

FORBIOENERGY - Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Regulatory Framework and Roadmap for the sustainable
agroforestry biomass use for bioenergy purposes in rural
areas and especially in the protected areas

MULTILATERAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between XXX

March 2019

This Multilateral Declaration of Interest/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the terms and understanding among the signatory entities for the Regulatory Framework and Roadmap for the sustainable agroforestry biomass use for bioenergy purposes in rural areas and especially in the protected areas.

CONTEXTO

During the development of the ForBioEnergy project – FOREST BIOENERGY IN THE PROTECTED MEDITERRANEAN AREAS, priority barriers have been identified, classified by different character – social, economic, administrative-legislative and technical- at the different levels of action:

1. Common priority barriers detected in the Mediterranean partner level

1.1. 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.

1.2. Economic barriers

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

1.3. Legislative-administrative barrier

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

1.4. 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.

2. Priority barriers in the Comunitat Valenciana

2.1. Technical barrier

B1-CV: Lack of scientific-technical basis for implement the forest Project and technical plans in the Natura 2000 protected areas.

2.2. Social barrier

B2-CV: Low awareness and pressure from local conservation groups that hinder the execution of forestry works in the protected areas.

2.3. Legislative-administrative barrier

B3-CV: High number of protection and overlapping figures which difficult the forest management, as well as the excessive and complex administrative procedures.

OBJETIVES

This multilateral declaration of interest (Memorandum of Understanding) has as its MAIN OBJECTIVE the review of the current regulatory framework and the implementation of a roadmap through actions that allow unblocking the current situation and promoting sustainable and subsidiary forest management as an engine of rural development.

This multilateral declaration is addressed to “”, as a local entity which owns forest land, and includes actions to overcome the specific barriers reported below:

Specific barriers

<i>Social character (C.S.)</i>	<p>High fragmentation of private forest ownership: low interest in active forest management and poor awareness, due to lack of information and knowledge, about the benefits derived from the use of agroforestry biomass for energy purposes.</p> <p>Unawareness of possibilities for organisational and cooperative structures establishment, increased by the unwillingness for cooperation.</p> <p>Social media does not have enough information: social communication is mainly directed to the urban population, leaving the rural problems in second place and appearing the media only in forest catastrophes such as forest fires.</p>
<i>Technical character (C.T.)</i>	<p>Lacking specialization of municipal technicians with forestry competences: forest competences assumed by technicians of another specialization with a lack of forest knowledge.</p>

	<p>Limited technical skills of forest companies operating in the protected areas in the planning and management of forest resources in the planning and management of forest resources.</p> <p>Lack of consensus on technical criteria and technical responsibilities among different professional groups: new proposals for a new regulation do not have the support of forestry professionals.</p> <p>Absence of consensual guidelines due to a lack of clarity in the control and sanction process.</p>
<i>Economic character</i> (C.E.)	<p>Low profitability of biomass production and low economic convenience of forestry activities implemented in the protected areas.</p>
<i>Legislative and administrative barrier</i> (C.A.L)	<p>Overlapping of protective figures (Natura 2000...) excessive and sometimes contradictory environmental regulations.</p> <p>Lack of trust between the regional and local administrations in forestry competences: Historic centralist trajectory in decision making. From the state to the regions but not from regions to local communities</p> <p>Lack of forest management projects (and excessive time to project approval) at the territorial level, as well as poor funding in activities with forest character.</p>

Actions

C.S.	<p>Realization of dissemination and awareness workshops for media on challenges and good practices of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) for bioenergy purposes in the Mediterranean conditions and in the protected areas.</p> <p>Development of courses to revitalize the forestry sector at the local level directed to forest and environmental technicians of the Comunitat Valenciana.</p> <p>Development of a communication plan on the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of the SFM and the development of the agroforestry bioenergy value chain based on a multidisciplinary working group.</p> <p>Support to small projects for local actors, through the proportion of greater resources to invest in forest land (e.g., co-financing of the cost of installation and supply of biomass boilers) and promoting and supporting for wood biomass use in public buildings.</p>
------	---

C.T.	<p>Definition and professionalization of the Technical Instructions for Forest Management in the Comunitat Valenciana, giving them normative character.</p> <p>Development of consensual and single/unique guidelines for the control of the forestry activities of environmental agents in the execution of silvicultural works.</p> <p>Drafting of the Forest Management Plans at the territorial level, aimed at the maintenance and enhancement of silvo-pastoral resources and at the coordination of forestry activities.</p> <p>Increase the technical skills of forestry personnel and operators.</p> <p>Increase the technological innovation of the companies involved in the wood-energy supply chain.</p>
C.E.	<p>Initiatives aimed at increasing the economic value of forest resources as an opportunity for entrepreneurial activities related to the short wood supply chain.</p> <p>Establishment of biomass collection centres that will primarily be used by local users.</p>
C.A.L.	<p>Development and definition of standardized models and guidelines for the management of habitats/zones and species to be annexed to the Forestry Resources Management Plan, as a basis for the drafting of the forest management plans.</p> <p>Elaboration of a protocol for delegation of competences of the Generalitat Valenciana to local owners' entities of public forests (M.U.P.).</p> <p>Establishment and consolidation of cooperatives/consortiums or associations of forest owners that facilitate the forest-based bioenergy value chain, reducing operating costs and contributing to the improvement of the forest management.</p>

DURATION

The validity of this Declaration is established for two years, extendable according to agreement XXX.

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

forbioenergy.interreg-med.eu



Disclaimer

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein