

Development of an Organizational System of Support for the Private Forest Sector in Serbia

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Serbia's private forests, a renewable natural resource, are very important to the economy as well as their contributions to the public functions of forests. In addition to that, these forests are very valuable resources of biodiversity, eco-tourism and secondary forest products, and in the long-term they are potentially valuable sources of products for the domestic wood industry. One of the most important priorities of forestry in Serbia is the need to reorganise the private forest sector, with the aim of accomplishing, through participation and co-operation, the concept of modern forestry with the sustainable management of private forests. The need to change the existing system of support to the private forest sector is evident, because of its inefficiency and the significant changes both in the public administration, and in the environment. This paper is primarily directed to the research of the organisation of private forest sector, institutional frameworks and professional capacities, frameworks of forest policy, as well as financial instruments and the means of implementation of the major objectives. Using system analysis, the organisational issues and their causes have been identified, and the basic shortcomings of the organisation of the current system and the derived problems have been defined in relation to the current legislation and stakeholders.