

**Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in general,  
and of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002 in particular,  
during the period since the National Report prepared in 1995  
for Ramsar COP6 and 30 June 1998**

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**Contracting Party:      UKRAINE**

**Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority**

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## **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 1**

### **To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.**

- 1.1 Describe any actions your government has taken (such as hosting regional or subregional meetings/consultations, working cooperatively with neighbouring countries on transfrontier wetland sites) to encourage others to join the Convention.

**On the 29th of October, 1996, the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine adopted The Law of Ukraine “On Participation of Ukraine to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat”.**

**Ukraine co-operates effectively with the neighbouring countries in respect of organising joint nature conservation territories, in particular with Belarus which is not a member to the Ramsar Convention. Belarus and Ukraine carry out joint investigations on the Polissia Region which includes near half of the country, northern Ukraine, as well as small parts of Poland and Russia, and is situated in the forest zone with numerous rivers, lakes, bogs, and floodplain meadows in the basins of the Prypiat and Desna rivers which are the Dnipro’s tributaries, and of the Western Bug river (the Vistula’s tributary). Experts investigate the possibility of organizing Ukrainian-Belarusian trans-frontier nature conservation object on the Prypiat River which is to include The Prypiat River Floodplains and The Stokhid River Floodplains wetlands having been proposed by Ukraine to the Ramsar List of Wetlands, and creation of the Polissian Biosphere Reserve in the future.**

**Also Ukraine is a Contracting Party to the Bucharest Convention of the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, and fulfils the Black-Sea Strategic Plan of Actions with particular attention to conservation of the Black Sea and maritime zone resources.**

## **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 2**

### **To achieve the wise use of wetlands by implementing and further developing the Ramsar Wise Use Guidelines.**

- 2.1 Has a National Wetland Policy/Strategy/Action Plan been developed, or is one being developed or planned for the near future? If so:

**As of today Ukraine has an entire nature conservation policy which is going on to improve itself in particular due to its international commitments. The National Wetland Policy is an integral part of the nature conservation policy. In the process of its development and taking into consideration the fact that Ukraine has become a country-member to the Ramsar Convention, there are formed particular approaches to the wetland conservation. Within the framework of implementation of The Law of Ukraine “On Participation of Ukraine to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat” of October 29, 1996, The Water Code of Ukraine (1995), as well as Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 23, 1995, #935 “ On Measures Concerning Protection of Wetlands, which**

have an International Importance” there were elaborated “Regulations on Wetlands of International and National Importance” (which are being co-ordinated at present by the central executive authorities). Wetlands are included into the nature conservation resources of Ukraine which makes it possible to keep their state under proper control and to prevent aggravation of environment. Frontiers of 22 international wetlands (See Table below) determined by Ukraine are taking into consideration while regional planning of land use.

It is envisaged also elaboration of the Wetland Conservation National Action Plan.

a. What are/will be its main features?

The wetland policy is a component and an integral part of the entire State nature conservation policy. Besides, protection, use and recreation of the wetland resources are controlled within the framework of special approaches to forestry, hunting and fishery, as well as land and water resources.

b. Was it, or is it, intended that the Policy/Strategy/Action Plan be adopted by the whole of Government, the Minister responsible for Ramsar matters or through some other process. Please describe.

Article 13 of the Constitution of Ukraine (adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the 28th of June, 1996) states that land, bowels of earth, atmosphere air, water and other natural resources being located within the limits of Ukraine, natural resources of its continental shelf, exceptional (sea) economic zone are the object of the right to property of the Ukrainian people; their use is executed by the state power and bodies of regional self-government.

The major nature conservation law is The Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Environment” (1991) where there were stipulated the main principles of nature conservation. The Ministry of Ecosafety (Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine) is charged with complex administration in the sphere of environmental protection and integrated science and technology policy in respect of environmental protection and use of land resources, co-ordination of activities of the ministries, government departments, enterprises, institutions and organisations being engaged in the sphere (Article 20).

The law “On Natural Reserve Fund of Ukraine” (1992) envisages creating nature reserve territories. Regulations on protection, use and recreation of the fauna species are placed in The Law of Ukraine “On Fauna” (1993), other natural resources - in the Land Code (1992). Forestry Code (1994), and Water Code of Ukraine (1995).

In context of the report the Water Code is of particular importance since it regulates protection, recreation and nature use within the limits of water resource including territories occupied by seas, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, other waters, bogs, islands, waterside protection strips along seas, rivers, waters, water managerial constructions, waterside strips of water ways (Article 4). Water conservation zones are created near

waters (Article 87), Waterside protection strips are created along seas (2 km wide from the water), rivers, waters (25 m wide for the small water objects, 50 m wide for middle ones, and 100 m wide for the big ones) and on the islands. It is strongly prohibited there: to carry out every melioration and other activities which can lead to worsening ecological state of natural territories or to their destruction; to throw polluted waters into the water object; to carry out construction activities; to plough the soil; to keep and use pesticides, toxic chemicals and fertilisers; to make summer cattle camps; to wash and service all kinds of vehicle; to make trash-heaps, etc. (Articles 88-90). Small rivers with total surface of no more than 2 000 square km are under particular protection (Article 80).

c. How does it relate/will it relate to other national environmental/ conservation planning initiatives (e.g., National Environmental Action Plans, National Biodiversity Action Plans, National Conservation Strategies)?

Amongst the “Principal Approaches of the National Policy of Ukraine in the sphere of Environmental Protection, Nature Resources Use and Environmental Safety” approved by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine #188/98 of May 5, 1998 there is “water resources and ecosystems rational use and recreation”. Such an approach envisages improvement of the water use, water protection and water resources recreation management; water recreation, creation and regulation of water protection zones and waterside strips; increasing animal and plant biodiversity; balanced use of nature resources; development and introduction of standards for providing watering to water objects and their safe environmental use; transition to the basin principle of the nature use management, etc. Particular attention is given to implementation of international obligations, in particular within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, co-ordination of the National legislation with international commitments, and taking into consideration active international practice while elaborating new legislative acts.

Biodiversity concept was approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #439 on May 12, 1997. According to it there was elaborated the National Biodiversity Action Plan (which is at present under co-ordination by the Cabinet of Ministers). The concept includes such actions of the wetland conservation as: Coastal and marine ecosystems; River and floodplain ecosystems; Lake and marsh ecosystems; National ecological network creation.

The main activities under Concept of the Black Sea and Azov Sea Environment Protection and Recreation adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #1057 on July 10, 1998, are the following: decreasing pollution of the seas, decreasing anthropogenic overloading their ecosystems and waterside strips, protection and recreation of the Black and Azov Seas biodiversity, as well as creation of system of the nature use integrated management in the sea waterside strip.

2.2 If a policy is in place, how much progress has been made in its implementation, and what are the major difficulties being encountered in doing so?

**Undoubtful progress of the last years is stopping drain melioration, providing some lands of water resource of Ukraine with the nature conservation statute, introducing payment for the nature resources use, introducing limits and issuing special permissions for the nature resources use, etc. Negative is the fact that a number of valuable bog tracts happened to be beyond protection (this is the purpose of the above-mentioned Regulations on Wetlands of International and National Importance which is to envisage elaborating registers of local and regional importance). Great difficulties emerge due to after effects of the land privatization, particularly on the waterside protection strips. Unfortunately, peatery is still going on, and nature conservation idea is not always taken into consideration while executing construction works, making roads, making earth wall so that the river banks could be protected from flooding, etc.**

- 2.3 If a Policy/Strategy/Action Plan is in place, is the responsibility for implementing it with :
- a. a single Government Ministry,
  - b. a committee drawn from several Ministries, or
  - c. a cross-sectoral committee?

Please provide details.

**Cabinet of Ministers provides environmental policy in respect of nature protection, environmental safety and nature use (Article 116 of the Constitution of Ukraine), which was determined by the Verkhovna Rada (Article 17 of the Law “On Protection of Environment of Ukraine).**

**According to the Water Code of Ukraine (Articles 13-17) the state control of the water use, protection and recreation is carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, state bodies of the Crimean Autonomy Republic, regions, etc. Particular responsible bodies of the state executive authorities are the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine (water quality control, water use limits, water pollution control, protection, examination, introducing nature resources use limits, etc.), the State Committee of Water Resources (technical policy, water use regulation, protection measurement, etc.), The State Committee of Geology and Deposits Use (search and extraction of minerals etc.), and other bodies depending on their competence.**

- 2.4 For countries with Federal systems of Government, are there Wetland Policies/Strategies/Plans in place, being developed or planned for the provincial/state or regional levels of Government? Yes/No  
If yes, please give details.

**Ukraine is a unitary state. The Ministry of Ecosafety structure includes 24 State departments of environmental protection in the regions, State departments of environmental protection in the places of the state subordination - Kyiv and Sevastopol, as well as the Republican Committee of Environmental and Nature Resources Protection of the Crimean Autonomy Republic which have some more responsibilities that the regional State departments do.**

- 2.5 Has a review of legislation and practices which impact on wetlands been carried out, and if so, has this resulted in any changes which assist with implementation of the Ramsar Convention? Please describe these.

**Proceeding from the fact that Ukraine took upon itself responsibilities on the Ramsar Convention in 1975, during the Soviet period, the nature conservation legislation had been elaborated taking into consideration regulations of the Convention, but it was after the collapse of the Soviet Union and obtaining independence in Ukraine in 1991 that provisions of the Convention could have been used more actively. It has coincided with decreasing “need” for enlarging territory of arable lands at the expense of draining bogs. After renewing its membership to the Ramsar Convention, Ukraine takes more active position in respect of wetland conservation having suggested 22 wetlands instead of three ones proposed before. Positive is also creating nature conservation territories on wetlands and extension of existing frontiers (territorial extension of the Natural Reserve “Dunaiski Plavni (Danube Flooplains)” and creation on its base with expansion of the Dunaiskyi (Danube) Biosphere Reserve in 1998, creation of the Prypiat-Stokhid Regional Landscape Park in 1995 on the Polissia Region wetlands, etc.).**

**The legislative normative base on the wetland conservation is going on to improve. Regulations on international and national wetlands has been elaborated and is being co-ordinated at present by ministries and governmental departments.**

**There is envisaged to elaborate means in order to conserve other valuable lands, to protect them by means of special registers, to work out the National Action Plan on Wetlands, to prepare and introduce particular management plans, to elaborate renaturalization means, etc. Unfortunately, economic crisis if the country creates obstacles to fast realisation of the plans.**

- 2.6 Describe the efforts made in your country to have wetlands considered in integrated land/water and coastal zone planning and management processes at the following levels:
- a. national

**The wetland conservation matters are mentioned in the National Programme on Land Protection (submitted for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada) which there was planned in the 5% decreasing arable lands, as well as meadowing and foresting a number of sites.**

**There is expected a progress in the state of wetlands within the limits of the main Ukrainian water way, the Dnieper (the “Dnipro” National programme for regions was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in 1997). There was elaborated and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 1995 the “Polissia” (northern forest zone of Ukraine) state programme for regions, although its implementations goes slowly because of lack of money.**

**For the purpose of implementation the Biodiversity Concept of Ukraine (1997) there was worked out (and submitted for consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers) the Draft National Programme on Biodiversity Conservation in Ukraine. Besides, on the base of the Concept on the Black Sea and Azov Sea Environmental Protection and Recreation (1998) there was elaborated respective programme. However, its adoption directly depends upon approving legislation on regional authorities.**

**An effective normative document is to be the General Scheme of the Ukrainian territorial planning (under elaboration), in respect of which the strongest intention of the Ministry of Ecosafety is to include there an environmental component to a maximum extent. There is being worked out also the programme of the Ukrainian National Ecological Network Creation which is to combine all nature conservation territories (the nature conservation resources areas, in particular international and national wetlands, nature conservation forests - the 1st group forests, water protection zones, coastal protection strips, etc) and natural territories of extensive use (exploiting forests - the 2nd group forests, pastures, hayfields, fishery waters, etc.) in an integral system and to provide it with the respective management.**

b. provincial and c. local

**Local (provincial and regional) decision programmes are of particular importance firstly due to increasing nature conservation territories, agricultural restructurizing, decreasing arable lands, constructing cleaning facilities which will lead to decrease anthropogenic pressure on environment, etc. Each administrative province (Oblast), the Crimean Autonomy Republic, cities of governmental subordination Kyiv and Sevastopil have the nature reserve programmes. In particular in the Volyn Region (north-western Ukraine) the percentage of nature reserving has more that 2 times increased since 1995. Mykolaivska and Zaporizka Oblasts (southern Ukraine) have in place effective programmes on decreasing erosion of soil.**

2.7 Have there been any publications produced, or practices documented, which could assist other countries to promote and improve the application of the Ramsar Wise Use of Wetlands Guidelines? Yes/No  
If Yes, please provide details and copies.

**As necessary, Ukraine can suggest for consideration any documents mentioned in the Report. In particular, after the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approves the Regulations on Wetlands of International and National Importance based on the Ramsar Convention requirements and national legislation to whom it may be interesting.**

2.8 Noting COP6 Recommendation 6.14 relating to toxic chemicals and pollution, please advise of the actions taken since then “to remedy and to prevent pollution impacts affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands” (Operative paragraph 9).

**Other means but construction of the new cleaning facilities or repairs of the old ones which results in decreasing water pollution by outside sources were not used, although**

**the Ukrainian experts have developed approaches to decreasing pollution, particularly by means of special biopreparations, bioplateaux, etc.**

2.9 Describe what steps have been taken to incorporate wetland economic valuation techniques into natural resource planning and assessment actions.

**There are no particular elaboration of such an approach, although there is supported the intention to rise the issue.**

2.10 Is Environmental Impact Assessment for actions potentially impacting on wetlands required under legislation in your country? Yes/No

**There is the “Methods of Assessment of the Amount of Compensation for Losses impacted on the State by Violation of Legislation on the Wetland Protection and Rational Use” approved by the Order of the Ministry of Ecosafety #37 of May 5, 1997, accomplished by amendments and supplements according to the Order of the Ministry of Ecosafety of November 9, 1995. There is also the methods of Assessment of Damage impacted on the Fishery (the Order of the Ministry of Ecosafety #36 of May 5, 1995). There is also a number of normative documents on compensation damages caused to some natural resources. In particular, within the limits of the forest resource there is in place the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #1464 of December 5, 1996, “On Fixed Rates for Assessment of the Damage Amount impacted on the Forestry”. In respect of the Red Data Book animal and plant species there is applicable Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine #399 of June 1, 1993 “On Amount of Compensation for Hunting (Gathering) and Damage impacted on the animal and plant species of the Red Data Book of Ukraine”. As for other animals there is in place the joint Order of the Ministry of Fishery (at present the State Committee on Fishery) and the Environmental Ministry #24/32 of March 12, 1996 “On Approvement of the Fixed Rates for Assessment of Penalty Amount for Damage and Losses impacted on by illegal Obtaining or Killing Animals and Birds (except species of the Red data Book of Ukraine), their Habitat, Biotechnic Facilities”. Within the limits of the nature reserve resources of Ukraine there is applicable Resolution of the CMU of April 21, 1998 #521 “On Approvement of the Fixed Rates for Assessment of Penalty Amount for Damage and Losses impacted on by Violation Nature Protection Legislation within the limits of the Nature Reserve Resource Territories and Objects of Ukraine”. There are also other normative documents on compensation for damage impacted on the Fishery, Water Management by water vehicle pollution, etc.**

2.11 Is wetland restoration and rehabilitation considered a priority in your country? Yes/No.

If Yes, describe the actions that have been taken to identify wetlands in need of these actions and to mobilise resources for restoration or rehabilitation.

**Unfortunately, wetland restoration and rehabilitation is not yet a priority in Ukraine (the main accent is made on preservation of those that exist). However some rehabilitation actions are carried out. In particular, with the EECONET Action Fund assistance, on the canal leading from the Krymne Lake (the Shatskyi National Nature**

**Park, near the Shatsk Lakes wetland) there was constructed a small comb which would stabilize hydrologic regime of the lake and decrease water diversion into the meliorative system. Positive could be considered restoration hydro-electric power stations on the number of small rivers (particularly in the central Ukraine, on the Poltavaska Oblast) which will favour watering floodplains. natural hydrologic regime of which has been changed as a result of the drain works.**

2.12 Describe what actions have been taken to “encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.” (refer to Actions 2.7.1-4 in the Strategic Plan).

**A great deal of work on encouraging active and local communities has been carried out within the framework of the GEF Project on the Danube Delta biodiversity conservation. There were implemented small educational subprojects including leaflets, booklets, seminars, etc. The most active discussions between experts and land users were about the future use of nature resources (hunting, fishing, stocking reed and other resources). on the territories are being included to the new Dunaiskyi (Danube) Biosphere Reserve (respective order units creation was signed by the President of Ukraine on August 10, 1998), which territory coincides with the Kyliiske Mouth international wetland. The “biosphere reserve” category is rather flexible in Ukraine. It consists of the reserve, buffer and management zones. That is why there are possibilities to find a compromise decision which has been sought by the parties.**

2.13 Describe what actions have been taken to “encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands” (refer to Actions 2.8.1-4 in the Strategic Plan). Has this included a review of fiscal measures (taxation arrangements, etc.) to identify and remove disincentives and introduce incentives for wetlands conservation and wise use? Yes/No  
If yes, please provide details.

**In Ukraine, according to its legislation, just small plots of land were privatized at subsidiary holdings (there are no privatized sites within the wetland limits). However there are mane cases when land users are responsible for protection (they sign protection commitment) of the nature reserve territories (such as zakazniks - conservation sites - and reserved sites with respective authorities). There is envisaged also signing by land users and land owners respective protection commitments on the international wetlands (and on the national and regional wetlands in the future).**

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 3**

#### **To raise awareness of wetland values and functions throughout the world and at all levels**

3.1 Is there a government-run national programme for Education and Public Awareness in your country which focuses on, or includes, wetlands? Yes/No? If yes, what are the

priority actions under this programme and who are the target groups? (Refer also to question 9.4)

**Ukraine does not have any national programme on ecological education or public awareness (the Ministry of Ecosafety has elaborated the Draft Concept on Ecological Education). Public awareness problems including wetlands are solved at the Public Council at the Ministry of Ecosafety.**

**There was elaborated and is now under co-ordination by ministries and other central executive authorities concerned the Regulation on Ecology and Education Activity of Nature Reserves and National Nature Parks of Ukraine.**

3.2 Describe the steps taken to have wetlands issues and Ramsar's Wise Use principles included as part of the curricula of educational institutions. Has this been at all levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary and adult)? Please give details.

**Educational programmes of every level of education, from primary to special or high educational establishment, include courses of ecology (from common nature study, botany and zoology to special courses on ecology and environmental protection). Besides, in all schools there are envisaged the biology groups and optional courses with deep teaching nature subjects, nature of native region, and organised nature protection actions (tree planting, bird observation, etc.).**

**There are Centres of public ecological awareness and nature museums at the national nature parks, biosphere and nature reserves.**

#### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 4**

**To reinforce the capacity of institutions in each Contracting Party to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.**

4.1 Describe the mechanisms in place, or being introduced, to increase cooperation between the various institutions responsible for actions which can have an impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. If one of the mechanisms is a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee, please describe its composition, functions and *modus operandi*.

**Increasing co-operation between various state institutions in respect of conservation and wise use for wetlands is favoured by nature conservation legislation of Ukraine which envisages proper mechanism of taking decisions with participation of the parties concerned (the function of a party which approves normally is carried out by the Ministry of Ecosafety as a body responsible for the state administration and state control in this sphere.**

**There is still no in Ukraine the national committee on the wetlands conservation which, according to the practice in place, can be merely deliberative body. However definite**

**consultative and some co-ordination functions were taken by the Interdepartmental Commission on Conservation of Wetlands founded on last August which has already elaborated the Draft Regulations on Wetlands of International and National Importance, started working over the Wetland National Action Plan, takes part in working out project on conservation of the water and near water landscape and biodiversity, etc.**

**There were organised a scientific and technical councils within each national nature park or nature and biosphere reserve with participation of land users and representatives of non-governmental organisations.**

4.2 Of the following, indicate which have been undertaken:

a. a review to identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands Yes/No? If yes, please indicate the major findings of the review.

**Special analysis on such need has not been carried out since at present it is absolutely impossible to meet such requirements. Without any doubt, there is an urgent need for special training programmes. Training could be provided both for experts of the nature conservation bodies and NGOs, and for authorities (responsible for administration on nature use of land, water, forest, hunting, fishery and other resources) and groups of individual users.**

b. a review to identify training opportunities for these people both within your country and in other countries. Yes/No?

**There is information on the persons appointed by the Ministry of Ecosafety of Ukraine.**

c. the development of training modules or a training programme specifically for wetland managers. If yes, please give details.

**There are no such programmes at present.**

d. people from your country have gained wetland-related training either within or outside the country. Yes/No? If yes, please give details.

**The Ministry of Ecosafety and NGO experts participated to the Lelistad International Course on the wetland management supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Resources and Fishery of the Netherlands (3 experts), and to the United Kingdom according to the Darwin Initiatives Project (5 experts from Ukraine, 1995-1996). Small grant of the Ramsar Bureau on study visits in respect of making letters on wetlands was won by expert V.Stoilovskyi who later would take part in making letters on the Ukrainian wetlands.**

**There was not any specific training in Ukraine. However there was held a number of seminars (in particular within the framework of implementation nature protection and water legislation) and education organised by the Ministry of Ecosafety and Darwin**

Centre with participation of scientific and NGOs' representatives, as well as seminars for the students of three Kyiv Universities (1987-1998). Respective seminars are also held within the framework of International projects, particularly within the framework of the Danube delta, Black and Azov seas biodiversity conservation.

There is an Institute of Advanced Study and Further Training for experts within the structure of the Ministry of Ecosafety which organises periodically specific training for the environmentalists, particularly on the new legislative acts and international conventions. There are studied opportunities to initiate specific course on the wetlands conservation problems at the Institute.

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 5**

#### **To ensure the conservation of all sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List).**

- 5.1 Of the Ramsar sites in your country, how many have formal management plans:
- being prepared?
  - fully prepared?
  - being implemented?

Please indicate in the attached table of Ramsar sites which sites these are and what category they fall into.

#	Name of Ramsar site	Belongs fully or partly to the nature conservation resource object	There is a Management plan (territorial organizing project)	Monitoring is carried out
1.	Shatsk Lakes	Shatsk National Nature Park	Yes	Yes
2.	Prypiat River Floodplains	Prypiat-Stokhid Regional Landscape Park, landscape and hydrology reserves	No	No
3.	Stokhid River Floodplains	Prypiat-Stokhid Regional Landscape Park, landscape and hydrology reserves	No	No
4.	Kugurluy Lake	-	No	No
5.	Kartal Lake	-	No	No
6.	Kyliiske Mouth	Dunaiskyi (Danube) Biosphere Reserve	Yes	Yes
7.	Sasyk Lake	-	No	No
8.	Shagany-Alibey-Burnas Lakes System	-	No	No
9.	Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area	-	No	No

10.	Northern Part of the Dniester Liman	Game Reserve of the Military Society of Fishermen and Hunters	No	No
11.	Tyligulskiy Liman	Tyligulskiy Regional Landscape Park	No	No
12.	Dnipro River Delta	Ichthyological Reserve		
13.	Tendrivska Bay	Chornomorskyi (Black-Sea) Biosphere Reserve	Yes	Yes
14.	Yagorlytska Bay	Chornomorskyi (Black-Sea) Biosphere Reserve	Yes	Yes
15.	Karkinitzka and Dzharylgatska Bays	Crimea Nature Reserve, ornithology and botany reserves	Yes	Yes
16.	Central Syvash	Azovo-Syvaskiy National Nature Park	Yes	Yes
17.	Eastern Syvash	Azovo-Syvaskiy National Nature Park	Yes	Yes
18.	Molochnyi Liman	Molochnyi Liman Hydrology Reserve	No	No
19.	Obytochna Spit and Obytocna Bay	Obytochna Spit Landscape Reserve	No	No
20.	Berda River Mouth and Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay	Berda Floodplain Landscape Reserve	No	No
21.	Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit	Bilosarayaska Spit Landscape Reserve	No	No
22.	Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit	Two Reserves of local importance	No	No

5.2 Of the management plans referred to above, which ones have included a monitoring scheme or programme to allow changes in ecological character to be detected? Please indicate this in the attached table of Ramsar sites also.

**According to the plans of scientific departments, monitoring is being carried out on the wetlands belonging fully or partly to biosphere and nature reserves and national nature parks (See Table above). Their scientific departments are constantly conducting investigations and are engaged in writing Chronicles of Nature (this is controlled by the Central Board on National Nature Park and Nature Conservation Management at the Ministry of Ecosafety). There is considered a opportunity for regular monitoring on other international wetlands.**

5.3 Has there been a change in the ecological character (either positive or negative) at any of your Ramsar sites or is this likely to occur in the near future? Yes/No. If Yes, please give details.

**For the last 10 years there has been observed definite improvement of ecological character of the Ramsar sites, in particular quality of water which is explained by less anthropogenic impact due to economic crisis in the state.**

- 5.4 In the case of Montreux Record Ramsar sites where the Management Guidance Procedure has been applied, what is the status of the implementation of the MGP report recommendations? What is the expected time-frame for removing the site from the Montreux Record?

**Since the Soviet period there have been recorded in the Montreux Records two sites: Karkinitska Bay (at present it is a part of the Karkinitska and Dzharylgatska Bays wetland) and Yagorlytska and Tendrivska Bays (at present they are two individual wetlands). Their water pollution has significantly decrease because of the economic industrial crisis. However their removing from the Montreux Record needs additional elaboration.**

- 5.5 For those countries referred to in COP6 Recommendations 6.17.1-4, “Ramsar sites in the Territories of Specific Contracting Parties”, please provide advice on the actions that have been taken in response to the issues raised at that time.

**According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine #935 of November 23, 1995, “On Measures of Protecting Wetlands of International Importance” Ukraine has filled in specific letters and prepared maps on 22 wetlands subject to including to the Ramsar List.**

### **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 6**

**To designate for the Ramsar List those wetlands which meet the Convention’s criteria, especially wetland types still under-represented in the List and transfrontier wetlands.**

- 6.1 Has a national inventory of wetlands been prepared for your country? Yes/No.  
If no, are there plans for this to be done? Yes/No.

**There have been collected the main wetland primary materials (especially on value of wetlands as the birds’ habitat) that need providing details on composition, number and dynamics of fauna and flora, verifying a character of managerial activity and prospects of use and protection of nature resources, cartographing wetlands, etc.**

Where a national inventory exists please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept and what information it contains.

**According to existing inventory the list of wetlands of Ukraine contains near 30 sites have been proposed to be included or can be included later to the Ramsar List, as well as a number of sites which have been suggested to obtain the status of Wetlands of National Importance (about 40) and Regional Importance (near 100). It is necessary to go on work on the list encouraging to this not only ornithologists but other experts as well, such as geobotanists, ichthyologists, hydrobiologists, hydrochemists, hydrologists.**

6.2 Does there exist a list or directory of “important” wetlands for your country or region?  
Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details of when it was finalised, where it is kept, what criteria for “important” were used, and the types of information it contains.

**Yes, it does. There is a list of wetlands in the form a report book with previous estimation of values. The list will be used in making list of national and regional wetlands except of the list of international wetlands which exists already. A number of sites apart from those proposed to the Ramsar List also meets international standards, as previous investigation testify.**

6.3 If it is known, please provide an estimate of the area of wetlands in your country at present and any information on rates of loss or conversion to other activities.  
If this information is available, please indicate what definition of “wetland” was used.

**There was used the definition given in the Ramsar Convention (Article 1).**

6.4 Have any actions been taken in response to the COP6 Resolutions and Recommendations that Contracting Parties should give priority to listing Wetlands of International Importance which:

a. meet the criteria for fish habitat (Resolution VI.2),

**The following wetlands meet this criteria: Prypiat River Floodplains, Stokhid River Floodplains, Dniro River Delta and Kyliiske Mouth (a part of the Danube Delta). According to predious data, practically all wetlands proposed by Ukraine to the Ramsar List are significant as aboriginal fish habitat, but it still needs additional investigation.**

b. meet the 1% criterion for waterbird populations using data provided by the International Waterfowl Census (Resolution VI.4),

**The following wetlands meet this criteria: Kyliiske Mouth (more than 1 % of European populations of *Phalacrocores pygmaeus* and *Haliaeetus albicilla*), Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay (about 1 % of European population of *Egretta alba* nest; on wintering one can find about 5 % of European population of *Aythya marila*), Kugurlui Lake (more than 1% of European nest population of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, about 3% of *Platalea leucorodia*), Kartal Lake (more than 1% of European nest population of *Phalacrocrax pygmeus*), Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System (more than 1% of European nest population of *Rufibrenta ruficollis*), Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area (2-3 % of *Egretta alba* nest and about 9 % of *Plegadis falcinellis*), Dniro River Delta (there are nest of 2,5-4,5 % of nest European population of *Egretta alba*)**

**It could concern the Prypiat River Floodplains Wetland in respect of population of *Acrocephalus paludicola*, although it needs verification.**

c. are subterranean karst or cave wetland systems (Resolution VI.5),

**No .**

d. are peatland ecosystems (Recommendation 6.1)

**Shatsk Lakes, Prypiat River Floodplains, Stokhid River Floodplains have peatbogs.**

e. are coral reefs and associated systems (Recommendation 6.7)

**No.**

f. are under-represented wetland types (which apart from d. and e. above include mangroves and sea grass beds) (Strategic Plan Action 6.2.3)

Yes/No? If yes, please describe these actions.

**There occur sea grass beds of *Chara aculeolata*, *Ch. tenuissima*, *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, as well as *Zostera marina* and *Z. minor* within the limits of the Balck Sea wetlands at Tendrivska Bay, Yagorlytska Bay, Karkinitska and Dzharylgatska Bays.**

6.5 If your government indicated at COP6 that it would be proceeding to list further specific sites, please advise of the status of this action.

**An opportunity to include tussocky marsh complexes in the Ramsar List is under investigation.**

6.6 Please advise which of the sites included in the Ramsar List from your country are transfrontier wetlands (Refer also to 7.1).

**Kyliiske Mouth wetland is near the Danube Delta Rumanian wetland.**

6.7 Describe any plans, or actions being taken for further transfrontier sites to be listed (Refer also to 7.1).

**The following wetlands are situated in transfrontier zones and thus are prospective: Shatsk Lakes (on the Ukrainian-Polish-Belarusian border), Prypiat River Floodplains and Stokhid Floodplains (Belarusian border), Lake Kartal and lake Kugurluy (Romanian border), Kryva Spit and Kryva Bay (Russian border).**

## **Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 7**

**To mobilise international cooperation and financial assistance for wetland conservation and wise use in collaboration with other conventions and agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.**

7.1 Briefly describe any bilateral or multilateral activities that have been taken, are under way, or are planned for the management of transfrontier wetlands or their watersheds/catchments (Refer also to 6.6 and 6.7).

**i) the Kyliiske Mouth International Wetland which is a part of the Dunaiskyi Biosphere Reserve (Order of the President of Ukraine on organising of August 10, 1998) is located near the Danube Delta International Wetland in Romania;**

**ii) the Shatsk Lakes wetland within the limits of the Shatskyi National Nature Park is intended to include to the future Western Polissia Ukraine-Poland-Belarus Reserve (there was conducted investigation, held scientific training conference, concluded intergovernmental agreement); the Prypiat River Floodplains and the Stokhid River Floodplains wetlands are planned to include in the Prypiat Ukraine-Belarus Reserve (there were carried out joint investigations and intergovernmental preliminary consultations).**

7.2 Do you have Ramsar sites that are “twinned” with others, either nationally or internationally? Yes/No.  
If yes, please give details.

**Yes, we do. Among 22 wetlands proposed to the Ramsar List, the Shatsk Lakes site is a part of the Shatskyi National Nature Park; the Prypiat River Floodplains and the Stokhid River Floodplains are parts of the Prypiat-Stokhid Regional Landscape Park; the Kyliiske Mouth is a part of the Dunaiskyi Biosphere Reserve; within the limits of the Dzharylgatska Bay and Karkinitska Bay there are located sites of the Crimean Nature Reserve; the Tendrivska Bay and the Yagorlytska Bay are partly included into the Chornomorskyi (Black-Sea) Biosphere Reserve; the Central Syvash is a part of the Azovo-Syvaskyi National Nature Park; there are also sites of the nature reserve resources on majority of other wetlands, but their status is a little lower - they are the landscape, hydrology, ornithology, general zoology, botany reserves (See table above). There was planned to raise the nature conservation status of a number of sites of the nature reserve resource which are wetlands at the same time.**

7.3 Where your country is also a signatory of any of the following Conventions, describe what mechanism(s) exist to assist regular dialogue and cooperative actions between the personnel responsible for their implementation and the Ramsar Administrative Authority:

- a. Convention on Biological Diversity - **ratified in 1994.**
- b. Framework Convention on Climate Change - **ratified in 1996.**
- c. Convention to Combat Desertification- **subject to signing.**
- d. Convention on Migratory Species - **Draft Law of Ukraine on signing is at consideration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.**
- e. World Heritage Convention - **ratified in 1988.**

**The mechanism of consultations is favoured by the fact that the main responsible body is the Ministry of Ecosafety of Ukraine.**

- 7.4 Is your country cooperating as part of any bilateral or multilateral activities directed at the conservation of migratory wetland species? Yes/No.  
If yes, please provide details.

**Yes, it is. Ukraine, within the framework of the Bern Convention, has taken upon itself obligations on protection of *Acrocephalus paludicola*, *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Pelicanus crispus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Anser erythropus* and *Crex crex*. Having not been member to the Bonn Convention, Ukraine is seeking promotion of some species protection, in particular protection and regulation of the *Phalacrocorax pupolation*.**

- 7.5 Are there multilateral and/or bilateral donors supporting projects which contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Convention in your country? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details.

**Without any doubt, the GEF project on conservation of biological diversity of the Danube delta within the framework of which there was organised the Dunaiskyi (Danube) Biosphere Reserve on the base of the Natural Reserve “Dunaiski Plavni (Danube Floodplains)” with its expansion referres to the Ramsar Convention since the Kyliiske Mouth International Wetland has become a full part of the Biosphere Reserve. The next GEF project with participation of the developed countries’ organisations, in particular Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Denmark and other donors, is being implementing beginning from the current year and is purposed to organising the Southern ecological passage along the Black and Azov seas which will touch almost all 19 wetlands in the Black and Azov seas regions being proposed by Ukraine to include in the Ramsar List. Conservation of wetlands situated in Northern Ukraine - the Shatsk Lakes, Prypiat River Floodplains, Stokhid River Floodplains is promoted by the EECNET Action Fund.**

- 7.6 Does your government make an annual budgetary allocation to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands within your country? Yes/No.  
If yes, is this a specific allocation to a wetlands programme or as part of a larger environment or natural resource management budget?

**There is not a specific article in the state budget, but definite financing is executed in this respect through the state budget section “Protection and wise use of water resources”, as well as through financing general nature conservation activity. Unfortunately, budgetary allocation cover merely minimum of the necessary needs because of economic crisis in the country.**

- 7.7 If your country has a development assistance programme, does it include funds earmarked for wetland conservation and wise use in other countries? Yes/No. If yes, please give details.

**No, it does not.**

- 7.8 Is there a formal process in place for consultation between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the development assistance programme in your country, where one exists? Yes/No  
If yes, what is that process.

**No, there is not.**

**Ramsar Strategic Plan - General Objective 8  
To provide the Convention with the required institutional  
mechanisms and resources.**

- 8.1 Has your government made voluntary financial contributions, other than the invoiced contributions or to the Small Grants Fund, to further the work of the Convention globally? Yes/No.

If yes, please provide details.

**No, it has not.**

- 8.2 If your country is in arrears with the payment of its annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention, please indicate the reasons for this situation and the prospects for paying these arrears in the near future.

**Economic crisis in the country (including poor allocations and non-payments to the state budget of Ukraine).**

## **Optional section - Participation of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention**

These are **optional** questions relating to cooperation with and involvement of non-government organizations in the implementation of the Convention.

At COP6 some 42 NGOs made the “Brisbane NGO pledge of support for the Ramsar Convention”. The Standing Committee agreed that for COP7 there should be an effort made to gauge the level and type of cooperation which is occurring between government Administrative Authorities and the national and international NGOs with an interest in wetlands issues.

In this **optional** section of the National Report, you are asked to describe the nature of the cooperation and relationship with any other international, regional, national and provincial NGOs operating within your country.

- 9.1 Approximately how many NGOs have wetlands as part of their regular “business” in your country?  
Please break this down between international, regional and national/provincial organizations.

**Natural resources within wetlands are regularly used by the following NGOs: the Ukrainian Association of Hunters and Fishermen, Association of Military Hunters and Fishermen, tourist and recreation institutions, fishery enterprises, for leisure purposes.**

**Wetlands are objects of activity of more than 300 environmental NGOs, in particular: Pan-Ukrainian - the National Ecology Centre, the Green World, the All-Ukrainian Association of the Nature Protection, the Hydrobiology Association of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Association of Bird Protection; regional - the Birds’ World in the town of Lutsk, the Nature Heritage Foundation in Odessa, the Institute of Ecology in Kyiv, etc, as well as a number of international - the Birdlife International, the European Union for Coastal Conservation, the Wetland International, etc.**

- 9.2 Is there a regular forum or mechanism through which these NGOs express their views on wetland conservation and Ramsar implementation:  
If yes in either case, please give details.  
a. to each other? Yes/No

**Yes, there are. At meetings, seminars, conferences, through bulletins and journals, e-mail, etc.**

b. to the government? Yes/No

**Yes, there are. There is a constant dialogue between the Ministry of Ecosafety and ecology oriented NGOs. Their representatives are encouraged to activities of co-**

**ordinating and consultative bodies, such as the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Commission on Biological and Landscape Diversity Conservation (Commissioner in Charge is Dr Yaroslav Movchan, the Deputy Minister of Ecosafety) and its subordinate Interdepartmental Commission on Conservation of Wetlands (Head of the Commission is Mr Mykola Stetsenko, the Director of the Central Board on National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs at the Ministry of Ecosafety); they also participate in elaborating annual report of the Ministry of Ecosafety on the state of environment.**

**For the purpose of conducting continual consultation within the framework of the Ministry of Ecosafety of Ukraine there is the Social Council of Representatives of the Ministry and Ecology Oriented NGOs.**

**For the purpose of public awareness and engaging in nature conservation matters, improvement of interactions and influence upon governmental organisations, there was founded in Kiev, with assistance of the Agency of International Development of the USA, the Regional Ecology Centre (the Head is Dr Petro Pavliuchenko, tel./fax: +380 44 224 11 13).**

**It is expected that effective mechanism of informational exchange in respect of wetland conservation will be the Ukrainian branch of the Wetland International, after it is organised.**

9.3 Does your government include one or more NGO representatives on its official delegation to Ramsar COPs? Yes/No

**Yes, it does.**

9.4 Do any of the NGOs run programmes aimed at Education and Public Awareness about wetlands in your country? Yes/No. If yes, please give details (Refer also to question 3.1).

**There is not such an Pan-Ukrainian educational programme within the sphere of environmental protection. Merely individual sub-programmes are carried out within the framework of international projects, in particular on conservation of biodiversity of the Danube Delta.**

9.5 Where they exist, do Ramsar site management advisory committees include NGO representatives? If yes, please give details

**Yes, they do. The working body founded within the Ministry of Ecosafety of Ukraine for the purpose of implementation Ramsar Convention - named the Interdepartmental Commission on Conservation of Wetlands - consists of experts of the Ukrainian Association of Bird Protection, the Ukrainian branch of the BirdLife International, the National Ecology Centre, the Pan-Ukrainian Hydrobiology Association, the Ukrainian Association of Nature Reserve Affairs; other experts concerned are to be engaged in its activity.**

9.6 Describe the themes of the Convention (refer to General Objectives 1-8 of the Strategic Plan) where you perceive the national/provincial NGOs to be most active.

**Taking into consideration the early age of the Ukrainian NGOs, as well as their activity in new conditions, they are most effective in respect of the General Objectives 3 of the Strategic Plan (awareness of wetland values), 7 (collaboration with NGOs and mobilisation financial assistance) and 8 (institutional mechanisms, participation to the co-ordination groups, participation in taking decisions).**

## **Final comments:**

10.1 General comments on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan.

**Ukraine completely welcomes the Ramsar Strategic Plan and, coming from its organising and financial possibilities, make more active its participation to the process.**

10.2 Observations concerning the functioning of, relations with, and services provided by:  
a. The Ramsar Standing Committee

**Highly effective work. We are grateful for particular attention to the countries of transition economy.**

b. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel

**To encourage more actively for the countries with transition economy.**

c. The Ramsar Bureau

**We are very much obliged to be informed by the Ramsar Bureau on the activity within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. We would also ask to give some more attention as to the new Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention.**

d. The Ramsar NGO partners

**We welcome in Ukraine the nature conservation activity of the BirdLife International, Wetland International, WWF, European Union for Coastal Conservation, IUCN, which we would like to have more information about since there are lots of NGOs in Ukraine.**

10.3 Any other general observations and/or recommendations for the future.

**To hold exit meetings of specific expert group in definite countries, possibly on their invitations.**

**This National Report of Ukraine on Wetlands was prepared by the Central Board of National Nature Parks and Reserve Affairs of the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine and the Interdepartmental Commission on Conservation of Wetlands (Director of Board and Head of Commission Mr Mykola Stetsenko). Responsible person for preparation is a Chief Expert of Board and Executive Secretary of Commission Dr Grygoriy Parchuk.**

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