The current state of forests in Catalonia denotes a recent abandonment of agricultural land resulting in successional stages with homogeneous, high density, small trees. In the meantime, forest harvesting remains at some extent suffering from a weak position in the global market. The overall consequences imply a reduction of habitats for species requiring open areas, more homogeneity in species composition across the territory, favouring common species, and higher risk of fire occurrence and intensity. In contrast, new forests replacing past overexploited land provide habitat for some species, protect soils from erosion, increase C stocks and regulate water and nutrient fluxes. This reflects the multiple services provided by forests, that can represent antagonist, synergistic or independent effects, thus requiring cost-benefit analyses in order to improve forest management in the long-term. This is particularly important to make compatible biodiversity conservation and provisioning services in a global change context in which climate is expected to become in the next future more arid and more prone to extreme events.