



## Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation on steppe landscape

**UKR/SGP/OP6/Y2/CORE/BD/16/07**



<b>Grantee</b>	NGO "Kovylovyyi step"
<b>Focal Area</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Operational Phase</b>	OP 6
<b>Duration</b>	9/2016 - 6/2017
<b>Grant Amount</b>	39 020 US\$
<b>Partners</b>	National natural parks Dzharylgatsky, Meotida and Priazovsky, newspaper ECODEN, Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group, Ukrainian Botanical Society, Institute of Zoology under the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
<b>Co-financing</b>	Eurogas of Ukraine Ltd., Keiter Market Ltd.
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The project aims to protect and restore biodiversity on Ukrainian steppe landscape with chalk extractions for sustainable development and for the benefit of local communities, as well as to improve management approaches in protected areas and PAs public image among local communities, tourists and scientific researchers.

### **Project results:**

- Three scientific expeditions were conducted to provide comprehensive ecological baseline analysis of steppe landscapes and statistics on distribution of rare steppe flora and fauna populations in protected areas Meotida, Pryazovsky and Dzharylgatsky. As a result, scientists identified the main threats for the landscapes caused by local population and developed recommendations.
- Another important project component was dedicated to the development of infrastructure and management approaches of the PAs. The project team established efficient partnerships with the PAs and together they purchased and putted into operation 12 units of modern sampling and monitoring equipment, installed 32 information and security signs, 22 boundary-security signs and four information boards in three PAs that make up a total area of approximately 100,000 ha.
- Moreover, 50 trees and bushes were planted to strengthen the riverbanks and restore the ecosystem of landscape reserve of local importance "Stepanivka". This reserve is a connecting channel with the Sea of Azov. This area is a habitat for 14 rare species of plants and animals protected by the Red Book of Ukraine and Bern Convention.
- Project team conducted a conference and series of trainings to disseminate scientific research results and recommendations among all target groups. 3 environmental lessons and excursions for students were conducted on the territories of the PAs. Over 530 representatives of local authorities, communities, and youth participated in information dissemination events.
- In addition, project team in cooperation with young and progressive scientists has created four videos that describe unique landscapes of the PAs. These videos were widely disseminated through different media channels.
- 1500 booklets on National natural parks Dzharylgatsky, Meotida and Pryazovsky have been developed, published and disseminated.