



“Conservation of Natural Heritage for Life in Ukraine”
ConNaturLIFE Ukraine; 101148569 — LIFE23-PRE-CZ-ConNaturLIFE Ukraine

Press-release

The annual meeting of the ConNaturLIFE Ukraine Project Steering Committee

On 18th December 2024 the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic hosted an online meeting to present the latest results of the ConNaturLIFE Ukraine Project. It was the first Steering Committee meeting out of 4 planned.

Participants of the Steering Committee:

Project partners:

Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR) – David Lacina

Public Organization Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group (UNCG) - Anastasiia Drapaliuk

Environment People Law (EPL) - Olena Kravchenko

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MEPR) - Serhii Matvieiev

Members nominated by other organizations:

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MoE) – Alena Doering

Peoples’s Deputy of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine) - Yuliia Ovchynnykova

M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - Serhiy L. Mosyakin

National Interest Advocacy Network (ANTS) – Vasyl Sehin

Aside from the members of the committee the participants included:

NCA CR –Marta Vojtková, Tomáš Růžička, Jindřich Chlapek, Oleksandra Rieznyk, Tereza Kušnířová, Petr Roth, Olga Svobodová

UNCG - Anastasiia Drapaliuk, Anna Kuzemko, Yuliia Spinova

EPL - Olena Kravchenko, Dmytro Skrylnikov

NP „Podilski Tovtry“ - Mykhailo Drebet

Interpreter – Sofia Mindzhala, Oksana Dizhak

Excused for illness:

I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - Vitaliy O. Kharchenko, DrSci., Dr. Hab.



Topics discussed:

1. Introductory word
2. Introduction of the members of the Steering Committee and Statute of the Steering Committee

Project partners members:

- David Lacina -Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic), chairman
- Olena Kravchenko (Environment People Law (EPL))
- Anastasiia Drapaliuk (Public Organisation Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group (UNCG))
- Serhii Matvieiev (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MEPR))

Members nominated by other organizations:

- RNDr. Alena Doering (Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
- Yuliia Ovchynnykova (People's Deputy of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine))
- Vasyl Sehin (National Interest Advocacy Network (ANTS))
- Serhiy L. Mosyakin (M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)
- Vitaliy O. Kharchenko, DrSci., Dr. Hab. (I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

Subject of activity:

- discussing the current status of the project implementation and the work plan for the next period (about 6 months),
- proposing recommendations for the project implementation,
- other tasks related to the implementation of the project.

3. Presentation of the project

Project number: 101148569

Project name: Conservation of Natural Heritage for Life in Ukraine

Project acronym: LIFE23-PRE-CZ-ConNaturLIFE Ukraine

Call: LIFE-2023-PLP

Topic: LIFE-2023-PLP-Bauhaus-Phoenix-Emerald

Type of action: LIFE Project Grants

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Project starting date: 1 March 2024

Project end date: 28 February 2026

Project duration: 24 months

Project budget: 1 088 512.07 eur, funding rate 90% (979 660,86 eur)

4. Presentation of the individual work packages and the current progress of their implementation and planned activities for the following period

WP1 – Project management and coordination. David Lacina demonstrated the tables with the list of deliverables. All the deliverables were achieved on time, including regular online meetings with all the project participants, networking with another Life project running at the same time in Moldova, and monitoring.

WP2 – Common legislative space for Ukraine and the EU for nature conservation. Dmytro Skrylnikov shared the achieved goals including the evaluation of conformity between the EU and Ukrainian legal systems, an analysis of the jurisprudence of the EU countries in the field of Natura 2000 formation, which included summaries of 112 court cases selected and submitted to be used as a source of information in problematic issues, identification of legal and practical implementation gaps, an analysis of gaps in the list of habitats and species that Natura2000 shall be designated for in respect of Ukrainian natural values, and a proposal for inclusion of the species into the Nature Directives. He also named the work that is ahead and included developing the plan for legislative changes for the nature conservation sector in Ukraine. Anastasiia Drapaliuk spoke about the work of their team on an analysis of the adequacy of the current national monitoring, mapping, and data management system in Ukraine concerning reporting obligations under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

WP3 – Modern European model of governance and management for nature protection in Ukraine. Jindrich Chlapek reported on the work for the package that included the collection of information on institutional capacity and funding of the nature conservation sector in Ukraine and the Czech Republic, preparing a functional analysis of the current institutional framework in a comparative format for the two countries, and a preliminary SWOT analysis for six suggested options for the model of nature conservation governance in Ukraine, most of which included creating a nature conservation agency in the country. The SWOT analysis included suggestions regarding the number of workers needed for each model and detailed organograms of each option for the model. An assessment report as a final part of the work, here in English and Ukrainian, was fulfilled based on functional and SWOT analysis. The completion of the analyses and final report included online meetings, consultations, and lectures provided by Peter Roth, who gave a historical review on the development of nature conservation in Czechia and in some countries of the Balkans. The further work on this work package will be focused on financial capacity analysis and finally the development of the overall policy paper.

WP4 – Promotion of the Natura2000 network in Ukraine. Oleksandra Rieznyk told about the achievements in working on this package in the PR team. The main achievement is the study tour that took place in September. Twenty-one stakeholders and journalists were invited from Ukraine to the Czech Republic.



Despite wartime, the tour was successful, and nobody stayed behind. The tour was organised in order to familiarize Ukrainian specialists with nature conservation practices in the Czech Republic. The focus was on implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives, fostering professional connections between Ukrainian specialists from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, protected area managers, and their Czech counterparts. The program also included visits to Natura2000 sites and will be covered in publications by Ukrainian journalists. Now the PR team is working on the citizen science vast event, the Natura2000 toolkit, promoting materials ordering and communication of the project goals with the stakeholders.

WP5 – Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results. The work on this package is about to come. Its first task is to prepare the After LIFE plan, which requires the evident results from the rest of the packages.

The members of the Steering Committee had a positive feedback on the report and presentation. They

Conclusions of the meeting:

At the end of the meeting, the floor was given to a representative of the committee, Professor Mosyakin, Director of the M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He shared his positive overall impression and assessment of the project, emphasizing that his evaluation was based not only on the presentation he had just observed but also on his familiarity with the Ukrainian participants involved.

He emphasized how important this project is for preserving Ukraine’s unique biodiversity and diverse landscapes, which are also valuable for the European environmental network. Given the damage Ukraine’s environment has suffered due to war, he was confident that this initiative would bring real benefits.

Professor Mosyakin expressed his gratitude to all project participants and his anticipation for the project's positive outcomes. He also offered his support, should his expertise be needed at any stage of the project.

Visuals:

[Video recording](#)

[Presentations](#)



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LIFE Ukraine Steering Committee Meeting-20241219 0058-1

Participants: Mike Dreibet, Olena Kravchenko, EPL, olga svobodova, Yulia Ochymyukova, Yulia Ochymyukova, Ksienia Osemenkova, Oleksandra Rieznyk, Petr Roth, Caprii Matveeva, s.mosyakini, Interpreter_Sofia Mindzhala, CZ - NCA - Tereza Kusnirova, tomas.ruzicka@nature.cz, Vasyi, Vasyi, Vasyi, Anastasiia Drapaliuk, Nature Fund of Ukraine, Yulia Spinova, AOPK ČR

Steering Committee Meeting
Project “Conservation of Natural Heritage for Life in Ukraine”
December 18, 2024
Co-funded by the European Union
NATURA 2000
UNCC
Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

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5. Discussion
Topics:
- presentation of the project, networking, replication and dissemination of project results (tips)
- routing of the implemented project
- sustainability of the project
- follow-up project(s) funding opportunities

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Dmytro Skrylnikov, Interpreter_Sofia Mindzhala, Anna Kuzemko, OksanaD, Caprii Matveeva, Petr Roth, olga svobodova, Mike Dreibet, Yulia Spinova, Oleksandra Rieznyk