

A NEW REALITY FOR UKRAINE'S PROTECTED AREAS

Late February to late April 2022

Together we are stronger

The Ukrainian Carpathians have become a shelter for people fleeing conflict in the east of the country. An estimated 65,000 internally displaced people have sought refuge in the region. The majority of the 13 protected areas in the Carpathians have converted visitor centers, tourist cabins, and offices to accommodate those in need – more than 1,000 lodging possibilities were made available at their infrastructure and staff houses. An estimated 2,000 people have also arrived in and around protected areas in Polesia with roughly 80 people hosted at one park.

To help the protected areas face this new reality, over 35 metric tons of goods – food, medicine, sleeping bags, blankets, generators, and more – have been sent to Ukraine since the escalation of the war on February 24th in a combined FZS-coordinated response with partners in Romania (Foundation Conservation Carpathia), Slovakia (Aevis) and Germany (Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V.). Supply chains are in place and needed goods continue to be regularly delivered to Ukrainian protected areas and the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) they host.

Within Ukraine, FZS staff works closely with parks and reserves in the Carpathians, Polesia – and now also in the embattled east of the country – to convert park infrastructure, accommodate IDPs, and tackle emerging threats to the protected areas.

Read on for more details on these efforts over the past weeks. →

Please note: The situation in Ukraine remains unpredictable. Should you be contacted by the press regarding coverage of support to protected areas in Ukraine please contact crisiscommunication@fzs.org for further guidance. For all other questions please visit: www.fzs.org/en/service/contact.



Equipment bound for Ukraine is loaded into a vehicle in Frankfurt.

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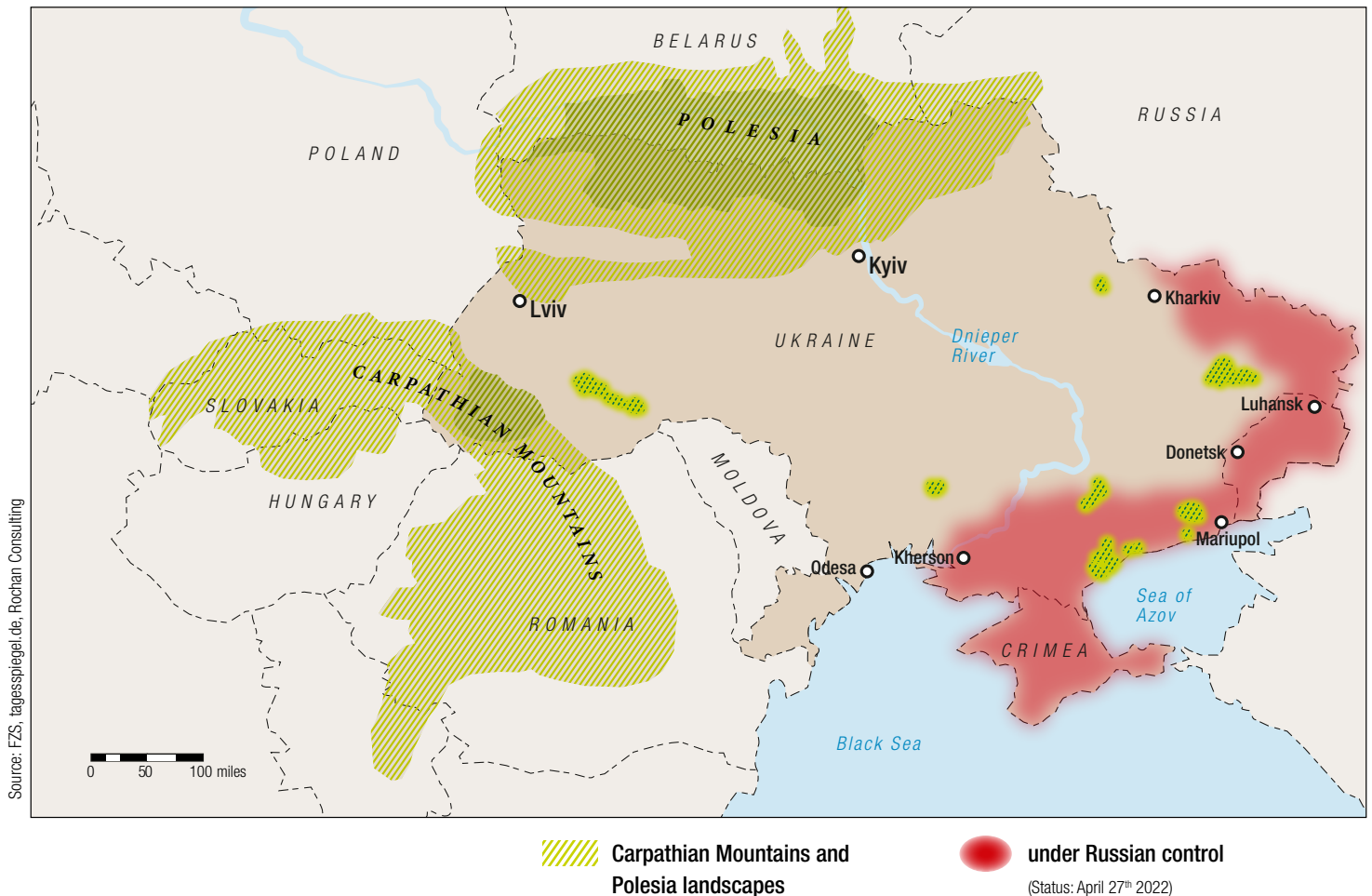


Mattresses purchased by FZS Ukraine are delivered to park infrastructure converted to lodge IDPs in the Carpathians.

© Ukrainian Parks

Support for protected areas

Over the past weeks, protected areas have been largely cut off from other funding sources. Some supplies also became scarce or impossible to source within Ukraine. FZS provides ongoing and bolstered support to protected areas in the Carpathians, Polesia, as well as additional parks in the east and south of the country. Funding primarily covers operational costs of supporting IDPs – fuel, heating, conversions of facilities to shelter IDPs, and the provision of food, medicine, and other essential supplies needed. In the Carpathians, FZS works not only in Ukraine but also in Romania, Poland, and Slovakia – partners in these countries quickly reacted to support parks across the border in Ukraine.



Carpathians

- ongoing support to **13 protected areas**
- lodging was made available at park and staff infrastructure for more than **1,000 IDPs**
- roughly **65,000 IDPs** in and around protected areas

Polesia

- ongoing support to **8 protected areas** including fuel and fire-fighting equipment
- around **80 IDPs** hosted at one protected area
- roughly **2,000 IDPs** in and around protected areas

Eastern protected areas

- support has been expanded to include **7 protected areas** in the embattled east of the country
- these sites are not within FZS project areas
- in collaboration with Ukraine's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources fire-fighting and other equipment have been sent to parks

Support within Ukraine

Fire-fighting

- In spring, the risk of wildfires is ever-present in much of Ukraine. This year additional equipment is needed to tackle the much greater fire risk faced in a time of war. Seventy extinguisher backpacks were sent to three protected areas in Polesia and another 50 are on their way to eastern parks bordering occupied territories. Fuel costs for the parks' fire-fighting tractors and trucks are also covered.
- We are also working with the protected area staff to monitor near real-time fire data to detect and launch responses to fires in remote parts of the protected area network in the Ukrainian part of Polesia.

Shelter and support for IDPs

- Over 350 beds and mattresses have been purchased within Ukraine to adapt protected area infrastructure in the Carpathians to accommodate IDPs.
- Five larger centers to host IDPs have been set up within the infrastructure of five protected areas in the Carpathians and Polesia. An additional 12 protected areas host people in smaller numbers – at park infrastructure and staff housing or tourist accommodation.

Support via Romania

- To date, the Foundation Conservation Carpathia (an FZS partner) and their supporters have sent five convoys of vehicles to deliver supplies to Ukrainian protected areas – a total of **26.3 metric tons of goods**.
- Supplies included 15 metric tons of food, 800 sleeping bags, and eight generators to provide an alternative power source at IDP shelters. Supplies also included warm jackets; beds, sheets, and mattresses; electrical appliances; kitchenware; medicine, and sanitary items.

Support via Germany

- Two batches of supplies were sent to Ukraine from a collection point at the Sächsische Schweiz National Park for donations and supplies sourced within Germany – a total of **7.6 metric tons of supplies** were handed over to parks in the Carpathians.
- The fundraising appeal and logistics were also supported by the Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. NNL.
- Goods included sleeping bags, mattresses, kitchenware, food, and hygienic products.

Support via Slovakia

- Partners from Slovakia traveled to a protected area in the Carpathians to deliver heaters, sleeping bags, blankets, food, medicine, and kitchenware – **a total of 1.4 metric tons of goods**.



Ukrainian protected area staff collect a batch of supplies at the border – sent from Romania, with the support of Sameday logistics.

© FZS



metric tons of supplies sent to Ukraine in seven batches from Romania, Slovakia, and Germany



lodging spaces provided for IDPs at protected area and staff infrastructure



people have sought refuge in and around protected areas in Polesia and the Carpathians



FZS partner project in Romania – Foundation Conservation Carpathia – load a vehicle convoy with food and other supplies destined for Ukraine.

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Protected Areas in Ukraine affected by the war

Under threat of destruction

Source: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine



900 protected areas including National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Nature Reserves

200 Emerald Network sites, totaling 2.9 million hectares

14 Ramsar sites cover a total of 14 areas of 397,700 hectares

20 fires detected covering an area of 500 hectares

Ongoing conservation work

Some biodiversity monitoring activities in the Carpathians remain possible. Most camera traps from the winter monitoring have been collected and preliminary data is coming in. The remaining camera traps are in the most remote mountainous areas that are still snowed in. Work with local communities around protected areas has shifted towards gathering the needs of communities to cater to IDPs.



Stories of hope and courage from Ukraine's protected areas

The Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine website wownature.in.ua has shifted its focus during this time of war. Instead of sharing ideas for travels to witness Ukraine's rich natural heritage, the site will now cover the war's impact on nature in Ukraine. [Visit the updated site](http://wownature.in.ua) for news on how protected areas and their partners, including FZS, are making every effort to protect human lives and wildlife.



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