

LAND REGISTER IN FOREST INTERVENTION AREAS (ZIF)

Decree-law no. 65/2011, May 16, defines how the land register will be carried out in forest intervention areas (ZIF) to find out who owns the land in forest intervention areas. Consequently, it will be easier to apply the law and allocate national and European public funds for managing and protecting the forest.

The land register is an up-to-date record of all the land in the country. A unique ID number is assigned to each property in the register, and the name of the owners, the location, borders and size of the property are also indicated.

In 2006 the National System for Managing and Exploring Land Data (SINERGIC) was created to simplify the land register process and the access to the resulting data.

The information collected is entered into SINERGIC and is made available via the internet to public administrations, businesses and citizens.

As of 2007 SINERGIC has been tried in a few parishes and councils. This decree-law broadens the scope of this trial to include ZIFs.

The managing entities that wish to register the land in their ZIF must notify the Portuguese Geographic Institute (IGP), which coordinates the registry on a national level, and show that they have the necessary technical and human resources.

The registry operation in a ZIF is supported by a team of technicians from the National Forest Authority, the IGP, and the local land registry office, tax office and city councils.



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Each registry operation shall follow the procedure set forth in the SINERGIC Rules (Decree-law no. 224/2007, May 31), with the registry holders having to:

- a) Carry out the boundary marking of their properties;
- b) Declare, by completing a form intended for this purpose, the ownership of the property;
- c) Provide all information which is requested for purposes of implementation of the register;
- d) Communicate to the technical support team or the supporting entity changes to the declaration of ownership;
- e) Participate in the public consultation period to validate the information collected during the registry operation;
- f) Challenge the provisional description of the properties.

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