

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Item 6.6: Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry: Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*

Mr Chair,

It is a privilege for me to participate in this Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry as the Chair of the Silvamed Committee to address this Conference for the mediterenean region and to inform you about the most recent accomplishments of the Committee .

During the last session of the Committee, *Silva Mediterranea* discussed the need to assess the status of the implementation of the restoration activities under the framework of the Agadir Commitment and the need for a monitoring system on post-Agadir efforts.

The Committee committed to prepare new project proposals for submission to relevant financial instruments, such as COST Actions, Adaptation Fund and the future Integrated Programme on Ecosystem Restoration in preparation in the context of GEF-8. In line with this, the Committee endorsed the proposal to nominate a Mediterranean Flagship named ‘ ‘Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems as nature-based solutions to build resilience in the Mediterranean region for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’ ’ in response to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration call for World Restoration Flagships. Should the Mediterranean flagship proposal be selected to receive financial targeted support from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Committee will be prepared to submit a well-structured proposal.

The Committee called on the Ankara Declaration adopted at the last session of this emphasized the main points emerging from the meetings as follows;

- It underlines that restoration can create employment and reconnect Mediterranean people to their landscapes
- It highlights the importance of youth empowerment and engagement in building climate resilience in the Mediterranean region
- It calls for countries and stakeholders to scale up restoration efforts and reinforce regional cooperation to address common environmental and climate challenges
- It supports the submission of the Mediterranean region, represented by four countries – Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey – as a World Restoration Flagship in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The committee has proposed to its Editorial Board to develop a special issue on Unasyuva. The Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of the Unasyuva special issue by the end of 2023, and engage with members, working groups and partners for the preparation of the articles.

Concurrently, the preparation of a scoping note for the new issue of SoMF (State of Mediterranean Forests) is ready and the Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of the new issue of SoMF by the end of 2023, engaging with members and partners for the preparation of its various chapters.

The Committee is invited to:

- further align the work plans of the Working Groups with global and regional agendas;

The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to:

- support enhanced access by Members, at their request, to climate finance opportunities such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, particularly for forest fire prevention and post-fire restoration initiatives.

I thank you.