



4. Environmental values and social sustainability

The environmental damage caused by military action has had a significant impact on awareness of the importance of environmental protection, the implementation of sustainable development principles, and adaptation to climate change in Ukraine. It has become clear that the process of rebuilding the country requires not only technical and environmental measures, but also the active participation of civil society.

Environmental problems are inextricably linked to political, economic, and social processes, and only through open public dialogue and public involvement can sustainable solutions be developed. This means increasing the level of social sustainability.

In the short term, this is crucial for overcoming the consequences of war, particularly for protecting the natural environment and restoring local ecosystems. In the long term, building resilience is necessary for effective adaptation to climate change, rational use of natural resources, and the creation of stable socio-ecological systems.

The experience of the last three years demonstrates the extraordinary resilience of Ukrainian society, driven by a high level of civic engagement, self-organisation and joint crisis management. This experience has significant practical value and can be used in Germany to adapt to climate challenges, counteract disasters and develop environmental education.

The key objective of this area is to build and strengthen societal resilience in liberal democratic systems. Unlike authoritarian regimes, where the population is forced to respond to crises through coercive methods, resilience in democratic societies is built through awareness raising, voluntary participation, and collective action.

Thus, supporting participatory, sustainable, and socio-ecologically stable structures is defined as the fourth key area of this project.