

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Technical panels
1st Thematic workshop in Italy



Workpackage 4 - Transferring
Activity A.4.2. - Technical panels
Deliverable D.4.2.1 - Workshops' Reports (English version)

December 2017

Workshop report

Workpackage 4	Transferring
Activity A.4.2	Technical Panel
Deliverable D.4.2.1	Workshops' Reports
Pilot Area	Madonie Regional Natural Park
Involved partners	<p>LP – Sicily Region - Councillorship for Agriculture, Rural Development and Mediterranean Fishing - Regional Department for the Rural and Territorial Development</p> <p>PP1 – Municipality of Petralia Sottana</p> <p>PP2 – EnviLand Ltd</p> <p>AP9 – Madonie Regional Natural Park Authority</p>
Responsible partner	PP2 – EnviLand Ltd
Work mode	Thematic session – 1 st Thematic Workshop “ <i>Assessment of threats and benefits of forest biomass harvesting/extraction</i> ”
Location	Sicily Region - Regional Department for the Rural and Territorial Development, Viale Regione Siciliana 4600 - Palermo (Aula Giambecchina)
Date	20 th December 2017
Participants	<p>Number of participants: 24</p> <p>Local/regional public authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Petralia Sottana Municipality and external experts in charge for the implementation of project activities; • Executives and technical officers of Department for the Rural and Territorial Development of Sicily Region; • Executives and technical officers of Territory and Environment Department of Sicily Region; • Executives and technical officers of Madonie Regional Natural Park Authority. <p>Sectorial Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical officers of ARPA Sicilia – Regional Agency for Environmental Protection; • Executive of SO.SVI.MA – Local Development Agency of the Madonie territory <p>Higher education and research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers of the Forestry Department – University of Palermo; • Researchers of the Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies, Section of Animal Biology and Biological Anthropology – University of Palermo; • Staff of EnviLand Ltd and external experts in charge for the implementation of the activity 3.5. <p>Business support organisation:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive of ARCA (business incubator), a consortium for the application of research and the creation of innovative companies. <p>Professional orders / associations and technicians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Association of the Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists - Province of Palermo • Representative of Association of the geologists - Sicily Region; • Self-employed technicians <p>Interest groups including NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Associations: Legambiente and Association “Rangers d’Italia” <p>Enterprises and SME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petraviva Madonie Cooperative - Services for Agriculture & Environment
Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donato La Mela Veca & Sebastiano Sferlazza, Forestry Department – University of Palermo; • Federico Marrone, Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies, Section of Animal Biology and Biological Anthropology – University of Palermo.
Workshop materials	<p>Nr 4 power point presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>“Presentazione del Progetto ‘ForBioEnergy e dei primi risultati delle attività’ (The main objectives of ForBioEnergy project and the first results of the activities)</i>, Massimo Pizzuto Antinoro, Project Coordinator - LP Department for the Rural and Territorial Development of Sicily Region. 2. <i>“Metodologia per l’implementazione del Technical Panel (Methodology for the implementation of the Technical Panel)</i>, Claudia Rubino, PP2 - Enviland srl. 3. <i>“Valutazione dei rischi e dei benefici derivanti dall’estrazione della biomassa nelle aree protette. Vegetazione, Fauna e componente abiotica” (Assessment of threats and benefits of forest biomass harvesting/extraction in the protected areas. Plant and animal communities and abiotic component)</i>, Donato S. La Mela Veca & Sebastiano Sferlazza, Forestry Department – University of Palermo (external experts of LP); Federico Marrone, Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies, Section of Animal Biology and Biological Anthropology – University of Palermo & Giuseppe Baiamonte, Botanist (external experts of PP2). 4. <i>“L’utilizzo della biomassa delle aree protette. Valutazione degli impatti sulle componenti sociali, economiche, demografiche e sui servizi eco sistemici” (The use of biomass in the protected areas. Impacts assessment on socio-economic and demographic components, and on ecosystem services)</i>, Salvatore Tinervia, Forestry Department – University of Palermo (external expert of PP2).
Workshop’s Outline	<p>During the first part of the Workshop the main objectives and the expected results of the ForBioEnergy Project were resumed (Massimo Pizzuto Antinoro, Project Coordinator - LP Sicily Region).</p> <p>Then, the methodology adopted for the Technical Panel implementation was described: key actors of the technical panel, main purposes, expected results and</p>

	<p>effects on the territory, contribution to the achieving of project results, synergies with the technical panels of the other country partners, organization of workshops, description of thematic sessions and workshops calendar (Claudia Rubino, PP2 – Enviland srl).</p> <p>Finally, the methodology adopted for the threats and benefits assessment of forest biomass harvesting/extraction in the protected areas were presented by the external expertise of LP and PP2. They described the indicators that have been identified to measure/assess the impact on the abiotic, biotic (plant and animal communities) and socio-economic components. This presentation allowed participants to know how the project faced the issue of the thematic workshop and facilitated the start up of the debate. The participants gave their contribution with reference both to the methodology and the indicators. The main and most relevant results of the workshop will be reflected also in the other activities foreseen by ForBioEnergy Project.</p>
<p><i>Main criticalities</i></p>	<p>The main criticalities identified by the workshop participants concern the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis and evaluation tools of the ecosystem relations / interconnections; - Impacts assessment in relation to the conservation objectives indicated in the Management Plans of the Protected Areas; - Specific indicators linked to erosion (slope denudation) and to the surface water system; <p>Other topics were also faced during the workshop. Since not closely linked to the thematic session of the workshop, these topics will be discussed in the next thematic workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reuse of combustible materials; - Consistency of interventions with the Energy Planning at regional level; - Specific indicators for the assessment of the Forest Management Plans; - Impacts assessment (ie. air quality) linked to the entire forest-wood-energy supply chain and in particular to the operation of the energy plants; - Extension of the study area to the municipalities that are included in the NSIA Project (National Strategy for Inner Areas – Inner area of Madonie) for the assessment of some type of impacts (for example. the socio economic impacts); - Consistency with the energy model that will be defined in the framework of the NSIA Project which foreseen also the use of agricultural biomasses.
<p><i>Main solutions</i></p>	<p>The main solutions proposed by workshop participants concern the following topics/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of an eco-systemic approach for the planning of the activities;

- Take into account the conservation objectives indicated in the Management Plans of the Protected Areas in the compilation of the matrices and in the assessment of the impacts;
- Include indicators related to the denudation slopes (sub-superficial erosion) and to the surface water system;
- Introduce also the “beccaccia” (*Scolopax rusticola*) and “coturnice siciliana” (*Alectoris graeca*) among the indicators related to the animal communities;
- Propose mitigation measures;

The following suggestions proposed during the workshop will be discussed in the next thematic workshops . since not closely linked to the issue of the workshop:

- Define a set of indicators for the impacts assessment of the whole bioenergy planning process;
- Extend the study area to the municipalities that are included in the NSIA Project considering also the residues deriving from agricultural prunings;
- Consider also indicators that referrer to the air quality (PM and CO₂).