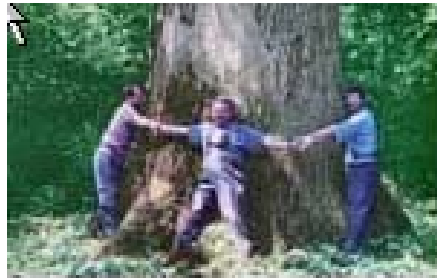


# ILLEGAL LOGGING IN SERBIA

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# The main causes for illegal activities

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- relatively hard economic situation in Serbia (1,500 \$/capita);
- high percentage of population that lives on the existence edge;
- forests represent a suitable object for various illegal activities, since they cover a wide area, they are practically impossible to protect;
- every increase of protection degree immediately causes significant increase of forest management costs, which are economically unacceptable for public companies and forest owners;
- ownership of forests in Serbia is such that 51.5% (about 1.25 m ha) is owned by State, and 48.5% (about 1.15 m ha) is privately owned;
- state forests in Serbia are mainly located in greater estates in the mountain regions, and historically overlooked, they have been owned by State forever;
- privately owned forests are in much smaller estates, and in very small real estate lots, located in urban areas, by villages and towns, most often in lower elevations.



## Public forests

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- State forests are managed by public companies whose founder is the State;
- There are 2 public companies for forest management and 5 national parks. These companies have a long tradition in forest management, significant personnel and technical potentials that provide a high degree of protection against illegal logging and other activities;
- Companies are organized in 5 levels;

Company: State enterprises for forest management: SRBIJA ŠUME and VOJVODINA ŠUME



1

# Organisation

2



Forest estates (total 21 without Kosovo)

Forest management units (total 66+12) without Kosovo)



3

4



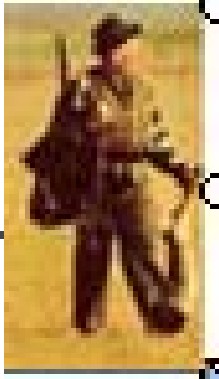
Compound

Area



5

# Forest rangers



- There are 624 forest rangers currently employed in Serbia.
- In the State forests the greatest number of illegal activities is related to wood theft and illegal hunting. Local populations, individual or small groups, mainly commit the theft.
- The object of stealing is most often firewood or technical wood of different quality. Illegal logging in State forests, which are managed by public company Serbia sume (manages about 90% of State forests in Serbia), was 12,007 m<sup>3</sup> in 2003.
- Illegal logging is most intense in forest managements that are boarding the territory of Kosovo and Metohija, where the access to boarding areas are hard. The total registered quantity of illegal logging in this part of Serbia was 5,463 m<sup>3</sup> or 45.5% of the total illegal logging in State forests of Serbia, in 2003.



# Private forests

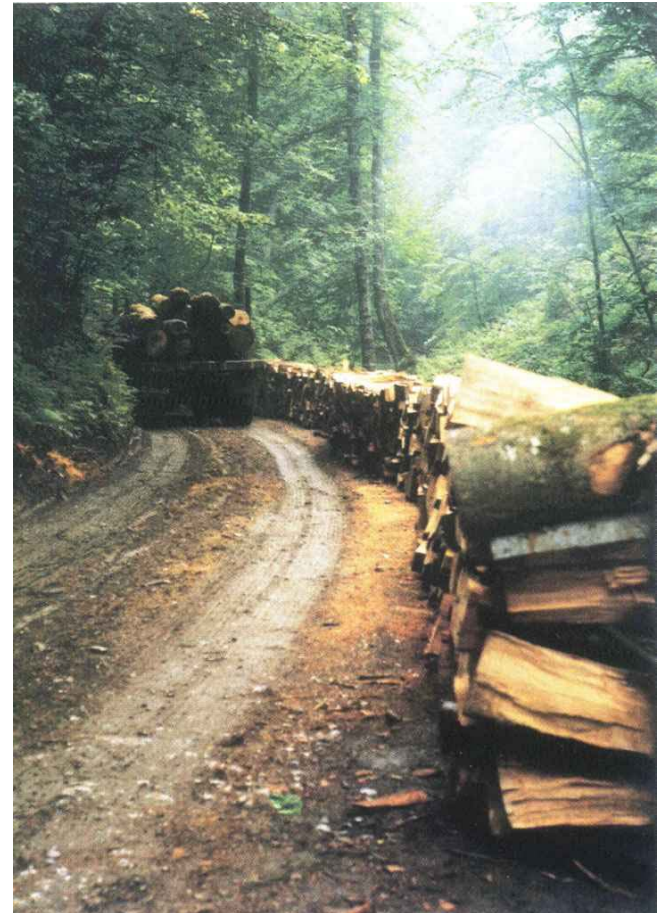
- private owners are not organized,
- average area of forest estate is 0.3 ha,
- owners mainly live in towns,
- there is no organized security service for private forests,
- the owners themselves illegitimately log and harvest their forests, in order to obtain some income necessary for living,
- management for private forests is financed by the State budget, and whose main activity is marking the trees for logging, based on the requirement of the forest owner, issuing the documents for trafficking and giving some skilled help to owners.





# Private forests

- This service annually marks about 800,000 m<sup>3</sup> of mainly firewood. This is also the officially registered quantity of harvested wood in private forests. However, the estimate is that the logging in private forests is much greater, even more than twice, or closer to 2 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood. Legally logged wood in private forests is mainly used for further sale, mainly to populations in the town areas. Illegally logged wood (in the sense that it has not been logged with the adequate skilled preparation) is mainly used by rural population as firewood.
- The pictured wood is being transported a short distance, from forest to village, via tractors. These loggings are not innocent since there are clear logged areas .





## False declaration of volumes, species, values or origins of harvested wood

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- Estimated value of illegally harvested wood in State forests is about 300,000 US\$ (2003). Firewood is the dominant component, with about 90%, while other wood elements (technical wood) participate with 10%.
- There is a significantly greater quantity of illegally harvested wood from private forests, its value is significantly greater than the value of illegally harvested wood in State forests. The estimate is that the value of illegally harvested wood from private forests was about 2.4 million US\$, in 2003.
- Of the 1707 reports of illegal incidents submitted in 2003, only 243 or 14% have been solved. This data points out the necessity for more accurate work of justice administration.



## Trade in products of illegal logging

- Trade of illegally harvested wood (in the greatest measure) is performed within the markets of Serbia. This especially concerns firewood, and in smaller quantities technical wood (sawlogs).

- Illegally harvested wood as a component of exports is insignificant, because firewood is only exported in very small quantities, and log exports are under the control of the inspection service in the public companies and under customs services. Part of illegally harvested technical wood is exported as sawnwood. It is estimated that sawnwood produced from the illegally harvested wood is less than 1%.



# Trade in products of illegal logging



Considering modest raw material potentials of softwood and oak wood in its forest fond, Serbia imports significant quantities of logs and sawnwood of these species. More then 95% is imported from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering the lack of numerous laws and custom regulation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also technical problems, and weak equipment on some boarder crossings, the illegal log and sawnwood trade is present between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The estimate its that the value of this imported wood is less then 5%.



# Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Policies

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- Control of laws and sub-laws in the field of forestry belong to the Department for management supervision, which is the part of Forest management, in the Ministry for agriculture, forestry and waters.
- This service employs 85 forest inspectors who perform the control of forest laws.
- During 2003, 13,963 supervisions have been performed. The illegally harvested property of 2,281 m<sup>3</sup> of technical wood has been confiscated. In this period 3,279 law violation charges were submitted, 30 reports for economic violations, and 60 criminal charges.
- Based on applied measures, fines as high as 10,000 USD have been set.



## **Official policies to reduce or eliminate illegal logging**

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The Government of Serbia tries by numerous measures and changes of law regulations in the tax system to reduce illegal activities in the whole economy, and by that, in the field of wood sale, to the lowest level. In that sense VAT has been adopted , that will be applied on 1st January 2005, which will in significant measure influence the decrease of illegally harvested wood trade.



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**Thank you for your attention!**