

Project Title

Beaver and local communities of Ukraine: coexistence in conditions of critical changes

Project Data

Duration	Funding	Project location/ Region
12 month	12 748 €	Krasnokutsk community, Kharkiv region, Ukraine

Project Partners

Who are the project partners?

- Slobozhanskyi
National Nature Park

What does each partner specifically contribute to the project?

- Provides support in field work (mapping beavers in the Krasnokutsk community, conducting annual beaver censuses in Slobozhanskyi National Nature Park, camera trapping), in organizing and conducting events (all-Ukrainian conference, seminar in the Krasnokutsk community, educational lecture on beavers and wetlands, nationwide event using the INaturalist platform), in collecting data on conflict situations involving beavers, and in providing informational support.
- Frankfurt Zoological Society
- Provides support through consultations, exchange of experience, and

collaborative meetings; in organizing and conducting seminar for protected area staff; and in collecting data on beavers from protected areas to prepare dataset for GBIF.

About the Project

What is the problem – and what do you want to change about it?

What are you doing specifically to achieve this goal?

The main objective of the project is to assess the impact of climate and anthropogenic changes on the Eurasian beaver population and to develop a Management Plan for the Slobozhanskyi NNP and the Krasnokutsk community in the Kharkiv region of Ukraine.

To achieve our goal, we compile scientific data on Eurasian beaver from multiple sources, including nationwide activities designed to mobilize beaver observations across Ukraine. We consolidate long-term monitoring data from Slobozhanskyi National Nature Park and conduct field surveys within the Krasnokutsk community. We organize an all-Ukrainian conference, local stakeholder seminar and educational lecture to discuss beaver population monitoring, human-beaver conflicts, and the ecological role of beavers as ecosystem engineers. Furthermore, we analyze the collected data, assess climate-related indicators and changes in riparian habitats, and prepare scientific publications.

What is special or new about your approach?

The national Action Plan for the Eurasian beaver in Ukraine has not been developed yet. The Eurasian Beaver Management Plan for the Slobozhanskyi National Nature Park and the Krasnokutsk community will serve as the basis for creating this national Plan.

Long-term research findings on beavers in the Krasnokutsk community will be summarized, and a study on human-beaver conflicts will be conducted for the first time.

To assess the distribution of the beaver in Ukraine, we use modern biodiversity databases (GBIF, iNaturalist, UkrBIN). The iNaturalist platform is used for field data mobilization.

	The project has also received support from Ukrainian NGOs, namely "Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) Ukraine" and "Green-Art Tour." Discussions about beavers at the Slobzhanskyi National Nature Park inspired the young designer Viktoriia Ovechkina to create an original beaver illustration as a voluntary contribution.
The figure: What does the project actually do?	In total, 101 records of beaver presence were collected for the Krasnokutsk community in 2026, and more than 40 beaver family territories were identified. Information on the distribution, abundance, and changes in beaver families within the Slobzhanskyi National Nature Park was compiled into a database containing 141 rows of data that document individual beaver family territories, burrows, and lodges over a 13-year observation period.
What remains? What concrete results are achieved, and who can use them in the future?	Management Plan for the Eurasian beaver will be shared for the Slobzhanskyi NNP and the Krasnokutsk community to use in planning development strategies and conservation measures. This Plan will serve as the basis for creating a national Action Plan in the future. The results of our beaver mapping, along with the assessments of climate-related indicators and changes in riparian habitats, will be used by the staff of Slobzhanskyi National Nature Park for the ongoing monitoring of the beaver population.

See the project images

on the following pages



Project images

Image 1 of 5



Field documentation at a beaver lodge on a frozen wetland.

Photo: © Nataliia Brusentsova

Project images

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Camera-trap image of a beaver feeding in a snowy wetland.

Photo: © Nataliia Brusentsova

Project images

Image 3 of 5



Beaver feeding marks on a tree beside a wetland.

Photo: © Nataliia Brusentsova

Project images

Image 4 of 5

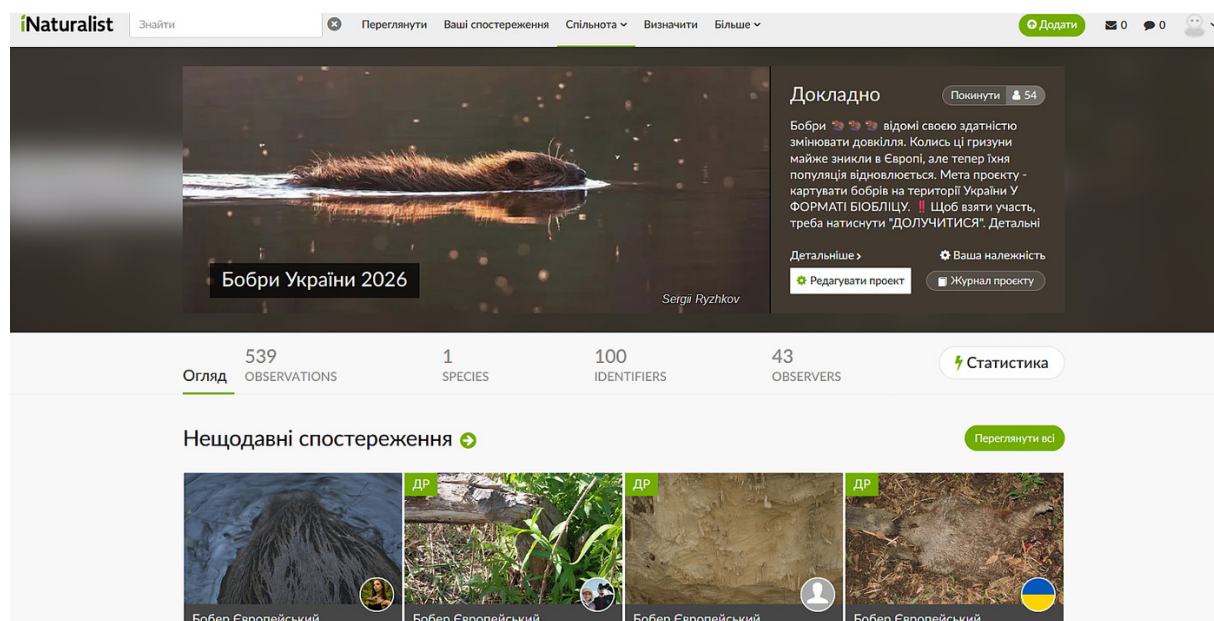


Presentation on the ecological role of beavers as ecosystem engineers.

Photo: © Artur Koichurenko

Project images

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The iNaturalist project "Beavers of Ukraine 2026", used to collect beaver observations across Ukraine.

Source: iNaturalist, project "Beavers of Ukraine 2026". Header photo: Sergii Ryzhkov (credit shown in the screenshot).