 of the NGO «Vidrodzhennya» on September 27, 2017 and
letter of the Secretariat on April 16, 2018***

Dear Mrs. Iva OBRETENOVA,

Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and informs about state of the «Tarutynskiy Steppe» protection, Odessa oblast of Ukraine, which is included in Emerald Network site UA 0000137 (complaint of the NGO «Vidrodzhennya» on the September 27, 2017 and letter of the Secretariat on the April 16, 2018).

Since the previous report was submitted to the Secretariat of the Berne Convention, namely on February 12, 2018, such actions were taken to protect the Emerald Network site UA 0000137 «Tarutynskiy Steppe»:

- 1) Materials for the Project of creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance «Tarutynskiy Steppe» with the area of 8600 hectares was prepared as follows:
 - map charts were prepared and the square of the projected Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance «Tarutynskiy Steppe» was refined. At present, the area of the projected Zakaznyk has increased for more than 10000 hectares;
 - a coordination meeting was held at the regional level with the participation of representatives of local authorities, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, scientists and NGOs etc. As a result it was decided to continue creation of Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance «Tarutynskiy Steppe»;
 - at present, the approvals from stakeholders on the creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance «Tarutynskiy Steppe» are obtaining according to the Law of Ukraine «On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine»;
- 2) On May 21, 2018, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has approved the request of local authorities concerning creation of the National Nature Park «Tarutynskiy Steppe» with an area of about 13000 hectares. It is planned to include to the Park the territory of

Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance «Tarutynskyi Steppe» and other protected areas in the Tarutino district of the Odessa oblast and surrounding areas.

This request was filed to the Odessa Regional State Administration in accordance with the Law of Ukraine «On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine» to organize work for approval with stakeholders;

- 3) As previously reported, the territory of Tarutynskyi Steppe with an area of 5200 hectares is protected under the national legislation as Landscape Zakaznyk of local importance according to the decision of the Odessa Regional Council № 445-VI on April 26, 2012. Any activities with negative impact on the natural complexes of Landscape Zakaznyk of local importance «Tarutynskyi Steppe» are prohibited according to the Article 7 of the Law of Ukraine «On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine».

Since February 12, 2018 the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has received no information about environmental violence on the territory of the Landscape Zakaznyk of local importance.

The Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Viktor Klid
Director of the Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
National Focal Point

- February 2018 -



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

DEPARTMENT OF ECONET AND PROTECTED AREAS

35 Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivskiy Str., Kyiv, 03035, Ukraine, Tel/Fax: +380 44 206 31 19,

e-mail: parks@menr.gov.ua

Kyiv, 12th February, 2018

Ms Iva OBRETENOVA,
Secretary of the Bern Convention
Head of the Biodiversity Unit
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Directorate General II
Council of Europe

Dear Ms Iva Obretenova,

Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas of 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 Tarutynskiy Steppe, Odessa Region of Ukraine, which is officially adopted Emerald Network site UA 0000137 (complaint submitted by the NGO Vidrodzhennya on the 27th September 2017).

The territory of Tarutynskiy Steppe an area of 5200 hectares is protected under national legislation as Landscape Zakaznyk of local importance according to the decision of the Odessa Regional Council № 445-VI from 26th April 2012. Any activities which might have negative impact on the natural complexes of Landscape Zakaznyk of local importance Tarutynskiy Steppe (further – Zakaznyk) is prohibited according to the Article 7 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine".

The territory of the Zakaznyk is valuable element of Ukraine's natural and cultural heritage and its protection is in the national interest. The flora, fauna and habitats of Tarutynskiy Steppe are protected in accordance with the Laws of Ukraine on Fauna, Flora, Red Data Book of Ukraine and others.

In autumn 2016 actions which are prohibited by national legislation have been taken, namely cultivating the part of Tarutynskiy Steppe. In order to stop and prevent the destruction of unique natural values of Tarutynskiy Steppe, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine established 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 (further – Working Group), organized a number of meetings at the national level (10.11.2016, 28.11.2016, 09.02.2017, 29.03.2017 i 01.09.2017) and initiated the relevant negotiations at the local level in which national and local authorities, scientific and non-governmental organizations, other stockholders took part.

As a result:

- the cultivating activities were stopped;
- the Regulation on Zakaznyk were developed and approved by Order of Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Odessa Regional State Administration № 8 from 9th March 2017. This document set the tasks, scientific profile, rules of functioning, and the regime of Zakaznyk;
- the boundaries of the Zakaznyk were clearly established by the decision of Veselodolynskiy Village Council № 80-15 VII from 30th October 2017;
- the materials of the illegal agricultural activity on the territory the Zakaznyk are considering by the Prosecutor's Office in the Odessa region.

In addition the Ministry has considered four petitions on given the national status to this territory:

- 1) from the administration of the National Nature Park "Tuzlovski Lymany" concerning inclusion of the territory of the Tarutynskiy Steppe of 9690 hectares in the Parks area;
- 2) from the ICO "Environment-People-Law" concerning creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance Tarutynskiy Steppe on the area of 8600 hectares;
- 3) from the Odessa Regional State Administration concerning creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance Tarutynskiy Steppe on the area of 8600 hectares;
- 4) from the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine concerning creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance Tarutynskiy Steppe on the area of 6000 hectares.

In order to make the best decision on protection status of the Tarutynskiy Steppe at the national level, the Ministry organized a regular meeting of the Working Group which took place on 1th September, 2017 where it was decided to create the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance Tarutynskiy Steppe on the area of 8600 hectares.

At present, the approvals from stakeholders on the creation of the Landscape Zakaznyk of national importance Tarutynskiy Steppe are obtaining. In addition, at the regional level, the issue of creating a separate National Nature Park "Pearls of Bessarabia" is discussing.

The Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Viktor Klid
Director of the Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine