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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**Osokorky Meadows Reserve in Kyiv Region
(Ukraine)**

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

*Document prepared by the Ministry of Economy
and Environment of Ukraine*

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Ms. Alessandra Siino,

The Ministry of Economy and Environment of Ukraine presents its compliments and has the honour to inform you that, following a change in the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture of Ukraine has been renamed the Ministry of Economy and Environment of Ukraine.

The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Bern Convention and provides an update on the measures taken in response to New Complaint No. 2025/04, “Regarding the Potential Destruction of the Habitat in the ‘Osokorski Meadows’ Nature Reserve Due to the Proposed Construction of a Transportation Network.”

Establishment of a Nature Reserve—“Osokorkivski Meadows”

With the aim of preserving valuable natural landscapes and protecting the wetlands of the city of Kyiv south of Kolektorna Street in the Darnytskyi District, the Kyiv City Council, following a review of petitions submitted by the public organization “Ecopark Osokorky” and the Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center, in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine,” the Kyiv City Council adopted Resolution No. 522/7178 dated April 11, 2019, “On the Designation of a Natural Area as the ‘Osokorkivski Meadows’ Landscape Nature Reserve of Local Significance” (as amended and supplemented by the decision of the Kyiv City Council dated November 9, 2023, No. 7303/7344) and dated November 12, 2019, No. 40/7613 “On the Designation of the Natural Area as the ‘Tiahle Lake’ Landscape Reserve of Local Significance.”

The Ecology and Natural Resources Administration of the Executive Body of the Kyiv City Council (the legal successor to which is the Department of Environmental Protection and Climate Change Adaptation), by Order No. 573 dated November 15, 2019, approved the Regulations on the “Osokorkivski Meadows” Landscape Reserve of Local Significance.

By Resolution No. 7303/7344 of the Kyiv City Council dated November 9, 2023, amendments were made to Resolution No. 522/7178 of the Kyiv City Council dated April 11, 2019 No. 522/7178, pursuant to which the responsibility for ensuring the protection of the “Osokorkivski Meadows” landscape reserve of local significance—including the formalization of a conservation commitment to ensure the protection and preservation of this site—has been entrusted to the Municipal Enterprise for the Maintenance of Green Spaces in the Darnytskyi District of Kyiv.

Taking into account the amendments to the decision of the Kyiv City Council dated April 11, 2019 No. 522/7178, Order No. 384 of the Head of the Kyiv City Military Administration dated April 30, 2024, approved the Regulations on the “Osokorkivski Meadows” Landscape Reserve of Local Significance, which define the management regime for the territory of the aforementioned reserve and its protection, and the Department of Environmental Protection and Climate Change Adaptation of the Executive Body of the Kyiv City Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Department”) issued a conservation obligation dated May 3, 2024, No. 3, to the Municipal Enterprise

for the Maintenance of Green Spaces in the Darnytskyi District of Kyiv.

According to the Department, in order to preserve the valuable natural complexes of the “Osokorkivski Meadows” and “Lake Tyagle” landscape reserves of local significance, at the Department’s initiative, the aforementioned reserves have been included in the targeted list of municipal property objects of the Kyiv territorial community that support the population’s livelihood and where priority measures for safety and protection are implemented, as approved by Order No. 668 of the Head of the Kyiv Military State Administration dated August 31, 2023, for which the municipal organization “Municipal Security” and the municipal emergency and rescue service “Kyiv Rescue Service” have been tasked with ensuring safety and protection.

The Origins of Territorial Challenges at the Site of the “Osokorkivski Meadows” Nature Reserve

According to the Detailed Plan for the Osokorky District in the Darnytskyi Administrative District of Kyiv, approved by Kyiv City Council Resolution No. 695/2764 dated November 27, 2009, the construction of a street from Petra Hryhorenka Avenue to the city limits of Kyiv in the Darnytskyi District was planned on a plot of land which, 10 years later, by a resolution of the same Kyiv City Council, was granted the status of a nature reserve of local significance, the “Osokorky Meadows” (declared by Resolution No. 522/7178 of the Kyiv City Council dated April 11, 2019).

In accordance with urban planning documentation, by order of the executive body of the Kyiv City Council (Kyiv City State Administration) dated November 3, 2021, No. 2277, “On the Construction of a Street from Petra Hryhorenka Avenue to the City Limits of Kyiv in the Darnytskyi District,” the municipal enterprise “Directorate for the Construction of Road and Transportation Structures of the City of Kyiv” was designated as the contracting authority for the project.

This order also instructs the Municipal Enterprise “Kyiv City Road and Transportation Infrastructure Construction Directorate” to:

- obtain the initial data for design;
 - select the general design firm and the construction contractor;
 - to ensure the development, review, and approval of project documentation in 2021–2022;
 - to ensure compliance with legal requirements regarding the procedure for performing construction work, as well as with environmental impact assessment legislation;
 - to secure the right to use the land plot for the performance of construction work.
- By Order No. 320/61065/24 of the Kyiv District Administrative Court dated December 30, 2024, proceedings were initiated in the case brought by the limited liability company “Kontaktbuds-service” against the Kyiv City Council and the Kyiv City Military Administration regarding:
- declaring unlawful and invalid Kyiv City Council Decision No. 522/7178 dated April 11, 2019, “On Designating the Natural Area as the ‘Osokorkivski Meadows’ Landscape Reserve of Local Significance”;
 - To declare unlawful and invalid Order No. 384 of the Kyiv City Military Administration dated April 30, 2024, “On the Approval of the Regulations on the ‘Osokorkivski Meadows’ Landscape Reserve of Local Significance.”

Actions by government agencies to protect the status of the “Osokorkivski Meadows” nature reserve and ensure compliance with legislation regarding its protection

According to Article 26 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine,” the following are prohibited within nature reserve territories: main-use logging, clear-cutting, selective cutting, reforestation cutting, and gradual cutting, the removal of debris, as well as hunting and other activities that contradict the goals and objectives set forth in the nature reserve’s regulations.

Economic, scientific, and other activities that do not contradict the nature reserve’s goals and objectives shall be carried out in compliance with general environmental protection requirements.

In accordance with the Regulations on the “Osokorkivski Meadows” Landscape Reserve of Local Significance, approved by Order No. 384 of the Head of the Kyiv City Military Administration dated April 30, 2024, the following are prohibited within the Reserve’s territory:

- economic activities not related to the operation of the Reserve;
- any construction (except for the construction of hydraulic structures and work on laying new utility networks to meet the defense and national security needs of Ukraine) and disturbance of the soil cover not related to the operation, protection, and improvement of the Reserve or the repair of existing utility networks;
- unauthorized occupation and use of the Reserve’s lands for purposes other than their intended use, as well as unauthorized alteration of boundaries or allocation of the Reserve’s territory for other purposes;
- any pollution or littering of the Reserve’s territory;
- destruction or damage to individual trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, etc., with the exception of measures to regulate the spread and population of certain species of wild plants listed as regulated harmful organisms under the Law of Ukraine “On Plant Quarantine,” and measures to regulate the spread of invasive species that harm natural plant communities;
- geological exploration and blasting operations, extraction of mineral resources, alteration of landforms, and unauthorized hydroengineering or earthwork that may cause soil erosion, landslides, and other harmful phenomena;
- storage of construction materials, structures, equipment, etc. (except in cases involving work to improve the Reserve, the construction or repair of hydraulic structures, the repair of existing utility networks (communications), as well as work to lay new utility networks (communications) to meet the needs of Ukraine’s defense and national security);
- the destruction or damage of landforms and geological outcrops, as well as the collection of fossil specimens of flora and fauna;
- and other activities.

In addition, in accordance with Note 3 of Section 10.3.4 of DBN B.2.2-12:2019, the development of the main street network must not involve the construction of new main streets or their individual sections through the territory of parks, forest parks, recreational forests, nature reserves, or cultural heritage sites.

In light of the above, the construction work to extend Petra Hryhorenka Avenue to the city limits of Kyiv in the Darnytskyi District through nature reserves and other areas or

sites designated as part of the nature conservation fund does not comply with the requirements of environmental protection legislation.

By a ruling dated March 31, 2025, the charitable organization “Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center—Charitable Foundation of the Dnipro District of Kyiv” and the public organization “Osokorky Ecopark” were joined as third parties—who do not assert independent claims regarding the subject matter of the dispute—on the defendant’s side.

In addition, on July 7, 2025, a motion was granted to join Case No. 320/61065/24 on behalf of the prosecutor acting in the interests of the state, represented by the Kyiv City Council, the Kyiv City State Administration, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine. In this regard, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine was joined to the case as a third party not asserting independent claims regarding the subject matter of the dispute, on the side of the defendants.

By a ruling of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal dated May 19, 2026, Case No. 320/61065/24 was remanded to the Kyiv District Administrative Court for further consideration.

Consequently, the case is being returned to the court of first instance, and environmental prosecutors from the Office of the Prosecutor General are participating in the proceedings to ensure the protection of the territory’s environmental status through judicial means.

At the same time, the Ministry of Economy instructed the State Environmental Inspection of Ukraine, in a letter dated August 11, 2026, No. 6001-10/74083-03, to ensure that the ministry is informed on a quarterly basis regarding the absence of violations and compliance with regulations within the territory of the “Osokorkivski Meadows” nature reserve of local significance during the construction work to extend Petra Hryhorenka Avenue to the city limits of Kyiv in the Darnytskyi District.

As of today, the Ministry has not conducted an environmental impact assessment for the planned project “Construction of a street from Petra Hryhorenka Avenue to the city limits of Kyiv in the Darnytskyi District.”

In light of the above, we hereby inform you that during these extremely difficult times of war, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine is taking all possible legal measures to ensure the protection of the nature reserve status of the aforementioned territory, and the Ministry of Economy has instructed the State Environmental Inspection of Ukraine to provide quarterly reports to the ministry confirming the absence of violations and compliance with the regulations within the boundaries of the aforementioned nature reserve.

Conclusion

Given that:

- 1) To date, there have been no recorded instances of the destruction of habitats listed under the Bern Convention within the “Osokorkivski Meadows” Nature Reserve;
- 2) The Ministry of Economy, the State Environmental Inspection, and the Kyiv City

Department of Ecology are taking appropriate measures to ensure the proper protection of the “Osokorkivski Luki” Nature Reserve;

3) The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine is taking legal action to ensure the protection of the nature conservation status of the aforementioned territory,

The Ministry of Economy requests that New Complaint No. 2025/04, “Regarding the Potential Destruction of the Habitat in the ‘Osokorkivski Meadows’ Nature Reserve Due to the Proposed Construction of a Transportation Network,” be removed from consideration and closed.

The Ministry of Economy and Environment takes this opportunity to assure its esteemed colleagues of its highest regard for them.

Sincerely,

[e-signed]

Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi
Deputy Minister of Economy and
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of Ukraine

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