



# Portuguese private forest owners' organizations (PFOO) adherence to policy tools in Portugal

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# Presentati on outline



Framework



Research questions



Methodology



Results



Conclusions

# Framework

- Small-scale private forest holdings are a feature common to several countries in Europe (e.g., Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland), and to some states in USA.
- To be effective at the ecosystem, social and economic levels, forest management requires scale.
- Very fragmented properties, belonging to many small non-industrial private forest owners ask for concerted actions so that the necessary scale is achieved, and a sustainable forest is promoted.

# Framework

- Past research indicates that **formal institutions and policy tools** are necessary to foster cooperative management among private forest landowners (Fischer et al., 2019).
- External actors and policy tools may be critical to concerted forest management, namely, to reduce transaction costs.
- Central and local Portuguese authorities have been actively promoting cooperation between private forest owners, namely by means of policy tools.
- Private Forest Owners' Organizations (PFOO) are increasingly important in cooperation, in promoting concerted actions, in providing joint representation of owners' interests, and in accessing services for forest management and marketing.

# Framework

Main mechanisms, in force in Portugal, aimed to promote larger scale management targeted in the study are:

- Forest Intervention Zones (ZIF) - 2005
- Entities of Forest Management (EGF) - 2017
- Unities of Forest Management (UGF) - 2017
- Integrated Areas of Landscape Management (AIGP) - 2020

From the point of view of the public policy, these tools might be classified as **incentive based** as they offer opportunities/inducements.

Private forest owners' organizations have an important <sup>4</sup>

# Main research questions

1. Are Private Forest Owners' Organizations adhering to some type of policy tool?
2. What factors are related to Private Forest Owners' Organizations adherence?
3. Do Private Forest Owners' Organizations who adhere to policy tools report different economic, social, and environmental benefits?

# Methodology

## PFOO survey

- The Portuguese Private Forest Owners' Organizations listed by the Nature and Forest Conservation Institute (ICNF) were contacted by email and invited to participate in the survey.
- The link for a structured questionnaire, to be answered online, was sent by email at the end of April 2021.
- The survey form comprised 43 main questions, most of them in a closed format (yes/no, rank, order or options' selection)

# Methodology

## PFOO survey structure

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### Section 1: the PFOO

type, year of creation, support, scope, partnerships, ...

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### Section 2: PFOO activity

services, equipment owned, human resources, revenues, business plan, goals, difficulties, ecosystem, social and economic outcomes, ...

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### Section 3: Joint management and policy tools

In force, plan, reasons to, ...

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### Section 4: PFOO members and holdings

Number, area, tree species, conservation, ...

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### Section 5: Respondent

Age, formal education, seniority, ...



# Sample

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**Population:** 125 PFOO, 107 associations and 18 cooperatives (after excluding *baldios* and inactive organizations)

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**Sample:** 59 valid answers (response rate of 47%)  
50 associations and 9 cooperatives

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61% of PFOO were created since 2000 (the oldest started its activity in 1941 and the newest in 2017)

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54% benefited from public support in the year of creation

# Geographic distribution of the sample

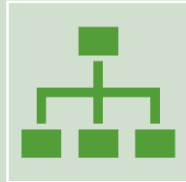


# Results

## PFOO and policy tools



54% of the PFOO in the sample manage at least one Forest Intervention Zone, Entity of Forest Management, Unity of Forest Management or an Integrated Area of Landscape Management.



49% of PFOO were working on the creation of a new Forest Intervention Zones or a new Integrated Area of Landscape Management which should be formalized within the next 5 years.



Only 22% stated that behind the creation of the PFOO was the intention of creating a Forest Intervention Zones, an Entity of Forest Management, a Unity of Forest Management or an Integrated Area of Landscape Management.

# Results

## PFOO and policy tools

Considering the PFOO in the sample, adherence to forms of joint management (ZIF, EGF, UGF or AIGP) is greater among those that:

- ✓ at its origins had the objective of ensuring the management of forest areas;
- ✓ have partnerships established with municipalities or companies in the forestry sector;
- ✓ the most of their members have been affected by forest fires;
- ✓ with a municipal scope of action (and not regional or national).

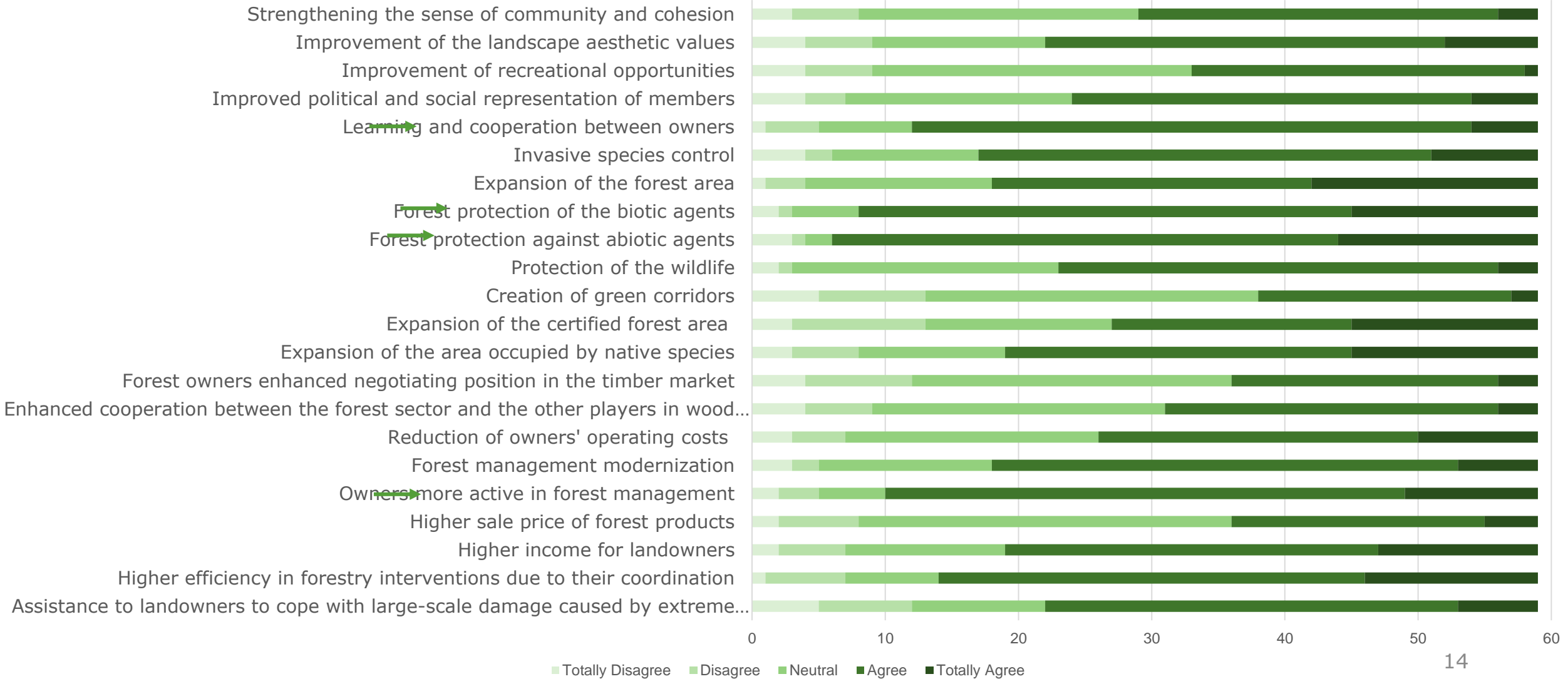
# Results

## PFOO and policy tools

Main reasons for the adherence (past or future) to ZIF, EGF, UGF or AIGP

- the need to create scale for forest management
- the forest owners' interest
- facilitated access to funds
- monetary support from the central government

# Benefits of PFOO activity



# Results

## PFOO and policy tools

Adherent PFOO are the ones that agree the most that

- Forest management modernization,
- Improvement of the landscape aesthetic values,
- Protection of the wildlife,
- Expansion of the certified forest area.

are benefits accruing from their activity.

# Conclusion S and remarks

- Policy tools have had an influence on the creation of PFOO and are important in their choices and actions;
- The PFOO that have become most involved in these forms of forest management are those that are working most hard on creating new Forest Intervention Zones and/or Integrated Areas of Landscape Management;
- The municipal and central powers are assigned different roles, the municipal is identified as a partner and the central as a financier;
- The reasons for not adhering to these forms of joint management seem to be related to the perception of members;
- PFOO are effective in promoting active forest management





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**Thank you for your attention!**

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