

## Mature Forest Reserves

### Location

**Country:** Spain

**Scale:** regional

**Region:** province of Girona (north-east Spain)

### Compensated /improved ecosystem services

- protection of biodiversity

### Management

This program is running in the Catalan province of Girona since 2008 and supposes an up-scaling of the experience which started in the protected area of Montseny. Its main purpose is to overcome current scarcity of mature forest stands, that is those over their rotation age, in view of conserving the biodiversity they host. In this line a public administration launches an annual call addressed to owners of forest parcels, who satisfy certain criteria, offering them a reward for their commitment to leave the stands in natural evolution during thirty years more. Specific criteria apply to be eligible (such as presence of autochthonous or climax vegetation and good genetic quality trees). Forest stands must have been left intact for 80-100 years prior to the agreement.

Transaction is voluntary and the payment is conditional on the signature of a commitment with the public administration. Funds come from the general public budget and private donors; and beneficiaries can be both private landholders as well as municipalities. The reward they receive is meant to compensate the profit loss calculated based on the management plan approved by the Forest Ownership Center. Non-compliance is monitored, there is a penalty for non-compliance (5,000€). Public funds of the Disputació of Giron are mainly addressed to public forests owners, that is why it was important the introduction of private donations (even if discontinuous) that allowed the extension of the programme to private forest owners.

### Stakeholders

#### Sellers or service providers:

- Private forest land owners and municipalities

#### Buyers and beneficiaries of services:

- Government and donor enterprises

### Timeline

**Establishment year:** 2008

**Time horizon:** long term

**Status of PES:** active scheme

### Availability of economic data

Payments are capped: the maximum funding for private landowners and municipalities for the 25 years are respectively €133,000 and €200,000. Both private owners and municipalities can be granted with a maximum funding of €25,000 each.

## References / Source of information

- Bottaro G., Gatto P. and Pettenella D. 2019. DELIVERABLE 1.2 Inventory of Innovative Mechanisms in Europe. H2020 project no.773702 RUR-05-2017 European Commission, 72 pp.
- Russi, D., Corbera, E., Puig-Ventosa, I., Cazorla-Clariso, X. 2011. Payment for Ecosystems Services in Catalonia, Spain. A review of experience and potential applications. In Spanish Journal of Rural Development: 87-100. DOI: 10.5261/2011.ESP1.09.
- Gorriz, E, Prokofieva, I. 2011. Analysis of three economic incentives for the provision of forest goods and services in Catalonia (Spain). In Spanish Journal of Rural Development: 75-86. DOI: DOI: 10.5261/2011.ESP1.08.