

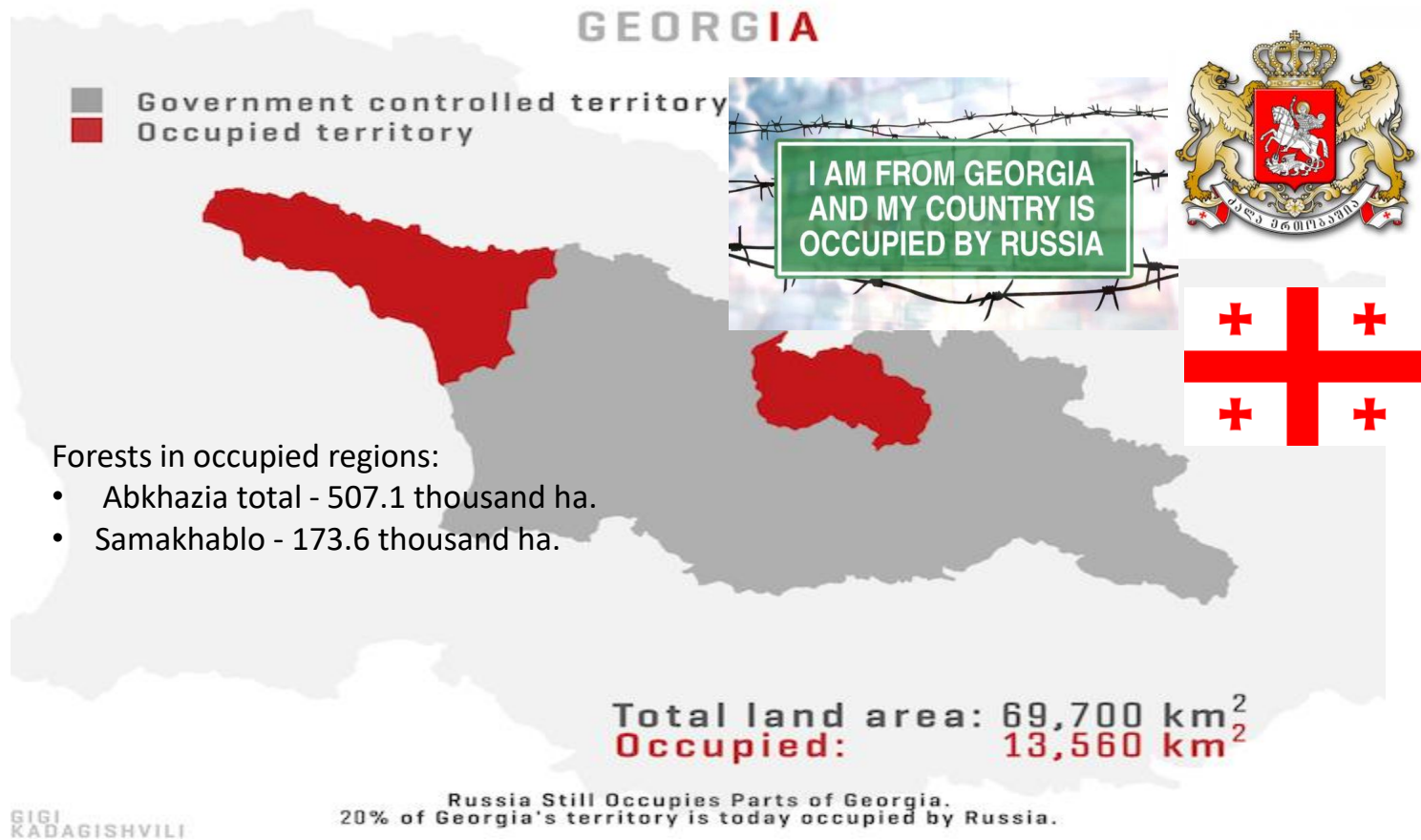


Forest utilization,
governance and control

GEORGIA

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23.10.2025

Occupied territories



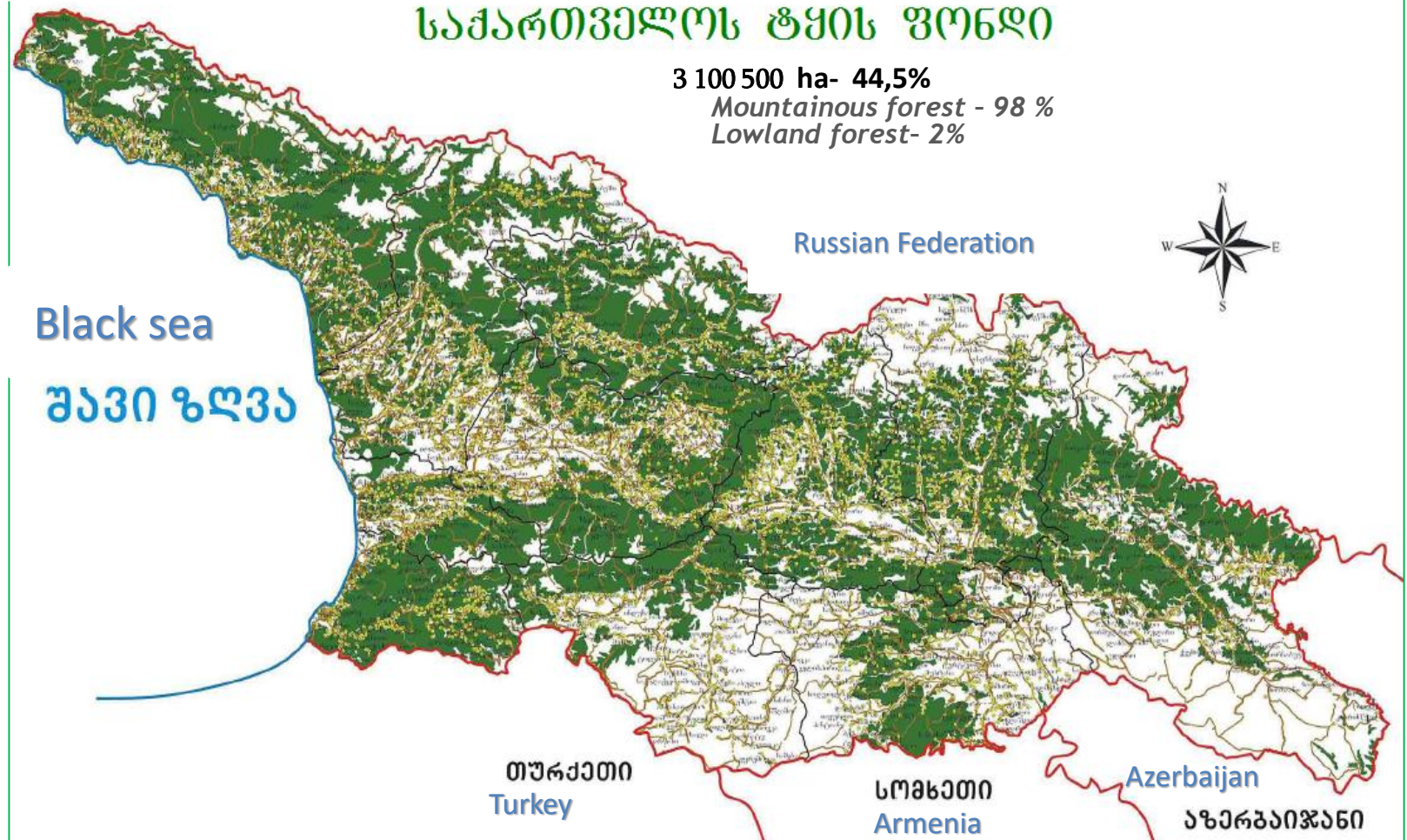
Forest of Georgia

საქართველოს ტყის ფონდი

3 100 500 ha- 44,5%

Mountainous forest - 98 %

Lowland forest- 2%



- **Georgia is home to about 400 species** of trees and shrubs. **61 are endemic** to Georgia, 43 are endemic to the Caucasus region.
- **About 98 %** of forests are natural, - 2 % are artificial. Broadleaf forests - 83%, coniferous forests - 17%.
- **80% of forests are situated on slopes steeper than 20 degrees**, which complicates their utilization, Therefore the main purpose of forests in Georgia is to perform protective functions.
- The forestry sector's formal contribution to GDP is reported at about 0.4 %.

Forest governance distribution



Forest Policy

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture is responsible for developing forest policy in Georgia.

Forest Management

Forest management bodies, among other duties, are responsible for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of forests, as well as the implementation of forest use activities.

In Georgia, the following governmental bodies are involved in forest management:

➤ **LEPL National Forestry Agency** - 1,939,000 ha - 65.3%.



ეროვნული საგარეო
საგანგებო

➤ **LEPL Agency of Protected Areas** 437,358 ha 14.7%



➤ **LEPL Forestry Agency of Adjara** 149,5 ha– 5%



➤ **Gori Municipality Development and Tani and Tedzmi Protected Landscape Management Agency** - 13,718ha - 0.5%

➤ **Tusheti Protected Landscape Administration** - 5,029ha - 0.2%



Enforcement

➤ **The Department of Environmental Supervision** (with Forest management bodies) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the requirements of Georgian forestry legislation and preventing illegal use of natural resources.



Main Duties and Responsibilities

LEPL National Forestry Agency



Forest management planning



Forest protection,
maintenance, restoration



Forest use

The main objectives of the **National Forestry Agency** are forest management, restoration, and sustainable use of biological diversity components in forest areas. As well as timber production and preparation of timber origin documents and etc.;

The Forest Management Authority develops and submits draft forest **management plans** to the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture for approval.

Policy documents and legislation



The National Forest Concept of Georgia (2013/14) defines the principles of forest management and sets priority directions for the forestry sector.

Forest Code of Georgia. Approved in May 2020. Regulates forest management issues, its goal is to define the **basic principles of forest management**, on which sustainable forest management should be based. For the first time in Georgian policy and legislation, the Code states that the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia **supports** the introduction of an independent **forest certification process**.

The Forest Use Rule defines the types of forest use and the legal requirements for obtaining a special forest use permit.
The rule regulate timber harvesting, **the responsibilities of** forest management authorities and forest users.

Policy documents and legislation



The rules for the movement of timber on the territory of Georgia and the technical regulations of the primary processing facility (sawmill) for round timber (logs) - Regulates the movement of timber and timber waste, preparation of documents, marking of round timber and production of certificates of origin.

Rules for the Georgian Forest Inventory System, Categorization and Monitoring - defines the types of forest inventories, methods and requirements for their implementation; procedures for reviewing and approving forest management plans;

The Regulation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management - Approved in May 2022. describes the sustainable forest management goals that **should be achieved to protect** Georgia's forests, improve their vitality, and ensure their protective functions. It is based on the principles of **ecological, economic, social, multifunctionality, and transparency**.

Forms of forest ownership

State

Municipal

Private



Under Georgian legislation, forests may be owned by the **state**, **municipalities**, or **private** individuals. However as of now **100 percent of Georgia's forests** remain under **state** ownership; Currently, there are no municipal or private forests.

Forest categories

Protected

Its primary management goal is to protect biodiversity, rare species, and ecosystems..

protective

Primary management goal is to maintain the protective function of the forest.

Resort and recreation

The goal of its management is to improve the resort's function and landscape.

commercial

The goal of commercial forest management is the sustainable use of forest resources and the maintenance of forest function.



The exact area of different categories of forests has **not yet been determined** and work is currently **underway** to clarify and verify this data.

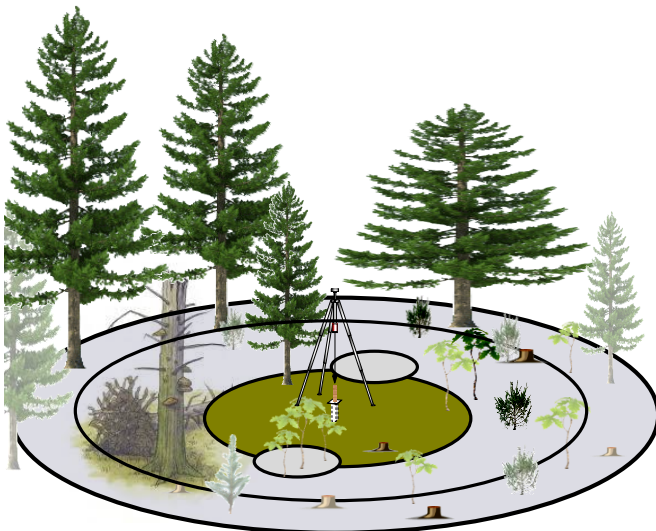
Forest inventory system in Georgia

Forest taxation

Forest management plans have been prepared for approximately **30% of the total forest area**. The development of new, modern forest management plans actually **began in 2013**, when the forestry sector reform was carried out. Forest management plans are approved following public hearing, where the involvement of interested stakeholders is ensured. The duration of forest management plans is **10 years**.

National Forest Inventory

- The first and last **national forest inventory** was carried out in 2019-2021.



Logging

The slide shows the **annual** logging rates for roundwood and firewood **over the five-year** period (2019–2023).

Year	Round timber (m3)	% of total number	Social cutting of firewood (m3)	% of total number	Total m3
2019	84,246	19	360,716	81	444,962
2020	108,740	36	304,195	64	412,935
2021	132,309	34	252,906	66	385,215
2022	187,026	40	277,580	60	464,606
2023	160,042	39	251,070	61	411,112
Total	672,363	32	1,446,467	68	2,118,830

The **average annual logging** rate for the period from 2013 to 2022 was **617,000 m³**.

Illegal forest use

In previous years, the volume of officially produced firewood was a **maximum of 617,000 m³**; however, according to the National Statistical Office, use has never been less than **1 million m³**. This indicates a high level of **illegal forest use**.

Approximately **90%** of the rural population ($\approx$ 1.43 million people) still partially or fully depend on firewood.



Firewood, from social Logging to arranging business yards

Social in Georgia

Social logging in Georgia began in **1991**, following the country's independence, as a result of **socio-economic and energy crises**.

According to the **social logging practice**, municipalities send the **list of households in need of firewood** to the National Forestry Agency.

Each **household** can receive **7 cubic** meters of firewood, while **residents of mountainous regions** can receive **15 cubic** meters..

Social logging has created **serious challenges** in the forestry sector, including:

- ❖ Financial losses,
- ❖ An increase in the number of accidents, and
- ❖ Environmental degradation



As a response, the new **Forest Code** introduced the concept of “**Business Yards.**” Starting from **2026**, the **cutting, transportation, and processing** of wood for sale will take place **exclusively within these Business Yards**, under the **full management of the National Forestry Agency**. **Firewood will be available for purchase** both to the local population and businesses, while **only specially trained groups** will be authorized to work in the forest.

Thanks for the Attention!



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