

FORBIOENERGY - Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Agreement on the Action Plan for unblocking
administrative barriers



Zadar County



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Memorandum of Understanding

Between following partners --

Date

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established the terms and understanding between the (partners) to “Regulatory framework and permit route concerning biomass use in the protected areas”

Background

During the development of the ForBioEnergy “Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas” project we have detected the following barriers:

Social barriers:

- B1: High fragmentation of private forests ownership.
- B2: Poor acceptance of forest biomass extraction, especially in protected areas.
- B3: Lack of information and knowledge about opportunities of sustainable biomass use.
- B4: Lack of integration of entire forest bioenergy value chain.
- B5: Overgrowing of agricultural land.

Economic barriers:

- B6: Low profitability in forest operations for biomass extraction and logistics.
- B7: A high investment costs in biomass heating systems.

Legislative/administrative barriers:

- B8: Excessive and complex administrative procedures for forest management plans in protected areas.

Technical barriers:

- B9: Limited technical skills in forest SMEs for harvesting and logistics.
- B10: Lack of clarity and harvesting operations and standardized regulation for forest management plans in protected areas.

(Optional to include) And additionally the specific barriers identified by the region “XXXX” are:

Purpose

This MOU allow the review of the current regulatory framework and permit route for the use of biomass in the protected areas based on the ForBioEnergy project results.

Concretely, this MOU is directed to all stakeholders across the forest-based bioenergy value chain (energy agencies; environmental agencies; local/development agencies; policy makers and managers who shape the regulatory/authorization processes and the plans; technicians who draft the plans in the fields of energy, protected areas and rural development; management bodies of protected areas; association/networks dealing with energy and environmental issues; association of consumers; energy utilities; forest management agencies; chambers of commerce; chambers of trade and crafts and business incubator; universities and research centres dealing with environmental protection and RES issues; professional training centres; enterprises working in the energy production/supply and in the forest/wood sector and citizens).

The solutions proposed to overcome the barriers are the following:

Social barriers

Barrier	Specific barrier	Solution	Actions
B1	High fragmentation of private forest ownership.	<p>To encourage the establishment of forestry consortiums/cooperatives for the establishment of forest-wood energy chains.</p> <p>To update the layers derived from geographic information system.</p>	<p>Activities aimed at facilitating the development of forest owners associations in order to reduce operating costs and improve forest management.</p> <p>Raising awareness of the need of updating the GIS layers linked mainly with the cadastre.</p>
B2	Poor acceptance of forest biomass extraction, especially in protected areas.	Dissemination in public opinion about the important role of silviculture in the conservation and enhancement of forest resources and biodiversity.	Information and awareness activities on forest management and biodiversity protection addressed to the local community.

Social barriers

Barrier	Specific barrier	Solution	Actions
B3	Small forest owners have low interest in active forest management; they do not see any financial benefits in biomass production.	Establishment and consolidation of forest owner's and land owner's cooperative that would offer common forest/land management and marketing of forest/agricultural products; establishment of organisational structures, associations or cooperatives of small forest owners.	Establishment and consolidation of forest and land owners cooperative; forest owners association; forest and land owner's cooperative. Support to small projects for local actors along biomass supply chains.
	Poor awareness of the opportunities deriving from the exploitation of forest biomass for the production of energy and heat due to the lack of information and knowledge on the part of society.	Increase the awareness of the local community (urban population) on the benefits of the sustainable forest management aimed at the use of biomass for the production of energy and heat.	Information and dissemination activities on the environmental and economic benefits that could derive from the development of the forest-wood energy supply chains at local level, through a tactical level communication plan – training and awareness – based on a working group.
B4	Unawareness of possibilities for organisational and cooperative structures establishment, increased by the unwillingness for cooperation.	Establishment and consolidation of organisational structures, associations or cooperatives of small forest owners.	Establishment and consolidation of forest owners association; forest and land owner's cooperative and to support to small projects for local actors along biomass supply chains.
	Lack of users (bigger and smaller).	Encourage the installation of biomass boilers.	Co-financing the cost of supplying biomass boilers and education on the benefits of using biomass
B5	Overgrowing of agricultural land.	Development of forest owner's land and land owner's cooperative that would offer common forest/land management – lower costs of operations and higher income, including the timely update of the cadastre.	Raise awareness of the need to remove the biomass on extensive overgrowth. Enable a simple and free conversion of cadastral culture into the forest culture and to implement the Cadastre Act.

Economic barriers

Barrier	Specific barrier	Solution	Actions
B6	Low profitability of biomass production and low economic convenience of forestry activities carried out in protected areas, mainly aimed at conserving forest resources.	To promote the spread of initiatives aimed at increasing the economic value of forest resources, reducing the cost of biomass production.	<p>Using the Fund of forest eco-system services that co-finance economically unsustainable works in forestry and Rural development that fund the conversion of degraded and damaged forests. Co-finance the installation of smaller boilers. Establishment of biomass collection centres that will primarily be used by local users.</p> <p>Initiatives aimed at increasing the economic value of forest resources (enhancing forest resources as an opportunity for entrepreneurial activities related to the short wood supply chain.</p>
B7	Lack of knowledge on wood biomass heating costs (policy makers) and existing not amortised heating systems in the buildings yet.	To reach 80% of the energy needs for heating covered with wood fuels by switching public building to alternative energy sources, through the promotion on the creation of public-private partnerships for the energy needs supply (energy source, investment costs) and using the possibilities to receive a subsidy for switching to alternative energy sources.	Promoting and support for wood biomass use in public buildings.

Legislative/administrative barriers

Barrier	Specific barrier	Solution	Actions
B8	Small forest owners.	Motivating forest owners for implementation of silvicultural measures. Establishment of local forest owner association.	Establishment of forest owners association; forest and land owners' cooperative.
	Poor funding of investments in forests.	Increase of available funds for financing investments in forests.	Providing increased resources for investments in forests.
	The lack of Forest Management plans at territorial (i.e. subregional level) and long-times for their approval.	Promote the drafting of Forest Management Plans at territorial level also through the use of the RDP funds. Promote the drafting of Forest Management plans at local level and strengthening the synergies and coordination among the public bodies responsible for the issue of the necessary authorizations.	Drafting of the Forest Management Plans at territorial level, aimed at the maintenance and enhancement of silvo-pastoral resources and at the coordination of forestry activities. Promote Agreements for the establishment of associations between public and private actors, in order to favour the drafting of Forest Management plans at local level and commit the Regional Authorities to the simplification of the authorization procedures for the execution of forestry interventions.
	Overlapping of protective figures.	Models/Guidelines.	Development and definition of Models/Guidelines for the management of zones and species to be annexed to the Forestry Resources Management Plan, as a basis for management projects.

Technical barriers

Barrier	Specific barrier	Solution	Actions
B9	Scarce presence and limited technical skills of forest companies operating in the protected areas.	Promote the dissemination of knowledge and increase the technical skills necessary for the development of wood supply chains.	Increase the technological innovation of the companies involved in the wood-energy supply chain.
	Inadequate training of forest workers and inadequate specific skills of public and private managers in the field of forest resources planning and management.	Filling the training and technical skills gap of forest operators and staff.	Increase the technical skills of forestry personnel and operators.
B10	Lack of consensus on technical criteria and technical responsibilities among different professional groups (foresters, biologists, environmental...).	Elaborate Technical Instruments for Forest Management (TIFM) with a scientific-technical basis approved by forest experts and that is an instrument with normative character.	Definition and professionalization of the Technical Instructions for Forest Management.
	Absence of consensual guidelines.	Consensual and singles guidelines to control the forestry activities. To define criteria for sanctions and stoppages.	Development of consensual and single guidelines to control quantitative and qualitative forestry activities by environmental agents in the execution of the works (clearing, thinnings and final cuts).

(Optional to include) And additionally the specific solutions/actions proposed by the region "XXXX" are

Duration

The validity of this declaration is established for a year. *If the MoU is submitted in March 2019, the document will be valid till March 2020.*

Contact Information

Partner name (1)

Telephone

E-mail

Contact Information

Partner name (2)

Telephone

E-mail

Contact Information

Partner name (n)

Telephone

E-mail

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

forbioenergy.interreg-med.eu



Municipality of
Petralia Sottana

ENVOLAND



GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE



Zadar County



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Park prirode - National park

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