

Green recovery is the restoration of environmental health

- Olexii VASYLIUK
- April 2025

Green recovery must first and foremost include the restoration of the environment, particularly its natural ecosystems.

Green recovery should include not only areas directly affected by hostilities, but also zones of indirect impact



EMERALD NETWORK IN UKRAINE DURING THE WAR

The Emerald Network consists of nature conservation areas across Europe that are designed to preserve species and habitats threatened with extinction. The network was established to fulfill the requirements of the Berne Convention.

It is planned that after Ukraine joins the EU, the Emerald Network will be connected to Natura 2000, - nature conservation network created for the same purpose, but within the EU.

In Ukraine, the Emerald Network includes:

377 protected areas
162 proposed areas
30% of which are impacted by war or occupation
among them are unique steppe areas

Steppe or alpine? Why biogeographical regions are so important

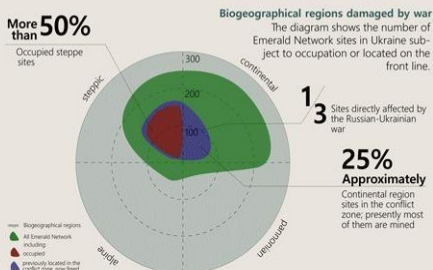
Biogeographical regions are areas with relatively homogenous environmental conditions and similar characteristics.

Any site proposed for inclusion in the Emerald Network must undergo an assessment of well it conforms to certain areas. In fact, it is a whole cycle of assessments, the main purpose of which is to ensure that proposed areas truly meet the criteria for rare habitats, include rare species for a particular biogeographical region. Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network are designed on the basis of biogeography.

4 biogeographical regions in Ukraine

In terms of surface area among Ukrainian areas, the continental biogeographic region is the largest, followed by steppe.

The range of steppe habitats in Ukraine is the largest among countries that have ratified the Berne Convention.



What is the Berne Convention?

This is the short name for the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. It is named after the city where it was signed in 1979.

1999

the Berne Convention was ratified in Ukraine

How the Emerald Network was formed in Ukraine

2016

Among the first Emerald Network sites for Ukraine. Forest and freshwater areas predominate

2019

Mainly steppe and marine habitats were added to the Emerald Network

2021

Over 200 candidate sites were approved. Mainly steppe landscapes in river valleys were nominated



How to read a map

--- boundaries of biogeographical regions

Emerald Network sites (protected and proposed)

occupied sites

site, previously located in the conflict zone, now freed

UW E C Made for Ukraine War Environmental Consequences Work Group

Source: Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group
Image credit: Wikipedia

By Valeria Kolodzhna
Translated by Jennifer Castner

Ukraine's green recovery should include the creation of a significant number of new protected areas.



At a time when access to certain areas is blocked by mines, temporary occupation, or ongoing hostilities, **ecosystems are recovering without waiting for our decisions.**