

## ROMANIAN PRIVATE FOREST DISTRICTS - BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Mihai MARINCHESCU<sup>1</sup>, Aureliu-Florin HĂLĂLIȘAN<sup>2</sup>,  
Florin IORAS<sup>3</sup>, Ioan Vasile ABRUDAN<sup>4</sup>

**Abstract.** *The purpose of this paper is to briefly describe the Romanian private forest sector in relation to the performances of private forest districts and the involvement of these forest administration entities in biodiversity conservation activities. The initiation in 1991 of forest property restitution process and its further implementation has had a major influence on forest management and administration; in 2002 the first Romanian private forest district was established. By 2010, 117 private forest districts managing around 1.42 million ha of forest had been established, their number increasing to 138 in 2012. At the beginning of 2013, 14 private forest districts were providing the custody or administration of 16 Natura 2000 sites, while three forest districts were FSC certified. Biodiversity conservation and increasing high financial demands of the forest owners represent significant challenges for Romanian private forest districts in the attempt to balance the social, economic and environmental interests.*

**Keywords:** biodiversity, FSC certification, Natura 2000, private forest districts

### Introduction

Romanian forest property structure in the XIX, XX and XXI centuries had suffered substantial changes. Starting at Romanian provinces level and until now, data attesting the forest ownership structure and its management manner indicates a continue change, firstly generated by policies adopted during various periods. For example, the evolution of state-owned forest area (Table 1) shows that in 1930 the state owned 1.942 thousand ha (29.9% of the total forest area of 6.486 thousand ha), in 1990 the state owned and managed the whole forest area being (6.372 thousand ha), whilst it owned only 3.339 thousand ha in 2010, representing 51.25% of the total forest area of Romania.

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<sup>1</sup> PhD student, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Transilvania University of Braşov

<sup>2</sup> PhD student, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Transilvania University of Braşov

<sup>3</sup> Prof PhD Eng. Buckinghamshire New University, United Kingdom

<sup>4</sup> Prof PhD Eng, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Transilvania University of Braşov,  
Corresponding member Academy of Ramanian Scientists