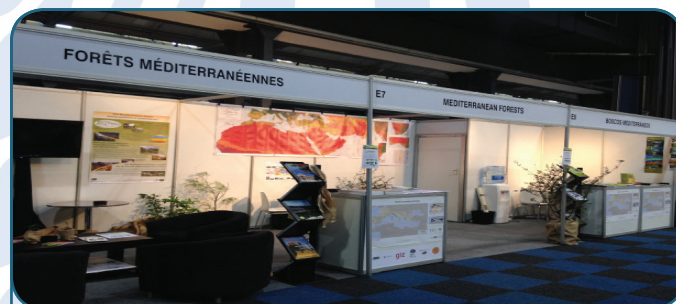


The Mediterranean booth at the XIV World Forestry Congress

The XIV World Forestry Congress, hosted by the Republic of South Africa in Durban from 7 to 11 September 2015, brought together the global forestry community to meditate on the central theme of this edition, "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future". For the first time in the history of this event, particular emphasis was given to Mediterranean Forests with a dedicated booth in the exhibition centre of the congress. The decision to have a pavilion for the Mediterranean was taken by the members of the Board of the organizing Committee of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW), which agreed to give more visibility to Mediterranean Forest and create a space where Mediterranean organizations and partners could display their projects and products.

The booth was the outcome of a joint collaboration of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF). It was operationally organized by the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) with the help of the French association Forêt Méditerranéenne and the financial and technical support of FAO and the German Society



The Mediterranean booth XIV WFC - 2015
Durban, South Africa @C. Marchetta

for International Cooperation (GIZ). It was an opportunity to highlight the need to safeguard Mediterranean forests, heavily hit by climate change and experiencing a population growth that put pressure on food, water resources, and other goods and services provided by forests.

A number of publications, particularly within the CPMF and *Silva Mediterranea*, came together to ensure that both research and policy are tying in with a regional approach and translating political will into action such as: the opinion paper on "Mitigation and adaptation potential of Mediterranean forests to climate change" (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/44042-03d643380c69beb25ba116b7a14227f98.pdf>); the policy brief "Marginal and peripheral forests: a key genetic resource for enhancing the resilience of European forests to global change" of the COST Action FP1202; the "State of Mediterranean Forests" (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf>); the "Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests" (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/89602/en/>); several case studies described in the FAO publication "Unasylva" (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3837e.pdf>) and the special issues of the "Forêt Méditerranéenne" journal dedicated to the proceedings of the Mediterranean Forest Week (www.foret-mediterranee.org/fr/catalogue).

These and many other products from all over the Mediterranean were displayed in the booth. More than 400 people visited the pavilion and interacted with the representatives of the member countries of the CPMF, AIFM, *Silva Mediterranea*, and the Forêt Méditerranéenne, available to answer to technical questions related to their countries.

MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

Training school & PhD course "Analysis of genetic structure within and among populations with focus on marginal populations of woody species"

18 - 22 January 2016

(Nødebo - Grib Forest; Fredensborg, Denmark)

Steering Committee of the regional project funded by FFEM, "Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes"

26 January 2016, 09:00 - 17:30

FAO HQ Malaysia room (Rome, Italy)

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) under the project COST Action FP1202

Deadline: Feb. 29, 2016 <http://map-fgr.entecra.it/>
STSM to be concluded by March 31, 2016

More than 200 people left their contact details wishing to know more about current and future initiatives on the Mediterranean and participate to the different events organized in the booth. 600 mouse pads and 600 USB, containing electronic copies of the latest documents produced by partners, were distributed to the visitors of the stand.

Among the initiative of the booth a cocktail was organized to launch the video “The potential of Mediterranean Forests in the context of climate change” filmed in two target countries of the project: Lebanon and Morocco and based on the results of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) regional project “Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes” (Eng. <https://vimeo.com/144617407>; Fr. <https://vimeo.com/144125959>). The Mediterranean booth was a great success and *Silva Mediterranea* would like to thank all the colleagues involved in this initiative with the hope to keep up the good work in increasing Mediterranean forests visibility in many more future events.



The Mediterranean booth XIV WFC - 2015
Durban, South Africa @C. Marchetta

This fabulous experience helped me understanding that it is an absolute necessary to make more efforts in giving more visibility to Mediterranean forests and draw international attention on the need to preserve Mediterranean rich biodiversity and location, highly exposed to climate change.

Lebanon

The 14th World Forestry Congress was a great and unique opportunity to meet with the international forestry community and benefit from the exchange of new innovative ideas and acquire new perspectives. This global event was a success due to the tremendous effort and the exceptional organization of the hosting country. On a parallel level, the exhibition that took place during the congress provided an interacting place for the countries to present their best assets in the forestry sector. Lebanon and the Mediterranean countries shared one booth, talked the same language and promoted: “the Mediterranean forests”. Exhibiting under this one title shed the light on the uniqueness and value of our forests and brought closer together countries from the three oldest continents around the Mediterranean Sea. Looking forward and hoping for more cooperation and deepening of this relationship.

Morocco

The World Forestry Congress in Durban was the opportunity to interact with students, researchers and professionals from diverse backgrounds, who have shown a real interest in Mediterranean forests and particularly in the Moroccan forests. It was a genuine opening to the world, this rewarding experience, both personally and professionally, has allowed us to make interesting meetings with visitors and with colleagues experiencing the same problems than Moroccan foresters, actively involved in the preservation of the Mediterranean natural heritage.



The Mediterranean team XIV WFC - 2015
Durban, South Africa @C. Marchetta

It follows the experience of our five partner countries in the booth:

Algeria

The 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban, gathered 4000 foresters around the world, far the largest forestry meeting. Attending this event, which occurs only every 6 years, was for me a unique experience. The stand dedicated to Mediterranean forests was a success. I was amazed to see the surprise of many visitors when we were explaining that stoppers of their bottles of wine were actually produced from the bark of a cork oak, a tree coming from the Mediterranean only, forests with a rich biodiversity and a stunning landscape.

Tunisia

Our experience at the XIV World Forestry Congress, held in Durban from September 7 to 11, 2015 was rich and stimulating and it will mark our profession as young foresters for the rest of our lives. The stand dedicated to Mediterranean forests in the congress area offered a great opportunity to the representatives of various countries in the region to promote their products, innovations and efforts related to forests. At the same time, it has helped building new links between Mediterranean forest and other actors in the forestry sector all over the world. Visiting other booths was a trip around the world with an incredible diversity of products and faces, but despite our differences and distinctions, a friendly atmosphere has gathered us all. This is the global forest family that challenges all difficulties to conserve our forest wealth and preserve the living conditions of the communities that depend on them.



The Mediterranean booth XIV WFC - 2015
Durban, South Africa @C. Marchetta

Turkey

During the 14th WFC, cooperation and interaction with many colleagues from all over the world in the Mediterranean booth was quite informative and enjoyable. I would like to warmly thank the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* for their key support and involvement. It was a great opportunity to share a common understanding of the challenges ahead concerning forestry and sustainable development. It was also a great opportunity to get to know more about some solutions for building resilience, regeneration of forests, green economy, monitoring forests in many aspects and evaluate Turkish Forestry Service's capabilities in these respects.

Workshop on “Desertification and Restoration in Mediterranean Drylands”

A significant part of the Mediterranean region is considered as drylands and a large part of the Mediterranean area is affected by desertification. These areas are under increasing pressure caused by demographic and economic drivers, and are prone to desertification, land degradation and drought. Moreover, these effects will be exacerbated by climate change. If no action is taken, land degradation will cause major losses of the goods and services provided by these landscapes, with severe consequences on the environment, biodiversity and the economy, and in particular for rural vulnerable livelihoods. Although Mediterranean forests have low productivity in terms of wood production, they provide a wide range of ecosystem goods and services; they are in fact of great economic, social, and ecological significance, increase resilience and are an essential provider of the productive functions (of wood and non-wood forest products such as cork, nuts, medicinal and aromatic plants, fodder) and protective functions (such as protection against soil and water erosion, floodings) of dryland ecosystems.

Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) is being increasingly recognized for its potential to reverse land degradation processes. Countries have started to engage in global commitments to restore degraded lands, such as with the Bonn Challenge, a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares by 2020. Efforts are also being made at the regional level, for example through the Initiative 20x20, aiming to bring 20 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean into restoration by 2020.



Workshop on Desertification and Restoration in
Mediterranean Drylands - 2015 Ankara, Turkey @I. Belen

Rationale for a workshop on “Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands”

During its 21st session in February 2012 in Antalya, Turkey, *Silva Mediterranea* adopted the decision to create a working group on “Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zones” (WG8). It was agreed that this new working group was to be led as a start by Turkey. It was also agreed that technical support was to be provided by FAO, recognizing FAO’s Forestry Department expertise on dryland forestry and Forest and Landscape Restoration matters and other led initiatives. The need to address degradation in the Mediterranean region has also been prioritized during the III Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) in March 2013, through the policy orientations that were conceptualized under the Strategic Framework for Mediterranean Forests (SFMF). Strategic line 6 explicitly calls to “Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes” through a series of eleven recommendations. Restoration is promoted as a way to enhance resilience, food security and livelihoods, regain environmental and cultural services, while managing, monitoring and evaluating restored forest ecosystems. The policy orientations of the SFMF were endorsed in the Tlemcen Declaration and adopted during the high-level segment of the III MFW. The Declaration calls for an effective implementation of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest (SFMF). It also explicitly reflects a strong political support to the “promotion of resilience in forest ecosystems (...)” including by “restoring degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes”. In this context FAO and Turkish partners launched the new working group on desertification and restoration in the Mediterranean region on the occasion of the UNCCD Cop 12 in Ankara on October 16, 2015.

Main results of the workshop and key recommendations for the new working group on “Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands”

Twenty five experts from seven different Mediterranean countries (Portugal, Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, France and Lebanon) attended this workshop on October 16, 2015. The brainstorming was also supported by several technical organizations (FAO/Forestry Department / FLRM team, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and TUBITAK). After the presentation of the global and the regional context by FAO the sessions were focused on a brainstorming for preparing a future Road Map of this working group/thematic group on “Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands”. Taking into consideration the results of the evaluation of the *Silva Mediterranea* working groups that was carried out in 2013 the main conclusions of this one day workshop on “Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands” are the following:

The working group/thematic group will focus its effort on the implementation of the Strategic Line 6 “Restore degraded Mediterranean forests landscapes” of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) at national/regional level by:

1. promoting the dissemination and implementation of FAO’s “Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands - Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods” at the Mediterranean level. Those guidelines prepared jointly by FAO and Turkey with the support of TIKA could be adapted to national/local contexts and used as a key tool for promoting good practices on restoration, in particular on assisted natural regeneration options, in the Mediterranean.
2. capitalizing on existing successful restorations efforts already implemented in the Mediterranean and sharing best practices and lessons learned at the regional level through projects, programs and other initiatives on restoration of forest and landscapes in drylands with, in particular, the support of the new Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) launched by FAO at the occasion of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in June 2014. The integration of the Mediterranean



Workshop on Desertification and Restoration in Mediterranean Drylands - 2015 Ankara, Turkey @I. Belen



Christophe Besacier at COP 12 - 2015
 Ankara, Turkey @I. Belen

region in global initiatives on restoration could be supported by this FLRM team taking advantage of other existing regional initiatives like the Initiative 20x20 in Latin America, or other global initiatives such as The Restoration Initiative currently in preparation as a GEF 6 Programmatic Approach with several members of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, and led by IUCN, UNEP and FAO.

3. preparing a strong chapter focused on restoration in the next edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests to be prepared with the key support of FAO by end of 2017. Taking into consideration that land degradation and restoration are key issues for the Mediterranean this chapter could provide information/recent knowledge on: (a) land degradation assessment, building on the new Land Degradation Neutrality concept formally adopted in Ankara and recently recognized as one of the new SDGs (SDG 15.3); (b) identification of the main restoration opportunities in the region, taking into consideration the multi-functionality of Mediterranean landscapes and the need to identify a well-balanced package of restoration options; and (c) provision of recommendations in order to deal with the main current barriers for the implementation of large scale restoration programs in the Mediterranean.
4. focusing the next edition of the Mediterranean Forest Week (V MFW) to be held in Morocco in March/April 2017 on Forest and Landscape Restoration. This option could be an excellent opportunity to highlight the efforts already made by the region on "Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands" and to disseminate the first results/new recommendations/publications of the working group at the regional level. Some participants

also highlighted the need to use several upcoming events by 2017 to promote the Road Map/Results of this new working group on "Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands" with, in particular, the NEFRC to be held in Algeria (Tlemcen) from 13 to 16 December 2015 and the UNFCCC COP 22 to be held in Morocco at the end of 2016.

5. establishing partnerships with organization supporting the development of innovative financing mechanisms for FLR and LDN, e.g. the FAO FLR-M and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, following the recommendations of the newly published discussion paper "Sustainable financing for forest and landscape restoration" (FAO & UNCCD, 2015) and related policy brief.



Nora Berrahmouni at COP 12 - 2015
 Ankara, Turkey @I. Belen

All those proposals from the participants are totally in line with several adopted recommendations of the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*, such as: (i) "the Committee should have a shared vision and strategy based on the identification of priority thematic areas from the Strategic Framework for Mediterranean Forests", (ii) "the Committee should focus on the "areas for which the FAO Forestry Department has experts" including the thematic "combating desertification and restoration of degraded lands", (iii) "the Committee should regularly publish/update the State of Mediterranean Forests and the (iv) "the Committee should regularly organize Mediterranean Forest Week with the support of the Forestry Department within FAO (Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and other thematic teams)".

C. Besacier/N. Berrahmouni
 Forestry Department
 Food and Agriculture Organization
 of the United Nations

The regional statement of the Mediterranean for forest fires

In the Mediterranean region, wildfire destroys the protective and productive roles of forests and forested areas, generating soil erosion and desertification problems and reducing water retention, which are both very important functions needed to preserve Mediterranean ecosystems. Armed conflicts in the Mediterranean are raising new challenges related to wildfire management and control. The use of fire as part of conflict strategies affects valuable Mediterranean forests and forestry lands as well as populations and refugees.



Working group on forest fires of *Silva Mediterranea* - 2015 Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea @E. Hernandez

The 6th International Wildland Fire Conference, which took place in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 16 Oct. 2015 (<https://en.wildfire2015.kr/page/home/index>), was an occasion to discuss the main aspects related to wildfire prevention, suppression and awareness and identify transboundary collaborative initiatives to be taken in order to improve Mediterranean region capacity building. During the conference, the working group on forest fires of *Silva Mediterranea* organized a regional session on Mediterranean and Near East Wildland Fire Networks. Speakers/partner countries of *Silva Mediterranea* from Spain, Greece and Italy took the floor during this session and finalized with other participants the regional statement of the Mediterranean for forest fires with recommendations on: fire prevention, international cooperation, information systems and fire management (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88924/en/>).

For more information related to the newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea* please contact Nicolas Picard (Nicolas.Picard@fao.org) or Caterina Marchetta (Caterina.Marchetta@fao.org) at the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*

Enhancing the role of marginal forest tree populations in the adaptation to climate change

Populations of trees at the edges of their distributions represent a key issue for understanding forest adaptation to climate change. Known as marginal/peripheral (MaP) forest tree populations, they contain original genetic diversity due to unsuitable conditions for survival, which is important for use in silvicultural activities to develop climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Marginal populations of forest trees are the subject of Cost Action FP1202 "Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees to climate change in Europe (MaP-FGR)" which involves 31 countries from Europe, North Africa and Near East. In the last 3 years the researchers involved in the project collaborated for promoting a multidisciplinary approach to generate relevant knowledge on the role and use of MaP populations in the adaptation of forests to global climate change. At the recent V plenary meeting held in Bucharest (Romania) in October 2015, several results were presented by different working groups: i) maps of the potential distribution under current climatic conditions of targeted MaP populations; ii) the construction of a database with metadata on existing field trials and genetic material of forest tree species tested across countries, and metadata on molecular/genetic markers; iii) an opinion paper on the major challenges faced by MaP populations under global change and their significance and value for adapting forests to global change.

In order to raise the attention on MaP populations, three training schools which involved about 45 trainees and 20 trainers were organized in the last three years of the project and 40 Short Term Scientific Missions were funded. In addition, a policy brief focused on "Marginal and Peripheral forests: a key genetic resource for enhancing the resilience of European forests to global change" was prepared and disseminated also at the World Forestry Congress (Durban, September 2015). For the next and last year of the project, researchers involved in this Cost Action will finalize the analysis on MaP-FGR and will focus their attention on the capitalization of results and the preparation of future initiatives that will take advantage of the collaborations established thanks to this four-year project.