



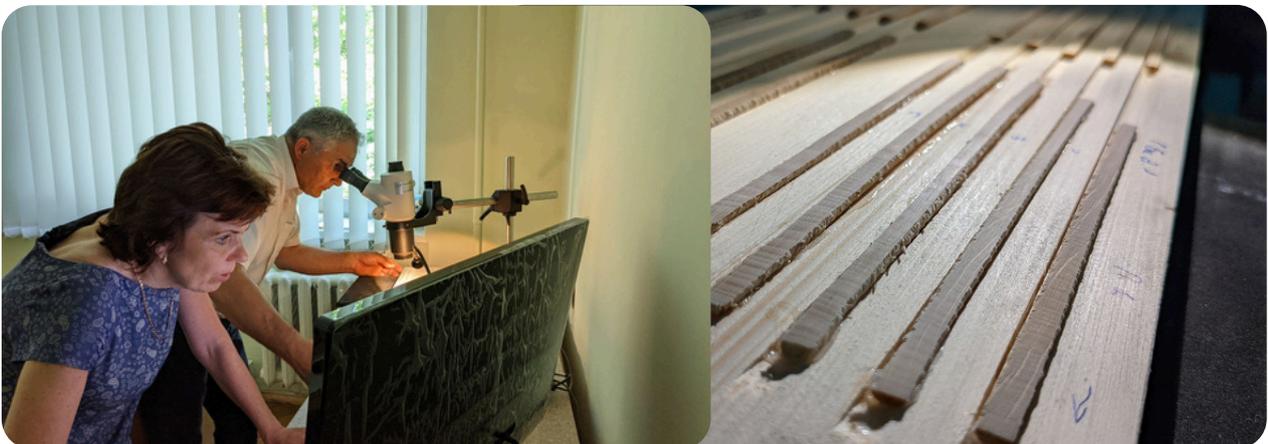
ForestCom
for better nature and life

Five Years in Five Stories

NGO “ForestCom” was founded in February 2020 to protect valuable forests, improve environmental conditions, promote sustainable forestry, and raise community awareness through impactful initiatives. Our team includes experts in forestry, ecology, law, sociology, urban landscaping, environmental education, and related fields. We develop and implement projects to safeguard unique habitats, strengthen sustainable practices, and shape national policies for a greener future. Since our founding, the organization has grown and expanded its capacity to drive meaningful change. ForestCom promotes transparency, democratic values, and the sustainable use of forest resources and ecosystem services to protect Ukraine’s natural heritage.

Science and Oversight Prevent Illegal Timber Export

At the request of the Security Service of Ukraine, ForestCom experts analyzed a timber consignment at the Odesa customs post that had been falsely declared. One of the main challenges in such cases is determining when the trees were cut, especially with selective logging. Using dendrochronology — the study of tree rings and wood properties — experts verified the timber’s origin and discovered it belonged to a category banned for export since 2015. This intervention prevented an illegal export and exposed serious gaps in customs control. The case highlighted the vital role of scientific expertise in combating illegal logging and timber smuggling.



Advocating for Invasive Species Restrictions in Forestry Practice

Invasive tree species long used in Ukrainian forestry posed a growing threat to native ecosystems by displacing local flora and disrupting biodiversity. To address this, ForestCom launched a nationwide advocacy effort, engaging scientists, foresters, and environmental NGOs in dialogue and awareness-raising. The organization presented evidence on the risks and built a strong professional consensus for reform. On December 20, 2022, these efforts culminated in the Cabinet of Ministers adopting Resolution No. 1410, introducing restrictions on invasive species. The resolution fully incorporated ForestCom's recommendations, marking a significant step toward sustainable forestry policy in Ukraine.

Protecting Mountain Rivers from Logging Damage in the Carpathians

In September 2023, ForestCom inspected the Beskydy Forest near Myslivka and found severe environmental violations, including vehicles crossing mountain streams to haul timber. Despite a formal notice and the enterprise's initial pledge to correct the issues, a 2024 follow-up revealed new illegal crossings in rivers such as Svicha and Synya Mahura. ForestCom filed a complaint with the FSC certification body, Preferred by Nature, which confirmed non-compliance and set a March 13, 2025, deadline for corrective action. By March 2025, joint inspections verified that proper river crossings had been installed, and the enterprise committed to building logging roads that avoid waterways. With environmental training for staff and mandatory FSC compliance in contracts, destructive practices were halted, legal order restored, and a precedent for responsible forest management in the Carpathians established.



Deep Green Ukraine: From Pilot Project to Policy Influence

Illegal logging in Ukraine threatens biodiversity, climate stability, and local livelihoods, with damages exceeding 444 million hryvnias in 2020. To address this, ForestCom, together with the Space Research Institute and the State Space Agency of Ukraine, launched Deep Green Ukraine — a satellite monitoring system using AI to detect illegal logging. Piloted in Kyiv, L'viv, Zakarpattia, and Odesa, the system combined remote sensing with field checks to uncover violations in real time. In 2021, ForestCom presented the initiative to the National Security and Defense Council, advocating for nationwide adoption and legal reforms. A key proposal was requiring all forest users to publish logging permits in a centralized open database before operations begin.

Operation Jay. Forest Restoration Through Civic Action

Ukraine's forests face growing threats from climate change, invasive species, and human activity, with native oaks increasingly replaced by non-native red oak that degrades ecosystems. To counter this, ForestCom partnered with Hutsulshchyna National Nature Park to organize "Operation Jay," a hands-on eco-educational event ahead of the International Day of Forests. Volunteers from across Ukraine — students, schoolchildren, and local residents — planted native oak acorns, symbolically mirroring the jay bird's role in natural regeneration. The event fostered awareness, strengthened community ties, and directly contributed to forest restoration.



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