

**NATIONAL REPORT
III SESSION OF UN FOREST FORUM**

**Ukraine
March 2003**

I. Contact people

Head of Forestry in Ukraine:

Name: Mr. Mykola Kolisnichenko

Title: Head of State Committee of Forestry

Contact information:

Address: State Forestry Committee
vul Shota Rustaveli 9a
Kyiv 01023
Ukraine

Phone: 1 44 228-56-45

Fax: 1 44 228 77 94

E-mail: dklg@nbi.com.ua

UNFF national focal point for Ukraine:

Name: Mr. Viktor Kornienko

Title: Head of the Science and Information Department

Contact information:

Address: State Forestry Committee
vul Shota Rustaveli 9a
Kyiv 01023
Ukraine

Phone: 1 44 228 78 58

Fax: 1 44 228 77 94

E-mail: dklg@nbi.com.ua

Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point:

Name: Mr. Igor F. Buksha

Title: Head of Laboratory of Forest Monitoring and Certification

Contact information:

Address: Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Melioration,
Pushkinska str., 86, 61024, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Phone: +380572 431549

Fax: +380572 432520

E-mail: buksha@uriffm.com.ua

II. The progress achieved and implementation of IPF/IFF working plan

Background

Forest legislation is given in the Forest Code of Ukraine (1994), other legislative documents and government regulations. Parliamentary adoption of a new Land Code (October, 2001) caused the necessity to change the Forest Code of Ukraine. Some legislative issues regulating forest management are formulated in the Land Code (2001), Water Code (1995), and in the following Ukrainian Laws “On Environmental Protection” (1991), “On Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine” (1992), “On Fauna” (1993), “On Moratorium of Clear Cutting in Spruce-Beech Forests of Mountain Slopes in Carpathian Region” (2000). These documents declare:

- prevalent state ownership of forests;
- dominating nature-protective function of forests and their limited exploitation;
- importance of sustainable forest management;
- importance of widespread afforestation and improvement of species composition;

State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine (Derzhkomlisgosp) is a state authorized body, responsible for implementation of the national forest and hunting policy. National forest strategies are implemented through national and state programmes, such as “State Programme of Forest Management and Forest Industry Complex Development to 2015” (1993); “National Programme of Protected Territories Development in Ukraine” (1994); “National Programme of Dnipro River Basin Environmental Sanitation and Improvement of Drinking Water Quality” (1997); “National Programme of Ecological Network Development in Ukraine for 2000-2015” (2000).

In 2001 in Ukraine there was adopted a resolution “On Immediate Actions on Creation of Protective Forests in Useless Agricultural Lands and River Basens”. According to this resolution about 300,000 ha of protective forests will be planted in the period to 2015. In April 2002, in Ukraine there was adopted the State Programme “Forests of Ukraine” for 2002-2015. The programme sets the following objectives:

- to extend forest covered territory to the optimal level in natural zones;
- to improve productivity and quality of species composition in forest plantations;
- to intensify nature-protective function of forests and to conserve their biological diversity;
- to increase forest ecosystems resistance to negative impacts and climate change;
- to use sustainable forest resources management techniques;
- to extend protective afforestation and forest agro melioration;
- to improve forest management legislation and to make it consistent with international sustainable development and forest management principles;
- to intensify state control of protection, conservation, exploitation and reforestation;
- to encourage development of forest research and education;
- to improve social protection of forestry workers.

Ukraine has joined the European Process of forests protection and signed the following resolution of Ministerial Conference on protection of Forests in Europe:

Strasbourg Resolutions: S2 – Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources; S3 - Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires; S4 – Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions; S6 - European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems.

Helsinki Resolutions: H1 – General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe; H2 – General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests; H3 – Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition; H4 – Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change.

Lisbon Resolutions: L1 – People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of the Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management; L2 – Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.

Ukraine has not signed only two Strasbourg resolutions yet: S1 - European Network of permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems; S5 – Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology. In XI World Forest Congress (1997) the former Minister of Forestry of Ukraine reported that our country develops the cooperation on forest ecosystems monitoring and may sign the mentioned Strasbourg resolutions in future.

Forestry economic aspects, including trade.

The total area of Ukrainian forest territories constitutes 10,8 mln.ha, 9,4 of which is covered with forest. The percentage of forest cover is 15,6%. The prevailing species are coniferous and hardwood (spruce, pine, oak, beech, locust, ash). Coniferous forests occupy 42% of the total territory, among them 33% of pine forests. Hardwood forests occupy 43%. As to the age distribution, young forests constitute 32%, there are 44% of middle-aged forest, 13% of approaching maturity forests and 11% of mature forests. Almost half of forests is planted. An average growing stock per 1 ha of forest covered territories is 186 cubic meters, an annual increment constitutes 3.8 cubic meters. The total growing stock exceeds 1,7 billion of cubic meters. There used about 37% of an annual increment. There is only 0,18 ha of forest and about 33 cubic meters of wood per capita in Ukraine.

Ukrainian forests are state owned. A number of ministries is responsible for them. State Committee of Forestry manages 60% of forests, Ministry of Agricultural policy controls 26%, and Ministry of Defense is responsible for 2% of forests. Besides forests are exploited by other 50 state ministries and organizations. Less than 1% of forest fund is in private property. The Land Code, which was adopted by Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) in autumn 2002, permits private ownership of forests, the territory of which does not exceed 5 ha, and allows to plant private forests on the lands of little or no productivity.

In accordance with the Ukrainian conception, main functions of forests are nature-protective and recreational, their exploitation is limited. Reserves, national protected parks and other protected territories occupy about 14% of forests fund area, which is managed by the State Committee of Forestry.

Process of transition economy caused an intensive reduction of budget financing in forest sector. In 1996 from the budget there was appropriated \$ 67,481 mln. and in 2002 only \$ 22,255 mln. were given.

The share of forest products constitutes about 0,3% of the total production volume in the Ukrainian economy. In Ukraine since 1990 wood harvesting decreased because of lowering of purchasing capacity in domestic market. Nevertheless timber export increased. But for all that sales of forest products increased. They constituted 373 mln.Hr. in 1997, 397 mln.Hr. in 1998, 521 mln.Hr. in 1999, and 774 mln.Hr in 2000. In early 90-s wood harvesting volumes decreased but then they started to increase and recent years they were 10-11 mln.cubic meters. In 2001 in Ukraine there were produced 2,0 mln. cubic meters of sawn wood, 0,4 mln. cubic meters of particle board, 20,2 mln. square meters of fiber board, 68,000 tons of woodpulp, 474,000 tons of paper and cardboard.

On European timber market Ukrainian position was determined by analysis of timber import and export database 2000 from the FAO web-site. In Ukraine import and export volume is on the same level as in countries with small volume. Composition of Ukrainian export is different from European: a

share of sawn wood is higher (36,1% - 13,5%), roundwood export is 37,6% (in Europe it is 5,2%). A share of board export (14,7%) is also higher, in Europe it is 9,1%. At the same time the share of export paper and cardboard is less than in Europe (11,3% - 60,3%).

On European market Ukraine is not a large timber importer, and Ukrainian import is twice as large as export. The share of Ukrainian export is 0,13% of the total European, and Ukrainian import is 0,3%.

Ukraine is an exporter (i.e. export volume exceeds import volume) of unprocessed products such as roundwood (639,000 cubic meters), fuel wood (66,000 cubic meters), sawn wood (349,000 cubic meters). Rise in timber export encouraged participation of mediation organizations. The mentioned participation has its economical profits and negative aspects such as violation of environmental regulations of forest management. In comparison with the structure of European export Ukraine exports more (percentage of the total export sum) sawn wood (almost three times more) and roundwood (seven times more).

Nowadays in Ukraine there are methodological techniques of economic estimation of forests, forest plantations, non-wood products, fauna, ecological and social functions of forests. Forest cadastre is being developed for ecological and economical evaluation of forest resources. The problem of cadastre creation is being discussed but it has not been solved yet.

There has already been developed a cadastre evaluation of forest types for the plain territory of Ukraine and for Carpathians. The regional cadastre may be used as base of ecological resource evaluation of forests and forest covered territories. Now only wood products are estimated from an economical point of view. Therefore it is impossible to apply economical mechanisms for sustainable exploitation and protection of forests and this prevents fast development of forest industry. Existing methods of tree stands evaluation with fixed prices and methods of forest profits distribution do not allow using finances for forest management as appropriate. Environmental and social functions of forest (ground protective, water protective, recreational, carbon absorptive) are not evaluated as they should be. Environmental and social functions of forest are not considered in economic relations and are not included in the total forest product. Ukraine has a potential for cooperation on joint projects of carbon sequestration according to Kyoto Protocol. The percentage of forest cover in Ukraine (15,6%) is lower than average European and to achieve optimal percentage (19-20%) it is necessary to plant above 2,5 mln. ha of forests. According to the adopted State Programme "Forests of Ukraine 2002-2015" there will be planted more than 250,000 ha of forests. Preliminary evaluation shows that in 2050 the forest phytomass will contain above 20 mln. tons of carbon dioxide.

Now in Ukraine there has been created a database of joint projects and forest sector encourages implementation of model projects in different regions of our country. Projects cover about 5200 ha of forest territory. But they need an appropriate legislative base.

In 2000 four Ukrainian state forest enterprises initiated forest certification on FSC scheme. The total area of certified forests constitutes 203,000 ha. Annual supply of certified products is 360,000 cubic meters. The forests were certified by the Swiss Institute of Market Ecology. Slovenian company ILMEST ordered the certification. A number of issues should be studied before implementation of these scheme in Ukraine. Besides some legislative aspects prevent implementation of principles and criteria of FSC. In 2002 at the International Research Practical Conference of Certification there was proposed to create a work group to develop national certification standards consistent with main forest certification schemes - Pan-European Forest Certification and FSC. Successful certification of Ukrainian forests demands creation of the national certification scheme and research organizational support.

Ukrainian State Forest Protection Service has been created to prevent illegal harvesting and timber trade. As to the 2002 there were detected 17,360 illegal fellings of 65,700 cubic meters. In Ukraine there are customs and administrative restrictions of bringing roundwood out of some regions and Ukraine.

Forests health and productivity

Forest health was influenced by a large-scale reforestation after the Second World War. Now every second hectare of Ukrainian forests is planted. Monocultures grow in large forest territories, a lot of plantations grow in unfavorable conditions (for example in unproductive eroded lands). Forests are fragmented. In these conditions forests are perceptible to negative anthropogenic impacts and environmental factors. In Ukraine the level of air pollution was one of the highest in the former Soviet Union. In early 90-s about 9 mln. tons of industrial pollutants and 6 mln.tons of transport pollutants were exhausted into the atmosphere. Almost 80% of industrial exhaust constitutes gases and particulate pollutant, half of which is phytotoxic. In early 90-s exhausts were half reduced due to the economic crisis. Nevertheless air pollution remains one of the most important problems in Ukraine. An obsolete equipment is used and updating of industry may cause increase in exhaust.

According to the national legislation and international agreements environmental monitoring is implemented as a component of the state environmental monitoring system. Since 1989 forest monitoring is fulfilled in the framework of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests Economic Commission for Europe (ICP-Forests). Forests monitoring is based on the Manual ICP-Forests of I Level. Since 2000 scientists and experts of forest inventory implement a model monitoring project. In 2001 in Eastern Ukraine an average defoliation level of monitoring plots was 18,8% for coniferous and 28,2% for deciduous forests. In south-eastern part of Ukraine there were made 120 II level monitoring plots on the base of US Forest Health Monitoring. These plots are measured for health, productivity and biodiversity. Monitoring results show that eastern forests are highly damaged and are under anthropogenic impact. Crown defoliation exceeds European level.

Support of forests, which meet today and future demand

General information of Ukrainian forests is collected by forest inventory. Then there worked out a plan of organization and development of forest enterprises. There also made strategies of forest management development at regional and national levels. In the frameworks of international cooperation national forestry aspects are made consistent with international ones. In this respect common international projects of Ukrainian cooperation with foreign experts are extremely useful.

Swedish company “Scandiaconsult Nature AB” has developed the Strategic Plan of Ukrainian Forest Sector Development. It shows sustainable forest sector development for the period economy transition on the principles of democracy and market economy. Participation in the international project Temperate & Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000, held under aegis of Economic Commission for Europe, helped to make Ukrainian forest inventory and evaluating criteria of forest health consistent with international standards.

An important contribution to the development of modern methods of informational analytical support of national forest policy was made by the joint international project “Scenario Analysis of Sustainable Wood Production under Different Forest Management Regimes”, which was implemented in the frameworks of the Programme INCO-Copernicus. This project developed a new approach to the analysis of growth and harvesting dynamics. This approach helps to develop fundamental methods of long-term planning of forest management in Ukraine. According to the results national forest resources scenarios are integrated into European scale scenarios. Traditional growth and productivity data are combined with monitoring and research data. Synthesis of the information collected shows an evaluation of forest resources in future and possibilities of sustainable forest management. The programme presents quantitative evaluations of sustainable forest management and produces different scenarios of forest management with the consideration of forest health climate change. Information from different sources (forest management data, forest inventory and monitoring, growth and productivity models, climate change influence) was combined in a common system, used for decision-making. European Forestry Institute developed the model EFISCEN. The model was given to the

Ukrainian Research Institute of Forest Agro-Melioration for the analysis of possible forest developments and working out a strategy of forest management at region or country level. Ukrainian Research Institute of Forest Agro-Melioration developed long-term predictions of forest resource state under impact of climate change, forest defoliation and different regimes of forest management for the period to 2050. The methodology used was coordinated at European level. The data collected are important for forest policy. They have already been used in developing of the Programme Forests of Ukraine 2002-2015.

In the frameworks of SCEFORMA the most optimal scenario is a multifunctional maximum nature-friendly scenario. It shows new ages of main fellings and new forest management programmes. According to this scenario in 30-35 years total harvesting volume will be 22 mln.cubic meters. And an average growing stock will also increase. The implementation of this multifunctional scenario should improve the age distribution of forests to 2050. But optimal age distribution will be achieved only in 50 years. In 2035 uneven age composition will not allow to harvest a lot for a long time, because high harvesting volume may exhaust mature and approaching maturity forest for 40 years. And young forest will not be enough. SCEFORMA scenarios are consistent with other scenarios, made in the context of IIASA model and Forest Inventory Department of the National Agricultural University. Further analysis of long-term tendencies of Ukrainian forest fund dynamics is implemented in the frameworks of the Programme EFSOS. Prognosis of the long-term tendencies encourages efficient inter-sectoral cooperation of forest resource exploitation and conservation.

In Ukraine there was developed a Conception of Biological Diversity. Ukrainian Parliament adopted National Programme of the National Ecological Network creation 2000-2015. The programme is based on guidance of Pan-European Strategies of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Besides in Ukraine with the help of international investment there implemented projects of conservation and regeneration of biodiversity. Unfortunately there are problems of forestry legislation, insufficient research and study of biological diversity. Conservation of forest genetic resources is regulated by technical documents, which should be made consistent with international conventions, agreements and national legislation changes. Reproductive material which has a high level of genetic diversity is not enough. Low budget financing prevents fast development of forest biodiversity monitoring and research. Another problem is low information distribution and specialists training and education.

Biodiversity conservation and regeneration needs:

- to improve forestry legislation;
- to implement ecosystem forest management;
- to implement nature-friendly reforestation and forest exploitation techniques;
- to optimize reserved territories considering creation of national and pan-European ecological network;
- to develop forest biodiversity monitoring;
- to create ecologic-economical models of evaluation different forest management regimes and to provide profitability of forest management and biodiversity conservation.

III. Report writing

This report is written by the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine in cooperation with the Ukrainian Research Institute of Forest Agro Melioration in Kharkiv.