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Forest Sector in the Republic of Moldova

Utilization, Governance, and Control

*Regional Workshop on Wood Tracking and EU Deforestation Regulation
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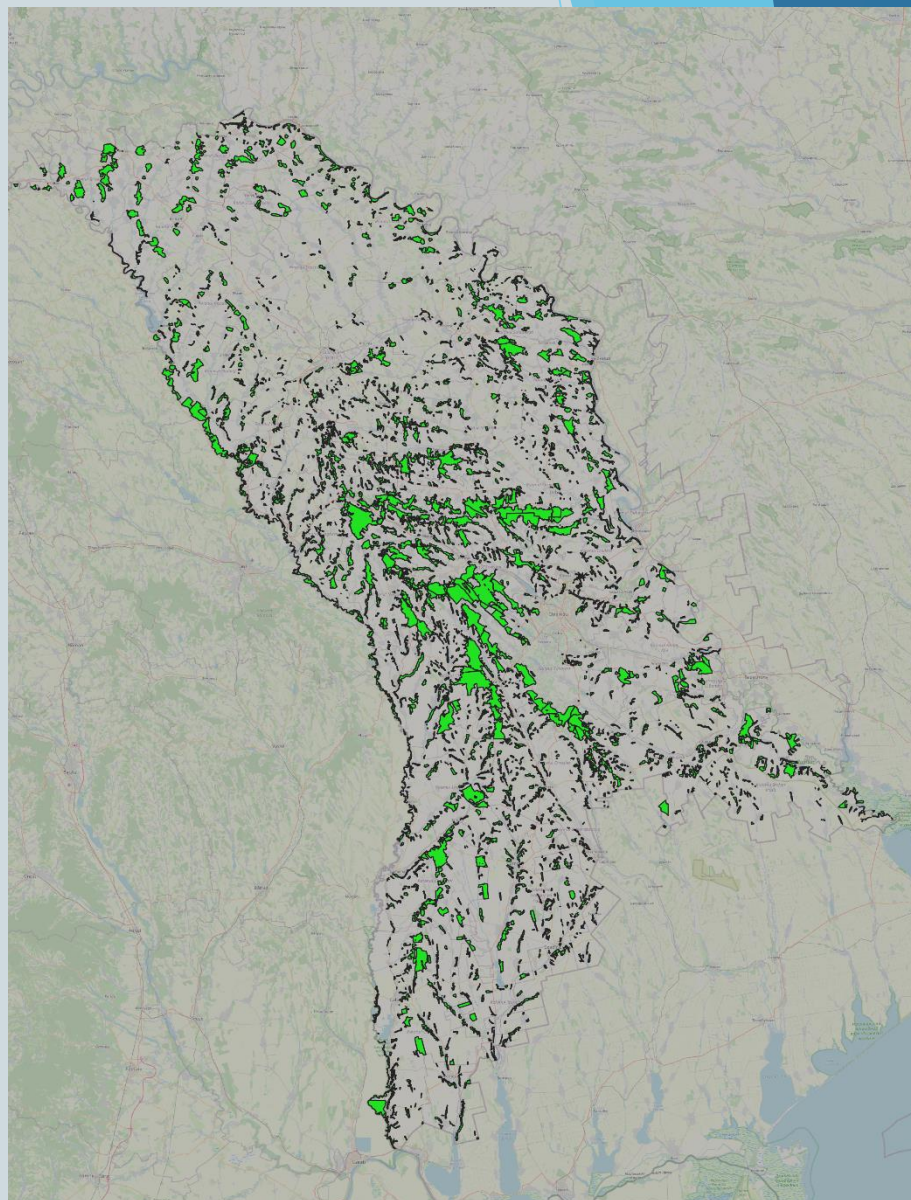
Total forest area & forest ownership

1. Forest fund (01.01.2025):

Total area – 453,85 thousand ha (13.4%), including state property – 362.88 thousand ha (80.0%); public property of administrative-territorial units (ATU) – 88,26 thousand ha (19.4%), private property – 2.74 thousand ha (0.6%). Area covered with forests – 378,29 thousand ha (degree of afforestation – 11.5%), including state property: 324,38 thousand ha (85.7%), "Moldsilva" Agency – 305,34 thousand ha (93.4%); public property of ATU – 51,69 thousand ha (13.7%); private property – 2.22 thousand ha (0.6%).

2. Forest vegetation outside the forest fund:

Total area – 75.5 thousand ha (29.0 thousand ha protective forest curtains; 46.5 thousand ha other forest vegetation); PFC – 1.22% of the agricultural land area.

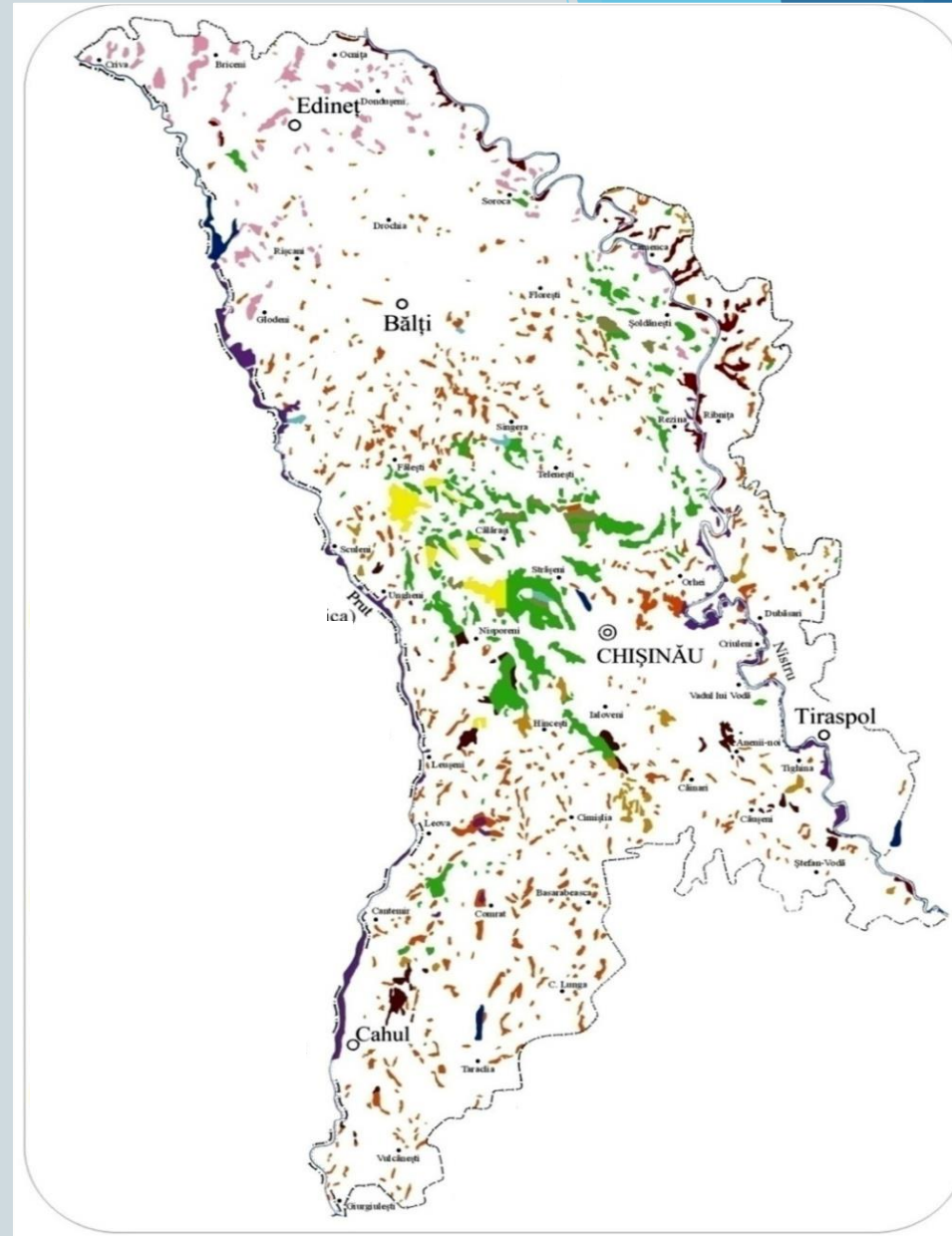


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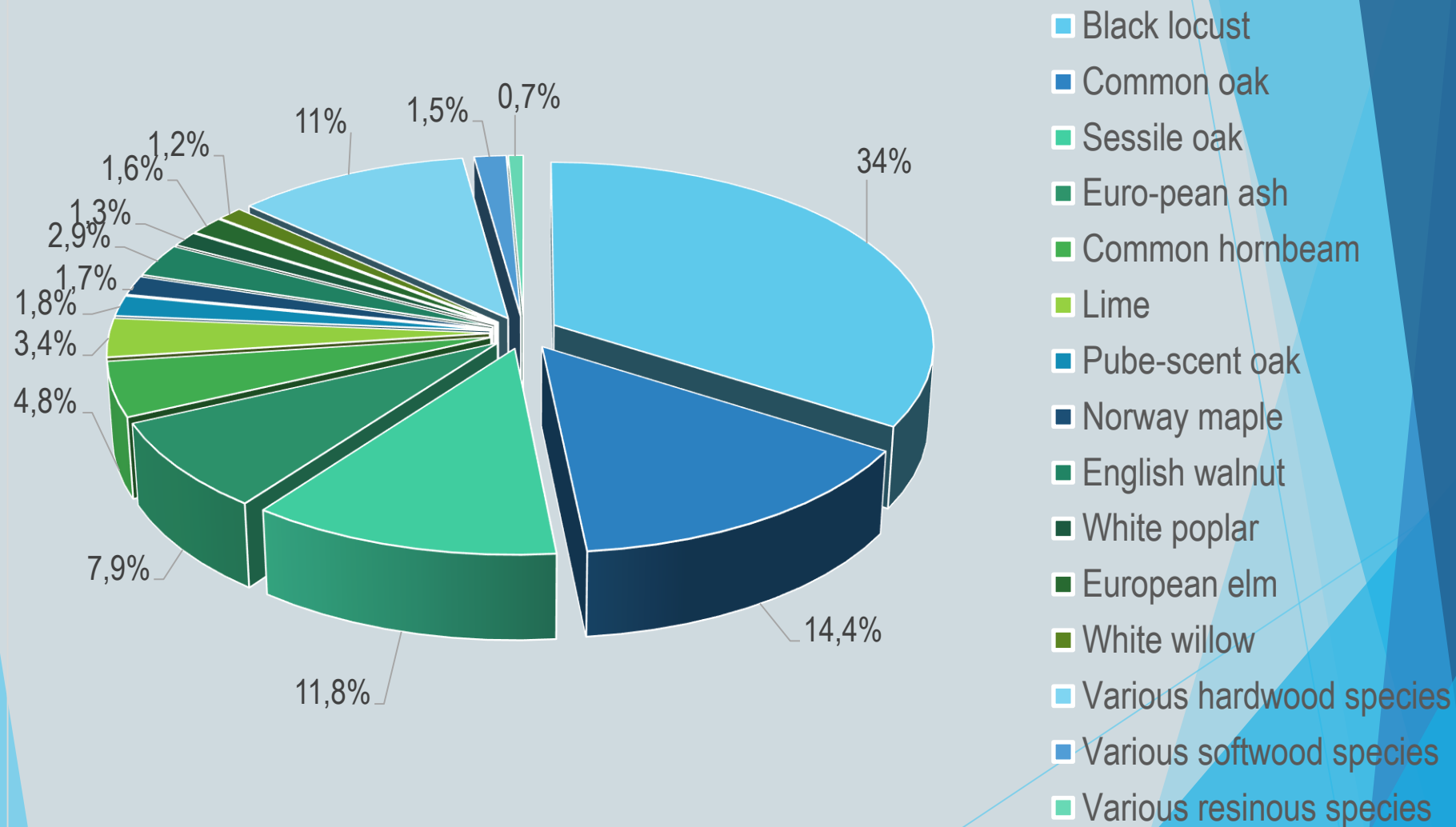
Types of forest

Legend

-  Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) forests with hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
-  Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) forests with hornbeam
-  Monodominant sessile oak forests with lime (*Tilia tomentosa*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
-  Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) forests with hornbeam
-  Monodominant pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) forests with wild cherry (*Cerasus avium*)
-  Monodominant pedunculate oak forests with cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*)
-  Downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) forests
-  Floodplain forests (willow, poplar, and oak stands)
-  Rocky forests of sessile and pedunculate oak
-  Forest plantations

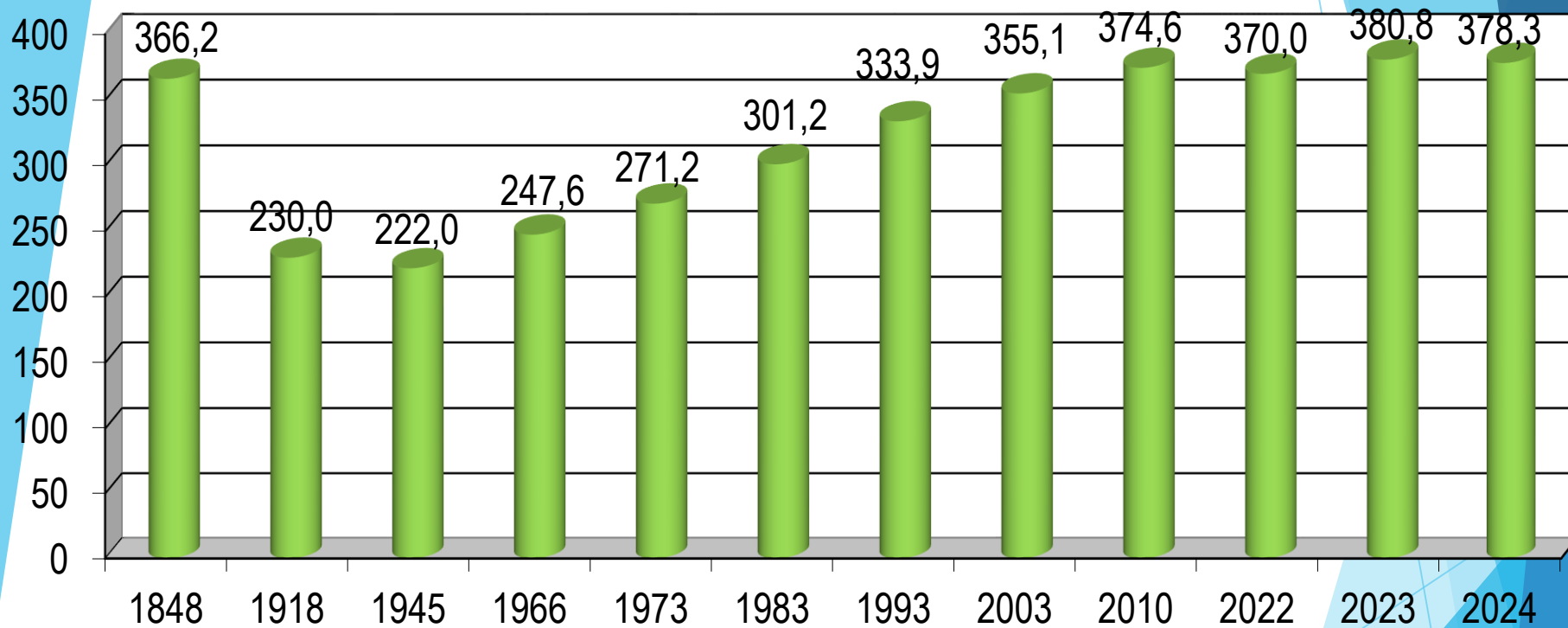


Forest Composition by Dominant Species





Evolution of forest area



 **Forest Sector in the Republic of Moldova**

National Programme for Afforestation and Forest Rehabilitation

Areas Designated for Afforestation and Rehabilitation (2023–2032)

Category of Land / Forest Vegetation	Type of Intervention	Estimated Area (thousand ha)	Achieved in 2023–2024 (thousand ha)
Areas subject to landslides, eroded lands – afforestation/ reforestation, new plantations	Afforestation	85	8591
Riparian forest belts for the protection of rivers and water basins (new plantations)	Afforestation	15	
Shelterbelts for the protection of agricultural lands and infrastructure (new plantations)	Afforestation	10	
Shelterbelts for the protection of agricultural lands (rehabilitation)	Rehabilitation	8	
Riparian forest belts (rehabilitation)	Rehabilitation	2,5	331
Lands with unsuccessful/ deficient forest plantations – ecological reconstruction	Rehabilitation	24,5	5677
TOTAL	—	145	

 **Forest Sector in the Republic of Moldova**

National Programme for Afforestation and Forest Rehabilitation (2023–2032)





The evolution of the main dendrometric indicators of the RM forests:

Name of species/groups of species	Basic dendrometric indices														
	Average age, years			Medium production class			Medium consistency			Average volume per foot of land covered with forests, m3/ha			Current average growth m3/ha/year		
	1988	2016	2021	1988	2016	2021	1988	2016	2021	1988	2016	2021	1988	2016	2021
Pinus	11	34	32	2,1	3,9	3,8	0,64	0,69	0,69	34	89	110	2,8	4,7	4,4
oak	53	73	76	2,8	3,2	3,2	0,73	0,75	0,75	150	201	204	3	3,9	3,7
Carpenus	52	60	62	2,4	3,6	3,6	0,78	0,79	0,77	178	152	154	3,5	5,0	4,7
Fraxinus	52	60	61	2,1	3,4	3,4	0,78	0,77	0,76	177	195	193	3,5	4,4	4,1
Paltin	19	35	36	1,7	3,7	3,7	0,69	0,76	0,75	55	90	90	2,6	2,3	2,2
Ulmus	28	28	26	2,6	4,4	4,6	0,73	0,68	0,68	87	62	54	3,2	2,9	2,4
Acacia	18	17	16	1,6	4,6	4,6	0,75	0,77	0,76	69	30	27	3,9	3,2	3,0
Telia	52	67	70	2,2	3,1	3,1	0,76	0,78	0,77	171	238	237	3,7	6,4	6,0
Plopler	27	38	34	2,8	3,1	3,0	0,69	0,75	0,76	186	174	167	7,9	5,6	5,8
Salix L	27	35	34	3,3	4,0	4,0	0,65	0,66	0,65	179	106	100	7,4	6,5	6,4
Average indicators on the surface covered with forests	40	45	45	2,3	3,9	3,9	0,73	0,76	0,74	124	118	115	3,3	3,8	3,5

Economic importance of Forest resources

- Although the forestry sector contributes only around 0.3-0.4% to Moldova's GDP, it plays a crucial role in sustaining rural livelihoods.
- Firewood remains the main source of energy in rural areas – about 90% of households rely on it for heating, compared to only 19% in urban areas.
- Meanwhile, employment in the forestry sector has been steadily decreasing – from more than 4,300 workers in 2010 to about 3,500 in 2020.

Wood and non-wood products

Wood harvesting between 2012 and 2022 (total Moldsilva and other forest holders)

Year	Volume of woody mass, thousand m ³			
	Total	Moldsilva	Other holders	% Moldsilva
2012	573,16	548,5	24,66	96%
2013	617,12	577,7	39,42	94%
2014	649,93	588,6	61,33	91%
2015	635,32	566,4	68,92	89%
2016	617,58	576	41,58	93%
2017	635,91	591,1	44,81	93%
2018	644,01	589,9	54,11	92%
2019	605,69	560,1	45,59	92%
2020	577,57	533,6	43,97	92%
2021	523,3	508	15,30	97%
2022	712,14	603,5	108,64	85%
Total	6791,73	6243,4	548,33	92%

Wood and non-wood products

Collection/harvesting of NTFPs by subordinate entities of Moldsilva between 2012 and 2023

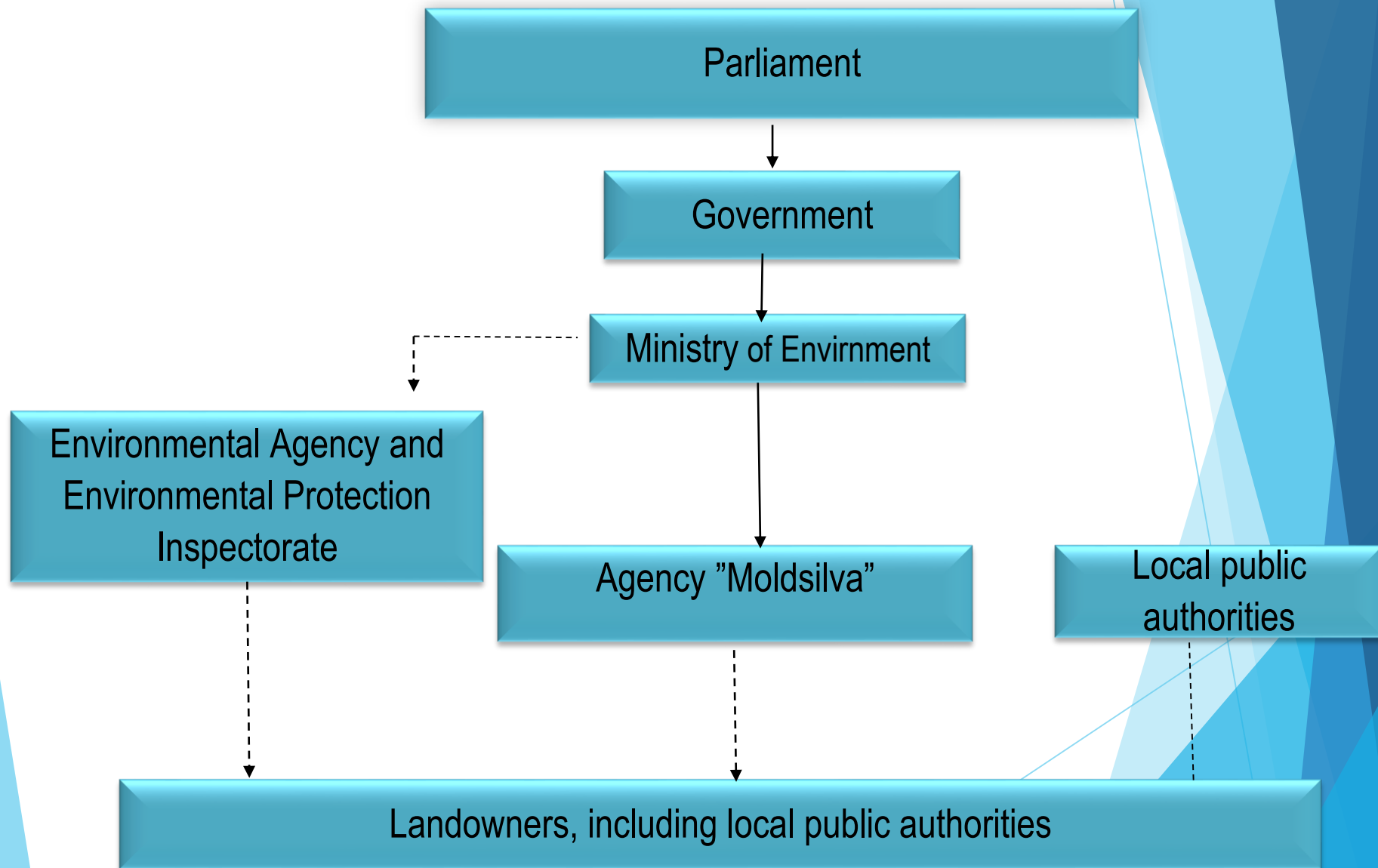
Product name	Unit	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fruits and berries	tons	501.8	947.0	735.6	761.6	350.1	270.5	531.8	573.1	595.9	551.7	291.2	153.9
Medicinal plants	tons	60.6	92.7	66.2	56.5	70.6	40.7	59.4	45.8	48.9	68.8	42.7	79.9
Honey	tons	2.8	4.5	4.3	4.8	3.7	4.5	4.8	4.9	1.6	4.9	4.8	6,7
Snails	tons	0.8	0.5	0.5	2.9	1.3							
Fish	tons		8.4	0.7	2,3	1.0	5.2	1.3	1.8			1.7	1.0

Value of wood and wood product exports and imports from Moldova between 2014 and 2023

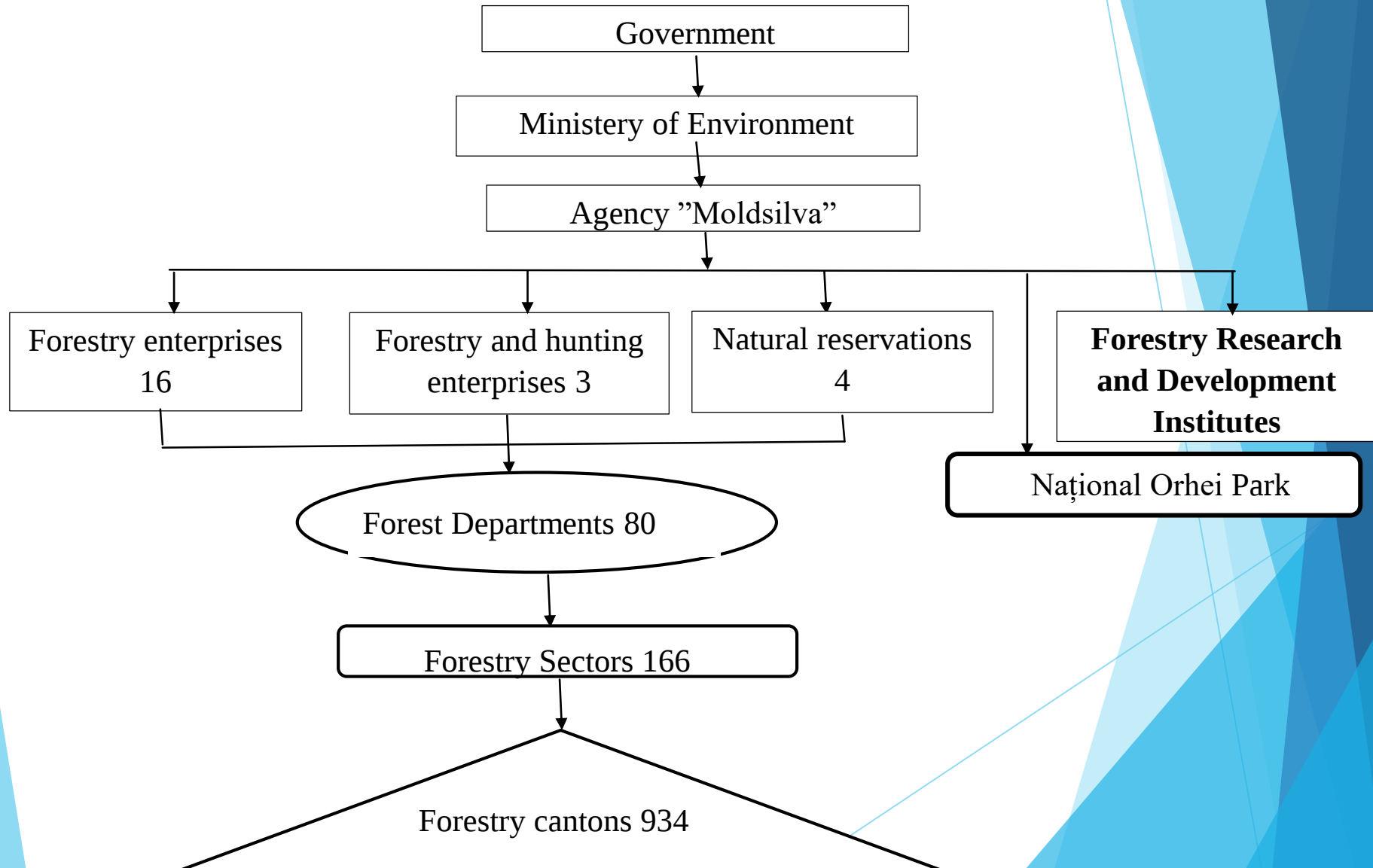
Year	Exports of wood and wood articles (US\$)	Imports of wood and wood articles (US\$)
2014	7,545,850	99,307,820
2015	7,523,876	81,723,120
2016	8,860,482	82,027,290
2017	9,799,619	101,663,600
2018	17,568,950	118,578,910
2019	21,289,874	126,243,360
2020	20,819,136	126,430,070
2021	27,789,254	167,315,990
2022	29,565,939	160,198,110
2023	22,518,180	147,219,590
Total	173,281,160	1,210,707,860
Average	17,328,116	121,070,786

The average value of imports over the 10-year period is seven times higher than the value of exports, which clearly indicates a high dependence on the former

Governance Framework



Organizational chart of the state forestry sector





Legal Framework

The new Forestry Code was voted by Parliament in 2024 and entered into force on the 26th of April 2025, one year after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Sustainable management of the forest fund is based on the following principles:

- Long-term forestry policy
- Integrity, sustainability, and continuity of ecosystems
- Integrity of the forest fund
- Durability and resilience of forests
- Biological diversity of the forest
- Harmonizing of relations between forestry and other fields of activity
- Health and vitality of forests.

SFM certification is mentioned by the new Forest Code.

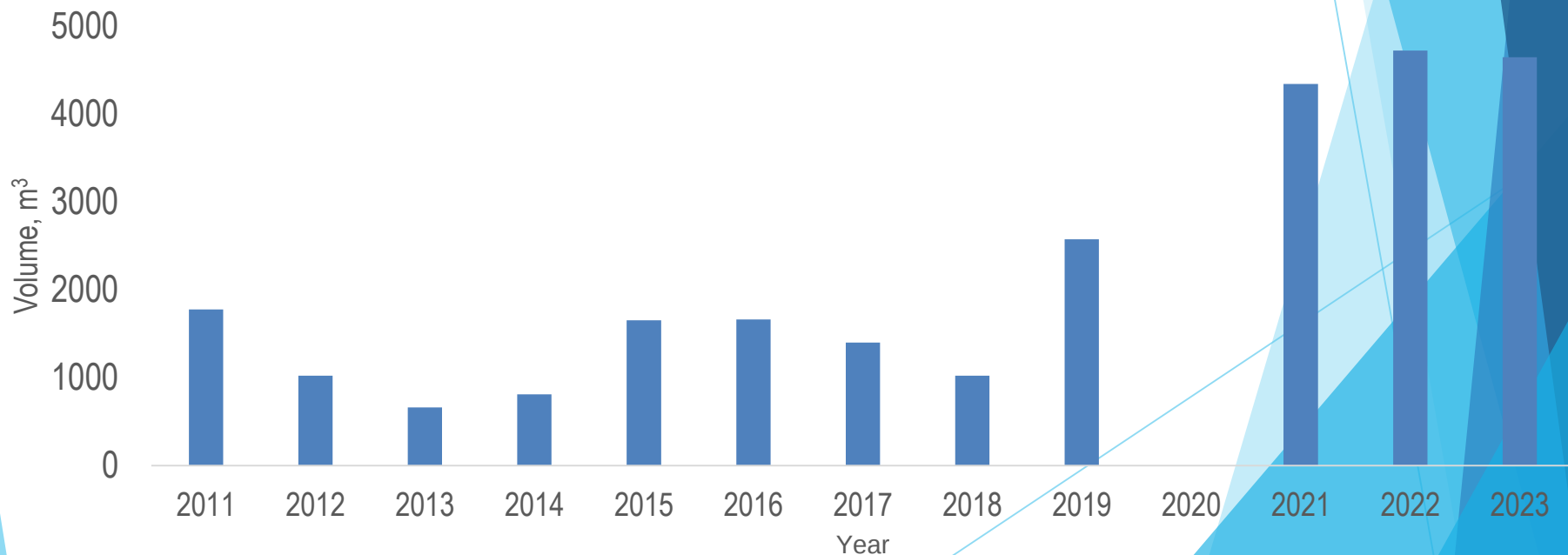
The National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Programme (NFERP) is an ambitious greening initiative to increase forest cover and tackle climate change. With the adoption of a new Forest Code, the implementation of a complex reform of the national forestry sector is also being discussed. Under the EU4Environment Programme, the World Bank collaborated with the MoE, in consultation with key stakeholders, to formulate recommendations that led to the 10-year (2023–2032) NFERP, adopted in February 2023.

 Forest Sector in the Republic of Moldova

Challenges in Forest Governance

Volume of illegal harvesting in 2011–2023

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Volume harvested	1,774.9	1,023.2	661.8	808.6	1,652.5	1,661.0	1,397.4	1,022.3	2571.9	-	4,340.0	4,720.3	4,642.4



Vulnerabilities/risks for forest ecosystems in the Republic of Moldova associated with climate change

Climate impact category	Impact on the forestry sector	Social/economic impact
High temperatures, heat waves	- Longer growing season; - Negative consequences for species sensitive to temperature changes; - Increased vulnerability to forest fires;	- Reduction in the volume of wood production; - Transition to other forms of energy; - Additional costs for the population;
Changing precipitation indices	- Change in the phytosanitary status of forests, including mass drying phenomena; - Change in species composition in forests; - Changes in stand structure (including density); - Change in the types and incidence of forest pests and diseases; - Spread of invasive plant species, new or existing;	Modifying the capacity of forest habitat to maintain biological diversity, protect the environment and ensure specific socioeconomic functions;
Extreme phenomena: droughts, fires, windstorms and floods	- Reduced biomass growth and/or production; - Increased number of forest fires; - Increased mortality rate of forest seeds/seedlings;	Economic losses in the forestry sector;

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR

- Development of the regulatory framework based on the new Forest Code;
- Digitalisation of forest management;
- Technical modernisation of forestry entities;
- Improvement of forest protection and surveillance activities;
- Development of the private forestry sector;
- Production of forest seedlings in containers with protected root systems;
- Afforestation and rehabilitation of approximately 145,000 ha by 2032;
- Sustainable utilisation of wood and non-wood forest products;
- Regulation of game populations and restoration of degraded forest stands;
- Continuous training of forestry personnel;
- Strengthening the ecological and productive functions of existing forests;
- Attracting and developing a new generation of forestry professionals.



Key Actions for the Alignment with EU Timber and Deforestation Regulations

(Extract from the Presentation of the Republic of Moldova during the EU-Moldova Screening, Brussels, October 2025)

VI. FUTURE STEPS on Timber Regulation



ACTIVITIES	POLICY DOCUMENT	YEAR	COSTS
Adoption of the necessary framework for alignment and implementation of the: Regulation (EU) 995/2010 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 , by:			
1. Adopting the Law on the authorization of felling, placing on the market and movement of timber and timber products	NPA 2025-2029	2026	10 400 covered by state budget
2. Adoption of the Government Decision approving the concept of an automated information system for the registration and traceability of harvested and marketed wood.	NPA 2025-2029	2027	3 350 covered by state budget
3. Development of the automated information system for timber traceability.	NPA 2025-2029	2029	TBD
Completing the Inventory of the National Forest Fund	NPA 2025-2029	2029	Estimated total costs: 2,600,000 EUR (Covered from external assistance: European Investment Bank 500 000 EUR) (Covered by the Growth Plan till 2027)



**Thank you very much for your attention and for your
patience.!**