



Silva Mediterranea Secretariat

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Forest Management Team (Room D - 477) - Rome, Italy*

Report of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* – Sessions 2011 – Avignon - France

Date: Tuesday 5th April 2010 (14H30-16H30/17H00-19H00) and Friday 8th April 2010 (9H00-11H30/14H30-16H00)

Place: Avignon - France - **Venue:** Palais des Papes

Participants to the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*:

***Silva Mediterranea* Committee Members**

- Spas TODOROV – President of *Silva Mediterranea* (Bulgaria)
- Maria Carolina VARELA (Portugal)
- Alain CHAUDRON (France)
- Ismail BELEN, Ahmet ŞENYAZ and Sukran GOKDEMIR (Turkey)
- Abderrahim HOUMY (Morocco)
- Chadi MOHANNA (Lebanon)
- Abdelmalek TITAH (Algeria)
- Raphael GOMEZ DEL ALAMO and Elena HERNANDEZ (Spain)

FAO

- Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (ADG-FO)
- Pieter VAN LIEROP (Forestry Officer in charge of Forest Fires)
- Nora BERRAHMOUNI (Forestry Officer in charge of Arid Zones)
- Christophe BESACIER (Forestry Officer in charge of *Silva Mediterranea*)

Working Groups Coordinators

- Raphael GOMEZ DEL ALAMO and Elena HERNANDEZ: WG1 (Forest Fires)
- Maria Carolina VARELA : WG 2 (Cork Oak)
- Henri Luc THIBAULT : WG 3 (Forest Management and Sustainable Development)
- Fulvio DUCCI : WG4 (Forest Genetic Resources)
- Abderrahim HOUMY : WG 5 (Mediterranean Forest and Climate Change)
- Spas TODOROV : WG 6 (Sustainable Financing Mechanisms)

Observers and main partners of *Silva Mediterranea*

- Mohamed LARBI CHAKROUN : Association Internationale des Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)
- Renaud PIAZZETTA : Institut Méditerranéen du Liège (IML)
- Alexander KASTL REINHART and Guenter WINCKLER (GIZ)
- Daniel BOURGUOIN : Representative of France in the Cork Oak Working Group 2
- Martin PERRIER : ONF International and representative of France in the WG5
- Placido PLAZA : Centre des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)

See detailed list of participants in the chapters on the several sessions organized by *Silva Mediterranea*

Context of the “Enlarged Executive Committee” and other working groups Sessions of *Silva Mediterranea* in 2011

Mediterranean forest ecosystems provide multiple goods and services including an exceptional richness in terms of biodiversity, which are crucial for the socio-economic development of rural areas as well as for the welfare of the urban populations of the Mediterranean region. Several challenges have emerged in a context of global change that needs to be addressed by managers and policy-makers to ensure the sustainability of Mediterranean forests:

- How to adapt Mediterranean forests and forestry to climate and land use changes?
- Which policies and economic instruments need to be implemented to ensure the provision of valuable forest goods and services?
- How to manage multifunctional forests within complex multiple-use landscapes?

Meeting these challenges requires both, sound science-based information and a fluent, transparent and interactive science-policy dialogue. In this context, new ways to improve the science-policy dialogue must be implemented through: science-policy networking targeted capacity building, specific communication products (publications, events, meetings, awareness raising strategies...), etc...

EFIMED, the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* (FAO) and several organizations aiming to promote forest cooperation in the Mediterranean region (AIFM, Plan Bleu, ARCMED, USSE, Mediterranean Forest Model Network and INRA Avignon) as well as Member States of *Silva Mediterranea* wish to provide a platform, through the organization of a Mediterranean Forests Week where the scientific community, the policy-makers and other stakeholders meet to discuss Pan-Mediterranean forestry challenges and agree on joint initiatives and projects to address emerging needs in an efficient manner.

The Second Mediterranean Forests Week (II MFW) has been organised in Avignon (France) hosted by the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the PACA region. This II MFW included the fourth session of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*.

During this Second Mediterranean Forest Week a **position paper on wildfire prevention** was prepared by a panel of experts in the context of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*. The panel of experts comprised representatives of member countries of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, research organizations and networks, landowner associations and non governmental organizations active in the Mediterranean. This position paper on wildfire prevention has been endorsed at the Mediterranean level to be presented at the European Union level, in members countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*) and, also, to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (*UfM*).

Summary of main sessions organized by *Silva Mediterranea* during the II MFW

	Tuesday 5 th April 2011		Wednesday 6 th April 2011	Thursday, 7 th April 2011	Friday, 8 th April 2011
Morning	Plenary Sessions		Scientific Seminar	Field trip	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Session 3 EFFIS extension
					Plenary Session
Afternoon	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Session 1 EEC	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Session 2 Position Paper	Scientific Seminar	Field trip	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Session 4 Working Group 3
			Ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>		

See detailed agenda of the II Mediterranean Forest Week in the Annex 1

See terms of references of the several sessions organized by *Silva Mediterranea* in the Annex 2

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* meets every four years to study common problems and work on regional cooperation and sustainable development (*the XXI formal session will be held in 2012*). Instead, the **Enlarged Executive Committee** of *Silva Mediterranea*, consisting of nominated members and key partners of the Mediterranean forestry cooperation (*Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and the six coordinators of the working groups*), meets annually in formal sessions to share with the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. Despite some working groups met in Avignon during specific sessions, as for instance those on forest fires (*See reports of the several sessions organized by Silva Mediterranea during the II MFW*) and on "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" (*Three sessions called "Forests, Societies and Territories" were organized by the Plan Bleu and AIFM – See report of WG3 and annex 4 with the report and recommendations of "FST" Sessions organized by AIFM and Plan Bleu*), during this Second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon the Enlarged Executive Committee members also met to share with the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* on several important issues for the period 2011-2012 (*See agenda of the Enlarged Executive Committee of Silva Mediterranea*).

I) Report of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*

Thursday, April 5, 2011 – 14H30 to 16H30 - Palais des Papes - Avignon – France

The sessions were chaired by Mr. Spas TODOROV and Mr. Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES with the support of the team of the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. The main elements of the agenda were:

- 1) **Progress reports 2010/2011** on activities carried out by the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* focused on: Cork Oak (WG2 - Maria Carolina VARELA), Forest Genetic Resources (WG4 - Fulvio DUCCI), Forest and Climate Change (WG5 - Abderrahim HOUMY) and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (WG6 - Spas TODOROV);
- 2) **Information on the implementation of the first State of the Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)**;
- 3) **Presentation of the Terms of References (ToRs)** of the mid-term review of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* to be implemented by the end of 2011 (*C. BESACIER*);
- 4) Agenda for preparation of an **Integrated Strategy for Mediterranean Forests** (*A. CHAUDRON*);
- 5) **Date and place of the next formal session (XXIst) of *Silva Mediterranea* in 2012** (*I BELEN*).

1.1. **Progress reports and main recommendations for the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea***

1.1.1. *Working Group one on "Forest Fires" (See chapters II and IV on Forest Fires Sessions)*

1.1.2. *Working Group two on "Cork Oak"*

Cork oak working group intends to act as a common pan-Mediterranean platform allying countries, institutions, private and public sector, NGOs and local communities in order to:

- Build a Mediterranean strategy for the conservation, sustainable management, restoration and promotion of cork oak forests values and products;
- Foster south-north synergies and collaboration on main cork oak issues;
- Support the development of a monitoring and evaluation system of cork oak forest status and the impact of their management;
- Encourage the enhancement of Capacity Building programmes (at larger scale and at larger scale and long-term) of national and Mediterranean level on forest management, namely on cork harvesting techniques;
- Support the development and implementation of a communication and marketing strategy on cork products targeting the wine sector, the Bio-Architecture sector and other relevant green industries (i.e. labelling);
- Promote and facilitate the development of joint projects and programmes (*co-management, local communities enterprises, research, Climate Change, etc*) and fundraising for their implementation;
- Putting in place a knowledge centre on cork oak forests.

The Workshop on “conservation, sustainable management and restoration of cork oak forests in North Africa” organized within the Near East Regional Forestry Commission (*Hammamet, April 2010*), agreed on these main objectives and on the work programme 2010-2014.

Main activities implemented by the working group in 2010:

- Project concept focused on North Africa was prepared by the secretariat (*N. Berrahmouni*) and was submitted for funding to AECID (*April/May 2010 – Concept Note not approved by AECID*);
- Project concept was prepared on impacts of climate change on cork oak forests and identification of adaptation options (*based on the international network of provenance and progeny trials REF-FAIR 202 1995*);
- Participation at Vivexpo (*June 2010*) in Vivès (France) organized by Institut Méditerranéen du Liège;
- Participation to the several meeting (*Tunis, Arezzo and Rome*) for the preparation of the COST ACTION on conservation of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources (WG 4);
- Exhibition on the art of cork in Sardinia and tasting of Mediterranean wines from 8 countries (*Algeria, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia*) organized by the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* during COFO in Rome - October 2010.

Main activities to be implemented in 2011: Preparation of a research project proposal entitled **“Enhancing adaptation and evolution of cork oak and holm oak for land use disturbances and climate changes”** to be submitted to the European Commission (*ERANET, COST ACTION or any other relevant financial instrument of the European Commission*)

1.1.3. Working Group three on “Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Management” (See chapter V)

1.1.4. Working Group four on “Forest Genetic Resources” (FGR)

FGR working group main objectives : See Work Plan in <http://www.fao.org/forestry/24287/en/>

Main activities implemented in 2010:

- 1) Preparation of the project proposal entitled **“Strengthening conservation and management of forest genetic resources (FGR): a key issue for adaptation of Mediterranean forests to environmental changes (EUR-MedFGR)**. After a workshop organized in Tunis (*INRGREF*) this project proposal was presented two times (*without any success at this stage of April 2011*) to the COST instrument of the European Commission (*July 2010 and October 2010*).
- 2) During the same period the book entitled **“Status of the experimental network of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources”** was edited and published in March 2011.

This Book is the basis for starting new projects. The status of Fao *Silva Mediterranea* and IUFRO 20213 Experimental networks is reported by 52 Authors from ten countries (*Algeria, France, Greece, Italy, Israel, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey*). The book is divided into nine chapters:

1. Presentation, History
2. Databases for basic material management and conservation of Forest Genetic Resources
3. Mediterranean Firs
4. Cedars
5. Cypress
6. Mediterranean Pines of section *Pinea* subsection *Pinaster*
7. Stone Pine
8. Several species (general reports)
9. Genetic diversity: a key issue for Mediterranean forest adaptation to climate change (conclusion)

Main activities to be implemented in 2011:

- New submission in September 2011 of the project proposal entitled “**Strengthening conservation and management of forest genetic resources (FGR): a key issue for adaptation of Mediterranean forests to environmental changes (EUR-MedFGR)**”.
- Revision of the Directory of Seed Stands in Situ and other basic materials (Fulvio DUCCI);
- Contribution to the implementation of the Component 1 of the new FFEM Project focused on “**Production of data and development of tools for decision makers and managers on vulnerability and adaptability of Mediterranean forest ecosystems to climate change**”.

1.1.5. Working Group five on “Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change”
(See *Silva Mediterranea* Website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>)

1.1.6. Working Group six on “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms”

Main objectives of the WG 6:

The Work Plan 2010 – 2012 of the Working Group 6 of *Silva Mediterranea (Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Mediterranean Forests)* is focused on the following three priorities:

1. Development of new communication tools in order to enhance visibility of Mediterranean Forests;
2. Improvement of the advocacy strategy for Mediterranean forests in several International Fora;
3. Increasing profitability and implementing innovative economic instruments (PES/REDD+).

Main activities implemented in 2010 and/or to be implemented in 2011/2012:

Objective 1: Development of communication tools in order to enhance visibility of Mediterranean Forests

A1 Global evaluation of financial resources affected to the forest sector in the Mediterranean (*Data base of Projects/Programmes is now available on the following website in English: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/68165/en/> – To be updated and translated in French and Spanish during the period 2011-2012*);

A2 *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletters (4 Newsletters focused on activities of *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups were published during 2010 with also one special Newsletter on the 100th Anniversary of *Silva Mediterranea* in March 2011 – **Publication of Newsletters to be continued every three months in 2011-2012**);

A3 Development and regular update of the *Silva Mediterranea* Website (www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/) and working groups pages (**Development of the Website to be continued during 2011-2012 with an effort, if resources available, on translation in Spanish and Arabic**);

A4 Working paper on the State of Mediterranean Forests (Concept on SoMF available and presented by Nora Berrahmouni during this session in Avignon) and **full assessment and publication of the first the “State of Mediterranean Forests” by the end of the year 2012**;

A5 Support, with other partners like EFIMED, AIFM, CIHEAM etc... to the organisation of the second Mediterranean Forest Week (From June 2010 to April 2011) with a high level Mediterranean Conference in 2011 (**III MFW to be prepared in Algeria during the period April 2011- April 2013**);

Objective 2: Improvement of the advocacy strategy for Mediterranean forests in several International Fora

A6 Advocacy on Mediterranean Forests within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (Preparation of a position paper for UfM during the first part of 2010 – **Position paper on wildfire prevention to be presented in South Africa during the 5th IWFC – Contacts to be reinforced with the Centre based in Marseille for the Integration in the Mediterranean**);

A7 Provision of fundraising support to working groups and partners (*European Commission, TCP, bilateral cooperation/GIZ/France/Spain..., Development Banks, MAVA Foundation, etc...*) - **Workshops will be organized for project proposals preparation and fundraising for work plans 2009 -2012** ;

A8 Organization/participation to side events during strategic meetings of partners (*UNCCD, UNFCCC, IUFRO, UNFF, COFO, European Forestry Commission, Near East Forestry Commission, etc...*) - **Organization of side events to be continued as often as possible during the period 2011 –2012**).

Objective 3: Increasing profitability and implementing innovative economic instruments (PES)

According to the recommendations of the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda adopted in 2009 for the period 2010-2020 (*and in the context of the new Collaborative Partnership focused on Payment for Environmental Services and Market Based Instruments*) the working group “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms” (WG6) will contribute to the following actions in 2011-2012:

A9 Capitalization of cases studies concerning PES/MBI, identification of success stories in other regions and exchange of experiences (field trips - workshops) between stakeholders of the Mediterranean;

A10 Support to the preparation of a project proposal concerning PES and MBI in the Mediterranean in order to enhance capacities and networking on this subject of innovative mechanisms for financing Forest Management (***FFEM Project Identification Note adopted in April 2011 - Full project proposal to be prepared by the beginning of July 2011 – Implementation of the FFEM project on PES/REDD+ during the period 2012-2014***);

A11 Contribution to the preparation of a project proposal in 2011 to develop applied activities in several pilot sites in the Mediterranean region (*Implementation of the FFEM project during the period 2012-2014*);

Working Group six on “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms”

(See *Silva Mediterranea* Website : <http://www.fao.org/forestry/65342/en/>)

1.2. Main decisions taken during the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*:

Besides the main recommendations on the regular activities of the various working groups of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions the main results of this session are the following:

- **Persist with the strategy of mobilizing financial resources through the preparation of regional projects by the various working groups** (*Cork Oak, Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development, Forest Genetic Resources and Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change*) **and through promotion and advocacy activities to be implemented by the working group especially focused on “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms” (WG6) and lead by the President of *Silva Mediterranea* (Spas TODOROV).**
- **Presentation to *Silva Mediterranea* Member States of a first version of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) during the next formal session (XXIst) of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in 2012.** The preparation of this first SoMF will have to enhance the existing data (*National reports provided by Mediterranean countries for the preparation of FRA 2010/SOFO 2011, National reports provided by European/Mediterranean countries for the European State of Forests 2011, Data available from the State of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean prepared by Plan Bleu in 2009 and information on forest fires available in the several databases managed by EFFIS/JRC*). A consultant will be available at the beginning of December 2011 to launch the synthesis of data and the production of regional maps. Financial resources must be mobilized for the editing of this first SoMF. Plan Bleu will fully support the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* for the preparation of this SoMF through the provision of data and expertise (*Plan Bleu should also mobilize an Intern to be based in Sophia Antipolis to work on this first SoMF*).
- **Preparation of an Integrated Strategy for Mediterranean Forests to be presented to member states at the XXI session of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* by the end of 2012.** The first preparatory workshop, to be financially supported by the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, will be held in France by AIFM during MEDFORUM 2011 (*Ramatuelle/Marseille*) at the end of November 2011 (*21-25 November 2011*).
- **Formal proposal of Turkey to host the XXIst session** of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* in 2012 and, consequently, to undertake the Presidency of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee for the period 2012-2016 at the end of Bulgarian mandate.

Useful link: Relevant documents regarding this session of the Enlarged Executive Committee can be found on FAO-*Silva Mediterranea* website at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>

Terms of References (ToRs) of the mid-term review of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* to be implemented by the end of 2011 are available on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>

List of participants at the Enlarged Executive Committee and sessions on Forest Fires

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II) Report of the Session on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean

Thursday, April 5, 2011 – 17H15 to 19H15 - Palais des Papes - Avignon – France

2.1. Opening of the Session on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean

The Forest Fire Prevention meeting was held at Palais des Papes (*Avignon - France*) on Thursday 5 April 2011 (17:15 – 19:15), on the occasion of the II Mediterranean Forests Week. The meeting was chaired by **Mr. Raphael Gomez del Alamo** (*Coordinator of WG1, Spain*) who welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continual support to *Silva Mediterranea* (See the list of participants at the end of the chapter on this session on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean). After the welcome addressed, **Mr. Iñacio Martinez de Arano** (*Unión de Selvicultores del Sur de Europa – USSE, Spain*), moderator of the session, recalled the objectives of the meeting and the provisional agenda to the participants.

2.2. Objectives of the session on Forest Fires Prevention in the Mediterranean

Recognizing the relevance of prevention of wildfires at the Pan European and Pan Mediterranean levels and based on recommendations of several recent events organized in the Mediterranean for improving prevention of wildfires (*Sevilla Conference in 2007, Sabaudia Expert meeting in 2008 and Rhodes Workshop in May 2010*), the main objective of the session was focusing on endorsing at the Mediterranean level a “position paper” on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean Region (See annex 2 : *Terms of References of session on Wildfire Prevention*) to be presented at EU level, in members countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*CPMF - Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*) and to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (*UfM*).

The draft of the position paper was presented to participants as a structured model of guidelines for wildfire prevention policy and practices. It integrated main recommendations of the previous events (*Sevilla, Sabaudia and Rhodes*) and main results of recent research projects (*Fire Paradox and other European research projects*) on prevention of wildfires in the Mediterranean.

2.3. Presentations on the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean

Ms. Elena Hernández Paredes (*Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino, Spain*) explained in her presentation the relevance of wildfires according to **FAO global forest resources assessment 2010 and the impacts of wildfires on environment, socio economic activities and human lives**. Key drivers of forest fires were described including: the intense urbanization, the abandonment of rural activities, the increase of fuel load and climate change. She finished underlined the importance of forest fire prevention in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Raphael Gomez del Alamo (*Coordinator of WG1, Spain*) reminded in his presentation the main recommendations of the **4th International Conference on Wildland Fire in Seville, Spain in 2007**. He stated that priority has to be given to wildfire prevention and to the participation of local population to prevention. The need for a regional strategy for wildfire prevention was recalled in order to protect environment in the context of climate change.

Mr. Christophe Besacier (*FAO - Silva Mediterranea Secretariat*) reminded in his presentation the recommendations of the workshop on **“Forest Fires in the Mediterranean: Prevention and Regional Cooperation”**, held in Sabaudia, Italy in May 2008. These recommendations focused on wildfires prevention, information systems, wildfires suppression and on actions to be started at short term. Most of those recommendations were also included in the “position paper on wildfire prevention”.

Mr. Iñacio Martinez de Arano (*USSE, Spain*) presented the recommendations of the workshop on **“The Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention”**, held in Rhodes, Greece in May 2010. He stated that wildfires remain the most serious threat in Southern Europe and will play an important role in Central and Eastern countries in the future due to climate change, to the abandonment of rural areas and to the expansion of wildland / rban interface. A wildfire prevention approach was underlined that fully justified the discussion on the “Position Paper”.

Mr. Pieter van Lierop (*Forestry Officer in charge of Wildfire in FAO*) introduced the position paper on wildfire prevention, its contents and the organizations that support the document. The objectives of the position paper were highlighted such as: the importance to address wildfires prevention in the context of climate change and the need to implement the recommendations of the position paper in all countries of the Mediterranean region.

2.4. Results of this session on Forest Fires Prevention in the Mediterranean

The draft version of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean was discussed by participants, who gave their suggestions on the recommendations/proposed actions and on the main conclusions of the document. Followed to the II Mediterranean Forest Week an intense exchange of emails among the participants in order to settle a final version of the position paper, which integrate all these change discussed in Avignon. **Finally, a final version of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean was finalized, adopted and endorsed by Mediterranean partners.**

2.5. Agenda for action in 2011

- **Presentation of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference**, held in Sun City, South Africa (9-13 May 2011);
- **Editing of a new version of the Position Paper integrating comments and suggestions of participants of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference;**
- Preparation of a more attractive template including a folder to contain the Five Recommendations and the numerous "Proposed Actions" of the Position Paper;
- **Translation of the Position Paper in Arabic, French and Spanish;**
- **Presentation and dissemination of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention** at European Union level, in members-countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*) and to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (*UfM*).

See "Executive Summary and main recommendations on Wildfire Prevention" in Annex 3

Useful link: Relevant documents regarding recent and past events on wildfire prevention can be found on *FAO-Silva Mediterranea* website at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/> and on the Homepage on: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/> (News)

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III) Report on the ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of *Silva Mediterranea*

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 19H15 to 20H00 - Palais des Papes - Avignon – France

In 1911, Mr. Hickel launched Mediterranean forestry cooperation during the 9th “Congrès International d’Agriculture” held in Madrid, stemming from his recognition of the need for countries to work together and share forestry issues.

Some years later, a Mediterranean Forestry League was officially established under the name of *Silva Mediterranea*. Since then, every year, foresters of the Mediterranean have worked together to combat Mediterranean forests degradation.

One hundred years later, *Silva Mediterranea* remains one of the main statutory bodies of FAO involving the Mediterranean. It represents the only international forum dedicated to Mediterranean forest issues in which Mediterranean countries, including members from the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, the European Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission, can meet, share experiences and establish cooperative programmes.

In one of the most elaborate rooms of the historical palace “Palais des Papes” in Avignon (*Grand Tinel*), *Silva Mediterranea* reaffirmed its commitment and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forestry questions (6th April 2011).

Surrounded by posters highlighting the main achievements of *Silva Mediterranea* working groups during the last decades, **Mr. Spas Todorov** (*President of Silva Mediterranea*) **opened the celebration with a reminder of how this regional cooperation was built on strong foundations and how some of the issues identified in 1911 are still relevant today in the context of climate change.**

Some of the most effective quotes from Mr. Hickel’s visionary speech were presented to the audience by Mr. Jean Paul Lanly (*Académie d’Agriculture, France*). Afterwards, Mr. Fulvio Ducci (*coordinator working group on Forest Genetic Resources*) and Ms. Elena Hernández Paredes (*working group on Forest Fires*) presented the main results of these two specific working groups.

Finally, several key Mediterranean foresters involved in *Silva Mediterranea* activities for the last forty years were decorated by Mr. Spas Todorov and Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales (*FAO Forestry Assistant Director-General*). The celebration concluded with a toast proposed by the representative of the FAO Forestry Department and the representative of the French Ministry of Agriculture.

List of decorated foresters at the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of *Silva Mediterranea*

Jean Paul LANLY (*Academy of Agriculture of France and Former Director of the Division Forest Resources, FAO, 1984 - 1996*), **Yves BIROT** (*Chairman of the Advisory Group of EFIMED*), **Jean BONNIER** (*Executive Secretary of the International Association on Mediterranean Forest – AIFM - France*), **Mohamed LARBY CHAKROUN** (*President of AIFM - Tunisia*), **Omar M’HIRIT** (*Morocco*), **Abderrahim HOUMY** (*President of Silva Mediterranea from 2005 – 2008*), **Francisco Castro REGO** (*Portugal*), **Abdelhamid KHALDI** (*INRGREF – Tunisia*), **Mahand MESSAOUDENE** (*Algeria*), **Riccardo MORANDINI** (*Italy - Fulvio DUCCI received the certificate and the FAO Plaque of M. Riccardo MORANDINI*), **Alain CHAUDRON** (*Point Focal Silva Mediterranea – France*), **Riccardo VELEZ** (*Coordinator of the Working Group on Forest Fires for Spain*), **Pierre DELABRAZE** (*France*), **Placido PLAZA** (*Key partner involved in evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - CIHEAM*) and **Muzaffer DOGRU** (*Turkey*)

The General Director in Charge of Forests in Turkey received a FAO Plaque especially for his support to the First Mediterranean Forest Week organized in Antalya from 13 to 16 April 2010.

IV) Report for the sessions on the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

Friday, April 8, 2011 – 9H00 to 11H00 - Palais des Papes - Avignon – France

4.1. Opening of the meeting on extension of EFFIS in the Mediterranean

The session on the extension of EFFIS was held at Palais des Papes (Avignon - France) on Friday 8 April 2011 (9:00 – 11:00), on the occasion of the II Mediterranean Forests Week. The meeting was opened by **Mr. Ernst Schulte** (*European Commission*), who chaired the session, welcomed the participants (*see attached listed of participants*) and introduced the session on the extension of EFFIS as a key issue for adaptation strategies in South and East Mediterranean countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) in the context of climate change. After the welcome addressed, **Mr. Ernst Schulte** recalled the objectives of the meeting and the provisional agenda was adopted by the participants to this session on EFFIS extension in the Mediterranean.

4.2. Objective of the session on the extension of EFFIS

The objective of the session was to elaborate a clear and operational programme of actions (2011/2012) for the extension of EFFIS in South and East member's countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*).

4.3. Presentations on the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

Mr. Ernst Schulte (*European Commission*) opened the discussion on the programme of action for the extension of EFFIS showing in his presentation the European Fire Database, which displays the countries that have joined EFFIS in the last 30 years. EFFIS variables requested to countries to join the system are described in accordance with Regulation 1737/2006, Article 9.

Mr. Jesús San Miguel Ayanz (*Joint Research Centre*) started his presentation introducing the history and the objectives of EFFIS. He showed how to use EFFIS website to gather information regarding the status of European wildfires. The website also provide information on fire danger forecast, active fire detection, maps of burnt areas, estimates of forest fire emissions and socio-economic impact of wildfires.

Mr. Fouad Assali (*Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification, Morocco*) showed in his presentation the condition of wildfires in Morocco

Ms. Elena Hernández Paredes (*Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino, Spain*) showed the programme of actions for the extension of EFFIS, which include the official invitation of the Mediterranean Basin countries not yet incorporated to EFFIS, the organization of a regional workshop in Morocco with the support of EFFIS, FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and GIZ, the invitation of the focal points to be designated by new EFFIS countries at JRC for "training" at the occasion of the annual meeting of EFFIS in Ispra and the implementation of the providing forest fire information to EFFIS.

4.4. Results of this session on the extension of EFFIS in the Mediterranean

An agenda for action in 2011/2012 was shared with all concerned partners and approved.

The Programme of actions will include:

- **The official invitation by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and EFFIS/JRC to the Mediterranean countries not yet incorporated to EFFIS (May – July 2011);**
- The coordination with EFFIS/JRC and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* of the answers and reactions of the invited countries (May – December 2011);
- **The organization of a regional workshop in Morocco with the support of EFFIS (JRC), FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and GIZ for CPMF countries (May – October 2011);**
- **The invitation of the focal points to be designated by new EFFIS countries at JRC for "training" at the occasion of the annual meeting of EFFIS in Ispra (November 2011);**
- **The provision by the new Mediterranean member countries of forest fire information to EFFIS and participation to the two annual meetings (April and November 2012).**

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V) Session of the Working Group 3 (Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Management)

Friday, April 8, 2011 – 14H30 to 16H30 - Palais des Papes - Avignon – France

Participants:

Denise Afxantidis (Forest Mediterranean - France), Louis Almandier (CRPF - AIFM), Nora Berrahmouni (FAO - *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat), Marion Briens (Plan Bleu), Mohamed Larbi Chakroun (AIFM), Nesat Erkan (SAFRI - Turkey), Ana Fornazar (IRF Croatia - AIFM), David Gasc (AIFM), Abdelhamid Khaldi (INRGREF Tunisia), Giorgio Matteucci (CNR - Italy), Mahand Messaoudene (INRF - Algeria), Jean de Montgolfier (AIFM), Francisco Castro Rego (Portugal), Patrizia Tartarino (University of Bari Italy), Gaëlle Thivet (Plan Bleu), Maria Carolina Varela (INRB - Portugal), Rémi Veyrand (AIFM).

5.1. Objectives of the meeting of the WG3

Organized in the framework of the second Mediterranean Forest Week (Avignon - 5-8 April 2011), this meeting aimed to revive the activities of the Working Group 3 (WG3) of *Silva Mediterranea* :

- Recall the objectives and themes for priority actions of the working group 3 ;
- Update - based on the recommendations of the sessions "Forests, Societies and Territories" held during the Mediterranean Forest Week – the four-year work program adopted in 2009 by *Silva Mediterranea*, and define an Operation Plan for 2011-2012 ;
- Define the modalities of the working group 3

See terms of reference of this session of the WG 3 (Annex 2).

5.2. Agenda

1. Presentation of *Silva Mediterranea* and coordinators of the Working Group 3 (Plan Bleu and AIFM);
2. Presentation of institutions / individuals invited at this meeting of WG3 (*See list of participants WG3*);
3. Background on the first phase of the WG3 (2003-2006): origins and objectives, activities carried out (case studies on territorial approaches, regional forum in Rabat in 2005) and key findings;
4. Presentation of the four-year work program submitted to the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* in 2009;
5. Presentation of conclusions and recommendations of the sessions "Forests, Societies and Territories"
6. Proposal of an plan of operation for 2011-2012 (with activities at regional and local levels);
7. Update on funding, including the funding request submitted to the French Global Environment Facility
8. Discussion on the modalities of the working group 3.

5.3. Points for discussion with participants

5.3.1 Concerning the composition of the working group (*see list of participants of WG3*)

The Plan Bleu has provided coordination and facilitation of WG3 in the first phase of activities (2003-2006). At the meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* in Antalya (2010), it was decided to associate the AIFM with Plan Bleu in order to improve the coordination of the WG3.

Participants emphasized the complementarity of action between these two coordinators, one working with a network of experts and scientists (Plan Bleu) and the other working with various stakeholders in the Mediterranean (AIFM). The following countries have already appointed a representative for this *Silva Mediterranea* WG3: Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey. Other member States of *Silva Mediterranea* have not yet appointed a representative in this WG3.

The actual composition of the working group has to be clarified, both for national representatives and other members such as: Mediterranean networks working in the forestry sector, environmental organizations, representatives of regional and local authorities, donors, scientists, etc... Indeed, this working group has the ambition to be more open to all motivated and relevant stakeholders in addition to national representatives. It is also proposed to rely on focal points in each country to identify resource persons and "experts" able to implement actions (Particularly in MENA region).

5.3.2 Concerning the role and procedures of the WG3

The working group has a role of guidance, monitoring and evaluation of the program activities on "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" coordinated by Plan Bleu and AIFM. This program also falls within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.

Members of the WG3 can also contribute to the implementation of the following activities:

- Support research of data, information and promotion of best practices in the Mediterranean;
- Support the identification of experts in the Mediterranean;
- Disseminate information, case study results, etc... in relevant structures in the Mediterranean;
- Implement directly some actions at field level in future pilot sites in the Mediterranean.

Small working groups will be established for the guidance and monitoring of certain activities (e.g. the study on the economic valuation of ecosystem services in Mediterranean Forest Landscapes), involving members of the WG3 or calling on outside expertise. For different activities, the terms of reference will be prepared and circulated for review by members of the WG3 (or ad hoc sub-group). Communication between members of the working group will be primarily via email, mostly in French and English. Depending on the progress of activities and on available financial resources, working group meetings will be held on time in 2012.

5.3.3 Concerning the work program (Operation Plan for 2011-2012)

The activities proposed by the Coordinators of WG3 are:

Proposed activities at regional level:

- Conduct a study on the economic value of ecosystem benefits of Mediterranean Forests and other wooded lands (regional approach and case studies on pilot sites) ;
- Conduct a regional study on the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems and on mitigation strategies and mitigation measures implemented in the Mediterranean ;
- Contribute to the Report on Mediterranean Forests (SoMF to be published in 2012 - a first meeting is scheduled for October 2011);
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences with territorial approaches: networking, organization of regional meetings such as the sessions on "Forests, Societies and Territories" of the second Mediterranean Forest Week, studies conducted through twinning, etc...

Proposed activities at the local level (on pilot sites to be chosen in the context of FFEM project):

- Provide a methodological support to the development of regional projects including forestry issues (Prospective analysis of sustainability with the method named "Imagine");
- Support the communication about the results of studies or projects conducted on Pilot Sites;
- Coordinate the networking between pilot sites and promote the transfer of results between sites (Project Qualigouv, Mediterranean Model Forests Network, project For Climadapt, etc...);
- Promote the integration of "new" pilot sites in the partner countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Mediterranean (*Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Turkey*).

Participants in the WG 3 have expressed their interest in all proposed activities, but they stressed that the work program was probably too ambitious according to the human and financial resources available (or potentially available). With the aim of achieving concrete results over a period of two years, they have selected and proposed as priorities the following three activities:

1. **The contribution to the first State of Mediterranean Forests** (strong interest in this work on the first SoMF due to lack of data on Mediterranean forests);
2. **The preparation of the third Mediterranean Forest Week** on the theme of desertification (*exchange of past experiences and development of new pilot projects for integrated management to combat desertification with the perspective of new sharing sessions on the model of sessions "Forests, Societies and Territories" organized during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week*);
3. **The completion of the study on the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands** (strong argument to be given to decision makers on PES/REDD+).

On this last point, several participants expressed the wish that the work should be essentially an update of the work already done by Merlot et al (2005) on the total economic value (TEV) of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands. They recalled that a methodology had been developed as part of this work on the TEV, and it would be useful to start the new study on the basis of this methodology in order to have concrete results by two years. It would be also an opportunity to assess changes in the time of the TEV in different countries.

The limits of the approach of "total economic value" followed in the study of Merlot et al. (2005) however, have been highlighted by Plan Bleu. The Plan Bleu and its partners (which will be involved in this study like EFIMED) plan to test a new approach based on cost-benefit analysis. Participants also raised the social value of Mediterranean forests and their contribution in employment in rural areas.

Coordinators of the WG3 recalled that the prioritization and implementation of activities will also feature:

- The operational plan defined in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Mediterranean
- The available financial resources (*including through the FFEM project to be implemented from 2012 to 2014*).

5.4. Follow-up

- Share communications relating to the sessions organized during the II MFW on Working Group 3 and "Forests, Societies and Territories" ;
- Clarify the composition of the Working Group 3;
- Review the 2011-2012 work program incorporating the comments and proposals of the participants in the meeting of the WG 3 and taking into account available funds (FFEM);
- Validate the revised program of work by members of the WG3;
- Contribute to the feasibility study and, after the final approval by FFEM Steering Committee (6th July 2011), to the implementation of the project to be funded by FFEM on Payment for Ecosystems Services and REDD+ in the Mediterranean.

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ANNEX 1

Detailed agenda of the days during the II MFW

Tuesday 5th April 2011

Programme:

8:00 - 9:00	Registration <i>Salle des Gardes</i>		
9:00 - 9:30	Opening of the II Mediterranean Forest Week <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>		
9:00 - 11:00	Plenary session: Environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region Advances and trends of Mediterranean forest science <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> - Programme English - Programme French		
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break <i>Cloitre / Paneterie</i>		
11:30 - 13:00	Plenary session: Water for forests and people in the Mediterranean: a challenging balance. <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> - Programme English - Programme French		
13:00 - 14:30	Joint lunch at <i>Espace Jeanne Laurent</i>		
14:30 - 16:30	EFIMED Annual Meeting <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	FAO EEC Silva Mediterranea <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	Forests, societies and territories. <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> Programme English - Programme French
16:30 - 17:00	Group picture Coffee break <i>Cloitre / Paneterie</i>		
17:00 - 19:00	EFIMED Advisory Group meeting <i>Paneterie</i>	ARC MED General Assembly <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	Forest fires Position Paper <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French
			Forests, societies and territories. <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>

Wednesday 6th April 2011

Programme:

8:00 - 9:00 **Registration** (only for those not registered before)

9:00 - 11:00	Scientific Seminar <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> Programme English - Programme French			Poster exhibition <i>Paneterie</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break <i>Paneterie / Cloitre</i>			
11:30 - 13:00	Scientific Seminar <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>			Poster exhibition <i>Paneterie</i>
13:00 - 14:30	Joint lunch at <i>Espace Jeanne Laurent</i>			
14:30 - 16:00	Scientific Seminar <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>			Poster exhibition <i>Paneterie</i>
16:00 - 16:30	Parallel 1 <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>	Parallel 2 <i>Paneterie</i>	Parallel 3 <i>Paneterie</i>	Poster exhibition <i>Paneterie</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Scientific Seminar <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>			Poster exhibition
18:00 - 19:00	Press conference <i>Paneterie</i>	Presentation of the 2012 MED Report on "Enhancing the economics benefits from environmental assets in the Mediterranean" <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> Programme English - Programme French		
19:15	Official MFW II dinner with celebration of the 100th Anniversary of SilvaMediterranea <i>Grand Tinel</i> Programme English - Programme French			

Friday 8th April 2011

Programme:

8:00 - 9:00 **Registration** (for those not registered before)

9:00 - 11:30	AGORA project meeting <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	SYLVAMED project meeting <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	FAO EEC Silva Mediterranea including Forest fire prevention <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French	Forestry, society and territory <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break <i>Paneterie / Cloitre</i>			
12:00 - 13:30	Plenary session: Concluding remarks and future prospects <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> - Programme English - Programme French			
13:30 - 14:30	Free lunch			
14:30 - 16:00	AGORA project meeting <i>Paneterie</i>	FAO Silva Mediterranea WG3 <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i> Programme English - Programme French		First Steering Committee of the CPMF <i>Paneterie</i> Programme English - Programme French
16:00 - 17:00	Report of the Steering Committee of the CPMF and WG3 session to EEC SM <i>Cellier Benoit XII</i>			

ANNEX 2

**Terms of references of the several sessions organized
by *Silva Mediterranea* during the II MFW**

Title of the session: Meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*

Coordinators: FAO / *Silva Mediterranea* and members of the Enlarged Executive Committee

Main partners: Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and Coordinators of the Working Groups.

Background: The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* meets every four years to study common problems and work towards regional cooperation and sustainable development (*XXI^{ième} formal session to be organized in 2012*). Between two formal sessions an Enlarged Executive Committee composed by designated members (*Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and the coordinators of the working groups*) met every year. The last meeting was organized during the first Mediterranean Forest Week in Antalya (April 2010). During the XX^{ième} Session of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Sofia (2008) it was decided to revitalize the existing working groups and to create two new working groups on "**Forests and Climate Change**" and "**Sustainable Financing Mechanisms**".

Today the six active working groups (*with work plan 2009 – 2012*) are the following:

1. Working Group "Forest Fires" (WG1);
2. Working Group "Cork Oak" (WG2);
3. Working Group "Management of Forests and Sustainable Development" (WG3);
4. Working Group "Forest Genetic Resources" (WG4);
5. Working Group "Forests and Climate Change" (WG5);
6. Working Group "Sustainable Financing Mechanisms" (WG6).

Even if several working groups will have specific sessions on Forest Fires (WG1) and on ‘Management of Forest and Sustainable Development’ (*Three sessions on Forests, Societies and Territories and one specific meeting of the WG3*) members of the Enlarged Executive Committee have also to share with the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* on other important issues during this II MFW in Avignon.

Programme: ‘Parallel sessions on the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*’

These sessions will be chaired by Spas TODOROV with the support of M. Ismail BELEN (*to be confirmed?*) and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*

5th April 2011 – 14H30 to 16H30

- 1) Progress reports 2010/2011 of activities achieved by working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* on Forest Genetic Resources (*WG4 – F. DUCCI*), Cork Oak (*WG2 – Maria Carolina VARELA*), Climate Change (*WG5 – A. HOUMY*) and Sustainable Financing Mechanism (*WG6 – S. TODOROV*);
- 2) Information on the preparation/implementation of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);
- 3) Presentation of the Terms of References (ToRs) for the midterm review of *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups to be implemented at the end of 2011 (*Paolo CECI*);
- 4) Information on the preparation of the Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forest;
- 5) Date and venue for the next formal session (XXI^{ième}) of *Silva Mediterranea* in 2012.

8th April 2011 – 17H00 to 18H30

- 1) Presentation of the main results/recommendations of the session of the Working Group on Forest Management and Sustainable Development (*WG3 managed by Plan Bleu and AIFM*)
- 2) Results of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests

The Working Group on Forest Fires will have specific sessions during this II MFW (*5th/ 8th April 2011*)

Title of the Session: « Position Paper on Prevention of Forest Fires in the Mediterranean»

Date: April 5, 2011 - Coordinators: USSE/SPAIN/WG1 OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA

Background (*Using Terms of Reference of Rhodes Meeting*)

1.1. Relevance of forest fires: Forest Fires destroy around 500.000 hectares every year in the European Union (*Forest Fires in Europe 2009, European Commission*), 0.7 to 1 million hectares in the Mediterranean basin, while – in the last decade– huge forest fires have destroyed millions of hectares in Russia and other non EU European countries. This has a serious impact on the environment and on socio-economic activities, especially in southern Europe. The intense urbanization of our societies, the abandonment of rural lands and rural activities –such as forest management– along with the rapidly expanding urban/forest interface are key drivers for forest fires in Europe and in the Mediterranean. In some cases, this trend may be accelerated by a shift in forest policy priorities from timber production to landscape conservation and recreation, leading to increase flammability and risk of high intensity wildfires (*II Conference on Prevention Strategies for Fires in Southern Europe, Barcelona 2005*; ⁴*International Wildland Conference, Seville 2007*; *Final report of the EC Informal working Group of Forest Fire Prevention Experts 2005 WGFFP*). Climate change will not only impact growth conditions for Mediterranean forest (*See Silva Mediterranea Newsletter focus on Forest Fires – August 2010*), it will also have an important effect on disturbance patterns, mainly those related to periods of higher temperature and longer drought that may become more frequent in the Mediterranean region. No surprise that the International Association of Wild land Fires recognizes (*in their position paper on Climate change*) that changes in fire risk due to climate changes will become a clear focus for the XXIst century. Thus, forest fires are and will remain the most serious threat in the Southern Europe, but also will continue to play a role for Central and Eastern countries of the EU (*European Commission, Feasibility Study on means of combating forest dieback in the European Union*).

1.2. Fire prevention: It has been widely recognized that Fire prevention is the most effective way to face forest fires. FAO's Fire management Voluntary guidelines states that: *Fire prevention may be the most cost-effective and efficient mitigation programme an agency or community can implement. Preventing unwanted, damaging fires is always less costly than suppressing them.* In fact, even regions with well prepared fire brigades, equipped with sophisticated ground and aerial equipment and a substantial number of fire fighters have been unable to stop a number of large scale disastrous forest fires in recent years. Those fires caused severe ecological damages, tremendous impacts on livelihoods, infrastructure, tourism and even a dramatic toll in human lives (*Portugal 2003: about 400 000 hectares of forests were burnt; Spain 2005 about 180.000 hectares burnt; Greece 2007, around 270 000 hectares of forests and other wooded land were destroyed European Commission reports 2005 & 2007*). Despite recent advancements in international initiatives (e.g. and FAO's guidelines, Forest Fires and the Law review FAO), forest information and monitoring (e.g. *EFFIS at the European level*), *results of large scale research projects financed by the European Commission (e.g. FIRE PARADOX)*, and publications (e.g. *EFIMED "Living with Wildfires : what science can tell us ?*), still, for multiple causes, prevention captures a small fraction of the budgets available for fire management, a small share of public attention and almost no place in the news. Direct financial support for fire prevention is weak and fragmented (*even if in the past EU spent millions of euro for forest fire prevention under Rural Development Regulation*); Legal frameworks are not harmonized among countries and there is a lack of comprehensive financial instruments while best practices don't expand easily from one region to another. Thus, there is a considerable room for improving and innovating in fire prevention programs and activities. This improvement will revert on positive effects on fire management, as "prevention is the most effective way for minimizing the negative impact of unwanted wildfires".

During the Rhodes Workshop several innovation areas have already been identified:

- Comprehensive and participatory Approaches;
- Political and Public awareness on the potentiality and effectiveness of prevention;
- New Financial and Policy Instruments;
- Risk assessment and early detection technologies;
- International Cooperation at the Pan European & Mediterranean level;

In the context of the implementation of the Green Paper on forest protection and information which might lead to strengthen EU forest policy as regards forest fire prevention and just before the 5th IWFC in South Africa these sessions during the II MFW could be an opportunity to highlight Prevention of Forests Fires. These sessions could be also an excellent occasion to provide recommendations in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Objectives of the session on Forest Fires Prevention in the Mediterranean

Recognizing the relevance of Prevention of Forest Fires at the Pan European and Pan Mediterranean levels and based on recommendations of several recent events organized in the Mediterranean for improving Prevention of Forests Fire (*Sevilla Conference in 2007, Sabaudia Expert meeting in 2008 and Rhodes Workshop in May 2010*) the main objectives of the session to be organized on forest fires prevention during the II MFW will be focus on:

Endorsed at the Mediterranean level a “position paper” on Forest Fires Prevention in the Mediterranean to be presented at EU level, in members countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF - Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey) and to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

The draft of the position paper will be prepared by a writing committee before the end of March 2011. It will integrate main recommendations of the previous events (*Sevilla, Sabaudia and Rhodes*) and, also, use main results of research projects (*Fire Paradox and other European research projects*), as well as the Council conclusions on prevention of forest fires in the European Union of 26 April 2010. It has to be build like an attractive (*short, well illustrated and readable by decisions makers*) executive summary of the report produce by Forest Europe and USSE after the Rhodes Workshop for the EU Expert Group (*December 2010*) with:

- a. A brief review of the past evolution and future pathways of forest fire risk, based on acknowledgement of main drivers in a context of global change.
- b. Proposed priorities for Forest Fires Prevention policies and measures answering the question “Where to invest in a context of global change and of economic restrictions”?
- c. A highlight of *best fire prevention experiences* in Europe (Boxes);
- d. Proposed new financial and policy tools/instruments to be developed in the Mediterranean as well as for EU countries than South Mediterranean’s one
- e. A review on the effectiveness of integrated/ holistic forest fire management on the protection of forests and, if possible, a structured model or guidelines for forest fire prevention policy and practices???

Programme:

A moderator / facilitator: I. Martinez de Arano

A “rapporteur” to summarize the results of the session (*Spain representative with the support of the Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea, USSE, Forest Europe and the Spanish team in charge of coordination of the WG1*)

A Chairperson for this Session on Forest Fires Prevention: Raphael GOMEZ DEL ALAMO.

- 1. Introduction by the President of the session on the Position Paper (10 minutes)**
- 2. Presentation of main recommendations of Sevilla, Sabaudia and Rhodes events** by Elsa Enriquez, Christophe Besacier and Inazio Martinez de Arano (20 minutes)
- 3. Presentation of the Draft Position Paper** by a member of the writing committee (20 minutes)
- 4. Discussion with participants on this Position Paper** (60 minutes) and, at the end, adoption of the final version to be presented during the Plenary Session of the 8th April 2011

Expected results of this session on Forest Fires Prevention: A “position paper on Forest Fires Prevention” endorsed at the Mediterranean level to be presented at European Union level, in members countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*) and, also, to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (*UfM*).

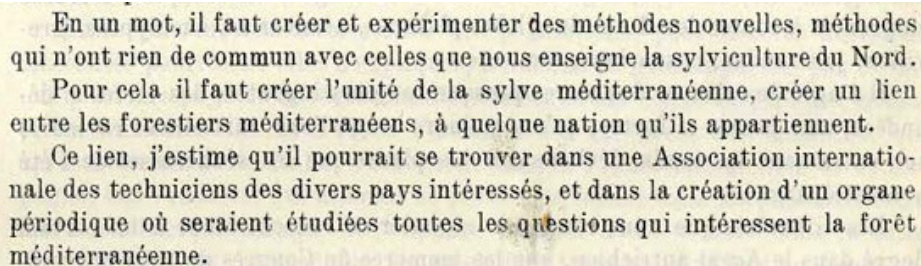
Open meeting: Yes with the following expected Key Participants (*Local representatives and forest owners : USSE, ArcMed and COFOR Internationale - National representatives and experts on Forest Fires : including persons involved in EFIMED - European Commission : DG Environment and Joint Research Centre, JRC and Forest Europe EU Intergroup on Biodiversity, Sustainable Development and Climate Change - Researchers involved in Fire Paradox and other Forest Fires Projects - NGO’s and environmental associations etc...*)

Title: "100th Anniversary of the Cooperation on Mediterranean Forestry Questions"

Coordinators: FAO / *Silva Mediterranea*, Académie d'Agriculture and MAAPRAT

Main partners: Jean Paul Lanly and Coordinators of the several Working Groups.

Background: In 1911, the idea of Mediterranean forestry cooperation was launched by M. HICKEL during the 9th "Congrès International d'Agriculture" held in Madrid (1 – 7 May 1911). The conclusion of the paper presented by M. Hickel on "Le problème du reboisement dans le bassin de la Méditerranée" was :



En un mot, il faut créer et expérimenter des méthodes nouvelles, méthodes qui n'ont rien de commun avec celles que nous enseigne la sylviculture du Nord. Pour cela il faut créer l'unité de la sylvie méditerranéenne, créer un lien entre les forestiers méditerranéens, à quelque nation qu'ils appartiennent. Ce lien, j'estime qu'il pourrait se trouver dans une Association internationale des techniciens des divers pays intéressés, et dans la création d'un organe périodique où seraient étudiées toutes les questions qui intéressent la forêt méditerranéenne.

In 1922, a Mediterranean Forestry League was officially established under the name of *Silva Mediterranea*. Since then, every year, foresters of the Mediterranean met together in order to combat Mediterranean Forests Degradation (Cf. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/49276/en/>). In 1948, *Silva Mediterranea* evolved into an FAO statutory body as a Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions where the Mediterranean member countries of the European Forestry Commission, the Near East Forestry Commission and the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission could meet, share experiences and establish collaborative programmes. *Silva Mediterranea* adopted a conceptual strategic framework, the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme in order to support Mediterranean countries in setting up their own forest policies and implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, 1992), which urged all countries to draw up national forest programmes. Where research was needed, the Committee established cooperative research networks on subjects identified during sessions.

Six research networks were initially established on:

- Forest fire management;
- Selection of multi-purpose species for arid and semi-arid zones;
- Silviculture of species: *Cedrus* spp.;
- Silviculture of species: *Pinus pinea*;
- Selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes (see database at : <http://147.100.66.194/ForSilvaMed/>) ;
- Silviculture of species: *Quercus suber*.

In 2010 the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* (the official title of the committee since 1948) meets every four years to study common problems and work towards regional cooperation and sustainable development. An Enlarged Executive Committee met every year (Last meeting during the first Mediterranean Forest Week in Antalya, in April 2010). Extraordinary sessions may be organized to examine important and/or urgent matters. At the meeting of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Sofia (2008) it was decided to revitalize the existing working groups and create two new working groups on "Forests and Climate Change" and "Sustainable Financing Mechanisms".

Today the six active working groups (*with work plan 2009 – 2012*) are the following:

- Working Group "Forest Fires" (WG1);
- Working Group "Cork Oak" (WG2);
- Working Group "Management of Forests and Sustainable Development" (WG3);
- Working Group "Forest Genetic Resources" (WG4);
- Working Group "Forests and Climate Change" (WG5);
- Working Group "Sustainable Financing Mechanisms" (WG6).

Objective: Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the idea of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* in order to highlight that this regional cooperation is not new and is built on very strong foundations.

Specific objectives:

1. **A poster and a special issue of the Newsletter on the main results of *Silva Mediterranea* working groups since 1911 will be published before the second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon (to highlight main achievements since 1911) ;**
2. **A short celebration will be organized after the Press Conference and just before the official dinner (6th April 2010 - during the aperitif time) to celebrate this 100th Anniversary of the idea of *Silva Mediterranea*. During this short celebration (45 minutes), some quotes extracted from Mr. Hickel's visionary speech in 1911 will be presented by Jean Paul Lanly. Several key Mediterranean foresters involved in *Silva Mediterranea* activities for the last forty years will be decorated by representatives of several key institutions in the Mediterranean ;**
3. **A "toast" will be raised by the representative of the FAO Forestry Department and by the representative of the French Ministry of Agriculture at the end of the celebration of this 100th Anniversary (just at the beginning of the official dinner).**

Programme:

A reader of the more interesting quotes from the speech of M. Hickel: Mr. Jean Paul LANLY

4/5 keynote speakers to present the poster and the special issue of the *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter on the 100th Anniversary" (Coordinators of working groups should present main *Silva Mediterranea* achievements during the last recent decades)

Six/Seven representatives of key institutions to give medals/certificates to foresters to be honored

A chair person of this 100th Anniversary celebration of *Silva Mediterranea*: M Spas TODOROV

Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the idea of *Silva Mediterranea* - 6/04/11

1. **Introduction of this celebration by the Chair Person (S TODOROV - Bulgaria) – 10 mn**
2. **Reading by Jean Paul Lanly of some key passages of the speech written in 1911 (showing the visionary side of M Hickel and, in particular, showing that some problems identified in 1911 are always present in the context of Climate Change) – 15 mn ;**
3. **Presentation of the poster and the Newsletter on main achievements/results of *Silva Mediterranea* during the period 1948 – 2010 by the coordinator of selected working groups (main achievements by working groups) - 20 mn ;**
4. **Ceremony of decoration and toast by representatives of MAAPRAT (J. Andrieu) and FAO (E Rojas)**

Expected audience: All participants of the week registered for the official dinner the 6th April 2011

Title of the Session: Discussion on the programme of action for extension of EFFIS

Date: April 8, 2011

Coordinators: Spain/Working Group on Forest Fires of *Silva Mediterranea*/JRC/EFFIS

Main partners: European Commission (*DG Environment and Joint Research Centre, JRC*), Member countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey*) and FAO / *Silva Mediterranea* (*Working Group n°1*)

Background (*Using Work Plan 2009-2012 of *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group 1*):

The key recommendations formulated for *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group on Forest Fires (FFWG) during the Regional Session organized during the "Sevilla Conference" (2007) were :

- Protection of the environment in Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Caucasus cannot be effective without a regional strategy for fire management, designed according to the distribution and intensity of the danger and developed in cooperation with the public and private stakeholders of the forest sector ;
- **Priority is to be given to : (i) the prevention of fires caused as a consequence of the socioeconomic changes in rural areas and (ii) the promotion of the participation of the local population ;**
- **Consideration of maintenance, improvement and enlargement of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) in the Mediterranean ;**
- Promotion of bilateral and multilateral agreements between countries for joint actions on border areas and cooperation in suppression activities ;
- Participation of agencies and groups in the FAO Fire Management Actions Alliance in support of the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Fire Management ;

The role of this *Silva Mediterranea* Forest Fires Working Group (FFWG) is mostly that of an animator, facilitating information exchanges on experiences, both successes and failures. Its real tools are the focal points whose activities have to be oriented to raise the awareness of the relevant people, actors and services concerned on the need to look at the national and local problems in the frame of a common environment that is the Mediterranean Basin.

Based on these main recommendations the members of this FFWG prepared a Work Plan 2009 – 2012 – under Spanish coordination - with the five following priorities : (i) updating the FFWG network, (ii) **promoting the incorporation of all Mediterranean countries to EFFIS**, (iii) promoting initiatives of prevention at local level, (iv) promoting bilateral agreements between countries for joint actions on border areas and cooperation in suppression activities and (v) promoting the participation in the FAO Fire Management Actions Alliance of all Mediterranean countries.

Objectives of the session on extension of EFFIS to South Mediterranean countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (8th April 2011)

Recognizing the relevance of the Work Plan 2009 – 2012 prepared by Spain for the Forest Fires Working Group of *Silva Mediterranea* the main objective of the session to be organized the 8th April 2011 on extension of EFFIS during the II MFW will be focus on:

Elaborate during the session focus on forest fires during the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* (8th April 2011 – 9H - 11H AM) a clear and operational programme of actions (2011/2012) for the extension of EFFIS (*European Forest Fires Information System*) in South and East member's countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*).

Programme:

A Chairman / President of the Session: Ernst SCHULTE

A moderator / facilitator (P. Van Lierop) for the 8/04/11

A “rapporteur” to summarize the results of the meeting on Friday, April 8, 2011 and to make restitution of the "EFFIS" session (*Agenda for action in 2011/2012 for the extension EFFIS*) during the plenary Friday, April 8, 2011 (*Spain representative with support from the GTZ team, EFFIS/JRC and the Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea*)

A Chairperson for this session on EFFIS extension on Friday 8th April 2011: Ernst SCHULTE

- 1. Introduction by the President of the session on extension of EFFIS** as a key issue for adaptation strategies in South and East Mediterranean countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) in the context of climate change (10 minutes)
- 2. Presentation of EFFIS** available information for South and East Mediterranean countries and, also, presentation of expected information by EFFIS team – mutual commitments in EFFIS (Jesus San Miguel - 25 minutes)
- 3. Presentation of the example of Morocco by M. Fouad Assali** with a focus on expected collaboration between EFFIS and South and East Mediterranean members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (25 minutes)
- 4. Discussions on the agenda for action in 2011/2012 for EFFIS extension to member's countries involved in the CPMF** (60 minutes)

And, at the end, adoption by the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* and other participants of this agenda for actions on extension of EFFIS in South Mediterranean member's countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests for the period 2011/2012

Expected results of this session on extension of EFFIS:

An agenda for action for EFFIS (*European Forest Fires Information System*) extension shared with all concerned partners for 2011/2012 to South and East member's countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests in the context of *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group on Forest Fires (*Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey*).

Open meeting:

1. Representatives of administrations concerned by Forest Fires Prevention in the MENA region (In particular several participants invited by GTZ) ;
2. National representatives and experts on Forest Fires ;
3. European Commission (*DG Environment and Joint Research Centre, JRC*)
4. WWF, UICN, Fire Paradox Project Team and other key participants

Title of the session:***Silva Mediterranea* working group on Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development**

Date: April 8, 2011 (2.30 pm - 4.30 pm)

Coordinators: AIFM / Plan Bleu / FAO *Silva Mediterranea*

Expected audience: between 15 and 20 people, members of the working group (national representatives nominated by the countries, invited experts including participants to the «Forests, societies and territories» sessions)

Background:

The « Mediterranean forests and sustainable development » (MFSD) working group has been coordinated jointly by FAO and Plan Bleu over the period 2003-2006. It enabled the concerned parties to initiate a cooperation process and share experiences aimed at reinforcing the contributions of the forest sector to the sustainable development of territories, notably during the 2005 Rabat regional forum on «Forestry and sustainable development in the Mediterranean: challenges, policies and governance». Based on the recommendations of this forum, and following the decision taken at its 2008 Session in Sofia to revitalize its existing working groups, a 4-year work plan was prepared and adopted in 2009 by the FAO Committee in charge of Mediterranean forest issues.

In the framework of the recently established Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, and on the basis of the discussions during this 2nd Mediterranean Forest Week, FAO, AIFM and Plan Bleu are willing to update this work plan and to relaunch the activities of the MFSD working group with an operational plan for 2011-2012.

Objective : Relaunch the activities of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee working group No.3

Specific objectives:

- Establish and revive the working group No.3,
- Recall the objectives and priority areas of work for the group, and update the 4-year programme adopted by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in 2009, taking into account the recommendations of the “Forests, societies and territories” sessions,
- Specify the working modalities of the group and develop an operational plan for 2011-2012.

Programme:

Moderators: AIFM/Plan Bleu

- Introduction of the working group members,
- Presentation of the 4-year work plan (adopted in 2009) and of the main conclusions and recommendations of the « Forests, societies and territories » sessions,
- Discussion and updating of the work plan, adoption of a work schedule,
- Discussion on the working modalities of the group.

Participation on invitation.

ANNEX 3

Executive summary and main recommendations of the ‘Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean’

See full document on: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>

Executive Summary

While wildfires are already a preoccupation in the Mediterranean, in the light of the scientific world's diagnosis of new climatic scenarios, managers are faced with a general trend of increased burnt areas and a rise in the frequency, intensity and severity of fires (*a wildfire is any uncontrolled fire in combustible vegetation that occurs in the countryside or a wilderness area. Other names such as brush fire, bushfire, forest fire, grass fire, hill fire, peat fire, vegetation fire, veldfire and wildland fire may be used to describe the same phenomenon depending on the type of vegetation being burned*).

Significant prevention efforts have been focused on training, investigation, awareness raising and structural prevention. As a consequence of social economic processes (*rural abandonment, aging of rural populations, changing management of production system, etc.*), the vegetation structure has already changed drastically increasing the risk of a traditional fire use (*traditional fire is the use of fire by rural communities for land and resource management purposes based on traditional know-how*).

However, these efforts need to be intensified to deal with the consequences of climate change.

The opportunities to address wildfire prevention at international level were identified within the framework of:

1. The 4th International Conference on Wildland Fire in Seville, Spain (2007);
2. The FAO Workshop on “*Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region*”, Sabaudia, Italy (2008);
3. The workshop on “*Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention*”, Rhodes, Greece (2010).

During those workshops, several recommendations on wildfire prevention were provided by experts from Mediterranean countries. The present position paper was prepared on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of these previous events in the Mediterranean.

The main recommendations of this position paper on wildfire prevention are focused on:

1. Enhancement of the international cooperation on wildfire prevention (See sheet 1);
2. Integration of wildfire prevention in National Forest Programs/Policies and in National Strategies for Adaptation to climate change (See sheet 2);
3. Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention (See sheet 3)
4. Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires (See sheet 4).
5. Enhancement of harmonized Information Systems to deal with new wildfire risks (See sheet 5);

This position paper on Wildfire Prevention was endorsed by the main Mediterranean stakeholders during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week organized in Avignon from 5 to 8 April 2011. This document is an opportunity to address wildfire prevention in the context of climate change and to implement these recommendations in all countries of the Mediterranean. It will also be presented as the position of Mediterranean stakeholders during regional sessions of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in South Africa (Sun City) on May 11, 2011.

Recommendation 1

Enhancement of the International Cooperation on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean

Proposed actions

1. Encourage agencies and groups to support the adoption of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines;
2. Consider existing regional networks such as the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Working group on Forest Fires, the Regional South-East European Wildland Fire Network, the Near East Fire Network and the EU Commission Expert Group on Forest Fires competent for EFFIS, when new international cooperation activities will be developed in the Mediterranean;
3. Increase the visibility of wildfire prevention and of wildfires in forest management communication, also taking advantage of every opportunity that arises during the International Year of Forests 2011 [*by using all relevant events to draw attention on prevention of wildfires - e.g. Committee on Forestry (COFO), Mediterranean Forest Week and Ministerial Conference of Forest Europe - and the relevant work developed by expert groups such as the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network*];
4. Disseminate and share experiences, build up and replicate the best practices in wildfire management, namely by promoting international exchanges between fire professionals of all levels;
5. Integrate wildfire prevention in the debate following the European Commission Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the “EU: Preparing forests for climate change” (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/ffprotection.htm>), as well as in the future Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests to be prepared by the Committee on Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea* and its main partners before the end of 2012.
6. Promote exchange programmes on good practices and develop risk assessment voluntary guidelines and risk cartography with an adequate spatial and temporary resolution, as well as prevention voluntary guidelines.

Recommendation 2

Integration of Wildfire Prevention in National Forest Programs/Policies and in Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change

Proposed actions for Policy Makers

- 1. Prevention actions should be cross-sectorial** with more coordination between all stakeholders (*land owners, civil protection, rural development, tourism, education, spatial planning and forest services*) at National, European and Mediterranean levels.
- 2. Legal aspects should be clarified** and enhanced through the development of incentives and obligations concerning wildfire preventive actions (*land owners, building enterprises, municipalities, etc.*).
- 3. Development of wildfire prevention plans should be encouraged**, taking into consideration the characteristics of the countries, the local conditions, the principles of sustainable landscape management (*taking into account the several uses of land in the Mediterranean territories*) and future needs due to climate change.

4. Wildfire prevention should be integrated in national adaptation strategies to climate change. A common understanding of wildfire prevention (*definition, activities*) is needed to develop and promote revised templates/voluntary guidelines for wildfire prevention plans. Strategic actions are recommended as a useful instrument to develop new policies or to adapt the existing ones with an integrated approach.

5. Attention should be paid to the role of forests in the context of climate change to raise awareness on wildfire risks and on the need for preventive measures. Prevention strategies should be dynamic, evolving according to spatial, socio-economic and natural changes, and also adapted to different socio-economic and territorial contexts, taking into consideration all influencing factors: (i) forest value; (ii) forest owners associations to promote; (iii) administrative system; (iv) territorial level for planning; (v) spatial and socio-economic dynamics and (vi) urban development.

6. Specific tools should be developed to strengthen support and implementation of wildfire prevention:

- a. Collection of data on the cost of prevention, suppression and restoration;
- b. Establishment of an interdisciplinary national committee for data collection and validation;
- c. Standardization and harmonization of data;
- d. Estimation of economic impact of wildfires;
- e. Balance in prevention and suppression policies at local level;
- f. Enhancement of cooperation between stakeholders in prevention processes including spatial planning;
- g. Promotion of forest education and applied research programmes;
- h. Development of sustainable financial instruments.

7. Integrated wildfire management approaches should be promoted [*Integrated wildfire management is a concept for planning and operational systems that includes social, economical, cultural and ecological evaluations with the objective of minimizing the damage and maximizing the benefits of fire. These systems include a combination of prevention and suppression strategies and techniques that integrate the use of technical fires (Technical fires: the controlled use of fire carried out by qualified personnel under specific environmental conditions and based on an analysis of fire behavior. Technical fires are divided into prescribed fires, wildfires within prescription and suppression fires) and regulate traditional burning (Traditional burning: the use of fire by rural communities for land and resource management purposes based on traditional know-how)*].

8. Wildfire prevention should be promoted as an important part of sustainable forest management and, particularly, forest biomass use should be integrated and promoted in countries forest policies;

9. Special attention should be given to the new territories at risk, such as the wild land-urban interfaces, where specific preventive measures should be considered (*Development of information and training programs, development of technical support necessary to implement prevention and self-protection measures and consideration of these needs at the urban planning level*).

10. Awareness on wildfire prevention should be increased at a political level and financial resources should be invested on communication activities.

11. Both public decision-makers and private enterprises should be informed that wildfire prevention should have a higher priority given: on one hand the benefits, and on the other the social, environmental and economic impacts of disastrous fires as well as the high cost of disaster relief.

12. Due to the role that Mediterranean forests can play in the context of changing climatic conditions, wildfire prevention policies should be developed to enhance forest protection and therefore, wildfire prevention. Countries should encourage and promote the use of the existing financial resources in the context of changing climatic conditions for implementation of wildfire prevention measures.

13. Future wildfire risks scenarios under global change should be estimated (*climate change, social change, etc.*) in order to define sustainable prevention policies, action plans and budgets.

Proposed actions for Forest and Land Managers:

1. Wildfires prevention should be promoted as an integral part of sustainable landscape management (*wildfire management, including wildfire prevention and suppression, should be an integral part of sustainable forest management in coherence with all other relevant policies. In particular, wildfire management should be integrated in adaptation strategies to climate change*).
2. A minimum of essential actions should be included in the management plans such as:
 - a. Fuel management in order to limit wildfire risks (*biomass reduction*);
 - b. Forest infrastructure for fire suppression (*such as roads, water points, etc.*);
 - c. Prescribed use of fire (*as a prevention tool – See point 3.*);
 - c. Social prevention (*public awareness, local population participation, etc.*);
 - d. Spatial planning issues (*urban planning, land management, etc.*).
3. Prescribed burning should be an alternative technique, but carefully adapted to the different contexts (*territorial patterns*): rural abandoned areas, wildland urban interface, productive rural regions, etc.
4. Wildfire prevention actions, including participatory approaches such as Community-Based Fire Management, should be stressed against an approach merely oriented toward fire suppression and should be integrated in forest and wildfire management planning.

Recommendation 3

Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean

Proposed actions for Researchers

1. The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (*MFRA*), that describes the main research priorities for forestry in the Mediterranean region during the period 2010 – 2020, should be used as a reference to identify wildfire prevention research activities;
2. Studies on fire root causes related to socioeconomic changes (*including the use of fire in rural areas*) and possible preventive actions should be implemented in cooperation with the local population (*scientific research should lead to better insights of fire causes and should analyze existing prevention actions to develop new prevention approaches and share best practices*).
3. Scientific applied research programmes (*addressing the consequences of climate change, land use and land cover and socioeconomic changes on fire regimes, environment and society*) should be promoted in the Mediterranean.
4. Harmonization of terminology on wildfire management should be promoted. A common, agreed terminology is also important as the basis for the wildfire database and should be supported with related trainings (*a good example of a piece of effort in this direction is the handbook of terms used in fire-fighting, written in six languages in the context of the Fire-4 project as well as the terminology glossaries in 4 languages on the FAO webpages regarding fire management and the Incident Command System*).

Proposed actions for Educational Specialists

1. Awareness and educational materials should be produced and distributed in several languages to implement a common awareness campaign in the Mediterranean basin targeting not only the local communities but also people visiting the region during the wildfire season (*using as reference the work of expert groups such as the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network*);
2. International training courses should be developed and implemented with a harmonized training methodology on wildfire prevention for land and forest managers.
3. All education programmes should include raising awareness and education on forests and forestry. Education materials should be produced for all levels of education in order to promote wildfire prevention, especially in regions with high wildfire risks and incidence.

Recommendation 4

Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of Wildfires in the Mediterranean

Proposed actions

Preventive actions should be planned with a long-term vision and as permanent activities. Even if they are not as visible as big suppression materials, preventive actions should receive more media and political attention and consequently more financial resources. In the Mediterranean regions conservation of forests is linked to improved structure, reduction of fuel loads and fuel continuities. This can only be sustainable in the long-term if adequate value chains are developed based on market goods and ecosystem services.

To achieve these objectives strong public investments are urgently needed.

1. **Politicians from the Mediterranean should be aware of the importance of wildfire prevention** actions. Attention should be given to wildfire prevention measures, also on specific budget allocations, with the scope to reduce the probability of wildfire occurrence and to reduce the effects of wildfires.
2. **The economic dimensions of forests should be promoted** in order to provide a low cost wildfire prevention;
3. **European Union funds for national, sub-regional and regional prevention measures should be available for EU Mediterranean countries** (*Structural funds and Rural Development fund*), and non-EU Mediterranean countries (*Cooperation funds and, in particular, the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument*).
4. **The allocation of European funds and International Cooperation** in general should imply comparable information in order to evaluate and follow-up the efficiency of prevention measures (*need of indicators for monitoring prevention activities*). The effects and the efficiency of prevention measures should be evaluated;
5. **Sustainable and clear method of funding should be established** in order to assure that funding reaches local actors and facilitates involvement of local communities;
6. **Funding schemes should be attached to specific prevention plans and programmes.**

Recommendation 5

Enhancement of harmonized Information Systems to deal with new wildfire risks in the Mediterranean

Proposed actions

- 1. Share updated information between countries on structural prevention issues** (*e.g. area of proper protected forest, area of fuel managed each year, techniques used for fuel management, ton of biomass utilization for energy, pasture or other uses*);
- 2. Improve existing mechanisms of data collection and forest monitoring** in order to share information and knowledge on wildfire prevention including:
 - a. Improvement of knowledge on wildfire cause and motivation;
 - b. Analysis of wildfire emissions and impacts on human health;
 - c. Analysis of regional investments on wildfire prevention;
 - d. Definition of wildfire risk areas taking into account the fire incidence, fuels, value of forests, protected areas, forest-urban interfaces and forest ownership;
 - e. Studies on the silviculture condition of woodland areas, including forest fuel and biomass maps, in coordination with the National Forest Inventories. Fuel maps are regarded as highly important tools. They should be built both at regional and local level following consistent methodologies;
 - f. Analysis of socio-economic impacts of wildfires.
- 3. Maintain, improve and enlarge the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)** with standardized procedures for data collection and develop the use of remote sensing as a tool to identify the high risk zones.
 - a. EFFIS could be used beneficially also in Mediterranean non-EU countries. The inclusion of these countries should start by the designation of their national point of contact, in order to establish a communication channel between EFFIS and the national systems.
 - b. EFFIS should include additional information on wildfire prevention (*including causes and motivations*) in order to identify the situation and the specific needs of each country (*Information on wildfires prevention is an important tool for exchanging ideas, approaches etc.*). Detailed databases on wildfires, consistent with the EU/Mediterranean system, should be developed at national level also in non-EU Mediterranean countries, as well as national fire danger rating systems (*The EFFIS fire database and fire danger forecast should be considered as the core scheme to be used*).
 - c. EFFIS should set a risk prediction network covering all Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. The EFFIS fire risk indices should be adapted also to Southern Mediterranean countries taking into account the different range of climatic conditions (*The adaptation would require some time and data on fire will have to be available to EFFIS*).
 - d. For some countries there is a lack of information on wildfires. National Forest Inventories should be reinforced to collect and share this information with EFFIS.

ANNEX 4

Main recommendations of the Sessions on “Forests, Societies and Territories

Plan Bleu / AIFM

See documents on sessions FST and WG3:

http://www.planbleu.org/actualite/uk/SessionsPB_AIFM_SemaineForestiereMedUk.html

Proceedings of the « Forests, society and territory » sessions

Avignon (France), 5 and 8 April 2011

Coordinators: Plan Bleu and International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)

Co-organisers: COFOR International, Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), Association of Mediterranean Forest Owners (ArcMed)

Rapporteur: Mr. Pierre Dérioz, UMR Espace-Dev 228 IRD, University of Avignon and Pays de Vaucluse

Given their multi-functional nature, management of the Mediterranean forests necessitates the development of a more integrated approach. With a view to adapting to climate change, it is absolutely crucial that modes of forest governance should move forwards to enable the Mediterranean area to develop in harmonious and sustainable fashion. Enhancing cooperation between the forestry sector and other sectors involved in Mediterranean forest management (*water, agriculture, energy, tourism, environment, land planning, etc.*), as well as between the various stakeholders involved at local and regional level (*forest owners, breeders, farmers, environmental associations, local councillors, park managers, the general public, etc.*), is therefore of the essence. This argues for participatory decision-making processes and improving the means for dialogue on the planning and management of rural areas.

In response to these challenges, territorial project leaders have developed appropriate integrated, interactive management initiatives, some of which were presented and discussed during the « Forests, society and territory » sessions. This provided an opportunity for far-ranging exchange of experience, methodological tools and ideas between parties interested in the sustainable management of Mediterranean areas. The discussion led to the identification of the main issues, risks and opportunities as well as keys to the success of such approaches, with recommendations subsequently being drafted for the attention of local decision-makers, forest managers and international cooperation stakeholders. The outcome of these sessions will feed into the work programme to be drawn up for *Silva Mediterranea's* group n°3 on « Mediterranean Forests and sustainable development ».

Session Programme

Session 1

Accounts of territorial experience with the participative management of Mediterranean woodland ecosystems, based on four case studies:

- The participative creation of Bouhachem Natural Park (Nisrin Alami, Tangier-Tetouan Regional Council, Morocco)
- Dannieh: National Park project for the protection and promotion of forest heritage (Mohamad Saadieh, Dannieh municipality, Lebanon)
- Regional nature parks in the Region of Puglia: example of the « Terra delle Gravine » Park (Patrizia Tartarino, Bari University, Italy)
- Public participation in forest management and proposals for improvement: the case of Mersin (Ahmet Senyaz, Ministry of the environment and forests, Turkey)

Debate with participants.

Session 2

Presentation of two methodological approaches to territorial and forest governance:

- The « *Imagine* » method of systemic and prospective sustainability analysis (Julien Le Tellier, Plan Bleu)
- The Model Forest concept (Riccardo Castellini, Mediterranean Model Forest Network)

Critical analysis of two methods for applying territorial and forest governance:

- Territorial forest policy and governance tools in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region (David Devynck, COFOR PACA, France)
- Master Plans for the sustainable development of the Sierra Espuña nature park (Mario Velamazán, Murcia Region Autonomous Community, Spain)

Debate with participants.

Session 3

Summary of previous sessions by the rapporteur (*Pierre Dério*, Avignon University) and discussion.

Formulation of conclusions and recommendations.

Summaries of the presentations can be found at:

http://www.planbleu.org/publications/2emeSemaineForestiereMed_SessionsPB/Programme_resumes_FST.pdf

The power point presentations can be downloaded from:

http://www.planbleu.org/actualite/fr/SessionsPB_AIFM_SemaineForestiereMed.html

Summary of presentations and discussions

In his analysis of the presentations and discussions, the rapporteur, Mr. Pierre Dério, identified points of convergence and flagged up crucial points for improvement, which were reflected in the final recommendations.

His summing-up focused on the following points:

1. Including woodlands in the global territorial issue

Besides recognizing the multifunctional nature of Mediterranean woodlands, most of the presentations addressed the inclusion of woodlands within the broad-ranging issues of territorial development, and in particular combating poverty by promoting activities, some of which may be based on woodland resources.

Most interventions did not focus solely on the woodland issue even in terms of its multi-functionality, tending rather to address the broader territorial scale, with all of its socio-economic issues. Moreover, the scale varies within itself:

- The park scale in the case of Bouhachem, Terre delle Gravine and Sierra Espuña;
- The rural federation scale in the case of Dannieh (in its solidarity with urban areas);
- A dual scale for Mersin province and the villages selected, Sierra Espuña Park and each of its four « pilot » villages.

Although some territorial initiatives are certainly rooted in the woodland issue - Territorial Forest Charter, Massif and Territorial Development Plans, Urbion and Yalova Model Forests - they do not focus on the woodland sector alone: « *the Model Forest concept is misleading, since it is not a model...and is not (only) about forests!* ». Including issues relating to woodland ecosystems thus makes it possible to avoid the pitfall of the conservative, naturalist approach: « *it sometimes seems as if the Park is more interested in biological species than in human activities* » (agricultural representative from Terre delle Gravine).

Virtually all speakers raised issues other than forestry (albeit related thereto):

- Development, land planning and combating poverty (Dannieh municipality, Mersin province, Yalova, Bouhachem park);
- Services to the public (Sierra Espuña park);
- Urban sprawl (Dannieh municipality, Terre delle Gravine park);
- Tourism and leisure, virtually in all sites.

Thus when included within these territorial initiatives, « woodlands » can also benefit from the dynamics created by other issues. There is, however, also the risk that the woodland sector could be marginalised if it is seen as playing a secondary role.

Forest issues are clearly part of a systemic territorial vision. By « *placing mankind at the heart of the area* », territorial approaches of « regional natural park » type strive to express this vision in real terms. The *Imagine* method has adopted this systemic approach as its first « pillar ».

2. Protection and sustainable management of the Mediterranean forests facing the challenge of socio-economic reality

For all stakeholders, from small-scale forestry owners to States, via the municipalities, the issue of woodland management and its objectives (protection, production) often bluntly arises in economic terms, when assessment of the costs it implies is weighed up against the income it generates or could potentially produce. Multiple costs are involved (management but also « non-management »), but the types of « benefit » may also be multiple: timber, non-wood forest products, tourism, carbon storage, water regime regulation and even fire prevention. This raises the issue of the beneficiaries (possibly society as a whole) contributing to management costs. The economic dimension also links up with the question of the time and spatial scales governing activities: the short term vision of decision-makers and the demands of local stakeholders tend to encourage resource exploitation, whereas the long term external ownership vision is more geared towards conservation.

Assessment of the policies implemented as well as the means allotted to them is a further issue at stake, particularly from the point of view of them producing lasting effects. Several speakers (Territorial Forest Charter, Bouhachem Park, Model Forests and even Dannieh municipality) stressed the need for specific core action on the resource or on associated sectors (cork, chestnut, mushrooms, etc.) and drew attention to the risks relating to non-sustainable subsidies. *Interreg* type instruments, for example, which are useful for initiating inter-territorial cooperation action, should give way to more specific structural funds. Local governance can only be improved if the project approach is replaced with a process and learning approach with long term vision. The creation of Bouhachem natural park demonstrates a clear awakening to the fact that the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and landscapes necessarily hinges on the involvement of local stakeholders, which is only possible if the aims of protection dovetail with development objectives: « *what is at stake is developing assets to enhance people's existence through revenue-generating activities. This is the only way to sustainably protect natural resources* ».

The approach adopted in Mersin stresses resource and revenue issues, which emerged from the participatory diagnosis, and from an environmental point of view acknowledges erosion and over-grazing. The diagnosis prompted stakeholders to envisage two different scenarios: a « pink » one, where the change towards sustainable management is underpinned by adequate means, and a « black » one in which a lack of means encourages the persistence of practices which threaten or destroy the forests. *« Income from timber production is currently channelled to the Turkish government. The challenge now before us is to more fairly share out the benefits rendered by the forests to ensure that they benefit local people (biomass, pastoral farming,...) and improve their living conditions ».*

The Dannieh experience illustrates how difficult it is to maintain a forest protection policy against a backdrop of marked poverty (56% of inhabitants live below the poverty line), with the policy depending on external funding.

Feedback from the Terre delle Gravine Regional Natural Park reveals the partly ineffective nature of protection based on a purely naturalist approach, out-of-touch with local concerns (which in this case are mainly related to leisure activities such as hunting or all-terrain vehicles): *« you know how many little birds there are but not how many inhabitants... ».* This example points to a certain lack of consultation and limited acceptance of the park, essentially deemed to have been established under duress. One of the conditions for the success of the « project » is winning the backing of as many stakeholders as possible.

3. Making the woodlands everyone's business? What « perimeters » for participatory approaches?

Broad consensus seems to exist regarding the development of consultation and participatory democracy in Mediterranean woodland management. Rather than leaving « forests to the forest keepers », multi-stakeholder governance needs to be encouraged. The terms for such participation remain to be clarified, however, and raise the issue of the legitimacy of the stakeholders involved: it is therefore essential to identify the relevant structures in advance and to specify their status, role, uses and competences. It should be noted that the principle of subsidiarity may be a source of ambiguity and tensions:

« Within a municipality the mayor is responsible for the municipal area, which includes private, communal and state-owned woodland... Sometimes the state agrees to tree-felling. This impinges on the Mayor's responsibilities ».

« The State is no doubt the guarantor of a long term vision, but account also needs to be taken of such competences as have been assigned to the municipalities and local councillors who know their land. Governance needs to be improved in respect of the responsibilities of the various bodies involved ».

Moreover, besides the perennial difficulty of defining the « social perimeter » of the stakeholders to be brought on board, the extent of their involvement also needs to be defined: involvement in the diagnosis, in defining the stakes, in shaping the project, its implementation and assessment? There is scope for misunderstanding and frustration. A participatory approach may also give rise to major and immediate expectations within the local population, which may subsequently prove difficult to satisfy, as was the case for the Sierra Espuña Master Plan.

The fear exists that these participatory approaches may see forestry experts' views being squeezed out by those of « other stakeholders who see it as a secondary issue »: thus in the case of the Massif and territorial development Plans, the « perimeter » would appear to be limited to woodland stakeholders and those from the timber industry.

All of the approaches presented either in the light of specific experience or from the point of view of the method and tools were « participatory », but to varying degrees:

In the case of the Bouhachem nature park, participation began following the diagnosis stage, when the project under the charter was being drawn up, thus at a relatively « early » stage. Initially it would appear to have had a relatively broad perimeter (locals, administration, councillors...), but was subsequently restricted to municipal level.

The Terra delle Gravine Park was set up at the initiative of the Puglia Region on a « scientific » basis, before being entrusted to the Province of Taranto, which did not have the necessary means. This highlights the risks involved in this type of heavily « top-down » approach, which the MED Qualigouv project is striving to counteract by developing broader « consultation ». The contours of this consultation have not been clearly defined, however, and it only comes into play once the naturalist inventory has been drawn up and the project defined. The actual work, however, looks very open: « *the more the merrier...* ». In the case of the villages in Mersin province, participation is chosen as the basis for the diagnosis: it provides essential information about local issues and expectations clarifies the territorial stakes and prepares project design. Its operational definition, however, seems to fall outside the participatory approach and the State's land ownership clout may allow the Water and Forests administration to muscle through. The *Imagine* method, which to date has been applied to coastal areas, stresses the dual aim of participatory approaches:

- Seeing the local stakeholder as an « *expert in and on his territory* », and therefore tapping into his essential knowledge about expectations, conflicts, tension, social networks, etc. (« *territorialised knowledge* »);
- Bringing the local stakeholder into the co-construction of a project, thereby ensuring greater support for the project and better tailoring it to expectations.

The role to be played by participants in decision-taking then arises, with the Urbion Model Forest presentation providing two versions:

- A cross-cutting basis to support decision-taking, based on which those empowered to take decisions decide (and accept responsibility for their decisions);
- A forum for debate « *where everyone is angry but everyone is angry to the same extent* », from which negotiated compromise solutions may emerge – which would best correspond to the notion of « governance ».

Finally, monitoring and assessment procedures which may also give rise to participatory procedures need to be consolidated downstream.

4. Keys to the success of participatory territorial management experiences

When applied to different territorial contexts, the same concepts (the park, for example), same principles and same apparent concerns (biodiversity) appear to produce very different results.

So what are the keys to success at the various levels (from the municipality to the various types of parks via inter-municipality levels)?

Several aspects emerged from the presentations and discussions:

- The importance of the approach receiving the backing of recognised leaders (Forestry Charter for Les Maures area), who may be although are not necessarily councillors (role of associations for Bouhachem park);
- The choice of the optimal social perimeter for the participatory approach, ensuring that councillors and administrations are highly involved from the outset (*in other words the decision-making authority as well as a privileged go-between vis-à-vis financial partners on other levels*);
- The first two points converge on the crucial importance of having political backing for intentions as well as projects (*underscored in particular with reference to the French regulatory instruments*);
- Effective leadership, which requires the means (human and financial) to be able to operate correctly over a relatively long period (*the « upstream » and « downstream » mentioned by the Imagine method*); as well as rendering the project self-standing in the long term (*including financially*) to ensure its continuance;
- The relevance of the territorial backdrop to these projects, in other words how tuned-in they are to the local context, which requires a high quality, precise diagnosis. It is the geographic, administrative and social cohesion (*the notion of a « population catchment area »*) at these median levels which provides for the subsidiarity and proximity of the stakeholders involved, sometimes even including stakeholders from nearby urban centres, through the inter-linkage of built-up, agricultural and woodland areas in the Mediterranean (Dannieh...);
- The importance of an appropriate legal framework, able to provide the right tools (Regional nature park, Territorial Forest Charter and joint syndicate, Urbion Model Forest association, setting up of nature parks in Morocco through a recent law, etc.) or on the contrary to compromise the approach (*legal duds: right for owners to pull out of the Terra delle Gravine park, ban then subsequent authorisation of hunting, lack of an ad hoc legal framework for Dannieh national park*);
- Lasting roll-out of the approach, leading to collective learning and the shaping of a shared local woodland and/or consultation culture, paving the way towards forms of « adaptive management »;
- The honesty of the participatory approach, in other words its openness, including the expression of positions far removed from what the promoters of the approach would like, such as the local population's dire need for firewood or grazing land or the disengagement and disinterest of certain French woodland owners. Opening the debate is always risky, but it is a risk which must be accepted and overcome. Transparency in communication procedures as well as clarity in defining the role allotted to participants are key aspects of this « honesty »;
- Granting scientific knowledge its rightful place - it must structure the debate whilst allowing it to flow;
- External openness, allowing the exchange of ideas, methods and good practices (bilateral cooperation between Bouhachem nature park and Luberon regional nature park, international network, Model Forests, *Imagine* method, AIFM network...);
- In certain cases, the success of the initial actions (hence the importance of their choice, cf. Territoire des Maures Forest Charter, Bouhachem nature park), or conversely the existence of negative events which provide a kick-start for stakeholders (the fires in Les Maures in 2003, for example).

5. Precision and adaptability of the methods and tools for participatory sustainable management

The « toolbox » presented during the sessions seemed to be relatively well-stocked, both with tools for instigating and rolling out collective approaches and in terms of the regulatory framework for such approaches. Both offer some leeway for adapting to the specific features of the territorial context, which does not rule out their strict implementation. Some of the most sensitive issues concern:

- Defining the social scope of participation, as well as gaining the loyalty of stakeholders involved in the approach (risk of failure where there is excessive turnover of participants highlighted in the case of the *Imagine* approach);
- Methods for « freeing-up language » (rich pictures, meta-plan method, study visits, etc.);
- Questions relating to the scale and socio-spatial coherence of the roll-out areas (predefined or to be defined);
- Efficient dovetailing between stages, in other words between the shared diagnosis, definition of issues and collective drafting of action plans.

6. Networks for the exchange of experience and methods and for « cross analysis »

The validity, relevance and effectiveness of the tools tested and developed should not remain under wraps, nor should the tools be confined only to those areas where they have borne fruit. With the necessary tweaking, they could also work elsewhere. Thus the role of networks for the exchange and sharing of experience (the AIFM and the cooperation actions it coordinates, including the MED Qualigouv project, which involves participants from Terra delle Gravine and Sierra Espuña regional parks, the Mediterranean Model Forest Network, Plan Bleu and Silva Mediterranea networks, etc.) seems to be essential in order to:

- Transmit knowledge and know-how;
- Create synergy between initiatives and networks, the latter varying widely in terms of their theme, institutional point of view, scale and the nature of the players they bring together; these networks may also be somewhat unaware of each other.

The construction of a « meta-network » or « network of networks », to which Mediterranean forest week has probably contributed, looks like an operation to be continued and consolidated.

Recommendations

Following the presentation and discussion of the summary, the following recommendations were debated and adopted by participants at the final session:

- 1. Improving the knowledge base on the territorial context**, the forest resources, the services provided by woodland ecosystems, and the risks and opportunities, by including the « climate change » factor (impact, mitigation potential, adaptation options).
- 2. Promoting inter-sectoral approaches** and the inclusion of forest management within local projects for the long term.
- 3. Bringing relevant local stakeholders into projects** from the outset, particularly local decision-makers (political backing) and administration (consistency with existing activities and budgets, financial support).
- 4. Defining the project area in compliance with the social, politico-administrative, geographical and ecological context.**

- 5. Devoting the necessary time and human and financial resources to the learning processes offered by territorial development operations**, particularly in terms of running activities and communicating.
- 6. Assessing the benefits rendered by woodland ecosystems and associated management costs.** Identifying beneficiaries. Developing sustainable funding mechanisms.
- 7. Developing, improving and adapting tools for collective approaches** (including the use of prospective approaches) in order to facilitate the emergence of joint visions, strategies and programmes of action.
- 8. Testing, assessing and developing instruments and measures** (legal and economic) for the implementation of collectively adopted programmes of action.
- 9. Developing and running networks for the effective sharing of experience between Mediterranean areas.**
- 10. Clarifying and enhancing the links between consultation and decision-making processes.**