

# Drevlianskyi Strict Nature Reserve



Location:

Polesia, Ukraine



Area:

30,872 ha



National protection  
status:

Strict Nature Reserve



International  
protection status:

Emerald Network  
(UA0000172) - Drevlianskyi  
Nature Reserve (32,178 ha);  
Partly within the IBA  
(UA111) - Uzh river valley.



## General information

The nature reserve protects a forest and mire complex located on the southern edge of the Polesia lowland, between the Uzh-Zherev and the Uzh-Zvizdal rivers. This landscape is a patchwork of plains, sandy stretches, and swamps. Here we find a unique mosaic of northern mires and southern oak forests, shaped by postglacial landscapes. The floodplain of the Uzh river, mostly marshy and peaty, is dominated by grasslands. Between the forests lie patches of farmlands abandoned after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. They have slowly returned to wasteland. The area remains heavily contaminated with radionuclides. Meanwhile, the nature thrives here taking the advantage of the absence of human activity.

## Biodiversity and natural values

At least 8 endangered habitats requiring specific protection under the Bern Convention (Resolution No 4 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention) have been identified. These habitats are as follows: Floating mats of *Salvinia natans* (3150), Transitional mires and quaking bogs (7140), Beds of large sedges usually without free-standing water, Moist or wet eutrophic and mesotrophic grasslands (6440), Moist or wet tall herb and fern fringes and meadows (6430), Riverine scrub, Thermophilous deciduous woods (9110), Acidophilous oak-dominated woods (9190).

The natural flora of the protected area includes, according to preliminary estimates, about 800 species of vascular plants.

The fauna of the protected area is understudied. Nevertheless, as a result of the preliminary inventory, 42 species of mammals, 188 species of birds, 7 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, 17 species of fish and one species of cyclostomes were registered. The area is of great importance for a number of species of flora and fauna. More than 40 species are included in the Resolution No 6 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention.

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The area is particularly important for the conservation of such fauna and flora species as the Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), the Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), the Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*), the European Roller (*Coracias garrulous*), the White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*), the Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), the Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), the Crane (*Grus grus*), the Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), the Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*), the Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), the Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*), the Great Grey Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), the Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix tetrix*), the Eastern Pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*), Yellow Azalea (*Rhododéndron lúteum*). The following species have also been recorded here: the Pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), the Little crane (*Porzana parva*), the Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), the European otter (*Lutra lutra*), the European beaver (*Castor fiber*), the Wolf (*Canis lupus*), the Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), the Barbastela (*Barbastella barbastel*).

## The most important impacts and threats



Wildfires



Artificial afforestation



Poaching

## Conservation measures

In the Drevlianskyi Strict Nature Reserve, economic activities are banned almost on the entire area. To enhance the conservation of the natural values of the Strict Nature Reserve, detailed inventory of species' habitat and natural habitat is necessary. Consistent monitoring of the conservation values, development of a management or conservation plan are desirable as well.

