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Parallel Session

Present and future role of forest resources in the socio-economic development of rural areas

## Parallel Session 4

*Competitiveness of the forest production sector: wood & non-wood products, supply chains, and strategies for a forest-based local governance*

# *The Role of Alpine Forests in the Local Development*

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They represents a fragile, vulnerable, unique and valuable territory, from different points of view (environmental, scenic, cultural ....).

They are extremely heterogeneous regarding their demographic, economic, infrastructural and services aspects, although, they all have one common element: the idea of limit.



They need an institutional and non generic approach calibrated on the specific and distinctive characteristics.

Their development is no longer just a problem for those who live in these areas but it is a matter that affects the whole society

# FORESTS IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

The potential development of an area is strictly connected with the quality and the costs of locally available inputs, including natural resources : *FORESTS*

For centuries, alpine forests have been a key element for the local economy



Forests are defined multi-functional assets, providing in addition to the productive functions other two functions:

- environmental function;
- socio-economic function.

<i>Functions</i>	<i>Values</i>
Wood	100
Landscape	65 %
Hydro-geological protection	290 %
Carbon fixation	18 %

Non-commodity outputs of forests are joint product with timber production  
The jointness can be:

## 1. physical



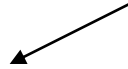
- the multi-functional support is production support;
- economies of scope and silvi-culture to provide the different functions.

## 2. economical

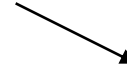


- it is more convenient the joint production instead of the separate production

Joint products have different characteristics



Timber is a market product



Others are non market products

Natural forest management:

- lower production
- higher costs due to adoption of specific cutting techniques and constraints on the characteristics of forest roads



1. abandonment of cultivation;
2. damages to non market functions



identify techniques able to ensure the internalization of the positive externalities provided by forests

# DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF THE LANDSCAPE-RECREATIONAL VALUE

<i>Recreational value</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Areas with user-oriented management</li><li>- Areas with resources-oriented management</li></ul>	Use value
<i>Scenic value</i>	Use value
<i>Evocative value</i>	Non-use value

# HOW TO INTERNALIZE THE LANDSCAPE-RECREATIONAL FUNCTION

<b>Typology of goods</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Form of internalization</b>
Private	Areas with user-oriented management	Ticket
Public	Landscape as scenery	Public support
Mixed	Areas with resources-oriented management	Approach based on management of "commons"

# INTERVENTIONS RELATED TO TOURISM EXPLOITATION OF FOREST

<b>Forest Landscape as:</b>	<b>Touristic system</b>	<b>Forest utilization</b>	<b>Type of intervention</b>
1) Specific Resource (adventure park)	Specific touristic Project	Specialized areas oriented to a prevalent use	Active: equipment Investments
2) Scenery	Weak and unidirectional links with the touristic system	Maximization of biomass	Passive: diminishing the utilization, check fire and pest
3) “Complex” resource (visit to natural park)	Strong and bidirectional links with the touristic system	Naturalistic selvi-culture	Active: increase knowledge and dissemination investments



The main conditions to be implemented so that forests may be a driving force for promoting the local development are two:

- a) The different utility flows that forests produce should be evaluated and used not separately but in relation to the characteristics of the overall socio-economic context in which they are located.
- b) The definition of suitable forms of compensations for the local stakeholders.

Thanks for your kind attention



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