



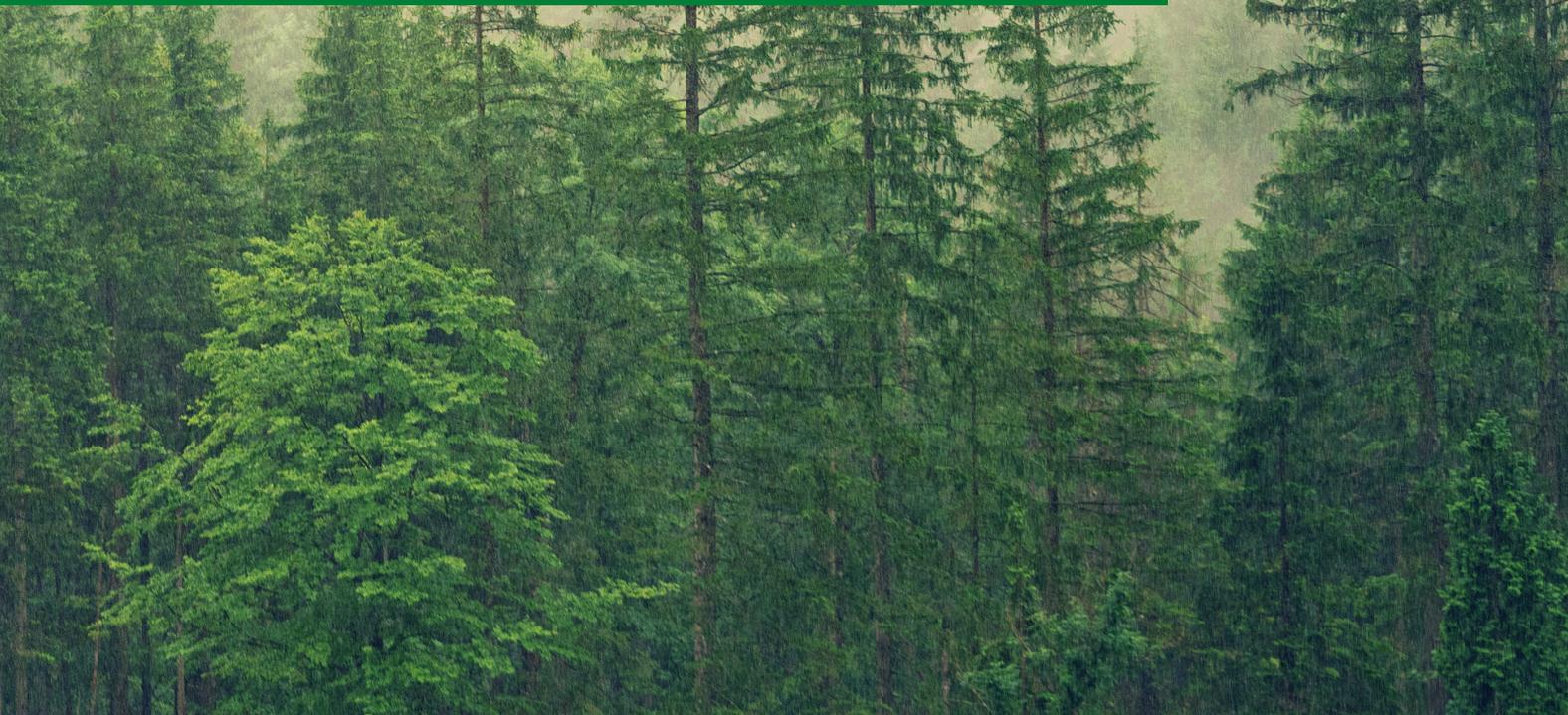
ForestCom
for better nature and life

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

NGO "FORESTCOM"

ForestCom's institutional activities are supported by the US 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) implemented by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Ukraine. 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.

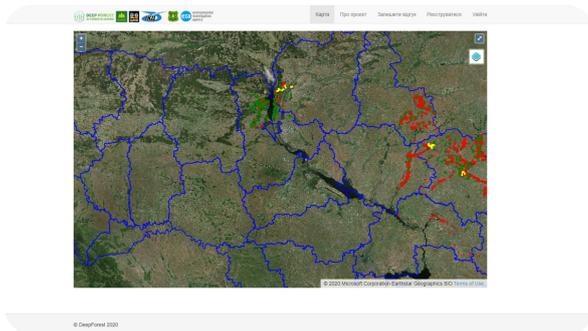
Our purpose is to implement good initiatives for better nature and life of Ukrainian communities and beyond using fresh ideas, professional, science-based approach, and other crosscutting concepts. To this end, we develop our activities in four focus areas:

- 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.

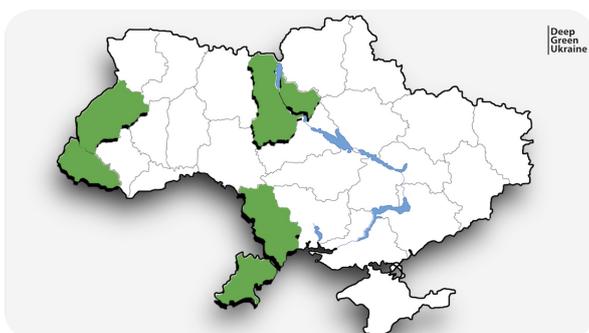
IN 2020, OUR TEAM

Established an NGO that keeps guard over forests and develops forest management, control and monitoring systems based on best practices and scientific approaches.



Designed **DeepForest**, the first prototype of an independent Illegal Logging and Deforestation Alert System

To continue the development of the DeepForest system, **we joined forces with partners** from the NGO "Authorities Monitoring Center" and the Space Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) and the State Space Agency of Ukraine (SSAU) within the Deep Green Ukraine project and won the Open Data Challenge competition.



Deep Green Ukraine is an Illegal Logging and Deforestation Alert System for the public authorities in Kyiv, Lviv, Zakarpattia, and Odesa regions. We are currently piloting the system within Kyiv region.

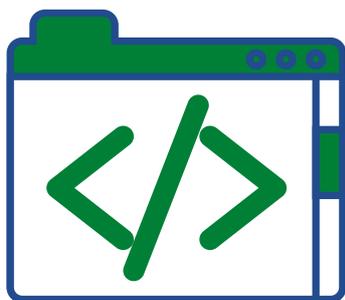
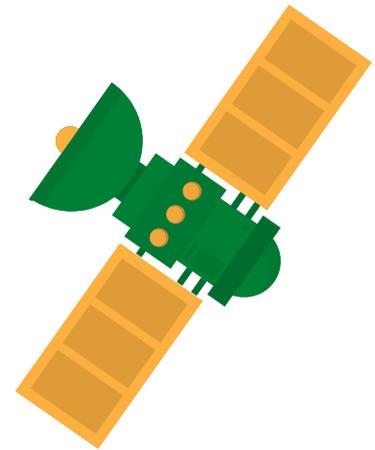
IN 2020, OUR TEAM

Participated in the development of the draft **State Forest Management Strategy in Ukraine until 2035** under the leadership of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.



Contributed to the establishment of forest-related focus areas and strategic objectives within the **Vision for the Development of the Ukrainian Economy** that laid a basis for the elaboration of the National Economic Strategy 2030 led by the Government of Ukraine.

Devised a **separate monitoring system** for the analysis of satellite images **with the aim of protecting old-growth forests in the Ukrainian Carpathians**. As of the end of the year, the monitoring system included 582 sites with a total area of 6,958 ha. The monitoring results show that those forests that were granted the natural monument status are properly protected by the competent public institutions.



Crafted the concept for **the National Electronic System for Monitoring the Movement of Timber Products** that (if implemented) will serve as a powerful tool for combating the shadow timber market in Ukraine and help wood-processing businesses enter global markets and prove that there is no illegal timber in their supply chains

IN 2020, OUR TEAM

Drafted the **concept for setting up the Timber Identification Lab** that will be equipped to identify wood origin within Ukraine and beyond in cooperation with leading European and American labs.



Elaborated the **concept for the model electronic communication platform** for forest users, communities, and public authorities in Lviv region. If implemented, it will equip forest users in Lviv region with knowledge of how to inform the public about planned forest management activities in a timely, appropriate and, most importantly, systematic manner.

Started work on **mapping the Great Carpathian Nature Reserve** that should encompass all major protected areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians and serve as a “green bridge” between the south-eastern and north-western Carpathians.



Explored the **tourism potential of the Ukrainian Carpathians** and other areas of interest from a nature conservation and tourism perspective that require the development of associated adaptive infrastructure.

WITHIN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, WE

Surveyed 64.9 ha of harvesting sites and 231.3 ha of forestland for illegal logging and other serious forestry crimes.



Detected forest law violations, specifically: **unauthorized logging** amounting to 59,843 UAH; **signs of forged documents** associated with one of the logging sites, which challenges the legality of harvesting therein; **clearcutting** of 3 ha with a high likelihood of environmental law violations since the area in question is part of a **forest reserve**.

Prepared and submitted **seven reports to law enforcement and controlling bodies on behalf of civic activists** with a detailed description of all the facts pointing to serious forestry crimes and potential illegal logging.



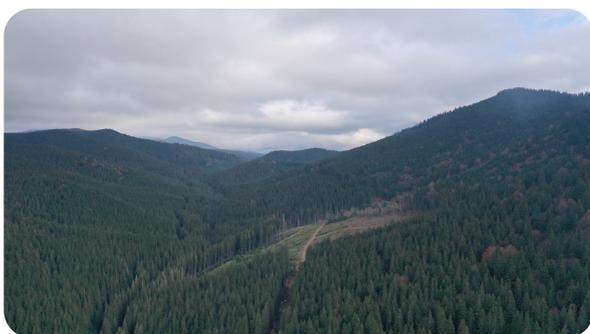
WITHIN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, WE

Conducted **four expert studies** into detected forest crimes **at the request of law enforcement** bodies, in particular the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Bureau of Investigations, and the State Customs Service of Ukraine.



Analyzed **forest restoration** activities by one of state forest enterprises and offered recommendations for improving work on creating biologically resilient forest stands in the future

Held **five environmental awareness-raising classes** for school children in Lviv region dedicated to winter care for birds.



With your help, we have already selected **upwards of 30 conservation and cultural sites** in the Ukrainian Carpathians not included in the Nature Reserve Fund **that are of appeal from a tourism perspective.**

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS



75

Online
media



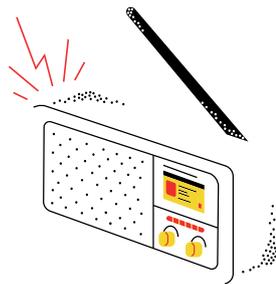
15

Other online
platforms



2

Print
media



5

Radio



8

Television

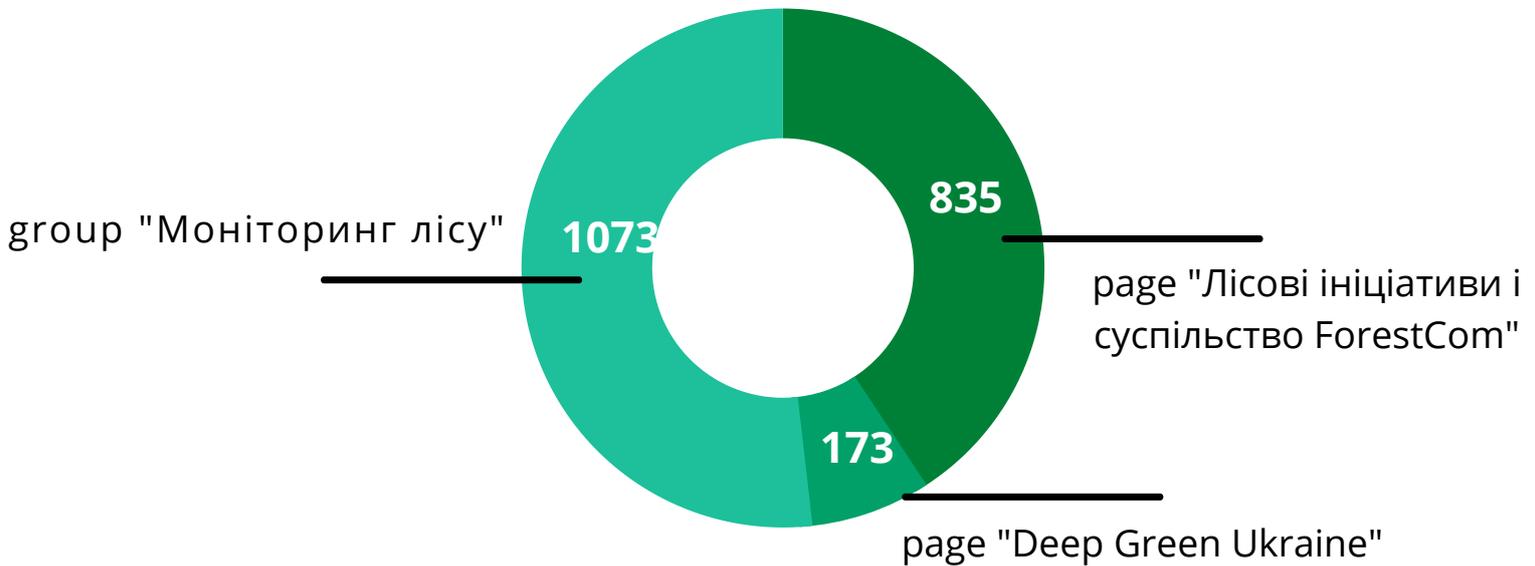
Total audience coverage – **1,222,330**

In the media: 1,028,847

In social networks: 193,483

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS:



PAGES IN SOCIAL NETWORKS:



page "Лісові ініціативи і суспільство ForestCom"
page "Deep Green Ukraine"
group "Моніторинг Лісу"



@ForestCom_UA



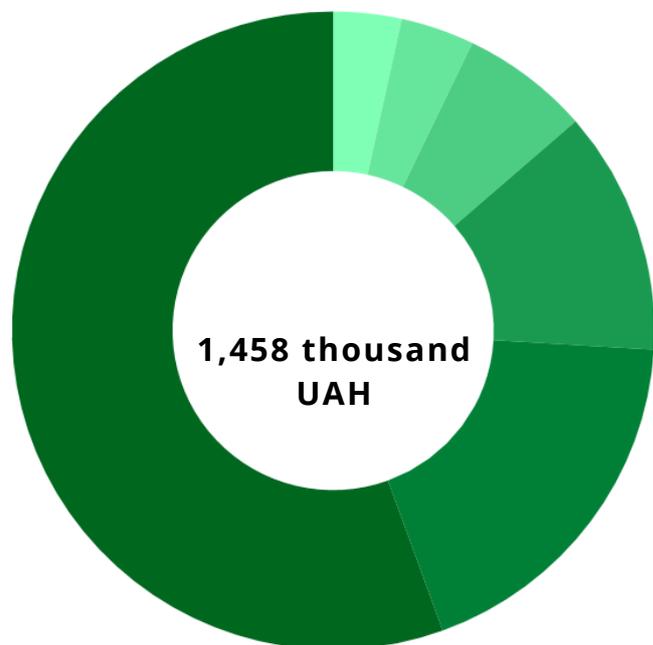
channel "Лісові ініціативи і суспільство"



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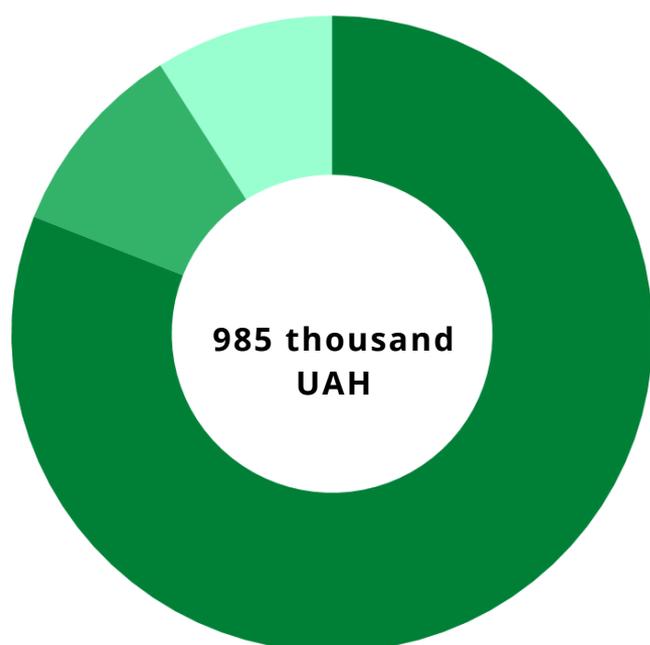
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total revenue



- **3 %** Charitable donations from individuals and legal entities
- **4 %** Exploring incentives to intensify biodiversity protection in the Ukrainian Carpathians
- **6 %** Forestry / Land Use Mapping in UA Carpathians
- **12 %** Deep Green Ukraine
- **19 %** DeepForest
- **56 %** USFS FORESTCOM IL PROGRAM 1.0

Total costs



- **81 %** Costs associated with project-based statutory activities (organization of events, payment of services, business trips, etc.)
- **10 %** Administrative expenses (purchase of equipment, rent, other office expenses)
- **9 %** Other costs (taxes, bank services and fees, other indirect costs)

Unexpended balance carried forward to 2021 – 473 thousand UAH

DONORS AND PARTNERS



