



Triage forestier d'Anniviers – Bourgeoisies d'Ayer, Chandolin, Grimetz, St-Jean, St-Luc et Vissoie, Valais, CH. Photo : J. Lenglet.

FORest commons and RESources in the making of TERritorial transitions

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LabEx partners: NA

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Thematic action(s) concerned: WP4

Context —

Recently, the forest commons (pool resources) has been the subject of renewed interest in the media and public debate. In recent years, several press articles, essays and public speeches by foresters, citizens, environmental associations or forest sector stakeholders have fuelled an ongoing and controversial debate. Forest commons are often developed with the intention of challenging or contributing to forest and territorial development trajectories and propose alternative resource management practices. These initiatives raise many questions about their objectives, their modus operandi, their place in the territory, but also regarding their transformative potential or their viability. The project aims to better understand the drivers and functioning of these projects in a context of transition.

Objectives —

- Better understand the forest commons, their diversity and their functioning.
- Study the role of the commons and forest resources in the making of territorial transitions.
- Contribute to research on the commons and to the commons movement.



Approaches —

The project follows an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. In collaboration with the University of Lausanne, a thorough identification of forest commons is being carried out in France and Switzerland, in order to identify the mechanisms allowing their development, and their role in transition dynamics at the territorial level. Fieldwork has been conducted and will be followed by a cross analysis.

Key results and main conclusions —

- The forest commons result from a network of intertwined initiatives, led by local actors, proposing to implement and experiment new modes of organization and forest management. They share characteristics with urban or mountain commons but give a prominent importance to environmental and social justice issues.
- Forest commons can borrow from historical commons (consortages, sectional properties) but also take new or hybrid forms (endowment funds, forest councils, forestry groups, associations) at the institutional and organizational level. This diversity of structures demonstrates their capacity to adapt and to address local issues.
- The results confirm, in line with previous work, that forest commons can appear as objects in transition (reactivation of historical commons, notably tenure commons) but also as factors of transition (new commons); both forms contributing to a recapturing of issues and tools, including technical ones, by organized communities.

Perspectives —

From a theoretical perspective, the commons present interesting new opportunities for rethinking territorial development in the light of contemporary issues, particularly ecologization.

Valorization —

- Lenglet, J., Kebir, L., Barles, R. « Ni lieux ni biens : quand les commons s'invitent dans la transition des territoires forestiers », *Pour*, vol. 246, n° 2, 2023, pp. 149-158.
- Lenglet, J., Kébir, L., 2022. « La place des commons dans la transition : réflexions à partir du cas de la gestion des forêts ». Workshop UNIL - Les nouveaux commons : un levier de transition pour des territoires alpins plus durables ?, 10 novembre 2022, Sion, Suisse.
- Lenglet, J., Kébir, L., 2022. « Les (nouveaux) commons forestiers dans la fabrique des transitions territoriales ». Séminaire du projet Plantaclim – La filière forêt-bois face aux changements globaux : quelles adaptations ?, 21 octobre 2022, Tours.
- Lenglet, J., Kébir, L., 2022. « Ressources et commons dans la fabrique des transitions territoriales ». Colloque de l'Union Géographique Internationale, 18-22 Juillet 2022, Paris.

Leveraging effect of the project—

Positioning of Labex ARBRE on an emerging topic generating strong expectations in the forestry operational and research fields. Contribution to scientific work initiated previously on development and transitions in forest regions. High-level international partnerships.