



REVVA

CASE STUDIES

ES05

1. INTRO

The public company RENFE created in 1942 the Sawmill Vadillo Castril where special beams and sleepers were manufactured for the railway industry, this activity that was carried out in this village until 1986, when the company Explotaciones Forestales de RENFE (Spanish railway company) abandoned the activity in this mountain range. Through a project drafted by the three Local Action Groups of the Natural Park area, a Tourism Promotion Plan was awarded based on the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and products of nature and ecotourism, which was finally managed by the Provincial Council of Jaén and through the old sawmill is transformed into a center for the interpretation of wood and a museum.

2. PROMOTER PROFILE

The ownership of the facilities belong to the General Directorate of Heritage of the Andalusian Government, so it was necessary to open a legal process for the assignment of ownership to the City Council of Cazorla, the current owner. The City Council of Cazorla bids by administrative concession its management and operation, being adjudicated to a local company AlmaGaia.



3. REUSED/VALORISED BUILDING

- **Address - to be used for the building location map:** ALDEA DE VADILLO CASTRIL (hamlet of the municipality of CAZORLA) inside the Sierra de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas Natural Park.
- **Reused/Valorised building type:** Wood sawmill. It was a building where the beams used for the train tracks were made.
- **Reuse/Valorisation purpose:** Turn the abandoned wood sawmill into Interpretation Center for the culture of wood. Ethnographic Center that completes the tourist offer of the Natural Park and contributes to promote and put in value the tangible and intangible heritage, related to an important sector for the territory as was the wood.

Building description before reuse/valorisation

Before the construction of the hydroelectric plant in Cerrada del Utrero in 1950, all the wood was cut with rudimentary machines steamed or moved with diesel engines.

Before RENFE built this building, El Vadillo had a permanent, very basic mobile sawmill. After the construction of the hydroelectric plant, and especially since 1966, the sawmill is rapidly modernizing. The pneumatic trolley was installed, which avoids the manual overturning of trunks, and a mechanical strip on the outside of the sawmill that saves many hours of labor. It is no longer necessary to remove the sawdust on large slopes of esparto, but a powerful vacuum cleaner places it outside in a hopper for its use.

Building Pictures before reuse/valorisation



Building description after reuse/valorisation

The CiCUM has respected the interior of the sawmill almost entirely. The visitor can observe the whole process of cutting the trunks. Although the machines do not work, it has been enabled a 3D computer application where the work process is shown. The building has multiple rooms where you can discover details about the work of the sawmill, its Technological evolution, and the work in the forest.

This museum will also include a showroom, another audiovisuals room and one more about mountain range that at the same time it will serve as viewpoint.

The CiCUM (Center for the Interpretation of Wood Culture) is divided in four main areas:

»The first one made up part of the old sawmill, that has a store and rooms dedicated to the machinery, as well as to the forest history and the trades of the forest - with tools that were used for the same activities, also, we have an audiovisual room;

»The second place, is the outside of the CiCUM, where you can find a cafeteria, and a garden has been installed with explanatory totems have been installed.

»The third area, including the tourist signposting of the village of Vadillo Castril - sawmill, battery dryers, Guadalquivir river and the current Forest Training and Experimentation School -



“And the fourth área is where we are also working on the implementation of a mobile application that it will serve to initiate outside the center a route for the forest history of the area.

Building Pictures after reuse/valorisation



4. FARM DESCRIPTION

Not applicable

5. REUSE/VALORISATION PROCESS

The process was not easy. The main obstacle was the ownership of the facilities was the Directorate General of Heritage, so it was necessary to open a legal process to give up the ownership to the City of Cazorla. The City Council of Cazorla opened a process for its use and management, being awarded to the local company AlmaGaia. A local construction company is responsible for the construction and the realization of the museum is entrusted to the company STOA, a company specialized in this type of work. It is important to highlight the positive disposition on the subject of all the institutions involved: Ministry of the Environment, government team of the Cazorla City Council and Tourism Area of the Provincial Council of Jaén. The project managers were constantly advised by the Professor of Geography of the University of Jaén and outstanding researcher of the forest management, Eduardo Araque, as well as by the teachers of the Forest Training Center of Vadillo.

Threats/Challenges

- Located in the heart of the Natural Park, with a strong seasonality of visits
- The village of Vadillo Castril has only one socio-economic activity: Forest Training Center and Forest Defense Center (public offices of Forest Defense)
- The SIERRA DE CAZORLA GAL intends to recover the added value of the forest use for

this reason it works in two lines:

- Use of biomass for thermal purposes (renewable energies)
- Study of the sustainable architectural use of the natural resources of the Sierra de Cazorla.
- The rehabilitation had allowed to hire 2 or 3 people and it will mean a strong reinforcement for Vadillo, while complementing the offer of services that Cazorla and the Natural Park offers to everybody who visit them.

Main Training/Skills/Competences

- From 2013 and every 2 years they celebrate the Festival Mountain range and the Man, in the village of Vadillo Castril, very closely linked with the culture of Wood
- The Forest Heritage Route, based on a new smartphone app that helps to cross the Mountain range of Cazorla, Segura and the Villas, along thirty sites of forest interest, with geolocation utilities
- Interpretation Center includes the Local Tourism-Cultural Bond “GYPI” developed by the Local Action Group Sierra de Cazorla
- The SIERRA DE CAZORLA GAL carried out a study and development of a project for this place “Sustainable village viability Vadillo Castril”

Promoter advice

It highlights the good collaboration of all the Administrations involved: Ministry of Environment, government team of the Cazorla City Council and Tourism Area of the Provincial Council of Jaén. For the rehabilitation and revalorization of a building lack of use where probably some thief may had to accede it, because they were mysteriously disappearing some electric motors and other components of the machinery. This is the reason why progressively the facilities were being devalued. This process of rehabilitation has made it possible to recover a building that would otherwise have been a worthless and dilapidated building.

6. CONSIDERATIONS, SKILLS/COMPETENCES INVOLVED IN THE REUSE/VALORISATION PROCESS AND QUERIES/QUESTIONS

General considerations

Thanks to the good disposition and collaboration of the different public administrations in-



volved, it has been possible to rehabilitate a closed building as well as to recover the history of the sawmill allowed to know the process of a type of logging, methods and techniques of logging in the mountains, a sample of timber and a humble tribute to the people who stood out in the forestry activity in the mountains. The rehabilitation of the old sawmill of Vadillo-Castril have counted with the collaboration of multiple experts in forest culture and inhabitants of the own natural park, who have grant materials that have been endowed with this interpretation center covering not only the old sawmill but also its out-zone and the contiguous village of Vadillo Castril.

Skills/Competences especially relevant for the reuse/valorisation process

- The capacity to work with different public administrations at the same time involve in this project.
- To be able to overcome prejudices from local people who used to work in this factory
- The ability to perseverance in this idea, at the beginning was rejected for multiple different reasons.

Queries/Questions

- What do you think about the public administrations recover for new uses buildings that no longer have any use?
- Should it be a common practice for public institutions to attempt to recover obsolete buildings that would otherwise be dispossessed and become ruinous buildings?

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