

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Venezuelan forestry sector has not developed rapidly, notwithstanding the efforts made by public and private sectors, in the last thirty (30) years. As Venezuela has economic potential and as the Canadian forestry sector strength is well-known this study will examine the market potential for Canadian goods and services.

The supply of raw material for the Venezuelan forestry industry is fundamentally provided by the natural tropical forest. It has only been in the last two and a half decades (since 1969) that plantations were started as a complementary activity to the natural supply for mechanical (sawing and wood panels) and pulp, board and paper industries.

Generally speaking, the wood harvested from the Venezuelan natural tropical forest and plantations is processed locally. At the moment, the supply of tropical wood amounts to 640.000 m³(r)/year ⁽¹⁾ whereas the availability of plantation wood (Caribbean Pine) amounts to 163.040 m³(r)/year. In relative terms, 85% of the supply of round wood comes from natural forests; 15% is produced in plantations. It is expected that the supply of wood in the country will grow at a greater speed given:

¹ : (r) roundwood