



3. Protection and development of large wetlands

Wetlands are one of Ukraine's most valuable and vulnerable natural ecosystems. They play a leading role in regulating climate processes, maintaining water balance, and preserving biodiversity. These areas can accumulate significant amounts of carbon dioxide, regulate surface runoff, and create the necessary conditions for the existence of a large number of specialized species of flora and fauna.

The wetlands of the Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, which have suffered serious damage as a result of military operations, are of particular ecological value. In particular, the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant has had massive environmental consequences: flooding of large areas, degradation of former floodplains, drying up of wetland ecosystems, and release of toxic substances from bottom sediments, leading to long-term losses of the region's natural potential.

Among the main challenges of our time are the reduction of water resources due to increased evaporation and the need to preserve the ability of land to absorb carbon. For large river systems, in particular the Dnipro basin, the priority task is to develop scientifically sound concepts for floodplain restoration, water quality improvement, and flood protection.

The implementation of the provisions of the European Union's Water Framework Directive, the reduction of anthropogenic pollution, and the introduction of sustainable water management models form the basis for the effective conservation of river and wetland ecosystems within the framework of Ukraine's European integration course.