

Balancing forest functions in Catalonia (Spain)

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París

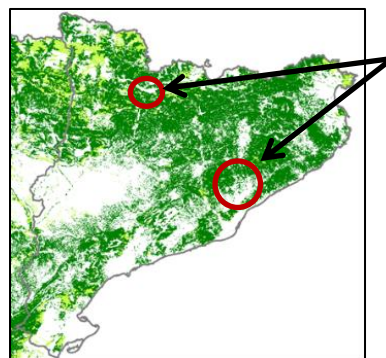
1 Brief summary of the Pilot Project

1 Where?

2 Why?

3 What?

1 Where?



Singular Forests



2 Why?

- Many of these “**Singular Forests**” are private and have a forest management plan **which allows for timber harvesting**.
- Property rights are becoming a controversial issue with questions being raised about **whether timber harvesting puts the conservation value of these forests at risk**.
- This situation of **potential clash of interests** exceeds strictly the scope of Singular Forests and would be **generalizable to other protected areas of Catalonia (Nature2000)**.

3 What?

- Explore and identify **new tools for mobilizing wood in a collaborative way without putting the conservation values of the sensitive forests at risk**.

1 Brief summary of the Pilot Project

“Establishing a protocol for collaborative, mutually agreed management in particularly sensitive forests that reconciles their high natural value with the mobilization of wood”



The **aim** of the pilot project is to establish a **protocol for collaborative, mutually-agreed management** of these sensitive forests that **reconciles high conservation values with wood mobilization**



With the actions implemented in this pilot project we contribute to:

- The **decriminalization of the timber sector**, understanding that forest management is often necessary to adapt forests to climate change and fire risk.
- **Strengthen bridges of dialogue between conservationists and timber production sector.**
- **Provide tools to the administration** in establishing specific legislation for forests with high conservation values considering the possibility to set up a network of forests evolving to natural dynamics.

2 Theory of change on which the pilot project is based

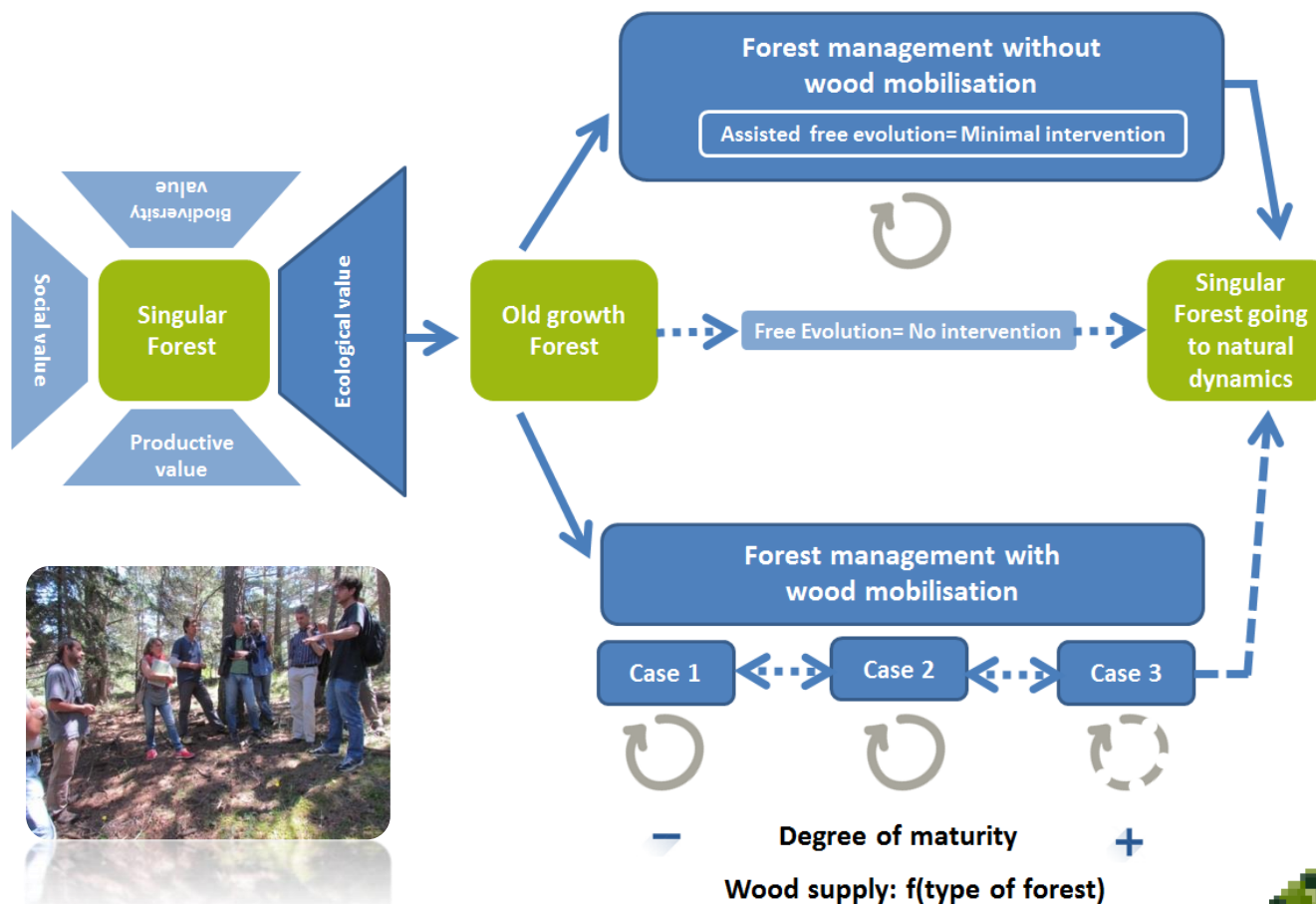
“Dialogue across the forest wood chain can encourage social learning between diverse stakeholders, and lead to common understanding, trust and cooperation to overcome barriers and realize common interests”



3 Changes as a result of the project

The most significant changes that we can confirm are:

- ➔ **Increased knowledge of forest dynamics** among stakeholders.



3 Changes as a result of the project

➔ Potential reorientation toward forest management practices closer to nature.



- ➔ Improvement in the **incorporation of conservation criteria linked to productive forest management.**
- ➔ **Fostering of trust between stakeholders involved.** (one of the dissemination activities was focused specifically **on the role of trust** in socio-environmental **conflicts** in forests).

Perhaps the most important thing is to verify the **possibility of agreement between all the stakeholders involved**, in order to **establish common criteria for wood mobilization in forests specifically recognized for their high natural values.**



3 Lessons learned

Looking back over the duration of the project, we could possibly have needed:

- **To reach a prior agreement**, on a more united front, about the **concept of high natural value or singularity**.
- To allocate more economic resources to the **evaluation of the ecosystem services** provided by these forests of high natural value.
- To confirm, at the political level, a **reliable commitment to deploy the Network of Singular Forests**.
- **To strengthen communication with society**. Our predominately urban society is still ignorant about active forest management and tends to criminalize it.



4 Recommendations

Some recommendations from the stakeholders that we are incorporating into the final protocol:

- To analyse **the scale** at which we work, and at each scale to define, for a specific area, forests of high natural value and explain the reasoning behind this definition.
- To propose a **glossary** based on shared definitions, to know exactly what we are talking about.
- To **contribute with scientific knowledge** to some of the conservationists' and productive sector's basic assumptions.
- To **introduce into the ORGEST (Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines)** the vector "**biodiversity**", in addition to those already existing for "**production**" and "**fire prevention**", to concile the natural values of the forests with timber harvesting.



4 Recommendations

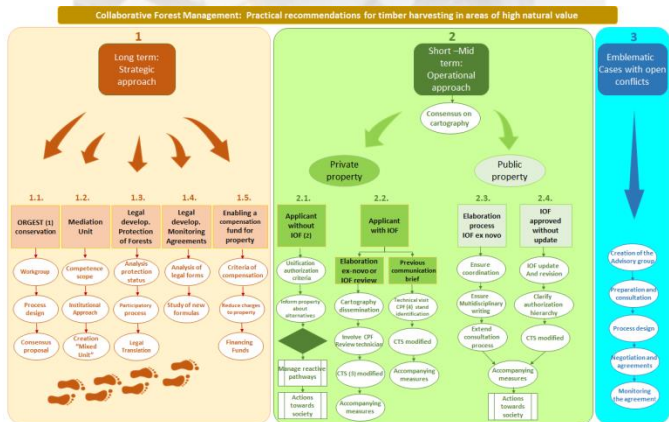


➤ To incorporate **land stewardship** and other **voluntary agreements** as an alternative resolution of conflict management. This tool could be especially interesting in private forests with high natural values where the current forest management plans include timber harvesting.

➤ To **educate society**. It is important to explain what is being done in forest management, and why. Coherent messages should be conveyed by the different stakeholders directly involved.

➤ To **coordinate** protection proposals with far-sighted planning of timber availability.

➤ To **incorporate the concept of “public good”** into timber harvesting.



5 Final remark

One important factor in the successful implementation of the roadmap generated by the protocol would be the **fulfillment of some strategic objectives that are heavily dependent on the political goodwill** of our Administration.

Specifically:

- The **development of a legal framework for the protection** of some forests of high natural value not included in any protection category.
- The development of a **legal framework** to support the **monitoring** of forest management **agreements**.
- The **authorization of funds for economic compensation** to owners subject to restrictions on timber harvesting.
- Implementation of an intra-interdepartmental mediation unit in order to **ensure better coordination between forest management and conservation policies**.

Thank you!



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