

It is estimated that by the year 2000, there could be a supply of 1,284,864 m³(r) of natural tropical wood and around 6,500,000 m³ of solid volume of wood without bark from plantations. By that year the total industrial supply could depend about 13% from the natural tropical forest and around 87% from plantations.

6.2. Forest industry development

Estimated principal investments by local and foreign companies:

a) Lumber manufacturing: The expansion of local supply will be dictated by new firms entering the market (with investments already on the way). These will increase production capacity by about 60,000 m³/year. They will locate their plants principally in Anzoategui, Monagas, Bolivar and Barinas States.

b) Wood panels: There are groups interested in a MDF plant to be located near the plantation areas of CVG-PROFORCA. Other types of wood panels are planned by foreign investors (i.e.: Louisiana Pacific).

c) Pulp and Paper: Local companies (individually or with joint-venture projects) have already been very active in this sector, as can be seen in the following table: