

**Title of the process**

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**Ukraine:  
Returning the Protected Status to Natural Areas in the Lviv Region**

**Type of procedure**

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation procedure        | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure including mediation elements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other procedure |   |

**Topic area**

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban and land use planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Water management/supply and distribution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry, trade, enterprises   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power industry                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic, transportation        | <input type="checkbox"/> General environmental policies (genetic engineering, nuclear policy, etc.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood conflict   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: .....   |

**Initiator(s)**

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WETI, an NGO of environmental journalists

**Short description of the case**

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In December 1999 the Lviv Regional Council decided to remove the status of several protected areas. For some areas they removed the protected status of part of the territories and changed their borders (about 4,000 hectares in 11 protected areas altogether).

Several environmental NGOs and scientists protested the decision, which they considered illegally without a scientific basis. Since 1999, several administrative actions and media-campaigns have taken place without a satisfactory outcome.

In June 2005 WETI, a journalism NGO, organised a press-tour, and about 40 people (journalists, scientists, governmental officials, environmental prosecutors, NGOs and foresters) visited the former reserves of Kornalovychy and Boryslavsky. Participants of the press-tour proposed to organise a round table discussion. They also signed a petition to the Lviv Region Council requesting the cancellation of the decision of December 1999 and reinstatement of protected status to the valuable natural territories. The petition was disseminated during the meeting of the Lviv Region Council, and the issue was widely publicised in local and national mass media.

In early July 2005, a facilitated round table was held. As a result, a commission of stakeholders was created. The main goal of the commission was to inspect the areas and suggest which areas should regain protected status.

In August 2005 the commission visited the former reserve Kornalovychy and agreed to prepare the scientific conclusions for the decision to return protected status to the territories that had not been harmed yet.

**Parties and other participants (number of individuals, names of participating public authorities, institutions, interest groups, etc.)**

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- Lvivlis, the Lviv regional state forestry company
- Environmental NGOs (WETI, Ecopravo-Lviv, Nature Protection Society)
- Lviv Region Council (the environmental committee)
- Lviv Regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Scientists from the Lviv Forestry University, the Lviv National University, and the Institute of the Ecology of the Carpathians (the Academy of Science of Ukraine).
- Legal adviser (lawyer) of environmental NGOs
- Journalists

**Client/financial sponsor**

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The sponsor of the press tour was ISAR Ednannia, a Ukrainian not-for-profit non-governmental organisation. Ednannia provides a variety of services to NGOs and other interested parties, including grants, consultations, trainings, information, research, analysis and networking. In addition, Ednannia carries out several programmes and activities encouraging NGO activity in Ukrainian communities.

Other resources were covered by participants of the process: the State Forestry Company provided the meeting room, transport for the commission visit to the reserve, as well as lunch for the participants. WETI used its own resources for the dissemination of information and preparation of information materials after the press tour. Scientific work was carried out by the scientists without any additional compensation. Legal advises were provided by the lawyer free of charge.

**Procedural guidance by (e.g. professional mediators, etc.)**

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Legal adviser advised WETI on how to organise negotiations, as well as on possible ways to comply with the legal procedure of establishing the protected areas. The round table was facilitated by representatives from both sides of the conflict, a representative of NGO WETI and the head of the State Forestry Company.

**Geographic dimension**

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|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | <input type="checkbox"/> regional | <input type="checkbox"/> state-wide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> international    | <input type="checkbox"/> EU-wide  |                                     |

**Status of process**

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- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> concluded | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in execution |
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**Start, end, duration of the process**

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The conflict started in December 1999. The preparation for the press tour started in spring 2005 and negotiations started in June 2005. Negotiations were held in August 2005