



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

Press Release

Monitoring Mission– LIFE Ukraine Project

Dates: February 19–20, 2025

Location: Czechia

Participants of the Monitoring Mission:

Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (NCA CR) – David Lacina, Marta Vojtková, Tomáš Růžička, Eva Knižátková, Jindřich Chlapek, Oleksandra Rieznyk, Tereza Kušnírová, Jonáš Gaigr, Petr Roth, Olga Svobodová, Ivan Mikuláš

Public Organization - Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group (UNCG) – Olexii Vasyliuk, Grygorii Kolomytsev, Anastasiia Drapaliuk, Anna Kovbasniuk, Anna Kuzemko, Svitlana Korobova, Yuliia Spinova

Environment People Law (EPL) – Olena Kravchenko, Iryna Vasylakiy, Hanna Khomechko, Solomiia Baran, Yulia Frantishkevych-Virsta, Zoryana Kopylchak, Dmytro Skrylnikov

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MEPR) – Pavlo Ivanov (participated online)

Monitoring Representatives:

Sylvia Barova – Project Advisor [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency \(CINEA\)](#)

Michala Marinakova - Technical monitor, ELMEN EEIG - Institute of Landscape Ecology of SAS

Mission Objectives:

The monitoring mission aimed to evaluate the progress of the LIFE Ukraine project after nearly a year of implementation. It provided an opportunity to review achievements, identify challenges, and receive recommendations for further improvements. The mission included:

- Assessment of project deliverables and milestones.
- Discussions with Czech conservation experts on nature protection strategies.
- Review of financial and administrative aspects of project implementation.

Agenda and Activities:



Day 1 – February 19, 2025

Opening Session:

- Presentation of the LIFE Ukraine project’s progress.
- Overview of implemented activities and achieved deliverables.
- Discussion on current challenges and proposed solutions.

Project Work Package Discussions:

- WP1 – Project Management and Coordination: David Lacina presented the project’s progress, highlighting timely completion of deliverables, regular partner meetings, coordination with a parallel LIFE project in Moldova, and ongoing monitoring efforts.
- WP2 – Legal Alignment with EU Directives: Dmytro Skrylnikov reported on progress in completion of all current deliverables, including the updated table of concordance reflecting the conformity of Ukrainian and EU legal systems. Anna Kuzemko reported on the selection process for species and habitats to be proposed for inclusion in EU conservation frameworks. The team applied a structured approach, prioritizing species listed in the Bern Convention, as well as species from Ukraine’s Red Data Book.

Day 2 – February 20, 2025

Project Work Package Discussions Part 2:

- WP3 – Governance and Management Models: Jindřich Chlapek shared recommendations on the institutional capacity and funding structures of nature conservation in Ukraine and Czechia. He outlined a comparative analysis of governance models. The discussion also covered recommendations for institutional reform and next steps in policy development.
- WP4 – Natura 2000 Promotion in Ukraine: Oleksandra Rieznyk summarized outreach efforts, including the successful September study tour, where 21 Ukrainian stakeholders and journalists visited Czech conservation sites. She highlighted ongoing activities such as organizing a citizen science event, developing a Natura 2000 toolkit, and enhancing stakeholder communication.

- WP5 – Sustainability and Future Planning: The discussion focused on preparing the After LIFE plan to ensure the continuity of project outcomes. The first steps include consolidating project results and drafting a framework for long-term conservation strategies.

Cross-cutting Topics: Monitors and project partners discussed implementation risks, potential project modifications, and sustainability planning.

Financial Review:

Detailed financial monitoring conducted with project accountants and financial representatives.

Additional Activities Prior to the Monitoring Mission:

Before the monitoring mission officially began, UNCG and EPL colleagues arrived in Czechia on February 17. During this time, the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic arranged an opportunity for the Ukrainian delegation to visit a Natura 2000 steppe conservation site in the Bohemian Central Highlands. This visit was separate from the official monitoring mission agenda and allowed Ukrainian colleagues to gain insights into steppe ecosystem management, conservation grazing practices, and restoration strategies. Additionally, on February 18, UNCG and EPL representatives participated in expert discussions on species protection, Natura 2000 site management, and cross-border conservation policies.

Follow-up Expert Session – February 21, 2025

After the official monitoring mission concluded, discussions continued between Czech and Ukrainian experts. The session focused on:

- Biodiversity monitoring methodologies
- The NDOP (Nature Protection Records Database) and its role in conservation planning
- Citizen science initiatives and their application in biodiversity research

These topics were presented by Czech experts, including Karel Chobot, Jonáš Gaigr, Ivan Mykulas, Petr Roth, and David Lacina.