

Iryna Tustanovska, Chair of the Advisory Board
Svitlana Kravchenko, Founder
Environment People Law
9, Ivana Franka str., 1a, 79005, Lviv, Ukraine
Taras Shevchenko boulevard, 38 office 76,01032 Kyiv Ukraine
And Members of the IUCN Commissions in Ukraine

9th March 2022

Dear Ms Tustanovska and Ms Kravchenko,

Dear IUCN Commission members in Ukraine,

A message of support from ICENCA Co-Chairs to IUCN Ukrainian Member EPL and IUCN Commission members in Ukraine

We are deeply saddened and concerned to see the unfolding war and escalating developments in the Ukraine. The deployment of armed forces, and the resulting bloodshed, suffering and environmental damage this is causing are alarming to all of us.

As our only IUCN Member in the country, we are somewhat relieved to learn that your staff are safe and hope this is true for all the staff as well as for the 17 members of the IUCN Commissions based in the Ukraine. We stand ready to assist all colleagues at Environment People Law and IUCN Commissions.

The current conflict and its consequences will have a lasting impact on people and nature and, on behalf of fellow IUCN Members in the Interregional Committee for Europe North and Central Asia, we would like to express our unwavering support and desire to act in solidarity and unity to address the current and immediate humanitarian crisis while also not losing sight of the disastrous consequences on ecosystems.

In this complex situation, while the world rightfully focuses on the humanitarian aspects of the war, it is incumbent on IUCN and its members to remind the world that the environment is also a casualty of war by calling the attention on the environmental dimensions of the damages. By way of context, some references can be made to the IUCN publication [Conflict and Conservation](#) published in 2021, and the following Resolutions:

- [Res 19.41 Armed Conflict and the Environment](#)
- [WCC-2020-Res-042-EN – Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict](#) and
- WCC-2020-Res-115-EN Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers.

We understand from some media reports that the environmental damages of this war are grave and will further compromise the country's recovery once the conflict ends. The EPL, which is advocating for the rule of law for people and nature, is and remains a critical actor in these times of crisis. As part of the IUCN ICENCA, your safety and welfare is our prime concern. Your insight in informing on environmental concerns is invaluable, and we would like to support you in your efforts to addressing these.

Please do not hesitate to let us know how the wider IUCN family can be of help.

Yours sincerely,



Tamas Marghescu
Co-Chair, ICENCA



Chris Mahon
Co-Chair, ICENCA

Cc Razan Al Mubarak, President, Bruno Oberle, Director General, all Chairs of IUCN Commissions