

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Report on the external events – ValVolCar »Valencian Voluntary Carbon Market«



Workpackage 2 - Communication
Activity 2.6 - Participating to external events
Deliverable 2.6.1 - Report on the external events

June 2019

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<i>Workpackage 2</i>	Communication
<i>Activity A.2.6</i>	Participating to external events
<i>Deliverable 2.4.2</i>	Report on the external events
<i>Summary:</i>	The ValVolCar project aims to create a local market for diffuse greenhouse gas emissions to finance local fixation projects through sustainable forest management.
<i>Involved partner</i>	PP5 & PP6
<i>Responsible partner</i>	PP7 Zadar County
<i>Main Authors:</i>	ALEIX Rebeca,
<i>Contributing authors</i>	MOSSI Rafael
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¹ The information of the report includes information of the presentations done by speakers

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BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION

On June 14, 2019, “ValVolCar” project event was held in Valencia (Spain). The project is led by the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV) and financed mainly by EIT Climate-KIC. The Valencia Chamber of Commerce contributes to the organization of the event and AMUFOR participated in the event explaining the “coordination and representation of municipal forest ownership” based in challenges and opportunities analysed within the ForBioEnergy project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ValVolCar aims to create a local market in Valencia, addressed to public and private entities that could offset their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by investing in forest management adapted to climate change, as well as increasing carbon sinks in forest ecosystems and wood products, reducing the risk of natural disasters. Therefore, the ValVolCar project pursues the quantification, reduction and compensation of emissions caused by diffuse sectors of society at the local level since these account for about 50% of total CO₂ emissions, allowing companies to offset their emissions through positive actions for the environment.

1.1 Location

Headquarters of the Valencia Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping. C/Poeta Querol 15 - 46002 Valencia.

1.2 Who attended

The workshop was directed to companies or public private entities, as well as individuals.

The target groups achieved were: national and local public authority; infrastructure and (public) service providers; interest groups including NGOs; higher education and research; enterprise and SMEs and business support organisation.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ADDRESSED IN THE EVENT

The issues and challenges addressed in the event were:

- Carbon footprint registration.
- Voluntary Carbon Market as the engine of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).
- Coordination and Representation of municipal forest ownership: existing possibilities regarding the offer of CO₂ emissions certificates based on the sustainable management of forest stands as a potential source of atmospheric CO₂ absorption.
- Analysis of existing barriers.

1.3 Purpose and scope

The general objective of the event is to introduce ValVolCar (Valencian Voluntary Carbon Market) to companies and organizations, discuss the possibilities and design of this green economy mechanism and set the stage for the implementation of a voluntary CO₂ emissions market at the local/regional level. To achieve it, the event was structured in 3 parts:

1. Presentation of the voluntary carbon market initiative.
2. Analysis of market risks and opportunities.
3. Discussion about various approaches to configure and improve the market.

Finally, after the presentations, an active discussion was opened for both companies and organizations to initiate a dialogue regarding the establishment of a voluntary market to reduce the diffuse GHG emissions.

1.4 Key messages, outcomes, recommendations and synergies with thematic community project

- Forests have a fundamental role to face climate change. At the European level, its mitigating effect accounts for 10% of annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the Valencia region there is an abandonment of the agroforestry activity, being the Mediterranean forests at high risk of major disturbances.
- A carbon market is a defined mechanism for the reduction of GHG and purchase and sale of credits that represents the capture or avoided tCO_{2eq} emission. The carbon footprint of an entity is the total GHG emitted by direct or indirect effect

through the activity implemented by that organization. Nationally, 144 organizations have reduced their footprint according to the registration criteria (*updated 12 June 2019*). Different projects have been launched in the Valencia Region with the purpose of absorbing CO₂ (<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/temas/mitigacion-politicas-y-medidas/organizaciones-proyectos.aspx>) (MITECO 2019).

- Regarding carbon markets, structured under certification mechanisms that guarantee the reduction of emissions (certifying agencies), there are two types:
 - (1) Regulated and mandatory (direct emissions): companies and governments that by law must report their GHG emissions.
 - (2) Voluntary (diffuse emissions): marketing with carbon credits outside official requirements.
- In the voluntary markets several elements are defined, among which is “The polluter pays” and “the one who fixes carbon, is this paid?” On this last point, multiple projects can be implemented, among which the sustainable forest management is noted it.
- Specifically, Spanish forests accumulate 4,374 million tons of CO₂, with a net fixation of more than 120 million tCO₂. Thus, forests annually fix 37% of the total annual CO₂ emissions produced in Spain (COITF 2015).
- It is emphasized that public ownership in the Comunitat Valencian belongs mainly to the municipalities (3/4 parts; 76%) and the municipalities of AMUFOR represent more than 30% of the carbon fixed by the vegetation in the Valencian ecosystems (PATFOR 2013).
- Forest management and comprehensive and rational use of forest products at the local/regional level contribute to face against climate change as a global management process. Bioenergy is an essential source for the sustainable development of Mediterranean rural areas which promote SFM and contributes to the prevention of bushfires and consequently, of the GHG emissions into the atmosphere.
- The management and potential issuance of certification could be the lever to reactivate the benefits of management.
- There is an important capacity to improve carbon capture in ecosystems. Forest management reduces excessive densities and diversifies the stands (climate change mitigation), in addition to reducing CO₂ emissions from the use of wood as material or bioenergy.

- In the Valencian Community, the technical instruments for forest management and fire prevention are very scarce. There is an opportunity to put in value the municipal forest hectares to be receivers of the bonds of emissions.


Highlighting some of the analyzed ones, it can be observed the existing synergies with the barriers identified in the ForBioEnergy project:

- (1) Paralysis of biomass harvesting works.
- (2) Lack of a regulated market.
- (3) Lack of transfer of competencies.
- (4) There is no uniformity in regulations and international legislation is complicated.
- (5) Generalized abandonment of forests.
- (6) Lack of awareness, information and examples of good practices.

Conclusions

It is essential to overcome the barriers to contribute to global objectives fixed in the Paris climate conferences (COP21) in 2015. Forests have a key role, providing multiple benefits as the natural disaster risk reduction, conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats, valorization of the territory and its resources, creation of jobs linked to the rural environment (arrest depopulation), promotion of low carbon value chains (bioeconomy) and climate change mitigation.

AGENDA



Information and Communication Technologies in Climate Change

Presentación del proyecto y Mesa redonda

ValVolCar: Valencian Voluntary Carbon Market

El proyecto ValVolcar persigue la creación de un mercado local de emisiones difusas de gases de efecto invernadero para financiar proyectos locales de fijación mediante una gestión forestal sostenible.

OBJETIVOS


1. Presentar la iniciativa de mercado voluntario de carbono
2. Analizar los Riesgos y Oportunidades del mercado
3. Debatir diversos enfoques con los que poder configurar y mejorar el mercado
4. Crear un foro de encuentro para la futura participación en el mercado de carbono

DIRIGIDO A

- Empresas
- Entidades públicas, privadas o particulares

PROGRAMA

10.00 h.	Bienvenida/Introducción: José Vicente Oliver (Universitat Politècnica de València) Rafael Mossi (Cámara de Comercio de Valencia) Jose Luis Muñoz (EIT Climate-KIC)
10.30 h.	Registro Huella de Carbono (Marta Hernández de la Cruz, Oficina Española de Cambio Climático)
10.50 h.	ValVolCar: Mercado Voluntario de Carbono como motor de la Gestión Forestal Sostenible (Víctor Díaz Manrique, UPV)
11.10 h.	Coordinación y Representación de la propiedad forestal municipal (Rebeca Amurrio Aleix, AMUFOR)
11.30 h.	Responsabilidad Socioambiental y Huella de Carbono (Pendiente de confirmación)
11.50 h.	Pausa/Café
12.10 h.	Mesa redonda
13.30 h.	Cierre de la jornada



Fecha: 14 de junio de 2019
Lugar: Cámara de Comercio de Valencia – Sala de Juntas (Carrer del Poeta Querol nº 15, Valencia)
Coste: Gratuito (aforo limitado)

ORGANIZA



COLABORA



APOYA



Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

forbioenergy.interreg-med.eu/



Municipality of
Petralia Sottana



GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE



Zadar County



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