



State Forest Service
Republic of Latvia

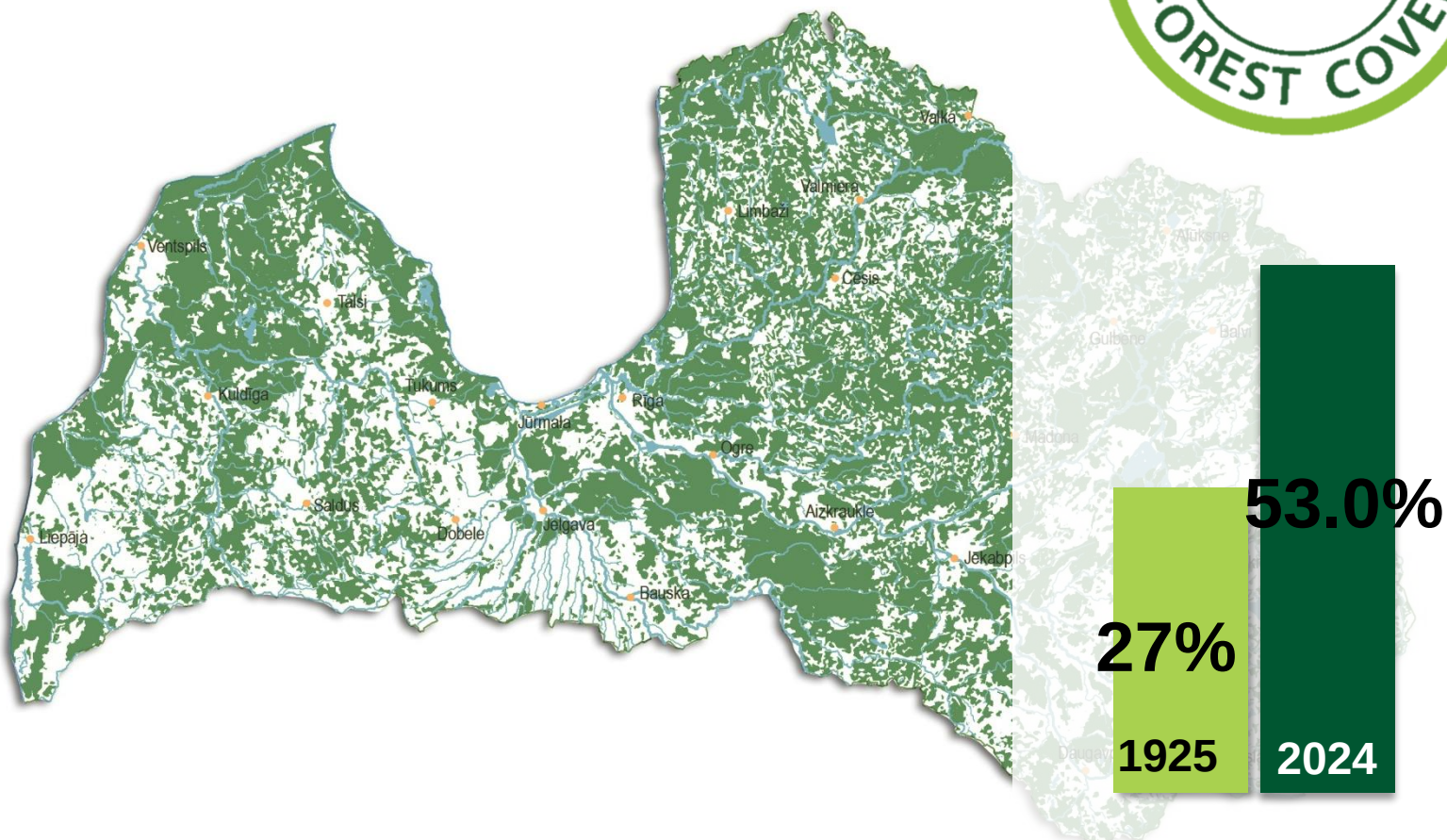
Andis Purs
Generaldirector

Riga, 11.03.2025



State Forest Service
Republic of Latvia

Forests in Latvia 2024



Source: Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"



State Forest Service
Republic of Latvia

Forest Sector Governance



Forest
Consultative
Board

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SECTOR

Forest policy

**Supervising and
consultative**

State Forest Service

5 State Head Forestries

Ownership

JSC “Latvijas valsts meži”

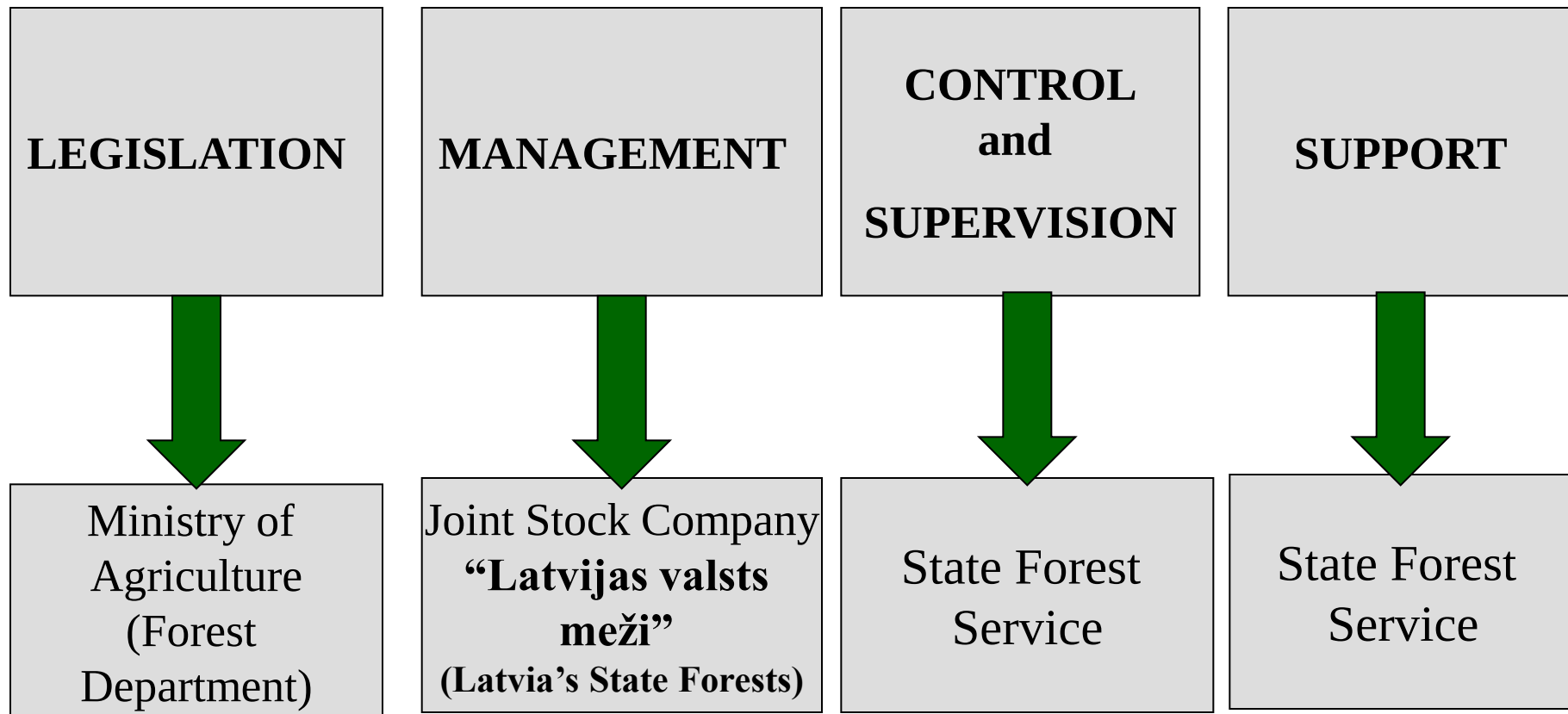
8 Regional Centres



State Forest Service
Republic of Latvia

State Forest Service – part of state administration

FUNCTIONS IN FOREST SECTOR





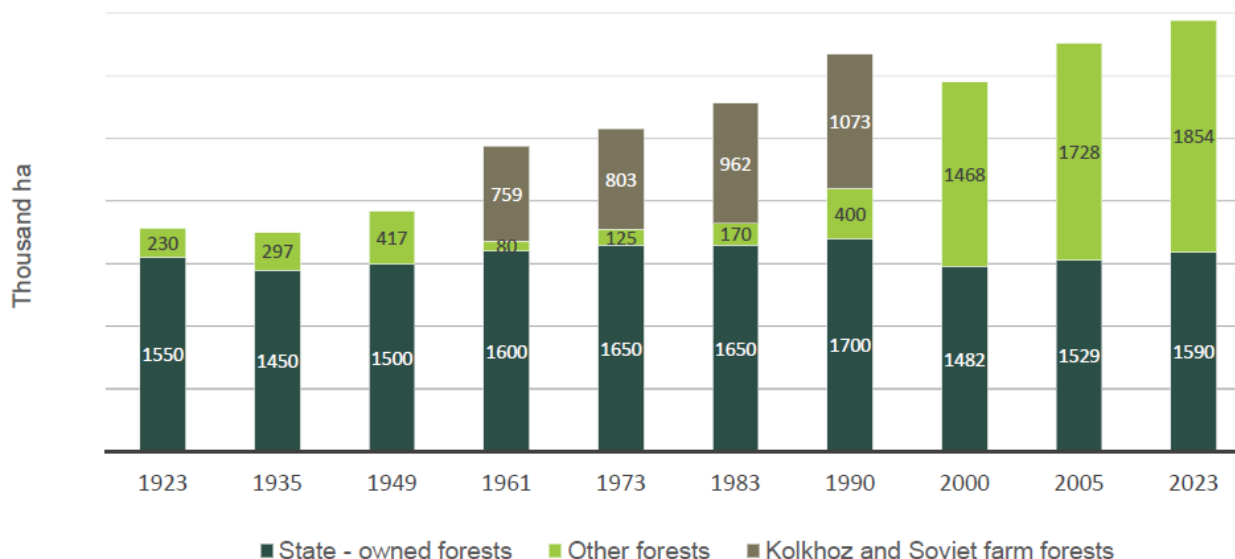
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Forest Area by Property Form

The largest **Top 5**

Forest land managers in Latvia / land acreage, ha /

1.	AS «Latvijas valsts meži»	1 623 600 ha
2.	Sodra GROUP	127 300 ha
3.	IKEA GROUP	90 000 ha
4.	SIA «Rīgas meži»	61 700 ha
5.	SCA Mežs Latvija	39 500 ha





State Forest Service
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State Forest Service

The State Forest Service is a state administrative institution that monitors forest management, compliance with regulatory enactments governing hunting and nature protection, as well as implements forest fire protection. The Service maintains the State Forest Register, which compiles information about forests, economic activities taking place in them, hunting and game animals.

The mission of the State Forest Service is to ensure responsible forest management and preservation for future generations.

The State Forest Service is a direct administrative institution under the supervision of the Minister of Agriculture. The Service participates in the development and implementation of forest sector policy, as well as supervises market participants who place timber and wood products on the market.





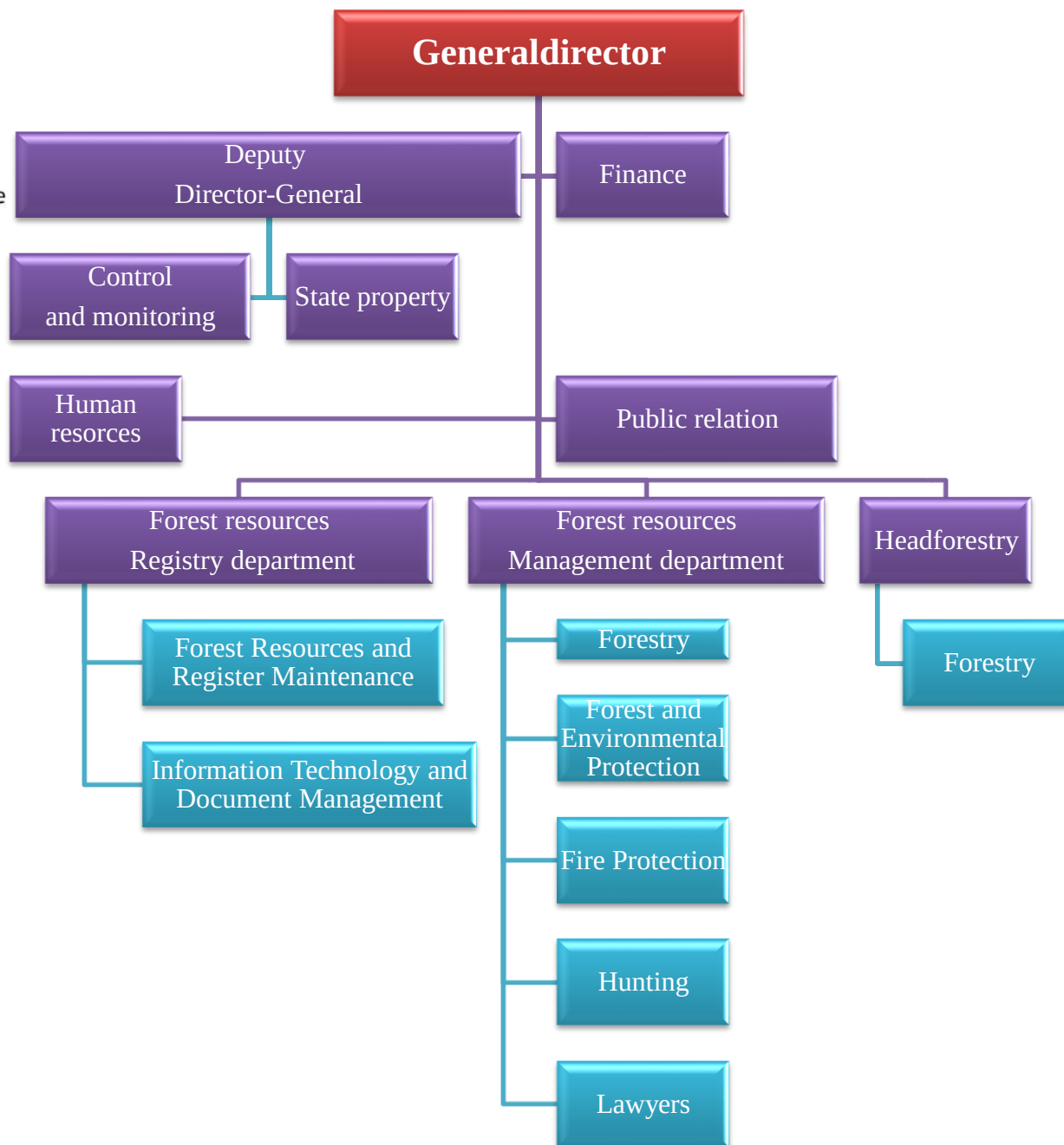
State Forest Service
Republic of Latvia

Main functions of the Service:

- ❑ to monitor forest management, use and compliance with hunting regulations; the regulatory enactment
- ❑ to terminate and prevent violations of the regulatory enactments regulating forest management and utilisation;
- ❑ ensure forest fire protection by detecting, limiting and eliminating forest fires in all forests;
- ❑ monitor compliance with Regulation No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down obligations for operators placing timber and timber products on the market;
- ❑ to participate in the development and implementation of national forest policy, as well as in the development and implementation of support measures for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- ❑ to co-operate with direct and indirect State administration institutions, non-governmental and international institutions and organisations, as well as other representatives of society and institutions.



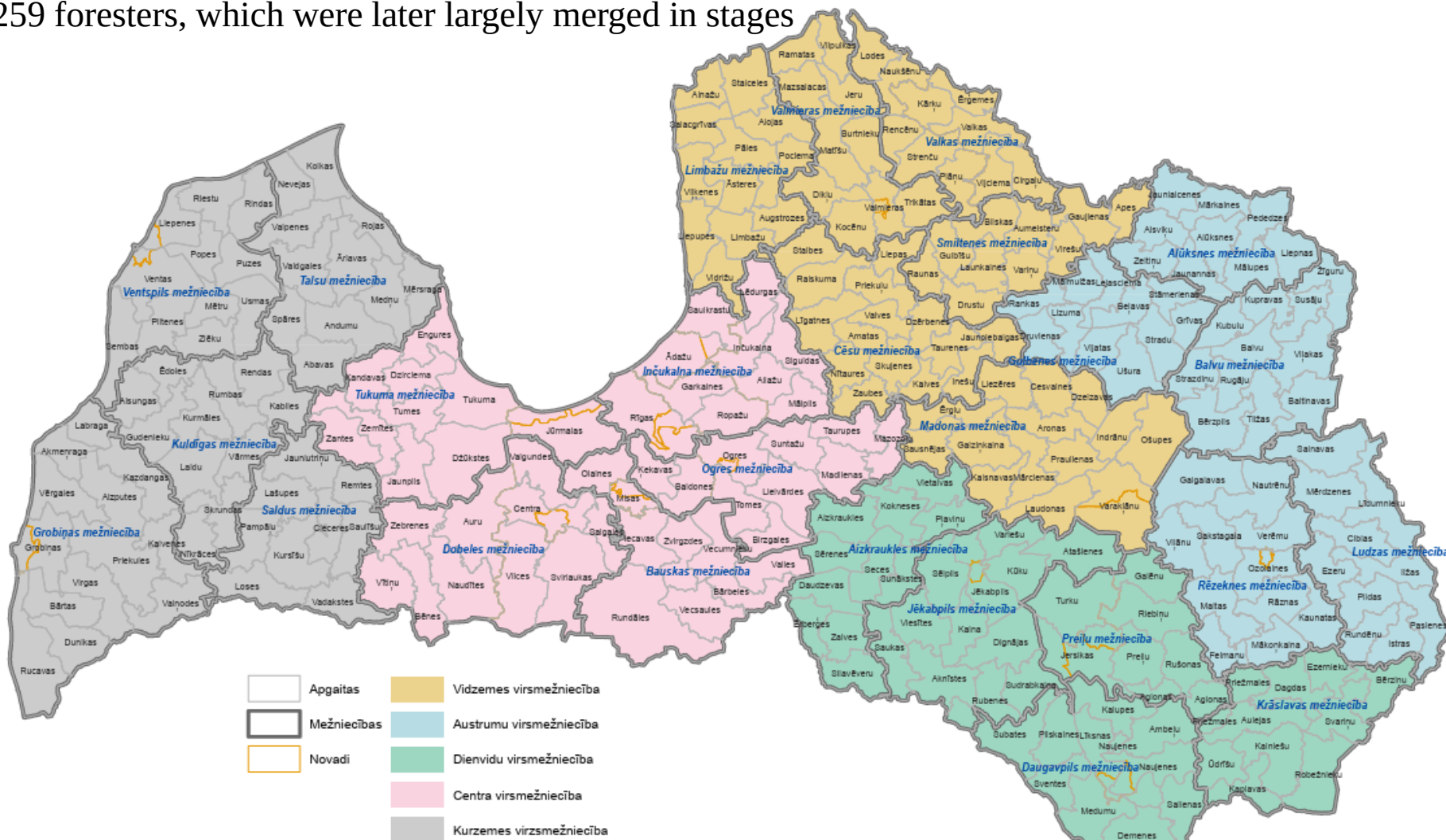
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Republic of Latvia





Structure from 01.04.2024

VMD was created in 1993 with the abolition of the Ministry of Forests (until 1988 - Ministry of forestry and Forest industry of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic). in 1997 it had 32 foresters with 259 foresters, which were later largely merged in stages



We reduced the number of employees from 643 to 576



The map displays the following forest management districts and their administrative centers:

- Ziemeļkurzemes virsmežniecība**: Ventspils
- Dienvidkurzemes virsmežniecība**: Pūlna
- Ziemeļvidzemes virsmežniecība**: Valmiera
- Rīgas reģionālā virsmežniecība**: Rīga
- Zemgales virsmežniecība**: Jelgava
- Sēlijas virsmežniecība**: Krāslava
- Centrālvidzemes virsmežniecība**: Madona
- Ziemeļaustrumu virsmežniecība**: Līvõne
- Austrumlatgales virsmežniecība**: Ludza
- Dienvidlatgales virsmežniecība**: Preiļi



State Forest Service
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Main Laws in Forest Sector

- 1. Law on Forests, 2000 + regulations**
- 2. Hunting Law, 2003+ Hunting regulation**
- 3. State Forest Service Law, 1999 + regulation of SFS**

Other important Acts:

- 1. Environmental Protection Law, 2006**
- 2. Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories, 1993**
- 3. Protection Zone law, 1997**
- 4. Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes, 2000**
- 5. Fire Safety and Fire – fighting Law, 2002**
- 6. State Public administration Law, 2003**
- 7. Law of Administrative Procedure, 2000**
- 8. The Civil Law, 1937**
- 9. Criminal Law, 1998**
- Etc.**



State Forest Service
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Forest Law, 2000

• **The goal** – to encourage economically, ecologically and socially sustainable management and utilization of forest by guaranteeing equal rights, immunity of ownership rights and independence of economic activity and determining equal obligations to all forest owners and lawful possessors.

Forest law provides guarantees for the implementation of the basic principles of sustainable forest management in Latvia.

• **The object** –

- 1) land registered in the State Land Register as a forest;
- 2) other land with forest on it (area <0,5 ha, trees 5 m and higher, forest stand diameter $\leq$ forest stand minimal diameter)
- 3) overflowing clearings and glades in forest and forest infrastructure objects; and marshes in forest and next to it.

• **The subjects** – forest owners, legal possessors, and other persons concerned with the wood products and forest environment.



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Characteristics of forest resources

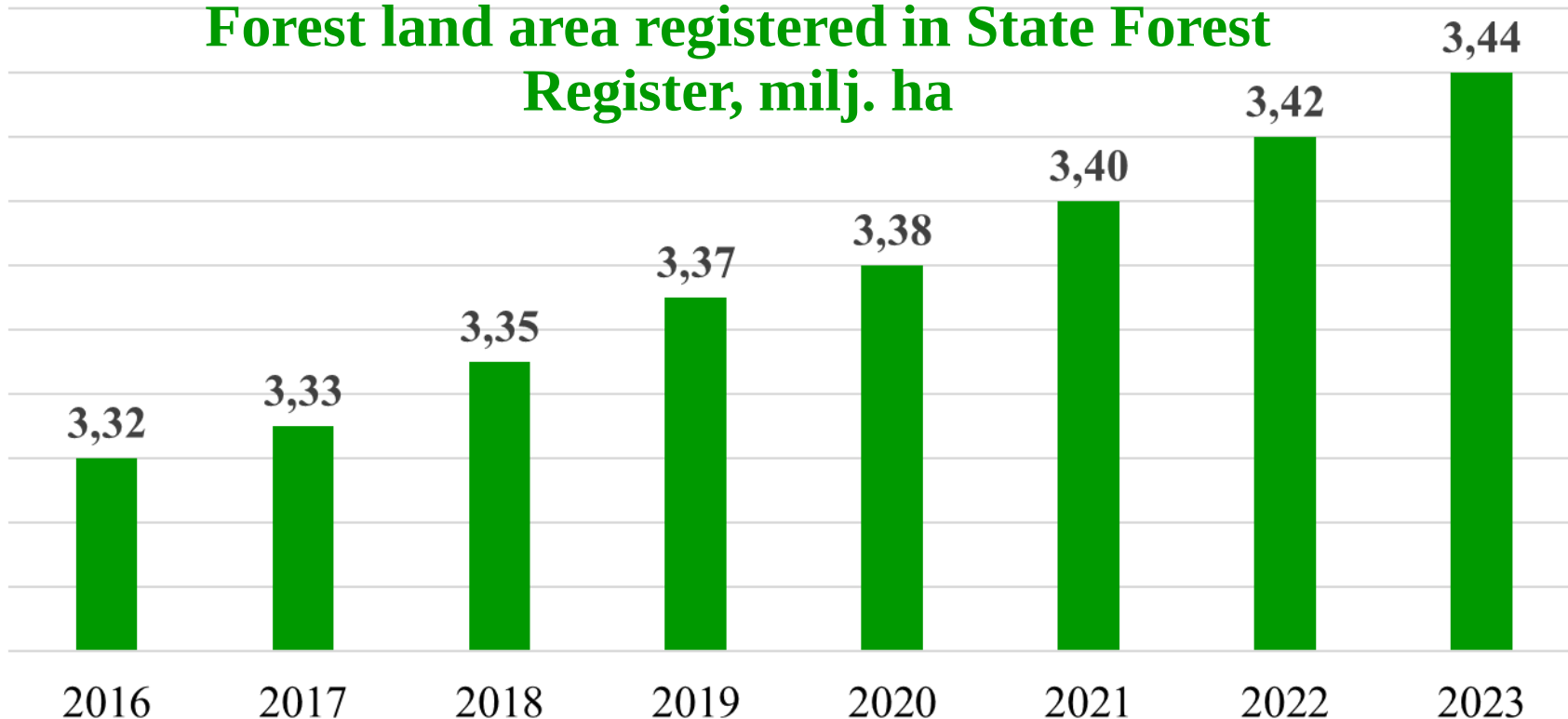
1. **2676 thousand ha of forest (86%)** was available for timber harvesting in 2024 without restrictions, **435 thousand ha (14%)- with restrictions.**
2. Total timber volume has grown **from 583 million m³ reaching 616 million m³** during the period from 2015 till 2024. This shows that timber is one of resources available in Latvia now and in long term perspective ahead.
3. Forest cover and timber volume growth has positive impact on carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation



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Forest management supervision (forest land)

Forest land area registered in State Forest Register, milj. ha

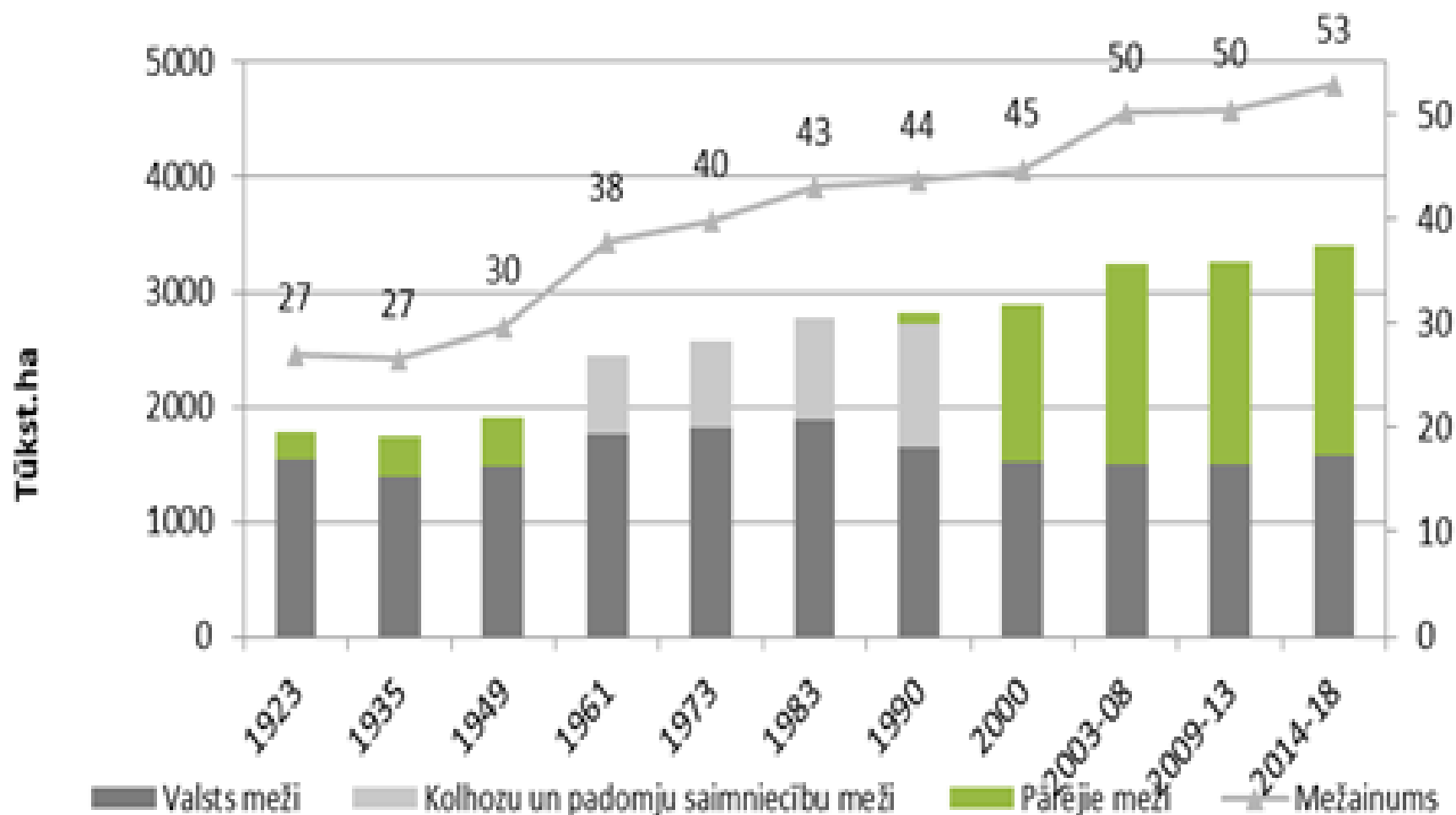


Forest owner has obligation to do Forest inventory once in 20 years



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Forest property structure, forest cover, %

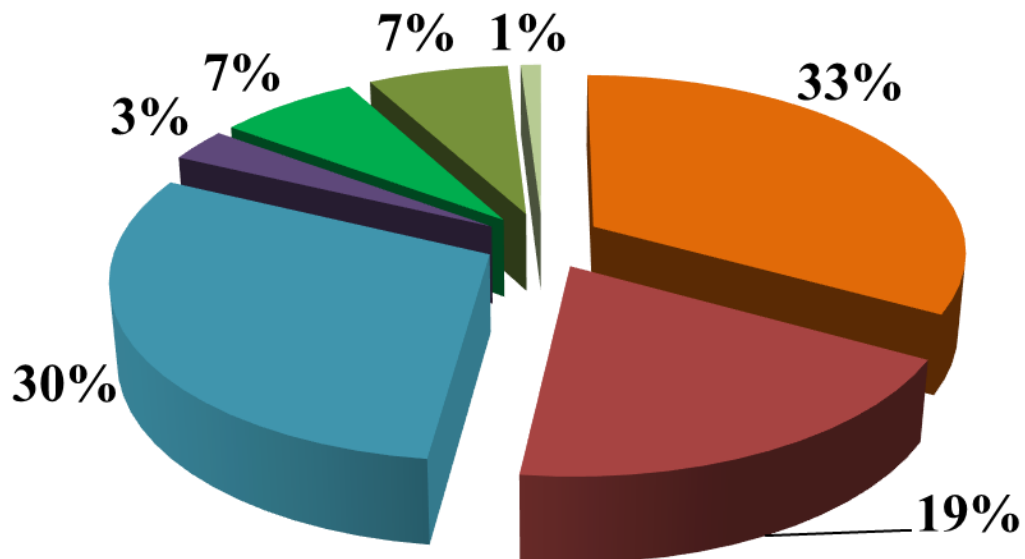




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Tree species (by leading tree specie), %, 2024

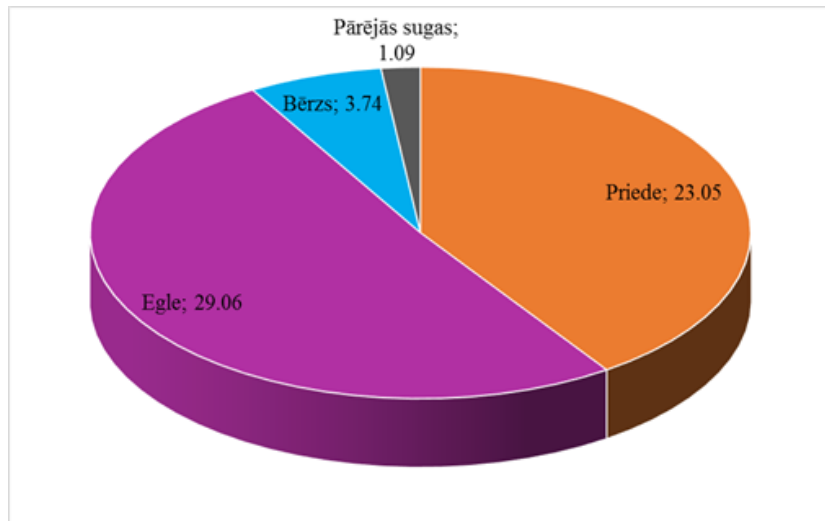
Total in state





Valsts meža
dienests

The Service controls the production, use and trade of forest reproductive material.



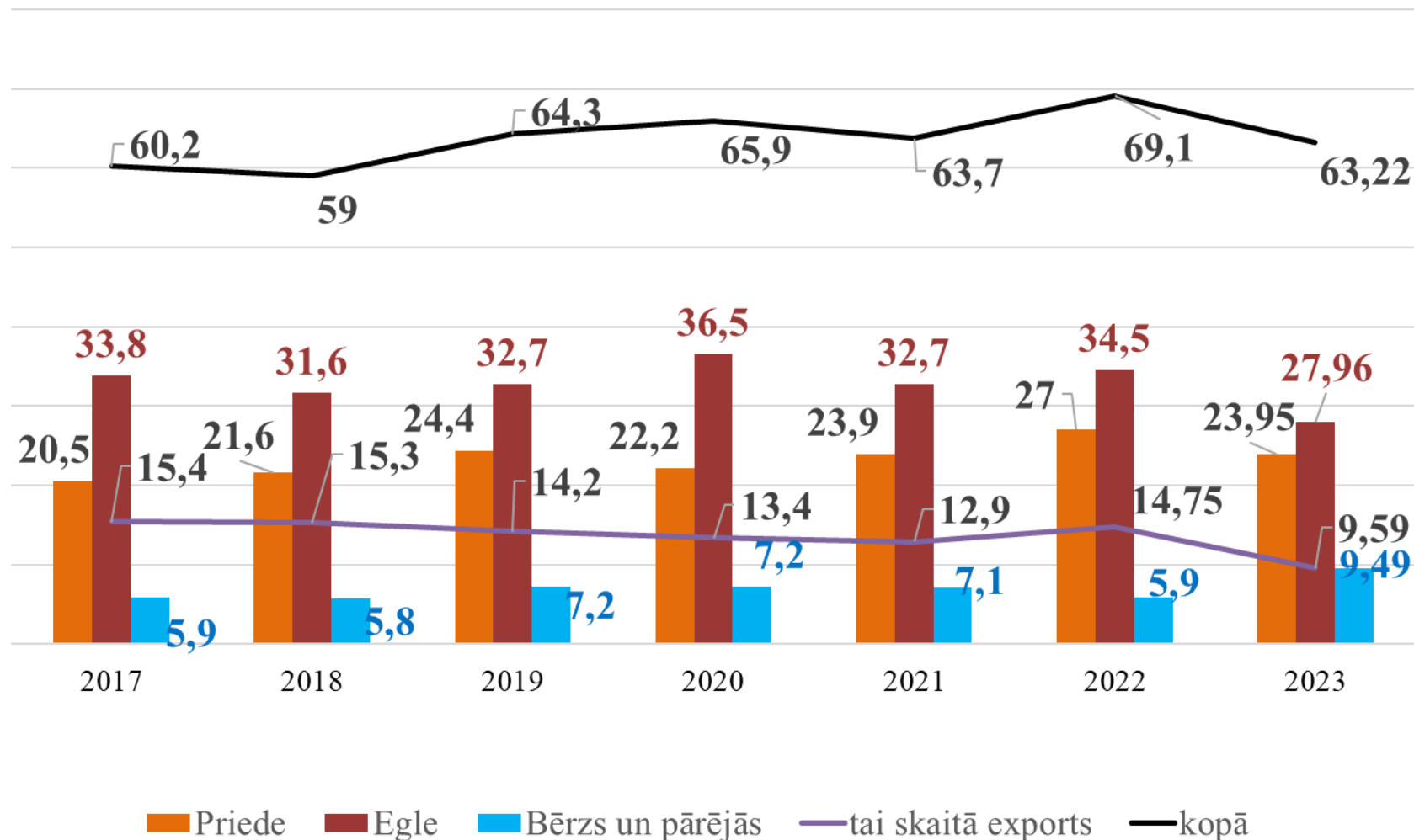
Planting material grown and used for forest restoration and planting, million pieces





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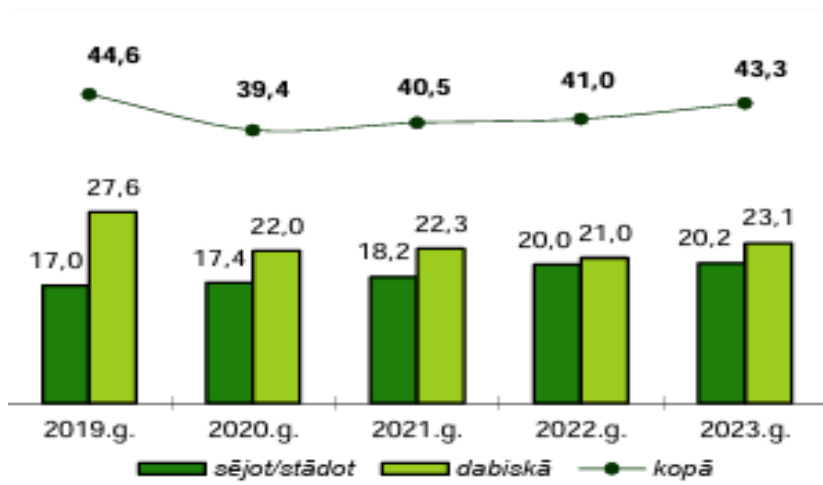
Production of forest reproductive material 2013 – 2023 (milj. plants)





Valsts mērogs

Forest regeneration, thousand ha



Seeding/planting

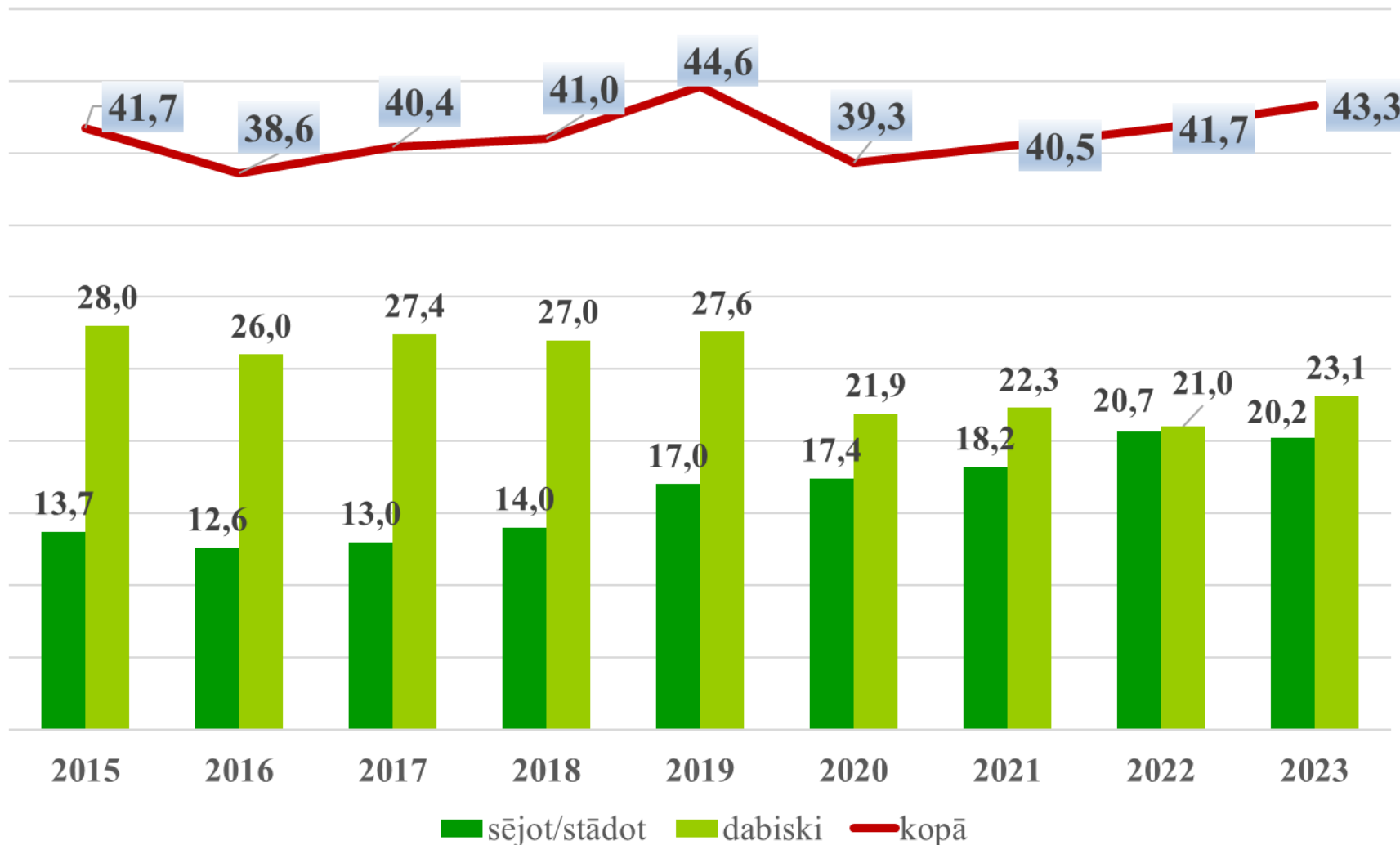
Natural regeneration





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Forest regeneration 2015 – 2023, thousand ha



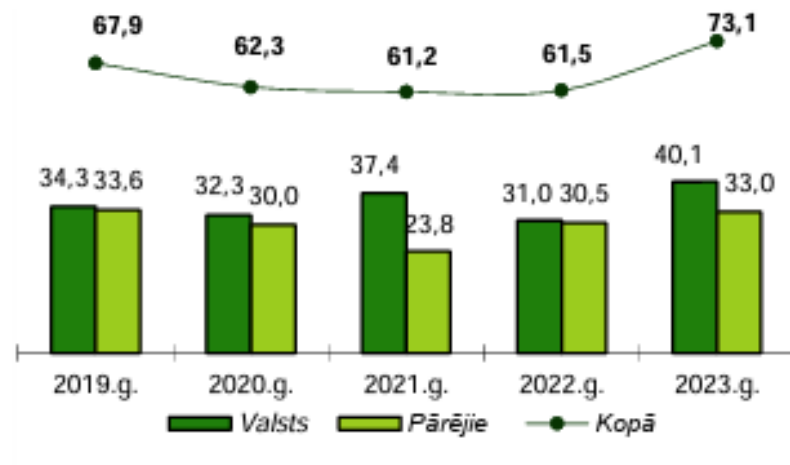


Valsts meža
dienests

Thinning of young stands



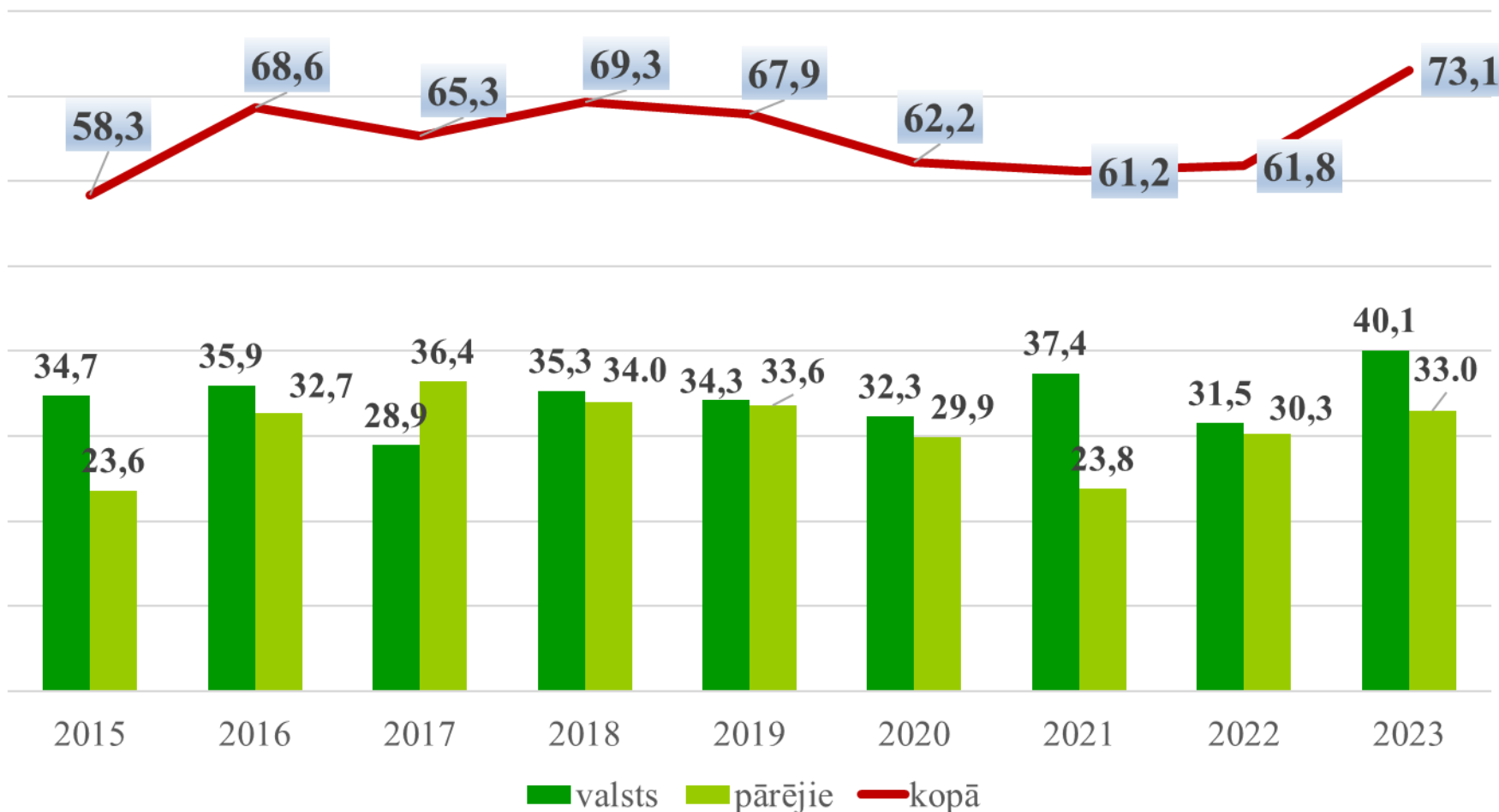
Thinning of young stands is carried out with the aim of promoting the development of tree species best suited to specific forest growth conditions.





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Thinning of young stands 2015-2023, (thousand ha)





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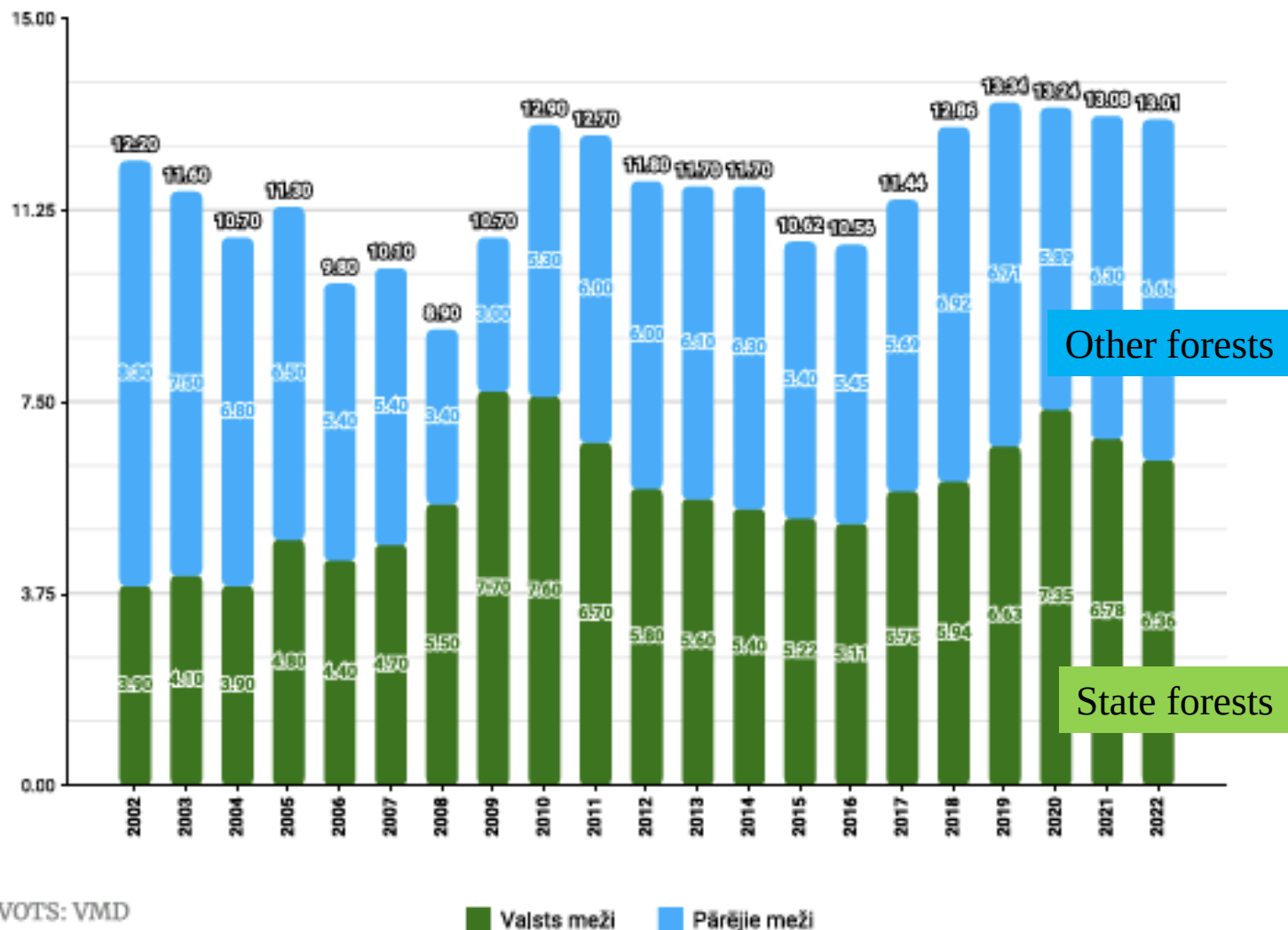
Permissions 2024

	Area, ha	Number	Area, ha
Clear cutting 28%	> 0,5ha	11337	3322.44
	0,51-1,00ha	10011	7445.34
	1,01< ha	15617	30417.16
Thinning 30%	<1,0 ha	12381	6181.99
	1,01< ha	12713	38897.71
Sanitary felling 39%		26314	54871.12
Other fellings 3%		5584	3758.67
TOTAL		93957	147894,13



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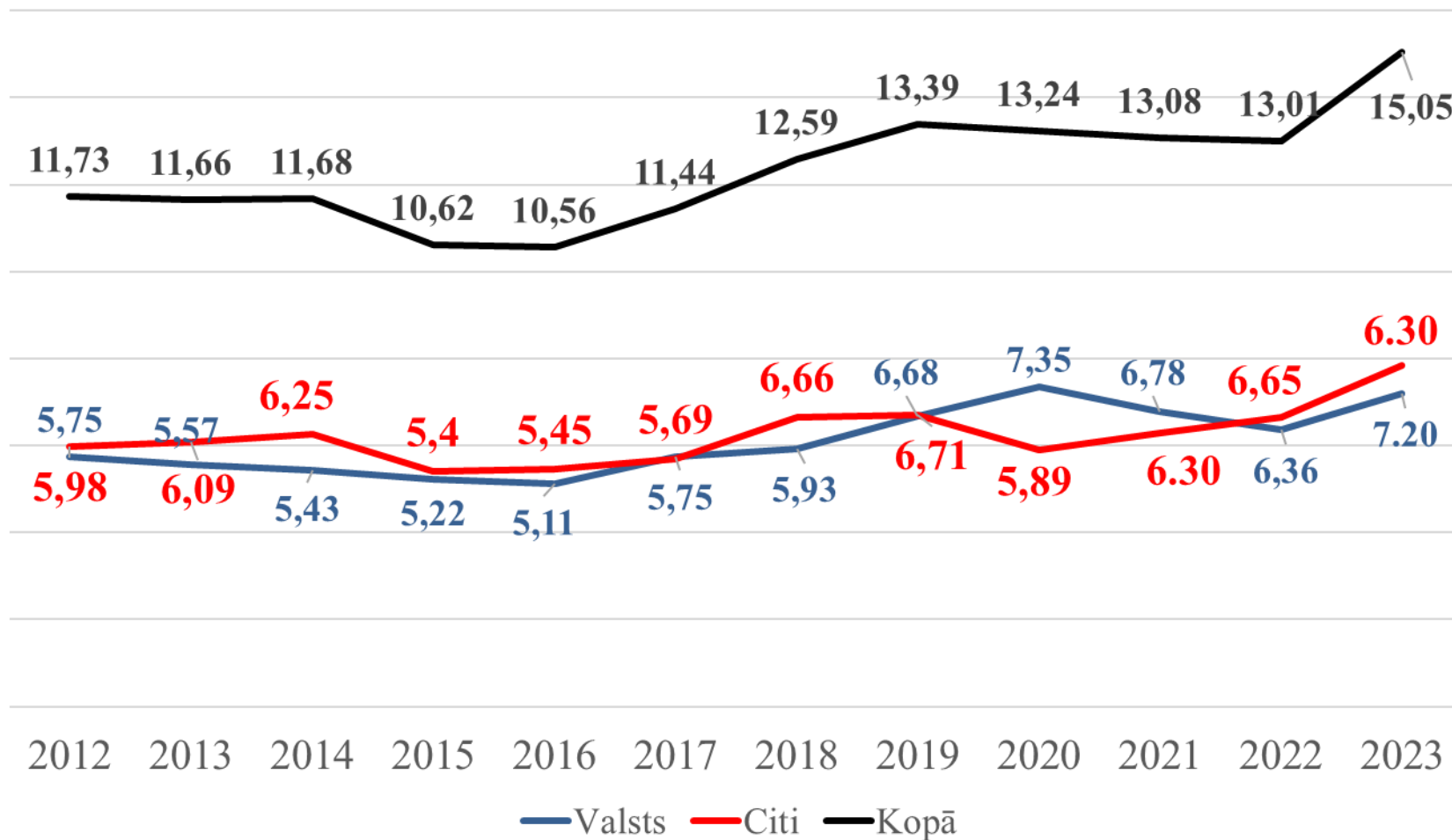
Timber Felling Volumes in Latvia





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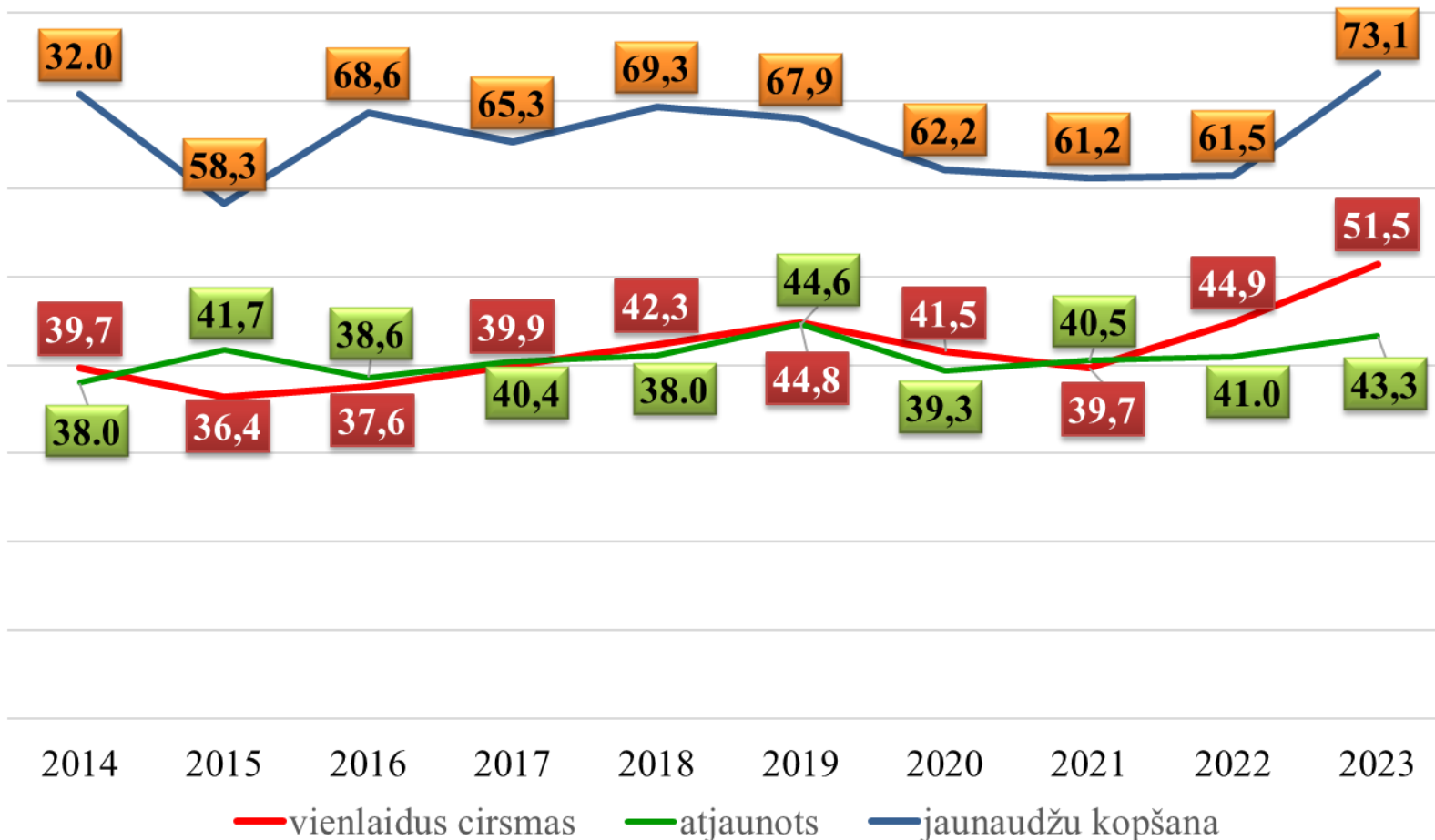
SFS information about timber harvesting harvested timber volume 2012-2023, (milj., m3)





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Value added to forest, 2011. - 2023. harvested, regenerated and thinned





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Forest and environmental protection

Environmental protection



Monitoring of forest health status





Valsts meža
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Monitoring of forest health status

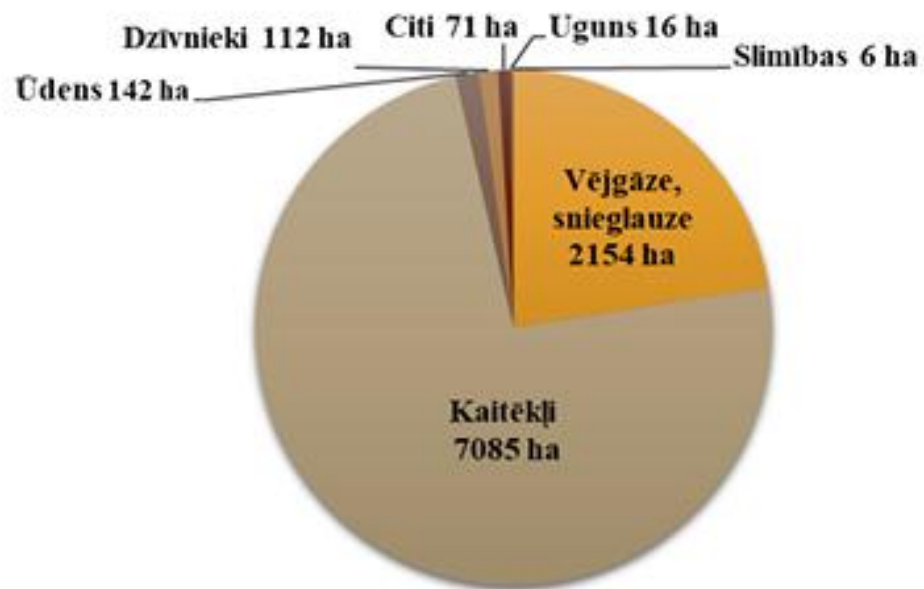






Valsts meža
dienests

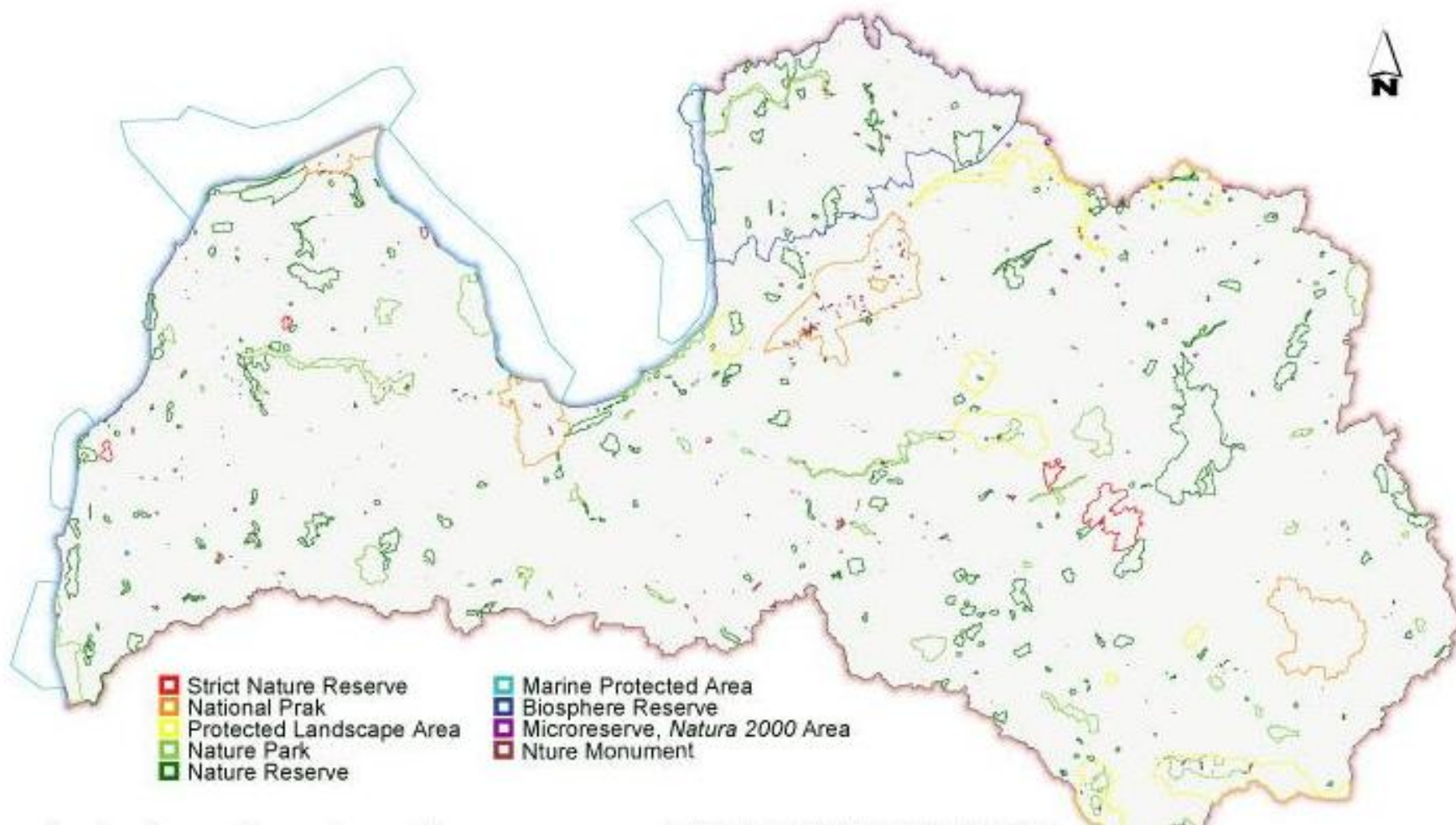
Damaged forest stands





Valsts meža
dienests

Protected areas





Valsts meža
dienests

Microreserve

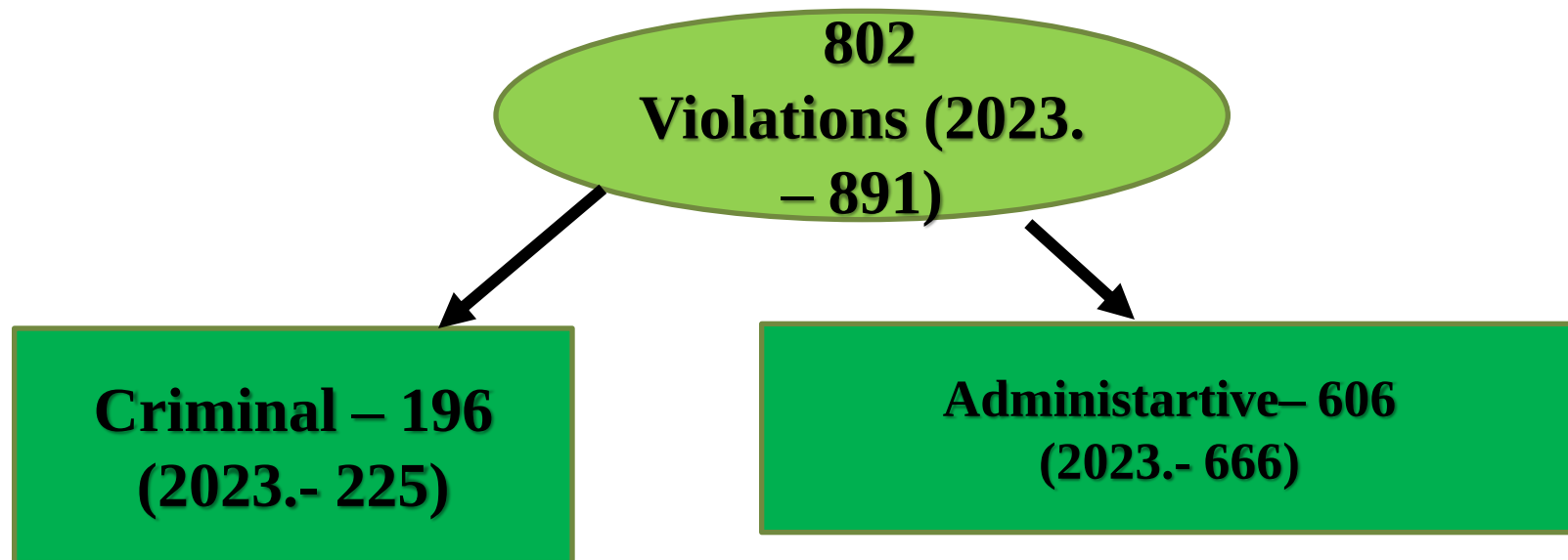
Micro-reserve - an area that is determined in order to ensure the protection of a specially protected species or habitat outside specially protected nature territories, as well as in specially protected nature territories, if any of the functional zones does not provide it.





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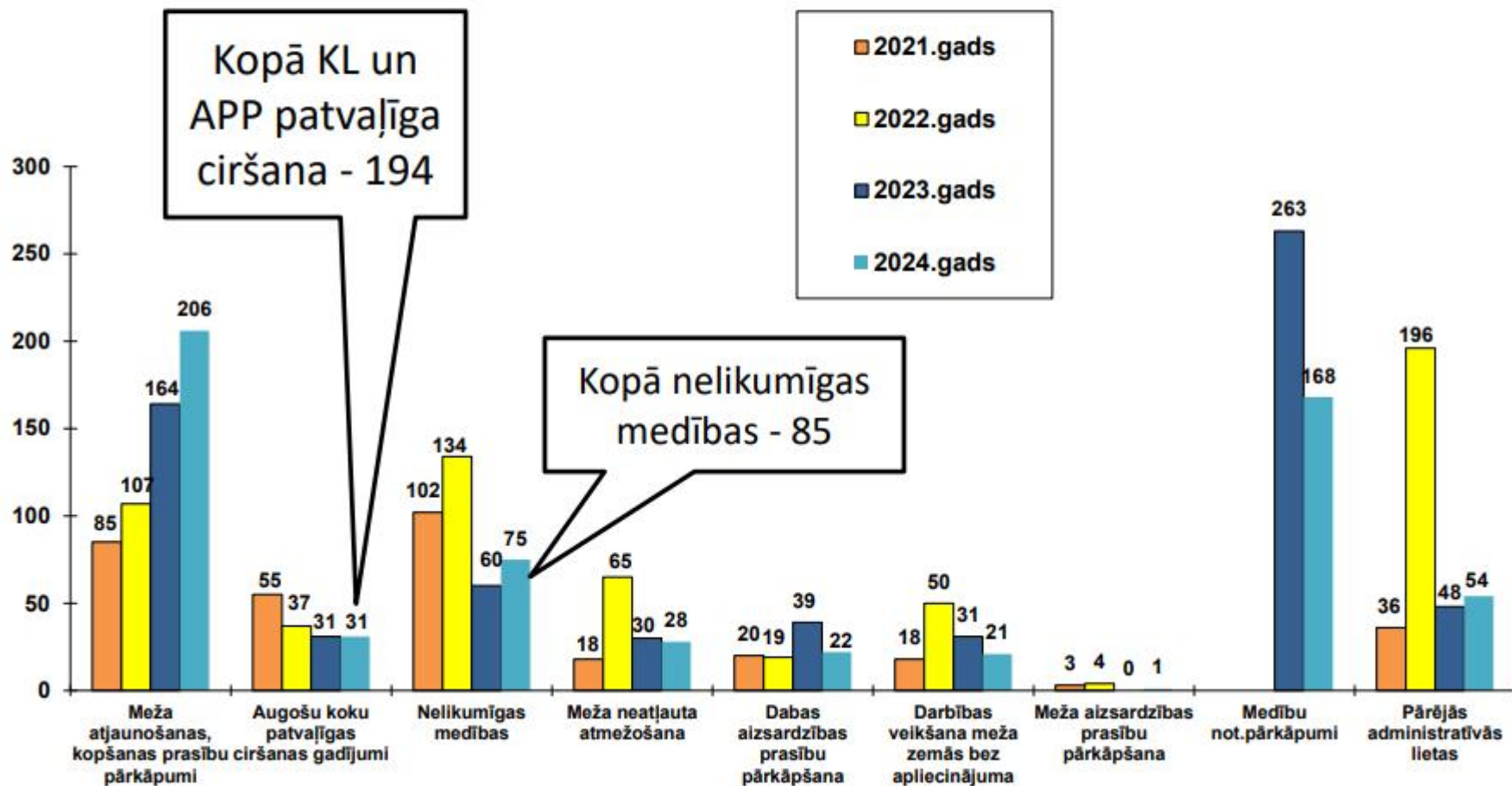
Violations 2024





Valsts meža
dienests

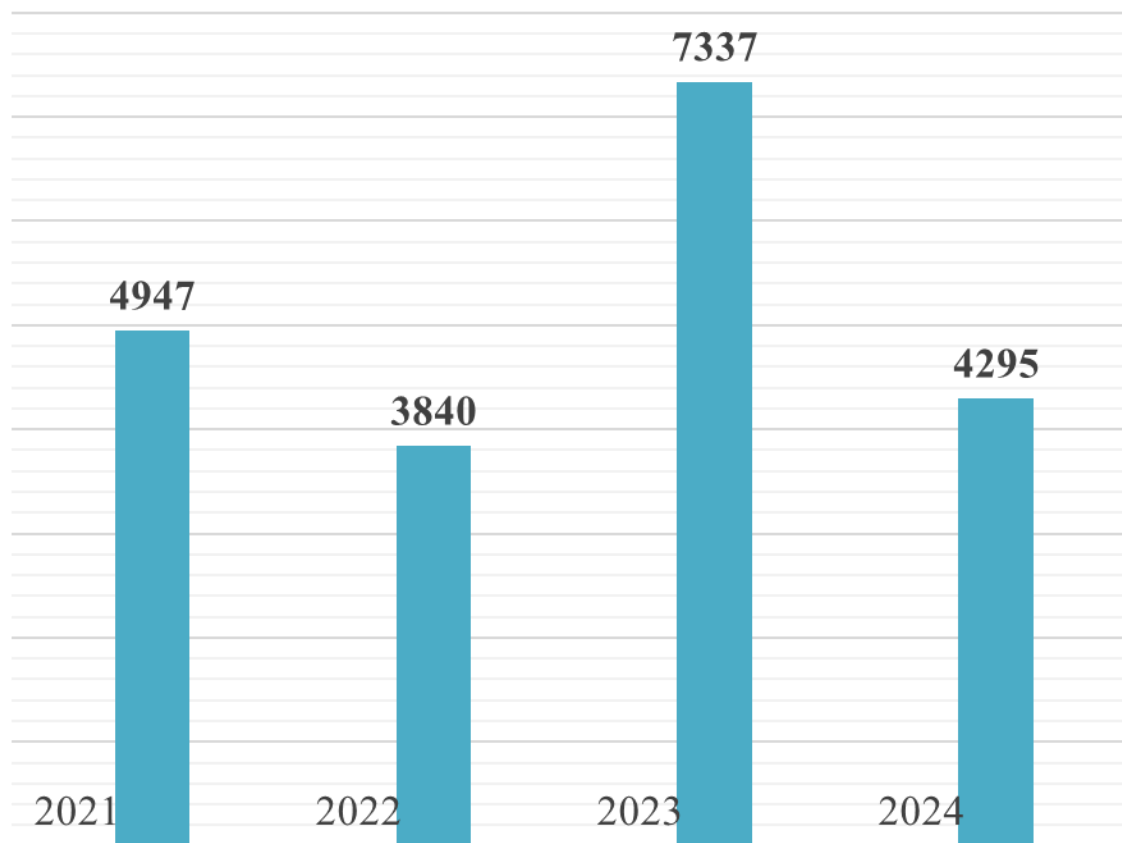
Administratīvo pārkāpumu veidi un skaits 2021.- 2024.g.





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Illegally harvested timber volume m³ 2021. – 2024.





Hunting



State Forest Service
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SFS Department of Hunting: Main Functions

- **Maintaining compliance with hunting legislative acts, e.g.:**
 - Preventing illegal hunting
 - Ensuring hunting safety requirements
 - Registering hunting grounds

- **Administering hunting management, e.g.:**
 - Assessing the abundance of game species (spring census)
 - Setting annual limits for limited game species and distributing their hunting tags
 - Collecting and analyzing data on annual hunting bag

- **Registering and examining hunters**
 - Examining hunters and collective hunt leaders (for driven hunts)
 - Issuing hunter and hunt leader certificates
 - Issuing permits for foreign hunters



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Maintaining compliance with hunting legislative acts

- **Hunting rights belong to landowners who can lease them to hunters**
- **1364 registered hunting grounds**
 - For hunting moose: at least 2,500 ha of forestland
 - For hunting male red deer: at least 2,000 ha of forestland
 - For hunting female and juvenile red deer: at least 1,000 ha of forestland
 - For hunting roe deer and wild boar: at least 350 ha
- **216 hunting legislation violations were registered in 2024, including:**
 - 63 cases of poaching
 - 56 cases of hunting safety violations



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Administering hunting management

- **In total, about 50 mammal and bird game species**
 - Abundance assessment (spring census) is performed for 19 of them
- **Main limited game species: Moose, red deer, wolf**
 - Roe deer, wild boar and beaver are non-limited

Main game species by numbers (season 2023/2024):

	Assessed	Hunting bag
Moose	19 000	5153
Red deer	69 000	24 949
Roe deer	230 000	18 736
Wild boar	26 000	30 153
Beaver	61 000	19 778





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Bagged game registration via mobile app

Savilce

Savilces numurs
MC24-01557

Izmantošanas veids
Nomedīts

Izmantošanas datums
10.05.2024

Dzīvnieka dzimums
Mātīte

Dzīvnieka vecums
Vidēja vecuma

Mednieka apliecības nr.
AD1753

Slimības pazīmes
Nē

Piezīmes

Apskatīt fotoattēlu

Nomedītā dzīvnieka fotoattēls



Aizvērt

Aizvērt

- **All bagged game must be registered and submitted via mobile app**
- **On the spot: photo via the mobile app**
- **Submitting the data to SFS**
 - Photo
 - Date and GPS location
 - Sex/age info (if applicable)
 - Signs of disease (yes/no)
 - Tag number (if applicable)
 - Hunter certificate number
- **Actual data can be obtained since they are entered in SFS database the same or next day**

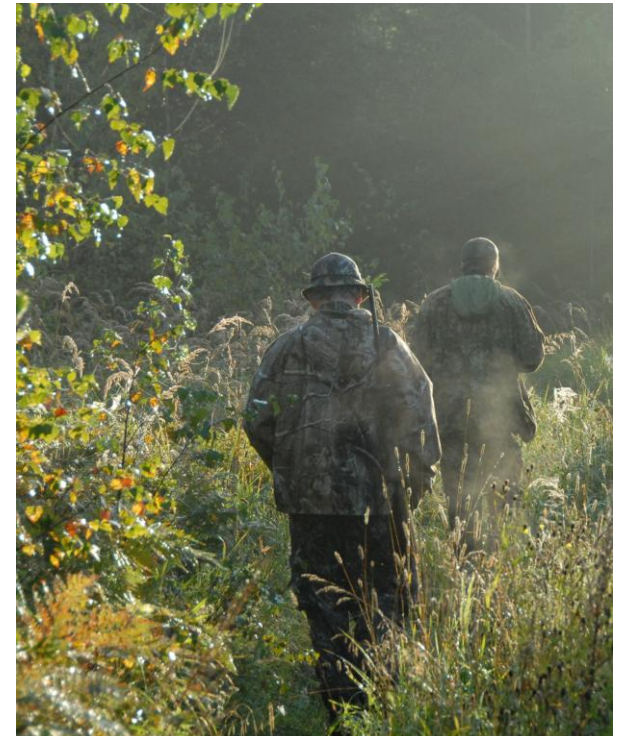


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Registering and examining hunters

- **About 19,000 active hunters in Latvia**
 - Some 800-900 new hunters are examined per year
 - Hunt leaders who organize collective (driven) hunts also must have a certificate
- **The hunter exam consists of:**
 - Theory test (in digital environment)
 - Practical shooting test with a shotgun
 - Practical shooting test with a rifle
 - (For certified hunters who wish to buy a rifle for the first time)

For foreign hunters, some 1200-1600 hunting permits are issued per year





VMD e-services Portal (epak.vmd.gov.lv):
Currently 16 e-services and video instructions in test media
Online payments;
The section of the card;
Notifications of service execution statuses;
The possibility of authorisation;
The possibility to assess satisfaction with the service;

Valsts meža dienesta e-pakalpojumi

Piesakies e-pakalpojumiem, ko piedāvā Valsts meža dienests

E-pakalpojumi



Mežs

- Meža inventarizācijas elektroniskie dati
- Meža inventarizācijas dati (nogabalu raksturojošie rādītāji)

Skatīt vēl...



Medības

- Mednieka sezonas karte
- Mednieka sezonas karte citam medniekam
- Medību atļauja limitēto medijamo dzīvnieku medīšanai

Skatīt vēl...



Meža inventarizācijas veicējiem

- Inventarizācijas failu imports
- Meža inventarizācijas elektroniskie dati
- Meža inventarizācijas dati (nogabalu

Ienākt VMD e-pakalpojumu portālā



Valsts meža dienests

- Ērti apskati un pārvaldi savus e-pakalpojumus
- Pārskati savus veiktos maksājumus
- Saņem paziņojumus
- Pārvaldi savus datus

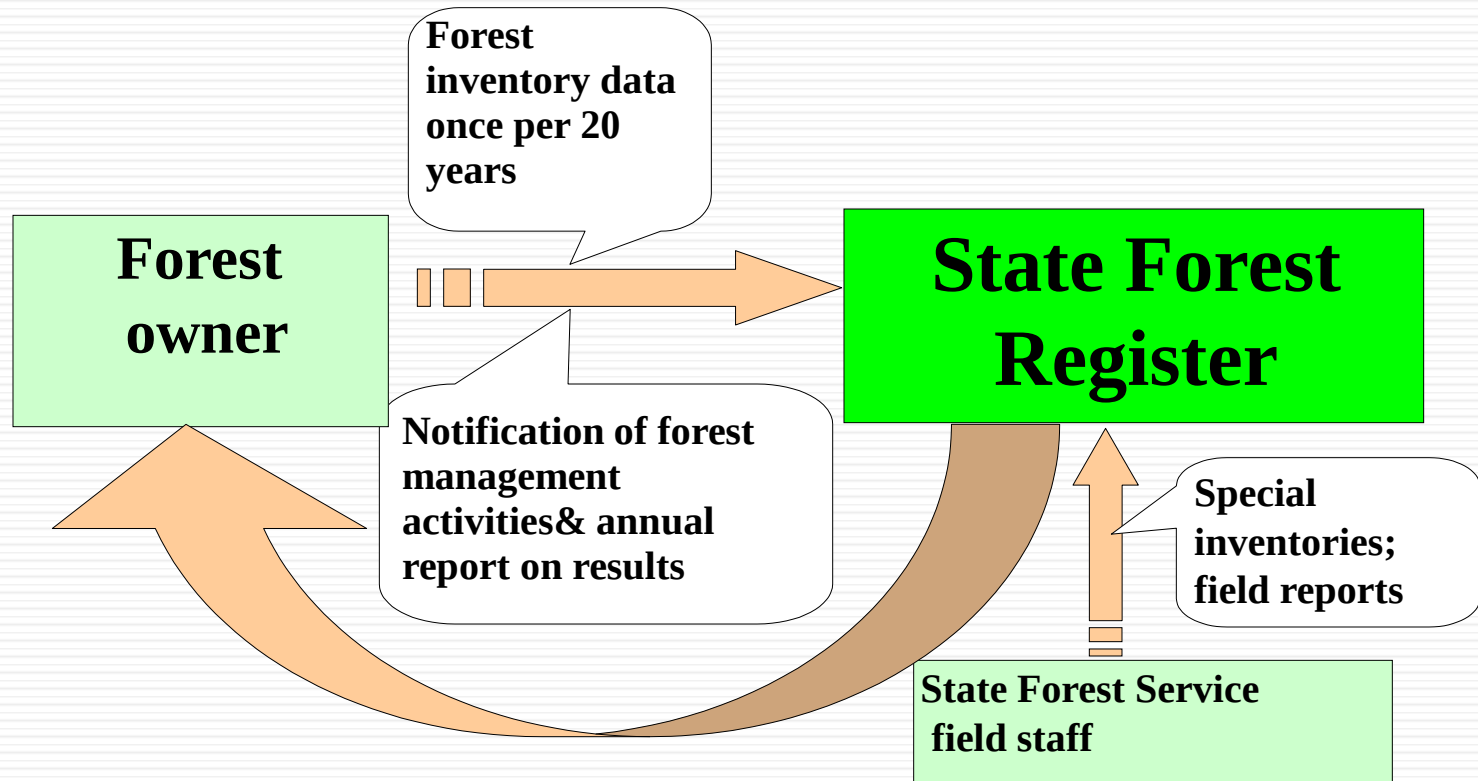
Pieslēgties ar

Latvija.lv

Rīki

- Karte
- Noskaidrot piekritīgo mežniecību
- Ciršanas apliecinājuma informācijas pārbaude
- Paziņojuma par koku ciršanu informācijas pārbaude
- Biežāk uzdotie jautājumi

Information Flow in the State Register of Forests

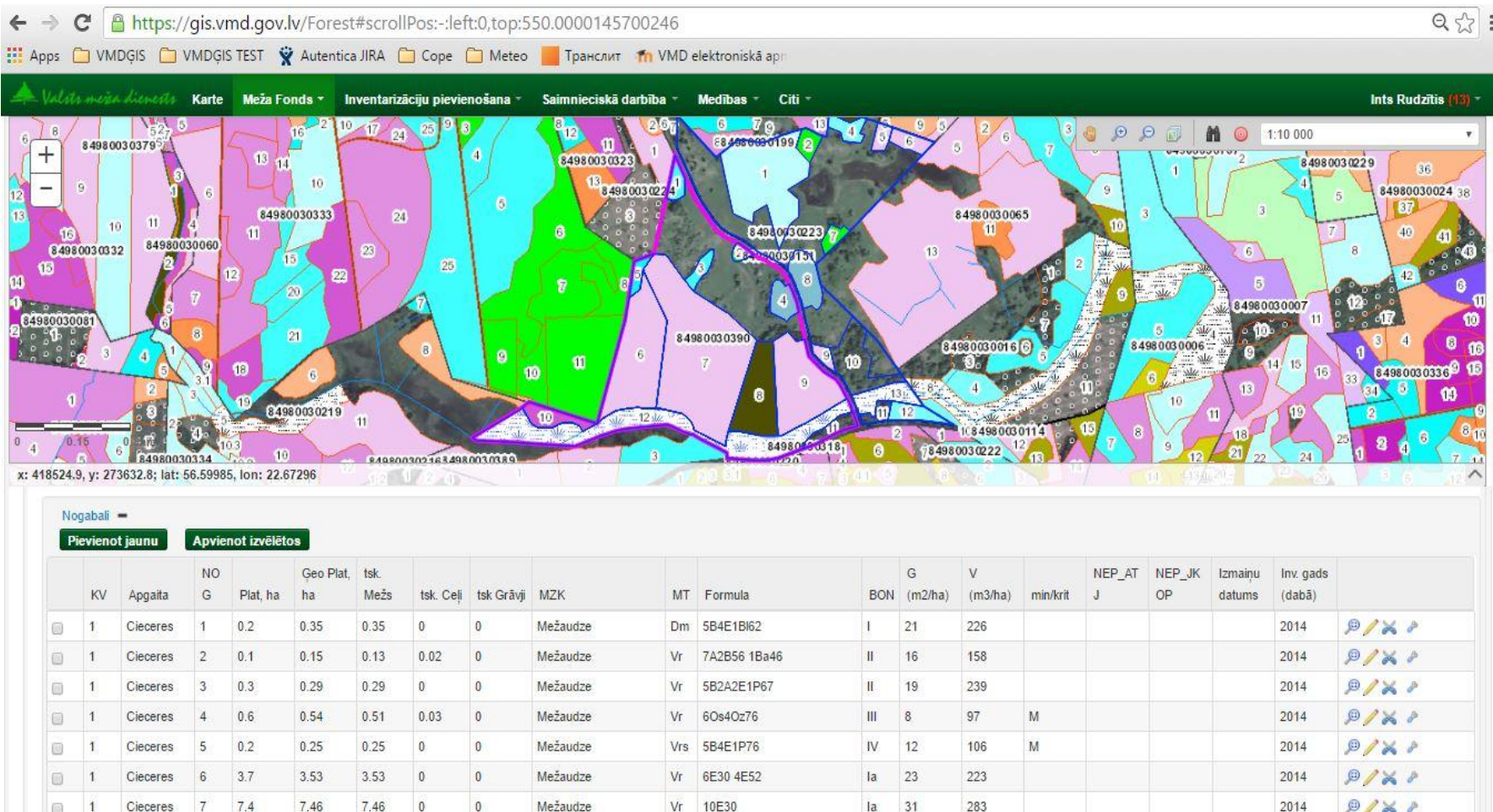


Requirements for both forest inventory data and data on management activities are defined by regulation of CM “Regulation on the Forest Inventory and Information Flow of the State Register of Forests”



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2016-VMD geographic information system: uniform maintenance of attributes and geographic data in one system





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EUTR/EUDR Enforcement

- ❑ EUTR - aims at minimising illegal timber being placed on the EU market and helping to fight illegal logging around the world
- ❑ EUDR - aims at minimising deforestation and forest degradation, including illegal logging, around the world
 - No actual deforestation or forest degradation
 - Legal – in accordance with legislation of the country of production
 - Traceable – including geographical coordinates of a plot of land (geolocation)
- ❑ Meaningful risk mitigation might be more important than documents/geolocation (as these can be false/illegal)



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EUTR/EUDR Enforcement

- ❑ Main problems in particular production or export countries, or with particular products or supply chains
- ❑ TAIEX and Earthsight reports on Ukraine forestry and illegal logging as well as new info from UA forestry experts and other reports
 - Huge corruption in forestry sector and lack of adequate control
 - ‘Legal illegal’ (sanitary cuts); ‘illegal illegal’; ‘excess’ timber laundering; forged documents; underclassified timber...
 - Sanitary logging around 30 – 50 % of all harvest
 - Up to 20, 30, or 50 % of all UA timber might be illegal
 - FSC certification does not minimise the risks
- ❑ Conclusions of CAs of EUTR on imports from UA (plus Annex)
 - also for EUDR



Valsts meža
dienests

Public relation



Meža dienas Rīcā 1937. g.

Forest days in Latvia



Avots: Zudusi Latvija

Valsts meža dienests
Gada cilvēks
2020

HARIJS AIGARS
DIENVIDKURZEMES
virsmežniecība

Valsts meža dienests
Gada cilvēks
2020

DAINIS KOKINS
DIENVIDLATGALES
virsmežniecība

Valsts meža dienests
Gada cilvēks
2020

RAIMONDS FRIDVALDS
RĪGAS REĢIONĀLĀ
virsmežniecība



**STAND WITH
UKRAINE**