

Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week, 21-25 March 2022, Turkey

Guidelines for proposing an event to the Week

1. The Mediterranean Forest Weeks

Held every two years, the Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) brings together a multidisciplinary set of actors engaged in Mediterranean forest activities in one of the most vital fora on Mediterranean forests. The main scope of the MFW is to strengthen cooperation amongst the research community, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders by providing a common regional platform for dialogue in the management of Mediterranean forests. The MFW also promotes Mediterranean forests worldwide and calls attention to the specific challenges these forests face. Participants include forest administrators, scientific and academic communities, the private sector, forest owners, investors and key donors, young professionals, civil society, media, environmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. The last MFW in April 2019 in Brummana, Lebanon, brought together around 220 participants from 31 countries on the topic of the role of Mediterranean forests in the Paris Agreement. Past MFWs were characterized by different themes and topics on Mediterranean forest subjects which were discussed through a participatory process during the Week to get to signed and approved final declarations. These declarations provided recommendations, indications, actions and decisions to undertake in the management of Mediterranean forests. Previous MFWs took place in 2010 in Antalya (Turkey), 2011 in Avignon (France), 2013 in Tlemcen (Algeria), 2015 in Barcelona (Spain), 2017 in Agadir (Morocco), and 2019 in Brummana (Lebanon), and the 7th MFW will be hosted by Turkey in 2022.

2. The Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week

Mediterranean forests are part of multifaceted landscapes but strongly affected by centuries of human intervention. Despite an increase of 1.8 million hectares of forest between 2010 and 2015, there are 80 million hectares of degraded land, including forests, in the Mediterranean. Under such circumstances, forest ecology restoration may be an important action to restore these lands and consequently bring them to a level of health and vigour and facing the threats due to global changes. The importance of the ecological restoration actions in natural ecosystems is also recalled by the recent United Nations initiative (i.e., UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030).

Mediterranean forests also provide valuable non-wood forest products (cork, chestnut, nuts, resins, mushrooms, aromatic and medicinal plants) and multiple ecosystem services (soil erosion control, water regulation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, microclimate regulation), some, but not all, have been included in robust value chains to reach the market. For instance, economic benefits could be derived from non-wood forest products and services that forests can provide, although several bottlenecks need to be solved to have these values recognized.

At the sixth Mediterranean Forest Week held in Brummana, Lebanon, in April 2019, young Mediterranean professionals in the fields of forestry and environment made a vibrant call for more forest-related job opportunities to tackle environmental challenges that they will have to face in a changing global environment. Young people in the age range between 15-24 years represent 14% of the Mediterranean population, a rate that is trending upwards. The proportion of youth that is not in education, employment or training ranges between 7 and 33% depending on the country and there are significant disparities between sub-regions and according to gender.

Building a bridge between the forest and the labour force of young Mediterranean people can make a difference and give value to the goods and services provided by forests, while implementing forest-based solutions. Improving the social perception of forestry, directing forest management towards participatory approaches and co-management, better communicating on forestry, and aligning

forestry education and training with current challenges are key activities in this regard. Furthermore, in order to bridge the afore-mentioned gap, one must open the circle and add components like cities, crops, watersheds, and all those components, which are not part of the forest but interact and interdepend with forests at the landscape level.

These are the motivations leading to propose themes and topics addressing Forest Ecological Restoration topics and its relationship with the young generations in the next Mediterranean Forest Week.

The provisional title of the seventh Mediterranean Forest Week is “Forest and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations”. The Week will explore the opportunities offered by Mediterranean forests and challenges related to ecosystem restoration to provide jobs and opportunities to young people while facing the forest threats raised by global changes.

The themes of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week relate to the following:

- Youth and green jobs: provide opportunities using Mediterranean forests
- Forest and landscape based solutions: - degraded forests, desertification and forest fires
- Forest-based opportunities with a focus on youth generations and gender employment
- Environmental opportunities: EU Green Deal, Ecological Transition and New EU Forest Strategy
- Social and cultural dimension of Mediterranean forests
- Management of Mediterranean forests in view of post-pandemic scenarios
- Non-wood forest products of Mediterranean forests and their relationships with sustainable food systems
- Innovation in Mediterranean forests: case studies and call for actions
- Communication strategies, knowledge transferring and sharing experiences in Mediterranean forests
- Training and giving experience

3. Week objectives

The objectives of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week are the following:

1. Identify opportunities offered to young people by forest-based solutions in the Mediterranean and anticipate possible bottlenecks so that these opportunities become necessities;
2. Capitalize on successful experiences combining innovative forest management and local populations – particularly the youth – and share this experience among countries for possible replication;
3. Promote landscape approaches for Mediterranean forest, with focus on restoration and conservation of biodiversity, to open the forest more widely to populations and neighbouring sectors (e.g. cities);
4. Mobilize all stakeholders involved in the integrated management of Mediterranean forests to facilitate the integration of young people into forest-based solutions;
5. Build a common vision of the role of young people in the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests in a changing world.

4. Type of sessions open to submissions

You are invited to propose events to contribute to the content of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week through the Call for proposals, open from **26 July 2021 to 30 September 2021**. These

proposals will be reviewed to select the best submissions enabling the development of a rich and stimulating programme of events for the Week.

The Mediterranean Forest Week consists of three main types of events (Fig. 1): (i) MFW session, (ii) side events, and (iii) *Silva Mediterranea* sessions. These events correspond to a time slot of either 2 hours or 1 hour 30 min (Fig. 1). Proponents are free to choose from the following two types of sessions:

- (i) **MFW sessions**
 These thematic sessions are based on the theme of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week. In their proposal, session organizers should ensure that the proposed thematic stream session is closely aligned to one of the topics of the Week. In addition, session organizers should detail the format of the proposed thematic session, as well as identify moderators / facilitators for the session. These sessions are intended for several speakers or a panel to address a broad topic related to the theme of the Week. They will typically include anywhere between 4 to 6 speakers. It is essential that these sessions provide ample room for discussion and use creative approaches to engage participants, who should be given the floor to share their knowledge and know-how. The panellists can use visuals but are not required to. MFW session can be plenary or parallel sessions. All session rooms will be equipped with beamers, screens and microphones.
- (ii) **Side events**
 Side events do not necessarily relate to the theme of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week but should be of interest to the audience of the Week. Side events can involve up to 50 people. All session rooms will be equipped with beamers, screens and microphones.

Social and media events are not part of this first Call for proposals.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 21 March | 22 March | 23 March | 24 March | 25 March |
| 09:00-10:30 | Registration | <i>Silva Med</i> session | fieldtrip | <i>Silva Med</i> session | <i>Silva Med</i> session |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee break | Coffee break | | Coffee break | Coffee break |
| 11:00-13:00 | <i>Opening</i> session | MFW session | | MFW session | |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch break | Lunch break | | Lunch break | |
| 14:30-16:30 | MFW session | MFW session | | MFW session | |
| 16:30-17:00 | Coffee break | Coffee break | | Coffee break | |
| 17:00-18:30 | MFW session | MFW session | | High-level segment | |
| Evening | | | | | |

Figure 1. Provisional structure of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week

As the process is a competitive one, session organisers are encouraged to carefully review the Selection criteria and Week objectives (Section 3), to ensure the proposal responds to all requirements.

5. Framework for proposals

Objectives: proposals for an event should contribute to at least one of the objectives of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week, as listed in Section 3.

Thematic framework: proposals should contribute to one or more of the topics of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week, as listed in Section 2.

Multi-stakeholder environment: proposals should include different kinds of partners (e.g. academia, business, local authorities, etc.) to reflect the diversity of viewpoints. Priority will be given to those contributions that involve some members of the Organizing Committee of the Seventh Mediterranean Week. The Organising Committee currently consists of:

1. Italy – Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forest Policies
2. Italy – University of Florence
3. Italy – Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA)
4. Lebanon – Directorate of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture
5. Spain – Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico
6. Tunisia – General Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries
7. Turkey – General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey
8. Turkey – General Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey
9. Turkey - Agriculture&Forestry Workers Union
10. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
11. European Forest Institute (EFI)

Updates on the composition of the Organizing Committee of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week will be posted on the web site of the Week.

Organizers of sessions of the MFW also commit to prepare a short (5 min) summary of the main outcomes of their session that will be presented during the high-level segment of the MFW on Thursday 24 March 2022, 17:00-18:30.

Gender mainstreaming: contributions to the Mediterranean Forest Week will also be considered on the basis of equal opportunities given to, and active engagement of, women and men in the development and execution of the proposals. Session organizers should aim to include as many of the following suggestions as possible:

- Women as panellists: ensure the presence of a representative percentage of women in all events.
- Gender expertise: invite gender experts to make inputs on your topics.
- Women or gender organizations as partners: partner with women or gender organizations to conduct your activities.
- Make gender a topic: organize an event from a gender perspective on your work.
- Showcase your work: distribute gender-sensitive promotional and audio-visual material, case studies and publications.

Engaging the next generations: similarly, MFW proposals will also be considered based on the extent to which sessions aim to promote the exchange of experiences and new ideas, collaboration, and action between women and men of different generations and cultures. Session organizers should aim to include as many of the following suggestions as possible:

- Young professional and leaders as panellists: ensure the presence of a representative percentage of young professionals in all events.
- Youth expertise: invite young leaders and experts to provide inputs on your topics.
- Youth organizations as partners: partner with youth organizations to conduct your activities.
- Make intergenerational exchange a topic: organize an event from an intergenerational partnership perspective.
- Showcase your work: distribute youth-sensitive promotional and audio-visual material, case studies and publications.

6. Selection criteria

The Call for proposals for the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week is a competitive process. Each proposal will be considered on its own merit; however, because of the limited space, it may be necessary to restrict the number of proposals any one organizing institution can submit. All proposals will be reviewed against the following selection criteria:

- For MFW session, clear alignment with, and contribution to the themes of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week
- Alignment with, and contribution to the objectives of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week
- Overall merit of the proposal (e.g. novelty, solutions orientation, expected outcomes etc.):
 - Contribution to international debates (SDG; CBD; UNFCCC, etc.)
 - Sharing of new knowledge
 - Illustration of significant outcomes: societal changes, improved understanding of science, on the ground results
 - Identification of new challenges, opportunities, approaches, innovations or solutions
 - Consideration of varied perspectives and positions on the topic
- Diversity of the partners associated with the proposal (e.g. academics, business, local authorities, etc.)
- Gender-responsiveness: relevance of your session to mainstreaming gender issues
- Engagement of the next generations: extent to which your session will include and promote youth and young professionals at all levels
- Use of innovative participatory techniques and demonstrated interactivity of the session
- Relevance of the title (e.g. clarity, how catchy / interesting it is etc.)
- Overall balance of session types and topics proposed for inclusion in the MFW.

The process has two stages. The first selection will be based on a concept note. After the first selection, the second step will ask for a detailed description.

7. Key dates for contributions

26 July 2021: the Call for proposals opens.

30 September 2021: the Call for proposals (1st stage) closes.

1 October 2021 to Mid-October 2021: selection review processes take place . The review panel may request that sessions be merged with other similar proposals

15 October - 30 November 2021: detailed proposals (2st stage).

20 December 2021: proponents are notified of the final decision regarding proposals.

Beginning of February 2022: the programme of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week will be published.

The secretariat of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week will also provide updated information about the venue, logistics, room allocation, facilitation services (including interpretation), etc.

8. Creating and submitting a proposal

To submit a proposal, please fill the form in Annex A and send it in electronic version (Word format) by email to:

Secretariat of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week
7mfwTurkey@gmail.com

before the deadline on 30 September 2021.

Annex A: Form to submit a proposal for an event at the 7th MFW

Proponent

Name of the contact person:

Organization:

Address:

Email:

Description of the event

Type of event: MFW session
 Side event

Title:

Context of the event:

Objectives of the event:

Target audience:

Relevance of the event for the 7th MFW

Keyword of the 7th MFW that is addressed:

Objective of the 7th MFW that is addressed:

How will your event contribute to gender equality and equity?

How will your event contribute to the engagement of next generations?

Geographical scope of your proposal (local / national / regional):

Partners

List for each partnering organization of the event:

Name of the contact person:

Organization:

Address:

Email:

Acknowledgement and consent

I am aware that this Call for proposals is a competitive process. I am aware of, and accept, the respective selection criteria that will be applied.

Annex B: Form to submit a detailed proposal for an event at the 7th MFW

Proponent

Name of the contact person:

Organization:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Description of the event

Type of event: MFW session
 Side event

Title:

Context of the event:

Objectives of the event:

Content and format:

Moderator:

Rapporteur:

Target audience:

Provisional programme:

| Time | Content | Speaker | Expected result |
|------|---------|---------|-----------------|
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| | | | |

References:

Profiles: please provide a short biopic (< 100 words) and a photo of all panellists of your session, including the chair/moderator, the rapporteur and all speakers.

Relevance of the event for the 7th MFW

Keyword of the 7th MFW that is addressed:

Objective of the 7th MFW that is addressed:

How will your event contribute to gender equality and equity?

How will your event contribute to the engagement of next generations?

Geographical scope of your proposal (local / national / regional):

Partners

List for each partnering organization of the event:

Name of the contact person:
Organization:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

Practical arrangements

Preferred time slot (refer to Fig. 1) – Please specify day and time:

Language of the event:

Need for interpretation – Cost to be covered by the proponent:

- Between Arabic, French and English
- Between Arabic and English
- Between French and English
- No interpretation

Desired meeting room layout:

- Theatre¹
- U-shape²
- Classroom³
- Boardroom⁴
- Other (Banquet style...) – please specify:

Please clarify any specific need to organize your event (such as a specific software, etc.):

Acknowledgement and consent

I am aware that this Call for proposals is a competitive process. I am aware of, and accept, the respective selection criteria that will be applied.

I confirm that our team will provide a rapporteur for our event. The role of the rapporteur will be to prepare a short (5 min) summary of the main outcomes of the event that will be presented during the high-level segment of the MFW

¹ Seats or chairs in rows facing a stage area, head table, or speaker (with no conference table).

² A series of conference tables set in the shape of the letter U, with chairs around the outside.

³ Rows of conference tables with chairs facing the front of a room (and usually a speaker), providing writing space for each person.

⁴ A rectangular or oval table set up with chairs around all sides and ends.