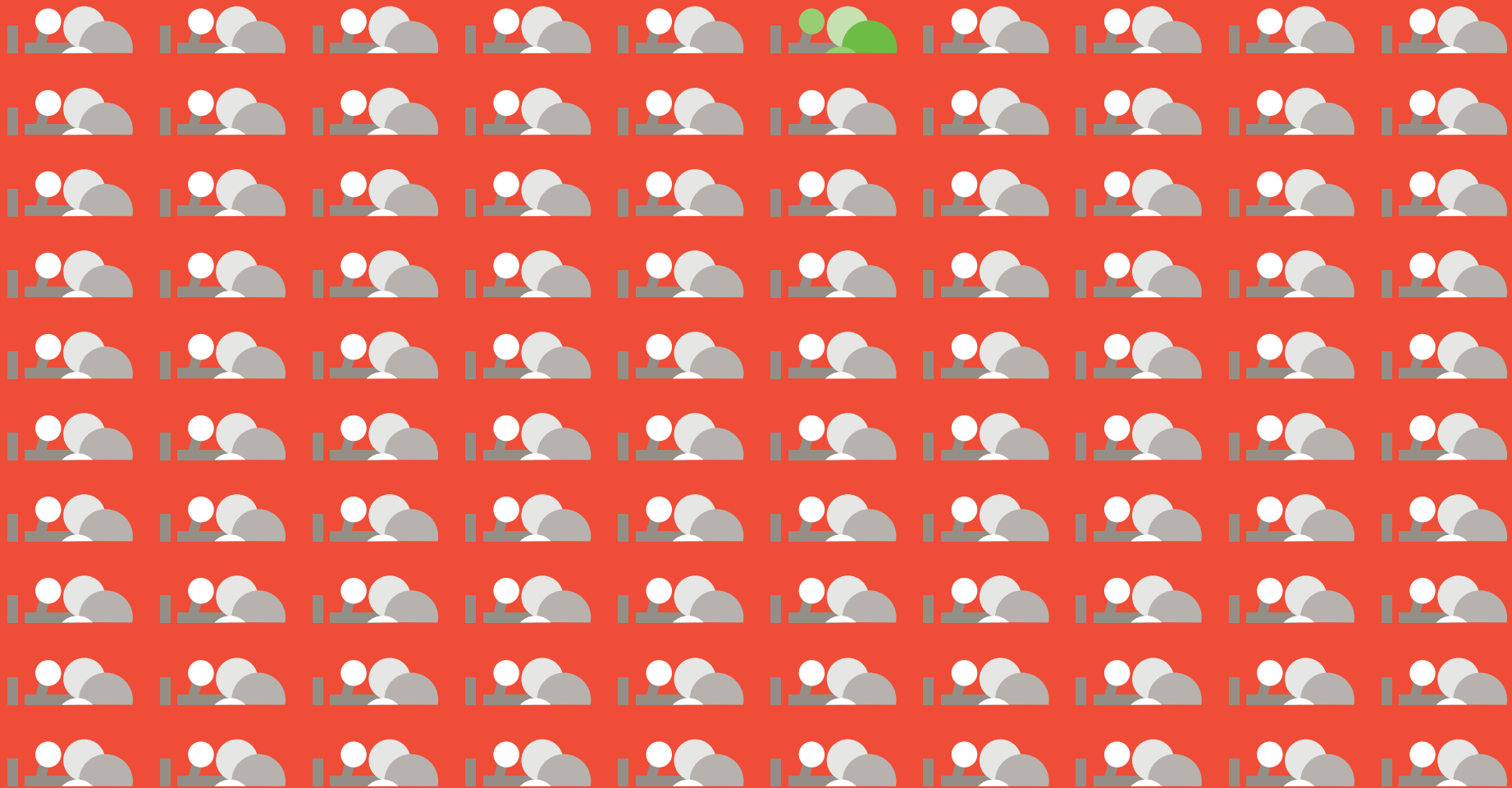


ILLEGAL LOGGING  
IN ROMANIA'S FORESTS  
2018 REPORT

1%



## INTRODUCTION

Illegal logging phenomenon in numbers

2008–2012

Official estimates indicate

8.8 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber were illegally exploited (p. 4)

2013–2018

Official estimates indicate

20 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber disappear without official papers (p. 5)

The inspection authorities find approximately  
200,000 m<sup>3</sup> illegally logged wood — 1% of the phenomenon.

In Romania, the area covered by forests has drastically decreased in the 20th century, thus reaching nowadays 29.36% (1). Therefore, Romania is under the EU mean of 43% (2) and well below the capacity and optimal quantity calculated as 45% (3). Biodiversity is the basic element for the significance of Romanian forests. There still are virgin forests, which are home to unique flora and fauna, the biggest bear population in Europe, rare and endemic species and large carnivore mammals, such as the lynx and the wolf. Only 30 thousand hectares out of a total of 130 thousand of such forests are now protected by law. Other 300 thousand hectares of forest play an important part in nature and are now exploited industrially, be it legally or illegally.

The most recent data in the Romanian Forest Inventory show that the illegal cutting is taking place at an unprecedented pace. While the environment degrades, and the forests that have accompanied the Romanians since old times are now affected by illegal logging and irresponsible forestry practice, the authorities ignore the problem, thus being accomplices to the destruction of the most complex natural heritage of Europe. Almost half of the Romanian forests are owned by the state, but the Ministry of Waters and Forests has the responsibility of monitoring the entire forest fund, be it owned by the state or by private persons.

The main mission of MAP (Ministry of Waters and Forests) is to guarantee that all logging actions in Romania are sustainable and that they take place without destroying the wildlife and the last forests in Europe that are several centuries old. According to the Greenpeace survey on the evolution of the area covered by forest in Romania, for the 2000–2011 timeframe, approximately 360,000 ha have been cleared or degraded. A 2015 update of the map indicated that the forests degrading pace was constant. This survey continues the monitoring activity that Greenpeace Romania began in 2009 by publishing some reports on the illegal logging. The survey presents a centralized report and analyzes the official data received from the Forest Guards, County Police Inspectorates and the Romanian Gendarmerie in connection to the illegal logging cases that the authorities have found and investigated.

Ten years after the first annual report on the illegal logging was drafted, Greenpeace Romania believes that drafting this report is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. That institution must create a transparent database, which would centralize the activity of all inspection bodies in this area and which the Ministry should update at the end of each year.

1 <http://roifn.ro/site/rezultate-ifn-2/>

2 <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/pdfscache/52476.pdf>

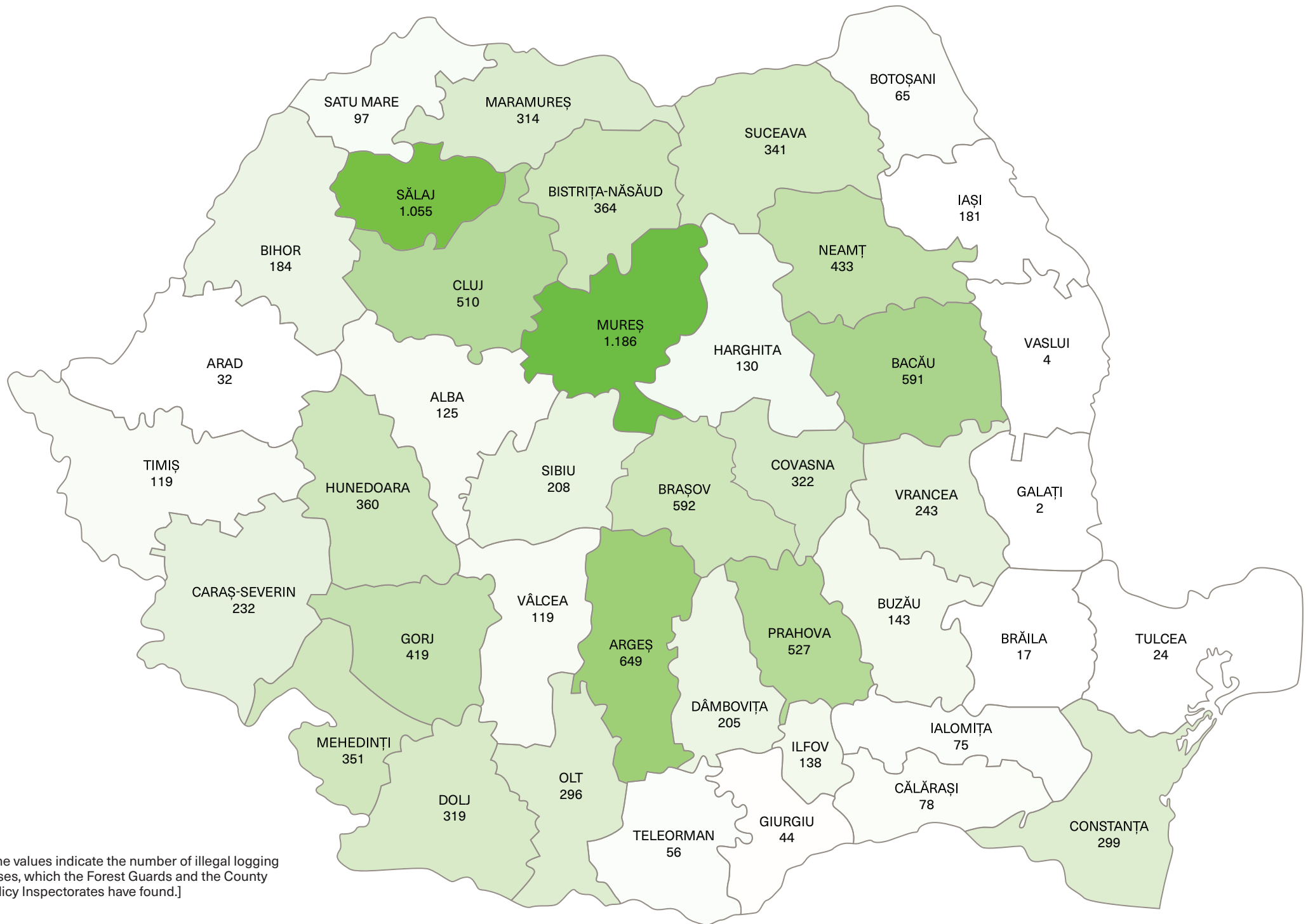
3 Victor Giurgiu, Considerații asupra stării pădurilor României — partea I: declinul suprafeței pădurilor și marginalizarea împăduririlor, Revista Pădurilor, nr. 2/2010

4 Conform Ordonanței de Urgență nr. 32/2015 privind înființarea Gărzilor Forestiere

5 <https://www.agerpres.ro/economic-intern/2019/10/24/gheorghe-marin-ifn-de-spre-scandalul-taierilor-de-paduri-diicot-a-cerut-raportul-inventarului-forestier-national-391370>

2018

# MAP OF ILLEGAL LOGGING CASES IN ROMANIA



[The values indicate the number of illegal logging cases, which the Forest Guards and the County Policy Inspectorates have found.]

## 2018 FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL LOGGING CASES

Total cases	11.419
By comparison to year 2017	- 5,8 %

In 2018, 11,419 illegal logging cases have been found, which means an average of 32 cases per day, thus representing a 5.8 % drop by comparison to year 2017.

10% of the total cases. Mureş County is followed by Sălaj, with 1,055 cases that represent 9 % and Argeş, with 649 cases that represent 6 % of the total number of cases registered in 2018, which was 11,419.

The majority of cases of illegal logging were registered in Mureş County, as in the previous year — 1,186 cases. Those cases represent

	2018	2017
Mureş	1.186	
Sălaj	1.055	
Argeş	649	
Bacău	591	
Braşov	562	
Prahova	527	
Cluj	510	
Neamţ	433	
Gorj	419	
Bistriţa	364	
...	...	
[number of cases]	TOTAL /40 counties 11.419	12.488

## 2018 FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE TIMBER VOLUME THAT WAS CONFISCATED

Total volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	<b>206.490</b>
By comparison to year 2017	<b>+ 15.57 %</b>

In connection to the volume of timber that was illegally logged, the highest values were registered in Maramureş County (99,389.17m<sup>3</sup>), which went up one place by comparison to the year 2017, Bistriţa-Năsăud (17,501 m<sup>3</sup>), which went up two places, and Sibiu (15,954.81 m<sup>3</sup>), which is on the same place as in 2017.

In total, in 2018, a volume of 206,490.39 m<sup>3</sup> timber was confiscated by the authorities, almost 16% more than in 2017. 64% of the total timber that was illegally collected comes from the 3 counties mentioned above: Maramureş, Bistriţa-Năsăud and Sibiu.

	2018	2017
Maramureş	99.389	
Bistriţa	17.501	
Sibiu	15.954	
Caraş Severin	8.007	
Cluj	6.836	
Suceava	5.278	
Mureş	4.525	
Braşov	4.267	
Iaşi	3.438	
Bacău	3.124	
...	...	
[m <sup>3</sup> ]	<b>206.490</b>	178.669
	<b>TOTAL / 40 counties</b>	

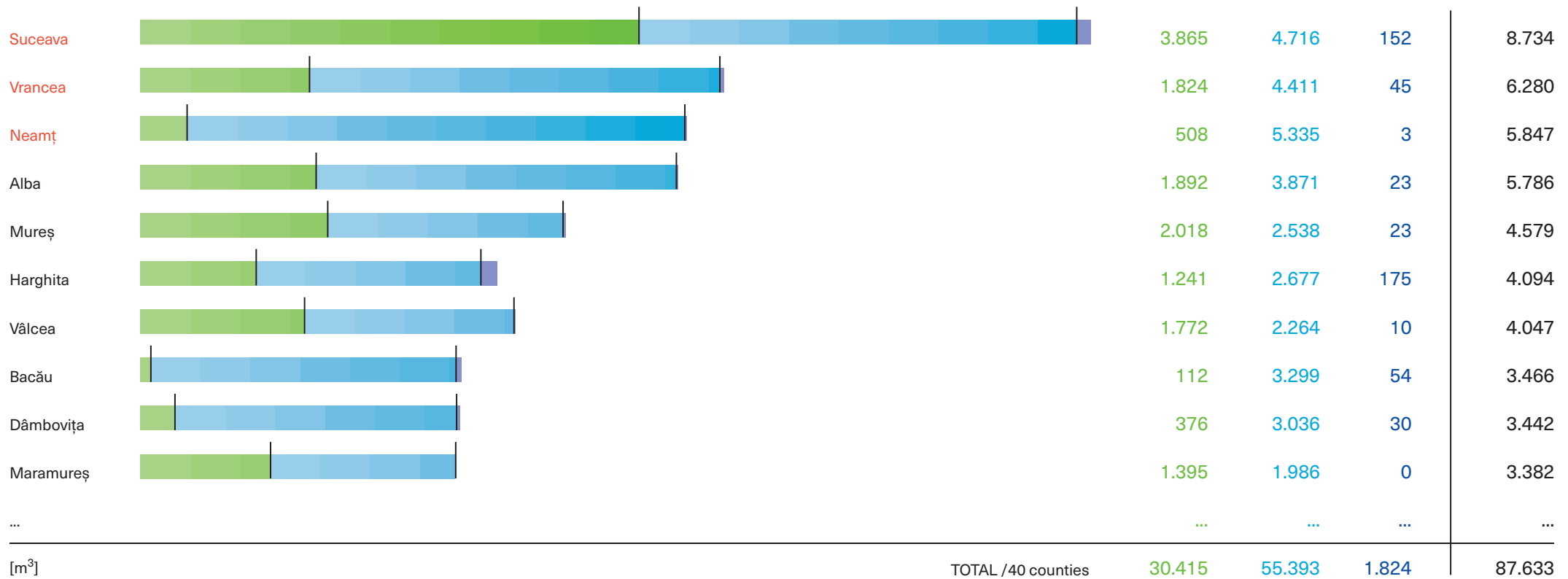
2018

## FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE TIMBER VOLUME THAT WAS SEIZED BY EACH INSTITUTION HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FOREST AREA

The biggest timber volume was seized in Suceava County — 8,734.08 m<sup>3</sup>, followed by Vrancea with 6,280.81 m<sup>3</sup> and Neamț with 5,847.28 m<sup>3</sup>. In total, that is almost 24 % of the total timber seized in 2018, which was 87,633.14 m<sup>3</sup>.

In connection to the timber volume that was seized by each institution, the first place is occupied by the County Police Inspectorates with 55,393.09 m<sup>3</sup>, then come the Forest Guards (together with their subordinated bodies), with 30,415.9 m<sup>3</sup> and the Gendarmerie with 1,824.15 m<sup>3</sup>.

Forest Guard Police Gendarmerie



[m<sup>3</sup>]

TOTAL / 40 counties

30,415

55,393

1,824

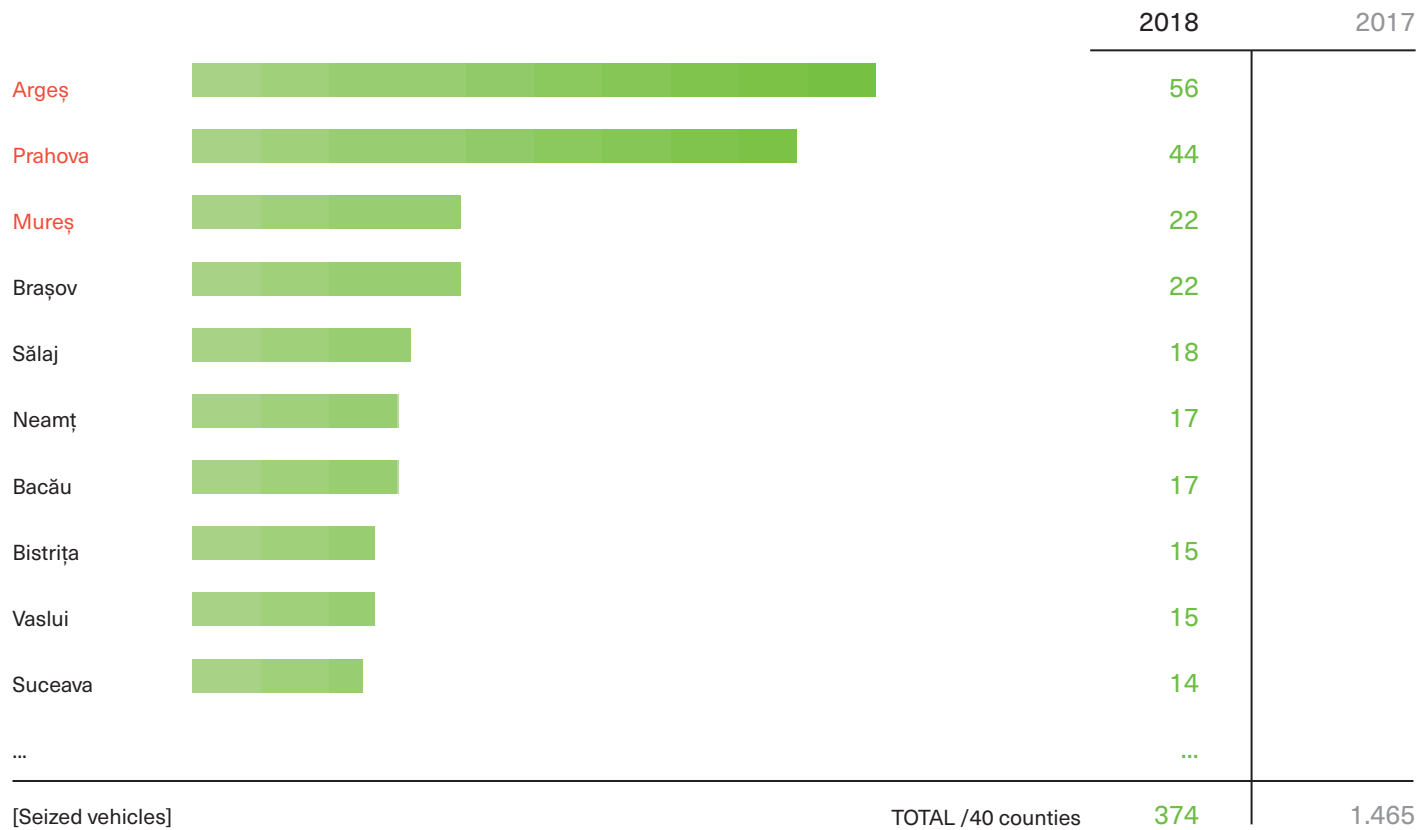
87,633

# 2018 FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT WERE SEIZED

In 2018, at country level, 374 vehicles involved in illegal transports of timber were seized. Most of them were in Argeş County, 56, the same as in 2017.

One can notice a significant drop (-74 %) in the number of vehicles that were seized by comparison to 2017 (1,465). Citizens report being fined by the Police for exposing possible illegal logging or timber transports.

Means of transportation that were seized	374
By comparison to year 2017	- 74.5 %



# 2018 FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF SANCTIONS FOR FORESTRY-RELATED VIOLATIONS

Total sanctions **28.768**  
 By comparison to year 2017 **+ 45 %**

In 2018, at national level, 28,798 sanctions were imposed for forestry-related violations, the majority happening in Vrancea — 2,371 sanctions, Mureş – 2,348 sanctions and Suceava Counties — 1,954 sanctions. Vrancea and Mureş Counties came first in 2017, too, but the number of sanctions doubled.

In connection to the number of sanctions ordered by each institution, most of them were ordered by the County Police Inspectorates — 16,467 punishments, followed by the Forest Guards with 9,891 sanctions and Gendarmerie with 2,463 sanctions.

Forest Guard Police Gendarmerie

	2018	2017
Vrancea	2.371	
Mureş	2.348	
Suceava	1.954	
Argeş	1.819	
Bacău	1.599	
Braşov	1.561	
Gorj	1.075	
Covasna	1.050	
Neamţ	1.008	
Prahova	1.002	
...	...	...
<b>TOTAL /40 counties</b>	<b>28.798</b>	<b>19.824</b>

	2018	2017
Forest Guard	9.891	
Police	16.467	
Gendarmerie	2.463	

[Sanctions value]



2018

## FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE VALUE OF SANCTIONS ORDERED FOR FORESTRY VIOLATIONS

Sanction value **56.211**

By comparison to the year 2017 **+ 32.92 %**

In Romania, in 2018, sanctions amounting to Lei 56,211,422 (11,773,186 Euro) were imposed, 33 % above those of year 2017. The biggest value of the penalties was registered in Mureş County — Lei 8,534,500, Suceava — Lei 4,621,025 and Bacău — Lei 3,444,660. Those three counties amounted to 29.53% of all penalties imposed at country level.

In connection to the value of the sanctions ordered by each responsible institution, the Forest Guards cumulated the highest total value, which was Lei 28,523,560, followed by the County Police Inspectorates with Lei 24,056,153 and the Gendarmerie with Lei 3,631,709.

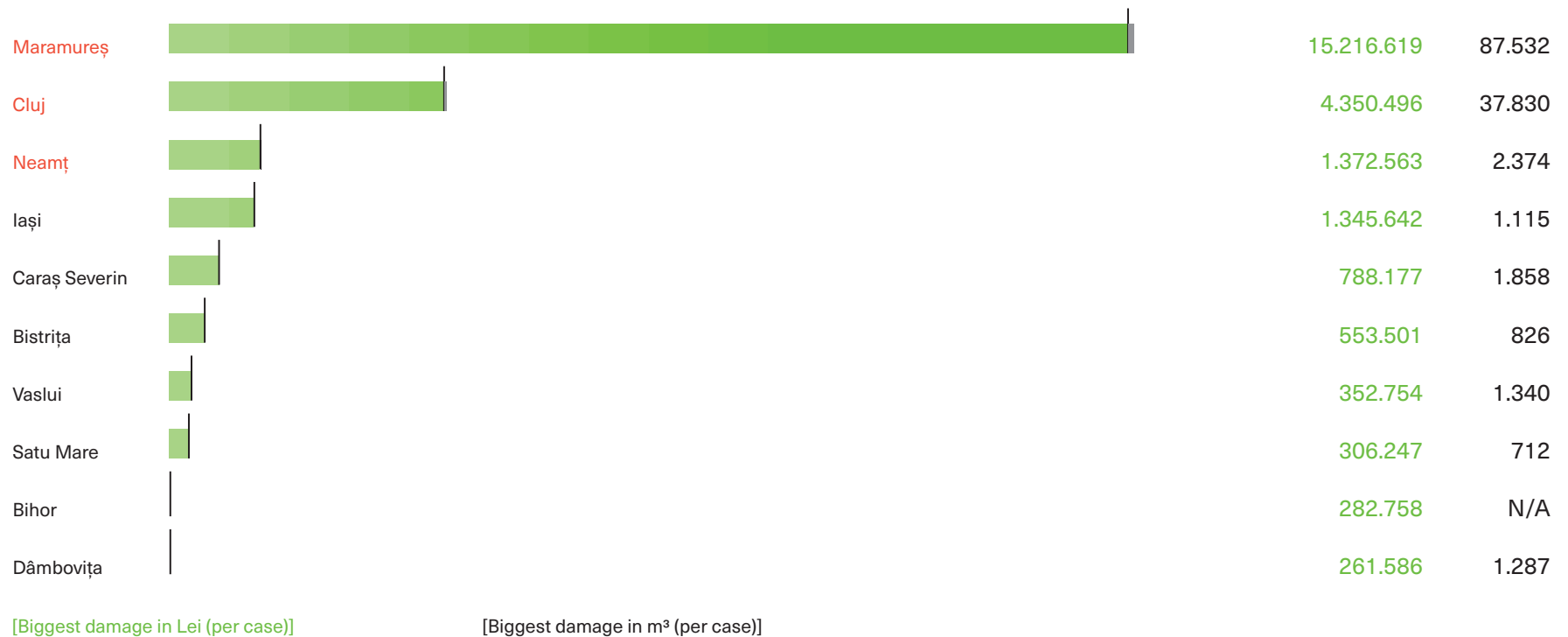
Forest Guard Police Gendarmerie

				2018	2017	
Mureş		7.048.500	1.418.000	68.005	8.534.500	
Suceava		3.200.000	1.350.000	71.025	4.621.025	
Bacău		1.988.600	1.390.060	66.001	3.444.660	
Vrancea		623.001	2.628.000	27.501	3.278.500	
Harghita		1.292.700	844.901	311.501	2.449.100	
Braşov		1.457.041	115.000	711.852	2.283.893	
Prahova		76.001	1.660.400	374.201	2.110.600	
Dolj		1.068.003	834.400	118.201	2.020.600	
Neamţ		1.159.500	805.001	9.001	1.973.500	
Olt		1.150.300	443.000	39.501	1.633.550	
...		...	...	...	...	
[Punishment value]	TOTAL /40 counties	28.523.560	24.056.153	3.631.709	56.211.422	42.289.200

2018

FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE CASE WITH THE HIGHEST VALUE OF THE DAMAGE

The cases with the highest value of the damage were registered in Maramureş County — Lei 15,216,619, Cluj County — Lei 4,350,496 and Neamţ County — Lei 1,372,563.737, which represented 30.79% of the total damage registered at county level in 2018.

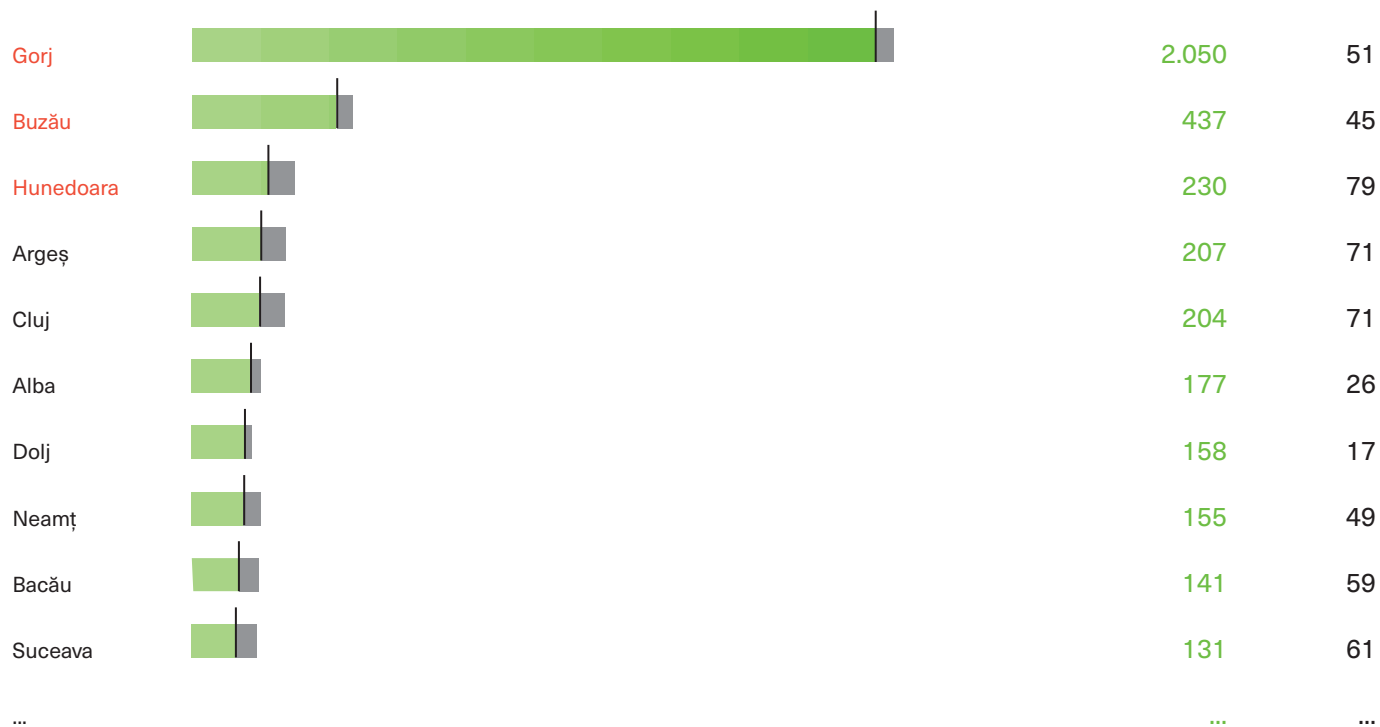


## 2018 FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY CALLS FOR CHECKING THE TIMBER TRANSPORTS

Out of a total of 5,614 calls to 112 for checking the timber transports, as in the previous year, most of them were made in Gorj County — 36.51%, Buzău County — 7.78% and Hunedoara County — 4.09%. By compari-

son to 2017 (10,299 calls), one can notice a 45.49% decrease in the number of 112 phone calls for checking the timber transports.

Total	112 calls	5.614	Illegal transports discovered by complaints to 112	1.152
By comparison to year 2017		- 52.49 %		- 45.49 %

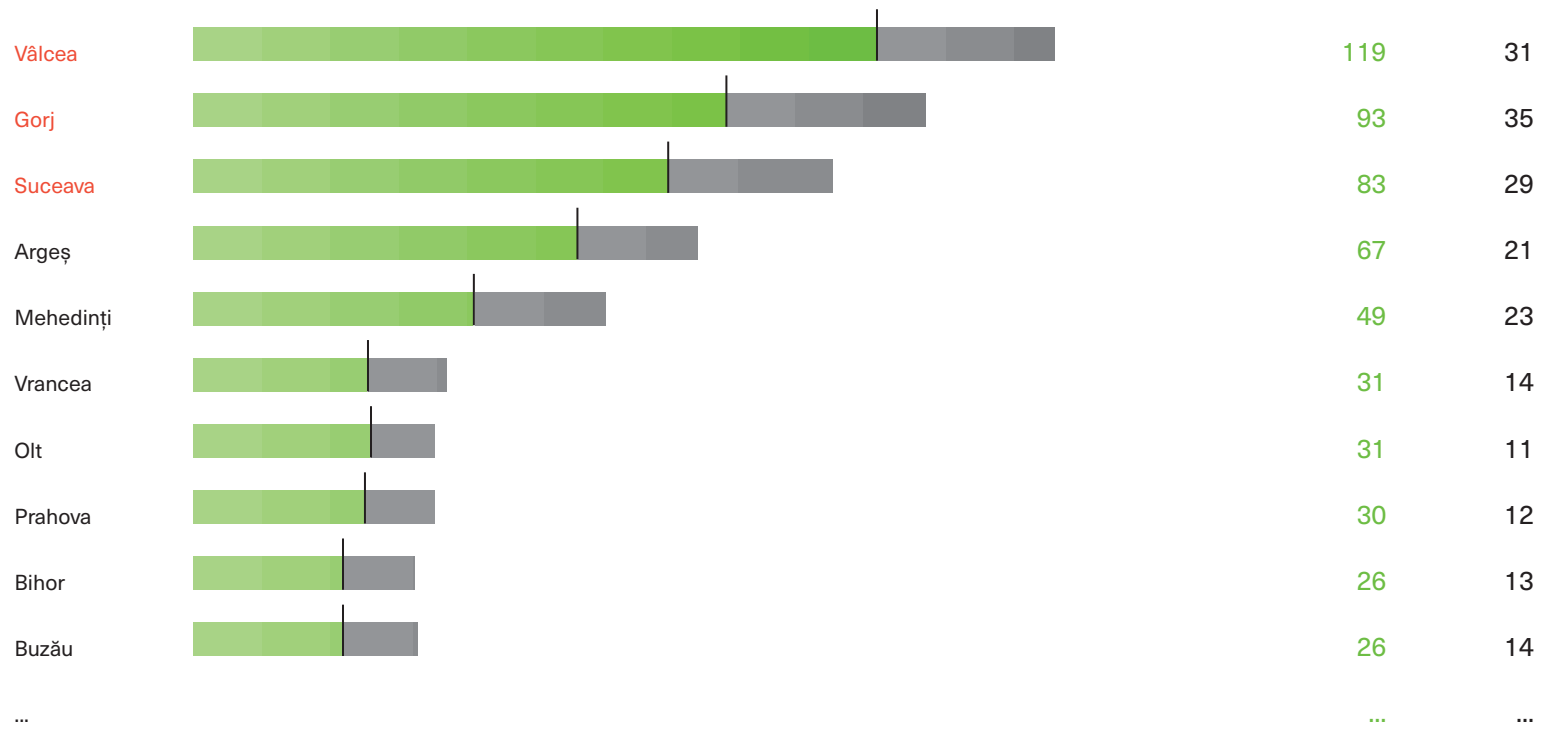


2018	[Number of wood transports notified to 112 and not registered in the SUMAL system]	[Number of calls to 112 for checking the wood transports]	TOTAL /40 counties	5.614	1.152
2017				10,299	2,425

2018

FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF FORESTRY VIOLATIONS DISCOVERED BY THE FOREST GUARDS FOLLOWING THE COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED BY CITIZENS

In 2018, the Forest Guards received 846 complaints submitted by citizens on various possible forestry violations. As consequence of the investigations, irregularities were found in 312 of the cases indicated, which means 36.87 %. The majority of cases were in Vâlcea (119 complaints), Gorj (93 complaints) and Suceava (83 complaints).



[Number of complaints submitted by citizens indicating forestry violations]

[Number of cases indicated in year 2018, in which violations were found]

TOTAL /40 counties

846

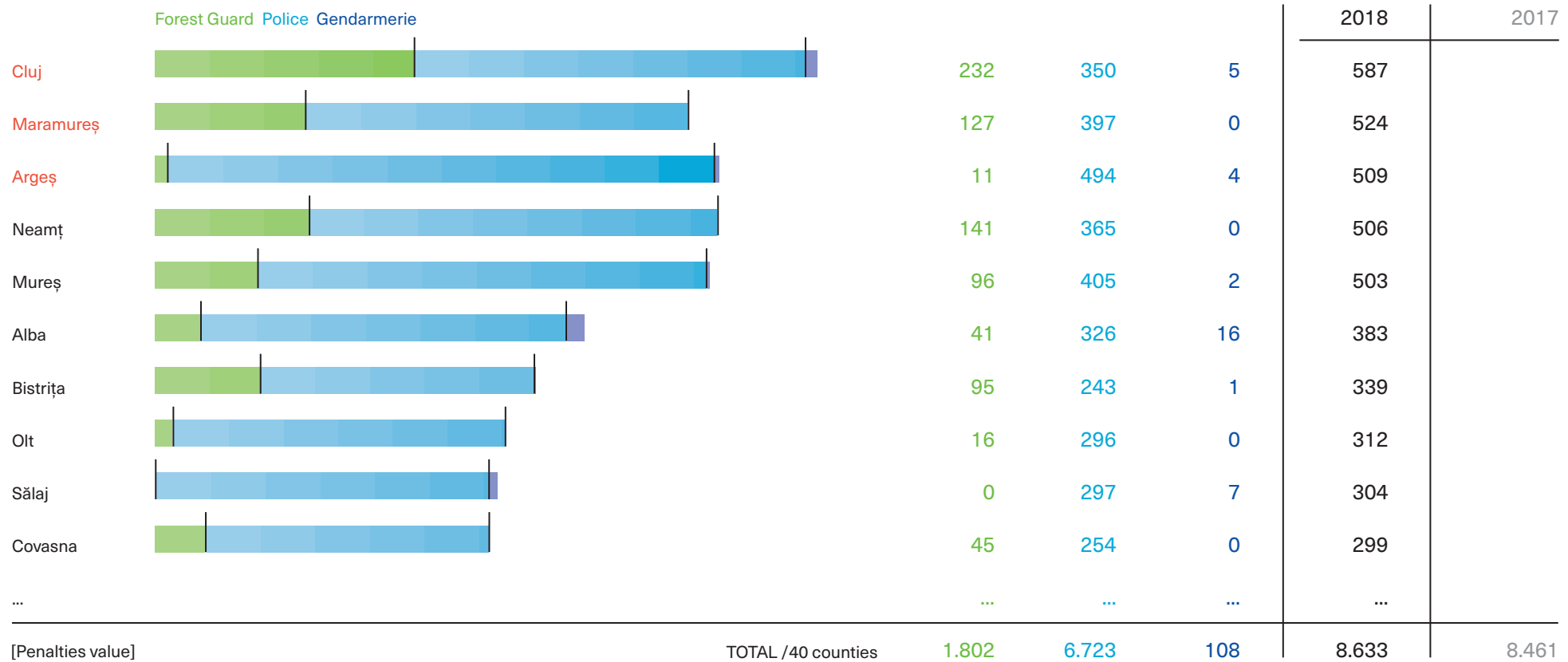
312

2018

## FIRST 10 COUNTIES BY THE NUMBER OF FORESTRY OFFENCES

At country level, 8,633 forestry offences were registered, 2% up from 2017, most of them in Cluj — 587, Maramureş — 524 and Argeş Counties — 509. Those three counties represent 18.76% of the total forestry offences

that were identified. The majority of forestry offences were identified by the Police — 6,723, followed by the Forest Guards — 1,802 and the Gendarmerie — 108.



## INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING AND CONTROLLING THE FORESTRY DOMAIN



MINISTERUL MEDIULUI  
APELOR ȘI PĂDURILOR

### THE MINISTRY OF WATERS AND FORESTS

The Ministry of Waters and Forests (MAP) drafts the Romanian policy in the area of managing the waters and forests, thus acting as a state authority, which synthesizes, coordinates and controls these areas. It was recently incorporated into the Ministry of the Environment in the Urban Government.



### THE FOREST GUARD

The Forest Guard is a public institution and legal person, which is subordinated to the central public authority in charge with the forestry area, the Ministry of Waters and Forests. The Territorial Forestry and Hunting Inspectorate and the Forestry and Hunting Commissariat are subordinated by the Forest Guard.

The main attributions of the Forest Guard are:

- a. Monitoring, implementing and controlling the implementation of the forestry regulations to the Romanian forest fund and to the forest vegetation outside the Romanian forest fund;
- b. Monitoring, implementing and controlling the implementation of the hunting regulations to the Romanian hunting fund;
- c. Monitoring and controlling the traceability of wood materials.



### RNP ROMSILVA R.A.

Regia Națională a Pădurilor — Romsilva manages the forests publically owned by the state (3,145,793 ha) with 41 Forestry Directorates, within 313 forestry office, ensuring upon request the managing of private forests, too.

According to the Forestry Code, which was approved in March 2008, as it was subsequently amended, the Ministry of Waters and Forests manages the forests, which has several bodies subordinated to it: R.N.P. Romsilva R.A., which is responsible for administering the forests, Forest Guard, which is responsible for monitoring and controlling, and the “Marin Dracea” Romanian Forestry Research-Development Institute, which researches this field.



### THE POLICE

The department for fighting forestry-related violations within the Romanian Police, which unfolds specific activities with the aim of preventing and fighting the illegal logging and illegal timber transports from the state — and privately-owned forest fund. As well, it unfolds information-operation activities and imposes penalties for forestry-related violations. It collaborates with the county forestry institutions, territorial bodies of the Forest Guard and others.

According to Law no. 133/2015 for amending and completing the Forestry Code, which was enforced in July 13, 2015, the Romanian Gendarmerie, Border Police and Romanian Tax Administration Agency (A.N.A.F.) were given back the right to find and order punishments in the forestry area.



### THE GENDARMERIE

The Romanian Gendarmerie is the specialized state institution, with military status, which belongs to the Ministry of Interior, and which is competent for checking and finding forestry violations, according to the Forestry Code. In 2010, the Gendarmerie lost most of its attributions connected to forestry violations, but the new Forestry Code of 2015 reinstated them.

## METHODOLOGY

The data according to which this survey was drafted have been collected from institutions responsible for monitoring and controlling the forests, by submitting requests to access such public interest information, the Law no. 544/2001.

The survey was made during May-September 2019 and refers to the statistical data available for year 2018. The respondent institutions were Ministry of Waters and Forests, the Forest Guards, the Police, the Gendarmerie and the Special Telecommunications Department.

Greenpeace Romania requested statistical data on the number of illegal logging cases that were found, number of offences found and investigated, penalties applied, timber volume that was illegally logged, value of the damages, calls registered to 112 in connection to wood transports, as well as the situation of files on the forestry offences. All the institutions that we have been contacted have responded to our requests.

In many cases, when developing common actions, various institutions separately record the same intervention. Thus, for avoiding that the information overlap, the highest available values have been used for each county and information category (if the data from Buzău County Police Inspectorate indicated X cases and those of the Focșani Forest Guard indicated X+1 cases, we have used the data supplied by the Focșani Forest Guard).

# GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is an independent international organization operating in over 55 countries all over the world, which acts to change attitudes and behaviors, to protect and preserve the environment and to promote peace.

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