



Rome, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011  
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*

# *Experiences of rural development in a LAG of the Ligurian Apennines: participatory forest management*

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# Introduction

The experience described has been developed since 1998 in a central Liguria Apennine. Is a process of small forest private property aggregation.

The small size of the initial project (less than 1,000 hectares) and the availability of continuous technical assistance, have allowed the testing of a large number of activities.

This condition has allowed the collection of a lot of information and the development of corrective actions.

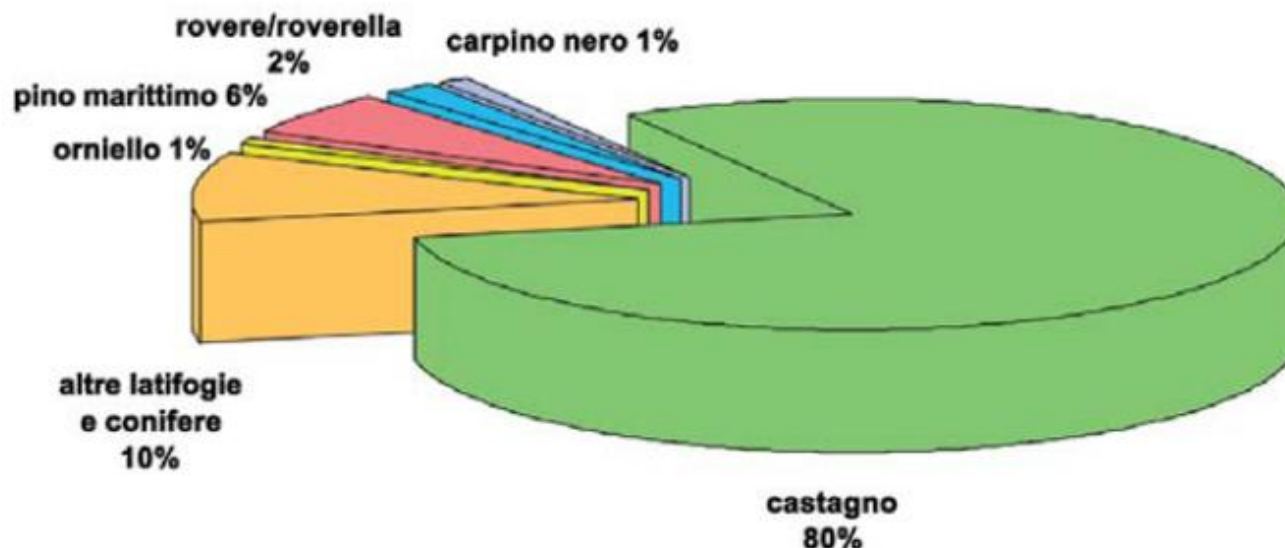


## Situation

The activities are developed in a mountain area of the province of Genoa, the area concerned has a total area of 10,000 hectares 80% covered by forest.

The coverage of forest is represented by overripe chestnut coppice. Periodically the stands to the north are affected by galaverna.

30% of the area is included in Natura 2000, with priority habitats of black alder and of the chestnut and has slopes ranging from 20 to 60%.



# Methodologies

The Comunità Montana valli Stura e Orba, active until April 2011, have planned in 1987 the establishment of a Forest Consortium.

Since 2008, the regional territorial policy was reactivated by the action of GAL "Valli del Genovesato" axis 4 LEADER of ERDF.

The Forest Consortium Stura and Orba Valleys, formed in 1998, have worked as **a development agency** by linking the needs of the various parties involved.

The model is the **mixed public-private** consortium, **dominated by private property** and with the presence of the economic realities of the industry: logging companies and service forest companies and of wood processing..

It is assumed that the economy based on forest products and the multiple uses of the forest must be supported by external funding considering the positive externalities that offers the community and must be reorganized on new measures taken by the european rules.

We shall develop a model that offers, at no cost to the owners and enterprises, the design, the planning of the work and the maintenance works.

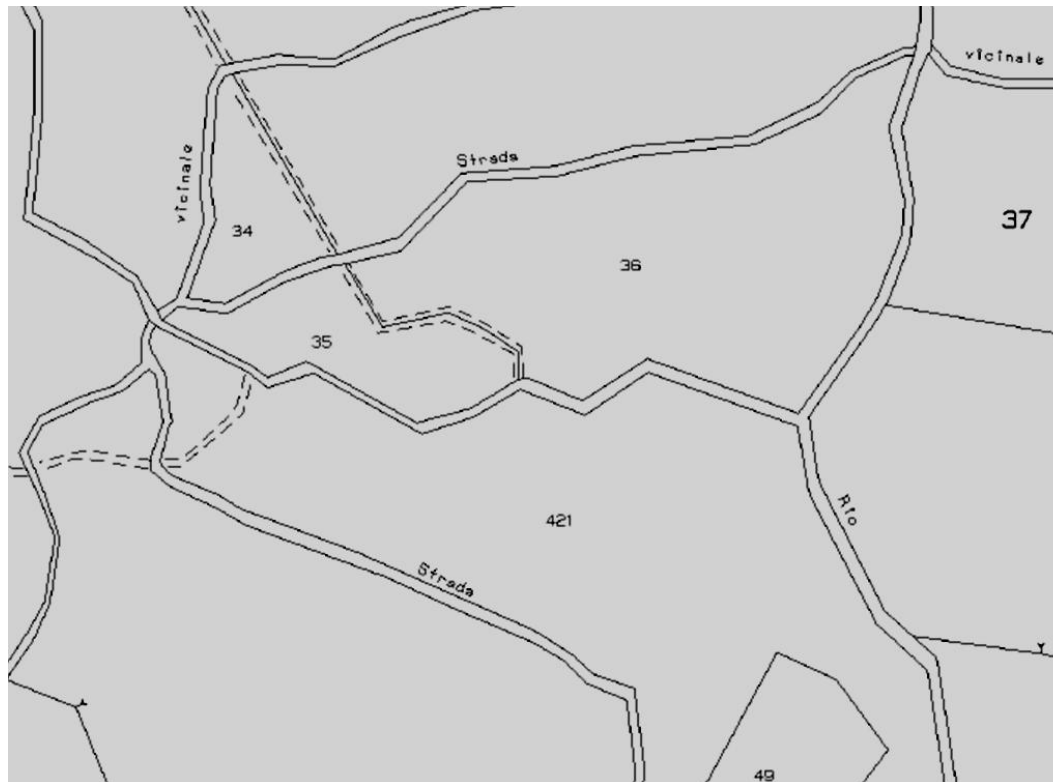




# The privat owners

The properties associated with the Consortium are small private forest land of the average size of 7.0 hectares, 80% aged chestnut coppice, coppice oak mixed 15% meadows and pastures 5%.

From 1950-60 the cut of coppice are limited to those parts neighboring to the roads.



# The enterprises

Member companies are divided into two groups:

- First group: forest companies and cooperatives of forest service and forest
- Second group: sawmills and woodworking shops, which transform the first and second processing products and craftsmanship.

The forestry companies, and especially the cooperative service, before the creation of the consortium, worked in prevalence far outside the area of the LAG.



**Table 1. . Progression of the Consortium**

Year	Owners <sup>1</sup>		Enterprises <sup>2</sup>	
	Private	public	n.	occupati
1998	18	1	1	5
2005	42	2	4	16
2010	93	3	9	28

Source: own elaboration

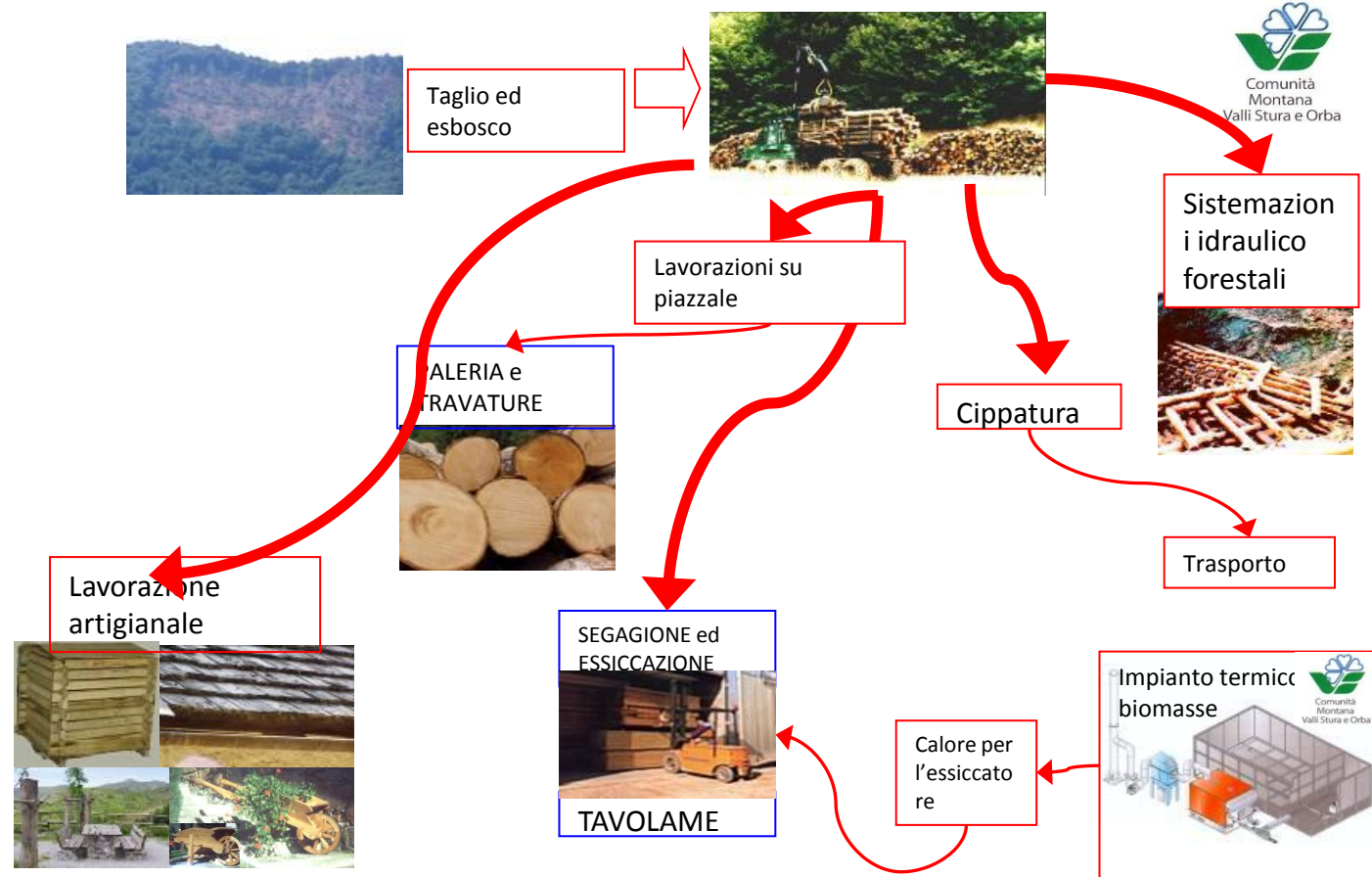
<sup>1</sup> owner that gives the land for the joint management

<sup>2</sup> Enterprises: Includes forest enterprises and service, first and second wood products processing



# The activities and the response of the territory

Over the years this model of aggregation has carried out several activities aimed at the formation of a short chain starting from the forest - energy  
Before have conformed gradually the activity on the model forest-energy and now have the important goal of the maintenance of the territory



# The activities and the response of the territory

- Cuts for the use of aged coppice with differentiated products for energy, poles, carpentry, craft;
- Accommodation hydraulic forestry techniques with low environmental impact with the local wood;
- Restored and enhanced the network of paths for hiking and educational functions;
- Innovation of machinery of the associated enterprises with technological amelioration and safety;
- Collaboration in the management of district heating plants using forest chips that uses only local wood of short chain (<30 km);
- Certification PEFC forest for all consortium members with the chain of custody of products Coc;
- Modelling new products made of chestnut wood;
- Scheduled maintenance of roads and streams;
- Management of property entrusted to the management associated : development of the design, obtaining permits. without charge;



# The activities and the response of the territory

The activities are incurred, less the net value of the timber and the volunteer work of members, from the contributions of Rural Development Plan 2000-2006 and 2007-2013.





# The perspective

There are in appenine areas many job areas for new development opportunities.

The indications for adjustments to policy planning and programming may includes:

- grant for long-term relationships between small and structured private properties and businesses;
- grant for the direct role with positive externalities on water quality, accessibility, and non-wood forest products.
- control structured on the traceability of wood products and wood in connection to the consumption ecological (energy)
- reconstruction of the cultural values of the forest job and of the mountain management ;

# The lesson learned

Many activities for the exploitation of timber and of the non wood forest products (NWFP) are possible.

In the apennines the woods are in high prevalence of private property.

The first action to be finalized is the connection, a lasting and satisfactory between the interests of the owners, of the communities and of the forestry companies. With this scheme we can offer some positive long-term effects in the local forest development chains.

Another important aspect is given by the creation of a new dignity job to professional forestry.

An important aspect is to link local production with the mechanisms of green public procurement (GPP) and with the characterization of life cycle analysis (LCA) in the local wood production, certificated (GFS).



# Aknowledgements

We thanks all members of the Consorzio Forestale Valli Stura e Orba for the high level of participation in the events and for the confidence granted always

**Tank for you attention**