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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AS A WAY TO RESTORE FOREST MANAGEMENT. SOME EVIDENCE FROM LIGURIA

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Over the last ten years, Regione Liguria has been enacting a series of development policies with the purpose of restoring a supply chain for wooden products by promoting sustainable forestry. Public-Private Partnerships have been seen as a viable mean to connect economic exploitation of the forest resources to the sustainable development of rural areas.

In this paper, the feasibility of this approach is tested by identifying and describing its effects on the uptake for forestry measures of the present rural development programming period. It is argued that public-private partnerships could be effective in revitalizing forest management whenever cooperation is set in a strategic framework and partners are actively involved in animation and capacity building processes.

Key words: wood supply chain; rural development; Public-Private Partnership.

Parole chiave: filiera del legno; sviluppo rurale; Partenariato Pubblico-Privato.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade researchers and stakeholders have granted an increasing interest to Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), regarded as a feasible way to steer sustainable rural development (GLASBERGEN, 2011). An overview of recent literature about natural resources governance reveals that forests management is one of the sectors where this approach has been put into practice more often, given their simultaneous role of exploitable resources and providers of public goods (ROBSON and KANT, 2007; SHASHI and KANT, 2007; ROS TONEN *et al.*, 2008; VAN GOSSUM *et al.*, 2011).

The necessity of finding an equilibrium point between the conservation of forests capability of providing environmental benefits and the legitimate request of retrieving a revenue from their exploitation has brought to the development of an huge vari-

ety of forms of governance based on the cooperation among public and private bodies, at international, national and even local level (AGRAWAL *et al.*, 2008).

Steering cooperation is assuming a relevant role in boosting forest management in rural areas all over Europe, where a progressive abandonment of logging activities is occurring, due to the scarce revenues retrievable by timber harvesting and to the shrinkage in labor forces, that are not replaced by the generational turnover (FOREST EUROPE, 2011). This poses serious threats to the conservation of forests and therefore, of the public benefits they provide. An increasing number of governments and local authorities, therefore, has seen P3s as a feasible way to counteract the lack of forest management in those areas by merging private expectations with public benefits (PÜLZ and NUSSBAUMER, 2006)

In this paper, some evidence of the suitability

of this approach in re-vitalizing forestry sector is given by analyzing the effects on forest management of some P3s located in an Apennine area in North-West Italy.

The aim is to demonstrate that they can be effective in promoting the sustainable development of the forestry sector provided that 1) an appropriate institutional framework is set up and 2) P3s must have a proactive role in driving management choices toward territorial needs.

1.1. Forestry in Liguria

Liguria is the most forested region in Italy. Nevertheless, its forest resources have never been rationally exploited, since their management it's essentially been bound to the needs of a large number of small owners (firewood, wooden tools, food, fodder, etc.) instead of serving a structured forestry business. In spite of that, forest management was kept active for centuries (PENCO and TORREGIANI, 2009).

When the economic prosperity broke in the sixties, rural populations progressively left inland areas in search of better living conditions in the nearby industrial areas on the coast or in the valley bottoms. Those migratory movements resulted in the abandonment of the silvicultural practices all over the Apennines. Toward the late 80s, when the industrial development paradigm got to the sunset and agriculture and forestry came back onto the scene as a feasible way for the economic development of rural areas, forestry was already relegated to small, easy accessible areas close to valley floor, while the greater part of the woodlands in the inner territories was not managed anymore.

The recovery of abandoned woodland was therefore seen as a feasible way to re-activate local forestry business and, at the same time, restore the provision of public goods from managed forests. Nevertheless, previous experiences with Reg CE 2080/92 showed that public support for forest management could result in a series of standalone commitments that were likely to be ineffective in revitalizing the supply chain since they were not set in a strategic framework aimed to merge multi-

functionality with economic competitiveness. (MATHER, 2000; REGIONE LIGURIA, 2000).

In absence of precise planning guidelines, in fact, undertaken actions were not correspondent to territorial needs. In order to amend this shortcoming, in 1999 Regione Liguria gave herself a forestry legislation that provided for the "Regional Forestry Plan", where the rules for conservation and logging activities were set with the aim of making forest management more adherent to territorial needs.

1.2. The pilot projects

In order to promote the implementation of the development lines stressed by the regional forestry plan and at the same time providing some evidence of their suitability, in 2008 Regione Liguria financed six pilot projects devoted to economic valorisation of forest and aimed at improving harvesting and processing.

A pilot project is essentially carried out by a Public-Private Partnership constituted in portions of the regional territory where forests could have a relevant role in promoting local development, essentially less favoured areas in the Apennines. The partnership was requested to elaborate a development plan for the forestry sector by considering its multi-functional role and by promoting economic integration among different supply chains. Public funding have been granted to those actions that were expected to be useful in igniting the whole sector with new energies. In order to avoid the dispersal of these new energies once the financial support ceased, according to regional legislation, pilot projects are provided with a priority access to rural development funding. The extension of the areas interested by the selected pilot projects is pinpointed in Figure 1, that also reports projects denominations.

Pilot projects, as proposed by Regione Liguria, represents an interesting integrated approach to classical private-public interactions. They are "joint-ventures", because regional government funds a set of actions that are expected to revitalize economic life in a designated area but need to be integrated by entrepreneurs' financial and organisational efforts and, at the

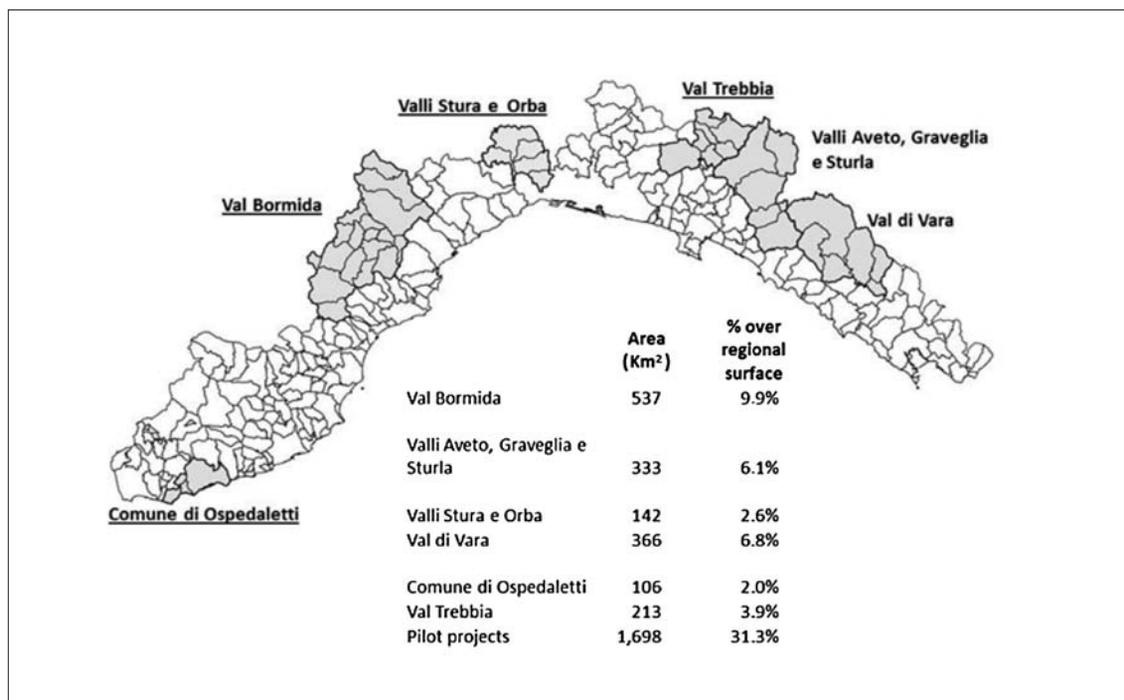


Figure 1 – Areas interested by the pilot projects.

same time they are “partnerships” in the strict sense of the word, because private (essentially forestry consortia and single forest owners and sawmills) and public partners (typically, territorial authorities like municipalities, mountain communities, parks) share rewards and risks connected to the decision making activities (SCHAEFFER and LOVERDIGE, 2002; VISSEREN-HAMAKERS and GLASBERGEN, 2006).

The institutional framework, therefore, provides that, while the main development strategy is defined by the local government (in that case, Regione Liguria) by mean of the regional forestry plan, the way it must be pursued it is arranged by the partnership. In that way both the public and private components get their goals: provision of public goods for the first and economic revenue for the second.

This paper aims to demonstrate the fitness of this form of cooperation in imparting new life to the forestry sector in some rural areas in Liguria. To achieve this goal, an in-depth analysis of the economic uptake for the forestry measure of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 has been carried out. The implied

hypothesis is that wherever a supply chain has been restored by a pilot project, it needs to be consolidated by mean of public support.

2. METHODOLOGIES

In order to test whether the cooperation between private initiative and public support can result in imparting new life to the wood supply chain in Liguria, a “case study” approach has been implemented. This work, therefore, focuses on the areas where a pilot project has been set up and analyzes the factors that somehow affect the request for economic support in these districts, by relating it with the pilot project strategy.

This study turns its attention on four projects out of six. The project led by the Municipality of Ospedaletti has been discarded because, so far, no request of financial support on forestry measures came from the interested area. While the project settled in Val Trebbia has not been taken into account because it concerns the setting up of the very first management

programme of the valley that is still in a preliminary phase. The four projects that have been taken in consideration, therefore, represent the 25% of the regional territory.

The analysis has been based on integrating a quantitative approach with a qualitative analysis based on open interviews with stakeholders (measures beneficiaries and project leaders).

On a first step, a wide variety of interventions elected on the measures somehow related to forestry (122 - *Improvement of the economic value of forests*, 123 - *Adding value to agricultural and forestry products*, 125 - *Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry*, 226 - *Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions* and 227 - *First afforestation of non-agricultural land* of the present RDP) has been taken in account. In order to access to a wider data-set, requests for financial support have been investigated regardless to the payment progress. Then an exploratory analysis of the measureable variables concerning funding amounts, localization and surface of the funded interventions and about the undertaken activities has been conducted. It has been taken into account requests for financial aid come to Regione Liguria starting from the opening of the calls to December 2009. In order to make exposition clearer, the analysis groups the applications by type of action and not for measure.

Secondly, open interviews were carried out with the purpose of identifying drivers of beneficiaries' choices and in the attempt of understanding why some measures (or specific actions inside them) are preferred to others. In total, twelve forest owners and the representatives of four project leaders, have been contacted by phone. A project is led by a forestry consortium: "Xilompres", based in Val Bormida. The remainders, instead, were represented by three mountain communities¹: Valle Stura e Orba, Valli Aveto, Graveglia e Sturla and Val di Vara. In Valle Stura an homonymous consortium is

in charge of managing the entire supply chain, while mountain communities "Val di Vara" and "Valli Aveto, Graveglia e Sturla" are also the lead-partners of two Local Action Groups (LAGs) whose development strategies involve the territories subjected to the partnerships (LAG "Val di Vara" and LAG "Valli del Tigullio"). During the interviews, the reasons that brought to a request of financial aid, as well as the expectations related to the investments have been discussed. Forests owners associated to the consortia mentioned above were also been asked to provide a brief opinion on the work of the consortium itself. Project leaders have instead been requested to state an opinion about the role of the pre-existing pilot project in steering owners' choices. They have also been asked to provide some example of their steering role.

The information coming from these two approaches have been merged to assess the adherence of the results so far obtained with the goals set by regional forestry strategies.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Results

Forestry measures are interested by a relevant uptake in Liguria, especially those belonging to the second axis, whose total expenditure to the 31/12/2010 was well beyond the national and north-western mean (Figure 2). It is certainly an evidence of the interest that those measures excite in potential beneficiaries.

Focusing the analysis on single measures and related actions (Table 1), allows some in depth consideration about the quality of the expenditure and about its adherence to the goals set by the regional strategies for the forestry sector.

It clearly appears that the greater part of the funding requested is essentially devoted to the economic exploitation of the wood reservoir instead of improving its economic value or potential: most of the foreseen expenditure seems in fact to be assigned to setting up forest roads or to the purchase of new machinery, instead of being invested in forest government. Moreover, non-remunerative investments

¹ Consortia of municipalities in mountain areas.

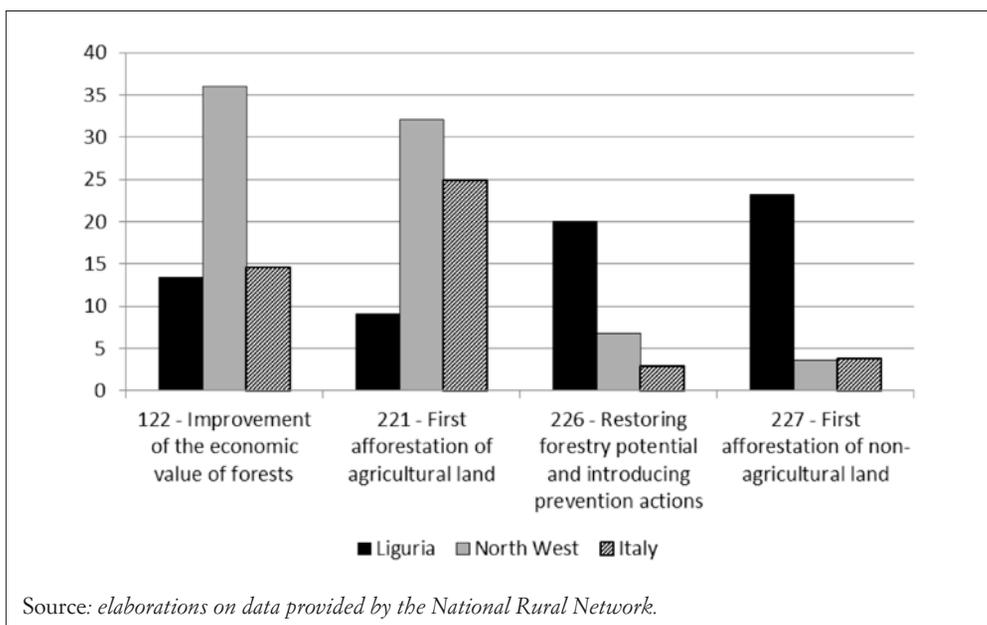


Figure 2 – Percentage of expenditure for forestry measures on the overall uptake until December 2010.

Table 1 – Distribution of the total amounts requested over the actions provided by forestry measures.

	Beneficiaries	Whereof LAGs	Expenditure	Whereof LAGs
Thinning and conversion to high forests	24.8%	35.7%	11.8%	13.9%
Roads and Tracks	29.2%	39.4%	30.2%	52.1%
Machinery and equipment	15.0%	15.4%	26.5%	20.8%
Whereof equipment for processing primary products	3.5%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
Support for forests and wooded areas damaged by fire	7.1%	62.5%	6.6%	70.6%
Certification	4.4%	100.0%	0.4%	100.0%
Non-productive investments	9.7%	72.7%	12.7%	78.5%
Non productive roads	9.7%	81.8%	11.7%	92.8%
TOTAL	100.0%	46.0%	100.0%	48.6%

Source: elaborations on data provided by Regione Liguria.

necessary to protect the public interest in the woodland and enhance the public benefits it is providing are somehow neglected outside the Leader approach. Their uptake it is essentially assured by measures 411 and 412, giving evidence of the substantial lack of interest of public bodies (the beneficiaries to whom the measures are specifically addressed) for non-productive or restorative intervention in forest.

Data available for the present programming period, therefore, show a specific orientation in beneficiaries' choices, that are evidently focused on enhancing the reachability of the properties. The analysis of the quality of the expenditure, in fact, reveals that almost the 30% of its total is devoted to the construction and maintenance of roads and tracks, while actions inherent active management of the woodlands, although uniformly distributed

all over the regional surface, involve scattered interventions in private properties. On the other hand, the highest quota of the overall expenditure belongs to measures providing support for equipment and machines, even if gathering only just the 15% of the beneficiaries.

According to the results of the interviews, beneficiaries' choices are subjected to the low value of the timber retrievable from the woodlands; nevertheless, two main strategies seem to underpin them.

The first one, pursued by small owners whose forests eventually serve other farming activities, is bent on maximizing profits obtainable from highly degraded forests instead of investing on a long term tending. In this instance, investments in secondary tracks and in small equipment for felling and first processing are preferred; since wood is collected in small and frequent amount in order to fulfill the farm's needs, with no need for a long term management of the standing crop. The second one, referred to actual forestry entrepreneurs, combines efficient processing with a more sustainable management. In this case, forest management becomes a mean to ensure future revenues to the owners. The most requested intervention is the conversion to high forest: these woodlands are managed with a selection system, that guarantees a revenue on annual basis.

By introducing a territorial element in the analysis, it becomes possible to argue about the high degree of localization that characterizes the measures involved (Table 2). As basic territorial unit, the geographical distribution of the expenditure is based on the boundaries of the mountain communities (Consortia of municipalities in mountain areas), because their administrative borders overlap those influenced by the pilot projects' action².

Almost the totality of the foreseen expenditure and relevant areas is concentrated in zones that were already interested by a pilot project. Furthermore, the fact that the 62% of the areas interested by requests for financial aid for di-

rect interventions on the woodland belongs to these places seems to demonstrate that where a partnership has been set up, management interventions, although dispersed over scattered small areas, can actively contribute to the recovery of forest management in homogeneous territories.

According to the results of the interviews, forests owners acknowledge to the two forestry consortia a meritorious action of animation and capacity building among their associates in order to keep alive the forestry activities previously financed within a pilot project. Representative of consortium "Xilomprese", based in Val Bormida, confirms that most of the actions undertaken by their associates were influenced by the expectations arisen with the pilot-project, whose main tasks were devoted to the enhancement of collective facilities and infrastructures as well as to the recovery of management activities. The forestry consortium in Valle Stura e Orba manages a wood-fuel supply chain that was originally set up as a pilot project. Both the consortia carry out a precious work of technical assistance and consultancy that allows their associates to become aware of the ongoing financial opportunities.

Moreover, when asked about the relevance of the project in shaping their Local Development Strategies (LDSs), both the representatives of the LAGs interviewed admitted that the strategy for the forestry sector has been seen as their natural prosecution: for instance, in Val di Vara, where the touristic valorization of the landscape has been outlined by the pilot project, the LAG provides for non-productive interventions on the woodland (recovery of areas damaged by wildfires, management of the forest for public amenity purposes).

As a matter of fact, there's a quite evident relation between the quality and the amount of the funding requests and the pre-existence of a pilot project in the area where the intervention is programmed. The quality of the uptake is hence more adherent to the objectives of the regional forestry plan wherever choices are driven by some initiative that gathers common interests and link them to the provision of public goods. So that almost the totality of

² According to the regional law 7/2011, Mountain Communities have been suppressed starting from May 1 2011.

Table 2 – Geographical distribution of the total amounts requested and admitted to payment in areas interested by forestry measures (April 2011).

Mountain Community	Thinning and conversion to high forest	Roads and tracks	Machinery and equipment	Wood restoration and fire prevention	Certification	Non-productive investments	Non-productive roads
Expenditure (in euros)							
Val Bormida	389,901	645,325	511,618	0	27,000	535,731	313,456
Valli Aveto Graveglia e Sturla	208,824	113,854	980,722	352,800	0	97,484	79,657
Val di Vara	0	923,648	0	112,839	0	568,165	353,529
Valli Stura ed Orba	114,889	597,859	663,427	9,439	65,658	51,432	488,568
Areas							
Val Bormida	458	–	–	0	–	823	–
Valli Aveto Graveglia e Sturla	309	–	–	200	0	319	–
Val di Vara	0	–	–	4	0	108	–
Valli Stura ed Orba	35	–	–	21	–	15	–
% on total expenditure							
Val Bormida	25.0%	18.0%	12.7%	0.0%	29.1%	34.4%	22.0%
Valli Aveto Graveglia e Sturla	13.4%	3.2%	24.4%	31.9%	0.0%	6.3%	5.6%
Val di Vara	0.0%	25.8%	0.0%	10.2%	0.0%	36.4%	24.8%
Valli Stura ed orba	7.4%	16.7%	16.5%	0.9%	70.9%	3.3%	34.2%
TOTAL	45.7%	63.6%	53.6%	43.0%	100.0%	80.4%	86.5%
% ON TOTAL EXTENSION	51.7%	–	–	47.3%	–	77.3%	–

Source: elaborations on data provided by Regione Liguria.

the foreseen expenditure and relevant areas is concentrated in zones where consortia of owners and processors operate (Valli Orba, Stura e Leira and Val Bormida) or where a LAG with a local development strategy focused on forestry is settled (Val di Vara, Valli Aveto, Graveglia e Sturla). A quantitative evidence supporting this last statement is given by the distribution of the beneficiaries of measure 122, whose 36% is associated to a consortium; while the 54% of the requests for support on structural measures (122, 123, 125) belongs to the fourth axis.

Table 3 provides an evidence of the linkage between RDP and pilot projects. It compares the objectives of the pilot projects and the actions undertaken to fulfill them (PENCO and IACOPI, 2009) with a list of the three most requested RDP actions directly connected to forest management. Requests for reimbursement of general expenses have not been taken in consideration.

Most of the requests are addressed to the

support for the construction, or maintenance, of forest tracks. It is evident that, where a pilot project is turned to the economic exploitation of the resources, the expenditure is mainly devoted to logistics. Where a consortium has been established, in Val Bormida and in Valli Stura e Orba, private owners are the only applicants to the financial support for forest roads, which weighs completely on measure 122. In these instances, as verified by the interviewed project leaders, consortia assume a primary role in linking the needs of the beneficiaries with the requirements of the project strategy: by ensuring the maintenance of main forest roads, or by rationalizing the arrangement of the processing yards, for example. On the other hand, in Val di Vara, where a LAG operates, interventions on forests roads are carried out by associated beneficiaries and therefore involve entirely measure 125. Direct management interventions share a relevant quota of the total expenditure wherever the pilot project turns its attention on the recovery

Table 3 – Relationship between pilot projects strategy and actions supported by the RDP.

Pilot Project	Objectives	Actions	% of expenditure	Actions supported by RDP
Val Bormida	Recovery of local wood supply chain	Improvement of forestry road system	49.18%	Forest tracks and secondary roads
		Enhancement of mechanical facilities	16.64%	Forest Management (public bodies and LDSs)
	Promotion of forests	Setting up of collective as providers of public goods	15.13%	Forestry management processing yards
Val di Vara	Recovery of local wood supply chain	Valorization of woodlands multifunctionality	29.68%	Forest Management (public bodies and LDSs)
	Promotion of forests as providers of public goods		29.46%	Forestry roads
			21.72%	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
Valli Stura, Orba e Leira	Setting up a wood-energy supply chain	Enhancement of mechanical facilities	36.19%	Machinery and equipment
	Economic valorization of local wood	Rationalization of processing yards and their placement	26.02%	Setting up of paths and naturalistic routes
	Conservation of local biodiversity		17.15%	Forest tracks and secondary roads
Valli Aveto, Graveglia e Sturla	Recovery of local wood supply chain	Enhancement of mechanical facilities	52.45%	Machinery and equipment
	Sustainable forestry management		13.04%	Forest management
			9.99%	Forest tracks and secondary roads

Source: elaborations on data provided by Regione Liguria.

of the supply chain, but only where strategies have a focus on multifunctionality (Val Bormida, Val di Vara) they concern nonproductive or restorative tending. Purchase of machinery and equipment is one of the most requested actions: in Valli d'Aveto, Graveglia e Sturla it covers 52% of the expected support. Almost the totality of the requests attributed to measure 123 concern felling, forwarding and logging devices. It could be an evidence of the revival of the forestry activities in these areas. *Exempli gratia*, in Valle Stura e Orba, where the main task of the partnership is to set up a wood-energy supply chain, 9% of the expenditure devoted to the renewal of the

mechanical stocks goes to the purchase of in-forest processing and chipping devices. In Val Bormida, where one of the actions undertaken by the pilot projects concerns the rationalization of wood hauling processes, 10% of the expenditure on measure 122 is devoted to settling collective processing yards. Another evidence of the role of the partnerships in steering stakeholders choices is given by the fact that, in Valle Stura e Orba, where the pilot project has among its tasks the promotion of a sustainable supply chain it is accrued 57% of requests for support for PEFC Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification and Chain of Custody (CoC) certification.

3.2. Discussion

This paper presented an experience of governance applied to forest management in North-western Italy: the suitability of P3s for boosting forestry in rural areas has been assessed by relating the objectives of four pilot projects with the quality and the distribution of the requests for financial support on forestry measures.

The analysis proposed in these pages shows that the integration between public and private initiative can be effective in revitalize forestry business in certain rural areas, provided that some requirements are fulfilled. First, there must be the pre-existence of some kind of public support to ignite the supply chain: the pilot projects would have never been started without the financial aid of the regional administration. Secondly, the partnerships must operate within a strong system of rules, notably, those established by the regional forestry plan. Therefore, the experiences reported in these pages seem to prove that a steering authority on an higher administrative level it is still needed, at least for what concerns strategic guidelines and the funding of the starting phases.

Nevertheless, according to the public-private paradigm, decision making spreads over horizontal relationships instead of being a mere top-down process. It is in fact evident that requests for financial aid are spread all over the regional territory, but they become respondent to the strategies for the forestry sector only where pilot projects have previously restored a feasible supply chain.

The total amount of the foreseen expenditure is chiefly concentrated in areas where the two main forestry consortia in Liguria operate. As a matter of fact, these forms of association are charged with animation and capacity building among their associates in order to drive their choices toward a sustainable supply chain for local wood products. The fact that in the highly forested mountainous areas of western Liguria, where no stakeholders' association exists, support has been requested only for interventions on surfaces and roads in small private properties is an indirect evidence of that.

Consortia described above are a typical case in point.

Consortium "Valli Stura e Orba" restored forestry activities by involving each stakeholder in the management of a PEFC certified supply chain, from SFM certified forest owners to CoC certified sawmills. For instance, carpenters that are also members of the consortium work solely partners' timber and owners whose plots border on roads and tracks participate to their maintenance by conferring some wood (DERCHI and DULBERTI, 2008). The consortium is also the only fuel supplier for the local biomass district heating plant. The task is to provide a "turnkey" service for the fuel supply and the running of the plant. Moreover, the arrangement of a wood-energy supply chain brought forth the recovery of the management activities in highly degraded coppiced woods, with the consequent retrieving of shoots of merchantable size from forests that were previously condemned to be abandoned. Consortium "Xiloiempre", in turn, obtained the FSC collective certification back in 2005, its products, mainly fuel wood and other small assortments, are sold to local retailers with a special packaging to make them identifiable by customers (SECCO, 2006).

These examples show how Consortia have been able to accomplish the task of gathering local interests and lead them to the sustainable management of the wooden resources. Therefore, examples from Liguria clearly shows that private actors from the market and/or civil society can take an amount of responsibility for the public good; as it has been argued: *Instead of a strong state to induce sustainable progress, the focus is changing to the opportunities of a strong society, which is at least partly based on private initiatives from the market and civil society* (GLASBERGEN, 2007).

Where forestry consortia don't exist, the success of the pilot project has been ensured with its institutionalization: In Val D'Aveto and in Val di Vara the project leadership has been entrusted to the Mountain Communities (Valli del Tigullio and Val di Vara), that

were also the leaders of the Local Action Groups and have therefore brought along the instances stressed by the projects into their Local Development Strategy.

LAGs have a decision making power concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies that completely lacks to the consortia, so that they are likely to implement those actions that otherwise could be neglected by the average beneficiary (such as non-productive investments, for instance). Moreover, they fill in what public bodies are not able to regulate. In Val di Vara, for instance, some of the funded interventions were devoted to the structural improvement of some indigenous chestnut woodland. This kind of tending operations is based on a very specific and locally based know-how that could be hardly regulated at regional level.

Participatory planning had indeed a relevant role in raising the awareness about the actions needed in order to get to an improvement of the forestry sector. Unfortunately, the strong steering role held by the Regional administration, at least in the very first steps of the projects, makes them subjected to the hazards associated with every initiative based on public funding: whenever there's a lack of financial support cooperation could come to an end without having given birth to a reliable supply chain. Although forestry business in Apennines is not capable of generating enough revenue to make a living for the entrepreneur and his family, and a definitive detachment of the sector from public support appears therefore unlikely, it could be advisable to improve the capacity of communities and local authorities to make market dynamics commensurate to forest management, in order to meet local demand for wooden products with local wood and consequently loosening the dependency from public support. The pilot projects are surely moving on the right way toward a progressive emancipation from public support. Some experiences in fact find a point of strength in the diversification of the products supplied. The valorization of the wood by mean of its placement in traditional local markets (small timber carpentry, traditional handicraft) and by the promotion

of the multi-functional role of the forest (non-wood products, recreational functions etc.) has already given some encouraging result.

RIASSUNTO

I Partenariati Pubblico-Privato come mezzo per recuperare la gestione forestale: alcune prove dalla Liguria

Negli ultimi dieci anni la Regione Liguria ha promosso una serie di politiche di sviluppo con lo scopo di ripristinare la filiera dei prodotti legnosi attraverso la promozione della gestione forestale sostenibile. I partenariati pubblico-privati sono stati considerati come uno strumento attraverso il quale collegare lo sfruttamento economico delle risorse con lo sviluppo sostenibile delle aree rurali.

In questo contributo la fattibilità di questo approccio viene testata attraverso l'identificazione e la descrizione dei suoi effetti sulla spesa delle misure forestali dell'attuale periodo di programmazione. Si sostiene che i partenariati pubblico-privati possano contribuire fattivamente alla rivalizzazione della gestione forestale laddove attività di cooperazione vengono inquadrate di un frame work strategico e i partners sono attivamente coinvolti nei processi di animazione e di *capacity building*.

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