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Romanian and Bulgarian responsible timber trade – opportunity for the region
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Summary

Romania and Bulgaria forests are some of the most biologically important temperate forests in the world. Carpathian's forests belong to one of 200 most important eco-regions defined by WWF in the world

From this point of view, WWF International and IKEA Group are joining forces in a three-year cooperation to promote responsible forestry. The organizations will carry out a series of forest projects that will contribute to the development of global toolkits on forestry issues and improvement of the responsible forestry in the Carpathian's and Balkan's region.

The forest sector in both countries is at present, dominated by the state and the restitution of the up to half of all forest to new owners is in progress. At the same time their importance as wood suppliers on the European market is growing.

To improve forest management in these countries, support groups focused on forest managers and primary wood processors are needed. The gap between current management practices and those required for responsible management and timber trade can in some cases, especially for private forests and companies, be very wide.

The Producer Group offers forest managers and companies a program that includes basic membership requirements, routines for verification and improvement, information, training and help

for them to move from current practices to the level required for certification or for achieving chain of custody. Transition timber will also provide a source of products made with wood from legal sources for companies committed to promoting legal compliance in forestry.

Romanian and Bulgarian responsible timber trade based on responsible forest management will contribute to the sustainable management of forests in this region and also to the protection of those forests with outstanding or critical biological, environmental or social values defined as the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF).

Part of the WWF-IKEA cooperation for promoting responsible forestry, the aim of the HCVF project is to create in Romania and Bulgaria a set of practical guidelines which can be used by forest managers, standard setters, certification bodies or anyone else using the concept to identify the High Conservation Values and manage the High Conservation Value Forests.

Key words: producers group, transition timber, high conservation value forests, sustainable management, responsible management.
