



Is this war far away?



Environmental impacts of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine



NUCLEAR THREATS OF CHORNOBYL AND OTHER NPPs

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 7



- **26.04.1986** explosion at Chornobyl NPP contaminated a vast area spanning across Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.
- **2017** completed construction of the new safe shelter, costing more than €1 billion with contribution from 45 countries
- **2022** Occupation of Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhia NPPs by Russian troops

Ukraine has 4 nuclear power plants (NPPs), housing 15 reactors in total

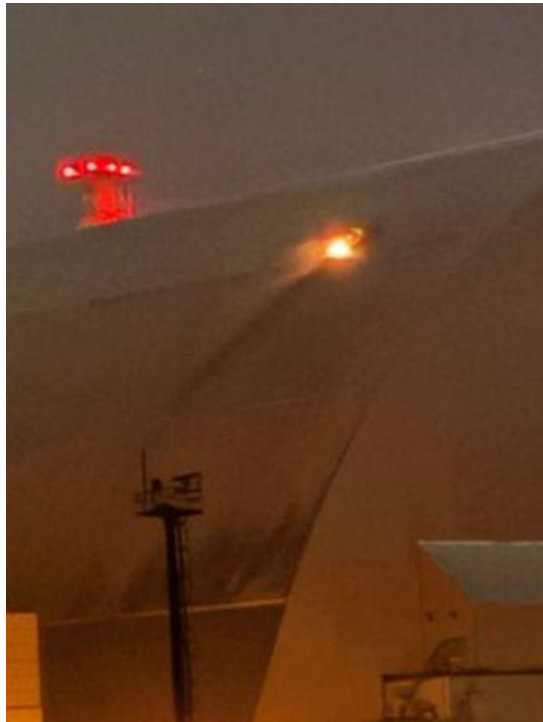
NUCLEAR THREATS OF CHORNOBYL AND OTHER NPPs

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 7

14.02.2025 - A Russian drone hit the shelter over the fourth nuclear reactor at the Chornobyl NPP



DESTRUCTION OF THE KAKHOVKA DAM IN THE KHERSON REGION (06.06.2023).

18 km³ of water flowed down the Dnipro, flooding more than 620 km² and 80 settlements.



Dozens of people died. More than 6,000 people have been evacuated from flooded cities, towns and villages. 40,000 people had to leave the region



This image extracted from a video provided by Ukraine's Presidential Office shows the damaged Kakhovka dam near Kherson, Ukraine, Tuesday, June 6, 2023. LIBKOS

SDG 1

SDG 6

SDG 7

SDG 11

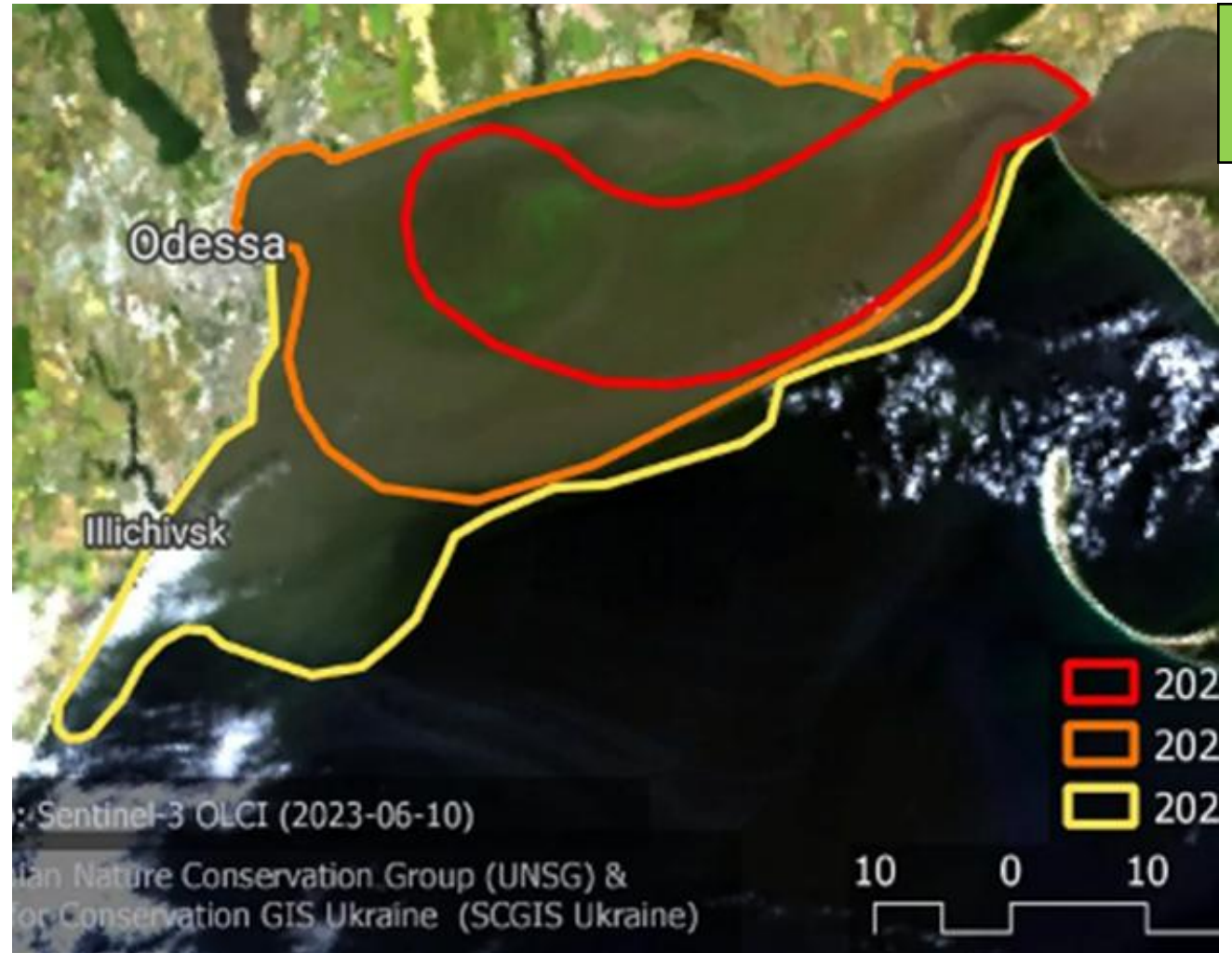
SDG 10

IMPACT ON THE BLACK SEA AND COASTAL ZONE ECOSYSTEMS

Flooding has washed a **toxic stream** including mines, chemicals, sewage, dead animals, cemetery burials, and toxic silt deposits **into the Black Sea**, impacting the ecosystem of the Black Sea and coastal zones of the neighbouring countries (**Romania and Bulgaria**)

Two powerful negative impacts on the marine ecosystem – **desalination and seawater pollution resulted in** Algae blooms and destruction of habitats

In October, the Ukrainian government estimated the cost of the disaster at around \$14 billion.



Sentinel-3 OLCI image 6.06, the area of sea siltation was 616.8 km², on 9.06 – 1248.2 km², and on 10.06 – 1710 km².

Image courtesy of the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF KAKHOVKA DAM DESTRUCTION

- Up to 1 million people **lost access to water supply**
- **Threat to Zaporizhzhia NPP.** Kakhovka reservoir supplied water to cool the nuclear power plant — the largest nuclear facility in Europe , which is occupied by Russian troops imposing a threat to the region
- **Impact on irrigation, agriculture and grain transportation.** The water from the Kakhovka reservoir was used to irrigate agricultural land, which covered about 200,000 ha and was used to grow sunflower, grain and vegetables exported to multiple countries.

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 6

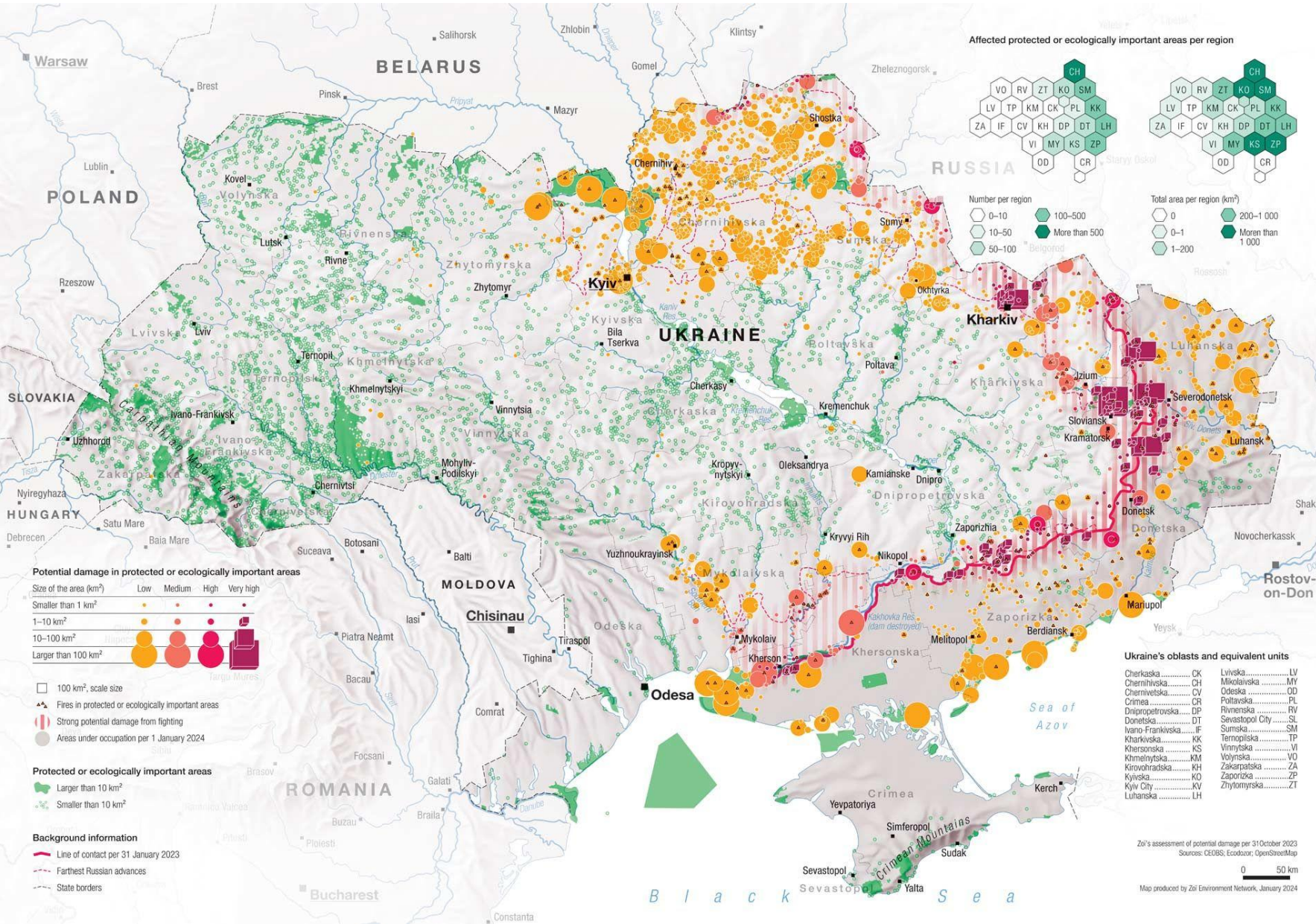
SDG 7

SDG 8

SDG 10

DAMAGE TO PROTECTED AREAS

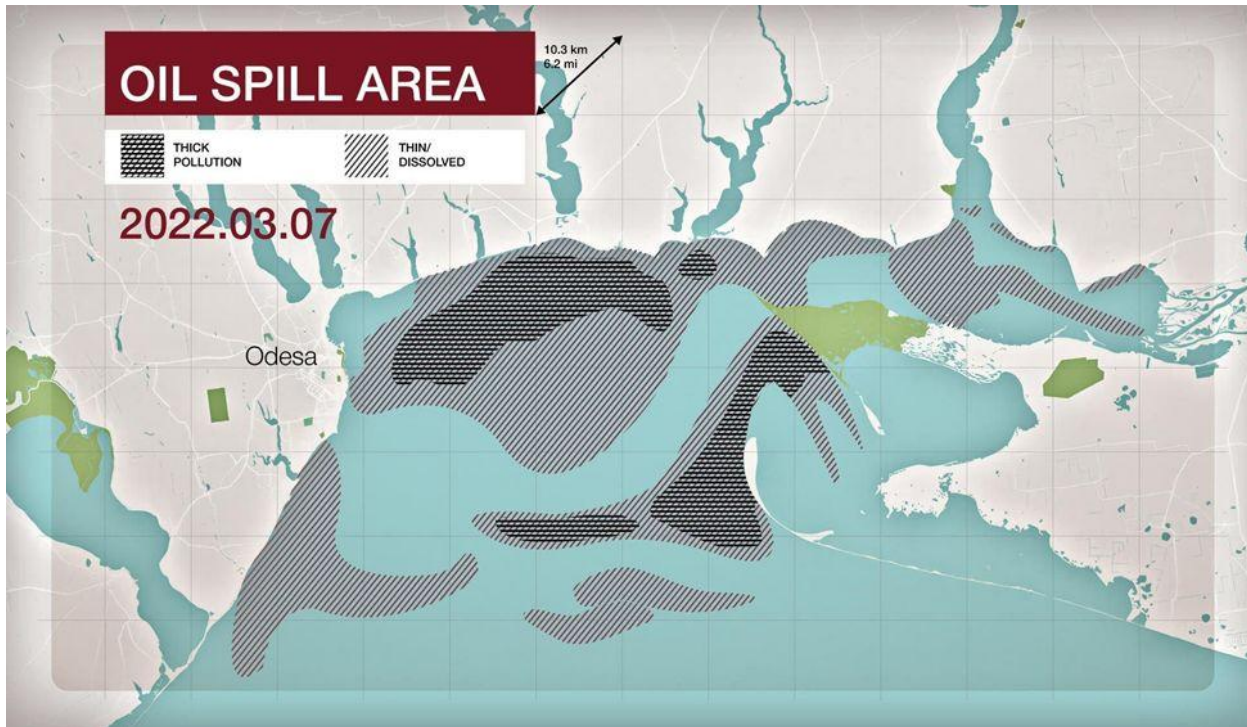
SDG 15



Ukraine occupies less than 6% of Europe's land area, but because of its significance for migratory species and geographic diversity, possesses 35% of its biodiversity. This equates to more than 70,000 species, including many that are rare, relict or endemic. 2,000 protected areas had been either temporarily occupied, or remained occupied.

COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Examples of pollution of the protected territories of Ukraine with oil products as a result of military operations



National Natural Park “Biloberzezhyia Svyatoslav”



Botanical reserve of national significance “Filoforne field of Zernov”

Source: <https://nikcenter.org/ecocide-how-the-war-waged-by-russia-is-harming-the-black-sea/>

INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE AND CHEMICAL POLLUTION

SDG 8

SDG 9

SDG 13



- The attacks on Ukraine's port infrastructure began on the first day of the full-scale war and continue to this day. The ports of Odesa and Mykolaiv regions are under attacks.
- On June 4, 2022, the Russians launched a devastating missile attack on the Nika-Tera port in Mykolaiv, Ukraine's second largest grain terminal. Despite the efforts of rescuers, the fire was extinguished only after a day.

Source: <https://nikcenter.org/ecocide-how-the-war-waged-by-russia-is-harming-the-black-sea/>

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 10

SDG 12



Ukraine exports over 10% of its wheat, 14% of corn and 47% of sunflower. It supplies food to every 20th person on the planet

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has changed the world's food supply chains and raised the risk of hunger in low-income countries



Source: https://war.ukraine.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/photo_2023-09-12_11-58-27-2-567x709.jpg by Konstantyn Liberov and Vlada Liberova

IS THIS WAR FAR AWAY THE DATA SAYS THE OPPOSITE

BEFORE RUSSIA'S INVASION, UKRAINE PROVIDED
FOOD FOR

400 MLN

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IN GRAIN SUPPLIES IN 2022

-50%

THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME HAS LOST

730,000 PEOPLE

WILL FACE FAMINE CONDITIONS

25%

MORE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WILL EXPERIENCE ACUTE
FOOD SHORTAGES

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 10

SDG 12

“GRAIN FROM UKRAINE” HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

Within the initiative, Ukraine distributed grain free of charge to countries in need with the support of 34 donor countries.

ETHIOPIA

90,000 tons of wheat



YEMEN

30,000 tons of wheat



KENYA

25,000 tons of wheat



SOMALIA

25,000 tons of wheat



Source: Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine

SDG 1

SDG 2

SDG 3

SDG 10

SDG 12



100t of peas and 20t of barley were destroyed by Russian attack on Odesa 21.07.2023. After withdrawal from the **Grain Initiative**, Russia regularly targets ports and agricultural infrastructure of Ukraine.

SDG 8

SDG 9

SDG 12

CHALLENGES

War distorted commitments of countries in the region and feasibility of meeting obligations of:

- 17 SDGs
- International Conventions and Treaties
- Changed paradigm of sustainable development due to militarization:
 - ❑ Commitment to Development Index (CDI)
 - ❑ Key policy commitments (24 out of 38 countries)
 - ❑ Over half of the countries reduced their peacekeeping contributions and increased their arms exports

OPPORTUNITIES:

- ✓ Establishing mechanisms for environmental damage assessment, with a view to legal claims for damages, and future recovery strategies.
- ✓ Deepening integration with EU environmental frameworks and policies.
- ✓ Industrial and energy infrastructure recovery with promoted best available technologies (BAT) application.
- ✓ Enhanced alternative energy will integrate response and adaptation to climate change.
- ✓ Contaminated Soil Remediation & Sustainable Agriculture.
- ✓ Green Jobs & Workforce Transformation & Inclusivity.



Damage from Russian war on Ukraine, its environment and people is devastating but...

we will rebuild, and restore nature because of our values, strengths and beliefs which is rooted in our Ukrainian genes!