



Forest Restoration and Protection Related Challenges in Armenia

by

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May 7, 2018



Ministry of Nature Protection

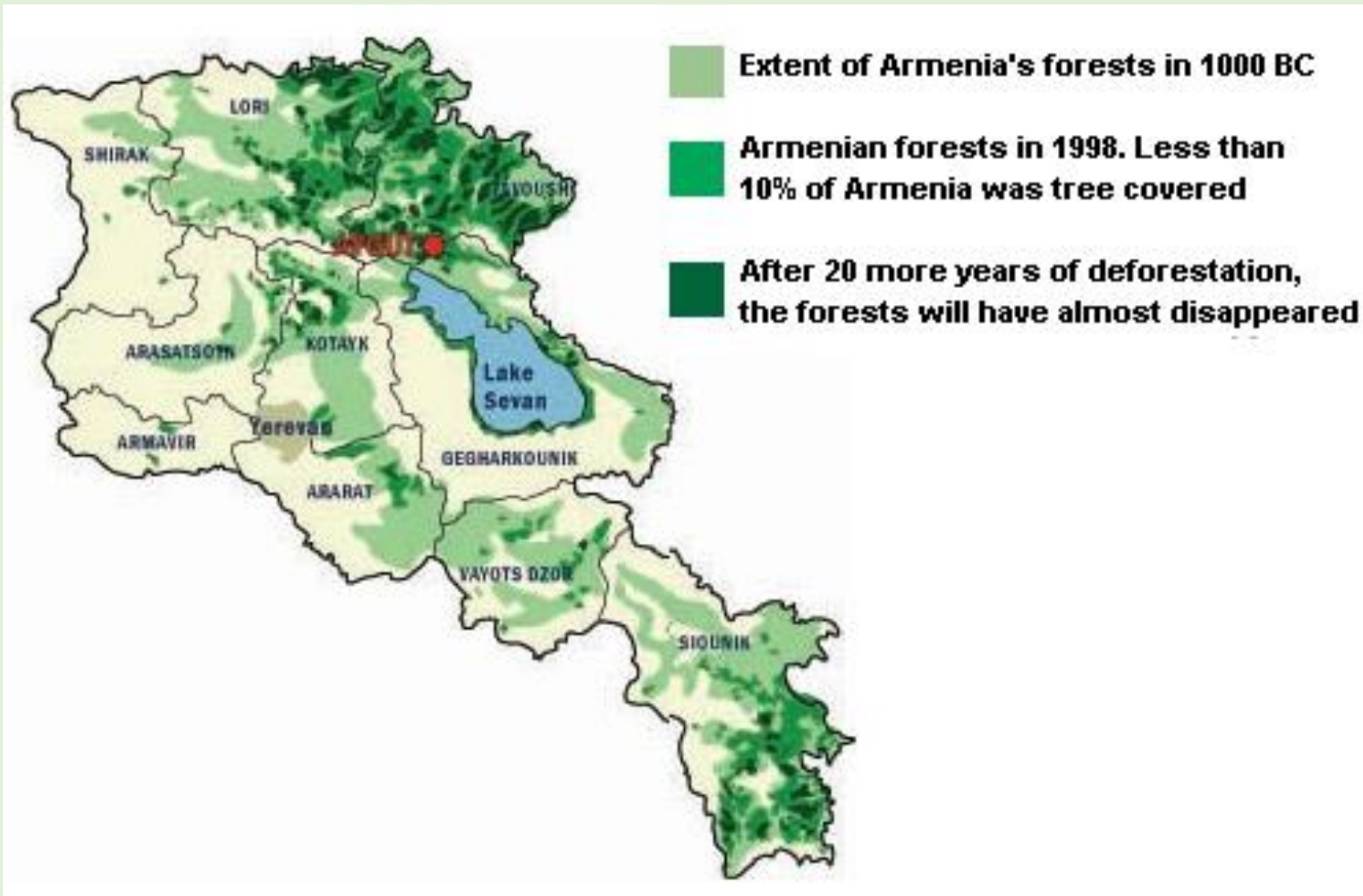
Main governmental body responsible for environmental issues

Responsibilities include:

- Developing laws and procedures
- Issuing permits and licenses
- Reviewing environmental impact assessments
- Monitoring
- Managing seven National Parks and Reserves as well as forests
- Hayatar (Armenian Forest Service)

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Historic Map of Forests



Forests as of Today



Since the turn of the 19th century, Armenia witnessed a dramatic plunge in forest cover from 25 percent of its territory to the current low, estimated at 8-9 percent.

Armenian Forest Services

- The management of forest lands under supervision of “Hayantar” is 342,400 ha, of which 277,100 ha is covered by trees. This is approximately 75% of forests in Armenia.
- Areas under management of seven national parks is 300,000 ha, of which 55,000 ha is covered by trees. This is approximately 25% of forests in Armenia.
- Hayantar has branches in different states.
- Main tree types are: oak, beech, hornbeam, pine.
- From 2012-2017 Hayantar has planted 1500 ha from which 647 ha were new forests and 853 ha were reforestation.

Priorities of the Armenian government is the **preservation, protection, and reproduction** of forests

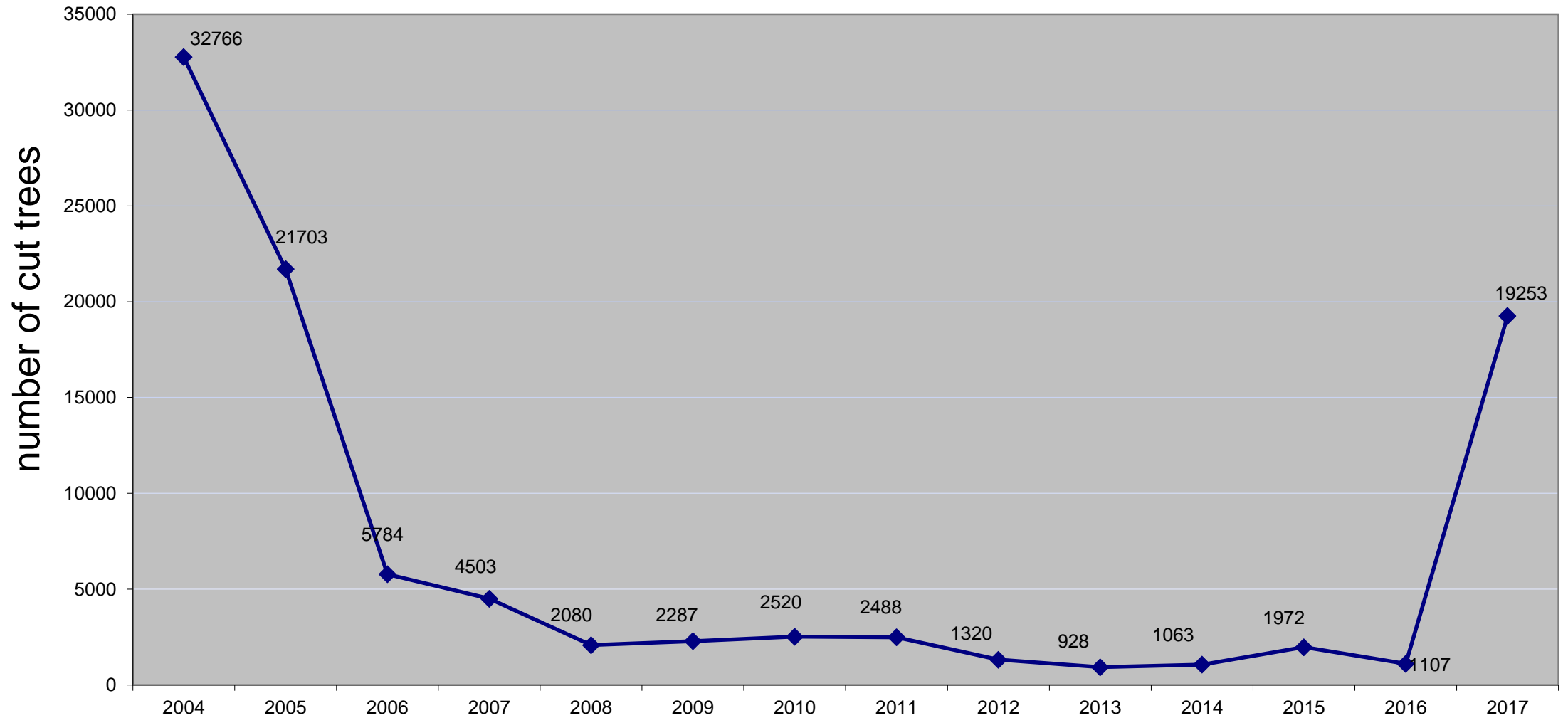
Deforestation Reasons

The following are some of the key drivers of deforestation in Armenia:

- The best trees are cut illegally for commercial purposes, such as construction, furniture making, and export
- Grazing of livestock in forest areas prevents regeneration
- Lack of education and awareness of the forest's value
- Lack of community ownership and responsibility for forests
- Lack of sustainable forest management practices



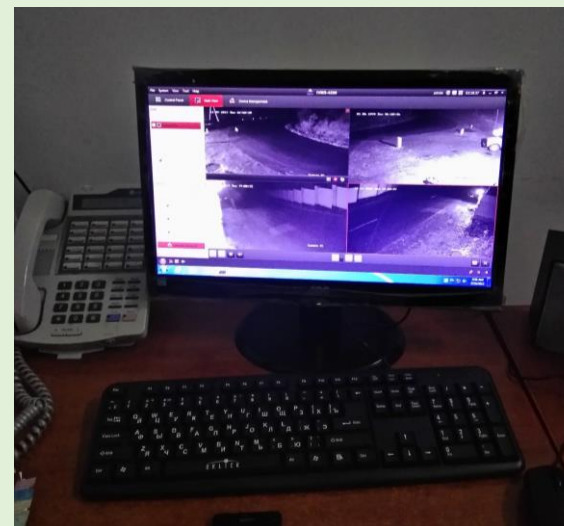
Illegal Logging



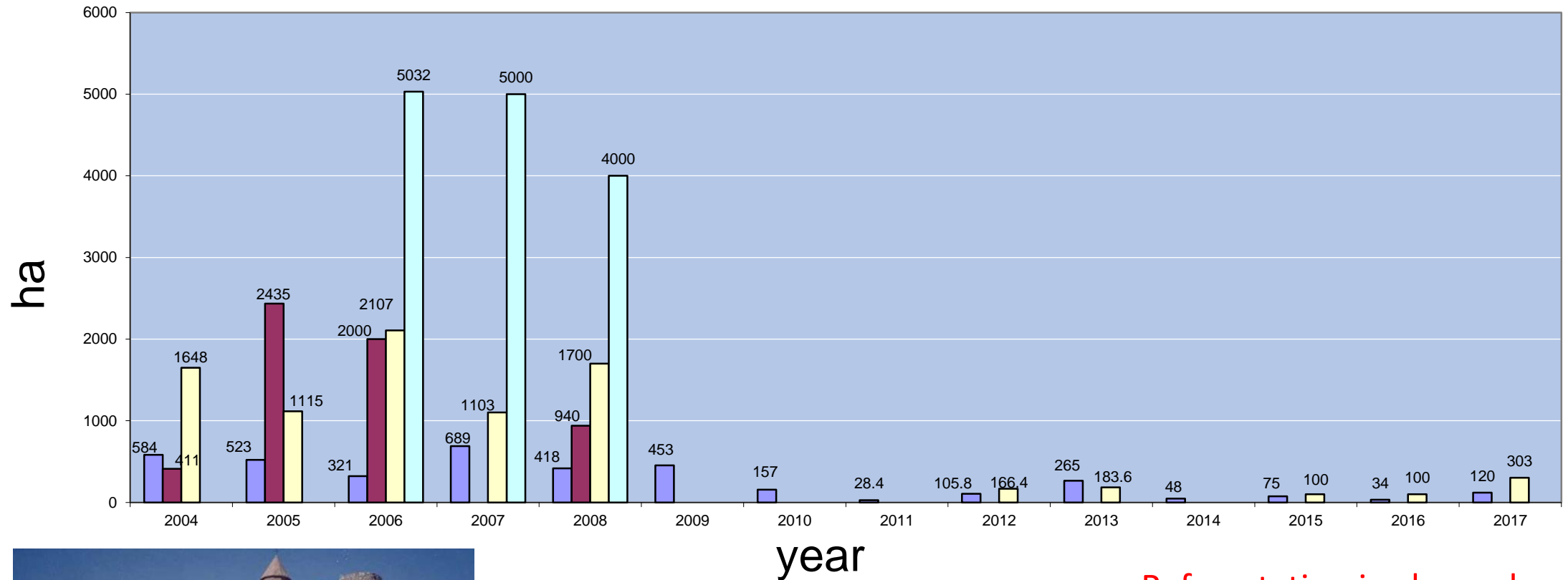
Dilijan National Park

Major issue with illegal logging

- Two villages next to the park – Hagarzein and Teghout
- Hired private security firm and they will use fire arms
- Installed online cameras and will expand
- Designing special sensors
- Will be developing a special software to manage legal firewood removal



Reforestation



- Planting new trees = 3,820 ha
- Assisting in natural growth with = 5,786 ha
- Growth by clearing multiple branches = 8,527 ha
- Natura growth by protecting the area by fencing = 14,032 ha

Reforestation is planned for approximately 2120 ha in 2018, mainly in northern part of the country

Reforestation Programs

- UNDP - Implementation of sustainable land management and landscaping in mountainous landscapes of northeastern Armenia – Estimated planting 4,932 ha in 2018 and 2019
- IFAD - Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity in Armenia – planting trees in 800 ha of degraded lands
- UNDP - Forest Fire Prevention Project
- FAO/GCF - Forest resilience of Armenia, enhancing adaptation and rural green growth via mitigation (at the proposal stage) – Planting to plant trees at 5,000 ha
- ATP – A Diaspora NGO that has planted approximately 5,500,000 trees since 1994



Plans for Forest Fire Prevention

- Creating 20 fast response teams (now there are only 3)
- Providing firefighting training
- Building small water reservoirs at high elevations
- Updating management plans

Funds secured:

- \$1 million from Russia
- €100,000 from CNF



Questions?

