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.

After Ukraine joins the EU, the Emerald Network will be connected to Natura 2000, a nature conservation network created for the same purpose within the EU.

In Ukraine, the Emerald Network includes:

377 protected areas

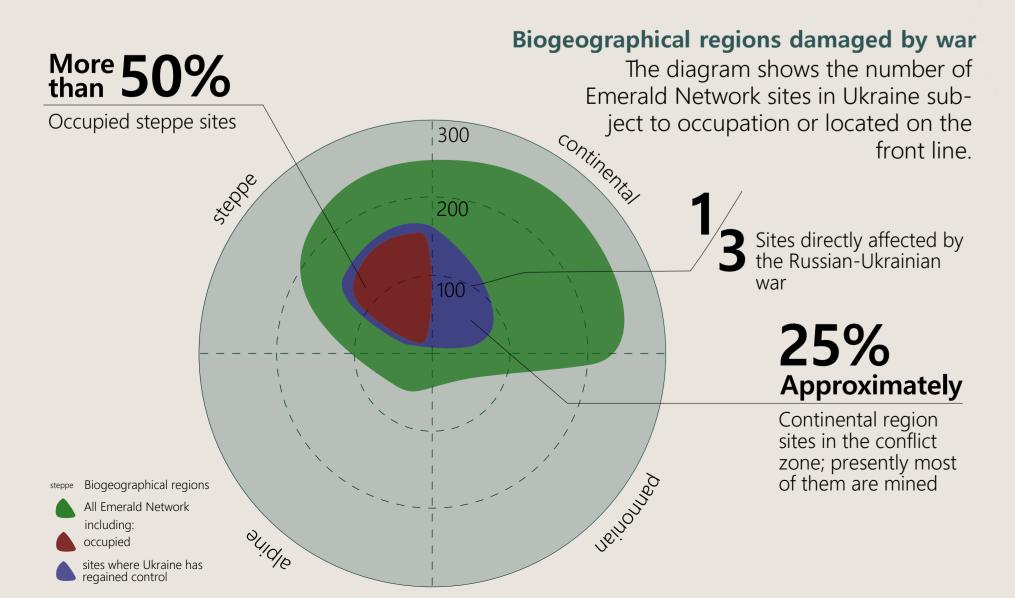
162 proposed areas

30% are impacted by war or occupation

including unique steppe areas

Steppe or alpine? Why biogeographical regions are so important

Biogeographical regions are areas with relatively homogenous environmental conditions and similar characteristics. Sites proposed for inclusion in the Emerald Network must conform to defined landscape requirements. In fact, there is a whole cycle of assessments, whose main purpose is to ensure that proposed areas truly meet the criteria for rare habitats and include rare species for a particular biogeographical region. Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network are designed on the basis of biogeographical regions. 4 biogeographical regions in Ukraine In size terms 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.



was ratified in

Ukraine.

How the Emerald Network was formed in Ukraine

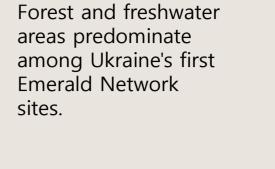
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2019 Mainly steppe and marine habitats were added to the Emerald Network.

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sites were approved Mainly steppe landscapes in river valleys were nominated.





Emerald Network sites and war

cial importance for cetaceans in

Europe (according to the ACCOM-

BAMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans).



20 species -

plosions.

At least 100,000 ha
of Emerald Network sit of Emerald Network sites were engulfed in fires resulting from the hostilities. Included are roughly 7,600 hectares of radiation-contaminated forests in the Chornobil zone.

Plants listed in Ukraine's Red

Book may disappear due to

large-scale fires caused by

shelling and munitions ex-



Over 50% –
Plants and ani Plants and animals listed in Ukraine's Red Book are harmed by mine explosions, deforestation, fires, noise from explosions, and military equipment.



15-30 times -Heavy metals con-

higher than normal.

Map Legend

••• boundaries of biogeographical regions

Emerald Network sites (protected and proposed)

Occupied sites

Sites where Ukraine has regained

Data as of October 29, 2022

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Source: Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group Image credit: Wikipedia

Crimean mud volcanoes

50 Active mud volcanoes in Crimea have been under occupation since 2014



known.

are on the Kerch Peninsula. They do not exceed 5 meters in height.

> Volcanoes emit methane and liquid clay rather than

Crimea's unique mud volcano habitats were included in the Berne Conven-

There are no current hostilities on the Crimean Peninsula, but tion at Ukraine's request. the state of conservation for fauna and habitats is un-