

Policy integration between the forest and water sectors in the region of Catalonia

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The context of my research is policy integration across the water and the forest sectors from a multi-level perspective. The SSV done in the offices of EFIMED in Barcelona, allowed to initiate the data collection phase from the studies which explore policy-making for water and forest integration at regional level. There were three main objectives with the SSV: (1) understanding trade-offs that exist when considering integrated strategies with regard the water and forest vs. other sectorial goals, such as environmental protection, energy production, agriculture, etc.; (2) exploring water and forest policy and management compatibility in the case study; and, (3) an analysis of the actors involved during the design, formulation and implementation of research strategies and policy instruments, and the influence they exert as well as which positioning do they take on water and forest policy integration and related aspects. During the three-week stay, 15 interviews were performed with policy-makers, private and public natural resource managers, as well as the scientific community and NGOs. At the same time, a scientific publication to present the results of this research was advanced. The outcomes of the semistructured interviews will allow to understand obstacles and facilitators of implementing integrated policy and management strategies across the water and forest sectors and thus give insights covering the three research objectives. The SSV has had an invaluable added value to this research, moreover because the coordinator and the team at the host organization have provided very relevant input during and at the end of the visit, which have helped strengthen all the dimensions of this research.