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AFWC/EFC/NEFRC COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS – *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Antalya, Turkey, 21–25 March 2022

SECRETARIAT NOTE 4.1 ITEM 4

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS OF THE AGADIR COMMITMENT FIVE YEARS AFTER ITS ADOPTION

Executive Summary

The Agadir commitment - adopted in 2017 during the Twenty-Second session of *Silva Mediterranea* in Agadir, Morocco - encourages actions in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands to strengthen restoration efforts. The Committee discussed the strategy to assess the restoration initiatives being promoted and implemented in the region five years after its adoption.

Suggested action by the Committee

- The committee recommends that the secretariat should engage with members and partners to prepare and coordinate data collection for the assessment of the Agadir Commitment.
- The committee recommends that the secretariat should keep it informed on the progress and status of the Agadir Commitment, including on the assessment of a monitoring system on post-Agadir efforts.

- The committee recommends that the secretariat should continue the assessment and publish a report on the implementation and progress of the Agadir Commitment by the end of 2022.
- The committee recommends that the secretariat and its members should use the opportunity provided by the ongoing Mediterranean component of the project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions” to accelerate the implementation of the Agadir Commitment, convene knowledge sharing events on FLR priority topics and prepare new project proposals for submission to relevant financial instruments, such as COST Actions, adaptation funds and the Integrated Programme on Ecosystem Restoration in preparation in the context of GEF-8.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week, held in Agadir, Morocco, culminated on 24 March 2017 with a commitment endorsed by ten countries, namely Algeria, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, and strongly supported by several international organizations – the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), the World Bank, Global Mechanism (GM), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Plan Bleu, the Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) – to improve forest and landscape restoration (FLR), land degradation neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region. The [Agadir Commitment](#) proposes to establish a new Regional Mediterranean Initiative on FLR to support the achievement of the [Bonn Challenge](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal 15](#) (SDG 15). This initiative also encourages political and administrative authorities at the national level, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their respective FLR efforts in the context of the [United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030](#) of the [United Nations Forum for Forests](#) (UNFF). Furthermore, the initiative remains in line with the global FLR objectives of the [Rio Conventions](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

2. The Regional Mediterranean Initiative, which aims to restore at least 8 million hectares of degraded land in the Mediterranean region by 2030, is focused on four main components:

- assessing the ongoing national efforts on FLR;
- reinforcing regional cooperation on FLR and LDN;
- cooperating with interested partners to develop a consensual, diversified strategy for the financing of FLR efforts and reinforce national capacities; and

- assessing the respective efforts of countries through the establishment of a voluntary monitoring and reporting system for FLR and LDN efforts in the Mediterranean context.

3. At the Twenty-Third Session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the first follow-up of the Agadir Commitment discussed was the preparation of project proposal “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions”, which was submitted and then funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The project started in 2018 and is currently ongoing with a Mediterranean regional component and two national components implemented in Morocco and Lebanon.

II. IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS OF THE AGADIR COMMITMENT FIVE YEARS AFTER ITS ADOPTION

4. The Twenty-Fourth Session of *Silva Mediterranea* addresses the issue of implementation and progress exactly five years after the adoption of the Agadir Commitment. It is of utmost importance to assess the restoration activities that are being promoted and implemented in the region, the integration of restoration in national and regional targets, and the total area under restoration.

5. A survey based on multiple criteria was carried out for collecting preliminary data for this assessment, and this will be presented during the Twenty-Fourth Session of the committee. The data collection criteria were identified by consulting three main data sources:

- projects being implemented in the Mediterranean region whose restoration activities have been conducted since 2017;
- from published papers, articles and reports clearly reporting the number of hectares under reforestation in Mediterranean countries since 2017; and
- drawing on the expertise of *Silva Mediterranea* focal points and experts in the region, who were contacted to provide support for data collection, validate the information collected, or both.

6. The findings on the status of implementation of the Agadir Commitment will be used for oral communications at the XV World Forestry Congress (2–6 May 2022, Seoul, Republic of Korea).

7. The secretariat asks country members to validate the findings presented on the status of implementation of the Agadir Commitment and similarly requests their assistance in completing and refining the assessment.