



Monte Holiday Ecoturismo+Bosque - Regenerative tourism to prevent forest fires

The company Monte Holiday Ecotourism has developed a set of coordinated actions in the tourist complex located in a privately owned holm oak forest in the mountainous area Sierra de Madrid, whose objective is to establish an adaptive forest management that allows both the prevention of forest fires and the energy recovery of the biomass obtained by means of the heating network of the campsite. In this way a double benefit is achieved, on the one hand the preservation and protection of the surrounding forest and people and on the other hand it contributes to achieve a neutral carbon footprint.

The proposed forest management focuses on the selection and conservation of the trees that present best condition, including silvicultural treatments such as pruning and cutting to reduce the trees' density and the introduction of extensive livestock. The biomass obtained is used to produce renewable thermal energy for the comfort of visitors staying at the campsite.

The "MHE+Forest" project aimed at energy self-sufficiency started 10 years ago with a hybrid solar/biomass heat network. Now, the installation has been expanded with a 99 kW photovoltaic plant and a 500 kW high-efficiency ETA boiler, which enables the recovery of biomass from forest management and ensures virtually zero emissions of particulate matter.

In 2023, the first silvicultural intervention was carried out in the holm oak forest, obtaining 200 tonnes of green biomass. In the coming years, the adaptive management work will continue in accordance with the provisions of the forest management plan and higher volumes will be obtained. Part of the biomass will also come from nearby woodlands identified as being at high risk of fire spread by the campsite's self-protection plan.

Monte Holiday Ecotourism aims to serve as an example of adaptive forest management that contributes to increase the resilience of the forest to climate change and forest fires while enabling the development of the local and circular bioeconomy and the production of renewable energy in the tourism sector, which also leads to savings in the campsite's energy bill (in 2022 over 30,000 € for an average consumption of 500 MWh of thermal energy per year, which implies a saving of over 50%).



KEY WORDS

Bioenergy, sustainable forest management, biomass, ecotourism

COUNTRY

Spain

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LINKS

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The savings achieved by replacing the purchase of pellets/chips with the use of local biomass are invested in sustainable and adaptive forest management.

"MHE+Forest" can be replicated in other campsites or urbanisations located in forested areas. It can also be adopted by municipalities of less than 5000 inhabitants where the urban-forest interface has been narrowed by the abandonment of traditional agricultural activities and has been colonised by scrub, bushes and trees in such a density that it constitutes a real danger to the population in the event of a forest fire. There are public and private mechanisms that contribute to the financing of this type of action: subsidies, climate finance, corporate social responsibility.



ABOUT BRANCHES

BRANCHES is a H2020 "Coordination Support Action" project, that brings together 12 partners from 5 different countries. The overall objective of BRANCHES is to foster knowledge transfer and innovation in rural areas (agriculture and forestry), enhancing the viability and competitiveness of biomass supply chains and promoting innovative technologies, rural bioeconomy solutions and sustainable agricultural and forest management.



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Contacto con el proyecto



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