

European mountain forests: ripping full benefit of a precious asset

Euromontana position
Alexia ROUBY
Euromontana
2 December 2010, Brussels



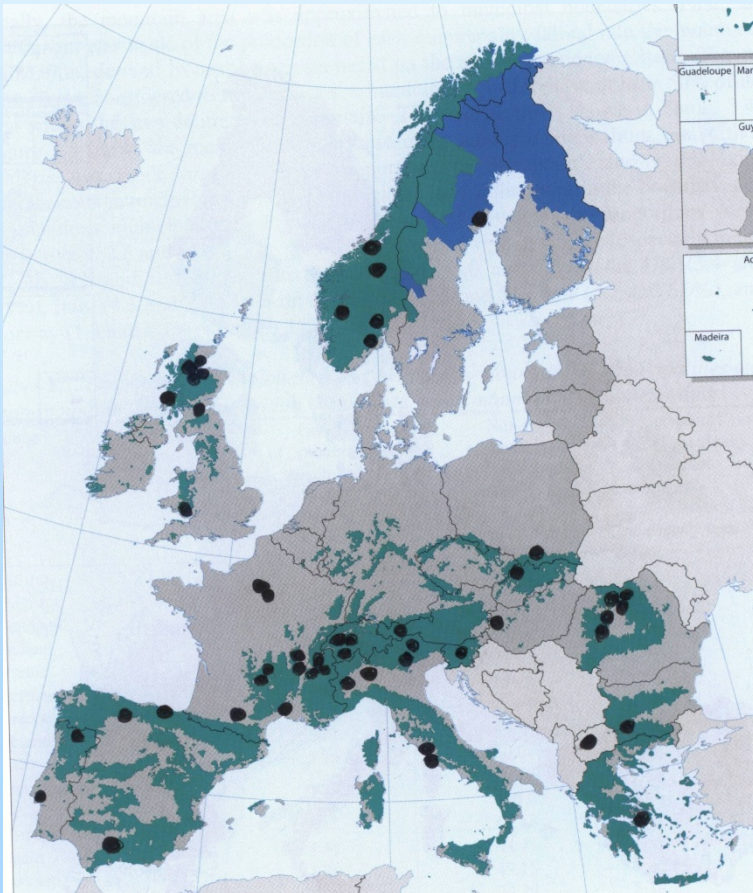
Content

- A few words about Euromontana
- Mountain forests
- Initiatives from mountain forests
- Euromontana's agenda on forestry





What is Euromontana?



- European **multisectoral** association for cooperation and development of mountain areas (since 1996)
- Around 70 members from 15 countries
- **Comprising :**
 - regional development agencies,
 - regional authorities,
 - chambers of commerce and industry
 - agricultural organisations,
 - environmental organisations,
 - research organisations...



Our vision of European mountains

- **Our mountains are territories with a future and opportunities for Europe**



- Mountain areas are distinctive areas of Europe which need to be **addressed specifically**



- We call for **private and public investment** in these areas. The return on investments might be longer but will be **more sustainable**



- 36% of European territory, 118 million inhabitants



Building on our strengths Overcoming our weaknesses



- **Strengths:**

- The **positive image** of mountain areas
- Intense community life
- Very **rich culture**, traditions and heritage
- **The quality of life** of mountain population
- Rare, preserved and **renewable resources**
- Production of **quality goods and services**
- Modern and often **dynamic governance**
- ...



- **Weaknesses:**

- **Remoteness and accessibility**
- **Sparseness** of businesses and population
- **Competition** between economic development and environment
- Sensitivity to **climate change**





Content

- A few words about Euromontana
- **Mountain forests**
- Initiatives from mountain forests
- Euromontana's agenda on forestry

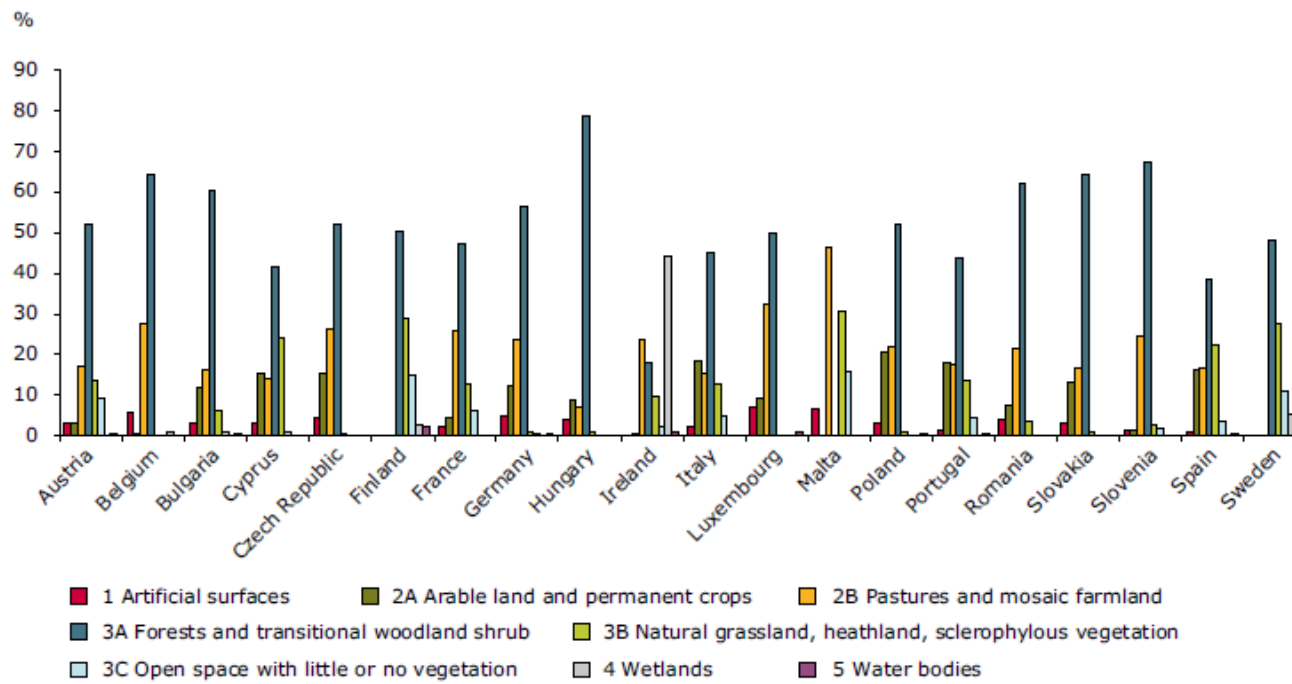


The main land use

- Forest = main land use in mountains: they cover 41% of mountain areas



Figure 7.2 Land cover classes in the mountain area of each country as a proportion of national area: EU-27 Member States with mountain areas



Share of land cover of mountain areas:
 7% in UK,
 20% in Italy,
 29% in Spain,
 40% in Germany,
 50% in Austria,
 66% in Switzerland;

Source:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/work/ingpapers/agri/s5-16-1_fr.htm

From: EEA, 2010. Europe's ecological backbone: recognising the true value of our mountains. 248 p.

Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-ecological-backbone>



The multiple functions of Forests

- Economic role



- renewable source of timber
- and other products, such as resin, cork, mushrooms and berries

- Environmental benefits



- biodiversity
- landscape conservation,
- impact on global and regional climates,
- water and soil protection
- Carbon sequestration



- Social benefits

- recreational activities



Specificities of mountain forest

- **Difficulties to harvest** (slope, climate).



- In France, nearly 60% of mountain forests are difficult or very difficult to exploit (against 28,6% at national level)

- **Protective function** of forests particularly important in mountain areas, sometimes overriding other function: protection of water, soil and infrastructures from avalanche, landslides, erosion...



- **Sensitivity to climate change**



→ Supporting mountain forest= supporting mountain forests economic activities + supporting other functions of forest



Supporting mountain forests' economic activities



- Production through sustainable forest management



- Harvesting: looking for innovative solutions to facilitate and reduce the harvesting costs





Transformation of mountain wood



- Valorisation of wood products through

- Wood as energy sources
- Wood for building



- Added-value for mountain regions to have industries: territorial vision of forest and wood sector



- Certification: a tool that can be integrated in all mountain forest strategies

ex: project INTERREG « bosco i legno » in Torino, Italy, and Savoie, France – certification from production to transformation



Education and training

- Example of Treringen initiative, Buskerud, Norway – collaboration with secondary schools
 - Objective
 - raising the interest of pupils about to choose their occupation towards wood sector
 - facilitating the recruitment of new employees by wood industries
 - Action taken
 - Presentation of the profession and companies in secondary schools, combined with students creating a piece of furniture
 - Results
 - Increase of number of application for apprenticeship





Positive externalities of forest



- Evaluation of mountain forest's positive externalities – example of mediterranean forests. Project MEDFOREX (financed by Catalan government)
- Results from project 1999-2003: valuation of mediterranean forest using the method of TEV (total economical value). Average value = 133€/ha
 - Direct value: about 70%
 - From 5 to 130€/ha for wood products
 - From 1 to 143€/ha for non-wood products
 - Indirect use value of forest: about 15%, up to 50% of TEV (45 to 150€/ha) in Syria, Greece, Italy
 - Option and non-use value: strong variations between countries and rare and partial existing data. From 1 to 60€/ha



Valorisation of mountain forests' externalities



- Ex of initiative Sunart Oakwoods, Scotland

Management of oak forest and new plantation

–Adding value to local forest products

- Campaign for use of local wood
- Use of wood for heating
- Use of wood for buildings and for infrastructures (benches, information panels...)



–Education and training, with involvement of local entrepreneurs

- New forestry school
- Training in the field of environment
- Association with local schools

–Tourism, interpretation and development of access

- Creation of new paths and access to observation refuge, with explanation signs
- Rehabilitation of parking lots
- Realisation of a tourism strategy



How to pass from public funding to public-private partnership?



Euromontana project ideas



- Study for the French Ministry of Agriculture for 2011:
 - State of the art and legislation in the EU and in some European countries/provinces
 - Description of case studies and good practices
- Theme: links between agriculture and forestry in mountain areas
 - Cohabitation between agriculture/forest and interfaces
 - Management of environment and natural hazards
 - Forestry and agriculture stakeholders: complementarities and possible synergies
 - Land tenure and transmission of forest



Working with existing networks?

- CEPF – Confederation of European Forest Owners
- Eustafor – European State Forest Association





Sources

- European Communities, 2003. Sustainable forestry and the European Union - initiatives of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/brochures/forestry/full_en.pdf)
- Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 2007. State of Europe's forests 2007 – The MCPFE Report on Sustainable Forest Management in Europe (http://www.foresteurope.org/filestore/foresteurope/Publications/pdf/state_of_europes_forests_2007.pdf)





CONTACT DETAILS OF EUROMONTANA

- Info@euromontana.org