

**DECISIONS**  
**of the extended meeting of the Working group**  
**on development and implementation of national**  
**forest certification standards for Ukraine**  
**(remote meeting on April 8, 2022)**

1. Support the decision of FSC International on the possibility of forest certification in regions not affected by military conflict. The possibility of applying simplified audit procedures by certification bodies based on the published FSC derogations and interpretations should in no case allow deterioration of the quality of certification or deviation of forestry enterprises from the requirements of current legislation and FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for Ukraine.

2. Support the inclusion to the certification bodies' certification programs of enterprises located outside the zones of military conflict, in the absence of threat to life and health of persons involved in the audit process, on-site inspections with field visits.

3. Recognize the importance of maintaining the status of enterprises as FSC certified under the current circumstances, given the need to maintain their financial and economic condition, competitiveness and strengthen their importance for the economy.

4. Ensure strict compliance with applicable legislation by enterprises in terms of its environmental, economic and social components, taking into account the risks posed by martial law.

5. Recognize the importance of providing enterprises with the current requirements of FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for Ukraine in relation to the preservation, protection of environmental values and prevention of negative impacts based on risk-based approach and the principle of due diligence. In particular, compliance with the legal requirements of the "season of silence" is not limited to the implementation or refusal of logging, but requires systematic and comprehensive management activities aimed at maintaining and preserving biodiversity.

6. Agree that, under martial law, restricting access to information on forests and management does not deprive stakeholders of all opportunities to obtain it. In particular, an extract from the register of harvesting permits and summary data from the register of harvesting permits are available at the FIAC portal. Additional information on forestry activities can be obtained upon request to the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine. At the same time, the FIAC, as the information manager, should publish an explanation for the stakeholders of the possibility of obtaining information from its database in terms of categories under martial law.

7. To support the current legislative restrictions on forest visits in a number of regions of Ukraine during martial law to prevent forest fires. At the same time, public control remains an important component of responsible forestry. Thus, visits to forests by representatives of public organizations, may be accompanied by employees of the State Forest Guard or other persons in respect of whom exceptions are made in the relevant orders of regional military administrations. Regional Forestry and Hunting Boards, permanent forest users, taking into account the results of fire safety monitoring, shall promptly initiate changes in the relevant decisions of regional military administrations to strengthen public control in forestry.

8. Strengthen the informing of the population by forestry enterprises and regional forestry and hunting boards on the requirements for restricting visits to forests and liability for non-compliance with the law.

9. Strengthen the interaction of forestry enterprises and stakeholders, in particular, public organizations, both in the practical implementation of FSC National Standard for Ukraine, and in the framework of certification audit procedures. To do this, update the FSC Ukraine website on stakeholder participation in forest certification processes and encourage NGOs to disseminate this information.

10. Encourage non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to actively participate in certification audits as observers in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

11. Decisions adopted are approved by the participants of the meeting and can be implemented by them on a voluntary basis, as those in interests of all participants in forest certification.

The decision was supported by members of the working group - representatives of organizations: "Trade Union of Forestry Workers of Ukraine", NGO "Green Cross Society", "Ukrainian Center for Training, Retraining and Advanced Training in Forestry" (social section), Teteriv State Forestry Enterprise, SD NULES of Ukraine "Boyarka Forest Research Station", LLC "VGSM" (economic section), PS "WWF Ukraine" (environmental section).

The decision was not supported by members of the working group - representatives of the NGO "Ecosphere"  
NGO "Danube-Carpathian Program" (environmental section).

Due to the lack of consensus, the decision of the working group was not taken.