



Newsletter n°16: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea*

It is a great pleasure for me to sign this editorial after hosting in Tunisia the several meetings organized jointly by the **Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea**, and the members of the **Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests** (Hammamet from 2 to 6 December 2013).



First, I would like to thank my colleagues of the General Direction in charge of Forests and the team of the Commissary for the Development of Agriculture within the Regional Directorate of

the Governorate of Siliana for their support in organizing the several sessions and the field trip and all participants who attended this event moderated by the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea.

Several sessions were organized during this first week of December in Hammamet:

- The third Steering Committee of the regional project "Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes" funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM);
- The annual meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea with an agenda mainly focused on the first results of the evaluation requested by member States in February 2012;
- The annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) focused on the presentation of the activity report 2012/2013, the final choice of the logo and the validation of terms of reference and timetable for the evaluation scheduled for the second semester of 2014.

This event was therefore an opportunity for participants to be well informed on ongoing dynamics of the regional cooperation of Mediterranean forests.

A field trip to the Tunisian pilot site of Siliana was also organized on 5 December 2013 (See article dedicated to this field trip prepared by the team of the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea).

In this Newsletter, entirely dedicated to these several meetings held in early December 2013 in Hammamet, the following information are available:

- Planned activities of the project "Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes" funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM);
- First results/key recommendations of the evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea;
- Main actions implemented in the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and the timetable for the evaluation scheduled in the second half of 2014.

Concluding this editorial, I would like to especially thank member institutions of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests for their coordinated support to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries for adaptation of our Mediterranean forest ecosystems to climate change.

I am convinced that the good dynamic initiated since the launch of this regional initiative in Istanbul in September 2010 will produce significant results to ensure the sustainable management of our forests in the context of the ongoing global changes in our Mediterranean landscapes.



Youssef Saadani
General Director in charge of Forests
Ministry of Agriculture
Tunis - Tunisia

News from Silva Mediterranea partners:

Second meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW) will take place in Barcelona, Spain, on 26 and 27 March 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>).

An extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea, will be held in Rome during the 22nd session of the Committee on Forestry from June 23 to 27, 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>).

I) Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the regional project funded by the FFEM

The sessions of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the project entitled, "Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes" were held in Hammamet from 2 to 3 December 2013. Apart from discussions on the implementation of activities for the various components (already achieved in 2013 or planned by 2014), this meeting was also marked by an interesting field trip to the Tunisian pilot site of Siliana, organized on Thursday, 5 December, 2013.



About twenty participants attended this meeting:

- As members of the Steering Committee:

- An official representative of several beneficiary countries of the project: focal points of Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey;
- Representatives of the French Development Agency in Tunis (AFD) and the Secretariat of the French Global Environment Facility in Paris (FFEM);

- Representatives of institutions in charge of the coordination (FAO and Plan Bleu);

- As observers:

- Several members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests directly involved in the implementation of activities mainly: the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM), the team of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) based in Rabat (Morocco), The Mediterranean Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), the Forest Research Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and ONF International;
- Some Tunisian thematic experts of the different technical components as well as several experts of the Commissary for Development of Agriculture within the Regional Directorate of the Governorate of Siliana (Field trip in the pilot site held on Thursday, 5 December, 2013).

During the opening session, the representative of the French Global Environment Facility, Mr. Didier SIMON, warmly thanked Tunisian authorities for their hospitality in Hammamet and expressed regrets for the absence of the Algerian colleagues who could not attend the meeting due to other commitments in Algiers.



The representative of the host country, Mr. Ameur MOKTHAR, warmly welcomed participants to the third meeting of the Steering Committee and highlighted the importance of forest ecosystems in Tunisia.

The main decisions taken during this meeting of the Steering Committee were the following:

- 1) Presentation of main activities achieved under component 1 for the implementation of **vulnerability assessments in the five pilot sites in accordance to the methodology proposed in the workshop of Solsona (27 - 31 May 2013)** and validated during the Steering Committee of Beirut on June 6, 2013. **Letters of Agreements were signed with partner institutions in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.** The provision of financial resources in Algeria and Turkey will be done through FAO representations in Algiers and Ankara. The regional study related to climate change impacts on main species identified in the pilot sites is underway with the support of a Lebanese expert supported by INRA Avignon.



- 2) Presentation of the first results of the regional study "**Methods and tools for socio- economic evaluation of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems**" and validation of the work plan 2014 (including detailed budget proposed by Plan Bleu) for the implementation of activities dedicated to the estimation of the economic and social value of forest goods and services in the pilot sites selected for this component 2 in the context of this regional project funded by FFEM.

- 3) Presentation of the first results of the regional study "**Participatory governance for the multifunctional management of Mediterranean woodlands**" and main outcomes of the regional workshop on participatory approaches held in Antalya from 21 to 25 June 2013. Validation of the work plan 2014 and of budget proposals submitted by Plan Bleu for activities dedicated to the implementation of participatory approaches in the five pilot sites selected in the context of the component 3 of the regional project funded by FFEM.



- 1) 4) Presentation of activities achieved in 2013 under the Letter of Agreement signed by FAO and ONF International in June 2013 for the implementation of component 4 in the context of the regional project funded by FFEM mainly:

- First results of the regional study **on agents and drivers of deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems and other Mediterranean wooded lands** in the pilot sites selected for the implementation of Component 4;
- Main results of the workshop held from 22 to 25 October 2013 in Rabat to coordinate the implementation of Component 4 and develop a **regional road map "REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector"**;
- Submit a **detailed work plan for implementation of actions proposed in the regional roadmap "REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector"** for the period 2014 and 2015.

Concerning this component, the Steering Committee approved the content of the regional road map "**REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector**" for actions at different levels: international negotiations, national strategies of mitigation in the forestry sector and pilot projects of carbon finance for selected sites in the framework of the regional project funded by FFEM.

The implementation of the budget proposed by FAO for the year 2014 was approved by the Steering Committee, **through the signature of a new Letter of Agreement between FAO and ONFI**. The extension of the contract for Ms Anne MARTINET, expert responsible for the coordination of component 4, on a shared cost position between ONF International and FAO, was also approved by members of the Steering Committee.

This decision will allow the signature, from January 2014, of an Amendment to the existing Agreement between FAO and ONF International for the extension of the secondment of Anne Martinet by end of 2014 under a new contract as a consultant COF.WOC within the Forestry Department of FAO.

Anne Martinet/Caterina Marchetta
Secrétariat de *Silva Mediterranea* – FAO

For further information please contact Caterina Marchetta (caterina.marchetta@fao.org) or Anne Martinet (anne.martinet@fao.org) at the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (FAO).

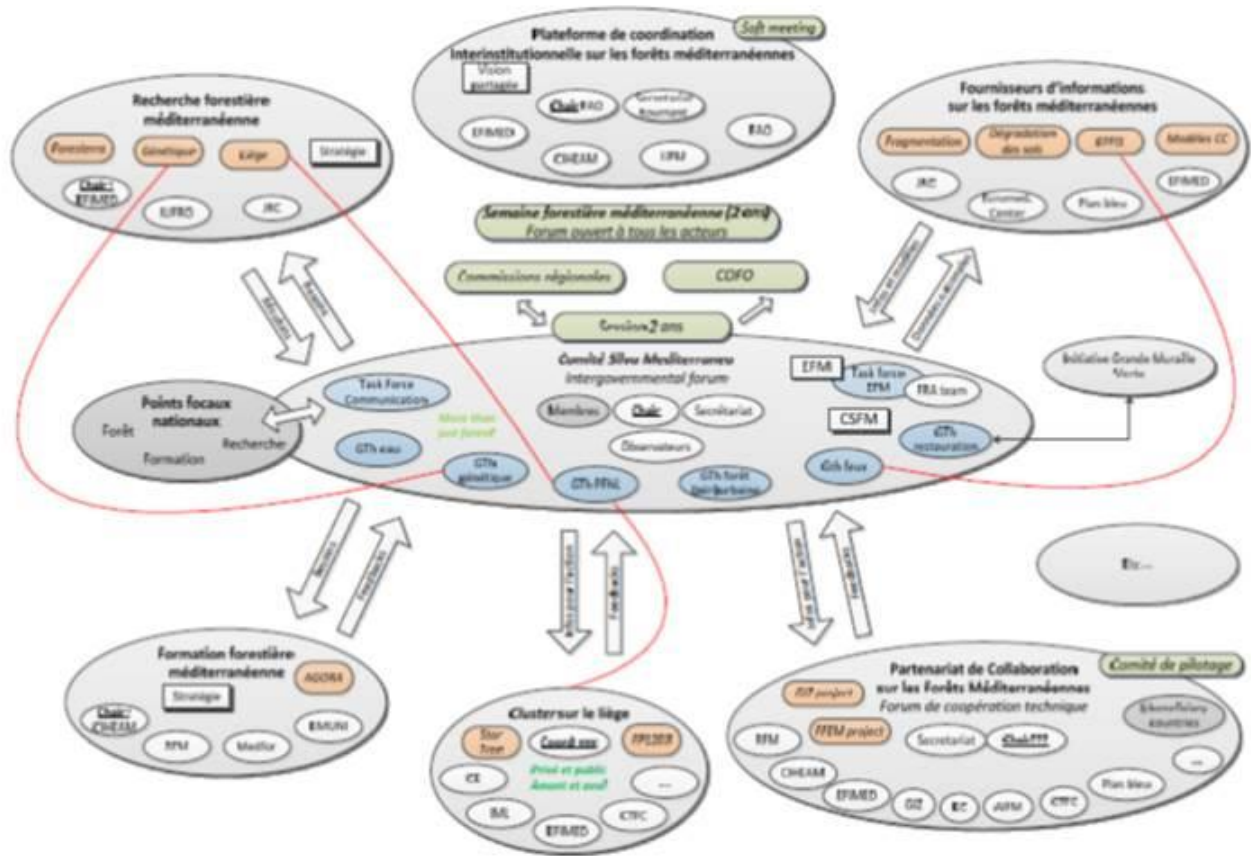
II) Fifth Meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*

The sessions of the fifth meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* were organized in Hammamet from 3 to 4 December 2013.

The agenda was essentially focused on discussions regarding the report for the evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, presented by the Chair of the Independent Panel (Christine FARCY), and on the presentation of activities achieved (2012/2013) or scheduled (2014/2015) by the coordinators of the various working groups (See detailed presentations of coordinators in the website section "past sessions" at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>).



During these sessions, Christine FARCY presented the draft report and the first conclusions formulated by the Panel members (Christine FARCY, Alain CHAUDRON, Ameer MOKHTAR, Placido PLAZA and Giuseppe SCARASCIA MUGNOZA). She recalled the context of this evaluation requested by member States of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* during its 21th formal meeting held in Antalya in February 2012. She also explained the methodology used by the Independent Panel members to analyse the results of the various working groups and the global position of the Committee. She mainly focused her presentation on future challenges in terms of positioning the Committee on the regional scene and she proposed several key recommendations still subject to be updated in the final version that will be available by April 2014.



Provisional positioning scheme of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee on the Mediterranean scene (from the draft report of December 2013)

The participants expressed their interest in the work done and most of them are totally in line with key recommendations proposed by the Panel. The first recommendations of the Panel raised heated debates on the future complementarity between the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (which intended to meet all members' expectations of the Mediterranean) and the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (focusing its technical cooperation mainly in five countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean).

Following the debate on this evaluation it was agreed to adopt this timetable for the next steps of the process:

- 1) **Integration of remarks/comments** made by members of the Enlarged Executive Committee and partners of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (December 2013 - January 2014);
- 2) **Distribution in FAO of the final French version of the evaluation report by the Chair of the Panel** (February 2014);
- 3) **Translation of the evaluation report in English and printing of the final report** (French and English) **for dissemination to member States** and key partners (March/April 2014);
- 4) **Discussion of the main recommendations with all member States of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*** during an Extraordinary session to be held in Rome on the occasion of the next Committee Forestry of FAO (June 2014).



Christophe Besacier
Secrétariat de *Silva Mediterranea* – FAO

For further information please contact Christophe Besacier (christophe.besacier@fao.org) at the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (FAO) or Christine Farcy (christine.farcy@uclouvain.be) at the Catholic University of Leuven (President of the Independent Panel).

III) Fourth meeting of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) - Hammamet - 4 to 6 December 2013

The Fourth Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) was organized from 4 to 6 December 2013 at the hotel Mehari of Hammamet in Tunisia. It gathered about 20 participants (targeted country representatives and several member institutions of the CPMF).

The agenda of this meeting was mainly focused on achievements of activities proposed in the initial Plan of Operation of the CPMF on the basis of results achieved by the several members during the period 2011-2013 (See detailed presentation of Christophe BESACIER on the website section "previous sessions" at the following address <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>).

The following points were also discussed:

- ✓ Inclusion of priorities and activities of new members of the CPMF (last signatures in October 2012);
- ✓ Update of the logical framework for 2014/2015;
- ✓ Main activities scheduled by members during year 2014.

Priorities of the CPMF	External support of CPMF members																
	AFD/FFEM	AIFM	EFIMED	FAO/SM	GIZ	IUCN	MAAF	PB	MMFN	ONFI	WWF	COFOR	CIHEAM	CTFC	TICA	UNDP	GM
Strengthening the capacity of the forest administrations	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intensifying inter-sectoral relations with other relevant economic sectors	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Improving communication capacities, knowledge and information on the importance of sustainable forest management, forest-based goods and services, and the potential impact of climate change	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mobilizing external support and partnership	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

An important issue of the agenda was the upcoming evaluation of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF). After three years of implementation of the initial Operational Plan, all members agreed that an evaluation was required to analyze results achieved since its launch in 2010. According previous decisions the terms of references of this evaluation were prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* and discussed during the meeting with partners.

These terms of references especially focused on:



- ✓ Examine results and achievements of the Operational Plan 2011–2013;
- ✓ Analyze synergy and cooperation developed among members thanks to the CPMF;
- ✓ Measure efficiency of the CPMF governance;
- ✓ Evaluate efficacy of the communication strategy implemented within the CPMF.

Members of the CPMF agreed on these terms of references reserving the right to integrate some recommendations in the final version to be available by early 2014. Country representatives stressed the importance to involve administrations of targeted countries of the CPMF during this evaluation in order to highlight results/impacts achieved in the five MENA countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). This evaluation will be an opportunity to receive feedback from countries on the CPMF and, also, to measure synergies developed among members of the CPMF. Representatives of members providing financial resources through CPMF found this evaluation especially useful for better orienting their future contributions. The requested budget for this evaluation was also an important issue discussed during the meeting and some members confirmed their availability for supporting the job with possible financial contributions. However, as not all members were attending the meeting, it was decided that the Secretariat of the CPMF (Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*) will formally ask to each member if it wish to contribute to the evaluation by end of March 2014 in order to mobilize the budget for this evaluation through an equitable way. Partners agreed for the evaluation to start after the Committee on Forestry (COFO) on June 2014 (second semester 2014) in order to have a first draft of the document before the next Steering Committee of the CPMF to be held by end of 2014.

Part of this meeting was also dedicated to some communication issues of the CPMF. In particular, on 4 December 2013, the final version of the CPMF logo was adopted taking into account all suggestions proposed by partners. As a conclusion of this communication session, members were also asked to make the CPMF more visible on their websites creating a page dedicated to the Collaborative Partnership or, at least, a link to the CPMF webpage on FAO website.



Caterina Marchetta
Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* – FAO

For further information please contact Caterina Marchetta (caterina.marchetta@fao.org) at the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (FAO)

Field Trip on the pilot site of Siliana - Tunisia

Pilot site selected by the Steering Committee for the implementation of the regional project funded by FFEM

A field trip to the pilot site of Siliana in the context of the project "Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes" funded by the FFEM was organized on 5 December 2013 by Tunisian partners.



Siliana is one of the 24 governorates of Tunisia. It is a region located in the northwest of the country with 234 000 inhabitants mainly living of agriculture and of some Non-Wood Forest Products such as Aleppo pine seeds.

This region is particularly important for Tunisia as it has many bioclimatic zones and it is very challenging in terms of anthropogenic pressures and soil erosion.

The field trip to Siliana started with a meeting with the regional commissioner for Development of Agriculture and the Director General of Forests, Mr. Youssef SAADANI. After welcoming participants at the Regional Directorate, a detailed presentation of the site was made by Tunisian authorities to emphasize the multiple functions of this landscape.

Next two stops of the field trip were at Siliana dam and Lakhmès dam, main sources of fresh water in the region and important watershed sites in terms of soil protection and reforestation for slope stabilization.

Tunisian authorities have proposed afterwards a visit to an Agricultural Development Society (milk production) very dependent on water from dams for irrigation of fodder crops and to the Agricultural Development Group "Bou Adellah". These meetings with local stakeholders were an opportunity to see how local associations participate to national agriculture, mainly with the production of cereals, meat and other agricultural products, as well as the management of forest resources in the watershed of Siliana.



Field trip on Siliana pilot site
Tunisia – December 2013

The last stop was a visit in the forest of Siliana which represents a total area of about 140,000 hectares with mainly populations of Aleppo pines, Maquis, Garrigues and rosemary.

This forest is under multiple pressures due to wildfires, land clearing, illegal logging and/or overgrazing. This stop in the Kessra Forest allowed observing the natural regeneration of an area affected by fire during summer 2013.

Ameur Mokhtar
General Direction in charge of Forests
Ministry of Agriculture
Tunis - Tunisia

For further information please contact Christophe Besacier (christophe.besacier@fao.org) or Caterina Marchetta (caterina.marchetta@fao.org) at the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea (FAO)



Field trip in Tunisia
Siliana – 05/12/2013



CPMF Steering
Committee – 04/12/2013



Field trip in Tunisia
Siliana – 05/12/2013



Field trip in Tunisia
Siliana – 05/12/2013

