The IUFRO Task Force on Post-Conflict Forest Landscape Restoration

Webinar: "Forest disturbances caused by military operations in Ukraine: assessments, recovery potential, risks, and uncertainties for the future"

When: May 21st, 2026 at 15:00 CEST

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Andrii Bilous is a visiting professor at Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences. He served as the Head of the Department of Forest Mensuration and Forest Management at the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (2018–2026). He is also a veteran of the Russian war against Ukraine (2022–2025). His research focuses on the impacts of disturbances on forest ecosystems and the assessment of forest ecosystem services.

Dr. Maksym Matsala received his PhD from NUBiP University in Kyiv, Ukraine, in 2022. He currently works as a researcher at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Alnarp, Sweden, where he studies the impacts of the Russian war against Ukraine on forests. His research interests include LiDAR applications, fire and disturbance ecology, forest dynamics, and ecosystem services.

Webinar Focus:

The impact of the war on Ukraine's forests is profound, long-term, and difficult to quantify. Its consequences are expected to affect forest ecosystems and forest governance for decades. Scientists and experts are working under extremely challenging conditions to assess the damage, as ongoing hostilities severely limit access to affected areas. Consequently, published estimates of disturbed forest areas vary considerably and require careful interpretation. This webinar will discuss what is currently known about war-related forest disturbances in Ukraine, why available estimates differ, and how these impacts can be assessed and understood more comprehensively.

Keywords: Russian war against Ukraine, forest disturbances, forest cover, damage assessment, data uncertainty, environmental consequences.

Moderator:
Dr. Marine Elbakidze, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine); Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)

LINK: https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/69250944267
Passcode: 870418