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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

34th meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2014

Complaint in stand-by

**Threats to natural habitats and species in
Dniester River Delta
(Ukraine)**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*



UKRAINE

**MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS**

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**Ms. Ivana d'Alessandro
Secretary of the Bern Convention**

**Ref.: Reporting on Complaint in stand-by No. 2010/3:
Development plans in Lower Dnister National Park (Ukraine)**

Dear Ms. Ivana d'Alessandro,

With this letter I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Bern Convention for the kind proposal to update the information on Complaint in stand-by No. 2010/3: Development plans in Lower Dnister National Park (Nyzhniodnistrovskiy National Nature Park) referring to your letter of 23 January 2014. I wish to excuse for the delay in sending the reply of Ukrainian Party on that matter taking into account some political difficulties we need to get over with the support of the Council of Europe.

Following the decision of the Bureau of the Bern Convention to put the above mentioned complaint on stand-by, Ukrainian authorities kept its promises to notify the Secretariat as soon as the management plans for the Wetlands of International Importance "Northern part of the Dnister estuary" and "Interfluvial Dnister-Turunchuk" would be elaborated. Based on the contract № 32/270/09 from 07.09.2012 between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and Charities organization "Interekocenter" draft Management plans for wetlands of International Importance: "Northern part of the Dnister estuary" and "Interfluvial Dnister-Turunchuk")" has been elaborated.

It has been done in accordance with the New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, adopted by the Resolution VIII.14 of the 8-th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention. The above mentioned management plans had been adopted by the Technical and scientific Board of Nyzhniodnistrovskiy National Nature Park, within the territory of which both sites are located. Large team of scientists from the Odessa National University named I.I. Mechnikov, Melitopol Azov-Black Sea Ornithological Station, Institute of Zoology named by I.I. Schmalhausen and other organizations participated in elaboration of the management plans.

They taken on board the results and conclusions of zoological expeditions and other studies carried out in 2006-2010 years, outcomes of the project "Technical assistance in the planning of the Lower Dnister Basin Management "CBC programs TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Lower Dnister River Basin Management Planning, Tacis CBC Action Programme 2003 Project Europe Aid/120944/C/SV/UA). This project was implemented by the consulting company ARCADIC EuroConsult and scientific team of the Regional Monitoring Centre for Environmental Studies and the Odessa National University named I.I. Mechnikov.

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine had approved the management plans for the above mentioned wetlands and instructed Nyzhniodnistrovskiy National Nature Park to carry out practical measures on the management of these areas in accordance with the document provisions.

Using this opportunity we are also happy to inform you that implementation of other scientific contract on "Development of the project of organization of the territory of

Nyzhniodnistrovskiy National Nature Park, protection, restoration and recreational use of its natural resources (management plan for the PA)" has been completed.

The management plan was developed, agreed with local authorities, adopted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and it is expected it will soon be signed by the new Minister.

I am looking forward that development and implementation of the above mentioned documents will secure comprehensive and successful management of Wetlands of International Importance "Northern part of the Dnister estuary" and "Interfluvial Dnister-Turunchuk" as well as the protected areas of Nyzhniodnistrovskiy National Nature Park.

Let me also reveal my sincere expectation that actuality and intellectual design of presented materials inter alia will assist the Bern Convention Bureau on taking decision to close the complaint in stand-by No. 2010/3 as of accomplished in a full range.

To ensure complete transparency and awareness of the governing bodies of the Bern Convention enclosed, please, find an electronic version of the management plans for the wetlands of international importance "Northern part of the Dnister estuary" and "Interfluvial Dnister-Turunchak" on 569 pages in Ukrainian.

I hope for further fruitful cooperation and support.

With best regards,
Director

Viktor Kantsurak