

A photograph of a small, brown bird perched on a young pine branch. The branch is covered in green, needle-like foliage. The background is a blurred green forest. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Support Without Harm: Preventing Environmental Violations in Ukraine

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Virgin, Quasi-Virgin and Natural Forests Protection in Ukraine

To comply with the requirements of the Carpathian Convention:

- Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Protection of Virgin Forests in accordance with the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians" (No. 2063-VIII of 23 May 2017);
- Methodology for Determining the Affiliation of Forest Areas to Virgin Forests, Quasi-Virgin Forests and Natural Forests, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 161 of 18 May 2018.
- Methodology on the belonging of forest areas to virgin forest natural monuments approved by the Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine No. 162 of 18 May 2018

Perechyn Forestry Case

- **2019** – 1714.9 ha of virgin and quasi-virgin forests were confirmed by the **Conclusion** and officially recognised within the Perechyn Forestry (now Uzhhorod Forestry of the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine”)
- **2019** — subcompartment 1 of compartment 3 of the Shipot Forestry **recognised as virgin forests**, and subcompartment 2 to its protection zone (the area around designated virgin forests, quasi-virgin forests and natural forests).
- **2023** — plots recognised as **HCV 3** (rare, threatened or endangered, incl. Virgin forest) under FSC certification.
- **2023 & ongoing process** — inclusion of this plots to the projected **virgin forest natural monument “Primeval Forests of the Shipot Forestry”**.
- **February 2025** — **logging tickets (permits)** have already been issued for these areas.
- **March 2025** — the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” announced a **tender for a forest road to be built** within these plots — road construction and accompanying logging are illegal and threaten Ukraine's unique natural ecosystems.
- **20s of March** — satellite monitoring showed that the logging took place.
- **15 April** — status of logging is still “not started” in register of logging tickets.

SCHEMATIC PLAN
of the location of the forest road
in Lutianske forestry and Shipot forestry
of the Uzhhorod Forestry Branch
of the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine”



Felling in
subcompartment 2 of
the Shipot forestry for
the construction of a
forest road. Photo:
Olena Mudra



Summer 2024
The Copernicus Data Space
Ecosystem Browser

Spring 2025
The Copernicus Data Space
Ecosystem Browser





Civil society actions

- Information about violation was **reported** to the authorized bodies and to the forest user (FE "Forests of Ukraine") that the **logging permit should be canceled**.
- After the fact of the discovered logging, **official letters** were written to the **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine** and the **Prosecutor General's Office**.
- A **complaint** was written against the forestry enterprise to the **FSC auditors**.
- A **criminal investigation** was initiated by the prosecutor's office into the fact of issuing logging permits and carrying out logging.
- The **prosecutor's office is demanding** that the State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" through the **court give consent to the creation of a primeval forest nature monument** as required by law.



<https://wwf.ua/stay-tuned/news/?18049991/save-ukraine-virgin-forests>

What should be done?

1. **Bring to justice** the individuals and institutions responsible for the illegal issuance of logging permits and logging activities in virgin forests.
2. **Restore the logged plots** and manage the restored stands as a buffer zone to protect the remaining virgin forests.
3. **WWF-Ukraine will submit updated data**, including official conclusions and shapefiles, on recognized virgin and quasi-virgin forests for the Carpathian Convention's consideration.
We underline that, under Ukrainian law, forests confirmed by official conclusions and approved by forestry enterprises are subject to legal protection, even if not yet formally designated as protected areas.
4. **Establish a Virgin Forest Nature Monument** within the Shipot forestry, as required under the Carpathian Convention and the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Protection of Virgin Forests."
5. **Strengthen the system for issuing logging permits** by integrating mandatory verification of affiliation with virgin, quasi-virgin, and other ancient forests.
6. **Implement the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle** in Ukraine to prevent the recurrence of such violations.



VIRGIN FORESTS OF UKRAINE

let's preserve the uniqueness

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