



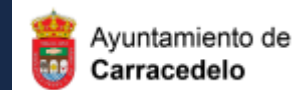
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862681.

# Digitalization in the Poplar sector

POPLAR WEEK. Carracedelo, León. Spain. 14, 15, 16 June 2021



CESEFOR FOUNDATION. 15TH JUNE 2021. SWE HUB



# Land management for poplar wood production by SOMACYL



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**Regional Ministry for the Environment**  
**Junta de Castilla y León**

Poplar week  
SWE hub. 15th June 2021







SOMACYL was created in 2006  
to extend the action of the regional  
department for the environment,  
to apply the **Regional Forest Plan**

<https://somacyl.es/>

It was created at the same time that the  
**Regional Foundation for Natural Heritage**



<https://patrimonionatural.org/>

SOMACYL was **created by Law 12/2006** to create the  
Public Enterprise for the environment of Castilla y León

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2006-21909&p=20081229&tn=2>

SOMACYL's **way of functioning** was established by  
**Regulation 76/2008** of 30th Oct 2008,  
to regulate its management commissions and the  
constitution of new societies

<https://bocyl.jcyl.es/html/2008/11/05/html/BOCYL-D-05112008-2.do>





*But this third instrument was discarded in the summer of 2006*

Plans were also made to create the **Regional Center for Private Forests of Castilla y León,**

following the models of the French

**Centre Regional de la Propriété Forestière (1963)**

and

the **Centre de la Proprietat Forestal de Catalunya (1999, by Law 7/1999)**



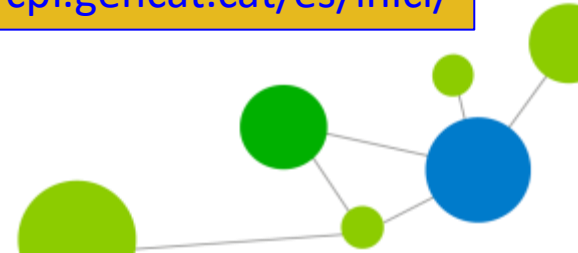
<https://www.cnpf.fr/>

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/For%C3%AAt\\_priv%C3%A9\\_fran%C3%A7aise](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/For%C3%AAt_priv%C3%A9_fran%C3%A7aise)



Centre de la Propietat  
Forestal

<http://cpf.gencat.cat/es/inici/>



The idea was to create an **instrument for public action** in three major sectors:

**Natural environment and forestry**  
**Environmental quality and**  
**Environmental infrastructures**

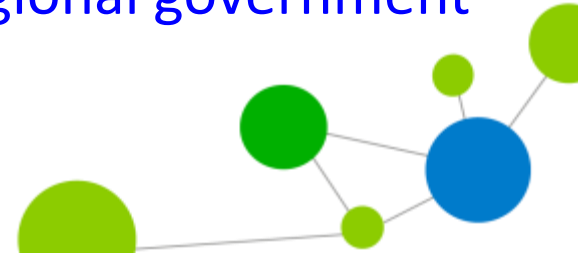
It should **function as an enterprise**,

**trying not to cost money** to the regional government,  
hiring the **minimum necessary staff**

that could get into debt,  
**raising public and private funding**

**to promote innovation** in its areas of activity

**serving local governments** as well as the regional government



Between 1985 and 2010  
there was a boom of public enterprises in Spain  
and particularly in the forest sector,

following the example of TRAGSA (1977)  
to support the action of IRYDA (RD-379/1977)  
and, since 1985, of ICONA (RD-1422/1985)



<https://www.tragsa.es/>

with Viveros y Repoblaciones de Navarra (1982),  
VAERSA in Valencia (1986)  
and Forestal Catalana (1987)  
as *instruments of emerging  
regional forest administrations*

[https://www.tragsa.es/\\_layouts/GrupoTragsa/Ficha-Publicacion.aspx?ID=105&language\\_cd=es&pi=0&tipo=-1&LA=-1](https://www.tragsa.es/_layouts/GrupoTragsa/Ficha-Publicacion.aspx?ID=105&language_cd=es&pi=0&tipo=-1&LA=-1)



When **most occidental countries** were pulling apart

- governing competences and
- public forests management competences,

*through the **creation of***  
***public forest agencies and companies***

**In Spain, regional administrations assumed full forest competences,  
replicating the old state's national model,  
with public enterprises to execute public forest works and services**

***. . . seriously conditioning the future developement and  
configuration of the forest sector in Spain !***



**Poplar cultivation** was proposed in Spain in the **early XXth century**,  
**following the Italian example**,

and developed **by** the emerging **Hidrographic Confederations**,  
**the river basin agencies**,

**created** by Regulation RD of 5<sup>th</sup> March **1926**  
**in the Ebro river**

The Duero Basin River Agency

**Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero (CHD)**

was created by Regulation RD of 22<sup>nd</sup> June **1927**

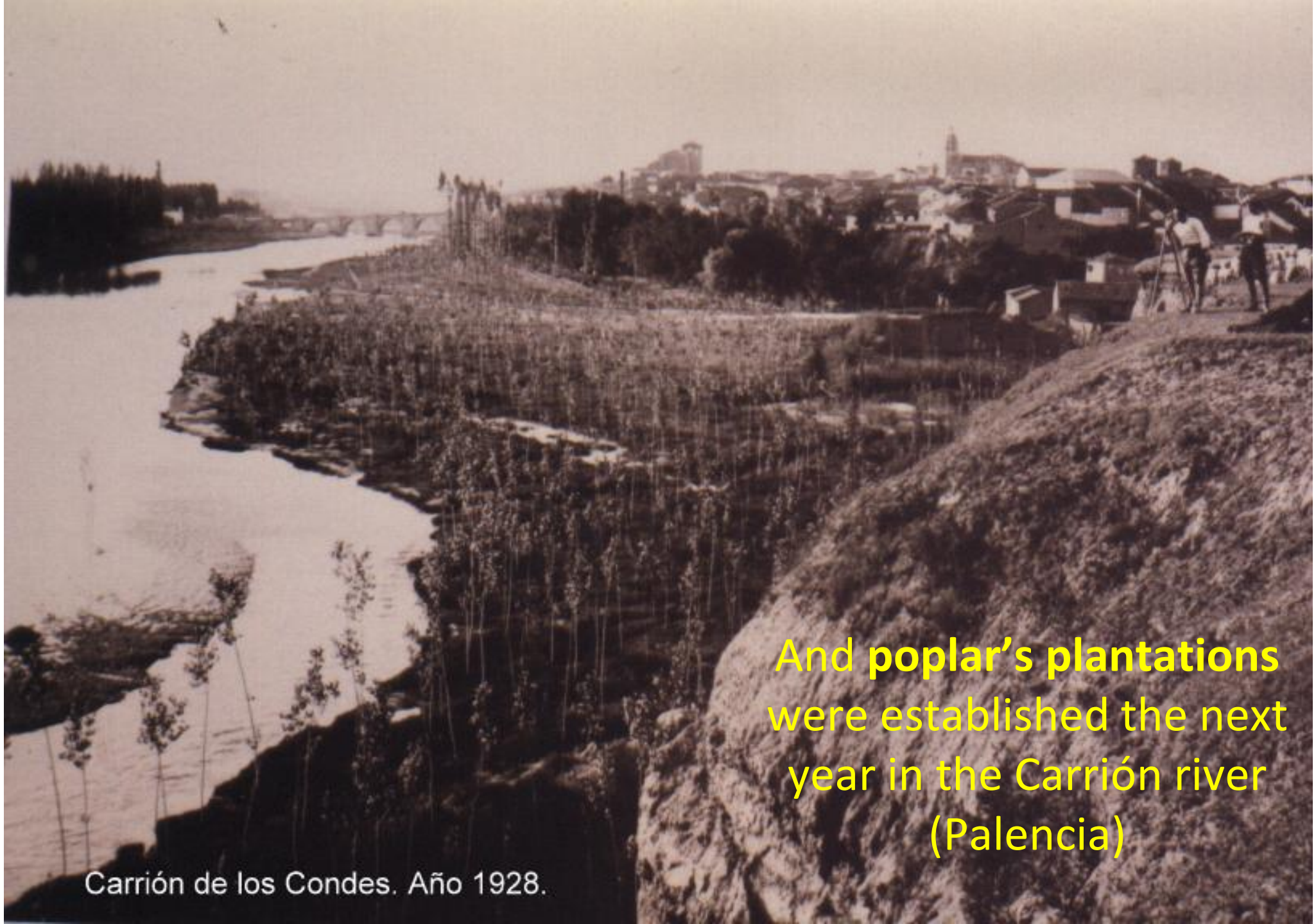
<https://www.chduero.es/historia-y-funciones>






**The restoration of the river  
basin and margins was one of  
the initial objectives**

Río Carrión en La Serna, año 1928



And **poplar's plantations**  
were established the next  
year in the Carrión river  
(Palencia)

Carrión de los Condes. Año 1928.



Nowdays,  
poplar plantations  
in the river margins and  
pine plantations in  
the river terraces and slopes  
have restored the river basin and  
created multifunctional spaces  
that produce wood and  
prevent and laminate river floods



**Poplar cultivation in Castilla y León was developed by public initiative, by public agencies, firsts by CHD and after 1940 by Patrimonio Forestal del Estado (PFE)**

Private initiative was promoted since 1950,  
by Law of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1952  
and particularly after the  
FAO and World Bank Report (1966)  
that recommended more private initiative

Orden de 30 de julio de 1968, sobre auxilios a  
empresas forestales,

Resolución de 30 de junio de 1970, de la DGMCyPF  
and

Orden de 9 de julio de 1982, sobre fomento de  
plantaciones de chopo en montes en régimen privado



[https://www.mapa.gob.es/ministerio/pags/biblioteca/hojas/hd\\_1961\\_11.pdf](https://www.mapa.gob.es/ministerio/pags/biblioteca/hojas/hd_1961_11.pdf)

In 2004, CHD reached the **maximun area managed** for poplar wood production:  
**7.500 ha**, through  
**1.200 contracts** for land management, mainly with municipalities, with  
**48 workers** in its Forest Management Unit, coordinated by Alfonso Fdez. Molowny

*A particular interpretation of the EU Water Directive (2000/60/EC),  
by the new President of CHD, Elena Caballero (2004-2006),  
led to the political **decision of closing this** successful **area of activity**  
that *had lasted 77 years**

The Regional Environmental Department (CMA) decided then (2008)  
to offer **SOMACYL** as a new land management agent for poplar cultivation,  
assuming the contracts managed by CMA and  
new contracts with municipalities  
*abandoned by CHD*

**SOMACYL**  
manages the land,  
*but hiring all the works*  
sells the wood,  
*but does not harvest*

<https://youtu.be/5AAJ0zH8z0s>



**SOMACYL began its poplar activity in 2009 and  
in 2010 made its first selling (15.000 m<sup>3</sup>)**

**The Regional Forest Department (CMA)**

**Signed a Collaboration Agreement in June 2012**

**Only maintained the management  
of public demanial forests (MUP)**

The idea was that **SOMACYL could**  
**reduce workload of CMA**  
**reduce costs of CMA**  
**generate profits *and particularly***  
**promote innovation**



**In fact, since 2010 SOMACYL:**

Developed **PEFC certification** of all their poplar plantations

Incorporated **Basic Management Plans** for all their poplar plantations

**Digitalized its land management for poplar cultivation (2011)**

**Digitalized its financial accountability**

**Made the second poplar inventory of Castilla y León (2016)**

*(The first one was coordinated by Jesus Rueda and published by CMA (1995))*

**Moreover, in the period 2015-2020,  
SOMACYL has invested 500.000 €  
in more than 30 local initiatives**



Figura 24: Estado de la zona de actuación previo a la obra.



Figura 10: Entramado de estaquillas para construcción de empalizada.



Figura 25: Detalle de empalizada y plantación de estaquillas.





**SOMACYL manages 9.137,6 ha of poplar plantations (91% public) in  
679 contracts (44% private)  
13,5 ha/contract**

**The Regional Forest Department (CMA) transferred 4.005 ha (44%)**

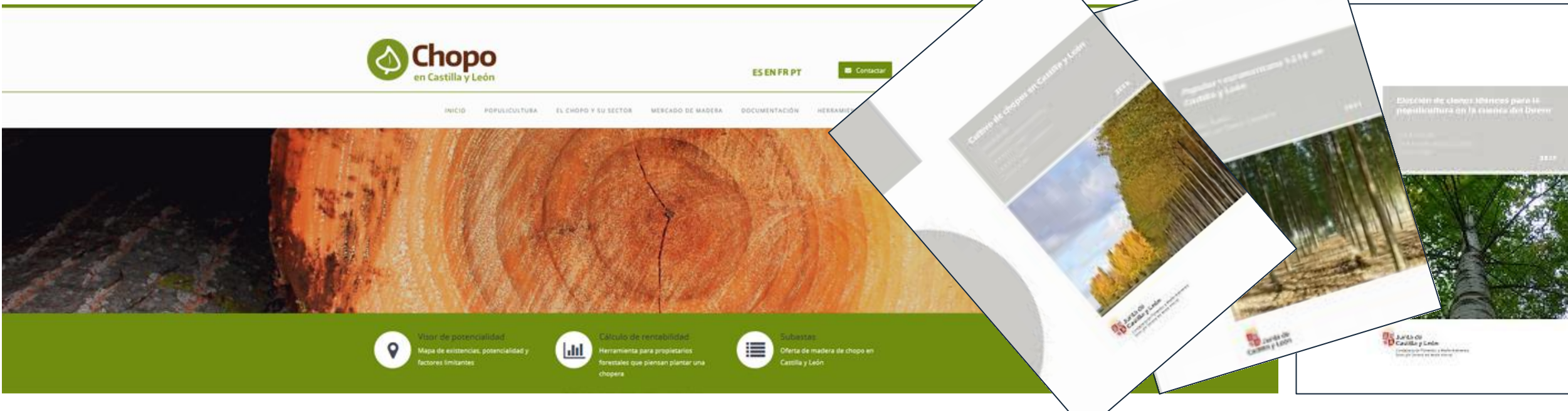
*showing that many others land owners accept the model*

***SOMACYL manages more land than each of CHD and JCyL-CMA managed***

***and there are private enterprises also signing contracts***

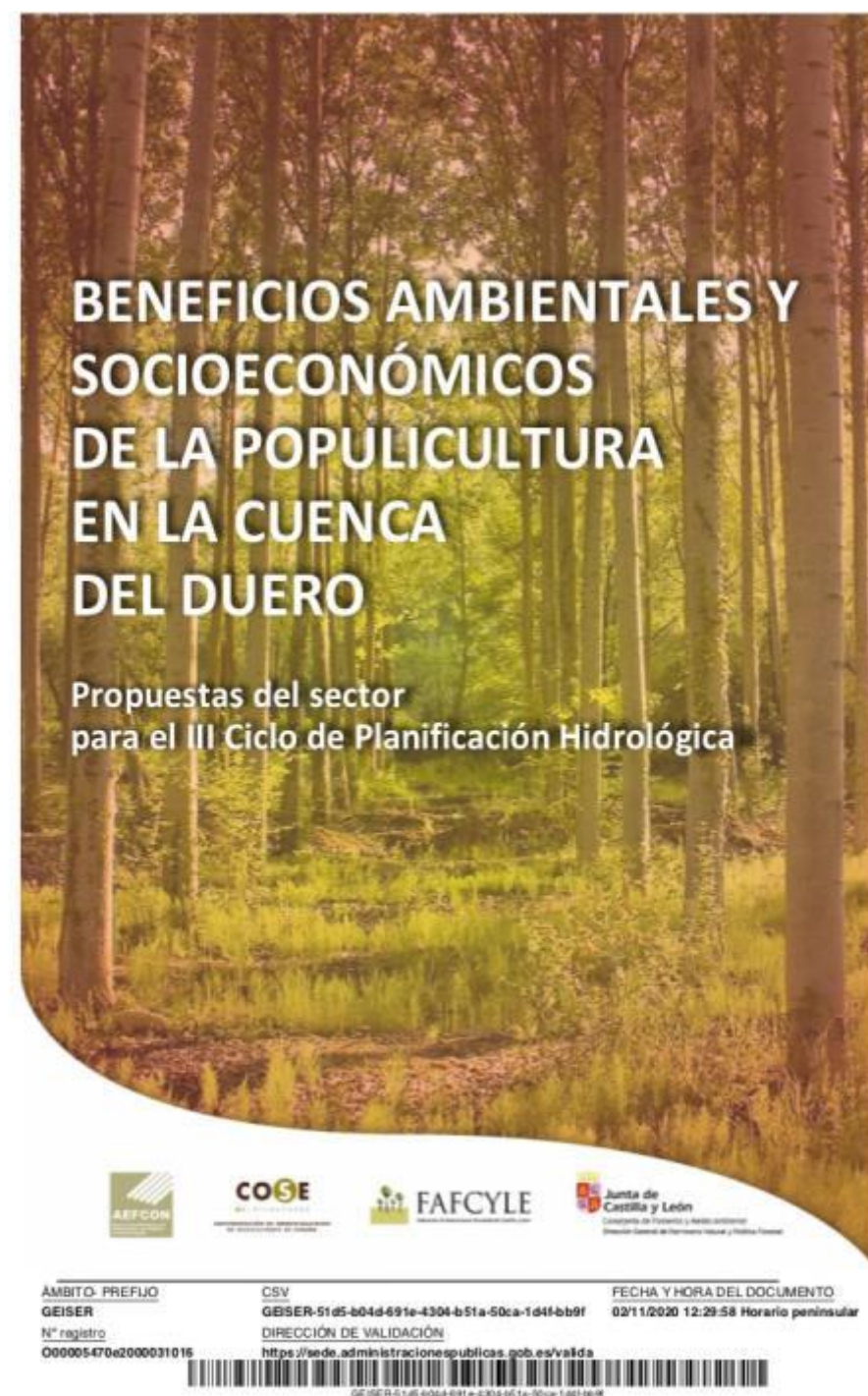
***(“Rios y riberas”, “FUSTEC” and others)***

There is no doubt that SOMACYL  
has enriched the regional poplar sector,  
*not receiving critics,*  
and has dinamized the sector,  
providing funds for many sectorial  
activities of general interest





The challenge is to get the  
recognition of the multiple benefits  
provided by poplar cultivation . . .



An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of forest with trees in peak autumn foliage, displaying various shades of yellow and orange. In the far distance, a city skyline is visible under a hazy sky. The foreground shows some agricultural fields and a dirt path.

*And increase the production area !*

Species/Year	1971 <sup>(1)</sup>	1997 <sup>(2)</sup>	2020 <sup>(3)</sup>
Eucaliptus	312.000	845.000	
Pinus radiata	264.000	363.000	
<b>Populus x euroamericana</b>	<b>173.000</b>	<b>123.000</b>	<b>75.000</b>
<b>All productive plantations</b>	<b>748.000</b>	<b>1.331.000</b>	

(1) Anuario Estadística Forestal 1971

(2) Mapa Forestal España 1997

(3) Inventario especies productivas 2020

Poplar production area is  
clearly diminishing, due to  
**competence with other land**  
**uses and administrative barriers**

The poplar sector could serve as a pilot area to develop  
**FORCYL**  
a digital tool to sell wood or forest parcels  
and a key milestone in the  
regional forest sector digitalization process  
and SOMACYL could contribute to it

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Matti Valonen, Emmi Haltia, Paula Horne, Marjo Maidell, Sari Pynnönen,  
Maurizio Sajevo, Virpi Stenman, Karita Raivio, Veikko Iittainen, Kirsi Greis,  
Kaisa Laitinen

### Finland's model in utilising forest data

Metsään.fi-website's background, implementation  
and future prospects

PTT  
Helsinki 2019

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336771013\\_Finland%27s\\_model\\_in\\_utilising\\_forest\\_data\\_-\\_Metsaanfi-website%27s\\_background\\_implementation\\_and\\_future\\_prospects](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336771013_Finland%27s_model_in_utilising_forest_data_-_Metsaanfi-website%27s_background_implementation_and_future_prospects)



<http://www.wald-wird-mobil.de/>







[alvaro.picardo@jcyl.es](mailto:alvaro.picardo@jcyl.es)



[www.rosewood-network.eu](http://www.rosewood-network.eu)

[www.cese4.0.com](http://www.cese4.0.com)



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CESEFOR FOUNDATION/15TH JUNE 2021  
CARRACEDELO, LEÓN. SPAIN



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