

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on  
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

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**Ukraine  
Country Report**

The development of forest policy in Ukraine satisfies the international requirements for sustainable forest management and also meets domestic needs of transparency and predictability of actions at different hierarchical levels in the forest sector. Forest policy is an essential component of an overall strategy for balanced socio-economic and environmental development of the country in the long term.

In order to solve problems of forestry, there is a need of recognition the development prospects of the forest sector and considering its place in the economic structure of the country, which must be taken into account in the forest policy of Ukraine for the next 10–15 years. The strategy for forestry development must be flexible and reviewed from time to time, adapting to the changing socio-economic and environmental conditions of the country.

**Forest policy is based on two interrelated components:** the first is dynamic, linked to the development of political and socio-economic relations in the State, the second is more conservative, and related merely to forestry and environmental activities, which is based on scientifically based directives for forest management.

The mechanism of the implementation of forest policy presumes the existence of relevant statutory documents. Among them it is worth mentioning the following ones:

- The State program “The forests of Ukraine” for the years 2002–2015 (yr 2002, at present being updated)
- The concept of reform and development towards forestry in Ukraine until 2015 (yr 2006)
- The Forest Code of Ukraine (yr 2006).

There are a number of other different documents at the state and industry levels for the development strategy of forest practice.

**The main trends in the forest policy in Ukraine are:**

- Improving the legislative frameworks of forestry and its harmonization with international principles of sustainable development and effective management of forests.
- Increasing the level of forest cover in the country to the optimum, the transition principles of forest management based on the forests types and catchments area.
- the gradual decentralization of governance in the forestry, separating the management and silviculture functions in the top-state institutions related to forest management at all levels, with the transfer of responsibilities to the business firms.
- Improvement of forestry science and education activities.
- Development and implementation measures to reduce the effects of global crisis in the state forest sector, strengthening the social protection of forestry workers.
- Enhancing the international cooperation in related areas.

One of the main challenges of forest policy of Ukraine is to protect the state ownership predominantly with a parallel development of communal and private property in forestry.

Regarding the forest enterprises the Forest Policy provides the establishment of a competitive basis to provide services to forestry.

The most relevant objective of the forest policy is the further improvement of the organization of forest inventory and to provide information for industry in all.

The most difficult existing problems are linked to the financing of sustainable forest management under the current conditions. The forest policy supposes to introduce a financial-economic mechanism that will be able to ensure the profitability of forestry, and would meet the need to balance all interests of forest owners, managers and forest enterprises.

Ukraine's participation in the Pan-European processes, including environmental and nature protection, allows us not only to jointly develop the relevant documents at the international level, but in many ways to benefit from the experiences of European countries in the implementation of legislative, institutional and economic reforms.