



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/020

Geneva, 28 March 2022

CONCERNING:

### UKRAINE

#### Communication from the Government of Ukraine

1. This Notification to the Parties is published at the request of Ukraine.
2. The communication from the Government of Ukraine is contained in the Annex to this Notification.



МІНІСТЕРСТВО ЗАХИСТУ  
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3 March 2022  
Kyiv, Ukraine

**Re: Suspension of the operation of the international environmental treaties in regard to the Russian Federation**

Dear Ms. Higuero,

We kindly ask to forward this letter to all other parties as a matter of urgency.

Hereby we address an urgent call for a joint effort to protect humanity and nature. Actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine represent a brutal breach of the universal principles and norms of the international environmental law and therefore, require immediate response.

A full-scale invasion into Ukraine by the Russian Federation is a flagrant violation of international law, human rights, environmental and nuclear security, and global peace. Actions of the Russian Federation pose existential threats to international peace and security, and bring unprecedented and long-lasting challenges to the environment and human health.

As of today, Russian troops captured Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. They use nuclear fuel storage and landfills. Consequently, the global nuclear security is at stake today. There is also a direct threat of Russian terrorist actions in the Chornobyl zone, which might result in radiation damage to the people in Europe and beyond.

**Ms. Ivonne Higuero**  
**CITES Secretary-General**  
**Palais des Nations**  
**Avenue de la Paix 8-14**  
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**Switzerland**



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Russian's missiles hit residential buildings and critical infrastructure miles from original targets, which constitute blatant violation of all norms of international humanitarian law. In addition, these actions pose risks to environmental security as reactors and other nuclear facilities can be exploded.

Russian intruders destroy our natural heritage. As of today, Russian armed forces use more than half of the Ramsar sites in Ukraine during hostilities against the Ukrainian people. This concerns the coasts of the Azov and Black Seas and in the lower reaches of the Danube and Dnieper. The Russian armed forces did not have and do not show any respect for wild nature. In particular, the occupied since 2014 Ramsar sites "Kryva Zatoka and Kryva Kosa" in Donbas and the "Water-coastal complex of Cape Opuk" in Crimea were constantly used for military exercises. More than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered losses due to Russian aggression.

Today, every country in the world should make every effort to stop Russia's invasion into Ukraine, which has the potential to lead to a global environmental catastrophe.

According to Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith. The Russian Federation is in a grave breach of its obligations and commitments under several international environmental conventions and other international treaties. The above listed actions make impossible to accomplish the object and purpose of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Based on Article 57 (b), 60 (2) (c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), the Government of Ukraine invites the contracting parties to start consultations over suspension of the operation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora treaties in regard to the Russian Federation.

Yours sincerely,



Ruslan Strilets  
Acting Minister