URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FORESTRY FOR MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

21ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS – SILVA MEDITERRANEANA

Michelle Gauthier – Antalya – 02/03 February 2012
Content

1. Urbanization and Forests
2. International institutional framework
3. FAO’s support to member countries
1 Urbanization and Forests

1.1 Urbanization trends
1.1 Urbanization trends

1. Majority of people lives in cities
1.1 Urbanization trends

2. Poverty and hunger moving in/around cities

Photo Salvinelli
1.1 Urbanization trends

3. Environmental footprint by urbanization
1.1 Urbanization trends

3. Environmental footprint by urbanization

3.1 Degradation of tree & forest cover and landscape – Up to non reversible point

Landsat picture of Yemen
Urbanization trends

3. Environmental footprint by urbanization

3.2 Food production systems disrupted: malnutrition and hunger increase in cities (resilient urban food supply; urban agriculture and horticulture)
1.1 Urbanization trends

3. Environmental footprint by urbanization

3.3 Micro/Meso climate change
Urbanization trends

4. Climate change impact on cities

4.1 Water shortage and desertification
1.1 Urbanization trends
4. Climate change impact on cities
4.2 Floods, landslide, wind storms

Photo Reuters
Urbanization trends

4. Climate change impact on cities

4.2 Higher temperatures
1.2 If your city suffers from a lack of trees & forests, you will notice:
If your city suffers from a lack of trees & forests, you will notice:

1. **Heat Island Effect:** human death (regional planning & tree cover)
2. **Pollution:** allergies, cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory disease (death, cost of health)
3. **Buildings not protected from wind and sun:** high costs of climatization and heating (against CC mitigation measures)
4. **Grey infrastructures (roads, houses, industries) vulnerable to soil erosion:** damage caused by water and wind erosion (Sln: practices with green infrastructure)
5. **No space for recreation, social and physical activities:** higher stress, mental and physical disease, community fragmentation
1.2 If your city suffers from a lack of trees & forests, you will notice:

6. **Urban watershed degraded:** water quality and supply issues, floods and landslides: environmental emergencies, death, infrastructure loose.

7. **Landscape fragmented:** lost of biodiversity - fauna and flora.

8. **Landscape degraded in dry area:** sand encroachment; water quality and supply issues

9. **General landscape degradation:** shortage and raising price of wood energy (impact on nutrition)
1.3 Trees and forests can offer more to citizens:
Trees and forests can offer more to citizens:

1. Incomes and Jobs generation (orchards, wood and nwfp, ecotourism, maintenance of the urban forests, nurseries, recycling waste from maintenance

2. Energy supply

3. Beautification

4. Housing value

5. Attractiveness for tourist and business

6. Carbon sequestration
Why don’t we have Green Forested Cities?
Why don’t we have Green Forested Cities?

1. Conflict over land use (e.g. speculation, land tenure insecurity)
2. Weak governance and low public participation
3. Poor cities and countries facing hunger and emergencies on a chronic basis do not put UPF on the agenda (or very low attention)
4. Lack of knowledge of good practices (e.g. greenways and green streets) and no professional training (e.g. foresters, urbanists, land planners)
5. Low attitude to capacity building (we don’t want to know that we don’t know)
6. Lack of general awareness, including policy and decision makers
7. Lack of connectivity between disciplines and sectors
8. Lack of synergy and collaboration between institutions
9. No funds allocated by municipal and government budget
10. Perceived has not being attractive for investment
Basic UPF Principles

Urban? Peri? Forestry?
• Watershed, Landscape, Ecosystem, Biodiversity
• Cities of today & tomorrow
• Harmony Rural & Urban
• Multipurpose Forests & Trees
• Economic Valuation
• Better Life & Livelihood for All
• Best Practices on Measure
• Multisectoral

Participation and Decision-Making: Inclusive Social Commitment For Action

Agriculture – Greening – Forestry

Food Security – Poverty – Conflicts – Natural Disasters
State of the World Cities 2008/2009 (UN-Habitat)

- Self-help housing on erosion prone lands
- Cities are disconnected from their water production ecosystem
- Urban and peri-urban agriculture provide food, incomes and employments on a ... short term basis ... and precarious land tenure access
- Fuel wood supply put tree cover at risk
- City resilience to extreme weather events decreases with decreasing forest cover
- Institutions have not yet learned to work together on genuine solutions adapted to the complexity of stakeholders and of the demographic, economic, environmental and political conditions
2 International institutional framework

UN
- UN-HABITAT
- CBD (Cities & Biodiversity)
- UNCCD (Millennium Cities)
- UNFCCC (ICLEI Declaration Bonn 2011)
- UNFF (UNFF 10 with item on Forests, People, Cities)

Associations of local governments
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Declaration Bonn 2011)
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) (Africities, 2009)
- Metropolis (Commission Eco-Region)

FAO
- Food for the Cities Multidisciplinary Area (FCIT)
- FCIT D-group; Interagency committee on emergency issues
- Urban Forestry Programme
- European Forum on Urban Forestry, IUFRO, Urban Agriculture, etc.
FAO’s support to member countries

... in mountains ...

... in deserts ...

... along the coasts ...
3 FAO’s support to member countries

- Urban Forestry **Strategy and Action Plan** (Bangui, N’Djamena, Brazzaville, Niger)
- Regional **Forestry Outlook** in West and Central Asia (26 countries)
- **WISDOM for Cities** (wood energy)
- **Desertification and Green Belts** (Nouakchott, Great Green Wall of Sahara)
- **Climate change** adaptation, UN-REDD, Carbon market voluntary mechanisms
- **Landscape** restoration
- Voluntary **Guidelines** (e.g. Planted Forests, **Fire**, Dryland, Right to Food, Land Tenure; **UPF**)
- **Watershed Management**
- Forest Resource **Assessments** (FRA) – Thematic study on Trees Outside Forest
- **Waste Water Use** for forestry and agroforestry
- National Forest **Monitoring and Assessment** (NFMA); national forest programmes (nfp)

Energy – Conflict - Desertification – Deforestation – Disaster – Watershed Degradation
• Thirty researchers, officers and practitioners
• 7 Mediterranean countries
• 2 other European countries

Involved in the area of Urban Forestry, Green Infrastructure and Landscape Ecology.

Co-organized by the Italian Academy of Forest Science, FAO, IUFRO, the University of Bari, and the University of Florence
Aims:

1. To strengthen the exchange of experiences and the networking among the Mediterranean countries on the strategic themes of Urban and Periurban Forests (UPF)

Some Results:

1. Meeting at the European Forum Urban Forestry, 8-12 May 2012 (Building awareness and capacity “Research-Development-Policy”)
2. Support AIFM in the preparation of cooperation project on periurban Mediterranean forests (ENPI CBC Med call)
3. Support the preparation of “Towards UPF guidelines” (global version; French speaking countries of Africa and Maghreb)
4. Support the Working Group of Silva Mediterranea
Urban and Periurban Forests in Mediterranean: Key-questions

1. Is UPF a current working concept in Mediterranean countries?
2. Which is the relationship of UPF with the world of Foresters?
3. How is integrated UPF in town policies?
4. At which level (National/Local/City)?
5. Which are the relationships with the other urban spaces planning and design issues (Town Planning, Landscape Architecture, Urban Agriculture, Urban gardening)?
6. Which policy tools have been identified and applied (e.g. Master Plans of Green Spaces, Regulations of Urban Trees and Forests)?
7. People involvement and participation: are there experiences, commonalities, differences in the Mediterranean countries.
4 Silva Med Commission: Urban – Periurban Forestry

21\textsuperscript{th} Session of the committee \textit{Silva Mediterranea} (Antalya, 2-3 February 2012)

- \textbf{Item 16} “Optimization of trees and forests contribution to the Mediterranean cities: Towards the state of urban forestry, policy guidelines, a common vision and national strategies.


  \textbf{Proposed Mandate}: To coordinate gathering and exchange of information and make it available to policy and decision makers of the member countries of \textit{Silva Mediterranea}.
4 Working Group - Initial Tasks proposed

1. Put in place the Working Group (Mandate, Modalities of working, Members & Partners, Financing)
2. Prepare POW 2012-2016. Some initial actions proposed:
   • Contribute to the preparation of the European Call on periurban forest (AIFM)
   • Chapter on UPF in the State of the Mediterranean Forests
   • Contribute to UPF Guidelines for policy and decision makers
     • One day for “Mediterranean countries”
     • 1st Meeting of the Silva Med UPF Working Group
3. Synergy with some international events?
   • 21th Session of Committee on Forestry (COFO), FAO, Rome. 24-28 Sept. 2012:
   • UNFF 10 – Item on "Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities" (Istanbul, May 2013)
Questions

1. What are the needs, challenges and opportunities for UPF in Silva Med member countries?

2. How FAO can support Silva Med member countries to build multisectoral and multi-institutional dialogue related to urbanization and to optimization of trees and forests for cities?

3. How Silva Med member countries/cities can participate to the development process of the Guidelines, adapt and implement them?

4. What are the financing mechanisms that can support Silva Med member countries to optimize UPF for cities in the framework of climate change challenges and food security?

5. How to build a vision, a strategy and action plan for Healthy Green City for All?

... Forests and Trees for Healthy Cities
Improving Livelihood, Wellbeing and Environment for All ...
In conclusion … The Way Forward

Would you like to create together a working group on UPF?

Which countries are interested to be part of the working group?

What are your suggestions to initiate the WG?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION