

**Report on the Meeting on Cork-Oak Project Proposal to Programme MED-EC
FAO, Rome, 31.3.2008 – 10:00 – 16:30**

Objectives of the Meeting. The Meeting took place in Rome by kind invitation of FAO with two main objectives:

- Define the content, format and partnership of the collaborative interregional project on cork-oak in the framework of the Programme MED-EC (www.programmemed.eu);
- Share with FAO and Silva Mediterranea views and discuss possible synergies

Project proposal content. The project tentative title is: MEDCORKLAND – Sustainable Cork. The Mediterranean Cork Heritage: Putting Biodiversity into Practice.

The overall objective of reducing the threat and the environmental, economic and social consequences of the loss of cork oak territories will have a favourable impact at the local, national and international levels. The general objectives of knowing, acting and communicating are closely related to a new partnership, based on a better governance and coherence with global and locals requirements. The specific objectives will provide three tangible outcomes: a harmonised information system at the EU level, a set of ready-to-use methods and tools for acting on the environmental, technical, economic and social key drivers, a communication campaign to reach a large audience. The three specific objectives are:

1) Characteristics and values of cork-related resources (trees, forests, ecosystems, landscapes, biodiversity, economy, employment, historical, cultural and spiritual values, ...); **Objective: - application of ecosystem approach to cork oak landscapes through the assessment of typologies and multiple functions** (e.g., among others, the European forest types. Categories and types for sustainable forest management reporting and policy, EEA Technical report No 9/2006; Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention; Forest Landscape Restoration, IUCN)

2) Practices, products and services (land use, grazing, technical aspects, fire protection, certification, quality, environment, tourism, ...); **Objectives: - identify best practices, standards and schemes for sustainable management and development; - promote producers-users chains and networks.** Restoration, rehabilitation, field practices, pilot sites, management and conservation activities; **Objective: - assist field management implementation through capacity building**

3) Information, knowledge and communication; **Objective: - develop quality indicators, monitoring and evaluation to support policies and practices** through partnerships (private/public), cooperation (governments, administrations, private sectors, banking, intergovernmental, UN, NGO, CSO)

Outcomes of the Meeting. The Meeting examined the framework, content and opportunities for the proposal. This has been favourably received and participants shared views and committed themselves on next tasks. There was a consensus on the following points: - the proposal is of high relevance, builds on previous achievements and broadens the current perspectives; - the core issue is cork-oak from ecosystems to products and services delivery; - main objectives are suitable; - deliverables are of major importance; - partnership should be reinforced as much as possible; - leadership by a region/country should be rapidly decided. FAO and the Italian Ministry could prepare a letter of support if requested in written. The Italian Ministry reported of two recent high-level proposals on this issue that will be

communicated to the current contacts. She also underlined the need to link the actions foreseen by the project with objectives and key actions of the EU Forest action Plan.

Pre-application. With the deadline of May 2, 2008, the proposal is made to EC through a simplified pre-application procedure consisting of a short pre-application form for the content and intent letters by each partner with co-funding indications (25% or 15%).

Confirmed and potential partners. The first project proposal has been made jointly by UNAC (Portugal) and ELO (Belgium). Besides them, the confirmed partners are: COSE, USSE (Spain, France), Province of Grosseto, Tuscany (Italy), WWF MedPO - Mediterranean Programme Office. The potential partners are: Andalucia (Spain), Regions Sardinia and Sicily (Italy). FAO/Silva Mediterranea could be associated to make link to Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia; these Countries are not eligible to ProgrammeMED funding.

Planning. 2 April: advanced content. 4 April: confirmation of core partners and message to EC for information and remarks. 11 April: commitment by confirmed partners and interest by additional partners. 18 April: final draft of content and format. 25 April: final remarks and modifications. 2 May: deadline for forwarding of proposal.

List of Participants.

1. Moujahed Achouri, FAO-FORC
2. Alessandro Badalotti, WWF MedPO
3. Nuno Calado, UNAC, Portugal
4. Lorenza Colletti, Ministry of Agriculture, Italy
5. Abdelhai Ibnatty. FAO-FOMC-Silva Mediterranea
6. Eva Martin Orejudo, COSE, USSE, Spain
7. Fernando Molina Martinez, COSE, USSE, Spain
8. Arturo Oradini, RDM, Italy
9. Gionni Paoli, Province of Grosseto, Italy
10. José Antonio Prado, FAO-FORD
11. Pier Carlo Zingari, ELO, Belgium

Contacts.

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