CHAGRA'2010: enhancing conservation profile of chalk grasslands in Ukraine

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Final report



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Authors: Mikhail Banik, Marina Kovalenko, Maria Kolesnikova, Alexey Korshunov

Contact person: Mikhail Banik

Contact address: Research Institute of Biology, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Svobody sq. 4, Kharkiv, 61022 Ukraine e-mail: mbanik@operamail.com website: http://chalksteppe.org.en Project layout: Ievgen Skorobogatov







Table of contents

Acknowledgements	3
Summary	4
Introduction	5
Project members	8
Aim and objectives	9
Methods	10
Scientific methods (Monitoring schemes for Dvourechansky	
national park)	10
Bird surveys	10
Plant surveys	12
Collecting photos	14
Methods of work for environmental education	15
General methods	15
Methods for producing education materials	16
Outputs and results	22
Results of bird & plant surveys	22
Bird communities of steppe forests	22
Bird communities of chalk steppe	23
Plant communities of chalk screes and chalk steppe	25
Conservation education results and outputs of the project	29
Education of local people	29
Strengthening the capacity of rural schools	31
Website on chalk steppe conservation	34
The results of the project in publications and talks	34
Achievements and impacts	36
Conclusion	43
Challenges and experiences	45
Sources of success	45
Faults and problems	46
Tips for monitoring	48
Safety considerations	49
Plans for the future	50
References	53
Annexes	56



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Summary



Chagra'2010 is a project aimed at enhancing the conservation profile of chalk steppe ecosystems, rich in endemic plant species, in North-eastern Ukraine. It is a follow-up of Chagra'2000 project performed as a broadscale expedition to estimate the status of rare plant & bird species of chalk steppe in Eastern Ukraine. The activity of Chagra'2010 project was focused to support newly created Dvourechansky national park, a first nationally recognised protected area with a purpose to save chalk grassland ecosystems in Ukraine. The core of the activities was in provision of a favourable milieu for the initial years of operation of the park by raising awareness of local people, supporting local schools and grounding monitoring schemes. The team's awareness raising campaign contributed to positive attitude of local people to the park creation and to establishment of friendly contacts between park staff and district authorities. We provided local schools with sets of teaching aids designed to stress the value of chalk grasslands, photo-guides for identification of chalk plants and launched a phenological observations' programme which is now maintained by the park staff. First ever Internet site on chalk steppe was created (www.chalksteppe.org) and presents a photoguide to more than 200 plant species. Since 2010 monitoring schemes for plant communities of chalk grasslands, bird communities of forest fragments and chalk steppe were run in the park.

Look for synopsis of each section in orange-coloured boxes



The goal of Chagra'2010 project was to support the newly created Dvourechansky national park, the only nationally important protected area organised in Ukraine to save threatened ecosystems of chalk screes and chalk steppe.

Chagra'2010 project focuses on conservation of Ukrainian chalk steppe which is one kind of European dry grasslands. Unlike the bulk of English chalk grasslands chalk steppes of Eastern Ukraine and Southeastern Russia are of natural origin. They are spread along elevated right banks of river valleys mainly in Don and Volga rivers' basins. Chalk steppe accumulated distinctive endemic plant species well adapted for the life on calcareous substratum. Their distribution is rather fragmented because each chalk outcrop or grassland site resembles an island in an alien matrix. Fragmented distribution and small population size makes plant species of chalk steppe potentially vulnerable to any disturbance. Nevertheless, in the past human impact on chalk steppe was low because such lands are useless for agriculture. Chalk steppe remained comparatively untouched contrary to



Fig. 1 Forest planting is the main factor that still jeopardises chalk steppe and causes extinction of local populations of threatened plant species, while chalk quarrying poses a more local threat.



other steppe-like habitats, which almost completely disappeared in Eastern Ukraine. The situation changed in mid XX century when extensive forest planting practice was introduced in semi-arid regions of the former USSR. Chalk steppe suffered greatly from this impact and some populations of extremely rare plants completely disappeared (Banik et al. 2007). The same factor persistently jeopardises chalk grasslands nowadays (*Fig. 1*) as well as less destructive and more local steppe fires and chalk quarrying. The only way to withdraw these threats is to organise legal protection of the territories with high species diversity in chalk steppe region.

The level of chalk steppe protection in Ukraine was disappointingly low but in last decade some major advance was achieved. Prof. Dr. Victor A. Tokarsky and Tatiana Atemasova, leader of Chagra'2000 project, invested all their energy into long-termed and sophisticated process of the organisation





of Dvourechansky national park. One of the cornerstones for organisation the of the national park was the knowledge on the pattern of distribution of endemic chalk plant species over significant portions of their ranges gained Chagra'2000 project in expeditions (Atemasova, 2001). park Banik The became the first nationally protected important area organised in Ukraine to save unique ecosystems of chalk screes and chalk steppe. It is situated in Dvourechnaya district, Kharkiv region in Oskol river valley and provides protection for chalk steppe sites as well as other components of the valley landscape (Fig. 2).



The grand idea of Chagra'2010 follow-up project was in supporting the activity of the national park during first years of its operation. In Ukraine effective conservation within any protected area is possible only if local people and local authorities have favourable attitude to such intervention into their accustomed way of life. Our major intention in changing people's attitudes was to operate through local schools, which play inevitably great role in maintaining the region in normal state. Chagra'2010 project was designed to invest our knowledge in local schools to enhance their capacities and to establish links between schools and the national park. Unexpectedly, at early stage of the project implementation we have found a mighty partner whose support was critically essential for the success of the work. It was Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity where people are working with passion to support the activity of the national park. Our other major partners were the Society for the Protection of Birds of Ukraine (Ukrainian partner of BirdLife International), whose staff advised as on contacting with local people, Dvourechansky district administration, who helped in our field activities, and Kharkiv national university, who provided room and services for non-field work.





Project members

Mikhail Banik, 40 years; ornithologist, highly experienced in bird counts, participated in several conservation projects in Chagra'2010 project area in 2000, 2004, 2008 years, experience of work in conditions of chalk steppe for more than 10 years (since 1997); well familiarised with the project site; currently senior researcher at Research Institute of V.N. Karazin Biology. Kharkiv national university, Ukraine; role in project: project leader, responsible for



overall organisation and for scientific part of the project.

Alexander Volontsevich, 33 years; ornithologist, experienced in bird surveys; specialist on phenological observations, participated in Chagra'2000 project in 2000 year; postgraduate at Ukrainian Research Institute of Environmental Problems, Kharkiv, Ukraine; role in project: responsible for organisation of bird surveys.

Maryna Kovalenko, 27 years; ecologist, participated in several scientific environmental projects since 2008 year; senior lecturer at Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, School of Biology, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv national university, Ukraine; role in project: responsible for public awareness part of the project activity; responsible for camp life organisation in expedition trips.

Maria Kolesnikova, 27 years; ecologist, participated in several scientific environmental projects since 2008 year; senior lecturer at Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, School of Biology, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv national university, Ukraine; role in project: responsible for public awareness campaign and for organising capacity enhancement programme in local schools.

Alexey Korshunov, 31 years; ecologist, participated in several environmental projects since 2006 year, had an experience of field work in the project area; senior researcher at Research Institute of Biology, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv national university, Ukraine and senior researcher (part-time) at Dvourechansky national park since 2012 year; role in project: responsible for organisation of photographying in the field, responsible for preparation of teaching aids and arrangement of photos for Internet site.

Olga Devyatko, 25 years; botanist, graduated from V. N. Karazin Kharkiv national university in 2010 year; role in project: responsible for vegetation surveys.



Aim and objectives

The **aim** of the project is to enhance the conservation profile of chalk steppe ecosystems in North-eastern Ukraine through support of newly created Dvourechansky national park and by means of attracting Ukrainian and international audience to the problem of conservation of chalk steppe.

The **objectives** of the project are the following:

- to create favourable attitude in local people by clarifying the essence of national park activities,

- to strengthen the capacity of local schools by providing teaching aids and field guides,

- to spread information on chalk steppe through Internet site,

- to link park activity with education process by launching phenological observations in local schools

- to establish monitoring schemes for tracing changes in plant and bird communities in the park.





Methods used for grounding monitoring schemes in Dvourechansky national park were as follows:

- for bird surveys
- transect counts
- 🤣 total-area census

for plant surveys

line-point intercept

Scientific methods (monitoring schemes for Dvourechansky national park)

One major objective of any national park activity is tracing changes in biota composition and communities' structure. We have grounded the monitoring schemes for plant and bird communities to support the activity of Dvourechansky national park. Each scheme was then introduced to the park staff. Since 2012 year the schemes have been applied by park staff with the help and supervision of our team. Below the methods used to gather information on bird and plant communities are described in more detail. See also Annex I for the map of the project area with indication of all sampling plots and transects.

Bird surveys



We have chosen two major types of bird communities to be monitored. The bird communities of natural steppe forests and chalk steppe/chalk screes were studied. For bird counts in forests we have applied a mixed strategy. In a comparatively large forest fragment a transect count was used (the transect length 2.6 km, Zalivnoy forest). In lesser forest fragments a totalarea census method was applied (see below). We



$$D_{i} = \frac{1}{2L} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{n_{ij}}{h_{j}} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m} k_{j} n_{ij}}{L}$$

where D_i — population density of *i*-species, ind./sq. km; n_i — the number of individuals of *i*-species counted in a *j*-class of distances (*j*-interval); L — the total length of the transect, km; h_i — the width of *j*-interval, m; k — constant coefficient which shows the degree to which the area of 1 km strip of *j*-interval is lesser than 1 sq. km.

For bird counts on chalk steppe sites and in small forest fragments we have used a total-area census method (Stewart and Kantrud 1972; Igl and Johnson 1997; Dieni and Jones 2002). We have chosen this method because of short time of our expedition surveys taking into account it can produce reliable data as compared to standard spot mapping method (Dieni and Jones 2002). Birds were counted on permanent plots. Each forest fragment was considered as a plot where the forest margin delineated its boundary (two forest fragments about 40 ha each). The boundaries of chalk steppe plots were delineated with use of GPS-tracking and mainly coincided with roads at the foot of chalk hills and with bending points at the hill tops (Fig. 3). Each plot was



Fig. 3 Roads at the foot of chalk hills are natural boundaries of the plots surveyed by the total-area census method.



Plant surveys



Monitoring of plant communities of chalk steppe was planned to be done within already chosen permanent plots for bird counts. In 2010 we have accomplished a short pilot study to test two methods of monitoring of plant communities for feasibility (Elzinga et al. 2001). Two transect methods were tested: line-point intercept and cover-line intercept (Elzinga et al. 1998, 2001; Rich et al. 2005). The latter produced more reliable estimates

of individual species abundance (cover) but is apparently more laborious and about 2 times time-consuming. Finally, the line-point intercept was chosen as main sampling method due to its feasibility and capacity to

produce estimates of vertical structure of vegetation cover (Fig. 4). Such estimates may be used for the assessment of animal habitat conditions (Godínez-Alvarez et al. 2009).

Fig. 4 Line-point intercept is a comparatively simple yet informative method for estimation of the composition and structure of chalk steppe vegetation.



Within each plot 3 to 4 lines of 50 m length were chosen in a random way using a grid of numbered squares superimposed on a plot map to find starting points for each line. The direction of the line was always chosen across slope





to avoid tracing natural regular changes in vegetation composition along slope. 50 m steel measuring tape and flags were used to mark the line. Initially pyramids made of chalk fragments were used to mark starting and finishing points. The co-ordinates of the points were identified with use of GPS-navigators (GARMIN Etrex H) and reference points were chosen (single trees or other). Later on starting points were marked

by steel rods but finally they were replaced by wooden poles (see below).

At each line vegetation was sampled by placing a pointer vertically along tape and recording all 'hits' (Elzinga et al. 1998, 2001). For every 'hit' the species was recorded and the position within the vertical structure of the cover (e.g. top layer, lower layer etc.) was noted. The interval of probing was 30 cm that produced 167 point measurements per line. For tallying we have used printed data sheet forms (see Herrick et al. 2009) placed into a clipboard. Unknown species were codified, photographed and identified later on.

The estimates of the cover for each species were calculated as a ratio of points of species hits to the total number of points measured (Elzinga et al. 2001).

The essential part of the project activities was training of the national park staff in doing bird & plant surveys on monitoring plots and transects. The responsible staff persons were assigned and in 2011 every time when we worked on plots and transects they participated in the surveys. In 2011 year several students of Dvourechansky lycee took part in vegetation monitoring surveys abreast the park staff. These young people who may later work in the park had a possibility to acquaint themselves with research routine.

Collecting photos

Almost all expedition time except that needed for doing bird counts and vegetation surveys was devoted to taking photos which then were used for preparing teaching aids for local schools & identification guide on chalk plants, and for the development of Internet site on chalk steppe.



The major part of these images was photos of chalk plant species taken to picture the individual plant in habitat context and at different phases of the life cycle. We have used tips and ideas presented by Prof. R. M. M. Crawford in his account on plant photographing (Crawford 2007).







General methods

In our work with local people we have kept the rule of listening attentively any messages and building our arguments on notions and thinks of respondents.



Methods for producing education materials

Our education work was focused on local schools (Hurst 1998). We have tried to enhance the capacity of local schools, the only centres for environmental education in rural regions where chalk steppes are spread. The more attention will be paid to the distinctness of chalk steppe in local secondary education, the more effective will be conservation in the national park, here is our belief. The principal idea was to develop wellillustrated teaching aids which may be used by teachers of biology and geography. We tried to treat the themes discussed during natural history, biology, and geography lessons in so manner to illustrate general laws and patterns by examples taken from surrounding nature and more scrupulously from chalk steppe ecosystems. Each theme is presented on two A3-sheets. One sheet gives full-colour illustrative material e.g. photos, drawings or schemes (Fig. 5). The other contains text part where the theme is treated in detail. Almost all photos except for electronic microscope photos of foraminifers and coccolitophorids (fossil organisms chalk is made of) are taken by our team members. 7 major themes were considered: landscape history and palaeontology, landscape and vegetation, adaptation of plants to their environment, pollination and seed dispersal, predator-prey relations in ecosystems, rare plant and animal species, threats to chalk steppe.



Fig. 5 Each teaching aid as this one on factors of threat for chalk steppe includes a sheet with full-colour illustrative material and a sheet with text explanation.





Several theme sheets were developed in 2008 year in the course of the project funded through Crowder-Messersmith Fund, Audubon Naturalist Society but redesigned and rewritten in 2010 year within the current project. Each sheet is laminated to reduce possible damage and to ensure durability (Hurst 1998). 5 sets per school were provided for 19 schools in chalk steppe area in Kharkiv region. The samples of teaching aids are given in Annex II.

For the development of identification guide on plant species of chalk screes and chalk steppe we accumulated own quality photos of individual species including general view of the plant, view of the plant in a characteristic habitat, close-up pictures of flowers, fruits and leaves. A scheme of the habitat preferences (relative abundance at different parts of slope profile) was included in every species account. The main principle of arrangement of individual species within the guide was to assemble them by the colour of the flower. The text includes indication of major distinctive traits and the size of the plant, the data on the terms of blossoming, habitat preferences and concise information on the use of the species in medicine, rural domestic economy, poisonous properties etc. We tried to minimise the usage of specific botanic terms. The text is bilingual to match Ukrainian and Russianspeaking audience. The guide was developed to be used in secondary schools.



Sample pages from the identification guide are shown in Annex III.

In the course of the project we have introduced the method of linking the activity of the national park with local schools through launching the programme of phenological questioning of schoolchildren. The idea was that phenological questionnaires are printed, distributed, gathered when filled and analysed by the park staff. Phenological observations are

comparatively simple and may be done by schoolchildren while the network of local schools around the national park allows to catch minor spatial differences in occurrence of phenological phenomena. Additionally, participation in phenological programme attracts the attention of schoolchildren to focal species which are under legal protection in the national park.

Special workshop for developing the phenological questionnaire and the programme of observations was held in Kharkiv national university in October, 2010. Lecturers from Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology and Department of Botany of Kharkiv national universities, representatives of regional environmental organisations and staff of Gomilshansky Lysi national park participated in the meeting. The result was the agreed choice of focal species for the questionnaire. The focal species were chosen to balance major groups of organisms. These species are distinct in appearance, hardly to be confused with any other species, related to chalk steppe habitats, wellknown for rural people and comparatively numerous. The phenological questionnaire was designed in so manner to have an appeal for users and simultaneously to reduce the costs of printing in the future (Fig. 6). Graphical design was used to picture every focal species. A sample copy of the phenological questionnaire is given in Annex IV.

For development of the leaflet on Dvourechansky national park (with an aim to contribute to the positive attitude of local people to its creation) we have tried to take into consideration major needs and problems of rural dwellers. The text part was designed to emphasise all aspects of the park activities which are potentially attractive for rural people and to show that traditional land use practice (especially moderate grazing) isn't detrimental but is even important for functioning of steppe communities. Our argumentation was grounded on the ideas drawn from the work of the first national park in Kharkiv region created in 2004 year. We have consulted with the staff of this park on the contents and lay-out of the leaflet. Finally, we have approached Dvourechansky Department of Education, who organised the distribution of the leaflet through local schools. This system worked very well and added to the reputation of the education campaign. The leaflet produced in the course

of Chagra'2010 project can be found in Annex V.









Fig. 7 Meetings in rural schools were our main tool to introduce Dvourechansky national park, and to present educational materials.

For the distribution of our educational materials we have used a form of meetings (Hurst 1998) with schoolchildren and teachers of biology and geography in local schools. At each meeting we have given talks about chalk steppe, about the role Dvourechansky plays park national in its conservation, and about the value of phenological observations in current conditions of global climate changes. Microsoft Power Point



presentations displayed by means of multimedia projector were used to accompany the talks (Fig. 7).

The major output of Chagra'2010 project aimed at enhancing the conservation profile of chalk steppe ecosystems in Ukraine was the development and launching of an Internet-site (*www.chalksteppe.org*). One of the principal intentions for the development of this site was to make available our photo-archive for wider audience. The core of the site is a



photo-guide to plant species of chalk steppe. We have carefully checked all our photos of plants, withdrew all doubtful and selected most appropriate to use for identification purpose. The arrangement rule for species within an internet guide is the same as in printed identification guide. First step for flowering plants is to choose the colour of the flower, then you should look through species arranged in a systematic order. Another important part of the internet site is a section with bibliography where we have tried to accumulate older and lesser known papers on chalk steppe. The papers were digitized by scanning xero-copies or original texts. The information on former state of these habitats is very important for tracing any changes and for applying relevant management rules. The starting page of the Internetsite is reproduced in Annex VI.





Scientific results

Schemes for monitoring of bird and plant communities were developed and launched by the project team in Dvourechansky national park and are now maintained by the staff of the park.

Bird surveys

- No less than 41 bird species breed in broadleaved forests on rugged terrain in the national park. Chaffinch, Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Collared Flycatcher, and Hawfinch are the most numerous.
- 9 non-passerine and 26 passerine bird species comprise the bird community of chalk hilly terrain. Birds related to shrub and forest fragments dominated in bird community (Red-backed Shrike, Yellowthroat, and Common Whitethroat are the most numerous) and are followed by members of chalk steppe guild (Skylark and Whinchat are the most abundant).

Results of bird & plant surveys

The main result of this area of the project activity is launching monitoring schemes for Dvourechansky national park which are now maintained by its staff. Bird communities are monitored in forests (1 transect, 2 plots) and in chalk steppe (3 plots). Plant communities of chalk steppe are monitored within 3 plots on 11 transects (see Methods).

Bird communities of steppe forests

In 2010-2012 years the total of 31 species of breeding birds were found in a comparatively large forest fragment ('Zalivnoy' forest) and 5 more species were recorded in smaller forest fragments. The latter species e.g. Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) and



Fig. 8 Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) is virtually the only bird species peculiar to chalk scree habitats.

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) are peculiar to forest edges and so more likely to be found in smaller forest patches. The overall total number of breeding bird species of steppe forests in Dvourechansky national park is no less than 41. Some additional species e.g. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) and Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) were recorded beyond the time of regular counts (in evening hours). The most numerous species are Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Great Tit (*Parus major*), Blue Tit (*P. caeruleus*), Collared Flycatcher

(*Ficedula albicollis*), and Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*). The information on species densities may be found in Annex VII.

Bird communities of chalk steppe

Bird counts on chalk steppe plots produced enough data to describe the composition and structure of bird communities. The total of 33 breeding species were found in 2010-2011 years, and 2 more species were additionally registered in monitoring surveys on the same plots in 2012-2013 years (Grey

Patridge *Perdix perdix* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*). Chalk hills are complex habitats and the whole bird community is composite too. 4 sub-habitats were identified: chalk screes with low vegetation cover (lesser than 50%), chalk steppe in which grasses and sedges dominated in cover, gullies with bush and forest fragments, and hillside gullies with chalk cliffs. Accordingly, 4 distinct bird species assemblages were discerned. Some bird species can be affiliated with more than one assemblage (see below) but for simplicity we have assigned them the only assemblage status.

Bird assemblage of chalk screes is the poorest and simplest. It comprises only 2 species. The only



Fig. 9 Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) is a comparatively common species in true chalk steppe.

Fig. 10 Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) is abundant in chalk hilly terrain with shrub and forest fragments along gullies.

species peculiar to chalk screes is Tawny Pipit (*Anthuscampestris*)(*Fig.* 8). Theothermember of the assemblage is Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) but this species additionally uses chalk gullies where it finds suitable cavities for nesting.

Fig. 11 White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) prefers to breed in chalk gullies and quarries but is quite rare species in rugged chalk terrain.



According to the dataofChagra'2000



project surveys (Banik 2004) one more species, Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*), bred in this sub-habitat but disappeared completely to early 2010s due to sharp decrease in the number of Steppe Marmots (*Marmota bobak*) and the overall impact of cattle grazing (Banik 2013b).

The bird assemblage of chalk steppe (6 species) is notable because it comprise one of a very few examples of bird communities of true steppe. Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) is clearly linked to this sub-habitat and dominates here. Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) (*Fig. 9*) and CommonStonechat(*S. torquata*) follows Skylark in the assemblage. Other species are much less numerous e.g. Grey Partridge, Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and Corncrake (*Crex crex*).

The bird assemblage of slopes with gullies with shrub and forest fragments is the most diverse. It unites 22 species. The core is composed of 3 species: Red-backed Shrike (*Fig. 10*), Yellowthroat (*Emberiza citrinella*), and Common Whitethroat. Less

Fig. 12 The Chagra'2010 survey coincided with apparent 'explosion' of Ruddy Shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*) in the study area in 2011. The species actively colonises the eastern part of Kharkiv region in 2000s.





Fig. 13 The structure of bird community of rugged chalk terrain by habitat guilds demonstrates the apparent prevalence of bird species peculiar to shrub and forest fragments in chalk gullies (data of pooled sample for all plots in 2010-2013 years).

Key: Pie charts represent relative abundance of species of certain habitat guid. Colours for habitat guilds: green — birds of chalk gullies with shrub and forest fragments; yellow — birds of chalk steppe; white — birds of chalk screes, grey — birds of chalk gullies with cliffs.

numerous but yet regular species are Barred Warbler and Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*).

The bird assemblage of chalk gullies with cliffs comprises 5 species of which the most abundant is Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus). White Wagtail (Motacilla alba) (Fig. 11) is also peculiar to this sub-habitat. The finding probably breeding of Ruddy Shelduck (Tadorna ferruginea) in 2010-2011 years on two plots was very interesting and important (Fig. 12). This species has actively expanded its range in Kharkiv region since mid 2000s moving in western direction (Banik 2013a).

The analysis of the gathered data shows that in

pooled sample birds related to shrub and forest fragments dominated in bird communities of rugged chalk terrain (*Fig. 13*). These species are followed by members of chalk steppe guild. Bird species of chalk outcrops and chalk gullies are the least numerous. The data on species numbers can be found in Annex VIII.

Plant communities of chalk screes and chalk steppe

Plant communities of chalk rugged terrain are quite diverse and include small area forests of different composition and structure, mixed shrub-tree communities, diverse shrub thickets, sparse vegetation of chalk outcrops and screes, and chalk steppe. Only two latter occupy considerable areas



Plant surveys

75 plant species were recorded on transects on chalk scree and chalk steppe sites. On latter *Stipa* species of 'pennata' group and *Carex humilis* dominate usually. Only an endemic *Artemisia hololeuca* and *Thymus calcareus* apparently dominate in plant communities of chalk scree sites.

(Saidakhmedova et al. 2012) and are monitored within the scheme launched by Chagra'2010 project team. The vegetation of chalk screes contains a selection of highly specialised taxa including endemics and species with disjunctive ranges. Chalk screes host distinct life forms e.g. dwarf cushion semishrubs and taproot perennials. Chalk steppes are spread on gentle slopes and on saddles where soils can develop. Grasses (mainly, *Stipa* species) and Dwarf sedge (*Carex humilis*) predominate in the cover on such sites.



Fig. 14 The year-to-year changes in vegetation cover (in %) on chalk scree transects and chalk steppe transects reveal increasing or stable trends. Solid lines are for chalk steppe transects, dashed lines are for chalk scree transects.





Fig. 15 Dwarf sedge (*Carex humilis*) along with *Stipa* species predominates in vegetation cover of chalk steppe sites.

The total number of species recorded on monitoring transects in 2010-2011 years was 75. The total cover varied from 38.9 to 81.9 % on transects on chalk outcrops, and from 86.8 to 98.2 % on transects on chalk steppe sites. The year-toyear changes in vegetation cover didn't exceed 46.8 % on chalk outcrop transects (usually are below 25 %) and 5.9 % on chalk steppe transects (*Fig. 14*). On chalk steppe sites *Stipa* species of

'*pennata*' group and Dwarf sedge (*Fig. 15*) dominated usually. There are a few other common or dominant species (more than 5 % in cover), and these



Fig. 16 *Artemisia hololeuca*, an endemic of Don and Miuss river basins, is the most abundant of all threatened species on transects in Dvourechansky national park. Its life-form, dwarf cushion semishrub, is quite well-adapted to resist unfavourable conditions on open chalk slopes from exposure to extreme temperatures to constant movement of small chalk particles.



vary from year to year and from transect to transect. The following were recorded: Gypsophila altissima, Teucrium polium, Salvia nutans, Cephalaria uralensis, Séguier's Spurge Euphorbia seguierana and Anthericum ramosum. There are only two apparently dominant species of plants on chalk scree sites: Artemisia hololeuca (listed in Ukrainian Red Data Book; Fig. 16) and Thymus calcareus. Other common species aren't spread so evenly and rarely overcome the threshold of 5 % in cover composition on more than one transect on chalk outcrops. Helianthemum cretaceum, Gypsophila altissima, Asperula tephrocarpa, Onosma tanaitica, Androsace koso-poljanskii, Hyssopus cretaceus, Cephalaria uralensis, Stipa species of 'pennata' group, and Dwarf sedge were more or less common and sometimes dominant (at least on several transects). Erucastrum cretaceum, Linum ucranicum, Odontites luteus, Silene supina, Pimpinela titanophila, Hedysarum grandiflorum, and Séguier's Spurge overcame 5% threshold only on one of 9 transects. The data on the cover of species with unfavourable conservation status (listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine) are given in Annex IX.





Conservation education results and outputs of the project

Education of local people

The leaflet aimed at education of local people in outskirts of Dvourechansky national park was prepared and printed in late summer 2010 (1000 copies). The bulk of leaflets were distributed in early autumn 2010 in Dvourechansky district with the help of Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity (Fig. 17). Some were distributed in spring 2011 in Volchansk district, Kharkiv region. The leaflet main aim was to explain in a few



Fig. 17 Educational leaflet prepared by Chagra'2010 team was very welcomed by people from Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity who later helped to distribute it in the district.

words what the benefits come for local people from the organisation of the national park. We have stressed recent calls for the development of green and environmental tourism in the region and show how important it may be for Dvourechansky district. We have emphasized the need to maintain traditional agricultural practice e.g. cattle grazing at the foot of chalk hills to guarantee the normal life of secondary grazers like Steppe Marmots. Icon species of chalk steppe e.g. Steppe Marmot, Thin-Leaved Peony (*Paeonia tenuifolia*) and Yellow Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis vernalis*) have been depicted and introduced. Finally, we tried to show that the national park is a kind of mutual coexistence of people and nature. In autumn 2011 we have received a positive feedback on the impact of leaflet distribution campaign from questioning organised by local schools through the mediation of Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity. The lay-out of the leaflet is shown in the Annex V.

The educational campaign for local people was supported through publishing 2 articles in a local newspaper 'Dvourichansky kray', and organising a broadcast at Kupyansk broadcasting company. We have stressed the importance of the creation of Dvourichansky national park for



Kharkiv region and for local people in Dvourechnaya district. In any of these undertakings we got an organisational support from Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity.

Со	nservation education results
8	1000 copies of information leaflet were distributed in villages in vicinities of Dvourechansky national park in autumn 2010 and positive feedback received in autumn 2011
0	95 sets of teaching aids each consisting of 7 thematic pieces were distributed in 19 rural schools in chalk steppe area
0	1000 copies of phenological questionnaires were distributed in spring 2011 in the same rural schools with return rate of 27 %
Ø	90 copies of field guide to plant species of chalk screes and steppe were distributed in the same rural schools
0	a four-day educational field training camp was organised in summer 2011 for primary schoolchildren from 3 rural schools with the help of Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity
9	training was provided for students of Dvourechansky
0	a web-site (<i>chalksteppe.org/en</i>) was launched which includes online photo-guide to more than 200 plant species and a library with vast collection of sources on
2	the nature of chalk steppe the results of the project were publicised at 3 conferences and at meetings of Kharkiv branch of Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds, presented in one scientific paper, used in species accounts in Red Data Book of Kharkiv region (Animals), in one more popular conservation book and 2 popular articles



Fig. 18 At meetings in local schools we have introduced the purpose of the creation of Dvourechansky national park.

Strengthening the capacity of rural schools

The mainstream work of the team was done to enhance the capacities of local schools. In 2010 we have prepared and printed sets of teaching aids for natural history and biology lessons in local schools (illustrated information sheets; A3 format). The aids concern ecology and conservation issues on examples drawn from chalk steppe ecosystems. Each set consists of 7 thematic pieces, and each piece consists of two sheets, illustrative and textual (for details see Methods). 5 sets per school were distributed in 8 schools in Dvourechansky district, 6 schools in Kupyansky district, and 5 schools in Volchansk district. 1 set is exhibited in information centre at Dvourechansky national park office. Examples of the teaching aids may be seen in Annex II.

Phenological questionnaire was designed to the end of 2010 after the special meeting held at Kharkiv national university. The meeting attracted 28 participants, mainly regional conservationists and lecturers at Biology School, Kharkiv national university. At the meeting the content and design of the questionnaire were discussed. The questionnaire was set to capture bird arrival and plant blossoming, and some events in the life of other groups of



organisms (details see in Methods section). 1000 copies of the questionnaire were printed and distributed in early spring 2011 through local schools. The approximate return rate in 2011 year was 27 % of actually received by respondents taking into account the figure of about 15 % losses due to various reasons.

The identification guide to plant species of chalk screes and chalk steppe was designed and printed in winter 2010/11 year (see Methods section for details). Sample pages of the identification guide can be found in Annex III.

Teaching aids, phenological questionnaires and plant identification guides were distributed on meetings in 19 schools in chalk steppe area in Kharkiv region (see above). The meetings were accompanied by presentations in which project teem members talked about the jewels of Dvourechansky nature and about the future of Dvourechansky national park (Fig. 18). Special talk was given also on the problem of climate change and the importance of phenological observations (in support of our campaign for launching local phenological programme).

In spring 2011 Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity asked the team to organize a four-day educational field training camp in Dvourechansky national park. The training was made especially for primary schoolchildren



Fig. 19 Chagra'2010 project team was asked to organise excursions for schoolchildren to familiarise them with jewels of chalk steppe.



and is titled: 'Wonderful is beside you' (Fig. 19). Three schools took part in this training. The group made excursions to places which are very important to conservation, as they retain valuable biodiversity:





Fig. 20 Students of Dvourechansky lycee were involved in daily work of the team and Dvourechansky national park staff.

freshwater communities, an abundance of threatened birds, mammals and a diversity of endemic plant species. The team saw real interest to living nature in schoolchildren and the results in

building of their skills and knowledge.

The project team has gotten a lot of exciting feedback after finishing work with schoolchildren and their teachers in May and June 2011. Kids wanted to help with conservation and study the White Mountains (Chalk Hills). Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity asked the team to help the students of Dvourechansky lycee to acquaint with the work of the national park. The team decided to take the most interested teenagers with a teacher on the expeditions and involve them with the research activities. Four high school students aged 15-16 along with Mrs. Svitlana Mayamsina, a teacher of geography, participated in the expeditions to the project site and studied the diversity and ecology of plants and animals (Fig. 20). They tried the methods of data collection and long-term monitoring of steppe plants, took part in bird watching, and monitoring of birds. They did everything together with team members, getting involved with the work during the day and discussions of the most urgent environmental problems at night around the campfire. Students



confessed that these days together with researchers have given them a lot of knowledge about the biodiversity of their native land and the importance of nature conservation worldwide.

Website on chalk steppe conservation

One of the outputs of Chagra'2010 project is a website planned as a tool to spread quality information on unique chalk steppe ecosystems, rich in endemic plant species. Recently the website was launched and may be viewed at *chalksteppe.org/en*. The site can be accessed in three languages (Ukrainian, Russian, English). This increases our potential audience both in countries where major enclaves of chalk steppe are found and abroad. The core of the site is a visual photo-guide to more than 200 species of plants which are representative of chalk steppe in Eastern Ukraine and adjacent areas in Russia. We tried to select a range of photos which show certain plants in a habitat, general view, flowers, fruits and seeds whenever possible. Typical plants of chalk outcrops are emphasized to facilitate identification for newcomers. Another major part of the website is a library with a selection of papers on chalk steppe with separate chapters on flora and vegetation, fungi, lichens, molluscs, insects, spiders, mites, birds, mammals, relict species, soils, landscapes, conservation issues, history of science and biographies. Strong emphasis was placed on collecting important sources on chalk steppe plants. The total number of papers in the list in plant chapter is about 320, and the figure will be doubled in the nearest future. The target audiences of the website are teachers of biology and geography in local schools, schoolchildren, plant amateurs, conservationists but also researchers who often need to consult literature sources which are not easily accessible. The team continues working to accumulate all available information on chalk steppe ecosystems and to provide a platform for interested conservationists and researchers in Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan where chalk steppe is found.

The results of the project in publications and talks

Scientific results of the project were presented at several Ukrainian and international conferences and meetings. Some papers and talks were prepared jointly with the staff of research division of Dvourechansky national park. The talks on vegetation of Dvourechansky national park were given at two conferences: 'Current problems of botany and ecology' (International conference of young researchers, 19-23 September 2012, Uzhgorod,



Ukraine) and 'From protected area creation to balanced nature management' (20-22 March 2013, Donetsk national university, Donetsk, Ukraine) (see Krivokhyzha, Banik 2012, 2013). Major conservation findings of the project were presented at international conference 'Conservation of steppe and semidesert ecosystems in Eurasia' held on 13-14 March 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan (see Annex X). The results of the project were discussed also on regular meetings of Kharkiv branch of Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds in 2010 and 2011 years.

The overall results of vegetation surveys were incorporated into a paper on flora and vegetation of Dvourechansky national park (Saidakhmedova et al. 2012) published in a two-volume edition on vegetation of Ukrainian protected areas (nature reserves and national parks; see first two pages in Annex X).

Findings of the bird surveys were used in preparation of species accounts for Red Data Book of Kharkiv region (Animals) which should be printed lately in 2013 year (Banik 2013a,b,c; Nadtochiy 2013a,b; Vetrov 2013) (see three species accounts in Annex X).

Popular texts and photos taken within the course of Chagra'2010 project were incorporated into a book 'Nature's legacy: protected areas of Kharkiv region' (Tokarsky 2011) published in 2011 and aimed at spreading quality information on protected areas in Kharkiv region among general public.

2 popular articles (on the origin of chalk deposits and on pollination ecology of chalk plants; Banik 2011, Banik, Kovalenko 2011) were published by project team members in an all-Ukrainian journal 'Biologiya dlya dopytlyvykh' ('Biology for curious'; see first pages of these articles in Annex X). We have established good relations with the journal editorial board and now team members become regular authors of the journal.

Sample copies of some of the mentioned publications are given in Annex X.



Our achievements

- we passed our knowledge and experience to the staff of Dvourechansky national park and provided them by full set of educational materials produced in the course of the project
- we managed to minimise the conflicts of the park with district authorities through mediation of our major local partner, Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity
- we participated in the process of recruitment of the staff of the national park, and, finally, one project team member joined the staff

we achieved a considerable level of co-operation between Kharkiv national university and Dvourechansky national park

- we strengthened the capacities of all rural schools in chalk steppe area in Kharkiv region, Ukraine
- we advanced our skills and techniques in doing plant and bird surveys, and in working for environmental education
- we set a platform for co-operation of people interested in conservation and research of chalk steppe in Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan at our website
- we used the project results for preparation of influential books on nature conservation

National parks need informational, educational and social support at the very beginning of their activities. The main result of the Chagra'2010 project is the facilitation of early years' operation of a newly created Dvourechansky national park in Eastern Ukraine. The project results may serve as a best practice example for the similar undertakings in the other corners of the world.
The monitoring scheme for plant and bird communities was accepted by the public research of Dvourechansky council national park as the basic, and now the park staff continues to work on the plots and transects established by the project team in 2010 (Fig.21). The team passed small pieces of the supplies for vegetation surveys to the park at final stage of the project. The team members shared their knowledge on local fauna and flora with the personnel of the research division of the park. The most important are the data



Fig. 21 Research staff of Dvourechansky national park was trained in applying monitoring methods

on locations of small populations of threatened plants found in the course of the project. The team provided the park staff with educational materials including leaflets and a set of teaching aids. Layouts of teaching aids, educational leaflet and phenological questionnaire were passed to the park personnel at final stage of the project for free use to strengthen the links between the park and local people.

Owing to our work in Dvourechansky district and our co-operation with Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity the national park have



had no conflicts with district and regional authorities. The overall standing of the park in local people's opinion is high, and we are sure this is partly due to our efforts.

The great achievement of Chagra'2010 project at the time of initiation is the collaboration of the team in the process of the staff recruitment.



We are privileged to have a possibility of giving recommendations on the candidatures owing to kindly mediation of Prof. Dr. Victor Tokarsky and our good relations with Kharkiv regional office of the Ukrainian Ministry for Environmental Protection. No doubt the choice was correct and now we have the park equipped by highly professional and self-reliant staff.



Since early phases of the project we have established good relations with the research division of the park. The researchers from the park staff visit Kharkiv national university at least once a month. The team provides necessary consultations and keeps abreast of all the news about the park and its problems. The team members and the park personnel have an experience of preparation of joint publications in scientific press and talks at scientific meetings. And we are going to proceed with this in the future. The team members are elected into the public research council of the park that implies we have a vote in making decisions on the future of Dvourechansky national park.

One apparent achievement of Chagra'2010 project is setting good contacts between the park and Kharkiv national university. An agreement on mutual contacts between Kharkiv national university and district administration was prepared. It opens a door to student visits to the national

ine

Alexey story

When Mikhail Banik invited me to participate in Chagra'2010 project team I wasn't a novice at chalk steppe conservation problem. The start was in my early student years in 2001 during training led by renowned conservationist Dr. Victor Tokarsky. He gathered background data for the creation of the nationally important protected area in chalk steppe region. The work on the territory now proudly called Dvourechansky national park left a trace of never ending festivity in my heart. For me it was a moment of recognizing the importance of landscape pattern in distribution of plants and animals. I descried the world which is connected through relief and



saw the virginity of landscape as the vital component in ecosystem conservation. Dr. Tokarsky showed me that traditional agricultural practice is another thing worth protecting. Cows created pastures at foothills. The marmots utilized pastures and produced burrows and cavities used by spiders, insects, reptiles and birds. The post-Soviet collapse of agriculture reflected in decline of marmot population that triggered diversified negative processes in the ecosystem. That is the point of agreement between local people and conservationists – to protect chalk steppe effectively we need to restore a well-balanced local economy rooted in animal husbandry. These ideas were already in my head at the start of the work for Chagra'2010 project in 2010.

There were excellent days of fieldwork together with other team members in Dvourechansky national park. We were keen in fulfilling our main tasks to help the park staff in launching monitoring schemes and to educate local people about the essence of the park creation. Gradually we have acquainted with park staff problems and daily life. And it wasn't fully surprising when Maxim Vysochin, director of Dvourechansky national park, proposed me to join the staff. I agreed, of course, and my life changed in many ways and certainly turns to the sunny side! Being inside the park life is a good chance to learn about the problems much better than when coming for a few days of expedition work. We have faced with some damned poaching or usual day-by-day bureaucracy. But all Dvourechansky conservation people look in the future with hope. We feel strong enough to overcome all difficulties!





In the course of the project the team members greatly advanced their skills and techniques in doing plant and bird surveys when monitoring implementing schemes. They became well aware of specific chalk plant species, of their appearance and ecology. The team advanced members their skills in photographing in nature especially in taking plant photos of reasonable

quality. They got an important experience of working with schoolchildren, and advanced their skills of sound convincing when telling about nature. Finally, one of team members, Alexey Korshunov, entered the staff of Dvourichansky national park. The project changed his life and provided new prospects for the future (see a story in a box).

The very important impact of the project was in strengthening the capacities of rural schools in chalk steppe area. The teaching aids and plant identification guides will be used for environmental education for years to come. The phenological questionnaire programme launched by the team will serve as a viable link between the national park and rural schools. We are sure that the excursions for schoolchildren organised by the project team contributed to the advance of their knowledge about the nature around, the essence of Dvourechansky national park activity and to the awakening of the proud that they live in such splendid place.

At the very heart of the project achievements stay a new website on chalk steppe launched in 2013 year. It accumulates the huge portfolio of photos

gathered by the team to create a comprehensive photo-guide to plant species of chalk screes and chalk steppe. The photos gathered at the site can be used to supply major on-line projects such as ARKive and Encyclopedia of Life. Other sections of chalk steppe website are also very useful for both general public and conservationists (see Results section). To the date the site was announced and

acclaimed at major Ukrainian and Russian steppe conservation web resources. We have attracted some people to participate in the work for the further development of the website. We are sure that it will become a platform for joining efforts of Ukrainian, Russian and Kazakh conservationists in saving unique chalk steppes. The site has a potential to become one of the mainstream Internet resources on the nature of Eastern European steppe.





The photos and texts prepared within the Chagra'2010 project were used for compiling a book 'Nature's legacy: protected areas of Kharkiv region' (Tokarsky 2011). The book was written and designed by the team of biologists in Kharkiv national university in 2011 year. Chagra'2010 project team members participated in the process. The problem of conservation of chalk steppe is respectably covered in the book and the



account on Dvourechansky national park comprises 10 pages with highquality photos. 500 copies of the book were printed in 2012 year. The majority of the copies were distributed freely to schools in Kharkiv region, to regional authorities and conservationists. The first edition of the book was very successful and is now out of print. The second, revised edition is being prepared. It will contain parallel English/Russian texts (to promote to international audience), some new design and photos.

The information gathered within the Chagra'2010 project was used for preparation of a Red Book of Kharkiv region (Animals) edited by Prof. Dr. Victor Tokarsky. The book was written in 2012 year by the team of leading zoologists of the region. The lay-out of the book is now almost complete, and the book should be printed in the second part of 2013 year. Two team members, Mikhail Banik and Alexey Korshunov, contributed to the book by writing 36 species accounts. The book is a greatest compendium on the current state of rare and threatened animal species in Kharkiv region and on practical measures for their protection. Some important findings of Chagra'2010 project were used for compiling the species accounts for the book. These include the data on the expansion of Ruddy Shelduck in the region, the evidences for the abrupt decline of the numbers of Isabelline Wheatear and some considerations on the causes, the analysis of Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) biology at the border of the range and some others (Banik 2013a,b,c).





Conclusion

Chagra'2010 project contributed to the conservation of Ukrainian chalk steppe in a global context and at national level. The internet site created within the course of the project (<u>www.chalksteppe.org</u>) is three-lingual (English, Russian, and Ukrainian) and, thus, attracts the international audience, contributes to environmental education within the main area of chalk steppe range in the former USSR (where Russian is still a language of interethnic communication) and supports the needs of mainly Ukrainian-speaking general public in the region. For the first time ever it provides an access to high quality photos of more than 200 species of chalk steppe plants which may be used for



field identification, environmental education in local schools, and production of educational materials. At country's level the results of Chagra'2010 project demonstrated the working mechanism for the support of the activity of a newly created national park at first years of its operation. We have introduced a novel practice of creating a favourable milieu around the park and applying a time and resources saving tactics for the start of biota monitoring on the park territory. The key element of the former is linking park activity with as much local schools as possible. We have do it by starting a programme of phenological observations in local schools with feedback to the national park, involving schools in distribution of educational leaflets for local people, and by strengthening the capacity of schools through providing teaching aids on history plant natural and guides. identification The experience of the Chagra'2010



project showed that a crucial element for the success in such a support is finding a local partner with similar motivation (in our case — Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity). Additionally, owing to co-operation between the project team and park staff close relations between Kharkiv national university and Dvourechansky national park became established. Now the park activity is supported by the regular help of scientists, lecturers and students of Kharkiv national university. The results of the project proved the feasibility and potential of several count methods suitable for regular observations within a protected area namely transect and total area counts for bird communities and line-point intercept method for plant communities. The implementation of the project contributed to serious advance of the skills of



the team and our partners from Dvourechansky national park in delivering conservation messages to local people and especially schoolchildren, and in practising the methods of bird & plant monitoring.



Challenges and experiences

Sources of success

Our major source of success was finding of similarly motivated local partner, Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity

The success of the educational part of the project may have been challenged by failure to find a local partner. At the start of the project we haven't been acquainted with local teachers in Dvourechansky district and have little ideas on how to organise our educational actions to maximise the effectiveness. But our problems unexpectedly were solved through patronage of Prof. Dr. Victor Tokarsky who organised a meeting of the team with representatives of Dvourechansky district administration. Alexander Shakhov, Deputy Head



Fig. 22 Olga Berveno, Head of Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity, and Mikhail Banik, Chagra'2010 project leader, jointly present educational materials of the project in Petro-Ivanovka secondary school, Dvourechnaya district.



of Dvourechansky district administration acquainted us with Olga Berveno, Head of Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity, and that was a turning point to the success of the story (*Fig. 22*). Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity became our key partner in organising all educational activities around the park. The most important thing was that we not only meet people who are well aware of local situation e.g. know how to organise a distribution of leaflets and questionnaires and may help in preparing and holding school meetings, but people who keenly support the organisation of the national park in Dvourechnaya district and do a lot to guarantee the development of positive milieu around the park. It's crucial for the team of any field project with strong educational component to find similarly motivated local partners!

Launching the monitoring schemes for bird & plant communities ran well because (1) it was carefully planned before going to the field, (2) alternative methods of monitoring were tested prior to the choice of one particular method, (3) several team members were already aware of the species composition and familiarised with survey technique, (4) plant identification challenges were overcame by inviting to co-operation experienced field botanist.

Faults and problems

The major fault of the project was allocating too little time for processing the raw materials, designing and developing a website, a major project output. Initially it was planned to devote only 2 months in autumn 2011 for this work. This pitfall hasn't gone unnoticed by proposal reviewers but sadly still was overlooked by team leader in the course of the project. The time which was actually used for the preparation of the website proved to be much longer. Preparation of photos consumed a lot of time but even more was spent by our partners from Frozen Pixels in designing and making the site itself. It was a hard task because the site was planned as three-lingual and writing the script was very complicated. In it's more or less acceptable

Major fault was in allocating too little time for the development of Internet site

form the site became available for visitors only in February, 2013 far beyond the planned terms. So, it's very important for those who are planning to launch an internet site to start the work as early as possible and not to reserve it for the final phase of the project. Do what you can as early as you can!

Some pitfalls in budget preparation resulted in shortage of resources for organising expedition in the second year of the project implementation. Happily, good relations with Dvourechansky district administration helped to solve the problem and some missing resources were provided by this body in the course of the project.

Unexpectedly, we have faced a problem in marking vegetation survey transects. Initially, we used steel rods with plastic covering to mark start and finish points of each transect in 2010 year. But in 2011 we have revealed that no less than a half of the rods were stolen by local people! Therefore, we were obliged to replace these stolen items by wooden poles. So, it's essential to use something unattractive for local people when marking monitoring plots and transects.

Below some additional lessons from the project implementation are summarised:



Tips for monitoring

(1) The composition of bird communities of chalk hilly terrain is something special that implies to apply a peculiar scheme for consecutive counts. There are a few short-distance migrants or resident species (only larks, some buntings and sparrows) so it isn't necessary to undertake more surveys early in spring. But in late spring apparently more counts may be needed to account for changes in peak singing or

territorial activities of several key species (warblers, Red-backed

Shrike, Whinchat) which all are long-distance migrants and arrive comparatively late. The highest possible attention should be paid to set the itinerary of counts in so manner to match singing peaks in two most abundant warbler species, Whitethroat and Barred Warbler. These peaks are about 10 days apart (in early and mid May).



(2) The method of total-area counts proved to be effective and time-consuming and can be recommended for bird surveys in open landscapes. It may be extremely useful for expedition surveys with little available time if applied within the period of maximum singing and territorial activity

of the majority of species in the community.







Safety considerations

(1) Chalk roads are extremely slippery when wet. Care should be taken when organising travel and transportation on dirt roads in rugged chalky terrain after heavy rains. Every time when possible check the weather forecasts to correct initial plans for travelling between designated points.

(2) Chalk terrain is an open landscape exposed to intense sun radiation. Therefore, precautionary measures should be taken when planning field surveys in these conditions. It is sound to undertake any surveys as early in the morning as possible. That is especially important for laborious and time-consuming vegetation surveys. If you are planning to organise excursions with schoolchildren you must ensure that all have adequate clothing (especially, hats), and a reasonable amount of drinking water.







The main aim for the follow-up activity of Chagra'2010 project is to prepare justification, to lay necessary background and to facilitate the creation of a transboundary Ukrainian-Russian national park in Oskol river valley. One part of such protected area should be already existing Dvourechansky national park. The other one will be a park to be created in Valuyky district, Byelgorod region, Russia. In December, 2012 our colleagues from Dvourechansky national park have visited the state nature reserve 'Belogorye' in Russia (http://www.zapovednik-belogorye.ru) and reached a preliminary agreement on understanding according this process with Russian colleagues (http://pechenegy.org.ua/ru/node/905). This event was widely acclaimed in Ukrainian regional mass media and approved by Dvourechnaya district administration. 'Belogorye' nature reserve is one of a few nature reserves in Russia where chalk steppe are under legal protection. The creation of a transboundary protected area will contribute to conservation of chalk steppe and attract the attention of global community of conservationists to these unique ecosystems. We are going to raise funds necessary to facilitate the process of organisation of transboundary national park and to call the attention of conservationists in Ukraine and abroad to this issue.

A planned activity linked with the idea of organisation of bi-lateral national park is an attempt to expand the territory of Dvourechansky national



park itself. Some chalk steppe sites with high endemic species diversity or with small populations of endangered species (e.g. *Daphne sophia*) are still outside the park territory. These sites require legal protection and the best way is to include them into Dvourechansky national park. The process already started in 2012 year and some information gathered by the team in 2010-2011 years is included in the justification for the extension of the park territory. Here again a sound position of Dvourechansky district administration plays an extremely important role. We are going to participate actively in this process in the future.

Our plans we are planning to prepare justification and background for the creation of a transboundary Ukrainian-Russian national park in Oskol river valley we are planning and already working to expand the territory of Dvourechansky national park we are going to enhance our web-site by adding new branches and supply existing ones with new data we are planning to launch the programme of annual trainings for mentors of the groups of young naturalists of Eastern Ukraine at Dvourechansky national park we are going to summarise the data on the current state of different groups of organisms in the park in a form of a book or a series of scientific papers

We are planning to invest much energy into further development of chalk steppe internet site. First of all, we are going to invite to co-operation all ecologists and conservationists concerned with the problem of chalk steppe conservation in Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan. We are planning to expand the scope of the photo-guide at the site to other groups of organisms e.g. insects and birds, to accumulate more literature sources on chalk steppe and to strengthen and diversify the forum section.



In the nearest future we are going to contribute our findings within the project to the planned book of papers devoted to the current state of major groups of organisms (plants, fungi, insects, fishes, amphibians &reptiles, birds, and mammals) on the territory of Dvourechansky national park).





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Annexes





Annex I

The location of permanent plots and transects for monitoring of bird and plant communities grounded by Chagra'2010 team in Dvourechansky national park







Annex II

Sample copies of teaching aids granted to rural schools in Kharkiv region. 2 themes: Adaptation of chalk steppe plants to their environment, Landscape and vegetation





умови життя бувають надзвичайно суворими. Тут необхідні складні пристосування, які суттєво змінюють вигляд рослин, а також їх внутрішню Подекуди, наприклад, в горах і пустелях, удову.

Крейдяні рослини пристосовані до життя в горах. Спробуйте піднятися на крейдяний схил або теренеслися до гірського краю: ноги будуть сковзати, з під черевиків покотяться камінці, і спуститися вниз. Ви відразу відчуєте, що можливо, дуже скоро вам захочеться схопитися за будь-який кущик, щоб не скотитися донизу. Отак і рослини крейдяних схилів повинні протистояти суворим умовам гірського життя.

-60-

Перш за все, крейдяні рослини стикаються із листя рослини, навіть вирвати чи вимити її з потоками води. Ці бурчаки води та частинок крейди можуть зламати або пошкодити стебло і цоводиться жити на чистій крейді. До цього постійним рухом води зверху донизу, а також із рухом численних уламків крейди, які котяться вниз під дією сили тяжіння або уносяться корінням. На багатьох ділянках розмив призводить до суцільного руйнування ґрунту, і тоді рослинам цодаються різкі зміни температури протягом доби (що часто буває у гірських умовах), потужні вітри, видування снігового покриву, який міг би захистити рослини від вимерзання.

волога і "холодна" порода. Окрім того, крейда з легкістю розмивається водою, а також містить дуже мало важливого для рослин азогу, проте забагато кальцію, і утворює лужне середовище для KOPCHIB.

Поверхня крейдяних осипів своєю рухливістю нагадує воду. Рослинам доводиться жити в "морі" частинок крейди, які постійно пересуваються. Тому їм необхідні пристосування, щоб утриматися на місці. Для цього слугують:

немовби повисає на корені. Так, гісоп крейдяний довжелезні стрижневі корені, що проникають до крейдяної товщі на декілька метрів і ростуть завжди не вниз, а догори, так що рослина утворює корінь довжиною 7-8 м, що в середньому в 5-6 разів більше, ніж у рослини схожого розміру, що зростає на рівнині;

вони утримують рослину на місці попри постійні верхні частини кореня, що схожі на якір, поштовхи уламків крейди;

- здерев'янілі стебла, що їх не так просто зламати чи пошкодити;

Щоб захиститися від постійних коливань гемператури і вітрів багато рослин утворюють своєрідну життєву форму "подушки". До того ж подушки пружинять і не дають падаючим уламкам крейди пошкодити рослину. Подушка виникає годі, коли всі пагони ростуть з однаковою швидкістю і дуже повільно, лише до кількох міліметрів на рік.

коливань і вітру є утворення листових розеток, в яких окремі листочки виходять з центру немовби

влітку рослинам крейдяних схилів необхідно Для виживання в умовах спекотної погоди зменшувати витрати вологи на випарювання води через поверхню листя та спеціальні клітиниустячка. До таких пристосувань відносяться: - вузьке, видовжене листя;

опушення на листі.

Гі ж самі пристосування захищають їх від шкідливої ультрафіолетової радіації сонця.







походження та змін саме в цій частині земної поверхні, в на зміни рельєфу та рослинності вздовж профілно її сила Кориолісу, яка виникає внаслідок обертання Землі, та яруги, - поєднано у нерозривну картину спільністю місцевих кліматичних умовах. Цю єдність географи називають ландшафтом. Різноманітним елементам притаманні эсобливі рослинні угруповання. Ліс не росте будь-де. На крейдяному схилі не вскочиш в болото. Для того, щоб зрозуміти порядок, згідно з яким розміщуються у просторі знайомі нам ліси, луки, болота, уявимо, як ми перетинаемо долину будь-якої великої річки. Погляньмо долини. Перш за все, звернемо увагу на те, що правий за гечією схил долини значно вищий і крутіший за лівий. До торушення симетричності, що характерне для більшості зічкових долин, причетні декілька факторів. Серед них примушує будь-яке тіло, що пересувається вздовж земної товерхні, відхилятися праворуч у північній півкулі. Але є й інші фактори: склад гірських порід в різних частинах троцесів розмивання, на схилах, що виходять до різних Все, що ми бачимо навкруги, - річки і ліси, болота і цолини, нерівномірний розподіл тепла і вологи, а відтак і рельєфу, тобто формам земної поверхні, CTODIH CBITV.

-62-

степами, які тепер перетворені на лани. Вздовж її лівого боку долини, напроти, умови не такі строкаті. Тут в Отже правий берег долини піднесений над урізом Тому тут відчутніші процеси руйнування схилу, які проявляються в рості яруг і балок. Витоки останніх вдаються далеко у правий берег долини. У верхів'ях балок часто зростають невеликі ліси. Народна назва таких балок – байраки. З протилежного від річки краю байраків тягнеться підвищене плато, – величезна, більш-менш пласка місцевість, що колись була зайнята найвищих пунктів проходить лінія вододілу із долиною сусідньої річки. Західніше районів із крейдяними виходами на схилах долини річки та на сусідньому плато зростають дубові ліси. Великі ліси по схилах річкової долини називають нагірними дібровами. Ліси часто займають ділянки з підвищеним рельєфом - умови місцезростання тут вкрай різноманітні і придатні для більшості наших деревних порід. На пласких рівнинах з води на більшу висоту. цавнину панували степи

цю височіє над заплавою На сході Харківської області по скилах тут скрізь на поверхню виходить крейда. У верхній частині схилу інколи трапляться надзвичайні кручі, на яких колись росли ліси. Деякі з них складалися з крейдяної сосни – вони тепер майже зникли. В інших переважала липа та інші широколистяні породи дерев. Такі урочища в народі називають «стінками». Там, де ухил більш положистий, верхню частину схилу вкриваюто зарості чагарників – дерези, степової вишні виривалст ощо. Нихече на чистій крейді рослинний покрив розріджений. Перша роль тут належить низькорслим чатарничкам та напівчагарника. серед яких багато рідкісних крейдяних ендемит та лівим схилами долини лежить

біла. Центральну частину заплави вкривають луки, а трапляються і озера-стариці – залишки колишнього русла річки. Подекуди на підвищених ділянках, там, де швидко заплава річки. Вона щорічно повністю або частково заливається водою підчас повені. В заплаві великої річки частини заплави. Вздовж русла річки тягнеться смуга деревної і чагарникової рослинності. Тут панує верба пониження зайняті осоковими болотами. Де-не-де сходить вода після повені, ростуть заплавні діброви. У протилежній від високого схилу долини притерасній Між правим та лівим схилами долини лежить можна бачити наочні відміни між різними її частинами. Відрізняють прируслову, центральну та притерасну частині заплави часто можна бачити вільхові ліси. Вони зростають там, де близько до поверхні підходять грунтові води і відчутна постійна проточність води

адливного берега у долинах великих річок одна над одною здіймаються над заплавою так звані тераси. На відміну від заплави, яку називають першоютерасою, вони не заливаються водою у повінь, і утворилися за льодовикових часів, коли річки в періоди потепління ставали багатоводними. Друга тераса складена пісками Місцевість на піцаній терасі хвиласная пісками бутрами, що виникли внаслідок перевіювання пісками минулому ліси тут росли лише в окремих урочицах вздиву великих річок. Посеред пісків у пониженнях розкидані болога і невеличкі озера. На багатьох

пониженнях складаються умови для формування горф'яних боліт. На деяких – ростуть лісочки з берези і осики

осими. Далі від другої, піщаної тераси лежать третя і четверта тераси. Тут панує пласка місцевість, а в давнину все було вкрито степами. Тепер степи розорані. Їх замінили лани, У пониженнях на третій терасі лежать валі колита і озера, рівень яких постійно змінюсться велід колитанням клімату. По їх беретах бувають відчути ознаки засолення грунту і ростуть сопелюбні рослини. Від останніх терас річкової долини іде поступове підвищення до вододілу з долиною наступної річки.

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Annex III

Sample copies of selected pages of the guide for identification of plant species of chalk screes and chalk steppe



Льон шорсткий (лён жестковолосый) _/ *Linum hirsutum L.*

Род. Льонові (сем. Лёновые) / Linaceae

Багаторічна трав'яниста рослина. Звичайний, подекуди – численний вид. В період масового квітіння утворює суцільну ковдру блакитного кольору у підніжжя схилів. Зустрічається на частково задернованих ділянках, але, подекуди і на чистій крейді, переважно по нижніх частинах схилів. Добре пізнається завдяки щільному опушенню, що вкриває стебла, пистя і чашолистки. Відтінок кольору пелюстків може змінюватися від світло-голубого до блідо-бузкового. Квітне з другої половини травня до серпня. Масове квітіння – на початку червня. 10-40 см.

Многолетнее травянистое растение. Обычный, местами – многочисленный вид. В период массового цветения образует сплошной ковер голубого цвета у подножия склонов. Встречается на частично задернованных участках, но, порой, и на чистом мелу, преимущественно в нижних частях склонов. Хорошо опознается по густому опушению, покрывающему стебли, листья, чашелистики. Оттенок цвета лепестков может

варыировать от светло-голубого до бледно-сиреневого. Цветет со второй половины мая до августа. Массовое цветение – в начале июня. 10-40 см.





Кульбаба пізня (одуванчик поздний) , serotinum (Waldst. et Kit.) Poir.

Род. Айстрові (сем. Астровые) / Asteraceae

Багаторічна трав'яниста рослина. Звичайний, проте нечисленний вид. Зростає на чистій крейді та на слабко задернованих ділянках по середніх і, особливо, нижніх частинах схилів. Найчастіше зустрічається там, де тверда крейда під впливом бурчаків води вже зруйнована до дрібних частинок та змішана з чорноземною присипкою. Квітне з середини липня до вересня. Рослина легко упізнається за добре помітними, розпростертими на чистій крейді розетками великого, широкого, майже шкірястого листя. Форма листків змінноється від цілокрайої до перисто-роздільної. 5-20 см. Многолетнее травянистое растение. Обычный, но немногочисленный вид. Растет на чистом мелу и на слабо задернованных участках по средним и, особенно, нижним частям склонов. Встречается чаще всего там, где под действием потоков воды твердый мел уже разрушился до мельчайших частиц и смешан с черноземной присыпкой. Цветет в середине июля – сентябре. Растение легко опознается по хорошо заметным, распростертым на

ным, распростертым на чистом мелу розеткам крупных, широких, почти кожистых листьев. Форма их меняется от цельнокрайной до перистораздельной. 5-20 см.

-64-



Sample copy of a phenological questionnaire developed to maintain links between local schools and the national park

Annex IV

зміньююнися строки nopu powy i za humu zmihroemucz nonepegno. Re pearyone na y bigninu seuli icinomu? Ha mace Boka bubrae nepiogurki gbuwa b zarezkhichte big noroghur ynob. Hony ogki ubimu pozubimanima paniue za chiminna pocaun i apuaromy amarile? Mob biguobicinu na uji numanno, crig роводити ретельні спостереження ц життя рослин. комах, итахив. Але сожна наступна весна не схожа на numanna bignobigae nayea openonoria. Hummi pocrus i mbapus ma is ha zanobighuz відбуваються в певному порядку. oconuga. pigkichi č, pickony condespond. nepumopiga ma b Apupogi. Ocobrubo Nu neuranna 0 тварини Churl?





Annex V

Sample copy of a leaflet about Dvourechansky park which was prepared & printed by Chagra'2010 team and distributed by Dvourechansky Department of Education





розвивати в районі діяльність, яка можуть побачити природу такою, якою вона забезпечуватиме і охорону природи, і, про далеку перспективу, а про можливості, які Національного природного парку Особливо. - міських мешканців. які була колись, в давнину. Саме це дозволяє водночас, отримання прибутку. І мова йде не виникають у зв'язку із створенням в регіоні «Дворічанський». Організація парку - перший, проте важливий крок до розвитку екологічного га «зеленого» туризму.



тому, і хоча розвивати його непросто, але у Карпатах, Криму, на Поділлі і в Закарпатті ці є знайомство із дикою природою. В Україні «зелений» туризм з'явився лише кілька років селянських садибах. Важливою його складовою відпочинок міських мешканців на селі, або «сільський» туризм -«Зелении»

таку діяльність? Напевно, ні. Зміни далеко не за Але хіба не передчасно згадувати про горами. Хіба могла більшість з нас, хто нині належить до середнього і старшого поколінь, хоча б 20 років тому уявити, що прийдеться економити газ і бензин?

процеси вже розпочалися. Спобожанщиною.

років. Отже, може зараз Ви бачите квітку, якою Життя горицеіту порівняне за людським: живе він 70-80 Ha momy x camomy micui милувалися ваш односельці ще до війни. mpusanicmo весняного

Дворічанський край лежить осторонь великих

правого берегу річки Осколу, виходить на бурхливі події минулого. Таких, як вони, не міст, далеко від потрібних розвитку сільського господарства та цьому збереглася у Поосколлі недоторкана пюдиною природа. Тут, вздовж підвищеного Серед розлогих українських рівнин крейдяні гори виглядають незвично. Зберігають вони свідків давньої історії - рослини на крейді торгівлі транспортних шляхів. Але завдяки пережили і льодовиковий період, і інші поверхню гірська порода, - писальна крейда зустрінеш більше ніде у всьому світі. RUL

Мальовничі краєвиди, чисті повітря і вода, незвичайні рослини і тварини ваблять



багряніють розсипи урочище Красне. Весною П красу і лікарські де була би півонія Немає більш величного місця на Осколі, ніж тут в улоговинах півоній. У Китаї називають цю рослину uapem keimie, y lpeuli королем трав. Цінують Xapkiechkiŭ oбnacmi zod шукати іншого куточка, ознакою місцевості. властивості. багатьох людей.



Annex VI

Selected pages of the Internet site www.chalksteppe.org developed within the scope of Chagra'2010 project







Annex VII

The composition and structure of bird communities of steppe forests in Dvourechansky national park

The structure of bird community in 'Zalivnoy' forest, Dvourechansky national park, 2011-2012 years' data (dominant species with about 10% or more are highlighted in red)

Species	Breeding density, pairs/sq.km		Relative abundance	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Columba palumbus		0.77		0.0006
Streptopelia turtur	1.92		0.0021	
Cuculus canorus	0.77	0.19	0.0009	0.0001
Upupa epops		0.19		0.0001
Jynx torquilla		0.77		0.0006
Dendrocopos major	7.69	30.77	0.0085	0.0222
Dendrocopos medius		48.08		0.0346
Dendrocopos minor	1.92	33.46	0.0021	0.0241
Anthus trivialis	4.62	3.85	0.0051	0.0028
Erithacus rubecula	153.85	186.54	0.1700	0.1343
Luscinia luscinia	19.23	4.04	0.0213	0.0029
Turdus merula	29.62	11.54	0.0327	0.0083
Turdus philomelos	12.31	49.62	0.0136	0.0357
Sylvia atricapilla	30.77	48.08	0.0340	0.0346
Phylloscopus collybita	46.92	60.38	0.0519	0.0435
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	62.31	23.85	0.0689	0.0172
Ficedula albicollis	86.54	96.15	0.0956	0.0692
Ficedula parva	1.92	8.46	0.0021	0.0061
Parus palustris	3.85		0.0043	
Parus major	65.38	168.85	0.0723	0.1216
Parus caeruleus	19.23	134.62	0.0213	0.0969
Sitta europaea	17.31	38.46	0.0191	0.0277
Certhia familiaris	9.62	11.54	0.0106	0.0083
Emberiza citrinella	68.85	40.00	0.0761	0.0288
Fringilla coelebs	229.23	266.73	0.2533	0.1921
Chloris chloris		3.85		0.0028
Carduelis carduelis		1.92		0.0014
C. coccothraustes	23.08	92.50	0.0255	0.0666
Oriolus oriolus	3.85	7.12	0.0043	0.0051
Garrulus glandarius	3.85	16.15	0.0043	0.0116
Corvus corax	0.19	0.19	0.0002	0.0001
Total	905	1389		



Species	southern (№ 9)		northern (№ 10)	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Columba palumbus	2.30	2.30	2.43	2.43
Streptopelia turtur				2.43
Cuculus canorus	2.30	4.61		2.43
Jynx torquilla			2.43	
Picus canus		2.30		
Dendrocopos major		4.61	2.43	2.43
Dendrocopos medius		2.30		2.43
Dendrocopos minor		2.30		2.43
Lullula arborea				2.43
Anthus trivialis	2.30	4.61	4.87	
Lanius collurio				2.43
Erithacus rubecula	4.61	4.61	2.43	4.87
Luscinia luscinia	2.30	4.61	2.43	7.30
Turdus merula	6.91	4.61	4.87	
Turdus philomelos	9.22	9.22	4.87	9.73
Sylvia communis		2.30		7.30
Sylvia atricapilla	2.30	4.61	9.73	9.73
Sylvia curruca		4.61	2.43	2.43
Phylloscopus collybita	11.52	9.22	9.73	9.73
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	9.22	2.30	9.73	4.87
Ficedula albicollis	2.30		4.87	
Ficedula parva	4.61			
Parus palustris			2.43	
Parus major	16.13	9.22	4.87	4.87
Parus caeruleus	2.30	4.61	2.43	2.43
Sitta europaea	2.30	6.91		2.43
Certhia familiaris				2.43
Emberiza citrinella	9.22	9.22	17.03	12.17
Fringilla coelebs	32.26	25.35	34.06	26.76
Chloris chloris		2.30		
Carduelis carduelis		11.52	2.43	7.30
C. coccothraustes	2.30	2.30	4.87	2.43
Oriolus oriolus	6.91	6.91	7.30	4.87
Garrulus glandarius				2.43
Corvus corax				4.87
Total	131.35	147.47	145.99	148.42
Annex VIII

The composition and structure of bird communities of chalk steppe in Dvourechansky national park





The data of post-project years (2012-2013) are incorporated for comparison. The mean data for each year and plot are given in breeding territories (pairs), the total averaged data for pooled sample in last column are given in breeding pairs/sq. km. The area of the plots is the following: plot 1 - 17.8 ha, plot 2 - 33.2 ha, plot 3 - 41.0 ha. Dominant species with about or more than 10 percent share in community structure are highlighted in red.

(90) 97	Relative abundance, %		0.34	0.11	0.34	0.34	0.11	0.78	0.06	0.22	0.84	0.17	14.95	4.48	4.76
Mean	Mean breeding density, pairs/sq. km			0.27	0.82	0.82	0.27	1.90	0.14	0.54	2.04	0.41	36.28	10.87	11.55
		2013										0.5	14	5	4
	t 3	2012				1							6	5	3
	Plo	2011	0.5					1					10.5	2	10
		2010	0.5								1		14.5	2.5	1
irs)		2013						1.5		1	0.5		10.5	3.5	
tories (pai	t 2	2012	1	1	1			1			1		13.5	2	1
ding terri	Plo	2011	1			1	-	0.5			33	1	18.5	4	
Bree		2010			1	1		1		1	7		22	3	0.5
		2013						1	0.5				7	4	L
	t 1	2012											5	2	9
	Plo	2011											10	2	4
		2010			1			1					7	5	9
	Species		Tadorna ferruginea	Perdix perdix	Coturnix coturnix	Crex crex	Streptopelia turtur	Cuculus canorus	Caprimulgus europaeus	Alcedo atthis	Upupa epops	Lullula arborea	Alauda arvensis	Anthus campestris	Anthus trivialis





'əɔ' ,	Relative abundance, %		0.89	15.73	0.22	0.34	6.38	8.57	9.02	2.52	3.31	0.22	1.57	0.17	0.45	3.70	0.11	2.74
Mean	Mean breeding density, pairs/sq. km		2.17	38.18	0.54	0.82	15.49	20.79	21.88	6.11	8.02	0.54	3.80	0.41	1.09	8.97	0.27	6.66
		2013		17			14	S	3	1	2		3			5		3
	t 3	2012		14.5			7	2.5	3	2			1			5		2
	Plo	2011		19.5			11.5	13	13.5	2	2	2				5		1
		2010	2	16		1	14	23	10	4	4		7		7	∞		5
irs)		2013	2	15.5			3.5	1.5	1		4		1			4		1
tories (pa	t 2	2012	3	17.5			1	1	5.5	1	2		5	1		3		2
ding terri	Plo	2011		15.5		1	2.5	1.5	9	1	4		ω	0.5	7	2	1	1.5
Bree		2010		8	1		1	2.5	4.5	1	4		2			1		4
		2013		L			1.5	2.5	5	1.5	2							1
	t 1	2012		3.5				S	6.5	4								1
	Plo	2011		1.5	1			8	14	2	2							3
		2010	1	5		1	1	11	8.5	3	3.5							
	Species		Motacilla alba	Lanius collurio	Garrulus glandarius	Pica pica	Sylvia nisoria	Sylvia communis	Saxicola rubetra	Saxicola torquata	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>oenanthe</i>	Luscinia luscinia	Turdus merula	Turdus philomelos	Parus major	Passer montanus	Fringilla coelebs	Chloris chloris

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T		1
alle a	A	

Relative abundance, %			0.78	0.89	0.28	2.07	12.21	0.34	100
Mean breeding density, pairs/sq. km			1.90	2.17	0.68	5.03	29.62	0.82	242.69
		2013		2		4	14		96.5
	t 3	2012		1		1	11		68
	Plo	2011					6		102.5
		2010		2			15.5		128
irs)		2013				5.5	8		64
tories (pa	t 2	2012				3.5	9		70
ding terri	Plo	2011					12.5	2	86
Bree		2010				1	13		74.5
		2013			0.5	3.5	1.5		40.5
	t 1	2012	2	1			3.5		36.5
	Plot	2011	2	1	2		10	1	63.5
		2010	3	1			5		63
Species			Carduelis carduelis	Acanthis cannabina	Carpodacus erythrinus	Emberiza calandra	Emberiza citrinella	Emberiza hortulana	Total



Annex IX

The abundance (cover percentage) of plant species with unfavourable conservation status (listed in Red Data Book of Ukraine) on chalk steppe and chalk scree transects in Dvourechansky national park

Plot	Line	Year	Adonis vernalis	Onosma tanaitica	Matthiola fragrans	Androsace koso-poljanskii	Artemisia hololeuca	Scrophularia cretacea	Helianthemum cretaceum	Hyssopus cretaceus
	1	2010		9.64			1.8	2.4	2.4	
		2011		11.76			2.94	2.94	1.76	
		2012		10.18			3.6	1.2	5.99	
	2	2010		2.39	0.6		16.77	1.2	6.59	
lot]		2011		5.95	1.79		14.89	1.19	10.12	
Ч		2012		8.38	2.39		26.95		15.57	
	3	2010		3.6	1.81		17.47		8.43	
		2011		4.19	2.39		22.75	0.6	8.38	
		2012		3.63	0.6		14.54	0.6	6.06	
	1	2010		4.19						
		2011	0.6	3.59		0.6				
		2012	1.2	7.19						
	2	2010		1.2	0.6	0.6	12.57	0.6		1.2
		2011		1.2	2.4		16.17	3.59		2.4
t 2		2012		0.6	1.2		19.28	3.01		1.8
Plo	3	2010		1.79	1.2	8.38	10.78			0.6
		2011		4.19	1.2	5.39	17.37			
		2012		4.82	2.41	4.82	19.28			
	4	2010	0.6	4.16						
		2011	0.6	4.19						
		2012	1.81	1.81						
	1	2010			0.6		14.37	1.8		2.99
		2011			0.6		11.45	1.2		1.81
		2012					13.69			1.19
	2	2010				7.78	2.99		7.19	6.59
		2011		2.38		6.55	4.16	0.6	14.29	6.55
ot 3		2012		1.2		9.03	3.61	0.6	13.25	9.64
Plc	3	2010		1.8			19.76	0.6	5.39	1.2
		2011		2.4	1.8		32.34		5.39	0.6
		2012		1.2	0.6		34.94		9.04	7.8
	4	2010		0.6		10.18	8.38			4.19
		2011				6.58	10.18			4.19
		2012		0.6	1.2	7.14	11.31			5.39



Annex X

Sample copies of first pages of scientific and popular papers and abstracts of talks at conferences prepared within the scope of Chagra'2010 project

НПП Дворічанський

Національний природний парк "Дворічанський" розташований на північному сході Харківської області, в Дворічанському районі. Він створений указом Президента України № 1044/2009 від 11 грудня 2009 року. Площа парку становить 3131,2 га. З них 658,8 га земель надані національному природному парку в постійне користування, і 2472,4 га земель включені до його складу без вилучення у землекористувачів. Парк підпорядкований Мінприроди України. Проект створення НПП "Дворічанський" розроблений Харківським національним університетом імені В.Н. Каразіна (ХНУ ім. В.Н. Каразіна) (2009). Парк створений насамперед для охорони та збереження унікального крейдяного природного комплексу на правому березі р. Оскіл.

Ще в 1931 р. видатний дослідник крейдяних відслонень Б.М. Козо-Полянський пропонував створення в Пооскіллі заповідника. За ці часи на суміжній території Росії створено кілька невеликих за площею заповідних ділянок з реліктовою флорою "знижених Альп". На необхідність організації охорони крейдяної флори та створення об'єктів ПЗФ на українській території Поосколля неодноразово вказували харківські ботаніки (Ермоленко и др., 1981; Горелова, 1986; Ткаченко та ін., 1986; Горелова, 1987; Горелова, 1989; Горелова и др., 1990; Горелова, Тверетинова, 1992; Горелова, Алехин, 1999, 2002). За цей час було створено кілька ботанічних заказників місцевого значення, два з яких увійшли до сучасної території НПП: "Червоний" (1984 р.) та "Конопляне" (1998 р.) (Природно-заповідний фонд..., 2005). Проте, статус заказників не забезпечує належної охорони та збереження природних комплексів. На початку 2000-х років учені ХНУ ім. В.Н. Каразіна запропонували створити національний природний парк "Дворічанський" та розпочали роботу з його створення (Токарський та ін., 2002, 2004; Горелова, Горелова, 2003; Горелова, 2004), яка мала успішне завершення.

Територія НПП "Дворічанський" належить до підзони Південного Лісостепу. За фізико-географічним районуванням (Екологічна енциклопедія, 2006) територія парку входить до Харківської Схилово-височинної області Східноукраїнського лісостепового краю. Територія парку розташована на південно-західних відрогах Середньоросійської височини, в межах Приоскольського плато. Долина р. Оскіл глибоко врізана в плато і розділяє його на східну та західну частини. Приоскольське плато сильно розчленоване долинами, балками та яругами, особливо в західній частині – типовий яружно-балковий рельєф.

Парк має цілісну, витягнуту вузькою смугою вздовж р. Оскіл, територію. До неї належить корінний правий берег та заплава Осколу. Для долини річки характерна різко виражена асиметрія схилів.



Правий берег крутий, високий, складений крейдою, крейдяним мергелем, глауконітовими пісками. Заплава утворена алювіальними відкладами, що залягають на корінних породах. Лівий берег – більш положистий, терасований (Атемасова, Токарський, 2003).

На території парку переважають чорноземи типові середньогумусні. В заплаві Осколу сформувалися гідроморфні лучні грунти, зокрема, лучні чорноземи. В притерасній частині заплави вони суглинкові, а в прирусловій – супіщані і піщані. В перезволожених мікрозниженнях сформовані заболочені грунти (Атемасова, Токарський, 2003).

Вперше сучасна територія НПП та його околиць була обстежена видатним ботаніко-географом А.М. Красновим у 1891 році. В своїй праці (Краснов, 1893) він подав список виявлених видів, в якому вперше для колишньої Харківської губернії вказав на знахідки окремих крейдяних видів рослин у межах нинішнього НПП. Пізніше обстеження цієї території було здійснене видатним ботаніком В.І. Талієвим наприкінці 1890-х років. Детальні відомості про флору і рослинність за результатами цього обстеження надані ним у статті 1897 р., деякі додаткові дані містяться в його капітальній праці 1904 р. про рослинність крейдяних відслонень (Талиев, 1897, 1904).

Цінний фактичний матеріал з флори крейдяних відслонень зібраний у низці праць (Širyaev, Lavrenko, 1926-1927; Котов, 1927 а, б, 1930, 1931; Гринь, 1938). Дослідженням крейдяної флори та рослинності Поосколля різного напрямку присвячена значна кількість робіт вітчизняних ботаніків (Котов, 1939; Лавренко, 1949; Алексеенко, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971; Ермоленко др., 1981; Ткаченко та ін., 1986; Горелова, 1987; Горелова, Алехин, 2002; Кривохижа та ін., 2011). Особливу увагу вчені-ботаніки приділяли проблемам охорони цієї ендемічної і реліктової флори та рослинності (Прокудин и др., 1979; Тверетинова и др., 1979; Горелова, 1986, 1989; Горелова, Друлева, 1987; Прокудин, Матвиенко, 1987; Горелова, Тверетинова, 1992; Горелова, Алехин, 1999; Горелова, Горелова, 2003; Горелова, 2004; Горелова та ін., 2006). У загальних науковопопулярних виданнях початку та кінця ХХ ст. (Талиев, 1913, 1918; Сохраним навечно..., 1981; Люби свою землю..., 1986; Горелова и др., 1990; Рідний край, 1993) наведені нариси рослинного покриву крейдяних відслонень українського Поосколля та висвітлена його унікальність.

У 2000-х роках рослинність та тваринний світ крейдяних відслонень долини р. Оскіл та, зокрема, території НПП, досліджувались групою харківських екологів під керівництвом Т.А. Атемасової та М.В. Баніка^{*}.

* 2000 p. – за підтримки BP Conservation Programme, 2004 p. – Rufford Small Grants, 2008 p. – Crowder Messersmith Conservation Fund, 2010-11 pp. – Conservation Leadership Programme.



Птахи — Aves

XOPДOBI / Chordata

ΟΓΑΡ

Tadorna ferruginea (Pallas, 1764) Огарь

Клас Птахи — Aves Ряд Гусеподібні — Anseriformes Родина Качкові — Anatidae

Природоохоронний статус

Рідкісний вид на межі ареалу. Занесений до Червоної книги України (вразливий), списків Бернської конвенції (Додаток II), Боннської конвенції (Додаток II), Угоди про збереження афро-свразійських мігруючих водно-болотних птахів AEWA.

Морфологічна характеристика

Велика качка із темно-рудим забарвленням спини, вола і черева, світлішим, жовтувато-білявим кольором оперення голови і шиї. В польоті добре помітні ділянки яскраво-білого кольору на передній частині крил. Шия і ноги довгі. У шлюбному вбранні у самия, на відміну від самиці, світла шия відлілена від темнішого вола чорним кільцем. Довжина тіла 58–70 см, розмах крил 110–135 см.

Ареал виду та його поширення у регіоні

Поширений в районах із посушливим кліматом від Західного Середземномор'я до Тибету і Монголії. У Харківській області огар зник у середині XIX століття, можливо, внаслідок катастрофічного скорочення чисельності бабаків. Гніздування відновилося лише у 1990-ті роки на тлі обумовленого природними причинами поступового зростання чисельності в західній частині ареалу, зокрема, у сусідній Луганській області. Нині гніздиться в степових районах Харківської області.



Чисельність

Чисельність огара в регіоні зростає, особливо прискореними темпами — з середини 2000-х років. На даний час на території області гніздиться щонайменше 40-45 пар.

Місця перебування

Типовий птах гірсько-степового та гірсько-пустельного ландшафту. У Харківській області його потребам найбільше відповідає відкритий степовий ландшафт із розвиненою яружно-балочною системою в місцях виходів крейди. Для тніздування обирає покинуті нори бабаків і лисиць, інколи селиться у нішах по дамбах технічних водойм. Важливим є наявність поблизу місць гніздування водойм, що придатні для водіння виводків, — ставів і водосховищ, по відкритих, пласких берегах яких можуть випасатися каченята. У період міграції зупиняється на озерах і водосховищах.

Особливості біології

Перелітний вид. Західні популяції зимують у Середземномор'ї і Південно-Західній Азії, у басейні Чорного моря, в Україні в заповіднику «Асканія-Нова». Прилітає наприкінці березня. Переважно рослиноїдний птах, в міграційний період охоче споживає падалицю зерна культурних злаків на полях. Моногамний вид, про потомство дбають обидва партнери. Одна кладка в сезоні, в якій найчастіше 8–10 ясць. Гнізда з тонкого шару пуху влаштовують в норах ссавців, різноманітних нішах, інколи — в дуплах дерев. Яйцекладка — з кінця березня й у квітні. Насиджування триває 28–29 днів, перші каченята з'являються у другій половині травня. Дорослі птахи відволять їх до виводкової водойми. На крило молоді стають у віці 55 днів. Місцеві птахи відлітають наприкінці липня — на початку серпня.

Основні чинники зниження чисельності

Турбування птахів під час водіння виводків; зниження чисельності бабаків.

Заходи охорони

Просвітницька робота серед сільських жителів, особливо орендарів степових водойм.

Джерела інформації

Сомов, 1897; Статр, 1978; Лысенко, 1991; Гудина, 2007; Папиннок Р. В., Полстаєв В. (2012, особисті повідомлення).

Автор: М. В. Банік Фото: © І. І. Уколов

http://www.birds-online.ru/gallery/displayimage.php?album=36&pos=



XOPДOBI / Chordata

ПОПЕЛЯСТА КАМ'ЯНКА Oenanthe isabellina (Temminck, 1829) Каменка-плясунья

Клас Птахи — Aves Ряд Горобцеподібні — Passeriformes Родина Мухоловкові — Muscicapidae

Природоохоронний статус

Птахи — Aves

Зникаючий. Занесений до списків Бернської конвенції (Додаток II) та Боннської конвенції (Додаток II).

Морфологічна характеристика

Довжина тіла — 15–16,5 см, розмах крил 27–31 см. Загальне забарвлення із переважанням неяскравих, бруднувато-пісочних тонів. Статевий диморфізм майже не виражений. На відміну від самиць і молодих особин контраст між забарвленням крил і спини менший, спід крил світлий. Вид летко впізнати за співом: його пісня, на відміну від пісні звичайної кам'янки, мелодійна, багата на імітації.

Ареал виду та його поширення у регіоні

Попшрений від південної і східної України та Балканського півострова до верхів'їв басейнів річок Амур та Хуанхе, переважно в межах степової і напівпустельної зон. Зимує у зоні Сахелю, південніше Сахари. Вид заселив територію Харківської області у 1970-х на початку 1980-х років, рухаючись у західному і північному напрямках. Проте, за останні десять років вид почав стрімко скорочувати область свого поширення в регіоні.

Чисельність

На початку 2000-х років середня гніздова чисельність на підніжжях ехилів із виходами крейди становила 1,2 пари/10 га. В останні роки





попеляста кам'янка майже повністю зникла на півночі області, на півдні відомі зустрічі окремих пар.

Місця перебування

Попеляста кам'янка — типовий птах пласких, рівнинних напівпустель із розрідженим рослинним покривом, в якому переважають різні види полину. У Харківській області гніздиться у підніжжя схилів корінних берегів річок та великих яруг, часто — у місцях виходів крейди, на вибитих худобою степових ділянках. У післягніздовий час її можна зустріти на вододільних плато, на ланах.

Особливості біології

Перелітний вид; рідкісний на гніздуванні та під час міграції. Прилітає у середині квітня. Мовогамний вид; в деяких популяціях можлива полігінія. Про потомство дбають обидва партнери. Гнізда влаштовує у норах степових гризунів (бабаків, малих ховрахів, великих тушканчиків, сліпаків) на відстані близько метра від входу. Гнізда збудовані з сухих стебел злаків, шерсті тварин, моху і рясно вистелені пір'ям та шерстю. Ймовірно, буває дві кладки в сезоні. В кладці, найчаєтіше, 5–6 ясць. Повні кладки з'являються у перпій половині травня. Насиджування триває 12 днів. Пташеняята виходять з гнізд у віці 13–15 днів, самостійними стають через два тижні. Вихід з гнізд пташенят других (або повторних) кладок відбувається наприківці червня — на початку липня, інколи у серпні. Живиться, переважно, наземними комахами. Міграція у напрямку місць зимівель починається у серпні і закінчується

Основні чинники зниження чисельності

Зменшення пасовищного навантаження на степових ділянках та, як наслідок, їх заростання бур'янистою рослинністю; стрімке падіння чисельності степових гризунів.

Заходи охорони

Сприяння традиційним формам господарювання із дотриманням оптимального режиму випасання худоби на степових ділянках. Охорона місць помешкань виду.

Джерела інформації

Статр, 1988; Кривицкий и др., 1990; Кныш, 1994; Панов, 1999; Вітер, 2012; Атемасова Т. А., Скоробогатов С. В. (2012, особисті повідомлення).

Автор: М. В. Банік Фото: © Thomas Varto Nielsen



XOPДOB1 / Chordata

ПРОСЯНКА

Emberiza calandra Linnaeus, 1758 Просянка

Клас Птахи — Aves Ряд Горобцеподібні — Passeriformes Родина Вівсянкові — Emberizidae

Природоохоронний статус

Рідкісний вид на межі ареалу. Занесений до списку Бернської конвенції (Додаток III).

Морфологічна характеристика

Великого розміру вівсянка з масивним дзьобом: довжина тіла 16-19 см, розмах крил 26-32 см. Забарвлення неяскраве — сіро-буре. Статевий диморфізм виражений слабко: самиці менші за розмірами від самців. Добре відрізняється від інших вівсянок за піснею, звук якої нагадує брязкання низки ключів.

Ареял виду та його попирення у регіоні

Попирений від Піренейського півострова до Середньої Азії, переважно у Середземномор'ї. У другій половині XIX століття просянка була звичайним, хоча і нечисленним гніздовим птахом у Харківській губернії, проте у 1920-х роках чисельність і область її попирення скоротилися. З кінця 1970-х років спостерігалося відновлення ареалу. Харківська область знаходиться на периферії ареалу виду.

Чисельність

Чисельність суттєво коливається рік від року. Середня гніздова чисельність у підніжжя крейдяних схилів корінного берегу річки Оскіл становить 0,05–0,07 співаючих самців/10 га. Однак, ймовірно, не більше 15–20% самців, що зайняли гніздові території,





Птахи — Aves

здатні привабити самиць і приступити до розмноження. За останні два десятиліття невідомі зустрічі виводків, скупчень або зграй у післягніздовий час, а також реєстрації птахів взимку.

Місня перебування

Просянка — типовий вид середземноморського ландшафту: сухих хвилястих місцевостей із високим трав'яним покривом і поодинокими деревами. У Харківській області в гніздовий період трапляється біля підніжяя корінних берегів річок, у гирлах великих балок, на перелогах і сухих луках в заплавах, зрідка — на вододільних плато біля узбіч доріг, на забур'янених ділянках.

Особливості біології

Більшість птахів зимує в межах гніздового ареалу. В минулому просянки прилітали в Харківську область наприкінці березня і у квітні. Тепер перші зустрічі співаючих самців припадають переважно на травень і червень. Живиться насінням (протягом всього року) і безхребетними (в період гніздування). Просянки утворюють пари, але зв'язок між партнерами дуже слабкий, розповсюджена полігінія. Про потомство дбають обидва партнери, проте роль самця незначна. Гнізда розташовані на землі або невисоко над нею, на кущиках. В деяких популяціях буває одна, в інших дві кладки в сезоні. В кладці найчастіше 4-6 яєць. На північному сході України всі знахідки гнізд із кладками і спостереження птахів із гніздовою поведінкою приходилися на останню декаду червня - першу декаду липня. Насиджування триває 12–14 днів. Пташенята виходять з гнізд іще нездатними літати у віці 9-13 днів і набувають самостійності через 1-2 тижні. Міграція на території області не виражена.

Основні чинники зниження чисельності

Коливання клімату; зміни сільськогосподарської практики, що впливають на якість придатних для виду біотопів.

Заходи охорони

Недопущення змін землекористування в місцях ймовірного гніздування виду.

Джерела інформації

Сомов, 1897; Аверин, 1924; Кривицький, 1990; Cramp, Perrins, 1994; Баник, Вергелес, 2000; Гудина, 2000; Тараненко, 2000; Кныш, Статива, 2012; Надточій Г. С. (2012, особисте повідомлення).

Автор: М. В. Банік Фото: © С. Шкарупо http://www.rbcu.ru/birdclass/list.php?id=2&SECTION_ID=1705



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vation of steppe and semide

Сощдовые и другие сообщения Poster session and other abstracts

Проблема охраны меловых степей в Украине Problem of conservation of cretaceous steppes in Ukraine

Contraction of the second street of

Баник М.В.1, Тупиков А.И.2, Саидахмедова Н.Б.3, Дьякова О.В.4, Лиманский С.В.5 1 Харьковский национальный университет имени В.Н. Каразина, ² Национальный природный парк (НПП) «Двуречанский». ³НПП «Слобожанский», ⁴НПП «Святые горы», ⁵Украинский степной природный заповедник, отделение «Меловая флора»; Украина

Меловые обнажения с их своеобразной флорой и фауной, распространенные вне крупных горных систем на равнинах Евразии, издавна привлекали внимание исследователей. Сообщества растений и животных меловых выходов представляют собой уникальные комплексы, сформировавшиеся в условиях, напоминающих горную среду. Среди растительных сообществ на обнажениях мела наиболее обычны петрофитные группировки с разреженным покровом и меловые степи. Главной чертой распространения растений меловой флоры является его островной характер. Поэтому эффективная охрана меловых эндемиков невозможна без картирования их ареалов. Второе условие действенной охраны — осознание необходимости сохранения долинного ландшафтного комплекса как целого. На Украине меловые степи охраняются в 2 заповедниках, 2 национальных природных парках и 2 региональных ландшафтных парках. Самые значимые среди них - это Украинский степной природный заповедник (отделение «Меловая флора»), национальный природный парк «Двуречанский», региональные природные парки «Краматорский» и «Беловодский». Наиболее серьезной угрозой для меловых степей остается их облесение. Нам достоверно известны случаи исчезновения популяций редчайших видов в результате создания искусственных лесов. Неблагоприятное влияние оказывают также пожары и устройство карьеров для добычи мела. Важнейшие проблемы охраны — это несоответствие между локальными максимумами обилия редких видов и территориями природно-заповедного фонда, необходимость организации транснациональной охраны, развитие туризма и экологическое образование.

12 Стежками природи

Стаття підготовлена завдяки підтримці Crowder-Messersmith Fund of Audubon Naturalist Society та Conservation Leadership Programme

Звілки взялася



Живі істоти

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Чимало природних цікавинок можна знайти в Україні, починаючи від славетних Карпатських гір, величного Чорного моря, широких південних степів і таємничих північних лісів і закінчуючи великими ріками та їх басейнами, що протікають по центральній та східній частинах нашої держави. Однією з таких величних та унікальних, свідчень про минуле нашого континенту є шматочки недоторканих крейдяних степів на сході України.



Стаття підготовлена завдяки підтримці Crowder-Messersmith Fund of Audubon Naturalist Society та Conservation Leadership Programme

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Annex XI

Project budget

Itemized expenses	Total Budget Request	CLP used	Co-finance (in kind)	Total Budget expenses
Project Preparation				
Communications (telephone/internet/postage)	50	50.4		50.4
Team training (car rent, fuel, food)	440	440	118.8	558.8
Reconnaissance (car rent, fuel, food)	200	200	23.8	223.8
Equipment				
Scientific/field equipment and supplies (GPS Garmin-60 SCX -2, binoculars - 2, binocular microscope, equipment for vegetation surveys)	1900	100.22	1802	1902
Photographic equipment (Camera Canon 40D, Camera Olympus WZ5060, supplies: electric & storage, batteries)	2950	99.5	2850	2950
Camping equipment (tents - 2, sleeping bags - 6; air-bed - 2; gas-burner & gas tanks; camping furniture set, camping kitchen set)	1250	837.5	400	1237.5
Car rent including fuel	7320	7320	56.3	7376.3
Equipment: laptop, multimedia projector, screen	1300	601	700	1301
Project Implementation				
Accommodation for team members and local guides	2000	2000		2000
Food for team members and local guides	8640	8640	689.1	9329.1
Workshops (Stationery, printing; coffee breaks)	250	250	8.75	258.75
Outreach/education activities and materials (leaflet - 1000 pieces; teaching aids - 100 sets; field guide - 100; questionnaire -1000)	2500	2500	20.5	2520.5
Post-Project Expenses				
Administration	200	135	3	138
Report production and results dissemination	500	840		840
Web-site development; hosting	1160	880	676	1556
Total	30660	24893.62	7348.25	32242.15

Useful addresses Chagra'2010 project team contacts:

Project leader: Mikhail Banik,

Research Institute of Biology, Kharkiv national university, Svobody 4, Kharkiv, 61022 Ukraine e-mail: *mbanik@operamail.com* or *mbanik@mail.ru*

Marina Kovalenko, Maria Kolesnikova, Animal Ecology, Kharkiv School of Zoology and Animal Ecology,

School of Zoology and Animal Ecology, Kharkiv national university, Svobody 4, Kharkiv, 61022 Ukraine e-mail: *mvkov(at)mail.ru* School of Zoology and Animal Ecology, Kharkiv national university, Svobody 4, Kharkiv, 61022 Ukraine e-mail: *kmu6154(at)mail.ru*

Website of the project: www.chalksteppe.org/en

The addresses of our partners:

Dvourechansky national park	Dvourechansky centre of children's
Maxim O. Vysochin, Director	creativity
Mailing address: Privoksalna 51, sel. Dvorichne,	Olga N. Berveno, Director
62701, Kharkiv region, Ukraine	Mailing address: Sportivniy prov. 14, smt.
e-mail: dvorichnpp@ukr.net	Dvorichna, 62702, Kharkiv region, Ukraine
Official website: <u>http://nppdvorichansky.org.ua</u>	e-mail: dvo-cdyt@mail.ru
Social web link: <u>http://vk.com/npp_dvorichanskiy</u>	Official website: http://dvorichna-cdyt.ucoz.ua/

Project distribution list

- 1. Conservation Leadership Programme, Conservation International, 2011 Crystal Drive Ste 500, Arlington, VA 22202 USA.
- 2. Society for the Protection of Birds of Ukraine, P.O. box 33, Kyiv 01103, Ukraine.
- 3. Dvourechansky national park, Privoksalna 51, sel. Dvorichne, 62701, Kharkiv region, Ukraine.
- 4. Dvourechnaya district administration, Radyanska 12, smt. Dvorichna, 62702, Kharkiv region, Ukraine.
- 5. Dvourechansky centre of children's creativity, Sportivniy prov. 14, smt. Dvorichna, 62702, Kharkiv region, Ukraine.
- 6. Department of environmental protection and natural resources at Kharkiv regional administration, Svobody sq. 5, Kharkiv, 61022, Ukraine.
- 7. Siberian ecological center, P.O. box 547, Novosibirsk, 630090, Russian Federation.
- 8. National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, PO Box 306, 01032 Kyiv, Ukraine.
- 9. Lugansky nature reserve, Rubezhnaya 95, smt Stanitsa Luganskaya, Stanichno-Lugansky district, Lugansk region, 93602, Ukraine.
- 10. Belogorye nature reserve, Monastyrsky per. 3, pgt Borisovka, Byelgorod region, 309340, Russian Federation.
- 11. European Dry Grassland Group, Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology of Plants, Biocentre Klein Flottbek, University of Hamburg, Ohnhorststr. 18, 22609 Hamburg, Germany.
- 12. IUCN Global Species Programme Red List Unit, IUCN UK Office, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom.
- 13. International Plants Conservation Unit, WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR, UK.

Copies of the report may be obtained at no charge by contacting **Mikhail Banik**, Research Institute of Biology, Kharkiv national university, Svobody 4, Kharkiv, 61022 Ukraine e-mail: *mbanik@operamail.com*

