

Annex 4. Questionnaire introduction

Dear

The European Forest Institute (EFI) has initiated a project investigating the feasibility of elaborating a map showing the distribution of forest ownership in Europe. Public forests, but increasingly also forests in private ownership (about half of Europe's forests are privately owned), play a key role in sustaining forest ecosystems, ensuring biodiversity protection, mitigating climate change, enhancing rural development and supplying timber and non-wood goods and services.

To date there remains a lack of knowledge on the spatial distribution patterns of public and private forests in Europe. This project has as its objective to contribute to closing this knowledge gap.

As a first step EFI and the University of Molise are jointly implementing a comprehensive background study on data availability, existing georeferenced map material on public and private forest ownership in European countries and potential map applications. This is done in the course of a master thesis. Our plan is to follow up with a further thesis then looking at the technical implementation in a GIS environment.

After extensive Internet and literature searches we would like to complement the investigation with a brief questionnaire. The questionnaire intends to identify the existence and availability of georeferenced maps on forest ownership (public and private forests) in European countries. Maps may refer to national and/or sub- national scale.

We would be grateful if you can support us with your expert knowledge on We will be happy to keep you informed on the project progress and its outcomes. Realizing a forest ownership map of Europe will constitute a novel product finding both applications and use in policy and research.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support and are looking forward to your reply.

With kind regards,

Pamela Pulla

Master student - University of Molise, Italy

Andreas Schuck

Head of Office EFI - Central European Regional Office and the Observatory for European Forests

Bruno Lasserre

Researcher – University of Molise, Italy

Marco Marchetti

Professor – University of Molise, Italy