

# Promoting forest management integration or segregation?

## A multi-scale analysis of selected policy tools and initiatives in Italy

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### Background

The Italian forest sector is facing **significant changes and challenges**, e.g.:



Forest Corp abolished  
New Forest Directorate



New Consolidated Law on  
forests and forestry chains



Expanding national  
forest area



Reduced active  
management



Climate change & extreme  
events (e.g. 2018 Vaia  
windstorm)



Emerging conflicts

Rethinking and (re)activating **forest management (FM)** is largely considered as a priority, however various positions emerged: from production-, to multifunctional- and finally conservation-oriented FM. Different positions reflect on dual FM approaches: **integrated and segregated FM** i.e. FM solutions integrating multiple ES or focusing on a single ES (Bollmann & Braunisch, 2013).

The research aims to analyse selected policy tools and initiatives in Italy concerning their potential implications in terms of supporting integrated/segregated FM approaches.

### Scope and Methodology

Three case-studies have been analysed covering a range of situations as for the geographical scale (national/regional/local), promoters/actors (public/private) and approaches (multifunctional/specialised) (Figure 1):

- 1 The **National Forest Strategy** developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies
- 2 The **Lowland Forest Association**, a public-private network operating across Northern regions
- 3 The **Val di Sella**, home of a permanent land-art exhibition and additional initiatives in the field of cultural ES.

Key-docs for the three cases studies were considered via a qualitative content analysis and integrated with key-informant inputs to identify different actors/promoters, ES addressed/promoted & the key-tools adopted, finally discussing implications for integrated or segregated FM.

### Results

Results are summarised in Figure 1, presenting key findings for each of the three selected case studies, and in Figure 2, where implications in terms of different FM approaches are reported.

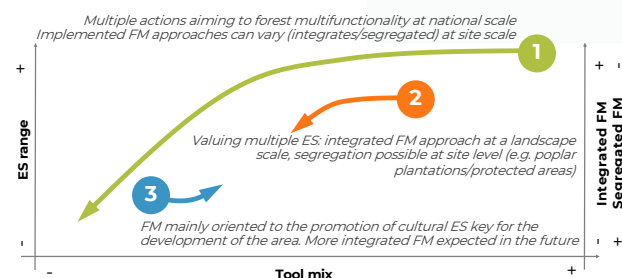


Figure 2: Different dimensions and FM approaches for the three selected case studies

Figure 1: selected case-studies and key-findings



Provisioning Regulating Cultural

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#### National Forest Strategy

**Scope & focus:** Country-wide, all forest types (ca. 11 Mil. ha)

**Main actors:** Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies, regional forest administrations and experts (+ other mentioned)

ES:

**Key-tools:** Planning, market-based mechanisms for ES, value chain development, forest restoration, monitoring, communication

#### Lowland Forest Association

**Scope & focus:** North-Eastern Italy (so far) lowland forests (ca. 1,500 ha across 3 regions)

**Main actors:** Private & public for. owners, research institutions, NGOs, private business

ES:

**Key-tools:** Networking, scaling, fund-raising, impact investing, marketing, FSC® certification (including ES) research & development

[www.forestedipianura.it](http://www.forestedipianura.it)

#### Val di Sella

**Scope & focus:** Sella Valley, alpine forests (ca. 6,000 ha, core area: 5ha)

**Main actors:** Private forest owners, NGOs, local public bodies, private business

ES:

**Key-tools:** Territorial identity, branding, co-marketing, networking, sustainable tourism certification, innovation (e.g. green care)

[www.artesella.it/en](http://www.artesella.it/en)

### Conclusions

The three case-studies show different profiles: this reflects on their implications as for promotion of either integrated or segregated FM. Differences are detected not only across cases, but also within them, along space and time. An extended and systematic review of existing policies and initiatives in Italy would allow gaining deeper understanding of their FM implications to inform future research and policy-making.

### References

- Bollmann K., Veronika B. (2013). To integrate or to segregate: balancing commodity production and biodiversity conservation in European forests. In: Krauss D., Krumm F. (eds.), Integrative approaches as an opportunity for the conservation of forest biodiversity. European Forest Institute: p. 18-31.
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