

# Poliskyi Strict Nature Reserve



Location:

Polesia, Ukraine



Area:

20,104 ha



National protection status:

Strict Nature Reserve



International protection status:

Ramsar site (1403) - Polissia Mires (2,145 ha); IBA (UA009) - Polis'kyi Nature Reserve (20,104 ha); Emerald Network\* (UA0000001) – Poliskyi (36,465 ha).

\*The following description relates to Poliskyi Emerald Network site.



## General information

This area is a fragment of the forest and wetland complex nestled between the Ubort and Bolitnytsia rivers. The landscape is mostly flat, but it's dotted with sand hills, low ridges, and swampy depressions. You can also find striking granite rock formations here—some are wide, giant boulders, while others appear as groups of rocks covered in lichen or damp, cavernous crevices. Forest vegetation absolutely predominates covering more than 80% of the area. Pine forests of various types (like lichen, blueberry, and sphagnum) are most common, with smaller areas of birch, alder, oak, and hornbeam-oak forests.

Scattered among these woods are extensive marsh complexes: mesotrophic bogs, dominated by sedges, cover about 1,600 hectares; oligotrophic bogs span over 400 hectares. In total, open mires (including a re-wetted, abandoned polder in the center of the reserve) make up about 18% of the area. The remaining 2% is a mix of meadows and water reservoirs. Dry grasslands appear in small fragments on the edges and in clearings, with scrubs and heathlands scattered sporadically throughout.

## Biodiversity and natural values

The area is peculiar for diversity and richness of wetland and forest biotopes. About 20 endangered habitats requiring specific protection under the Bern Convention (Resolution No 4 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention) have been identified here. This area is especially important for the conservation of more than a half of them, such as Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140), Beds of large sedges normally without free-standing water, Sphagnum birch woods (91D0), Nemoral bog conifer woodland (91D0), Acidophilous oak-dominated woodland (9190), Oak - ash - hornbeam woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils (9170), Raised bog complexes (7110) and others.



# Poliskyi Strict Nature Reserve

## Flora and fauna

604 species of vascular plants, 139 mosses and 140 lichens occur in the territory of the reserve. Its flora includes boreal (taiga) and Nemoral (forest-steppe) species.

The fauna of the Strict Nature Reserve comprises 1770 species of animals, including 1502 species of invertebrates and 279 vertebrates' species (45 mammals, 195 birds, 12 amphibians, 7 reptiles, and 19 fish).

The territory is of great importance for a number of flora and fauna species. Over 60 of them are included into the Resolution No 6 of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention. 41 plant species of the park are listed in The Red Data Book of Ukraine. Among them are the Dicranum Moss (*Dicranum viride*), the Eastern pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*), the Sand Jurinea (*Jurinea cyanoides*), the Lapland willow (*Salix lapponum*), the Myrtle-Leaved Willow (*Salix myrtilloides*), and others.

The following mammal species are common inhabitants locally: the Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), the Otter (*Lutra lutra*), the Badger (*Meles meles*), the Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*).

A range of rare insects have been identified here: the Jersey Tiger (*Callimorpha quadripunctaria*), the False Ringlet (*Coenonympha oedippus*), the Danube Clouded Yellow (*Colias myrmidone*), the Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), etc.

67 animal species occurring in this territory are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. The area is of greatest importance for conservation of such bird species as the Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus*), the Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), the Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), the Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), the European Roller (*Coracias garrulous*), and others.

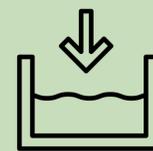
## The most important impacts and threats



Wildfires



Logging



Old drainage systems

## Conservation measures

55% of the area belongs to the Poliskyi Strict Nature Reserve, partly overlapping with other national protected areas. About 60% of the area is legally protected. Economic activities are legally prohibited in most of the area. However, monitoring shows their presence, including large-scale logging. A management plan has been developed for the Poliskyi Strict Nature Reserve. In addition, a buffer zone has been established around the reserve to mitigate adverse impacts, with some economic activities restricted.

In order to improve conservation measures in the area, a detailed inventory of the habitat and species of conservation value is needed, as well as the extension of the boundaries of existing protected areas. Systematic monitoring of conservation values and the development of a management or conservation plan are also desirable.