



Newsletter n°18: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee



It is a great pleasure for me to write this editorial after attending at the FAO Headquarters in Rome the Committee on Forestry (COFO 22) held in conjunction with the Fourth World Forest Week (from 23 to 27

June 2014). A series of meetings and events sponsored by FAO and its partner organizations and institutions were held during this important week, a great opportunity for sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and major accomplishments and achievements on forestry issues.

In the long list of events of the World Forest Week, an **Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea** was held on June 27, 2014 in the Iran Room of FAO. As the President of *Silva Mediterranea*, it gave me great pleasure to be the chairman of the first session of the meeting dedicated to the presentation of the **Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW)**.

During the past Mediterranean Forest Week held in Tlemcen, Spanish Authorities offered to host the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i San Pau in Barcelona from 17 to 20 March 2015. This meeting is extremely important for the Mediterranean community as it represents a regional platform for cooperation on forests, aiming at improving the dialogue between the Mediterranean forest research community, policy-makers and the relevant stakeholders as well as at communicating to the international community and the society at large the relevance and challenges affecting Mediterranean forests.

The second part of the Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* focused on the presentation of the final report on the Evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* implemented in 2013. These two topics will be the focus of this *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter 18.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all participants who attended this meeting coming from countries from all over the Mediterranean: Albania, Algeria, France, Greece, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey and organizations and institutions involved with *Silva Mediterranea*

in the different projects and partnerships namely: MAAF, CTFC, ONF International, TIKa Turkey, Plan Bleu, GIZ, EFIMED, CESEFOR, AIFM, the University of Louvain, the University of Tuscia and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Concluding this editorial I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* for all the hard work of these last years and the good results obtained such as: the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF), the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) and the Tlemcen Declaration adopted last year during the High Level Segment in Algeria.



While stressing the important role played by *Silva Mediterranea*, the only international forum dedicated to Mediterranean forest issues in which Mediterranean countries can regularly meet, share experiences and establish cooperative programmes, I take this opportunity to remind members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, partners and the European Community to strengthen their engagement with *Silva Mediterranea*.

Ismail Belen
 President of *Silva Mediterranea* &
 Deputy Director General
 General Directorate of Combating
 Desertification and Erosion in Turkey

News from *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

Final conference of the MedLand Project will be held in Marseille, France, from 18 to 19 September 2014 (<http://www.medland2020.eu/en/page/70/conference-marseille>).

EFIMED Annual Meeting and Scientific Seminar will be held in Kavala, Greece, from 5 to 7 November 2014 (<http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/?bid=1604>).

The Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW) will be held in Barcelona in Spain from 17 to 20 March 2015 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>).

I) The Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW)



The first session of the Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* officially introduced the **Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW)**, the most important event in the Mediterranean scene (<http://med.forestweek.org/>).

This IV Mediterranean Forest Week will take place at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, in Barcelona (Spain) from 17 to 20 March 2015. It represents the common regional platform for cooperation on Mediterranean forests, aiming at improving the dialogue in the Mediterranean forest community.

The event entitled, “**Improving livelihood: role of Mediterranean forests value chains in a green economy**”, focuses on the contribution of Mediterranean forests to people’s livelihoods and the economy. Aimed at experts and key stakeholders involved in the integrated management of Mediterranean woodlands, it seeks to contribute to a greener economy by tackling environmental and social challenges.

Forests and other woodlands are an integral part of Mediterranean landscapes. They are a source of energy, water, food, tourism and many other goods and services as well as other sources of income. The value chains of several goods and services provided by these ecosystems play a key role in improving the quality of life of people in the Mediterranean region. Even if global changes (e.g. changes in societies, lifestyles and climate) underway in the Mediterranean region have a negative impact on these ecosystems (e.g. causing forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, increased fire hazards, water scarcity and desertification), forest goods and services should be considered as a relevant opportunity to promote the development of a green economy based on sustainable forest management in the Mediterranean region.

In order to meet these challenges:

- political and administrative authorities at national, regional and local level as well as the stakeholders and civil society have to adapt their strategies and regulatory frameworks to **promote sustainable value chains that contribute to employment generation and to development of a green economy in the Mediterranean;**
- forestry scientists and managers are expected to develop and adapt silvicultural practices taking into account the diversity and use of forest goods and services as well as the influence of socioeconomic and climate changes, in order to improve the quality of life of Mediterranean populations.



The Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week has six main objectives:

1. **strengthen exchanges and synergies between stakeholders** involved in the integrated management of Mediterranean woodlands;
2. **follow up of the “Tlemcen Declaration” and implementation of the “Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF):** policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in the Mediterranean landscapes” adopted in Tlemcen in March 2013;
3. **promote innovation and the importance of economy** (including "green economy", bioeconomy) for increasing the resilience of forested ecosystems in the Mediterranean;
4. **involve key value chain stakeholders of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests ecosystems** (e.g. from the agriculture, water, energy, biodiversity conservation and tourism sectors) in order to incorporate their expectations as well as cross-sectoral issues into National Forest Programmes;
5. **strengthen the link between science and decision makers** to establish a common vision of the future of development and management of Mediterranean forests and woodlands;
6. **prepare a presentation of the results of the IV MFW for the World Forestry Congress** to be held in Durban (South Africa) in September 2015.

The agenda of this Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week will include the following sessions:

- Water and forests ;
- Energy and forests ;
- Tourism and forests ;
- Forest products ;
- Entrepreneurship, innovation and industry ;
- Tools and initiatives to support forest development ;
- Education and knowledge transfer.

FOURTH MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK

Forests and other wooded areas are an integral part of Mediterranean landscapes. They are not only a source of timber and other forest products, but also a source of recreation and other services. In this session, the focus will be on the role of forests in the development of a green economy in the Mediterranean region.

AGENDA

Day	Time	Topic	Location
Tuesday 17	09:00	Registration	Palacio de Ferreiros
	10:00	Opening Ceremony	Palacio de Ferreiros
Wednesday 18	09:00	Workshop 1: Water and Forests	Palacio de Ferreiros
	10:00	Workshop 2: Energy and Forests	Palacio de Ferreiros
Thursday 19	09:00	Workshop 3: Tourism and Forests	Palacio de Ferreiros
	10:00	Workshop 4: Forest Products	Palacio de Ferreiros
Friday 20	09:00	Workshop 5: Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Palacio de Ferreiros
	10:00	Workshop 6: Tools and Initiatives	Palacio de Ferreiros
Friday 20	16:00	Closing Ceremony	Palacio de Ferreiros

The expected attendees at this meeting are:

- Technical and scientific organizations, forestry experts and managers ;
- Forest services and forest owners ;
- Environmental organizations and other NGOs
- Experts from other relevant sectors: water, tourism, agriculture, energy ;
- Investors and key donors ;
- Young professionals and students ;
- Media.

Mediterranean Landscapes FOREST Water Green Economy Bioenergy Bioeconomy VALUE CHAIN

FOURTH MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK

Improving livelihoods: the role of Mediterranean forest value chains in a green economy

17-20 March 2015
Barcelona, Spain

David Alejandro Solano Grima
International Affairs Director
Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya. **Solsona, Spain**

For further information on the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW) please contact Christophe Besacier (christophe.besacier@fao.org) at the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* (FAO), David Solano (david.solano@exchange.ctfc.es) at CTFC or Pilar Valbuena (pilar.valbuena@ceseфор.com) at CESEFOR.



Şükran Gökdemir passed away suddenly on the 15th August at the age of 50. Şükran Gökdemir was a Forest Engineer. She graduated from Black Sea Technical University Faculty of Forestry in 1985 and she got master's and doctorate degree at the same university in silviculture and afforestation department. She was recruited in 1989 by Forestry Research Institute of General Directorate of Forestry. She led her entire career on silviculture and tree breeding works. In September 2011 Şükran Gökdemir was appointed as the Director of Research Applications and Publishing Division of Foreign Relations, Training and Research Department. Also she was working as the thematic expert of component 1 of the regional project funded by the Global French Environmental Facility (FFEM). Şükran Gökdemir has carried out many scientific research projects as project leader during her researcher career. Beyond her scientific activity, Şükran Gökdemir was a very humanist and kind person with her positive energy and smiling face. **She will always live in our memories.**

By Ayşe AYATA KELTEN and Neşat ERKAN (OGM Turkey)

II) Evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*



The draft report for the evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* was first presented and discussed in Hammamet on December 2013 on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*. In April 2014, after integrating all remarks and comments made by members of the Enlarged Executive Committee and partners involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), the final version of the report was finally published both in French and English.

The Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* held on June 27, 2014, during the Committee on Forestry (COFO 22) and the Fourth World Forest Week at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, was the occasion to present this final version of the evaluation report to all member States of *Silva Mediterranea*.

This session was chaired by Eduardo Rojas-Briales, the Assistant Director-General of Forestry in FAO. After complimenting the independent panel of experts in charge of the evaluation for the good results of the report, he stressed the importance of this tool to improve the potential of *Silva Mediterranea* and respond to the challenges that Mediterranean forests are facing nowadays.

The session was the opportunity for the Chair to explain the all development of the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* requested by member States of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions during its 21th formal meeting held in Antalya on February 2012. The Terms of reference and method of work were explained to participants before sharing the key elements of a possible functioning and positioning of *Silva Mediterranea* in the Mediterranean forest scene.



The presentation was concluded with the key recommendations that may be summarized as follows:

- towards a renewed framework;
- more readable links with the partners;
- a smoother internal functioning;
- interface subsidiary bodies;
- better structured voluntary contributions.

III) The recommendations of the Evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

I) Towards a renewed framework

The panel recommends to the Committee

- To review its mandate in order to focus itself again on (1) the dialog in terms of forest policy and (2) the identification and follow up of regional cooperation priorities ;
- To reflect upon the composition of *Silva Mediterranea* after a systematic sum up of the situation of the current member states ;
- To elaborate a common view and its own strategy based on the identification of priority areas among the lines and/or recommendations of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest
- To elaborate an action programme based on this new strategy of *Silva Mediterranea* ;
- To aim at a more continuous and sustained participation of the high level decision makers of the region in the Committee's sessions ;
- To aim at an effective articulation of the Committee with the bodies and forums directly or indirectly engaged in forestry questions ;
- To follow the evolution of the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and the UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD negotiations related to forests ;
- To constantly update the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF).

The panel recommends to FAO Forestry Department

- To grant added visibility to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee during COFO and contribute to a greater visibility and consideration of the Mediterranean forests issue in the agenda of international bodies and forums (UNFF, CPF, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD, WFC) ;
- To regularly raise awareness of FAO regional offices and regional forestry Commissions within the countries on the issues addressed by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee ;
- To implement a transversal thinking on the status and role of the observers within the statutory and subsidiary bodies and to have the Committee beneficiate from this thinking

II. More readable links with the partners

The panel recommends to the Committee

- To intensify the bidirectional exchanges (needs and feedbacks/outputs) with the spheres of research, training, capacity-building and information production ;
- To promote the participation of the key stakeholders of these different spheres as observers of the Committee's sessions ;
- To contribute to the recurring implementation of a Mediterranean Forest Week as a place of open forum to the different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities ;
- To foresee with the partners that the meeting is to be held in the chair country of the Committee ;
- To request the Committee's Secretariat to ensure the coordination of the organization of this MFW ;
- To reanalyse its communication (Website, Newsletter ...) so that a clear distinction is made between its own contributions and those of each partner.

The panel recommends to FAO Forestry Department

- To establish a light coordination platform between the main intergovernmental organizations interested in the Mediterranean forests including FAO, EFIMED, CIHEAM, Plan Bleu, UfM (rotating secretariat, equal footing etc...) ;
- To ensure the presidency of this new regional platform.

The panel suggests to Silva Mediterranea Committee's partners

- To contribute to a clarification of the overall panorama (ToRs) ;
- To contribute to the recurring implementation of a Mediterranean Forest Week ;
- To foresee a possible change of the name of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.

III. A smoother internal functioning

The panel recommends to the Committee

- To direct the Committee's Secretariat's activities towards the reinforcement of the link between the members states and the internal dynamics and towards effective and continuous reactivation of the national focal points' network ;
- To delimit the respective roles of the chair, secretary, members of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee by drafting terms of reference and to update the internal rules ;
- To reinstate the biennial Committee's sessions ;
- To organise the Committee's sessions in Rome as a session back to back with COFO ;
- To reconsider the existence of the Enlarged Executive Committee.

The panel recommends to FAO Forestry Department

- To ensure a full time Secretariat for the Committee ;
- To carry out and animate a transversal and internal reflection on the functioning and animation of the national focal points' networks.

The panel suggests to Silva Mediterranea Committee's members

- To ensure a long term, efficient and dynamic functioning of the national focal point ;
- To ensure that a relay is established at national level between the Committee's national focal point and the stakeholders and sectors involved in the management of the Mediterranean forests.

IV. Interface subsidiary bodies

The panel recommends to the Committee

- To ensure the supervision of the connection between the Committee's future strategy and the subsidiary bodies' activities (thematic groups and task forces) ;
- To foresee the constitution of two new types of subsidiary bodies : (1) interface thematic groups and (2) Task Forces ;
- To promote the implementation of subsidiary bodies while respecting the geographical scope of the Committee and focusing on the issues that interest all the members ;
- To promote targeted themes for which FAO Forestry Department has experts and at the very least to continue its work around forest fire issues, biodiversity/forest genetic resources, non-wood forest products, urban and periurban forests and the fight against desertification/restoration of degraded lands and forests ;
- To ensure a progressive transition from the existing working groups to the new types of groups ;
- To identify the coordinators who are representatives of member states based on motivation criteria and limit their mandate's duration ;
- To use externalisation and subcontracting only occasionally and, if needed, to develop some type of specifications or a chart indicating the respective commitments.

The panel recommends to FAO Forestry Department

- To formally add the contribution of FAO Officers in the description of their respective position ;
- To promote the Department Officers' mobilisation for the benefit of the Committee's activities ;
- To ensure internal coordination between the Departments' Officers connected to the Committee.

*The panel suggests to *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's members*

- To supply their representatives who are engaged in the Committee's activities with the necessary resources and support

V. Better structured voluntary contributions

The panel recommends to the Committee

- To explore new regional or global financing opportunities ;
- To foresee the possibility of a progressive structuring of the voluntary contributions from members based on the Forest Europe model (rotating group of countries ensuring financing and steering).

The Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* concluded remarking the need for a FAO management response to the report of the independent panel that will be discussed during a session of *Silva Mediterranea* to be organized in Barcelona on the occasion of the IV MFW in March 2015.

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