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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
45th meeting
Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2025

Bureau of the Standing Committee
8-10 April 2025
Strasbourg

New File: 2024/2
Deforestation in an Emerald Network site (UA0000338) in
Kyiv Region
(Ukraine)

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

Document prepared by
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine



**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ЗАХИСТУ
ДОВКІЛЛЯ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ
РЕСУРСІВ УКРАЇНИ**

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Mikaël POUTIERS
Secretary of the Bern
Convention Council of
Europe, Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex,
France

Dear Mr. Mikaël Poutiers,

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry) expresses its respectful regards to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and has the honor to submit report in response to your letter dated September 3, 2024. This report address the complaints related to the following cases No. 2024/02: New Complaint: Ukraine: Deforestation in an Emerald Network site (UA0000338) in Kyiv Region.

The Ministry reiterates its commitment to the principles of the Bern Convention and takes this opportunity to extend to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annex: report on 2 pages.

Sincerely,

Viktoria
Kireyeva
Deputy
Minister



UB
Міндовкілля
№25/4-11/918-25 від 21.01.2025
КЕП: Кирєєва В. С. 21.01.2025 15:57
3FAA9288358EC00304000000BDEE2F0071CED800
Сертифікат дійсний з 11.09.2024 10:33 до 11.09.2026
10:33

Annex 1:

Case No. 2024/02: New Complaint: Ukraine: Deforestation in an Emerald Network site (UA0000338) in Kyiv Region

response to the complainant's message

With the beginning of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrainian soldiers stood up to defend the state, tens of thousands of them died, and their deaths require proper commemoration and burial. In this regard, there is an urgent public need to create a National Military Memorial Cemetery.

Following numerous discussions of this issue in society and at the level of the Government of Ukraine, the need to create such a cemetery in Kyiv region was identified. After considering the options for the possible location of the National Military Memorial Cemetery, the Government chose state-owned land plots next to the already functioning Southern Cemetery, which makes it possible to ensure compliance with the requirements of state building codes, standards and regulations, including those related to the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the local population, ecology and industrial safety during the design, construction and operation of the new cemetery.

Given that the existing Southern Cemetery is surrounded by state-owned forest areas that have the status of the Emerald Network UA0000338 Pryirpinnya and Chernechy Forest, it was impossible to avoid using this territory for these purposes.

The selected land plots cover 266,6905 hectares, which is 4.38% of the territory of the Emerald Network UA0000338 Pryirpinnya and Chernechy Forest, with a total area of 6094.74 hectares. Only part of this territory will be changed and used for the construction of the necessary infrastructure. According to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, the project of the National Military Memorial Cemetery provides for maximum preservation of the ecosystem. For its implementation, it became necessary to remove trees directly under the planned construction sites on an area of 13 hectares, which is 0.2% of the territory of the Emerald Network UA0000338 Pryirpinnya and Chernechy Forest. It is assumed that the removal of hazardous, dead and faulty trees and shrubs will be carried out on an area of 130 hectares, which is no more than 10% of the territory's greenery. In other words, no logging operations are carried out on the territory of the Emerald Network UA0000338 Pryirpinnya and Chernechy Forest as indicated in the Complaint No. 2024/02, but the planned removal of tree and shrub vegetation on a small area for the construction of the National Military Memorial Cemetery is being carried out.

At the same time, it is believed that these measures and the construction of the cemetery will not harm the survival of the relevant populations of flora and fauna species and habitats in other parts of the UA0000338 Pryirpinnya and Chernechy Forest Emerald Network, in the region and in Ukraine.

The Government of Ukraine will be grateful to the Standing Committee of the Convention for advice on how to address this situation and ensure the conservation of flora and fauna species and their habitats in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats in Europe.
