



Europe and Northern Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance

FACT SHEET

Contact: Laura Ivers (laivers@worldbank.org)

Posted: November 17, 2005

FOREST COVER

Forest cover in the ENA region is substantial, although distribution by country is highly skewed. In Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Russia, forests cover more than 40% and as much as half of the national territory. In Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan forest cover is less than 15%. Forest's contribution to GDP ranges from a high of 2-3% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, and Serbia to a low of 0.5 in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. However, these figures do not include the magnitude of rural employment, the value of fuelwood, the value of all non-timber forest products nor the value of forest environmental services.

DOMINANT FOREST USES

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Russia commercial forestry is the dominant economic use of forests, although they also provide fuelwood and non-timber products for the rural population.

In Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, forests serve primarily a social and environmental function, but some commercial forestry is also practiced.

Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan import most of their commercial forest products, dedicating their relatively scarce forest resources mainly to social and environmental functions.

EXTENT OF ILLEGAL LOGGING

The magnitude of illegal logging and trade in most countries is not known with certainty, and most assessments available to date are based on anecdotal information. The table below provides "official" data on illegal logging in the region. However, alternative approaches to estimating the extent of illegal logging, such as comparing the recorded legal supply from forest areas with estimates of actual consumption of nationally produced commercial timber and fuelwood, reveal a less encouraging picture. For example, independent estimates on illegal logging in Russia find that between 20 and 30 percent of the total harvest is illegal, and some nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) suggest it may be as high as 50 percent in some parts of the country.

Estimated Data on Illegal Logging

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated volume of illegal logging (m³)</i>	<i>Legal logging (m³)</i>	<i>Illegal logging as % of legal logging</i>
Albania	2002	28,400	304,800	9.3
Azerbaijan	1988–2005	20,600 ^a	65,000 ^a	32.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2003 ^b	41,159	1,850,938	2.2
Georgia	2004	60,846	640,957	9.5
Kyrgyz Republic	2002–4	2,500 ^a	33,000 ^a	7.5
Moldova	2004	3,479	422,000	0.8
Russian Federation	2004	6,500,000	88,200,000 ^c	11.0
- NW Russia	2004	2,000,000	38,000,000	6.0
- Far East	2004	4,500,000	25,500,000	18.0
Serbia and Montenegro	2004	9,136	3,250,000	0.3
Tajikistan	n.a.	1,340–2,010	6,700	20.0–30.0
Ukraine	2004	30,000	12,395,000	0.2

Source: SAVCOR reports and Intercooperation

Trade Flows: Estimates of legal and Illegal Exports of Wood Products of Selected ENA Countries

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Legal exports</i>			<i>Illegal exports</i>
		<i>Roundwood</i>	<i>Sawnwood</i>	<i>Firewood or charcoal</i>	
		<i>(thousand m³)</i>			
Albania	2002	–	95	12,000 tons	
Armenia	2002	5	5		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2003	221	927		
Bulgaria	2002	9	330	6	5–10% (WWF estimate)
Georgia	2004	–	132		30,000–35,000 m ³
Moldova	1998–2004		2 ^a		
Russian Federation	2003	45,000	10,000	n.a.	25% roundwood (40% to China) 15% sawn softwood 20% sawn hardwood
Serbia and Montenegro	2002	33	n.a.	1	< 1%
Uzbekistan	2002		3		

Notes: n.a. = not available. - = no data. a. Annual average for the period. .Source: SAVCOR reports

ENA FLEG PREPARATORY PROCESS

May 2004 – The ENA FLEG process was initiated in May 2004, when the Russian Federation announced its support for such a process and intention to host a FLEG Ministerial in 2005.

February 2005 – An [International Steering Committee \(ISC\)](#), comprised of Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, the European Commission and World Bank, was established to guide the process.

June 2005 – A [Preparatory Conference](#) in Moscow brought together some 130 participants from 32 countries representing governments, NGOs, international organizations and industry to discuss regional and national experiences and begin drafting a Ministerial Declaration.

For further information, visit the ENA FLEG web site: www.worldbank.org/enafleg