



The pilot study covers the whole Ukrainian territory and focuses on 4 selected species - the White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), the Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) the Old World swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) and the Martagon or Turk's cap lily (*Lilium marta-gon*). All of them except the White stork are in the Ukrainian Red Data book. Nevertheless they are not extremely rare and it is easy to identify them in nature. Colour leaflets have been prepared for each of these species and, together with questionnaires to be completed by the public, have been widely disseminated in Ukraine. These documents, as well as additional information on the selected species, were put on the project web-site. Information about 721 new localities for three rare species (Stag beetle - 419, Swallowtail - 279 and Martagon lily - 23) has been received. In total information was received from 72 organizations including schools and NGOs. The information was obtained from 18 (70%) high level administrative units of Ukraine. Similar results were obtained for the White stork; in total 1,634 nests were counted in 21 oblasts of Ukraine by means of expeditions and questionnaires. During the pilot study 7 expeditions were conducted with a total route length of about 7,500 kilometres.

All the project results are on the web-site ([www.biomon.org](http://www.biomon.org)). On completion of the project the web-site will be used for further collection of data on Ukrainian biodiversity monitoring programmes and continued public involvement.

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## **SUPPORTING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN BUILDING CAPACITY FOR UKRAINIAN BIODIVERSITY MONITORING**



Biological diversity is the basis for human existence, an inherent component of the human environment. However, human impact has seriously disturbed the natural environment and threatened plant and animal wildlife and even whole ecosystems. Loss of biodiversity is now one of the key global environmental issues.

Ukraine occupies 6% of Europe and has at least 35% of the biodiversity of the continent or about 70 thousand species of plants and animals. In these terms the country plays a pivotal role in preserving the entire European biodiversity. As elsewhere, much of the biodiversity in the country suffers from human impact. However, in Ukraine there is no state system for biodiversity monitoring, which is an important element in plant and animal species conservation. To some extent, there is monitoring of some taxonomic groups of species in protected areas or monitoring conducted by some scientific centres or individual scientists at local or regional level. In general, public participation in monitoring of biodiversity in Ukraine is presently very low.

The aim of the current project, implemented by ECNC-European Centre for Nature conservation and NECU-National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, is the enhancement of Ukrainian capacity in developing biodiversity monitoring by increasing public involvement.

The project's aim was achieved by the following activities:

- identification of who is currently involved in biodiversity issues in general and in biodiversity monitoring in particular in Ukraine;
- making of an inventory of current monitoring activities in the country;
- conducting of a national seminar on biodiversity monitoring;
- identification of the needs of various user groups with regard to biodiversity monitoring;
- drafting of a national biodiversity monitoring programme;
- conducting a pilot monitoring study at local or regional level.

Through these activities the results listed below were achieved:



Databases of organizations and on key experts related to biodiversity monitoring have been created. These were based on the collection and analysis of information about research institutes, universities, protected areas, state agencies and NGOs. Both interactive databases are located on the bilingual (Ukrainian/English) web-site that was specially developed for the project [www.biomon.org](http://www.biomon.org).

Special questionnaires were developed in order to collect information about current biodiversity monitoring programmes being implemented in Ukraine. Their dissemination was supported by two letters - the first one on behalf of the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, the Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Botany; the second one on behalf of the State Service for Protected Areas, Ukrainian Ministry of Environmental Protection. In total data was collected on 95 monitoring programmes of different scales including international, national, regional and local. This information was made available in Ukrainian and English on the project web-site in the form of a database. An 'Overview of biodiversity monitoring programmes in Ukraine' was also published.



The national seminar 'Biodiversity monitoring in Ukraine: current status and perspectives', took place on 3-4 July 2007 in Kiev. More than 90 scientists and researchers attended the seminar and listened to a targeted series of presentations about progress in the field of biodiversity monitoring and the goals of the current project; for some people the seminar was the first time that they had been able to debate, share views and establish contact with colleagues doing similar work. The participants made significant progress through a number of active discussion sessions where they identified issues and barriers to change, began to form objectives for the future and agreed on the need for a coordinated strategy for monitoring biodiversity across their country.



The publication of a bilingual Strategy for Developing the Monitoring of Biodiversity in Ukraine has been a highlight of the project. It is based in particular on: the input from the project workshops and the national seminar; the information collected about biodiversity monitoring programmes; the identification of key actors and organisations in biodiversity monitoring; the list of key monitoring priorities; and the identification of the team members that will work on national monitoring. The strategy was prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.