

## CASE STUDY: FR-1 : "PAYS DE LANGRES" (FRANCE)

### PROMOTING LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY IN ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY DIFFICULT AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY CONTEXTS

#### BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CASE STUDY

Pays de Langres is a comparatively poor and **remote area** situated in south of Champagne-Ardennes region in North-East France. The region is characterised by a typical **mosaic** landscape, a result of hills, soil types and human action, with **crops on plateaus, forest on hills and grassland in valleys**. While modernized agriculture prevails, the zone has moderate technical potential. There is small number of quality labelled products but they have potential to develop.

A large proportion (34%) of the case study area is covered by forests, most of which is state-owned.

The environmental and social benefits of focus in this case study include the preservation of the **landscape character** of the area, seen as a strong component of the local identity but which is threatened by the intensification trend in agricultural and by some forestry practices. The protection of **biodiversity and wildlife** is also important to curb to decrease of ordinary biodiversity and necessary regulation of wild game



#### KEY FACTORS IMPACTING THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

- One of the main factors driving the agricultural and forest sectors in this region (e.g. impacting on their types of management) are markets drivers which do not take account of the provision of environmental and social benefits
- Public policies and public organisation defined at national and EU levels were found to have some potential adverse effects at local level in the case study region
- Two positive initiatives identified with positive effects on the delivery of the environmental and social benefits of focus:
  - The transition to an uneven-aged management of the forests, following a successful test involving key local actors (who played a crucial role) and collective structuration of municipalities for public forest management
  - The development of the cheese quality label 'Langres' and its supply chain which require that animal grazing and most of the feed production of feed come from the appellation area, thus promoting the enhancement of meadows.



#### EMERGING FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The provision of the environmental and social benefits remains threatened in this region despite the support and protection from some public policies
- There is an asymmetrical political and economic weight granted to agriculture and forestry respectively, and this contributes to a gradual transfer of benefits provision from the agricultural sector to the forestry sector.
- Collective strategies and initiatives led by key local actors are crucial necessary preconditions for the improvement of the provision of environmental and social benefits.

