

FORBIOENERGY – Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Promotion of agroforestry bioenergy in rural development strategies
and plans in the Comunitat Valenciana



Zadar County



MULTILATERAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Among the following partners:

XXXX

June 2019

This Multilateral Declaration of Interest/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the terms and understanding among the signatory entities for the promotion of agroforestry bioenergy in rural development strategies and plans in the Comunitat Valenciana.

This Memorandum is made available to the competent Public Administration (Generalitat Valenciana) as well as to civil society in the Comunitat Valenciana

BACKGROUND

During the development of the ForBioEnergy project – FOREST BIOENERGY IN THE PROTECTED MEDITERRANEAN AREAS, useful tools for sustainable forest management related to the development of the agroforestry bioenergy value chain in rural areas have been developed. These have been developed through the study of the current regulatory framework regarding the policies, plans, procedures and regulations of the protected areas and the forestry sector at the local, regional and national levels, as well as the study of the current environmental and energy aspects of the pilot areas such as agroforestry resources and the local energy system. These tools are also based on the study of the opportunities and benefits of increasing the use of biomass and its evaluation in the short, medium and long term in the protected areas.

The instruments developed are:

- a) Planning of the agroforestry-based bioenergy value chain at the regional and subregional levels in the protected areas, supported by remote sensing for field inventory, saving costs and time.

b) Biomass-oriented forestry planning at the local level according to the model developed in the Interreg MED PROFORBIOMED project and Forest Management Project of Enguera 2014-2034 within the framework of the Life + BIOENERGY AND FIRE PREVENTION project, adequately adapted to the context of the Natura 2000 protected areas. In this plan, for each type of forest, best forest practices have been identified to preserve and conserve forest ecosystems through an active forest management and sustainable agroforestry biomass use for energy purposes.

c) Planning of the integral management and sustainable use of the bioenergy resources of agricultural and forestry origin in the Natura 2000 protected areas, coordinating the priority forestry works, fundamentally works of fire prevention and persistence of forest ecosystems, with the main environmental services (carbon, biodiversity, water and soil quality, landscape, etc.) that have led to the protection of these areas.

d) Minimum technical and environmental quality requirements of agroforestry biomass based on traceability systems (EN/ISO standards, FSC forest certification systems, PEFC, etc.).

OBJECTIVES

This multilateral declaration of interest (Memorandum of Understanding) has as its **MAIN OBJECTIVE** to develop integrated strategies aimed at the sustainable use and subsequent energy valorisation of forest biomass of the protected areas, to be coordinated between all the parties involved: public administration with forestry competencies (Generalitat Valenciana, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Climatic Emergence and Ecological Transition) and civil society actors.

In order to develop these strategies, the undersigned declare their intention to contribute to the following **OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES**:

- a) To guarantee the protection, preservation and conservation of the natural heritage, the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources, through proper and sustainable planning and integrated forest management, through forest management plans, according to the methodologies and models, as well as technical tools developed in the ForBioEnergy project.
- b) To increase energy production from renewable sources in general and biomass in particular, in accordance with the principles, strategies and

standards established in the EU guidelines and in the national and regional policies.

- c) To define plans and develop management and supply projects for agroforestry biomass based on sustainability and subsidiarity.
- d) To implement advanced forest harvesting systems according to the type of forest and forest-industry logistics, with minimal environmental impact.
- e) To promote the valorisation and integral use of bioenergy at the local level as a renewable energy source in bioeconomy systems, putting in value the forest and agricultural biomass.
- f) To promote the industrial transformation of solid biofuels of high added value based on agricultural and forest biomass in the Comunitat Valenciana, supporting industrial projects of SMEs in rural areas.
- g) To promote and disseminate with public administrations (Generalitat Valenciana, Conselleria d’Agricultura, Desenvolupament Rural, Emergència Climàtica e Transició Ecològica, Provincial governments and councils) programs and initiatives aimed at achieving the objectives and actions formulated in this agreement.

ACTIONS AND ACTORS INVOLVED

For the sustainable development of the bioenergy value chain in rural areas of the Comunitat Valenciana, an Action Plan is defined with the following actions and actors:

- a) Definition and professionalization of the Technical Instructions for Forest Management in the Comunitat Valenciana, providing them with a normative character: professional forestry associations and public administration.
- b) Development of consensual and single guidelines to control forestry activities of environmental agents in the execution of forestry works: associations of environmental agents, public administration and public and private forest owners.
- c) Realization of dissemination and awareness workshops for media on challenges and good practices of sustainable forest management for bioenergy purposes in Mediterranean conditions and in the protected areas: Valencian Forestry Platform and social media.

- d) Development of revitalization courses in the forestry sector at the local level aimed at forestry and environmental technicians of the Comunitat Valenciana: federations and associations of local entities, associations of forest owners, universities and professional associations.
- e) Development of a communication plan on the environmental and socio-economic benefits of sustainable forest management and the development of the agroforestry bioenergy value chain based on a multidisciplinary working group: associations of forest and agricultural owners, associations and professional associations, business associations and chambers of commerce.
- f) Preparation of a protocol for delegation of powers of the Generalitat Valenciana to local entities that own Public Forests (M.U.P.): Generalitat Valenciana, AMUFOR, Provincial Councils.
- g) Development and definition of standardized models and guidelines for the management of habitats and species that has to be annexed to the Forestry Resources Management Plans (PORF), and which are used for the drafting of the Forest Management Projects (or Technical Plans Forest Management): protected area managers, public administration, professional associations.

Duration:

The validity of this Declaration is established for two years.

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