

## 6. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

In Venezuela, at this moment, to make economic projections of the forestry sector for the short and medium term is not an easy task due to: macroeconomic disequilibrium in the principal economic variables; absence of information about a long-term economic plan; uncertainty in Public Finances associated with structural problems of Public Revenues (oil prices have recently increased but are unstable); crisis in the Financial System; and, contradictory signals in the area of Public Policy. Any estimation made at this stage should be very conservative in nature, but positive, given the country's natural resources.

For these projections, we assure growth in industrial exploitation (given the end products) plus availability of raw materials from the existing concessions, new concessions, annual permits and the now maturing plantations.

### 6.1. Availability of raw material

The natural forest currently provides the bulk of the supply of wood that the forest industry requires. Nevertheless, actual and new plantations will (in the next six (6) years) change the present picture by increasing the wood supply for industrial purposes.