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Forest Land Ownership Change in Spain

COST Action FP1201 FACESMAP Country Report



COST Action FP1201
Forest Land Ownership Change in Europe:
Significance for Management and Policy
(FACESMAP)

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COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a pan-European intergovernmental organisation allowing scientists, engineers and scholars to jointly develop their ideas and initiatives across all scientific disciplines. It does so by funding science and technology networks called COST Actions, which give impetus to research, careers and innovation.

Overall, COST Actions help coordinate nationally funded research activities throughout Europe. COST ensures that less research-intensive countries gain better access to European knowledge hubs, which also allows for their integration in the European Research Area.

By promoting trans-disciplinary, original approaches and topics, addressing societal questions, COST enables breakthrough scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities.

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Background of the project

Forest ownership is changing across Europe. In some areas a growing number of so-called “new” forest owners hold only small parcels, have no agricultural or forestry knowledge and no capacity or interest to manage their forests, while in others new community and private owners are bringing fresh interest and new objectives to woodland management. This is the outcome of various societal and political developments, including structural changes to agriculture, changes in lifestyles, as well as restitution, privatization and decentralization policies. The interactions between ownership type, actual or appropriate forest management approaches, and policy, are of fundamental importance in understanding and shaping forestry, but represent an often neglected research area.

The European COST Action FP1201 FOREST LAND OWNERSHIP CHANGES IN EUROPE: SIGNIFICANCE FOR MANAGEMENT AND POLICY (FACESMAP) aims to bring together the state-of-knowledge in this field across Europe and can build on expertise from 30 participating countries. Drawing on an evidence review across these countries, the objectives of the Action are as follows:

- (1) To analyse attitudes and constraints of different forest owner types in Europe and the ongoing changes (outputs: literature survey, meta-analyses and maps).
- (2) To explore innovative management approaches for new forest owner types (outputs: case studies, critical assessment).
- (3) To study effective policy instruments with a comparative analysis approach (outputs: literature survey, case studies, policy analyses).
- (4) To draw conclusions and recommendations for forest-related policies, forest management practice, further education and future research.

Part of the work of the COST Action is the collection of data into country reports. These are written following prepared guidelines and to a common structure in order to allow comparisons across the countries. They also stand by themselves, giving a comprehensive account on the state of knowledge on forest ownership changes in each country.

The common work in all countries comprises of a collection of quantitative data as well as qualitative description of relevant issues. The COUNTRY REPORTS of the COST Action serve the following purposes:

- Give an overview of forest ownership structures and respective changes in each country and insight on specific issues in the countries;
- Provide data for some of the central outputs that are planned in the Action, including the literature reviews;
- Provide information for further work in the Action, including sub-groups on specific topics.

A specific focus of the COST Action is on new forest owner types. It is not so much about “new forest owners” in the sense of owners who have only recently acquired their forest, but the interest is rather on new types of ownership – owners with non-traditional goals of ownership and methods of management. For the purpose of the Action, a broad definition of “new forest owner types” was chosen. In a broad understanding of new or non-traditional forest ownership we include several characteristics as possible determinants of new forest owners. The following groups may all be determined to be new forest owners:

- (1) individuals or organizations that previously have not owned forest land,
- (2) traditional forest owner categories who have changed motives, or introduced new goals and/or management practices for their forests,
- (3) transformed public ownership categories (e.g., through privatisation, contracting out forest management, transfer to municipalities, etc.), and
- (4) new legal forms of ownership in the countries (e.g. new common property regimes, community ownership), both for private and state land.

This embraces all relevant phenomena of changing forest ownership, including urban, absentee, and non-traditional or non-farm owners as well as investments of forest funds or ownership by new community initiatives, etc. Although the COST Action wants to grasp all kinds of ownership changes it has to be noted that the special interest lies on non-state forms of ownership.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CFE	Confederacion de Forestalistas de Euskadi
CPF	Catalonia the Forest Ownership Center
CPR	Common property regime
EU	European Union
FACESMAP	Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Forest Management Planning
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
MAGRAMA	Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment
MIME	Mesa intersectorial de la Madera de Euskadi
MVMC	Montes Veciñais en Man Común
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIPF	non-industrial private forest
N/RFP	National/Regional Forest Programme
OED	Oxford English Dictionary
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RFP	Regional Forest Programme
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

1. Introduction

1.1. Forests, forest ownership and forest management in Spain

Spain is one of Europe's largest forest area and it has been in constant growth for 30 years, their forest plays an essential role in the conservation of biological diversity, the regulation of the hydrological cycle and the fight against desertification as well as providing space for leisure and enjoyment for society as a whole. These qualities of forest ecosystems, however, are increasingly threatened by fire, climate change and the abandonment and absence of management, among others.

In Spanish Autonomous Communities, the regional environmental authority is responsible for RFPs while the regional civil engineering authority is responsible for the land planning programmes. All these particularities make important differences among the regions in Spain. We here will try to compile some papers regarding the main characteristics through regional case studies.

1.2. Overview of the country report

Navarro et al (2010) present quantitative and qualitative information about the situation of the forest sector in the region of Catalonia. They focus on the new forest owners and the drivers for the change on the traditional structures, especially focusing on fragmented forest private ownerships. Their main conclusions are that most of the Catalan forest owners are getting old, and therefore there is less motivation for performing forest operations and management. Moreover for

the new owners of the forest properties, either for inheritance or purchase, forests are not considered a productive good. New owners many times consider the forest as a second residence, investment for patrimony or leisure. Catalonia shows a high forest private property of 87% and 70-90% of the total number of forest properties is considered small and the forest owners of fragmented areas do not know the existing forest information very much. Some owners do not know even the dimensions or locations of their own properties.

The rural abandonment and increasing urbanization of the population has led to a crisis of traditional values and a certain loss of traditional knowledge. This affects inheritance systems (loss of importance of the hereu, a law that entitle the inheritance to the oldest son in the family), management skills and priorities (the forest loses the role of economic resources generator).

The collective forest ownership figures comprise a varied casuistry and enclose a great complexity in Spain. Regional differences and specificities, in most cases come from stately particularities of the Old Regime, these properties have followed contrasted evolutions depending on local socioeconomic contexts and dynamics. Valbuena et al (2010) presents a proposal for the classification of the various categories of existing collective forest ownership in the country, along with representative examples of the different types. Communal land tenure is especially important in Northwest in Spain, representing over one third of the area of some regions -- ie. Montes Veciñais en Man Común (MVMC) in Galicia.

2. Methods

2.1. General approach

According to the aims of the country report which is to give a comprehensive overview of forest ownership issues in the country, a mix of methods is applied. They include a literature review, secondary data, expert interviews as well as the expert knowledge of the authors.

Data include quantitative data (from official statistics and scientific studies) as well as qualitative data (own expert knowledge, expert interviews and results from studies). A literature review explicates the state-of-knowledge in the countries and contributes to a European scale state-of-art report. Case examples are used for illustration and to gain a better understanding of mechanisms of change and of new forest owner types. Detailed analyses of the collected data and

case study analyses are done in subsequent work steps in the COST Action.

2.2. Methods used

For the Spanish country report we have consulted several sources of quantitative and qualitative data that can be seen in the references section. In a first step we used the data from Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA) through the statistics data set. Also the information for literature review on international and national databases (Scopus, Web of science, Repec, RedIRIS, etc), grey literature and policy briefs. Part of these results was the construction of a list of 10 publications that summarise the main aspects on forest ownership in Spain.

3. Literature review on forest ownership in change

The COST Action national representatives aimed to review and compile information on changes in forest ownership in their countries based on scientific and grey scientific literature, including reports and articles in national languages and official statistics, formal guidance or advisory notes from official websites, etc.

The scope of the literature review is as follows:

- Forest ownership change (with a specific focus on new forest ownership types), private forest owners' motives and behaviour, management approaches for new forest owner types, and related policies and policy instruments.

The literature review consists of the following three steps: collection of all literature as defined relevant, detailed description of 10 most relevant publications, and a 1-3 pages summary according to the structure given in the guidelines. The full list of literature includes grey literature, i.e. literature not easily accessible by regular literature search methods (unpublished study reports, articles in national languages, etc.). These references are listed at the end of the report. The 10 detailed descriptions of publications are found in the Annex. The literature review contains the following questions: Which research frameworks and research approaches are used by research? What forms of new forest ownership types are identified? Which specific forest management approaches exist or are discussed? Which policies possibly influence ownership changes in the country and which policy instruments answer to the growing share of new forest owner types?

3.1. Research framework and research approaches

Valbuena et al (2010) presents a review of how the Spanish forests have been historically influenced by human activities and their changes. Forests were cleared for mining, charcoal, shipbuilding and caulking. The most fertile lands were converted into cultivation and more productive cultivars were introduced. Then, mobile livestock, in

particular sheep, became widespread, and with it the burning of wooded land to produce pastures. Woods were privatized through a series of changes of entitlement of forest ownership. All these factors are linked to profound changes in the landscape and vegetation. Not until the beginning of the 20th century were real efforts devoted to invert the trend to deforestation inherited from the negative woodland management of previous centuries.

The present Spanish model of political and institutional organisation as a federal state has been developed since the Constitution of 1978. Until this time, the extremely centralised forest policy has been one of the policies which have induced most relevant territorial consequences. Due to the constitution, the regions received a large number of political and administrative competences, land planning policy and forest management amongst them. Coinciding with the emergence of the new land planning policy, the forest policy suffered an identity crisis due to a lack of renovation of its basis.

The processes followed by the Comunidades Autónomas (Autonomous Communities) for the definition of Regional Forest Programmes (RFPs), within the context of European policies set within the framework provided by international agreements, have provided an opportunity to reform the Spanish forest policy into a new de-centralised administrative system. Despite the fact that the responsibility of RFPs and the land planning programmes falls upon the same governmental level, important coordination difficulties exist due to the nature of the policies – sectoral in the case of RFPs versus territorial in the case of the land planning programmes.

3.2. New forest ownership types

Navarro et al (2010) present quantitative and qualitative information about the situation of the forest sector in the region of Catalonia. They focus on the new forest owners and the drivers for the change on the traditional structures, especially focusing on fragmented forest private ownerships. Their main conclusions are that most of the Catalan

forest owners are getting old, and therefore there is less motivation for performing forest operations and management. Moreover for the new owners of the forest properties, either for inheritance or purchase, forests are not considered a productive good. New owners many times consider the forest as a second residence, investment for patrimony or leisure. Catalonia shows a high forest private property of 87% and 70-90% of the total number of forest properties is considered small and the forest owners of fragmented areas do not know the existing forest information very much. Some owners do not know even the dimensions or locations of their own properties.

The rural abandonment and increasing urbanization of the population has led to a crisis of traditional values and a certain loss of traditional knowledge. This affects inheritance systems (loss of importance of the hereu), management skills and priorities (the forest loses the role of economic resources generator).

The collective forest ownership figures comprise a varied casuistry and enclose a great complexity in Spain. Regional differences and specificities, in most cases come from stately particularities of the Old Regime, these properties have followed contrasted evolutions depending on local socioeconomic contexts and dynamics. Valbuena et al (2010) presents a proposal for the classification of the various categories of existing collective forest ownership in the country, along with representative examples of the different types. Communal land tenure is especially important in Northwest in Spain, representing over one third of the area of some regions --ie. Montes Veciñais en Man Común (MVMC) in Galicia.

3.3. Forest management approaches

Aiming to gain a better understanding of the attitudes of forest owners, Domínguez and Shannon (2011) analyse how forest owners get involved in forest management and the factors that influence their active decision-making process in Catalonia. The main finding is that forest owners are more likely to engage in the management of their properties when they believe that through their actions

they are fulfilling a moral norm, they are reducing the risk of forest fires, they have an archetypal image of what the forest should look like, and they can justify forest management as part of their economic strategy. So the main conclusion is that other factors besides the economic are important for forest owners in decision making. The change from traditional to modern societies has a big influence in some of these factors.

Over the years, communal land tenure has undergone many changes in terms of ownership and resource management. Such changes have resulted in land tenure insecurity among current landowners, who live in rural areas. The new land uses--mainly related to energy sources--the demographic changes, the role of the Public Administration as a manager of communal land tenure, the presence of private companies with interests in forests, and the disagreement between forest communities or among commoners of the same community have brought many conflict that have gone beyond the limits of forests and have been reflected in public opinion, being more important when environmental conflicts are also present.

Rodríguez and Marey (2009) also show that non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners' management mainly responds to investment and increasing the productivity of the land as a capital asset, which is directly influenced by the size and degree of fragmentation of the holding, and directly or indirectly related to the owner's interest in timber production.

3.4. Policy change / policy instruments

Fragmentation of ownership and the lack of strong markets for most forest products it the hindering factor. The emphasis of public policies in supporting the income of owners through subsidies in the timber producing regions have shown its clear limits.

Land tenure is the second most important external influence factor on National/Regional Forest Programmes (N/RFPs) in Spain after decentralization. More than 2/3 of the Spanish forest area is privately owned, which poses some problems that must be taken into account when formulating and implementing policies forest regions. The private forests are in general distinguished by the smallholding

and a rather undefined legal status. This fact is an impeding factor on forest policy because it has been only focalised on public forests. Nevertheless, N/RFPs have introduced a new concept of forest policy and forest management which allows and encourage the participation of stakeholders in the planning and implementation processes. Considering the influence of land tenure on N/RFPs, the substantive N/RFPs in Spain are those which integrate the topic of land tenure in their procedural elements and in their contents.

Society's participation in decisions regarding land planning and management is essential to reach viable and long-lasting solutions in forest management. Inducing private forest owners to undertake any kind of forest management poses a challenge to policymakers in Spain. Moreover, for the design and implementation of forest policies, it is essential to know the factors that determine the decisions of forest owners as key actors in forest management. Gorriz et al (2013) investigates the relationships between the motivations of owners and their preferences on instruments for the regulation of the demand and supply of ecosystem services. The case study in their analysis is Catalonia, and they focus on collecting mushrooms - recreational and commercial dimension - like an environmental service that varies by forest management. From an inductive and constructivist approach has been performed a qualitative analysis based on Grounded Theory.

Different hypotheses have emerged from in-depth interviews conducted. The heterogeneity of owners has been reflected in the perception on the activity of mushroom collecting. According to the owner's profile, the preferences vary among regulatory, tax collection or informational nature instruments. In any case, it is noted the preference of design of a voluntary instrument, where potential negative reactions from collectors toward the owner discourage the initiatives.

In general, Navarro et al (2010) enlightens the main problems that forest policy has to address in Spain has to be with the following aspects:

- (i) forest tradition is disappearing, much knowledge and culture have been lost due to the abandonment of the rural areas and the traditional activities.
- (ii) lack of technological innovation and few investments in R&D, for the forest operations and works as well as for the industries.
- (iii) high costs of operation.
- (iv) little dissemination of the benefits of the forest sector for the society and the forest.
- (v) forest information arrives only to the zones with more forest activity.
- (vi) little profitability of many local forest products, due to a lack of added value.
- (vii) degraded and non optimised forest road network.

4. Forest ownership

The aim of this chapter is to give a detailed overview of forest ownership in the country. The most detailed information on national level is often structured in different ways in different countries. In order to show the most accurate information, it was decided to use the national data sets in the country reports. In order to make this information comparable still, the information is also collected in an international format which is used in the Forest Resources Assessments by FAO. The transfer from national data sets to international definitions is, however, not always easy. This report therefore critically assesses in how far the national categories and definitions may be transformed into the

international FRA data structure or in how far there are inconsistencies between them.

4.1. Forest ownership structure

4.1.1. National data set

At present, 66% of forest area is in private ownership (18.1 million hectares), and the rest (just over 9.5 million hectares or 34%) is publicly owned. Local authorities, especially Town Councils, own most public forest area, much more than the State or Autonomous Regions. Approximately, 6 million hectares of public forest area is of public domain and is included in the Catalogue of Public Utility Woodland (Table 1).

Table 1: Ownership forest area in Spain

Ownership forest area	Thousand ha	%
State or Autonomous Region	1400-1600	≈ 5
Local entities of the public domain	≈ 6000	≈ 22
Local entities free disposition	≈ 2000	≈ 7
Public Ownership	≈9500	≈34
Private family	14884-15384	≈ 55
Private industrial	≈ 100	≈ 1
Private joint-owners of commonly-owned land	≈ 620	≈ 2
Private Collective	2000-2500	≈ 8
Private Ownership	≈ 18104	≈ 66
Total	27604	100

Source: *The situation of forests and the forestry sector in Spain 2013 (SECF). Data from 2010*

The main source of information in relation to the rural ownership are the Cadastre (Catastro) and also the “agricultural Holding Census” (Censo Agrario). In the 90’s the information contained in the Cadastre was reviewed but the revision focussed in the more valuable lands (urban or industrial) and let aside the revision of the forest lands. It can be said at this moment that the Spanish administration ignores the number of forest owners and their basic characteristics, such as type, age or address.

The Agricultural Holdings Census, conducted every ten years by the National Statistics Institute does not include data regarding forest plots not included in active farms; and the forestry administration itself does have a forestry inventory. The Spanish Cadastre still collects countless confusing references in relation to the ownerships, which generally

relate to neighbourhood groups in the affected areas (SEFC 2013).

It should be noted that commons --the properties of collective or community type-- are estimated at more than 10,620 thousand ha. These common lands have been strongly influenced by two processes. The first one happened in the beginning of 19th century. Most of the forests proceeding from lordship domains were bought by individuals or collective people through a process called “desamortización” So they became private or communal forests (Bauer 1980, Bringué 20039).

The second happened during the rural crisis of the 50’s and 60’s many forestlands were abandoned and forest owners migrated to cities. Therefore, the Town Halls led a process of appropriation of communal lands (montes comunales) and they became

municipality forests (montes de propios). As a result, most of the Spanish public forests are owned by the local governments instead of the State (Montiel)

4.1.2. Critical comparison with national data in FRA reporting

Comparing to the data provided to FRA, the categories relate as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Comparison among National and FRA categories of forest ownership

National Category	FRA Category	
State or Autonomous region	Public	1400-1600
Local Entities		8000
Private ownership	Private, individuals	14000-15000
Joint-ownership, collective	Private collective	2500-3000
Others	Unclear or disputed	NA

Source of data: FRA (www.fao.org/docrep/013/al631S/al631S.pdf)

The data from the table 1 cannot be compared to FRA data. Data from FRA refers only to wooded land, while this data is related to forest land wooded and non wooded land. Data provided in both cases are estimates, given the incomplete knowledge of the Spanish forest ownership –due to unclear or disputed areas-- in many forests.

4.2. Unclear or disputed forest ownership

In Spain the share of forest in private, public and other ownership (properties unknown or unclear) differs considerably between regions. In Spain the share of forest in private, public and other ownership (properties unknown or unclear) is of 12.3% of wooded lands and 13.6 of the non-wooded lands. The share, however, differs considerably between regions. (http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/estadisticas/aef_2010_estructura_forestal_tcm7-226977.pdf). In most of the cases where the ownership is unclear is due to lands that belong to group of neighbours.

4.3. Legal provisions on buying or inheriting forests

4.3.1. Legal restrictions for buying or selling forests

In some regions there are specific restrictions, as for instance, in Catalonia in 1985 the minimum forest surface was defined as 25 ha. That means that properties of 25 ha cannot be split or a part of this surface can be sold. In common lands there are also restrictions for selling, according to the law on

neighbourhood forests in common hands (Ley de Montes Vecinales en Mano Comun) the land cannot be sold or divided among owners.

4.3.2. Specific inheritance (or marriage) rules applied to forests

In general in Spain forest inheritance rules for private ownership follow the common law for private properties. Therefore the land is split in equal parts among the heirs. However there are some specific inheritance regulations in some regions where ancient civil laws have survived. This is the case for regions that were part of the former Aragon Kingdom (Catalunya, Aragon, Valencia, Balears), the Basque Country, Navarra and Galicia, along with a few municipalities in Extremadura. The regulations differ from one region to the other. So, for example in Catalonia most of the families respect the figure of “El hereu” with origin in the Middle Age, which is the institution that establish the inheritance rights to the eldest son to avoid the division on the properties. And the same happens in Castilla and Leon with the “mayorazgo” that is similar to the hereu. In the Basque territories and Navarra there is the freedom to nominate a single heir -not necessarily the older son and not necessarily a male. In Bizkaia there are other regulations that limits who can be heir for land that was, in its turn, receive as inheritance. The aim is to maintain those properties in the same family branch. However, nowadays, not all the families follow this tradition, and a certain trend can be observed towards the creation of societies run by all the heirs.

4.4. Changes of the forest ownership structure in last three decades

4.4.1. Changes between public and private ownership

In the last three decades not many significant changes can be reported. The forest land market is very weak and there are not many transactions.

The main changes are:

- new urban forest owners (descendants of forest owners but no longer connected to the property)
- farmers that now own forest land (due to a process of forestation or also to the abandonment of crop lands).
- Involuntary forest owners: Spain's Booming Housing Market in the early 21st century caused also important changes in the ownership. The prize of the houses (even ruins) increased dramatically and due to certain regional laws that do not allow to sell a rural house without the attached land, the forest land marked was dynamized. Many houses (with forest land) were sold and a new kind of forest owner, mainly interested in the houses and its recreational use and without knowledge about forest management or agriculture (Dominguez 2007)

A new kind of forest owners (but almost not significant in hectares) are the banks or foundations linked to banks that bought forests for social responsibility reasons.

The current ownership structure of forestlands in Spain has been built during the 19th century within the transition from Feudal to Liberal Regime and through the Desamortización process (the church ownership was changed to public institutions). In the beginning of 19th century the forestland property and use rights were an essential component of the land domain in manors.

It was through the Desamortización process when the Spanish land tenure was defined. Most of the forests proceeding from lordship domains were bought by individuals or collective people. So they became private or communal forests (Bauer, 2010). On the

opposite side, public forests were much reduced.

Since that period not important changes has been observed in the share between public and private ownership.

4.4.2. Changes within public ownership categories

Some changes can be stated within public ownership categories. During the rural crisis of the 50's and 60's many forestlands were abandoned and forest owners migrated to cities. Therefore, the Town Halls led a process of appropriation of communal lands (montes comunales) and they became municipality forests (montes de propios). As a result, most of the Spanish public forests are owned by the local governments instead of the State (Montiel, 1992).

4.4.3. Changes within private forest ownership

Within private forest ownership not many changes can be described. The forest land market is very weak and there are not many transactions.

As mentioned before, the Spain's booming housing market has been an important driver force for the recent changes in the ownership. The prize of the houses (even ruins) increased dramatically and due to certain regional laws that do not allow to sell a rural house without the attached land, the forest land marked was dynamized. Many houses (with forest land) were sold and a new kind of forest owner, mainly interested in the houses and its recreational use and without knowledge about forest management or agriculture.

In some regions, where there are significant commercial forestry operations like the atlantic, Basque provinces dominated by forest plantations there has been some consolidation of forest properties as entrepreneurs (rematantes) will by forest land along with timber offering small typically urban owners an additional amount. This process is known in the forest owner associations but it has not been quantified. Also there are other locally relevant situations as when a given industry such as Sniace in

Cantrabria, sold all its forest real state to its supplying rematantes.

Lately, some foundations owned by banks (e.g. Fundació Catalunya Caixa) have bought forest lands as a part of their social corporation (responsabilidad social corporativa) and undertake there awareness rising or educational activities.

4.4.4. Main trends of forest ownership change

Maybe, the biggest change in the structure of property comes from the fact that significant areas of former agriculture or pasture lands have been abandoned and have become forest lands, that according to the Spanish forest law cannot be deforested. And this trend is likely to continue. According the SOEF 2011, Spanish forests have expanded at an annual rate of 2.1% that corresponds to 218.000 hectares per year, for a total of 4.4 Million hectares of “new” forest lands. This must have produced an important impact in

the structure of forest property and the appearance of tens, hundreds of thousands of new forest owners.

Also, abandoned lands are increasing at a rate that is difficult to quantity. Often heirs of a given piece of forest will not resolve the inheritance and will not pay the corresponding taxes of fees, thus rejecting to receive the forest. In this way, there is a significant pool of forest land, which being private has no owner.

Finally, there are no investment funds or TIMO operating in neither Spain nor are significant cooperate land purchases. However this could change in the near future, at list in the more fertile, typically plantation oriented areas of northern Spain.

4.5. Gender issues in relation to forest ownership

Gender disaggregated ownership data does not exist for Spain.

5. Forest management approaches for new forest owner types

The Action is interested if there are any new forest management approaches that specifically address new forest owner types, or that could be particularly relevant for new forest owner types. We are aware that there is not much awareness for this and that there is not much literature available, however, we are convinced that this is an issue: if owners have different goals for their forests there must be new kinds of management, if they have not the skills any more to do it themselves then there must be new service offers, etc. There are assumingly implications in silviculture, technology, work organisation, business models, etc. Such new approaches may be discussed under the key word of new ownership types but often not.

5.1. Forest management in Spain

Management forest is an expression of political will in terms of a balanced government planning for such region. Then, one should rather refer to different regional forest management policy models, based on their own Regional Forest Programmes (RFPs).

Private forests are mainly managed by the owner (the owner is the decision maker). In many areas the trees are sold before they are cut to a dealer (rematante). The dealers pay for the wood and undertake the exploitation works, the transport and sells the wood to the different industries according to the required sizes and qualities. Some of those dealers work for just one industry. Typically information channels on who is willing to sell are totally informal and prices are the result of a case by case negotiation. This type of widespread arrangement has a few very relevant consequences:

1. Typically the forest owner has no clue on the final use and destination of the wood and it cannot properly judge its true value that can be totally over or underestimated putting noise and rigidity to the supply chain;
2. The predominance of informal channels makes it difficult for new actors to enter the chain and makes supply operations for big

mills extremely complicated. A pulp mill may need to sign over 1000 independent contracts with owners or its own supply investments.

Some forest owners (especially those that also have agricultural activities) prefer to carry out by themselves the exploitation works and then the wood is sold on the road side. (Navarro et al. 2010)

State lands are mainly managed by the government staff (forest engineers). They make the management plans (long term) and the short term plans (10 years). Normally the wood is sold through public auctions.

5.2. New or innovative forest management approaches relevant for new forest owner types

In Spain, forest associations provide support in:

- Technical matters (management decision making, paper work related to grants)
- Selling
- Grants and paperwork

There are some changes in management practices (ie fertilisation,) or in forestry operations (new machinery or improved logging operations) but the change is slow and of relatively low relevance. The most relevant changes are linked to the organisation of the markets and the new roles that forest owners are starting to play.

Forest owner associations are mostly limited to the atlantic, wood producing regions and are relatively young. The Basque associations are founded in 1982, the main Galician association if from 1986 and the Asociacion Forestal de Sorio, the most important association in Castilla is form 1988. Not even 30 years old. These three regions provide above 70% of all Spanish wood. Maybe the exception is the Catalunya, a more Mediterranean region, but with significant wood producing tradition in the Pyrenees, were the Consoci Forestal de Catalunya, the

oldest forest owners organisation in Spain, is over 60 yrs old.

Contrary to the Nordic countries or to France, there are no significant forest cooperatives operating in the market. Forest associations are more centred in political representation (lobby work) and in providing some services (i-e insurance) and technical assistance to members. Until very recently there have been not significant efforts for joint management of wood commercialisation. On the other hand, they did develop service companies.

Instead, forest owners associations developed service companies (basoeking in the basque country, Selga in Galicia). Through them they prepare management plans for private owners, provide technical assistance for certification in SFM and, with limited success, they manage under contract the forests of some owners.

In Castilla Leon, the federation of Forest Owner organisation started some decades ago to organise public auctions for selling poplar, one of the most relevant timber products. In order to improve prices, more recently, ambitious approaches are developed for joint commercialisation of wood, typically to export markets (Basque). In Galicia a producer association negotiates volumes and prices for the year with the big pulp industries, but those are just reference prices and a compromise to supply. It is still the individual owner that makes the transaction. These initiatives have given forest owners associations news sources of information and they have now a better understanding of the European markets and the evolution of prices.

In communal lands there are other worth mentioning innovations as the selling of mushroom picking rights in Navarra and Castilla Leon. In the later region, using mobile

data technology and supporting a full-fledged rural development strategy.

This use of TIC technology is also being applied to the commercialisation of hunting rights in Castilla Leon, in order to improve transparency and increase the income. For some villages, this provides far greater income than timber.

5.3. Main opportunities for innovative forest management

The most important innovations, in private timber commercial forests, are linked to new organisational structures that overcome fragmentation and allow for management at a larger scale. Only in that way management can be professionalised, environmental performance improved. This is also a necessary condition to develop PES or other market mechanism to support the provision of Ecosystem Services.

In Mediterranean, less timber oriented forests, new business models need to be developed. Markets of PES systems need to be developed in relation to some key services In order to be able to manage forest in a significant way.

5.4. Obstacles for innovative forest management approaches

Fragmentation of ownership and the lack of strong markets for most forest products it the hindering factor. The emphasis of public policies in supporting the income of owners through subsidies in the timber producing regions has shown its clear limits.

CASE STUDY 1: PARTNERS' WOODLANDS (MONTES DE SOCIOS)

Short Description: Many forests in Spain are property of a group of people. This type of joint ownership has different names depending of the region but almost all of them share the same characteristic, the woodland is *pro indiviso*, which means that the property is not divided between its owners. They can have different shares of the land property but there are no demarcations dividing what belongs to each member.

The property passes from fathers to sons, multiplying the number of owners with each generation and, in most of the cases, these transfers are not documented, being the title holders people dead 100 years ago. Hence, the cadastre shows that the land belongs to nonexistent companies, deceased owners or entities that do not accurately represent the legitimate owners.

This complex property regime extremely complicates the management of the forests, having to face a lot of administrative obstacles in order to complete any kind of procedure. The result is woodlands managed and exploited in a way far from ideal or completely abandoned in many cases.

Partners' Woodlands (Montes de Socios) is a management model based on traditional mechanism that establishes clear partnered ownership and management of the forest.

These model, the Management Boards (Juntas Gestoras), were integrated in the Spanish legislation trough the 2003 Forestry Act (Ley de Montes). These Boards allow the co-owners of woodlands to act as a single legal entity, making possible their management and conservation, adding value to otherwise abandoned land. But also become a liaison between city and countryside people that have inherited the ownership from ancestors which were fellow countrymen, creating a renewed interest and a sense of connection to the countryside.

Partners' Woodlands also works on the recuperation of the documental base of the forest confiscation; offers guidance for forest management and conservation and promotes the creation of legal frameworks for co-owned woodlands.

At present day, many Management Boards have been constituted through Partners' Woodlands.

(<http://spain.ashoka.org/fellow/pedro-medrano>)

(<http://www.eoi.es/blogs/juancarloslopezmartin/2014/05/11/montes-de-socios-social-entrepreneurship-for-rural-development/>)

CASE STUDY 2: FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION (CONSORCI FORESTAL DE CATALUNYA)

Short Description: It is a private association created by forest owners of Catalonia in 1948, having as a main objective to save guard the interests of private owners and the forest sector in general. The first Forest Cooperative has been created within, and also a guide of the forest sector and a Biomass Observatory.

One role of the main forest owners association is to increase awareness and to put some pressure over public administration in order to get better subsidies, and keep forestry activity. All the mentioned measures are improving forest management and implementing forest fire prevention tasks. (Rovira, 2005)

6. Policies influencing ownership development / Policy instruments for new forest owners

Policy and ownership are related in various ways: Policies directly or indirectly influence ownership development or even encourage or create new forms of ownership; and policy instruments are emerging that answer to ownership changes, including instruments addressed to support new types of owners e.g. through advisory services, cooperative or joint forest management, etc.

6.1. Influences of policies on the development of forest ownership

The political and territorial configuration in force since the 1978 Constitution in Spain, has meant a transition from a centralized state system to a decentralised one. This has led to the assignment of new political and administrative competences and the definition of land planning policies by regional policies has produced ownership structure changes. It is not possible to talk about a single Spanish forest policy model since the establishment of the new political and territorial order into regional competences results in every Autonomous Community developed their own regional forest policy according to the relevant regional forest plan (Montiel and Galiana, 2005). The heterogeneity of Spanish forest landscapes (Mediterranean areas, mountain and central regions, Cantabrian and Atlantic coasts, etc.) and the consequent heterogeneity in forestland use and management were taken into consideration in the development of regional forest plans, which were defined by a variety of objectives and guidelines that conformed to the particular forest conditions of each Autonomous Community. The State Public Administration retained only the following functions: co-ordination and mediation between Autonomous Communities and European institutions, representation and decision making in international contexts, and co-responsibility and co-financing under the principle of subsidiary adopted by the European Union.

In terms of property rights' dimensions, a new emerging concept is the long-term

concessions in public forests. It refers to public forests whose management for certain forest product exploitation is eased to a private entity. So far only *Castilla La Mancha* and *Comunitat Valenciana* have been discussing these terms, with no actual implementation in practice. In *Castilla La Mancha* the concessions under discussion had hunting as main forest product, whereas in *Comunitat Valenciana* they aimed at promoting energy wood, with a tentative duration of 30 years. This is new in so far the procedures for public forest exploitation have traditionally been done with the public sector own means (e.g. public forest companies) or through annual auctions to e.g. wood dealers, hunting clubs, shepherds for pasture rights, or truffle hunters, correspondingly.

Inheritance law depends on the Autonomous Communities and hence it may differ from one to another. The prevailing trend is that lands are divided among inheritors in equal value pieces. Some restrictions may apply; for example in Catalonia, where forest parcels cannot be split into plots smaller than 25 hectares (DOGC, 1988), or in Aragón, where the limit is set in 20 ha (BOE, 2014). This applies for divisions stemming from inheritance processes but also applies to land sales.

As in other EU countries, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its related subsidies are the main incentive for afforestation of agricultural lands.

During the period 2000-2006, 218,273 ha of previous agricultural lands were afforested, meaning an increase of 1,7% in the total forestall area; special emphasis had in Castilla-León.

6.2. Influences of policies in forest management

Forest management planning is voluntary, and public administrations in the Autonomous Communities are entrusted to promote them as a manner to encourage Sustainable Forest Management. Indeed forest abandonment is perceived to be one of the most problematic facts, due to fuel accumulation and

subsequent higher risk of wildfires. Hence, subsidies for forest planning differ across Autonomous Communities. For example, in Catalonia the forest management plan with duration of 10 years is fully subsidized; the landowner applies for the grant, and if awarded then s/he selects the forest consultant who will elaborate the plan, pays them in advance and later gets the cost reimbursed. In parallel, forest management plans are incentivised by (i) their synergies with SFM certification, (ii) their requirement or prioritisation for eligibility in other subsidy lines, and (iii) with the Catalan inheritance normative, through which forest properties with planning have a lower inheritance tax.

Also Andalusia counts with tax reductions if the private landowner counts with a forest management plan while Madrid counts with subsidies for the management plans (DOM, 2010). An overall incentive for forest management planning at the State level consists of the property tax exemption (BOE, 2004).

Rodriguez-Vicente and Marey-Perez (2009) describe the influence of policies in forest management looking specifically at non-industrial private owners in Galicia. Since land tenure regimes influences changes in land use, they looked at management interventions in these forest property type. Private ownership constitutes the main type of ownership in Galicia, with almost 2million hectares (98% of Galician forest), and only the remaining 2.2% is publicly owned. They found that public forest subsidies coming from the regional and European governments explained forest plantations, where owners have incentives for converting marginal

meadows to woodland (Rodriguez-Vicente and Marey-Perez (2009).

Several studies observed that forest private owners have other sources of income are less keen to invest in afforestation. IN this context, capitalization of marginal land can result into improved land productivity and ensure a complementary source of household income (Rodriguez-Vicente and Marey-Perez, 2009).

Also the Centre de la Propietat Forestal gives some educations and grants oriented to influence the goals of the forest management in private forestry.

Generally forests categorised as “protective” (*montes protectores*) have priority criteria in public aids or larger amounts.

There are other aids linked to private forest owners within protected areas, but again these differ from Autonomous Community to another. For example, for Catalonia, having a part of the forest in Natura 2000 or another protected figure gives priority for forest management subsidies. In other communities, like Galicia, forest management grants require a smaller minimum forest area in forests with special natural interest, favoring interventions in such places. At the European level, the CAP has promoted afforestation with slow growth species such as oaks in contrast to pines based on the potentially higher biodiversity conservation benefits (Santos et al., 2006). In the Basque country, for example, only one out of five forest landowners have their forest land as the main source of income (Murua et al., 2013).

Table 3 shows the main legal restrictions with respect to forest property and management rights.

Table 3: Forest property and management rights in terms of ownership types in Spain.

Ownership forest type	Property rights	Use / Management rights
Public Ownership	Inalienable, non-sizable nature and not subject to any tax. No possibility for buying or selling	Public use subject to concessions.
Private Ownership	Private property rights apply. No restrictions to buy forest land	Autonomy, management responsibility + incentives for volunteering sustainability criteria.
Private collective ownership	Private property rights apply but inalienable, non-sizable nature and not subject to any tax. No possibility for buying or selling	Private use for community ownership

6.3. Factors affecting innovation in policies

There is no official figure of forest extensions. Instead, each Autonomous Community has a different structure to deal with private forest owners. For example, while in Comunitat Valenciana there is hardly any structure to deal with private forest management, in Catalonia the Forest Ownership Center (CPF), established in 1999, is a public body devoted to support private forest owners. The CPF employs forest technicians to review forest management plans, inform landowners about news in forestry techniques, public aids and legislation.

In the Basque Country, forest owners are grouped in the Confederacion de Forestalistas de Euskadi (CFE), with more than 5000 owners mainly holding small forest land (Murua et al., 2013). This association offers services such as planning and forest management through the associated private company BASOEKIN. There is also since 1994 an independent institution based on voluntary participation called Mesa intersectorial de la Madera de Euskadi (MIME), that provides a platform for interaction and consultation among owners (Murua et al., 2013).

No specific campaigns have been broadly launched.

In Catalonia, the proliferation of **forest owner groupings** has been indirectly bolstered by subsidy lines, by establishing the membership to a FOA as eligibility priority or even requirement: e.g. the Provincial government of Barcelona through wildfire prevention and post-fire regeneration subsidies (Navascués Ramos & Llobet Just, 2007), at the regional

level for aids for forest catastrophic events (wind and snow storms), or at the CAP-related aids for sustainable forest management.

Another indirect incentive for groupings is the SFM certification, which in some areas (i.e. Galicia for *Eucalyptus*, Catalonia for cork, as can be found in the FSC database¹) has boosted also gathering of forest owners. Still achieving an actual up scaling and joint management is not visible.

Recently, the figure of Forest Development Societies (*Sociedades de Fomento Forestal, SOFOR*) has been established in Galicia. SOFOR are mercantile associations of limited liability which foster sustainable forest management at an economically profitable scale (Rojo Alboreca, 2013).

Another type of land lease relies on the **Land Stewardship Contracts** (*Acuerdos de Custodia del Territorio*) (Prokofieva & Gorriz, 2013). In this case the counterparts are environmental organisations, which sign agreements with forest owners for different forest management aspects: from direct management from the NGO volunteers, to monitoring some species present in the forest or improving some features of the property (recovering old fountains, refurbishing old stone constructions, etc). The ownership of the land is kept by the owner, but some management aspects are shared or delegated to the third party. The aim is usually to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural patrimony in rural areas. These agreements are marketed independently of ownership type. Some national (BOE, 2007) and regional (DOCV, 2013) policies promote this type of private-private or public-private agreement.

¹ <http://info.fsc.org/certificate.php> > Country: Spain; Type: FM/COC [last accessed: 28/08/2014]. Those labelled as "GFA-XXX" stand for Associated Forest Management.

7. Literature

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8. Annexes

8.1. Tables with detailed description of 14 most important publications

Full reference of study/publication	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (2012) Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management in Spanish forests, In Spanish forests 2012, Madrid: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.
English language summary/abstract	The importance of forest systems in mitigating climate change, providing renewable products and energy and contributing to the development of a more sustainable economy forms the subject of increased technical, media and political attention. Furthermore, Spain's forest, one of Europe's largest and in constant growth for 30 years, plays an essential role in the conservation of biological diversity, the regulation of the hydrological cycle and the fight against desertification as well as providing space for leisure and enjoyment for society as a whole. These qualities of forest ecosystems, however, are increasingly threatened by fire, climate change and the abandonment and absence of management, among others. The set of indicators used for this study gathers those adopted in the Forest Europe process and adapts them to the reality and specific features of Spain's forestry policy and planning and to the environmental, social and economic conditions of our forests. The aim of this publication is to provide a set of indicators which briefly and systematically allow experts in forestry science and other interested parties to gain an idea of the importance, evolution and trends in Spanish forests and thereby increase their knowledge of them.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text" value="Public administration"/>
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economics, Political sciences
Methodical approach	National statistics

Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	<p>http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/politica-forestal/informe_ingles_criterios_indicadores_gestion_forestal_sostenible_bosques_2012_tcm7-260633.pdf</p>

Full reference of study/publication	Montero, G. and Serrada, R. (2013) La situación de los bosques y el sector forestal en España - ISFE 2013. Lourizán: Sociedad Española de Ciencias Forestales.
English language summary/abstract	The Spanish forest sector is traditionally characterized by not having consolidated references and complete information in time and space. The reasons for this reality is the dispersion of skills, the difficulty in obtaining data and fractionation between management sector, industries and service companies. The objective of this work is the analysis of the six criteria defined in the Helsinki Process. The conclusions of the work are many but it is noteworthy among all states that more than 2/3 of the Spanish forest area is privately owned, which poses some problems that must be taken into account when formulating and implementing policies forest regions.
Language of the study/publication	Spanish
Type of organization conducting the study	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economics, Political sciences
Methodical approach	National statistics
Thematic focus	<input type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.seeforestales.org/pdf/ISFE_2013_ver_online.pdf

Full reference of study/publication	Montiel, C. (2002) Land tenure as an influence factor on national/regional forest programmes in Spain. Sopron: National Forest Programmes in a European Context.
English language summary/abstract	Land tenure is the second most important external influence factor on National/Regional Forest Programmes (N/RFPs) in Spain after decentralisation. The ownership of forest lands in Mediterranean Europe is mostly private, and the private forests are in general distinguished by the smallholding and a rather undefined legal status. This fact is an impending factor on forest policy because it has been only focalised on public forests. Nevertheless, N/RFPs have introduced a new concept of forest policy and forest management which allows and encourage the participation of stakeholders in the planning and implementation processes. Considering the influence of land tenure on N/RFPs, the substantive N/RFPs in Spain are those which integrate the topic of land tenure in their procedural elements and in their contents.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Political sciences
Methodical approach	Case studies, literature review
Thematic focus	ownership change (incl. on changes in <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e19/montiel.pdf

Full reference of study/publication	Rodríguez-Vicente, V. and Marey-Pérez, M.F. (2009) Land-use and land-base patterns in non-industrial private forests: Factors affecting forest management in Northern Spain. Forest Policy and Economics, 11, 475–490
English language summary/abstract	This paper empirically explores and assesses non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners' management in terms of analysing dynamics in farming and forestry practices and landholding attributes. Logistic regression models were also used to investigate the probabilities and influencing factors involved in transforming marginal meadows to woodland, and attempts on the part of NIPF owners to change the current productive forest species and increase productive forestland. For this, a total of 103 NIPF owners in Northern Spain were interviewed in 2004, about their commitment to and involvement inland management during 1999–2003. The models correctly explained 73.3%, 83.7% and 73.3% of the variability in having converted marginal meadow in woodland and of future intentions to change the productive forest species and increase the area of productive forestland, respectively. The results of the study indicate that forest management mainly responds to investment and increasing the productivity of the land as a capital asset, which is directly influenced by the size and degree of parcellation of the holding, and directly or indirectly related to the owner's interest in timber production. The results may be used by forest professionals, researchers and policymakers in order to design and execute successful forest policies related to land management and planning.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economics
Methodical approach	Questionnaire survey, econometric models

Thematic focus	ownership change (incl. on changes in <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389934109000586

Full reference of study/publication	Gómez-Vázquez, I., Álvarez-Álvarez, P. and Marey-Pérez M.F. (2009) Conflicts as enhancers or barriers to the management of privately owned common land: A method to analyze the role of conflicts on a regional basis. <i>Forest Policy and Economics</i> 11 617–627
English language summary/abstract	Communal forests, or Montes Veciñais en Man Común (MVMC), are a specific form of communal land tenure and a singular legal category in Galicia, a region in Northwest Spain. MVMC extend over one third of the area of the region. Over the years, MVMC have undergone many changes in terms of ownership and resource management. Such changes have resulted in land tenure insecurity among current landowners, who live in rural areas. The new land uses—mainly related to energy sources—the demographic changes, the role of the Public Administration as a manager of MVMC, the presence of private companies with interests in forests, and the disagreement between forest communities or among commoners of the same community have brought about many conflicts that have gone beyond the limits of forests and have been reflected in public opinion. This paper aims to provide a deeper insight into the level and mode of management of MVMC by determining the level and cause of conflicts associated with this type of forest. To this end, local and regional newspaper articles about conflicts in forest communities were compiled from libraries. In order to find correlations between the different social, economic or environmental variables and the degree of conflict, statistical and spatial analyses were performed. Results reveal a stronger impact of environmental conflicts and conflicts between commoners and government organizations, and a very uneven spatial distribution of conflicts. In addition, this article discusses the interpretation of the higher or lower degree of conflict as a positive or negative contribution to the management of privately owned common land, thus contributing a new methodology to determine the causes and consequences of conflicts over common land management.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economics and Political science
Methodical approach	Case studies, Statistical and spatial analysis

Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	

Full reference of study/publication	Montiel, C. and Galiana, L. (2005) Forest policy and land planning policy in Spain: a regional approach. Forest Policy and Economics 7, 131–142
English language summary/abstract	The present Spanish model of political and institutional organisation as a federal state has been developed since the Constitution of 1978. Until this time, the extremely centralised forest policy has been one of the policies which has induced most relevant territorial consequences. Due to the constitution, the regions received a large number of political and administrative competences, land planning policy and forest management amongst them. Coinciding with the emergence of the new land planning policy, the forest policy suffered an identity crisis due to a lack of renovation of its basis. The processes followed by the Comunidades Autónomas (Autonomous Communities) for the definition of Regional Forest Programmes (RFPs), within the context of European policies set within the framework provided by international agreements, have provided an opportunity to reform the Spanish forest policy into a new de-centralised administrative system. This paper aims to provide a typology of the Spanish RFPs and to analyse their integration in the regional land planning systems. The issue of Spanish RFPs substantiveness is then examined throughout the consideration of the territorial factor in the RFPs and the relationships between forest policies and land planning policies in Spanish regions. In short, the study tries to highlight the co-ordination difficulties found between RFPs, of a sectoral nature, and land planning programmes, of territorial nature, despite the fact that the responsibility of both programmes falls upon the same governmental level. In Spanish Autonomous Communities, the regional environmental authority is responsible for RFPs while the regional civil engineering authority is responsible for the land planning programmes. The present research study evidences that this administrative structure implies a co-ordination handicap between both policy processes which has a remarkable influence on the substantiveness of Spanish RFPs.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Political sciences
Methodical approach	Typologies analysis, case studies

Thematic focus	ownership change (incl. on changes in <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389934103000261

Full reference of study/publication	Domínguez, G. and Shannon, M. (2011). A wish, a fear and a complaint: understanding the (dis) engagement of forest owners in forest management. European Journal of Forest Research. 130: 435-450.
English language summary/abstract	Inducing private forest owners to undertake any kind of forest management poses a challenge to policymakers. To gain a better understanding of the attitudes of forest owners, this study set out to describe, analyze, and interpret how forest owners engage (or fail to engage) in the management of their properties. A grounded theory approach Glaser and Strauss (The discovering of grounded theory, Aldine: Chicago, 1967); Charmaz (Constructing grounded theory. A practical guide through qualitative analysis, Sage publications, Ltd: London, 2006) was used to build an emergent theory through a descriptive and interpretational analysis of how forest owners get involved in forest management and the factors that influence their active decision-making process. The research was conducted in Catalonia. The main finding was that forest owners are more likely to engage in the management of their properties when they believe that through their actions they are fulfilling a moral norm, when they are reducing the risk of forest fires, they have an archetypal image of what the forest should look like, and they can justify forest management as part of their economic strategy. These interdependent personal, social and cultural factors question the likely effectiveness of traditional economic policy tools.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Sociological, grounded theory
Methodical approach	Qualitative interviews
Thematic focus	<input type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership

Main results should be given here if not yet included in the summary.	Other factors besides the economic are important for forest owners in decision making. The change from traditional to modern societies has a big influence in some of these factors.
Weblink	http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10342-009-0332-0

Full reference of study/publication	Marey-Pérez M.F., Calvo-González A., Domínguez-Torres, G. Are the communal forest owners involved in the management of their land? A qualitative analysis for the case of Galicia (Spain) BOSQUE 35 (2): 207-215, 2014 DOI: 10.4067/S0717-92002014000200008
English language summary/abstract	Society's participation in decisions regarding land planning and management is essential to reach viable and long-lasting solutions in forest management. The authors analyzed the participation of communal land owners to better understand their attitudes towards the management of this property. Glaser and Strauss' Grounded Theory (1967) was used to build knowledge on the management of the property that starts in this study through the interpretation of data from personal interviews conducted in a participation process. They chose a sample of neighboring communities to conduct interviews according to the interest shown in the public participation process of a Forest Plan in a mountain area in the Autonomous Community of Galicia in northwest Spain. The communities were classified into i) very active, ii) active and iii) passive, according to their management level and geographical representation. They discovered the most active communities have more dynamic management due to their multifunctional perspective of communal forests. Regarding passive communities, their lack of interest in management is largely to recognizing a conflicted identity of the property due to physical and administrative problems.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Sociological, grounded theory
Methodical approach	Qualitative interviews

Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	<p>http://mingaonline.uach.cl/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0717-92002014000200008&lng=pt&nrm=iso</p>

Full reference of study/publication	Navarro, P., Rodríguez, J., Codina, M., Domínguez, G. and López, I (2010) Prospects for the market supply of Wood and other forest products from areas with fragmented ownership structures. Task II-Case study: Catalonia/Spain. Centre Tecnològic Forestal De Catalunya (CTFC) Forest Harvesting and Biomass Area.
English language summary/abstract	<p>This study has been prepared in the framework of the project "Prospects for the market supply of wood and other forest products from areas with fragmented forest-ownership structures".</p> <p>The present case study provides quantitative and qualitative information about the situation of the forest sector in the region of Catalonia, focused on fragmented forest private ownerships.</p> <p>About forest sector in general, results show the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disappearing forest tradition, much knowledge and culture have been lost due to the abandonment of the rural areas and the traditional activities. - Lack of technological innovation and few investments in R&D, for the forest operations and works as well as for the industries. - High costs of operation. - Little dissemination of the benefits of the forest sector for the society and the forest. - Forest information (helps, planification and other) arrives to the zones with more forest activity. - Little profitability of many local forest products, due to a lack of added value. - Degraded and non optimised forest road network. <p>About the fragmented forest ownership in Catalonia results indicate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the Catalan forest owners are getting old, and therefore there is less motivation for performing forest operations and management. Moreover for the new owners of the forest properties, either for inheritance or purchase, forests are not considered a productive good. - Catalonia shows a high forest private property of 87%. 70-90% of the total number of forest properties are considered small. Tarragona is the zone with the highest area of fragmented ownerships. - Many forest owners have agricultural tradition - Changes in the mentality of the owners, more diversity of activities. Some of them go from the primary sector to the tertiary. - Associations of owners are getting stabilized in the province of Barcelona, which are backed up by the administration through the management of a technician of the Provincial Government of Barcelona. - The forest owners of small and fragmented areas do not know the existing forest information very much. -Some owners do not know the dimensions nor locations of their own properties. - New owners many times consider the forest as: second residence, investment for patrimony and leisure.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)

Type of funding used (multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Private other <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sub-National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public EU/cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public International beyond Europe <input type="checkbox"/> Public other
Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economic and sociologic
Methodical approach	Case study
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/supply-wood/catalonia_en.pdf

Full reference of study/publication	Prokofieva, I., & Gorriz, E. (2013). Institutional analysis of incentives for the provision of forest goods and services: An assessment of incentive schemes in Catalonia (north-east Spain). Forest Policy and Economics, (37), 104–114
English language summary/abstract	<p>Payments for ecosystem services (PES) have recently attracted attention as a means for aligning the interests of landowners and society by remunerating forest owners for the goods and services their forests produce. As PES schemes are being extensively adopted around the world, questions related to their institutional dimensions, as well as the role of different actors and contextual factors in PES initiation, design and implementation, arise.</p> <p>This paper seeks to gain an understanding of these issues by analysing three voluntary incentive schemes currently implemented in Catalonia: land stewardship — a predominantly private PES scheme aimed at enhancing biodiversity, mature forest reserves — a predominantly public scheme for protecting old-growth forest stands, and a hybrid public–private initiative for forest fire protection — forest defence groups. The authors develop a framework for the institutional analysis of PES extending earlier work on this subject, and they focus on actor and institutional interactions and outcomes that are likely to result from scheme implementation to draw conclusions regarding the factors that influence the success and the durability of these schemes.</p>
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Theoretical approach	Economic and policy sciences
Methodical approach	Case study
Thematic focus	<input type="checkbox"/> ownership change (incl. on changes in quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389934113001809#FCANote

Full reference of	Górriz Mifsud, E., Domínguez, G. & Prokofieva, I. 2013. Preferencias de los propietarios forestales sobre instrumentos de regulación de servicios ecosistémicos: el caso de las setas en Cataluña. Actas del 6º Congreso Forestal Español. 12 págs. Vitoria.
English language summary/abstract	<p>For the design and implementation of forest policies, it is essential to know the factors that determine the decisions of forest owners as key actors in forest management. This study investigates the relationships between the motivations of owners and their preferences on instruments for the regulation of the demand and supply of ecosystem services.</p> <p>The case study is Catalonia, focusing on collecting mushrooms in her recreational and commercial dimension, like an environmental service that varies by forest management. The case study is Catalonia, focusing on collecting mushrooms in her recreational and commercial dimension, like an environmental service that varies by forest management. From an inductive and constructivist approach has been performed a qualitative analysis based on GroundedTheory.</p> <p>Different hypotheses have emerged from in-depth interviews conducted. The heterogeneity of owners has been reflected in the perception on the activity of mushroom collecting. According to the owner's profile, the preferences vary among regulatory, tax collection or informational nature instruments. In any case, it is noted the preference of design of a voluntary instrument, where potential negative reactions from collectors toward the owner discourage the initiatives.</p>
Language of the study/publication	Spanish English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Research Insitiute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below) <input type="text"/>
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Regional scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	Economic and policy sciences
Methodical approach	Case study

Thematic focus	ownership change (incl. on changes in <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.congresoforestal.es/actas/doc/6CFE/6CFE01-593.pdf

Full reference of study/publication	Valbuena-Carabaña, M., López de Heredia, U., Fuentes-Utrilla, P., González-Doncel, I., Gil, L. 2010. Historical and recent changes in the Spanish forests: A socio-economic process. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 162: 492–506
English language summary/abstract	The evolution of Spanish landscapes through history is mainly a story of deforestation. Through time, exploitation of natural resources increased to cope with the requirements of more and more complex civilizations. In this work, a review of how the Spanish forests were influenced by human activities and their changes is provided. Forests were cleared for mining, charcoal, shipbuilding and caulking. The most fertile lands were converted into cultivation and more productive cultivars were introduced. Mobile livestock, in particular sheep, became widespread, and with it the burning of wooded land to produce pastures. Woods were privatized through a series of disentailments. All these factors have occurred during the history of Spain, linked to profound changes in the landscape and vegetation. Not until the beginning of the 20th century were real efforts devoted to invert the trend to deforestation inherited from the negative woodland management of previous centuries.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University UNIVERSITY <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Theoretical approach	Sociology, economics, political sciences
Methodical approach	Literature review
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Weblink	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S003466670900205X

Full reference of study/publication	Montiel, C. and Galiana, L. 2005. Forest policy and land planning policy in Spain: a regional approach. Forest Policy and Economics, 7 (2): 131–142
English language summary/abstract	The present Spanish model of political and institutional organisation as a federal state has been developed since the Constitution of 1978. Until this time, the extremely centralised forest policy has been one of the policies which has induced most relevant territorial consequences. Due to the constitution, the regions received a large number of political and administrative competences, land planning policy and forest management amongst them. Coinciding with the emergence of the new land planning policy, the forest policy suffered an identity crisis due to a lack of renovation of its basis. The processes followed by the Comunidades Autónomas (Autonomous Communities) for the definition of Regional Forest Programmes (RFPs), within the context of European policies set within the framework provided by international agreements, have provided an opportunity to reform the Spanish forest policy into a new de-centralised administrative system. This paper aims to provide a typology of the Spanish RFPs and to analyse their integration in the regional land planning systems. The issue of Spanish RFPs substantiveness is then examined throughout the consideration of the territorial factor in the RFPs and the relationships between forest policies and land planning policies in Spanish regions. In short, the study tries to highlight the co-ordination difficulties found between RFPs, of a sectoral nature, and land planning programmes, of territorial nature, despite the fact that the responsibility of both programmes falls upon the same governmental level. In Spanish Autonomous Communities, the regional environmental authority is responsible for RFPs while the regional civil engineering authority is responsible for the land planning programmes. The present research study evidences that this administrative structure implies a co-ordination handicap between both policy processes which has a remarkable influence on the substantiveness of Spanish RFPs.
Language of the study/publication	English
Type of organization conducting the study (in case of multi-institutional studies multiple answers allowed)	<input type="checkbox"/> University University <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Private Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please name below)
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Regional scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-national <input type="checkbox"/> National x <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-national Europe <input type="checkbox"/> International beyond Europe
Theoretical approach	political sciences

Methodical approach	critical textual analysis
Thematic focus	<p>ownership change (incl. on changes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> quantitative terms, emerging new ownership types, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> motives and behaviour of ownership types <input type="checkbox"/> new management approaches <p>policy instruments addressing ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> policy instruments addressing ownership
Weblink	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389934103000261



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CENTRAL-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN
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