



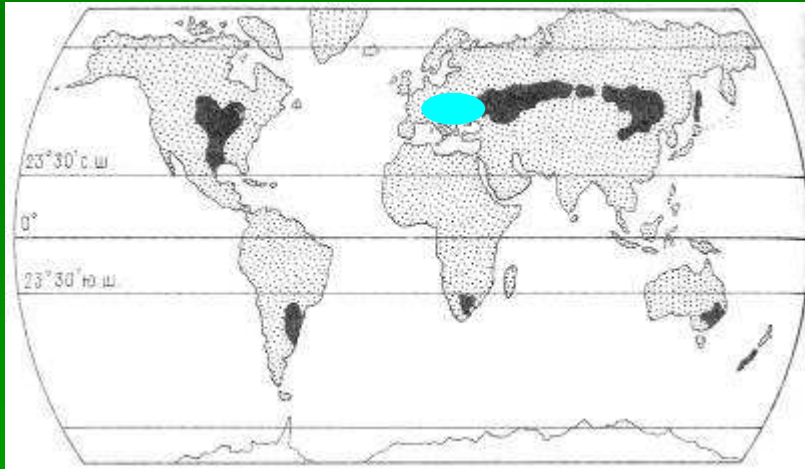
Forest vegetation of the Ukrainian steppe zone: past and present

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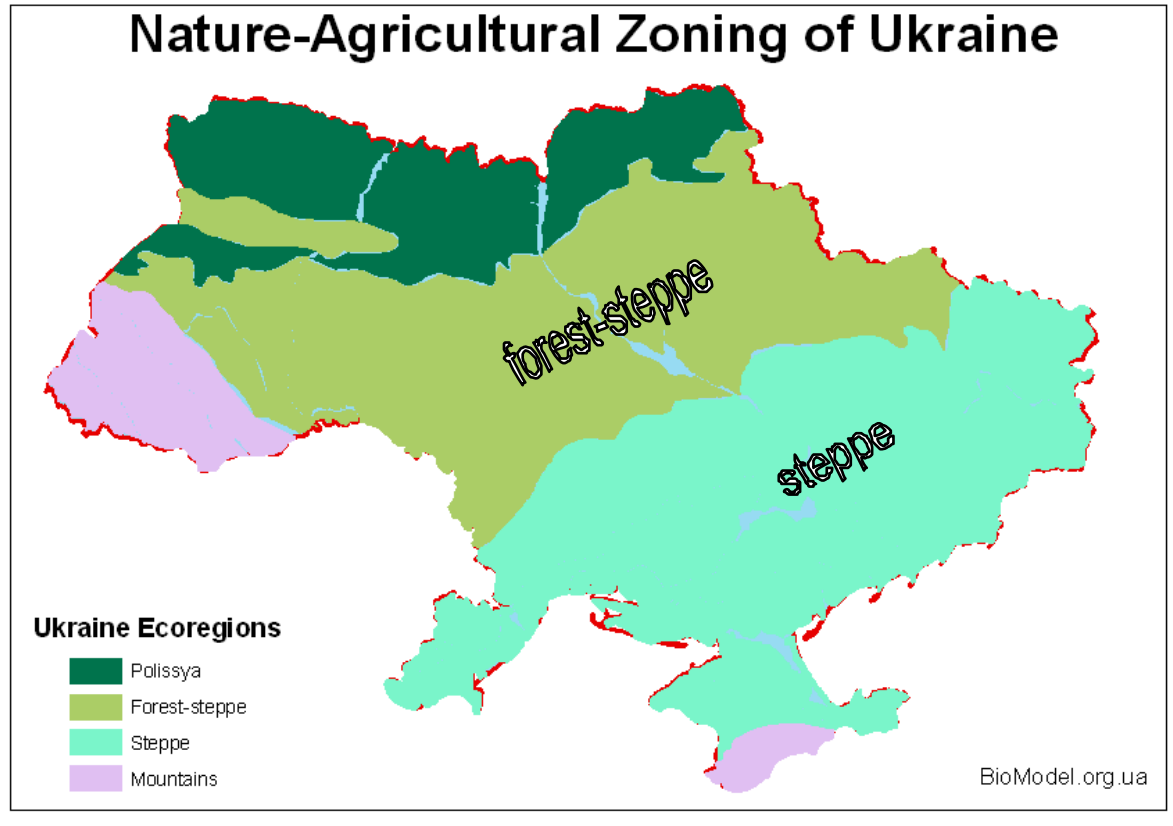
<http://pryroda.in.ua/step/>



Ukrainian steppe is part of the Eurasian steppe zone, which had formed before the end of Pleistocene

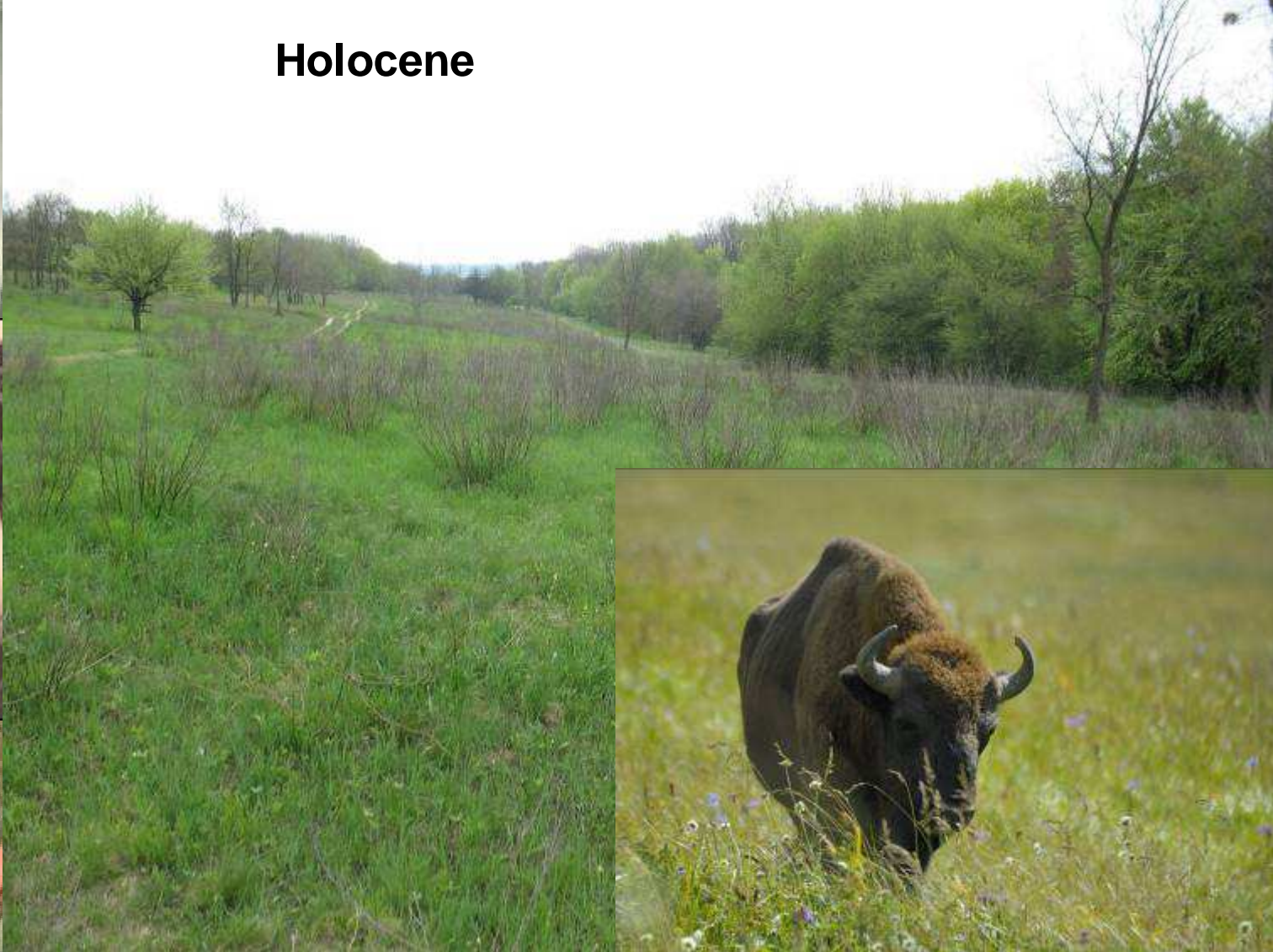
Our steppe zone covers 40% of the country

In the times of Kyiv Rus (XI-XIII cen.) it was called Nomads' Fields and was boundless. During the XVI cen., it was called the Wild Fields



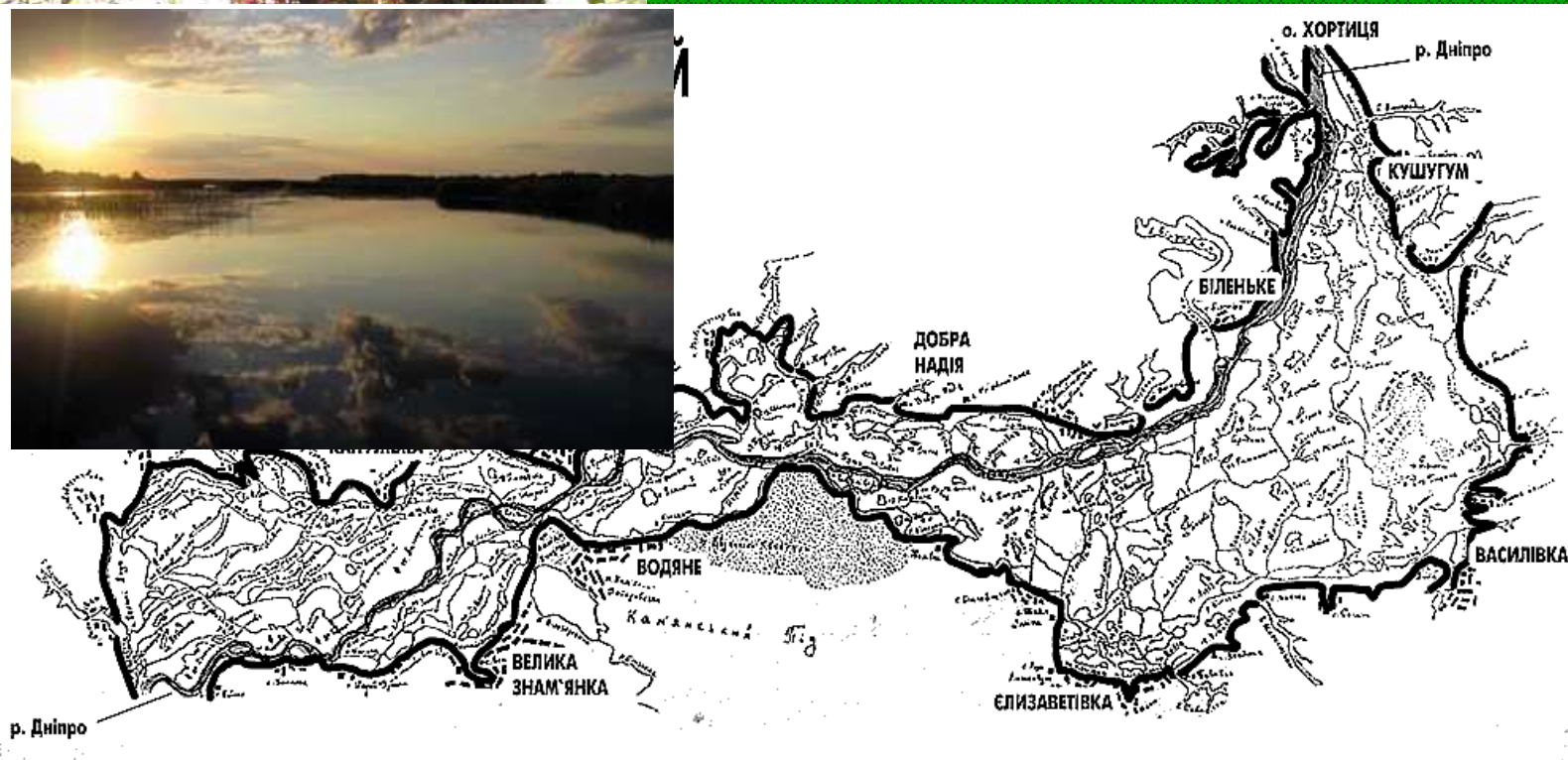
Back in the geological past

Holocene



Intrazonal forests of the steppe zone

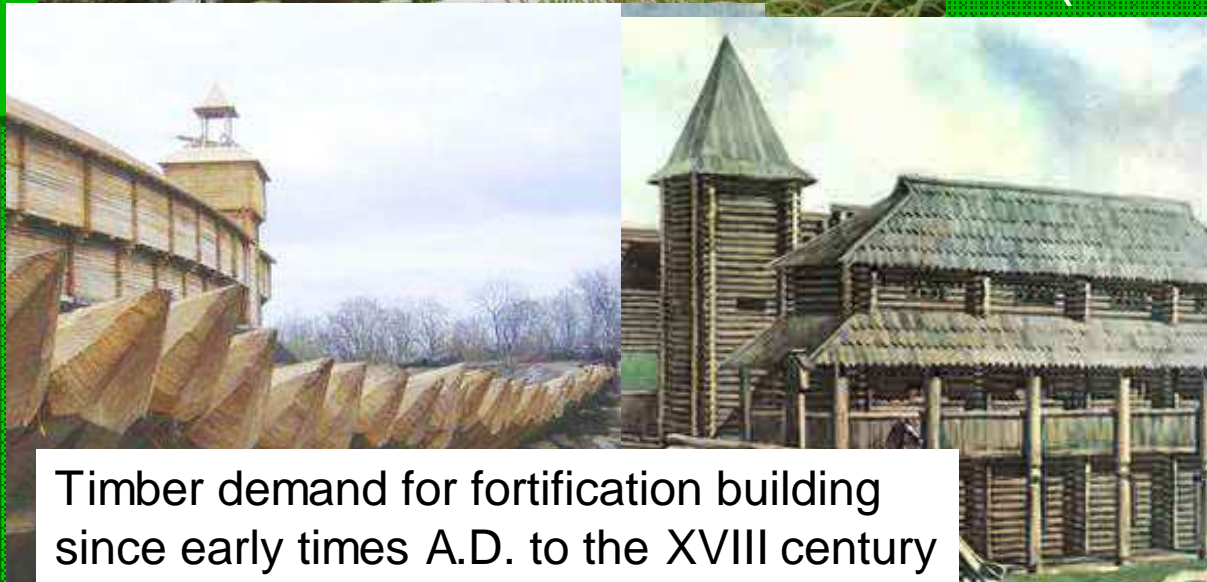
- Forests of *Salix alba*, *Populus nigra*, *Acer platanoides*, *Quercus robur*



Forest area reduction in ancient times

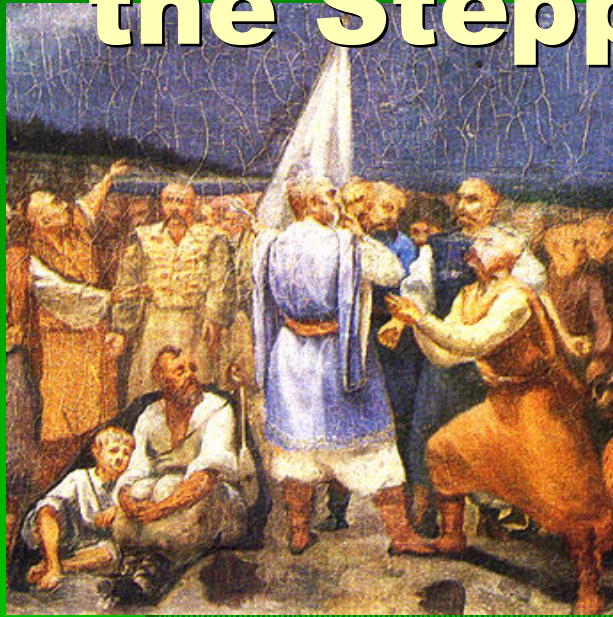


- Ancient Greeks cut timber in Lower Dnieper floodplain forests near Olvia (modern Mykolaiv)



Timber demand for fortification building since early times A.D. to the XVIII century

The end of the Zaporozhye society was also the end of the Steppe



However, in the XVIII century the Crimean Khagabate fell, Zaporozhye was dismissed and the Russian Empire began agricultural transformation of the steppe zone.

- Forestry, damming, melioration, and intensive grazing destroyed the native biota. The meliorative systems and artificial water reservoirs changed the climate and groundwater levels.



Today...

- Only 4% of the steppe zone that used to cover 40% of Ukrainian territory remain **unploughed**. Even so, of virgin steppe we now have only about **1%**, mostly on steep slopes, along valleys, rocky areas where it cannot be exploited.
- These estimates need to be verified by complete inventory of steppe areas, which has not been done so far.

The natural value of the Ukrainian Steppe



Of 553 animal species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, 159 are steppe-dependent (29 %);
of 826 plant species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, 276 (33,4 %) are found only in the steppe;

Of Berne Convention species, 17 plant and 44 animal species exist only in steppe (2 plant and 8 animal species are Crimean endemics).

Therefore, degradation and loss of steppe ecosystems irreversibly lead to the loss of local biodiversity



Afforestation in the past



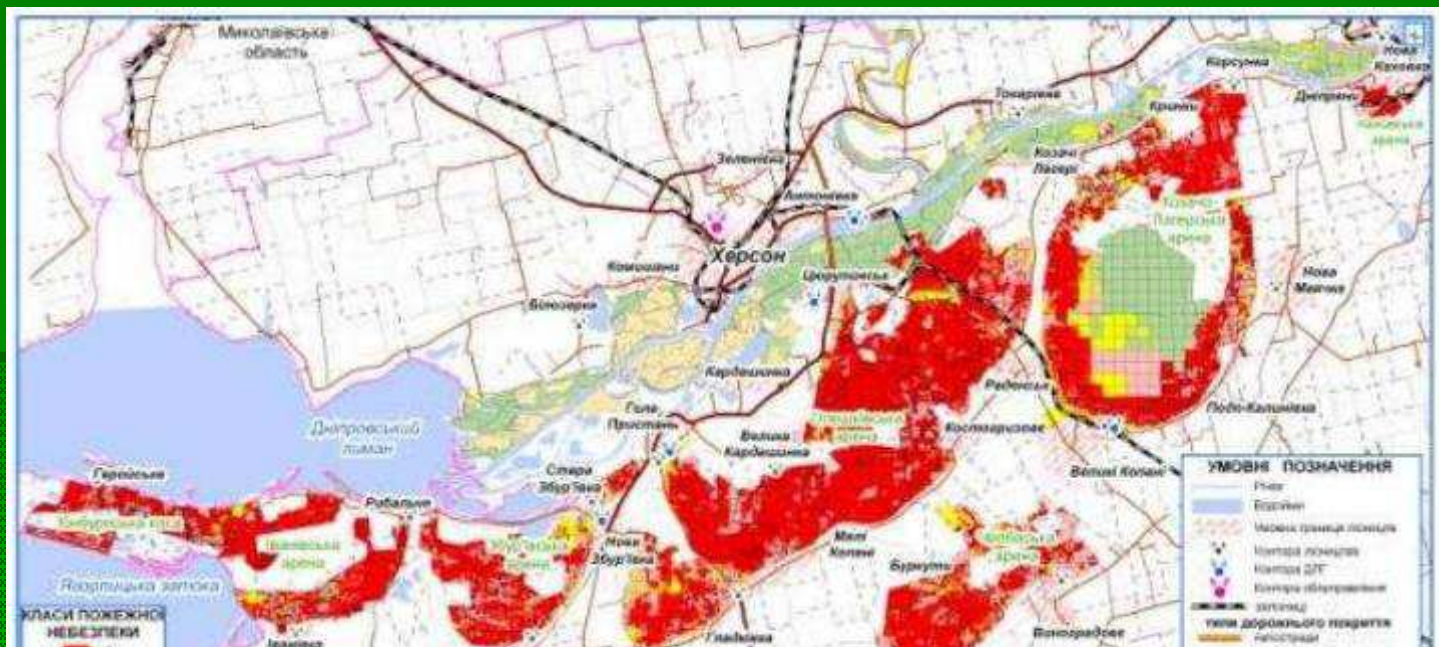
- Protective forest belt of foreign species;
- Low-production forests of the Ukrainian south consist of *Pinus pallasiana*, *Robinia pseudoacacia* etc.

Modern Afforestation

- President's of Ukraine Decree № 995/2008 'On some measures for the conservation and restoration of forests and green zones' as of 04.11.2008
- State Forestry Committee's executive order № 371 of 29.12.2008 approved the regional optimum of afforestation density, according to which forest area of the southern regions is planned to increase almost two-fold.
- Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved these measures.
- Regional authorities also approved it.
- The Threat is real.

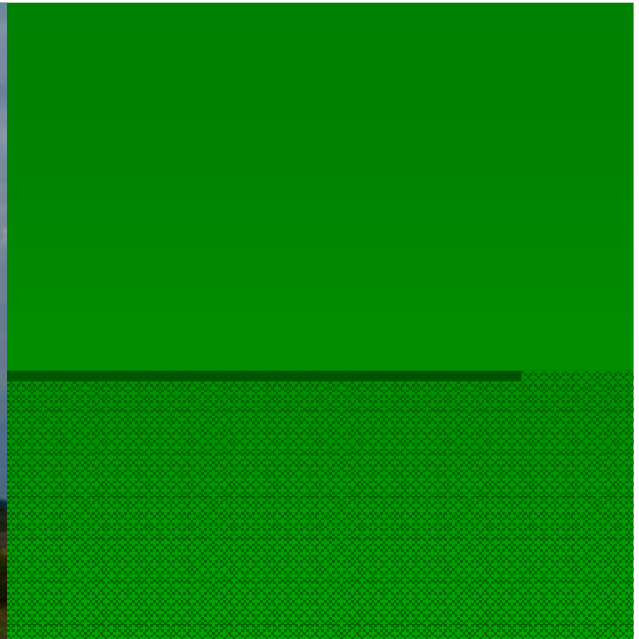


In Ukraine, afforestation will cover over 46,2 % of the Lugansk region



■ According to official stats, a total of 20 000 ha have been afforested since early 2009





20 ha of steppe area, preplanned to be included in the Lugansk Nature Reserve, district "Trjochizbencky", is tilled barbarically

Afforestation in Crimea

- 600 ha of central Crimean steppe core
- A total of 11,000 ha of Crimean fallows is planned for afforestation



The public campaign “Save Ukrainian steppe”

- Site <http://pryroda.in.ua/step/>.
- www.biomon.org
- <http://www.terreco.univ.kiev.ua/>
- <http://ecoclub.nsu.ru/books/Stepbulla.htm>

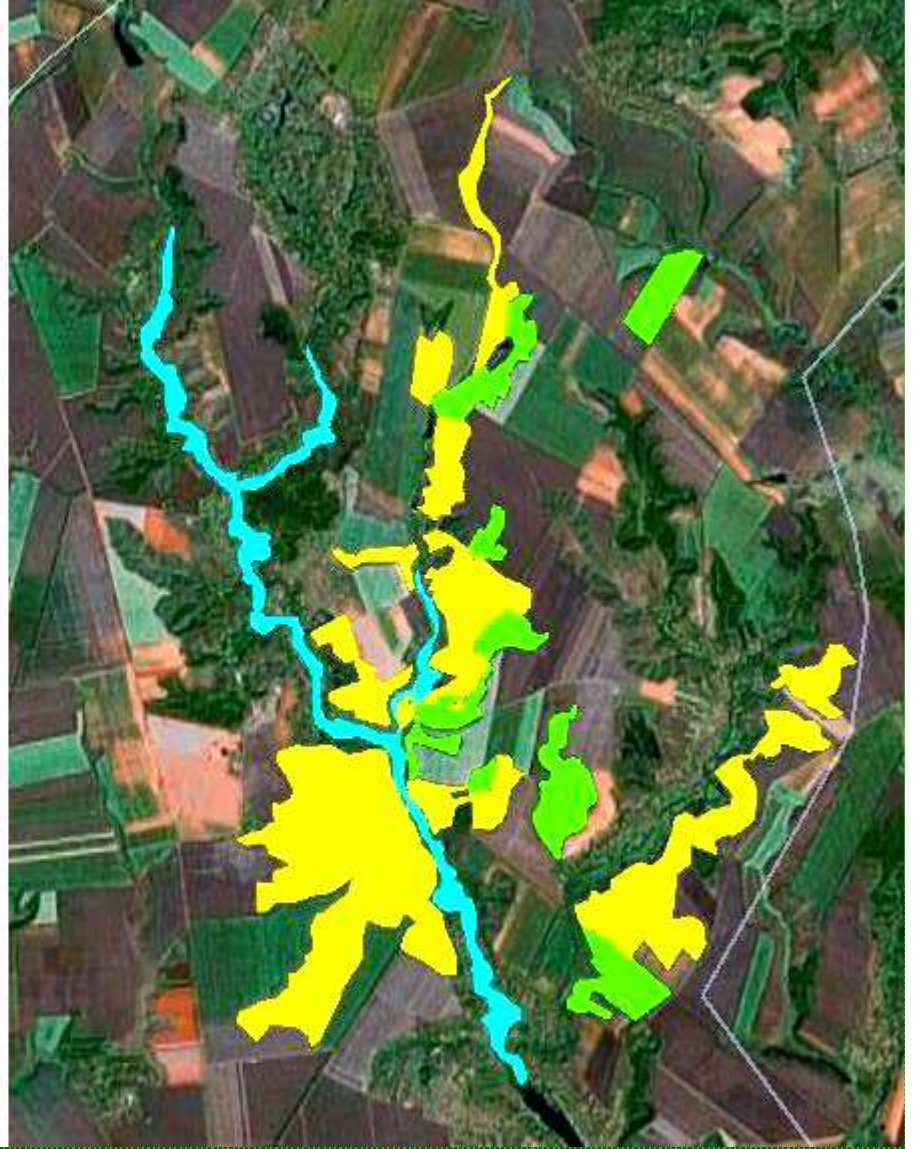


- Publications:
- Results of inventory of the steppe in some regions
- Certain steppe problems
- Active cooperation with “Steppe bulletin”



Steppe inventory

- Completed in some regions.
- There are possibilities for complete inventory.
- Data is derived from space surveys of steppe areas that are known for their rare species or otherwise mentioned in literature.
- Obtained borders of located steppe areas are used in creation of the first specialized GPS-layer of Ukrainian steppe.



Creating protected areas

- We have created new protected areas in Kyiv region
- Projects of protected areas for other regions have been prepared





Оленівка Olenivka

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**Thank you for your
attention!**

