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The International Dimension of Ukraine's Climate Policy in the Context of a Full-Scale Russian Invasion

1. Introduction

Climate policy is increasingly gaining strategic importance in the modern international system, becoming an integral element of global security, economic development, and international cooperation. Ukraine, as part of the global community, faced a unique challenge – integrating its climate commitments and policies in the context of a full-scale armed conflict caused by the military aggression of the Russian Federation. This context radically changes the emphases, tools, and possibilities of implementing climate initiatives internationally. The war in Ukraine significantly complicated the fulfillment of previously accepted commitments within the Paris Agreement framework and created additional challenges for forming a dialogue with international partners regarding financing "green" transformation, reconstruction of critical infrastructure, and adaptation to climate change. At the same time, Russia's aggression focused attention on energy security, dependence on fossil fuels, and the need for an accelerated transition to renewable energy sources. Ukraine has become an active participant in the global climate agenda, combining the protection of sovereignty with promoting innovative approaches to sustainable development. The international dimension of Ukraine's climate policy is relevant to studying its transformation under the influence of unprecedented geopolitical circumstances. The analysis makes it possible to outline the new priorities that have come before Ukraine and understand how a full-scale invasion affects global climate ambitions, forming specific challenges and opportunities for international cooperation. In this article, special attention will be paid to the adaptation of Ukraine's climate policy to the realities of war, the intensification of diplomatic efforts in the climate sphere, and the impact of these processes on forming international support in the post-war period.

The purpose of the article is to describe how Ukraine uses its participation in international climate policy and initiatives to raise global awareness of the war and secure international support. Particular attention is paid to determining the role of Ukraine

in global climate projects, assessing the consequences of war for the environment, and formulating recommendations for the restoration of ecosystems and adaptation to climate change.

The stated purpose of the article led to the following research questions: first, what are the environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine; secondly, what is the peculiarity of the international dimension of Ukraine's climate communications; thirdly, how is the Ukrainian issue presented at the UN COP (Conference of the Parties); and also, what is the specificity of the national dimension of Ukraine's climate communications.

When preparing the article, such research methods were used as the method of document analysis, in particular, international agreements, the Paris Agreement, Global Methane Pledge initiatives and other international programs in which Ukraine participates, UN publications, reports of Ukrainian and international organizations, the Center for Environmental Initiatives 'Ecodia', of the National Institute of Strategic Studies, which made it possible to study the legal framework governing environmental policy in wartime conditions; a comparative analysis that made it possible to compare Ukraine's environmental policy before and after the start of the Russian-Ukrainian war and to analyze Ukraine's climate initiatives in the context of global environmental challenges; data systematization, which made it possible to generalize the environmental consequences of the war and determine the main directions of Ukraine's climate diplomacy at the international level; the case study method made it possible to investigate specific examples, such as the blowing up of the Kakhovskaya HPP or the occupation of the Chernobyl zone, in order to illustrate ecocide as a war crime; the method of content analysis of media materials, public speeches and statements of Ukrainian government officials at international climate forums, which made it possible to characterize the tone of coverage of the consequences of military actions for Ukraine's ecology. Applying these methods provided a comprehensive approach to studying the impact of war on environmental policy and developing conclusions in the context of international environmental initiatives. It would be good to add here brief information about the structure of article (what will be analyzed in the following sections).

2. Environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine

Its rich biodiversity distinguishes Ukraine because about 35% of the flora and fauna of Europe are concentrated in its territory. Ukrainian ecosystems are of key importance for the entire European region: natural and cultivated vegetation covers 29% of the country's area, the Dnipro River is the fourth longest among European rivers, and the Carpathians, although occupying only 11% of Ukraine's territory, are home to a third of all European vegetation species.

Russia's military aggression, which began in 2014, covered one of the largest coal-mining regions of Ukraine - Donbas. This territory contains a significant number of environmentally hazardous objects. In the area where the anti-terrorist operation (later Operation of United forces) was conducted, natural landscapes and the hydrosphere were disturbed due to military actions and technogenic influence, which led to serious

ecological degradation. The flooding of mines, which is accompanied by the penetration of contaminated water into groundwater, rivers, and even the Sea of Azov, is especially threatening [1]. Research by the National Institute for Strategic Studies and the Ecodia Center for Environmental Initiatives illustrates the wide-ranging impact of war on ecosystems. In particular, these are damage to landscapes and habitats, loss of biodiversity, chemical and radiation pollution, fires, soil and water pollution by oil products, and the consequences of attacks on industrial facilities [2].

The issue of contamination with explosive residues requires special attention. According to the UN, Ukraine is one of the most mined countries in the world: more than 300,000 square kilometers need demining, which may take decades. Soil pollution, deforestation, and land degradation under mining create serious environmental risks. Scientists emphasize that the consequences affect not only ecosystems but also the achievement of sustainable development goals related to nature conservation. The demining process can last tens of years because shells and mines from the Second World War are still being found. Research by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) shows that 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are directly related to demining and mine action. In particular, it is about the negative impacts of deforestation, land degradation, vulnerability to climate change, and biodiversity loss on the environment[3]. Among the direct ecological consequences of the war are the loss of biodiversity and the threat to species listed in the Red Book. It is challenging to eliminate fires in territories occupied by Russian troops. Attacks on industrial facilities and infrastructure lead to fires, which cause additional air, soil, and water pollution. The danger of acid rain is that it causes burns to plants. This leads to a decrease in the biomass of agricultural crops and a weakening of wild plants and forest crops. Chemical and radiation pollution from shelling and rockets is hazardous both in the short and long term. According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, only in the first 20 days of the full-scale military invasion of Russia on the territory of Ukraine about 900 missiles of various calibers and types were launched.

Russian aggression also affected Ukraine's nuclear and chemical security. On the first day of the full-scale invasion, the Chornobyl nuclear power plant was captured,

[1] O. Shevchenko, *Information coverage of the ecological consequences of the russian-Ukrainian war*, [in:] *Глобальні та регіональні виміри сучасної системи міжнародних відносин*, Миколаїв 2023, p. 58–61.

[2] С. Іванюта, *Загрози екологічній безпеці України від мінування території* – Центр без пекових досліджень, Національний інститут стратегічних досліджень, 2022, https://niss.gov.ua/doslidzhennya/natsionalna-bezpeka/zahrozy-ekolohichniy-bezpetsi-ukrayiny-vid-minuvannya-terytoriyi [accessed 18 September 2024]; О. Омельчук, С. Садохурська, *Природа та війна: як військове вторгнення Росії впливає на довкілля України*, https://ecoaction.org.ua/pryroda-ta-vijna.html [accessed 10 June 2024].

[3] Reducing the risk from explosive ordnance makes communities safe. Annual report 2021, Geneva, June 2022. https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/external-documents/GICHD_Annual_Report_2021_FINAL_PDF.pdf [accessed 10 June 2024].

and later, the power units of the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant, the largest in Europe, were attacked [4]. Such actions created a precedent for direct military intervention in the operation of nuclear facilities. Russian troops also targeted the Southern Ukrainian NPP near Mykolaiv, at which three missiles were fired. At the same time, strikes on industrial facilities, port infrastructure, and ships caused the release of toxic substances into the Black and Azov seas, causing damage to marine ecosystems. Petroleum products harm marine biocenoses, forming a shell on the water surface that disrupts the exchange of energy, heat, moisture, and gases between the sea and the atmosphere.

Therefore, the problem of preventing ecological threats to the environment as a result of Russian military aggression is today considered a security challenge for the entire region and requires special attention from domestic specialists and the world community in developing measures to assess damages and minimize the negative impact of the use of military equipment.

War-related ecocide is of particular concern. The most striking example is the blowing up of the Kakhovskaya HPP in June 2023, which the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recognized as a war crime. In January 2023, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the resolution "Impact of armed conflicts on the environment," introducing the concept of ecocide. In particular, the resolution refers to the need to codify the concept of "ecocide" in national and international legislation. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court should also be amended to add ecocide as a separate crime[5]. The problem of ecocide has become relevant at the international level, which led to proposals to include this concept in international criminal law.

Thus, the war in Ukraine has created large-scale threats to the environment, including disruption of landscapes, water and soil pollution, loss of biodiversity, mining of territories, as well as radiation and chemical pollution. These consequences have both an immediate and long-term impact, which presents Ukraine and the international community with the task of assessing the damage and developing strategies to minimize the impact of the war on the environment. Environmental challenges caused by aggression require joint efforts to overcome them and guarantee a sustainable future for Ukraine and the entire European region.

Researcher from the Institute of Central Europe Anna Bazhenova in her work "Ukraine on Fire: The Non-Military Dimensions of the War" also believes that the environmental consequences of the war are not only large-scale, but also long-term in nature, since the damage caused to the natural environment is restored over years or even decades. This is especially true for such processes as soil degradation, chemical contamination of aquifers, and loss of biodiversity. According to H. Bazhenova, the disruption

[4] Є. Засядько, *Місяць війни: злочини проти довкілля*, https://www.epravda.com.ua/columns/2022/03/26/684714/ [accessed 10 June 2024].

[5] ПАРЄ ухвалила резолюцію, що запроваджує поняття екоциду, https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-world/3659333-pare-uhvalila-rezoluciu-so-zaprovadzue-ponatta-ekocidu.html [accessed 10 June 2024].

of natural ecosystems requires not just technical elimination of the consequences, but long-term environmental programs for reclamation, forest restoration, cleaning of rivers and lakes, as well as monitoring the state of the environment [6]. The author emphasizes that in wartime, such programs are difficult to implement, but critically necessary for preserving the country's natural potential and ensuring a safe environment for the population. In addition, the environmental damage caused by war has a transboundary dimension – toxic air and water pollution can also affect neighboring countries, making environmental restoration not only a national but also an international priority.

Ukraine seeks to record environmental damage to bring the aggressor to justice. At the same time, it is essential to consider the ecosystem approach to restore the environment, adapt to climate change, and minimize environmental risks in post-war reconstruction plans. Raising public awareness of the environmental consequences of war is an essential step in formulating a strategy to deal with these challenges at the national and international levels.

Russia's military aggression actualized the need to raise the level of awareness of broad sections of society about the negative consequences of military actions both in countries that became victims of aggression and in other countries. For example, the Ukrainian public understands the seriousness of the consequences of the war for the ecosystem of the country and the region. This is confirmed by the results of the "Info Sapiens" study, which showed that 98% of residents of large and medium-sized cities directly associate the negative impact of military actions on the natural environment of Ukraine [7]. According to Ukrainian respondents, the most vulnerable ecosystems during hostilities are, in particular, water bodies, soils, and animal life.

3. Climate communications of Ukraine: international dimension

Ukraine actively interacts with international institutions within the framework of climate communications at the UN, participating in consultation and legal meetings and supporting the implementation of global climate initiatives. As a member of the UN Environment Bureau, Ukraine can influence decision-making in combating climate change. Its representation in numerous UN agencies effectively promotes national interests and participation in critical environmental processes.

The critical aspects of Ukraine's climate communications within the framework of work at the UN are the fulfillment of obligations under the Paris Agreement, the initiative of the UN Development Program in cooperation with the EU "EU4Climate," and the European Green Deal. By the defined global goals, the state environmental policy of Ukraine and climate communications are adopted at the international and national levels.

[6] H. Bazhenova, *Ukraine on Fire: The Non-Military Dimensions of the War. Instytutu Europy Środkowej,* https://ies.lublin.pl/en/working-papers/ukraine-on-fire-the-non-military-dimensions-of-thewar/ [accessed 10 June 2024].

[7] Екологічні наслідки військових дій для провідних екосистем. Аналітичний звіт. Підготовлено «ІнфоСапієнс» для ГО «Український екологічний клуб «Зелена хвиля»· https://ecoclubua.com/wp-content/uploads/Zvit-IS_Zelena-Hvylya_ekologiya.pdf [accessed 10 June 2024].

A significant milestone that determined global and domestic climate policy and climate communications was holding the UN Summit on Sustainable Development and adopting the Development Agenda after 2015, when Ukraine, like other UN member states, joined the global process of ensuring sustainable development. As a result, 17 sustainable development goals were approved, including mitigating the effects of climate change, preserving marine resources, protecting terrestrial ecosystems, affordable and clean energy, etc.

Almost immediately after that, in 2017, the first large-scale national information campaign to raise public awareness of environmental issues in Ukraine, which the UN Sustainable Development Goals outlined, began. The global goals are aimed, in particular, at finding solutions that will reduce the negative impact of human activity on the environment, reduce the consumption of natural resources, and reduce emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. As part of the communication campaign, 300 city lights were placed in all cities and regions of Ukraine, which emphasized critical environmental issues, and a contest was announced on social networks to participate in which it was necessary to post a photo on Facebook that shows what actions a person takes to fight climate change, add hashtags #IsupportSDGs #GlobalGoals and tag UNDP in Ukraine [8].

In 2021, more than 100 countries, including Ukraine, joined the Global Methane Pledge initiative, which envisages reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030 from the 2020 level. For Ukraine, reducing methane emissions is possible through implementing climate measures in the oil and gas and coal sectors, agriculture, and the establishment of a waste management system. Therefore, in addition to fulfilling the obligations under the Paris Agreement, Ukraine remembers additional obligations, namely participation in the Powering Past coal alliance, the Methane pledge, and the Declaration on forests and land use.

Ukraine participates in numerous UN conferences, such as the Regional Conference of Eastern European Youth, and conducts such events independently. In pre-war times, Ukraine held international events, various forums, and conferences in its territory. Thus, the UN "Environmental Forum" in 2021 brought together representatives of the authorities, civil society, youth, and UN experts to solve critical environmental problems [9]. As part of this, just in time for World Environment Day, introduced by the UN, it held eco-shows where clothes were made from recycled waste and a separate show where clothes were made from unprocessed waste to creatively draw attention to the need to sort and recycle it. This is extremely important, as it is one of the world's urgent problems, all because of the excessive consumption of products and things and, accordingly, the lack of environmental awareness.

[8] Інформаційна кампанія для підвищення громадської обізнаності з екологічних питань в Україні, https://sd4ua.org/informatsijna-kampaniya-z-ekologichnyh-pytan-v-ukrayinskyh-mistah/ [accessed 10 June 2024].

[9] UN Environmental Forum 2021, https://euea-energyagency.org/en/news/market-news/un-environment-forum-2021/ [accessed 10 June 2024].

4. The Ukrainian issue on the COP (Conference of Parties)

Ukraine demonstrates an active position in the framework of the implementation of its climate policy, participating in the work of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNCCC) - a key platform for international negotiations on the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Launched in 1995, the Conference of the Parties (COP) as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC parties, has evolved from local working sessions to a global forum bringing together governments, experts, the public and the media to discuss climate policies. Its main goal is to promote coordinated efforts to limit the rise in average global temperature and adapt to the inevitable effects of climate change.

All-out war accelerated the search for effective responses to climate challenges. Thus, in order to highlight this problem at COP27, Ukraine presented its own pavilion with a separate program for the first time. This significantly increased the visual presence of Ukraine among dozens of others. Every day, thousands of people from all over the world visited the pavilion and the interactive exhibition in it. The pavilion became the center of meetings and mutual reinforcement. Cross-cutting themes of the exhibition were ecocide and environmental damage caused by war, how Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine affected global energy security, the impact of war on the environment (some examples were reflected in the design of the pavilion itself), and others.

Negotiations held within the framework of the COP are becoming more and more multifaceted and have a rich agenda; the number of official government delegations from around the world, experts of various levels, representatives of civil society, and mass media participating in them is increasing. For example, almost half a million people registered to participate in the COP-28, which was held in the UAE in 2024. According to the organizers, COP28 was dedicated to rethinking the climate agenda, which was set in 2015 at COP21 in Paris, when the governments of countries agreed to limit the increase in the average temperature on the planet to 2 ° C and to do everything possible to limit warming to 1.5 ° WITH. The main result of COP28 was a joint agreement, which provides for several environmental measures and innovations, including the gradual abandonment of fossil fuels and the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050. The parties noted the growing role of nuclear energy in the world and agreed that by 2030, the use of renewable energy sources should be tripled, and energy efficiency should be doubled.

According to Lolita Zhuk [10], an expert at the Rozumkov Center, for Ukraine, participation in COP-28 was meaningful for several reasons, in particular as an opportunity to draw the attention of the world community to the environmental consequences of armed conflicts in particular, Russian aggression against Ukraine, as a channel for the promotion of the Ukrainian Formula of peace, which is also aimed at preventing ecocide and compensation for environmental damage caused by the aggressor, as an op-

[10] Л. Жук, COP-28: результати та можливості для України, https://razumkov.org.ua/statti/sor28-rezultaty-ta-mozhlyvosti-dlia-ukrainy [accessed 10 June 2024].

portunity to present the project of the National Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2025–2030, which provides for the development of renewable energy sources and reduction of harmful emissions. In particular, the construction of several new solar power plants in the country's southern regions is planned, as well as the completion of the large-scale Tyligul wind park in the Mykolaiv region, which is already operating even in wartime conditions. We can agree with the opinion of the expert, who believes that the COP-28 Conference was, on the one hand, an important opportunity for Ukraine to convey to the world community an objective picture of the scale of the environmental consequences of Russian aggression and to present relevant international initiatives. On the other hand, it is an opportunity to actively participate in solving global climate problems, including within the framework of the "green course" of the EU, which is a component of the European integration of Ukraine at the new stage of the negotiation process on joining the European Union.

At COP28, Ukraine emphasized the 8th point of the Peace Formula, which is dedicated to environmental security. For example, the initiative envisages the creation of an international platform for assessing environmental damage caused by military actions. Currently, methodologies for fixing ecological ecocide are being developed, which may become a standard for similar conflicts in the future.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources headed the Ukrainian delegation to the COP. For the second time, Ukraine presented its national pavilion at the COP Conference in Dubai. The central part of the exposition became three key blocks, namely, "Kahovka" - about the consequences of blowing up the Kakhovka HPP dam, which became a disaster for the environment and society; "Consequences" - an assessment of environmental damage from the war and "Recovery" - about the ways of ecological rehabilitation of the destroyed territories The critical installation of the pavilion – the roof of the house made of tiles brought from the Kherson region symbolized the tragedy of loss housing due to flooding. In addition, samples of burned grain crops, panels with black earth damaged by fires, and plans for restoring the Ukrainian environment, including the implementation of 850 environmental projects over the next 10 years, were presented. Among the priority programs are "Reconstruction of a Clean and Protected Environment," "Energy Independence," and "Green Course." One of the key messages of the pavilion is that despite the war, Ukraine is building its future.

The Ukrainian pavilion at COP28 was worked on by the teams of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine with the support and assistance of the European Union, the Federal Government of Germany, IKI, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Ukraine, the UN Global Compact, the European Bank reconstruction and development (Recovery Program and Architecture of Reforms in Ukraine), the largest private investor in the energy sector of Ukraine, DTEK Group.

The COP conference is a powerful communication tool, where Ukraine has the opportunity not only to demonstrate to the world community the consequences of war for the environment and climate but also to promote the provisions of the Near-Cycle

Declaration and continue the international dialogue regarding the Global Platform for War Damage Assessment announced by the President of Ukraine at COP27. This initiative is a unique achievement and contribution of Ukraine, as it will serve in the future as a valuable tool for recording and regulating emissions related to military operations.

Along with state institutions, Ukrainian public organizations actively worked on COP28, including the Crimean Tatar Resource Center (CTRC), "Ekodiya," and the Ukrainian Climate Network. The Crimean Tatar Resource Center is the only Ukrainian organization of the indigenous people with observer status at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which allows it to fully participate in all activities and meetings of the Conference and hold its events. Together with the "Ecoclub" NGO, the Central Committee of the Russian Federation held a side event, "Renewable energy sources and the impact of climate: ecocide, green reconstruction, the rights of indigenous peoples in war-torn Ukraine" within the framework of the main program of COP, during which the speakers highlighted the most acute risks associated with with the occupation of Crimea, Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine and corresponding active military actions, as well as the recovery process of the liberated territory of Ukraine, determining the degree of influence of these risks for the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples. The legal qualification of "ecocide" as an international crime and the research and advocacy experience of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center in this direction were also presented. Dozens of Conference participants attended the event, actively asked questions, and developed a lively discussion, primarily regarding the definition of ecocide and the investigation of crimes against the environment committed by Russia in Ukraine. Another KRC event was the side event "Impact on climate change: Crimea, Indigenous peoples, and international crimes," during which they talked about the problems and consequences caused by the occupation of Crimea in 2014, as well as about the full-scale aggression of Russia against Ukraine. In particular, experts noted that the unique Crimean ecosystems had been systematically degraded since Soviet times with the development of the chemical industry to ensure that the Agarmysh and Sivash mountain peaks were destroyed for decades, and the current Russian occupation led to their systematic destruction. In addition to this, the Crimean Tatar Resource Center also held an exhibition dedicated to the impact of the occupation of Crimea and the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine on the environment, the indigenous peoples of Ukraine, and ecocide. As part of the event, a video prepared by the center's experts was also shown, which tells about the damage the Russian Federation has caused to the environment in the occupied Crimea since 2014.

Another organization, a partner of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, which already participated in the COP Conference for the second time, was the Ecodia Center for Environmental Initiatives, which, as part of the previous COP27 conference, held four lectures on the topics of food and energy security, as well as on the impact of Russian aggression in Ukraine on Europe's climate policy. In addition, Ecodia experts regularly participate in advocacy and information campaigns within the framework of the Conference. For example, at the COP28 Con-

ference, representatives of Ecodia emphasized that the global climate crisis and Russia's war in Ukraine have a common root - fossil fuels, because, according to Ecodia experts, "a significant part of Russia's federal budget is formed due to the export of fossil fuels, and the use of fossil fuels fuel is the main source of greenhouse gases causing global warming"[11]. Ecodia representatives also presented research on the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the climate at COP28. They emphasized the importance of determining ways to hold Russia accountable for climate damage.

The Ukrainian climate network was involved in 8 side events within the framework of COP 28. Together with partners in the Ukrainian pavilion and at other venues, representatives of the Network took part in discussions on such topics as, in particular, "Impact of armed conflicts on the climate," "Ensuring gender equality in environmental damage assessment and green recovery of Ukraine," "Climate-friendly recovery" of Ukraine: Scenarios, Technologies and Practical Steps," "Climate Damage from Russia's War in Ukraine and Lack of Understanding of the Connections between conflict and emissions from war," "Fashion and fossil fuels: revealing the links of fashion brands to controversial fossil fuels and the transition to zero emissions," "War on the environment: protecting dams and nuclear power plants," "Food systems of Eastern Europe: a multi-sectoral approach to food safety and health protection." In addition, the course of events of the conference during the negotiations was covered in the online informational diaries of the Network, which were published regularly based on the results of each day of COP 28. An important communication innovation from UKM was the launch of the first Ukrainian-language podcast about climate negotiations, within which 12 audio diaries about COP 28 were released [12]. Another member of the Ukrainian delegation at SOR28 - DTEK presented the realized project of green energy - the Tyligul wind power plant - the first in the world built during the war.

Experts and participants of the event note that media and public attention to COP increases every year. Even before the start of the full-scale war, the course of the Conference was covered mainly by specialized media and the most interested activists. After the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, attention to the impact of the war on climate change, and accordingly to Ukraine at the Climate Conference, became more remarkable. The Ukrainian pavilion at COP28 was visited by the Special Envoy of the US President on Climate Matters, John Kerry, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development; Samantha Paver, US Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates; Martina Strong, US Deputy Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Bonnie Jenkins and European Commissioner for Climate Affairs Wopke Hoekstra, which allowed to exchange information about the impact of war on the environment, climate change.

[11] Усе більше країн планують відмовитися від вугілля, https://ecoaction.org.ua/bilshe-krain-vidmovytysia-vid-vuhillia.html [accessed 10 June 2024].

[12] *Ibidem.*

In our opinion, the most significant climate conference for Ukrainian climate policy is not only a way to solve climate issues but also a place to defend the countries' political positions. Climate communications at such a high international level allow Ukraine to demonstrate its active participation in the climate agenda and involve other countries in partnership and support of the domestic climate course. Thus, participation in COP28 allowed Ukraine not only to draw attention to the environmental consequences of the war but also to become an active participant in the global dialogue on solving climate problems. It also contributes to strengthening international support for the reconstruction of the country according to the principles of sustainable development and green technologies.

Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources is diversifying national climate communications internationally. For example, Ukraine took part in the sixth Academy of Experts on Climate, Peace and Security, which was held at the headquarters of the UNDP in New York, the participants of which were representatives of the countries of the world that suffered or are suffering due to military aggression, in particular, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Congo, Mauritania, League of Arab States, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Tunisia, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Congo, Indonesia, Bangladesh, African Union. Also, Ukraine's climate policy was considered one of the critical directions of interaction with partners within the EU Green Week 2024 framework. Such platforms are an opportunity to talk about the damage caused to the environment of Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression, to discuss opportunities for joint projects to reduce emissions in various areas of the economy, to show progress in the modernization of legislation to European and international requirements, the development of a national climate law, a national energy and climate plan, as well as a low-carbon strategy.

5. Climate communications of Ukraine: national dimension

In 2020, the "Global Initiative UNDP Innovative Development Laboratory in Ukraine" and its partners developed the "Safari for Communities" concept, which lasted at the national level until 2021 [13]. This program involved the local public in finding innovative nature-oriented solutions for local communities in response to the most acute environmental challenges. These solutions include green roofs, rain gardens, and flower meadows. This format activates communities and increases the chances of discovering innovative solutions with possible further scaling beyond the borders of Ukraine. The initiative's website contains the necessary useful materials: the tested methodology and Safari materials are clearly described in the Open Access Safari Toolkit - so that organizations can independently conduct Safaris in their communities. These include, first of all, an information booklet that will help spread Safari ideas among colleagues, partners, and sponsors, instructions for creating maps for Safari, information about community-oriented solutions as a base for inspiration, a media pack (everything needed to spread

[13] Проект: «Сафарі для громад», https://www.undp.org/uk/ukraine/projects/safari-dlya-hromad [accessed 10 June 2024].

Safari), solution cards (used by participants for brainstorming during the event) [14]. An additional tool for the implementation of climate policy is participation in the preparation of UN analytical materials. For example, Ukrainian organizations participated in creating the report "Gender Perspectives of the Environmental Protection Sector of Ukraine," which emphasizes the role of Ukraine in global environmental projects.

It is worth noting that the events of 2022 in Ukraine endangered the existence of some species of flora and fauna of the domestic ecosystem and, in general, had a devastating effect on the environment. This could overshadow all the positive indicators achieved so far. That is why an essential communicative component of Ukraine's participation in UN climate projects was drawing attention to the ecocide created by the Russian Federation.

In 2024, the exhibition "Nature and Culture: Faces of Ukrainian Identity" was held in Kyiv, highlighting the war's impact on the environment and popularizing the ideas of environmentally friendly restoration of the country[15]. After all, part of the damage caused by the war is irreversible and will have an impact on ecosystems and human health, which will be felt for decades and will go far beyond the borders of Ukraine. Therefore, the world should not remain aloof. Such communicative events can convey a crucial message not only to representatives of international organizations but also to reach the public's consciousness. The exhibition was held on the premises of the Ukrinform information agency, where press events for journalists worldwide take place.

Many exciting and powerful environmental initiatives are being implemented in Ukraine, particularly at the business level, including projects aimed at ecologically oriented post-war recovery of Ukraine, biodiversity protection, etc. Domestic experience is advanced; so far, the world has not faced such critical challenges regarding the consequences of war on the environment. Although most innovative developments are still in the process, they should be presented to the world. However, in this case, communication work on the part of the Ukrainian state is insufficient, which is manifested in the difficulty of finding this information on both Ukrainian and foreign resources. Although it is not always possible to monitor the content of internal communications in the UN structures, the UN team has fairly well-established work regarding external ones. Unfortunately, Ukraine misses the opportunity to communicate its role at the UN regarding realizing at least its national achievements, which are worthy of world attention.

Despite significant progress in climate projects, Ukraine must sufficiently highlight its international successes. This omission can be remedied thanks to modern communication tools, including podcasts. For example, the UN's international environmental podcasts ("State of the Planet" and "No Denying It") can become a platform for spread-

[14] Гендерні перспективи природоохоронного сектору України, https://ukraine.unfpa.org/en/publications/gender-perspective-environmental-protection-sector-ukraine [accessed 10 June 2024].

[15] Природа і культура: обличчя української ідентичності, https://mepr.gov.ua/pryroda-i-kultura-oblychchya-ukrayinskoyi-identychnosti-do-drugoyi-richnytsi-povnomasshtabnogo-vtorgnennya-rf-v-ukrayinu-v-ukrinformi-vidkryly-vystavku/ [accessed 10 June 2024].

ing the experience of Ukraine. Such measures will contribute to Ukraine's integration into the global discourse and support environmental initiatives at the international level.

Thus, Ukraine is active in international climate communications, particularly in cooperation with the UN. Fulfilling obligations under the Paris Agreement, participating in global initiatives, and implementing local projects and innovative programs testify to the state's systematic approach to solving environmental challenges. At the same time, the current situation caused by military aggression poses new challenges that require the consolidation of the efforts of the international community to support the ecologically sustainable recovery of Ukraine. Increasing the effectiveness of communications at the international level, including the use of modern information platforms, is a necessary condition for drawing attention to national achievements and overcoming global environmental threats.

6. Conclusions

The war in Ukraine has caused unprecedented destruction of natural ecosystems, including soil, water, and air pollution, loss of biodiversity, and degradation of landscapes. One of the most resonant examples is the blowing up of the Kakhovskaya HPP and the shelling of the Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhya NPPs, which have long-term consequences for the environment. These phenomena have a long-term nature and require international recognition as ecocide, which can become the basis for its codification in international law.

Russian aggression led to the transformation of Ukraine's environmental policy, which focuses on integrating nature-oriented solutions into the post-war reconstruction process. The formation of a new approach to using natural resources and preventing environmental risks indicates increased attention to issues of sustainable development in the context of national and global challenges. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen Ukraine's institutional capabilities in documenting environmental crimes. This is important for the potential recovery of reparations from the aggressor and ensuring the restoration of destroyed ecosystems based on innovative solutions.

Ukraine's active participation in international climate initiatives, such as the UN Climate Change Conference, is a tool for mobilizing international support and a platform for highlighting the environmental consequences of war. Participation in such events also allows Ukraine to demonstrate its ability to integrate global climate commitments into solving national environmental problems, promote the concept of ecocide prevention, and strengthen international partnerships.

In general, the study confirms that, despite the large-scale destruction, the war stimulated a rethinking of Ukraine's environmental priorities, strengthened its international climate diplomacy, and emphasized the importance of integrating environmental security into the modern discourse of global sustainable development, which will contribute to sustainable development and strengthen Ukraine's role in the global climate agenda. The experience of Ukraine can become an essential case for analyzing the impact of military conflicts on ecology and climate policy.

Abstract: This article examines how the Russian–Ukrainian war has reshaped Ukraine's environmental policy by causing large-scale damage to ecosystems, destroying critical infrastructure, and generating long-term environmental threats. It analyses how warfare – particularly the use of explosives, attacks on industrial and energy facilities, and extensive mining of territories – contributes to soil, water, and air pollution, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Special attention is devoted to ecocide and its implications for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The article further explores the wartime transformation of Ukraine's environmental governance, highlighting the role of international climate platforms –especially the UN climate process (UNFCCC/COP) – in communicating Ukraine's position on ecocide, linking war-related environmental harm to climate change, and promoting national environmental initiatives. The study shows that the war has accelerated the reassessment of natural resource management, stimulated "green recovery" planning, and strengthened efforts to integrate environmental priorities into post-war reconstruction. Emphasising the international dimension, it demonstrates how Ukraine continues to engage in global initiatives such as the Paris Agreement and the Global Methane Pledge despite ongoing aggression. Finally, the article argues that the war intensifies the need for international cooperation in environmental policy and for systematic documentation of environmental crimes as a basis for future compensation and recovery.
Keywords: Climate policy, Russian-Ukrainian war, ecocide, climate diplomacy, UN Climate Change Conference (COP).

Międzynarodowy wymiar polityki klimatycznej Ukrainy w kontekście pełnoskalowej inwazji Rosji

Streszczenie: W artykule przedstawiono analizę wpływu wojny rosyjsko-ukraińskiej na politykę środowiskową Ukrainy, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem wielkoskalowych zniszczeń ekosystemów, degradacji infrastruktury krytycznej oraz powstawania długofalowych zagrożeń środowiskowych. Ukazano, w jaki sposób działania zbrojne – w szczególności użycie materiałów wybuchowych, ataki na obiekty przemysłowe i energetyczne oraz masowe zaminowanie terytoriów – prowadzą do zanieczyszczenia gleb, wód i powietrza, utraty bioróżnorodności oraz degradacji gruntów. Szczególną uwagę poświęcono zjawisku ekobójstwa (ecocide) oraz jego konsekwencjom dla realizacji Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju. Ponadto zaprezentowano analizę transformacji polityki środowiskowej Ukrainy w warunkach wojennych, podkreślając rolę międzynarodowych platform klimatycznych – zwłaszcza procesu klimatycznego ONZ (UNFCCC/COP), jako narzędzi komunikowania stanowiska Ukrainy w sprawie ekobójstwa, powiązań między wojną a zmianami klimatu oraz promocji krajowych inicjatyw środowiskowych. Wykazano, że wojna przyspieszyła redefinicję podejścia do zarządzania zasobami naturalnymi, pobudziła prace nad koncepcją „zielonej odbudowy" oraz wzmocniła dążenia do włączenia priorytetów środowiskowych w proces powojennej rekonstrukcji. Akcentując wymiar międzynarodowy, wskazano, że Ukraina (mimo trwającej agresji) pozostaje aktywnym uczestnikiem globalnych inicjatyw klimatycznych, takich jak Porozumienie paryskie czy Global Methane Pledge. Podkreślono również, że wojna znacząco zwiększa znaczenie międzynarodowej współpracy w obszarze polityki środowiskowej oraz konieczność syste-

matycznego dokumentowania zbrodni środowiskowych jako podstawy przyszłych roszczeń odszkodowawczych i działań naprawczych.

Słowa kluczowe: polityka klimatyczna, wojna rosyjsko-ukraińska, ekobójstwo, dyplomacja klimatyczna, Konferencja Narodów Zjednoczonych w sprawie Zmian Klimatu (COP).

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