



Eastern Europe Illegal logging and Charcoal

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WWF: Outcomes by 2030

- **50% of the world's forests are effectively protected or under improved management**
- **Deforestation has been halted**
- **350 million hectares of forest landscapes are restored**



Illegal logging is *one* of the - growing - threats...



Source: *Transnational Crime and the Developing World*

Forensic methods

- Indicators of illegal logging

- Linked to

- Species
- origin



**Forensic methods
used to verify the declared
species and origin of wood**

Illegal logging and related trade are huge international problems that are contributing significantly to forest destruction all over the world and as a result also to climate change and the decline in biodiversity. Illegal timber trade is often a form of organised crime, and illegal logging is estimated to account for up to 40% of global timber production. One consequence of this crime is a drop in the price of timber caused by illegal timber, which in turn makes trade with sustainably produced timber more difficult. Technical developments such as electronic tags that are attached to tree trunks after they have been felled and independent certificates have brought improvements and

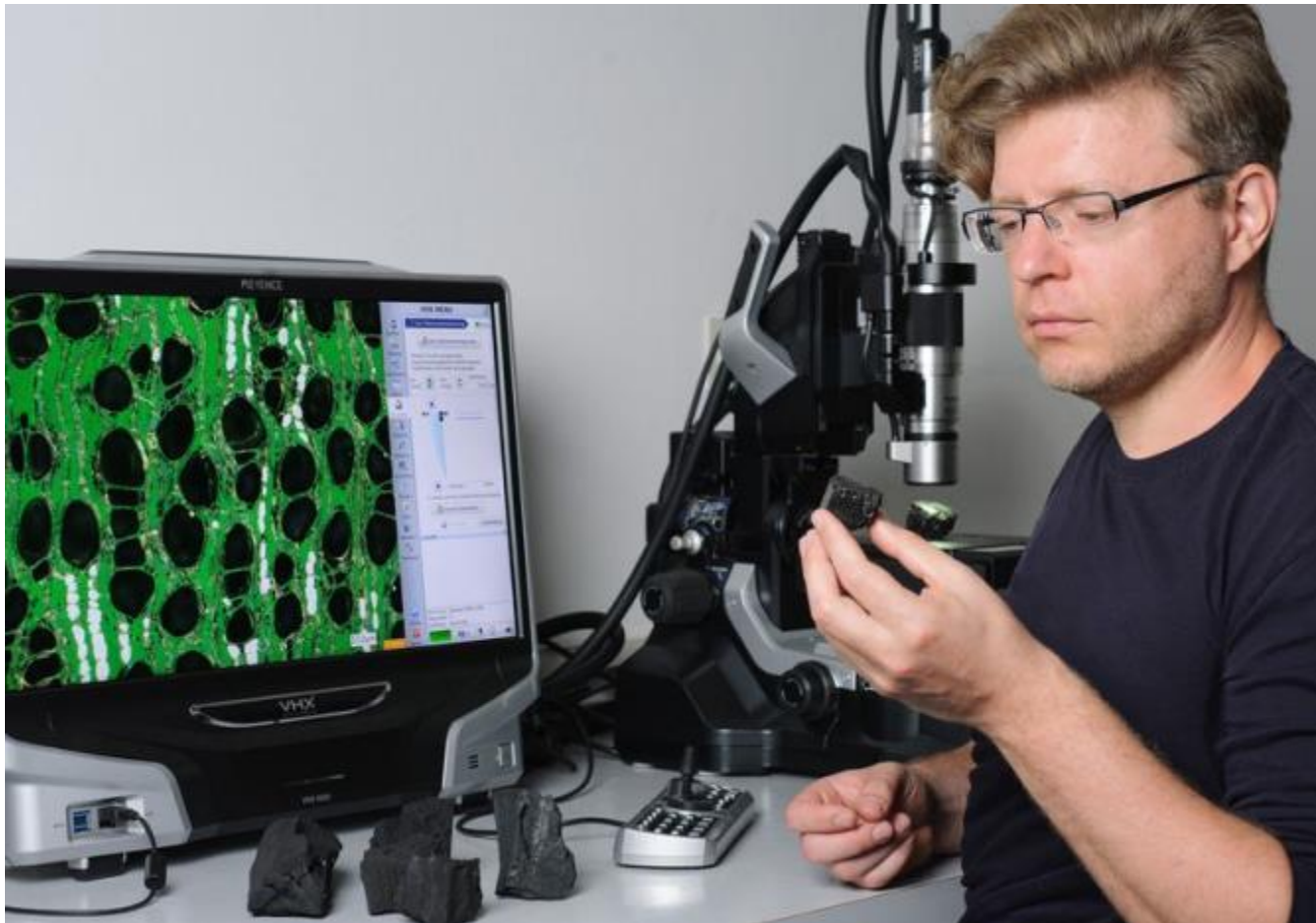
- <http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Forensic-methods-used-to-verify-the-declared-species-and-origin-of-wood-WWF-Germany.pdf>



Wood – overview

- **Wood anatomy** – verification of dec. genus, species
- **DNA fingerprint** – identification of dec. genus, species, origin
- **Isotopes** – identification of dec. genus, species, origin
- **N-IR** – identification of dec. genus, species, origin
- **LC-TOF-MS** – identification of dec. genus, species, origin
- **Sniffer dogs** – identification of undeclared species
- **Remote sensing** – control of areas

Thünen Institute – wood anatomy



8/2017 charcoal market check

“Destroying forests for the BBQ”



- Germany is the biggest charcoal consumer in Europe (about 250,000 t)
- Nearly all charcoal in Germany is imported
- Limited information about species or origin



https://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Market_survey_charcoal_2017.pdf

8/2017 charcoal market check

“Destroying forests for the BBQ”



- 20 products tested
- 40 % with tropical species
- 60 % with “European Species”
- 5 with “red list” species
- 85 % with wrong declared species or other risks
- Certified comparable to uncertified

7/2018 charcoal market check

“The dirty business with charcoal”



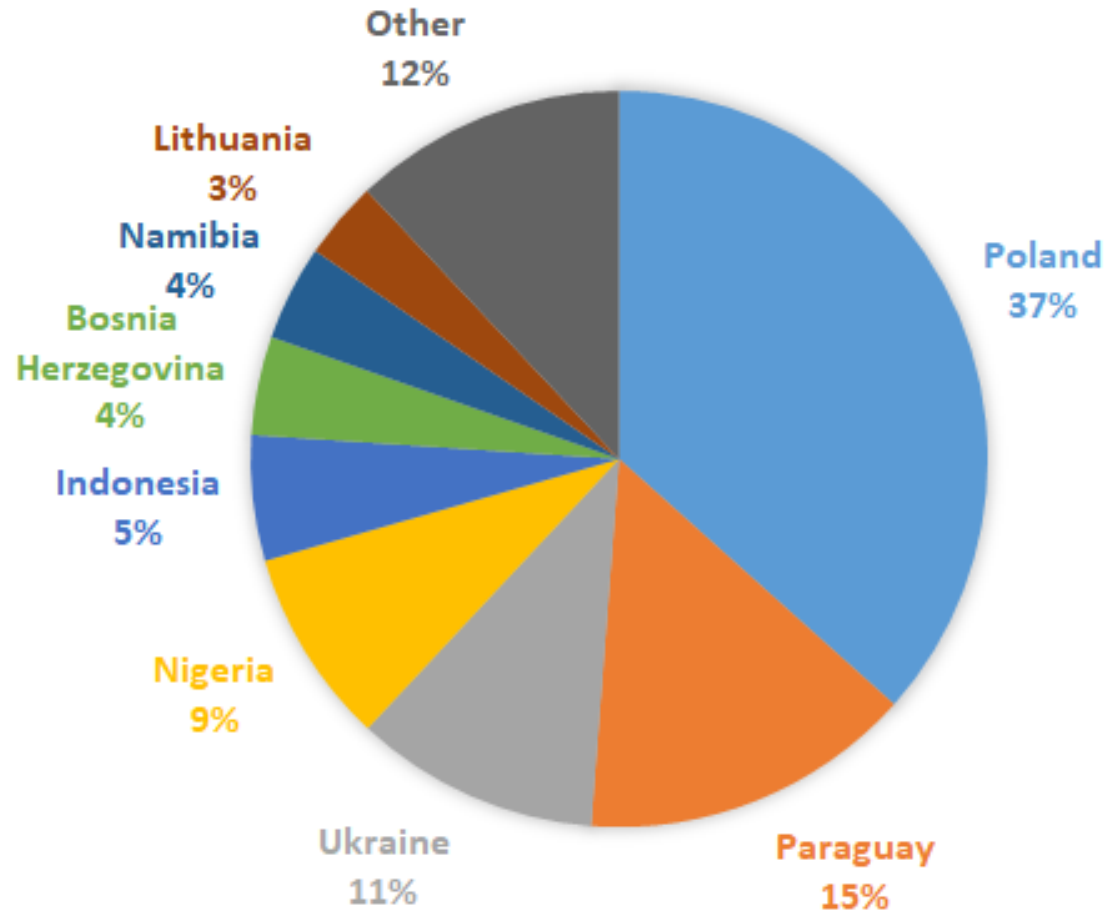
- 36 products tested
- 89 % without or wrong declarations
- 11 % with declaration “Europe”
- 8 % with declaration “Ukraine”
- 61 % with indication of high risks
- 42 % with tropical species
- 58 % with “European Species”





German imports: 215,547

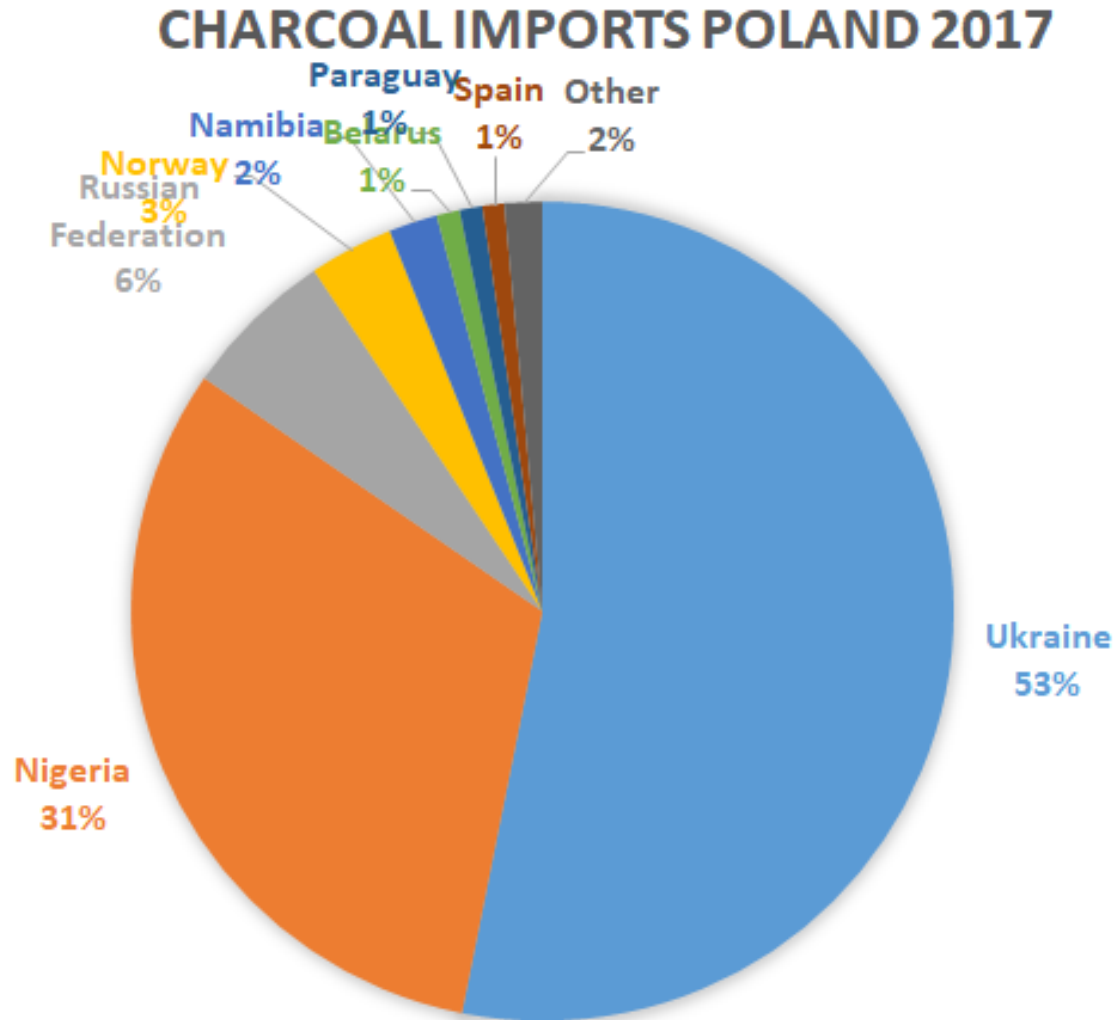
CHARCOAL IMPORTS GERMANY 2017



Source: tft



Polish imports: 146,140 t



Source: tft

7/2018 charcoal market check

“The dirty business with charcoal”



- Polish producer „Dancoal“ lost the FSC certificate after the report – no production in Poland – main import country: Ukraine



- Polyprom (UA): most of the suppliers are under investigation because of illegal logging, tax avoidance or corruption

https://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/WWF_Market_analysis_barbecue_charcoal_2018.pdf





Charcoal production in Ukraine

- **In 2014 Ukraine produced about 100,000 t of charcoal**
- **2015 Ukrain started to stop roundwood export to fight illegal logging**
- **2017 the charcoal production increased to more than 170,000 t**
- **Corruption and illegal logging**



Charcoal production in Ukraine

- **illegal logging inside Uzhanskyi national park – 30 m outside UNESCO world heritage forest - 350 old beech trees**
- **villagers attacked the TV team**
- **WWF UA: „sometimes organised crime embedding local population“**
- **The biggest wood consumer in the area is a charcoal producer „Polyprom“**



Situation in Eastern Europe

Environment Inspector UA: *penalties are not dissuasive*

Romania: *“frequent assaults upon illegal logging inspectors”*

Kim Carstensen FSC: *Charcoal business is a high risk business for us – it’s “wild west” – we will do more!*





Legal situation

- **Charcoal is not covered under EUTR**
- **German customs and legal advice / service of the German Parliament's answer to WWF's question regarding likely illegal charcoal from Paraguay and Nigeria:**

„when the charcoal arrives in Germany – it's legal“



Charcoal trader

„...Retailers pressured us to be cheaper and cheaper – everybody knew the risks – everybody knew what’s in the package - but everybody agreed to not talk about it...“

**With the first trees cut
– culture starts.**

**With the last trees cut
– culture ends.**

Gustave Flaubert; (French Poet, 1821 – 1880)

