



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
Verification Scheme GmbH

Assessment of the risk of
unsustainable production of
forest biomass
LITHUANIA



LITHUANIAN BIOMASS ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Date: 2023-09-06

1. Information on the author of the risk assessment

The author of this risk assessment Ms Agnė Babelytė holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and a Master's degree in Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology (Nature Sciences) from Vilnius University. The author has been working as a coordinator of certification systems in the Lithuanian Biomass Energy Association "Litbioma" for 5 years. In this position she is mainly focused on the requirements related to the implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II) at national level.

The Lithuanian Biomass Energy Association LITBIOMA, founded in summer 2003, currently has 44 members. The association includes producers and suppliers of solid biofuels and other renewable local resources such as wood, straw, energy willow, peat, manufacturers and designers of biofuel boilers and other equipment, energy producers, energy plantation developers and scientific institutions.

The SURE risk assessment was prepared in consultation with members of the Scientific Technical Council of the Lithuanian Biomass Energy Association LITBIOMA, as well as with experts from the Forest Policy and Climate Policy Groups of the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, the Foresters' Union, the administration of the SURE certification system, and auditors.

2. Scope of the risk assessment

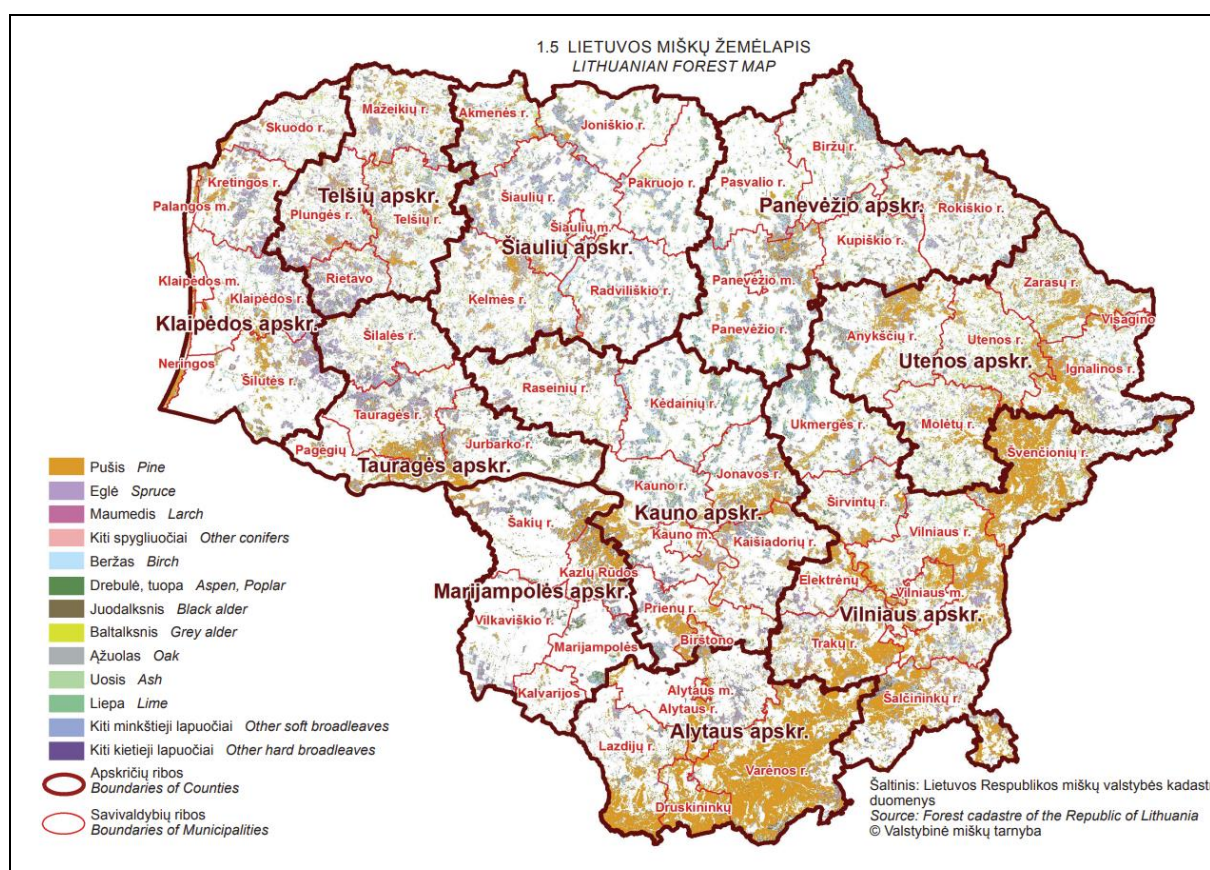
This risk assessment covers the entire territory of the Republic of Lithuania and the entire forested area of Lithuania. The forested area covers 2.2 million ha, which is a one-third of the country's territory - 33.7%.

The risk assessment can only be applied to forest biomass produced in an area that falls within these boundaries.

The official map showing the borders of Lithuania can be viewed on the website of the Lithuanian Spatial Information Portal <https://www.geoportal.lt/geoportal/>, which is managed by the „GIS-Centras“ - Centre for Distance Research and Geoinformatics.

The period of validity of the risk assessment is five years after publication. All updates are available on the following website: <https://www.biokuras.lt/>.

The risk assessment is valid for five years starting from the effective date of 2023-09-06

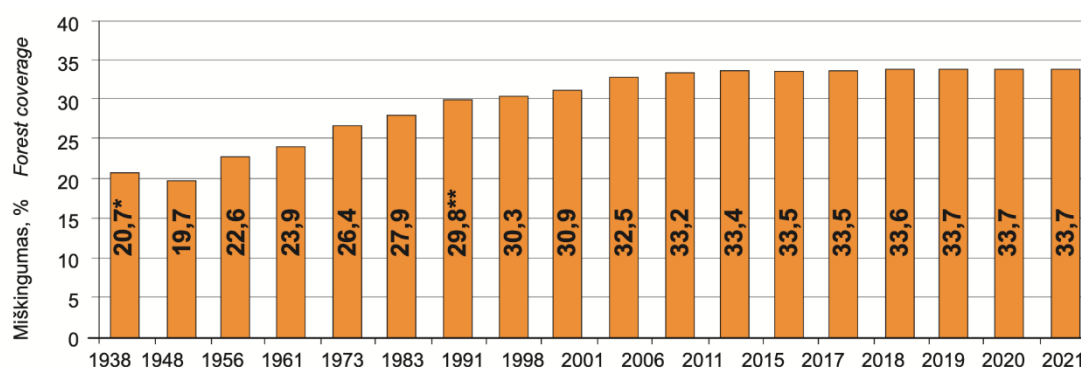


3. Structure of the forestry and wood processing industry in Lithuania

3.1. Description of the forestry industry

3.1.1. Forest resources

FOREST AREA IN LITHUANIA 1938-2021¹



* Ekspertinis vertinimas: įskaityti Vilniaus krašto miškai Expert estimation, including Vilnius region forests

** Pasaulinės miškų apskaitos (FRA 2005) duomenys Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2005)

Šaltinis: Lietuvos miškų metraščių XX amžius, Valstybinė miškų tarnyba (SMI)

Source: The chronicle of Lithuanian forests XX century, State Forest Service (SFI)

The above diagram presents the characteristics of Lithuanian forest resources up to the 1st January 2021 using data from the latest forest assessment¹. It is based on Parcel Forest Inventory (PFI) and National Forest Inventory (NFI) data. The PFI provides data on forest area

in Lithuania. The National Forest Inventory presents known accuracy data about growing stock volume and changes in biomass availability.

According to Forestry Statistics 2021, on 1 January 2021 the area of forest land in Lithuania was 2,202,200 ha, covering 33.7% of the country's territory. Forest land area increased by 156,900 ha corresponding to 2.4% percentage points since the 1st January 2003. During the same period, forest stands area expanded from 111,600 ha to 2,062,600 ha.

Occupying 1,148,800 ha, coniferous stands prevail in Lithuania, covering 55.7% of the forest area. They are followed by softwood deciduous forests (844,500 ha, 40.9%). Hardwood deciduous forests occupy 69,300 ha (3.4%)¹.

The total area of softwood deciduous forest land increased by 146,100 ha over the last eighteen years. The area of hardwood deciduous decreased by 23,300 ha (mainly due to dieback of ash stands) and coniferous forest – by 11,200 ha¹.

Scots pine occupies the biggest share in Lithuanian forests – 709,200 ha. Compared to 2003, the area of pine decreased by 2,300 ha. Norway spruce stands covers 437,300 ha, with a reduction of 8,000 ha¹.

Birch stands cover the largest area among deciduous trees. Since 2003, it increased by 58,500 ha and reached 450,700 ha on 1st January 2021. Additional relevant data with regards to the characteristics of forest areas in Lithuania are as follows:

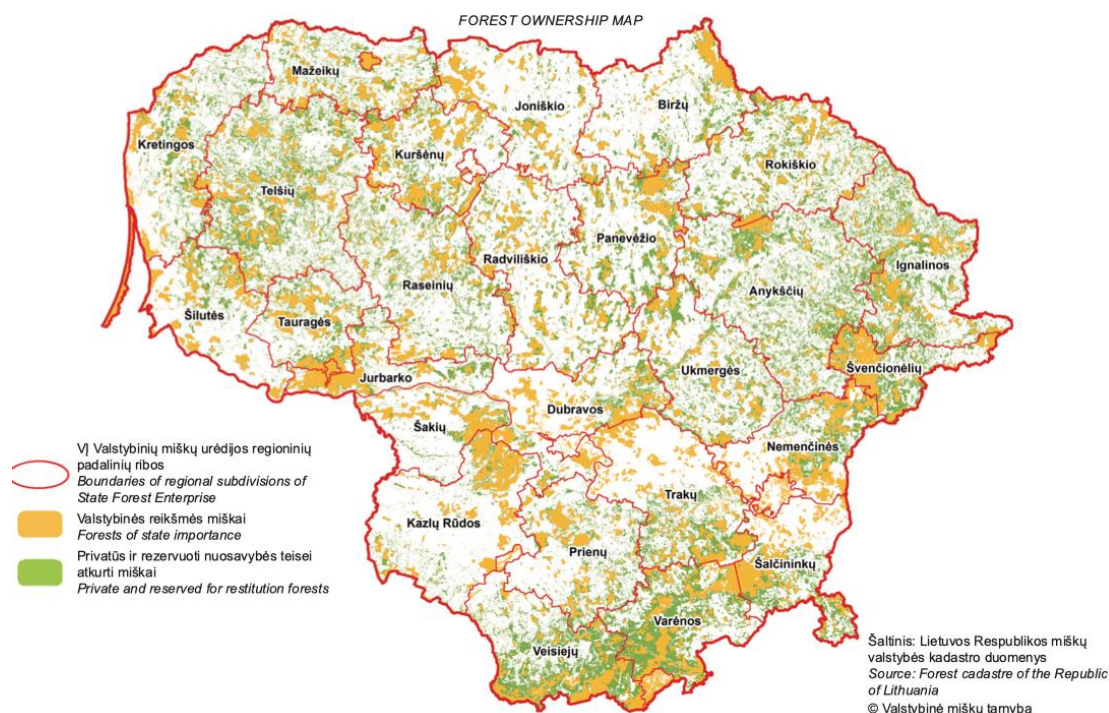
- Area of black alder increased by 44,300 ha, to 163,800 ha.
- The area of grey alder decreased by 1,100 ha reaching 120,900 ha.
- The area of aspen stands expanded by 38,200 to 95,600 ha.
- The area of oak stands increased from 35,700 ha to 48,900 ha.
- The area of ash stands decreased more than three times and occupied 12,400 ha.
- The average forest area per capita reached 0.79 ha¹.

3.1.2 Ownership and administration of forests

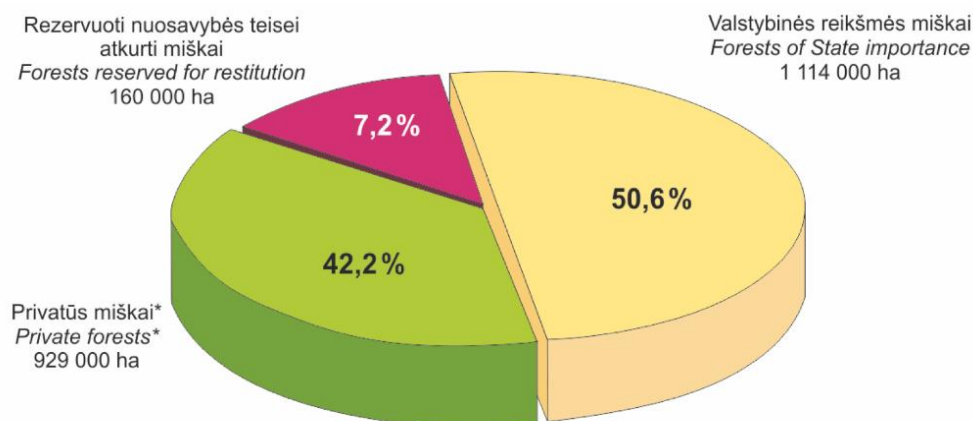
According to Forestry Statistics 2021, by 1st January 2021, around a half of all forest land in Lithuania was of State owned – 1,114,000 ha. In addition, 863,000 ha of private forests were registered in the State Enterprise Centre of Registers.

State Forest Enterprise manages 1,078,000 ha of forest land. Its 26 regional subdivisions managed an average of 41.500 ha of forest land. The number of forest districts during the last year decreased by 6 to 332. The average area of the forest district was 3.300 ha¹.

FOREST OWNERSHIP MAP¹



FOREST LAND BY OWNERSHIP 01.01.2021¹



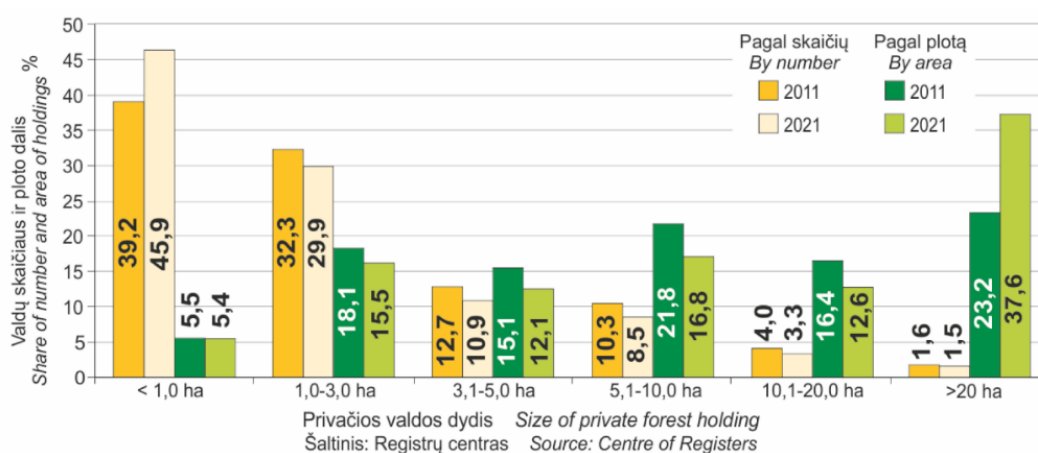
* Duomenys gauti sutapatinus miškų grafinį sluoksnį su privačių valdų sluoksniu
 Data was obtained after layer of forests was intersected with layer of private holdings
 Šaltinis: Valstybinė miškų tarnyba (SMI) Source: State Forest Service (SFI)

Area of forest managed by private property rights, according to the data of State Enterprise Centre of Registers, increased by 5,400 ha in 2020. The largest area of privately owned forests was in the territory of the Telšiai regional subdivision, where private forest holdings occupied 78,000 ha of forest land. In Anykščiai regional subdivision private owners possessed 76,100 ha. Private owners managed half or more of the forest area in Anykščiai, Veisiejai, Varėna and Telšiai regional subdivisions territories. The smallest area of private

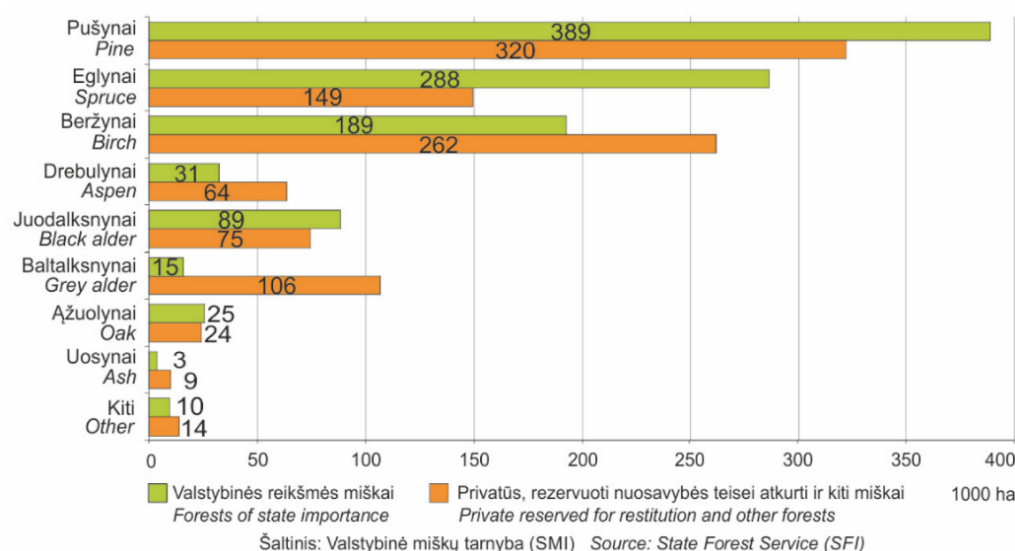
forests was in territory of Kazlų Rūda regional subdivision. Here their area occupies 11.800 ha, and the share of private forests was 17%¹.

According to NFI data, the highest growing stock was accumulated in Vilnius county (117.2 million m³), which makes more than one fifth of the total growing stock in the country. In other counties, wood volumes are significantly lower - Utena (76.5 million m³) and Alytus (75.1 million m³), while the lowest wood resources were recorded in Marijampolė (29.4 million m³), Klaipėda (36.9 million m³) and Telšiai counties (36.9 million m³).

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREST LAND OWNED BY ONE OWNER BY SIZE AND NUMBER¹



FOREST STAND AREAS BY OWNERSHIP AND DOMINANT TREE SPECIES (Jan 2021)¹



Forest land area by forest groups and ownership 01.01.2021¹

1000 ha

Miškų grupės ir pogrupiai <i>Forest groups and subgroups</i>	Valstybinės reikšmės miškų valdytojai <i>Managers of forests of state importance</i>				Privatus, rezervuoti nuosa- vybės teisei atkurti ir kiti <i>Private, reserved for restitution and other forests</i>
	VĮ Valstybinių miškų urėdija <i>State Forest Enterprise</i>	Gamtiniai, biosferos rezervatai <i>State, biosphere reserves</i>	Kiti valdytojai <i>Other managers</i>	Iš viso <i>Total</i>	
I grupės (rezervatiniai) miškai <i>Forest reserves</i>	11,0	16,3	0,1	27,3	0,0
II grupės (specialios paskirties) miškai <i>Special-purpose forests</i>	151,5	0,0	13,0	164,5	87,0
A) ekosistemų apsaugos miškai <i>forests for protection of ecosystems</i>	117,8	-	2,9	120,7	74,8
draustinių miškai <i>protected forests</i>	115,5	-	2,7	118,3	56,9
priešeroziniai miškai <i>soil protecting (anti-erosion) forests</i>	2,3	-	0,2	2,5	17,8
B) rekreaciniai miškai <i>recreational forests</i>	33,7	0,0	10,1	43,8	12,3
miško parkai <i>forest parks</i>	16,4	0,0	3,2	19,7	3,3
miestų miškai <i>city forests</i>	11,3	-	6,3	17,6	0,5
valstybinių parkų rekreacinių zonų miškai <i>forests of recreational zones in national and regional parks</i>	2,2	-	0,2	2,5	2,2
rekreaciniai miško sklypai <i>forests of recreational sites</i>	3,4	-	0,1	3,5	6,2
kiti poilsiui skirti miškai <i>other recreational forests</i>	0,2	-	0,3	0,5	0,0
III grupės (apsauginiai) miškai <i>Protective forests</i>	99,5	-	1,4	100,8	173,1
draustinių miškai <i>protected forests</i>	43,3	-	0,1	43,4	48,0
kultūrinių rezervatų miškai <i>forests of culture reserves</i>	0,0	-	0,1	0,1	0,0
laukų apsauginiai miškai <i>forests for field protection</i>	0,3	-	0,1	0,3	21,1
miško sėkliniai medynai <i>seed stands</i>	1,2	-	0,0	1,2	0,0
apsaugos zonų miškai <i>forests of protective zones</i>	54,7	-	1,1	55,8	104,0
IV grupės (ūkiniai) miškai <i>Commercial forests</i>	816,3	-	4,6	820,9	828,5
A) normalaus kirtimo amžiaus ūkiniai miškai <i>commercial forests of normal felling age</i>	816,3	-	4,6	820,9	828,3
B) trumpo kirtimo amžiaus plantaciniai miškai <i>short-rotation forest plantations</i>	-	-	-	-	0,2
Iš viso <i>Total</i>	1 078,2	16,3	19,1	1 113,5	1 088,7
Iš viso 2020 01 01 <i>Total 01.01.2020</i>	1 074,9	16,3	19,2	1 110,4	1 089,8

3.1.3 Protected areas in forest

According to the OECD, protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, covered an area of 1,155,000 hectares in Lithuania in 2020 (excluding marine areas). This represented 17.7% of the country's territory. The largest share of this area was accounted for by regional parks - 39%, biosphere polygons and biosphere reserves - 22%, state and municipal reserves - 14%, national parks - 12%, state reserves and reserve areas - 1.7%, and Natura 2000 sites - 11%³.

Lithuania met the Aichi target (The Aichi biodiversity targets were established by the UN Convention of Biological Diversity and consist of 20 specific targets to address and mitigate biodiversity loss across the globe) of 17% for terrestrial sites and exceeded the target of 10% for marine and coastal sites³.

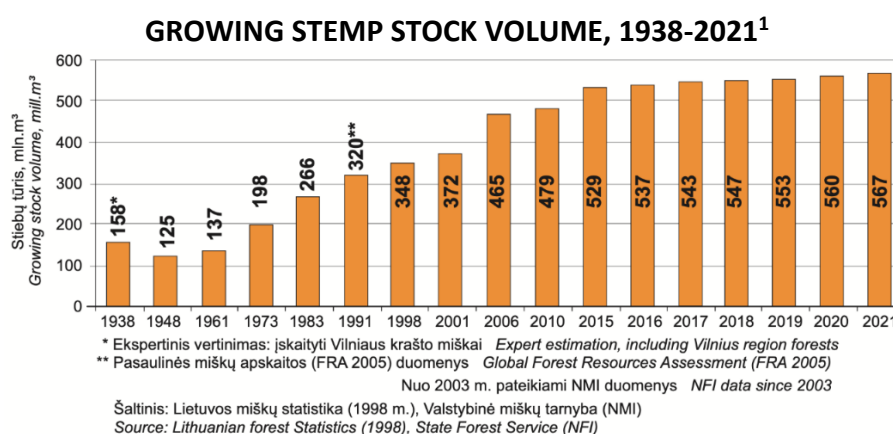
3.2. Description of the timber volume and timber use

According to NFI data, since 2003 total growing stock volume increased from 453.4 million m³ up to 566.7 million m³. Pine stands accumulated growing stock of 232.0 million m³. In a period of eighteen years (2003-2021), they accumulated 52.0 million m³. The growing stock in spruce stands increased from 75.8 to 102.2 million m³.

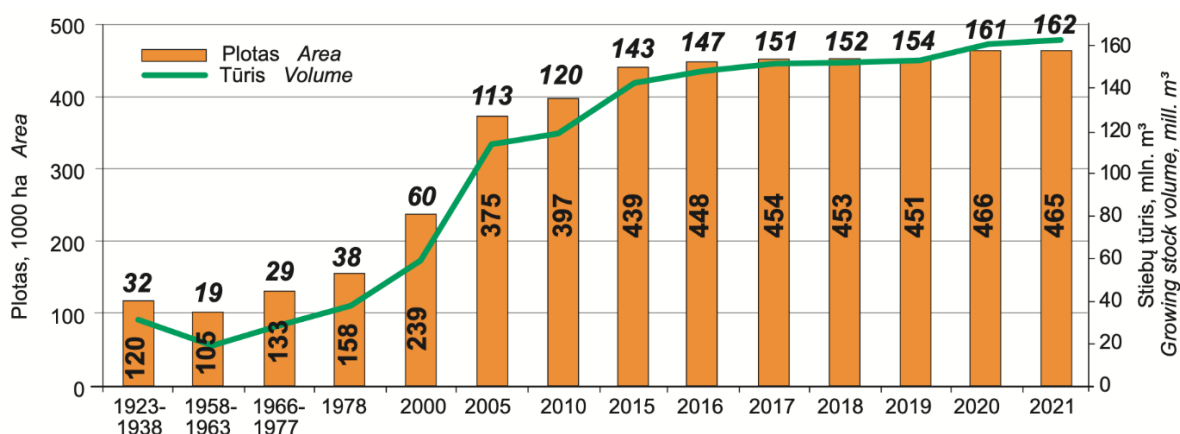
From 2003 until 2021 the volume of birch stands increased by 9.7 million m³ to 88.5 million m³. The stocks of black alder have risen by 19.6 million m³, reaching 57.3 million m³. 38.8 million m³ were accumulated in aspen stands and this volume practically was the same as eighteen years ago. The volume of grey alder stands remained at the same level (23.6 million m³) too. Oak stands accumulated growing stock of 12.8 million m³. Ash stocks decreased to almost one fifth within the above-mentioned time period, decreasing to 2.0 million m³ in 2021.

The average growing stem stock volume in Lithuanian forests since 2003 increased from 40 m³/ha to 266 m³/ha within the mentioned time period. The growing stock volume of mature stands in III-IV forest groups has increased from 109.9 to 162.4 million m³ in average 2.9 million m³ per year.

The gross annual increment increased from 16.0 to 20.0 million m³ in average and now contain 9.4 m³/ha per year. The average growing stock volume per capita reached 203 m³.



AREA AND VOLUME OF MATURE STANDS, 1923-2021¹



Nuo 2003 m. pateikiami NMI duomenys apie III-IV gr. miškus NFI data about forest of III-IV group since 2003

Šaltinis: Lietuvos miškų metraštis XX amžius, Valstybinė miškų tarnyba (NMI)

Source: The chronicle of Lithuanian forests XX century, State Forest Service (NFI)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LITHUANIAN FORESTS¹

Rodiklis Characteristic	2003 01 01	2020 01 01	2021 01 01
Miško žemė pagal valstybinę miškų apskaitą, tūkst. ha (SMI) Forest land area according to Forest assessment, 1,000 ha (SFI)	2045	2200	2202
Apaugusi miškų žemė (medynai), tūkst. ha (SMI) Forest area covered by stands, 1,000 ha (SFI)	1951	2062	2063
Iš jų dirbtinai atkurti ir įveisti medynai, tūkst. ha (SMI) Of which planted forest, 1,000 ha (SFI)	459	586	596
Bendras medienos tūris, mln. m³ (NMI) Total growing stock volume, mill. m³ (NFI)	453,4	559,6	566,7
Vidutinis medienos tūris, m³/ha (NMI) Mean growing stock volume, m³/ha (NFI)	226	263	266
Bendras brandžių medynų tūris III-IV gr. miškuose, mln. m³ (NMI) Total growing stock volume of mature stands of III-IV groups, mill. m³ (NFI)	109,9	160,7	162,4
Vidutinis brandžių medynų tūris III-IV gr. miškuose, m³/ha (NMI) Mean growing stock volume of mature stands of III-IV groups, m³/ha (NFI)	301	345	349
Bendras metinis tūrio prieaugis iš viso, mln. m³ (NMI) Gross annual increment, mill. m³ (NFI)	16,0	20,2	20,0
Bendras metinis tūrio prieaugis, m³/ha (NMI) Gross annual increment, m³/ha (NFI)	8,0	9,5	9,4
Tūrio pokytis (kaupimas), m³/ha (NMI) Volume change, m³/ha (NFI)	-	2,8	2,7
Miškingumas, % (SMI) Forest coverage, % (SFI)	31,3	33,7	33,7
Miško plotas, tenkantis 1-am gyventojui, ha (SMI) Forest area per capita, ha (SFI)	0,59	0,79	0,79
Medienos tūris, tenkantis 1-am gyventojui, m³ (NMI) Growing stock volume per capita, m³ (NFI)	131	200	203

Šaltinis: Valstybinė miškų tarnyba (SMI; NMI)

Source: State Forest Service (SFI; NFI)

According to Forestry Statistics 2020², during 2019, the amount of merchantable roundwood sourced from Lithuanian forests decreased by 4% to 6.9 million m³. There was 3.6 million m³ of merchantable roundwood prepared in State forests, lower than the previous five years average of 3.8 million. m³. The volume of tree felling this year increased by just 1% compared to 2018. The State Forest Enterprise harvested 3.5 million m³ of roundwood within its forest management areas (the harvesting was conducted directly by the, or by third party contractors) and stumpage volumes commercialized were 48,000 m³.

The annual consumption of roundwood in Lithuania was 5.1 million m³ during 2019 (wood produced outside of forest land (cases where land doesn't have official forest land status) is not included). The amount of exported roundwood decreased by 6% compared to 2018 and amounting to 2.1 million m³. The import of roundwood increased by 10% and amounted to 0.3 million m³.

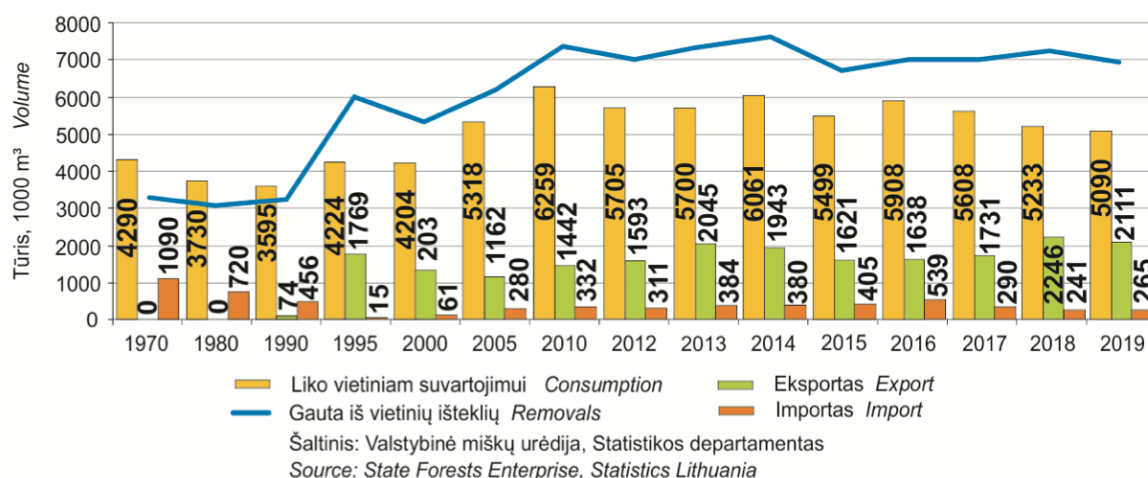
GROWING STOCK VOLUME BY STANDS AND TREE SPECIES 01.01.2021¹

1000 m³
%

Medynai Forest type	Sudėtinės medžių rūšys <i>Admixture tree species in the stand</i>									Iš viso Total	Iš viso 2020 01 01 Total 01.01.2020	Iš viso 2003 01 01 Total 01.01.2003
	Pušis Pine	Eglė Spruce	Beržas Birch	Drebulė Aspen	Juodalksnis Black alder	Baltalksnis Grey alder	Ažuolas Oak	Uosis Ash	Kiti Other			
Pušynai Pine	191353 82,5	23829 10,3	11180 4,8	1232 0,5	767 0,3	218 0,1	1757 0,8	42 0,0	1647 0,7	232026 100,0	229780 -	180020 -
Eglynai Spruce	6714 6,6	75894 74,3	8277 8,1	2885 2,8	2037 2,0	1132 1,1	3226 3,2	331 0,3	1681 1,6	102177 100,0	100999 -	75800 -
Beržynai Birch	3578 4,0	13836 15,6	54779 61,9	4360 4,9	4802 5,4	2036 2,3	1989 2,2	471 0,5	2658 3,0	88508 100,0	87319 -	78827 -
Drebulynai Aspen	416 1,1	4766 12,3	4005 10,3	24262 62,5	1012 2,6	870 2,2	1448 3,7	364 0,9	1673 4,3	38818 100,0	37109 -	34002 -
Juodalksnynai Black alder	567 1,0	4191 7,3	6625 11,6	1030 1,8	41135 71,8	1691 3,0	569 1,0	468 0,8	1027 1,8	57303 100,0	56546 -	37739 -
Baltalksnynai Grey alder	92 0,4	1399 5,9	1935 8,2	564 2,4	987 4,2	16637 70,5	341 1,4	408 1,7	1235 5,2	23599 100,0	24282 -	21601 -
Ažuolynai Oak	214 1,7	1866 14,6	1018 7,9	576 4,5	208 1,6	210 1,6	7140 55,8	206 1,6	1369 10,7	12808 100,0	12487 -	11251 -
Uosynai Ash	0 0,0	189 9,4	76 3,8	84 4,2	4 0,2	78 3,9	115 5,7	1019 50,7	446 22,2	2011 100,0	2046 -	9595 -
Kiti Other	98 1,0	512 5,4	628 6,7	401 4,3	332 3,5	358 3,8	456 4,8	407 4,3	6224 66,1	9415 100,0	8997 -	4555 -
Iš viso Total	203032 35,8	126483 22,3	88524 15,6	35395 6,2	51284 9,1	23229 4,1	17041 3,0	3717 0,7	17961 3,2	566665 100,0	- -	- -
Iš viso 2020 01 01 Total 01.01.2020	201664 36,0	124714 22,3	87555 15,6	34059 6,1	50565 9,0	23338 4,2	16528 3,0	3956 0,7	17185 3,1	- -	559564 100,0	- -
Iš viso 2003 01 01 Total 01.01.2003	160851 35,5	92824 20,5	77916 17,2	30794 6,8	35127 7,7	21553 4,8	13154 2,9	11043 2,4	10128 2,2	- -	- -	453391 100,0

Šaltinis: Valstybinė miškų tarnyba (NMI)
Source: State Forest Service (NFI)

ROUNDWOOD REMOVALS AND TRADE, 1970-2019²



AMOUNT OF MEASURED WOOD, 2010-2019²

Sortimentai Roundwood assortments	Apmatuotas medienos kiekis Amount of measured wood									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rąstai Logs										
Eglės Spruce	209,6	240,2	252,5	254,3	257,6	277,9	276,2	209,0	203,3	193,3
Pušies Pine	314,5	332,6	340,7	366,4	386,4	340,9	281,5	266,3	238,7	226,9
Beržo Birch	57,3	49,8	60,8	70,4	107,9	121,9	184,0	198,1	211,2	211,3
Spygliuočių Coniferous**	-	-	-	-	10,0	58,3	114,5	150,6	191,5	260,8
Lapuočių Non-coniferous**	-	-	-	-	13,8	94,7	110,9	74,5	64,3	12,2
Popierąsčiai Pulpwood										
Eglės Spruce	135,0	158,5	83,2	118,0	91,2	69,3	62,5	77,2	179,9	130,3
Pušies Pine	71,8	68,6	27,1	34,8	21,3	9,4	8,3	23,1	122,4	75,5
Beržo Birch	117,2	326,1	271,9	202,9	179,6	120,3	170,2	72,3	116,1	112,6
Drebulės Aspen	9,2	-	-	0,8	-	-	-	0,1	-	-
Plokščių mediena Fibrewood (wood for board industry)										
Spygliuočių Coniferous	13,1	-	0,4	2,1	2,2	4,1	10	44,9	37,8	43,1
Lapuočių Non-Coniferous	5,6	1,5	4,5	1,1	1,5	2	4,3	70,2	44,2	39,9
Smulkinta mediena (skiedra ir kt.) Wood chips and particles										
Smulkinta mediena Wood chips and particles	68,0	124,1	87,5	69,9	174,7	283,8	258,4	410,2	436,1	502,9
Viso Total	1 001,3	1 301,4	1 128,6	1 120,7	1 246,2	1 382,6	1 480,8	1 596,5	1 845,5	1 808,8

* LNMMA - Lietuvos nepriklausomų medienos matuotojų asociacija
LAITS - Lithuanian Association of Impartial Timber Scalars

** Įvairios rūšys Mixed species

Šaltinis: Lietuvos nepriklausomų medienos matuotojų asociacija
Source: Lithuanian Association of Impartial Timber Scalars

3.3. Description of the wood processing industry

According to the Lithuanian Statistics Department 2020, the output of sawmills decreased to 1.27 million m³ in 2019. The manufacture of paper and paperboard increased by 7%, and the output of this sector was 159,100 t. The particle board production decreased from

737,000 m³ to 733,000 m³; production of fibre board increased from 21.9 million m² to 23.2 million m² in 2019.

In 2019 Plywood veneered panels and similar laminated wood increased by 1% (amounting to 51,300 m³); and veneer sheets amounted to 66,500 m³, a decrease of 10% in relation to 2018³.

The total exports from Lithuania increased by 5% in 2019, the growth in 2018 was 7%. Lithuania's main export markets for wood-based products are EU countries, with a market share of 59%².

The total wood industry exports (including manufacturing of furniture) amounted to EUR 3.3 billion in 2019, showing a 7% increase compared with 2018. The share of wood industry exports to EU countries in relation to Lithuania's total exports in 2019 increased from 11.0% to 11.3%, where the main export markets were Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, Norway and Denmark².

In 2019 the total share of furniture in wood industry exports was 59%, with the value of exported furniture increasing by 10% to EUR 1.97 billion. The main markets for furniture products produced in Lithuania were also EU countries (and Norway). In the Lithuanian furniture products market sales to Sweden increased in 2019 (in relation to 2018) by 1% and amounted to EUR 322 million; sales to Germany increased by 10% to EUR 223 million; sales to the UK increased by 14% to EUR 193 million; and sales to both Norway and Denmark increased by 11% and 6% to EUR 155 million and EUR 131 million respectively (in comparison to 2018)².

The paper, paperboard and their products were the second product by importance of sector export, and its market share reached 9%, with the value of exported products increasing by 5%. Here the main market was still Poland, with 15% of production sales. Russia was next with 14%, followed by Latvia 12% and Germany 10%².

The total proportion of sawn wood in wood industry exports was 7%, with the value of sawn wood remaining as it was in 2018. However, exports of 1,084,000 m³ were an increase of 7% on 2018. These included: Germany (134,000 m³ - a decrease of 4%), China (123,000 m³ - a threefold increase); the UK (118,000 m³ - an increase of 20%); France (112,000 m³ - increase of 16%), South Korea (50,000 m³ - increase of 10%); and Latvia (46,000 m³ - increase of 16%)².

3.4. Sources

1. State Forest Service. *Lithuanian Forestry Statistics 2021* [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://amvmt.lrv.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys-1/misku-statistikos-leidiniai/misku-ukio-statistika/2021-m-1>>.

2. State Forest Service. *Lithuanian Forestry Statistics 2020* [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://amvmt.lrv.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys-1/misku-statistikos-leidiniai/misku-ukio-statistika/2020-m-1>>.
3. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. *OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Lithuania 2021*. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <[https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/EBPO%20rekomendacijos%20ir%20vertinimas%20AM%20redakcija%2009%2023%20pdf%20\(1\).pdf](https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/EBPO%20rekomendacijos%20ir%20vertinimas%20AM%20redakcija%2009%2023%20pdf%20(1).pdf)>.

4. Evaluation of the sustainability criteria for forest biomass	
4.1. Legality of wood harvesting	
Step 1: Identification of applicable laws	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania 2. Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania 3. Law on the Real Estate Register of the Republic of Lithuania 4. Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania 5. Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania 6. Environmental Protection law of the Republic of Lithuania 7. Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests, approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 799 of 24 July 1997 "On the Approval of the Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests" 8. Description of the procedure for issuing permits for logging, approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania No D1-1055 of 30 December 2010 "On the approval of the description of the procedure for issuing permits for logging" 9. Description of the procedure for transporting roundwood, approved by Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania No D1-823 of 9 October 2014 "Approval of the description of the procedure for obtaining roundwood" 	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://www.lrs.lt/sip/get-File?guid=e890662e-e777-4e45-b9e7-45dc26fb4bd0> ISBN 978-609-8143-06-5. 2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2000 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.107687/asr>. 3. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Law on the Real Estate Register of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1996 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.31770/asr>. 4. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2015 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.107687/asr>.

	<p>seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/b8d908c0215b11e58a4198cd62929b7a/asr.</p> <p>5. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asr.</p> <p>6. Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania - Reconstituted Seimas. <i>Environmental Protection law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1992 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.2493/asr.</p> <p>7. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.41952/asr.</p> <p>8. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for issuing permits for logging, approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2010 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.390390/asr.</p> <p>9. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for transporting roundwood, approved by Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</i>. Vilnius, 2014 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/96d546104fb211e485f39f55fd139d01/asr.</p> <p>10. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Law on Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania</i>. Vilnius, 2016. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/f6d686707e7011e6b969d7ae07280e89/asr.</p> <p>11. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution on the resolution of the government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 March 2013 no. 205 'On the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of regulation (EC) No 1073/2010 of the European parliament and of the council of 20 October 2010 amendment of the 'regulation of the council of the European union on the designation of the authorities responsible for the application of council regulation (EC) no 2023/2010 of 20 December 2010</i>. Vilnius, 2021 [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/17f0a1d0b17811eba6328c92adabc234.</p> <p>12. State forest service. Director order on the approval of the description of the procedure for the monitoring of monitoring organisations and inspections of operators placing timber on the market. Kaunas, 2013. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.454786/asr.</p>
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Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
<p>Property rights (including forests) in Lithuania are laid down in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (Article 47) and in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Article 1.109 and Article 4.204).</p> <p>The general provisions on the documentation of ownership are laid down in the Law on the Register of Real Estate of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>According to the above-mentioned Law and Civil Code (Article 1.109 and Article 4.204) – and as long as other Laws are not infringed - the rights of ownership of forest land belong to the owners of such land. Further, forest land tenure may be formally transferred to other persons in the form of a lease agreement. The requirements for lease agreements and the rights and obligations of lessees and lessors are laid down by the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Article 6.477).</p> <p>Penalties for improper or illegal use of forests or violations of forest management requirements are provided for in the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>The purpose of the Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania is to regulate the restoration, protection and use of forests and to create legal preconditions for forests of all forms of ownership to be managed in accordance with the same principles of sustainable and balanced forestry, ensuring rational use of forest resources and aiming to provide the country's industry with raw materials, to provide the country with the maximum social and economic benefits, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity, the improvement of forest productivity, the stability of the landscape and the quality of the environment, and the ability to fulfil its ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future, without damaging other ecosystems.</p> <p>The Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania regulates social relations in the field of environmental protection, establishes the basic rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in preserving the biodiversity, ecological systems and landscape characteristic of the Republic of Lithuania, ensuring a healthy and clean environment, and the</p>	

rational use of natural resources in the Republic of Lithuania, the territorial waters, continental shelf and economic zone of the Republic of Lithuania, liability, economic sanctions for violations of legal acts regulating the protection of the environment and the use of natural resources by legal persons in order to effectively prevent such violations, and the provisions on the proceedings for the imposition of economic sanctions. Other laws and regulations regulating the use of natural resources and the protection of the environment shall be adopted on the basis of this Law.

Provisions on the use of private forests are laid down in the Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests. These Regulations regulate the organisation of forestry in private forests, the preparation of forest management projects for these forests, their use, restoration and protection, as well as the rights and obligations of forest owners in relation to the management, maintenance and use of private forests.

The description of the procedure for issuing forest felling permits regulates the procedure for issuing forest felling permits to forest managers and users, including servitude holders, in cases where felling is necessary to implement the rights granted by the servitude in accordance with the decisions of the spatial planning documents, as well as the procedures for their revocation and the procedure for their cancellation, and establishes the manner in which permits must be filled in, recorded and stored.

The Schedule of Procedures for the Transport of Roundwood (hereinafter referred to as the Schedule of Procedures) regulates the transport of roundwood produced in forests.

Health and safety in forestry activities is monitored by the State Labour Inspectorate. It fulfils not only control and monitoring functions but also provides guidance on health and safety issues in different business sectors.

Existing legislation addressed the prohibition provision of the EUTR. Amendments were also made in relation to the due diligence provision to legal acts such as Regulations on Management and Use of Private Forests (approved by the Lithuanian government) and Logging Permits Assurance Procedure (approved by the Ministry of Environment).

The Competent Authorities (CA) carries out periodic and spot checks of compliance with the EUTR. The Competent Authority has the ability to take appropriate steps or measures

to rectify any instances of violations of the EUTR where necessary. They also keep records of the checks, Cooperate with other EU Member States competent authorities, third countries administrative authorities and European Commission.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://www.lrs.lt/sip/get-File?guid=e890662e-e777-4e45-b9e7-45dc26fb4bd0> ISBN 978-609-8143-06-5. 2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2000 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.107687/asr>. 3. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Law on the Real Estate Register of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1996 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.31770/asr>. 4. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2015 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/b8d908c0215b11e58a4198cd62929b7a/asr>. 5. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>. 6. Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania - Reconstituted Seimas. <i>Environmental Protection law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1992 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.2493/asr>. 7. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.41952/asr>. 8. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for issuing permits for logging, approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2010 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.390390/asr>. 9. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for transporting roundwood, approved by Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</i>. Vilnius, 2014 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the
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	<p>internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/96d546104fb211e485f39f55fd139d01/asr.</p> <p>10. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Law on Approval, Entry into Force and Implementation of the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania</i>. Vilnius, 2016 . [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/f6d686707e7011e6b969d7ae07280e89/asr.</p> <p>11. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution on the resolution of the government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 March 2013 no. 205 'On the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of regulation (EC) No 1073/2010 of the European parliament and of the council of 20 October 2010 amendment of the 'regulation of the council of the European union on the designation of the authorities responsible for the application of council regulation (EC) no 2023/2010 of 20 December 2010</i>. Vilnius, 2021 [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/17f0a1d0b17811eba6328c92adabc234.</p> <p>12. State forest service. Director order on the approval of the description of the procedure for the monitoring of monitoring organisations and inspections of operators placing timber on the market. Kaunas, 2013. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.454786/asr.</p> <p>13. Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lithuania. <i>Forest Stewardship Council, 2017</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023] On the internet: https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/202.</p>
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Degree of compliance of the criterion "Legality of timber harvesting"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not fulfilled	

<p>Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework on the legality of timber harvesting</p> <p>The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the criterion "Legality of wood harvesting".</p> <p>The second step describes how the identified laws for the sustainability criterion "legality of wood harvesting" are implemented and monitored in practice.</p> <p>The two "Global Governance Indicators" for Lithuania in 2021 are:</p>
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<p>"Rule of law" - 83.65 percentile;</p> <p>"Control of corruption" - 80.29 percentile¹.</p> <p>Both values are in the upper quarter of the scale and are very high. This means that "Rule of law" and "Control of corruption" are implemented well and the legality of logging in Lithuania can be considered as assured.</p> <p>On this basis, the sustainability criterion "Legality of wood harvesting" is classified as category A.</p>			
Sources	1. The World Bank Group. <i>Worldwide Governance Indicators</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: < https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports >.		
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)
4.2. Forest regeneration			
Step 1: Identification of applicable laws			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania 2. Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of 14 April 2008 No. D1-199 , "On Approval of the Provisions on Reforestation and Afforestation of Forests" 3. Description of the procedure for the restoration of private forests that have not been restored within five years at the expense of forest owners, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Resolution No. 272 of 26 March 2008 "On the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Restoration of Private Forests that have not been Restored within Five Years at the Expense of Forest Owners" 			
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>. 2. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania On Approval of the Provisions on Reforestation and Afforestation of Forests</i>, Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.318353/asr>. 		

	3. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for the restoration of private forests that have not been restored within five years at the expense of forest owners, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania</i> , Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: < https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.317227/asr >.
Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
<p>The purpose of the Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania is to regulate the restoration, protection and use of forests and to create legal preconditions for forests of all forms of ownership to be managed in accordance with the same principles of sustainable and balanced forest management, ensuring rational use of forest resources and aiming to provide raw materials to the country's industries, to provide the country with the maximum social and economic benefits, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity, the improvement of forest productivity, the stability of the landscape and the quality of the environment, and the ability to fulfil its ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future, without damaging other ecosystems.</p> <p>The Regulations on reforestation and afforestation lay down the requirements for reforestation and afforestation, afforestation works, and the quality of plantations and coppice. The requirements of these Regulations shall be binding on managers and users of state forests. For private forest owners, only part of the provisions is mandatory and the rest is recommended. Forest owners, managers and users are obliged to restore the forest in a timely and proper manner, to maintain and protect forest plantations and coppice, to replant dead plantations and coppice, to maintain and protect them from fires, forest pests, diseases and other negative factors. Reserve forests (Gr. I) are restored by natural regeneration, ecosystem protection forests (Gr. II A), recreational forests (Gr. II B), protective forests (Gr. III) and farm forests (Gr. IV) are restored by natural regeneration or planting. In protected areas within forests of any functional purpose, reforestation or afforestation shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations and other legal acts governing activities in protected areas. Plantation forest plantations and coppices shall be classified as Group IVB forests and shall be subject to the requirements of the Regulations. They may not be planted in the clearings of non-plantation forests or in the sites</p>	

of dead plantations, coppices and stands of these forests, in forest squares and in forest clearings.

The description of the procedure for the restoration of private forests at the expense of forest owners that have not been restored within five years establishes the procedure for the restoration of private forests at the expense of forest owners when, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations on reforestation and afforestation of forests approved by the Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of 14 April 2008, No D1-199 'On the Approval of the Provisions on Reforestation and Afforestation of Forests', a private forest is not restored within five years. The Ministry of the Environment shall organise the restoration of private forests that have not been restored within five years. The State Control Officer for Environmental Protection shall, upon inspection of a private forest holding and if, during the inspection, it is found that the private forest has not been restored within five years, draw up a certificate in the form set out in the Annex to the Regulation on the private forest that has not been restored within five years.

The public authorities, having assessed that the private forest parcels have not been properly reforested within the period laid down in the Forestry Law, shall undertake to organise reforestation from the special programme for general forestry needs.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>. 2. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania On Approval of the Provisions on Reforestation and Afforestation of Forests</i>, Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.318353/asr>. 3. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for the restoration of private forests that have not been restored within five years at the expense of forest owners, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.317227/asr>.
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)

Degree of compliance of the criterion "forest regeneration"

☒ Requirements fulfilled

☐ Requirements not fulfilled

Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework for forest regeneration

The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the criterion "Forest regeneration".

The second step describes how the identified laws for the sustainability criterion "Forest regeneration" are implemented and monitored in practice.

Data from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment show that the forest area in Lithuania increased by 1.46% between 2000 and 2015. This shows that forests in Lithuania are reliably restored. This trend is also confirmed by the data of the State Forest Service, which shows that on 1 January 2021 the area of forest land was 2,202.2 thousand hectares and covered 33.7% of the country's territory. Since 1 January 2003, this area has increased by 156.9 thousand ha and the country's forest cover increased by 2.4 percentage points. Over the same period, the area of forested land (stands) increased by 111,600 ha to 2062,600 ha. State authorities, have assessed that private forest plots have not been properly reforested within the timeframe laid down in the Forests Law, are starting to organise reforestation from the special programme for general forestry needs. The last reforestation programme required only 0.6 ha¹ of private forest to be reforested with government interference, which shows that even in private forests the situation with reforestation is acceptable³.

On this basis, the sustainability criterion "Forest regeneration" is classified as category A.

Sources

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Global Forest Resources Assessment* [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/past-assessments/fra-2015/en/>>.
2. State Forest Service. Lithuanian Forestry Statistics 2021 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://amvmt.lrv.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys-1/misku-statistikos-leidiniai/misku-ukio-statistika/2021-m-1>>.
3. Minister for the environment of the republic of Lithuania. Instruction on the financing of the general forestry needs programme for the years 2019-2021. Vilnius, 2019 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet:

	< https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/Mi%C5%A1ko%20mokslo%20darbai/2019-12-17%20(1).pdf >.		
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

4.3. Biodiversity	
Step 1: Identification of applicable laws	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi Law of the Republic of Lithuania Wild Flora Law of the Republic of Lithuania Wild Fauna Law of the Republic of Lithuania National Plant Genetic Resources Law of the Republic of Lithuania List of protected species of animals, plants and fungi of the Republic of Lithuania 	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi Law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.46423?ifwid=5sjolg398>. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Wild Flora Law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1999 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.83678/asr>. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Wild Fauna Law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.46542/asr>. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>National Plant Genetic Resources Law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2001 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.152477/asr>. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>List of protected species of animals, plants and fungi of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2003 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.219902/asr>.
Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	

The Law on Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the social relationships related to the regulation of the protection and conservation of protected species of wild animals, plants and fungi living in the natural environment or temporarily present, migrating or otherwise observed or found in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and its airspace, the territorial sea of the Republic of Lithuania, the Continental Shelf and the Baltic Sea economic zone. This Law also aims to ensure the implementation of relevant European Union legislation with regards to species and ecosystem biodiversity.

The Law on Wild Flora of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the social relationships relating to the protection, restoration and use of wild plants and fungi on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, on the territorial sea of the Republic of Lithuania, on the continental shelf and in the economic zone of the Baltic Sea. It also aims to ensure the implementation of relevant European Union legislation. This Law does not regulate the protection, restoration and use of wild plants and fungi, the protection, use and restoration of which are regulated by the Law on National Plant Genetic Resources of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Plantations of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Law on Wildlife of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the social relationships within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and its airspace, the territorial sea of the Republic of Lithuania, the continental shelf and the economic zone in the Baltic Sea (hereinafter referred to as the territory of the Republic of Lithuania), related to the use, protection and conservation of the wild animals, their habitats and nests, which live in the natural environment or are temporarily present, are visible or detectable in the course of migration or other times, as well as to the regulation of the keeping and use of captive and otherwise of wild animals originating in other natural zones. This Law does not regulate the use and protection of domesticated animals, hunting, insofar as it is regulated by the Law on Hunting of the Republic of Lithuania, amateur fishing, insofar as it is regulated by the Law on Amateur Fishing of the Republic of Lithuania, fisheries, insofar as it is regulated by the Law on Fisheries of the Republic of Lithuania, and the protection and use of protected species of

wildlife, insofar as it is regulated by the Law on Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi of the Republic of Lithuania and by the European Union legal acts.

The Law on National Plant Genetic Resources of the Republic of Lithuania regulates the collection, conservation and use of national plant genetic resources. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the sustainable use of national plant genetic resources, to protect them from degradation, decline or total destruction, and to preserve biodiversity. All protected species of animals, plants and fungi are included in the List of protected species of animals, plants and fungi of the Republic of Lithuania.

Sources

1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. *Protected Species of Animals, Plants and Fungi Law of the Republic of Lithuania*, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.46423?fwid=5sjpg398>>.
2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. *Wild Flora Law of the Republic of Lithuania*, Vilnius, 1999 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.83678/asr>>.
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5. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. *List of protected species of animals, plants and fungi of the Republic of Lithuania*, Vilnius, 2003 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.219902/asr>>.

Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?

☒ Yes ☐ No (audit required)

Degree of compliance of the criterion "biodiversity"

☒ Requirements fulfilled ☐ Requirements not fulfilled

Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework for biodiversity

The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the "Biodiversity" criterion.

The second step describes how the laws identified for the sustainability criterion "Biodiversity" are implemented and monitored in practice.

In Lithuania, protected forests account for 27% of the total forest area. This area includes 5 national parks, 30 regional parks and 6 strict reserves. Strict regulation of forest management ensures the conservation of biodiversity¹.

In Lithuania, dead wood resources are identified through direct measurements of trees and assessment of their condition before the complete decomposition of the tree stem, as part of the National Forest Inventory. Large dead trees are very important for forest biodiversity. In 2017, 665 dead trees with a diameter of 38 cm or more were inventoried per 1000 ha in Lithuanian forests. The number has more than doubled in 15 years. The proportion of dead trees over 38 cm diameter is fairly stable, accounting for about 2% of the growing stock of trees of this diameter. The number of dead trees over 38 cm thick in Lithuanian forests has now reached 1.4 million pieces, and the volume of stem wood is 4.3 million m³ of stem wood. Such large trees can remain for 15-20 years or more after dying, that's makes them long-term habitats for very valuable and rare animals or plants².

According to the National Forest Inventory (2017), there has been an overall increase in the proportion of pine, spruce, alder, linden and maple trees, and a decrease in the proportion of ash, alder and aspen birch trees. Most of the changes in the species composition of Lithuanian forests are due to changes in the volume and age structure of the main forest harvests applied during this period. It should be noted that changes in species composition have not had a major impact on forest species diversity. During the inventory, large growing trees over 50 and 70 cm in diameter were identified and recorded on a regular basis. In the NFI 2017, an average of 4,726 trees over 50 cm in diameter grow per 1,000 ha of forest, of which 285 are over 70 cm in diameter. The number of old, thick trees, which are particularly important for biodiversity, has increased between 2002 and 2017 from 2,814 per 1,000 ha to 4,726 per 1,000 ha³.

On average, 11.0-12.3 thousand individuals/ha of shrubs and trees were inventoried in Lithuanian forests in 2013-2017 (Tables 3.9, 3.10). A total of 38 shrub species were recorded in 2002. It is important to note that the number of large trees has more than tripled in 15 years. Large trees are very valuable in terms of biodiversity. Shrub species that have reached tree size are longer-lived, produce more fruit and berries and are important for bird habitats. One of the most important tasks for improving the assessment of biodiversity in forests during the inventory is to identify more accurately all the less common species, as well as invasive and non-native, alien species of trees and shrubs².

Representative samples of natural forest habitats and valuable ecosystems are surveyed, identified and protected under the Habitats directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and designated as Nature 2000 sites. All Nature 2000 sites overlap with national protected areas and are protected at both national and international level.

Protected areas cover 17% of the country's terrestrial area and 23% of its maritime Exclusive Economic Zone. The country has achieved Aichi's target of 17% of terrestrial areas and exceeded the target of 10% of marine and coastal areas⁴, so improvement can be seen.

In FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified forests (over 50 % of Lithuania forests) the requirements for Woodland key habitats have been strictly enforced which has driven a significant improvement in the situation of the biodiversity values found in Lithuanian forests. On the other hand, in non FSC certified forests there is insufficient data about the situation, so generally auditors conducting forest management or forest biomass harvesting audits are advised as a general practice to ask for a written commitment that the owner will ensure protection of Woodland key habitats.

From the facts and values presented for the various indicators, it can be concluded that biodiversity in forests is being successfully maintained in Lithuanian forests, expanded and secured, not only according to law, but also in practice.

As at least two indicators of the sustainability criterion "Biodiversity conservation" show positive trends in Lithuanian forests, the sustainability criterion "Biodiversity" is classified as category A.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Forest Service. Lithuanian Forestry Statistics 2021 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://amvmt.lrv.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys-1/misku-statistikos-leidiniai/misku-ukio-statistika/2021-m-1>. 2. State Forest Service and State Service for Protected Areas. <i>Description of forest resources and their changes 2021.07.26, report</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://nacionalinismiskususitarimas.lt/pamatinis-tikslas/>. 3. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, State Forest Service. <i>Lithuanian National Forest Inventory 1998-2017. From measurements to solutions</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://amvmt.lrv.lt/uploads/amvmt/documents/files/NMI/leidiniai/NMI2017/NMI_internetui.pdf>. 4. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Lithuania 2021. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/EBPO%20rekomendacijos%20ir%20vertinimas%20AM%20redakcija%2009%2023%20pdf%20(1).pdf>. 5. Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lithuania. <i>Forest Stewardship Council, 2017</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023] On the internet: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/202>. 		
Effectiveness (points):	<input type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

4.4. Maintenance of soil quality	
Step 1: Identification of applicable laws	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental protection law 2. Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania. 3. Special Conditions of Land Use law of the Republic of Lithuania 4. Rules on forest felling 5. Regulations on the selection methods of the State Forest Inventory 	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania - Reconstituted Seimas. <i>Environmental Protection law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1992 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.2493/asr>. 2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th,

	<p>2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>.</p> <p>3. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Special Conditions of Land Use law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/46c841f290cf11e98a8298567570d639/asr></p> <p>4. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of the Rules on Forest Felling</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.364764/asr>.</p> <p>5. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of the Regulations on the Selection Methods of State Forest Inventory</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.246012/asr>.</p>
Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
<p>The Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania regulates social relations in the field of environmental protection, establishes the basic rights and obligations of legal entities and private individuals in preserving the biodiversity, ecological systems and landscape characteristic of the Republic of Lithuania, ensuring a healthy and clean environment, and the rational use of natural resources in the Republic of Lithuania. An negative effect on land shall be considered significant when at least one of the following conditions is met: (1) the established limit values for chemical substances in soil or ground have been exceeded, for a period of time and in an area or volume of soil or ground, determined by the Minister of the Environment; (2) there is a significant threat that contamination of the land will have a negative effect on human health.</p> <p>The Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania stipulates that one of the duties of forest managers, owners and users is to maintain soil productivity. Forest protection includes the protection of forest soil from mechanical damage.</p> <p>The Law on Special Land Use Conditions of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the special land use conditions, specifies the territories in which these conditions are to be applied, regulates the identification of these territories and establishes the rights and obligations of</p>	

the people involved in the process, and creates the legal prerequisites for the central registration of the territories referred to in this Law in the Real Estate Register of the Republic of Lithuania.

The special conditions for land use include soil protection in the different defined territories. The Law provides soil protection conditions in each type of nature reserve. For example: Article 73 states that in pedological reserves it is forbidden to (1) disturb the natural soil cover and forest cover, except in the case of reforestation or afforestation, or archaeological research; 3) forestry operations that disturb the understorey and/or topsoil, except for reforestation and/or afforestation operations, and other farm operations that may disturb the soil cover, except in the case of emergency and/or accident recovery operations, shall be carried out before the ground is frozen. Article 81 provides that liming, etc., is prohibited in wetland reserves. Article 110 of the Law regulates the special conditions for the use of land for agricultural purposes, e.g.: 3) areas of land comprising forests and tree and shrub plantations of soil and water conservation value and of ecological value, as indicated in spatial planning documents or land management projects, must be used in accordance with the requirements of landscaping and environment protection. The Regulations on Selection Methods for the State Forest Inventory (methods on which territories for SFI are being selected) stipulate that one of the objectives of the State Forest Inventory is to monitor changes in the fertility of forest soils over time.

The rules on forest felling lay down the basic biological, ecological and technological requirements for forest felling (logging, timber extraction) in forests. They include requirements relating to soil erosion protection. For example: the width of clearings for clear felling on slopes of 15° to 45° shall not exceed 75 m. On slopes steeper than 45°, no clear felling shall take place.

Sources

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	<p>3. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Special Conditions of Land Use law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legislation/lt/TAD/46c841f290cf11e98a8298567570d639/asr></p> <p>4. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of the Rules on Forest Felling</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legislation/lt/TAD/TAIS.364764/asr>.</p> <p>5. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of the Regulations on the Selection Methods of State Forest Inventory</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legislation/lt/TAD/TAIS.246012/asr>.</p>
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Degree of compliance of the criterion "maintenance of soil quality"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not fulfilled	

<p>Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework for the maintenance of soil quality</p>
<p>The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the criterion "Maintenance of soil quality".</p> <p>The second step describes how the identified laws for the sustainability criterion "Maintenance of soil quality" are implemented and monitored in practice.</p> <p>Lithuanian legislation provides measures to protect forest soils from mechanical damage and erosion. Monitoring and control is being done by the State Forest Service and Environmental Protection Department under the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Lithuania¹ stipulates that certified entities shall reduce or eliminate the use of fertilisers, avoid, mitigate and/or restore environmental values, including soils (according to Criterion 10.6. of the FSC Standard for responsible Forest management in Lithuania), and avoid the use of chemical pesticides (Criterion 10.7 of the same FSC Standard). Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified companies must carry out</p>

forestry in a way that protects water resources and soils (Criterion 10.10.). According to Forest Europe (a Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and Pan-European voluntary high-level forest policy process), since 1990, the aim has been to develop common strategies for the 46 signatories (45 European countries and the EU) on how to protect and sustainably manage forests), more than 51% of Lithuania's forests are certified under FSC, an international third-party voluntary certification scheme for responsible forest management. This means that within the forest management units which have been certified by FSC, there is a low risk of issues with regards with soil and water resources, as the maintenance and protection of these elements are covered in the FSC certification requirements and therefore subject to third party auditing on an annual basis.

According the Council of the EU and the European Council the role of forests in mitigating climate change has become particularly important recently. Forests ecosystems and habitats absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) and store carbon (C). In NFI³ changes in soil carbon stocks are assessed separately for mineral and organic soils. On average, the mineral soil of permanent Lithuanian forests stores 82.7 t C/ha².

According to the NFI data, soil fertility increased (0.9-1.4 p.p. each) between 2002 and 2017 in the areas of fertile and very fertile vegetation and decreased (2.3 p.p.) in the areas of non-fertile vegetation³.

According to LUCAS 2015 data from Forest Europe, EU countries have a forest soil organic carbon content of 82.4 gCkg⁻¹, while Lithuania is in the zone between 50-75 gCkg⁻¹. Soil acidity pH in EU countries averages pH 4.6, while Lithuania falls in the zone between 4.0-4.5. Total nitrogen in the EU is 4.5 gNkg⁻¹, Lithuania is in the 4.0-6.0 zone. Soluble phosphorus in the EU 28.4 mgPkg⁻¹, Lithuania is in the zone between 20-30. These parameters show that the quality of Lithuanian forest soils is in line with the EU average².

In Lithuania, forest soils are monitored and forest soil fertility has improved between the two National Forest Inventories. In addition, information, guides and best practices on soil-friendly forest management are provided.

On this basis, the sustainability criterion "Maintaining soil quality" is classified as category A.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Stewardship Council. <i>Lithuanian National FSC Forest Management Standard</i>, 2020. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <file:///C:/Users/tomas/Downloads/FSC-STD-LTU-01-2020%201-0_0%20(2).pdf>. 2. Forest Europe. <i>State of Europe's Forests</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://foresteurope.org/state-of-europes-forests/> 3. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, State Forest Service. <i>Lithuanian National Forest Inventory 1998-2017. From measurements to solutions</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://amvmt.lrv.lt/uploads/amvmt/documents/files/NMI/leidiniai/NMI2017/NMI_internetui.pdf>. 		
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

4.5. Regulations for protected areas

Step 1: Identification of applicable laws

1. Protected Territories law of the Republic of Lithuania
2. Special Land Use Conditions law of the Republic of Lithuania
3. General Regulations on Areas Important for the Conservation of Habitats or Birds
4. Description of the procedure for the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and for informing landowners, managers, users and other interested persons about the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and the procedure for the compensation of losses resulting from the application of measures for the protection of strictly protected species
5. Description of the procedure for determining the significance of the impact of plans or programs and the implementation of planned economic activities on established or potential Natura 2000 sites
6. List of sites of importance for habitat conservation
7. List of criteria for the good conservation status of natural habitats of European Community importance

8. List of criteria for the good conservation status of habitats of species of European Community importance	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Protected Territories law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1993. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.5627/asr. 2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Special Conditions of Land Use law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/46c841f290cf11e98a8298567570d639/asr. 3. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order on the adoption of the general provisions on habitats or the territories important for the conservation of birds</i>, Vilnius, 2004. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.228645/asr. 4. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and for informing land owners, managers, users and other interested persons about the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and the procedure for the compensation of losses resulting from the application of measures for the protection of strictly protected species</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.387900/asr. 5. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for determining the significance of the impact of plans or programs and the implementation of planned economic activities on established or potential Natura 2000 sites</i>, Vilnius, 2006. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.277087/asr. 6. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on the designation of sites of importance for habitat</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/a26bb803172511ecad9fbbf5f006237b.
Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
The Law on Protected Territories of the Republic of Lithuania regulates the system of protected territories and the social relationships related to it, the legal basis for the	

identification and establishment of protected territories, the modification of their boundaries, the change of their status, protection, management and control, and the regulation of activities in them, and the establishment of territories of international importance, including the European Ecological Network "Natura 2000" territories, and the natural framework and the regulation of activities in them.

The Law on Special Land Use Conditions of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the conditions for special land use, specifies the territories in which these conditions are to be applied (hereinafter referred to as the territories referred to in this Law), regulates the identification of these territories and establishes the rights and obligations of the persons involved in the process, and creates the legal prerequisites for the central registration of the territories referred to in this Law with the real estate register of the Republic of Lithuania. The purpose of this Law is to ensure the safety of public health, the protection of the objects or activities referred to in this Law from adverse factors or effects, the security of the State, the protection of the environment and the public interest in the territories referred to in this Law.

The General Regulations on sites of importance for the conservation of habitats or birds regulate the designation of sites of importance for the conservation of habitats and birds and the necessary measures for their protection, as well as the prevention of deterioration of and significant disturbance to natural habitats and species of European Community importance for the protection of which sites of importance for the conservation of habitats and birds are designated.

The description of the procedure for the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and for informing landowners, managers, users and other stakeholders about the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and the procedure for the compensation of losses resulting from the application of measures to protect a strictly protected species lays down the structure of the regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species (hereinafter referred to as 'the Regulation'). The Regulation establishes the procedure for the drafting, approval, amendment and repeal of the Regulation, the procedure for informing landowners, managers, users and other interested persons about the Regulation, the content of the information, and the

procedure for the calculation and payment of the compensation for losses incurred by the interested persons as a result of the application of measures for the protection of strictly protected species.

Legal act - Description of the procedure for determining the significance of the impact of plans or programmes and the implementation of planned economic activities on established or potential Natura 2000, is dedicated to these organisations:

- The organisers of the preparation of plans or programmes and the consultants they use;
- Organisers/developers of planned economic activities, preparation of environmental impact assessment documents;
- Institutions responsible for the organisation of the protection and management of protected areas: the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of the Environment; protected area directorates;
- Local self-government authorities;
- Responsible authorities (the Ministry of the Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Regional Environmental Protection Departments of the Ministry of the Environment, hereinafter referred to as "Responsible Authorities"), which issue conclusions on the strategic environmental impact assessment of plans and programmes, which carry out screening and issue conclusions on the environmental impact assessment of the planned economic activity, and which issue decisions on whether the planned economic activity is permitted from the point of view of the environmental impact assessment, and which issue conclusions on the technical designs of the planned economic activity.

This description of the procedure shall apply to the determination of the potential impact on established or potential Natura 2000 sites:

- The implementation of plans or programmes relating to designated or potential Natura 2000 sites or the immediate environment of such sites;
- The implementation of planned economic activities related to designated or potential Natura 2000 sites or their immediate environment.

According to this description, when determining whether the implementation of a plan, programme or planned economic activity will be related to the immediate setting of a Natura 2000 site, the scale (size), nature and site specificities of the plan, programme or planned economic activity shall be taken into account on a case-by-case basis.

The purpose of the description of the procedure for the selection of sites of importance for habitat conservation is to set out the criteria for the selection of sites of importance for habitat conservation, the procedure for their application and the requirements for the description and submission of data on sites of importance for habitat conservation. This Procedure applies to legal entities and individual people who identify sites that meet the criteria for sites of importance for habitat conservation and submit proposals for their inclusion in the list of sites that meet the criteria for the selection of sites of importance for habitat conservation to be approved by the Minister of the Environment for submission to the European Commission.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Protected Territories law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1993. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.5627/asr>. 2. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Special Conditions of Land Use law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/46c841f290cf11e98a8298567570d639/asr>. 3. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order on the adoption of the general provisions on habitats or the territories important for the conservation of birds</i>, Vilnius, 2004. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.228645/asr>. 4. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and for informing land owners, managers, users and other interested persons about the establishment of a regulation for the protection of a strictly protected species and the procedure for the compensation of losses resulting from the application of measures for the protection of strictly protected species</i>, Vilnius, 2010. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.387900/asr>. 5. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Description of the procedure for determining the significance of the impact of plans or programs and the implementation of planned economic</i>
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	<p>activities on established or potential Natura 2000 sites, Vilnius, 2006. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.277087/asr.</p> <p>6. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on the designation of sites of importance for habitat</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/le-galAct/lt/TAD/a26bb803172511ecad9fbbf5f006237b.</p>
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Degree of compliance of the criterion "regulations for protected areas"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not fulfilled	

Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework for regulation of protected areas
<p>The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the criterion "Regulation of protected areas".</p> <p>The second step describes how the laws identified for the sustainability criterion "Regulation of protected areas" are implemented and monitored in practice.</p> <p>In Lithuania, protected areas are clearly defined and their boundaries are clearly mapped. This information is publicly available on the website of the State Cadastre of Protected Territories of the Republic of Lithuania, the database of the State Office for Protected Territories³.</p> <p>National protected areas have a detailed legal structure and are separated from each other. For each category of protected areas, there are guidelines for protection, which are differentiated and detailed in decrees and plans, so that practical implementation is straightforward and the objective of protection is achieved.</p> <p>In addition, recommendations and guidelines are provided for the various protected areas where forest management is allowed, particularly in protected areas covered by the Natura 2000 Directive. These are provided at EU (e.g.: Guidance document: Managing Natura 2000 sites) level as well as by Ministry of Environment at national level⁴.</p>

In this context, the protection of designated sites is largely assured through implementation and enforcement.

On this basis, the sustainability criterion "Regulation of protected areas" is classified as category A.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Service for Protected Areas. <i>Reports to the European Commission on the implementation of the Habitats Directive in Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 2019 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://vstt.lrv.lt/lt/saugomu-teritoriju-sistema/natura-2000>. 2. European Commission. <i>Management of Natura 2000 sites</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/index_en.htm>. 3. State service for protected areas. <i>State Cadastre of Protected Areas</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://stvk.lt/map>. 4. European Commission. <i>Management of Natura 2000 sites</i> Interactive. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm>. 		
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

4.6. Maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest

Step 1: Identification of applicable laws

1. Forests Law of the Republic of Lithuania
2. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 778 of 8 August 2018 "On Approval of the Annual Standard of Main Forest Felling in State Forests for 2019-2023"
3. Order No D1-474 of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of 20 August 2021 "On Approval of the 2022 main and intermediate forest felling rate for state forest managers"
4. Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Resolution No 799 of 24 July 1997 "On the Approval of Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests"

<p>5. Methodology for determining the rate of main forest felling, approved by the Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania No D1-362 of 2 July 2008 "On the Approval of the Methodology for Determining the Rate of Main Forest Felling"</p>	
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania</i>, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>. 2. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution On Approval of the Annual Standard of Main Forest Felling in State Forests for 2019-2023</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/daa3b7019f811e8aa33fe8f0fea665f?jfwid=mmceo-hcgr>. 3. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Rules on Forest Felling</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.364764/asr>. 4. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania On Approval of the 2022 main and intermediate forest felling rate for state forest managers</i>, Vilnius, 2021 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/919809e001ed11ecb4af84e751d2e0c9/asr>. 5. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution on Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.41952/asr>. 6. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment On the Approval of the Methodology for Determining the Rate of Main Forest Felling</i>, Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.324629/asr>.
Were applicable laws identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
<p>The purpose of the Forest Law is to regulate the restoration, protection and use of forests, and to create the legal preconditions for forests of all forms of ownership to be managed in accordance with the same principles of sustainable and balanced forestry, ensuring the rational use of forest resources and providing raw materials for the country's industry, to provide the country with the maximum social and economic benefits, ensuring the</p>	

conservation of biodiversity, the improvement of forest productivity, the stability of the landscape and the quality of the environment, and the ability to fulfil its ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future, without damaging other ecosystems.

Annual felling rates are set by a resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The currently applicable resolution is Resolution No 778 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 August 2018 "On Approval of the Annual Rate of Main Forest Clearings in State Forests for 2019-2023".

The Order of the Minister of the Environment sets the annual main and intermediate deforestation rates for State forest managers (State Forest Enterprise, municipalities, park directorates, etc.), by tree species. The current order is 1. Order No D1-474 of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of 20 August 2021 "On the approval of the 2022 main and intermediate felling rates for state forest managers". The Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests regulate the management, use, restoration and protection of private forests, as well as the rights and obligations of private forest owners in the management, maintenance and use of private forests. Forest administrations may provide private forest owners with paid services related to the use, restoration, protection and afforestation of forests. Private forest owners are advised by the State Forest Service on forest use, restoration, maintenance and protection.

Forest management, use and restoration are carried out in accordance with forest management projects. Internal forest management projects are drawn up for all private forest holdings or for forest land outside forestry land. Forest management projects shall be drawn up, coordinated, approved, registered and amended in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Minister for the Environment. The State Forest Service shall issue logging permits to private forest owners in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of the Environment.

Methodology for determining the rate of main forest felling defines:

1. The methodology for determining the rate of main forest felling shall be binding for the determination of the rate of main forest felling for state forest managers, private forest holdings, administrative units (counties) or the whole country.

2. The main forest harvesting rate shall be the area of forest to be felled by main forest harvesting (hereinafter referred to as 'area rate') and the volume of liquid wood in cubic metres (hereinafter referred to as 'volume rate') of the felled stems of the trees to be harvested, set for a given period.

3. For the purpose of calculating the felling rate, the natural maturity ages set out in the Rules on Basic Felling shall be applied for the main felling in Group III and Group IV (protective and economic) forests and the natural maturity ages set out in the Rules on Basic Felling for Group II (ecosystem protection and recreational).

4. The rate of felling shall be determined separately by forest ownership, forest groups and sub-fields. The felling rate for all forests in the country shall be determined by summing up the felling rates for state and private forests.

5. The felling rate shall ensure:

5.1. the timely and rational use of timber in stands that have reached the harvesting age (harvested stands);

5.2. a close to even annual volume of harvesting in forest holdings larger than 500 ha;

5.3. low variability in the volume of main harvesting in the future - two to three decades;

5.4. a levelling (normalisation) of the age structure of the understorey in forests in groups III-IV;

5.5. preserving the protective and social functions of forests and biodiversity;

5.6. meeting the economic needs of the country or region in a sustainable manner.

Sources

1. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. *Forests law of the Republic of Lithuania*, Vilnius, 1994 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.6036/asrt>>.
2. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. *Resolution On Approval of the Annual Standard of Main Forest Felling in State Forests for 2019-2023* [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/daa3b7019f811e8aa33fe8f0fea665f?jfwid=mmceo-hcgr>>.

	<p>3. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Rules on Forest Felling</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.364764/asr>.</p> <p>4. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania On Approval of the 2022 main and intermediate forest felling rate for state forest managers</i>, Vilnius, 2021 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/919809e001ed11ecb4af84e751d2e0c9/asr>.</p> <p>5. Government of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution on Regulations on the Management and Use of Private Forests</i>, Vilnius, 1997 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.41952/asr>.</p> <p>6. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Order of the Minister of the Environment On the Approval of the Methodology for Determining the Rate of Main Forest Felling</i>, Vilnius, 2008 [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.324629/asr>.</p>
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Degree of compliance of the criterion "maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not fulfilled	

<p>Step 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework for maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest</p> <p>The first step was to identify the laws that ensure compliance with the criterion "Maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest".</p> <p>The second step describes how the identified laws for the sustainability criterion "Maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest" are implemented and monitored in practice.</p> <p>According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment⁵, between 2000 and 2020, the stock of wood in Lithuanian forests has increased steadily from 449.50 million m³ to 559.13 million m³.</p>
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This is also reflected in the country's reporting documents on sustainable forestry indicators related to timber growth and harvesting values. The National Forest Inventory 2017 estimated a volume of 547.0 ± 6.1 million m^3 of tree stems in the forested area of Lithuania. The ratio of volume growth to volume use ensures a steady annual accumulation of almost $3.0 \text{ m}^3 / \text{ha}$ of stem volume. The total volume of tree stems in Lithuanian forests has increased by 92.4 million m^3 over 15 years, equivalent to an annual increase of 6.2 million m^3 or 1.1% of the total stem volume.

The total average annual volume increment (hereafter volume increment) of Lithuanian forests according to the NFI 2017 with a probability of 0.683 (Table 5.10) is equal to 20.6 ± 0.3 million m^3 . Annual volume growth over 15 years has increased by 4.5 million m^3 or an average of 1.5% per year.

Over the last 30 years, forest cover has increased from 31% to 35.1% of total land area. Standing stock and aboveground biomass have grown faster than forest area. The stock of standing trees per hectare in 2020 averaged 254 m^3 . Carbon stocks in harvested wood were around 14 million tonnes.

In addition, the sustainability criteria of reforestation, biodiversity conservation have been classified as category A.

On this basis, the sustainability criterion "Maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest" is classified as category A.

Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <i>Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/past-assessments/fra-2015/en/>. 2. Forest Europe. <i>State of Europe's Forests 2020</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://foresteurope.org/state-of-europes-forests/>. 3. State Forest Service. <i>Lithuanian Forestry Statistics 2021</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://amvmt.lrv.lt/lt/atviri-duomenys-1/misku-statistikos-leidiniai/misku-ukio-statistika/2021-m-1>. 4. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, State Forest Service. <i>Lithuanian National Forest Inventory 1998-2017. From measurements to solutions</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://amvmt.lrv.lt/uploads/amvmt/documents/files/NMI/leidiniai/NMI2017/NMI_internetui.pdf>.
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	5. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <i>Global Forest Resources Assessment</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 14th, 2023]. On the internet: < https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/past-assessments/fra-2015/en/ >.		
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

4.7. Guarantee of carbon sequestration parity	
Paris Agreement ratified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Submission of a relevant NDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNITED NATIONS. <i>List of Parties that signed the Paris Agreement</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/04/parisagreementsingatures/>. 2. UNITED NATIONS. <i>Nationally Determined Contributions Registry</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>. 3. Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Sector</i> [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://klimatokaite.lt/visuomenei/infografikai/zemes-naudojimo-zemes-naudojimo-keitimo-ir-miskininkystes-znznkm-sektorius/#x1>. 4. Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Lithuania's 7th National Communication on the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i>, Vilnius, 2017. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/%C5%A0ESD%20apskaitos%20ir%20kt%20ataskaitos/7NC_LT_final%20santrauka.pdf>. 5. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Resolution adopting the National Climate Change Management Agenda</i>, Vilnius, 2021. [Interactive]. [Accessed on January 15th, 2023]. On the internet: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legAct/lt/TAD/7eb37fc0db3311eb866fe2e083228059?position-InSearchResul>.
Brief description of how agriculture, forestry and land use are accounted for in NDC	As a party to the Paris Agreement, Lithuania does not have a separate NDC, but is implementing the NDC jointly submitted by the EU and its Member States (MS) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at EU level by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The above target is implemented through the

	<p>EU's "Fit for 55" legislative package, of which the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation is a component. Under the LULUCF Regulation, the EU will aim for a minimum sink generation target of 310 million tonnes of CO₂ eq. divided by the area of land under management by EU MS. Lithuania will be required to meet the sink budget for the period 2026-2029 and to generate a minimum of -4.633 million tonnes of CO₂ eq. absorbents in 2030, in accordance with the methodological requirements of the LULUCF Regulation for accounting of GHGs and absorbents.</p> <p>In Lithuania's National Climate Change Management Agenda, set out the goals and objectives of Lithuania's climate change management policy for 2030, 2040 and 2050 in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the land use, land-use change and forestry sectors.</p>
OR^(*) <small>(*) This option should be selected if no NDC has been submitted. If the answer is yes for both options, these fields can be skipped.</small>	
Step 1: Identification of applicable laws	
Sources	
Were applicable laws identified?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Step 2: Description of enforcement and monitoring	
Sources	
Are enforcement and monitoring ensured for the identified laws?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (audit required)
Degree of compliance of the criterion "guarantee of carbon sequestration parity"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements fulfilled <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not fulfilled	

Step 3: Assessment of the effectiveness of the legal framework for the guarantee of carbon sequestration parity			
Sources			
Effectiveness (points):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category A (20 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category B (10 points)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category C (0 points)

5. Results			
Criterion	Degree of compliance		Number of points (effectiveness)
	Requirements fulfilled	Requirements not fulfilled	
Legality of wood harvesting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20
Forest regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20
Maintenance of biodiversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
Maintenance of soil quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20
Regulations for protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20
Maintenance of the long-term production capacity of the forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20
Guarantee of carbon sequestration parity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20

6. Evaluation of the risk assessment	
Risk status:	The sustainability criteria were fulfilled 7 times. The sustainability criteria were not met 0 times.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low-risk area <input type="checkbox"/> Specified-risk area
Risk level: (Total points)	130 of a maximum 140 points was awarded.
Written summary of the results:	
<p>This risk assessment provides an overview of the legal framework and the requirements of Article 29(6) and (7) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. It takes into account all the sustainability criteria set out in the Directive in the specific field of application described and assesses whether they are met.</p> <p>Thus, the risk of unsustainable forest area management in Lithuania is low and negligible. On this basis, an individual audit of forest biomass produced in Lithuania is not</p>	

mandatory, and group certification approach may be implemented instead, given the findings of this risk assessment of the low risk of harvesting unsustainable biomass in the country, as well as considering the robust legislation existing to regulate the sustainability of forest management practices and the considerable monitoring and enforcement measures implemented by the relevant authorities.

Annex to the risk assessment: Documentation of the stakeholder dialogue

Author of the risk assessment:

Ms Agnė Babelytė – Lithuanian biomass energy association LITBIOMA

Date of the stakeholder dialogue:

Published for public consultation from 16 January 2023 to 13 February 2023.

Specific issue discussed in the stakeholder dialogue:

Request for comments on this document "Risk assessment of unsustainable forest biomass in Lithuania", in the context of EU Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II).

Participating institutions or individuals:

Forest Policy Group of the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, State Enterprise - State Forest Enterprise, Private Forest Owners' Association, Lithuanian Foresters' Union, Lithuanian Forest and Land Owners' Association, Forestry Department of Kaunas College of Forestry and Environmental Engineering, Forest Institute of the Lithuanian Centre of Agroforestry and Forestry Sciences, members of the Lithuanian Biomass Energy Association Litbioma, and it's Scientific and Technical Council.

Result of the stakeholder dialogue:

The assessment was prepared using a risk based approach and was published on the official website of Litbioma www.biokuras.lt for public consultation. Stakeholders were informed by email about the publication and the possibility to submit comments from 16 January 2023 to 13 February 2023 (4 weeks). As the document was public, all interested stakeholders had the opportunity to comment. No major comments or negative observations were received within the time period when the public consultation was open, neither from the interested parties invited to participate in the consultation nor from other stakeholders. Minor stakeholder feedback received during the consultation was integrated in the risk assessment accordingly.

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