

## Unit 4. Circular economy

### Recycled eucalyptus wood from mussel rafts

#### Description

The Business Federation of Sawmills and Timber Auctioneers of Galicia (Fearmaga) presented the audiovisual Galicia "MareMonte" as a preview of the celebration of the 5th European Forestry Week that FAO under the motto: Forests in the Circular Economy.

The audiovisual work exposes the case of the manufacture and recycling of wooden rafts that, after 25 years producing mussels in the Ría de Arousa, are recovered to have a new use in construction, rehabilitation or decoration. which generates added value for the wood that has already fulfilled its function. The reuse of wood is an example of a circular economy that, according to the FAO, is key to sustainable development. The aim is to use materials efficiently to ensure that the value of products is kept in the economy for as long as possible and the generation of waste is minimized.

Wood and forest products are a renewable resource that contribute to decarbonizing the economy by substituting other products derived from petroleum and help curb the effects of climate change.



Mussel rafts

Source: La voz de galicia

The video explains the process of making a raft, from eucalyptus beams more than 20 meters long that are extracted from the Galician forests to build the "maestras" and "pontoons" with which the framework of a mussel farm in the Ría de Arousa, thus showing other uses of eucalyptus. The first mussel raft was placed in Arousa in 1946, today, there are about 3300.

A raft needs between 20 or 25 main beams. Experts defend the suitability of eucalyptus wood due to its characteristics, since it combines "strength and

flexibility" to resist the elements of the sea and a "durability of about 25 years" to achieve the profitability of the installation.

At the end of their useful life, the rafts are rescued from the sea and undergo a recovery process in a sawmill where they are recycled for new uses such as structural restoration beams on porches, large doors, floors or garden furniture.



Examples of use of mussel tray wood

Source: Veredes

In this way, the documentary shows the importance of the sawmill industry in the Galician rural environment, focusing on aspects such as its social, economic and environmental relevance, as well as the evolution of the sector, characterized by the generational change, towards innovation and development of new wood products.

The sawmill industry in Galicia is made up of small and medium-sized family businesses that extend throughout the Galician countryside. The more than 700 sawmills that are in operation consume 42% of the wood cut in Galicia (2.7 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood with bark) and bill more than 355 million euros, according to the report "A cadea forestal - madeira de Galicia 2017".

#### Goals

The main objective is to reuse of wood of a mussel raft as an example of a circular economy.

#### Activities

- Reuse of mussel raft wood in sawmills.

#### Impact

- Example of a circular economy

#### Social Media

<https://youtu.be/ZSaw9iRXUAE>

**f e a r m a g a**

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