



LIFE FOREST CO2 - Assessment of forest-carbon sinks and promotion of compensation systems as tools for climate change mitigation

LIFE14 CCM/ES/001271



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Contact details:

Contact person: Miguel CHAMÓN FERNÁNDEZ

Tel: 0034968228876

Email: miguel.chamon@carm.es

Project description:

Background

Despite increasing awareness in the land use, land use change and forestry sectors (LULUCF) concerning climate change action, reflected in Decision 529/2013/EU, the emissions and carbon sink effect generated by sustainable forest management (SFM) strategies are not included in the EU's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction objectives (40% by 2030).

As it is not yet considered as a key tool, the climate change mitigation potential offered by SFM strategies is reduced. One of the main limitations preventing a value being put on forestry systems has been gaps in the mathematical models used for assessing the carbon sink effects of Mediterranean conifer forests. For this reason, the development of precise prediction tools, and their application through SFM practices for the conservation of natural carbon sinks, is one of the main goals in the context of mitigation planning. This will improve the knowledge base, and the accounting and notification system, for the carbon sink potential of the LULUCF sectors.

Objectives

The main objective of the LIFE FOREST CO2 project is the promotion of SFM systems in Mediterranean areas as a tool for climate change mitigation. This will be achieved through the application of European legislation related to the accounting of emissions and carbon sink removals in the LULUCF sectors. This

will facilitate an integrated implementation involving the main stakeholders, including those responsible for offsetting through voluntary markets. Specific objectives include:

- Modelling and accounting of CO₂ emissions and carbon sequestration as a result of SFM systems;
- Raising awareness and creating positive attitudes toward the role of forestry in climate change mitigation, among major stakeholders involved in the development of forestry projects;
- Encouraging a change in corporate culture towards a low-carbon economy within the business and institutional sectors, especially for diffuse-source related economic activities, through the promotion of the calculation, reduction and voluntary offsetting of carbon footprint; and
- Promoting forestry projects as a tool for climate change mitigation among the non-regulated sector, with special emphasis on the implementation of emissions offsetting systems based on SFM.

Expected results:

- The accurate estimation, according to the standards established through ‘Decision 529/2013/EU on accounting rules on GHG emissions and removals resulting from activities relating to LULUCF’, of net anthropogenic removals of carbon in aerial and root biomass, organic matter of soils and leaf litter and dead wood, as a result of sustainable forest management (SFM) in Mediterranean forests of *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus pinaster*;
- Carbon sequestration models produced as a result of SFM actions, set out in guidelines distributed to those responsible for forest planning and management;
- 125 CO₂ sequestration projects related to SFM on completion of the project, achieving a total removal of CO₂ estimated as 3 375 tonnes during the project, and more than 50 000 tonnes in the long term;
- 200 companies and institutions voluntarily implementing measures of calculation, reduction and offsetting their carbon footprint through forestry projects, reducing, at least, 7 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere during the project; and
- Changed perception of forestry, among key stakeholders and the general public, as an activity with potential to generate social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as SFM being a fundamental tool for climate change mitigation.

Results

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Climate change Mitigation - Carbon sequestration

Keywords

environmental awareness, forestry, forest management, carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas accounting

Target EU Legislation

- Land & Soil
- COM(2013)659 - A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector (20.09.2013)
- Climate Change & Energy efficiency
- Decision 529/2013 - Accounting rules on greenhouse gas emissions and removals resulting from acti ...

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	DIRECCIN GENERAL DE MEDIOAMBIENTE DE LA CONSEJERIA DE AGRICULTURA, AGUA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE DE LA REGIN DE MURCIA
Type of organisation	Regional authority
Description	The directorate-general of environmental quality and evaluation's office for agriculture, water and the environment in the autonomous region of Murcia is responsible for the planning and management of Natura 2000 network sites and other protected areas, as well as the promotion of environmental activities including climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Partners	CNPF(Centre National de la Propriété Forestière), France CESEFOR(FUNDACION CENTRO DE SERVICIOS Y PROMOCION FORESTAL Y DE SU INDUSTRIA DE CASTILLA Y LEON), Spain UCO(Universidad de Córdoba), Spain AGRESTA(AGRESTA Sociedad Cooperativa), Spain XUNTA(Secretaría Xeral de Calidade e Avaliación Ambiental . Consellería de Medio Ambiente, Territorio e

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE14 CCM/ES/001271
Duration	02-JAN-2016 to 30-DEC -2019
Total budget	2,335,417.00 €
EU contribution	1,401,223.00 €
Project location	Galicia(España) Asturias(España) Cantabria(España) País Vasco(España) Navarra(España) Rioja(España) Aragón(España) Madrid(España) Castilla-León(España) Castilla-La Mancha(España) Extremadura(España) Cataluña(España) Comunidad Valenciana(España) Balears(España) Andalucía(España) Murcia(España) Ceuta y Melilla(España) Canarias(España) Île,de,France(France) Champagne-Ardenne(France) Picardie(France) Haute-Normandie(France) Centre(France) Basse-Normandie(France) Bourgogne(France) Nord-Pas-De-Calais(France) Lorraine(France) Alsace(France) Franche-Comté(France) Pays de la Loire(France) Bretagne(France) Poitou-Charentes(France) Aquitaine(France) Midi-Pyrénées(France) Limousin(France) Rhône-Alpes(France) Auvergne(France) Languedoc-Roussillon(France) Provence-Alpes-Côte d' Azur(France) Corse(France) Guadeloupe(France) Martinique(France) Guyane(France) Réunion(France)

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