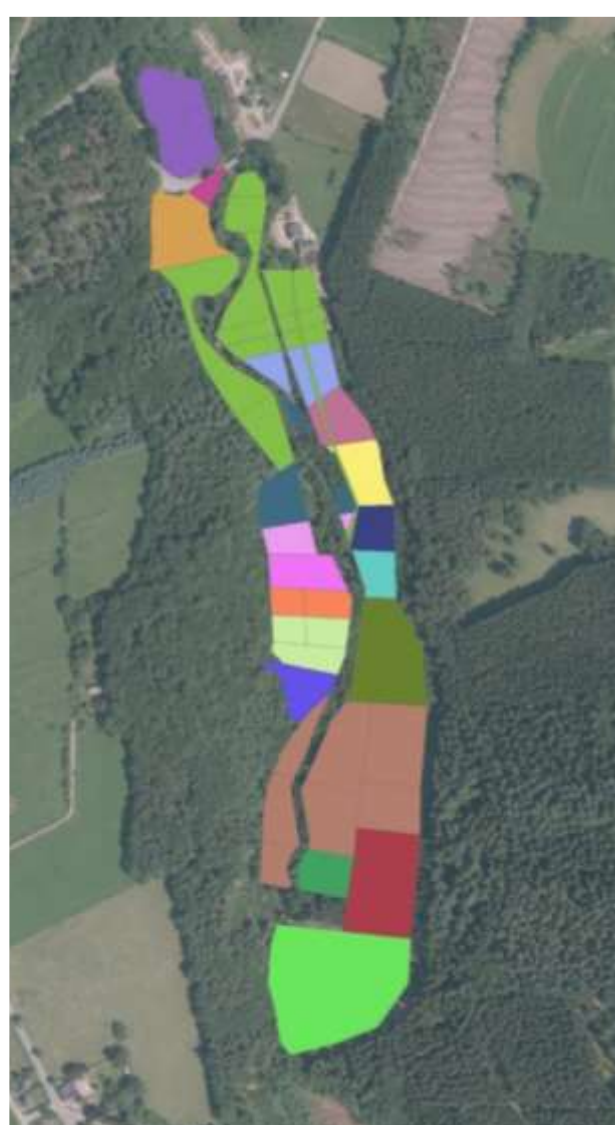




Value chain: Trekking trail and forest exploitation in a fragmented forest



Product

Main product :

The Høegne valley is still mainly exploited for its wood.
New tourism product - a new trekking trail.

Origin of product :

Recent years, interest for marked trekking trails has really increased in this region which is popular with tourists. This sector is progressively growing.

Market/consumers:

Many hikers cross the valley:

- Daily tourists
- Holiday-makers lodging in neighbouring villages

Resources

Raw materials:

The valley is 1 km long and the area zone is 12 ha divided in 19 separate properties. The path along the river is not public.

Land owner involvement : Owners were contacted separately to join the collective project. Their authorisation was needed to mark the path. Concerning the forest management, there was the opportunity for owners to join a grouped wood sale.

People

Main actors involved:

- 19 private owners
- A municipality and a local tourism organism
- The "support unit for small private forests"
- A forest logger
- An association leading a "Life project"

Value chain organisation: The municipality reclaimed the path. The "support unit for small private forest" organised the grouped wood sale for interested owners. The "Life project" negotiate management agreement with owners. Those do not receive monetary compensation for the recreational activities as Walloon trekking trails are free for tourists, but they get benefits in their agreement like the path maintenance.

Where they are from:

Regional actors in private and public sectors

Success factors

The main success factor was to take into account the land fragmentation. Contact with owners was crucial for the project. Development in grouped forest management could formalise a real owners association.

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