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CENTRAL-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN  
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# Forest Land Ownership Change in Bulgaria

COST Action FP1201 FACESMAP Country Report



**COST Action FP1201**  
Forest Land Ownership Change in Europe:  
Significance for Management and Policy  
(FACESMAP)



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## Background of the project

Forest ownership is changing across Europe. In some areas a growing number of so-called “new” forest owners hold only small parcels, have no agricultural or forestry knowledge and no capacity or interest to manage their forests, while in others new community and private owners are bringing fresh interest and new objectives to woodland management. This is the outcome of various societal and political developments, including structural changes to agriculture, changes in lifestyles, as well as restitution, privatization and decentralization policies. The interactions between ownership type, actual or appropriate forest management approaches, and policy, are of fundamental importance in understanding and shaping forestry, but represent an often neglected research area.

The European COST Action FP1201 FOREST LAND OWNERSHIP CHANGES IN EUROPE: SIGNIFICANCE FOR MANAGEMENT AND POLICY (FACESMAP) aims to bring together the state-of-knowledge in this field across Europe and can build on expertise from 30 participating countries. Drawing on an evidence review across these countries, the objectives of the Action are as follows:

- (1) To analyse attitudes and constraints of different forest owner types in Europe and the ongoing changes (outputs: literature survey, meta-analyses and maps).
- (2) To explore innovative management approaches for new forest owner types (outputs: case studies, critical assessment).
- (3) To study effective policy instruments with a comparative analysis approach (outputs: literature survey, case studies, policy analyses).
- (4) To draw conclusions and recommendations for forest-related policies, forest management practice, further education and future research.

Part of the work of the COST Action is the collection of data into country reports. These are written following prepared guidelines and to a common structure in order to allow comparisons across the countries. They also stand by themselves, giving a comprehensive account on the state of knowledge on forest ownership changes in each country.

The common work in all countries comprises of a collection of quantitative data as well as qualitative description of relevant issues. The COUNTRY REPORTS of the COST Action serve the following purposes:

- Give an overview of forest ownership structures and respective changes in each country and insight on specific issues in the countries;
- Provide data for some of the central outputs that are planned in the Action, including the literature reviews;
- Provide information for further work in the Action, including sub-groups on specific topics.

A specific focus of the COST Action is on new forest owner types. It is not so much about “new forest owners” in the sense of owners who have only recently acquired their forest, but the interest is rather on new types of ownership – owners with non-traditional goals of ownership and methods of management. For the purpose of the Action, a broad definition of “new forest owner types” was chosen. In a broad understanding of new or non-traditional forest ownership we include several characteristics as possible determinants of new forest owners. The following groups may all be determined to be new forest owners:

- (1) individuals or organizations that previously have not owned forest land,
- (2) traditional forest owner categories who have changed motives, or introduced new goals and/or management practices for their forests,
- (3) transformed public ownership categories (e.g., through privatisation, contracting out forest management, transfer to municipalities, etc.), and
- (4) new legal forms of ownership in the countries (e.g. new common property regimes, community ownership), both for private and state land.

This embraces all relevant phenomena of changing forest ownership, including urban, absentee, and non-traditional or non-farm owners as well as investments of forest funds or ownership by new community initiatives, etc. Although the COST Action wants to grasp all kinds of ownership changes it has to be noted that the special interest lies on non-state forms of ownership.



# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1. Forests, forest ownership and forest management in Bulgaria .....	1
1.2. Overview of the country report .....	3
<b>2. Methods</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.1. General approach.....	4
2.2. Methods used.....	4
<b>3. Literature review on forest ownership in change</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1. Research framework and research approaches .....	5
3.2. New forest ownership types .....	5
3.3. Forest management approaches .....	6
3.4. Policy change / policy instruments .....	8
<b>4. Forest ownership</b> .....	<b>9</b>
4.1. Forest ownership structure.....	9
4.1.1. National data set.....	9
4.1.2. Critical comparison with national data in FRA reporting .....	9
4.2. Unclear or disputed forest ownership.....	10
4.3. Legal provisions on buying or inheriting forests .....	10
4.3.1. Legal restrictions for buying or selling forests.....	10
4.3.2. Specific inheritance (or marriage) rules applied to forests.....	11
4.4. Changes of the forest ownership structure in last three decades .....	11
4.4.1. Changes between public and private ownership .....	11
4.4.2. Changes within public ownership categories.....	14
4.4.3. Changes within private forest ownership .....	15
4.4.4. Main trends of forest ownership change.....	15
4.5. Gender issues in relation to forest ownership .....	15
4.6. Charitable, NGO or not-for-profit ownership of the forests.....	15
4.7. Common pool resources regimes .....	20
<b>5. Forest management approaches for new forest owner types</b> .....	<b>21</b>
5.1. Forest management in Bulgaria .....	21
5.1.1. Historical overview.....	21
5.2. New or innovative forest management approaches relevant for new forest owner types ...	23
5.2.1. Management of state forest.....	23
5.2.2. Management of non-state forests .....	27
5.2.3. Management of municipality forests .....	28
5.3. Main opportunities for innovative forest management.....	28
5.4. Obstacles for innovative forest management approaches .....	29
<b>6. Policies influencing ownership development / Policy instruments for new forest owners</b> .....	<b>33</b>
6.1. Influences of policies on the development of forest ownership .....	33
6.1.1. Targets and strategies concerning privatization .....	33
6.2. Influences of policies in forest management .....	34
6.3. Policy instruments specifically addressing different ownership categories .....	35
6.4. Factors affecting innovation in policies.....	38
<b>7. Literature</b> .....	<b>40</b>

<b>8. Annexes .....</b>	<b>44</b>
8.1. Tables with detailed description of 13 most important publications .....	44

## Figures

Figure 1: Distribution of forest area in ha .....	2
Figure 2: Distribution of main forest types in Bulgaria .....	2
Figure 3: Distribution of main forest tree species.....	2
Figure 4: Distribution of forest lands according to ownership .....	2
Figure 5: Organization of management of forests in Bulgaria.....	24
Figure 6: Territorial distribution of Regional Forests Directorates in Bulgaria.....	24
Figure 7: Territorial distribution of State Enterprises in forestry of Bulgaria.....	25

## Tables

Table 1: Indicators that characterized forests in Bulgaria in the period 2000 -2010.....	1
Table 2: Changes in forest property in Bulgaria in the period 2000 – 2010, according to the National statistic.....	9
Table 3: Changes in the forest property in the period 1990 – 2005, according to FRA.....	10
Table 4: Distribution of the forests by property in Bulgaria before nationalisation.....	11
Table 5: Dynamics of the area and the number of non-state forest estate over the period 2000-2010.....	12
Table 6: Space and number of forest property privately owned by individuals over the period 2000-2010.....	12
Table 7: Share of the total forest area according to type of property in regional forestry boards and total for the country towards 31.12.2005 .....	13
Table 8: Share of the area of forests according to type of property and forests in ha towards 31.12.2005 .....	13
Table 9: Main trends of forest ownership change.....	15
Table 10: Charitable, NGO or not-for-profit ownership of the forests .....	16
Table 11: Classification of RDP forest-related activities .....	35
Table 12: Funding for forest-related activities in the Bulgarian RDP .....	37

## Acronyms and abbreviations

BBF	Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
BBLF	Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum
BGSK	Bulgarian Chamber of Forestry
CEPF	Confederation of European Forest Owners
CEEweb	Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology Program
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Alliance
CPR	Common pool resource regimes
DEF	Danube Environmental Forum
EFA	Executive Forest Agency
EU	European Union
FACESMAP	Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOA	Forest Owners Association
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
IWRC	International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
LRPFFLFF	Restoration of the Property of the Forests and Forestlands of the Forest Fund
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
MSP	Department of Management of State Property
NAPFOB	National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria
NFB	National Forestry Board
NFP	National Forest Programme
NP	Natural Park
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OED	Oxford English Dictionary
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PFO	Private forest owner
PFOA	Private forest owners' association
RDF	Regional Directorate of Forests;
SCB	Society for Conservation Biology
SCDP	North - Central State Enterprise
SE	State Enterprises
SFE	State Forestry Enterprises

SHE	State Hunting Enterprise
SIDP	Northeast State Enterprise
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SZDP	Northwestern State Enterprise
UIDP	Southeast State Enterprise
UCDP	South-Central State Enterprise
UZDP	Southwestern State Enterprise
YEO	Youth Ecological Organization

## Executive Summary

Bulgaria possesses valuable forest ecosystems that are extremely rich in biodiversity, and Bulgarian forestry has a long tradition. Significant parts of the Bulgarian forests have protective and recreational functions. The country is highly dependent on imports of resources and energy, including wood/timber resources. The transition to a market economy has revealed many issues in the forestry sector, which made it necessary to carry out urgent reforms to start economically, ecologically and socially sound forest management.

This Country Report contains information concerning the forest resources of Bulgaria and a description of the status, trends and developments taking place in the forest sector, including the areas in which the most important forestry activities have taken place over the past decade. For the forest sector, as for other branches of the Bulgarian economy, the period has been marked by the implementation of radical reforms necessitated by the change over from a centrally planned to a market economy, efforts to achieve sustainable development in forest management, and a large scale return of confiscated forest lands back to the rightful owners. The country profile contains tables, statistical data, diagrams, graphs and a brief analysis of the evolution of the forest sector, and data relating to the principal categories and volumes of goods and services in the forestry sector. Most of the figures cited are based on official data drawn from the statistical services of Bulgaria, as well as from research and statistics from NGOs and other foreign sources.

In the Country Report are given collected quantitative data on the changes in forest property in Bulgaria, as well as qualitative description of relevant issues. Here also is given an overview of the forest ownership structures and respective changes in the country, is provided data for some of the central outputs that are planned in the COST FP 1201 Action, including the literature reviews and is provided information for further work in the Action, including sub-groups on specific topics.

A specific focus of the COST FP 1201 Action is on new forest owner types. It is not so much about “new forest owners” in the sense of owners who have only recently acquired their forest, but the interest is rather on new types of ownership – owners with non-traditional goals of ownership and methods of management. For the purpose of the Action, in the Country Report was described all forms of “new forest owner types” that have place in Bulgaria.



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Forests, forest ownership and forest management in Bulgaria

Bulgaria's forest land occupy 4,148,114 ha and covers 37,4% of the total territory of the country, where forested area is 3,774,778 hectares or 91% (2011). They are an important national resource with economic benefits for the country and people, biodiversity conservation and the environment.

Bulgaria's forests maintain the quantity and quality of 85% of the water flow of the country, or around 3,6 billion m<sup>3</sup> of clear drinking water. State of the Bulgarian forests directly affects climate and water resources of the neighboring Balkan countries and determines the quality of life of seven million

Bulgarians and over fifteen million people in the Balkans.

Bulgarian forests have great conservation value due to their biodiversity, topography and distribution. They contain more than 80% of the protected plant species in the country, over 60% of endangered animals, eight of the twelve landscape complexes defined by the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity. They provide removal of greenhouse gases between 10,7% and 18,9% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

No less important are their economic, environmental and social functions for the sustainable development of the country.

The main indicators that characterize Bulgarian forests are showed in the table 1.

Table 1: Indicators that characterized forests in Bulgaria in the period 2000 -2010

Indexes	2000	2005	2010
1. Total forest area, ha	3 914 355	4 076 464	4 138 147
Increase in %	100	104,1	105,7
2. Afforested area, ha	3 375 117	3 651 243	3 737 542
Increase in %	100	108,2	110,7
3. Percent of forests with special purposes	34,2	31,9	38,3
4. Distribution of forest area, according to the type of ownership:			
- State	3 324 130	3 131 825	3 066 771
- Municipality	234 773	464 929	503 694
- Private natural persons	290 008	393 680	421 885
- Private juridical persons	3 547	9 508	29 945
- Religious communities	21 027	22 666	23 243
- Forests on agricultural territories	1 935	53 856	92 609
5. Total growing wood stock, 1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	526 063	590 781	644 840
6. Mean wood stock per ha, m <sup>3</sup>	156	162	172
7. Mean annual increment, 1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	11 101	14 120	14 400
8. Mean increment per ha, m <sup>3</sup>	3,3	3,9	3,9
9. Average tree age, years	44	51	53
10. Percent of coniferous	33	29,5	30,5
11. Mean stand density	0,73	0,72	0,73
12. Wood available for harvest according FMP, 1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	5 416	5 298	4 892
13. Total felling, 1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	3 739	4 165	4 333
14. % FMP planned harvest utilized	69,2	85	89
15. % of harvested wood according to the current increment	33,7	29,5	30,1
16. % of growing stock harvested	0,71	0,70	0,67
17. Felling per ha of forested area, m <sup>3</sup>	1,12	1,14	1,16

Data from the table showed that in the period 2000 – 2010 all forest indicators had an increase trend.

Only 4% of forest areas are non-productive (figure 1).

Coniferous, Coppice for transformation and Broad-leaved high stem type of forests occupy 81% of all forests in Bulgaria (figure 2) and are a good base for developing productive and sustainable forestry.

The main tree species in Bulgarian forests are Oaks, Beech, Scotch pine, Turkey Oak etc. (figure 3).  
are Oaks, Beech, Scotch pine, Turkey Oak

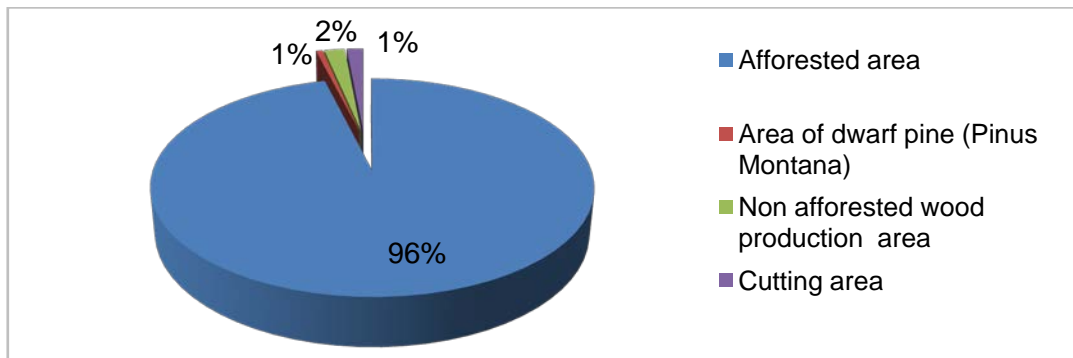


Figure 1: Distribution of forest area in ha

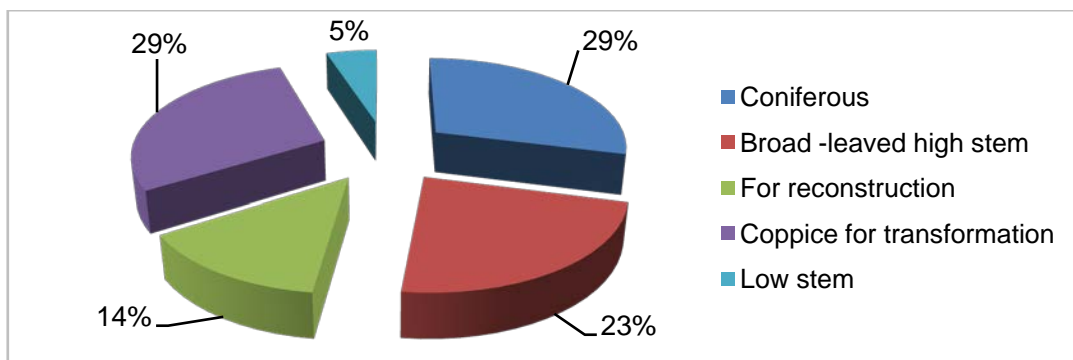


Figure 2: Distribution of main forest types in Bulgaria

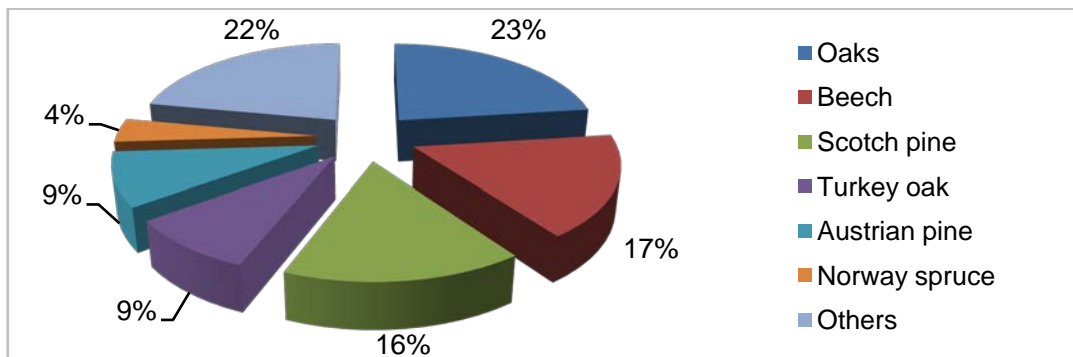


Figure 3: Distribution of main forest tree species

Distribution of forest lands according to the ownership is showed on figure 4.

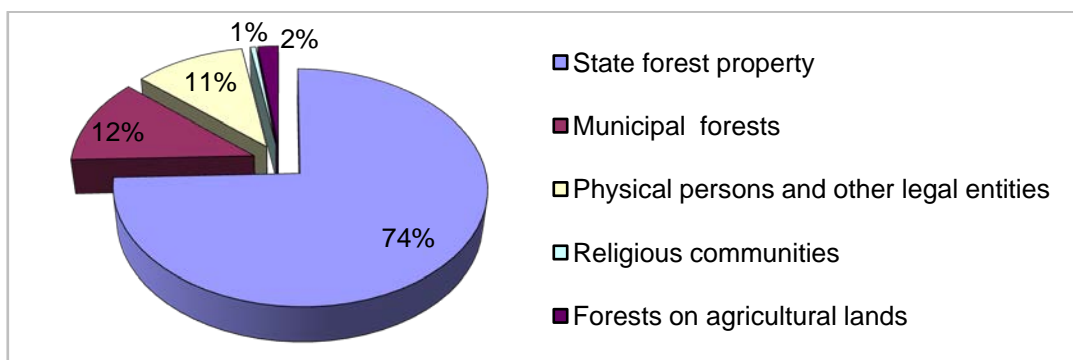


Figure 4: Distribution of forest lands according to ownership



The data for distribution of forest lands according to ownership indicate that state property predominate (74%) and municipal and private forests are approximately equal (12 and 11%).

## **1.2. Overview of the country report**

Forests in the Republic of Bulgaria are state, municipal, or private property. The ownership is regulated by the Constitution and Legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria, which guarantees equal rights to each owner and provides equal responsibilities, immunity of the rights of ownership and independence of the economic activity.

The process of restitution of forest property

begun from acceptance of Forest Law and Law for the restoration of forest and forest land in the end of 1997 and the end of time for claims was in the end of 1999.

Now the process of restoration of property of forest property is finished and the distribution of forests according to requirements of Law for the restoration of property of forests and forest lands is follow (in %):

- State – 74,1
- Educational and Experimental Forest Enterprises – 0,3
- Private physical persones – 10,2
- Private juridical persones – 0,7
- Municipal – 12,2
- Religious – 0,6
- Other – 2.2.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. General approach

According to the aims of the country report which is to give a comprehensive overview of forest ownership issues in the country, a mix of methods is applied. They include a literature review, secondary data, expert interviews as well as the expert knowledge of the authors.

Data include quantitative data (from official statistics and scientific studies) as well as qualitative data (own expert knowledge, expert interviews and results from studies). A literature review explicates the state-of-knowledge in the countries and contributes to a European scale state-of-art report. Case examples are used for illustration and to gain a better understanding of mechanisms of change and of new forest owner types. Detailed analyses of the collected data and case study analyses are done in subsequent work steps in the COST Action.

### 2.2. Methods used

During the development of country report there are used different methods.

They include a literature reviews, statistical data, secondary data and expert interviews as well as the expert knowledge of the authors.

Data include quantitative data from official national statistic (National Statistic Institute), from national and regional forest statistic (Annual Forest Reports from Executive Forest Agency and Ministry of Agriculture and Foods) and from scientific studies as well as qualitative data (expert knowledge of authors of the country report and specialists from Executive Forest Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, State Forest Enterprises, State Hunting Enterprises and different types of Forest Owners). There are provided many meetings and consultations with representatives of different property in the country to answering of different question, to give overview assessments and to provide case examples.

The authors of country report participated in different national and international projects, connected with the restoration of forest property, development of laws and other documents, structural reforms in forest sector and policy documents.

### 3. Literature review on forest ownership in change

The COST Action national representatives aimed to review and compile information on changes in forest ownership in their countries based on scientific and grey scientific literature, including reports and articles in national languages and official statistics, formal guidance or advisory notes from official websites, etc.

The scope of the literature review is as follows:

- Forest ownership change (with a specific focus on new forest ownership types), private forest owners' motives and behaviour, management approaches for new forest owner types, and related policies and policy instruments.

The literature review consists of the following three steps: collection of all literature as defined relevant, detailed description of 10 most relevant publications, and a 1-3 pages summary according to the structure given in the guidelines. The full list of literature includes grey literature, i.e. literature not easily accessible by regular literature search methods (unpublished study reports, articles in national languages, etc.). These references are listed at the end of the report. The 10 detailed descriptions of publications are found in the Annex. The literature review contains the following questions: Which research frameworks and research approaches are used by research? What forms of new forest ownership types are identified? Which specific forest management approaches exist or are discussed? Which policies possibly influence ownership changes in the country and which policy instruments answer to the growing share of new forest owner types?

#### 3.1. Research framework and research approaches

The restoration of forest property in Bulgaria began to discuss in the beginning of 90<sup>ties</sup> and different articles and paper on the restoration of forest property and developing new forest low we find out from this time. More of publications was published in specialized magazines and proceeding, as well as in the

reports from scientific and research projects on this theme.

The restoration of property and new forest ownership types is interesting theme and we were found many publications in the period from 1990 till now.

#### 3.2. New forest ownership types

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria all forms of ownership are equivalent, from which follows that in the forestry too, are presented all established forms of ownership.

The restoration of property on the forests and forestlands in Bulgaria is an inevitable fact. The rights of owners, which possessed forest lands and forests before the nationalization was restored.

In order to restore all forms of ownership in Bulgaria restitution was carried out, i.e. returning of the forests and the forestlands to their former proprietors. These were physical persons, churches, monasteries, mosques, schools, co-operatives, local authorities and other juridical persons.

The restoration of the property of forests in Bulgaria begun in 1997 – eight years after the beginning of political and economic changes where the Bulgarian Parliament accepted the Law for the Restoration of the Property of the Forests and Forestlands of the Forest Fund (LRPFFLFF).

Besides private forest owners, State and Municipalities also are the forest owners – their property is public and private.

The State forests are managed by the different structures under the management of Ministry of Agriculture (which name was changed several times during the period from 1990 till now) (Regional Forestry Directorates. State Enterprises, State Forest Enterprises and State Hunting Enterprises), by the Ministry of Environment and Waters (Reserves and 3 National Parks) and by University of Forestry (two Educational and Experimental Forest Enterprises).

According to the Law for State property state property (as well as forest property) is divided on state public and state private property.

For implementing different forestry activity according to the Commercial Law was created many different, mostly private companies – for harvesting, for forestry activities, for forest inventory, for collecting herbs, mushrooms e.t.c.

Most part of publication from the period from 1990 till now expressed and discussed how to provide process of restoration of forests and forest lands to the former owners or to their inheritors and the rights and obligations of private owners.

### 3.3. Forest management approaches

We may to mark three main periods in the development of structural reform in the field of forestry in Bulgaria – from 1990 to 1997 and from 1998 till 2011 and from 2011 till now.

During the first period there were created trade companies on the territory of each Regional Directorate of Forests owned by the state. The capital of these companies was created through free share payments from the State Forestry Enterprises, situated on the territory of the respective Regional Directorate of Forests.

The advantages of this business structure were the following:

- The trade companies acted as mediator between producers of wood (State Forestry Enterprises) and consumers of removed round wood;
- Part of qualified personal, working at the harvesting, logging and trade of wood and their possibilities and contacts with consumers of wood was preserved;
- The process of creating of regional markets of round wood and the possibility for satisfying the needs of big consumers was helped.

The disadvantages was:

- The trade companies was transformed to commissioners, which increased artificially the prices of wood with it's own commission;
- The trade companies didn't assure the sale of removed middle-sized and small-sized wood, but they sell mostly big-sized industrial wood;

- The trade companies was transformed into undesired and incorrect trade commissioners, because they didn't pay regularly to the State Forestry Enterprises for the wood.

From the beginning of 1998 after the accepting of new legislative documents (Law for the Forests and the sub law normative documents) started the process of structural transformation in the forestry. The business activity was separated from the activity of the State Forestry into new created Joint stock companies. The new forest organization has aim to satisfy several groups of interests:

- of society – to use forests according the requirement of forest science, to protect and regenerate forests for the needs of present and future generations;
- of forest owners – to use the forests according the requirements of the science and to assure enough income from this property;
- of consumers – to satisfy their today's needs from wood at price, which may assure the sale of processed wood and the final wood products;
- of contractors – to receive satisfying rate of profitability from the capital invested into the harvesting and processing of wood;
- of workers at the harvesting, logging and processing of wood – to protect their worker places and to increase the price of their labour.

Some of these interests are contradictive. The creating of new business structure could try to solve these contradictions. This was the cause that was created new business units (Joint stock companies with state property) which was suitable for market conditions.

The main advantages of this new business structure are:

- Restriction of monopoly and creation of competitive environment in the harvesting, logging and selling the timber, elaborating of rules for selling the timber, competition between customers;
- A possibility for all participants in the process of buying of timber to receive information about the conditions of selling timber;

- Application of requirements for accomplishing more precise measuring of wood, receiving more complete and detail information and a possibility for control of measurement of wood and conditions of forest stands;
- Availabilities of possibilities for satisfying the needs of big consumers in the terms of calendar year.

The main disadvantages are:

- Frequent changes in the normative documents (mainly Instruction 33) without wide discussions. In result of this the forest sector worked under the unknown and continuously changing conditions without enough experience.
- A possibilities for enter into the harvesting and logging of timber of non qualified persons;
- The application of new business structure and new conditions for selling the timber required considerable quantity of free money and specialized techniques from the contractors; In the conditions of prevailing state property of the forests there weren't created specialized business units for accomplishing the activities for development of sustainable forestry and protection of interests of state property;
- Availabilities of difficulties on the control, preservation and protection of forests.

The third period begun with the acceptance of new Forest Act in 2011.

The main characteristics of this period are:

- creating of 6 State Enterprises in field of forestry;
- creating the possibility for State Enterprises and their units (SFE and SHE) to implement management activities (harvesting and forestry works);
- dividing control functions and management functions between Executive Forestry Agency and State Enterprises;
- improvement of management of all property type of forests;
- introduction of special requirements regarding certification of forests,

elaboration of forest management plans, national forest inventory e.t.c.

To manage Municipal forests there was created municipal forest bodies.

In 2008 the Association "Municipal forests" was established, which three years later had 97 members of communities, with the holding of 290 000 hectares of forests. Association actively interact with MAF and the EFA and is particularly active in assisting municipalities to create structures for management of municipal forests, increasing the capacity of workers in the municipal forest structures in forest management and in preparation for projects under the RDP and other EU programs.

Forest owned by private individuals and companies covers 10% of the forest area in Bulgaria, mainly in the districts of Smolyan, Lovech, Veliko Tarnovo and Montana. Properties are highly fragmented, 94% of the forest properties has an area up to 2.0 ha. The average area of individual forest property is below 1.0 ha. A significant number of the private forest owners often do not have the specific knowledge and experience in forest management. Their interest is limited to a single use of wood resources for personal purposes - construction, heating or income generation.

The basis of the lack of sustainable economic interest, fragmented and small private forests are: low income and low profitability of this type of forest property, increasing demands for sustainable forest management, poor road infrastructure, lack of support from state institutions incl. resources to encourage the formation of associations of owners of private forests for their sustainable management. At the national level, policy on private forest owners is often weak and insufficient effective. At this stage, the functions and support measures are limited.

There are alternatives for the development of management of private forests: establishing an office to advise the owners of private forests (the example of many countries of the EU support); consolidation of private forest estate; association and contract management; cooperation during the implementation in forest areas of specific activities of common interest; providing low-interest and interest-free loans for activities related to the management of private forest

estates - marking assortment, sales of wood; protection and conservation; tax incentives for forest management; lower capital gains tax or tax on rent. Opportunities for more effective support from the state for the development of non-state forest, including technical and financial help may be the subject of a realistic analysis and recommendations to form the basis of preparation of the National Development Plan of non-state forestry.

### **3.4. Policy change / policy instruments**

In the beginning of period of transition from

centrally planning to market economy the main policy changes was connected with elimination of planning from activities of the forest enterprises and given freedom to the management for making a decisions.

After 1997 when the new Laws for forests were accepted begun a long process for structural reforms and new policy implementation.

In the period after 1997 there were elaborated several international projects about restoration of forests, consultation of new private owners, helping state administration in structure reforms e.t.c.

## 4. Forest ownership

The aim of this chapter is to give a detailed overview of forest ownership in the country. The most detailed information on national level is often structured in different ways in different countries. In order to show the most accurate information, it was decided to use the national data sets in the country reports. In order to make this information comparable still, the information is also collected in an international format, which is used in the Forest Resources Assessments by FAO. The transfer from national data sets to international definitions is, however, not always easy. This report therefore critically assesses in how far the national categories and definitions may be transformed into the international FRA data structure or in how far there are inconsistencies between them.

### 4.1. Forest ownership structure

#### 4.1.1. National data set

Towards 31.12.2011 allocation of the total area of forest areas by type of property is as follows:

- public - 3,088,464 ha (74.5%), of which 2,907,273 ha (70.1%) were managed by State Enterprises (State Forestry Enterprises and State Hunting Enterprises), 169 931 ha (4.1%) - forest areas managed by the Ministry of Environmental and Water, 11 260 ha (0.3%) - forest areas managed by Educational and Experimental Forestry Enterprises "Yundola" and "Barzia";
- non-state - 974 599 ha (23.5%), including Municipal - 495 734 ha (12.0%), private individuals and legal entities - 456 092 ha (11.0%), religious organizations - 22 773 ha (0.5%) and

85,051 ha (2.0%) - forests established on former agricultural land.

The distribution of the forest statistics as of 31.12.2005 is as follows:

- public - 3,131,825 ha (76.8%), of which 2,961,072 ha (72.6%) are managed by the state forest enterprises of art. 163 Forest Act (State Forestry Enterprises and State Hunting Enterprises), 159 435 ha (3.9%) - forests managed by the Ministry of Environmental and Water, 11 318 ha (0.3%) - forest areas managed by Educational and Experimental Forestry Enterprises "Yundola" and "Barzia";
- non-state - 890 783 ha (21.9%), including Municipal - 464 929 ha (11.4%), private individuals and legal entities - 403 188 ha (9.9%), religious organizations - 22 666 ha (0.6%) and 53,856 ha (1.3%) are forests established on former agricultural land.

For the past six years observed a noticeable increase in the area of private forests, mainly due to self-afforested and inventoried abandoned lands outside forest areas. The process of fragmentation of private forests continues to be a challenge for Bulgarian forestry.

After analyzing the data Bulgaria is characterized as a country with prevailing a state property on the forest territories.

#### 4.1.2. Critical comparison with national data in FRA reporting

In the following tables 2 and 3 are given the data for owners during period 2000 – 2010 from the national forest statistic and data from FRA.

Table 2: Changes in forest property in Bulgaria in the period 2000 – 2010, according to the National statistic

Type of property	2000		2005		2010	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
-State	3 324 130	84,9	3 131 825	76,8	3 066 771	74,1
-Municipality	234 773	6,0	464 929	11,4	503 694	12,2
-Private natural persons	290 008	7,4	393 680	9,7	421 885	10,2
-Private juridical persons	3 547	0,1	9 508	0,2	29 945	0,7
-Religious communities	21 027	0,5	22 666	0,6	23 243	0,6
-Forests on agricultural territories	41970	1,1	53 856	1,3	92 609	2,2
<b>Total forest area</b>	<b>3 914 355</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4 076 464</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4 138 147</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3: Changes in the forest property in the period 1990 – 2005, according to FRA

Original data	Forest area (1000 hectares)		
	1990	2000	2005
Public ownership	3327.027	2763.847	2651.5
Community/municipality/ ownership	0	205.843	427.750
Forests belonging to Ministry of Environment and Water	0	93.447	108.206
“Agricultural” forest fund	0	14.556	52.302
Educational and experimental forests	0	14.148	10.602
Private individuals	0	264.272	374.441
Private legal entities	0	3.168	8.865
Religious institutions	0	15.836	17.511
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3327</b>	<b>3375.117</b>	<b>3651.24</b>

Compare two tables we establish differences, which are due to the fact that at the FRA the data for total area include only afforested area and at the data from national statistic are included total forest areas.

## 4.2. Unclear or disputed forest ownership

Although officially brought to an end, the process for restoration of ownership on forests and forest lands continues – claims for recognition of the right of ownership are conducted by municipalities and religious communities as well as by other owners, who have missed to declare their own or inherited forests in the term allowed by the law. The areas with unclear or disputed forest ownership are mainly in the regions Lovech, Veliko Tarnovo, Berkovica and Sofia. They are mostly related to actions taken by the court of municipalities and religious communities to restore their ownership of forests that have been allocated by the state for use before nationalization in 1947 and partly by such acts of private forest owners who missed laws deadlines for submitting applications for reimbursement of the ownership of forests and forest lands.

## 4.3. Legal provisions on buying or inheriting forests

### 4.3.1. Legal restrictions for buying or selling forests

The property rights of private forest owners are limited due to great public interest in it. According to the Forest Act "privately owned are forest areas, the ownership of which is Restored to legal and/or natural persons as

well as those acquired through a legal transaction, prescription or other agreements to acquire and are not state or municipal property". According to Kostov, D. (in Rafailov et al., 2001) than the legal definition of common definitions of the law, we can draw three main points concerning private forest owners:

1. There cannot exist more than one form of ownership over a particular separate forest.
2. Owners of forests may only Bulgarian natural and legal persons and their successors and assigns.
3. Private forest ownership can be acquired in two ways: through the restoration of property (restitution) or by legal transaction or other acceptable methods of acquisition (prescription, inheritance, etc.).

According to the last changes in Forest Act (art. 22 and 23) the ownership of forest areas belongs to natural and legal persons, State and municipalities. Political parties, organizations, movements and coalitions with political objectives can not have ownership of forest areas. Foreign countries cannot have ownership rights over forest areas. Nationals of Member - States of the European Union and the states - parties to the European Economic Area may acquire ownership of forest areas under this Act after the expiration of the period specified in the Accession Treaty the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union. Legal entities from Member - States of the European Union or Member – countries Agreement on the European Economic Area may acquire ownership on forest areas under par. 3. Aliens - third-country nationals as well as foreign legal entities established in accordance with the



laws of a third country can acquire ownership of forest areas under international treaties ratified in accordance with Art. 22, par. 2 of the Bulgarian Constitution, promulgated and entered into force, and through legal succession. Forest Act also states that can not be acquired by prescription forest areas - state or municipal property.

#### 4.3.2. Specific inheritance (or marriage) rules applied to forests

The Law for Inheritance hasn't any exception applied to forests.

Aliens - third-country nationals as well as foreign legal entities established in accordance with the laws of a third country who acquire ownership of forest areas through Inheritance by law and not otherwise provided in an international treaty, ratified in accordance with Art. 22, par. 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria are shall, within three years of opening of succession to transfer ownership persons who are entitled to acquire such properties. For those who have restored ownership of forest areas thus, three-year deadline for the transfer of ownership from the moment of his

recovery. Failure to comply with this deadline state buys forest areas at prices set by ordinance.

### 4.4. Changes of the forest ownership structure in last three decades

#### 4.4.1. Changes between public and private ownership

According official statistical data from 1947, before nationalisation - table 4, the share of forest property has been as follows:

- 26.6% - state-owned;
- 54.7% - municipal forests and forests given by the state to municipalities' disposal;
- 0.7% - property of educational institutions;
- 1.0% - property of monasteries and churches;
- 17.0% - private forests, 0.7% of them united in 71 co-operatives and guilds.

After nationalisation, in the period 1950 – 1997, forests in Bulgaria were 100% state-owned.

Table 4: Distribution of the forests by property in Bulgaria before nationalisation

Type of property	Number of owners	Afforested area in thousand ha					Total thousand ha	%	Average area of one owner or holding ha
		Coniferous	Deciduous		Total	Un-forested area			
			High-stem	Low-stem					
State	1	166.5	267.3	329.9	763.7	197.0	961.7	26.6	-
State, given to the communities to manage it	6059	112.6	368.4	1178.0	1659.2	327.0	1978.2	54.7	328
Schools	563	1.0	2.0	12.2	15.2	10.0	28.2	0.7	45
Monasteries and churches	500	3.8	9.7	10.3	23.8	12.5	36.3	1.0	73
Cooperatives	71	16.4	2.1	0.7	19.2	7.5	26.7	0.7	376
Private, over 50 ha	153	12.6	8.5	30.3	51.4	12.0	63.4	1.7	415
Private, under 50 ha	472500	42.2	53.7	406.4	502.3	25.2	527.5	14.6	1.12
Total	-	355.3	711.7	1967.8	3054.8	592.2	3627.0	100	-

Source: Statistical data from 1947.

Until 1998, forest property in Bulgaria was fully state owned. After the adoption of the Law on Restitution of Forests and Lands of Forest Fund in 1997, a long process of restoration of forest properties to its former owners before the nationalization began. Besides the state-owned, big and small

private property was established and the share of municipal forests became considerable.

Restoration of ownership in forest fund is already finished. Although officially brought to an end, the process for restoration of ownership on forests and lands in forest fund

continues. Claims for recognition of the right of ownership are still conducted by municipalities, as well as by other private owners, e.g. who have missed to declare their own or inherited forests in the term allowed by the law.

The first real changes in forest ownership

were in 2000. Besides the state-owned, big and small area of private forest ownership was established and the share of municipal forests became considerable.

Changes in the areas and the number of non-state forest property during the period 2000-2010 are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Dynamics of the area and the number of non-state forest estate over the period 2000-2010

Type of property	Year	Area in ha	%	Number of estates	Change % by 2000 base
Municipal forests	2000	229880	100	11426	100
	2005	459484	199,88	25048	219,22
	2010	493479	214,67	42959	375,98
Forests owned by physical persons	2000	274896	100	360568	100
	2005	392763	142,88	504550	139,93
	2010	407157	148,11	552653	153,27
Other non-state forests	2000	62903	100	3725	100
	2005	54181	86,13	5601	150,36
	2010	91995	146,25	26946	723,38

Source: Statistical data of Executive Forest Agency (EFA)

The data from table 5 clearly show that the area and number of estates of non-state forests are growing up in the period 2000-2010 due to the long term of the process of restoration of forest property and same trading cases for forest land. For municipal forests the growing up of areas is about two times, and the growing up of the number of estates is above three times for this period. The growing up of forest area and number of estates owned by physical persons is about 1.5 times and the same is for areas owned by other non-state forest owners, but the number of estates for them growing up significantly up to 7 times. The reason for this significant grow of the number of this estates, mainly owned by juridical persons is the process of buying forest land, closed to buildings, owned

by them, according to the requirements of paragraph 123 of the Forest Act acting for this period.

Distribution of private forest owned by individuals in Bulgaria, according to the size of the forest estate over the period 2000-2010 is presented in Table 6.

Data presented in the table 6 clearly show that the number of properties to private individuals as well as their size increased in the last decade. This is due to the lengthy process of restitution of forests in Bulgaria. It is noteworthy that the predominant parts of the properties are small in size and in 2010 the percentage of private forest land with an area less than 10 ha is 99% (Bogdanov, P. (2012)).

Table 6: Number of forest property privately owned by individuals over the period 2000-2010

Year	Under 10 ha	11-100 ha	101-500 ha	501-10000 ha	Above 10000 ha	Total	Change % by 2000 base
2000	359469	1016	67	4	0	360556	100
2005	503334	1443	111	6	0	504894	140
2010	545692	2979	75	10	0	548756	152

Source: Statistical data of Executive Forest Agency (EFA)

In the following table is showed the share of different property in regional forestry boards towards 31.12.2005.

Table 7: Share of the total forest area according to type of property in regional forestry boards and total for the country towards 31.12.2005

Regional forestry board	Total forest fund - ha	According to type of property - ha			
		State forest fund	Municipal	Private	Religious
Berkovitsa	235050	142216	15349	75753	1732
Blagoevgrad	397350	434797	436	8281	3
Burgas	331665	211358	97933	11950	424
Varna	184462	172908	6667	4870	17
V. Tarnovo	207346	138273	17332	53547	865
Kardzhali	357065	290702	58711	7243	409
Kyustendil	240217	198288	4698	28373	13168
Lovech	221207	146176	29329	63685	1671
Pazardzhik	261186	224225	33728	5575	903
Plovdiv	210683	186952	19823	16965	901
Ruse	174051	126443	41569	5805	234
Sliven	235433	187199	33990	13188	1056
Smolyan	242124	189987	7019	44478	640
Sofia	421033	331455	78699	41383	555
St. Zagora	175548	163384	5274	13147	3
Shumen	182044	158642	14372	8945	85
<b>Total for BG</b>	<b>4076464</b>	<b>3313005</b>	<b>464929</b>	<b>403188</b>	<b>22666</b>

Source: Statistic of National Forest Board (NFB), now Executive Forest Agency (EFA,2006)

As it is seen from table 7 the biggest part of municipal forests are mainly in the regions Burgas, Sofia, Kardzhali, Ruse, Sliven and Pazardzhik, the private forests prevail in the regions Berkovitsa, V. Tarnovo, Lovech, Smolyan and Sofia, and the religious forests are with biggest area in the regions Kyustendil and Berkovitsa.

Non-state forests are very unevenly spread in 28 administrative districts of Bulgaria. They are unevenly spread also according to the type of forests. The distribution of total forest area according to the type of property and by the type of forests in Bulgaria at the end of 2005 is presented in table 8.

Table 8: Share of the area of forests according to type of property and forests in ha towards 31.12.2005

Type of property	Coniferous	Deciduous High-stem	For reconstruction	Coppice for transformation	Low-stem	Total
Agricultural fund	26024	6130	5525	7386	8791	53856
Structure %	48,32	11,38	10,26	13,71	16,32	100
Municipal forest fund	93566	105007	61748	175949	28659	464929
Structure %	20,12	22,59	13,28	37,84	6,16	100
Physical persons	110032	54135	39262	156695	33556	393680
Structure %	27,95	13,75	9,97	39,80	8,52	100
Juridical persons	1895	1750	1086	3876	901	9508
Structure %	19,93	18,41	11,42	40,77	9,48	100
Religious	11535	4804	2185	3742	400	22666
Structure %	50,89	21,19	9,64	16,51	1,76	100
<b>Total non-state forests</b>	<b>248864</b>	<b>176679</b>	<b>110122</b>	<b>347981</b>	<b>72311</b>	<b>955957</b>
<b>Structure %</b>	<b>26,03</b>	<b>18,48</b>	<b>11,52</b>	<b>36,40</b>	<b>7,56</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Share%</b>	<b>19,47</b>	<b>21,16</b>	<b>17,61</b>	<b>30,24</b>	<b>38,70</b>	<b>23,45</b>
State forests	932047	613770	502393	798696	114166	2961072
Structure %	31,48	20,73	16,97	26,97	3,86	100
Forests MOEW	97603	44451	12956	4030	395	159435
Structure %	61,22	27,88	8,13	2,53	0,25	100

Educational and training forest enterprises, schools, cultural centres	5812	4853	316	333	4	11318
Structure %	51,35	42,88	2,79	2,94	0,04	100
<b>Total state forests</b>	<b>1029650</b>	<b>658221</b>	<b>515349</b>	<b>802726</b>	<b>114561</b>	<b>3120507</b>
<b>Structure %</b>	<b>33,00</b>	<b>21,09</b>	<b>16,51</b>	<b>25,72</b>	<b>3,67</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Share%</b>	<b>80,53</b>	<b>78,84</b>	<b>82,39</b>	<b>69,76</b>	<b>61,3</b>	<b>76,55</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1278514</b>	<b>834900</b>	<b>625471</b>	<b>1150707</b>	<b>186872</b>	<b>4076464</b>
<b>Structure %</b>	<b>31,36</b>	<b>20,48</b>	<b>15,34</b>	<b>28,23</b>	<b>4,58</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Statistic of National Forest Board (NFB), now Executive Forest Agency (EFA)

The data in table 8 show that 19,47% from the coniferous forests, 21,16% from deciduous high-stem, 36.40% from coppice for transformation and 19.08% from low-stem and for reconstruction forests are non-state ones.

Although small and fragmented, private forest property has more and more importance for owners as source of additional income and timber. In 2005, about 1.6 million m<sup>3</sup> have been produced from non-state forests, which is 28% of the total quantity of produced timber.

#### 4.4.2. Changes within public ownership categories

According to Art. 27 of the Forest Act (2011), States are forest areas that do not belong to individuals and legal entities and municipalities. Forest areas are state property, when identified as such by another law.

Public state property are:

1. forest areas - public property granted to management agencies for the implementation of their duties or in connection with national security and defense, or for health, educational and humanitarian activities;
2. forest areas - state property within the innermost belt of the sanitary areas of water sources and facilities for drinking water supply and sources of mineral water under the Water Act;
3. forest areas - state property in protected areas within the meaning of Art. 5 of the Protected Areas Act;
4. forest areas - state property included in the territories for the conservation of

immovable cultural Heritage in the Cultural Heritage Act;

5. protected forest belts;
6. seed orchards, clonal, cultures and geographical dendrariums and forest nurseries of national importance;
7. forest land in the 200-meter strip along the borders of the Republic of Bulgaria with countries that are not States of the European Union, as well as forest areas included within the systems and equipment for protection from the harmful effects of water.

Forest areas - state property, other than those listed above are private state property.

Municipal property (Art. 28 of the Forest Act) are forest areas, the ownership of which has been restored to the municipalities, as well as those acquired by them through a legal transactions or other methods of acquisition and are not publicly or privately owned. Public municipal property are forest areas - municipal property:

1. provide management departments to fulfill their duties or in connection with the national security and defense, or for health, educational and humanitarian activities;
2. within the innermost belt of the sanitary protection zones of sources and facilities drinking water and mineral water sources under the Water Act;
3. within the protected areas within the meaning of Art. 5 pt. 3, 5 and 6 of the Law on Protected Areas;
4. included in the territories for the conservation of immovable cultural heritage in the Law on Cultural heritage.

#### 4.4.3. Changes within private forest ownership

According to Art. 25 of Forest Act (2011), privately owned are forest areas, the ownership of which is reinstated to physical and/or legal entities, as well as those acquired through a legal transaction or other acquisition ways and are not state or municipal property.

#### 4.4.4. Main trends of forest ownership change

Across Europe, the following drivers for ownership changes had been identified in the COST Action:

- Privatization, or restitution, of forest land (giving or selling state forest land to private people or bodies)
- Privatization of public forest management (introduction of private forms of management, e.g. state owned company)
- New private forest owners who have bought forests
- New forest ownership through afforestation of formerly agricultural or waste lands
- Changing life style, motivations and attitudes of forest owners (e.g. when farms are given up or heirs are not farmers any more).

Table 9: Main trends of forest ownership change

Trends in forest ownership: New forest ownership through...	Significance*
• Privatization, or restitution, of forest land (giving or selling state forest land to private people or bodies)	3
• Privatization of public forest management (introduction of private forms of management, e.g. state owned company)	3
• New private forest owners who have bought forests	1
• New forest ownership through afforestation of formerly agricultural or waste lands	1
• Changing life style, motivations and attitudes of forest owners (e.g. when farms are given up or heirs are not farmers any more)	2
• Other trend, namely:	0

\* 0 (not relevant); 1 (to some extent); 2 (rather important); 3 (highly important)

#### 4.5. Gender issues in relation to forest ownership

About this item in Bulgaria hasn't any data.

#### 4.6. Charitable, NGO or not-for-profit ownership of the forests

This section is concerned with forests owned by organisations such as conservation and heritage NGOs, self-organised community-based institutions and other philanthropic ("Characterized or motivated by philanthropy; benevolent; humane" OED) organisations. The management objective for these forests is usually to deliver social or environmental aims with maximisation of financial or timber returns as a secondary concern. Most owners are corporate and may invoke at least an element of group or participatory decision-making on management objectives and high

ethical standards. It is possible for such ownership to be entirely private. However, the provision of public benefits (services (e.g. biodiversity, amenity, recreation etc.) which are free for everyone to enjoy or provide benefits to local communities (employment for disadvantaged people etc.) are sometimes recognised in the form of charitable registration. This in turn puts restrictions on the rights of the owners to use profits and to dispose of assets in exchange for tax exemptions and access to charitable funding.

#### Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

BBF brings together people with different perceptions for the preservation of Bulgarian nature. Underlying everything we do is a belief that natural resources preservation is only possible through public awareness. We strive to increase recognition of the opportunities and benefits of protected areas and work for their long-term protection.

**BBF**

- strive for enhancement of the protected areas network in Bulgaria
- support wider involvement for management of the protected areas
- promote integration of biodiversity concerns into economic sectors
- involve local people in practical activities for nature conservation
- support pro-biodiversity businesses work for the enhancement of the environmental legislation
- create models for education in conservation biology
- foster national campaigns for an appreciation of Bulgarian nature
- promote biodiversity in its social, ethical, cultural and economic dimensions
- maintain the Bulgarian Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Water
- develop management plans for protected areas, action plans for priority species, regional and municipal plans for development

**BBF will continue to:**

- integrate biodiversity considerations into economic sectors by applying the best practices
- support the establishment of the Bulgarian Natura 2000 network and encourage public participation
- revive the operation of the biosphere reserves of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme in Bulgaria

- encourage the establishment and the management of protected areas across native borders.

**Source:** <http://bbf.biodiversity.bg/en>

BBF emerged from an intergovernmental Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme in 1997. Since its creation BBF has supported efforts of the Bulgarian Government and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in implementing sustainable management practices in 7 key regions of Bulgaria – Central Balkan, Dobrudja, Bourgas Wetlands, Strandja, Eastern Rhodopes and Pirin - [www.bsbc.biodiversity.bg](http://www.bsbc.biodiversity.bg).

The BBF team has carried out numerous direct nature conservation activities; developed 11 Action Plans for endangered species and 12 Management Plans for protected areas; submitted documentation for declaring 11 new protected areas including 3 new nature parks, and 3 new Ramsar Sites. The “Small Grants Fund” of BBF supported the activities of more than 60 nature conservation organisations all over the country. The evolving and continuing commitment of BBF is developing towards and integration of biodiversity into all human activities rather than its initial role of strict protection.

BBF is the initiator and organizer of the fund-raising campaign “Send 1 SMS - save 1 m<sup>2</sup> nature!”. The purpose of this campaign is to buy up valuable natural areas (meadows, pastures, woods, swamps) that are private property in order to guarantee a long-term preservation of the biodiversity in them. It's our chance to keep a little wild land in order that the Bulgarian nature remains!

Table 10: Charitable, NGO or not-for-profit ownership of the forests

Forests owned by ...	Yes	No	Uncertain
Foundations or trusts		x	
NGO with environmental or social objectives		x	
Self-organised local community groups	x		
Co-operatives / forest owner associations	x		
Social enterprises			x
Recognized charitable status for land-owners		x	
Other forms of charitable ownerships, namely:			x

### Green Balkans – Federation of nature-conservation NGOs

Green Balkans is a leading organization in the field of conservation of rare species and habitats in Bulgaria. The Organization was established in 1988 being Bulgaria's oldest nature conservation NGO. For its almost 20 years' existence, Green Balkans has won recognition from international and national institutions, authorities, and donors as a welcome partner and a highly reputable and competent organization. This is proven by the public confidence in the Organization and its almost 4,500 Bulgarian and foreign members. Thanks to Green Balkans' hundreds of volunteers and experts, as well as the international and national support, the Society achieved significant results in the preservation of Bulgaria's unique natural heritage. More than 110 projects have been implemented, as their investment in nature conservation exceeds \$ 3,5 million.

Green Balkans operates in accordance with the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (OJ, issue 81 of 6.10.2000). The Society has been registered with the Central Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities at the Ministry of Justice as an organization of "public benefit".

Green Balkans is a NON-profit, NON-governmental, and NON-political organization.

For that reason, and based on the principles set out in the Organization's Statutes, Green Balkans does not deal with political issues, neither does it participate in the political forces' campaigns.

For its almost 20 years' history, Green Balkans has proven to be a genuine and impartial defender of Bulgaria's nature, regardless of the political parties in power and the policy they proclaim, and despite the risks of collisions with the political forces or the managing institutions.

Green Balkans is an active member of a number of prestigious and competent international networks and organizations, among which:

Conservation Volunteers Alliance (CVA)  
www.conservationvolunteers.org

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC)  
www.iwrs-online.org

Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)  
www.conbio.net

Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEweb for biodiversity) www.ceeweb.org

East-European Griffon Vulture Working Group and the Pygmy Cormorant Working Group

Danube Environmental Forum (DEF)  
www.defyu.org.yu

Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum (BBLF)  
www.bblf.bg

**Source:** www.greenbalkans.org/index.php

### Environmental Organization Rhodope

Aims:

- To protect and conserve the unique biodiversity of the Rhodope Mountains.
- To support sustainable development in the region.
- To preserve nature, culture and traditions of the Rhodope Mountains through education and by raising public awareness.

In 1992 a group of students from Sofia University "Sent Kliment Ohridsky", subject of Biology, created the Youth section of Bulgarian Union for protection of Rhodope mountain /BUPR/. In order to implement effectively all the goals, the Youth section of BUPR has separated in 1997 as an individual organization and has registered as foundation "Youth Ecological Organization – Rhodope". /YEO – Rhodope/. In 2002 YEO – Rhodope has pre-registered as a union "Ecological organization – Rhodope", with socially useful goal, where the change, in fact, has affected the name and the address of registration which gives a better ability for local activity.

Since 1995 Environmental Organization Rhodope (EO-Rhodope) has been working for the protection and conservation of the unique natural diversity and cultural heritage of the Rhodopes, organizing biodiversity research, seminars, and youth camps, as well as green schools for children from orphanages. Since 1997 the organization has been implementing a program of sustainable tourism in the region.

**Source:** www.rhodopeflowersfestival.org/en/environmental-organization-rhodope

**CASE STUDY 1: UNCOOPERATIVE PRIVATE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION OF BERKOVICA]**

Short Description: Private forests occupy a significant share - 45.39% of the total forest area in the region. Forests of private individuals are managed solely by their owners without associations in any form, and the extraction of timber was done on contractual basis with private logging companies. During the period 2000-2010 the number of properties owned by natural persons increased by 51.7%, with a predominance of small-area properties. Around 96% of private forests in the region have an area less than 10 ha and properties with an area of over 500 hectares missing, which is evident from the follow Table.

Space and number of forest property privately owned by individuals in the region of Berkovica over the period 2000-2010

Year	Under 10 ha	11-100 ha	101-500 ha	501-10000 ha	Above 10000 ha	Total	Change %
2000	72869	40	1	0	0	72910	100
2005	105512	50	1	0	0	105503	144.7
2010	106352	951	0	0	0	107303	147.2

Source: Statistical data of Executive Forest Agency (EFA)

**CASE STUDY 2: COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE FORESTS IN THE REGION SMOLYAN]**

Short Description: Cooperative ownership and management of private forests in Bulgaria is typical for the region of Smolyan. It stems from the mid 30s of last century, and after 50 years break, due to the nationalization of forests, it is restored again after the restoration of property to former owners. A specific feature of the established forest cooperatives is that the ownership of the individual members of the cooperative is in common parts. In the end of each business year they receive dividend depending on the size of such shares of the total forest area, restored as property of the cooperative. In this region the private forest ownership is about 20% of the total forest area, which is 244 614 ha and is mostly (over 80%) of coniferous forests.

According to the EFA report (2010) there have been 49 associations of private forest owners in Bulgaria by 2010. These are mainly (90%) forestry cooperatives in the region of Smolyan.

**Forests owned by self-organised local community groups?**

Currently, only a very small proportion of private forests in Bulgaria can be assigned to forests owned by self-organised local community groups. This is mainly due to the recent recovery of ownership of these forests, many owners of individual properties, their diverse interests and lack of motivation for the creation of such associations. In recent years in Bulgaria several forest owners cooperatives are created in the region of Pleven and Teteven, and they can serve as a positive examples of such self-organised associations. Creation of future similar associations is expected mainly in central northern Bulgaria, where private ownership of forests accounts for a substantial share of the total forest area, but it is too fragmented to multiple properties with a large number of owners.

**Forest co-operatives / forest owner associations?**

Forestry cooperatives in the country are developed in a few regions, where increasing return on investment are expected, and where the forest raw material is of high quality

and is close to the market, so that the transport is not much expensive. As mentioned above such cooperatives are typical for the region of Smolyan, where they existed also prior to the nationalization of forests in 1948. Since 1997, when the private ownership of forests is recovered, cooperative-owned forests was returned to common parts, as was until 1948, which means it was not restored to the owners and their heirs, but to the cooperatives and their successors. By 2002, most cooperatives were recovered and continued their activities in the context of the new economic conditions. On this basis, currently in the region of Smolyan there are over 40 forestry cooperatives and other associations of private forest owners.

The main forest owner associations in Bulgaria are:

- BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF FORESTRY

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF FORESTRY (BGSK ), established on November 12, 1998, is a model of an association that represents the interests of forest owners and land managers and entrepreneurs in rural areas of national and European political level. It is independent and non-profit organization that is able to protect the interests of all rural



entrepreneurs in Bulgaria by promoting the values of private property. BGSK mission is to support and enhance the economic viability, social utility and environmentally responsible sustainable management of private forests. BGSK serve the interests of one million forest owners.

During the last period BGSK focused its efforts to operate and develop as a competitive organization corresponding to European models and practices in order to represent the interests of forest owners. Following the event, many years of work achieved membership in international organizations, support, cooperation and partnership with other state and non-state institutions. Under development is a demand and the determination of appropriate forms of organization and management of retail and Large-scale private forest ownership. The efforts of the Bulgarian Chamber of forestry are aimed at promoting sound policy framework and strengthening of forest owners and organizations with the capacity to preserve and strengthen economically viable, socially beneficial, culturally and environmentally responsible sustainable forest management.

**Source:** [www.bcfbg.org/01about\\_us.html](http://www.bcfbg.org/01about_us.html)

- ASSOCIATION OF THE FOREST OWNERS AND PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FOREST SECTOR

The association is Public benefit registered in the Central Registry, with address: s. Treklyano, obl. Kyustendil, obsht. Kyustendil, Bulgaria.

The objectives of the organization are to combine and coordinate the activities of forest owners and workers in the forestry sector in Kyustendil region, raising the qualification and status of public forest owners and workers in the forestry sector; support forest owners and workers in the forestry sector to the proper performance of their tasks on the management, conservation, improvement of forest functions and environmental protection, protection of the interests of forest owners and workers in the forestry sector to the public institutions; supporting local and regional authorities in development of legal regulations and legislation and support the public sector in the management of forest resources and environmental protection.

- BULPROFOR

BULPROFOR is a professional industry association of foresters and other specialists natural and legal persons who practice forestry activities (under Article 39, paragraph 1 of the FA). Founded on 28.01.2000 in Sofia. The association is one of the few non-governmental organizations in Bulgaria and only branch structure in the forestry sector , which is certified for quality management standard based on ISO 9001:2000, issued by MOODY INTERNACIONALISO 9001:2000 Certified QM System, Moody International Q070203.

Main objectives of BULPROFOR are:

- To coordinate efforts and to assist its members for their full realization as practitioners and entrepreneurs in the forestry sector .
- In the context of the European Development of Bulgaria , to protect and promote their professional, ethical and material interests at home and abroad.

The main activities are as follows:

- Maintain and develop a national network of consulting Forest Information Centers "advice and services to owners of forests" - organization of internal structure of forest entrepreneurs – individuals and companies with diversified activities in the forests.
- Conduct training through training courses, exchange of experience at home and abroad forest contractors for contemporary models and practices for sustainable forest management and use of forest resources.
- Participate in projects, programs and other activities of European Commission, FAO, UNDP - Rhodope Project, GTZ - "Project to support Agro and forest structure in the Rhodopes" BSHPG - Foundation "Sylvica" and others donor organizations that support and enhance the capacity for effective management of the organization and its members - entrepreneurs in the forestry sector.
- Publishes reference and information and literature practical for a wide range of specialists foresters and contractors in the forestry sector.
- Maintain an information portal [www.bulfor.net/index.php](http://www.bulfor.net/index.php) forest with comprehensive professional and market

information for the forestry sector in Bulgaria and forest contractors.

- Participate in forums and correspondence in support and protection of professional rights and interests of its members. In this activity BULPROFOR partnering with other industry organizations in the forestry sector, incl. forest owners, as well as with other institutions and agencies.
- Actively cooperate with government and non-governmental organizations, incl. with international ones, for production and application of:
  - regulations and decisions governing forest management in Bulgaria, including National Forest Strategy;
  - the introduction of European criteria for sustainable forest development, incl. IV-th Ministerial Conference in Vienna, 2003, forest certification, multifunctional forestry, biodiversity conservation , etc.
  - introducing ISO 9001-2002 standards, 14000-2000, 18000-1999/2002 - Policy and Planning, Audits, Procedures and Development, Monitoring, Training.
- introduction of European standards for the classification of untreated and treated wood;
- Development of the forestry component of the National Plan for Rural Development (by Axis - 1: Improving the competitiveness of forest contractors in GA-2: land management / environment and the countryside / and Axis-3 Improving quality of life and promote diversity, incl. most heavily on component qualification and training of forest owners and forest contractors themselves).

National Network Forest Information Centers  
"Consulting and Services for forest owners"

With the adoption in 2001 of the document "Concept - Model for consulting and working private foresters in forest owners" BULPROFOR actually has a structured organizational form of a coherent advice network (according to the accepted organization chart).

Network of forest consultants, developed mainly in 2004-2005 with the participation and support of other organizations more entrepreneurs and forest owners. In early 2006 the network included 11 offices in areas with a large focus of non-state -owned forests (in the registration process are still 3 available).

**Source:** [www.bulprofor.org](http://www.bulprofor.org)

#### 4.7. Common pool resources regimes

Commons - forest common property regimes (CPR) are resource regimes where property is shared among users and management rules are derived and operated on self-management, collective actions and self-organization (of rules and decisions). Examples of traditional CPR regime are pastures, forest land communities in Sweden, Slovakia, Romania Italy and other European countries or irrigation systems in Africa or Asia. The number of new common property regimes is growing and it is challenge of this Action to transfer knowledge and skills of traditional CPRs to new CPRs and vice versa. Example of new CPR regime is community woodlands in UK, established in last 20 years mainly in Scotland, Wales. Our interest in" traditional" and "new" common pool resources regimes (CPRs) in European forest, is based on the understanding that robust resource regimes are critical for sustainable forest management regardless of the property rights. Ongoing practice shows that local land users (without ownership share) leased use agreement may also be CPR regime if they have the rights to determine management rules typical for commons (e.g. self-organisation and shared rights and responsibilities). Thus proper rules on management (harvesting, decision making and conflict resolution mechanism, cost/benefit sharing, sanctioning etc) are key for sustainable use of CPR regimes.

In Bulgaria has not registered such organizations.

## 5. Forest management approaches for new forest owner types

The Action is interested if there are any new forest management approaches that specifically address new forest owner types, or that could be particularly relevant for new forest owner types. We are aware that there is not much awareness for this and that there is not much literature available, however, we are convinced that this is an issue: if owners have different goals for their forests there must be new kinds of management, if they have not the skills any more to do it themselves then there must be new service offers, etc. There are assumingly implications in silviculture, technology, work organisation, business models, etc. Such new approaches may be discussed under the key word of new ownership types but often not.

### 5.1. Forest management in Bulgaria

#### 5.1.1. Historical overview

Till 1997 forest branch was organized and functioned according to the requirements of Law for Forests, 1958. The state was sole owner of forests and the structure of management was organized on three levels:

- Committee of Forests at the Council of Ministers - central management structure;
- Regional Directorates of Forests – regional forest managements (17);
- State Forest Enterprises (Local Forestry Services) (about 176).

Besides these bodies in the structure of the Committee of Forests exist two Forest Seeds Stations, two Forest Protective Stations, two Experimental Stations and one Poplar Breeding Station.

Actually, the first step of the reorganization in forestry sector started in 1991 with the establishment of the Forest Committee at the Council of Ministers, as an authority financed by the budget for conducting of the state policy for development of forestry, hunting husbandry and state control on forest management and protection of forests, game and fish richness. With its establishment, the management of the forestry was separated

from the management of wood-processing, furniture and cellulose-paper industry. The multifunctional forest management approach was adopted. As regional and local bodies of the Forest Committee, Regional Forest Directorates were organized and respectively the State Forestry Enterprises, later renamed as forestry units. In fact, they appear to be successors to the existing structures, by preserving the complex character of the forest units, but two new directions separated - protection and reproduction of the forest resources, on the one hand, and ecologically complying forest utilization and by-work, on the other hand. The supporting of the first direction of the forestry enterprises and of the Regional Directorates on the forests was realised until 1997 by the created specialised fund "Forestry Measures and Construction of Forest Roads". The second direction, realising the activity for utilization in the forests operated on the principle of the self-support and internal economic account. This partition of the activities created possibilities for their future separation in independent production and administrative units. Since 1995 there was organized Directions of Nature Parks as different administrations responsible for protected territories within of Committee of Forests.

The forest branch had absolute independence and all forestry and logging activities were accomplished by complex forest enterprises. The structure reform in forestry in Bulgaria started after accepting the Forest Laws (end of 1997). The main aim of this reform was dividing the functions of complex forest enterprise.

The state functions of control are the task of bodies and administrative structures of National Forestry Board (NFB) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, which was created according the requirement of Law for the Forests. For fulfillment business activities in the forestry sector there were created State Limited Joint-stock Companies by dividing former complex State forest Enterprises.

The new functions and tasks of three level structure of management of forests are the following:

NFB manage and controls: Organization of forest fund; Regeneration of forest in the forest fund; Utilization of forest and forestlands in the forest fund; Protection of forests and forestlands in the forest fund; Building on the forestlands; Financing of activities in the state forest fund.

NFB develop and suggest proposals for acceptance of new laws and for improving laws through the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests to the Council of Ministers; NFB suggest to the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests for accepting from the Collegiums normative documents concerning implementation of the Law for the Forests (instructions, methodics, regulations etc.).

Regional Management of Forests (16) (second level) accomplish management of state forest fund and control of the following activities: organization of forest fund; regeneration of forest in the forest fund; utilization of forest and forest lands in the forest fund; protection of forests and forest lands in the forest fund; building on the forest lands.

State Forestry (176) (third level) with area from 8 to 42 thousand ha) accomplish the same functions as Regional Management of Forests at the local level. Besides these basic bodies in the structure of the NFB functioned several other administrations:

- Forest Seed Stations – 2;
- Forest Protection Stations – 3;
- Experimental Stations – 2;
- Directions of Nature Parks – 9;
- Game Breeding Stations – 24;
- Poplar Breeding Station – 1;
- Information System for Forests – 1;
- Editorial office of magazine “Gora”.

63 new created State Limited Joint-stock Companies with 100% state share capital accomplished business activity in the beginning of reform. The number of State Limited Joint-stock Companies was increased up to 82. The State Limited Joint-stock Companies are transitory structures, which were necessary in the transition period from old to New Forest legislation.

After the re-structuring of the former forestry units during the years 1998 and 1999 in the

sphere of the forest economy of Bulgaria 63 trade companies with state property have been established for the realization of the economic activity in the woods and the lands of the forest fund. In parallel with this process also began the process of privatization of the existing before trade companies in the same field. These were mainly forest tractor stations, repair shops, units of “Gorstroy” Ltd. and other enterprises, executing mainly service in the sphere of the forestry and registered as trade companies before the process of structural reform in the forestry. Thus, in Bulgaria in the beginning of 1999 were formed the first joint-stock companies with state and private participation in the forestry sphere. Since the middle of the same year, by order of the Minister of Agriculture and Forests procedures have been open for privatization of large number of the newly-created forest-economic trade companies with fully state owned property (EAD).

Since the beginning of 1999 in Bulgaria the economic activity in the forests is realized by 61 trade companies, registered as Sole Joint-Stock Companies (EAD) with state owned property, 14 Limited Liability Companies with fully state property (EODD) and 6 Limited Liability Companies (Ltd.) with mixed form of property, state and private participation. These are totally 81 companies, mainly state companies, realizing various economic activities in the forests. All they are branch subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and are in the structure of the Ministry of the operating at that time Department “State Property”, and later at the established Directorate “Privatization, Re-structuring and State Participation”.

Until February 2002 out of the existing and established in the period of the structural reform 86 trade companies at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, working in the sub-branch “Forestry”, 55 companies were privatized, 7 companies were in liquidation (for two of them the liquidation is over) and 24 companies were still with 100% state participation.

The greater part of the privatized companies is bought by the created by themselves for this purpose worker-manager’s companies (WMC). At that time they are mainly joint-stock companies with mixed property, where in most of them prevails the private property

and the state participation is small. Only in one of the privatized companies the state blocking quote is preserved (33% state participation), and in all the rest the relative part of the state participation is under 30%, the allotment is as follows:

- 24 companies with state participation from 20% to 30%;
- 7 companies with state participation up to 20%;
- and 23 companies, in which the state part is bought entirely, that is at the moment they are fully with private property.

Management of state forests and the control of all forests were, till July 2007, the responsibility of the National Forestry Board (NFB) under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. The NFB is a state budget administration with three level structures. The regional and local structures of NFB are the 16 Regional Forestry Boards, 141 State Forestries, 10 Nature park directorates, 37 Game Breeding Stations and 19 research, seed control, and other stations and sections. Revenues from sales of forest products are transferred to the state treasury and cannot be directly used as working capital for forest operations. At the same time, annual allocation of state budget funds do not recognize the seasonal nature of forest activities and are not sufficient to carry out management functions adequately. Due to these circumstances the forest sector was in a crisis over the last years. A decree of the Council of Ministers from July 2007 has restructured the National Forestry Board into a State Agency for Forestry with its own budget and resources under the direct jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers. The structure of the newly established SFA is not clear yet. Building on European good practice examples, the basic approach foresees the separation of management and supervisory functions to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability of all institutions involved. It is supposed that the SFA becomes totally independent at the beginning of 2008.

## **5.2. New or innovative forest management approaches relevant for new forest owner types**

### **5.2.1. Management of state forest**

Operative institutional frame in the forest sector after 2011 is based on the new Forest Law that has not an analogy in over 130 years forest history of Bulgaria. As the main owner of forest territories in Bulgaria – the state (71%, without national parks) has apparently created two functional branches with common principal – Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, respectively with splitting of control and administrative functions from business functions, connected with direct management of forest territories. Implementing the control and administrative functions is committed to the EFA, financed by state budget, and the business functions in the forests state property – to the state forest enterprises, financed by incomes from business activity. In addition to this, it is regulated equity of all type of property on the forest territories and it is given relevant rights and obligations to the non state owners of forests.

The main goal of this institutional frame is the financial and management independence of both functional branches to reach better results – from one point at the protection of forests, and from another - to reach better financing results, which would lead to the fulfilment of projected activities in the forests and in general to the reinvestments in the forest sector.

As a result of last structure reform in the state forest sector related to EFA is separated state forest administration with control and public functions with their structures – regional forest directorates (RFD) and specialized territorial sections (STS), and in relation to state forest enterprises (SFE) – business units, which implement the functions on management of state forest territories. In this way EFA and their structures don't participate directly or indirectly in the management of state forest enterprises, thus functions, they implement on all owners of forest territories, are mainly control (fig. 5 and 6).

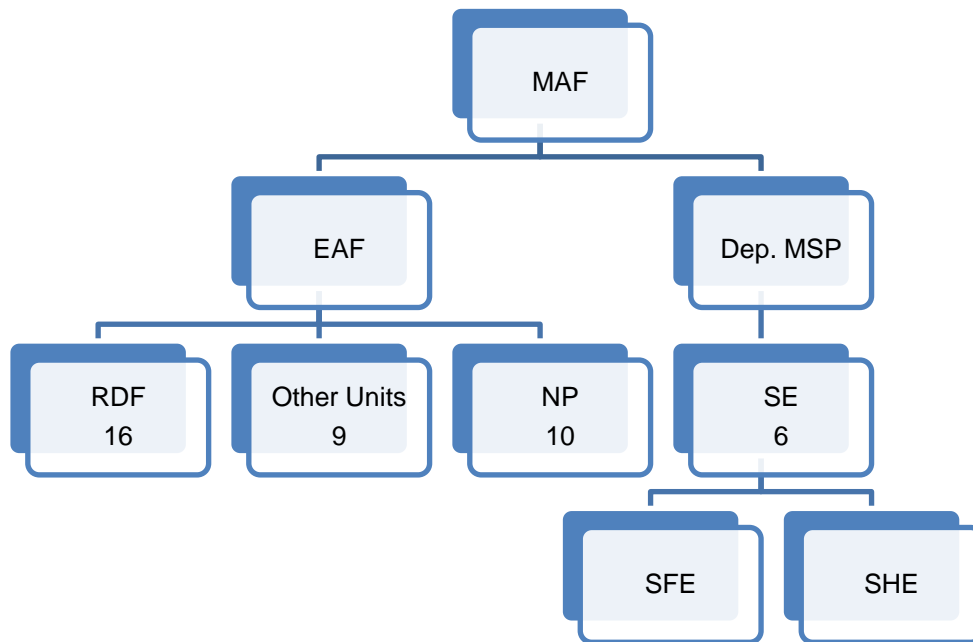


Figure 5: Organization of management of forests in Bulgaria

MAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Food; EAF – Executive Agency of Forests; RDF – Regional Directorate of Forests; NP – Natural Parks; Dep. MSP – Department of Management of State Property; SE – State

Enterprises; SFE - State Forestry Enterprise; SHE – State Hunting Enterprise

Now EFA is organized on two levels – central management, 16 RFD and relevant STS, including directorates of natural parks.

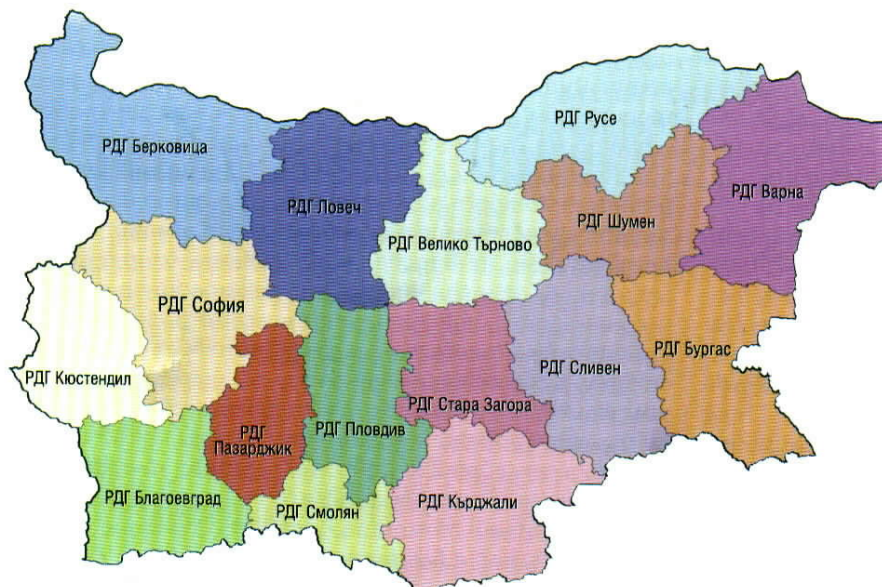


Figure 6: Territorial distribution of Regional Forests Directorates in Bulgaria

Forest territories – state property are managed by six forest enterprises in the structure of which as territorial units are included 164 State Forest Enterprises and

State Hunting Enterprises. In their activity they are helped by department “Management of state property” and section “State Forest Enterprises” at the MAF (fig. 5 and 7).

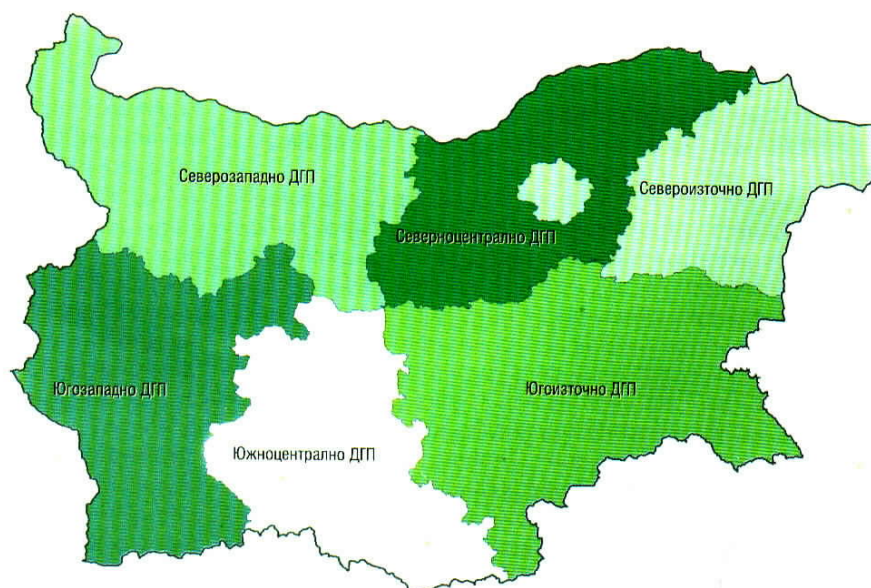


Figure 7: Territorial distribution of State Enterprises in forestry of Bulgaria

According to the requirements of the new Forest Act (2011) in Bulgaria these six State enterprises for management of state forests are based on the six economic regions in the country. These are as follows:

### 1. Northwestern State Enterprise (SZDP)

According to the administrative division of the Republic of Bulgaria SZDP covering all the districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa and Plevan and parts of Lovech and Sofia.

In the forestry division SZDP includes the territorial scope of activity of the Regional Forest Directorate (RFD) Berkovitzha, part of Lovech RFD small part of RFD Sofia. Territorial scope of the Northwest state enterprise includes areas of activity of these state forestry units (DGS) and state hunting units (DLS): Berkovica DGS, DGS beef DGS Montana, Lom DGS, DGS Chiprovtsi, Belogradchik DGS, DGS Vidin, Vratsa DGS, DGS Mezdra Oriahovo DGS, DGS Midzor, Borima DGS, DGS Lesidren, Lovech DGS, DGS Nikopol, Plevan DGS, DGS Trojan, DGS Cherni Osam, Mermaid DLS, DGS Godech Svogbe DGS, DGS Botevgrad DLS Vitinya. The total area of SZDP is 1961 426 ha, of which 512 022 ha are forest areas and from them 289 732 ha are state property. The majority of the forests of the premises are deciduous. The highest participation are oak and beech forests. North now bordered by the Danube River, along which there are five state forestry units - territorial divisions of

SZDP, the task of which is to create a poplar plantations of timber and protection of the coasts and islands of the River Danube. Annual estimate of logging on in 2013 is 429 thousand cubic meters.

By the end of 2012 have been planted and created new forests on an area of 2246 dca of which 1986 dca poplar. Raised are 13 399 dca of young trees. Hunting and fishery measures:

Developed and maintained 240 dca of game lands and 130 dca of meadows and clearings game. There are good opportunities for hunting of deer, fallow deer, wild boar etc. The company has 786 employees.

**Source:** [www.szdp.bg](http://www.szdp.bg)

### 2. North - Central State Enterprise (SCDP)

Now manages the state forest areas in five districts - Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra and Razgrad. It is composed of 17 regional offices, including 13 state forestry units and four state hunting units. The total area of forests is 379 023 ha, of which 246 175 ha are state forest areas (65%). The company has 992 employees. The main activity is related to forest management and forest owned. The main income comes from the sale of timber and organized hunting tourism. For maintenance of Ecoravnovesie and the biodiversity annually perform various activities related to reforestation of forest areas and displacement of game. Given the

large territorial scope and number of staff, SCDP plays an important economic and social role in the region.

**Source:** [www.scdp.bg](http://www.scdp.bg)

### **3. Northeast State Enterprise (SIDP)**

Now manages the state forest areas in four districts - Shumen, Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte. It is composed of 18 regional offices, including 13 state forest units and 5 - state hunting units. The total area of the state forest areas included in the area of activity of the SIDP - Shumen is 287 892 ha forested areas from which 271 222 ha - 94% are afforested lands. The total standing timber is estimated at 36 million cubic meters, and the average use of timber from state forest areas is 520 thousand cubic meters. Now it has a nine forest nursery, 2 of which are of national importance. The number of seedlings produced amounted to 2.5 million.

The varied natural conditions favour the development and spread of many tree and shrub species that form the diverse composition, age, construction and condition of plants. The highest participation in the forested area are forests of oak, hornbeam, oriental beech, linden, acacia, black pine and ash. Artificially introduced through planting white and black pine, occupying 9.6% of the area locust - 10% and red oak - 2.5%. Important place and protective forest belts, located in Dobrich and Shumen. The scope of the SIDP DP - Shumen has a wide variety of protected territories and objects, including two natural parks - Nature Park "Golden Sands" Nature Park "Shumen Plateau" three reserves - "Kamchiya", "Kaliakra" and "Bukaka" eight managed reserves, and many protected areas, landmarks and objects. The territory of SIDP goes way seasonal migration of birds VIA PONTICA that is national, European and global importance and is the subject of increased scientific interest and international legal protection.

The varied natural conditions SIDP - Shumen and rich vegetation, a natural basis for the distribution of many species of birds and mammals, some of which are hunted.

The most common game species subject for hunting are red deer, roe deer and wild boar, hare, partridge and pheasant. Also of interest are mouflon, fallow deer, quail and waterfowl. To preserve and enrich the diversity of the

game, its reproduction and dispersal and improving the trophy qualities has five state hunting - territorial divisions of SIDP - Shumen, namely: DLS "Cherni Lom" - Popovo, DLS "Palamara", DLS "Balchik", DLS "Sherba" and DLS "Tervei". Leaders in the state hunting are DLS "Cherni Lom" - Popovo, DLS "Balchik" and DLS "Sherba". Game in these three state hunting units has excellent trophy quality as much of the trophies received gold medals CIC.

**Source:** [www.dpshumen.bg/zanas.html](http://www.dpshumen.bg/zanas.html)

### **4. Southeast State Enterprise (UIDP)**

Headquartered in Sliven the company manages the state forest areas in five districts - Burgas, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Haskovo and Yambol. Members of the enterprise include 31 regional offices, including 26 State forestry units and 5 State hunting units. The total area of forests falling within the territorial scope of the state enterprise is 913 822 ha, including state forest areas 644 102 ha (70%). The altitude in UIDP is between 0 m altitude, century - sea level and 1536 m altitude, century - Chumerna. There is a variety of different types of habitats suitable for the existence of many plant and animal species. The main tree species on the premises are beech and oak from deciduous tree species, as well as pine, white pine and spruce from coniferous. The average annual wood use in state forests provided by the forest management plans of territorial divisions amounted to 894 354 cubic meters. Planned average annual planting an area of 1800 hectares and for the production of planting material required now it has 39 forest nursery, including four nursery with national importance.

**Source:** [www.uidp-sliven.com](http://www.uidp-sliven.com)

### **5. South-Central State Enterprise (UCDP)**

Based in the town of Smolyan, the company manages the state forest areas in four districts - Kardjali, Pazardjik, Plovdiv and Smolyan. Members of the enterprise include 43 regional offices, including 36 State forestry units and 7 state hunting units. The total area of forests falling within the territorial scope of state enterprise is 853 705 ha, including state forest areas 721 846 ha (85%). The altitude in UCDP is between 100 m altitude - along the



river Maritsa and 2198 m altitude - Grand Perelik. There is a variety of different types of habitats suitable for the existence of many plant and animal species. The main tree species on the premises are white pine, spruce, pine from coniferous and also beech and oak from deciduous tree species. The average annual use of wood provided by forestry projects of territorial divisions amounted to 1.318 million cubic meters. Planned average annual planting an area of 690 hectares and for the production of planting material it has 35 forest nursery, including six nursery with national importance.

**Source:** <http://www.ucdp-smolian.com/about.php>

## 6. Southwestern State Enterprise (UZDP)

Based in the town of Blagoevgrad, the company manages the state forest areas in seven districts - Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Sofia city, Sofia region, Pazardzhik, Pernik and Lovech. It is composed of 37 regional offices, including 32 state forest units and 5 - state hunting units.

The total area of woodlands covered the southwest state enterprise is 934 968 ha, of which 686,310 ha are state forest areas (73.4%). This is an extremely valuable natural resource that determines the large volume of activities in the forests. The main coniferous tree species are: white and black pine, spruce, and fir. Deciduous forests are represented mostly by beech and oak. Geographical location, topography, climate soil fertility, water resources and other unique natural features for extremely diverse fauna, game and fish wealth. South-western state enterprise inhabit red deer, fallow deer, wild boar, deer, wild goats, grouse, as well as bears, wolves, jackals, foxes. Colourful picture of wildlife is complemented by numerous rabbits, partridges, pheasants, mountain rock partridge and migratory species. The territory of UZDP passes second largest air corridor for migrating birds from Europe to Africa - Via Aristotelis. The presence of rare and endangered species of great interest to ornithologists, nature-lovers, for photographers. Three major rivers - the Iskar, Struma and Mesta, crossing South-western state enterprise, along with their tributaries are prerequisite for a varied and rich fish fauna and represent year-round

interest for lovers of sport fishing. The average annual use of wood provided by forestry projects of territorial divisions in the composition of UZDP so far is about 1 million cubic meters. To produce the required seedlings for afforestation now it has 67 forest nursery, 4 of which are of national importance. Hunting business is concentrated in the five state hunting units - "Iskar", "Vitoshko Cold", "Aramliets", "Dikchan" and "Osogovo". The efforts of hunting specialists are focused on improving the gene pool and health of game populations in order to achieve better exterior and trophy quality.

**Source:** [www.uzdp.bg/bg/](http://www.uzdp.bg/bg/)

Management of state forest areas is carried out by these six state forest enterprises with a two-tier structure, headquarters, regional offices - state forest enterprises and state hunting enterprises.

### 5.2.2. Management of non-state forests

The support for non-state forest in Bulgaria is very limited. In the Law for the Forests and Regulations for Implementation the Law for the Forests are provided the following free services for private owners: protection of forests, providing the protected activities, developing of plans for anti-fire activities, making of inventory of forests, developing of forest management plans for private owners, which are combine for joint planning, placement the seedling for afforestation on agriculture lands, for experimental and science purpose etc.

The management of non-state forests in Bulgaria is carried out in different ways:

- A big part of forests and forestlands of physical persons is managed by their owners. Mainly the private owners with forests bigger than 10 ha manage their property alone, according to the requirements of the existing and new forest management plans.
- Forest owners, possessing small pieces of forests, have difficulties to manage them. The biggest part of them possesses very small parcels (mainly less than 1 ha) and this is the cause for difficulties.

Religious communities also manage their forests alone. There are several monasteries in Bulgaria, which have big own forest area. They use forest specialists as consultants or as managers for the management of forests.

- In the region of Smolyan (the Rhodopes), we had traditions in the past in management of private forests by co-operatives. More than 40 co-operatives for management of private forests were established again in this region. The co-operatives implement harvesting, wood processing, selling of timber, wood and non-wood products, forestry operations, etc.

Natural and legal persons who are the owners of forest land can operate in their own territory when they are registered in the publicly Register of EFA or by assigning the state forestry and state hunting enterprises, municipal forest structures, and individuals or traders entered in the registers of EFA.

Forest owned by private individuals and companies covers 10% of the forest area in Bulgaria, mainly in the districts of Smolyan, Lovech, Veliko Tarnovo and Montana. Properties are highly fragmented, 94% of the forest properties has an area up to 2.0 ha. The average area of individual forest property is below 1.0 ha. A significant number of the private forest owners often do not have the specific knowledge and experience in forest management. Their interest is limited to a single use of wood resources for personal purposes - construction, heating or income generation. During the analyzed period, the annual use of wood in the forests - owned by private individuals and legal persons to the amount of harvested timber in the all forest areas is as follows: 2006 - 19.0%, 2007 - 20.2%, 2008 - 18.2%, 2009 - 15.7%, 2010 to 13.4%, 2011 - 13.5%. In absolute terms, the amount of use of wood from private forests decreased from 1,384,990 m<sup>3</sup> in 2006 to 859 630 m<sup>3</sup> in 2009, then rose to 999 240 m<sup>3</sup> in 2011. The trend towards a reduction of the use of wood from private forests is mainly due to the reduction in the total area of plantations reached the age of maturity.

One part of forest owners has begun to establish their organisations and guilds for mutual forest management. About 49 private forest co-operatives have already been established in the country, most of them

being in Smolyan district, where this kind of management has been widely popular before forests nationalisation.

### **5.2.3. Management of municipality forests**

The communities in Bulgaria are the biggest non-state forest owners.

In 2008 the Association "Municipal forests" was established, which three years later have 97 members of municipalities from different Bulgarian regions, with the holding of 290 000 hectares of forest. Association actively interact with MAF and the EFA and is particularly active in assisting municipalities to create structures for management of municipal forests, increasing the capacity of workers in the municipal forest structures in forest management and in preparation for projects under the RDP and other EU programs. According to the Association "Municipal forests" by the end of 2011 in the country were built 15 municipal forest bodies.

Municipalities, which are forest owners, are in the beginning of a process to establish special structures for forests management. This process should be encouraged. Although the presence of forest co-operatives and some guilds of private forest owners, the level of association of non-state forest owners is still low. The role and responsibility in forest management on the side of non-state forest owners grows more and more.

### **5.3. Main opportunities for innovative forest management**

There are alternatives for the development of the management of private forests: establishing an office to advise the owners of private forests - the example of many countries of the EU support, including and resources, consolidation of private forest estate, association and contract management; cooperation during the implementation in forest areas of specific activities of common interest, providing low-interest and interest-free loans for activities related to the management of private forest estates - marking, assortment, sales of wood protection and conservation, tax incentives for

forest management, lower capital gains tax or tax on rent. Opportunities for more effective support from the state for the development of non-state forest, including technical and financial help may be the subject of a realistic analysis and recommendations to form the basis of preparation of the National Development Plan of non-state forestry.

A good example of this is the work of the existing National Association of owners "Gorovladelets", that unites currently 25 cooperatives across the country, four private family revirs, 1 monastery, 2 municipalities and eight individuals - owners over 500 ha forests. This association manages forest area of 38 000 ha. The association represents the interests of 82,000 members, cooperate with local authorities and organizations and participates in national and international programs and initiatives in the area of private forests for their sustainable development and the formation of ecological culture among the owners. Active partner of the state forest administration in the development and implementation of regulations and decisions related to the management of private forests.

The management by cooperatives is popular mainly in the region of Smolyan. We need to exchange experience between successful cooperatives and forest owners in other regions of Bulgaria.

In Bulgaria as new or innovative forest management approaches may be consider cooperative management and management of forests by communities. Especially creating of association of private forest owners and association of municipality forests are new management approaches in Bulgaria.

In order to begin to manage properly their forests, new forest owners can receive help from the state and from trained foresters. The National Forestry Board and now the Executive Forest Agency, in collaboration with NGOs, works together for improving the knowledge and training of private forest owners.

#### **5.4. Obstacles for innovative forest management approaches**

The basic obstacles for implementation of innovative management approaches in

private forests and the lack of sustainable economic interest are: fragmented and small private forests; low income and low profitability of this type of forest property, increasing demands for sustainable forest management, poor road infrastructure, lack of support from state institutions incl. resources to encourage the formation of associations of owners of private forests for their sustainable management. At the national level, policy on private forest owners is often weak and insufficient effective. At this stage the functions and support measures are limited.

New private forest owners have insufficient experience, as well as no necessary specific knowledge and skills for in management of forests. They also have insufficient knowledge about their rights and duties. For the moment, the bigger part of forest owners prefer to manage their property by themselves. Taking into consideration the small area of single ownerships, this type of management is ineffective.

Lack of experience and lack of knowledge for creating and working in cooperatives in forestry are between the main factors that stopped forest owners in other regions to create forest cooperatives.

In spite of the measures undertaken by the state forest administration, considerable problems appeared in the management of private forests, i.e.:

- absence of interest and experience by owners for management of private forests;
- considerable scale of utilisation of private forests;
- insufficient normative regulations;
- constantly changing normative regulations;
- increasing requirements of the society to the owners for maintenance of ecological balance in forests and their sustainable management;
- poor infrastructure for normal carrying out of necessary activities;
- insufficient resource support of small owners for establishing of guilds.

The problems mentioned above have significant influence on small private forestry. In this case there is no interest to forestry activities because they require big

investments and the fragmentary character of this forestry makes it unprofitable. There is absence of experience in Bulgarian forest management in conditions of various types of property. That's why encouraging the management of private forests is especially important with view of sustainable forest management.

Main ways to overcome the weak points in

management of fragmented small private forest estates are:

- consolidation of small private forest property;
- uniting of private forest owners for mutual management of forests;
- commitment of private forests management to state forestry structures.

### CASE STUDY 3: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS OF BULGARIA (NAPFOB) "GOROVLADELETZ"]

**Short Description:** Bulgaria is a rich country in forest resources, with about 4.15 million hectares forests, where 74.5% are state forests, 12% are communal forests, 11% are private forests, 0.5% religious forests and 2% former agricultural lands. It's worth to be mentioned the very good state of the forests, mainly of the conifer species such as *Picea abies* and *Pinus silvestris*. Mrs. Anelia Dimitrova Pochekanska, President of the National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria, as well as owner of 600 hectares of forests presenting the association, the history of establishment of this association, the purpose, organization, functioning, achievements, tasks and responsibilities.

#### ***Brief history of establishment of the National Association of Private Forest Owners***

The genesis of National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria begins since 2002, but the history of forest cooperatives begins earlier than that, where the first cooperative "Pamporovo" was established in 1905, whereas the other cooperatives were established somehow later during 1912 to 1915. After 1915 each cooperative was obliged by the law to be registered at the respective institutions. The particularity of these cooperatives was that in the kingdom time, the forest area of each cooperative, is bought as a single unit by collecting the money of all inhabitants of the village and based on the amount paid by each one, the total forest area is partitioned. Thus, nowadays each owner doesn't have an exact map of the location of his forest area. But this does not impede them to cooperate or to have conflicts amongst them, it fosters furthermore the cooperation. Functioning of cooperatives has continued till 1947, the time where all forests were nationalized in the time of communism system. After the system broke down, by initiative of private forest owners started gathering of all forest ownership documentation they had. Re-establishment was done after 1990 and cooperative "Gora" was re-established in 1992 and in 1996 it has requested abrogation of the law of 1947, which is achieved in 2000. All forest cooperatives were functioning as independent till at 2002, the time where was established the National Association of Private Forest Owners, which has as its aim the sustainable management of forests, lobbying and protection of private forest owners interests and supporting to establishment of economically viable and effective business units.

#### ***Organization and Functioning of the National Association and of Forest Cooperatives***

The NAPFOB is composed by 22 forest cooperatives, 1 commune, 2 forest companies, 2 joint-stock companies and 15 physical entities. All in all, the association represents interests of about 85 thousand forest owners. The structure of forest cooperatives is composed by: General Assembly, which is the highest governing body and is composed by all private forest owners, Control Council, Management Board, Chairman, and Operative Units. For election of Governing Bodies of Cooperatives, is convened the respective assembly of each cooperative, each year at the end of April, whereas for election of Governing Council of the National Association and its leaders is convened each year at the end of June. Each cooperative has its own staff composed by administration, operative units, as well as by a forest technician and a forest engineer that in total varies 2 to 5 people. The Forest Cooperative "Gora" par example, possesses 1652 hectares of forests, mainly with *Picea abies* but even *Pinus halepensis* and it's comprised by 3128 forest owners, with various area size and amongst them. From it, 1216 owners were active members of the association, paying the annual quota and who were influencing in the forest management and have the right to benefit from economic activities carried out in forests, whereas the other part, who are not members were benefiting only from the rent of forest use.

#### ***Achievements of the National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria***

Among achievements of the National Association, is that the forest owners are responsible and organize their forest management and guarding. The forest cooperatives organize and are allowed to issue all the respective documentation regarding to harvesting and transportation of the wood material. Those have the rights and responsibilities equal as the state forest bodies and communal forest owners and there is a single supreme authority that controls them all. As well, in 2010, as it is said "union makes power" the National Association has lobbied and has reached to become part of drafting of the new forest law, where for the private forest there is a particular chapter, prepared by the association itself.

#### ***Tasks and responsibilities of the Forest Cooperatives***

Forest Cooperatives have tasks and responsibilities clearly defined by law. They are responsible for managing and guarding of the forest area they possess, whereas the control is conducted by a supreme state body, which

controls the state, communal and private forests. Forest governance is carried out based on the management plans, which are drafted by state companies and after their approval these plans are submitted to forest cooperatives. After submission of the management plan to cooperatives, then they are responsible for its implementation. For conduction of exploitation operations foreseen in the management plan, the cooperatives contract companies of forest exploitation. Marking of trees which are going to be harvested, is done by the forest technician and it's controlled by the responsible forest engineer. To start with exploitation, responsible forest engineer is informing by email authorities for timber marking done and receive permission answer in a period of three days to start with harvesting operations. For each quantity of harvested wood material, monthly and annual reports are prepared and are submitted to the state forest bodies electronically by the chairperson of the cooperative.

The annual exploited quantity was 8 thousand cubic meters. The exploitation costs of wood brought to forest road were 14 euro/m<sup>3</sup>, but this cost went lower by selling the residues remained from exploitation to the exploitation company with a price of 5 euro/m<sup>3</sup>. The task of the exploitation company was till to extraction of the wood material to roadside, then afterward another company was buying the wood material. The price of round wood of Picea abies varied according to the seasons but it reached up to 60 euro/m<sup>3</sup>. As well, in this forest area could be noticed the presence of several ski tracks, what evidences that this cooperative, except numerous forest resources was utilizing even the winter tourism potential of skiing, of which could provide considerable incomes from the rents of using the forest areas by the skiing companies, where for an hectare was paid 400 euro a year.

For two years in a row, in this area was developed the fair for promoting the technology in exploitation and processing of wood, supported even by the government of Bulgaria. A fair which aimed to encourage all forest cooperatives for improving and increasing the scale of mechanization in forest exploitation, as well as increase of the processing scale of the wood material, as it is known, by increasing the processing scale, the margin of incomes increases too. Near the place where the fair was held, easily could be noticed a metal tower about 20 meters high, which made curious the participants. It was a tower for fire monitoring, on the top equipped with a digital camera with a rotation angle of 360 degrees and with long distance observation capacity, and even more special it was that the energy used for supplying the camera was solar. This tower and many other similar are placed throughout the whole country and are connected in a network with a central monitoring system. In case of noticing smoke, they signalized the location, thus it was easier for the respective structures of fire extinguishing to put the fire under control.

Another forest cooperative named "Chil Tepe" in the commune named Laki, which is also member of the National Association of Private Forest Owners possess 2500 hectares of forests and was composed by 855 owners and the cooperative's staff was composed by 48 people, including working staff in wood processing mill. The chairman of this cooperative expressed that the EU in the framework of the Rural Development program had financed this cooperative for buying of equipments and building of a sawmill. A sawmill is with a processing capacity up to 60m<sup>3</sup>/day. The process of processing is fully automatic. The mill has two drying chambers with retentive capacity of 40m<sup>3</sup>. The fuel used for putting the furnaces to work was chips and sawdust, what enabled the maximal use of residues from processing of wood material and reduction of the cost at minimum. The reason for having these two furnaces was trading of the sawn wood according to customer demands, something that is an added value in the market. Incomes of this cooperative were considerable. This is a good indicator of the advantage of organization in cooperatives.

#### **CASE STUDY 4: CHAPTER TWELVE - MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AREAS - OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS AND LEGAL ENTITIES AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS OF FOREST ACT (2011) DEVELOPED BY ASSOCIATION "GOROVLADELETS" AND INCLUDED IN THE FOREST ACT]**

Chapter Twelve - MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AREAS - owned by individuals and legal entities and their associations

Art. 183. (1) Forest associations are associations of natural or legal persons - owners of land in forest areas established under existing legislation with a view to jointly and management of their properties.

(2) The Forestry Agency assists in the formation and operation of forestry associations which meet the following requirements:

1. carry out any of the following activities:
  - a) implementation of forestry plans;
  - b) implementation of forestry activities;
  - c) purchase and sale and processing of timber and non-timber forest products;
  - d) the conservation and protection of forest areas;
  - e) construction and maintenance of forest roads and accompanying infrastructure forest operations;
  - f) purchase of machinery and equipment for the implementation of forest management and processing of wood and non-wood forest products;
2. unite neighbouring estate owners with a total area of their property after reunification not less than 100 hectares;
3. (Effective 01/01/2016) The forests they are certified.

(3) Forestry Association, which imposed a sanction for violation of this Act or the regulations for its implementation may not be supported for a period of one year from the entry into force of the penal provision.

Art. 184. Support under Art. 183 can be accomplished by:

1. provide information for the development of forest plans and programs;
2. support for the consolidation of individual properties in common forest, including grant making assessments of the property - subject to exchange and consolidation;
3. consulting and training for the association for the implementation of good forestry practices;
4. consultations on the construction of forest roads;
5. advice in organizing and conducting activities to protect forests.

Art. 185. (1) The representation of members of forestry associations are owned by the individual owners in common borders, is carried out by Presidents respectively of their managers, by a decision of the governing body of the association.

(2) Under paragraph. 1 is carried out and the representation of members of forest associations in connection with their participation in national and international projects and programs.

Art. 186. (1) Natural and legal persons - owners of land in forest areas, operating in their territory:

1. alone when registered in the public register of art. 235 or 241;
2. by delegation to:
  - a) state forestry enterprises and state hunting;
  - b) municipal forest structures of art. 181, par. 1, p. 1;
  - c) individuals or traders entered in the registers of art. 235 and 241.

(2) The owners of land in forest areas, which commissioned the implementation of activities under par. 1 pt. 2, are required within 14 days of signing the contract award to notify the relevant Regional Forest Directorate of the date of conclusion, and in the cases under par. 1 pt. 2, letter "c" - and the number of the certificate of registration of the person contracted.

## 6. Policies influencing ownership development / Policy instruments for new forest owners

Policy and ownership are related in various ways: Policies directly or indirectly influence ownership development or even encourage or create new forms of ownership; and policy instruments are emerging that answer to ownership changes, including instruments addressed to support new types of owners e.g. through advisory services, cooperative or joint forest management, etc.

One of new policy instruments in Bulgaria is the National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria 2013 - 2020, November, 2013 with the measures concerned new private forest owners: Measure 3.3 Promoting the association of forest owners and optimization of public-private partnerships in the forestry sector.

The measure is aimed at creating the right conditions for sustainable development of forestry in non-state forest areas by: 1) promoting the association of forest owners to effectively carry out forestry activities of mutual interest; 2) Evaluation and optimization of public-private partnership in forestry sector. Implementation of this measure is related to:

- Preparation of a National Plan for the development of non-state forestry;
- Evaluation and optimization of the scope and possibilities for public-private partnership to conduct independent or joint forestry and hunting activities at different sites in the forest areas.

The expected results of the measure are:

- Developed and adopted a national plan for the development of non-state forestry;
- Attracted investments by providing opportunities for negotiation of long-term right to conduct independent or joint forestry and hunting activities at different sites;
- Conducted successfully completed procedures provided for under the Public-Private Partnership and the Forestry Act opportunities for public - private partnership in forest areas.

**Source:** Republic of Bulgaria, Ministry of Agriculture and Foods, 2013, National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria 2013 - 2020, November, 2013

### 6.1. Influences of policies on the development of forest ownership

#### 6.1.1. Targets and strategies concerning privatization

Transformation of economic system toward market oriented economy gives prerequisites of some parts of state forests (i.e. land and stands).

The possibility of partial privatization of forests in Bulgaria corresponds to the international level. Maintaining a significant share of forest area in the state ownership can be compared with European standards as well.

The fact, that society considers forests as national heritage, should be taken into consideration.

Experience from the period before 1944 shows that management in woodlands owned by the state was better than that in private forests (results of inventory can prove it.). In the last fifty years (when the state own forests) the development of forestry in Bulgaria was characterized as positive. The elementary reason for unsatisfactory forest management in this period (over harvesting, afforestation mostly with coniferous, creating monocultures etc.) followed from deformation of political and economic systems, not from the fact that forests were in the state ownership. Therefore, privatization of forests, implemented merely as a change of ownership, is of no value in Bulgaria.

On the basis of experience during the process of restitution of forests and on the experience of management of non-state forests, Bulgarian government can consider the possibility of further privatization of forests. Such privatization, which would lead to further fragmentation of woodlands, seems to be inappropriate and could result on increasing financial demands from state

budget in the future. In the initial phase of privatization, naturally segmented forests should be exclusively chosen (localities with scattered tenure, woodlots situated between non-forest land and forests separated from complex units which are intended to remain in the state ownership perspective). The government should decide upon privatization of forests, its extension and the way of implementation after taking decision which areas of forests are suitable to be left in possession of the state for the reason of satisfying the public demands. With respect to the facts that Bulgarian forestry legislation didn't allow the sale of state forests to the private or juridical persons and experience in the past with the concessions in the Bulgarian forests it seem that the privatization of forests in our country is inadmissible.

## 6.2. Influences of policies in forest management

A quarter of Bulgaria's forests are owned privately: by individuals (10%), municipalities (12%), and institutions (2%). Although the municipal forests can be in fairly large blocks, individual ownership is fragmented and typically blocks are less than one hectare in size. The private sector has four primary concerns about the current state of the forest sector, and the impact of the reform process.

First, policy toward private forest owners is weak, or is entirely absent. There is virtually no policy framework in place, which recognizes the importance or viability of private forest owners. The same, more or less, applies to the forest industry. The focus on state forest ownership, and the reform process which has supported the emergence of SFEs as commercial entities, has greatly marginalized the role of private forest owners.

Second, there are concerns that the current institutional structure fails to separate control from management functions clearly enough, and that management institutions (SFEs) are exerting control functions over private forest owners. Indeed, SFEs/SHAs are controlling the activities of private owners, and in some cases are providing guards and assuming the role of approving and checking management plans, felling permissions and transport of timber. In some areas where the SFE/SHA is competing in the same markets, the control

function is clearly unfair, and represents a significant conflict of interest. There have already been a number of cases alleged where felling permissions, issued by SFEs, have been delayed in a manner lacking in transparency.

Third, the industry has major concerns about how timber is marketed and priced. Much of the market appears to be geared to small, local timber consumers. But at the national level, the forest industry is dominated by only a few large players. Fewer than 10 large buyers purchase around 35 percent of the timber offered for sale by the SFEs/SHAs. These buyers need to have an assured supply of large volumes, usually of smaller pulpwood sized logs. Some of these large buyers need around a million cubic meters per year. Access to assured supplies of timber is hampered because of:

- frequent auctions, where small quantities of wood are offered for sale at sites scattered throughout the country (e.g. there 180 SFEs/SHAs, and many will hold up to 20 auctions per year often with less than 1000 m<sup>3</sup> offered for sale at a time). While this is great for small, local timber industries, it greatly increases the costs to larger industries.
- the lack of alternative competitive timber sales methods. Because of the SFA's taxation system, preference is given to auctions of felled timber in a yard or at roadside; standing sales or long term contracts are not favoured; storage depots can seldom hold sufficient quantities to meet large scale demands, and the use of storage depots increases the factory gate price because of dual handling costs (removal from the forest to the depot, and then removal from the depot to the factory);
- although auctions are covered by the public procurement legislation, these are not effectively being regulated. There is inconsistency as to how auctions are being advertised; reserve prices do not serve the purpose of stabilizing prices; there is a reported lack of transparency and collusion in the market both between buyers and between buyers and sellers.



Due to these factors some large scale buyers are:

- entering into negotiated purchase agreements with SFEs, which are neither transparent nor competitive, limiting the revenue potential for SFEs and increasing the perception that the sector is deeply corrupt;
- increasing their own stocks of forests, by purchasing forests from municipalities and private owners to guarantee a steady supply from their own forests throughout the year;
- importing timber supplies from Romania, Ukraine and Russia (even though there is surplus harvestable timber in Bulgaria).

Clearly newly independent forest enterprises need to develop their markets to maximize their returns, improve their efficiency and stabilize their cash-flow. This means that they need to cultivate bulk markets as well as the smaller scale buyers. To do this, a pragmatic and organized approach needs to be developed to timber marketing that is fair to both seller and buyer, is transparent, competitive and yet flexible enough to adjust to climatic factors and other supply chain constraints.

Fourth, the way the market is organized, timber harvesting practices tend to be inefficient and, ultimately, increase the cost to the industry. Timber harvesting, is mainly undertaken by private sector contractors

contracted by SFEs and SHAs through competitive procedures in accordance with procurement legislation. The common practice is to tender specific lots prior to auction, and the contractor fells, trims, cross-cuts, extracts and hauls the timber to the Enterprise’s log yard. Most contractors do not have modern harvesting equipment and rely on chainsaws, horses, agricultural tractors and second hand trucks. It is likely that most of the workers have received no formal training. Efficiency (and cost savings) should be greatly enhanced through investment in appropriate technology and training. The lack of continuity of contracts is perhaps the main reason preventing investment in this sector, and preventing efficiency gains

### 6.3. Policy instruments specifically addressing different ownership categories

Policy instrument affected the status of private forest owners and their activity and forests is **the Rural Development program (RDP) and the National Strategy Plan for Rural Development.**

In the following Table are given information on the types of activities that the RDP’s forest-related measures are supporting in Bulgaria and have an impact on the management and conservation of private forests.

Table 11: Classification of RDP forest-related activities

Category	Code	Measures
Commercial forestry	122	Improving the economic value of the forests
	123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
	125	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
	223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land
	226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
Environmental practices	312	Support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises
Environmental practices	224	Natura 2000 payments for forests
Training and information	111	Training, information and diffusion of knowledge
	114	Use by farmers and forestry holders of advisory services (2010–2013)
Others	41	Implementation of the local development strategies
	421	Inter-territorial and transnational cooperation

#### Allocation of RDP funds for forest-related activities

Money from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is going to

certain forest-related activities in Bulgaria. However, the actual amount cannot be estimated accurately, because forest-related activities are included in joint measures with

agricultural and other activities, and no demarcation of funds between the activities has been made. Table 12 provides information about the amount of funds allocated to the forest-related measures.

In the RDP, on the percentage of these amounts from the total budget of the RDP and what this money may be used for generally. The BG grand total budget of the RDP for the period 2007–2013 is approximately €4.278 billion. The amount of public expenditure is around €3.242 billion. 80 per cent of the public expenditure will be secured through the EAFRD. The indicative size of the funds by the EAFRD for the 2007–2013 period amounts to €2.6 billion. The total sum related to forestry, and forest/agriculture, from the BG grand total budget is around €1.127 billion. The total public expenditure for these measures consists of approximately €730 million, 80 percent of which (around €584 million) will come through the EAFRD. The subsidies going explicitly to forests from the BG grand total budget amount to €133 million, of which only the Natura 2000 payments for forest can be described as being purely for forest protection. The latter consists of €15.5 million indicative public expenditure. The amount whose allocation between forest and agriculture cannot be distinguished is €994 million. The measure 'Adding value to agricultural and forestry products' receives the highest sum, almost €535 million. Regarding forestry, this sum will support investments relating to the use of wood as a raw material, and is limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing. A significant amount will go towards infrastructure and the development of micro-enterprises. The latter measures cover predominantly commercial forestry-related

actions, and could improve the economic benefit from the forests; but they have no direct relation to forest conservation, and if not correctly planned might even lead to forest destruction (e.g. the building of forest roads could make the access to biologically valuable and old-growth forests easier, and lead to the destruction of important habitats). Those measures that could have a negative impact on nature should require an obligatory Environmental impact assessment (EIA).

As described above, three of the forest and forest-related measures had to start their implementation after 2009. In the meantime, their budget was allocated to other measures. Till its implementation in 2010, the indicative financial allocation of the measure 'Use by farmers and forestry holders of advisory services' is provisionally transferred to the measure on 'Training, information and diffusion of knowledge', which also concerns forest-related issues and will enable the introduction of (for instance) forest-related training.

The indicative budget for the measure for 'Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry' is transferred to the budget of the measure.

Modernisation of agricultural holdings', and forests will not benefit from its budget till 2010. The budget for the measure 'Natura 2000 payments for forests' has provisionally been allocated to the measure 'Agro-environmental payments', and farmers in the potential Natura sites can apply for support under this measure. Private forest owners will not benefit from the 'Natura 2000 payments for forests' measure until it comes into force in 2009, and this is likely to have a negative impact on forest protection.

Table 12: Funding for forest-related activities in the Bulgarian RDP

Code	Measure	Funds allocated (€)	What the measure could be useful for
111	Training, information and diffusion of knowledge	102,413,694* public expenditure (ca 3.15 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Training courses Information actions Working meetings
114	Use by farmers and forestry holders of advisory services (years 2010–2013)	36,146,000 indicative public expenditure (ca 1.1 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	No description in the RDP available
122	Improving the economic value of the forests	24,097,340 public expenditure (ca 0.74 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Creation of sustainable forest management plans and programmes for non-state owned forests Management activities aiming at increasing the economic value of the forest (e.g. pruning of coniferous plantations, lightening and tending in coppice stands, etc.) Purchase of suitable harvest equipment
123	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	240,973,396 public expenditure (ca 7.4 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Introduction of new and/or modernisation of the existing facilities and improvement in their use Introduction of new products, processes and technologies Reaching compliance with EU standards Environmental protection (including decreasing pollutant emissions and waste) Reduction of production costs
125	Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	90,365,000 indicative public expenditure (ca 2.8 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	No description in the RDP available
223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	40,424,494 public expenditure (ca 1.25 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Afforestation of abandoned agricultural land and not afforested forest fund lands Development of technological plans for afforestation Site preparation for afforestation Seeding and planting Actions for guided natural succession Fencing
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	29,540,976 public expenditure (ca 0.91 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Clearing of forests damaged by fire, windstorms and other natural disasters Establishment and improvement of timber depots in case of disasters Reforestation of damaged forests using indigenous tree species Establishing and improving fire protection facilities Diversification of vegetation structure by transforming coniferous plantations into broadleaved or mixed stands
224	Natura 2000 payments for forests	15,548,000 indicative public expenditure (ca 0.48 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	No description available in the RDP
312	Support for the creation and development of microenterprises	127,261,669 public expenditure (ca 4 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Investments and marketing and management advice for new and existing micro-enterprises in non-agricultural sectors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing industry – furniture production, light engineering, etc.</li> <li>• Renewable energy production:</li> <li>• Services – rural tourism initiatives by private enterprises, recreation and sports, setting up or development of consultancy and business services, social and health care, transport services, etc.</li> </ul>

41	Implementation of the local development strategies	53,891,814 public expenditure (ca 1.67 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Any activities within measures under Council Regulation 1698/2005 selected in the RDP under Axis 1, Axis 2 and Axis 3 Other actions outside the scope of the measures specified in Council Regulation 1698/2005 if they contribute to the objectives of the RDP and the local development strategies and aim at protection of the environment, rural landscape and local identity
421	Interterritorial and transnational cooperation	5,132,554 public expenditure (ca 0.16 per cent of the BG grand total public expenditure)	Preparatory technical support including feasibility studies, market research, surveys, etc.; and/or technical planning; and/or partnership meetings Implementation of joint actions (e.g. establishment of facilities for joint production of goods or services, joint marketing of local products, preservation of shared natural or cultural heritage)

#### 6.4. Factors affecting innovation in policies

In spite of the efforts made by state forest administration and the presence of private forester's practice, owners still face difficulties in the access to investments and advice, which shows that the assistance in this direction remains insufficient.

The measures undertaken by the National Forest Board (until 2007), State Forest Agency (2007-2008) and Executive Forest Agency (state forest administration) to assist the economic activities in private forests are as follows:

- normative regulation was accepted for management and maintenance of private forests;
- there are specialists in the state forest administration and its structures, who assist and consult forest owners;
- private forest owners can obtain financial support from the state for gratuitous inventory of forest resources, consulting, carrying out of forest protection activities, etc.;
- the state forest administration carries out conservation, protection and control of private forests, as well as sanction of infringers according to the Law of Forests;
- rules have been introduced and updated for maintenance and management of forests, which don't limit the owners rights and protect utilities from forests of general use;
- legislative guarantees have been established for sustainable development of private forests through regulation of private foresters practice;

- upright relations were established between the state forest administration and private practicing foresters for information exchange, carrying out of seminars, participation in mutual commissions, suggestions for improvement of normative regulations, etc.

Arising of different forms of property in Bulgaria require to solve many questions, concerning management and utilisation of non-state forests, namely:

- To develop mechanisms for protection of interests of forest owners, including creation of legislative and normative guarantees for implementing balanced and accepted by the whole society strategy for development of forestry.
- To improve management of the small-sized forest possessions. In this direction there is a need for hard effort for finding suitable form and stimulus for co-operation of owners for jointly management and planning of their forests.
- To motivate forest owners for protection and sustainable management of their forests. It is necessary to popularise modern multifunctional forms of utilisation of resources, with aim their sustainable and close-to-nature management for the interest of different owners and for the whole society.
- To provide support to the owners for activities concerning the afforestation, regeneration and tending of the forests, their management planning and certification, as well as establishment of a system for administrative servicing and a network of centres for education

and consulting of private forest owners.

- To establish a mechanism for compensation of lost benefits from limited economic activity in forests and commercialisation of their environmental functions.
- To support the establishment of a market for forest holdings, products and services related to the forests.

The establishment of new property relationship in the forestry in Bulgaria hasn't

finished with the restoration of forests and forestland to former owners and their inheritors. In order to begin work properly, new forest owners can receive help in the form of free consultations, education, compensations and financing help from the state. This can be the way that will give the possibility to preserve private forests as national wealth and to help private forest owners to receive additional returns.

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## 8. Annexes

### 8.1. Tables with detailed description of 13 most important publications

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N. (2002) Forestry in accession countries, Country report-Bulgaria, Indufor, Helsinki,2002.</b>
English language summary/abstract	This is country report for the state of forestry in Bulgaria before accession to the European Union. The information is given according to the questionnaire, elaborated by Indufor Oy which could to prepare report for forestry in accession countries. The report contain information about forestry in the period from 1960 to 2000 on the following questions: forest resources, restoration of forest and forest lands, use of wood, game and non wood forest products, biological diversity, socio-economic aspects of forestry, forestry policy making, forest policy content, forest policy instruments, evaluation of forest policy and conclusion regarding integration with European Union.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="Indufor Ov"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	Questionnaire survey
Thematic focus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Indufor (2003) European Commission DG Environment, Forestry in accession countries, Final Report, Indufor Oy and European Forest Institute (EFI), Helsinki, Country analytics: Nickola Stoyanov, Bulgaria at al. 143 p.</b>
English language summary/abstract	This report is prepared by Indufor Oy and European Forest Institute and contain information for 11 accession countries (Bulgaria, Czeck Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey) prepared by country consultants. The objective of the study is to help the Commission services to establish a better picture of the overall situation of the forestry sector in the accession countries with a view to facilitating the design and evaluation of projects, plans and programs. After analyzing and comparing the state of forestry in above mentioned countries in conclusion there are given several recommendations for the EU about using the policy instruments. It is established that the main policy instrument available to the EU is the allocation of financial assistance.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="Indufor Ov"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economics
Methodical approach	Questionnaire survey
Thematic focus	<input type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<p><b>Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in Bulgaria (2003), Sofia, p 50.</b>                      Core team: Eng. N Ionov, Prof. Georgi Rafailov, Assoc. Prof. Nikola Stoyanov, Eng. Toma Belev, Eng. Dimitar Bardarov, Eng. Georgi Tinchev, Eng. Kalin Simeonov,</p>
English language summary/abstract	<p>The National Forest Policy and Strategy is based on a number of world-recognized principles adopted by FAO, IPF/IFF and MCPFE. The over-riding principles are: wide participation of stakeholders, inter-sectoral approach, conformity with the national legislation, integration with the National Plan for Economic Development, agreement with international engagements, initiatives and conventions related to forests, partnership in implementation and, increasing public awareness.</p> <p>These principles are encapsulated in the vision for the development of the forest sector:  <i>“The Bulgarian forest is a national asset. The resources of the forest ecosystems retain their ecological, social and economic functions for improving the quality of life of people. Forests are professionally managed in a stable forest sector with broad public support and mutual respect and integration of the interests of all stakeholders.”</i></p> <p>The main goals of the NFPS are: Sustainable development of an economically viable forest sector through multifunctional forest management in market economy conditions; To comply the goals and the means for the sustainable development of the forest sector with international criteria; To provide for national and international financial recourses and to support the development of the sector</p> <p>.In NFPS are covered a number of strategic areas: forest management, forest protection, forestry, hunting and fishing industry, non-timber forest resources and products, biological and landscape diversity, social functions of the Bulgarian forests, tourism and recreation, forest industry, the role of State, ownership of forests, human resources, education and science, forestry and regional development. Each of these strategic directions is divided into four separate sections: current situation, main problems and challenges, strategic objectives and strategic actions.</p> <p>There are defined ecological, social and economic aspects of the NFPS and provided guidelines for its implementation.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="National Forestry Agency"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other

Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics, sociology, political sciences, natural sciences
Methodical approach	questionnaire survey, qualitative interviews, prognosis
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N. (1995) Restitution of the forests in Bulgaria, Forestry Ideas magazine, issue. 3-4/1995, p 110-115, ISSN 1310-5639.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>Restitution of property between "socialist" to "market" economy is an inevitable fact. Rights owners who have owned forests nationalization should be restored.</p> <p>The article analyzes different models for recovery of ownership of forests: a) in real terms, b) by replacing with similar areas in the same region, c) in the common parts d) by replacing agricultural areas e) by way of compensation in cash or vouchers.</p> <p>The advantages and disadvantages of different models and indicate opportunities for consolidation of small- forest domains by restoring the property.</p> <p>The most viable option for Restitution forest conditions in Bulgaria is recommended that in common parts or shares. Other options could also find a place depending on specific conditions.</p> <p>To assess the forests needed to determine the level of compensation is recommended to use the method to evaluate the current status.</p> <p>In conclusion, it is concluded that the restitution of forests will be difficult and will require extensive training and job involving the development and experimentation of methods for recovery of ownership of forests and preliminary training of staff will be involved in its implementation.</p>
Language of the study/publication	Bulgarian
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	Research investigation

Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership</li> </ul>
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N.(1995) Restoration of Property of Forest Lands and Forest Plantation in Bulgaria, In: Private Forestry - Chances and Challenges for Countries in Transition, Abteilung Betriebswirtschaft Nr. 43, Freiburg, p. 12, 78-83, 1995. ISSN 0178-3165.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>1. The restoration of property in the transition from "socialist" to "market" economy is an inevitable fact. The rights of owners, which are possessed forest lands and forest plantations before the nationalisation will be restore.</p> <p>2. Distribution of forests' lands according to its property in percentage and average forest land per capita in hectares before the nationalisation was: state's forest lands - 26.6%; community's forest lands - 54.7% (327 ha); school's forest lands - 0.7% (45 ha); monastery's and church's forest lands - 1.0% (73 ha); co-operative's forest lands - 0.7% (376 ha); private forest lands up to 50 ha - 1.7% (415 ha) and private forest lands under 50 ha - 14.6% (1.1 ha).</p> <p>3. In the paper are analysed the following models for restoration of forest lands and forest plantations : a) in real boundaries; b) by exchange with similar lands in the same region; c) in ideal parts; d) by exchange with agricultural lands; e) by compensation in cash or in securities.</p> <p>4. There are discussed the advantages and disadvantages of different models and there was pointed the possibilities for consolidation of small private forest lands and forest plantation by the restoration.</p> <p>5. There is recommended the variant to restore the property in ideal parts as a most acceptable for the conditions of Bulgaria. The remaining variants also will find place according to concrete conditions.</p> <p>6. In conclusion there are made an inference that the restoration of property of forest lands and forest plantations will be a difficult and continued action, which require the elaboration and the experimentation of methodic for restoration of forest lands and forest plantations and preliminary education of staff, which will participate in their implementation.</p> <p>7. <i>Key words:</i> Restoration, property of forest lands and forest plantations, models of restoration of forest property.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe



Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership</li></ul>
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N. (1999) Characteristics and Analysis of Implementation of the new Forest Laws in the Republic of Bulgaria. Proceedings of the International Symposium, Jointly Organized by the IUFRO Research Group 6.13.00 and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ossiach, pp. 69-75.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>At the end of 1997 in Bulgaria were accepted Law for the Restoration of Property of Forests and Forest Lands of the Forest Fund and Law for the Forests. According to these laws, changes will occur in the regulation, organisation and practices of management in the forests, at different management levels and by different groups of forest owners. According to the Law for the Restoration of Property of Forests and Forest Lands of the Forest Fund, about 15% of the forest area in Bulgaria will be restored to their owners or to their inheritors. These owners are physical persons, municipalities, schools, monasteries etc. The size of the average private ownership is about 1 ha. The small average ownership size and the large number of owners will require further establishment of new forms of forest management. The Law for the Forests regulates: ownership of forests and forest lands; organisation of management of forests and forest lands; the reproduction of forests; the uses of forests and forest lands; the protection of forests and forest lands; building in the forests; financing of forest management, and administration and penalties for violation of the law. Further experiences will be required on the organisation and management of forestry in Bulgaria in implementing the new legislation.</p> <p>The conclusion is that the matter, connected with the forest legislation in Bulgaria is very complex. Eight years after the beginning of the transition to market economy the Bulgarian Parliament has accepted the new Laws for the forests. This is the beginning of new period for the forestry of Bulgaria. The acceptance of the new Laws for the Forests require to elaborate and to accept several new Laws, connected with the forests - Law for the Protected Territories, Law for the Hunting, Law for the Fishing, Law for the Medicinal Herbs etc. After the accepting and implementing of the whole scale of Laws, connected with the forests, forest resources and forest lands will be elaborated the right order for their rational and effective use.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other

Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	Research investigation
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N., Kitchukov E. (2002)Status of Bulgarian Forestry in the period of Transition to Market Economy Proceedings of the International Conference “Privatization in Forestry” (Country Reports), Belgrade, Serbia, p. 43-58.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>In the report there are showed the tendencies in the development of forest sector in Bulgaria during the period 1960-2000 and the results of process of restitution of forests. The total area of forests is 3914355 ha, afforested area is 3398307 ha and the forests cover 30% of the country territory. The total standing wood stock of Bulgarian forests is increased from 243 mln. m<sup>3</sup> to 526 mln. m<sup>3</sup>. Average annual volume of harvested wood decreases continuously. The wood stock per one hectare was increased twice – from 76 to 156 m<sup>3</sup>. In 1997 - eight years after the beginning of political and economic changes - the Bulgarian Parliament accepted the new Laws for the Forests. In the period from 1998 to 2001 has been completed the whole documentation, concerning the implementation of Law for the Forests. In the period from 1999 to 2002 was conducted the process of restitution of forest to former owners. In result of this process state forests are 85.32%, non-state forests – 14.68%, including physical persons– 8.20%; religious communities – 5.79%; schools, community centers–0.11%; cooperatives, trade companies – 0.01% and other juridical persons– 0.11%. The management of state forests at national level is accomplished by National Forestry Board (NFB) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, at regional level – by Regional Management of Forests and at the local level – by the State Forestry. NFB and its bodies are responsible for control and protection of all forests in the country. The business activity in the field of forestry is a task of state limited joint-stock companies, part of which are privatized and of private companies, created according to the Trade Law. Privatization of forests, considered merely as a change of ownership, is no value in Bulgaria now. During this period there were many problems and difficulties, which didn't solved completely till now. Political instability and the fact that the formulation of forest policy isn't completed are two fundamental problems in Bulgarian forest sector.</p> <p>Key words: Forest legislation, Restitution of forests, Privatisation, Forest resources, State and non-state forests, Private forests.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other

Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics,
Methodical approach	
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Kitchukov E., Stoyanov N. (2002) Privatization of Forestry Enterprises in Bulgaria: Possibilities, Development and Problems. Proceedings of the International Conference "Privatization in Forestry" Volume II, (Keynote and Working Papers), Belgrade, Serbia, p. 91-103.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>The main accent of conducted structural reforming in Bulgarian forestry (1997-2001) is the dividing of united forestry enterprises functions. The economic functions have been concentrated in the new forestry firms, registered according to Trade law. The former forestry enterprises have been reorganized as a State Forest Administration in Regional Forest Offices and Local Forest Offices.</p> <p>After this reorganization the process of privatisation in forestry starts in the beginning of 1999. At that moment about 63 Forestry firms have been established with government property. Now about 86 Forestry enterprises are registered at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and about 55 of them are privatized.</p> <p>Structural reforming and privatization in Bulgarian forestry are a topic of hot discussions, and acquire a number of questions. Different alternatives for development of Forestry firms and the process of its privatization have been assessed in this paper. The main possibilities, development and the problems, concerned the privatization of forestry enterprises and forestry operations are pointed out. Some recommendations are completely established on this base in the aspects of Forest Policy, Legislation and Economy in Bulgaria.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	

Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership</li> </ul>
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N., Stoyanova M. (2005) Characteristic, Organization and Management of Private Forests in Bulgaria, Workshop Proceedings Forest Operation Improvements in Farm Forests, Logarska dolina, Slovenia, p. 333-341.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>The private forests in Bulgaria occupy about 8% of the forest area in the country. The average size of holdings is approximately 1 ha and there have about 300 000 forest owners. The most part of private forests are situated in the mountain and semi mountain regions and have an influence on the activity and life of rural people. The distribution of private forests on the territory of the country is irregular.</p> <p>After the restoration of the property of forests and forest lands to the former owners and their inheritors there were arise some problems: what are the most good ways to manage this small size forest property, have there a need to cooperate owners for joint management, how to carry out forestry works, how to change forest legislation etc.</p> <p>The situation in different regions of the country is very different. Par example in the region of Smolian forest owners established forest cooperatives and begun to manage their forests together. The results in this region are positive. In the region of mountain Stara planina the situation is radically different – the forest owners haven't wishes to work and to manage their forests together.</p> <p>The forest owners have a need from education and consultations. For this purpose in the country there were elaborated conception for education and consultation of forest owners, which start to put into practice.</p> <p>The government will help forest owners with free consultation from the staff of state forestry enterprises, by the means of program SAPARD, by assuring information about the prices and markets of forest products etc.</p> <p>In conclusion, the experience in Bulgaria, which is presented in the paper about the restoration of former private forest property, for cooperation of private forest owners and for helping forest owners is positive and may to be used and disseminated in Bulgaria and in the other countries with similar conditions.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics



Methodical approach	
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in  <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership</p>
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N., Stoyanova, M. (2009) Non State Forests in Bulgaria- Status and Problems, In: Avdibegovic, M., Herbst, P., Schmithusen, F. (Eds.) Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development, Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development. IUFRO Research Group 6.13.00 and Faculty of Forestry, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosna and Herezgovina, p. 48-58, ISBN 978-9958-616-11-2.</b>
English language summary/abstract	After restoration of property on forests (1997 - 2006), the ownership distribution is the following one: state 75,9%, private 9,7%, municipalities 11,7%, religious communities 0,6%, others 2,1%. The changes of non state forests in Bulgaria are presented followed by questions concerning legislation and normative organization, processes of restoration, and status and forms of management. The problems of non-state forest owners and the possibilities for assisting them trough measures of the program for rural development are discussed. In conclusion suggestions are made for improving the management of non state forests in Bulgaria.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	
Thematic focus	<input type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	<a href="http://www.iufro.org/download/file/5529/4503/61300-sarajevo08_pdf/">www.iufro.org/download/file/5529/4503/61300-sarajevo08_pdf/</a>

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Mendes, A.M.S.C., Stefanek, B., Feliciano, D., Mizaraite, D., Nonic, D., Kitchoukov, E., Nybakk, E., Duduman, G., Weiss, G., Nichiforel, L., Stoyanova, M., Makinen, P., Alves, R., Milijic, V. and Sarvasova, Z. (2011) Institutional innovation in European private forestry: the emergence of forest owners' organizations. In: Weiss, G., Pettenella, D., Ollonqvist, P. &amp; Slee, B. (eds.): Innovation in forestry: territorial and value chain relationships, CABI, Wallingford, UK, 68-86, 331, ISBN-13: 978-1-84593-689-1.</b>
English language summary/abstract	Click here to enter text. The emergence and development of organizations private forest owners in situation where they were not previously collective organized is a relevant institutional innovation in forestry. This chapter looks the factors that may have contributed to this institutional change in the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Serbia and Slovakia. The conceptual framework used to present and discuss these country cases considers the following types of factors: (i) the structural change in the social and economic environment of private forestry when forest owners' organizations emerged, and the needs of collective action of private forest owners triggered by those changes; (ii) the factors contributing to cope with the 'free riding' problems involved in collective action; (iii) the mechanisms leveraging the capacities of forest owners' associations beyond the initial domain where they emerged and contributing to give them the 'critical mass' needed for having a substantial impact on forestry economic conditions; and (iv) the possible existence of 'path dependence' phenomena, where the conditions prevailing when forest owners' organizations emerged have a lasting influence throughout their lifetime. With different specifications according to the characteristics of each country, these four sets of factors appear to be useful as a common framework for organizing the explanation of how forest owners' associations emerged and developed in the considered countries.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="COST E51"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	specific theoretical approaches
Methodical approach	case studies,

Thematic focus	ownership change (incl. on changes in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Stoyanov N. (2001)Conception for Consulting and Education of Private Forest Owners in Bulgaria, Paper Presentation at the International IUFRO Symposium on "Economic Sustainability of Small-Scale Forestry", Joensuu, Finland , 20-26 March 2001.</b>
English language summary/abstract	<p>According to the rules of the Law for the Restoration of the Property of Forests and Forests lands of the Forests Fund, about 17% of the forest area in Bulgaria were restored till now to their owners or to their inheritors. The size of the average private ownership is about 1 ha. In the framework of the German Bulgarian Project for helping the restitution of forests and management of forests in Bulgaria a joint team from University of Forestry, Bulgaria and from University of Freiburg, Germany develop a subproject on "Developing of Conception for Consulting and Education of Private Forest Owners in Bulgaria".</p> <p>For accomplishing activities of consulting and education of private forest owners in Bulgaria the team recommend a model, consisting of 3 elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Creating of centers for education;</li> <li>2) Assignment of special consultants for private forest owners, working at the State Forestry and performing only (or mainly) consultation tasks;</li> <li>3) Using head of districts from State Forestry as consultants of forest owners.</li> </ol> <p>There are elaborated also instructions for accomplishing all of these 3 elements of the model. For education of private forest owners there are need of books, instructions, brochures and other different printed materials, which elaboration begun.</p> <p>In the end of the paper there are recommends to the National Forest Board to implement this model for consulting and begin education of private forest owners.</p> <p><i>Key words:</i> Consultation, education, private forests, private forest owners, restoration of forests, center for education, small-scale forestry.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="German Bulqarian Proiect"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe

Theoretical approach	economics
Methodical approach	case studies, questionnaire survey, qualitative interviews,
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership</li> </ul>
Weblink	

SELECTED REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS	
Full reference of study/publication	<b>Cellarius B.A.(2004) Without Co-ops There Would be No Forests!, Historical Memory and the Restitution of Forests in Post-socialist Bulgaria. Conservat Soc, 2: 51-73.</b>
English language summary/abstract	In the wake of Bulgaria's post-socialist restitution of formerly private forests, cooperatives have widespread support among residents of the central Rhodope mountains as a way to manage the newly re-privatised resource. This support occurs despite privatisation programmes designed to foster individual private ownership and a history of socialism, which might bias people against cooperative institutions. Reasons for the favourable attitude towards cooperatives include the economic rationale of large-scale forest management along with social memory of pre-socialist forestry cooperatives in the region as valued community institutions that supported community projects, produced income for forest owners, provided jobs, and managed the forests efficiently and transparently. This case study contributes to a better understanding of natural resource management under postsocialist conditions in which individuated private property often receives the most attention.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	sociology, political sciences
Methodical approach	case studies
Thematic focus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	<a href="http://www.conservationandsociety.org/text.asp?2004/2/1/51/49341">http://www.conservationandsociety.org/text.asp?2004/2/1/51/49341</a>







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