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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

Complaints on stand-by

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

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

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

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- August 2019 -

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА
ПРИРОДНИХ РЕСУРСІВ
УКРАЇНИ**



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

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Kyiv, 28th August, 2019

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

Subject: Complaint No. 2018/02: Presumed threat to Emerald site “Black Sea Biosphere Reserve” (UA0000017) from military trainings (Ukraine)

Dear Mrs. Iva OBRETENOVA,

Referring to your letter dated on 3rd of June 2019 with regard to complaint submitted by the NGO «UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP» dated on 29th of March 2018 the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine informs about state of protection of the Emerald site “Black Sea Biosphere Reserve” (UA0000017), Kherson Region of Ukraine.

During the reporting period (March 2019 – August 2019) information on violations of environmental legislation on the territory of Black Sea Biosphere Reserve in connection with the weapon testing was not received by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

The draft of 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) with was mentioned in the previous letter dated on 13th February 2019 № 8-02/109-19 was developed by the Institute for Evolutionary Ecology NAS Ukraine and approved by Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (the Order of Ministry dated on 5th July 2019 № 241).

In accordance with Article 18 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine”, the Project for the Organization of the Territory of the biosphere reserves defines and substantiates measures for the implementation of nature conservation, research, recreational, economic activities according to legislation and international treaties.

This Project includes the issues of nature value protection of the Emerald Network UA0000017, Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, which was created by the Decree of the President of Ukraine on November 26, 1993, No. 563, Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (Black Sea Biosphere Reserve) and the wetlands of the international importance within the Ramsar

Convention (“Tendrivska Bay” and “Yagorlytska Bay”). It was agreed by the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve Administration, the National Academy of Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

Sincerely yours,

Deputy Minister

Vasyl Poluyko

Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas
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- February 2019 -



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

DEPARTMENT OF ECONET AND PROTECTED AREAS

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19,

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Kyiv, 12th February, 2019

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 29th of
March 2018 and letter of the
Secretariat on 4th of June 2018 and on
5th of October 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 protection of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, Kherson Oblast of Ukraine, which is officially adopted Emerald Network site UA0000017 (complaint submitted by the NGO “UKRAINIAN NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP on 29th of March 2018 and letter of the Secretariat on 5th of October 2018).

As previously reported, the territory of the Emerald Network UA0000017 is protected within the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, which was created by the Decree of the President of Ukraine on November 26, 1993, No. 563. This territory also has the status of a biosphere reserve under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (Black Sea Biosphere Reserve) and the wetlands of the international importance of the Ramsar Convention ("Tendrivska Bay" and "Yagorlytska Bay").

At the same time, after the annexation of the Crimea, this territory is the only possible place for the testing of new types of weapons, which is a very important issue for Ukraine in the face of the temporary occupation of part of the territory of our country by Russia.

During the reporting period (October 2018 – February 2019) information on violations of environmental legislation on the territory of Black Sea Biosphere Reserve in connection with the weapon testing was not received by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, to prevent violations of environmental legislation during the reporting period, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources held a series of meetings with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Defense, scientists and the public; representatives of the Ministry of

Ecology and Natural Resources participated in the meetings organized by the Ministry of Defense; the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources notified the Ministry of Defense in writing about the existence of the Emerald Network sites, their boundaries, the need to conserve the species of flora and fauna and types of natural habitats during military training exercises on the territory of Ukraine.

The results of these meetings are the following:

- the development of 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 being proceeded, taking into account the issue of conservation of flora and fauna and habitats under testing of weapons and military equipment.
- the development of recommendations on environmental restrictions during testing on the territory of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve is being proceeded;
- the proposals for creation of new protected areas on valuable natural areas adjacent the territory of the reserve have been prepared.

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

National Focal Point,

director of the Department of EcoNet and Protected Areas

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine