

Nobelskyi National Park



Location:

Polesia, Ukraine



Area:

25,318.0 ha



National protection status:

National Park



International protection status:

Emerald Network*
(UA0000168) - Stokhyd-Nobel (57,000 ha); IBA (UA007) - Stokhod river valley (17,800).

*The following description relates to Stokhyd-Nobel Emerald Network site.



General information

The area consists of three sections. The first one includes the lower reaches of the Stokhid River for about 90 km, with fragments of forest massifs adjacent to the river floodplain. The second section includes the valley of the Pripyat River for about 30 km, between the Pripyat-Stokhid National Nature Park (Ukraine) and the Prostyr Area of Special Conservation Interest (Belarus), as well as the large lake Nobel and several smaller lakes. The third section, the southern part of the Nobelskyi National Park area, includes a large fragment, several large patches and many small patches of the forest-bog complex on the watershed of the Stokhid and the Styr rivers. The beds of the both rivers, within the area, are fully preserved in their natural state, strongly meandering, with numerous branches and flow paths. The floodplains are heavily marshy.

In the north-east, it is bounded by protected areas in Belarus (PA - Prostyr). Emerald Network: Stokhyd-Nobel (UA0000168), as well as Prypiat-Stokhid National Nature Park (UA0000044) and Prostyr (BY0000050) border each other and overlap with the Pripyat-Stokhid-Prostyr Transboundary Ramsar Site, along with the Pripyat River Floodplains (Site no.776) in Ukraine and Prostyr (Site no.1611) in Belarus, spans a 100-kilometre stretch of the Stokhid River up to its confluence with the Pripyat River, as well as a 120-kilometre stretch of the Pripyat River. It combines very diverse biotopes: forests and swamps with lakes, river valleys with natural riverbeds and large polders. Wetlands occupy about a half of the area: mires - about 40%, ponds and watercourses - 6%. Forests, including forests on bogs, occupy about 50%, meadows - 4% of the area. Lowland mesotrophic bogs, pine and black alder forests prevail.

Biodiversity and natural values

The area of the site is characterised by diversity of forest, meadow, and wetland habitats. 21 endangered habitats requiring specific protection under the Bern Convention (Resolution No 4 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention) have been identified here. The area is of exceptional importance for conservation of the following natural habitats: Floating frogbit rafts (3150), Floating water-soldier rafts (3150), Floating *Salvinia natans* mats (3150), Floating bladderwort colonies (3150), Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers (3260), Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water, Low and medium altitude hay meadows (6510), Moist or wet eutrophic and mesotrophic grassland (6440). In addition, natural habitats as follows have been identified here: Floating *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* communities (3150), Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers (3260), Riverine willow woodland (91E0), Sphagnum birch woods (91D0), Nemoral bog conifer woodland (91D0), Inland Sand Dunes (2330) and others.

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Flora and fauna

Over 60 species occurring here are included into Resolution No 6 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention. The territory is of great importance for a number of flora and fauna species, for instance, the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), the Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*), the Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*), European Roller (*Coracias garrulous*), the Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), the Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), the Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), the Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*), the Three-Toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*), the Eastern pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*), the Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), the Fen Orchid (*Liparis loeselii*). Besides, the area is important for nesting of several other birds of prey and wetland birds, such as the Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix tetrix*), etc.

The diversity of mammal species in the area includes the European beaver (*Castor fiber*), the Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*), the Murin des marais (*Myotis dasycneme*).

The area is a very important habitat of a number of fish species: the Lake minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*), the Ukrainian brook lamprey (*Eudontomyzon mariae*), the European weatherfish (*Misgurnus fossilis*), the Ziege (*Pelecus cultratus*), the Spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*), European bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus amarus*), as well as of reptiles and amphibians: the European pond terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*), the Crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and the Fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*).

Rare insect species inhabit the area, such as the Large white-faced darter (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), the Water Beetle (*Graphoderus bilineatus*), the Scarce Fritillary (*Hypodryas maturna*), the Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*), and the False Ringlet (*Coenonympha oedippus*).

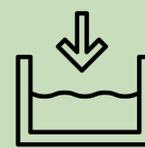
The most important impacts and threats



**Illegal amber
mining**



**Logging and dead
wood removal**



Old drainage systems

Conservation measures

About 80% of the area lies within the Nobelskyi National Park and Stokhid Landscape Reserve. For these areas (overlapping with the national park and the reserve) timber harvesting, clearcut logging, incremental and gradual felling, hunting, drainage are banned, whereas some other restrictions are imposed.

Detailed inventory of the conservation values (species' habitat and natural complexes) is necessary, and ensuring their protection by creating special protection zones.