



ARANGE

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ARANGE - Grant no. 289437- Advanced multifunctional forest management in European mountain ranges

2nd Annual Meeting of ARANGE in Madrid, May 7 - 9 2013

Around two years after the project kick-off the ARANGE project convened for its 2nd Annual Meeting. The event was organized by the colleagues from INIA (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria, Madrid).

The key objectives of the meeting were to wrap up the past and construct the future pathways of the ARANGE vision to guarantee that project outcomes meet the demands of the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) to produce information and tools for an array of end-users. Hence, 2 days were assigned to the meeting room to discuss crucial tasks and set up a plan of action for the final months, while one day of excursion was to demonstrate the practical implications of the ARANGE project in the field.

The field trip brought the consortium to the Iberian Case Study Area, the Valsain forests (“Las Matas de Valsain” and “Pinar de Valsain”) in the mountain range of the Sierra de Guadarrama. The main aim of the excursion was to gain insights both to the targets and conflicts of forest management in the region, where some of the best Scots Pine forests in Spain are located.



Figure 1: ARANGE field trip – hike through the Valsain forests (picture by M. Maroschek/BOKU)

Javier Donés, the forest manager of the Valsain forests introduced the current management approaches to the ARANGE group and explained, how the Guadarrama National Park was declared. One third of the Valsain forests are included in the “Peripheral Protection Zone” of the national park and are therefore subject to specific legal regulations, and require specific solutions for the long-term provision of multiple ecosystem services.



Figure 2: Livestock grazing in the Peripheral Protection Zone of the Guadarrama National Park (picture by M. Maroschek/BOKU)

Several stops at selected sites inside the Case Study Area were used for flash presentations that addressed a diverse range of management issues (e.g. timber production, nature protection, biodiversity conservation, livestock grazing). Moving now to practical work the consortium members were asked to apply the ARANGE concept hands-on and create new management ideas for oak coppice stands in the Valsain forests. Conducted in the National Centre for Environmental Education (CENEAM) it was explored how to further develop coppice management, while taking into account the habitat niches for the Imperial Eagle, water management for downstream drinking water withdrawals, high quality timber production, as well as educational aspects for CENEAM students. Concluding oral presentations in the field by each group supported that knowledge exchange with local experts is mandatory in order to understand regional context and incorporate local knowledge and expertise for future-oriented mountain forest management.



Figure 3: Discussion on management alternatives in the oak coppice stands (picture by M. Maroschek/BOKU)

ARANGE (Advanced multifunctional management of European mountain **r**anges) is a Collaborative Project within 7th Framework Programme and receives funding of the European Commission.