

Collaborative forest management

Sustainable Management of Private Forests

This LEADER project has helped initiate and support the collective management of small, privately owned forests, ensuring sustainability and economic viability.



Most private forests in the LAG area are small and fragmented, making them difficult for owners to manage effectively and limiting their contribution to the local economy. This joint project of the LAG, the Belgian Forestry Society and the Support Unit for Small Private Forests, has created links between small forest owners, advisors and forestry professionals.

The project launched several initiatives to foster cooperation among forest owners including organising collective timber sales, facilitating forestry work, developing local supply chains and creating partnerships. Information boards in the forests tell the public about afforestation, thinning and tree felling. Training of forest owners on pruning, timber management and a collective “clean-up” to remove wood attacked by bark beetle took place. “Diagnostic visits” by a forestry expert helps owners to identify aims for their forest and land management needs. In 2018 a social carpentry workshop was established in collaboration with a social NGO.

BELGIUM

TIGES ET CHAVÉES LAG



Stand 24

RESULTS

- ▶ 55 forest owners took part
- ▶ 45 “diagnostic visits”
- ▶ 27 agreements to organise the marking of trees for harvest
- ▶ Firewood sales: €76 000

Total project cost: €203 550
 LEADER (inc. EAFRD): €73 278
 Other Public: €109 917
 Beneficiary: €20 355

Project Promoter

Tiges et Chavées LAG
 Xavier Sohet
www.tiges-chavees.be/project/forets-filiere-bois/

“I inherited a small plot of forest but no knowledge of forest management. This project has helped give life back to this small part of forest linked to the history of my parents.”

Christian Houzard, Forest Owner