



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# FAO FORESTRY SUPPORT STRATEGY

FOR UKRAINE

2023-2027





# **FAO FORESTRY SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR UKRAINE**

2023-2027

Required citation:

FAO. 2023. *FAO Forestry Support Strategy for Ukraine. 2023-2027*. Kyiv. [DOI will be provided by OCCP during PWS clearance]

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN [provided by OCCP during PWS clearance]

© FAO, 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: “This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition.”

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

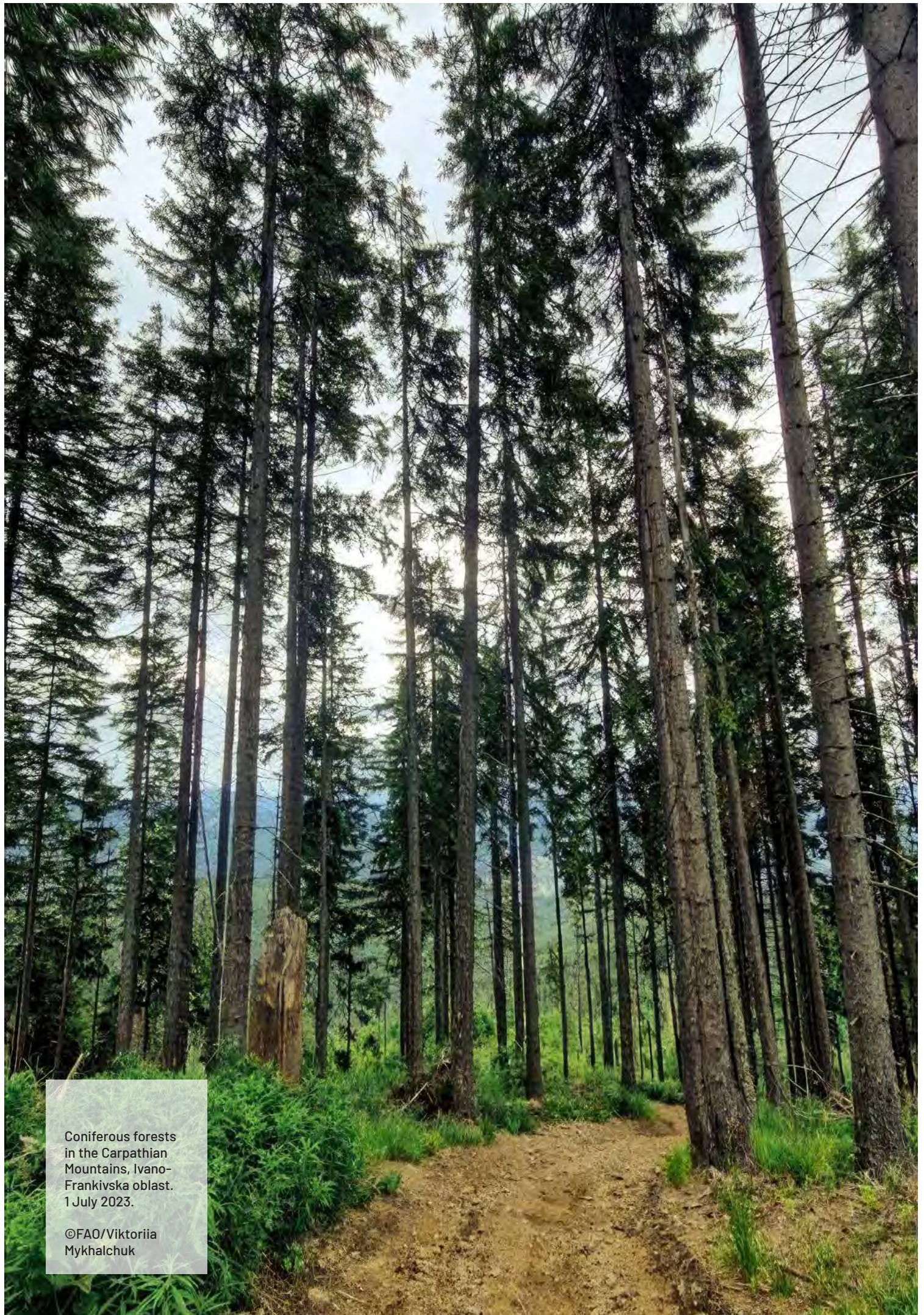
Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org). Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request). Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org).

Cover image: ©FAO/Viacheslav Ratynskyi

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY'S FORESTRY SECTOR AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Framework for supporting sustainable forestry and forest-based value chains in Ukraine	3
1.2 Impact of the war on forests and forestry	3
1.3 Impact of climate change on Ukrainian forests	5
1.4 "Forests of Ukraine" state forestry enterprise	5
1.5 Ukraine, formally a candidate for EU membership	6
<b>2. THE WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 FAO priority actions in forestry	7
2.2 Identification of priority needs according to the FAO Forestry Support Strategy	8
1) Damage and loss assessment	9
2) Fuelwood for energy	9
3) Forest demining	9
4) Restoration and phytoremediation of landscapes and agriculture land with the use of Fast-Growing Trees	9
5) Sustainable forest management to achieve sustainable forestry	10
6) The new FAO project, funded by EU	10
7) Strengthening of the Ukrainian State Forest Management Planning Association (Ukrderzhlisproekt)	11
8) Use of sustainable wood for the green reconstruction of Ukraine	11
9) Support for Ukraine's alignment with EU forest strategy and regulations	12
10) Forests and forestry communication	12
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ANNEXES</b>	<b>16</b>
Annex 1. Financial needs for the implementation of the Forestry Support Strategy	16



Coniferous forests  
in the Carpathian  
Mountains, Ivano-  
Frankivska oblast.  
1 July 2023.

©FAO/Viktorii  
Mykhalchuk

# INTRODUCTION

This Forestry Support Strategy in Ukraine for 2023–2027 is based on consultations with stakeholder forestry institutions and contains the main issues identified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that require immediate attention as a result of the war, and which should be addressed to initiate the alignment process with the international requirements needed to join the European Union (EU).

Support for forestry and forest-based value chains in Ukraine for 2023–2027 is provided with the aim of promoting sustainable forest management to mitigate the impact of the war and of climate change on forests and biodiversity. However, as mentioned, the aim is also to support forestry administrative reform and the alignment of forestry legislation of Ukraine with EU policies and regulations.

As a UN organization, the FAO's main role in the forestry sector is to support the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine and other institutions and organizations involved in strengthening the forestry sector, and thereby create the framework for medium and long-term interventions. This includes aligning the key goals set out in the Ukrainian Forest Management Strategy for 2035 with the New EU Forestry Strategy for 2030, with the aim of:

- Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests to improve rural livelihoods and promote forest bio-economies.
- Protecting, restoring and expanding forests to mitigate the impact of the war and climate change, restore biodiversity loss, and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems.
- Ensuring strategic forest monitoring, reporting and data collection, as well as forest management planning.
- Enhancing the capacity of technical research and innovation institutions to gain a better understanding of forestry and the related sectors.

The FAO Forestry Support Strategy in Ukraine has been planned for an initial period of five years, with input provided by a very broad range of institutions, experts and organizations. It was discussed with the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine in May and June 2023. However, the document is not yet finalized, since, as a result of the war, it will be continually developed and adapted in line with changing circumstances and needs.



Trees felled by  
artillery fire in the  
forest near the  
village of Motyzhyn,  
Kyivska oblast.  
30 May 2022.

©FAO/Viacheslav  
Ratynskyi



## Chapter 1

# ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTRY'S FORESTRY SECTOR AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 1.1

#### **FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND FOREST-BASED VALUE CHAINS IN UKRAINE**

With the ninth largest forested area in the European region, Ukraine has the potential to significantly enhance the economic and environmental benefits of its forested lands. Forests cover approximately 9.7 million ha in Ukraine (FRA 2020) and showed a slight increase from 1990. In 2021, forestry in Ukraine was estimated to contribute to about 0.4 percent of Ukrainian gross domestic product (GDP), while wood processing and the furniture industry contributed to about 1.4 percent of GDP, meaning that forestry and forest-based value chains contributed to 1.8 percent of the country's GDP and could contribute even more.

### 1.2

#### **IMPACT OF THE WAR ON FORESTS AND FORESTRY**

A preliminary assessment of the damages and losses caused by the war to forestry in Ukraine is currently being conducted by FAO. However, a detailed analysis of the damage to forests and losses to the forestry industry will only be conducted after the end of the war. The contamination of forests with unexploded ordnances (UXO) is currently the greatest concern for the forestry sector. In total, 690 000 hectares require demining, but this figure is increasing every day due to the ongoing hostilities.

In addition, the war has triggered an energy crisis due to the shortage and availability of gas. Many households are faced with problems related to heating and cooking food. Fuelwood has become a very important energy source, but it requires time and money which is not often available to the rural population. As a result, it is vital that that fuelwood is supplied to households in winter.

The war has had and continues to have significant consequences for Ukrainian forestry. Forests, when not destroyed, have been seriously degraded – more than 2.9 million hectares of forests have been affected by the war with varying degrees of degradation, and most of them are inaccessible being beyond the control of the Government of Ukraine and due to active combat operations. Of these, approximately 1 million hectares of forests belong to the Avtonomna Respublika Krym and Luhanska and Donetska oblasts, which have not been under Government control since 2014.



Unexploded projectile found in the forest near the village of Stara Huta, Zhytomyrska oblast. 16 July 2022.

©FAO/Oleksandr Ryevnitsev

The destruction and/or damage of forestry estates is another important issue. Even if most of the forestry companies, located in non-government-controlled territories, were not destroyed, they have been deprived of important equipment and machinery.

Forests and surrounding lands have been burned, mined, polluted, and often used for illegal dumping. In these areas, forests have been degraded and the activities of forestry companies have been disrupted. Access to forested areas is now limited due to damage caused to roads and bridges, as well as contamination by UXO. This has impacted the entire forest related value chain, including sawmills and plants for timber and non-timber forest products.

The war has significantly reduced the resilience of forests to increasing threats such as forest fires, pests and diseases. Most of the forestry manpower has been mobilized into the army, and equipment has been partially mobilized or destroyed in the war. The lack of access to large areas of forest limits the ability of foresters to prevent forest fires or take other measures to protect forests.

The inability to access forests that have been mined or contaminated by UXO has far-reaching consequences, including potential health and safety threats, increased risk of forest fires, pest outbreaks and negative economic impacts. Considering the importance of forest ecosystem services and of provision of wood for Ukraine's recovery, demining is a priority for FAO.

Ukraine's ability to implement forest management planning and national forest inventories has been significantly curtailed due to the bombing and looting of the Ukrainian State Forest Management Planning Association (Ukrderzhlisproekt).

The damage caused to the biodiversity of Ukrainian forests due to explosions, fires, harmful chemicals, minefields, UXO and other damaging factors that accompany the hostilities is significant but difficult to assess due to the lack of access to forests.

This is exacerbated by the frequent targeted attacks on the country's infrastructure, particularly related to energy, resulting in severe disruptions to the operation of power plants and energy transmission systems, which has left the country's energy supply in a critical situation. The critical weakness of the energy sector resulting from energy shortages has led to the disruption of supply chains, which in turn has led to a gradual drop in demand for wood and other forestry products in 2023.

### 1.3

## IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON UKRAINIAN FORESTS

Global warming and its consequences are also affecting the climate in Ukraine. The continental climate zone that covered most of the territory of Ukraine is significantly reducing in size every year, giving way to temperate and dry climate zones, which used to be common only in the south of the country. Continuous changes in the country's climate are causing long-term changes in the resilience of forests and causing serious economic and social influence into forestry.

Temperatures are increasing and the typical climatic zones in Ukraine have already shifted several hundred kilometers to the north. Every year, about 150 000 hectares are affected by drought, triggering pest outbreaks that are leading to a massive die-off of coniferous forests, mainly due to insect-borne disease, particularly from bark beetles. This means that new forestry practices urgently need to be adopted.

The forests of Khersonska oblast cover an area of 175 000 hectares, most of which have already been affected by fires as a result of the war, are now at risk of death because of the destruction of the Kakhovka dam that caused the flooding of about 11 300 hectares of forests. In addition, there is also a high risk of soil degradation and desertification in the area of the dam that has been drained, and this requires an immediate response. The dominant tree species in Khersonska oblast are the Crimean pine (*Pinus pallasiana*), the common pine (*Pinus sp.*) and the Black locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*), which are introduced and not waterlogging tolerant.



Die off of coniferous forests, Makivka Mountain, Lvivska oblast. 28 March 2023.

©FAO/Vasyl Masyuk

### 1.4

## “FORESTS OF UKRAINE” STATE FORESTRY ENTERPRISE

The Ukrainian forestry sector is undergoing administrative reforms involving the reorganization and allocation of responsibilities between different institutions. Prior to these reforms, policy implementation and production control were under the responsibility of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, which had direct control over state forestry enterprises. With these reforms, the state forests are now managed by the “Forests of Ukraine” state forestry enterprise, which was established by grouping together the 144 forestry companies dependent on the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine.

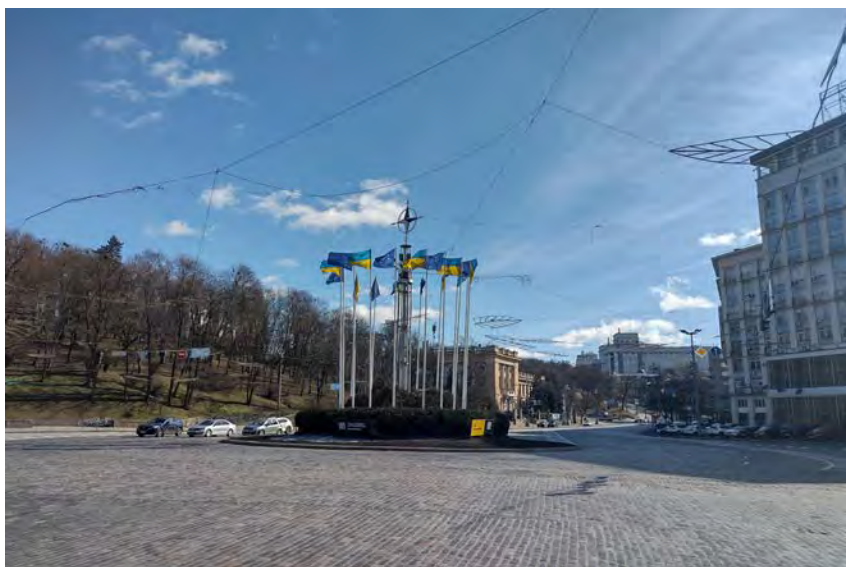
With this administrative reform, the new “Forests of Ukraine” state forestry enterprise is responsible for the production and protection of forests, while the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for the development of forestry policy, and the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine remains responsible for the implementation of policy and monitoring together with the State Environmental Inspectorate.

But the new forestry enterprise, which is the largest in Europe, may find it difficult to implement any forestry activities due to the economic crisis triggered by the war and because its size poses serious obstacles to the implementation of any forestry activities in the field.

In this regard, as the reforms of the state forestry sector have not yet been completed and are currently in a transitional phase, the involvement of stakeholders and experts in the reform process could help to improve the quality of the reforms to the benefit of the forestry sector and its connected value chains.

## 1.5 UKRAINE, FORMALLY A CANDIDATE FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

On 23 June 2022, Ukraine formally became an EU candidate with an accession process that requires, under normal conditions, a ten-year period during which the country must align its policies with European standards. This entails aligning all the country’s policies, including environmental and forestry policies, which is a particularly important challenge given the current conditions in the country.



Europe Square, Kyiv.  
5 March 2023

©FAO/Alberto Del  
Lungo

# THE WAY FORWARD

## 2.1

### FAO PRIORITY ACTIONS IN FORESTRY

In line with FAO's priorities in forestry and the FAO Strategic Framework for 2022–2031, there are four closely interrelated and overarching priorities for supporting forestry in Ukraine:

#### **Priority 1: Protection of forests and enhancing forests resilience, halting deforestation and forest degradation.**

- Strengthen sustainable forest management in the conditions of climate change and the post-war environment.
- Improve the detection of and rapid response to forest fires and forest pests.
- Strengthen the resilience of Ukrainian forests to climate change and develop a road map for their adaptation to climate change.
- Strengthen forest biodiversity.

#### **Priority 2: Forest ecosystem restoration, including agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation.**

- Prioritize forest demining operations with regard for Ukraine's economic recovery and ecosystem services.
- Restore forest landscape following the destruction and degradation resulting from military activities.
- Remediate and restore degraded landscapes and arable lands with the use of Fast-Growing Trees (FGT).
- Support agroforestry development.
- Strengthen forest seed production, establish new forest nurseries and improve nursery techniques to enhance rooting capacity and germination.
- Raise awareness of the importance of the multifunctional role of forests.
- Introduce the concept of multiple-use of forest in forest management, into Ukrainian forest legislation and ensure its implementation in forestry policy.

#### **Priority 3: Conservation and sustainable use of forests to enhance forest-based livelihoods.**

- Strengthen the role of forests in soil health, prevent erosion/desertification and thereby facilitate agricultural production.
- Raise awareness about the sustainable use of wood as a natural renewable raw material that can store carbon in wooden end products, including furniture and wooden houses.
- Support sustainable wood production and increase private sector engagement in Ukrainian

restoration strategies, in particular through capacity building of smallholder and producer associations to develop bankable projects and access finance.

- Strengthen the use of wood biomass as an alternative sustainable and renewable source of energy.
- Strengthen the sustainable and legal use of non-timber forest products.
- Strengthen the implementation of multipurpose forest management plans (MPFMP) to enhance the environmental value of natural areas.
- Strengthen the use of sustainable forestry value chains for sustainable development, including the use of sustainable and legal wood for furniture production and construction to be used as a rapid response to post-war reconstruction.



“Danger Mines” sign in the forest near the village of Zakhariivka, Kyivska oblast. 24 September 2023.

©FAO/Oleksandr Ryevnitssev

#### **Priority 4: Improvement of forest-related data collection capacities.**

- Strengthen national forest inventory and monitoring as a tool to improve sustainable forest management and forest management planning.
- Strengthen the monitoring of wood along the forestry related value chains by improving existing wood tracking systems.
- Support the implementation of the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) regulation and related due diligence mechanism along forestry value chains.
- Improve communication on forest issues, forest science, education and knowledge sharing to raise awareness of the importance of the multifunctional role of forests: protection and production.
- Improve the capacity of relevant Ukrainian stakeholders and decision-makers through information and knowledge exchange.

## **2.2**

### **IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY NEEDS ACCORDING TO THE FAO FORESTRY SUPPORT STRATEGY**

In accordance with the four priorities for supporting the forestry sector in Ukraine, nine priority measures have been identified that require urgent action in the country.

## **1) Damage and loss assessment**

FAO is preparing an assessment of the damages and losses caused to the forestry value chains by the non-use of forests because of the war. The main objective of the study will be to obtain a better understanding of the impact of the war on the forestry sector including both the timber and non-timber forest product sub-sectors to update the government and stakeholders and support the FAO's ongoing activities in Ukraine.

## **2) Fuelwood for energy**

Supporting the supply of fuelwood through cash and voucher mechanisms may benefit households and farmers who are particularly vulnerable to the energy crisis. Support through cash and vouchers can play a critical role in the response to the energy crisis when households and farmers no longer have the financial capacity to purchase and/or access gas or fuelwood because their assets have been damaged or depleted.

## **3) Forest demining**

According to a public reports done by the heads of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine in 2022, 690 000 hectares of forests require demining. While forest demining is a complex challenge due to the specific conditions forest present in terms of risk assessment, the demining of Ukrainian forests needs to be prioritized in view of its value to the ecosystem and to the forestry sector.

An integrated detailed assessment of the forested areas is required, including:

- A mine action non-technical survey to determine the presence of UXO through a review of historical maps, war reports, etc.
- An FAO expert analysis of the ecosystem value for forest resources.

On this basis, an effective demining plan can be established. The FAO's role in the Humanitarian Mine Action Plan is to:

- Prioritize the demand for urgent demining in view of the productive or ecosystem service potential of the land (arable land, forest etc.), using a corporate methodology.
- Guide mine action operators to optimize their contribution to the state strategy for recovery.
- Assess by means of satellite-based imagery, when possible, field sampling and analyses, the impact of the military activities on forest production: chemical contamination (inorganic, organic contaminants), destruction from fires.
- Deploy a remediation mechanism to mitigate the negative impact of the war on forests through reforestation, forest landscape restoration and remediation where possible.

By prioritizing demining and rehabilitation, the FAO supports Ukraine's bid to preserve its forest ecosystem services and protects its production potential.

## **4) Restoration and phytoremediation of landscapes and agriculture land with the use of Fast-Growing Trees**

The war has brought the destruction and degradation of thousands of hectares of ecosystems through deforestation, soil degradation (soil compaction and erosion), contamination (explosives, landmines, and unexploded ordnance), and the disruption of agricultural production. The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine estimates that 470 000 hectares of agricultural land in Ukraine have been contaminated with UXO, land mines and potentially with organic and inorganic contaminants.

Landscape restoration helps restore degraded landscapes by identifying and implementing practices that can re-establish a balance between the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader land-use model, especially in the context of agroforestry. Fast-Growing Trees (FGT) can be used in agriculture and for the restoration of degraded lands, thereby avoiding the further horizontal and vertical diffusion of potential pollutants. In addition, some FGT species have the ability to remediate polluted soils by filtering pollutants. Phytoremediation uses trees' ability to stabilize pollutants in the soil, trapping contaminants in their biomass and/or decomposing them into less mobile forms, thus preventing movement into groundwater and nearby waterways. Fast-growing trees can be used to immobilize contaminants in restricted areas of cultivated land, or more broadly to avoid the contamination of groundwater or surrounding areas in situations where due to the topography of an area there is a risk of such diffusion of contamination.

## 5) Sustainable forest management to achieve sustainable forestry

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is defined as a “dynamic and evolving concept, which aims to maintain and enhance the environmental, economic and social values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.” Forests and trees, when sustainably managed, make a vital contribution both to people and the planet, bolstering livelihoods with timber and non-timber forest products, providing clean air and water, conserving biodiversity and responding to climate change.

In order to align with international policies, the country needs to strengthen sustainable forest management which lies at the foundation of EU regulations including the Green Deal, the European Forestry Strategy and the EU Timber Regulation / Deforestation Regulation (EUTR/DR).



The Carpathian Mountains, covered with forests, Zakarpatska oblast. 24 September 2023.

©FAO/Viktoriiia Mykhalchuk

## 6) The new FAO project, funded by EU

Thanks to the contribution of the EU, FAO is already implementing a project in the Carpathian forests. The forestry component of the EU-funded project “Inclusive, competitive and sustainable value chain development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry” is already taking into consideration a relevant activities concerning the implementation of the multipurpose forest management plan (MPFMP) in the Carpathian region to increase the environmental value of natural areas. The MPFMP will involve an area of 2 000 ha of forests, yet to be identified. FAO will join a forestry company that is initiating the preparation of a forest management plan in forests that are close to local



communities and are interested in the concept of multipurpose forest use and the multifunctional role of forests.

### **7) Strengthening of the Ukrainian State Forest Management Planning Association (Ukrderzhlisproekt)**

FAO, in line with priority one of this Strategy, Halting deforestation and forest degradation, is already responding to the Ministry of Environment, which, in November 2022, sent a formal request to the German Minister for Food and Agriculture to support the Ukrainian State Forest Management Planning Association (Ukrderzhlisproekt) based in Irpin, which was heavily damaged in 2022, by preparing a concept note for funding and strengthening the institute.

Sustainable forest management cannot be strengthened without supporting the Ukrderzhlisproekt, which is responsible for the inventory and management of the Ukrainian state forests and ensures the continuous monitoring of forest resources by safeguarding forests from illegal logging. The Ukrderzhlisproekt also engages in forest preservation planning by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

### **8) Use of sustainable wood for the green reconstruction of Ukraine**

The housing sector, that totaled approximately 18 million housing units before the war, has been severely affected. Housing units varied widely in type and location, including multi-family apartment buildings, single-family houses and dormitories in urban and rural areas. According to the second rapid damage and needs assessment of Ukraine, conducted between February 2022 and February 2023 by the World Bank Group, the Government of Ukraine, the European Union services and the United Nations, the total cost of the damage to the housing sector is estimated to exceed USD 50 billion, with the most significant number of damaged units in the northeast, east and south of Ukraine.

To facilitate the rapid reconstruction of housing in these regions, houses and furniture built with the use of sustainable wood could be considered as eco-friendly structures. Compared to traditional brick and concrete houses, wooden houses are a more sustainable and economical alternative. Sustainable wood is a renewable, environmentally friendly, recyclable and biodegradable natural resource since it originates from sustainably managed forests. FAO could support the development of value chains based on sustainable wood for housing



The heavily bombed building of the Ukrainian State Forest Management Planning Association (Ukrderzhlisproekt) in Irpin, Kyivska oblast. 3 March 2023.

©FAO/Alberto Del Lungo

reconstruction. However, to ensure the sustainable development of wood-based value chains, a sustainable supply of raw wood must be ensured. To this end, we need to find a consensus among all stakeholders on sustainable forest management, and the principles and rules for trading wood to reduce price volatility and ensure a stable supply of renewable raw materials to processors.

In addition, the new EU deforestation-free regulation requires that the wood trade system allows exporters to the EU to collect and distribute documentation proving the legality of timber products and renewable raw material sources because they are sustainably managed and certified. Although round timber harvesting generates 95-97 percent of revenue for Ukrainian forestry companies, non-timber forest products, the monetization of ecosystem services, tourism and recreation remain underdeveloped. Therefore, more attention needs to be paid to these areas, especially in the context of the rural development of Ukraine's forested regions.

## **9) Support for Ukraine's alignment with EU forest strategy and regulations**

Ukraine has a long history of forestry management which was inherited from the Soviet Union, with strong institutions in place that entail detailed forest expansion and maintenance planning. Its forests provide timber and non-timber forest products with the primary objective of protecting the land, according to the Forest Code of 2006.

The main pillar of forest legislation of Ukraine, the Forest Code, was adopted in 1994 and revised in 2006, with several additional amendments thereafter that have not all been well incorporated.

The main forest-related legislation of Ukraine, the Forest Code, the Land Code, the environment protection legislation, the Forest Management Strategy of Ukraine for 2035 and other relevant laws would benefit from a substantial review to align and incorporate new and sustainable forest management approaches in line with the EU Green Deal, the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030, the EU Timber Regulation and the new EU Deforestation Regulation.

It is worth noting that Ukrainian forestry terminology is very different from international terminology (based on the FAO terminology), so there is a high risk of misunderstanding and misinterpreting European legal requirements and policies. To reduce this risk, it is advised that the first important step to be taken is the translation of the international terminology into Ukrainian. There is a need to adopt a common language to communicate with the international community.

## **10) Forests and forestry communication**

The perception of Ukraine's forestry sector is very negative both in Ukraine and internationally, with significant differences between public perception and the actual state of the forests. Although Ukraine's forested area is increasing slightly, concerns about deforestation and damage caused by climate change persist. The multifunctional role of forests, both production and protection, means that forests are looked at differently by different stakeholders, who often encounter conflicting issues based on the incorrect principle that forest use inevitably leads to deforestation.

Forestry institutions and organizations involved in forest management in the country unfortunately do not speak with the same language, giving the public conflicting messages. At the same time, forestry policies in Ukraine are increasingly complex and affect forests in various ways, making it essential to involve all stakeholders in open dialogue to promote coherence. Although people have a strong emotional attachment to forests, a lack of understanding of sustainable forest management can have negative consequences, limiting society's ability to fully benefit from the various functions they perform (ensuring biodiversity, soil protection, carbon storage, climate mitigation, wood production, recreational use, non-timber forest products). The general public needs to be aware of the importance of sustainable forest management to ensure the



Exotic mushrooms, corals of the genus *Ramaria*, listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, in the Carpathian Mountains, Lvivska oblast. 25 September 2022.

©FAO/Viktoriia Mykhalchuk

multifunctional role of forests, since poor management or lack of management can prevent forests from achieving their full potential in terms of mitigating climate change, ensuring biodiversity and meeting forest production targets.

The aim of communication in the forestry sector in Ukraine is to bridge the gap between public perception and real information about forests and forestry in Ukraine, thus contributing to more informed decision-making in this field. In terms of the development of communication capacities, Ukrainian forestry and forest-based value chains can benefit from the experience of the Forest Communication Network coordinated by FAO in disseminating information at the national and regional levels. All forestry projects developed in Ukraine will need to consider the communication component, which is essential to ensure a full understanding of the development and preservation of forests. It is also very important to implement special projects to develop the communication capacities of the forestry sector.

Communication campaigns should contain simple messages that are understandable, credible and sustainable. The forestry sector may not be well known to some key target groups, or they may have strong preconceived ideas about the sector. Therefore, gaining the trust and respect of others may take time.

Below are key messages about forests in Ukraine that could be used:

- Forests play a crucial role in maintaining life on Earth and it is imperative to take action to halt global deforestation and promote forest restoration.
- If managed sustainably and wisely, forests offer an endless supply of renewable materials and energy, as well as various environmental and social benefits.
- While Ukrainian forests are being managed sustainably, legislation and practices should strengthen concepts related to sustainable and multifunctional forest management and to “close to nature” management to mitigate the growing threats posed by climate change, storms, fires, pests and diseases.
- The use of sustainably produced wood and other forest products can help reduce the carbon footprint.



Coniferous  
forests near the  
village of Lopatyn,  
Lvivska oblast.  
22 January 2021.

©FAO/Viktoriiia  
Mykhalchuk

# CONCLUSIONS

This strategy paper for 2023–2027 requires close cooperation with donor countries and funding institutions. FAO has supported the Government to identify priorities that require urgent action and, in cooperation with the EU, has already begun to address some of them.

The estimated three-year budget is between EUR 25 and 50 million. FAO is engaging with donor countries and funding institutions to bring the priority needs to their attention.

At the same time, thanks to the kind support of the EU, which promptly responded to the FAO request, measures have been taken to support the alignment of Ukraine with EU regulations that include, as mentioned above, the strengthening of sustainable forest management, a more transparent method of tracking wood from its harvesting to the end product, and enhanced monitoring along forestry value chains. Finally, together with the EU, FAO is also supporting the country in its efforts to translate EU international forestry terminology and policies in order to facilitate the interpretation and implementation of the EU timber and deforestation regulations.

Once fully implemented, Ukrainian forestry will have progressed towards alignment, which is necessary for the country to apply for EU membership.

## Annex 1

# FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FORESTRY SUPPORT STRATEGY

PRIORITIES	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	BUDGET
<p><b>Priority 1.</b> Protection of forests and enhancing forests resilience, halting deforestation and forest degradation.</p>	<p>The sustainability of forest-dedicated areas is ensured, reducing deforestation rates and degradation in 3 percent.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen sustainable forest management in the conditions of climate change and the post-war environment.</li> <li>2. Improve the detection of and rapid response to forest fires and forest pests.</li> <li>3. Strengthen the resilience of Ukrainian forests to climate change and develop a road map for their adaptation to climate change.</li> <li>4. Strengthen forest biodiversity.</li> </ol>	<p>EU international policies, including terminology and definitions, are interpreted, adopted and integrated into Ukrainian policies.</p> <p>Forest inventory is conducted in areas not directly affected by the current war.</p> <p>Forests are monitored through remote sensing and ground data.</p> <p>Number of hectares reforested and/or afforested.</p>	<p>USD 10 million</p>
<p><b>Priority 2.</b> Forest ecosystem restoration, including agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation.</p>	<p>Stakeholders at national, regional (oblast) and local level are provided with increased economic, ecological and climate-related benefits from large-scale Forest Landscape Restoration.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prioritize forest demining operations with regard for Ukraine's economic recovery and ecosystem services.</li> <li>2. Restore forest landscape following the destruction and degradation resulting from military activities.</li> <li>3. Remediate and restore degraded landscapes and arable lands with the use of Fast-Growing Trees (FGT).</li> <li>4. Support agroforestry development.</li> <li>5. Strengthen forest seed production, establish new forest nurseries and improve nursery techniques to enhance rooting capacity and germination.</li> <li>6. Raise awareness of the importance of the multifunctional role of forests.</li> <li>7. Introduce the concept of multiple-use of forest in forest management, into Ukrainian forest legislation and ensure its implementation in forestry policy.</li> </ol>	<p>The number of forest hectares is classified based on possible UXO/ERW contamination in selected oblasts.</p> <p>The number of hectares of demined, degraded forest, and agroforestry areas are reclaimed through phytoremediation.</p> <p>The capacity of national seedling production for forestry is increased by 30 percent.</p> <p>The policy and legal framework is aligned with international standards.</p>	<p>USD 21 million</p>

<p><b>Priority 3.</b></p> <p>Conservation and sustainable use of forests to enhance forest-based livelihoods.</p>	<p>Sustainable wood/timber value chains rendering ecosystem services and providing livelihoods diversification to rural communities and private sector in Ukraine are established.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen the role of forests in soil health, prevent erosion/desertification and thereby facilitate agricultural production.</li> <li>2. Raise awareness about the sustainable use of wood as a natural renewable raw material that can store carbon in wooden end products, including furniture and wooden houses.</li> <li>3. Support sustainable wood production and increase private sector engagement in Ukrainian restoration strategies, in particular through capacity building of smallholder and producer associations to develop bankable projects and access finance.</li> <li>4. Strengthen the use of wood biomass as an alternative sustainable and renewable source of energy.</li> <li>5. Strengthen the sustainable and legal use of non-timber forest products.</li> <li>6. Strengthen the implementation of multipurpose forest management plans (MPFMP) to enhance the environmental value of natural areas.</li> <li>7. Strengthen the use of sustainable forestry value chains for sustainable development, including the use of sustainable and legal wood for furniture production and construction to be used as a rapid response to post-war reconstruction.</li> </ol>	<p>Number of producer associations, SMEs and private entities are benefited from forests and granted access to wood and/or non-timber products.</p> <p>Three successful multifunctional forest pilots are implemented across Ukraine.</p> <p>Number of hectares of shelterbelts are restored and reforested.</p> <p>Sustainable wood management is adopted to restore and rebuild rural settlements in post-war scenarios.</p> <p>Sustainable and certified wood is used for furniture production.</p> <p>The use of sustainable and certified biomass in rural settlements is increased by 5-10 percent.</p>	<p>USD 6 million</p>
<p><b>Priority 4.</b></p> <p>Improvement of forest-related data collection capacities.</p>	<p>Relevant stakeholders and the public are provided with reliable data and information on forest areas and wood stocks.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen national forest inventory and monitoring as a tool to improve sustainable forest management and forest management planning.</li> <li>2. Strengthen the monitoring of wood along the forestry related value chains by improving existing wood tracking systems.</li> <li>3. Support the implementation of the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) regulation and related due diligence mechanism along forestry value chains.</li> <li>4. Improve communication on forest issues, forest science, education and knowledge sharing to raise awareness of the importance of the multifunctional role of forests: protection and production.</li> <li>5. Improve the capacity of relevant Ukrainian stakeholders and decision-makers through information and knowledge exchange.</li> </ol>	<p>A national monitoring and inspection systems of rough and processed wood is rolled out, aligning with international standards.</p> <p>Country capacity building and transfer of knowledge is completed for forestry stakeholders.</p> <p>Number of forestry communication campaigns are launched at national level, information products and sessions are developed.</p>	<p>USD 3 million</p>
<p>TOTAL FINANCIAL NEEDS 2024 – 2027</p>				<p>USD 40 million</p>

