

INTERACTIVE CREATIVE LABORATORY: FSC CERTIFICATION IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES



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AGENDA

- 1** 16⁰⁰ – 16⁰⁵ Welcome, Introduction and Goal
- 2** 16⁰⁵ – 16¹⁵ Interactive Slido survey
- 3** 16¹⁵ – 17⁰⁵ Real cases on FSC Certification in the Face of Current Challenges and Extraordinary Circumstances
- 4** 17⁰⁵ – 17³⁰ Q&A. Discussion

INTERACTIVE CREATIVE LABORATORY: FSC CERTIFICATION IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OUR SPEAKERS



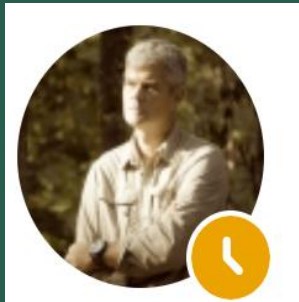
Oksana Pavlishchuk
Manager FM
Ukraine



Karolina Tymorek
FSC Poland Country
Manager



Alexandra Popa
Market
Development
Coordinator
Romania



Aidas Pivoriunas
Project Manager
Baltic States



Peter O. Alele, PhD
Regional Director
Africa



Nadiia Irodovska
Manager EUDR
Ukraine
moderator



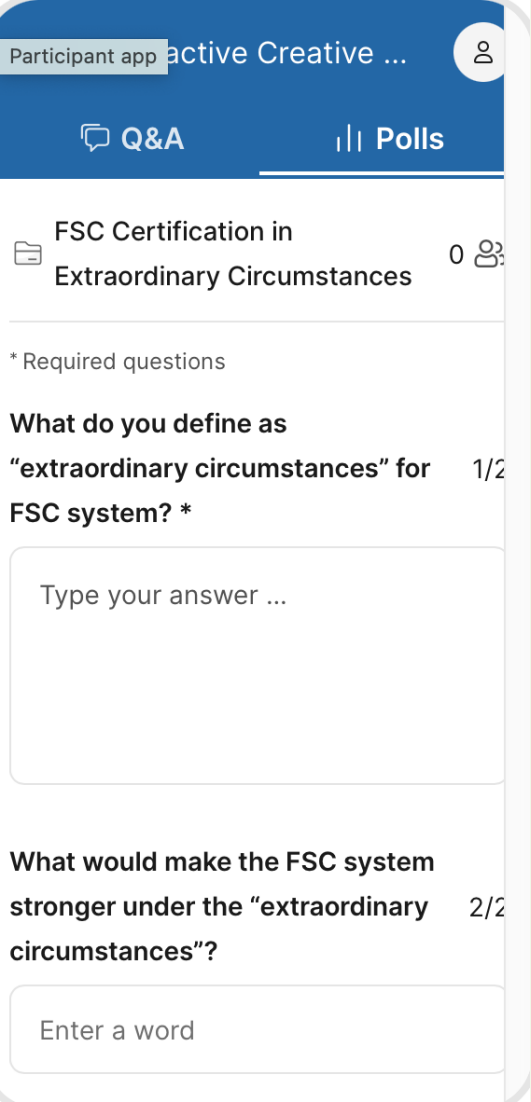
Interactive Creative Laboratory: FSC Certification in Extraordinary Circumstances

slido

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#3275 191



Open link to reply
to questions



The screenshot shows the Slido mobile app interface. At the top, it says "Participant app active Creative ...". Below that, there are two tabs: "Q&A" (selected) and "Polls". The main content area shows a session titled "FSC Certification in Extraordinary Circumstances" with 0 participants. Below the session title, there is a section for "* Required questions". The first question is "What do you define as 'extraordinary circumstances' for FSC system? *" with 1/2 responses. Below the question is a text input field with the placeholder "Type your answer ...". The second question is "What would make the FSC system stronger under the 'extraordinary circumstances'?" with 2/2 responses. Below this question is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter a word".



FSC Certification in Extraordinary Circumstances

REAL CASES ON FSC CERTIFICATION IN THE FACE OF CURRENT CHALLENGES AND EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: UKRAINE

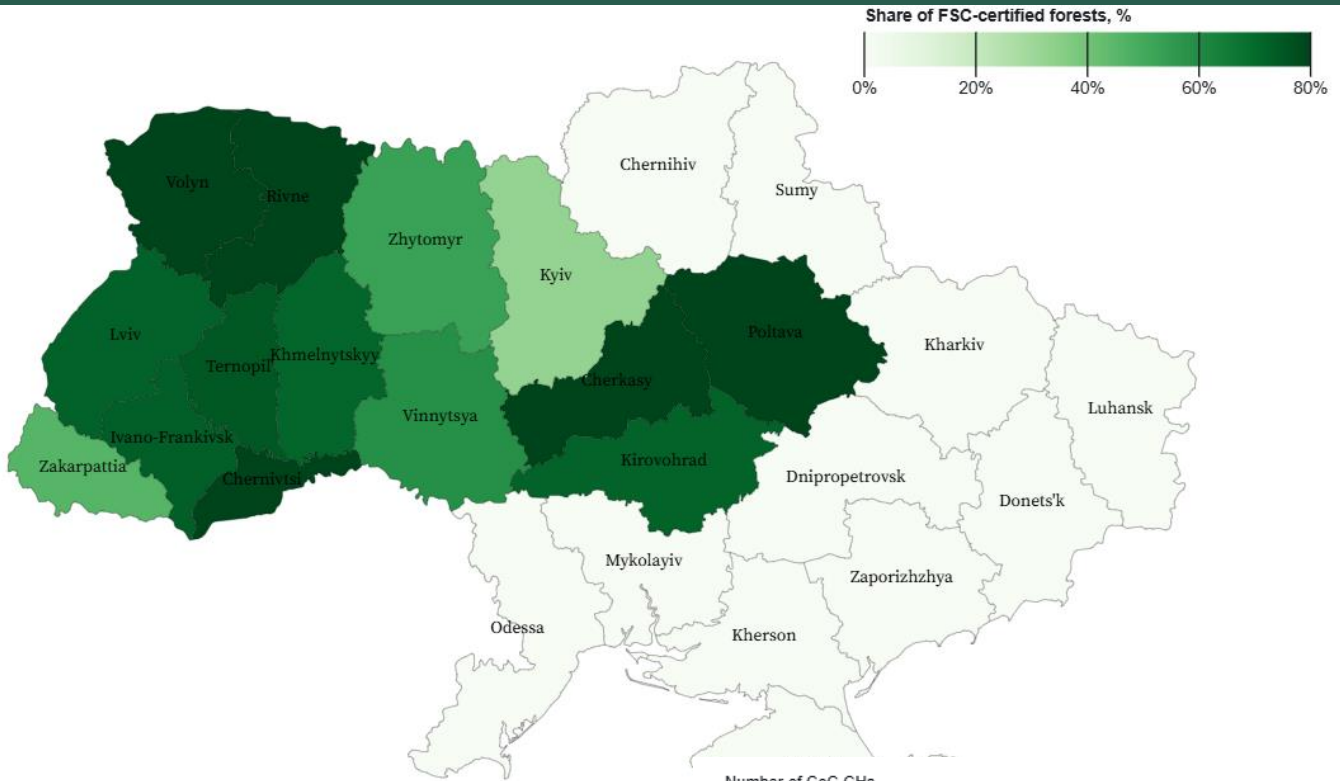
Oksana Pavlishchuk, Manager FM

Nadiia Irodovska, Manager EUDR and EU integration

FSC Ukraine



The national context of FSC certification in Ukraine

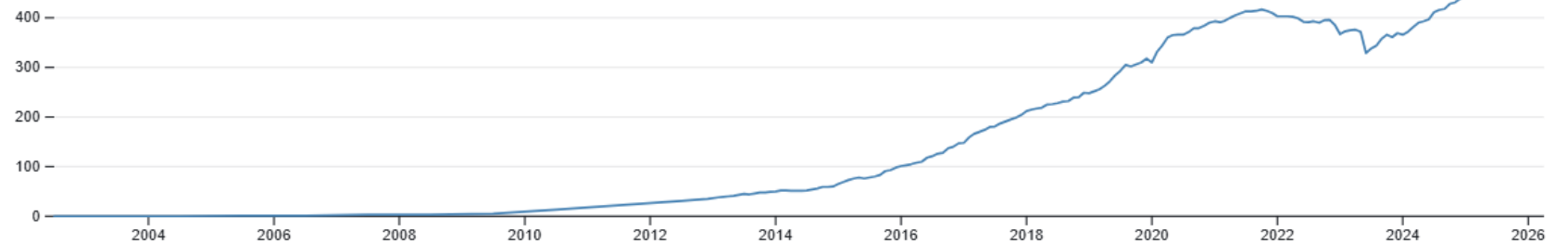


The majority of forests with commercial purposes are covered by FM certification.

4,85 M ha in 78 FMUs are FSC-certified.

443 CoC certificates are valid.

Number of CoC CHs



Challenges for the FSC Certification That Have Caused Extraordinary Circumstances

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine since 2014

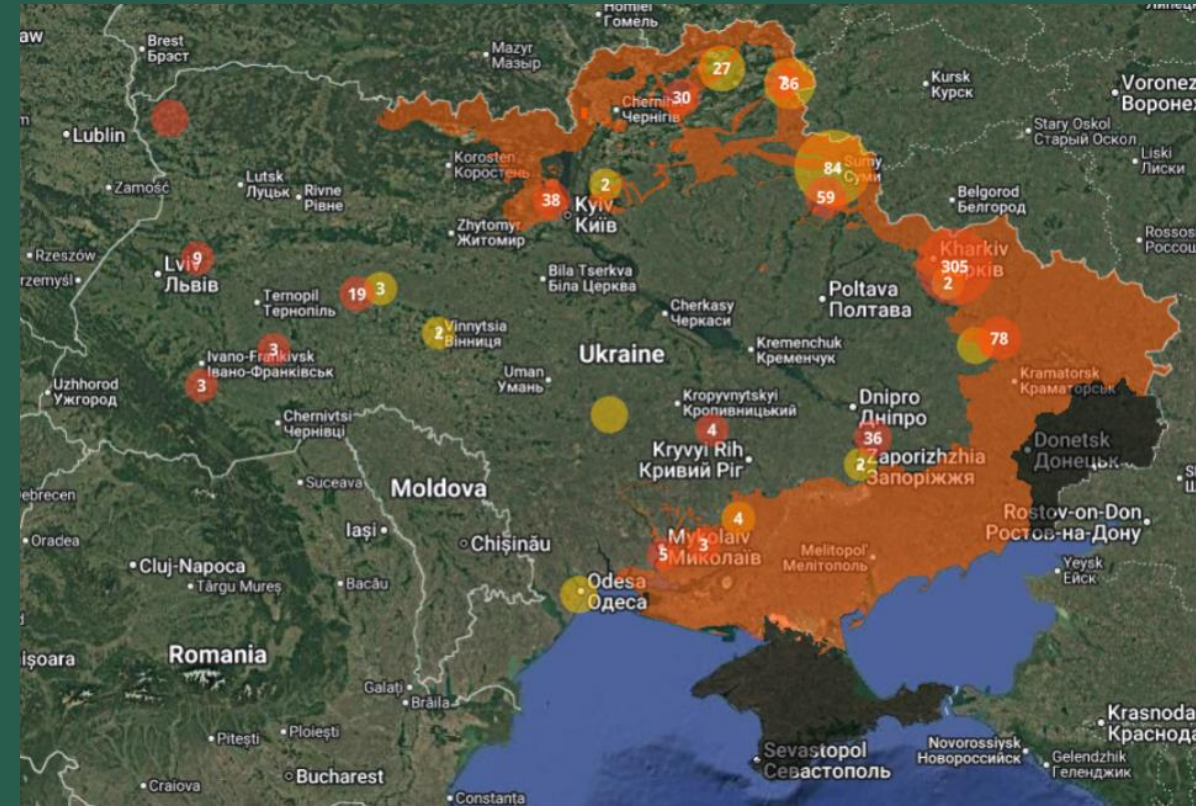
Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in 2022

The occupation of the Crimean Peninsula and parts of the Donbas

The occupation and military actions in parts of the northern, eastern, and southern regions of Ukraine



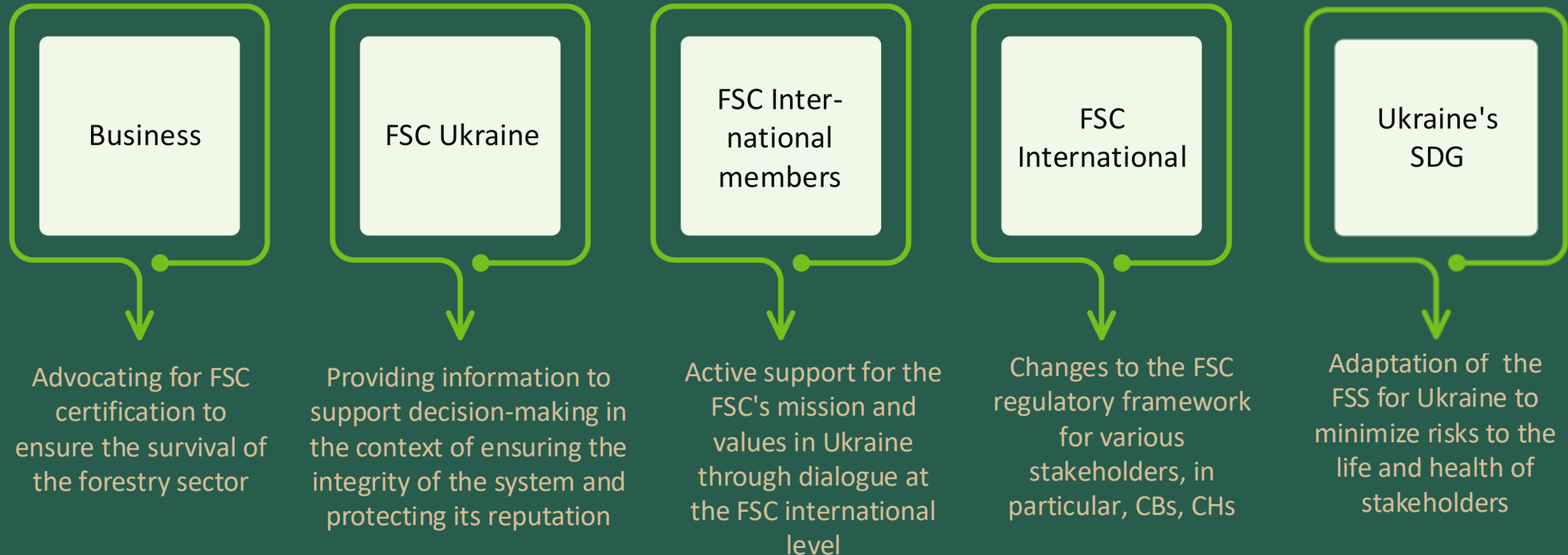
Social, economic, and environmental crises
(loss of human life, destroyed infrastructure, broken supply chains, environmental damage, wildfires, and other impacts)



Map of areas in Ukraine that might be contaminated with explosive objects

<https://mine.dsns.gov.ua/> (information as of 24.04.2026)

FSC system response measures to the extraordinary circumstances in Ukraine



FSC system response measures to the extraordinary circumstances in Ukraine



General derogation for conducting audits remotely in Ukraine
(FSC-DER-2022-003)



Conducting CoC main evaluation audits remotely in Ukraine
(FSC-DER-2022-004)



Conducting FM 'hybrid' audits in Ukraine
(FSC-DER-2022-005)



CB Auditor requirements
(FSC-DER-2022-006)



Suspension timeline
(INT-ADV-20-001-12_01)



Suspension of certificates
(INT-ADV-20-001-12_02)



Extending the transfer audit date in Ukraine
(INT-PRO-20-003_11)

FSC system response measures to the extraordinary circumstances in Ukraine

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FSC National Risk Assessment of Controlled Wood for Ukraine
DEVELOPED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE FSC-PRO-60-002 V5-0

Version	V2-0
Code	FSC-NRA-UA V2-0
National approval	National Risk Assessment Working Group of Ukraine Date: July 12, 2017 Except category 1 and indicator 2.1 (revised by FSC International according to FSC-ADV-60-002-01)
International approval	FSC International Center: Performance and Standards Unit Date: 04 April 2022 This risk assessment has been revised by FSC International according to FSC-ADV-60-002-01
International contact	Name: Pavlo Kravets Email address: p.kravets@ua.fsc.org
Period of validity	Date of approval: 04 April 2022 Valid until: (date of approval + 5 years)
Body responsible for NRA maintenance	Pavlo Kravets, FSC Ukraine National Representative Phone: +38 044 223 66 45 Email: p.kravets@ua.fsc.org



National Risk Assessment of Controlled Wood for Ukraine was revised (V 2-0 was approved in 2022)

<https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/340>

FSS for Ukraine was added to the Annex J: FSC criteria, indicators and verifiers for excision of areas contaminated with explosive objects from the scope of certification in accordance with FSC-POL-20-003 V 1-0 for Ukraine (2024)

<https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/428>

Conclusions

The measures taken facilitated the preservation of FSC certification in Ukraine and the maintenance of the integrity of FSC-certified supply chains

This extraordinary situation forces us to rethink the role and significance of FSC certification for the country as a whole

Extraordinary circumstances disrupt the FSC system and drive qualitative changes

Action to maintain the FSC certification system under extraordinary circumstances



Constructive dialogue and openness in interactions with the FSC system's actors



Risk-based approach in the FSC certification system



Adaptability of regulatory frameworks



Quick response of the FSC system to extraordinary circumstances

Thank you



Forest Stewardship Council®

FSC® Ukraine



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SAFEGUARDING ROMANIA'S FORESTS

FSC Romania – 24th of April 2026



National Context



ROMANIA – 6.9 mil ha of forests (29% of the total surface)

mostly concentrated in the mountainous areas (59%) and hills (34%), less in the flat plains (7%, where agriculture removed the forest cover in the past)

97% with natural composition, 86% obtained by natural regeneration (seed & sprout)

high biodiversity (24% of the country is covered by protected areas) with largest large carnivore populations in EU and important areas of old-growth forests

FSC Certification in Romania

42% of total surface (**2.92 mil ha**) is FSC certified, mostly in state forests

80% of state forests – FSC certified

Largest private forest owner in Romania – INGKA (50 000 ha)

Challenge – “the green lungs of Europe” are being destroyed

- “Each hour, 3 ha of forests are vanishing in Romania”
- “Illegal logging is large scale” (20 mil. m³/yr.)
- “Nature rangers are killed by the timber organized mafia”
- Any type of cutting is deforestation (or clearcutting), including the shelterwood final fellings with natural regeneration established on the ground
- Any type of harvest in sustainable management zones of national/natural parks (although fully obeying the law) are depicted as illegal logging, destroying the biodiversity, last remnants of untouched nature etc.
- Timber transports are considered by default illegal (including train transports from forests killed by recent insect outbreaks in other parts of Europe).
- Etc.

Challenge – recurring allegations

New documentary investigates IKEA's destructive logging in Romania

"IKEA loves wood."

 CHRIS LANG
JAN 31, 2025

arte DISTRIBUTION The ultimate reference for factual documentaries

FR EN



PROGRAMS > CURRENT AFFAIRS > INVESTIGATION >

IKEA, THE TREE HUNTER

Watch FR / EN

ONE-OFF

HD

52', 90'



DIRECTOR(S):

DELEU (Xavier),
KERFRIDEN
(MARIANNE)

PRODUCTION

YEAR:
2024

PRODUCER(S):

DISCLOSE FILMS,
PREMIERES LIGNES

LANGUAGE(S):

English, French

RIGHTS:

TV, NON-THEATRICAL,
INTERNET, VOD

TERRITORIES:

Worldwide.

Every 5 seconds, a BILLY bookcase is sold. But the staggering figures of the Swedish brand have a cost: they depend on the uncontrolled exploitation of wood and human labor. A unique investigation, tracking the production line of the furniture giant.

Investigative journalists working for Disclose spent over a year investigating the production chain of the furniture giant which generated a 44.6 billion euros revenue in 2022 and attracts over 5 billion visitors to its stores and website every year. From the boreal forests of Sweden to Brazilian plantations and New Zealand coastlines, they uncovered how IKEA intensively exploits wood around the world, fuels the illegal trafficking of this resource and threatens the last precious European forests. Long overlooked, intensive logging is now sparking outrage and anger among citizens in Poland and the Baltic countries, who are increasingly concerned about the fate of their countries' public forest domains and biodiversity loss. In Romania, where IKEA owns 50,000 hectares of forests, activists are risking their lives mobilizing against the timber mafia. This film tells the expansion of a discreet forest predator, grappling with the limits of the planet's resources. A resource that is at the center of the fight against climate change.

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO Credit: All photos are screenshots from the [documentary](#).

Challenge – recurring allegations

Date of submission: 14 April 2026

1- Is FSC aware of allegations that FSC-certified areas in Romania have logged in old-growth and virgin forests? What investigations have you conducted into these claims? Numerous verified reports indicate that Romania's timber industry is heavily influenced by corruption, weak law enforcement, and overharvesting driven by global demand in the timber market. Despite IKEA's claims to sustainably harvest forests, investigations with robust methodologies conducted by Bruno Manser Fonds, Agent Green, Euro Natur, and Greenpeace demonstrate evidence that IKEA's Ingka-owned forests and IKEA supply chains are involved in intensive commercial logging that clearcuts forests and leaves severely degraded ecosystems, erosion, and little to no natural forest regeneration. This includes high-conservation-value forests in protected areas, such as [Natura 2000](#) sites. How is FSC responding to this investigation? Are there tangible actions and steps being taken to address these findings?

FSC system response measures to the extraordinary circumstances in the country

FSC I – established a national office (2023)

FSC ROMANIA – ensured that Romania’s case is understood through the lens of technical compliance rather than activist’s agenda (inside and outside the organization)

Make FSC a trustful source of information

- Provide support. Showcase on the ground
- Reactive vs proactive (comms strategy)
- Workshop for journalists – rethinking the narrative
- Education – young generations
- Myth Buster
- Robust responses from the media team

“

These are dangerous times.
Never have so many people
had access to so much
knowledge, and yet been so
resistant to learning anything.

”

Tom Nichols, *The Death of Expertise*

Thank you!



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FSC Certification in Extraordinary Circumstances. CASE FROM LATVIA

dr. Aidas Pivoriūnas, National Representative Latvia and Lithuania,
Project Manager - Baltic States

April 24, 2026. Cologne

“

All names appearing in this presentation are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons or organisations is purely coincidental

”



1995

First initiative to develop FSS in Latvia.
No formal body

2001

NGO established to develop FSS in Latvia.
Latvia Forest Certification Assembly,
led by Maris Jansons.
It produces first draft of FSS in 2018,
which is not approved

2004

State Forest Company becomes:
Member of FSCI,
FM/CoC Certificate Holder.

1,6 million ha of FSC FM in public forests

FSS and FM process actors in Latvia

2012

Termination of State Forest Company
as CH due to exceeding harvesting levels

2014

State Forest Company changes CBs
and obtains FSC FM/CoC

0,8 million ha of FSC FM in public forests
8180 ha FSC FM coverage in private forests

2021

FSC starts development of FSS in Latvia.

2023

Latvia FSS is affective;
Maris Jansons becomes advisor to the
Minister of Food in November;
State Forest Company announces it leaves
FSC as member and Certificate Holder
in December

2026

450 000 ha of FSC FM
in municipal and private forests.

Parliament elections and change
of Minister of Food in November

Thank you



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CERTIFICATION IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES - AFRICA

Dr. Peter Alele, FSC Africa Regional Director



Certification in Extraordinary Circumstances - Africa

Civil Unrest & Conflict

- Important forest resources, natural World Heritage sites are threatened by conflict and civil unrest, which hinder protective measures and put both forest habitats & wildlife at risk.

Security & Technology

Culture & Historical Social Issues

- Constraints are incentivizing unsustainable practices, historic conservation models based on excluding local populations have led to conflict, requiring a shift towards more equitable, "people-centered" approaches

Community-led Conservation Approaches

Choices – Forests or Life?

- *"It is survival, not bravery, that makes a man climb a thorny tree."* This African proverb highlights that desperation—not choice—sometimes drives people to destroy forests for immediate needs. Impactful interventions integrate livelihoods.

Integrate Economic Incentives

Big Problems – Small Solutions

- Africa loses about 4 million hectares of forests a year, yet institutional, technical & financial capacities lag behind the scale of the problem. E.g. there's massive restoration investment shortfall of \$75–\$100 billion annually (AFR100), low national priority with gov'ts prioritizing short-term food security & debt constraints, investment barriers such as high-risk env'ts, long ROI periods, etc.

Rapid Action Response at Scale

Thank you



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FSC CERTIFICATION IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES - POLAND



**KAROLINA
TYMOREK**

FSC POLAND COUNTRY MANAGER

Q&A

Discussion



GSM
2026



What could be done by you to strengthen the FSC system during challenging times?



What would you need to successfully support the FSC's integrity and operations during extraordinary circumstances?

THANK YOU!



GSM
2026