

Social role of the forest and reception of the public. Which contribution of private forest owners ?

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Plan and aim of the communication

I General context and presentation of the case studies

II Characteristics of private owners from France and Wallonia

III Reception and private forest owners.
Reflection tracks



Aim and interest of the communication

- Few studies over private forest owners (Napoleon Code).
- An important role on the management of the forests.
- A qualitative survey in order to propose a better comprehension of the perceptions and motivations of private forest owners....
- The global problematic : the multifunctionnality of the forest.

I. Global Context

- Nature demands from a peri-urban population gaining weight.
- Pressures on private forest owners.
- Problematic of the paper : *Do private owners want to propose an entertaining service towards public, do they wish it ?*
- Methodology and case studies : North of France and North-West of Wallonia.

I. Global Context. A comparative approach

	Legislation	Urban Pression	Forest Frequenting	Type of activities
Wallonia	There is no specific legislation concerning social forestry	200 inhabitant per Km2	45% of the Walloons go to the forest once a month	Relaxation and walk, sport practices more weak
France	Forestry code of 2000, section « Reception of the public in private forests »	94 inhabitant per Km2	59% of the French go to the forest once a month	Relaxation and walk, sport practices more weak

I Context. Factual informations

- 52% of the forests are private in Wallonia, while it is the case of 73% of the French forests.
- Concerning forest policies, actions put in place :
 - In Wallonia, initiative exclusively from private owners.
 - In France, mediation of the CRPF between private owners and territories collectivities.

II. Private Forest Owners

- Which can be the motivation of private owners to answer to the « need of nature » expressed by an urban population ?
 - Financial interest.
 - Tourist interest.
 - Interest in controlling the public pressure.
- Type of actions proposed today in private forest.

II. Private Forest Owners

Number of private forest owners interviewed	Little area (less than 25 ha)	Regular area (between 25 and 80 ha)	Big area (more than 80 ha)
Walloon private forest owners	1	3	3
French Private Forest Owners	2	4	3

II. Private Forest Owners. Comparison

- Important facts from the qualitative study among French and Walloon owners :
 - Convergencies :
 - The same problematic concerning the reception of the public, with the same problems...
 - All the private owners interviewed have the feeling to lost their private property with the reception of the public.
 - The role of private forest : production and environment.

II. Private Forest Owners. Comparison

- Differences :
 - The social section is more developed in France than in Wallonia.
 - The consciousness of the role of the forest is more important in France than in Wallonia, where the private initiatives don't find a big echo.

II. Private Forest Owners. Comparison

- Important facts from the quantitative study among Swiss owners [2005] :
 - More than 50% of the private owners have less than one hectare.
 - A spatial proximity between Swiss owners and their property.
 - A link with agriculture.
 - The Swiss private owners are relatively old.
 - A legislation more « advanced » than in France and Wallonia.

II. Private Forest Owners. Assessment

- Private owners know that there is a new role given to the forest....
- ... but they don't want to have all in charge concerning the actions to put in place.
- For them : the example have to come from the public forest.
- Concerning their forest, it is important to fix new rules...

III. Private forest owners and the public

➤ A mixed view....

- Changeable reactions among French private owners.
- Walloons seem less negative.
- Swiss owners, a more open mind...
 - The forest policies and the status of the land, explanatory factors.
 - In France, the role of an intermediary organization, the CRPF...
 - Impact of connective projects (Natura 2000).

III. Private forest owners and the public

- But some leads to explore...
 - The financial tool, a way to promote the reception of the public.
 - The tourist interest.
 - The interest and the will to control the pressure of the public.

III. Private forest owners and the public

- In this perspective, which actions can be promoted ?
 - A « co-construction » of the management of the forests by promoting participatory actions, in which private forest owners can participate to the drawing up of local policies.
 - Improve communication between forest private owners, the public and the politics.
 - The Swiss example to promote the reception of the public : a local and an integrative management with all the actors concerned...