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STRATEGY
for the Conservation of Biological Diversity of Ukraine for 2035

Description of the Problems that Necessitated the Adoption of the Strategy and the
Regulatory and Legal Framework for the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use
of Biodiversity

The species diversity of Ukraine's flora and fauna comprises to approximately 72,000 species. The flora includes approximately 27,000 species, including 5,100 species of vascular plants, 15,000 species of fungi and slime moulds, 5,000 species of algae, 1,200 species of lichens and 800 species of bryophytes. The fauna comprises over 45,000 species, including over 35,000 species of insects, nearly 3,500 species of other arthropods, 1,800 species of protozoa, 1,600 species of roundworms, 1,280 species of flatworms and 440 species of annelids, more than 270 species and subspecies of fish and cyclostomes, 22 species of amphibians, approximately 25 species of reptiles, more than 430 species of birds, and approximately 120 species of mammals.

Biological diversity (biodiversity) is one of the fundamental life-supporting components of the natural environment.

Today, biodiversity is being lost at a faster rate than at any other time in human history. On average, approximately 25 per cent of species across the assessed groups of animals and plants are threatened with extinction, indicating that around one million species are at risk of being lost over the coming decades. This trend will continue unless effective measures are taken to reduce the intensity of the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

The high level of anthropogenic pressure is causing the deterioration of biodiversity in Ukraine and accelerating its loss. Biodiversity is adversely affected by a wide range of factors — the destruction or degradation of natural habitats, the overexploitation of biological resources, and insufficient awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation among business entities, public authorities and the local communities.

The adverse impacts of these factors on biodiversity are reflected in the increasing number of plant and animal species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. The first edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine listed 85 animal species and 151 plant species. The second edition listed 382 animal species and 541 plant species. The third edition listed 542 animal species and 826 species of plants and fungi. The List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January

2021, and the List of Plant and Fungal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Flora), approved by Order No. 111 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 15 February 2021, comprise 687 animal species and 857 species of plants and fungi.

The main factors contributing to the deterioration of biodiversity include:

- changes in the structure, degradation and destruction of natural habitats;
- the destruction and overexploitation of biodiversity;
- climate change;
- ecosystem pollution;
- the impacts of invasive alien plant and animal species;
- increasing threats to biodiversity arising from genetic engineering and
- biotechnological activities;
- the insufficient scope and effectiveness of nature conservation measures;
- the insufficient level of environmental awareness and engagement of territorial communities and local self-government bodies in measures for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The main systemic problems adversely affecting the state of biodiversity are:

- the inadequate level of compliance with environmental legislation and the environmental responsibilities of citizens;
- the failure to take biodiversity impacts into account in laws and other regulatory and legal acts;
- the subordination of environmental priorities to economic considerations, competition between economic sectors and biodiversity conservation goals for the use of land resources, resulting in the reduction of natural areas;
- large-scale anthropogenic transformation and degradation of ecosystems, and the predominance of land uses unsuitable for the existence and conservation of biodiversity;
- the ineffective functioning of the spatial planning system as a tool for the long-term conservation of biodiversity, inadequate consideration of environmental aspects at all planning levels, and the use of outdated or insufficient information in spatial planning documentation;
- the limited scale of measures to restore land and water bodies degraded as a result of human activity, which do not ensure an adequate level of ecological resilience of biodiversity;
- the insufficient extent of protected areas and the absence of a coherent ecological

network necessary to ensure an adequate level of genetic exchange between populations and natural migration of species;

- the low effectiveness of the management of protected areas within the Protected Areas Network and other protected areas;
- the inadequate implementation of Ukraine's international nature conservation obligations regarding the conservation of flora and fauna species, natural habitats, and species' habitats within their natural ranges; the establishment and functioning of the Emerald Network; and the management of World Natural Heritage properties, Wetlands of International Importance, and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves;
- the insufficient scientific research into the status of species populations, plant communities, natural habitats and the habitats of species within their natural ranges that are protected or require protection; and the absence of an effective biodiversity monitoring system and databases for high-quality biodiversity assessment, effective planning and monitoring of the implementation of nature conservation measures;
- the inadequate scope of scientific research and methodological support for measures aimed at the restoration of species, their habitats and natural habitats, as well as the limited number of centres for the captive breeding (propagation) of rare species and wildlife rehabilitation centres;
- the limited number of national action plans for the conservation of individual species and the failure to implement approved national action plans; as well as the insufficient integration of biodiversity conservation into strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment processes;
- the neglect of biodiversity conservation by local self-government bodies, and the low level of awareness and institutional capacity of territorial communities to implement nature conservation measures;
- the insufficient integration of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the development and implementation of State economic policy, and the lack of effective cross-sectoral cooperation;
- the absence of effective public-private partnership mechanisms in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- the low level of public awareness of environmental conservation priorities and the benefits of balanced (sustainable) development, and the inadequacy of the environmental education and awareness system;
- the absence of effective environmental liability mechanisms and sustainable financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation measures, as well as

insufficient economic incentives for the implementation of nature conservation solutions across economic sectors;

- the low level of national and local funding for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use measures;
- the ineffective planning and monitoring of the implementation of nature conservation measures, limiting their effectiveness and long-term impact.

This Strategy sets out the policy direction for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 257/94-VR of 29 November 1994, and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by Decision 15/4 of 19 December 2022 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as the strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols for the period 2022-2030. The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out four long-term global goals for 2050 and 23 action-oriented global targets to be achieved through urgent action by 2030. The achievement of these 23 action-oriented global targets is expected to enable the attainment of the four global goals by 2050.

The implementation of this Strategy will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019, "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030".

This Strategy is based on Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, and the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2020) 380 final of 20 May 2020, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back into Our Lives.

Analysis of the Current Situation, Trends and Rationale for Addressing the Identified Problems

The goal of this Strategy is to ensure the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity by preventing threats to and the loss of biodiversity, the extinction of threatened species, and the destruction and degradation of natural landscapes and ecosystems; reducing the adverse impacts of pollution and climate change on biodiversity; preventing the introduction of invasive alien plant and animal species into Ukraine's natural environment; maintaining and preserving the genetic diversity of species

and their adaptive potential; preserving and maintaining ecosystem integrity and resilience; restoring and expanding areas of valuable natural sites and features; and ensuring the protection of plant and animal species, as well as their natural habitats.

This Strategy reflects an analysis of the current situation in relation to the 23 action-oriented global targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Spatial Planning, Land Use, and Changes in the Structure, Degradation and Destruction of Ecosystems

Spatial planning is a key instrument for the sustainable development of territories and should play a decisive role in ensuring the biodiversity conservation, particularly in the context of excessive landscape transformation and an unbalanced land-use structure.

In Ukraine, more than 70 per cent of the territory is used for agricultural purposes, and the proportion of arable land is among the highest in the world.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank, in 2022 arable land accounted for 56.8 per cent of Ukraine's territory, reaching 81.2 per cent in the Steppe zone and up to 90 per cent in the southern regions. By comparison, the average proportion of arable land in the European Union was 24.8 per cent in 2022, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank, and only 23.2 per cent in 2023 according to Eurostat (98 million hectares of arable land out of a total area of 422.5 million hectares).

The cultivation of land has resulted in the almost complete destruction of Ukraine's natural steppe ecosystems. Today, they occupy only 2-3 per cent of the country's territory, mainly in the form of fragmented remnants. Steppe biodiversity is on the verge of complete disappearance.

Grassland ecosystems, particularly within the Forest-Steppe and Polissia zones, are also undergoing degradation. Their area is rapidly declining as a result of land privatization, violations of the protection regimes of riparian protection zones, floodplain drainage, and the cultivation of the bottoms and slopes of gullies.

Freshwater ecosystems, which cover approximately 4 per cent of Ukraine's territory (around 24.1 thousand square kilometres), have undergone substantial changes as a result of large-scale land reclamation and river regulation, significantly altering their hydrological regimes and the functions of floodplains.

Ukraine is one of the least water-secure countries in Europe, while water use remains largely inefficient. Pollution of water bodies by organic matter, nutrients and hazardous substances has led to the deterioration of river basin conditions, as well as the coastal and territorial waters of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Of particular concern is the unsatisfactory condition of the Black Sea limans, most of which are part of the Protected Areas Network and constitute unique recreational resources.

Fish passes and other facilities ensuring the free migration of aquatic organisms are largely absent from regulated river sections.

The transformation of watercourses has resulted in declining populations of rheophilic fish species and other aquatic organisms, the loss of distribution ranges and migration routes, ecological fragmentation of freshwater ecosystems, and increasing eutrophication and pollution.

These factors have brought a significant proportion of aquatic species, including endemic and rare fish species, to the brink of extinction.

At the same time, Ukraine's water legislation does not provide a comprehensive mechanism for restoring the free flow of rivers or establish obligations to ensure migratory connectivity for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The implementation of the River Basin Management Plans for the Vistula, Dniester and Southern Buh River Basin Districts for 2025–2030, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1078 of 1 November 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 101, Art. 6478); the River Basin Management Plans for the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and Crimea River Basin Districts for 2025–2030, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1079 of 1 November 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 101, Art. 6479); the River Basin Management Plans for the Dnipro and Don River Basin Districts for 2025–2030, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1077 of 1 November 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 101, Art. 6477); and the Danube River Basin Management Plan for 2025–2030, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1347 of 31 December 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2025, No. 8, Art. 702), will contribute to improving the situation in this area.

Large-scale drainage reclamation has altered the hydrological regime of Polissia. As a result of drainage, peat extraction and intensive agricultural use, wetland ecosystems have undergone significant anthropogenic impacts. The total area of drainage systems in Ukraine exceeds 3.31 million hectares, enabling the expansion of agricultural land, particularly in Polissia. However, these activities have had serious adverse consequences, including a substantial reduction in the area of natural wetland ecosystems and a diminished capacity of landscapes to retain moisture, thereby increasing their vulnerability to drought. Wetland drainage also reduces the carbon sequestration potential of these areas, as peatland degradation results in substantial greenhouse gas emissions and transforms these ecosystems from carbon sinks into carbon sources.

Ukraine's coastal marine areas have also undergone significant anthropogenic transformation as a result of extensive development, land conversion and intensive use for tourism and recreation, particularly during the summer season.

The uncontrolled development of tourism along the seacoast over the past 20 years has led to widespread disturbance of ecosystems, posing a real threat to the destruction of particularly valuable coastal biotopes and natural habitats that are essential for the conservation of rare and vulnerable flora and fauna, particularly on the sand spits of the Sea of Azov, the Kinburn Peninsula and along the coast of Odesa Region.

According to European recommendations, forests cover 15.9 per cent of Ukraine's territory, which is below the optimal level. The vast majority of Ukraine's forests are managed by the forestry and hunting sectors and are therefore subject to active commercial use. Approximately half of Ukraine's forests are planted forests intended for subsequent clear-cut harvesting, while the age structure and species composition of their forest stands often do not meet the needs of local biodiversity. Only around 100,000 hectares of forests in Ukraine are natural old-growth forests, whose structure supports the effective conservation of biodiversity.

Urbanization, combined with the lack of adequate urban development planning, has resulted in the widespread destruction and degradation of ecosystems within urban areas. Intensive residential, infrastructure and industrial development has led to the rapid reduction of green spaces, natural landscapes and areas with preserved biodiversity, both within cities and in their surrounding areas. The unregulated expansion of urban agglomerations further deteriorates environmental conditions and reduces the ecosystem services provided by urban natural areas, including air purification, microclimate regulation, noise reduction and, more broadly, the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change.

Soils constitute a critically important habitat and play a key role in the conservation of biodiversity as a whole. Prior to the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, degraded and low-productivity soils covered more than 6.5 million hectares in Ukraine. The total area of arable land affected by water erosion alone amounted to 10.6 million hectares, representing approximately 32 per cent of all arable land. As early as the late 1990s, Ukrainian scientists emphasized the need to set aside approximately 9 million hectares of arable land for conservation, while some estimates place this figure at as much as 10 million hectares. However, the actual implementation of soil conservation measures has remained *крайне* limited or has been entirely absent. Military activities in recent years have resulted in the widespread destruction or severe damage of ecosystems. The principal consequences include chemical contamination, soil degradation, destruction of vegetation cover, and the contamination of extensive terrestrial and aquatic areas by explosive ordnance. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as of January 2026 approximately 13.7 million hectares of territory were contaminated by explosive remnants of war. An estimated 2.9 million hectares of forests have been affected by hostilities. Protected areas have suffered particularly severe damage: more than 800 sites within the Protected Areas Network, covering approximately

0.9 million hectares, or more than 20 per cent of the total area of Ukraine's Protected Areas Network, have been damaged or are under threat of destruction.

Against the backdrop of a significant imbalance in land use, spatial planning in Ukraine is still undergoing a transition from an approach focused primarily on the allocation of productive forces to one that integrates social, economic and environmental considerations.

At the national level, the principal spatial planning document is the General Planning Scheme of the Territory of Ukraine; however, it requires updating.

At present, all regions of Ukraine have approved regional spatial planning schemes, which were prepared at different times over the past twenty years. However, many of these schemes require updating, particularly with regard to the integration of biodiversity conservation considerations.

Comprehensive Spatial Development Plans for the Territories of Territorial Communities have been introduced. These serve simultaneously as local-level spatial planning documentation and land management documentation. As of 1 January 2026, such plans had been prepared only for a limited number of territorial communities. Comprehensive Spatial Development Plans strengthen the environmental dimension of spatial planning through the inclusion of a "Landscape Planning" section and the establishment of functional zoning for the entire territory of a territorial community, ensuring that changes in the designated purpose of land plots are consistent with the functional designation of the respective areas. This has the potential to contribute to the conservation of natural features and to the expansion of the Protected Areas Network.

A major obstacle to effective spatial planning is the lack of up-to-date and high-quality spatial biodiversity data. The development of the Consolidated Scheme for the Establishment of the National Ecological Network has not yet been completed, preventing its systematic integration into the planning process. Owing to the slow preparation and approval of regional and local ecological network schemes, the relevant information is rarely taken into account in the preparation of land management documentation, spatial planning documentation, or in the implementation of economic and other activities, notwithstanding Article 15(4) of the Law of Ukraine "On the Ecological Network of Ukraine".

Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems

Intensive economic activities, the high proportion of arable land in Ukraine, the overexploitation of natural resources, extensive interference with natural processes, and the impacts of climate change have resulted in the widespread degradation of the natural environment, including soils and forest, wetland, grassland, steppe, coastal, freshwater, marine, mountain and other ecosystem types and biotopes (natural habitats) that support a wide variety of flora and fauna. To date, no dedicated national studies have been

conducted to assess the extent and degree of ecosystem degradation. Nevertheless, based on the available data on land-use patterns, the level of anthropogenic pressure and the degree of ecosystem transformation, it can be concluded that:

- Ukraine's steppe ecosystems have been almost entirely destroyed, with the exception of a few areas within the Protected Areas Network; all remaining steppe ecosystems are at various stages of digression and degradation;
- grassland ecosystems have been predominantly transformed by human activities;
- the species composition and condition of forest ecosystems largely do not correspond to the natural forest types characteristic of the respective natural zones;
- freshwater bodies and wetlands generally have altered hydrological regimes and are affected by eutrophication, pollution, and the deterioration of the ecological and chemical status of water bodies;
- marine and mountain ecosystems are under an increasing threat of transformation.

The restoration of degraded ecosystems to their natural or near-natural condition is a national policy priority in the field of environmental protection.

National legislation recognizes the importance of ecosystem restoration measures; however, it does not provide a sufficiently comprehensive regulatory framework for their implementation, particularly with regard to areas that are important for biodiversity conservation.

The restoration of hydrological regimes and aquatic ecosystems is not adequately regulated under the Water Code of Ukraine. In practice, measures aimed at restoring water bodies are generally limited to clearing river channels of excessive vegetation or sediment and reinforcing riverbanks in accordance with national building standards, without taking into account the ecological requirements of aquatic flora and fauna (aquatic organisms). As a result, the effectiveness of such interventions in restoring the natural functions of aquatic ecosystems is significantly reduced.

Furthermore, there are currently no dedicated legislative instruments for the restoration of other ecosystem types, which hinders the implementation of a systematic approach to ecosystem restoration.

The restoration of ecosystems within the Protected Areas Network and the ecological network remains constrained by the absence of clearly defined legal and regulatory mechanisms for the proper designation, planning and implementation of restoration measures, as well as by inconsistencies between the legal provisions governing the use of natural resources and those regulating nature conservation measures.

The introduction of the agricultural land market has considerably simplified the legal framework governing the economic use of agricultural land, including changes to its designated land use.

At present, the practical implementation of ecosystem restoration measures is limited to a number of pilot sites, implemented primarily within the Protected Areas Network and financed mainly through international technical assistance. At the same time, no baseline assessments of ecosystem restoration needs have been carried out; the scale of ecosystem degradation and restoration priorities have not been determined; no national methodological framework for planning and implementing restoration measures has been developed; and there are no targeted national or regional programmes defining the mechanisms, scope, funding sources and implementation instruments for the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 requires Member States of the European Union to prepare National Restoration Plans.

Under the current conditions of martial law in Ukraine, the target of restoring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2030, as set out in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, is practically unattainable.

Nevertheless, at the national level it is possible to create the conditions necessary for achieving this target over the long term by:

- developing and implementing economic and legal incentives to promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems;
- developing scientifically sound methodologies and requirements for ecosystem restoration adapted to national conditions;
- systematically implementing restoration measures within the Protected Areas Network, the Emerald Network, Wetlands of International Importance, and other valuable natural areas.

These actions can provide the foundation for the large-scale implementation of ecosystem restoration initiatives during the post-war recovery period, taking into account the assessment of environmental damage caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Protection of Natural Areas and the Development of the National Ecological Network

Ukrainian legislation provides for the establishment of protected areas of different types, categories and levels of significance, and for their integration into a unified ecological network. However, the area covered by protected areas in Ukraine has not yet reached the targets established by legislation and remains insufficient to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.

The baseline target of 38.2 per cent of Ukraine's territory to be included in the national ecological network is established by the Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles

(Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine until 2030". However, this target has not yet been confirmed through decisions of local executive authorities and local self-government bodies approving regional and local ecological network schemes and ecological network development programmes. The Consolidated Scheme for the Establishment of the Ecological Network of Ukraine has not yet been developed. This situation facilitates the conversion of agricultural and forest lands from extensive to intensive use (including the conversion of floodplain grasslands into arable land), changes in land use, the disruption of vegetation continuity and wildlife migration routes, and the further fragmentation and degradation of ecosystems.

Regional ecological network schemes and/or ecological network development programmes have not been approved in Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi Regions, or in the city of Sevastopol. Furthermore, ecological network areas and sites identified under the existing regional ecological network schemes have not been incorporated into the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure", which complicates environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures. At the same time, regional and local ecological network development programmes and ecological network schemes should be updated to reflect changes in land use since their approval, as well as the adverse impacts caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Since Ukraine gained independence, the share of the country's territory designated as protected areas has nearly tripled. As of 1 January 2025, Ukraine's Protected Areas Network comprised more than 9,000 protected areas and sites covering approximately 4.2 million hectares, representing around 7 per cent of the country's total territory.

Accordingly, the area covered by the Protected Areas Network has not yet reached the target of 15 per cent of the country's territory established by the Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine until 2030" and other legal acts. A number of national nature parks, nature reserves and biosphere reserves envisaged under the Law of Ukraine "On the National Programme for the Establishment of the National Ecological Network of Ukraine for 2000-2015", as well as the Decrees of the President of Ukraine No. 774 of 27 August 2008 "On Urgent Measures to Expand the Network of National Nature Parks" and No. 1129 of 1 December 2008 "On the Expansion of the Network and Territories of National Nature Parks and Other Protected Areas and Sites", have not yet been established. Additional proposals have also been put forward for the designation of new protected areas and sites and for ensuring their protection, effective management and restoration of natural complexes and features, including primary forests, quasi-primary forests and natural forests, coastal and aquatic ecosystems and shallow marine waters, remnants of steppe ecosystems, and intrazonal natural forests (kolky) within the Steppe zone.

The designation of natural areas of international importance and the ensuring of their conservation are required for the fulfilment of Ukraine's obligations under international biodiversity conservation treaties ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Fifteen component parts of the transnational UNESCO World Heritage property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" are located in Ukraine and are appropriately protected within the respective national nature parks, biosphere reserve and nature reserve. Eight UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, or parts thereof, designated under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, are located in Ukraine. However, national legislation does not provide an adequate regulatory framework for World Heritage properties, their management, or compliance with the requirements and criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

In fulfilment of Ukraine's obligations under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 50 Wetlands of International Importance, with a total area of 951,455.81 hectares, have been designated within Ukraine. Although some of these areas form part of the Protected Areas Network, adequate attention to their protection, monitoring and management remains lacking or insufficient.

In fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Ukraine has designated 377 Emerald Network sites covering a total area of approximately 8 million hectares. However, national legislation still lacks provisions governing the monitoring and management of wild flora and fauna species and natural habitat types in accordance with the requirements of the Convention.

Ukraine also contains a significant number of valuable natural areas that have the potential to meet the criteria for international conservation designation; however, this potential remains unrealized.

To date, as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, approximately 30 per cent of Ukraine's protected areas have been destroyed or damaged. Conservation infrastructure, as well as the institutional capacity of protected area institutions and other conservation authorities responsible for the management of these areas and involved in environmental protection, the sustainable use, restoration and conservation of natural resources, has been substantially diminished.

During the post-war recovery period, priority should be given to the restoration of protected areas. This should include assessments of environmental safety and the impacts of hostilities on biodiversity, the preparation and implementation of National Restoration Plans, the restoration of documentation, legally established boundaries and infrastructure of protected areas, and the strengthening of the capacity of conservation institutions and professionals to effectively perform their functions.

The main challenges and barriers to achieving the goals of area-based nature conservation include:

- the absence of a coherent national policy and a clearly defined strategy for the development of the protected areas system, resulting in fragmented and ineffective management decision-making;
- shortcomings in the governance system of the Protected Areas Network, including both structural and functional imbalances among protected area institutions, public authorities and other relevant stakeholders;
- insufficient financial and material and technical support for the establishment and operation of the Protected Areas Network;
- the failure of biodiversity protection and monitoring systems within protected areas and sites to meet contemporary ecological requirements;
- the reluctance of landowners, land users and local self-government bodies to support initiatives for the designation of valuable natural complexes and features as protected areas because of the associated restrictions on economic activities;
- difficulties in identifying and demarcating the boundaries of protected areas and sites established during the Soviet period due to the absence of original designation documentation, including cartographic materials;
- the absence of effective compensation and incentive mechanisms for the designation of protected areas and/or the targeted management of areas important for biodiversity conservation;
- low salaries and the lack of adequate social guarantees and employment benefits for conservation professionals, making it difficult to ensure appropriate staffing;
- an insufficient level of environmental education, awareness and public outreach, contributing to the inappropriate use, degradation and loss of valuable natural complexes and sites.

Conservation and Restoration of Wild Flora and Fauna Species, Plant Communities, Natural Habitats and Species Habitats within Their Natural Ranges under Threat of Extinction

A significant decline in population sizes and the disappearance of certain wild flora and fauna species that were abundant at the beginning of the twentieth century have been observed in Ukraine. Some species have already disappeared entirely from the territory of the country, while others are on the verge of extinction, including:

- sturgeon species were included in the second edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine. The Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) is considered extinct in Ukraine;
- the population of dolphins in the Black Sea, previously estimated at 1.5-2 million individuals, declined as a result of commercial harvesting between 1931 and 1983, during which approximately 5 million individuals were removed. At present, the

total population of all dolphin species in the Black Sea is estimated at fewer than 200,000 individuals. All of these species are included in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021;

- ground squirrels (*Spermophilus* spp.), which were regarded as agricultural pests during the second half of the twentieth century and exterminated on a massive scale (up to several million individuals annually), are now on the verge of extinction. They are included in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021, and their total population does not exceed several thousand individuals;
- birds of prey and other bird species, including the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), steppe eagle (*Aquila rapax*), and pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*), no longer breed in Ukraine as a result of the loss of their characteristic natural habitats and food resources. Species on the verge of disappearing as breeding species from Ukraine, or probably already extirpated as breeding species, include the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), red kite (*Milvus milvus*), lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), and black-winged pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*);
- all bat species (order Chiroptera) exhibit declining population trends owing to their sensitivity to adverse environmental changes and anthropogenic pressure. All bat species are also included in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021;
- amphibians and reptiles, including the smooth newt, fire-bellied toad, pool frog, moor frog, eastern steppe viper, dice snake, Sarmatian rat snake, Caspian whipsnake, and European green lizard, which were formerly abundant in their respective habitats, are currently showing declining population trends. A significant decline in the population of the great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) resulted in its inclusion in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021. The natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) is on the verge of disappearing from the territory of Ukraine.
- bivalve molluscs inhabiting the limans and estuarine sections of the Dnipro, Southern Buh and Dniester rivers, as well as the river basins of the Sea of Azov region and Crimea, exhibit significant changes in species composition and population size. The current populations of native unionid mussels represent only

a few per cent of their mid-twentieth-century levels, while the most vulnerable species have declined to less than 1 per cent of their former abundance. The greatest population declines and range fragmentation have been recorded for the thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*) and the depressed river mussel (*Pseudanodonta complanata*). The European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) has almost completely disappeared from Ukraine's Black Sea waters;

- aquatic flora is undergoing substantial changes as a result of river regulation, eutrophication of water bodies and other anthropogenic impacts. Bremi's bladderwort (*Utricularia bremii*) and awlwort (*Subularia aquatica*) are considered extinct in the wild in Ukraine, while broad-leaved water-plantain (*Caldesia parnassifolia*) is classified as an endangered species. Lake quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris* L.), classified as Vulnerable in the List of Plant and Fungal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Flora), approved by Order No. 111 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 15 February 2021, occupied several hectares of the shallow waters of Lake Svitiaz during the 1950s-1970s. During field surveys conducted in 2000, only a single individual was found;
- grassland, steppe and other herbaceous plant species, whose populations are declining as a result of the destruction of their natural habitats and overexploitation as natural resources, are insufficiently represented in the List of Plant and Fungal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Flora), approved by Order No. 111 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 15 February 2021, owing to limited data availability and the long-term persistence of their populations. Mountain arnica (*Arnica montana*), which was harvested extensively in the Carpathians and the Pre-Carpathian region (up to 5-10 tonnes of dried inflorescences annually during the 1950s) for use in traditional medicine, was included in the second edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine as a result of overexploitation.

The above list is not exhaustive and merely illustrates the overall trend of declining species populations and the disappearance of species from the territory of Ukraine.

The adverse impacts of hostilities on Ukraine's biodiversity should also be highlighted. The destruction of the dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine caused the death of the vast majority of organisms inhabiting the Kakhovka Reservoir and the adjacent inundated areas. There is a high probability that the relict Dnipro population of the Danube crested newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*) and the Black Sea pikeperch (*Sander marinus*) has disappeared completely. The largest population in Ukraine of fringed water lily (*Nymphoides peltata* (S.G. Gmel.)), a rare species included in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021, has been destroyed. The unique landscapes of the Velykyi Luh National Nature Park have been completely lost. Following the flooding of downstream estuarine areas below the dam, populations of rare mammal species, including the sandy mole-rat (*Spalax arenarius*), Nordmann's birch mouse (*Sicista loriger*), and the northern three-toed jerboa (*Stylodipus telum*), suffered substantial declines.

The conservation of biodiversity components that are rare, threatened with extinction and subject to special protection requires targeted and comprehensive measures.

In this regard, it is necessary to expand the extent of ecosystems (landscapes) that provide habitats for protected wild flora and fauna species, as well as to expand the Protected Areas Network, since a significant proportion of such species or their individual populations, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges currently occur outside protected areas.

Many protected species are currently subject to significant adverse impacts from direct pressures, including poaching, illegal collection for trade, non-selective methods of commercial harvesting (fishing) of biological resources, excessive recreational pressure, and the impacts of invasive alien plant and animal species. Minimizing these impacts is one of the key goals of conserving biodiversity components subject to special protection.

The impacts of hostilities on threatened wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges constitute a separate and particularly serious threat. These impacts are multifaceted and include both the direct destruction of biota and indirect effects, such as chemical and noise pollution and the destruction of habitats.

The identification of measures for biodiversity restoration should be based on a realistic assessment of biodiversity losses. However, owing to the ongoing hostilities, access to the affected territories remains limited. Assessing these losses is further complicated by the lack of sufficient data on the populations and distribution of protected wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges in these territories prior to the introduction of martial law in Ukraine. This is attributable to the absence, at that time, of a national system for monitoring biological and landscape diversity and of baseline inventory data.

Remote sensing methods can provide only limited information, which requires verification through field surveys. Therefore, although assessing and addressing the consequences of hostilities are priority tasks in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, effective planning of restoration measures will become possible only after the termination or lifting of martial law in Ukraine.

To ensure effective biodiversity conservation, significant progress is required in the development and implementation of programmes (action plans) for the conservation and

recovery of threatened wild animal species, management plans for natural areas, as well as the captive breeding (propagation) and reintroduction of species into the wild.

Captive breeding of protected species followed by their release into the wild is currently carried out for only a limited number of species, primarily fish, which is insufficient to restore viable populations. There are individual examples of successful captive breeding (propagation) of mammals, including the European hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) and the European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*), amphibians, including the fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*) and the yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), and birds, including the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), at zoological parks and by individual business entities. At the same time, such activities require the further development of an appropriate legislative, methodological and infrastructure framework, as well as systematic targeted funding.

Improving the effectiveness of the protection and conservation of biodiversity components subject to special protection is impossible without reliable and comprehensive information on their status throughout Ukraine, particularly geospatial data. The absence of such information hampers robust assessments of species conservation status, analyses of population trends and changes in species ranges, the planning of conservation measures, as well as the monitoring of their implementation and evaluation of their effectiveness. Accordingly, it is necessary to expand scientific research and establish a monitoring system for species subject to special protection.

The lists of animal, plant and fungal species included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Flora and Fauna) require revision and improvement, as the species categories and the criteria used for their inclusion do not comply with internationally recognized standards, particularly those of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This prevents the establishment of an effective national system for assessing species conservation status, comparing data and calculating the Red List Index.

Certain fish species protected under international biodiversity conservation agreements, the binding nature of which has been approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, are not included in the List of Animal Species for Inclusion in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order No. 29 of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 19 January 2021, and continue to be intensively exploited by commercial fisheries.

Trade in Specimens of Wild Fauna and Flora

Trade in wild fauna and flora species, both domestic and international, has a negative impact on the status of wild populations. According to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the global value of illegal trade in such specimens exceeds USD 6 billion annually, making it one of the most profitable forms of transnational organized crime. Illegal international trade in specimens of wild fauna and flora also creates risks associated with the

uncontrolled spread of zoonotic diseases –infections transmitted from animals to humans – as well as pathogens that threaten agricultural and wild plant and animal species.

Violations involving the illegal collection of terrestrial invertebrates, early-flowering plants, birds of prey and songbirds from the wild, followed by their sale, are regularly recorded in Ukraine. Such trade is frequently conducted via the Internet and involves species that are in high demand among private collectors or are used for landscaping, hunting or kept in captivity as pets.

According to international conservation organizations, including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Ukraine serves as a transit country for the illegal trafficking of wild species, including exotic species, as well as products of animal origin, particularly caviar from wild sturgeon populations, and products of plant origin destined for Member States of the European Union.

In this context, there is an urgent need to strengthen state supervision (control), improve legislation aimed at preventing and combating illegal trade in wild species, and ensure the effective implementation of Ukraine's international obligations.

The origin, lawful acquisition of ownership, and legal movement of goods consisting of specimens of wild fauna and flora or products derived from them must be supported by the appropriate documentation in accordance with the requirements of national legislation and the international treaties to which Ukraine is a Party. The special use (taking or collection) of species included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine for commercial purposes is prohibited.

The legal framework governing the trade in wild fauna and flora remains insufficiently developed.

The following aspects of public policy on the regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora species require further improvement:

- ensuring an effective system of state supervision (control) over the domestic trade in wild animals and plants, including their breeding, propagation and keeping in captivity;
- strengthening law enforcement, including through enhancing the institutional capacity of the competent public authorities and improving inter-agency coordination;
- strengthening customs control over the movement of specimens of wild fauna and flora across the state border and increasing penalties for violations of legislation relating to illegal trade;

- enhancing the qualifications of customs officials and other public officials, as well as employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations engaged in the import, export, re-export and introduction of specimens of wild species;
- introducing modern technologies for monitoring and controlling online trade in wild fauna and flora, together with mechanisms for combating illegal trade, including the establishment of specialized systems for monitoring and verifying electronic platforms through which wild animals and plants are sold, and the introduction of automated analytical algorithms for detecting illegal offers and tracking illicit trade;
- establishing a national traceability system for wild animals and plants, covering the entire chain from their collection from the wild or captive breeding to the final consumer, using marking, microchipping and public electronic registers, including, where appropriate, blockchain technologies;
- promoting the development of licensed breeding centres and botanical gardens for the cultivation or breeding of flora and fauna species that are popular among consumers in order to reduce pressure on wild populations;
- organizing and supporting systematic information and awareness-raising activities aimed at promoting environmentally responsible consumption, reducing demand for rare species, and preventing the smuggling and removal of wildlife specimens from their natural habitats, taking into account the provisions of international biodiversity conservation agreements, the binding nature of which has been approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and the resolutions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- gradually harmonizing national legislation with the acquis of the European Union in the field of trade in specimens of wild fauna and flora.

Impact of Invasive Alien Species of Flora and Fauna on Biodiversity

The spread and adverse impacts of invasive alien species of flora and fauna constitute one of the most pressing global threats to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning. Ecosystems in Ukraine are increasingly affected by invasive alien species of flora and fauna. A significant proportion of alien species exhibit invasive characteristics, and the processes of their widespread establishment and dominance in natural biotic communities have reached the scale of biological pollution.

At present, the total number of alien species occurring in Ukraine has not been definitively established owing to the absence of a unified national database, systematic monitoring and comprehensive taxonomic inventories. According to estimates by scientific institutions, namely the M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of the

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and the Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, approximately 760 alien vascular plant species and at least 425 alien invertebrate and vertebrate animal species occur in Ukraine.

According to international scientific studies, approximately 10-15 per cent of alien plant and animal species become invasive by naturalizing in new environments, establishing self-sustaining populations and spreading rapidly. As a consequence, they displace native species, alter ecosystem structure, degrade the environment, pose risks to human health and cause substantial economic losses, particularly in the agricultural, forestry and water sectors.

To address this challenge through the establishment of an effective mechanism for the management of invasive alien species of flora and fauna, including preventing their introduction, controlling their entry into ecosystems, eradicating populations where appropriate, and mitigating their adverse impacts, the Biosecurity and Biological Protection Strategy was approved by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 668 of 17 December 2021, enacting the Decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of 15 October 2021 “On the Biosecurity and Biological Protection Strategy”. Furthermore, the Action Plan for the implementation of the Biosecurity and Biological Protection Strategy for 2022–2025, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 573 of 7 July 2022 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2022, No. 56, Article 3344), established 17 measures to address invasive alien species of flora and fauna. In implementing these measures:

- a draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Powers of Central Executive Authorities in the Management of Invasive Alien Species of Flora and Fauna, Including the Introduction of Measures to Prevent and Control Their Spread” was prepared;
- the Procedure for Classifying Plant and Animal Species as Invasive Alien Species of Flora and Fauna was approved by Order of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine No. 1368 of 29 January 2026;
- Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 290 of 15 March 2024 approving the Methodological Recommendations for Assessing the Existing and Potential Impacts (Risks) of Invasive Alien Species was adopted. These recommendations take into account the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/968 of 30 April 2018 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to risk assessments in relation to invasive alien species.

Training programmes on biosecurity and biological protection have been launched for personnel across a range of professions and qualification levels. Public information and awareness have also been strengthened through the dissemination of up-to-date information on the official websites and official social media accounts of central executive authorities.

Implementation of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 45 of 17 January 2025 approving the Procedure for Monitoring Biological and Landscape Diversity (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2025, No. 13, Article 993) also contributes to improving the monitoring system for invasive alien species.

The goals, tasks and measures set out in this Strategy complement previously established policy directions and are aimed at establishing a comprehensive system for controlling the spread and impacts of invasive alien species in order to ensure biodiversity conservation and facilitate the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

Impact of Pollution on Biodiversity

Long-term environmental pollution resulting from industrial activities, agricultural intensification, urbanization, and the challenges associated with the current stage of post-industrial transformation has led to the emergence and aggravation of significant environmental problems that adversely affect biodiversity.

One of the key challenges remains the eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems. Its intensification is driven by the widespread use of phosphorus- and nitrate-containing fertilizers and detergents, the improper application of fertilizers, and the failure of farmers to comply with recommendations on manure storage and the maintenance of riparian buffer strips. The situation is further exacerbated by the inadequate technical performance of wastewater treatment systems, the considerable deterioration of wastewater infrastructure, and the low proportion of wastewater receiving full biological treatment.

Although pesticide application rates per unit area of arable land in Ukraine are five to seven times lower than those in the Member States of the European Union, pesticide use continues to pose environmental risks, particularly to biodiversity.

Failure to comply with the requirements for the safe use of rodenticides frequently results in the secondary poisoning of wild animals that occupy rodent-based food chains. Additional risks arise from the use of obsolete pesticides and from non-compliance with requirements governing their transport, storage, disposal and decontamination. Despite the official prohibition of highly toxic substances such as dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), their residues continue to be detected in environmental monitoring programmes.

Plastic pollution is an increasingly serious environmental problem, particularly in aquatic ecosystems. Growing volumes of plastic waste in rivers, coastal areas and the marine

environment disrupt ecological balance and pose significant threats to biodiversity. Of particular concern is the accumulation of microplastics in the tissues and bodies of aquatic animals, which adversely affects their physiological condition, disrupts food webs and may have long-term consequences for human health through the food chain.

The overall environmental condition of Ukraine's ecosystems in the context of pollution requires urgent action, given its destructive effects on ecosystem structure, functioning and resilience.

Further delays in implementing preventive and corrective measures risk causing irreversible environmental changes, including the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services that underpin human well-being. The goal of such measures should be to reduce pollution to levels that minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Ukraine currently lacks a sufficiently developed system of scientific research aimed at assessing the impacts of different types of pollution on biodiversity. Although numerous incidents of mass wildlife mortality have been recorded in Ukraine and have attracted both national and international attention, including mass mortality events involving cranes, red-breasted geese and geese, systematic analyses of such incidents are largely absent. Cases involving the chronic or persistent mortality of small animals that do not result in mass die-offs have also received insufficient scientific attention. Numerous cases of honey bee mortality have received widespread public attention and may indicate similar processes affecting wild pollinators. These species are of critical importance both for ecosystem functioning and for the sustainable development of agriculture. However, systematic data on the impacts of pesticides and other pollutants on pollinator populations in Ukraine remain unavailable.

Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity

Ukraine has ratified:

- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Law of Ukraine No. 435/96-VR of 29 October 1996;
- the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Law of Ukraine No. 1430-IV of 4 February 2004;
- the Paris Agreement by the Law of Ukraine No. 1469-VIII of 14 July 2016.

By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 868 of 30 July 2021 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2021, No. 62, Article 3956), the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement was approved, providing for a 65 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, and submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1363 of 20 October 2021 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2021, No. 87, Article 5584), the Environmental Security

and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy until 2030 and the Operational Plan for its implementation for 2022–2024 were approved. Furthermore, by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 483 of 30 May 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 54, Article 3228), the Strategy for the Development and Implementation of State Climate Change Policy until 2035 was approved together with the Operational Plan for its implementation for 2024–2026. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1777 of 29 December 2021 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2022, No. 4, Article 256), the State Forest Management Strategy of Ukraine until 2035 was approved. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 489 of 21 May 2025 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2025, No. 48, Article 3304), the Strategy for the Development of the Hunting Sector of Ukraine until 2035 and the Action Plan for its implementation for 2025–2027 were approved. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1134 of 9 December 2022 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2022, No. 99, Article 6244), the Water Strategy of Ukraine until 2050 was approved. By Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 668 of 17 December 2021, enacting the Decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of 15 October 2021 "On the Biosecurity and Biological Protection Strategy", the Biosecurity and Biological Protection Strategy was approved.

Climate change has become a major factor increasing risks to biodiversity, particularly through longer periods of drought, more intense rainfall events, accelerated erosion processes, the spread of invasive alien species, and the increasing frequency and scale of forest and peatland fires.

To mitigate climate change and strengthen the adaptation of ecosystems and flora and fauna species, a comprehensive set of measures is required to restore the natural resilience of the environment. These measures include reducing the proportion of arable land within agricultural land as one of the principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions; maintaining and conserving pastures and hay meadows; conducting an inventory of peatlands and raising groundwater levels in drained wetlands; restoring the natural hydrological regime of water bodies, native forest stands and natural soil-forming processes; reducing the removal of biomass accumulated in ecosystems in order to increase carbon sequestration; and ensuring favourable conditions for species, particularly those dependent on aquatic environments, including aquatic organisms, amphibians, reptiles, waterbirds and wetland birds.

Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, founded on the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, should become a guiding principle in the relationship between society and nature, contributing both to biodiversity conservation and to the establishment of the foundations for sustainable natural resource management.

Protection, Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Biodiversity through
Balancing the Interests of Territorial Communities and National Conservation
Priorities

Achieving an appropriate balance between the economic use of natural resources and environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use remains a major challenge for territorial communities. The principal factors hindering the reconciliation of conservation and economic interests include the predominance of short-term economic priorities over long-term environmental goals, a low level of environmental awareness, and limited access to up-to-date, clear and easily understandable information on the state of biodiversity, its value to territorial communities, and their dependence on ecosystem services.

As a consequence, the environmental goals of national policy, including the establishment of new protected areas, the conservation of plant and animal species and their habitats, and the development of the ecological network, often receive insufficient support at the local level or encounter direct opposition.

The adoption of the Law of Ukraine No. 1423-IX of 28 April 2021 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Improvement of the Land Management System and Deregulation in the Sphere of Land Relations" has had a significant impact on biodiversity conservation. In particular, extensive areas of land were transferred to the jurisdiction of local self-government bodies without adequate assessment of their ecological value or consideration of biodiversity conservation needs. This approach has substantially reduced the range of instruments available for implementing national environmental policy, making it more difficult to protect valuable natural areas, conserve species habitats, and establish and develop elements of the ecological network on such lands.

The administrative and land reforms focused primarily on socio-economic goals and gave little consideration to environmental aspects and biodiversity conservation needs. As a result, they created systemic risks to the ecological integrity of natural landscapes and to the conservation of biodiversity on lands transferred to the use and management of territorial communities.

In rural areas, territorial communities are largely dependent on the use of natural resources, which tends to reduce the priority given to ecosystem conservation. The ecosystem services provided by these ecosystems still lack a recognised economic value. This imbalance between communities that rely on intensive exploitation of natural resources and those that maintain valuable ecosystems hinders the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030", within the framework of the implementation of national environmental policy. The absence of effective financial mechanisms that would incentivise territorial communities to conserve biodiversity, including compensation schemes, earmarked intergovernmental transfers and fiscal incentives, substantially limits their motivation to implement conservation measures.

In certain territories, violations of the protection regime of protected areas have been recorded, including the inappropriate use of land designated for nature conservation, as well as a lack of support for the establishment of new protected areas.

Such practices result both from the absence of effective economic incentives for territorial communities to protect the environment and from the lack of systematic environmental information, practical knowledge and accessible training programmes on sustainable natural resource management and modern ecosystem-based approaches to biodiversity conservation for representatives of territorial communities.

At present, effective mechanisms to support or restore traditional sustainable natural resource management practices capable of combining environmental sustainability with economic benefits for territorial communities have not been established. The absence of comprehensive ecological assessments of the territories of territorial communities with regard to their conservation value further complicates the integration of these considerations into local development planning.

The current situation demonstrates the need for a comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing challenges related to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use at the local level. Such an approach should include:

- strengthening the responsibility of local self-government bodies for biodiversity conservation, including the implementation of Ukraine's international obligations within the territories of the respective territorial communities and the exercise of delegated powers;
- establishing a system of economic incentives for territorial communities to implement environmental protection measures through compensation mechanisms, earmarked intergovernmental transfers to territorial communities within whose territories valuable ecosystems are conserved, and additional fiscal instruments to ensure the fair distribution of biodiversity conservation costs among territorial communities;
- introducing systematic environmental education programmes for representatives of territorial communities on biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, promoting the integration of environmental considerations into local strategic and planning documents, and ensuring access to up-to-date, publicly available information on the condition of natural resources within the respective territories of territorial communities.

Ensuring Sustainable Management of Economic Sectors and Increasing the Adoption of Biodiversity-Friendly Practices

The agricultural, forestry, fisheries and hunting sectors affect biodiversity both through the direct use of biological resources and through the management of the territories where these activities take place.

Agricultural land covers approximately 70 per cent of the territory of Ukraine (more than 42 million hectares), while forest land accounts for around 16 per cent (10.4 million hectares). Hunting is carried out across 64 per cent of the country's territory (38.8 million hectares) on lands under various forms of land use, including 8 million hectares of forest land, 29 million hectares of agricultural land and 1.8 million hectares of wetlands. Fisheries are conducted in marine waters and in most freshwater water bodies, with a total water surface area exceeding 0.8 million hectares. Consequently, ensuring the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of biodiversity is impossible without an appropriate environmental legal framework governing activities in these sectors of the economy.

The principal agricultural pressures on biodiversity include:

- the outdated and unbalanced land-use structure inherited from extensive agricultural production systems;
- the excessive proportion of arable land in Ukraine, which substantially exceeds environmentally sustainable levels;
- dependence on pesticides and agrochemicals, which are major sources of pollution in aquatic ecosystems and key drivers of the degradation of terrestrial ecosystems;
- widespread soil degradation, including declining humus content, soil contamination, and water and wind erosion;
- the limited adoption of biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, including organic farming, pasture-based livestock farming, regenerative agriculture and carbon farming;
- simplified agricultural landscapes with insufficient natural features providing habitats for wildlife, together with extensive areas occupied by monocultures.

Nevertheless, even within transformed agricultural landscapes, natural and semi-natural ecosystems persist, including fragments of woody and herbaceous vegetation, shelterbelts, watercourses and ravines. These features are of critical importance for the conservation of native biodiversity and require appropriate protection, conservation and restoration. Land managed under extensive agricultural practices, particularly pastures and hay meadows, is of particular ecological value, serving as refuges for rare and steppe species of flora and fauna while contributing to the ecological resilience of agricultural landscapes.

The commercial exploitation of aquatic biological resources remains one of the principal sources of anthropogenic pressure on the biodiversity of freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Additional important pressures include the incidental bycatch of juvenile aquatic biological resources during commercial fishing with small-mesh fishing gear, increasing fishing pressure on juvenile age classes of certain native fish species, intensive harvesting of immature aquatic biological resources during recreational fishing, insufficient artificial

breeding (stock enhancement) and restocking of commercially valuable native freshwater fish species in Ukraine's inland fisheries waters, and of migratory Azov–Black Sea sturgeon species threatened with extinction. These challenges have been exacerbated by the loss of artificial breeding infrastructure as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including the destruction of two of the country's three state-owned fish hatcheries. In addition, biosecurity measures in aquaculture remain inadequate, facilitating the spread of invasive alien aquatic species that displace native species. Mitigating the impacts of climate change, supporting adaptation and strengthening the climate resilience of the fisheries sector require targeted scientific and technical research and additional financial resources.

The biodiversity of forest ecosystems constitutes a substantial component of Ukraine's biodiversity, including protected species, communities and natural habitats. Timber is the principal resource utilized in forest management, while important non-timber forest products include mushrooms, berries and medicinal plants. In some regions, forests are also used for livestock grazing and beekeeping. Forest ecosystems play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, as a significant proportion of protected areas are located within forests. Forest conservation zones have been established to ensure the long-term protection of species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine, species included in lists of rare, threatened or otherwise scientifically or conservation-significant species, typical and unique natural complexes and features, breeding sites of wild animals, the oldest and most remarkable trees and tree groups, as well as other areas of particular importance for biodiversity conservation in forests.

In the context of current political, economic and climate challenges, there is an urgent need to modernize the legal framework, governance system and forest management practices to better integrate biodiversity conservation and fulfil Ukraine's commitments within the European integration process. There is also a need to improve forest information systems and data collection. Under current conditions, the financing system for the forestry sector remains inadequate, while incentives for the application of nature-friendly management practices are virtually absent. Forest certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) represents an important instrument for promoting sustainable forest management that contributes to biodiversity conservation and should be further expanded.

Among the key priorities for strengthening biodiversity conservation are bringing the species composition and structure of planted forests closer to those of natural forests, phasing out the cultivation of invasive alien tree and shrub species, completing the identification and conservation of natural forests, primary forests, old-growth-like forests and naturally regenerated forests, strengthening biodiversity monitoring in forests, and increasing overall forest cover. The accelerating pace of global warming is causing profound climatic changes that are reducing the vitality of forest stands. At the same time, insufficient attention has been given to climate change adaptation in the forestry sector. It

should also be taken into account that approximately one million hectares of Ukraine's forest fund are located in temporarily occupied territories. At present, no reliable information is available regarding the condition or even the continued existence of these forests.

Hunting in Ukraine is conducted predominantly on lands managed by the agricultural, forestry and water sectors and focuses on the use of a limited number of bird and mammal species. Ensuring the sustainable use of game resources requires a comprehensive approach to addressing current challenges. Priority measures include improving the procedure for granting the right to use hunting grounds, combined with mandatory periodic reviews of the performance of hunting ground users. Another important priority is the restoration and maintenance of optimal populations of game species, including through artificial breeding (restocking) programmes. Effective state supervision (control) over the protection and use of game resources, together with effective measures to combat poaching, including the illegal taking of species listed in the List of Animal Species Included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 29 of 19 January 2021, is essential for biodiversity conservation. Particular attention should also be given to the gradual phase-out of lead shot for hunting in wetlands of international importance because of its adverse impacts on the environment and bird populations. At the same time, the system for collecting, recording and analysing data on game populations, harvest levels and natural mortality within hunting grounds requires substantial improvement. It is also necessary to strengthen coordination between the hunting sector and other sectors of the economy, particularly with regard to the use of pesticides and agrochemicals and the prevention of damage caused by game animals to agricultural land. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 489 of 21 May 2025, the Strategy for the Development of the Hunting Sector of Ukraine until 2035 and the Action Plan for its implementation for 2025–2027 were approved, providing a framework for addressing these challenges and establishing an effective and balanced system for the management of hunting resources.

Supporting Ecosystem Services and Nature-based Solutions

Nature's contribution to human well-being is expressed through ecosystem services, which encompass all aspects of the contribution of biodiversity to the creation and maintenance of a viable living environment, human well-being and quality of life. Ecosystem services include, among others, the provision of clean air and water, soil fertility, natural resources, as well as cultural, spiritual and recreational values.

The deterioration of biodiversity reduces the availability of ecosystem services, adversely affecting human well-being, public health, economic stability and social cohesion. One of the key reasons for this is the insufficient recognition, both by society and institutions, of the value of ecosystem services, resulting in ineffective natural resource management. In

Ukraine, ecosystem services provided by nature free of charge have not yet been systematically assessed in economic terms, and their value is not taken into account in economic planning and decision-making. This is inconsistent with the approaches adopted in leading countries, including the Member States of the European Union. To ensure that the value of nature is adequately recognized and biodiversity is managed effectively, it is essential to establish a legislative framework for the assessment of ecosystem services and to integrate such assessments into planning, public administration and economic decision-making. This approach will contribute to the conservation of natural capital, sustainable development and the strengthening of the country's environmental security.

Ecosystem services can be conserved, enhanced or restored through the implementation of nature-based solutions.

According to the definition set out in Resolution 5/5 "Nature-based Solutions for Supporting Sustainable Development", adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022, nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems that effectively and adaptively address social, economic and environmental challenges while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits.

Nature-based solutions represent one of the key measures contributing to global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030". In particular, they provide effective responses to major social, economic and environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, disaster risk, urban development, water availability, poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment, while also promoting social development, sustainable economic growth, human health and a broad range of ecosystem services.

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to improve the legal and regulatory framework in order to formalize the nature-based solutions approach and integrate it into the development and implementation of national and regional policies, as well as into activities related to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, the water, forestry and agricultural sectors, and the activities of territorial communities. The implementation of nature-based solutions will contribute to biodiversity conservation and restoration, strengthen ecosystem resilience, improve quality of life and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030".

Development of Green and Blue (Aquatic) Spaces in Cities, Other Settlements and
Densely Populated Areas

In view of the large-scale processes of urbanization and the rapid growth of urban agglomerations, national policy on biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use should also be directed towards urban and peri-urban areas. This is due both to the presence of flora and fauna species capable of adapting to anthropogenic environments and to the potential to integrate biodiversity conservation measures into spatial planning and urban development. With appropriate spatial planning and environmentally sound management, urbanized areas can provide favourable conditions for the conservation of urban biodiversity.

As a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, a substantial part of the country's urban infrastructure has suffered extensive destruction, creating both new challenges and opportunities to rethink approaches to the reconstruction of Ukrainian cities. Post-war recovery should be based on the principles of sustainability while taking environmental considerations into account, including the integration of biodiversity conservation measures into the planning, reconstruction and development of urban areas. The conservation and restoration of urban biodiversity, the development of green infrastructure, and the protection and enhancement of green and blue (aquatic) spaces and ecological corridors should become integral components of strategic approaches to urban development and Ukraine's post-war recovery.

The concept of the sustainable development of settlements has already been incorporated, to some extent, into public discourse and national legislation. It is reflected in the Law of Ukraine "On the General Scheme for the Planning of the Territory of Ukraine" and is also taken into account within the framework of monitoring its implementation. An important step in this direction was Ukraine's accession to the New Leipzig Charter – The Transformative Power of Cities for the Common Good, which emphasizes the importance of creating "green cities" and recognizes that well-planned, well-managed and interconnected green and blue (aquatic) spaces are essential for ensuring healthy living environments, adapting to climate change, and conserving and restoring biodiversity in cities.

At the same time, Ukrainian cities continue to face systemic environmental challenges, including the poor overall condition of the urban natural environment, limited public access to green spaces, and the insufficient integration of modern approaches to assessing the quality and effectiveness of green spaces and urban biodiversity. The absence of standardized methodologies and indicators hinders the effective monitoring and evaluation of the environmental component of territorial community development strategies and their implementation plans.

The development of a legislative framework and strategic documents for the functioning and development of urban agglomerations, together with integrated territorial community development concepts, represents an important step towards embedding the principles of sustainable development in urban planning. All groups of the population, including

children and young people, should be involved in these processes as active participants in shaping an environmentally sustainable urban environment. At the same time, biodiversity conservation issues are often addressed less comprehensively than social or economic aspects.

Particular attention should be given to the establishment and development of urban ecological networks, which can become an important instrument for maintaining biodiversity, strengthening ecological connectivity within urban areas and creating a sustainable ecological structure in urban environments. Ensuring ecological connectivity at the local level will contribute both to nature conservation and to improving the quality of life of urban residents.

In view of the challenges associated with urbanization, continued support for and development of integrated approaches to urban management are required. This includes the continued implementation of integrated territorial community development concepts, the application of ecosystem services assessment and valuation approaches, and the preparation of master plans for settlements as components of comprehensive spatial development plans for the territories of territorial communities, taking biodiversity conservation goals into account.

Access to Genetic Resources and the Promotion of Fair and Equitable Benefit-sharing from Their Utilization

The conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity are essential for ensuring food, economic, environmental and social security, as well as the sustainable development of the country. Despite the critical importance of this issue, Ukraine has not yet established a comprehensive and effective policy framework for the management of genetic resources.

Accordingly, it is essential to expedite the implementation of the approaches, recommendations and indicators established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 257/94-VR of 29 November 1994, with regard to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. Priority tasks include the development of a national set of indicators for both monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, together with appropriate methodologies for their assessment.

The principal international legal instrument governing access to genetic resources is the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 1926-IX of 2 December 2021. However, Ukraine's national legal framework in this area does not establish clearly defined legal consequences for non-compliance with, or violations of, the obligations arising under the Protocol. The absence of effective compliance and enforcement mechanisms, legal liability, and procedures for implementing the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization

to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 1926-IX of 2 December 2021, significantly limits the country's ability to ensure the effective governance of genetic resources.

Other international instruments of particular relevance to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization include the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine No. 4823-IX of 25 March 2026, Ukraine acceded to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted on 3 November 2001, marking an important step towards establishing a comprehensive national system for the governance of genetic resources.

Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into All Sectors of Economic Activity and into the Development and Implementation of National and Regional Policies

Ukraine has adopted a number of strategic and policy documents across various sectors of public policy that include measures for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Goal 3 of the Basic Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine until 2030, approved by the Law of Ukraine No. 2697-VIII of 28 February 2019, provides for the integration of environmental policy into decision-making on the country's socio-economic development. One of its key goals is to incorporate the value of biodiversity into national, local, strategic and policy documents, as well as into economic development plans and sectoral development strategies.

The National Economic Strategy until 2030, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 179 of 3 March 2021 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2021, No. 22, Art. 1015), provides for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in sectoral policies and the improvement of the integrated environmental management system.

The Strategy for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas in Ukraine until 2030, approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1163 of 15 November 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 108, Art. 6884), identifies the development of organic production as one of the priority areas of the medium-term green transformation of agriculture, recognizing its important role in climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

The Operational Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Fisheries Sector of Ukraine until 2030 for the period 2026–2029, approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 226 of 12 March 2026 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2026, No. 27, Art. 1907), includes measures aimed at biodiversity conservation.

The Operational Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Transport Strategy of Ukraine until 2030 for the period 2025–2027, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1550 of 27 December 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2025, No. 8, Art. 665), requires that the planning, design and construction of transport infrastructure include the assessment of alternative options in order to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on the environment, conserve forests and protected areas, and reduce wildlife mortality.

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Hydropower Development Programme until 2026 (Annex 2), approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 552 of 13 July 2016 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2016, No. 60, Art. 2065), includes projects whose implementation would effectively destroy biodiversity within their areas of direct impact, including the construction of the Upper Dniester Hydropower Cascade and the Tashlyk Pumped Storage Power Plant.

The State Regional Development Strategy for 2021–2027, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 695 of 5 August 2020 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2020, No. 67, Art. 2155; 2024, No. 79, Art. 4627), provides for the establishment of an effective system for the management and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems; the promotion of afforestation on land under all forms of ownership; the conservation of naturally regenerated forests; the allocation by state authorities and local self-government bodies of land suitable for afforestation; and the assignment of linear protective forest belts and forests not currently allocated for use to permanent users.

The National Waste Management Strategy of Ukraine until 2030, approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 820 of 8 November 2017 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2017, No. 94, Art. 2859), and the National Waste Management Plan until 2033, approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1353 of 27 December 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2025, No. 13, Art. 1001), are aimed at reducing ecosystem pollution and the eutrophication of water bodies.

At the legislative level, biodiversity conservation is most comprehensively integrated into the Forest Code of Ukraine and the Water Code of Ukraine.

The Law of Ukraine "On Fisheries, Commercial Fishing and the Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources" also contains specific provisions concerning the conservation of aquatic biological resources.

A more systematic and comprehensive integration of biodiversity conservation principles into sectoral legislation is required, including the Land Code of Ukraine, the Code of Ukraine on Subsoil, the Law of Ukraine "On Pesticides and Agrochemicals", and other legal acts governing the use of natural resources and activities affecting the environment.

The integration of biodiversity conservation mechanisms into policy development and implementation, as well as into other sectors of the economy, is inseparable from

Ukraine's European integration process. The goals established by Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 can only be achieved through the integration of biodiversity conservation measures into the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. Likewise, the coherent European ecological network of special conservation areas known as Natura 2000, established under Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, requires cooperation and consensus among landowners and land users, business operators, civil society representatives, local state administrations and local self-government bodies. In practice, this constitutes the integration of biodiversity conservation into other sectors of the economy at the local level, particularly agriculture and forestry.

The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has caused extensive damage to biodiversity and has underscored the need to integrate biodiversity conservation into the country's green post-war recovery, including land remediation and demining, the restoration of damaged ecosystems, and the establishment of new protected areas.

Encouraging Business Entities to Monitor, Assess and Disclose the Impacts of Their Activities on Biodiversity

Economic activity depends to a significant extent on natural resources and ecosystems, which provide the essential conditions for the operation and development of businesses. However, these interdependencies often remain unidentified or undervalued, resulting in adverse impacts on the environment. The integration of biodiversity conservation into business practices should be ensured through the systematic assessment of interactions between economic activities and ecosystems, the identification of biodiversity-related risks and adverse impacts, the establishment of regular monitoring, transparent disclosure and reporting mechanisms, and the development and implementation of measures aimed at minimizing adverse impacts on biodiversity, including measures for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.

To monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030", particularly with regard to biodiversity conservation, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in cooperation with international partners, operates an official online information platform for the systematic collection, processing, publication and updating of statistical data on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The platform is intended to ensure the openness, transparency and accessibility of information for public authorities, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations and the public.

Business entities operating in Ukraine may submit annual reports through their participation in the United Nations Global Compact, thereby promoting greater transparency, openness, responsibility and accountability in the field of sustainable development. Participants in the United Nations Global Compact undertake to comply with its Ten Principles covering human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption, and to publish annually a Communication on Progress (CoP), which provides information on the measures, results and policies adopted to implement those principles.

One of the systemic challenges is the limited awareness, motivation and engagement of business entities in biodiversity conservation. Most businesses do not identify their impacts on biodiversity or the associated environmental risks and often lack access to practical tools, mechanisms and solutions for minimizing such impacts. At the same time, Ukrainian legislation does not establish clear and mandatory requirements or procedures for businesses to reduce the adverse impacts of their activities on biodiversity, resulting in insufficient engagement by the private sector.

Significant challenges also remain in integrating biodiversity conservation considerations into supply chains, particularly due to the high costs of implementing environmental requirements and the limited availability of financial and human resources.

European Union legislation requires business entities to disclose information on the environmental impacts of their activities, as well as the related risks and opportunities, thereby enabling investors, consumers and the public to assess the sustainability and responsibility of businesses in line with the European Union's transition towards a greener economy.

In order to approximate national legislation to that of the European Union and fulfil its European integration commitments, Ukraine should progressively incorporate sustainable development-related non-financial reporting requirements into its legal framework. These requirements should oblige business entities to report systematically on environmental risks and the measures taken to mitigate them. This will strengthen corporate accountability, facilitate the integration of environmental considerations into business practices, and promote a balanced relationship between economic activity and biodiversity conservation.

Within the European Union, sustainability reporting is regulated by Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU as regards corporate sustainability reporting. This Directive amended Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC.

The harmonization of national legislation with Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector, and Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, will provide the basic legal framework for implementing sustainable development requirements in Ukraine.

To ensure the effective implementation of sustainable development principles within the private sector, it is advisable to introduce mandatory disclosure by business entities of environmental information relating to their activities; develop methodological guidance for the preparation of non-financial reports; establish a national system for monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030, established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030", particularly with regard to biodiversity conservation and the responsible use of natural resources; establish a national electronic platform for the centralized collection, verification and analysis of corporate sustainability reports; and introduce fiscal incentives, including tax incentives and co-financing mechanisms, for businesses implementing biodiversity conservation initiatives, reducing adverse impacts on ecosystems and supporting ecosystem restoration projects. These legislative and regulatory measures will contribute to the development of a responsible and environmentally conscious business environment in Ukraine and facilitate its gradual integration into the European Union's single market.

Promoting Sustainable Consumption

The excessive consumption of natural resources, particularly non-renewable resources, represents one of the principal threats to the environment, including biodiversity, while also creating significant social and economic risks. At present, approximately 80 per cent of energy consumption is supplied by fossil fuels, the use of which is a major driver of global climate change. This process directly affects flora and fauna by causing the degradation of natural habitats and the loss of ecosystem services.

At the same time, the excessive use of water resources also contributes to ecosystem degradation. Average daily water consumption in Ukraine exceeds 260 litres per person, significantly surpassing environmentally sustainable levels. A resident of a city such as Kyiv generates more than 600 kilograms of municipal waste annually, most of which is not properly recycled, contributing to environmental pollution and the degradation of natural areas. Consequently, unsustainable consumption leads to the depletion of natural resources, including forests, soils and water resources; the disruption of ecosystem

functioning; the destruction of natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges; biodiversity loss; increasing volumes of waste and environmental pollution; and the acceleration of climate change.

Ukraine has already taken steps towards implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These commitments are established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030" and further specified in Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1190 of 29 November 2024 "Certain Issues of Ensuring the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ukraine" (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 100, Art. 7064), which sets out the tasks and indicators for achieving these goals, including Goal 12, "Responsible Consumption and Production".

To establish the principles of the sustainable (responsible) consumption of natural resources in national legislation, the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Modernizing State Policy towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Promoting the Introduction of a Sustainable Model of Natural Resource and Product Consumption" (Registration No. 6544 of 24 January 2022) was prepared and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Further progress in implementing the principles of responsible consumption in Ukraine requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account international best practices, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030 established by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 722 of 30 September 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030", the development and application of modern resource-efficient technologies, the introduction of appropriate monitoring and enforcement measures, the strengthening of accountability, and the implementation of public awareness and information campaigns.

Strengthening Biosafety

Genetically modified organisms, genetically modified products and other biotechnology products offer significant opportunities for economic development, enhanced food security and the reduction of anthropogenic pressure on the environment. However, their use requires effective government regulation, sound risk management and a high level of biosafety in accordance with international standards.

The Biosafety and Biosecurity Strategy was approved by Presidential Decree of Ukraine No. 668 of 17 December 2021 "On the Decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of 15 October 2021 'On the Biosafety and Biosecurity Strategy'". The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Strategy for 2022–2025 was approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 573 of 7 July 2022 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2022, No. 56, Art. 3344). The further development of the legal and regulatory framework in this area should provide for the expansion of

government control mechanisms governing genetically modified organisms and genetically modified products throughout all stages of their handling.

The Law of Ukraine "On State Regulation of Genetic Engineering Activities and State Control over the Placing on the Market of Genetically Modified Organisms and Products", which establishes the legal and organizational framework for the regulation of genetic engineering activities, ensures the country's environmental, genetic, food and biological safety, and provides for state control over the placing on the market of genetically modified organisms and products, will enter into force on 16 September 2026.

By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 451 of 15 April 2025, the Procedure for Maintaining the State Register of Genetically Modified Organisms was approved.

At the same time, shortcomings remain in Ukraine's biosafety system, particularly with regard to inter-agency coordination, monitoring and control over the circulation of genetically modified organisms and products.

At the same time, the development of biotechnology is an important factor in the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. Accordingly, Ukraine should promote investment in biotechnology related to food production and biodiversity conservation, develop dedicated state support programmes for the biotechnology sector, and integrate the principles of biosafety and sustainable development into national economic development policies.

Reforming Economic Incentives That Have Harmful Impacts on Biodiversity

Environmentally harmful subsidies are government interventions in economic activity that create economic advantages for certain business entities while placing others at a disadvantage, thereby encouraging activities that directly or indirectly cause harm to the environment and biodiversity.

Reforming economic incentives and reviewing environmentally harmful subsidies is one of the key priorities for improving financial and economic mechanisms in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

At the same time, Ukraine's financial system also includes subsidies that have positive impacts on biodiversity. These primarily consist of allocations from the state and local budgets for environmental protection measures, including biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, extractive industries, energy, transport and infrastructure sectors, in accordance with Article 6 of the Law of Ukraine "On State Aid to Business Entities", Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1060 of 11 October 2021 "On Approval of the Criteria for Assessing the Compatibility of State Aid to Business Entities for Environmental Protection" (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2021, No. 82, Art. 5259), and Order of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine No. 433 of 30 December 2022 "On Approval of the Methodological Provisions for the State

Statistical Survey 'Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts'. The principal shortcomings of subsidies that have positive impacts on biodiversity are their limited availability, the underdevelopment of indirect support mechanisms, and their relatively weak incentive effect in promoting environmentally beneficial actions. This is attributable both to limited financial resources and to shortcomings in the legislative framework governing economic incentives designed to encourage business entities to undertake activities that contribute to the conservation, restoration and recovery of biodiversity.

Financial Resources from National and International Sources for the Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Recovery Measures

Ukraine has established a financing system for measures related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity as an integral part of the broader environmental protection financing framework. Environmental legislation establishes a direct link between the implementation of environmental protection measures and the scope and sources of their financing. The financing of environmental protection measures, including expenditures on biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas, is governed by the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Protection", the Budget Code of Ukraine, the Law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the relevant fiscal year, and decisions of local councils regarding their respective budgets.

The principal economic instrument for financing measures in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use is expenditure on biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas. This indicator covers all expenditures aimed at generating positive impacts on biodiversity and reducing or eliminating anthropogenic pressures. Since 2008, these expenditures have been reported, as part of total environmental protection expenditure, under four main categories:

- protection and restoration of populations of flora and fauna species and the conservation of their habitats;
- conservation of natural and landscape features, and the establishment, maintenance and protection of protected areas;
- permitting and other administrative procedures;
- monitoring and laboratory research.

During the period 2018-2023, capital investments financed from the state and local budgets supported biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas, including measures for the protection, restoration and recovery of flora and fauna species; the restoration, rehabilitation and recovery of degraded habitats in order to strengthen their natural functions and preserve their genetic heritage; and the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

At the same time, there has been a tendency towards an almost equal contribution to current financing for biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas from,

on the one hand, the state and local budgets and, on the other hand, the own resources of business entities, together with bank loans and other borrowings.

These trends indicate persistent systemic underfunding of both capital investments and current expenditures on environmental protection measures, despite increasing financial support from international donors and non-reimbursable international assistance. Within a single year (from 2020 to 2021), funding from international sources increased from UAH 1.42 million to UAH 30.59 million. Although funding declined following the onset of the Russian Federation's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, it has remained at no less than UAH 15 million annually.

Ensuring adequate financing for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use therefore remains an urgent priority requiring immediate action to address existing challenges and the consequences of martial law in Ukraine.

This conclusion is supported by an analysis of the share of biodiversity conservation and natural area protection expenditure in Ukraine's nominal gross domestic product during the period 2018–2023. The analysis shows that this share remained virtually unchanged at approximately 0.0002 per cent, with only minor fluctuations, despite a 1.82-fold increase in nominal gross domestic product. This demonstrates the persistent systemic underfunding of the sector.

Additional opportunities for increasing financing for biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas exist within the national financial mechanism for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use. At the same time, further financial resources could be mobilized through market-based financial mechanisms and instruments for biodiversity conservation that remain either insufficiently developed or entirely absent, including payments for ecosystem services. Compared with fiscal instruments, these mechanisms have greater potential to encourage the integration of environmental goals into the economic interests and decision-making of business entities.

The principal financing challenges in the field of biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas that require resolution include:

- the critically low level of financing for the protection and restoration of populations of flora and fauna species, the conservation of their habitats, the protection of natural and landscape features, the establishment and maintenance of protected areas, and other key measures related to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- the low environmental and economic effectiveness of financial mechanisms supporting biodiversity conservation, particularly their limited capacity to encourage business entities to reduce and eliminate anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity in the course of their economic activities;

- the insufficient development of market-based financial mechanisms and instruments for biodiversity conservation, including payments for ecosystem services, despite their significant potential to increase financial flows for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- the absence of a legal and institutional framework for introducing dedicated public-private partnership mechanisms in sectors such as energy, transport, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the extractive industries in order to establish a stable financial basis for biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas;
- ineffective mechanisms for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of environmental legislation, inconsistencies between tax legislation and environmental legislation, and the absence of a coherent legal framework for promoting environmentally oriented innovation and investment;
- the underdeveloped legal and regulatory framework governing the financing of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use measures;
- the absence of a comprehensive system for tracking financial flows related to biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas, including environmentally harmful subsidies.

The principal systemic challenge in financing biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use is the absence of a comprehensive financial monitoring and management system capable of meeting both Ukraine's national needs and its international commitments, compounded by an underdeveloped and fragmented legislative framework governing public financial policy in the field of biodiversity conservation and the protection of natural areas.

Strengthening Capacity for Access to and Dissemination of Technologies, and Promoting Innovation, Scientific and Technical Cooperation

Achieving the goals in this area is based on three interrelated components: the development of national scientific, technological and innovation capacity; technology transfer; and scientific and technical cooperation. These components are essential for integrating innovation into biodiversity conservation and enable coordinated action at the global, national and local levels.

At the same time, funding for scientific research, including research supporting biodiversity conservation, remains limited, hindering the development and application of new technologies and approaches. The insufficient diversification of funding sources for biodiversity conservation measures, particularly the limited participation of the private sector and the inadequate level of public funding, calls for a substantial increase in investment. The fragmentation of research infrastructure, further exacerbated by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, significantly impedes

comprehensive research, data exchange and the preparation of high-quality scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals. The shortcomings of existing biodiversity and landscape diversity reporting and monitoring systems require greater centralization, digitalization and open access to data for all relevant stakeholders. At the same time, the outflow of highly qualified specialists in biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use has weakened the country's human resource capacity. In addition, insufficient coordination among research institutions, together with the lack of effective mechanisms for cooperation between science, business and government, continues to constrain the development and implementation of innovation in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

Achieving the goals related to innovation, technology development, and scientific and technical cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use therefore requires further improvement of the legal and regulatory framework, the creation of conditions conducive to private investment, the development of modern research infrastructure, support for human capital, and the establishment of sustainable mechanisms for scientific and technical cooperation.

A particularly important priority is to strengthen national scientific, technological and innovation capacity by improving access to technologies, promoting technology transfer, and actively fostering innovation and scientific and technical cooperation.

For Ukraine, participation in international cooperation mechanisms under North–South, South–South and other cooperation initiatives, including trilateral partnerships bringing together countries at different levels of development, represents a particularly promising avenue. Such cooperation will facilitate the effective implementation of biodiversity conservation measures, help address pressing environmental challenges, and strengthen Ukraine's integration into global environmental processes.

At the national level, priority actions include establishing effective mechanisms for integrating international technologies and knowledge, developing partnerships for the exchange of experience, building a robust national innovation ecosystem, and integrating it into the global research and innovation landscape through international networks, technical assistance programmes and scientific exchange initiatives.

Particular attention should be given to modernizing research infrastructure, expanding monitoring capacity, especially through the use of digital technologies and remote sensing methods, and developing practical tools that support the implementation of biodiversity conservation goals at all levels of governance.

Ensuring the Availability of Up-to-Date, Reliable and Scientifically Sound Data,
Information, Knowledge and Innovation for Effective, Equitable, Integrated and
Participatory Governance, and Raising Public Awareness in the Field of Biodiversity
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use

Information on the dynamics of wild flora and fauna populations, the structure of their communities and the condition of ecosystems is essential for informed decision-making in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use. Such information is also indispensable for the effective implementation of these decisions.

Ensuring broad public access to information on the state of biodiversity and its role in maintaining a healthy environment is an important mechanism for implementing citizens' right to an environment that is safe for life and health, as guaranteed by Article 50 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Obtaining such data and information is possible only through systematic (continuous or periodic) biodiversity observations and surveys, followed by their analysis and synthesis within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring System.

Biodiversity data in Ukraine remain scattered, fragmented and of limited accessibility, even for scientific institutions. The principal reasons for this situation include inadequate funding, insufficient technical capacity and limited human resources, which prevent the establishment of a comprehensive and continuous biodiversity monitoring system and the proper dissemination of relevant information.

To address these challenges, the Law of Ukraine No. 2973-IX of 20 March 2023 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the State Environmental Monitoring System, Information on the State of the Environment (Environmental Information), and Information Support for Environmental Governance" introduced amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Protection" providing for the establishment of a Biological and Landscape Diversity Monitoring Subsystem within the State Environmental Monitoring System. To implement the provisions of this Law, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution No. 45 of 17 January 2025 approving the Procedure for Biological and Landscape Diversity Monitoring.

The next step in establishing the Biological and Landscape Diversity Monitoring Subsystem is the development of monitoring programmes at the national, regional, local and site levels. Equally important is ensuring the operation of information and analytical systems for biological and landscape diversity conservation and their integration into the National Environmental Automated Information and Analytical System for Decision Support and Access to Environmental Information and its network.

The organisation and implementation of biodiversity monitoring require strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of monitoring authorities, including through:

- introducing modern biodiversity observation and monitoring technologies, such as automated camera traps for monitoring terrestrial mammals, acoustic recording devices for monitoring birds, bats and marine mammals, Earth observation systems, geographic information systems for landscape monitoring using openly

available satellite data, and genetic methods for assessing the status of populations, particularly in aquatic ecosystems and for rare species;

- ensuring the sustainable development of human capacity for biodiversity monitoring by preserving, restoring and strengthening scientific institutions and conservation organisations, while supporting professionals through education and training programmes, internships, scientific exchange and grant funding;
- providing systematic public support for scientific research in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities of public authorities, local self-government bodies and civil society organisations in biodiversity monitoring and nature conservation;
- creating conditions for the restoration and modernization of the technical infrastructure of monitoring authorities affected by hostilities, while ensuring the continuity and safety of monitoring activities during armed conflicts.

These measures are essential for ensuring the effective functioning of the Biological and Landscape Diversity Monitoring Subsystem, particularly under the conditions of martial law in Ukraine, which has resulted in the forced displacement of specialists, the loss of human resources, the destruction of equipment and a reduction in public funding for biodiversity monitoring and conservation.

Ensuring Representation and Participation in Decision-making, as well as Access to Justice for Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use

The indigenous peoples of Ukraine – the Crimean Tatars, Karaites and Krymchaks – have limited opportunities to participate in the management of natural resources within their traditional territories. Ukraine does not yet provide legally established guarantees of collective rights to lands, territories and other natural resources for its indigenous peoples in accordance with international standards. This limits their ability to maintain ecosystems through traditional land-use practices, which constitute an important component of biodiversity conservation.

The temporary occupation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, condemned by the international community in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine", has further restricted the environmental rights of the indigenous peoples of Ukraine, including by depriving them of access to their traditional lands and natural resources. The indigenous peoples of Ukraine continue to lack guaranteed rights to own or use their traditional territories, which limits their participation in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. At the same time, Ukraine lacks effective systems for monitoring land-use change within the traditional territories of its indigenous peoples, creating risks of the loss of land rights and ecosystem degradation.

Environmental risks associated with biodiversity loss have particularly severe impacts on vulnerable population groups, including persons with disabilities, residents of frontline areas and internally displaced persons. These groups often face limited access to environmental information, natural resources and decision-making processes relating to environmental protection. A significant proportion of vulnerable populations live in areas exposed to heightened environmental risks, including pollution, ecosystem degradation and flooding, yet they remain insufficiently involved in the development and adoption of environmental decisions that directly affect their safety and access to natural resources. Persons with disabilities, in particular, frequently encounter physical and institutional barriers that limit their participation in environmental monitoring and biodiversity conservation activities. This contributes to increased social inequality and unequal access to natural resources and the protection of environmental rights

Ensuring Gender Equality and Integrating a Gender-responsive Approach into Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use

Women play a key role in the use and conservation of natural resources at the household and territorial community levels.

At the same time, their participation in environmental decision-making, access to natural resources, and opportunities for professional growth and career development remain limited.

Gender considerations are absent from, or insufficiently reflected in, most strategic and policy documents in the field of environmental protection.

A gender-responsive approach has not yet been fully integrated into public policy on biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, resulting in insufficient consideration of the specific needs and priorities of women and men with regard to access to natural resources, employment opportunities and participation in decision-making.

To address these challenges, it is necessary to integrate a gender-responsive approach into biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use in accordance with the goals of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the principles of the European Green Deal and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those relating to inclusiveness and equitable decision-making.

Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men to participate in decision-making and to access natural resources and professional development opportunities will enhance the effectiveness of environmental policy while promoting inclusiveness, social equity and the sustainable development of Ukraine.

Strategic Goals, Actions to Achieve Them, Expected Results and Performance Indicators

Strategic Goal 1. Implement participatory, integrated, and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and territorial development for conservation of biological and landscape diversity

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following task, namely establishing the foundations for the further integration of landscape planning into Ukraine's spatial planning system.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- development of methodological guidelines for determining the optimal land-use structure to reduce excessive economic use of land and increase the area of natural landscapes in order to achieve their optimal balance ("optimal naturalness") for sustainable economic development and the long-term conservation of biodiversity;
- creation of geospatial data on biodiversity and natural landscapes (including species, communities and habitats requiring special protection) and the development and publication, on the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, of ecosystem and land-use maps analogous to CORINE Land Cover.

Strategic Goal 2. Restore degraded terrestrial, freshwater, marine, and coastal ecosystems to improve the status of biodiversity and to restore ecosystem functions and services, including in areas affected by hostilities.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- developing state policy on the restoration of degraded ecosystems, increasing the area of ecosystems and their share in Ukraine's land-use structure;
- ensuring the implementation of the state policy on ecosystem restoration, monitoring its implementation, and integrating environmental considerations into restoration processes;
- ensuring the conduct of scientific research and the implementation of educational programmes on ecosystem restoration, as well as disseminating information and raising awareness among business entities, the public and territorial communities about the importance of nature restoration measures.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- adoption of legislation regulating social relations in the field of nature restoration and addressing the imbalance between natural and anthropogenic landscapes;
- development of methodological guidelines for assessing the level of ecosystem degradation and identifying priority ecosystems for restoration and expansion;
- completion of an inventory of degraded ecosystems and identification of priority ecosystems and/or their components for restoration;

- restoration, or the initiation of restoration, of at least 30 per cent of degraded terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems within the ecological network;
- establishment of a monitoring system, including the assessment of ecosystem restoration effectiveness, the results of which are taken into account during the review and updating of the National Nature Restoration Plan;
- promotion of scientific research and strengthening of international cooperation in the field of nature restoration;
- establishment of an information web portal on ecosystem restoration, together with awareness-raising measures and educational programmes to increase understanding among business entities, the public and territorial communities of the importance of implementing nature restoration measures;
- achievement of the expected results relating to the reduction of agricultural land use and the proportion of ploughed land, enabling the withdrawal from agricultural use and conservation of degraded and low-productivity agricultural land, including arable land, in accordance with the Concept of the National Target Programme for Land Use and Protection, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 70 of 19 January 2022 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2022, No. 11, Art. 588).

Strategic Goal 3. Protect at least 30% of Ukraine's territory – natural terrestrial, inland water and marine areas of the of the Black and Azov Seas – ensuring effective conservation and management through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas, excluding the waters of seaports and marine areas with intensive shipping.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- completion of the development and implementation of local and regional ecological network development programmes, regional and local ecological network schemes, and the Consolidated Ecological Network Scheme of Ukraine;
- ensuring the protection, conservation and restoration of key for biodiversity areas by designating them as territories and sites within the Protected Areas Network and strengthening the management requirements applicable to such territories and sites.
- for biodiversity ensuring the protection, conservation and effective management of Ukraine's protected areas of international importance.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- approximation of Ukraine's legislation in the field of the protection, conservation and effective management of protected areas to the law of the European Union (EU acquis), taking into account Ukraine's international obligations;
- approval by local executive authorities and local self-government bodies of regional and local ecological network development programmes and ecological network schemes;
- at least 30 per cent of the territory of Ukraine forms part of the national ecological network;
- development of the Consolidated Ecological Network Scheme of Ukraine and its incorporation into the General Planning Scheme of the Territory of Ukraine;
- publication on the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal of regional and local ecological network schemes, registers of ecological network areas and objects, protected areas and protected area objects, wetlands of international importance, Emerald Network sites, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme biosphere reserves, and UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites, in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure";
- the Protected Areas Network of Ukraine covers at least 15 per cent of the country's territory;
- ensuring the conservation of the characteristics of, and the expansion of, wetlands of international importance, Emerald Network sites, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme biosphere reserves, and UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites;
- implementation, within protected areas, of measures for the restoration of ecosystems and natural habitat types, including those supporting rare and threatened species of wild flora and fauna.

Strategic Goal 4. Introduce comprehensive and urgent actions to halt human-induced extinction of wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats, and species' habitats under special protection within their natural ranges, and ensure their conservation and recovery

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- conducting assessments of the conservation status of wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges that require special protection, identifying threat factors and implementing effective conservation measures to prevent their extinction;
- reducing or eliminating adverse impacts on protected wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges in order to prevent declines in their populations and contractions of their ranges,

and developing and introducing economic incentives for landowners and land users to conserve biodiversity;

- identifying key biodiversity areas and subsequently granting them an appropriate protection status, establishing protected regimes, implementing conservation measures, and imposing restrictions (encumbrances) on the use of land plots or parts thereof within such areas; ensuring the expansion of ecosystem (landscape) areas serving as habitats for protected wild flora and fauna species;
- establishing a system for the effective management of populations, wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges that require special protection, including measures for their restoration and reintroduction;
- promoting and supporting scientific research as the basis for effective conservation decision-making to ensure the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- establishment of a unified national list of wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges that require special protection in Ukraine, taking into account the State's international obligations, together with an analysis of threats to each listed feature and the identification of conservation and restoration needs;
- submission of proposals for the inclusion in the annexes to Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora of natural habitat types, species habitats within their natural ranges, and wild flora and fauna species occurring in Ukraine that are endemic and included in the List of Animal Species Included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Fauna), approved by Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 29 of 19 January 2021, and the List of Plant and Fungal Species Included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (Flora), approved by Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 111 of 15 February 2021, or which are currently not included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine, with a view to expanding the list of animal and plant species, natural habitats and species habitats to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored to favourable conservation status within the coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation known as Natura 2000;

- harmonisation of the criteria for the inclusion of plant and animal species in the Red Data Book of Ukraine and of their categorisation with the international approaches developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature;
- revision of the lists of animal, plant and fungal species included in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (fauna and flora) and of their status in accordance with the updated criteria and categorisation, with particular attention to taxonomic groups whose conservation needs remain insufficiently assessed;
- development of methodological guidelines for the identification, assessment and mapping of key biodiversity areas requiring special protection, establishment of their register, and preparation of recommendations for maintaining them in favourable condition for consideration during economic activities within such areas;
- assessment, for each protected wild flora and fauna species, plant community, natural habitat and species habitat, of the proportion of the national population or populations protected within protected areas;
- further spatial planning, development of the ecological network and establishment of protected areas carried out with due regard to the need to protect and expand key biodiversity areas;
- analysis of Ukraine's international obligations and national needs concerning the development of programmes (action plans) for the conservation and recovery of specially protected wild flora and fauna species, as well as the preparation and implementation of programmes (action plans) for species or groups of species requiring urgent conservation and restoration measures;
- analysis and improvement of legislation governing the breeding (propagation) of specially protected wild fauna species under semi-free conditions or in captivity, their rehabilitation and reintroduction; assessment of the needs and opportunities for such breeding (propagation); establishment of programmes for breeding (propagation) under semi-free conditions or in captivity and release into the wild, supported by adequate methodological, human, infrastructure and financial resources; establishment of captive breeding centres and regional wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres; and maintenance of records on the number of such centres and programmes for release into the wild;
- adoption of legal acts introducing enhanced environmental requirements for the conservation of protected wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges during environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures;
- ensuring that public authorities are provided with the necessary and reliable data to support scientifically based management decisions through an appropriate

system of scientific research and monitoring of protected wild flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges.

Strategic Goal 5. Ensure the sustainable, safe and legal use, harvesting, and trade of wild species, preventing overexploitation.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- improving the legislative regulation of the domestic trade in wild fauna and flora species and the corresponding monitoring and control system, including the use of public electronic registers, certificates of origin and marking;
- enhancing the capacity of public officials and improving cooperation among public authorities responsible for controlling the domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora specimens, and developing partnerships with civil society organisations, business entities, scientists and territorial communities in the areas of control, awareness-raising, and the restoration of populations of wild fauna and flora species that have been subject to exploitation pressure;
- developing and implementing environmental awareness programmes aimed at increasing public awareness of the adverse impacts of unregulated trade in wild fauna and flora specimens on biodiversity, including through the engagement of opinion leaders and well-known public figures.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- clarification of the powers of central executive authorities with regard to the control of the domestic trade in wild fauna and flora specimens;
- regulation of the trade in selected wild fauna and flora species in Ukraine;
- enhancement of the capacity of officials of the State Customs Service of Ukraine with regard to customs control procedures for the movement of wild fauna and flora specimens across the State border;
- development of environmental awareness programmes aimed at increasing public awareness of the adverse impacts of unregulated trade in wild fauna and flora species on biodiversity and reducing public demand for threatened species;
- implementation of regulations governing international trade in wild fauna and flora specimens, harmonised with the law of the European Union (EU acquis);
- strengthened cooperation between the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the State Agency of Ukraine for the Development of Land Reclamation, Fisheries and Food Programmes (State Fisheries Agency), and the State Customs Service of Ukraine with regard to the control of international trade in wild fauna and flora specimens regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Strategic Goal 6. Ensure early detection, prevention of spread, minimization and/or mitigation of impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, and their eradication (destruction).

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- improving the legal, scientific and methodological framework for the surveillance and control of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna in order to reduce their adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- implementing measures for the detection of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna, preventing their introduction and spread, minimising and/or mitigating their adverse impacts (risks) on biodiversity, and ensuring the regulation of their populations;
- implementing information and educational measures on preventing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna, minimising and/or mitigating their impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as on human health and safety and the national economy.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- pathways for the introduction and spread of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna within the territory, territorial sea, water bodies (or parts thereof) and the exclusive (maritime) economic zone of Ukraine are identified within 18 months and brought under control;
- establishment of an effective monitoring system for the introduction and spread of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna and their populations, involving public authorities, scientific and state conservation institutions, as well as civil society organisations and local communities;
- introduction of a system for the early detection of the introduction or presence of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna and their rapid eradication at an early stage of invasion;
- development and implementation of action plans for invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna and for the pathways of their introduction and spread;
- use of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna only on the basis of permit documents under controlled conditions, in accordance with a response and eradication plan in the event that such species escape control or spread;
- the import of alien species into the territory of Ukraine (including for transit purposes), the export of alien species from the territory of Ukraine, acclimatisation, introduction, cultivation, release into the natural environment, keeping, and propagation (breeding and reproduction) in open-use systems across economic sectors are subject to surveillance and control;

- eradication or control of increasing populations of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna within protected areas;
- research into and assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna on protected flora and fauna species, plant communities, natural habitats and species habitats within their natural ranges, as well as on ecosystem services, and the development of measures to minimise and/or mitigate such impacts;
- raising awareness among and engaging public authorities, local self-government bodies, civil society organisations and the public in addressing the impacts of invasive alien species of wild flora and fauna on biodiversity.

Strategic Goal 7. Reduce the risks and impacts of pollution to levels that do not harm biodiversity and ecosystem services

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- reducing eutrophication and nutrient losses;
- reducing the use of and risks associated with pesticides;
- implementing measures to reduce plastic pollution;
- ensuring the assessment of the impacts of pollution on biodiversity.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- approximation of Ukraine's legislation in the field of pollution management to the law of the European Union (EU acquis);
- reduction of pollution from wastewater discharges;
- reduction of eutrophication and nitrate pollution of water bodies, and improvement of the status of water bodies;
- approximation of Ukraine's legislation in the field of the regulation of plant protection products and biocidal products to the law of the European Union (EU acquis);
- reduction of concentrations of chemical pesticides in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;
- approximation of Ukraine's legislation in the field of the production, placing on the market, disposal and recycling of single-use plastic products to the law of the European Union (EU acquis);
- reduction of plastic pollution through minimising the production of single-use plastic products, ensuring proper plastic waste management, including recycling, and introducing circular economy technologies;
- slowing the rate of plastic pollution of water bodies and land;

- carrying out regular assessments of the impacts of pollution on Ukraine's biodiversity.

Strategic Goal 8. Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and enhance its resilience through the application of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches and nature-based solutions.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- mitigating the impacts of climate change on biodiversity through the development and implementation of a balanced public policy on land use and protection, and by minimising the adverse effects of environmentally harmful management decisions and the economic use of biomass;
- adapting to climate change by reducing the vulnerability of, and/or enhancing the resilience of, ecosystems, populations of individual species of flora and fauna, and natural habitat types and species habitats within their natural ranges to natural disasters.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- reducing the adverse impacts on biodiversity resulting from previously adopted environmentally harmful management decisions concerning the drainage of peatlands and other wetlands, and the ploughing of floodplain meadows and remaining steppe areas that are important for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation;
- restoring the ecological and hydromorphological characteristics of water bodies that are essential for maintaining populations of flora and fauna species particularly dependent on water during prolonged drought periods;
- restoring water exchange between lagoons and the sea, thereby optimising the hydrochemical regime of lagoons and ensuring the free migration of aquatic organisms;
- transforming the composition of forest stands and restoring native mixed and broadleaved forests with their characteristic structure and biotic composition, thereby contributing to lower temperatures and more stable microclimatic conditions;
- approving and implementing regional and local climate change adaptation strategies incorporating biodiversity conservation measures;
- implementing measures to prevent the adverse impacts of floods and flash floods on biodiversity;
- ensuring partnerships between executive authorities and the Association "Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine", the Ukrainian Climate Network, and other organisations and institutions on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the

development of green infrastructure, and the designation of the most valuable natural complexes and sites for protection.

Strategic Goal 9. Ensure conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity based on a balance between the interests of territorial communities and national nature conservation priorities.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- strengthening the role and responsibility of local self-government bodies for the protection and conservation of biodiversity by clarifying their powers, establishing their environmental responsibilities, ensuring access to information and knowledge, and involving them in the development, planning and implementation of conservation measures;
- developing and introducing economic incentives for territorial communities to implement measures for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- improvement of legislation concerning the environmental responsibilities and powers of local self-government bodies in the field of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- wider involvement of territorial communities in the planning and implementation of conservation measures at the local level;
- ensuring the access of territorial communities to information, educational and methodological resources in the field of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- introduction of economic incentive mechanisms for territorial communities to implement measures for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- development of approaches to fiscal equalisation among territorial communities, taking into account the presence of ecosystems within their territories and the volume of ecosystem services they provide.

Strategic Goal 10. Promote the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and hunting sectors through the application of biodiversity friendly practices that support ecosystem functions and services.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- promoting the application of modern agricultural technologies and optimising the structure of agricultural landscapes to reduce adverse impacts on biodiversity;

- reducing adverse impacts on the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems through sustainable fisheries management;
- ensuring the ecological resilience of forests and the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity;
- ensuring that the use of game animals is based on the principles of biodiversity conservation.

The expected results of achieving this strategic goal are:

- reducing the application of mineral fertilisers per hectare of arable land by 15% by 2030;
- prohibiting, by 2027, the use throughout the territory of Ukraine of the ten substances posing the greatest risk to biodiversity, as identified on the basis of relevant European lists;
- ensuring effective state control over the use of pesticides and agrochemicals;
- removing, on the grounds established by legislation, including scientific evidence, Toxicity Class I products from the State Register of Pesticides and Agrochemicals Permitted for Use in Ukraine, except where used in closed systems that do not affect biodiversity;
- increasing the area under organic production to 3% of the total agricultural land area by 2030;
- introducing integrated pest management systems;
- optimising the structure of Ukraine's agricultural landscapes to improve biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation under sustainable agricultural management;
- increasing the share of natural elements within agricultural landscapes (shelterbelts, field protection belts, riparian buffer strips and biodiversity refuges) to at least 5% of agricultural land by 2030;
- establishing or restoring at least 15,000 kilometres of shelterbelts and protective belts by 2027;
- increasing, by 20% by 2030, the share of agricultural land managed under sustainable land-use systems;
- developing regional agricultural landscape optimisation plans in all regions of Ukraine by 2027;
- withdrawing at least 250,000 hectares of degraded, low-productivity or technologically contaminated arable land, as well as at least 50,000 hectares of illegally ploughed steep slopes, and converting them into hayfields, pastures or land designated for nature conservation purposes in accordance with Section 3.1

of the Concept for the Balanced (Sustainable) Development of Agroecosystems in Ukraine until 2025, approved by Order No. 280 of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of 20 August 2003, and the Concept of the National Target Programme for Land Use and Protection, approved by Order No. 70 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 19 January 2022;

- prohibiting the ploughing of land within river floodplains;
- completing the inventory and certification of all water bodies with regard to the existence of riparian protection strips by 2026;
- establishing riparian protection strips and water protection zones for all water bodies, including the demarcation on the ground of riparian protection strips along 100% of rivers, lakes and reservoirs included in the State Water Cadastre by 2028;
- restoring natural vegetation on at least 200,000 hectares of riparian protection strips by 2030;
- increasing the density of natural and semi-natural elements within agricultural landscapes by establishing and restoring grass field margins covering at least 300,000 hectares by 2028, and ensuring the presence of at least one element of green infrastructure (such as a shelterbelt, riparian protection strip, habitat, patch of natural vegetation or another natural or semi-natural feature) for every 50 hectares of agricultural land, in accordance with the requirements of the ecological network and the principles of sustainable land use established by the Laws of Ukraine On Land Protection, On Environmental Protection and On the Ecological Network of Ukraine;
- ensuring the continuous commercial exploitation of aquatic biological resources while maintaining the favourable conservation status of native fish and aquatic invertebrate populations over the long term and maximising the utilisation of commercial stocks of non-native species;
- combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- maintaining natural populations of commercially valuable native fish species through sustainable fisheries management and artificial breeding (restocking);
- strengthening control over the use and spread of non-native aquatic biological resources in aquaculture;
- establishing an effective state monitoring system for aquatic biological resources, invasive alien species of flora and fauna, and the impacts of industry, hydropower development and the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on the aquatic environment;
- reducing the adverse impacts of recreational fishing on the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems;

- adapting fisheries management to global climate change;
- ensuring effective state supervision and control over compliance with legislation governing the protection, use and reproduction of fish and other aquatic biological resources;
- improving awareness among public authorities responsible for fisheries and users of aquatic biological resources regarding the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity;
- aligning Ukraine's forest legislation with the acquis of the European Union, particularly with regard to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- completing the identification of primeval forests, quasi-primeval forests and natural forests and determining their conservation status;
- improving the system for the establishment, registration and monitoring of protective zones for biodiversity conservation in forests;
- strengthening the adaptive capacity of forests to climate change;
- preventing the use of invasive alien tree species in afforestation and reforestation;
- increasing the area of certified forests by 15%;
- ensuring effective control over compliance by hunting ground users with scientifically justified and optimal population structures, abundance and density of game species;
- reducing poaching and incidental killing of wild animals by 50%, while ensuring compliance with legislation on the protection of animals from cruelty;
- ensuring that biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of hunting resources are supported by sufficient levels of artificial breeding (restocking) and release of game animals into the wild;
- minimising conflicts of interest between hunting management and other sectors of the economy, primarily by reducing the adverse impacts of agricultural activities, the use of plant protection products and the uncontrolled operation of modern agricultural machinery contrary to environmental requirements affecting habitats and populations of game and other wild animal species;
- phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands of international importance;
- approving an action plan to increase and maintain populations of selected game species;
- implementing effective measures to prevent the introduction, control the spread and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species of wild fauna and flora prohibited in Ukraine within hunting grounds;

- ensuring that the state registration of game species and hunting harvests complies with European practices and provides reliable species-specific data.

Strategic Goal 11. Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contribution to people, including ecosystem functions and services, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- establishing the foundations for the development and implementation of public policy in the field of ecosystem services management;
- restoring, maintaining and enhancing nature's contributions to people through ecosystem services management;
- increasing the resilience of the population to natural hazards through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.

The expected results of achieving this strategic goal are:

- establishing a legislative framework for the assessment of ecosystem services and the implementation of the concepts of ecosystem services and nature-based solutions into practice;
- integrating ecosystem services into planning for economic development measures;
- implementing national target programmes, interstate programmes, local environmental programmes and regional environmental protection programmes using ecosystem services assessment and nature-based solutions;
- applying nature-based solutions in economic activities to reduce the risk of emergencies and restore degraded areas, including through the use of paludiculture on restored wetlands;
- reducing the scale and impacts of natural and technological emergencies, improving protection systems, and reducing economic losses, fatalities and the number of affected persons.

Strategic Goal 12. Increase the area, quality and ecological connectivity of green and blue (water) spaces in cities, other settlements and densely populated areas, and to ensure equal and safe access to them for all groups of the population

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- improving the legal and regulatory framework governing the integrated development of territorial communities;
- developing and implementing a system of measures for the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity in cities and urban agglomerations;

- raising public awareness of the principles of sustainable urban development, the protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity, and the importance of green and blue (aquatic) spaces for quality of life.

The expected results of achieving this strategic goal are:

- developing master plans for settlements that incorporate the conservation, expansion and restoration of green and blue (aquatic) spaces, as well as the protection and conservation of urban biodiversity;
- developing and implementing modern greening plans for cities and other settlements;
- establishing a system for the protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity in urbanised areas, together with its monitoring;
- implementing educational and professional training programmes on the protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of urban biodiversity and the development of green and blue (aquatic) infrastructure.

Strategic Goal 13. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with them, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, while facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources;
- improving legislation governing access to and transfer of genetic resources;
- ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights related to traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources;
- establishing a management system for data on genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources of domesticated and wild species of plants, animals and fungi.

The expected results of achieving this strategic goal are:

- developing a system for managing access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation;
- increasing public awareness of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
- establishing an information and communication system for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources;

- joining international public databases of Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources;
- developing and implementing measures to ensure the protection of genetic collections;
- establishing a national database of genetic resources of wild and domesticated species of plants, animals and fungi;
- improving the conditions for the implementation of and compliance with the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty, to which Ukraine acceded pursuant to the Law of Ukraine No. 2733-III of 20 September 2001;
- establishing a National Centre for Animal Genetic Resources;
- introducing liability for breaches of national requirements governing users' compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 1926-IX of 2 December 2021;
- providing access to information on genetic resources and traditional knowledge for the registration of intellectual property rights, including data held by the National Industrial Property Institute (INPI);
- obtaining access to the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing established under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- establishing a national framework for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;
- halting the erosion of the genetic diversity of wild relatives of domesticated species of plants, animals and fungi;
- strengthening in situ and ex situ conservation measures for the genetic diversity of endemic and protected species of plants, animals and fungi, as well as species used as feed for other animal species.

Strategic Goal 14. Ensure the integration of principles of protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity into legislation, policy development and implementation processes, planning and business activities, poverty eradication strategies, and financial reporting at all levels of government and in all sectors of the economy.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- improving state policy and the legal framework to integrate the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into all areas

of public administration, planning and economic activities, as well as across all sectors of the economy;

- integrating the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into Ukraine's post-war green recovery.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- integrating the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the legislation of Ukraine, the processes of public policy development and implementation, planning and economic activities, as well as across all sectors of the economy;
- developing methodological guidelines for integrating the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into all sectors of the economy and fields of activity;
- developing methodological guidelines on incorporating the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the activities of territorial communities;
- raising stakeholders' awareness of the integration of the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- integrating the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the legislation governing Ukraine's post-war green recovery;
- raising stakeholders' awareness of the integration of the principles of biodiversity protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use into Ukraine's post-war green recovery.

Strategic Goal 15. Promote responsible consumption to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems by 2030 by integrating biodiversity conservation principles into all stages of food production, implementing sustainable practices, environmentally safe technologies and products, and educational programmes and state policies aimed at protecting the environment.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- creating conditions for reducing food loss throughout production and supply chains;
- developing an effective state policy for the sustainable management and rational use of natural resources;
- developing and introducing legal and regulatory mechanisms that promote the safe and sustainable use of chemicals;

- organising and conducting information and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and fostering a culture of responsible consumption.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- reducing the use of natural resources, measured by the amount of materials, energy, water and land resources (ecological footprint) used per unit of goods or services produced;
- reducing the volume of municipal waste generated per capita;
- increasing the proportion of recovered waste in the total volume of waste generated;
- increasing the use of renewable energy sources, measured by the share of solar, wind and other renewable energy sources in total energy consumption;
- reducing food loss;
- reducing the resource intensity of gross domestic product;
- increasing the proportion of business entities that have implemented chemicals management systems in accordance with international requirements;
- increasing the number of awareness-raising activities incorporating issues of responsible consumption and production, taking biodiversity conservation into account;
- increasing the proportion of the population informed about the importance of responsible consumption;
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the consumption of goods and services;
- conserving biodiversity, as demonstrated by an increase in the measured area of protected natural territories;
- introducing amendments to national legislation to promote the responsible use of biodiversity components;
- increasing the production of processed agricultural products with higher added value while reducing the cultivation and export of raw agricultural commodities;
- introducing amendments to national legislation to promote food production that encourages efficient water and land use and releases agricultural land for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Strategic Goal 16. Strengthen biological safety.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following task:

- strengthening state control over the dissemination of genetically modified organisms.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- reducing and preventing biological threats to biodiversity;
- reducing the impacts of genetically modified organisms on biodiversity;
- improving the legal and regulatory framework governing compensation for damage caused by genetically modified organisms to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and introducing preventive and restoration measures;
- improving the system for managing and assessing the risks associated with the impacts of genetically modified organisms;
- introducing measures for the control, management and monitoring of the impacts of biotechnology on wild species of flora and fauna, their populations and natural habitats;
- establishing a system of economic incentives for biotechnology enterprises engaged in food production whose activities promote the efficient use of water and land resources and contribute to freeing agricultural land for biodiversity restoration and ecosystem functioning.

Strategic Goal 17. Fully eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, that have harmful impacts on biodiversity.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- developing a system of economic, legal and institutional measures to encourage activities that contribute to the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- analysing existing incentive schemes and identifying and implementing measures for the gradual elimination or reform of incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, taking into account the needs of Ukraine's post-war economic recovery.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- increasing expenditure on biodiversity protection, conservation and restoration, as well as on the protection and conservation of territories and sites of the Protected Areas Network and other areas designated for nature conservation;
- increasing the revenues of business entities engaged in organic production;
- increasing investment in environmental (green) projects;
- introducing economic, legal and organisational measures to encourage business entities to undertake activities that contribute to the protection, conservation,

restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity by increasing the volume of economic incentives targeted at biodiversity conservation;

- conducting an inventory of environmentally harmful subsidies that have direct or indirect adverse impacts on biodiversity;
- establishing a national public electronic register of environmentally harmful subsidies that have direct or indirect adverse impacts on biodiversity and of the recipients of such subsidies;
- reducing the number and volume of state subsidies for fossil fuel extraction;
- reducing fossil fuel subsidies per unit of gross domestic product (production and consumption);
- increasing the number and value of environmentally harmful subsidies in the energy, agriculture, transport, infrastructure, extractive industries, water management and land-use sectors that have been redirected, repurposed or phased out;
- increasing state support for activities related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, including food production that ensures the efficient use of water and land resources and contributes to releasing agricultural land for biodiversity restoration and ecosystem functioning (biotechnologies, greenhouses and vertical farms), the development of organic production, support for pasture-based livestock farming, land conservation at the initiative of landowners or land users, including afforestation and the restoration of meadow-steppe ecosystems, the designation of protected areas, the establishment and maintenance of agricultural shelterbelts, the development of aquaculture, and the development of ecotourism infrastructure;
- introducing a national monitoring system for the number and value of environmentally harmful subsidies that have direct or indirect adverse impacts on biodiversity, as well as those that have been redirected, repurposed or phased out; monitoring state and local budget expenditures on biodiversity protection, conservation and restoration and on the protection and conservation of territories and sites of the Protected Areas Network and other areas designated for nature conservation, including the publication of reports on such expenditures; and monitoring the number and scale of activities undertaken by business entities engaged in food production that ensure the efficient use of water and land resources and contribute to releasing agricultural land for biodiversity restoration and ecosystem functioning (including biotechnologies, greenhouses and vertical farms), the development of organic production, land conservation at the initiative of landowners or land users, including afforestation and the restoration of meadow-steppe ecosystems, the designation of protected areas, the establishment

and maintenance of agricultural shelterbelts, the development of aquaculture, and the development of ecotourism infrastructure, disaggregated by region.

Strategic Goal 18. Mobilize and increase financial resources to implement actions for the protection, conservation, and restoration of biodiversity.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- establishing financial monitoring and management systems for the implementation of measures to protect, conserve and restore biodiversity;
- establishing a financial mechanism for the collection, earmarking and reinvestment of state budget revenues and related income in the field of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity at national and local levels;
- improving mechanisms for mobilising private funding, in particular through public-private partnerships, for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the protection and conservation of territories and sites within the Protected Areas Network and other areas designated for nature conservation;
- implementing a pilot project to introduce innovative biodiversity financing mechanisms and instruments that generate additional financial resources or contribute to their more efficient allocation, with a view to improving the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and encouraging environmentally sustainable economic activities;
- increasing transparency in the use of financial resources for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the protection and conservation of the Protected Areas Network.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- increasing expenditure on biodiversity protection, conservation and restoration, and on the protection and conservation of territories and sites within the Protected Areas Network and other areas designated for nature conservation, financed from domestic and international private sources; increasing direct funding for priority biodiversity conservation measures and the protection of Ukraine's natural areas; and increasing biodiversity-related expenditure in key sectors of the economy;
- increasing the annual volume of international governmental and non-governmental financial assistance provided to Ukraine, as a country with a transition economy, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- harmonising national environmental taxation legislation with the EU tax system and aligning it with the classification requirements of the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) concerning the basis for environmental taxation;

- improving the mechanism for directing revenues from various sources to finance biodiversity conservation measures, the restoration, expansion and protection of natural areas, and establishing the legal, economic and organisational framework for the creation and operation of special-purpose funds for nature conservation areas within the State Environmental Protection Fund and special funds within local budgets;
- developing procedures for the inventory and assessment of ecosystem services, methodologies for determining their economic value, and a mechanism for payments for ecosystem services;
- increasing the number of ecosystem restoration projects aimed at restoring ecosystem services;
- establishing and implementing, through national legislation, the legal, economic and organisational framework for various forms of public-private partnership (including concessions, leases and leasing arrangements) to stimulate long-term investment in major biodiversity conservation and protected area projects in Ukraine;
- increasing the number and value of projects for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the protection and conservation of territories and sites within the Protected Areas Network and other nature conservation areas, financed from private sources, in particular through public-private partnerships;
- introducing a monitoring system for the use of funds allocated to biodiversity, ensuring quarterly publication of reports on expenditure related to biodiversity conservation and the protection of Ukraine's natural areas, and reporting on the outcomes of completed environmental projects in this field.

Strategic Goal 19. Strengthening national scientific, technical and innovation potential and institutional capacity, technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- enhancing the capacity of staff of institutions within the Protected Areas Network, and of enterprises, institutions and organisations under the management of the Ministry of Economy, in the fields of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- encouraging young Ukrainian researchers, university students, and pupils (students) of general secondary education institutions to participate in national and international research projects and programmes, particularly those of the European Union, in the fields of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;

- improving the legal and regulatory framework governing access to technologies, technology transfer, and effective support for innovation;
- establishing a mechanism to ensure access to advanced technologies in the fields of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- supporting scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity conservation through technology transfer and the engagement of partners under North–South, South–South and other international cooperation initiatives;
- developing web-based resources for sharing knowledge on innovations in the fields of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- encouraging business entities to participate in innovation projects implemented in accordance with the legislation, where such projects are related to biodiversity.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- increasing by 10 per cent, by 2030, the total number of staff of institutions within the Protected Areas Network, and of enterprises, institutions and organisations under the management of the Ministry of Economy, whose official duties include biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- introducing amendments to the Law of Ukraine On the Protection of Rights to Inventions and Utility Models to simplify the procedure for patenting inventions (utility models) in the fields of the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- introducing amendments to the Law of Ukraine On the Protection of Rights to Inventions and Utility Models to establish a mechanism for the simplified transfer of rights to innovative technologies from research institutions to business entities engaged in biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- establishing a public electronic register of technologies available for use in environmental protection activities and of projects in the fields of the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use implemented in Ukraine;
- engaging technologically advanced partner countries ("North") and countries facing similar challenges ("South") in trilateral partnerships and other international cooperation programmes for the implementation of biodiversity conservation projects and technology transfer;
- increasing the number of international technical assistance projects through which Ukraine gains access to advanced technologies for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources;

- increasing the number of scientific publications by Ukrainian researchers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals resulting from joint research;
- developing web-based resources to facilitate the development of innovative projects and knowledge exchange among researchers, business entities and public authorities for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- developing and implementing innovative projects through platforms established to support biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- increasing the participation of business entities in innovation projects under the innovation priority area "Widespread Application of Cleaner Production Technologies and Environmental Protection" and other innovation priority areas related to biodiversity.

Strategic Goal 20. Ensure that to decision makers, practitioners and the public are provided with relevant, reliable, and scientifically based data, information, knowledge, and innovations for effective, equitable, integrated, and participatory management through monitoring, scientific research, education, awareness-raising, communication, and the use of traditional knowledge, practices, and technologies of territorial communities in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- providing public authorities, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions, organisations and the public with up-to-date, reliable and scientifically sound data and information to support effective, equitable, integrated and participatory governance in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use through the establishment of a national biodiversity monitoring system and the development of relevant scientific research;
- enhancing awareness, education and communication to strengthen public support for biodiversity conservation measures and improve their effectiveness through regular information and awareness-raising campaigns, the development of modern electronic communication networks, and the use of the potential of extracurricular education institutions and formal and non-formal environmental education;
- promoting the development and implementation of innovations to improve the quality, efficiency and automation of biodiversity data collection, processing and analysis by supporting research and development activities and strengthening the material and technical capacity of scientific institutions and nature conservation institutions and organisations;
- ensuring the consideration and integration of the traditional knowledge, practices and technologies of territorial communities into biodiversity conservation and

sustainable use processes by supporting local initiatives, preserving cultural heritage and conducting consultations during decision-making processes, subject to compliance with national legislation and international requirements and ensuring that no harm is caused to biodiversity.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to ensure the establishment and operation of the biological and landscape diversity monitoring subsystem within the State Environmental Monitoring System;
- developing and approving biological and landscape diversity monitoring programmes at the national, regional, local and site levels;
- establishing an information and analytical system for monitoring biological and landscape diversity;
- establishing permanent inter-agency coordination bodies and advisory bodies under the Ministry of Economy;
- ensuring long-term, continuous funding for biological and landscape diversity monitoring and scientific research in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- implementing measures to develop and introduce innovations in biological and landscape diversity monitoring;
- implementing measures to maintain and strengthen the institutional capacity of public authorities, local self-government bodies, scientific institutions, state nature conservation institutions and public associations, and to improve the welfare, education and qualifications of their staff;
- providing central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies, business entities and the public with up-to-date, reliable and scientifically sound data, information and knowledge on the status and trends of biodiversity to support effective decision-making based on equitable, integrated and participatory approaches;
- raising awareness among central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies, business entities and the public of Ukraine's biodiversity conservation goals set out in this Strategy, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the European Commission Communication COM(2020) 380 final of 20 May 2020 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back into Our Lives, and ensuring that these goals are taken into account in the development and implementation of public policy across all sectors;

- expanding existing and establishing additional mechanisms (including public electronic registers and thematic web pages) to ensure public access to information on biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national, regional and local levels;
- strengthening cross-sectoral communication and cooperation through consultations, meetings, public hearings and information exchange on biodiversity conservation, in particular involving the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the State Forest Resources Agency, the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management, the State Agency of Water Resources, the State Agency for Land Reclamation and Fisheries, the Office of the Prosecutor General, regional and Kyiv City State Administrations (Military Administrations), the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine;
- improving public knowledge and awareness of biodiversity, the threats to its existence, and the need for its conservation, and increasing public support for biodiversity conservation;
- ensuring that nature conservation institutions and organisations, as well as local executive authorities and local self-government bodies, study and take into account local knowledge and traditional sustainable practices for the use and conservation of biodiversity.

Strategic Goal 21. Ensure access to justice and information, participation in decision-making in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use for all.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following task:

- strengthening the capacity of the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine, representatives of public associations and vulnerable population groups to participate in decision-making and access justice in matters relating to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, and the protection of their rights.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- strengthening guarantees for the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine regarding the ownership and effective and equitable use of natural resources in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed on behalf of Ukraine on 11 June 1992 and ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 257/94-VR of 29 November 1994, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 61/295 of 13 September 2007;
- establishing a legal protection mechanism for representatives of public associations engaged in biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;

- expanding access for the Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine and vulnerable population groups to environmental information and decision-making processes in the field of environmental protection;
- introducing a system for assessing climate change-related risks affecting vulnerable population groups, taking into account their impacts on human health, life and safety.

Strategic Goal 22. Ensure gender equality and the implementation of a gender-responsive approach in biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following task:

- introducing a mechanism for integrating a gender-responsive approach into biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, ensuring the equal representation of women in decision-making, establishing a gender monitoring system, and expanding women's access to financial instruments.

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- creating conditions to achieve a balanced representation of women and men in the leadership of public authorities, enterprises, institutions and organisations responsible for, or involved in, the development and implementation of public policy in the field of environmental protection, thereby ensuring a balanced contribution of both sexes to decision-making;
- introducing a monitoring system for the participation of women and men in decision-making, employment and access to resources in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- developing and implementing a mechanism to support women's leadership in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use;
- improving access to financial support for women establishing businesses in the fields of green tourism, organic production, or the production of goods based on the principles of biodiversity conservation, reduced use of agrochemicals and pesticides, and sustainable land-use practices;
- conducting information and awareness-raising campaigns, training courses, conferences, seminars, webinars, meetings and other events, and establishing a platform for the exchange of experience and best practices on promoting gender equality and applying a gender-responsive approach in the field of biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

Strategic Goal 23. Create an enabling environment for business.

Achievement of the goal is envisaged through the implementation of the following tasks:

- ensuring oversight of the assessment of organisations' own biodiversity-related risks and compliance by large enterprises, multinational companies and financial institutions with the requirements for conducting such assessments throughout their operations, supply chains, value chains and investment portfolios;
- providing consumers with the information necessary to make informed choices regarding goods and services, taking into account their environmental impacts;
- reporting on compliance with the rules and measures governing access and benefit-sharing;
- promoting sustainable production patterns with a view to progressively increasing positive impacts on biodiversity and reducing biodiversity-related risks for businesses and financial institutions.

Achievement of Strategic Goal 23 shall be ensured through the implementation of relevant policy documents, in particular the Strategy for the Introduction of Sustainability Reporting by Enterprises, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1015 of 18 October 2024 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2024, No. 98, Art. 6271).

The expected results of achieving the strategic goal are:

- introducing, by 2028, national methodological guidelines for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector, the GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024 Standard of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the recommendations and guidance of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), adapted to national approaches to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation;
- raising awareness among at least 70 per cent of representatives of large enterprises and financial institutions by 2028 through information and awareness-raising campaigns, training courses, conferences, seminars, webinars, meetings and other events on biodiversity impact assessment and nature-related risks in accordance with the GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024 Standard and the recommendations and guidance of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

Stages For Implementing The Tasks Aimed At Achieving The Strategic Goals

Implementation of this Strategy is envisaged for the period 2026-2035 and shall be carried out through the implementation of its tasks and measures in three stages: the first stage — 2026-2028, the second stage — 2029-2031, and the third stage — 2032-2035.

At each stage, an operational action plan for the implementation of this Strategy for the relevant period shall be developed and implemented on the basis of the strategic goals and

tasks defined in the Strategy, with the expected results and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the measures established.

The results of the implementation of the State policy in the field of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity will contribute to achieving the indicators for assessing the implementation of the State environmental policy established by the Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine until 2030" and other policy documents in the field of environmental protection.

Implementation of this Strategy will also ensure the achievement of the four global goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the implementation of national measures under the 23 strategic goals of this Strategy, corresponding to the 23 action-oriented global targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, using international indicators.

Financial and Other Resources Required

The implementation of this Strategy shall be financed from, and within the limits of, the funds allocated in the State and local budgets approved for the relevant year, as well as from other sources not prohibited by law.

The amount of expenditure and other resources required for the implementation of this Strategy shall be determined annually during the preparation of the draft State and local budgets for the relevant year, taking into account their actual financial capacities.

Procedure for Monitoring, Evaluation of the Results of the Strategy Implementation, and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation of the results of the implementation of the Strategy shall be carried out to determine the completeness of the implementation of the measures and the effectiveness of achieving the established strategic goals and tasks through the implementation of the State policy in the field of the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Monitoring of the implementation of this Strategy shall be carried out annually by compiling information on the implementation of the measures defined in the operational action plan for the implementation of this Strategy and on the actual values of the indicators measuring the achievement of the Strategy's strategic goals.

The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine shall consolidate the information submitted by ministries, other central executive authorities, other public authorities (subject to their consent), the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, Kyiv City and Sevastopol City State Administrations (Military Administrations), and local self-government bodies (subject to their consent), prepare an annual report on the progress and results of the implementation of the Strategy, the implementation of the operational action plan, and the actual values of the indicators measuring the achievement of the Strategy's strategic goals. The report shall compare the indicators actually achieved with those

planned, identify (where applicable) problematic issues and their impact on the implementation of the measures and the achievement of the strategic goals of this Strategy, and shall be submitted annually to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by 1 April, as well as published on the official website of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

By 1 April 2036, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine shall submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a final report on the implementation and results of this Strategy during 2026-2035, including the actual values of the indicators measuring the achievement of the Strategy's strategic goals and proposals for further action.

Reporting and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework shall be carried out in accordance with Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity No. 15/5 of 19 December 2022, "Monitoring Framework for the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework", and No. 16/31 of 27 February 2025, "Monitoring Framework for the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework", using the established indicators and taking into account any relevant amendments adopted by decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
