



EMBOSCADES. Dones i bosc (Women of the Forest): Creating new spaces and values through women perspectives in the forestry sector in Catalonia

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Extended summary

“Emboscades. Dones I bosc” “Women of the Forest” is an exhibition set up by the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

The exhibition invites you to explore and delve into the role of women in forestry in Catalonia, as well as the importance of managing and conserving forests – all through the eyes of 18 women who, day by day, with their work, make it possible.

Women have a key role in forest management because they do work in the sector. Their efforts, however, are not usually seen or appreciated. Women can provide a way of working that emphasizes aspects that until now have not been taken into account, other than traditional ones and breaking generally masculinized stereotypes of the profession, such as manipulating heavy forestry machinery, currently technified, coordinating field work, piloting or acting and leading forest emergency actions.

Therefore, we must make their work visible, claim it, celebrate it and denounce all the barriers that still exist. The forest sector has a glass ceiling that needs to be overcome.

Only a forestry world, based on equality between women and men, will be able to achieve the challenges that the future poses to us.

Below are some data on the representation of women in the forestry sector in Catalonia:

- In Catalonia, forestry is an important issue. 64% of Catalonia is forest, and of this forest area, 75% is privately owned, while 25% is public. According to data from the year 2020,

of the total number of forest owners, 32% are women and, in co-ownership, this percentage reaches 45%. (Data from the Forest Ownership Center, 2020).

- Few women work in forestry, specifically 374 out of a total of 3,897 people working in forestry in Catalonia. Only around 7% of machine operators, forestry and hunting workers as well as wood treatment workers are women. In jobs more closely linked to engineering, female representation increases and reaches approximately 48%. (Data from Idescat and the Observatory of work and productive model, 2022).
- In forestry research job positions, approximately 50% are women. However, among the senior job categories in this profession there are only 25% women occupying these higher forestry job categories. In terms of publications, only 32% of scientific articles have been written/signed by women (this corresponds to 2-3 articles published on average by women, compared to 6-7 articles published by men). (Data from the CREAM and CTFC Equality Plan, 2020).

Forest management and most professions associated with the rural environment are vastly unknown to people in the urban world, despite being essential. The environmental, economic and social challenges are immense and natural systems are the most affected, but this is also where the search for solutions must be focused on. Understanding this is key to valuing our forests and approaching them in a different way.

During the exhibition venue at the Palau Robert in Barcelona March - April 2024, the exhibition was seen by many visitors. Various side activities were organized and open to the public such as a series of lectures on International World Forest Day, a reunion of more than 100 women forest landowners, viewing of the 18 interviews including discussions with the director of the Catalan Women's Institute on the role of women in the forestry sector, as well as various activities for families and children. It is now available as a travelling exhibition

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- PEFC Catalunya - Program for the endorsement of Forest Certification
- CTFC - Forest, Science and Technology Center of Catalonia
- CPF - Forest Land Ownership Center
- CREAM - Ecological Research Center and Forestry Applications
- Forestal Catalana, S.A. - Catalan Forestry Public enterprise

References

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