Summary

Ensuring the rights of people to have access to forests
(Recommendations to improve forest legislation)

Over the 10 years since the adoption of the revised version of the Forest Code (2006), problems related to violation of the people’s right to free access to forest have become a socially significant phenomenon. The goal of the Program was to identify the reasons for this and to find ways to improve the situation. Analysis of judicial practices showed that the Forest Code does not provide for a reliable protection of the rights of people to have access to forest and to use its beneficial properties. The Program experts developed recommendations on eliminating gaps in the legislation. They stipulate the inadmissibility of unauthorized restriction of the people’s rights to stay in forests, clearly determine in which cases and by whom these rights may be restricted, provide for responsibility for illegal construction of buildings and structures, as well as other illegal actions that impede access to forest. Based on the Program recommendations, a draft law was prepared, which is under consideration of the Verkhovna Rada (http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=59273). Its adoption will significantly reduce the number of violations and conflicts in forest relations.