



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Ukraine

50 Ramsar Site(s) covering 930,559 ha

Aquatic-cliff complex of Cape Kazantyp

Site number: 1,393 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic

Area: 251 ha | Coordinates: 45°28'N 35°51'E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-cliff complex of Cape Kazantyp. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 251 ha; 45°28'N 035°51'E. Nature Reserve. Coastal area of the Sea of Azov composed of pebble and detritus-coquina bays with thickets of macrophytic algae *Cystoseira barbata* and vascular plants *Zannichellia major* and *Zostera noltii*. It is an important spawning ground for crustaceans and rare fish species, such as the Great Sturgeon *Huso huso ponticus*, and maintains a significant proportion of indigenous fish species. The site is used as a nesting and migration stop-over, especially for the Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, and qualifies under Criterion 6 for the bird populations of *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Gelochelidon nilotica* and *Larus genei*. Marine mammals (*Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*) visit the area. During hot summer sometimes, fish kill occurs due to abrupt decrease of the oxygen content. The Nature Reserve has a visitors' centre and management plan. Ramsar site no. 1393. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

Aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag

Site number: 1,394 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic

Area: 224 ha | Coordinates: 44°55'59"N 35°13'59"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 224 ha; 44°56'N 035°14'E. Nature Reserve, Important Bird Area. Located at the southeastern part of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the aquatic-cliff complex of Karadag comprises sublittoral marine areas up to 6 metres depth, bays, a narrow strip of pebble-boulder coast and coastal cliffs up to 120m high. It is an important place for birds, notably during migrations, and other vulnerable animal species such as the bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Myotis emarginatus*, colonies of which settle in the grottoes. The marine area with nationally rare algae and seagrass meadows constitutes a good spawning habitat for many fish species and supports, among others, the Great Sturgeon *Huso huso ponticus*. Dolphins approach the coast periodically. Ecological trails and a nature centre are near the site. Ramsar site no. 1394. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

Aquatic-coastal complex of Cape Opuk

Site number: 1,395 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Crimean Autonomous Republic
Area: 775 ha | Coordinates: 45°01'N 36°12'E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Aquatic-coastal complex of Cape Opuk. 29/07/04; Crimean AR; 775 ha; 45°01'N 036°12'E. Nature Reserve. Combination of steep limestone rocks on the seaside (marine boundary lines along 6 meter isobath), sandy-coquina spits, and a salt lake. Thousands of birds winter in the wetland complex or stop during their migrations, especially the White-fronted Goose, Mallard, Garganey, and Coot. Threatened species such as the Eagle *Aquila heliaca* or the Bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* occur within the area. Thickets of macrophytic algae provide a suitable habitat for protected species such as the Great Sturgeon and the Black Sea Salmon and constitute an important spawning ground for many other fish species. Dolphins and porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*, *Tursiops truncatus*) are observed periodically. Environmental education activities and scientific researches are carried out annually. Ramsar site no. 1395. Most recent RIS information: 2003.

Archipelago Velyki and Mali Kuchugury

Site number: 2,282 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhska Oblast
Area: 7,740 ha | Coordinates: 47°33'50"N 35°12'10"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of an archipelago of sandbank islands ("big" and "small" Kuchugury), as well as the surrounding shallows in the upper reaches of the Kakhovka Reservoir in the floodplain of the Lower Dnieper (Dnipro) River in south-eastern Ukraine. It is an important nesting location for wetland bird communities; the shallow waters with rich benthos and good protection from the wind and storms are attractive to birds during moulting periods and seasonal migrations. During the autumn migration up to 30,000 waterfowl individuals have been observed. 156 bird species, 18 mammal, 54 fish, 867 insect, 163 plant, 14 alga and 16 fungus species have been recorded. A ridge of sand dunes, which are the largest location of the endemic *Centaurea konkai*, helps to protect the plant diversity. The Site is valuable as a reproduction site for the development of fish stocks throughout the Kakhovka Reservoir, and so the state of the wetland also influences the status of many game fish species. The wetland is of great importance as a natural filter of fresh water within the Reservoir. In this shallow part of the Reservoir, water is extracted for agricultural irrigation and also as a drinking water resource. The wetland is of great importance as a natural filter of fresh water within the Kakhovka Reservoir. In the shallow part of the reservoir, water extraction is conducted not only for irrigation of agricultural landscapes, but also as a drinking water resource.

Atak – Borzhavske

Site number: 2,391 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Berehivskiy Rayon (county), Zakarpatska Oblast (Region), Ukraine
Area: 283.4 ha | Coordinates: 48°13'26"N 22°48'25"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the Zakarpatska region, close to the borders with Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. It is the only pristine ancient floodplain oak-ash forest in Ukraine, and one of the largest of Central Europe, where natural flooding processes can still be found. The combination of forest, river and floodplain ecosystems makes the Site important for biodiversity: it supports around 300 vascular plant species, 40 mammals, 77 birds, five reptiles, ten amphibians, and 30 fish. Atak-Borzhavske is also important for migrating bats, which stop to feed. Meanwhile, the Borzhava River which flows in the Site is an important spawning ground for rare fish species including *Zingel zingel* and *Lota lota*, as well as a number of game fish such as catfish, pike, carp and perch. Because of its proximity to several towns and settlements, the River is affected by household litter. The Site is also threatened by the impacts of recreation activities including sport fishing, hiking, and canoeing, and by forestry.

Bakotska Bay

Site number: 1,396 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kamianets-Podilskyi District, Khmelnytskyi Region (Oblast)

Area: 1,590 ha | Coordinates: 48°36'02"N 26°58'12"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This half-open shallow bay was formed during the filling of a low-lying area of the Dniester River valley following the construction of the Dniester Reservoir. Rock formations within the Site provide breeding habitats and a migration stop for nationally protected birds of prey, such as the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) and the northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Rock ledges which occupy a major part of the Site provide habitat for several bat species. The Site is important as a spawning ground for various fish species such as the nationally threatened *Zingel zingel*. Nature conservation activities and scientific research are carried out, while other human activities include water sport and recreation. The Bakotskyi Rock Cave Monastery, built in the 12th century, is a popular attraction for visitors. In 2021 the Site's boundary was delineated more accurately, which increased the recorded area by 194 hectares.

Berda River Mouth and Berdianska Spit and Berdianska Bay

Site number: 772 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhzhia Region, Berdiansk District

Area: 8,419.9 ha | Coordinates: 46°44'05"N 36°49'33"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a sand-shell spit with islands in a shallow bay of the Sea of Azov and a delta area of the Berda River with numerous estuarine lakes. It is important as a nesting ground and migratory stop for waterfowl such as the internationally threatened common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). Between August and October the Site supports up to 46,000 birds, notably including more than one percent of the regional population of the common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). Juvenile sturgeons depend on the Site as fattening ground. Vegetation includes emergent and submergent species, with the Site's saline floodplain swamps supporting nationally threatened and endemic plant species. Human activities are conservation education, fishing and recreation; Berdianska spit is famous for numerous health resorts with mud baths. A 160-year-old lighthouse, one of the oldest in the region, is situated on the spit's southern tip. Threats to the Site include intensive tourism, overfishing and climate change. In 2021 the boundary was delineated more accurately and extended to include the Berda River mouth, increasing the total area by 6,619 hectares.

Big Chapelsk Depression

Site number: 1,397 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Chaplynka District of Kherson Oblast

Area: 2,359 ha | Coordinates: 46°28'57"N 33°50'55"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a natural shallow depression filled by water from melted snow and rains in the Lower Dnieper region. It is covered with natural steppe vegetation and surrounded by arable land. The lake in the centre of the depression never dries up or freezes because of continuous water flow from underground artesian wells, and so it provides wintering opportunities for water birds such as mallard duck and geese. The Depression lies at a crossroads of bird migration routes in the northern Black Sea region, and more than 150,000 birds visit during their autumn and spring migrations. Among them, large flocks of white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), and ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) feed during the daytime on the steppe and surrounding farmland and come back to rest at night at the Site. The adjacent Askania-Nova zoological park hosts many reintroduced indigenous species such as Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalskii*) and the European mouflon (*Ovis ammon musimon*). During the summer, animals from the zoo, including exotic species such as zebras and wildebeest, graze on the wetland meadows. In recent years this practice has intensified, posing a possible threat of overgrazing. Another threat is climate change, as weather patterns have already noticeably changed. Birdwatching, research and tourism are popular activities.

Bilosaraiska Bay and Bilosaraiska Spit

Site number: 773 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Donetsk Region

Area: 11,280.8 ha | Coordinates: 46°54'43"N 37°16'33"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes a sandy-shell spit and a shallow bay of the Azov Sea, and features shallow lakes, dunes and silt islands. Its saltmarshes and meadows, swampy areas and thickets of reeds and rushes provide habitats for numerous endemic and nationally rare plants and relic fish species. The bay reaches a maximum depth of five metres; its bottom is overgrown with *Zostera marina* and other aquatic plants, which provide abundant feeding resources for fish and birds. The Site is important for several thousand wintering ducks and geese, and it supports up to 5,000 individuals of the smew (*Mergellus albellus*). Three species of critically endangered sturgeons depend on the Site as feeding ground. The bay is regularly covered by ice; however climate change is causing a significant shortening of these periods, leading to a change in the composition of bird species. Threats include invasive species and the lowering of water levels in the inner reservoir. The reason for the latter is unknown, and consistent monitoring is needed. Human activities include conservation education, recreation and fishing. In 2021 the Site was delineated more accurately, and extended to include the entire bay area, increasing the total area by 9,280 hectares.

Black Bog

Site number: 2,389 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Irshavskiy Rayon (County), Zakarpatska Oblast (Region)

Area: 15 ha | Coordinates: 48°25'37"N 23°05'50"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Black Bog is the largest surviving bog in Ukraine's Volcanic Carpathians. It contains the largest peat deposit of all of the Ukrainian Carpathians, up to six metres deep in the thickest part. The Site has a rich diversity of plants; it provides habitat to 67 different species, and is the only place in the region that contains five different species of sphagnum moss, two of which are very rare in Central Europe. The Site supports the spawning of rare amphibians, such as the nationally vulnerable Carpathian newt (*Lissotriton montadoni*), fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*) and yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*). In 2015, a successful restoration project was carried out to mitigate the potential threats to the Bog, which include fire, a low water table, poor vegetation recovery and decreasing numbers of rare species.

Burshtyn Water Reservoir

Site number: 2,393 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Halych District, Ivano-Frankivsk Region

Area: 1,260 ha | Coordinates: 49°13'56"N 24°39'51"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a reservoir constructed in 1965 to cool a thermal power plant. Because of its function, the Site's water temperature is slightly higher than that of other water bodies in the region, preventing it from freezing during winter. This provides favourable conditions for foraging and wintering birds; the globally vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) nests there in great numbers, while other species such as *Mergus merganser*, *Bucephala clangula* and *Megellus albellus* are found in internationally significant numbers. As of 2019, the construction was ongoing of an artificial island in the reservoir, which should provide more breeding and roosting areas for birds during migration periods. The Site is close to local towns and factories, and the main threats are overfishing and the impacts of its role in energy production.

Byle Lake and Koza Berezyna Mire

Site number: 2,281 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska oblast
Area: 8,036.5 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'N 25°45'16"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Stokhid, Prypiat and Styr rivers, this Site includes an extensive eutrophic and mesotrophic bog area, a deep oligotrophic karst lake, swamp forests, pine woods and a small channelled river flowing across the bog. Byle Lake is one of the biggest karst lakes of the Polesia Region. Koza Berezyna Mire was formed in a glacial valley and is an important habitat for glacial relict plant species such as *Salix lapponum* and *Vaccinium macrocarpum*. The Site is very important for the conservation of the rare flora and fauna of the region: over 900 native plant species and nearly 500 animal species have been recorded there, a number of them nationally red-listed. The Site is an important breeding habitat for wetland-dependent birds including the nationally endangered western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* as well as the common crane *Grus grus*, black stork *Ciconia nigra* and common goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. The wetland complex plays an important role in the maintenance of hydrological regimes of the central part of Western Polesia, in addition to carbon storage and climate regulation. Its ecological character depends on the cooperation of local communities, who collect berries and mushrooms on the Site for selling. Traditional recreational activities are concentrated around Byle Lake. The main threats affecting the ecological character of the Site relate to droughts. Since 2006, the Rivnensky Nature Reserve, of which the Ramsar Site is part, has an ecological and education centre and organizes annual events focused on the importance of environmental conservation and the value of wetlands and the Site.

Central Syvash

Site number: 115 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic
Area: 80,000 ha | Coordinates: 46°07'N 34°15'E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Central Syvash. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic; 80,000 ha; 46°07'N 034°15'E. National Nature Park, Azov-Black-Sea Ornithological Station. Part of an extremely large lagoon, the site includes spits, islands, saline lowlands, and peninsulas along the Azov Sea. Vegetation consists of salt-tolerant species consisting of halophytic grasses and fringed by extensive areas of steppe, and diverse meadow, grass-marshy and aquatic plant communities. The site supports numerous species of rare, vulnerable or endangered waterbirds and raptors and internationally important numbers of waterbirds and waders. Nesting wetland birds consist of 10,000 pairs, and up to 1,000,000 waders and waterbirds molt, stage and winter at the site. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 115. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Cheremske Bog

Site number: 2,272 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska oblast
Area: 2,975.7 ha | Coordinates: 51°31'46"N 25°32'08"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Prypiat, Styr and Stokhid rivers, this wetland complex includes mesotrophic mires, swampy forests and two glacial karst lakes. The Site supports a large number of rare plant and animal species listed in the national red list of Ukraine, and is particularly important for some species as it is located on the southern limit of their distribution. Sphagnum-sedge vegetation, areas of sedge-reed associations, sparse pine and common birch forests prevail on the mires. Occupying nearly one-third of the mire, the nationally red-listed *Scheuchzeria palustris* predominates among marsh vegetation. 11 rare vegetation communities can be found on the Site. Cheremske Bog plays an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime of the northern and central Western (Polesie) region as well as in groundwater recharge and flood control. The absence of human activities has left the mire in a near-natural state, and it serves as a model for studies of wetlands and their geological, geomorphological and succession processes.

Desna River Floodplains

Site number: 1,398 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Seredyno-Budskiy District, Sumy region

Area: 4,270 ha | Coordinates: 52°11'37"N 33°21'24"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Desna River Floodplain lies adjacent to Ukraine's border with the Russian Federation. It features numerous meanders, lakes, swamps and meadows with abundant semiaquatic and floodplain meadow vegetation, and small areas of floodplain forests. The Site is one of the most pristine stretches of the River, and supports nationally protected aquatic plant communities and internationally threatened species such as the critically endangered European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) and the vulnerable sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). Up to 70,000 birds stop over on the Site during their migration, and more than 1,500 individuals breed there including rare species of ducks, terns, waders and gulls. The absence of dykes and the excellent hydrological conditions make the Site a valuable spawning ground for many threatened, rare and commercially important fish species. The wetland contributes to freshwater purification, mitigates flooding and influences the local microclimate. Intensive agricultural activities have decreased over the years, and only some areas near settlements are threatened by overgrazing. The associated National Park plays an important role as a recreational area and hosts many environmental education activities.

Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area

Site number: 764 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odesa

Area: 10,903.5 ha | Coordinates: 46°28'12"N 30°04'27"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Dniester River delta and floodplain lakes feature islands of floodplain forests, numerous scroll ridges, deep lakes and reedbeds. The area's vegetation includes reed thickets, shrubs and floating plant communities. Its diverse habitats give shelter to almost 2,000 animal and plant species. More than one percent of the regional populations of the greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and the great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) have been recorded, and many nationally protected species nest or stop over at the Site. It also provides valuable spawning grounds for freshwater fish, many of which are commercially important. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, fishing, reed harvesting and scientific research. The Site serves as an important source of irrigation and drinking water. Its natural water dynamics have been disrupted by the construction of dykes and canals, and the operations of the Dniester Hydropower Station. In 2021 the boundary was delineated more accurately, which increased the total recorded area by 3,303 hectares.

Dnipro-Oril Floodplains

Site number: 1,399 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Petrykivka and Dnipro districts, Dnipropetrovsk region

Area: 2,560 ha | Coordinates: 48°30'24"N 34°47'49"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This floodplain terrace at the confluence of the Dnieper (Dnipro) and Oril Rivers is one of the last remaining pristine floodplain landscapes along the Dnieper since large areas were flooded and destroyed when the river was confined and dams constructed. Nonetheless, depending on discharges from the upstream and downstream reservoirs, the Site's water level fluctuates considerably. This system of watercourses and floodplains with numerous lakes, mires and marshes hosts communities of white willow (*Salix alba*) and aquatic plants such as water caltrop (*Trapa natans*) and floating fern (*Salvinia natans*). The Site is a key point on the Dnieper bird migration route and an important nesting place for the nationally threatened oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and stork (*Ciconia nigra*). In addition to birds, the Site supports the internationally protected European otter (*Lutra lutra*); the snakes *Coronella austriaca* and *Vipera renardi*; and the toad *Pelobates fuscus*. Some 40 fish species, including the sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*), are recorded. The Site is surrounded by the cities of Dnipro and Kamianske as well as other large settlements, and it is popular for recreation and scientific education.

Dnipro River Delta

Site number: 767 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kherson Region

Area: 34,425.8 ha | Coordinates: 46°33'15"N 32°27'12"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This delta of Europe's fourth longest river includes swampy areas, floodplain forests, sandy ridges and a lake complex. The diverse vegetation consists of hydrophilic communities, islands of floodplain forest, and reed thickets, all of which provide important habitats for endemic and nationally rare species. It provides a refuge for one of the largest colonies of pelicans and storks in the region. The rich diversity of habitats and remoteness from agricultural areas provide ideal nesting ground for the Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*) and the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Semi-aquatic mammals such as the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the endangered European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) can also be found. The Site provides one of the largest water transport arteries between Ukraine and the Black Sea countries and is an important source of water for drinking and irrigation. Human activities include hunting, aquaculture, fishing and recreation. Threats to the Site include river regulation, land conversion and pollution from insufficiently treated wastewater. In 2021 the boundary was delineated more accurately, increasing the total area by 8,426 hectares.

Dnister River Valley

Site number: 2,388 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Ivano-Frankivska oblast

Area: 820 ha | Coordinates: 49°05'09"N 24°46'21"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Dnister River Valley in western Ukraine contains the free-flowing river, its riparian zone, several islands and oxbow lakes. The Site is a valuable stretch of the upper Dnister, as it includes unique natural floodplain habitats. It is a biodiversity hotspot, with a combination of diverse rare wetland habitat types, floodplain vegetation communities and a large number of nationally threatened species (four plants, six insects, ten fish, nine birds and eight mammals). The Site is the most important wintering place for waterbirds in the upper and middle stretches of the River, and hosts internationally important numbers of *Mergus merganser*, *Bucephala clangula* and *Mergellus albellus*. It also provides local people with drinking water and protection against flash floods, while providing opportunities for recreation, water tourism and fishing. Overfishing and river canalization and regulation are among the most notable threats to the wetland. As of 2019, a management plan is being prepared for the Site.

Eastern Syvash

Site number: 769 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Khersonska Oblast, Crimean Autonomy Republic

Area: 165,000 ha | Coordinates: 45°40'N 35°00'E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eastern Syvash. 23/11/95; Khersonska Oblast, Crimean AR; 165,000 ha; 45°40'N 035°00'E. National Nature Park. The site, part of a large coastal lagoon, is a shallow saltwater bay near the Azov Sea and includes numerous spits, islets, saline lowlands, and peninsulas. Vegetation consists of halophytic grasses fringed by extensive areas of steppe. The area serves as an important nesting, wintering, molting and staging area for internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds and waders. A number of these species are rare, vulnerable or endangered. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 769. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Karkinitzka and Dzharlygatska Bays

Site number: 114 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kherson Region, Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, Ukraine

Area: 147,556.7 ha | Coordinates: 46°00'46"N 33°15'03"E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

These shallow Black Sea bays comprise several island spits and surrounding waters. Vegetation consists of steppe and coastal communities including reedbeds, vast aquatic meadows, salt-tolerant plants and grasses; many species are endemic. The Site features one of the largest uninhabited islands in Europe – Dzharlygach – which is an important barrier to protect the shore from storms and erosion. It is an important area for waterbirds, with up to 150,000 migratory and 130,000 wintering individuals. The threatened white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) are among these. The shallow bay provides habitat for endemic and threatened fish including four endangered sturgeon species. Human activities include commercial and recreational fishing, hunting, livestock and grazing. People benefit from the Site's resources such as fish, molluscs, corn and drinking water. The Bays' morphology and water level are strongly influenced by winds, currents and river discharge. The Site's boundary was calculated more accurately in 2021, increasing the area by over 60,000 hectares.

Kartal Lake

Site number: 761 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Reni District of Odesa Region

Area: 2,141.2 ha | Coordinates: 45°18'28"N 28°30'51"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a system of small, interconnected floodplain lakes set in the lower Danube basin. Vegetation consists of emergent and submergent plant communities with numerous rare and protected species. The Site is important for migrating, breeding, and moulting birds; it supports internationally important numbers of white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) and mute swan (*Cygnus olor*). There are important breeding and nursery habitats for fish and amphibians, and the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the endangered European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) can also be found. Human activities include conservation education, recreation, livestock grazing, haymaking and commercial fisheries. Lake Kartal is used as a reservoir, and fluctuations of the water level often lead to changes in the ecological capacity and quality of habitats. Since the last update in 1998, 100 hectares of meadow habitat and the connection between Kartal Lake and the neighbouring Kugurlui Lake ([Ramsar Site no.760](#)) have been restored. The Site's boundary was extended and delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the area by over 1,600 hectares.

Kryva Bay and Kryva Spit

Site number: 774 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Donetsk Region

Area: 11,861 ha | Coordinates: 47°04'08"N 38°04'43"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This shallow sea bay is made up of three sandy-shell spits, beaches, silt islands, and shallow lakes. In winter the bay is covered with ice. The Site supports reed thickets, saline meadows, and swamps, and includes emergent and submergent plants and short grasses. Several thousand water birds winter there and one of the largest palearctic colonies of sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) with up to 30,000 pairs can be found. Two endangered migrant bird species visit the Site: the red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the great bustard (*Otis tarda*). Three species of critically endangered sturgeons depend on the Site as well as the marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*). Human activities include conservation education, recreation and fishing. Since 2008, the water level in the inland water bodies of the spit has been decreasing for unknown reasons, and some of the smaller water bodies have completely dried out. In 2021 the Site was extended by 10,461 hectares to include the entire bay area.

Kugurlui Lake

Site number: 760 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Reni and Izmail districts of Odesa Region

Area: 13,493 ha | Coordinates: 45°18'02"N 28°39'32"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A shallow oxbow lake with swampy shores in the lower Danube basin. Habitats are dynamic and depend on the lake's water level which changes according to the Danube's seasonal discharge. Vegetation consists mainly of emergent species. The lake usually only freezes for short periods and so it provides ideal winter habitat for ducks and geese; the number of birds frequently exceeds 20,000 individuals. Rare bird species at the Site include the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the near-threatened Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). The Site is also important as a breeding and nursery area for amphibians and fish such as the black sea herring (*Alosa immaculata*). Human activities include environmental education, recreation, fishing, and reed harvesting. Water is used for irrigation and drinking. Threats to the Site include invasive alien species and pollution from agricultural and forestry effluents. The Site's boundary was delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the recorded area by almost 7,000 hectares.

Kyliiske Mouth

Site number: 113 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast

Area: 44,904.3 ha | Coordinates: 45°23'25"N 29°40'33"E | Designation dates: 11-10-1976

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Kyliiske Mouth is part of the Danube Delta near the Romanian border. It comprises numerous channels, swamp areas, floodplain forests, freshwater lakes and sandy spits enclosing bays. It was originally designated in 1976 by the Soviet Union as part of the Site "Danube Delta and Tendrov/Yagorlytz Bays". In 1995, after accession of Ukraine, that Site was split into three: Kyliiske Mouth, Yagorlytska Bay ([Ramsar Site no.116](#)) and Tendrivska Bay ([Site no.768](#)). In 2021 the boundary of Kyliiske Mouth was extended and delineated more accurately, increasing the total area by 12,100 hectares. The vegetation includes hydrophilic communities, reed and sedge marshes and dune communities. The Site provides habitat for large numbers of wintering, migrating, breeding and moulting waterbirds, as well as favourable environments for many fish and amphibians. More than one percent of the respective populations of the pelican species *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and *Pelecanus crispus* visit the Site. Since 2009 large-scale restoration works have been carried out, with dams removed to recover important habitats on an island within the river mouth. Human activities include fishing, livestock grazing, reed harvesting and recreation. Water is used for irrigation of rice paddies, aquaculture and household needs by the nearby town of Vilkov.

Lake Synevyr

Site number: 1,400 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zakarpatska region, Mizhhirya district

Area: 29 ha | Coordinates: 48°36'58"N 23°40'56"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located among spruce forests, Lake Synevyr is the largest natural water body in the Ukrainian Carpathians. Three permanent mountain streams flow into the lake, causing accelerated silting in those places and transforming the inflows into eutrophic marshes. The lake features floating vegetation including different species of *Potamogeton* pondweed and shoreline stands of *Glyceria fluitans*, *Equisetum palustre* and *Mentha piperita*. The water level and extent of the lake follow a seasonal pattern. The Site is important for many species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine, such as the Aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*), the European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) and the lesser spotted eagle (*Clanga pomarina*). Human activities include regulated recreation, scientific research and nature conservation; the lake is associated with local legends and is widely popular as a symbol of the Ukrainian Carpathians, while offering great environmental and educational value.

Liadova-Murafa

Site number: 2,387 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Mohyliv-Podilskyi and Yampil districts of Vinnytsia region

Area: 5,394.3 ha | Coordinates: 48°23'25"N 27°53'58"E | Designation dates: 04-04-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Situated on the border with Moldova, Liadova-Murafa consists of a section of the Dnister River with its tributaries and forested areas along the river valley. The Site features very distinctive steep banks, which were created by sedimentation up to 420 million years ago. It is an important breeding site for 106 bird species; and 146 migrating species stop in the Site to feed and moult. It is especially important for mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*). It also holds over 30 species of fish, over 40 of mammals, ten of amphibians, and six of reptiles. The wetland supplies water to adjacent towns, benefitting over 40,000 people. Human activities in the Site include recreation, forest management, livestock grazing and sport fishing. As of 2019, a restoration plan is being prepared for the Site to improve the water's quality and the River's hydrological regime.

Lower Smotrych River

Site number: 1,401 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kamianets-Podilskyi District, Khmelnytskyi Region

Area: 1,480 ha | Coordinates: 48°36'32"N 26°36'05"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site on the lower reaches of the Smotrych river encompasses narrow canyons, floodplains and riverbanks leading to the confluence with the River Dniester. The combination of habitats provides a refuge for threatened species such as the black-bellied hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*), the great capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*) and the common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). The Site is also crucial for the reproduction of rare species of fish and birds, most notably the nationally endangered Black Sea roach (*Rutilus frisii*) and western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). The Site is a focus of nature conservation activities and scientific research; it is also used for forestry, cattle grazing, haymaking, sport fishing and other recreational activities. The combination of biodiversity and cultural and historic monuments make the area particularly interesting for visitors. The biggest threat is climate change: an increase in temperature and summer droughts already affect the area.

Molochnyi Liman

Site number: 770 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizka Oblast

Area: 29,151.8 ha | Coordinates: 46°32'23"N 35°21'31"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This liman (brackish lagoon) is a half-closed water body, periodically connected to the Azov Sea. It includes sandy-shell islands and peninsulas. In years when the lagoon is connected to the Sea, the brackish water supports high biodiversity. When the water level is low, the lagoon is disconnected, its salinity increases and fewer specialized species predominate. The vegetation around the lagoon consists of reedbeds, saline meadows and marshes. The Site is important for waterfowl: up to 23,000 birds winter at the Site, while the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) use it as a migration stopover. It is a spawning ground for the commercially important so-iuy mullet (*Liza haematocheilus*) and European flounder (*Platichthys flesus*). Human activities include conservation education, recreation, aquaculture, fishing and hunting. Continuous scientific studies have been conducted for over 80 years. The Site's boundary was extended and delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the area by 6,752 hectares.

Nadsiannia Raised Bog

Site number: 2,392 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Turkivskiy District, Lviv Region, Ukraine

Area: 37 ha | Coordinates: 49°10'11"N 22°42'58"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest remaining raised bogs of the Ukrainian Carpathians, and among the few pristine examples with no visible human impacts. It is at the southern end of the border between Ukraine and Poland, and is a part of the Nadsianskiy Regional Landscape Park. This non-forested type of peat bog is extremely rare in the region and is a hotspot for biodiversity. It supports more than 105 animal species, including nine amphibians, four reptiles, approximately 70 birds and 24 mammals. Due to its location in a north-south pass in the Carpathians, the Site plays an important role as a transnational ecological corridor and is extremely important for migrations and dispersions of land animals, and so helps maintain the biodiversity of the region. Human disturbance of the peatbog is fairly limited due to its inaccessibility and its proximity to the border. As of 2019, a management plan was being prepared.

Narcissi Valley

Site number: 2,390 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zakarpatska oblast

Area: 256 ha | Coordinates: 48°10'59"N 23°21'31"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Narcissi Valley is located in the Ukrainian Carpathians, close to the border with Romania. It contains the largest Central European population of narrow-leaved narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus* L.), listed in the national red list as vulnerable, which gives the Site unique ecological and aesthetic values. A variety of wet meadow habitats, dominated by the narcissus, host more than ten different vegetation communities, 500 species of invertebrates and up to 164 species of vertebrates. The Site is also the only massive nesting site for corncrake (*Crex crex*) in the region, and contains up to 120 nests. During the blossoming season in May, the Narcissi Valley becomes very popular for tourists, with an average of 50,000 visitors per year. Because the Site is part of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, access to the area and use of its natural resources is limited; nonetheless, urbanization and trampling of plants are still threats. As of 2019, a restoration plan is being prepared to raise the water table and improve the capacity for traditional management.

Northern Part of the Dniester Liman

Site number: 765 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast, Bilgorod-Dnistrovskiy and Ovidiopol'skiy Districts

Area: 25,929.2 ha | Coordinates: 46°20'42"N 30°12'40"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the Dniester River delta, streams, floodplain lakes and part of the Dniester "liman" (estuary). Vegetation consists of floating vegetation, reed thickets and floodplain forest supporting various nationally threatened plant species. It is an important area for breeding, wintering and migrating birds; it supports more than one percent of the regional population of the whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), and the great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) can be found. The Site supports 60 fish species and provides a migration route for the critically endangered sturgeons *Huso huso* and *Acipenser stellatus*. It supplies water for domestic use and agricultural irrigation and is an important waterway. Human activities include environmental education, recreation and fishing. Threats are invasive species and disruption of the water dynamics through construction of dykes and canals; the decreased river stream flow results in reduced water exchange and silting. The Site's boundary was delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the recorded area by almost 6,000 hectares.

Obytochna Spit and Obytochna Bay

Site number: 771 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhzhia Region
Area: 6,917 ha | Coordinates: 46°34'32"N 36°13'31"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This sand spit on the Azov Sea and the bay which it creates are characterized by reed-swamp vegetation and saline meadows fringed by steppe vegetation. The morphology of the spit is continuously influenced by the sea, erosion and flooding. The Site supports rare and endemic species of plants, in particular wild garlic *Allium pervestitum*. Globally threatened waterbirds such as the red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) can be found. Up to of 80,000 great cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) nest, profiting from the great abundancy of round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) as their prey. Two endangered sturgeon species can also be found. Human activities include conservation education, recreation and fishing. In 2021 the boundary was delineated more accurately, increasing the total area by 4,917 hectares.

Ozirnyi-Brebeneskul

Site number: 2,394 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zakarpatska oblast (Transcarpathian region)
Area: 1,656.9 ha | Coordinates: 48°06'54"N 24°32'17"E | Designation dates: 04-04-2019
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ozirnyi-Brebeneskul is a highland wetland composed of a dense river network, several large lakes of glacial origin, marshlands, swamps and peatlands. It is located in the Chornohora mountain range, on the southern slope of the Hoverla, the highest mountain in Ukraine at 2,061 metres. The glacial lakes are the largest and deepest of the Ukrainian Carpathians. The Site is also characterized by a large variety of flora, including 500 species of vascular plants, 42 of which are listed in the national Red List. The Site is visited by 100,000 people annually, as the most popular tourist trail in Ukraine passes through. This gives the Site recreational value, but also leads to trampling of plants, pollution and ecosystem disturbance. Ozirnyi-Brebeneskul is located within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, which controls the access and use of its natural resources.

Perebrody Peatlands

Site number: 1,402 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivne Region
Area: 12,718 ha | Coordinates: 51°42'05"N 27°07'33"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located near the border with Belarus, the Site consists of the largest mire in Ukraine which, together with the mires on the Belarusian side, is said to form the biggest peatland in Europe. Due to its inaccessible location, the wetland has been preserved in a natural state. The boundaries of the Site have been delineated more accurately to correspond to the territory of Rivnensky Nature Reserve. Transitional communities of sedge-sphagnum mires prevail at the periphery, and fens with *Phragmites australis* and *Carex lasiocarpa* predominate in the central area. The Site is important for the conservation of the typical boreal mire flora and fauna: it provides habitat for over 630 native plant species and 430 animal species, including 92 protected species. The mires and small forested islands provide important breeding and foraging grounds for globally threatened species of birds such as the greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* and aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The peatlands are important for flood control, water retention and water purification. During extensive floods every ten years or so, the Site is almost completely covered by water. The duration of flooding is increasingly fluctuating; the years from 2013 to 2015 were very dry and led to a shorter flooding period. Human activities include the gathering of cranberries, and long-term monitoring and scientific activities.

Pohorilets River Headwaters

Site number: 2,397 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Verkhovyna District, Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine

Area: 1,624.6 ha | Coordinates: 48°02'43"N 24°39'35"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a network of streams, brooks, bogs and lakes in the upper basin of the Pohorilets River, close to the Chornohora mountain range in the Ukrainian Carpathians. The Site is a biodiversity hotspot, with 500 vascular plant species and 90 vertebrate species found within its boundaries. Many of them are listed as threatened in the national and global Red Lists, and a great number are endemic to the Eastern Carpathian biogeographic region. The Site is especially important for the critically endangered European mink, as one of its last habitats in the area. It acts as a large reservoir during heavy rains or periods of snow melt, significantly reducing the risk of severe downstream floods. It is also a valuable source of drinking water for at least 1,000 inhabitants of the region. Because it is part of the Carpathian National Nature Park, the Site has legal protection ensuring the control of the use of natural resources. The main threat is the impact of recreation activities: it is one of the most popular areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians, and several thematic ecological routes can be found.

Polissia Mires

Site number: 1,403 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zhytomyr Region, Ovrutskiy District

Area: 2,145 ha | Coordinates: 51°32'08"N 28°00'49"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2003

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies in the midst of the Polissia forest complex, one of the largest waterlogged regions in Europe. It consists of marshes and oligotrophic and mesotrophic mires, as well as floodplains of the Zholobnytsia and Bolotnytsia rivers. The mires are surrounded by upland pine forests and plant communities which are characteristic of different stages of succession after fires and felling. Over 50 nationally and internationally protected plant species are found in the Site, including the orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsia* and *Dactylorhiza incarnata*. The Polissia Mires support many nationally threatened species, including the dragonfly dark whiteface (*Leucorrhinia albifrons*), the smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*) and the short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*). Several bird species and also otters and turtles breed in the Site. The arid climate of recent years is negatively affecting the vegetation of the upper marshes and increasing the threat of fire, especially in Miroshi, an area with significant peat deposits which are easily combustible.

Prut River Headwaters

Site number: 2,395 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Nadvirna District (Nadvirnianskyi Raion), Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine

Area: 4,935.4 ha | Coordinates: 48°10'N 24°33'08"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a collection of peat bogs, lakes, streams, watercourses, riparian zones and centuries-old forests in the Chornohora mountain range of the Ukrainian Carpathians. The Site acts as a flood regulator, and a fresh water reservoir, directly providing fresh water to more than 5,000 people. It provides habitat to 35 nationally threatened species, of which 23 are globally threatened. More than half of all the species found in the Ukrainian Carpathians can be found within the Site, making it a representative biodiversity hotspot. The Site's various wetland habitats give shelter to several species of amphibians during their breeding and juvenile growth periods. It contains a sizeable network of ecological trails with botanical, zoological and landscape themes, which make it a very popular tourist attraction, and at the same time exposes it to human impacts. The Site is managed by the Carpathian National Nature Park, within which it lies.

Prypiat River Floodplains

Site number: 776 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volynska Region, Liubeshiv and Ratne Districts of Volyn Region

Area: 37,567.7 ha | Coordinates: 51°53'14"N 25°43'44"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Prypiat river floodplains make up one of the largest wetland complexes of the Polissia biosphere region; it encompasses river channels, floodplains, lakes, bogs, peatlands, sand dunes, waterlogged meadows and forests. Since 2008 the Site has been part of the "Stokhid-Prypiat-Prostyr" Transboundary Ramsar Site, together with Stokhid River Floodplains (Ramsar Site no. 777) in Ukraine and Prostyr (Ramsar Site no. 1611) in Belarus. The Site is notably biodiverse: over 290 vertebrate species and 550 vascular plants can be found. Many of them are internationally endangered, such as the European eel *Anguilla anguilla* and the carnivorous plant *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*. The floodplains are situated on the crossroads of two main flyways, and so they are an important area for numerous species of breeding, moulting and migrating waterfowl and waders. Human activities include sport and commercial fishing, hunting, livestock grazing, haymaking and recreation. The greatest threat is climate change, and the related decrease in precipitation.

Romania-Friendship Cave

Site number: 2,396 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zakarpatska Oblast

Area: 0.1 ha | Coordinates: 48°15'21"N 23°37'56"E | Designation dates: 20-03-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Romania-Friendship Cave is a unique underground formation composed of a network of chambers and corridors that share a fluctuating water regime, originating from surface water inputs. It is the biggest cave formation in the Ukrainian Carpathians, and it is a very important hibernation refuge for 14 different species of bats, 12 of which are listed as threatened in Ukraine's Red List. The Site is also home to several endemic troglobite invertebrate species, some of which were first discovered in the cave. Because of its location and size, the Site acts as natural protection against floods as it accumulates a great quantity of water from precipitation and snow melting. This is a very valuable service, especially for villages located down in the valley. The Site is located within the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (2017). Because of its difficult accessibility, the Site does not suffer from high touristic pressure, but because of the proximity to villages, some littering occurs.

Sasyk Lake

Site number: 762 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odesa Region

Area: 23,488.4 ha | Coordinates: 45°39'41"N 29°39'44"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sasyk Lake is an artificially desalinated reservoir on the Black Sea coast north of the Danube Delta. The low salinity is maintained through the inflow of fresh water through the Danube-Sasyk Canal. The vegetation consists of emergent and submergent plants including nationally rare species. The Site is important for migrating, breeding and moulting waterbirds including the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and the endangered red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*). Floodplain areas and permanent freshwater marshes provide habitat for seasonal concentrations of up to 35,000 birds. The Site supports several commercially important fish species and two endangered sturgeon species. Human activities include fishery, forestry, reed harvesting, recreation and scientific research. The Lake is a source of water for livestock. One of the main threats is eutrophication as the decoupling of the lagoon from the Black Sea inhibits natural water exchange, resulting in mass blooms of Cyanobacteria. An increase in heavy metals in the lakebed sediments has also been recorded. The Site's boundary was delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the area by almost 2,500 hectares.

Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System

Site number: 763 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odessa Region

Area: 27,600 ha | Coordinates: 45°46'24"N 29°57'38"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shagany-Alibei-Burnas Lakes System consists of three shallow Black Sea “limans” (brackish lagoons) which are separated from the sea by a sandy spit. They are set in a closed drainage area and are thus subject to drought and inflow of saltwater due to strong sea currents. The Site includes a sandy-shell bar, peninsulas and islands. Vegetation consists of salt meadows and aquatic plants. The Site is important for many nationally threatened waterbirds, for nesting and during migration: it supports more than one percent of the regional population of red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*). The lagoons provide habitat for Danube salmon (*Hucho hucho*) and starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*), both classified as critically endangered. Threats to the Site include pollution from intensive agriculture, temperature extremes and change of salinity due to periodic disconnection of the Site from the Black Sea. Human activities include conservation education, traditional fishing, and recreation. The Site’s boundary was delineated more accurately in 2021, increasing the recorded area by almost 8,600 hectares.

Shatsk Lakes

Site number: 775 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Shatsk District, Volynska Region

Area: 32,850 ha | Coordinates: 51°30'40"N 23°51'10"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shatsk Lakes, bordering both Poland and Belarus, is the largest Ukrainian lake complex, with 23 lakes separated by peat bogs, meadows and forests. The Site is one of the largest and best preserved wetland in the Polissia region, and is very important for waterbirds, hosting approximately 75 different species and 41,000 individuals, which use the lakes as stopovers during their migration for feeding and moulting. Many of these species are nationally or internationally threatened, such as the ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and great snipe (*Gallinago media*), and the globally vulnerable aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) and lesser white fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*). The wetland is also important for other vertebrates, of which 365 species have been recorded, and for plants, with a total of 825 species. It supports 22 nationally threatened plant species, most of them associated with bogs. Human practices include forestry, fishing, recreation, and agriculture including livestock grazing and haymaking. Hunting is forbidden in the area. The main threats to the Site include the decrease in rainwater inputs during recent years, and the overgrowing of shrubs in the peat bogs.

Sim Maiakiv Floodplain

Site number: 2,273 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Zaporizhska Oblast

Area: 2,140 ha | Coordinates: 47°26'17"N 35°02'41"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the lower Dnipro (Dnieper) River, the Site is composed of a unique karst system which is atypical of southern Ukraine and its flat steppe areas. A deep tertiary river channel with a small steppe river forms a unique complex of floodplain forests, wet meadows and reed beds where it meets the Kakhovka reservoir. The wetland constitutes a unique refugium for biodiversity in the steppe region: 137 species of birds, 24 species of mammals, 47 of fish, 690 of insects and 326 species of plants have been recorded at the Site. The Site is on one of Eastern Europe’s largest transcontinental migration routes and provides important nesting as well as foraging grounds for many waterbirds. The karst system is important for groundwater recharge and discharge, for the provision of fresh drinking water for the local population. The livestock and agricultural practices in the surrounding areas depend upon the stability and quality of water from the reservoir and the steppe river. The Site is one of the few places in the lower Dnipro region where traditional basket weaving is preserved. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to drainage, agriculture and housing and urban areas. The management plan of the “Velykyi Luh” National Nature Park covers all of the Ramsar Site.

Somyne Swamps

Site number: 2,275 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska Oblast
Area: 10,852 ha | Coordinates: 51°24'42"N 26°55'10"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Somyne Swamps in north-eastern Ukraine is one of the best-preserved peatlands in the country. The main area of the Site is a large swamp with sedge and sphagnum dominating and sparse forest growth. Other habitats include a lake and a small number of eutrophic swamps, and alder and pine forest swamps. The bog is one of the biggest in the Polesia region of Eastern Europe. It is almost unchanged by land drainage which took place during the Soviet era, and it plays an important role in maintaining the hydrological regime of a large region of western Polesia. It is critically important for wetland, forest and meadow ecosystems and for the biodiversity which they host, including large number of rare species. The Site provides habitats for over 780 native plant species and 580 animal species, including 89 species protected nationally and internationally. The globally threatened greater spotted eagle *Aquila clanga* regularly breeds on the Site, using small forested islands for nesting and surrounding bogs for feeding. The Site also serves as an important breeding habitat for other wetland-dependent bird species, including the common crane, wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* and great grey owl *Strix nebulosa*.

Stokhid River Floodplains

Site number: 777 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Volyn region, Lyubeshiv, Kamin-Kashyrskiy, Kovel and Manevychi Districts of Volyn region
Area: 10,000 ha | Coordinates: 51°33'20"N 25°23'22"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This part of the Prypiat-Stokhid-Prostyr Transboundary Ramsar Site, along with Prypiat River Floodplains ([Site no.776](#)) in Ukraine and Prostyr ([Site no.1611](#)) in Belarus, spans a 144-kilometre stretch of the Stokhid River up to its confluence with the Prypiat River. The main channel and its floodplain featuring various side channels, lakes, marshes, peatlands, islands and meadows provide diverse habitats that support numerous nationally and internationally threatened species. Five vegetation communities protected under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats can be found, all of them influenced by pronounced floods in spring, summer-autumn, and sometimes winter. The Site is situated on the crossroads of two important flyways, and around 31,000 waterbirds such as ducks (*Mareca penelope*), geese (*Anser albifrons*) and white-winged terns (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) depend on it for staging, breeding and moulting. Endangered fish species such as the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and the burbot (*Lota lota*) also find suitable spawning and wintering grounds. The Site presents one of the most pristine floodplain ecosystems of the Ukrainian Polissia region; apart from minor land drainage and reclamation, anthropogenic threats are limited, with human activities include hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, haymaking and recreation.

Syra Pogonia Bog

Site number: 2,274 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Rivnenska oblast
Area: 9,926 ha | Coordinates: 51°31'07"N 27°13'12"E | Designation dates: 24-12-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large, well preserved marsh area in one of the most waterlogged parts of Europe's continental biogeographic region. Its hills and wetter depressions are unique in Ukraine and Central Europe, as they are more characteristic of northern taiga wetlands, with oligotrophic communities of pine, sphagnum mosses, cottongrass, sedges and pod grass. The Site supports over 600 native plant species and 675 animal species and is an important breeding ground for many waterbirds. Some of these are of national importance, such as the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, European roller *Coracias garrulus* and western capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. The Site represents a relict boreal refuge for insects and supports rare boreal butterfly species such as *Oeneis jutta*. The wetland plays an important role in flood protection and in maintaining hydrological regimes; however the clearing and excavation of melioration channels in the surrounding areas every 10 to 15 years cause a sharp outflow of water. The Site provides important revenue for local communities, who collect berries within the Site and in adjacent areas. The Rivnensky Nature Reserve of which the Site is a part has an education centre, and organizes annual events focused on the importance of environmental conservation and the value of bogs including the wetlands of the Syra Pogonia Bog.

Tendrivska Bay

Site number: 768 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kherson region

Area: 55,022 ha | Coordinates: 46°13'56"N 31°55'19"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a saltwater lagoon that features small islands, numerous lakes and temporary waterbodies; sand spits separate the bay from the Black Sea. It was originally designated in 1976 by the Soviet Union as part of the Site "Danube Delta and Tendrov/Yagorlytz Bays". In 1995, after accession of Ukraine, that Site was split into three: Tendrivska Bay, Yagorlytska Bay ([Ramsar Site no.116](#)) and Kyliiske Mouth ([Site no.113](#)). In 2021 the boundary of Tendrivska Bay was delineated more accurately, increasing the total area by over 17,000 hectares. It is important for birds owing to its location at the crossing of flyways, ice-free waters during winter and diversity of habitats. More than one percent of the regional populations of sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) and great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) can be found. The Site also provides habitat for the endangered common predatory bush-cricket (*Saga pedo*), and important fish such as the sturgeons *Huso huso* and *Acipenser stellatus*. In recent years water quality in the Bay has improved after a reduction in the influx of drainage waters and the expansion of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve area to include the deep-water part of the Tendrivska Bay. Human activities include fishing, recreation, and conservation. As part of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, the Site is significant for long-term monitoring and scientific education.

Tylygulskiy Liman

Site number: 766 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Odeska Oblast, Mykolaivska Oblast

Area: 26,000 ha | Coordinates: 46°49'59"N 31°10'E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tylygulskiy Liman. 23/11/95; Odeska, Mykolaivska Oblasts; 26,000 ha; 46°50'N 031°10'E. Ornithological Game Reserves, Regional Landscape Park. One of the purest limans (brackish lagoons) on the northwest coast of the Black Sea, the site includes accumulative islands, salt meadows, and sandy peninsulas. Vegetation consists of various species of hydrophilic plants and reedbeds and includes several endemic species. The site supports wintering, nesting, and autumn and spring migrating waterbirds, several species of which are nationally or internationally threatened. Over 25% of the European *Egretta alba* population winters at the site. Human activities include fishery, hunting, livestock grazing, recreation, and environmental education. Ancient Greek archeological settlements occur on the site. Ramsar site no. 766. Most recent RIS information: 1998.

Yagorlytska Bay

Site number: 116 | Country: Ukraine | Administrative region: Kherson and Mykolaiv regions

Area: 39,692.7 ha | Coordinates: 46°24'29"N 31°52'03"E | Designation dates: 28-02-1997

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Black Sea bay consists of several islands, saline lakes and temporary water bodies. It was originally designated in 1976 by the Soviet Union as part of the Site "Danube Delta and Tendrov/Yagorlytz Bays". In 1995, after accession of Ukraine, that Site was split into three: Yagorlytska Bay, Tendrivska Bay ([Ramsar Site no.768](#)), and Kyliiske Mouth ([Site no.113](#)). In 2021 the boundary of Yagorlytska Bay was extended to include a large system of saltwater lakes in the north, and the total area increased by over 5,600 hectares. It is one of the least-disturbed wetlands in the Black Sea coastal region and supports a high level of biodiversity with many endemic species. It is a refuge for protected animals such as the sandy mole rat (*Spalax arenarius*), the viper *Vipera renardi* and two critically endangered sturgeons, *Huso huso* and *Acipenser stellatus*. Located at the intersection of two migration routes, it is an important resting place and wintering area for many birds including the whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). As part of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, the Site is significant for long-term monitoring and scientific education.