**Іnformal translation**

**PUBLIC REPORT**

**OF THE HEAD OF STATE**

**FOREST RESOURCES AGENCY**

**OF UKRAINE**

**FOR 2024**



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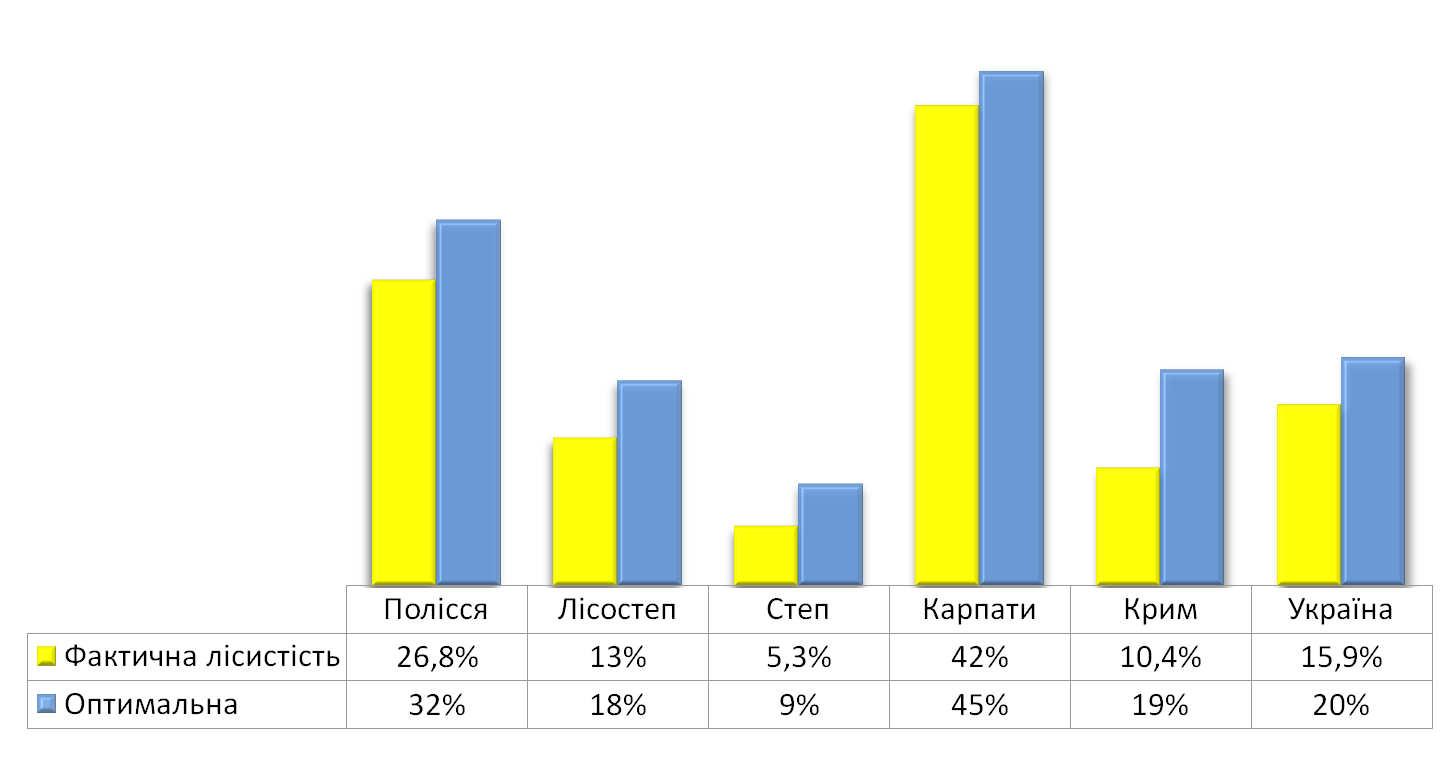
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**I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF FORESTS AND FORESTRY** **OF** **UKRAINE**

The total area of forest areas belonging to the forest fund of Ukraine is 10.4 million hectares, including 9.6 million hectares covered with forest vegetation.

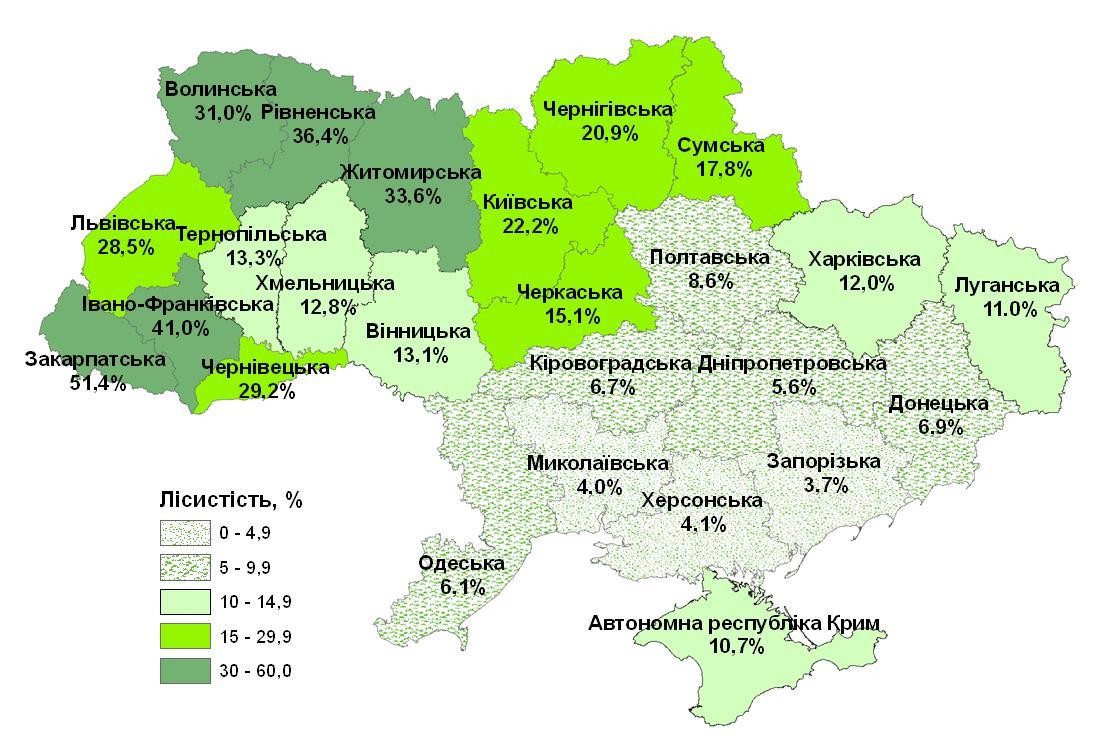
The forest cover of Ukraine is 15.9%. The conditions for forest cultivation in Ukraine are extremely heterogeneous, so forests are unevenly distributed across the territory of the state.

**Forest cover of the territory of Ukraine by natural zones**

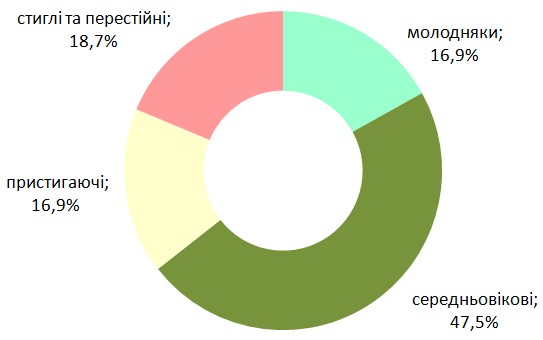


Forest cover in different natural zones has significant differences and does not reach the optimal level, at which forests have the most positive effect on the climate, soils, water resources, counteract erosion processes, and also provide more wood.

## Forest cover of the territory of Ukraine in the context of administrative-territorial units



More than half of the country's forests are artificially created and require enhanced care.

The age structure is dominated by middle-aged plantations, the share of ripe and overripe plantations is 18.7%. The average age of forests is more than 60 years, there is a gradual aging of forests, which leads to a deterioration in their sanitary condition.

The forests of Ukraine are formed by more than 30 species of tree species, among which pine, oak, beech, spruce, birch, alder, ash, hornbeam, fir dominate. Coniferous plantations occupy 43% of the total area, in particular pine - 35%. Hard-leaved plantations make up 43%, in particular oak and beech - 37%.

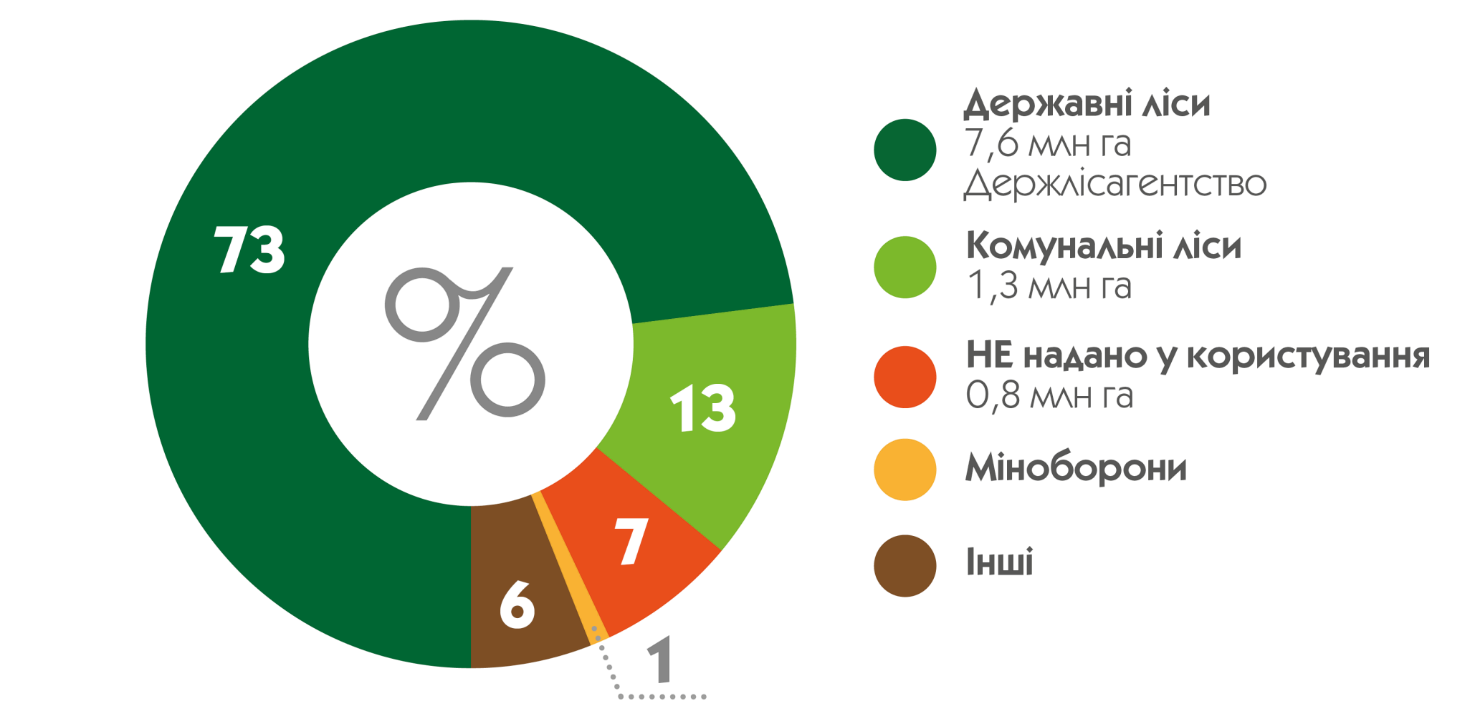


The stock of wood in forests is estimated at 2.3 billion m³, while an average of 35 million m³ of wood grows per year in Ukraine, and the average annual increase per 1 hectare in the forests of the State Forest Resources Agency is 3.9 m³, ranging from 5.0 m³ in the Carpathians to 2.5 m³ in the Steppe zone.

There is a gradual increase in stock, which confirms the significant economic and environmental potential of our forests.

In the forests of Ukraine, the stock of wood per 1 hectare is about 235 m³, which ranks 10th in Europe. For comparison, in Poland this figure is 288 m³, and in Sweden - 131 cubic meters. In particular, about 251 m³ of wood reserves in the forests of the State Forest Resources Agency. According to the Land and Forest Codes, the forests of Ukraine can be in state, communal and private ownership.

## Departmental subordination of forests of Ukraine



The vast majority of forests are state-owned. In the process of land delimitation, about 1.3 million hectares (13%) of forestry land plots that are in permanent use of communal enterprises subordinated to local self-government bodies can be attributed to communal property. The share of privately owned forests is less than 0.1% of the total area of forest land. About 800 thousand hectares of forest land have not been provided for use. In Ukraine, the situation with the assignment of state forests to numerous permanent forest users has been historically formed (forests have been provided for permanent use to enterprises, institutions and organizations of several dozen ministries and departments for forestry management). According to departmental subordination, the largest area of forest lands (about 73%) belongs to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency.

# II. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

The State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine is a central executive body whose activities are directed and coordinated by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and which implements state policy in the field of forestry and hunting The main tasks of the State Forest Resources Agency are:

− ensuring the implementation of state policy in the field of forestry and hunting, as well as protection, protection, rational use and reproduction of forest resources, hunting fauna, increasing the efficiency of forestry and hunting;

− carries out state management in the field of forestry and hunting, as well as state control over compliance with the requirements of regulatory legal acts on forestry (except for state control on plant quarantine and in the field of plant protection);

− development and organization of implementation of national, interstate and regional programs in the field of protection, increase of productivity, rational use and reproduction of forests, as well as participation in the development and implementation of such programs on the use and reproduction of hunting fauna, development of hunting economy, organization of forest management.

The system of the State Forest Resources Agency consists of enterprises, institutions and organizations of state ownership.

As of January 1. 2025, the organizational structure of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine includes 9 territorial bodies, 74 enterprises, institutions and organizations, of which 40 are located in the temporarily occupied territories.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Ministers Cabinet of Ukraine dated September 7. 2022 No. 1003 "Some Issues of Reforming the Management of the Forest Industry", instead of the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency, interregional territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency were formed.

Interregional departments contribute to the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of forest relations, forestry and hunting in the relevant territory.

Under the Resolution of Ministers Cabinet of Ukraine dated September 07. 2022 No. 1003 "Some Issues of Reforming the Management of the Forest Industry" to ensure forestry management at the local level, the State Specialized Economic Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" was established through the merger of specialized state forestry enterprises that belonged to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency.

The State Specialized Economic Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" is responsible for the entire range of forestry works - from planting forests to felling for the main use. In addition to state-owned enterprises, the State Forestry Agency is subordinate to scientific, educational organizations, reserves and national parks, and other enterprises, institutions, organizations of direct subordination.

The Draft Law of Ukraine "On the Peculiarities of Management of State-Owned Objects in the Forest Industry and the Procedure for the Establishment and Operation of the Specialized State Forestry Joint Stock Company "Forests of Ukraine" provides for the peculiarities of the formation and operation of the State Forestry Joint Stock Company.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 10.03.2017 No. 142 "Some issues of management of state unitary enterprises and business companies, in the authorized capital of which more than 50 percent of shares (stakes) belong to the state", the Order of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine dated 04.03.2024 No. 51 decided to establish the Supervisory Board of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", as well as to ensure the formation of its composition.

The Board of the State Forest Resources Agency is a consultative and advisory body formed in accordance with the Regulations on the State Forest Resources Agency, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 8, 2014 No. 521 (as amended), for the preparation of recommendations for the implementation of the tasks assigned to the State Forest Resources Agency, the coordinated resolution of issues within its competence, and for collective and free discussion of the most important areas of activity of the State Forest Resources Agency.

The organizational form of the collegium's work is meetings, the frequency of which is determined by the chairman of the collegium. The meeting is held in accordance with the agenda. Issues on the agenda of the board are formalized by decisions of the board, which are approved by its members by voting.

In 2024, 4 meetings of the Board of the State Forest Resources Agency were held, at which the following were considered:

− results of economic and financial activities of enterprises in the industry;

− results of forestry production;

− Readiness of State Forestry Enterprises to the fire hazardous period;

− the state and ways to improve the regulatory framework in the field of hunting economy and shooting;

− the state of use of forestry lands;

− the results of the activities of state specialized forest protection enterprises;

− the state of organization of state accounting of the number and volume of hunting animals;

− the results of the work of the State Forest Resources Agency in 2024 on self-forested areas and forestry lands not provided for use; − use of timber resources by enterprises of the industry; − the state and prospects for the development of scientific activity in the forest industry.

Based on the results of consideration of the issues of the board, appropriate decisions were made, which were put into effect by the orders of the State Forest Resources Agency.

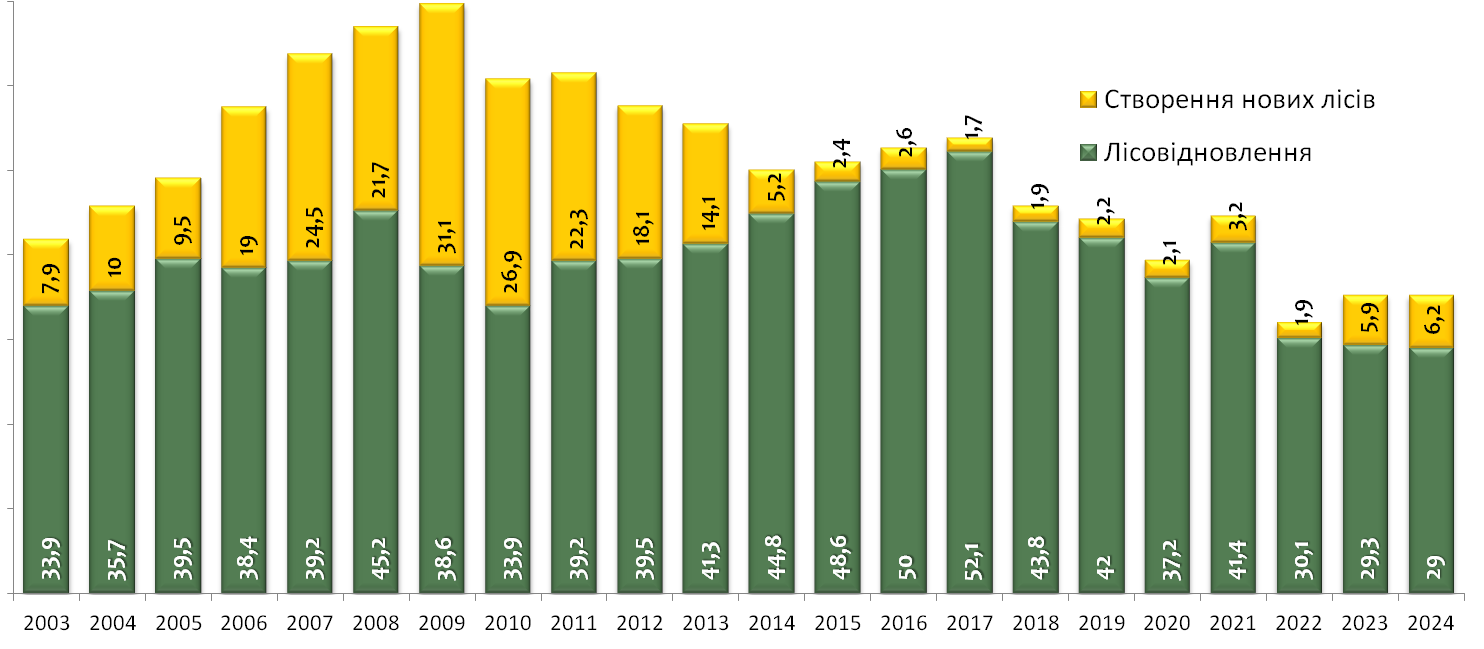
# III. RESULTS OF WORK AND ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITIES

## 3.1. FORESTRY, FOREST REPRODUCTION

In 2024, state forestry enterprises belonging to the management of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine carried out the reproduction of forests on an area of 35.2 thousand hectares. ha, of which reforestation – 29.1 thousand hectares. ha, afforestation on lands provided for permanent use (creation of new forests) – 6.1 thousand hectares. Natural renewal took place on an area of 7.3 thousand hectares.

By the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated 07.06.2021 No. 228/2021 "On Certain Measures for the Conservation and Reproduction of Forests", an environmental initiative was launched "Large-scale afforestation of Ukraine".

### Volumes of forest creation by enterprises of the State Forest Resources Agency, thou ha

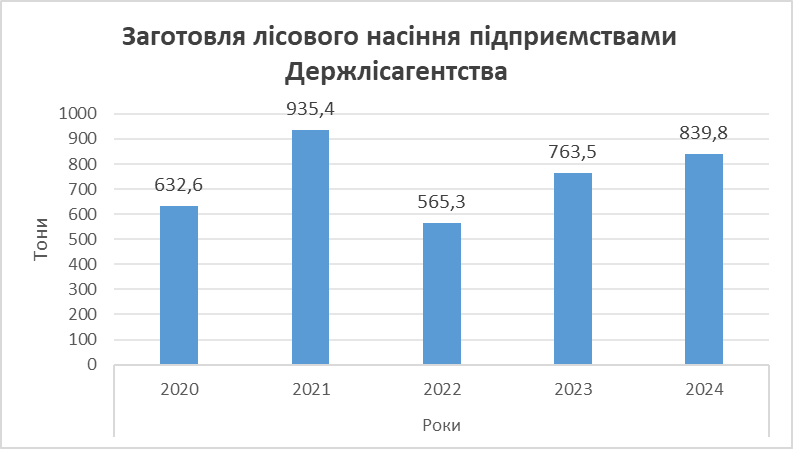


The State Forest Resources Agency has developed and presented a separate website to cover the implementation of the program of the President of Ukraine "Green Country" (Green Country (zelenakraina.gov.ua)). The site contains:

* information on the number of trees planted;
* information about the Campaign of the State Forest Resources Agency "Creating Forests Together", within the framework of which each person can join the planting of trees for free or can choose a place where foresters will plant a forest for a nominal fee, the money immediately goes to the account of the charitable foundation (assistance to children with cancer).

According to the Green Country website, since the beginning of the program, all its participants have planted 703.3 million trees, which is 70.3% of implementation. In particular, in 2021, 59.7 million trees pieces were planted, in 2022 – 184.6 million trees pieces, in 2023 – 220.7 million trees pieces and in 2024 – 238.3 million trees pieces.

During 2024, state-owned enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the management of the State Forest Resources Agency harvested forest seeds in the amount of 839.8 tons, which is 76.3 tons (or 9%) more than in 2023. In 2020, 632.6 tons of forest seeds were harvested, in 2021 - 935.4 tons, in 2022 - 565.3 tons, in 2023 - 763.5 tons.



From July 2022 to the end of 2024, in accordance with Article 57-1 of the Land Code of Ukraine, the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency submitted 2391 petitions to executive authorities and local governments to **classify** land plots as self-forested plots on an area of 1905607 hectares.

Local self-government bodies have agreed **to assign** land plots to the category of self-forested for a total area of 54.011 hectares.

Of these, in 2024, in accordance with Article 57-1 of the Land Code of Ukraine, the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency submitted 620 petitions to executive authorities and local governments to **classify** land plots as self-afforested plots on an area of 18.915 hectares. In 2024, local governments agreed to **classify** land plots as self-afforested for a total area of 25.476 hectares.

Regarding the transfer of self-forested plots to forestry enterprises of the SFRA, from July 2021 to the end of 2024, enterprises sent 6.699 petitions to executive authorities and local self-government bodies for the **transfer** of self-forested plots of state and municipal property for permanent use for a total area of 192.252 hectares, of which local governments agreed on the **transfer** for permanent use of self-forested land plots for a total area of 38.244 hectares, from which extracts from the State Register of Property Rights to Real Estate for a total area of 10.837 hectares were obtained.

Of these, in 2024, 3.224 petitions were sent to executive authorities and local self-government bodies for the **transfer** of self-forested plots of state and communal property for permanent use for a total area of 107560 hectares, of which local self-government bodies approved the **transfer** of self-forested land plots for permanent use for a total area of 22611 hectares, from which extracts from the State Register of Property Rights to Real Estate were obtained the total area is 3.723 hectares.

The issue of obtaining land for the creation of new forests is an acute one (afforestation) as part of the Green Country programme. Thus, state forestry enterprises that belong to the sphere of managed by the SFRA, from July 2021 to the end of 2024, 1.390 applications to executive authorities and local governments for the transfer of state and communal land plots for permanent use for forestry. use for afforestation on the total area of 50.356 hectares, of which local governments approved the transfer of land plots for land plots for permanent use for forestry on the total area of 10.465 hectares, of which extracts from the State Register of Property Rights to real estate for a total area of 2.761 hectares.

Of these, in 2024, 186 petitions were sent to executive authorities and local self-government bodies for the **transfer** of land plots of state and communal ownership for permanent use for afforestation for a total area of 14.779 hectares, of which local governments approved the **transfer** of land plots for afforestation for permanent use for a total area of 1159 hectares, from which extracts from the State Register of Property Rights for real estate for the total area 1.660 hectares, taking into account previous years.

As for the settlement of issues of forestry lands (forests) not provided for use, at present such forestry reserve lands have been identified and relevant petitions have been sent to the executive authorities or local self-government bodies for granting permission for the development of land management documentation for their allocation from the lands of the reserve of communal property within a certain administrative-territorial unit with subsequent transfer to permanent use of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" for forestry for a total area of 215.1 thousand hectares.

The first decisions of the regional military administrations on the provision of forestry land plots for permanent use to the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" have already been made. Thus, by the orders of the Rivne RMA dated 29.05.2024 No. 269 and dated 12.06.2024 No. 304, the forestry land plots of the SE "Forests of Ukraine" in the Varas district for a total area of 8326.85 hectares were granted for permanent use.

During 2024, state-owned enterprises of the SFRA are taking measures to form and improve forests in accordance with planned tasks.

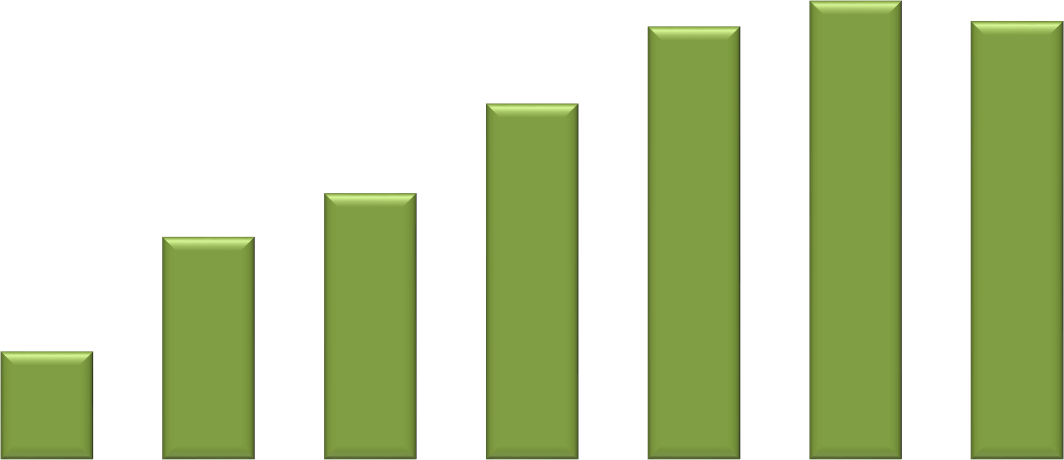
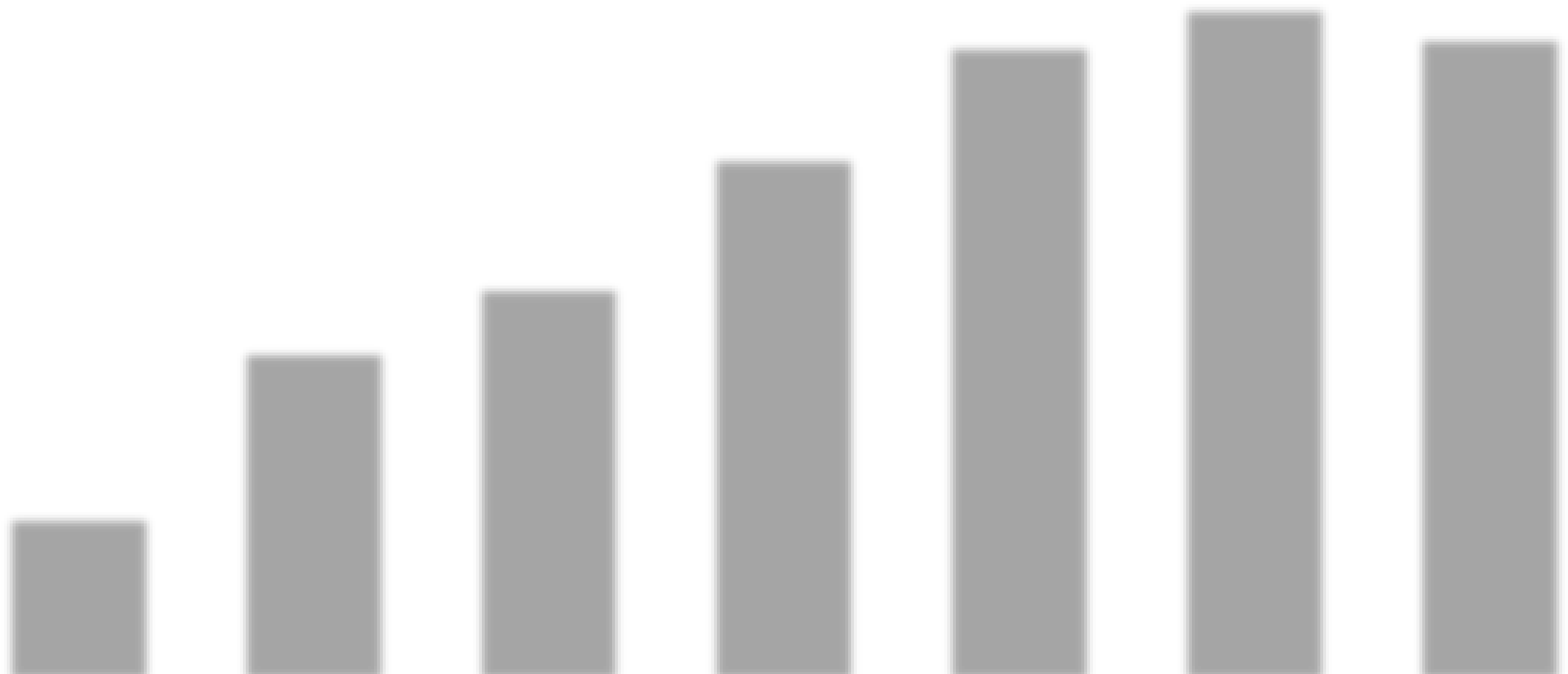
#### 3.1.1. Conservation of biological diversity in forests and development of the nature reserve fund

Forest landscapes occupy a leading place in the structure of the nature reserve fund of Ukraine (NRF). Every second bequeathed hectare in Ukraine is forestry land or forests on other categories of land. In almost all regions, the reserve in forests is higher than the national indicator.

To date, about 16% have already been bequeathed in the forests belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency. It should be noted that over 40 years, the area of territories and objects of the nature reserve fund in the forests of the SFRA has increased 4 times — from 0.3 million hectares in 1978 to 1.3 million hectares in 2024. Accordingly, the level of conservation also increased from 5.5% to 16%.

In accordance with the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 23.12.2020 No. 1628 "On the transfer of integral property complexes of state institutions and organizations to the sphere of management of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources", in 2021, institutions of the nature reserve fund (6 nature reserves and 1 national nature park) with a total area of 97.5 thousand hectares were transferred to the Ministry of Environment from the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency.

**Reserved forests area of the State Forest Resources Agency, thou ha**



**315**

**650**

**777**

**1039**

**1264**

**1339**

**1279**

1978

1988

1996

2005

2015

2020

2024

In addition, in pursuance of the Decrees of the President of Ukraine on the creation or change of the boundaries of the institutions of the nature reserve fund, since 2019, about 100 thousand hectares of forests have been withdrawn for protected areas and provided for permanent use to the institutions of the Ministry of Environment.

Almost 3.4 thousand territories and nature reserve fund objects with a total area of about 1.3 million hectares have been created in the forests managed by the State Forest Resources Agency:

− on an area of 137.7 thousand hectares. hectares – 7 environmental institutions belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency (national natural parks);

− on an area of 1.2 million hectares – reserves, protected tracts, regional landscape parks, etc., as well as parts of nature conservation institutions that are included in them without withdrawal from the permanent land user, the protection and maintenance of which is carried out at the expense of permanent forest users (under whose jurisdiction they are).

In 2024, the State Forest Resources Agency approved changes in the purpose of land plots from the category of forestry land to the category of land of nature reserve and other nature conservation purposes (almost 21 thousand hectares) in order to further transfer them for permanent use:

− NNP "Karmelyukovo Podillya" with an area of 16512.6 hectares;

− NNP "Nizhnosulskyi" with an area of 781 hectares;

− NNP "Nobelsky" with an area of 3677 hectares;

− NNP "Podilski Tovtry" with an area of 2.8 hectares.

About 170 thousand. hectares of territories and objects of the protected areas of the State Forest Resources Agency are located in the war zone (in particular, the National Nature Park "Kreminna Forests"), or in the temporarily occupied territory, where economic activities have been suspended and there is no opportunity to conduct surveys and provide information on damage (Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kharkiv regions).

Part of the protected areas was damaged as a result of the construction of fortifications, where surveys are impossible due to limited access (border areas).

The situation is also difficult in those protected areas that survived the occupation. Here, the problem of demining territories (Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Sumy, Chernihiv regions) is in the first place. The existing amount of damage will be established after surveys, which can be carried out only after demining of the territories.

In 2024, the national natural parks of the State Forest Resources Agency, in addition to fulfilling the main tasks of preserving valuable natural and historical and cultural complexes and objects on their territory, carried out significant work on arrangement of modern recreational centers (Shatsk National Nature Park, Skole Beskydy National Park), eco-education centers (Shatsk National Nature Park, National Nature Park "Skole Beskydy", Galician National Nature Park), ecological and tourist routes (Shatsk National Nature Park, National Nature Park "Male Polissia"), introduction of electronic tickets for visitors (National Nature Park "Skole Beskydy"), improvement of official websites and pages in social networks, registration of property rights to land plots provided for permanent use. Contacts have been established with international organizations regarding participation in international technical assistance projects (Shatsk National Nature Park, Skole Beskydy National Park, Enchanted Land National Nature Park).

On the agenda of the national natural parks of the State Forest Resources Agency there are issues of further expansion of contacts for participation in international projects and grants in order to equip parks taking into account the requirements of barrier-free access, expansion of rehabilitation centers, reconstruction of recreational centers, eco-education centers, preparation of plans for the organization of the territory and the implementation of other important tasks in the environmental, recreational, cultural, educational, research areas, in accordance with the purpose of creating objects of the nature reserve fund of national importance.

#### 3.1.2. Forest certification

Forest certification is an assessment of the compliance of the forest management system with the established international requirements for forest management and forest use on the basis of sustainable development. The purpose of forest certification is to ensure economically, environmentally and socially balanced forest management by meeting the relevant generally recognized and trustworthy standards.

According to the international organisation FSC, the area of certified forests in Ukraine as of 01.01.2025 is 4.852 million hectares. This area is covered by 102 forest management system certificates. The area of FSC-certified forests of enterprises, institutions and organisations that are under the managed by the SFRA as of 01.01.2025 is 4.739 million hectares. This area is covered by 97 forest management system certificates forest management system from 146 branches of the State Enterprise ‘Forests of Ukraine’.

Ukraine ranks third in Europe, after Sweden and Turkey, in terms of the area of **FSC-certified** forests. The number of **FSC**  certificates of the timber supply chain as of 01.01.2025 is 441.

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine has created challenges to ensuring sustainable forestry, complicating the functioning of the forest sector and increasing the risks to the integrity of the FSC system.

The preservation of FSC certification became possible due to the active position of international FSC members from Ukraine and commitment to the values of other participants in the system. Comprehensive changes have been made to the FSC international regulatory framework [for Ukraine,](https://ua.fsc.org/ua-uk/newsfeed/sertifikati-v-zonakh-konfliktu-ukraini-prizupineni) which allow us to continue to ensure responsible forestry in the territories not affected by the military conflict, as well as to maintain the integrity of timber supply chains.

Maintaining responsible forestry management during the war period led to the launch of a project to [develop national indicators for the exclusion of territories from the scope of certification.](https://ua.fsc.org/ua-uk/newsfeed/v-ukraini-startue-proces-rozroblennya-nacionalnikh-indikatoriv-viklyuchennya-teritoriy-zi) These indicators will also be valid in the post-war period. This should be an effective solution for the part of the territory of Ukraine where it is impossible to ensure compliance with the requirements of the FSC national standard due to contamination with explosive ordnance.

A separate annex of the updated version 1-1 of the FSC Forestry System Standard for Ukraine, which came into force on 23.09.2024, concerns the exclusion of areas contaminated with explosive objects from the scope of certification.

Despite the suspension of certificates in the de-occupied territories contaminated with explosive ordnance on an area of 487 hectares, the area of certified forests did not decrease, but even increased by 1.9 percent. It should be noted that the forests in the temporarily occupied territories were not certified.

As of 01.01.2025,  **five branches of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" with an area of 210.0 thousand hectares have been certified in Ukraine under the PEFC system. ha, in particular, the branches "Makarivske Forestry", "Yarmolynets Forestry", "Lviv Forestry", "Stryi Forestry" and "Zhmerynske Forestry", which simultaneously have the status of FSC-certified.**

On 12.11.2021, the PEFC Permanent Working Group on the Development and Updating of the Forest Management Standard decided to expand the scope of certification for plantations and plantations outside the forest. In the conditions of ecocide caused by Russian aggression, when large areas of forests are burned or destroyed, it is important to restore tree plantations on all possible areas and with all possible functions: field protection belts, energy plantations, self-seeding forests, green spaces in cities. It is also important that the owners of these plantations have the opportunity to receive reimbursement for the ecosystem services provided, including through certification. Changes to the standard have been developed and public consultations have been held, but due to the aggression of the Russian Federation, field tests have not been carried out, and the work has been temporarily suspended.

#### 3.1.3. National Forest Inventory

Despite martial law, the country continues to conduct a national forest inventory, which began in 2021. The Center for National Forest Inventory at PU "Ukrderzhlisproekt" carries out a system of regular sample surveys to obtain statistically grounded information on quantitative and qualitative indicators of the state and dynamics of state forests, their resource potential for the needs of public administration, strategic planning of forestry, state forest cadastre, environmental monitoring, international reporting on forests.

Financing of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) by year

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Financing, thousand UAH | Surveyed areas |
| 2021 | 4892,0 | 909 |
| 2022 | 1354,7 | 296 |
| 2023 | 8598,7 | 2930 |
| 2024 | 1245,4 | 721 |

In 2021, due to limited budget funding, only 909 plots in five regions were examined.

In 2022, due to the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, work was carried out only in two regions (Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi), where the security situation allowed their implementation. 296 plots were examined. Working conditions were significantly complicated due to funding cuts, which limited the resources of field groups to a minimum level.

In 2023, thanks to significant funding from the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL), 606 plots in 18 regions were surveyed as part of the SFI project. In total, 2.930 plots were inspected in 2023, which became possible thanks to a combination of state funding and the support of international partners. In addition, new equipment for remote sensing (RS) and forest monitoring was purchased, which contributed to improving the quality of work.

In 2024, budget funding was received only in the third decade of September, which limited the performance of work. However, the remaining funds of the German SFI project made it possible to inspect 487 plots in safe regions. In addition, at the expense of the state budget, which was received in September, work was carried out on 234 plots. The work was carried out in accordance with the approved methodology in the regions where safety conditions allowed.

**In total, 4.856 plots** were surveyed for 2021-2024.

The combination of funding and work carried out during this period made it possible to collect critical data on the state and dynamics of Ukraine's forests, even in the face of significant challenges, such as the war and delays in budget funding.

Conducting a national inventory of forests is one of the strategic tasks of the industry and is part of the country's international obligations.

## 3.1.4. Creation, construction and extension of forestry selection and seed centres

As of January 1. 2025, there are 7 forest breeding and seed centers (hereinafter referred to as FBSC) in the State Enterprise "Forestry of Ukraine", including: on the basis of the branches "Kivertsivske Forestry" (Volyn region), "Vyhoda forestry" (Ivano-Frankivsk region), "Ovruch Specialized Forestry" (Zhytomyr region), "Iziaslavske forestry" (Khmelnytskyi region), "Chornolis forestry" (Kirovohrad region), "Chortkiv forestry" (Ternopil region) and the branch "Lviv Forest Selection and Seed Center" (Lviv region). In addition, in 2024, seeds were sown in the FBSC of the branches "Lebedynske Forestry" (Sumy region) and "Chernihiv Forestry" (Chernihiv region), which are planned to be completed in 2025.

The estimated number of planting material grown by these forest seed centers per year will be 25 million pieces.

Increasing the production capacity of planting material will provide high-quality planting material for the needs of reforestation, the implementation of the program of the President of Ukraine "Green Country", and most importantly, the restoration of stands lost and damaged as a result of the war.

## 3.2. PROTECTION OF FORESTS

### 3.2.1. Protection of forests from forest violations

According to Article 86 of the Forest Code of Ukraine, the provision of forest protection and protection is entrusted to the state forest protection, which operates as part of the State Forest Resources Agency, and forest protection of other permanent forest users and forest owners.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 07.09.2022 No. 1003 "Some Issues of Reforming the Management of the Forest Industry", interregional forestry and hunting departments were established.

According to the Regulation on Interregional Forestry and Hunting Departments of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated 29.09.2022 No. 404, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 13.10.2022 under No. 1231/38567, interregional departments are subordinate to the State Forest Resources Agency and are its territorial bodies.

The main tasks of interregional departments are the implementation of the powers of SFRA in the field of forestry and hunting on the territory of several administrative-territorial units determined by the State Forest Resouces Agency.

The reform provides a clear delineation of forest protection functions in such a way that interregional departments focus on control and supervisory functions, while operational management and economic activities are extended to the newly created state enterprise "Forests of Ukraine".

This approach avoids conflicts of interest between control and economic functions, providing greater transparency and more effective management of forest resources. Interregional departments supervise compliance with legislation in the field of forestry and hunting, while permanent forest users have the right to direct forest management, including the protection, protection, use and reproduction of forests. This contributes to increasing the efficiency of forest industry management, ensures the sustainable development of forest resources and strengthens control over their use.

In order to organize effective measures for the protection and protection of forests, taking into account the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 20.05.2022 No. 612 "On Approval of the Procedure for the Organization of Forest Protection", the heads of interregional forestry and hunting departments and enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management within their competence are instructed to patrol forests with the involvement (with consent) of representatives of the territorial bodies of the National Police of Ukraine, other state bodies, local self-government bodies and public inspectors for environmental protection. In the forests of the State Forest Resouces Agency, there are more than 700 permanent mobile raid groups consisting of about 2.8 thousand people. persons, of which 2.4 thousand. is the State Forest Guard.

Also, 293 police officers and 78 other persons were involved in the work of mobile raid groups, including public inspectors for environmental protection, members of environmental NGOs, representatives of self-organization bodies, etc.

In 2024, more than 20.5 thousand raids were conducted, 4.2 thousand administrative reports were drawn up, totalling UAH 2.4 million of administrative fines, in particular under Art. 65 of the Code of Administrative Offences (illegal felling) - 1.9 thousand administrative reports in the amount of UAH 1.0 million of administrative fines. 0.5 thousand m3 of illegally harvested timber were seized from forest violators.

During 2024, 21 vehicles and 14 units of instruments of offense were seized in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Also, the corresponding raid work is carried out at the level of forestry departments - by foresters, assistant foresters, forest masters and with the participation of other staff members.

In general, within the framework of administrative responsibility provided for by Article 241 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses, employees of the state forest protection compiled 4.6 thousand. administrative protocols. The total amount of administrative fines amounted to UAH 2.6 million, of which UAH 2.5 million was voluntarily paid, which is 97% of the total amount, in particular under Art. 65 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, 2.2 thousand rubles were drawn up. administrative protocols in the amount of UAH 1.1 million of administrative fines, of which UAH 1.07 million were voluntarily paid, which is 97% of the total.

The causes and conditions that cause the occurrence of forest disturbances are unchanged:

− social, which are often associated with insufficient awareness of the population about the importance of preserving forests and the environmental consequences of their destruction;

− low level of socio-economic development of rural regions (high level of unemployment among the population that harvests firewood to meet vital needs, low wages, low investment activity, etc.);

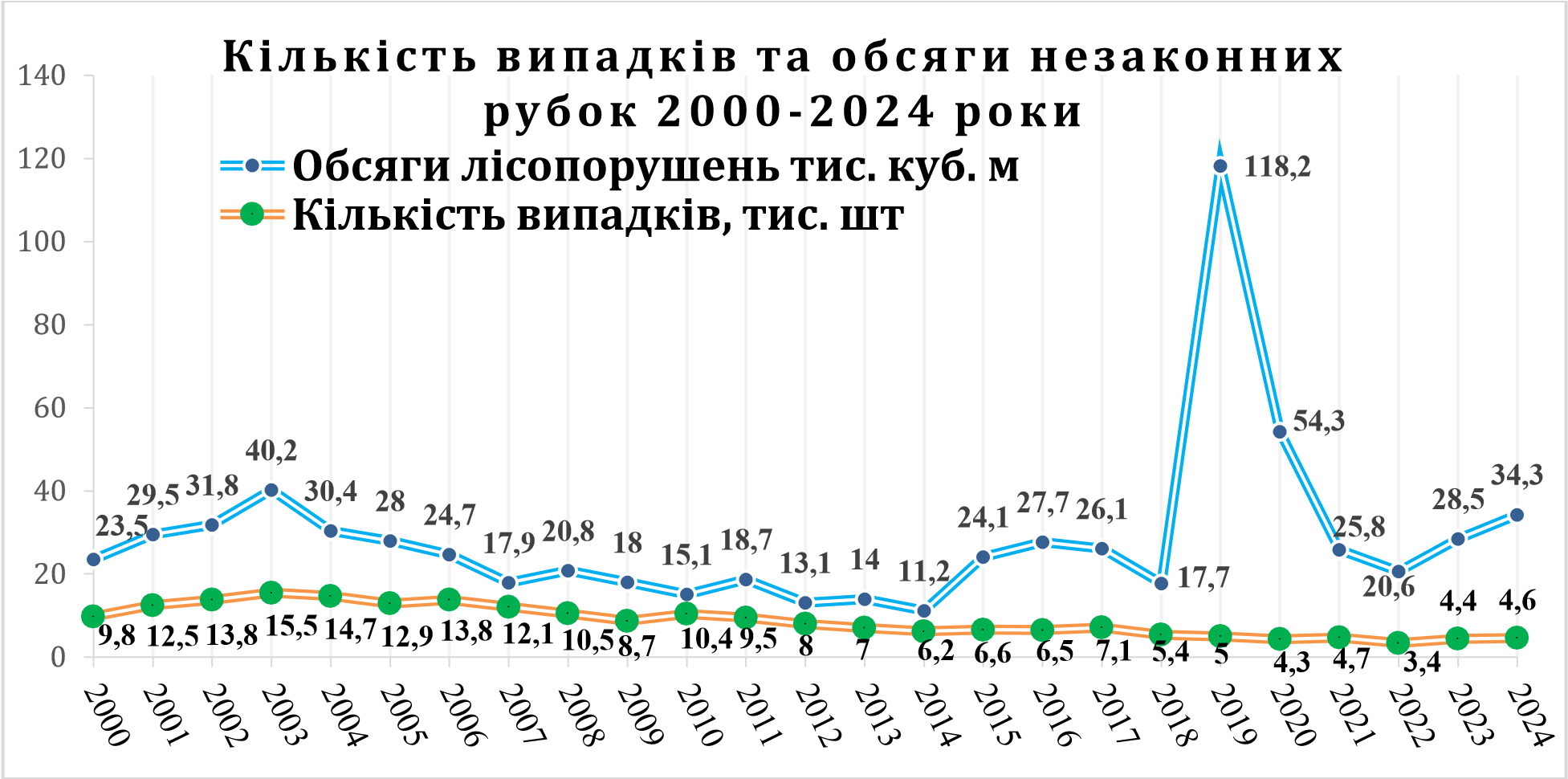
− economic – obtaining quick benefits by individual citizens or organized groups that harvest large-sized and valuable assortments of wood for processing or commercial sale.

The main consumer of such wood is timber mills (sawmills) operating outside the current legislation. The cyclical nature of illegal logging cases is inextricably linked with the rise or decline of economic activity levels in Ukraine.

In total, in 2024, 4.6 thousand cases of illegal logging were detected with a volume of 34.3 thousand cubic metres. The amount of damage caused was UAH 817 million, only UAH 13.1 million, or 1.6% of the damage caused, was paid voluntarily and recovered by the courts.

The largest volumes of illegal logging were found in the forests of the following regions:

Zhytomyr region – 8.0 thousand m3 (23.3% of the total volume of the SFRA), Kharkiv region – 6.8 thousand m3 (19.9%), Dnipropetrovsk region – 4.2 thousand m3 (12.2%), Donetsk region – 2.9 thousand m3 (8.4%), Zakarpattia region – 2.6 thousand m3 (7.8%).



The fight against forest violators cannot be effective without the help of environmental, law enforcement and judicial authorities, since the presence of even small volumes of illegal logging levels public confidence in the industry and give rise to a negative opinion of the population and the public about the negative state of affairs in forestry.

Despite the positive results in the field of administrative responsibility, criminal offenses in forestry remain at a low level of resolution. This is due to the lack of authority of the State Forest Guard to conduct investigations of criminal offenses. According to the current legislation, this issue is within the competence of law enforcement agencies, such as the police and the prosecutor's office. However, even when cases are transferred to law enforcement officers, the effectiveness of investigations remains low.

In 2024, employees of the State Forest Protection transferred 2666 cases to law enforcement agencies on the facts of illegal logging (in particular, to the pre-trial investigation bodies – 2626 cases, the prosecutor's office – 19 and the court – 21) for damage in the amount of UAH 804 million (98.4% of the damage caused).

In total, during 2024, court decisions were received for 97 cases in the amount of UAH 14.2 million (1.6% of the damage caused).

Since forest violations are usually associated with great economic interests, there is a need to strengthen criminal liability for persons engaged in illegal timber harvesting. Such actions often cause significant damages, which requires proper punishment at the level of criminal law. However, the lack of direct influence of the State Forest Resources Agency on criminal investigations limits the effectiveness of this fight.

The State Forest Resources Agency took part in the preparation of draft law No. 9665, which provides for a significant increase in criminal liability for environmental crimes. Mechanisms have been developed to combat illegal logging, sanctions have been strengthened and digital control over logging has been introduced. The draft law allows to increase the efficiency of state supervision, reduce the level of shadow schemes and ensure the sustainable development of forestry in Ukraine.

In accordance with the order of the State Forest Resources Agency dated 14.12.2023 No. 604, the territorial bodies of the SFRA, together with regional, district state administrations, held joint meetings with the participation of the National Police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Security Service of Ukraine, State Environmental Inspectorate, where joint measures on forest protection have been developed.

In order to improve the level of compensation for damage caused by illegal logging, territorial bodies, enterprises and institutions conduct quarterly reconciliations with law enforcement agencies on the materials sent.

In accordance with the joint order of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine dated 16.06.2022 No. 94/363/150/226/356, the SE "Forests of Ukraine" carried out reconciliations:

* with the prosecutor's office, the National Police of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Bureau of Investigation and other bodies to which materials on criminal offenses were transferred during 2023-2024;
* with the prosecutor's office in relation to the materials sent on offenses that contain signs of criminal offenses;
* with the State Bureau of Investigation and its territorial bodies regarding the materials sent on offenses that contain signs of criminal offenses.

On 14.03.2024, a joint meeting was held in the Prosecutor General's Office with the participation of the leadership of law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, the State Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine and the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre, at which the state of ensuring legality and counteraction was discussed criminal offense in the field of protection and preservation of territories and objects of the nature reserve fund under martial law. At the meeting, measures were identified to increase the level of legality in this area and the "Resolution of the heads of law enforcement and other state bodies" was signed, which instructed to take additional measures to increase the level of legality and combat crime in the field of protection and preservation of the territories of the nature reserve fund under martial law.

### 3.2.2. Consequences of armed aggression

The State Forest Resources Agency constantly monitors emergencies in forests (fires, shelling, mining, loss of access) and takes measures to document and assess the damage caused to the forests of Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

As of the end of 2024, according to operational information, in the controlled territory of Ukraine, the area of de-occupied (liberated) lands of the forest fund of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency is about 0.9 million hectares, hostilities are (were) taking place on an area of 0.1 million hectares, approximately 0.8 million hectares of forest fund lands remain temporarily occupied, in particular in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as part of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Kherson regions.

Access to part of the territories of the forest fund on the northern border of Ukraine is also limited, in particular within the Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions, which border the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation.

Demining is currently underway in the territories liberated from the occupation of the Russian Federation, as of the end of 2024, 75.3 thousand hectares were demined (examined). Hectares.

SE "Forests of Ukraine" is actively demining forest areas, attracting contractors through open bidding, which allows for more effective protection of forests from fires and opens the way for large-scale international projects. Thanks to this initiative, a tender was held during 2024 and 27.7 hectares of forests were additionally cleared at the expense of the enterprise.

In turn, at the end of the year, about 450 thousand. hectares of forest lands are considered potentially contaminated with explosive objects and require detailed examination, demining (cleaning).

The process of demining (clearing) forests is complicated by assigning them to the third category of demining out of the three existing ones, which means a lower level of priority compared to critical infrastructure and agricultural land. Because of this process, clearing forests of mines and explosive ordnance can take decades, limiting access to natural resources and recreational areas. Despite the complexity, sappers and foresters continue to work to return a safe space for people and ensure sustainable development.

Constant shelling taking place in the border areas does not make it possible to identify all the facts of forest destruction. There are also reports of illegal logging carried out in the temporarily occupied territories, so their total number will only grow due to the inability to inspect forests due to occupation and mining.

After the normalization of the situation in the territories that came out of temporary occupation, the enterprises of the industry are taking the following priority steps:

− inventory of forest plantations for their damage by illegal logging, forest fires and violation of land legislation;

− inventory of fire transport, equipment and inventory;

− restoration of the system of fire-fighting arrangement of forests;

− a set of measures aimed at protecting forests from fires, illegal logging, damage, weakening and other harmful effects, protection from pests and diseases;

− forest pathological examinations for the presence of foci of pests and diseases, weakening, drying out, damage to the forest and other types of harmful effects;

− checking the availability of preserved full-scale design of the territory of the forest fund, preservation of quarter, border, sighting pillars, etc.

forest management and forestry signs, barriers and other structures;

− resumption of the activities of the State Forest Protection within the executive authorities in order to prevent violations of the legislation in the field of protection, protection, use and reproduction of forests, timely detection of such violations and taking appropriate measures to eliminate them.

As a result of armed aggression in the forests of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency, illegal logging in the amount of 13.5 thousand hectares has already been detected. cube. m and 34.5 thousand square meters. hectares were covered by forest fires. The estimated amount of damage and losses as a result of forest fires is UAH 6.962 billion, as a result of illegal logging and damage to trees – UAH 0.393 billion.

In accordance with subparagraph 13 of paragraph 2 of the Procedure for determining damage and losses caused to Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 20.03.2022 No. 326 and the Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated 05.10.2022 No. 414 "On Approval of the Methodology for Determining Damage and Losses Caused to the Forest Fund as a Result of the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 24.10.2022 under No. 1308/38644, The State Forest Resources Agency analyzes the work of the Commissions to determine the facts of damage and losses caused to forestry lands, linear type protective plantations, forest nurseries, forest crops and hunting grounds, as well as their scale (hereinafter referred to as the Commission).

The estimated amount of damage and losses based on the results of the Commissions' work is UAH 2.470 billion.

In pursuance of the letters of the Prosecutor General's Office dated 26.09.2023 No. 12/4-22vykh-23 and dated 21.05.2024 No. 18/1/1-42081 vykh-24, in order to establish the facts in criminal proceedings regarding the organization by representatives of the Russian Federation of an armed invasion of the territory of Ukraine, missile and bomb strikes, violation of the laws and customs of war, as well as the commission of other criminal offenses on the grounds of crimes on the territory of Ukraine, the State Forest Resources Agency monthly to the Office of the General the prosecutor sends information on the amount of damage and losses caused to the forest fund of Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

Also, in pursuance of the instructions of the Ministry of Environment dated 13.01.2023 No. 25/7-34/630-23 regarding the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 30.12.2022 No. 1219-r "On Approval of the Action Plan of the Executive Authorities for the Restoration of the De-Occupied Territories of Territorial Communities" and dated 12.09.2023 No. 25/2-22/14403-23 regarding the Decision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management dated 10.05.2023 No. 162/8 "On Recommendations of the Committee hearings on the topic: "The impact of hostilities on the environment in Ukraine and its restoration to its natural state", the State Forest Resources Agency constantly provides information on the amount of damage and losses caused to the forest fund of Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. In particular, the relevant letters were sent to the Ministry of Environment dated 20.12.2024 No. 02-18/7352-24 and No. 02-18/7354-24.

Workplace safety is a priority for forest workers, especially in wartime. Already 2963 employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the management of the State Forest Resources Agency and its territorial bodies have undergone specialized training on the risks associated with mines and explosive remnants of war. This allows them to avoid risks associated with mines and explosive remnants of war, which can threaten both their lives and the environmental stability of forest lands.

In 2025, it is planned to continue this initiative - about 600 employees will be trained. Educational programs include theoretical and practical classes, training in the identification of dangerous objects and algorithms of actions in case of their detection.

Such measures are critical for the safe work of foresters, as forests in many regions of Ukraine remain potentially dangerous due to hostilities. The State Forest Resources Agency continues to work to minimize risks and improve the safety of industry workers.

### 3.2.3. Protection of forests from fires

During 2024, 1994 fires were extinguished in the forests of the industry on an area of almost 24.0 thousand ha, of which 215 are large forest fires on the total area 22.0 thousand ha, including more than 1.6 thousand ha of wildfires. The average area of one fire was 12.0 ha. Estimated losses amounted to more than UAH 13.8 billion. Also, the State Emergency Service is actively helping in the elimination of forest fires, with their participation 1.117 forest fires were eliminated, which is 57% of cases.

The spring of 2024 turned out to be warmer than normal. In the western and northern regions, there was a risk of floods, and in the east and south - droughts. In April, the average fire hazard coefficient (hereinafter referred to as FHC) in Ukraine exceeded the 3rd class, in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions – 4. In May, the FHC exceeded 4 classes, and in Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Donetsk regions – almost 5, which led to an increase in the number of fires.

Summer began with warm, days without extreme heat, but with a deficit of precipitation. In June, the FHC reached the 3rd grade, in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions – 4. The number of fires decreased, but the area increased to more than 6.4 thousand hectares. In July, due to an increase in temperature, the FHC reached 4-5 classes, the number of fires increased, but the area decreased. In August, FHC in Sumy, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv regions reached class 5, a significant number of fires were observed.

September was dry and warm, which led to an increase in fires by almost 3 times, and areas by 11 times. In October, the FHC decreased to class 3, the number of fires decreased by 6 times, the area - 11 times. In November, the fire danger decreased.

According to the number of recorded fires on the territory of the forest fund of the State Forest Resources Agency, the peaks of fires in the forests of Ukraine in 2024 fell on three months - May, August and September.

The prevailing warm, windy and dry weather conditions of the **2024** period undoubtedly influenced a significant increase in the number of forest fires compared to other years, but most of the major forest fires were caused by military aggression by the Russian Federation.

**Number of forest fires by month in 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **№** | **moon** | **Average FHC in Ukraine, class** | **quantity** | **Area, ha** | |
| **total** | **including wildfire** |
| 1 | February | 0 | 1 | 0,1 | 0 |
| 2 | March | 0 | 7 | 6,81 | 0 |
| 3 | April | 3 (3,2) | 144 | 421,49 | 0,2 |
| 4 | May | 4 (4,3) | 257 | 4759,98 | 5,0 |
| 5 | June | 3 (3,1) | 88 | 6469,21 | 52,0 |
| 6 | July | 4 (4,1) | 225 | 704,37 | 28,3 |
| 7 | August | 4 (4,3) | 285 | 867,2 | 30,4 |
| 8 | September | 4 (4,4) | 823 | 9812,66 | 1499,27 |
| 9 | October | 3 | 137 | 889,16 | 22,8 |
| 10 | November | 1 (0,5) | 27 | 32,14 | 0,3 |
| **Total:** | |  | **1994** | **23963,14** | **1638,27** |

### Number of large forest fires by region in 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **№** | **Region** | **Number of large forest fires** | **Area, ha** | **Area, ha including wildfire** |
| 1 | Kharkiv | 117 | 13 292,1 | 148,9 |
| 2 | Donetsk | 52 | 4 288,02 | 1,9 |
| 3 | Poltava | 12 | 2 968,6 | 1 335,3 |
| 4 | Kherson | 10 | 320,2 | 18,8 |
| 5 | Chernihiv region | 6 | 64,5 | 0 |
| 6 | Kirovohrad | 5 | 210,1 | 45,4 |
| 7 | Kyiv | 4 | 240,9 | 0 |
| 8 | Sumy | 4 | 48,62 | 0 |
| 9 | Dnipropetrovsk | 3 | 140,6 | 11,4 |
| 10 | Mykolaiv | 2 | 67,8 | 17,8 |
| 11 | Zhytomyr | 1 | 344,3 | 0 |
| 12 | Volyn | 1 | 25 | 0 |
| 13 | Rivne region | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| **Total:** | | **218** | **22 015,74** | **1 579,5** |
|  | | | | | |

The largest number of fires was recorded in Kharkiv (464 cases on an area of 13681.8 ha), Dnipropetrovsk (260 cases on an area of 461.1 ha), Donetsk (242 cases on an area of 4629.9 ha), Kyiv (236 cases on an area of 351.4 ha), Poltava (152 cases on an area of 3063.8 ha) regions, which is 68% of the total number and 93% of the total area.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dynamics of the area of forest fires, ha**  80000  74623   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | |  |  | |  | | |  |  | |  |  | |  | | |  |  | |  |  | |  | | |  |  | |  |  | |  | | |  |  | |  |  | |  | | |  |  | |  | 22893 | | 23963 | | | 12 | 713 | 15259 |  |  |  |  |  | | 3399 | 4521 4575 3311  1239 612 220 | 5 2447 1101 | 474  1297 1065 | 289 |  | 907 |  |   70000  60000  50000  40000  30000  20000  10000  0  2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 |

*\*After demining the territories liberated from the occupiers and examining forest plantations, forest fires that occurred in 2023 were detected.*

According to official data, in 2024, 23 cases of emergencies due to forest fires were recorded on an area of 17,946.1 ha of forests, in particular:

Kharkiv region – 12 cases of fires with a total area of 11,540.2 ha, of which 97.4 ha are wildfires.

Donetsk region – 9 cases of fires with a total area of 3,611.6 ha.

Poltava region – 2 emergencies that destroyed 2,794.3 ha of forests, including 1,335 ha of wildfires.

At the same time, it is impossible to assess the damage from all forest fires and carry out instrumental surveying of the areas covered by fire. They will be adjusted after the end of hostilities and the liberation and demining of the temporarily occupied territories.

The main causes of forest fires are the ignition of plantations as a result of Russian aggression (45%). The share of forest fires caused by violation of fire safety rules in forests by the population, burning of dry vegetation and non-compliance with fire safety measures during work is 35%, for other reasons - 20%.

The State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine (SFRA) is actively implementing modern methods of monitoring and control of forest fires, connecting traditional means of use with advanced technologies.

One of the main tools for solving wildfires is a network of fire observation towers. These structures allow you to inspect large areas of the forest fund, which contributes to the prompt detection of fires.

A network of 486 fire observation towers (masts) has been created in the forests, 402 of which are equipped with modern television surveillance systems for prompt detection of forest fires.

Also, in order to improve accuracy and efficiency, the State ForestResources Agency uses satellite images that allow detecting temperature anomalies on the territory of the forest fund. This data helps to identify fires, even in remote or hard-to-reach areas, especially those that are not covered by fire observation towers.

In addition, enterprises, institutions and organizations of the industry are actively involved in the elimination of fires that occur in natural ecosystems outside forests (fields, meadows, peat bogs, garbage dumps, agricultural lands, etc.), in particular, 4.8 thousand ha are involved in the elimination of cases of such fires on a total area of 2.7 thousand ha.

To prevent forest fires, 39.7 thousand kilometres of mineralised strips were arranged, 177.3 thousand km of them were maintained, 8.094 visual posters were installed. 1122 speeches in the media were held, including 70 on television and 415 on radio. 613 articles were published and 8470 lectures and conversations were held.

The State Forest Guard carried out about 11.0 thousand raids on compliance with the requirements of the Fire Safety Rules in the forests of Ukraine, more than 500 administrative protocols were drawn up against violators of the mentioned Rules for a total of 830 thousand hryvnias.

In order to eliminate the consequences of the emergency situation caused by large-scale fires in natural ecosystems and in connection with the constant shelling of the forest fund by the Russian Federation, the State Forest Resources Agency issued Order No. 272 dated 09.09.2024 regarding the additional involvement and secondment of forces and means with appropriate equipment and support to the Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk regions in the amount of 5 units per region, in order to localize and eliminate possible emergencies in forests.

In order to ensure the safe recreation of the population in the forest, industry workers on the territory of Ukraine before the invasion of the Russian federation arranged about 1.7 thousand recreation centers, today about 1.1 thousand. This is only about 60% of the total number that was previously available.

During 2024, more than 2 million Ukrainians visited recreational centers.

As part of the All-Ukrainian Recreation Development Program for the recreation of the population of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" in 2024, 55 new typical recreational centers were equipped. It is planned to create five classes of leisure centers throughout the country - from small, simple ones to complexes with full-fledged infrastructure. The design will proceed on a modular principle based on typical small architectural forms.



Their locations can be found on https://e [forest.gov.ua/rekreatsiia/](https://e-forest.gov.ua/rekreatsiia/) and <https://forestry.org.ua/mv>.

#### 3.2.4. Protection of forests from pests and diseases

An important area of activity of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency is the protection of forests from pests and diseases and other negative impacts.

Rapid climate change causes a critical deterioration in the sanitary condition of forests, provoking massive drying of trees and the spread of pests. Over the past decade, the average annual temperature in temperate latitudes has increased by 1.5°C, and the amount of precipitation in the summer has decreased by 20-30%, which created ideal conditions for the development of pests and diseases. In addition, the increase in the frequency of abnormal weather phenomena, such as powerful storms, hurricane winds and heavy rains, leads to large-scale windstorms, landslides, and significantly weakens forest ecosystems. As a result of these changes, thousands of hectares of forests lose their ability to self-regenerate, which threatens both biodiversity and the water balance of the regions.

During 2024, new foci of drying out of plantations were recorded on an area of 164.9 thousand ha, 138.9 thousand ha were liquidated. The balance as of December 31, 2024 is 218.7 thousand. ha, of which Scots pine plantations – 92.2 thousand. ha, common oak – 73.4 thousand ha, European spruce – 7.7 thousand ha and other species – 45.4 thousand ha.

### Dynamics of drying areas of plantations of the State Forest Resources Agency (thou ha)



**316**

**337**

**35**

**3**

**393**

**413**

**269**

**259**

**255**

**20**

**2**

**194**

**218**

**2014**

**2005**

**2016**

**2017**

**2018**

**2019**

**2020**

**2021**

**2022**

**2023**

**2024**

*\*information excluding data on Luhansk, parts of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kherson regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea*

In 2024, stands damaged by windfalls and on an area of 11 thousand ha with a total weight of 304.2 thousand m³, including on the lands of the nature reserve fund 0.6 thousand ha with a total weight of 11.2 thousand m³.

The consequences of natural disasters in plantations on a total area of 10.5 thousand ha were eliminated, and 292.7 thousand m³ of wood were harvested, which is 87% by area and 84% by weight of the total volume.

The plantations of Rivne (3.0 thousand ha), Zhytomyr (1.6 thousand ha), Volyn (1.6 thousand ha), Transcarpathian (1.6 thousand ha) regions suffered the most from natural disasters.

Measures to improve the sanitary condition of forests were carried out on an area of 140.4 thousand ha, while wood in the amount of 5.3 million m³ was harvested.

In 2024, new foci of forest pests and diseases emerged on an area of 117.7 thousand ha, 99.4 thousand ha were eliminated by control measures, 17.3 thousand ha were extinguished due to natural factors, and the balance of outbreaks as of 31 December 2024 was 529.6 thousand ha.

The State Forest Resources Agency annually organizes technical exercises with the state forest protection with the involvement of forest pathologists of state specialized forest protection enterprises. This measure is carried out in order to timely identify, localize and eliminate foci of pests, forest diseases and other pathological processes that cause degradation of forest plantations.

In 2024, the State Forest Resources Agency provided online technical training with employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the SFRA on the peculiarities of phenological and biological development and the application of preventive measures to prevent further accumulation and spread of dangerous species of stem pests. A training seminar was also provided on the organization of a set of works to protect forests from forest pests and diseases, their timely detection and elimination in forest plantations of the branches of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", in particular "Bila Tserkva Forestry" (Kyiv region), "Myrhorod Forestry" (Poltava region), "Chortkiv Forestry" (Ternopil region). Technical training was provided with the forest protection of the Northern and Capital forest offices on the peculiarities of the development of foci of the common pine sawfly in pine plantations of the branch "Chernihiv Forestry" and of the joint forest pathological survey of pine plantations of the branch "Cherkasy Forest Economy" of Central Forest Office SE "Forests of Ukraine" in the center of mass reproduction of stem pests.

Online training with the State Food and Consumer Service of Ukraine was provided. The State Food and Consumer Service provided technical training with employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency on the peculiarities of the development and further spread of the quarantine pest - ash emerald narrow-leaved goldfinch.

According to Section 2 of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine and the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, a working meeting was held at the Department of Environmental Protection and Adaptation to Climate Change of the executive body of the Kyiv City Council (Kyiv City State Administration) on the distribution, localization and elimination of the ash emerald narrow-leaved goldfinch (*AgrilusplanipennisFairmaire*) on the territory of the city of Kyiv.

#### 3.2.5. Forest protection enterprises

The creation and cultivation of a forest is impossible without solving the problem of its protection at all stages of development. The task of state specialized forest protection enterprises is the timely organization and implementation of a set of measures aimed at preserving forest and other plantations from the negative impact of pests, forest diseases, economic activity, other biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic environmental factors.

In 2024, the Concept for the Development of State Specialized Forest Protection Enterprises for 2025-2029 was approved, one of the areas of implementation of which provides for regular training of specialists of the State Forest Protection Service and Forest Protection Enterprises, annual technical trainings for employees of forest protection enterprises with the involvement of scientists, including international experts in forest protection. This will contribute to the introduction of modern methods of protecting forests from pests and diseases, increase the level of practical skills of employees and the effectiveness of forest protection measures. Interaction with international organizations will allow adopting best practices in forest protection and increase the effectiveness of forest protection measures.

Further steps have been identified to improve the work of forest protection enterprises in the short and long term.

In 2024, the state specialised forest protection enterprise Kharkivlisozahyst, in cooperation with URIFFM and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, launched a pilot research project to create clone plantations of common ash to test the resistance of Swedish clones to ash chalar necrosis (Hymenoscyphusfraxineus) and ash emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis). The team of Ukraine, consisting of specialists from the SFRA, SFE Lvivlisozahyst and the SE ‘Forests of Ukraine’, took part in the international hackathon ‘Protecting the tree - saving the future’, organised by StoraEnso in cooperation with its partner Bioboosters, with the aim of introducing innovative and environmentally friendly solutions to protect wood from pests and diseases in the face of climate change (Valmiera, Latvia). The team presented the idea of ‘Growing the common ant in the laboratory’. Participation in the hackathon provided an opportunity to communicate with Latvian and Swedish colleagues and scientists working to protect forests from pests and diseases..

At an extended meeting of the board of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine on September 5, 2024, the issue "On the results of the activities of state specialized forest protection enterprises" was considered.

Each natural zone of Ukraine (Polissia, Forest-Steppe, Steppe, Carpathians and Crimea) has its own list of main forest pests and diseases, which requires detailed monitoring and diagnostics at the regional level.

Taking into account the principles of natural zoning and optimization of service areas, in 2024, the reorganization (improvement of the structure) of state forest protection enterprises was carried out. As a result, four enterprises were created on the basis of seven existing ones (excluding the temporarily occupied SFE "Krymlisozachyst"), by terminating the activities of three state specialized forest protection enterprises "Rivnelisozachyst", "Vinnytsialissozahyst" and "Ivano-Frankivsklissozahyst".

## 3.3. USE OF FOREST RESOURCES

### 3.3.1. Sale of wood

In accordance with paragraph 26 of part four of the Regulation on the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 08.10.2014 No. 521, the SFRA, in accordance with the tasks assigned to it, takes measures to provide consumers with wood, wood products and other forestry and hunting products.

State forestry enterprises that belong to the sphere of management of SFRA (hereinafter referred to as forestry enterprises) sell timber in accordance with the legislation, in particular the provisions of the Laws of Ukraine "On Commodity Exchanges", "On Capital Markets and Organized Commodity Markets", "On Public Procurement", "On Defense Procurement".

According to the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting, the volume of liquid timber harvesting by enterprises of the State Forest Resources Agency from all types of logging in 2024 amounted to about 12.6 million m3, of which about 5.8 million m3 of round timber, 0.2 million m3 of long timber, 3.6 million m3 of firewood for industrial use and 3.0 million m3 of firewood for non-industrial use (firewood).

### Dynamics of timber harvesting for the period 2019-2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Forest users |  | Timber harvested, million m3 | | | |  |
| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| SFRA | 15,7 | 15,3 | 14,9 | 13,5 | 13,1 | 12,6 |
| Other | 2,5 | 2,5 | 2,7 | 2,4 | 2,6 | 2,3 |
| Total | 18,2 | 17,8 | 17,6 | 15,9 | 15,7 | 14,9 |

The stock of wood in the forests of Ukraine is estimated at 2.3 billion m3. The average annual natural increase is about 35 million m3. The average annual growth in the forests of the SFRA is about 3.9 m3/ha.

Ukrainian forests are used within 40% in terms of annual growth, while in the countries of the European Union the use of annual growth is 70-80%, in some cases up to 90%. This confirms the presence of significant economic and ecological potential of the forests of Ukraine.

The structure of harvesting by species groups consists of coniferous timber - 7.5 million m3, hardwood - 3.8 million m3 and soft-leaved species - 1.3 million m3.

About 12.7 million m3 of timber was sold to the domestic market, of which more than 5.9 million m3 of round timber, 3.8 million m3 of firewood for industrial use and 3.0 million m3 of firewood for non-industrial use.

The total volume of timber sold at current wholesale prices (excluding VAT) amounted to more than UAH 23.0 billion.

Forestry enterprises provided an increase in total sales by 0.8 million m3 compared to last year (2023) and income from the sale of timber by UAH 2.5 billion.

### Timber sales indicators for the period 2019-2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | Timber sold | | | | | |
| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Total volume, million m3 | 13,0 | 12,9 | 12,7 | 10,9 | 11,9 | 12,7 |
| Total cost (excluding VAT), UAH million | 11.445,3 | 10.980,1 | 17.924,1 | 18.921,8 | 20.542,2 | 22.996,5 |
| The cost of an indifferent cubic metre of wood sold (excluding VAT), UAH | 881 | 850 | 1.412 | 1.740 | 1.720 | 1.810 |

The weighted average cost of one impersonal cubic meter of timber sold in 2024 was UAH 1.810 (excluding VAT), which is UAH 90 (or 5%) more than last year.

The cost of an impersonal cubic meter of round timber amounted to UAH 2860, which is UAH 131 more than last year, firewood for industrial use – UAH 946 (-UAH 113), firewood for non-industrial use – UAH 871 (+UAH 30).

The cost of an indifferent cubic meter of round pine timber was UAH 2.070, oak timber – UAH 10.926, beech – UAH 2.922, birch – UAH 2.334, alder – UAH 2.243.

The regulations adopted in the pre-war year made it possible to improve and modernize the exchange trade in timber, to provide the domestic market with timber and financial revenues to the forestry of Ukraine.

According to the results of electronic auctions (competitive procedures) on commodity exchanges licensed by the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, the volume of timber sales amounted to more than 9.7 million m3, the total selling value was about UAH 20.1 billion.

As part of the implementation of the measures of the State Anti-Corruption Program for 2023-2025, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 04.03.2023 No. 220, the State Forest Resources Agency monitors the sale of timber at auctions. Information on monitoring is published on the official website of the State Forest Resources Agency

[https://forest.gov.ua/napryamki-diyalnosti/vikoristannya-lisovih-resursiv/monitorynhrealizatsii-/monitorynh-realizatsii-za-2024-rik.](https://forest.gov.ua/napryamki-diyalnosti/vikoristannya-lisovih-resursiv/monitorynh-realizatsii-/monitorynh-realizatsii-za-2024-rik)

Under "direct" contracts, 3.0 million m3 of timber was sold, the total selling value of which amounted to more than UAH 2.9 billion, of which 99% of the specified volume of timber was purchased for the needs of citizens and the social sphere of Ukraine.

The State Forest Resources Agency, through forestry enterprises, meets the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations with timber in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the Transfer, Forced Alienation or Seizure of Property under the Legal Regime of Martial Law or State of Emergency" in accordance with the requests of the military command. In 2024, the company transferred 215.4 thousand m3 of timber products worth UAH 391.1 million. In addition, under the contracts concluded in 2024, 148.2 thousand m3 of timber worth UAH 458 million were supplied for defence purposes in 2014.

Thanks to the organizational measures taken, it was possible to ensure the proper volumes of harvesting and sale of firewood for the sustainable passage of the heating season 2024-2025. In 2024, 2.9 million m3 of firewood was sold, including 2.3 million m3 to the population.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 483 dated 12.05.2023, the State Forest Resources Agency ensured the issuance of certificates of origin of timber in electronic form, during 2024, through the Unified Environmental Platform ‘EcoSystem’, more than 92.3 thousand applications were processed, as a result of 68.3 thousand certificates of origin of timber and and timber made from them, and in 24 thousand cases, the issuance of a certificates were refused. Before the introduction of the e-Certificate, there were no cases of official refusals. Thanks to the introduction of this electronic service, it was possible to cut off the possibility of exporting wood products whose origin is not confirmed.

#### 3.3.2. Electronic accounting of timber

Electronic timber accounting (ETA) is carried out by forest owners and permanent forest users of Ukraine in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 04.12.2019 No. 1142 "On Approval of the Procedure for Monitoring the Domestic Consumption of Domestic Timber Unprocessed and Control over the Not Exceeding the Volume of Domestic Consumption of Domestic Timber Unprocessed" and the Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated 27.09.2021 No. 621, registered in Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 13.10.2021 under No. 1343/36965 "On Approval of the Instruction on Electronic Timber Accounting".

Systematization of information on the origin, harvesting and sale of timber is carried out by the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting (hereinafter referred to as ETA).

As of December 31, 2024, 384 permanent forest users of various organizational and legal forms of management in all regions of Ukraine carried out economic transactions in the electronic timber accounting system.

The administrator of the State Enterprise "Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center" has developed and implemented:

− photo fixation during the sale of forest products and the formation of consignment notes by all forest users;

− updating the systems and types of logging in the ETA system in accordance with the amendments made to the legislation;

− distribution of applications for the issuance of a logging ticket between the territorial bodies of the State Forestry Agency, taking into account the location of the forest plot at the program level;

− additional functionality for transferring information in the ETA system from the reorganized branches of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" to the newly created ones.

Access to the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting is granted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

The State Forest Resources Agency provides public access to information on the use of forest resources. On the official website of the administrator of the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting, it is possible to check the legality of timber harvesting by online checking the availability of a logging ticket ([https://lk.ukrforest.com),](https://lk.ukrforest.com/) as well as checking timber by tag number, consignment note number and vehicle number [(https://open.ukrforest.com)](https://open.ukrforest.com/).

#### 3.3.3. Construction of forest roads

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 11.05.2011 No. 560, the State Forest Resources Agency approved 67 projects of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" for the construction of 227.4 km of forest roads.

In total, during 2024, 253.6 km of forest roads were built and overhauled, including, according to the results of public procurement with the involvement of contractors, 55 objects with a total length of 191.1 km and 19 objects with a length of 62.5 kilometers in an economic way (by the own forces of the branches of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine").

Most forest roads were built in the branches of the Polissya Forest Office of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" – 177.5 km, as well as in Stolychne – 39.0 km, Podilskyi – 16.7 km and Carpathian – 13.6 km.

Due to the onset of adverse weather conditions, 13 facilities with a total length of 41 km were postponed to the construction season of 2025, which will be built with the involvement of contractors and 5 facilities with a length of 21.4 km in an economic way.

In order to prepare for the construction season of 2025, public procurement was announced for the construction of 11 facilities with a total length of 37.5 km of forest roads.

The adoption of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 25.10.2024 No. 1239 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Logging in the Forests of Ukraine" will contribute to an increase in the construction of forest roads.

#### 3.3.4. Capital investments in fixed assets of production

All procurement procedures were carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine "On Public Procurement".

To expand the machine and tractor fleet and update equipment for the protection and protection of forests, to ensure forestry activities, 163 off-road vehicles, 139 pickup trucks, 44 units of tractor equipment, 41 forest fire modules, 8 units of tillage equipment, 12 trailer platforms, 23 fire modules on trailers were purchased.

As part of the mechanization of timber harvesting and removal, 55 units of tractor semi-trailers with a manipulator, 6 powerful forest manipulators were purchased.

To carry out the uninterrupted operation of enterprises, 1 administrative car, 3 minibuses were purchased to ensure efficient transportation of employees of the enterprise and branches.

For the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, forestry enterprises have transferred 818 units of cars, tractors and specialized equipment, of which 47 units were transferred in 2024.

## 3.4. DIGITALIZATION OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY

1. e-Logging ticket.

In the national online platform "EcoSystem", in the section for obtaining e-services in the field of forestry "e-Forest", in 2024, a pilot project for the issuance of a logging ticket continued to operate.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 12, 2023 No. 483 "On the implementation of the pilot project on the issuance of a special permit for the special use of forest resources (logging ticket) and a certificate of origin of timber and sawn timber made from them in electronic form" was adopted, which approved the Procedure for the implementation of the pilot project on the issuance of a special permit for the special use of forest resources (logging ticket) in electronic form Form.

In accordance with this Procedure, a special permit for the special use of forest resources (logging ticket) (hereinafter referred to as the logging ticket) in electronic form is issued by the territorial body of the State Forest Resources Agency, the executive authority on forestry of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea with the obligatory entry of information into the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting no later than the next working day from the date of issuance of the logging ticket.

By the Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated 21.07.2023, No 520 "On Approval of the Forms of Documents Required for the Implementation of the Pilot Project for the Issuance of a Special Permit for the Special Use of Forest Resources (Logging Ticket) and a Certificate of Origin of Timber and Lumber Made from Them in Electronic Form", which was registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 25.08.2023 under No 1485/40541, approval of the form of documents required for the implementation of the pilot project for the issuance of a special permit for the special use of forest resources (logging ticket).

In 2024, new types of logging were added, taking into account the requirements of the current legislation, in particular, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 25, 2024 No. 1239 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Logging in the Forests of Ukraine", as well as the submission of an updated list of documents for obtaining an electronic logging ticket.

Automatic distribution of applications for the issuance of a logging ticket between the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency, taking into account the location of the forest plot, is ensured.

The functionality for calculating a detailed material and monetary valuation of a cutting area has been developed in accordance with the form approved by the Order of the Ministry of Environment No. 520 dated July 21, 2023.

According to the State Enterprise "Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center", in 2024, the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency issued logging tickets in electronic form in the amount of 106.362 pcs. for a total weight of 17.476.9 thousandm3, including enterprises belonging to the management of the SFRA, issued logging tickets in electronic form in the amount of 87.446 pcs. for a total weight of 14.842,2 thousand m3, of these, 15.415 pcs were issued for felling for main use for the total mass – 6.655,6 thousand tons m3. Enterprises that do not belong to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency were issued logging tickets in electronic form in the amount of 18916 pcs for the total weight – 2.634,6 thousand tons. m3, of which 2.964 pcs for the total mass – 979.3 thousand tons. m3.

In general, since the beginning of the experimental procedure, the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency have issued logging tickets in electronic form in the amount of 108.551 pcs for a total weight of 17.695,5 thousand tons m3, including enterprises belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency – 89.534 pcs for a total weight of 15.052,4 thousand tons m3, of which 1.5501 pcs for a total weight of 6.682,6 thousand tons m3. Enterprises that do not belong to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency were issued logging tickets in electronic form in the amount of 19.017 pcs for a total weight of 2.643,1 thousand tons m3, of which 2.972 pieces for main use felling for a total weight of 981.5 thousand m3.

1. e-Certificate.

In 2024, functionality was introduced that allows exporters to provide the so-called return waste obtained during the processing of timber and which can be used, for example, as heating, the manufacture of various types of products, etc., to obtain a certificate of origin of timber and lumber made from them.

The possibility of uploading a report in Microsoft Excel format with information on products on the basis of documents on the purchase of timber has been implemented, which simplified the work of employees of the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency on the verification of documents.

In 2024, 92.383 applications for an e-Certificate were processed, as a result: 68.250 certificates were issued, 24.133 cases were refused.

1. Additional functional improvements have been developed and implemented:

* photo fixation during the sale of wood and the formation of consignment notes by all forest users and forest owners, regardless of the form of ownership;
* the ETA application on Android OS has been updated to version 2.0 to optimized;
* functionality for automatic transfer of wood residues in case of reorganization of forestry enterprises has been developed;
* The Trembita software product for issuing special permit for special use of forest resources (logging ticket) and certificate of origin of timber and timber products made from it timber in electronic form;
  1. Comprehensive information protection system of hunting industry networks. The first stage of the technical process of creating an integrated information security system of the information and telecommunication system "Hunter", consisting of an automated information system "Hunter" and a data transmission network, was implemented by finalizing the mechanisms for distinguishing access in the information system and achieving maximum protection efficiency due to the simultaneous targeted use of all necessary resources.
  2. The process of merging structurally disparate regional databases into the Unified Database "Hunter" has begun. All regional databases have already been obtained, their structure has been studied and a plan for merging decentralized databases into a single database with a unified structure has been developed.
  3. Business analytics of the Unified State System of Electronic Timber Accounting was carried out and technical solutions were developed to meet the requirements of the forestry management system, form a comprehensive mechanism to promote the implementation of EUDR and integrate the forest products supply chain into the European traceability system.
  4. A draft of the Procedure for conducting a pilot project on the functioning of the system of remote monitoring of the movement of vehicles transporting timber has been developed. Technical requirements for the satellite monitoring system for motor vehicles and GPS monitoring devices have also been developed. It is supposed to display the location of the vehicle in real time, its control, direction and speed of movement. Creation and mapping of control zones of the vehicle's location, generation of reports on various criteria (speed, time, visiting zones, path). For a clear display, the use of cartographic services is envisaged. Integration with the services of the Unified State System of Electronic Accounting of Wood is envisaged.
  5. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine and the Department of Aviation Security of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine for LIDAR scanning of forests, in order to implement a pilot project of aviation laser scanning of forests of Ukraine using LIDAR technology to obtain up-to-date information on the state of forest resources. Currently, SE "Forests of Ukraine" has begun work on the purchase of the necessary equipment for the functioning of the LIDAR system.
  6. URIFFM has also developed a geoportal "Forests of Ukraine" and mobile applications for access and obtaining information on forestry.

## 3.5. HUNTING ECONOMY

The area of hunting grounds in Ukraine, which are provided for use by enterprises, institutions, organizations, is 38.8 million hectares (64% of the total area of Ukraine), of which 24.3 million hectares or 63% of the total area were provided to Ukrainian Society of Hunters and Anglers organizations, 4 million hectares or 10% of the total area were provided to the enterprises of the State Forest Resources Agency, and 10.5 million hectares or 27% of the total area were provided to users of other forms of ownership (private enterprises, clubs, public organizations). Hunting economy is carried out by about 1.100 users of hunting grounds.

According to the operational information of the territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency, during 2024 in Ukraine, 611 protocols were drawn up for violators of hunting rules, resolutions were issued for a total of 254.2 thousand rubles. UAH, including 480 protocols were drawn up by forestry employees (78.6% of all protocols), Ukrainian Society of Hunters and Anglers – 13 (2.1%), the State Environmental Inspectorate – 106 (17.3%), the Ministry of Internal Affairs – 4 (0.7%) and other users of hunting grounds – 8 (1.3%).

It should be noted that more active work on the protection of the state hunting fund is carried out by employees of hunting farms of Volyn, Transcarpathian and Zhytomyr regions. For the current year, they drew up 80, 53 and 51 protocols for violators of hunting rules, respectively. Damages for illegal hunting of animals were presented in the total amount of 991 thousand UAH, and 622 thousand hryvnias were reimbursed.

Hunters were provided with 57.181 administrative services, including the issuance of a hunter's certificate and its duplicates to 1.962 persons, control cards for accounting of game and violations of hunting rules with duplicates – to 55.219 persons. The amount of funds credited to local budgets for the provision of administrative services for the issuance of hunter's licenses and annual control cards with duplicates amounted to UAH 672.2 thousand. hryvnias.

Due to russia's military aggression against Ukraine, limited hunting to regulate the number of predatory and other hunting animals took place only in Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv and Cherkasy regions. In these regions, 343 individuals of wild boar were caught, and 21 animals were euthanised by regional commissions (State Emergency Anti-Epizootic Commission) in enclosures due to the confirmation of an African swine fever case (Poltava region).

In order to prevent the spread of rabies in a number of regions, in accordance with the decisions of the State Emergency Anti-Epizootic Commission, in coordination with regional military administrations, territorial bodies of the State Forest Resources Agency, 640 permits were issued for shooting and capturing predatory and harmful animals in 2024. These are Lviv, Zakarpattia, Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy regions.

In Volyn, Donetsk, Kyiv, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi regions, the regulation of the number of predatory and harmful animals was allowed only to huntress services of users of hunting grounds.

Only in Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Kherson regions, measures to regulate the number of carnivorous animals were not carried out.

Thanks to these measures, 256 wolves, 16.735 red foxes, 439 raccoon dogs, 195 jackals, 4.353 feral dogs and 1038 feral cats were caught in 2024.

Within the limits approved by the Ministry of Environment, in accordance with the petitions of interregional forestry and hunting departments, the State Forest Resources Agency issued license forms for the hunting of game animals for a total amount of UAH 3.43 million. Users of hunting grounds sold licenses to hunters in the amount of UAH 1.329 million.

In 2024, the State Forest Resources Agency prepared a draft order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Strategy for the Development of the Hunting Industry for the Period until 2035". This draft order was developed in order to determine the basic principles of the state policy of hunting economy, ensuring sustainable hunting economy on the basis of non-exhaustive use of the state hunting fund, ensuring the protection and reproduction of game animals, providing services to hunters for hunting.

The draft order was agreed with all regional military administrations, central executive authorities and sent to the Ministry of Environment for submission to the government.

A draft Order of the Ministry of Environment "On Approval of the Rules for State Registration of Game Animals and the Volume of Their Production" has also been prepared. The document has been agreed by all CEBs and is under consideration by the Ministry of Environment.

The adoption of the draft act is conditioned by the need to comply with the requirements of paragraph ten of Article 6 of the Law of Ukraine "On Hunting and Shooting" (hereinafter referred to as the Law) and subparagraph 156 of paragraph 4 of the Regulation on the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated June 25, 2020 No. 614, which establish that the competence of the central executive body that ensures the formation of state policy in the field of forestry and hunting economy is responsible for approving the rules of state accounting of game animals and the volume of their production.

According to the fifth paragraph of Article 6-1 of the Law, the powers of the central executive body that implements the state policy in the field of forestry and hunting in the field of hunting economy and shooting include state accounting of the number and hunting of game animals.

Paragraph 16 of the Regulation on the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 8, 2014 No. 521, establishes that the State Forest Resources Agency keeps state records of the number and harvesting of game animals, and in accordance with paragraph 7 of this Regulation, exercises its powers directly and through territorial bodies established in accordance with the established procedure.

In accordance with the fifth paragraph of part two of Article 30 of the Law, users of hunting grounds are obliged to conduct a primary accounting of the number and hunting of game animals, to study their condition and characteristics of the lands and to submit this information in accordance with the established procedure to the bodies that carry out state accounting of the number of animals and accounting for their extraction, maintaining the state cadastre and monitoring of the animal world. A similar provision of Article 34 of the Law of Ukraine "On Wildlife" obliges to conduct a primary accounting of the number and use of wild animals of all users of wildlife objects.

## 3.6. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 3.6.1. Cooperation with international organizations and processes

The international activities of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine are focused on cooperation with international organizations and bilateral partnerships, which are implemented in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1371 of September 13, 2002.

During the year, the State Forest Resources Agency actively cooperated with international organizations to implement joint projects, the purpose of which is not only to support forestry and hunting in Ukraine, but also to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources, biodiversity protection and adaptation to climate change.

Key partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministerial Conference on Forest Protection in Europe, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the institutions of the European Union.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, have become key benchmarks in the activities of numerous international organizations and processes in the field of forestry:

### United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Participated in the consultations and work of the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and in the discussion of the mid-term report on the implementation of international agreements on forests (2015-2030). A statement was made on behalf of Ukraine regarding the consequences of russia's military aggression for the forests and forest sector of Ukraine.

### Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI)

Participated in the 82nd session of the Committee on Forests and Forestry of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (COFFI). Key issues related to forestry and climate change are considered in the context of the discussion of the EU Regulation on Deforestation and Forest Degradation (EUDR) 2023/1115. A report on the timber market in Ukraine and the member countries of the Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on Forests and Forest Industry (COFFI) is presented. The importance of youth issues, gender equality and inclusion in the forest sector was discussed.

### Meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Forestry (COFO) and World Forest Week (WFW)

Participated in the 27th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 9th World Forest Week (WFW). A new report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) titled "The State of the World's Forests 2024: From Forest Sector Innovation to a More Sustainable Future" has been presented, which highlights the need for innovative solutions to address the global challenges facing forests. The work plans of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for 2024-2031 within the framework of the Roadmap for Forestry were heard.

### Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on forest statistics, economics and management

Participated in the 45th session of the joint working group of organizations. Further cooperation of Ukraine with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on forest statistics, economy and management was agreed in the context of the adopted Strategy for Forestry Support for 2023-2027.

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Donors' Conference

Participated in the 4th Donors' Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was discussed that the current activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the field of forestry are consonant with the program of the State Forest Management Strategy of Ukraine until 2035 and the creation of the Forest Sector Advisory Support Network (FAN) within the framework of technical support was initiated. The list of experts who will be involved in FAN at the initial stage has been determined.

### Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe)

Participated in the high-level political process of the 9th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe). 2 voluntary documents were signed, but which have a significant international impact: the Bonn Ministerial Declaration "Europe's Forest – Preserving the Concept of Sustainable Forest Management for the Future" and the Bonn Ministerial Resolution "Sustainable Forest Management as a Tool for Increasing Forest Resilience". Reports were heard from representatives of relevant ministries of European countries with the participation of more than 160 participants from the public sector of the pan-European region, as well as observer organizations who presented their views on the formation of sustainable forest management.

The Process also took part in the work of expert groups on the Pan-European Concept of Sustainable Forestry (SFM), the Pan-European Forest Risk Fund (FoRISK), as well as Green Jobs and Forest Education (Green Jobs).

### Meeting of the International Round Table of the Carpathian Convention

The meeting of the international round table on the topic: "Environmental, legal, scientific, educational and cross-border aspects of the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols", which was attended by about 80 representatives of state authorities, local self-government, scientific and environmental institutions, as well as representatives of civil society from Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Germany.

### World Bank Regional Meeting

Participated in the regional meeting within the framework of the EU4Environment – Result Area project on the topic: "Promoting biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries". Financing of investment projects for afforestation and afforestation for ecosystem restoration, promotion of the Emerald and Natura 2000 network, as well as regulation of deforestation in the EU were discussed. The meeting brought together representatives of the governments of the Eastern Partnership countries, EU institutions, international financial organizations, academia and the World Bank, which acted as the main organizer of the event.

### World Forest Feller Championship

They took part in the 35th World Logging Championships in accordance with the invitation of the International Association Logging Championships, where foresters won prizes in several categories.

### SFI Project Steering Group Meeting

Participated in the 4th meeting of the steering group of the German SFI project "Technical support for the development of forest policy and the implementation of the National Forest Inventory (NFI)". The continuation of the project and further joint activities within the project were agreed.

### Conference of the German Forest Council (DFWR)

Participated in the visiting conference of the German Forestry Council (DFWR) on the topic: "Germany next to the Ukrainian forestry: potentials, challenges and ways to solve them for the forest industry and the woodworking industry of Ukraine". Confirmation was received from the German side on further cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Strategy to Support Forestry in Ukraine 2023-2027. During the event, participants presented a number of potential projects aimed at strengthening the Ukrainian forestry and woodworking sector. In particular, initiatives to promote sustainable forest management, restoration of war-damaged territories and innovative construction of wooden eco-houses. The introduction of an electronic logging ticket system and an electronic certificate of origin of wood was presented. German colleagues noted the high level of the electronic wood traceability chain and the readiness of the forest industry of Ukraine to implement the EUDR regulation.

### Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic States (EUSBSR)

Participated in the annual forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic States (EUSBSR). Important issues related to cooperation within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea (EUSBSR) are considered. Particular attention is paid to the Ukrainian perspective in this cooperation.

### Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Forest Stewardshi Council, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the EU project "Institutional and Policy Reform of Small-Scale Agriculture (IPRSA)"

The conference on the topic: "The impact of the European Union Regulation on Deforestation and Forest Degradation (EUDR) on Ukraine: prospects and risks" was presented. In particular, as a result of close cooperation on the EU project "Institutional and Policy Reform of Small-Scale Agriculture (IPRSA)", it is planned to exchange experience with Latvia on sustainable forest management and monitoring, in particular on the delimitation of management and control functions, examination of the implementation of EU regulations (EUDR) in the context of European integration, updating the electronic timber accounting system (EAS) to ensure sustainable and transparent nature management, as well as monitoring and monitoring control of forestry activities using modern technologies.

### Meetings on reforming state-owned enterprises

Participation in the exchange of experience with Lithuania on corporate governance reform within the framework of the USAID/UKaid project "Activities within the Framework of the Reform of State-Owned Enterprises of Ukraine" (SOERA).

In addition, participation in numerous international seminars and training Trips. Generally organized and issued over 90 business trips.

#### 3.6.2. Bilateral cooperation

During 2024, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine actively developed multilateral cooperation with a number of countries, including Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union. The main goal of this cooperation was the improvement of forestry and hunting, as well as environmental protection.

Germany continues to be a reliable partner of Ukraine on the path to recovery and sustainable development. In 2024, with the assistance of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

(Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, BMEL), 400 thousand US dollars were allocated within the framework of the project "Strengthening forestry planning for more efficient use of wood in the context of the war in Ukraine through the restoration of the Ukrainian Association of Forestry Planners" to strengthen Ukraine's capacity in the field of strategic planning of forestry management and the creation of a state forest cadastre. Cooperation within the framework of this project includes, in particular, the purchase of equipment and tools for the All-Ukrainian Union "Ukrderzhlisproekt" in order to conduct a national inventory of forests, as well as the development of terms of reference for the creation of the State Forest Cadastre of Ukraine.

Within the framework of international cooperation, four memorandums were signed with partner countries. In particular, a memorandum has been signed with the European Forest Institute concerning the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) and is in line with the strategic objectives and implementation plan of Phase VII (2025-2029).

A memorandum of cooperation was also signed with the Eurasia Foundation and the Public Organization "Better Regulation Delivery Office" (BRDO) within the framework of the international technical assistance project "Support for Digital Transformation".

In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Institute of Forest Management (Czech Republic) UHUL within the framework of the project "Strengthening Ukraine's Capacity in the Field of Forest Monitoring to Bring It in Line with EU Standards". A letter of intent was also signed with the Senkozyn Stary Forestry Research Institute (Poland) within the framework of the program "Support to Forest Monitoring in Ukraine".

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation, trips of two delegations to Germany and Denmark were organized at the invitation of the German Natural Forestry Association (ANW) and the Danish Nature Agency. The main topics of the exchange of experience were forestry close to nature and demonstration of modern logging technologies on the example of a marteloscope. Special attention is paid to hunting and improving the skills of using and maintaining forest machines.

**3.6.3. Integration of the forest industry in the context of the implementation of European Regulations**

In 2024, the process of integrating forestry norms with European law in Ukraine continued, which contributes to the country's approach to membership in the European Union.

The introduction of electronic tools, such as an electronic logging ticket and an electronic certificate of origin of wood, are key elements for adapting to European requirements and increasing the competitiveness of Ukrainian products in the European market. One of the important achievements of digitalization has been a significant reduction in paper workflow. This not only increases the transparency and efficiency of forest management, but also opens up opportunities for better monitoring and management of forest resources. As a result, it meets modern international standards and requirements.

Ukraine is already demonstrating a high level of readiness for the implementation of the European Union Regulation on Deforestation and Forest Degradation (EUDR).

Within the framework of the Association Agreement, bilateral meetings have also been launched within the framework of the official screening of forestry and hunting, which will contribute to improving cooperation between European countries in these areas.

Issues that promote trade, attraction of foreign direct investment in environmentally friendly goods and technologies, as well as the development of the use of renewable energy and energy-saving products have been worked out. These activities are carried out within the framework of the EU-Ukraine Subcommittee on Trade and Sustainable Development and the Subcommittee on Economy and Other Sectoral Cooperation of the EU-Ukraine Association Committee, which address issues of energy, transport, environment, climate change and civil protection.

An important stage was the familiarization with the EU Ukraine Facility Plan, according to which Ukraine must implement six environmental reforms in the period from 2024 to 2026.

Two draft proposals have been submitted to the Twinning program, which provides for the exchange of experience in the field of public regulation for the implementation of EU norms and standards.

A request has been submitted to the global program for the EU Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) project to support small-scale agriculture reform (IPRSA).

During the year, he took part in meetings of intergovernmental commissions with European countries, in particular: Ukrainian-Polish, Ukrainian-Latvian, Ukrainian-Slovak and Ukrainian-Czech mixed commissions on economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation.

International cooperation with the European Union continues within the framework of the SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood program, which finances projects that contribute to solving cross-border challenges together with organizations from EU and Eastern Partnership countries. As part of this cooperation, at the end of 2024, the joint DigiFor forestry digitalization project with the participation of European countries, including the Swedish Forestry Agency, the Finnish Forest Center, and the Riga City Forest, was successfully completed.

In addition, important projects are being implemented, such as the Agricultural Reform (IPRSA) and technical cooperation in the field of forestry between Germany and Ukraine, which is carried out within the framework of the bilateral cooperation program of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). This includes SFI/SNFI projects that contribute to capacity-building in forest policy.

Cooperation with the European Forest Institute (EFI) has been launched within the framework of the EUFORGEN programme related to Phase VII.

In order to implement European norms within the framework of the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Space, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine is actively working on the implementation of comprehensive measures that will ensure the accessibility of forest areas for all citizens, regardless of their physical capabilities. It is planned to create an adapted infrastructure, conduct training programs for specialists and actively cooperate with public organizations representing the interests of people with disabilities.

#### 3.6.4. International technical assistance projects

As part of international assistance to Ukraine, a significant amount of humanitarian and technical support was received from various donor countries. This assistance includes:

− 23 off-road vehicles from the Lithuanian State Enterprise of Forest Management;

− 6 forwarders and 1 harvester from the Danish Nature Agency;

− an off-road vehicle provided by the Institute of Forestry of the Czech Republic (UHUL);

− generator received from Food and Agricultural organization (FAO);

− Weather Inspector GSM weather station from the Biodiversity Conservation Fund of the Slovak Republic, which will contribute to the monitoring of climatic conditions for effective management of natural resources;

− two off-road vehicles, as well as two motor boats from the Frankfurt Zoological Society;

− equipment received within the framework of the UNDP-GEF project " Promoting sustainable livestock management and ecosystem conservation in Northern Ukraine".

Work continues on the formation of new requests for international technical assistance for 2025 in order to support forestry and hunting in Ukraine.

## 3.7. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

The implementation of research at the expense of the State Budget continues in accordance with the Thematic Plan of Research of the State Forest Resorces Agency for 2020-2024 (hereinafter referred to as the Thematic Plan) in accordance with the terms of reference concluded between the State Forest Resources Agency and two research institutions: Ukrainian Order ‘Sign of Honor’, Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Melioration named after G.M. Vysotsky (URIFFM) and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry named after P.S. Pasternak (UkrRIMF). Both scientific institutions have a dual subordination - to the State Forest Resources Agency and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

As part of the implementation of research work for 2024, a number of documents have been developed in accordance with the thematic plan:

− instructions for felling for main use in lowland forests;

− clarified instructions for felling, forest formation and improvement in lowland forests;

− forecast of wood production/consumption in Ukraine until 2030 and subsequent years according to various scenarios for the development of forestry;

− methodological recommendations for the selection and evaluation of breeding material of native and introduced woody plants;

− methodology for forecasting the spread and development of harmful organisms in forest ecosystems of the plain part of Ukraine;

− dynamics of the pathological state of forests and forecast of the spread of forest pathological processes until 2030;

− recommendations for assessing pyrogenic damage and increasing the resilience of forests to fires in the plain part of Ukraine;

− recommendations for improving the scientific and methodological foundations of the national inventory and monitoring of forests of Ukraine;

− forecast estimates of the dynamics of the state and productivity of forests in Ukraine for the period up to 2030 according to various scenarios, taking into account climate change;

− methodology for assessing the effectiveness of biological reclamation;

− recommendations for improving the technology of growing forest crops using planting material with a closed root system;

− a new version of the recommendations for forestry management in conditions of radioactive contamination;

− recommendations on the optimal number of the main breeding animals in the context of regions and natural forestry hunting regions of Ukraine;

− instructions for assessing the state and productivity of culturphytocenoses created with the participation of promising introducers in the Carpathians;

− assessment of the state of recreational forests;

− recommendations for assessing the network of skidding drags in mountain forest catchments;

− recommendations for increasing the genetic value of the seed base of forest tree species in the Carpathian region;

− proposals for the assessment of ecosystem services provided by recreational forests.

During 2024, 2 meetings of the Scientific and Technical Council of State Forest Resources Agency, where already prepared documents were considered. The implementation of the approved developments in practice will increase the efficiency of forestry management on the basis of rational nature management.

The Thematic Plan of Research of the SFRA for 2025-2029 was formed, which was approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Research work is aimed at solving the primary problems of the forest industry.

1. In the direction of "Improvement of forestry management under martial law and post-war law", it is envisaged to prepare the following developments:

− standards for assessing the quality of natural renewal when transferring to lands covered with forest vegetation;

− recommendations for carrying out pass-through felling in lowland forests;

− recommendations for landscape felling in recreational forests;

− assessment and calculation of damage caused to forestry as a result of hostilities;

− recommendations for improving the organizational and economic mechanism for forestry development;

− updated geoportal "Forests of Ukraine" **https://forestry.org.ua and web services for calculations, display and transmission to permanent forest users of daily fire hazard levels, as well as for responding to requests from law enforcement agencies and environmental organizations;**

− methodology for assessing radioactive contamination of forests for the purpose of their rehabilitation;

− recommendations for management in radiation-rehabilitated forests;

− recommendations for regulating the number of large carnivorous mammals in Ukraine;

− targeted programs for the protection, conservation and regulation of populations of rare and regionally rare species of large carnivorous mammals in Ukraine.

1. In the direction of "Protection and Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems", it is envisaged to prepare the following developments:

− thematic maps of the threat zones of the spread of the main insects on the territory of the plain part of Ukraine;

− recommendations for scoring assessment of the harmfulness of stem insects of forest species;

− list of potentially dangerous harmful organisms by tree species and population indicators of the most common species;

Methods of supervision, accounting and measures to prevent the spread of pests in oak acorns, pine cones and seeds;

− assessment of the impact of hostilities on the combustibility of forests and the density of fires; − adapted models of combustible materials of pine forests.

1. In the direction of "Conservation of the forest gene pool and biodiversity", it is envisaged to prepare the following developments:

− methodological recommendations for determining the invasive activity of forest-forming introduced species;

− methodological recommendations for the preservation and reproduction  *of the exsitu* gene pool of the main forest-forming species, in particular in the territories affected by hostilities;

1. In the direction of "Improvement of the system of measures and methods of forest reproduction and reclamation of damaged forest ecosystems", it is envisaged to prepare the following developments:

− standards for assessing the quality of forest crops when transferring to lands covered with forest vegetation, including those created by planting material with a closed root system;

− survival standards for 1-3-year-old forest crops created by planting material with a closed root system;

− recommendations for reforestation and afforestation using different types of planting material (taking into account the military impact).

1. In the direction of "Monitoring the ecological state of forests of Ukraine", it is envisaged to prepare the following developments:

− updated methodological guidelines for field work on the national forest inventory;

− recommendations for the collection and analysis of data from the national forest inventory, taking into account modern European requirements and the consequences of the impact of hostilities.

In addition to budget topics, UkrRIFFM and its research network carried out research work under contracts aimed at solving the most acute scientific and production problems of forestry, as well as provided consulting scientific and methodological services (more than 50 contracts in total). Within the framework of the implementation of research and development under economic contracts, the following scientific and technical products were prepared:

− reports on environmental impact assessment of the economic activities of branches and on post-project monitoring on the territory of forestry branches;

− setting up the ‘Survey data processing’ system and filling it with the geoportal for logging monitoring and related services;

− scientific justifications and recommendations for carrying out measures to improve plantations, in particular in the objects of the nature reserve fund;

− recommendations for improving the technology of creating forest crops, caring for the objects of the permanent forest seed base;

− project of fire management of forests;

− recommendations for the identification, assessment and conservation measures of representative areas of indigenous ecosystems.

The geoportal "Forests of Ukraine" (a website (https://forestry.org.ua) developed by UkrRIFFM and mobile applications for access and operation of geospatial information on forestry) has been introduced into the activities of forestry branches. In particular, agreements have been concluded to support the functioning of the geoportal with more than 60 branches of SE "Forests of Ukraine".

The following software products have been created on the basis of the geoportal SE "Forests of Ukraine":

− service for monitoring foci of pests and diseases of the forest;

− service for monitoring forest fires and supporting decision-making during their extinguishing;

− service for design, technical acceptance, accounting and quality assessment of forestry facilities;

− service for entering, renewing, transmitting information on recreational facilities.

The work of the web portal "[Monitoring of forest pathologies" has also been intensified](http://urifmfp.org.ua/), the purpose of which is to collect and summarize data on forest pathological processes in forests to identify their relationships with abiotic, biotic and anthropogenic factors, as well as to plan appropriate forestry activities.

In 2024, UkrRIFFM employees continued to provide scientific support for the development of the National Forest Inventory of Ukraine based on the use of mobile geographic information technology Field-Map. This technology provides a computerized process of data collection during work at inventory sites, supports in the field procedures for quality control of inventory indicators and ensures the formation of digital geospatial data sets necessary for monitoring the state, productivity and biodiversity of forests. Scientists have proposed methods for improving the quality of field data collection of NFI field data, laser scanning of forest vegetation has been carried out in order to test advanced methods of remote monitoring of forests, and an information environment has been formed for modeling the dynamics of forest resources in the context of climate change and the impact of hostilities.

In 2024, in response to requests from the Ministry of Environment, the State Forest Resources Agency, the National Academy of Sciences, and other ministries and departments, a number of documents, proposals and analytical materials were developed and submitted, in particular:

− proposals to draft laws of Ukraine: ‘On the Basic Principles of State Climate Policy‘, “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine ”On Environmental Impact Assessment’ to improve the procedure for environmental impact assessment in forestry’, ’On Amendments to Articles 10 and 33 of the Law of Ukraine to Articles 10 and 33 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Atmospheric Air Protection’ regarding to facilitate the restoration of the state of atmospheric air’;

− proposals to the draft order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Strategy for the Implementation of the System of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading in Ukraine for the Period up to 2033";

− proposals for the implementation of the provisions of the EU Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration;

− proposals to the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the State Budget in 2025–2027 of Forest Management Strategy of Ukraine until 2035;

− proposals for the Operational Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Environmental Security and Adaptation to Climate Change until 2030 in 2025-2027;

− draft parameters of target stands (species, age, horizontal and vertical structures) by forest types;

− report on the timber market of Ukraine for the preparation of the report of the Committee on Forests and Forestry of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);

− analytical materials "Forests and forestry of Ukraine in the context of climate change" for participation in the meeting of the Joint Working Group of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

− comments and proposals to the draft Rules for felling in the forests of Ukraine;

− proposals for the application of methods of remote sensing of the earth to the Procedure for determining the damage and losses caused to Ukraine as a result of Russian armed aggression;

− proposals for improving the "Methodology for determining the damage and losses caused to the forest fund as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation";

− information on the expected consequences of the impact on forests of the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam, preliminary assessment of the possible consequences of flooding of territories for changing fire danger, proposals for forest restoration;

− proposals to determine the damage and losses caused to the forest fund of the regions of the south of Ukraine as a result of the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant;

− proposals for the use of introductions of species, as well as justification for the exclusion of tree species from the list of invasive species;

− recommendations on the use of introduced tree species for the creation of plantations for various purposes in Ukraine and prevention of their invasive activity – in pursuance of the Plan for organizing the implementation of the NSDC decision "On the protection, protection, use and reproduction of forests of Ukraine in a special period";

− substantiation of the creation of forest breeding and seed centers in different natural and climatic zones of Ukraine, creation of a forest seed base on a genetic breeding basis and forest genetic banks;

− proposals for the strategy for the development of hunting economy;

− scientific substantiation of the limits of use and norms of hunting fauna in Ukraine for the current hunting season.

The professional printed publication of UkrRIFFM is the interdepartmental thematic scientific collection "Forestry and Agroforestry", the next two issues of which were published in 2024. In total, during the current year, the employees of UkrRIFFM and UkrRIMF published more than 200 scientific papers, including a number of monographs, among which it is necessary to highlight ["Types of forest formations of Ukraine in the system of European classifications"](https://doi.org/10.33220/2024.978-617-8254-23-0). As part of the scientific support of forestry activities of enterprises in the Carpathian region, UkrRIMF prepared and published a monograph "Targeted reforestation in the Ukrainian Carpathians".

Our scientists are actively involved in research within the framework of international scientific projects aimed at solving topical problems of the industry, in particular:

− Projects of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO: "Strengthening the resistance of pine forest to bark beetle outbreaks and related extinction", "Establishment of a national program for early identification and timely control of forest pests";

− European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) project "Protection of European Urban Trees and Forests" (24 participating countries in Europe, Canada, USA);

− Projects of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU): "Study of molecular mechanisms of ash resistance to invasive pests and diseases", "Use of genetic variation in forest breeding programs to increase the resistance of forests to root rot and other diseases";

− Project with the Latvian State Forest Research Institute (Silava): "Risk-Based Strategy for Preparation for Monitoring and Biological Control of Ash Emerald Goldfinch";

− World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) project: "Including climate solutions in the reform agenda in Ukraine";

− Project PRG1615: "Penetration and Settlement of Invasive Forest Pathogens in Northern European Forest Ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change and Exploratory Control of Them";

− EVA 4.0 project: Advanced research to support the adaptation of the forestry and woodworking sector to global changes and the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

− Project "Plan of Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Measures on the Territory of the Exclusion Zone and the Zone of Unconditional (Mandatory) Resettlement" (sub-project of the project "Fire Safety of Forests in Ukraine", participating countries – USA, Ukraine).

− Project on Sustainable Forests in the Romanian-Ukrainian Border Region (RESFOR): "Dead Wood Management for Sustainable Forests in the Romanian-Ukrainian Border Region"

Scientists also took part in a number of important international events, in particular:

− at the 26th World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO);

− in the congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) "The impact of the war in Ukraine on forest fire regime, fire management and carbon emissions";

− in the seminar of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) under the auspices of "The Ability of Forests to Adapt and Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity Conservation";

* at the International seminar on climate change in the United States on Ukraine's obligations under international agreements and conventions on the prevention of adverse processes related to climate change (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement);

− in the international seminar of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe) "Conservation of Ukraine's forests during the war";

− at the Yale University Forest Forum in the areas of "Climate-Oriented Forestry" and "The Impact of Carbon Credits on Forestry";

− in the round table "Effective organization and financing of forest management planning in Ukraine" (German-Ukrainian project "Technical support for the development of forest policy and the implementation of the national forest inventory");

− in the events for Ukrainian foresters and farmers "Clearing territories from explosive objects" within the framework of the bilateral project "German-Ukrainian Agropolitical Dialogue (APD)";

− in the conference "Germany on the side of Ukrainian forestry", organized by the German Forestry Council (DFWR) together with FAO, Berlin;

− in the IX International Conference of Mobile GIS Users Field-Map (Polna na Šumava, Czech Republic) and in the discussion with the Czech Institute of Forest Management on the ways to implement the Czech-Ukrainian project "Capacity Building monitoring of forests of Ukraine in accordance with EU requirements";

− in the international symposium "Fires in Society" (Netherlands);

− in the international round table "Forest Inventory: Problems, Prospects, International Experience";

− in the FAO workshop on management and forest management plans for multi-purpose forests;

− in an internship at Oregon State University (a project of the US Department of State).

At the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine there is a Scientific Council on Forestry and Forestry Problems, whose activities are aimed at coordinating and deepening fundamental research in Ukraine on forest problems, increasing the efficiency and improving the quality of scientific developments, and its basic institution is UkrRIFFM. Thus, in March 2024, a meeting of the council was held to discuss the need to amend and supplement the Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Impact Assessment".

Scientific and production activities of SE "Klavdiivska FRS" (Kyiv region) and SE "Kharkiv FRS" (Kharkiv region) are limited, because they are located in the territories subject to demining. The subordinate SE "Steppe Branch of UkrRIFFM" (Kherson region), SE "Luhansk AFRS " (Luhansk region) and SE "Mariupol FRS" (Donetsk region) are located in the temporarily occupied territories. As a result of the temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, where the State Enterprise "Crimean State Scientific and Scientific Research Service" is located, UkrRIFFM lost contact with co-executors in all areas of scientific activity, in addition, a number of valuable scientific objects where long-term stationary research was carried out was lost. However, despite the difficulties, forest scientists continue their work under martial law.

## 3.8. PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2024, 4 meetings of the Public Council under the State Forest Resources Agency were held. Information on the activities of the Public Council is published on the website of the State Forest Resources Agency.

Public consultations were also held. Information and reports of which are also available on the website of the State Forest Resources Agency.

The State Forest Resources Agency has ensured the implementation of the constitutional right of citizens to appeal to state authorities. During 2024, 1365 citizens used it.

During the reporting period, 325 requests for public information were processed in accordance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information".

Educational lectures were held for students, schoolchildren and specialists, as well as thematic excursions to forestry enterprises, experimental sites and nature conservation sites.

Scientific articles, recommendations and information materials have been prepared and published to raise public awareness of the state and prospects for the development of the forest industry.

Barrier-free measures have been organized to promote equal access to information and services in the field of forestry for all segments of the population.

The State Forest Resources Agency is constantly working to improve the forms and methods of work to ensure the implementation of the constitutional right of citizens to appeal, strict compliance with the provisions of the Laws of Ukraine "On Citizens' Appeals", "On Access to Public Information", increasing the objectivity, comprehensiveness and timeliness of consideration of citizens' appeals and requests for public information in accordance with the requirements of the law.

## 3.9. RULE-MAKING WORK

Draft acts developed by the State Forest Resources Agency during 2024 are aimed at solving problematic issues in the field of activity of SFRA.

In total, during the reporting period, the State Forest Resorces Agency worked on the development of 27 draft acts (1 draft Law, 10 draft resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2 orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2 draft Decrees of the President of Ukraine, 12 draft orders of the Ministry of Environment).

In 2024, the development and adoption of:

− Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 23.04.2024 No. 454 "Some Issues of Forestry Management during the Legal Regime of Martial Law and Amendments to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 12, 2007 No. 724" *(the act regulates the felling of trees and shrubs related to the needs for the defense and security of the state during the period of the legal regime of martial law and within six months from the date of its termination or cancellation, the mechanism of felling of reformation has been improved, as well as the prohibition of continuous felling of the main use in the mountain forests of the Carpathian region has been established after the expiration of three years from the date of entry into force of the resolution.);*

− Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 13.06.2024 No. 689 "On Amendments to the Procedure for Monitoring the Domestic Consumption of Domestic Unprocessed Timber and Control over the Non-Exceeding of the Volume of Domestic Consumption of Domestic Timber Products" (the *act is aimed at reducing the risks of manipulations during the transportation of harvested timber, as well as strengthening counteraction to illegal logging and the shadow timber market, by expanding the information that are entered by the forest user into the Unified State System of Electronic Accounting of Wood - a photo of the appearance of the consignment of cargo (wood) transported by the vehicle*);

− Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 13.09.2024 No. 1061 "On Amendments to Paragraph 5 of the Procedure for the Implementation of the Pilot Project on the Issuance of a Special Permit for the Special Use of Forest Resources (Logging Ticket) in Electronic Form" (*the act improved the mechanism for issuing an electronic logging ticket by territorial authorities of SFRA, providing the opportunity to issue a logging ticket at the location of the forest plot where timber harvesting will be carried out, regardless of the location (place of residence) of the applicant.*);

− Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 08.11.2024 No. 1280 "On Amendments to Paragraph 1 of the Procedure for Deduction to the State Budget of Part of Net Profit (Income) by State Unitary Enterprises and Their Associations" *(the act from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2027 establishes that part of the net profit (income) deducted by state specialized economic, forestry, forest protection, and other enterprises belonging to the sphere of management SFRA, to the state budget, is determined in the amount of 50 percent, provided that they direct 30 percent of the net profit (income) from their activities to the acquisition of non-current assets necessary for the implementation of measures for the protection, protection, use and reproduction of forests.);*

− Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 25.10.2024 No. 1239 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Logging in the Forests of Ukraine" *(the act regulates the issue of logging and works related and not related to forestry, in particular logging related to new construction, reconstruction, overhaul of roads).*

Also in 2024, the following were developed:

− Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Sale and Export of Timber and Certain Wood Products";

− Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for the Exchange of Information between the State Forest Resources Agency, the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, the State Tax Service and the State Customs Service on Transactions with Timber and Wood Products";

− Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Procedure for the Use of Funds Provided in the State Budget to Finance Forestry and Hunting, Protection and Protection of Forests in the Forest Fund, Creation of Protective Forest Plantations and Field Protective Forest Belts";

− Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Certain Issues of Special Use of Forest Resources";

− Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "Some Issues of Implementation of the Pilot Project on the Implementation of a System for Remote Monitoring of the Movement of Vehicles Engaged in Freight Transportation of Timber";

− Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 521 of October 8, 2014 and No. 112 of February 7, 2023";

− Draft Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Strategy of Hunting Economy for the Period up to 2035";

− Draft Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Operational Action Plan for the Implementation of the State Strategy for Forest Management of Ukraine until 2035 in 2025-2027";

− Draft Decree of the President of Ukraine "On the Symbols of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine";

− Draft Presidential Decree "On Hunter's Day";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Amendments to the Instruction on Electronic Timber Accounting";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Amendments to the Instruction on Design, Technical Acceptance, Accounting and Quality Assessment of Forestry Facilities";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Approval of the Rules for the Use of Useful Properties of Forests";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On approval of the Instruction on the allocation and taxation of cutting areas in forests";

− Draft Order of the Ministry of Environment "On Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated July 21, 2023 No. 520";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Approval of the Rules for State Registration of Game Animals and the Volume of Their Production";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Approval of the Procedure for Organizing and Conducting Forest Certification";

− Draft Order of the Ministry of Environment "On Approval of the Procedure for Registration of Hunting Trophies and Issuance of Trophy Letters";

− draft order of the Ministry of Environment "On Amendments to Certain Orders of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine";

− Draft Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for Drawing Up and Submitting Requests for Public Information Managed by the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine or its Territorial Bodies, and Forms for Submitting Such Requests";

− Draft Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for the Processing and Protection of Personal Data Owned by the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine";

− Draft Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine "On Approval of the List of Firefighting and Other Measures Aimed at Preserving, Protecting and Protecting Forests, as well as Requirements for Drawing Up Plans for These Measures".

In 2024, the draft Law of Ukraine "On the Peculiarities of Management of State-Owned Objects in the Forest Industry and the Procedure for the Establishment and Operation of the Specialized State Forestry Joint Stock Company "Forests of Ukraine", developed in pursuance of paragraph 432 of the Government's Priority Action Plan for 2024, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 16.02.2024 No. 137-r, paragraph 72 of the plan of legislative work of the Verkhovna Rada was ensured of Ukraine for 2024, approved by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dated 06.02.2024 No. 3561, paragraph 8 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 07.09.2022 No. 1003 "Some Issues of Reforming the Management of the Forest Industry".

This draft Law was submitted to the Ministry of Environment on 13.06.2024 for submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Also, the State Forest Resources Agency, within the limits of its powers, supported in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine the draft law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine in Connection with the Adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Administrative Procedure" (registration No. 10161 of 18.10.2023), which was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (10.10.2024 under No. 4017-IX), which brought the legislative acts of Ukraine, in particular the Forest Code of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On Hunting and Shooting" in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On administrative procedure".

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine supported the draft law "On Forest Reproductive Resources" (registration No. 9116 of 17.03.2023), which was adopted on April 23, 2024 as a basis.

## 3.10. HR WORK

As of January 2025, 2464 employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency were mobilized. As a result of hostilities, 163 workers were killed, 263 were injured, and 148 went missing.

In 2024, the Head of the North-Western Interregional Department of Forestry and Hunting, the First Deputy Head of the North-Western Interregional Department of Forestry and Hunting and the Deputy Head of the South-Eastern Interregional Department of Forestry and Hunting were appointed for the period until the appointment to the post of the winner of the competition or until the expiration of the twelve-month period after the termination or cancellation of martial law.

In 2024, the Head of the North-Western Interregional Forestry and Hunting Department and the North-Eastern Interregional Forestry and Hunting Department, the first deputy Head of the North-Western Interregional Forestry and Hunting Department and the First Deputy Head of the Head of the South-Eastern Interregional Forestry and hunting economy were dismissed.

For 2024, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of 02.08.1995 No. 597 ‘On the standard form of a contract with the head of a state-owned enterprise and in accordance with clause 18 of the Regulation on the Procedure for Conclusion of a contract with the head of a state-owned enterprise, when hiring, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 203 dated 19 March 1993, 2 contracts with directors of state-owned enterprises. Concluded 3 new contracts with directors of state-owned enterprises, 6 directors were dismissed (by agreement of the parties, upon expiry of the contract).

In 2024, more than 1700 employees of the forestry industry improved their skills on the basis of the Ukrainian Center for Training, Retraining and Advanced Training of Forestry Personnel and its branches.

For the period of martial law in the state, advanced training of industry workers in Ukrcentrkadrylis was held via videoconference.

## 3.11. WORK ON PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CORRUPTION

The anti-corruption policy of the State Forest Resources Agency is based on ensuring the implementation of the general goals of the state anti-corruption policy defined for all state bodies for 2023-2025.

The main areas of activity are aimed at reducing corruption risks in the field of forestry.

In order to effectively work the staff of the State Forest Resources Agency and its regional divisions, in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption", the Methodology for Managing Corruption Risks, the Procedure for Submitting Anti-Corruption Programs, the development of the Anti-Corruption Program of the State Forest Resources Agency for 2024-2026, which was approved by the Order of 24.09.2024 No. 293, was organized, work was organized to identify possible corruption risks in the activities of the State Forest Resources Agency, and measures were developed to minimize them.

The Chief Specialist on Corruption Prevention of the State Forest Resources Agency conducts explanatory work among employees, trainings and briefings for new employees on legal norms, prevention of corruption and compliance with the norms of ethical behavior in the civil service. Measures were taken to identify conflicts of interest and facilitate its settlement, reports on possible violations of the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" were processed.

Monitoring of corruption in the State Forest Resources Agency highlights a number of problems that are raised in the media and public space. For this purpose, monitoring of reports in the media and the Internet space on the facts of corruption or corruption-related offenses on the part of employees of SFRA, enterprises, institutions and organizations belonging to the sphere of management of the State Forest Resources Agency has been introduced.

Based on the results of this monitoring, inspections are carried out, as a result of which appropriate response measures are taken.

The departmental administrative documents of SFRA cover regulatory and organizational issues, determine the rules for the functioning of the body and are aimed at ensuring legality, efficiency and transparency in the implementation of the tasks assigned to the State Forest Resources Agency in terms of anti-corruption management, which are available on the official website of SFRA, which is an open data system that helps to increase the transparency of its activities.

In accordance with the Order of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption dated 31.08.2023 No. 190/23 "On the Launch of the Unified Whistleblower Reporting Portal", the implementation of the Procedure for Maintaining the Unified Whistleblower Reporting Portal, approved by the Order of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption dated 03.01.2023, No. 1/23, in order to establish a unified approach to reporting possible facts of corruption or corruption-related offenses, other violations of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption", the State Forest Resources Agency ensured the functioning of internal channels for reporting possible facts of corruption or corruption-related offenses, other violations of this Law and ensured the maintenance of the Disclosure Portal in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation.

On the main page of SFRA website, there is a link to a public, special, separately defined section "Hotline - Report Corruption", which indicates the phone number and e-mail for reporting possible corruption and corruption-related offenses.

The Chief Specialist on Corruption Prevention, in accordance with the norms of the current legislation, reports directly to the Head of the State Forest Resources Agency. He is provided with a separate office, appropriate technical resources, direct access to information for the performance of his official duties, which is a necessary condition for his independence.

A check of the status of submission of declarations to the "Unified State Register of Declarations" and notification of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption on cases of their non-submission or late submission of declarations of persons authorized to perform the functions of the state or local self-government were implemented.

These functions are part of the general system of anti-corruption measures approved within the framework of the legislation on the prevention of corruption in Ukraine, in particular the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" and are performed by SFRA in full in accordance with the norms of the current legislation.

# IV. USE OF THE STATE BUDGET FUNDS

## 4.1. FINANCING

Funding from the general fund of the state budget in 2024 under budget programs amounted to UAH 368.947,5 thousand. (approximately 10% of the need for budget funding), namely:

− Program 2709010 "Management and Management in the Field of Forestry" (UAH 126.924,7 thousand);

− Program 2709060 "Forestry and Hunting, Protection and Protection of Forests in the Forest Fund", exclusively for the functioning of Budget Institutions and Institutions of Nature Reserve Fund (UAH 229.993,0 thousand);

− program 2701040 "Scientific and scientific-technical activities in the field of environmental protection and natural resources" (UAH 12,029.8 thousand).

The Law of Ukraine of 22.12.2018, No 2621 "On Amendments to the the Budget Code of Ukraine" was supplemented by part three of Article 29 by paragraph 13-4 and part four of Article 30 by paragraph 15-1. In accordance with these changes, the special fund of the State Budget is filled at the expense of rent for the special use of forest resources, in the part of wood harvested in the order of felling for the main use. The funds of the special fund are directed to forestry and hunting, protection and protection of forests in the forest fund of enterprises of the south-eastern region of the country, work on the national inventory of forests, forest management and maintenance of the state forest cadastre.

Filling of the special fund of the state budget at the expense of rent for the special use of forest resources, in part of the timber harvested in the order of felling for the main use, is carried out as soon as the rent is received from the branches of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", state-owned enterprises that belong to the sphere of management of the State Forestry Agency. In 2024, UAH 243.1 million of such funds were transferred.

The Law of Ukraine ‘On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2024’ under the budget programme KPKVK 2709060 ’Forestry and hunting, protection and conservation of forests in the forest fund’ does not expenditures of the special fund at the expense of revenues from rent fees for the special use of forest resources, in terms of timber harvested in the course of harvesting for main use.

The balances of the special fund of the state budget as of 01.01.2024 amount to UAH 394.4 million.

Certificate of changes to the annual budget schedule for 2024 approved by by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine dated 12.07.2024 No. 06/20883 under the budget budget programme KPKVK 2709060 ‘Forestry and hunting management, protection and conservation of forests in the forest fund’ provides for the expenditures of a special fund in the amount of UAH 113.775,5 thousand at the expense of the balance of the special fund of the state budget received in previous periods from the rent for special use of forest resources.

The funds of the special fund of the State Budget of Ukraine were used by the following enterprises: SE "Steppe Branch of UkrRIFFM", SE "Kharkiv FRS", SE "Novhorod-Siverska AFRS", SE "Ukrderzhlisproekt", SE "Slovianske Forestry", SE "Lyman Forestry", SE "Velykokompanivske Forestry", SE "Velikoanadolske Forestry" and SE "Oleshky Forestry" for the priority areas of activity identified by the Commission:

* ensuring the implementation of forest management works (forest management, desk and field work), national inventory of forests, maintenance of the state forest cadastre;
* reforestation;
* protection and protection of the forest (including from fires);
* for the provision of forest protection services;
* for the creation of protective forest plantations and field protective forest belts (afforestation).

The use of these funds is carried out in accordance with the Procedure for the use of funds provided for in the state budget to finance measures for forestry and hunting, protection and protection of forests in the forest fund, creation of protective forest plantations and field protective forest belts, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 20.12.2017 № 1016.

## 4.2. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

According to the results of financial and economic activities in 2024, UAH 23.7 billion of net income from the sale of products (goods, works, services) was received, which is UAH 0.1 billion more than in 2023 (an increase of 1%), in particular, the net income from the sale of products (goods, works, services) of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" is 98% of the total net income in the industry.

**Net income and net profit for 2014-2024, UAH billion**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator name | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Net income from the sale of products (goods, works, services) | 7,2 | 10,4 | 10,4 | 13,7 | 16,8 | 15,2 | 14,5 | 22,8 | 23,3 | 23,6 | 23,7 |
| Net profit | 0,2 | 0,8 | 0,6 | 0,5 | 4,7 | 0,3 | 0,2 | 0,7 | 1,2 | 2,9 | 2,5 |

In the south-eastern region, some of the enterprises that were located in the occupied territories resumed their financial and economic activities after the de-occupation: SE "Izyum Forestry", SE "Kupianske Forestry", SE "Lyman Forestry", SE "Velyka Anadolske Forestry", SE "Oleshky Forestry", SE "Velykokopanivske Forestry".

A significant increase in net income from sales of products (goods, works, services) was achieved by the following companies, services) compared to the previous year: SE "Velykokopanivske Forestry" – increased volumes by 9.8 times, SE "Lyman Forestry" by 2.8 times,

SSFPE "Lvivlisozyshchyst" – 72.3%, SE "Kupianske Forestry" – 59.2%, SSFPE "Kyivlisozyshchist" – 46.7%, Lviv State Forest Management Expedition – 27.4%, SE "LIAC" – 26.4%.

A decrease in net income compared to the previous year was allowed by SE "Velikoanadolske Forestry" - 68%, SE "Vinnytsia Forest Research Station" - 26%, SE "Novhorod-Siversk Forest Research Station" - 20%, SE "Klavdiyevskalisova Research Station" - 9%.

The share of net income from the sale of products (goods, works, services) of forest industry enterprises in the gross domestic product of Ukraine is 0.3 percent.

State-owned enterprises spent UAH 10.1 billion on forestry (the share of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" is 99.3%), of which UAH 9.9 billion (99.3%) are the enterprises' own working capital, UAH 0.1 billion (0.7%) is the funds of the special fund of the state budget, which are allocated to enterprises of the southeastern region that are located in the de-occupied territories and have resumed their activities.

The purpose of the state-owned enterprise is to make a profit. It is under this condition that the enterprise can stably exist and provide itself with a basis for development.

In 2024, enterprises in the industry received UAH 2.5 billion in net profit. The net profit of SE "Forests of Ukraine" is UAH 2.4 billion or 99% of the total in the industry.

The indicator that characterizes the efficiency of the enterprise is profitability. The average value of the profitability of enterprises is 10.5% (SE "Forests of Ukraine" - 10.6%). In 2024, enterprises in the industry disbursed UAH 1,659 million of capital investments at their own expense.

The degree of depreciation of fixed assets on average in the industry is 62%. More than 51% of depreciation of fixed assets at enterprises: SE "Zakarpatlisservice" (98%), Institute "Kharkivdiproagrolis" (93%), SE "Novhorod-Siversk Forest Research Station" (93%), SE "Kupyansk Forestry" (90%), Lviv State Forest Management Expedition (87%).

The best indicators on the condition of fixed assets at the enterprises: SSFPE "Kyivlisozachyst", SE "LIAC", SE "Klavdiivka Forest Research Station", SE "Vinnytsia Forest Research Station", SE "Ukrderzhlisproekt" - Irpin, SE "Forests of Ukraine".

## 4.3. PAYMENT OF TAXES

The financial condition of enterprises is significantly influenced by the tax burden. On average in the industry, the percentage of taxes and fees paid from net income is 39.2%.

Over the past 10 years, there has been a constant increase in taxes paid and mandatory payments to the budget.

In 2024, industry enterprises paid UAH 7.7 billion in taxes, fees and mandatory payments to the budgets of all levels, which is 16 percent less than in 2023.

The decrease was due to the overpayment by SE "Forests of Ukraine" of part of the net profit for 9 months of 2023 by UAH 0.6 billion at the PPP deduction rate of 80%. At the end of 2023, the company in the IV quarter fulfilled the conditions of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 14.07.2021 No. 718 and applied the PPP deduction rate of 50%. The same standard was applied during 2024, so the mandatory amount of PPP decreased by another UAH 0.8 billion.

### Dynamics of tax payment for 2014-2024, UAH billion

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| **Budgeted, total** | **1,1** | **2,1** | **3,3** | **3,9** | **4,8** | **4,9** | **4,9** | **7,0** | **7,8** | **9,2** | **7,7** |
| Of these: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| before  of the State Budget | 0,6 | 1,3 | 2,1 | 2,6 | 3,1 | 2,9 | 2,9 | 4,3 | 5,2 | 6,8 | 5,3 |
| to local budgets | 0,5 | 0,8 | 1,2 | 1,3 | 1,7 | 2,0 | 2,0 | 2,7 | 2,6 | 2,4 | 2,4 |
| **Paid Single Social Contribution** | **0,9** | **1,1** | **0,9** | **1,1** | **1,4** | **1,3** | **1,2** | **1,9** | **1,9** | **1,6** | **1,6** |
| **Total** | **2,0** | **3,2** | **4,2** | **5,0** | **6,2** | **6,2** | **6,1** | **8,9** | **9,7** | **10,8** | **9,3** |

UAH 5.3 billion (69%) was paid to the state budget, UAH 2.4 billion (31%) was paid to local budgets.

The largest share in the amount of taxes and fees paid is value added tax – 43% (UAH 3.3 billion), personal income tax – 19% (UAH 1.4 billion) and rent for the special use of forest resources – 17% (UAH 1.3 billion).

In addition to taxes, enterprises of the industry paid UAH 1.6 billion of the single social contribution during the reporting period.

In total, in 2024, taxes and USC were paid – UAH 9.3 billion, which is 0.6% of the total amount of tax revenues to the state budget of Ukraine. 97% of taxes and fees in the industry are paid by the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine". It should be noted that the amount of taxes and payments paid for 2024 was 19 times higher than the amount of funds allocated from the state budget under all budget programs of the State Forest Resources Agency (including science, the Agency's staff and territorial agencies) or 27 times more than the funds allocated for forestry, protection and protection of forests (maintenance of the nature reserve fund, national forest inventory, forest management).

## 4.4. REMUNERATION

Among the main tasks and directions of the social policy of the State Forest Resources Agency is to ensure the growth of real incomes of industry workers.

During the reporting period, the salaries of employees in the industry increased compared to the corresponding period of 2023 by UAH 3478, or 16.7% and amounts to UAH 24356.

The following enterprises have an average monthly salary of more than 20.000 UAH: Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center – 43.912 UAH, SE "Lyman Forestry" – 35.484 UAH, SE "Slovianske Forestry" – 27.489 UAH, NNP "Male Polissia" – 25.518 UAH, SE "Forests of Ukraine" – 24.526 UAH, Shatsk NNP – 23.810 UAH, NNP "Skolivski Beskydy" – 23.799 UAH, SSLP "Kharkivlisozyshchist" – 22.943 UAH, SSLP "Kyivlisozystvo" – 22.617 UAH and SE "Ukrderzhlisproekt" – 21.582 UAH.

The state of payment of wages and prevention of their arrears is under constant control by the State Forest Resources Agency.

There are no wage arrears at operating enterprises.

The number of full-time employees in the industry as of 01.01.2025 amounted to 25.770 units and decreased by 6.219 units, or 19.4% compared to last year. The number of vacancies in the industry as of 01.01.2025 is 5289 units.

## 4.5. AUDIT

On 18.12.2023, the Head of the State Forest Resources Agency approved the Internal Audit Action Plan for 2024-2026. In December 2024, the Internal Audit Action Plan for 2024-2026 was amended by the Internal Audit Sector regarding the period covered by the audit and the deadline for the implementation of the internal audit.

In 2024, 4 internal audits were carried out, namely: the Galician National Nature Park, the Ukrainian State Project Forestry Management Production Association, the National Nature Park "Male Polissia", the State Enterprise "Klavdiivka Forest Research Station".

The scheduled internal audit of the State Specialized Economic Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", initiated in accordance with paragraphs 4.1-4.5 of Section V of the Internal Audit Action Plan of the State Forest Resources Agency for 2024-2026 and the Order of SFRA dated 17.10.2024 No. 314 "On Conducting a Scheduled Internal Audit of the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" (as amended) was extended for the 1st half of 2025.

Also, in 2024, 6 inspections were carried out on certain issues of the activities of institutions and enterprises subordinated to the State Forest Resources Agency: Shatsk National Nature Park, State Enterprise "Lyman Forestry", State Enterprise "Sloviansk Forestry", State Enterprise "Kupianske Forestry", Lviv State Forest Management Expedition, State Enterprise "Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center".

As a result of internal audits and inspections, an insufficient level of control on the part of the heads of institutions was established, as well as non-compliance by the specialists of institutions with full compliance with regulations, which led to the following violations and shortcomings:

* forestry, forest protection from fires, illegal logging and other harmful phenomena, rational use of forest resources - lack of documents certifying land ownership; unsatisfactory allocation of cutting areas into felling; lack of technical documentation on forestry; the presence of illegal logging; unsatisfactory sanitary condition of plantations; sale of forest products at reduced prices; non-compliance with the requirements of the Technical Specifications for the classification of timber, etc.;
* on the functioning of the electronic timber accounting system - non-compliance with the requirements of the Instruction on electronic timber accounting, approved by the order of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine dated 27.09.2021 No. 621; identification of discrepancies between the data of the system of electronic accounting of wood of sold forest products with accounting;
* on financial and economic activities, organization and maintenance of accounting, reliability of financial statements, public procurement – lack of an effective system of internal control over primary accounting, deviations in financial plans; violations in the acquisition, write-off and accounting of fixed assets; groundless write-off of fuels and lubricants; non-compliance with the accounting methodology; violation of work orders, detection of surpluses and shortages during the inventory of inventory, violation of the requirements of regulations in the field of public procurement, etc.

Based on the results and conclusions of internal audits and inspections, the director of the State Enterprise "Sloviansk Forestry" was dismissed, the materials of inspections were transferred to law enforcement agencies for two enterprises, and recommendations were provided for the rest to eliminate the identified shortcomings and violations of the current legislation of Ukraine.