

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Report on the external events – General Assembly of AMUFOR



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

August 2017

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| <i>Activity A.2.6</i> | Participating to external events |
| <i>Deliverable 2.4.2</i> | Report on the external events |
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| <i>Responsible partner</i> | PP7 Zadar County |
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BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION

On Thursday 20th July 2017, the Association of Forest Municipalities of the Comunitat Valenciana (AMUFOR) held its General Assembly and consequently, the outcomes and advances of the ForBioEnergy project were explained to the partners of the association.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the assembly was submitted all the actions in which AMUFOR is involved. In this respect and concerning the lines of work of the association at European level, the Interreg MED ForBioEnergy project was distinguished.

With regard to the information which was shared during the assembly, AMUFOR transmitted the main challenges to face within the ForBioEnergy project. Accordingly, the need to disseminate the basic principle of sustainable forestry “binomial between forest conservation and management”, that is, the compatibility to execute forestry activities in protected areas, as Natura 2000 is. Furthermore, among the barriers identified in the ForBioEnergy project, the reticence to use biomass in protected area was mentioned with its respective operation recommendation which is the sustainable evaluation through criteria and indicators (biodiversity, quality of soil and water, landscape, carbon balance and bushfires prevention).

1.1 Location

Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces - *Federación Valenciana de Municipios y Provincias* (FVMP). C/. Guillén de Castro, N° 46. 1° (Valencia, Spain)

1.2 Who attended

The event was attended by the technical staff, the Directing Council and the partners of AMUFOR.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ADDRESSED IN THE EVENT

In regard to the ForBioEnergy project, the barriers that impede and slow-down the forest management in protected areas, mainly in Natura 2000, were explained.

Consequently, the requirement to elaborate an Action Plan at regional and Mediterranean level to implement a new regulatory framework that allows improving the integral use of the forest biomass with energy purposes. In the same line of work, AMUFOR introduced to the partners the study of the methodology according to the environmental, social and economic evaluation in the area in which the forestry activities were done, during the Proforbiomed project, to compare it with another area without forestry intervention. The aim is to valorise the benefits to increase the use of biomass in protected areas.

1.3 Purpose and scope

The purpose is to explain the executed budget 2017, the outputs of the ForBioEnergy project, as well as its next steps and to raise-awareness of the principle of the project.

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

1. To implement informative sessions that can be developed in the different territories of the Comunitat Valenciana in relation with the promotion of efficient policies to strengthen local participatory process among the main stakeholders interested in using forest biomass with energy purposes.
2. To collect successful experiences which are being undertaken in specific sites in order to exemplify good forest practices.
3. To continue disseminating the outputs and advances of the project in the AMUFOR's Newsletter, where information about the ForBioEnergy project is included, adding examples of good forest practices.
4. To establish collaborations concerning European projects in the same line in which the ForBioEnergy project is.

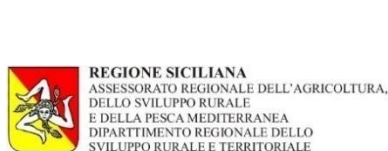
5. To raise-awareness in the forestry issues, as well as in the involvement of the municipalities in this regard.

CONCLUSIONS

The dissemination of good forest practices in protected areas are essential to arise awareness of the local communities regarding the benefits that a sustainable forest management give to the territory in terms of environmental services of the ecosystems, decreasing the risk of bushfires and tackling climate change.

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