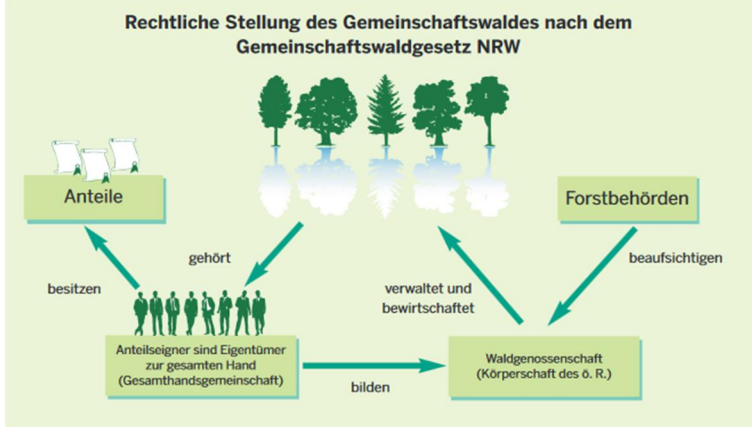


Description of best practice

Best practice	
Title	Community forests in NRW and legal framework
Picture	
Domain	Legal framework, Ownership structure
Source of wood	Woodland/forests
Location	NRW (Germany)
Implementers	Landesbetrieb Wald und Holz NRW
Actual status	Running
Approach	<p>The ownership of the forests is shared by the stockholders as an historically rooted legal framework. Due to different backgrounds in formation, there is no relation between the size of community forests and the number of stockholders.</p> <p>The four cornerstones of the community forest law from 1975 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stockholders are part of a public corporation, the forest cooperative • It is forbidden so dissolve forest areas which are part of a community forest • Consistent management policies for all kinds of community forests • The possibility to merge forest cooperatives or create new ones
Main results	<p>There are several advantages of community forests compared to small private forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a chairman can decide for all members how to manage the forest, especially after calamities such as a storm • merger of forest cooperatives and newly founded cooperatives improve the forest ownership structure
Lessons	For the creation of the community forest law in 1975, an advisory board with participants from all existing forms of community

learned	forests was formed. Because if this involvement the framework is well accepted and has proved its practicability. Since the implementation of the community forest law until 2002 only two new forest cooperatives have been founded. It is not easy to convince private forest owners to make this step
Contact information	Landesbetrieb Wald und Holz NRW Albrecht-Thaer-Straße 34 48147 Münster
Link to website	https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_detail?sg=0&menu=1&bes_id=3828&anw_nr=2&aufgehoben=N&det_id=148643 https://www.wald-und-holz.nrw.de/fileadmin/Publikationen/Schriftenreihe/Schriftenreihe_Heft_20.pdf
Code	BP_DE_07

Best practice assesment

Region	NRW, Germany
Time scale	Since 1975
Mobilization Potential	1 - 2 m ³ /ha in region of NRW
Kind of wood concerned	Stemwood
Sustainability Potential	Positive
Impact on environment & biodiversity	Positive - depending on management decisions
Ease of implementation	high
Economic impact	Estimated up to 50€/ ha
Job effect	More efficient forest operations and thinnings possible with higher forest work force
Income effect	Positive
Specific knowledge needed	Medium; need for specific regional structure knowledge and also administrative expertise
Costs of implementation	There is no reliable data
Technical readiness level	Applicable
Key information for adoption	Regional ownership structures and legal frameworks need to be suitable; participation processes needed in the implementation