

Viability study for the incorporation of heather as a marketable forest product

Summary

The aim of the creation of this task force is the structuring of a new model for a non-wood forestry resource (heather) and to supply it as a raw material to industry. The goal is to benefit the forest economy of the area (new resource, savings in undergrowth clearing, etc.), the conservation of these territories (improvements in terms of fire prevention, public use and biodiversity) and improvement of the social reality of groups that currently exploit this resource (insured workers, proper working conditions, occupational health and safety, etc.).

Objectives

- Incorporate heather as a forestry resource within forest estate management plans.
- Involve manufacturers of heather fabrics and the owners of forest estates in the commercialisation of heather.
- Structure the heather value chain from harvesting through to processing.
- Hire people at risk of social exclusion.
- Establish a code of practice.
- Determine the importance of heather harvesting in improving forest management from the fire prevention perspective.
- Incorporate specific aspects of the Natura 2000 areas into Les Gavarres and the mountain ranges of the northern coast.

Conclusions

A task force has been established to represent the majority of the agents involved in the heather value chain. This will make it possible to have an impact on the entire heather exploitation process and maximise the environmental and social impact of the project.

This task force is made up of forest managers, representatives of forest owners, forestry companies and social bodies.

In this initial phase of the project, preliminary studies have been conducted based on the information provided by each member of the task force, with the advice of external experts, with a view to determining the theoretical viability of the project to incorporate heather as a marketable forest product and undertaking a pilot test.

Task force leader

Entity: **AGRUPACIÓ FORESTAL DEL MONTNEGRE I EL CORREDOR SL**

Contact e-mail:

agrupacio@montnegrecorredor.org

Typology of entity:

Forestry producers group or association

Subject area(s) of application

Geographical area(s) of application

Forestry

Province(s)

Girona

Region(s)

Gironès

Dissemination of the project (*publications, conferences, multimedia...*)

Dissemination on social media of the members of the task force.

Project website

More information on the project

Project dates

Starting date (month-year): March 2018

Completion date (month-year): July 2018

Current status: *Executed*

Budget approved

Total budget: €14,285.60

DARP funding: €5,699.95

EU funding: €4,299.97

Own funding: €4,285.68

With funding from:



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament d'Agricultura,
Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació**



**Fons Europeu Agrícola
de Desenvolupament Rural:**
Europa inverteix en les zones rurals

Project funded through Operation 16.01.01 (Cooperation for Innovation) through the Catalan Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Order ARP/133/2017, of 21 June, approving the regulatory bases of grants for cooperation for innovation through the promotion of the creation of European Association for Innovation task forces in terms of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by these groups (operation 16.01.01 of the RDP of Catalonia 2014-2020).

Project ID: 198 2017