WAYS OF FULFILMENT OF THE “STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT” IN UKRAINE

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WAYS OF FULFILMENT OF THE SAP ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN UKRAINE

Administrative regulations

In October 2014 State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine obliged the subordinate enterprises to:
- draw up a plan of measures for the implementation of the SAP;
- provide annual reporting on the implementation of the SAP.

Information about the goals and objectives of the Carpathian Convention is widely disseminated in the forest sector of Ukraine. Journals and books containing such publications are generally sent to Vienna and the members of the Working Group.

In the Carpathian Regional Training Center (Ivano-Frankivsk), a lecture is given every time on the tasks of foresters in accordance with the requirements of the documents of the Carpathian Convention.
Objective 3 – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION


Within the project framework, along with other tasks, SE "Vygoda Forestry" will create a model area, which will ensure effective forest management of on the principles of close to nature forestry; integration of forest and water management, creating conditions for the climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Model forest infrastructure to be created: 10 km of new forest roads, 3 reinforced concrete bridges, river embankment enforcement, 11 wooden caskades in the river-bed, water reservoir and polder, restoration of 4 kilometres of skidding trails.
Objective 3 – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International projects: "Qualified foresters - the best forests" (2016-2018) and "Classification of the state of the catchment - the transfer of experience of the US Forest Service to Ukraine" (2019-2021). The implementation of these projects took place on the initiative and under the leadership of the NGO "FORZA" (Ukraine) with the financial support of the US Forest Service. As a result of these projects, the draft of the "Recommendations for the classification of watersheds for the Ukrainian Carpathians" was prepared.

Assessment of watersheds status will be carried out using 12 indicators divided into four main groups. Of these, five are aquatic and seven are terrestrial. The condition of the catchment is assessed by three classes: functioning properly, functioning at risk and impaired function.
From January 2020 to May 2022 UkrRIMF worked on the implementation of the a cross-border Romanian-Ukrainian project “Promote deadwood for resilient forests in the Romanian-Ukrainian cross-border region (RESFOR)”. The project implemented under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI), Romania-Ukraine Common Program 2014-2020ENI CBC Romania-Ukraine program in partnership with WWF-Romania Danube Carpathian Program – Maramures Branch (Baia Mare). Partners of project - University ”Ștefan cel Mare” University (Suceava) and the non-governmental organization Ecosphera (Uzhhorod).

The project was a research project in the forestry domain, particularly on the issue of deadwood, as an important element: in securing forests productivity, the biodiversity of forest ecosystems, and ecosystem services valuable for local communities as well as; and in improving forests resilience to climate change. Also, an important component within the project is the communication and promotion of scientific results to project beneficiaries.
On June 7, 2021, during a speech at the All-Ukrainian Forum "Ukraine 30. Ecology", President V. Zelenskyi signed a decree on the launch of the "Green Country" project. The main goal of the project "Green Country“- to increase the area of forests by one million hectares in 10 years. For this reason, in 2022 – 2024 years, it was planned to plant one billion trees in Ukraine.

State target program "Large-scale afforestation of Ukraine" was developed. The terms of implementation of this program are 2022-2031. All forest enterprises of the State Forestry Agency actively participated in the implementation of the program's activities with the broad involvement of the public. Every region of the Ukrainian Carpathians should have a modern large forest nursery. In Lviv, this is already fully functional.

The new Law of Ukraine (June 20, 2022 No. 2321-IX) "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Forest Conservation" entered into force. The main goals of the Law are:
- identification and preservation of self-seeded forests;
- simplification and stimulation of the afforestation procedure
Last month, the process of reforming the forest sector of Ukraine began. Two verticals will be created under the State Forest Agency.

The first, managing vertical is the state enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", which will include: the central apparatus, regional offices, local branches and forestry, which will play a key role. The single enterprise will be responsible for protection, defense, afforestation and reforestation and the whole complex of other functions, including harvesting and sale of wood.
Objective 5 – ENSURING THE PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE FORESTS AND THEIR ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

“State strategy forest management of Ukraine until 2035” (approved by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine December 29, 2021 N 1777)

The second vertical is the regional offices of the State Forestry Agency, which will control and coordinate both "Forests of Ukraine" and other users of forest and hunting grounds.

Decision of National security and defense council of Ukraine “About protection, defense, use and reproduction of forests of Ukraine in a special period” (implemented by decree of the President of Ukraine dated September 29, 2022 No. 675/2022).
**Objective 6 – MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS IN PROTECTED AREAS, AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND ESPECIALLY VIRGIN FORESTS**

Information about virgin forests and quasi-virgin forests, that are available in the state forest enterprises of the Ukrainian Carpathians, subordinated to the State Forestry Agency of Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of region</th>
<th>Total area of forests, thousand ha</th>
<th>Area of virgin forests, ha</th>
<th>Area of quasi-virgin forests, ha</th>
<th>Total area of identified forests, ha/%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcarpathian</td>
<td>588,7</td>
<td>2830,8</td>
<td>2359,4</td>
<td>5190,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivano-Frankivsk</td>
<td>456,6</td>
<td>4175,2</td>
<td>1816,5</td>
<td>5991,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lviv</td>
<td>478,2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>71,2</td>
<td>71,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chernivtsi</td>
<td>234,4</td>
<td>296,0</td>
<td>534,3</td>
<td>830,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>7302,0</strong></td>
<td><strong>4781,4</strong></td>
<td><strong>12083,4</strong></td>
<td><strong>12083,4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the mentioned areas have official status, which is confirmed by documents of regional state administrations.
Objective 9 - IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST-TRANSPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE OF MOUNTAIN FORESTS

Currently, new “State building regulations” for the design of forest roads are being developed.
Objective 9 - IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST-TRANSFORTING INFRASTRUCTURE OF MOUNTAIN FORESTS

Action 9.2. Adopt measures to improve ways of primary transportation of wood.

Nowadays, when caterpillars and wheeled tractors remain the main skidding machinery in the forests of the Carpathians countries, an extensive network of skidding trails has been formed. Forest environment is significantly affected due to the destruction of soil cover and subsequent increase of erosion processes during and after the logging.

To solve this problem in Ukraine:
- a research aimed at testing forestry melioration processes for skidding trails in mountain forests and creating practical guidelines for forest enterprises has begun;
- draft of the “Recommendation on evaluating the skid trail network” has been prepared.
Objective 15 – COMMON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Action 15. 1. Undertake active participation, according to the needs and possibilities of each Party, in common programs and projects on activities jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties.

1. On behalf of the foresters of Ukraine, I express my sincere gratitude for the very great help that the governments and peoples of the countries of the Carpathian Convention are currently providing to our state. Only such joint resistance to Russian aggression can ensure a peaceful future for European countries.

2. The holding of the "Forests of Europe" Ministerial Meeting in August of this year and the upcoming Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention (November 2022), which relate to the restoration and further development of the forest sector of Ukraine, is a strong example of support.

3. It is necessary to conduct joint research and projects aimed at solving the tasks of the Carpathian Convention, in which it is advisable to involve Ukrainian forest scientists and specialists of forest management organizations. This will help preserve the scientific potential of the forest sector of Ukraine.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

Volodymyr Korzhov (UkrRIMF)