



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE | Ukraine

The USDA Forest Service International Programs Office has supported natural resource and emergency management programs in Ukraine since 2005. We partner with Ukrainian NGOs, universities, government agencies and researchers to address disaster risk reduction and environmental issues through wildfire management, climate change adaptation, youth environmental education, forested lands management, and environmental governance. Our expertise in these spaces support Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. Our work is supported by U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Defense, and U.S. Forest Service funds.

FOREST SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION

We support Ukraine with the adaptation of relevant components of the U.S. National Incident Management System into its disaster management systems. The aim is to increase capacity while ensuring sustainability, institutionalization, and interoperability of the introduced systems. Ukraine state agencies are creating institutional and regulatory frameworks specific to their country but with global best practices in mind.

NATURE-BASED THERAPY

We introduce wilderness therapy models that can help people heal from the impacts of war. Wilderness programs carry less stigma than other types of therapy and are often organized in ways that allow participants to support one another in their recovery.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE

We support sustainable reconstruction efforts through policy guidance, environmental monitoring and accountability, and the implementation of environmental restoration activities. With forests vulnerable to further degradation due to the impacts of war, we support guidance on sustainable harvesting of timber, building local capacity to detect illegal logging, and civic engagement in restoration efforts.

PUBLIC FORESTED LANDS

We build the capacity of sub-national actors to restore and strengthen managerial functions within forest lands, develop local emergency response units, and implement restoration of recreation opportunities to re-engage civil society.

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Learning from the U.S. experience on how to organize forest firefighting helps us improve the forest fire response system in our country. It also helps bring the latest technologies and tactical solutions into Ukrainian practices.

—Vladyslav Kovgan, Deputy Head of Fire and Rescue Department, Head of the Unit of Organization of Fire and Rescue Operations

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We build capacity of educators and land managers to support internally displaced persons and youth through environmental education and natural resource management.

Adapting the U.S. Junior Rangers Program to Ukraine

The Ukraine Junior Forest Rangers Program uses environmental education and natural resource management as a framework for promoting civic engagement. Program activities increase public awareness and knowledge of environmental issues, and club members and leaders increase their critical thinking and problem-solving skills through implementing conservation projects.



Junior Forest Rangers from the Chernivtsi Club. In June 2021, they completed work on an ecotrail in Bukovynian forest.



Gornyi Tikich Wilderness, Ukraine Photo credit: Elena Penkova

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

We build capacity to monitor and quantify impacts to ecosystem services by supporting the protection of watersheds, restoration of urban green spaces, and implementation of tools used in the U.S.

ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Watershed Condition Classification (WCC)

WCC is a U.S. Forest Service method for characterizing the health and condition of watersheds.

In Ukraine, the NGO Forza used WCC to assess the water quality and watershed health policy needs of the Pynya watershed. They discovered that temporary roads used by foresters were disrupting groundwater flows. They classified Pynya as a Class 2 “functioning as risk” watershed. NGO Forza continues to build the Ukrainian government’s capacity to implement WCC and watershed best management practices.

i-Tree Comes to Ukraine

i-Tree helps communities and decision makers understand the value and benefits of trees.



In Ukraine, the NGO Green Wave is using i-Tree to demonstrate the value of Kyiv’s urban green areas to city authorities and to provide communities with a powerful tool to advocate for their protection.

WHY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE?

The U.S. Forest Service has worked for more than 100 years to learn and share best practices in natural resource management. We offer technical expertise from more than 30,000 emergency and natural resource specialists who are responsible for the daily management of 193 million acres of national forest and grasslands in the United States. The U.S. Forest Service’s Office of International Programs consists of program managers and in-house technical experts and serves as a connection point between domestic U.S. Forest Service expertise and overseas counterparts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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