

Project Title

“Beyond Preservation: Planning Tourism and Recreation Development in National Nature Parks in Ukraine”

Detailed title: “Case studies on planning the development of recreation possibilities and sustainable tourism in Ukrainian national nature parks: identifying drivers and restraining forces using Force Field Analysis for better policy and management”.

Project Data

Duration	Funding	Project location/ Region
12 months	7 304 €	Ukraine: North, Centre and West
01/04/2026 – 31/03/2027	(Total 13 304 € with monthly scholarship)	

Project Partners

Who are the project partners?

- Chornobyl Radiation and Ecological Biosphere Reserve
- Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group

What does each partner specifically contribute to the project?

- Cooperation towards the research. One of the case study areas.
- Guidance and support in planning the visits to study areas.

About the Project

What is the problem – and what do you want to change about it?	Solid scientific research at the national or case-study level on the state of tourism development within protected areas, particularly national nature parks, is lacking in Ukraine. A global study on tourism management in national parks revealed that Ukraine has one of the lowest numbers of thematic studies published in peer-reviewed journals. Investigating sustainable tourism in Ukraine's national parks is critically important for several interconnected reasons. First, Ukraine has a vast and globally significant network of protected areas, harbouring immense biodiversity. Developing recreational and sustainable tourism possibilities within national parks offers one of the few viable long-term mechanisms for generating the revenue and local political support necessary for effective conservation, especially as state funding remains acutely limited. Secondly, national parks serve as crucial resources for national resilience and social recovery. By providing safe spaces for nature-based recreation, they offer psychological and physical relief.
What are you doing specifically to achieve this goal?	I conduct research and apply Force Field Analysis to quantify the driving and restraining forces that shape the complex reality of planning and developing sustainable tourism and recreation in Ukrainian national parks.
What is special or new about your approach?	The Force Field Analysis method has never been used in Ukraine regarding tourism and recreation planning and development within the country's protected areas, mainly national parks.
The figure: What does the project actually do?	The project conducted research trips to 5 national parks and 1 biosphere reserve. More than 40 staff members from protected areas took part in the Force Field Analysis to quantify the driving and restraining forces that shape the planning and development of sustainable tourism and recreation in Ukrainian national parks. Scientific papers, conference abstracts and policy briefs are among the project's outputs.

	A book: Tucker G, ed. Nature Conservation in Europe: Approaches and Lessons. Cambridge University Press; 2023, was presented to the National Library of Ukraine.
What remains? What concrete results are achieved, and who can use them in the future?	Academic contribution in the form of 1-2 peer-reviewed articles advances the literature on sustainable tourism and recreation planning and development within protected areas in Ukraine, and the application of Force Field Analysis in the field. Scientists, students, and practitioners can use the results for further research, learning, planning and capacity-building. Policy briefing, a concise and evidence-based report, is addressed to the relevant Ministry to outline the challenges and high-priority actions required for protected area administrations to enable efficient planning and sustainable tourism development.

See the project images
on the following pages



Project images

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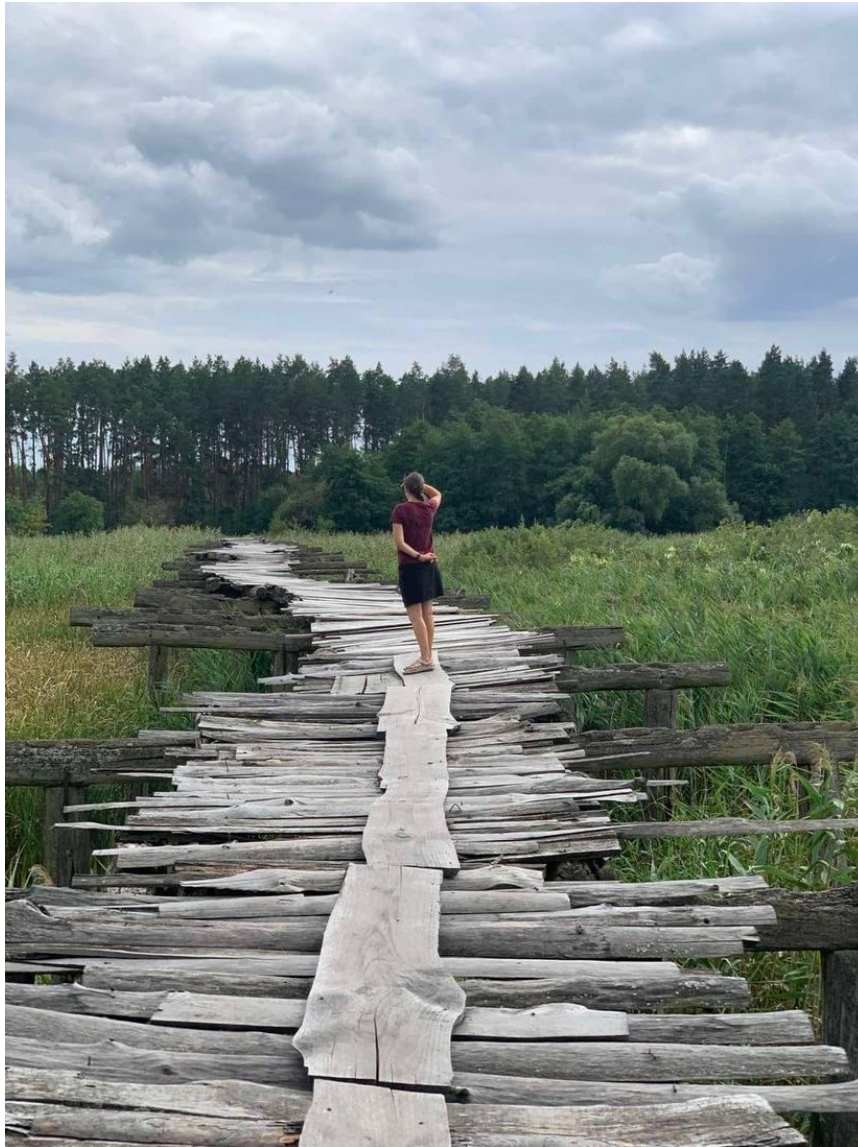


Dilapidated 230-years old palace in Vyshenky village. NPP Mezynskyi.

Photo: © Varukha

Project images

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Longest wooden bridge in Ukraine. National Nature Park Pyryatynskyi.

Photo: © NPP Pyryatynskyi

Project images

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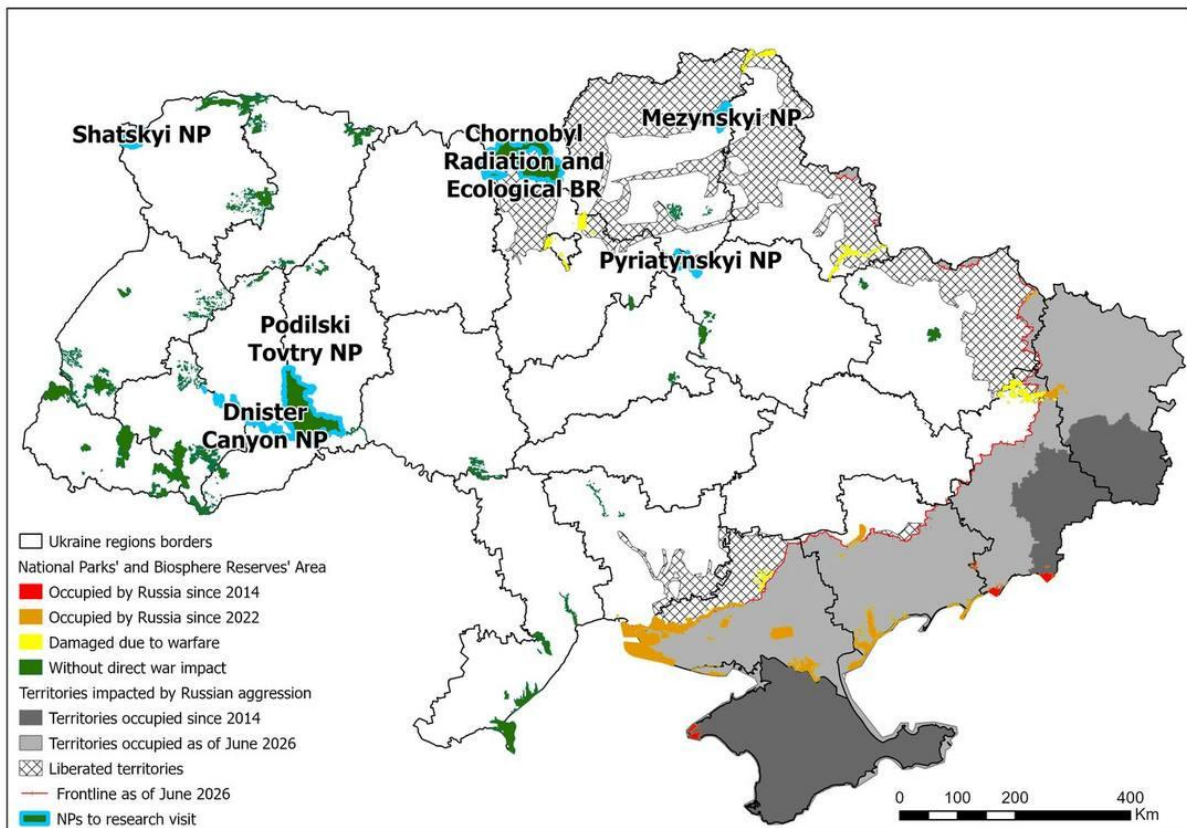


National Nature Park Pyryatynskyi.

Photo: © NPP Pyryatynskyi

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Recreation spot in NPP Podilski Tovtry.

Photo: © Varukha

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Recreation point with view on Desna river and its floodplain. NPP Mezynskyi.

Photo: © Varukha

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Tourist Group having lunch on Liutsymer Lake Shatsk NPP.

Photo: © Varukha

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Varukha A. at the National Library.