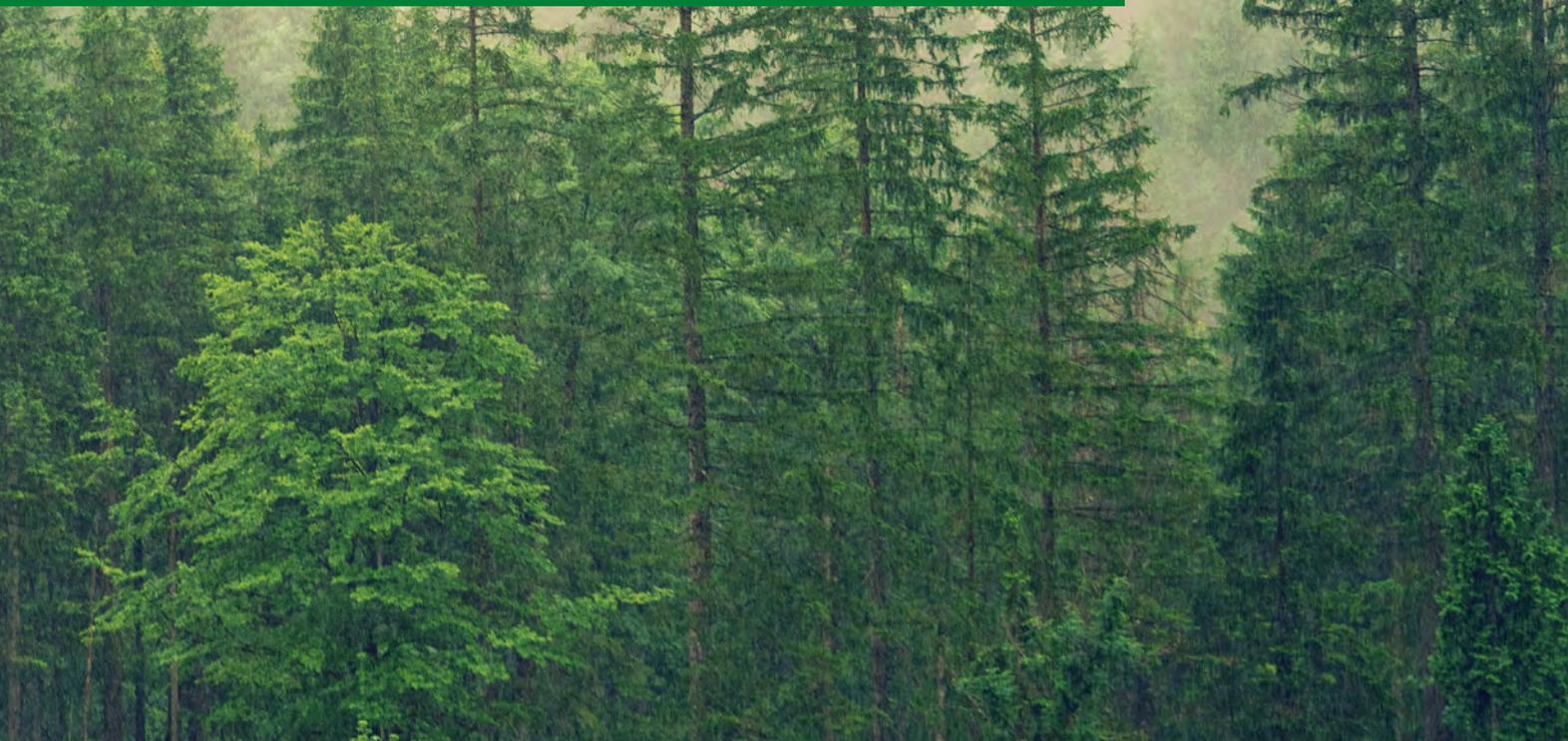


2021

ANNUAL REPORT

NGO "FORESTCOM"

Institutional activities of the NGO «ForestCom» are supported
by the USDA Forest Service International Programs





ABOUT US

Forest Initiatives and Communities (ForestCom) NGO was founded in February 2020 by researchers, staff of the Ukrainian National Forestry University, and participants of the Forest Watch project (2016-2019). The organization seeks to engage in environmental protection endeavors, help raise living standards in our society, ensure the sustainable use of forest resources, and improve the environment. Our purpose is to implement good initiatives for better nature and life of Ukrainian communities and beyond using fresh ideas, professional, science-based approach, and other crosscutting concepts. To this end, we develop our activities in four focus areas:

- Forest Monitoring Lab
- Timber Identification Lab
- Forest Restoration Center
- Urban Forestry and City Gardening

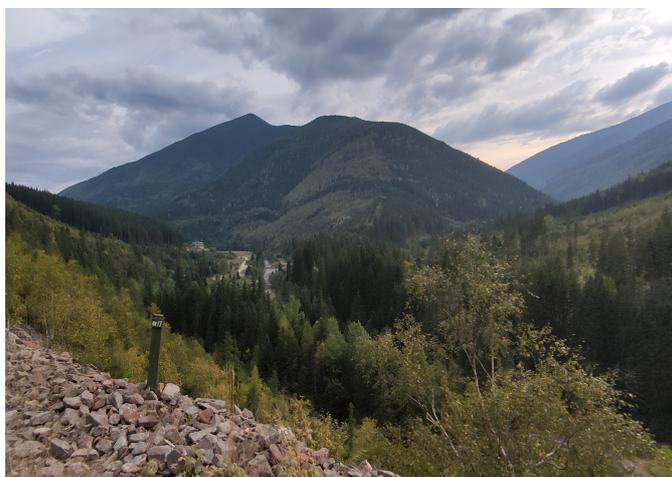
Our values – love for nature; zero tolerance for corruption and illegal (barbarian) logging; comprehensive support for local community development, responsible business and government; empowerment of people.

IN 2021, OUR TEAM:

Continued the US Forest Service supported project on combating Illegal logging in Ukraine. During the implementation of which we concentrated on forest protection, development of proposals for national management systems, control, and forestry using the best scientific and practical approaches. We strengthened cooperation with the National Security Council of Ukraine on combating illegal logging, improving forest legislation, and developing collaboration with the relevant central executive bodies.



As part of the CRDF managed project "Capacity Building for the Ukraine NGO Network", we conducted online activities on the institutional development for environmental-oriented NGOs.



With the support of Global Conservation, we identified the most valuable natural, attractive tourist, and cultural sites in the Ukrainian Carpathians including areas that need appropriate adaptive infrastructure development.

Together with the Space Research Institute under NAS of Ukraine and State Space Agency of Ukraine and "Authorities Monitoring Center" NGO, we improved the prototype of the independent Monitoring System "DeepForest" for tracking the legality of forest cover changes - within the Deep Green Ukraine project.



WITHIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, WE:

Monitored forest cover changes:

- by field expeditions - surveyed 65 hectares of logging sites and 231 hectares of forests to identify reported illegal logging and significant forest violations;

- by using distance monitoring means - thousands of hectares of valued forests have been saved from illegal logging pressure by constant monthly monitoring of their cover changes and by spreading the knowledge about such modern possibilities for controlling the violations.

Identified forest violations:



- prepared and sent 26 reports of the forest inspections to law enforcement and regulatory agencies on behalf of public activists, describing the identified facts that indicate significant forest violations and illegal deforestation in detail;



- documented illegal logging of approximately 200 cubic meters of wood with an estimated total loss of about 2 million UAH (~\$80,000);

- conducted 16 expert studies on detected forest violations at the request of law enforcement agencies: the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Bureau of Investigation, the Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine, and the State Customs Service of Ukraine.



WITHIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, WE:

Identified the main problems faced by Nature Park rangers during their duties concerning protection, published their analysis, and started preparing training events for employees of the protection service of nature protection institutions.



Contributed to biodiversity conservation and reforestation:

- analyzed reforestation activities of Zhovkva and Busk Communal Forestry Enterprises of "Halsillis", as well as Slavsk, Skoliv, and Drohobych State Forestry Enterprises of Lviv Regional Department of Forestry and Hunting;



- developed recommendations for improving reforestation activities aimed at the creation of better biologically resilient nature-oriented forest stands.

Conducted the following research activities:

- studied access to the publicly available data provided by forestry enterprises and institutions in relation to national ecology-oriented law;
- identified trends, suggested changes, and ways to optimize document flow in forestry. The results of the research are analyzed and published in a generalized form.

-

WITHIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, WE:

Organized eco-educational and volunteer events:

- planted about 200 tree saplings in the areas of the "Znesinnia" RLP, which were most in need of renewal and restoration of tree cover for Lviv city;

- cleaned the forest around the high-mountain Maricheyka lake in the Chornohora massif, within the Verkhovyna district of the Ivano-Frankivsk region, which is located on the territory of the Carpathian National Nature Park;



- joined forces with Ukrainian electronic producer and DJ Andriy Syrotkin and released the mini-album "Vyriy" promoting forest protection and conservation.



- held ten ecologically oriented classes "People - to birds, Birds – to people" for children from schools of the Lviv region in Kamianka-Buzky, Zhovkivskyi, Mostyskyi districts, and the city of Lviv on the topic of how to care for birds in the winter period and improving the conditions for their living in populated areas;

- joined meeting "Forestry Council of Lviv Regional Department of Forestry and Hunting", at which were approved projects of forest restoration measures for 15 forestry enterprises of the region with a total area of 669 ha and natural regeneration with a total area of 970 ha for 2021;

WITHIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION, WE:

Conducted a series of online training aimed at improving the knowledge of law enforcement officers in the field of forestry to combat illegal logging of trees effectively, sale of illegally obtained wood, and law violation in the protection or exploitation of natural resources.

Started training activities on how to create orthophoto maps using drones for employees of the Carpathian NPP and other foresters.



Cooperated with the Verkhovyna National Nature Park, contributing to the improvement of their nature protection capacities and tourist infrastructure adaptation, including support for their technical assistance.



Contributed to the development of tourism in the Ukrainian Carpathians:

- identified more than 25 most valuable spots in the Ukrainian Carpathians from the tourism attractiveness point of view via an online survey;
- defined 50 nature-related territories that would benefit from the development of appropriate adaptive infrastructure and contribute to increasing the local economy attractiveness of the Ukrainian Carpathian region.

Supported institutional development of colleagues from other friendly NGOs:

- conducted nine online events (19 webinars) aimed at improving the institutional potential of environmental organizations.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

2 481 600 - Total audience coverage

PUBLICATIONS:



234



2013

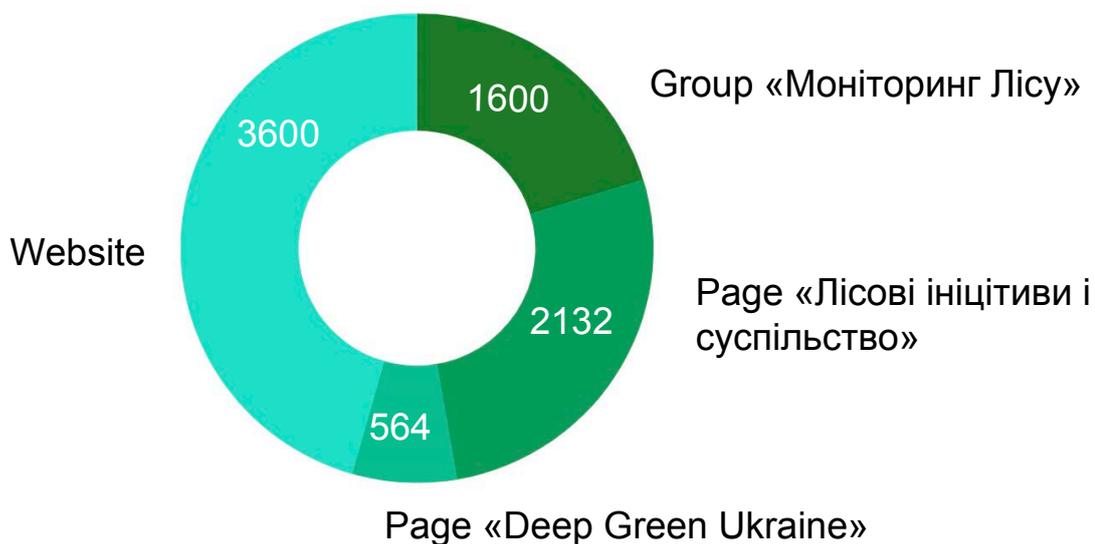


2



5

SUBSCRIBERS:



Social media pages:



forestcom_ua



Forestcom



Лісові ініціативи і суспільство
ForestCom



Лісові ініціативи і суспільство

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



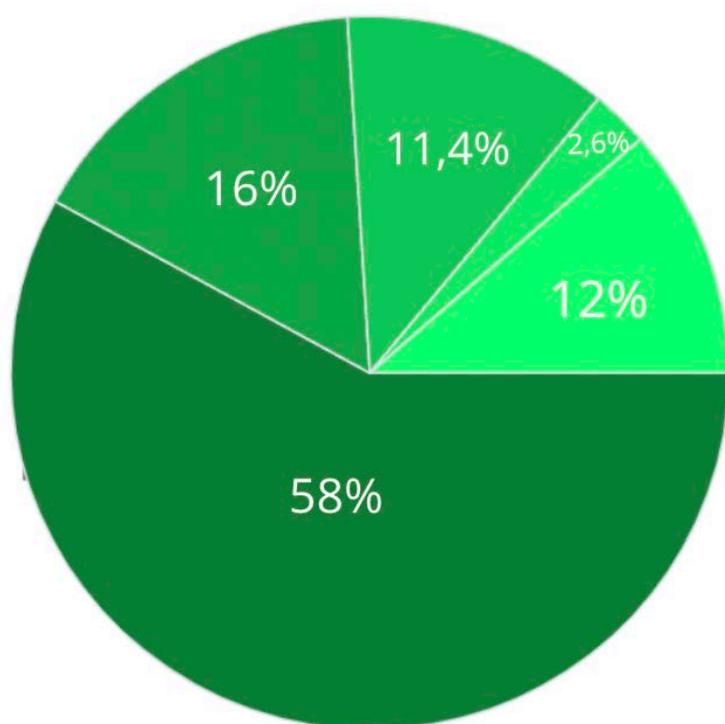
Total funding



Project
related
costs



Costs
transferred
to 2022



- Deep Green Ukraine
- Charitable donations from individuals and legal entities
- CRDF Capacity Building for the Ukraine NGO Network
- Global Conservation
- USFS ForestCom program on Combating illegal logging in Ukraine

OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS



Міністерство
захисту довкілля
та природних ресурсів
України



CONTACTS:

Office address:

Ukraine, Lviv region,
Lviv 79031,
Stryisky Park str., 14

Contact phone number:

+38 0322 951 306

E-mail:

info@forestcom.org.ua