LEGALITY OF TIMBER HARVESTING IN UKRAINE - CHALLENGES, STATE AND PERSPECTIVES

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General characteristic of Ukrainian forests

The total area of forest land is **10,4 mio ha**

Forested area - **9,6 mio ha**, forest cover **15,9%**

Growing stock - **2,1 bln m³**

Ukraine takes 9th place in forest area rate in Europe

• Forest cover vary from **3,7%** in Zaporizie region up to **51,4%** in Zhakarpatie region.

• Significance and value of forest is different in in different regions
Authorities responsible to supervise forest management

- State Forest Resources Agency: 73.0%
- Local authorities (communal ownership): 12.5%
- Other Ministries and Agencies: 7.0%
- Reserve lands: 7.5%
## Distribution of Forest Function

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food</th>
<th>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</th>
<th>State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine</th>
<th>State forest enterprises</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normative function</td>
<td>Control function for all forests – State Environmental Service</td>
<td>Supervision of implementation of forest policy</td>
<td>Forest management activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Approval of harvesting limits and forest management plans</td>
<td>• Preparing draft laws and normative documents aiming to improve forest policy in Ukraine</td>
<td>• <strong>State forest guards against illegal logging conducting by individuals or group of peoples without permitting documents</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decision of illegality

- Logging conducting by individuals or group of people without permitting documents

State forest guards

- Law enforcement and control of legality of issuing permitting documents as well as implementation of cutting at area of cutting

State Environmental Service
Main challenges of forest management in Ukraine

- High level of poaching and low efficiency of game managers
- Imperfect distribution of financial resources
- High corruption risks
- Illegal logging and trafficking of illegally extracted timber
- Absence of reliable information about forests (absence of national forest inventory and insufficient forest cadastre)
- Decreasing viability of forest ecosystems due to climate change impact
Wrong perception of forest and foresters in Ukraine

PERCEPTION IN SOCIETY OF ANY LOGGING AS ILLEGAL

- Absence of PR-policy and culture communication and public relation
- Not effective instruments for punishing for libel publication in mass media, low level in ecological education
- "Hot" topic in society and easy PR for NGO but NGO and Journalists have lack of specific knowledge
Wrong perception of forest and foresters in Ukraine
Illegal logging in Ukraine - main drivers

Communal forests and forests on reserve lands are not properly guarded and controlled.

Lack of opportunity to have decent legal income in rural area.

Possibility to sell to wood processing plants timber harvested without permitting documents and avoid penalties.

High prices on timber at auctions.

Due to absence of financial improper forest protection in the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine.
1. Data of State forest guards

2. Data of State Environmental Service

= Official statistics on illegal logging in Ukraine by Derzstat
Since 2013 unified state system of electronic timber tracking is implemented in enterprises under supervision of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine.

The system provides accurate accounting of forest resources in the online mode and is based on marking timber by special barcode tags and use of mobile electronic devices for accounting operations in forest conditions.

Online accounting and tracking is not obligatory (1/3 of all forest in Ukraine).

Online accounting and tracking is required (State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine).
In accordance with the current Ukrainian legislation certificate of origin of timber is required for export transactions.

This certificate confirms the legality of timber harvesting.

Information from system of electronic timber accounting is the base for certificate issuing.

In 2018 it was introduced a new technical solution aimed electronic issuing certificate of origin with additional checking primary documents.
In 2018 process of dying of pine forest is 50% higher than in 2017

Dynamics of dying stands, thou ha

- Pine: 198,198
- Spruce: 32
- Oak: 99
- Other: 73

Bar graph showing the comparison of dying stands for different species and years.
Delaying with conduction of clear sanitary cutting or untimely its conduction is leading of future reproduction and distribution of dangerous pests, losses of state forest enterprises every year more than 420 million UAH as well as decreases of income of local budgets each year on more than 50 million UAH.
MEASURES AIMING TO PREVENT VIOLATION IN CONDUCTING SANITARY CUTTINGS

• A new rules of conducting sanitary cuttings foresee a complex and comprehensive examination of the appropriateness of the purpose of sanitary cutting with the involvement of various state authorities and interested stakeholders, who have the opportunity at different stages of the procedure of issuing permission to conduct cutting to object to the feasibility of cutting.

• Aiming to prevent the inappropriate conduction of sanitary cuttings the rent fee was introduced on timber harvested in forest stands older than 40 years.

• All information about planned activities are transparent and open to public
### Accusation - Answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accusation</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Forest Watch shows deforestation in Ukraine</td>
<td>- the system analyzes the forest cover that does not correspond to the definition of forest in forestry practice and forest statistics;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the system analyzes different periods, there are inconsistencies during the periods of felling and reforestation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- a resolution of 30 m makes it impossible to provide precise data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of clear cuts increases over years</td>
<td>- there is clear legal obligation on reforestation</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- changing of the purpose of the land is under strict control of the Government</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Comparison of area of clear cuttings and forest regeneration*
Wrong perception of custom classification of timber assortments

Ukrainian standard of fire wood (ГОСТ 3243-88)

Custom classification 4401

The main requirement for custom classification is external defects in timber
Wrong perception of custom classification of timber assortments

- There is no principal differences. The main reason for different categories is demand of the market
- Taking into account that state forest enterprises have 40% more raw material that demand at domestic market firewood is sold for export
- Taking into account that firewood more than 2 m length could be classified as saw logs after crossing the border, SFRA issued order to limit length of firewood up to 2 m

Ukrainian standard of fire wood (ГОСТ 3243-88)
FSC-CERTIFIED FORESTS IN UKRAINE
(4,31 Mio. ha or 42% of the forest area of the country)

Share of FSC-certified forest area
- 75,1% and more
- 50,1% - 75,0%
- 40,1% - 50,0%
- 30,1% - 40,0%
- 20,1% - 30,0%
- 10,1% - 20,0%
- 0,1% - 10,0%
- not certified

Region (oblast) | Forest area, ha | FM/GoC
---|---|---
Vinnytska | 132 581,4 | 6
Volynska | 586 389,0 | 2
Zhytomyrskaya | 607 694,0 | 18
Zakarpatska | 440 407,8 | 15
Ivano-Frankivskaya | 338 274,7 | 10
Kylivska | 91 578,1 | 4
Kirovohradska | 75 224,9 | 4
Lvivska | 430 431,0 | 1
Rivenska | 670 822,3 | 6
Sumska | 18 604,3 | 1
Ternopilska | 143 853,3 | 5
Khmelnytska | 185 957,3 | 9
Cherkaska | 99 401,2 | 3
Chernivetska | 143 850,0 | 5
Chemihivskaya | 341 436,8 | 10
Total | 4 306 609,1 | 99
National FSC standard

- the application of a number of high-risk indicators in the framework of the implementation of the SIR (Scale, Intercity and Risk) concepts,
- requirements of non-sustainability in the context of increasing the volume of sanitary measures,
- introduction of anticorruption policy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of reference</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet publication</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Most of them is mass media publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court documents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10 is reference on data of pre-trial proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private correspondence and personal conversations</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own analyzes</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Reference is not understandable or is already present in the list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers from wood processing companies</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official answers, normative documents and official reports</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Official answers do not addressed Earthsight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports of different entities and articles with author known</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not understandable reference</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Reference is not correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>412 -74</strong></td>
<td>74 is mentioned numerous times</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some examples of manipulation of information

**EarthSight**
Comparison of sanitary cuttings with allowable cut

Comparison between final felling and other types of fellings (including thinnings, sanitary cuttings, reconstruction and forest regeneration cuttings)
Eurostat is saying about timber export from VPA countries. Earthsight is comparing this figure with export from Ukraine but calculating figure of imports of wood plus furniture.
Thank you for your attention