

Information on Protection of Forest Fund of the Republic of Belarus

0. Forest fund of the Republic of Belarus includes 9.2 million hectares. Ministry of Forestry is responsible for 86% of the territory of the forest fund. The main forest species is pine –57%. There are no private forests in the Republic.

1.1. The main type of illegal logging is logging of trees without special permission for logging of timber.

Other types of violation in the forest are single cases.

1.2. Six Production Forest Regional Enterprises (it means one production enterprise per one region) were created in the system of Ministry of Forestry for protection of forest fund. Regional Forest Enterprises control over 95 forest enterprises; forest enterprises control over 830 small forestries, 2360 master sites and 12300 forest beats

Total amount of workers, who are included into the structure of state forest protection, is 17,5 thousand persons.

The lowest chain of state forest protection - foresters and masters of forest, carries out operative control over the protection of forest fund against illegal logging. Quality of these activities is controlled twice a year at all the territory of forest fund through plan, control and emergency revisions. In especially valuable forests of hard -leaf species these revisions are carried out three times a year.

Protocol on violation in the forest is made for each case of illegal logging; in this protocol amount of logged trees and scope of timber are stated. Protocols are registered in the book for registration of violations in the forests. On the basis of these records scope of illegal forest logging is defined.

1.3. Allowable cut in the Republic under all types of logging is 13 million cubic meters. Maximum scope of illegal logging was registered in year 2000 in the amount of 18,5 thousand cubic meters, what makes 0,14% out of the total amount of the allowable cut.

In average, for the last 10 years the scope of illegally logged timber ranges from 8 up to 13 thousand cubic meters.

1.4. Increasing of illegal logging is connected, first of all, with establishment of considerable amount of small private woodworking productions.

Measures which were undertaken by the forest authorities in the last years led to stable decrease of scopes of illegally logging. First of all it was achieved because forest protection service was provided by transport means, militiamen were hired and paid from the funds of forestry sector.

2.1. There are no cases of smuggling of roundwood of forest products (import or export), false declaration of goods and other trade related falsification.

2.2. There is a system for control over quality and production volume at all the stages of technological process (allocation of sites for logging, wood harvesting work, wood cutting, wood processing, drying of sawn wood, planing). In the sector there are acting standards for output of forest products during processing. Custom Committee of the Republic of Belarus is responsible for control over actual scopes of exported wood materials, which are stated in the documents, at the border of the Republic of Belarus.

2.3. There is no exported and imported illegally-sourced wood.

2.5. There are no additional comments on the causes and extent of trade in forest products from illegally logging in the Republic of Belarus.

3.1. Republic of Belarus is not involved in any bilateral and/or multilateral initiatives in the field of illegally logging and trade of illegally-sourced forest products.

3.2. Republic of Belarus has official policies related to reduction of volumes and elimination of illegal logging. In particular, agitation and public activities are organized. For violation in the forest criminal, administrative and material responsibilities are foreseen.

3.3. Any trade of forest products, which are not supported by the documents confirming their origin, is illegal.