



## Newsletter 10: Editorial of the President of *Silva Mediterranea*

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the AFWC / EFC / NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, held its Twenty First Session in Antalya, from 2 to 3 February 2012. Despite difficult weather conditions, eleven members (Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and several observers from International and Non-Governmental Organizations - **totally or partially** - attended the session.

The agenda included the following main items:



- Election of the new President of *Silva Mediterranea* for the next four years (2012-2016);
- Review of progress made on main recommendations adopted during the 20<sup>th</sup> session held in 2008 in Bulgaria (Sofia);

- Review of the progress reports for the period 2009-2011 of the six thematic working groups and adoption of their work plans 2012-2013 as well as the methodology for their evaluation process;
- Review and adoption of the report on activities implemented by the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat;
- Review and adoption of concepts and plans for the new collaborative actions initiated by the Enlarged Executive Committee (Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, State of Mediterranean Forests and Development of an Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests);
- Report on past support to *Silva Mediterranea* from members and partners and the planned support for the next four years;
- Report on the two first Mediterranean Forest Weeks (held in Antalya – Turkey- and Avignon - France) and presentation of the plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week to be hosted by Algeria (17 to 21 March 2013).

This session highlighted the excellent work done by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* under Bulgarian Presidency (See the following articles for details) with the support of several active members (in particular coordinators of Working Groups) and also financial resources provided by France and Germany (GIZ).

During the 21<sup>st</sup> Session, progress reports on working groups activities (2009-2011) and proposed work plans for 2012-2013 were presented and adopted with several and relevant/key recommendations provided by members.

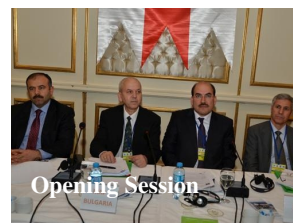
The decision was taken to extend the mandate and review the work plan of the Working Group on Cork Oak to the broader strategic question of Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products (WG2) in order to reinforce the active participation of all interested countries and, consequently, review the work plan 2012-2013.

A decision was made to create two new working groups:

- one (WG7) on **Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF)** under the lead of Italy (*to begin with*) with the support of Turkey and FAO;
- one (WG8) on **Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zones** to be lead by Turkey (*to begin with*) with the technical support from FAO and Italy.

The outline and the process for the preparation of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) and the Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests were presented and adopted including recommendations. The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (2010-2020) and the new ERANET scheme were presented by EFIMED representative. It was decided to include FAO and the President of *Silva Mediterranea* in the Stakeholders Advisory Group of the new ERANET scheme, FORESTERRA, to be implemented by EFIMED.

During this session I was also elected as the new Chairman of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*. I am very proud to take up the reins from my colleague from Bulgaria, Spas TODOROV, to lead our *Silva Mediterranea* Committee by 2016. Rest assured that during the Turkish mandate the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs will support regional initiatives. A road map 2012-2016 will be presented in September 2012 in Rome (FAO Headquarters) during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2012).



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### News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Commission Expert Group on Forest Fires – Antalya - Turkey (24-27 April 2012).

**Building forest landscapes resilient to global changes in Drylands: Analysis of lessons learnt of restoration efforts** – Konya – Turkey (6-10 May 2012).

EFIMED week 2012 – Tunis – Tunisia (12-14 June 2012)

VIVEXPO 2012 – Vivès – France (14-15 June 2012)

21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry - COFO 2012 - FAO - Roma - Italy (24-28 September 2012).

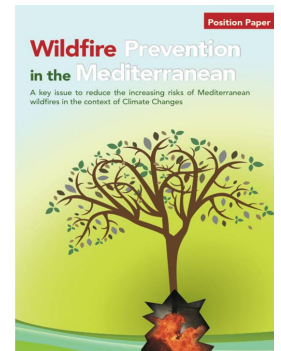
## Main decisions on working groups' work plans taken by the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forest Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* held in Antalya (2 – 3 February 2012).

During the 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the coordinators reported on the progress of their respective working groups. They also presented their work plans for the period 2012-2013.

### Working Group on Forest Fires (*Spain*)

The Spanish delegation presented a detailed report on the main activities and results for the period 2008-2012:

- Organization of the workshop on "Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region: Prevention and Regional Cooperation" in Sabaudia – Italy - with the Joint Research Center (JRC) and the "Corpo forestale dello Stato" (13 - 15 May 2008);
- Organization of the workshop on "Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention" in Rhodes – Greece - with Forest Europe, USSE, the Republic of Cyprus and the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (4 to 6 May 2010);
- Organization of several sessions in Avignon, France (*Mediterranean Forest Week* - April 2011):
  - ✓ Adoption of the agenda for action on the extension of European Forest Fires Information Systems - EFFIS (08/04/11);
  - ✓ Adoption of the position paper on Wildfires Prevention in the Mediterranean (5/04/11);
- Presentation of the position paper on Wildfire Prevention during the 5<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference - Sun City (*South Africa*) - May 2011 and publication of this position paper (*French/English*) in October 2011;
- Organization of the workshop on the extension of EFFIS in *Silva Mediterranea* members from the southern rim of the Mediterranean (*Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia*) - Rabat (*Morocco*) with JRC, Spain, Italy, GIZ and the HCEFLCD (24 - 28 October 2011).



The 21<sup>st</sup> session adopted the proposed work plan of this working group for the period 2012-2013:

- Translation and dissemination of the position paper on "Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean" in Spanish and Arabic by the end of the year 2013 and promotion of this position paper on "Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean" in Arabic, English, French and Spanish by the end of 2013 (*COFO 2012, UNFF 2013...*);
- Implementation of the main conclusions of the workshop held in Rabat on EFFIS extension;
- Organization of a regional training at JRC in Ispra - or in other relevant places - (*JRC/EFFIS*) with designated focal points to start the process of compiling EFFIS databases (2012/2013);
- Organization of a regional training on the causes of forest fires and post fire investigation methods (2012);
- Regular participation of new *Silva Mediterranea* focal points for EFFIS to meetings of the European Commission Experts' Group on Forest Fires in April and November of each year;
- Elaboration and adoption of a Work Plan for the period 2014-2016.

The Italian delegation informed the Committee of its intention to organize, with Spain (*WG1 Coordinator*), EFFIS, GIZ and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*, the training on the causes of forest fires and post fires investigations in the Mediterranean in Sabaudia (*Italy*) by the end of 2012.

### Working Group on Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development (*Plan Bleu/AIFM*)

The AIFM representative, Mr. David GASC, presented the background of the Working Group 3 and the main recommendations of the Sessions on "Forests, Societies and Territories" (*FST*) proposed during the II MFW in Avignon. Mr. GASC also presented the main priorities adopted as a work plan 2012-2013 by the participants at the last meeting of the Working Group (*Avignon – 8 April 2011*). During this last meeting, it was decided to contribute to the three following priorities with a view to producing concrete results over a two-years period:



1) **Input to the first State of Mediterranean Forests to be published by March 2013** (*marked interest in this study given the lack of data on Mediterranean forests*);

2) **Preparation of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week** by promoting exchanges of experiences and new pilot activities related to integrated forest management (*with a view to organizing input sessions along the lines of the « Forests, societies and territories » sessions held at the second Mediterranean Forest Week*), and organization of workshops for experience exchanges and stock-taking of lessons learnt;

3) **Conducting the study on the economic assessment of the goods and services provided by Mediterranean wooded ecosystems** (*to help convincing decision-makers of their socio-economic importance*).



## Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) in the Mediterranean

The Italian delegation reported to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee on the activities implemented by this working group which collaborated closely with IUFRO and several Mediterranean Research Institutions in order to publish the Status of the Experimental Network of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources.

### The Italian delegation also presented the detailed work plan 2012-2013:

#### Component 1: Improvement of National Forest Genetic Resources Strategies

- Regional workshop, regional training for researchers/forest managers and exchange of experiences/study tours are organized for South Mediterranean countries to help them to promote and develop FGR Strategies in National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Preparation of guidelines for forest managers to integrate Forest Genetic Resources strategies in silvicultural and forest management and restoration practices;
- Organization of specific activities (*training, workshops, short term visits of experts...*) to help South Mediterranean countries to prepare by the end of 2012 their country reports for the first State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources.



STATUS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

FAO - *Silva Mediterranea* Wg. Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean Region and IUFRO (in 2012) - Breeding and Genetic Resources of Mediterranean Conifers



Eds.: Christophe Roussel (FAO), Fabio Saverio (ICR-SEL), Mohd Mahgoub (ICR), Oudina Soumaré (ICR)



#### Component 2: Implementation of long-term activities of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group on FGR

- Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources Databases;
- Ex situ conservation networks in Mediterranean countries;
- New methodologies for conservation (*including in situ conservation methods*);
- Species targeted for conservation and genetic management in the Mediterranean;
- Regional agreements are concluded for ex situ conservation in the Mediterranean;
- Sustainable financial resources to support regional strategy for conservation of Mediterranean FGR.

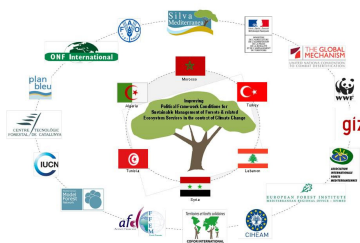
#### Component 3: Test of new in situ conservation methodologies for the most critical landscapes/species in the Mediterranean region (*feasible upon funding of focus projects to be supported by partners*)

The Committee appreciated the hard work of the working group in preparing several project proposals submitted to the COST Instrument of the European Union, and adopted the proposed work plan 2012-2013. The Committee took note that the full implementation of this proposed work plan 2012-2013 will depend on approval of the project proposal **“Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees to climate change in Europe”** by the Cost Instrument in March 2012 (*Full proposal submitted in January 2012*).

## Working Group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

The representative of Bulgaria, Mr. TODOROV, presented the progress report of the working group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms and proposed the following work plan 2012-2013:

- Publication of at least 4 *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletters per year in English, French, Spanish and Arabic (*8 Newsletters by the end of the biennium 2012-2013*) and publication of a special Arid Zone Forests and Forestry Working Paper on Mediterranean Forests and on REDD+ in the Mediterranean by the end of 2013;
- Development and regular update of the Mediterranean Forest Projects Database available on the *Silva Mediterranea* Website in the following languages: English, French and Spanish;
- Organization of workshops for preparation of new project proposals for the following working groups by the end of 2013: Forest Fires (*TCP/EU*), Cork Oak/Non Wood Forest Products (*ENPI*), Forests Genetic Resources (*Cost Action and other EU financial instrument*) and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (*REDD+*);



- Evaluation of the Work Plans 2009-2012 of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups;
- Publication of the first State of Mediterranean Forests (*SoMF 2012*) by 2013;
- Support to the coordination and communication activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*CPMF*) in synergy with other members and implementation of the regional project to be financed by the French Global Environmental Facility for the period 2012-2015 (*This project focuses on maximizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change in MENA countries: Algeria, Lebanon Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey*);
- Contribution to the third Mediterranean Forests Week to be held in 2013.

The Committee adopted the proposed work plan 2012-2013 of the Working Group on “Sustainable financing mechanisms” with the following recommendations: (i) to include the organization of side events on Mediterranean forests during RIO+20 (*June 2012*), COFO 2012 (*September 2012*) and UNFF 10 in Turkey (*April 2013*) and (ii) to prepare project proposals with TICA (*Turkish International Cooperation Agency*) for potential financial resources mobilization for the implementation of *Silva Mediterranea* work plans (*in particular linked to arid zone forests’ management and restoration*).

## The third Mediterranean Forest Week (Tlemcen – Algeria)

During the 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the Secretariat presented the main results of the previous Mediterranean Forest Weeks held in Antalya (2010) and Avignon (2011). The International Association on Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) distributed the special issue of "Forêt Méditerranéenne" focused on the main outcomes of the II MFW (Avignon – April 2011).

The representative of Algeria also presented the proposals of the Organizing Committee who held its first preparatory meeting in Algiers on 11 - 12 January, 2012 for the organization of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (*III MFW*).

**Location:** Maison du Parc National de Tlemcen

**Title proposed for the III MFW:** *Forests for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas: What strategies for mitigation and adaptation to global changes in Mediterranean wooded lands ?*

**Languages of the sessions of the III MFW:** Arabic, English and French

**Proposed dates:** Sunday, March 17, 2013 to Thursday, March 21, 2013 (*International Forest Day*).



### Objectives of the III MFW (*Without any order of priority for the Organizing Committee*)

- Strengthening exchanges and synergies between stakeholders involved in the integrated management of Mediterranean woodlands (*local communities, civil society organizations, national administrations, forest owners, policy makers and scientists*) in particular on the proposed theme of the III MFW;
- Launch of the State of Mediterranean Forests (*SoMF 2012*) and presentation of guidelines for good practices for managers of Mediterranean woodland areas;
- Presentation and discussion of the draft of the Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests with participants of the III MFW and request support of the High Level Ministerial Segment for the implementation of the ISMF;
- Presentation and discussion of a road map on innovative mechanisms for funding in recognition of the multiple values of goods and services provided by Mediterranean wooded lands;
- A Declaration of Tlemcen incorporating key elements of the ISMF and, also, the findings and key directions from the discussions of the III MFW, will be proposed for adoption to the high-level ministerial segment (*21/03/2013*);
- Consultation with partners of the forest sector (*water, energy, agriculture, tourism, economy, etc...*) in order to incorporate their expectations about the role, functions and strategic direction of the forestry sector in Mediterranean countries.
- Preparation of a presentation on Mediterranean regional dynamics and the outcome of the III MFW for the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) - 10 UNFF to be held in Istanbul (*Turkey*) from April 9 to 18, 2013 (*Regional sessions and side events*);

Provisional Agenda proposed by the Organizing Committee for the III MFW

	Sunday 17/03/2013	Monday 18/03/2013	Tuesday 19/03/2013	Wednesday 20/03/2013	Thursday 21/03/2013 (International Forest Day)
Morning 08H00-10H00	Meeting session Topic: "The State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF 2012) - FAO Plan Bleu, Forest Conference 1"	Workshop Topic: "Contribution of Mediterranean forest to Sustainable Development of rural areas" AIFM/ONF/Algeria	Workshop Topic: "Sustainability of forest and other wooded land and degree of global change - Main drivers of degradation and forest change" FAO/IFM/Spain/GERMANY	Workshop Topic: "State of the Forests" AIFM/ONF/Algeria	Workshop Topic: "The State of the Forests" AIFM/ONF/Algeria
Afternoon 14H00-16H00	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu
Evening 18H00-20H00	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu	Workshop Topic: "The role of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands" OEZ/Plan Bleu

### Organizational arrangements for the preparation of the III MFW:

**Establishment of an Organizing Committee (Algiers – January 2012)** with Algerian authorities (*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and General Directorate in charge of Forests*), Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and FAO representative in Algiers, GIZ, Plan Bleu, EFIMED, Mediterranean Model Forests Network, AIFM and three member States of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (*Turkey, France and Tunisia*).

Further members will be involved later depending on their interest and resources mobilized by these new partners for the III Mediterranean Forest Week (*III MFW*).

### Expected audience at this III MFW (*At least 200 participants*):

- Decision makers from different sectors in the Mediterranean;
- National and local authorities from different sectors;
- Technical Organizations and experts (*forestry and other sectors*);
- Managers of Forest lands ;
- Organizations of civil society.

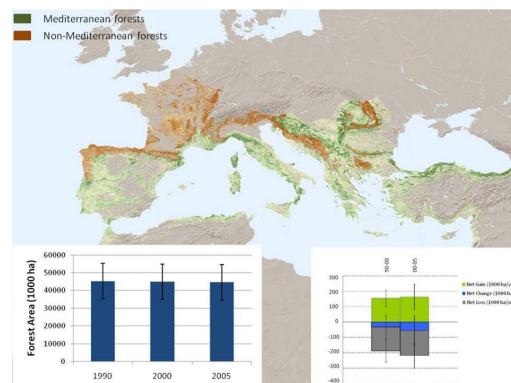
**Nora Berrahmouni (FAO) and Abdelmalek Abdelfettah (DGF in Algeria)**

For further information, please contact C. Besacier ([christophe.besacier@fao.org](mailto:christophe.besacier@fao.org)) and N. Berrahmouni ([nora.berrahmouni@fao.org](mailto:nora.berrahmouni@fao.org)) at the FAO Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* or Ammar Boumezeur ([ammarlaieb@yahoo.fr](mailto:ammarlaieb@yahoo.fr)) at the Algerian DGF.

## The State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)

During the 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the Secretariat presented the draft outline of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF 2012). The Committee adopted the proposed draft plan of the SoMF with the following recommendations:

- Add a sub-chapter under the chapter 4 on Climate Change on “adaptive management of Mediterranean forests” (silviculture);
- Add in the sub-chapter on legislation one analysis of forest policies in the region and, also, identification of existing instruments;
- Reinforce chapter 1 on the “Mediterranean Context” with a solid analysis on social changes/global changes in the region;
- Clarify the definition of Mediterranean forests in the map presented on the basis of the Remote Sensing Survey 2011 (*Mediterranean Forests / Non Mediterranean Forests*);
- Take into consideration available data in existing regional/national states of forests (*Catalunya, PACA region, Tuscany, GIS data could be available from Turkish Forest Map under the GDF, etc...*);
- Give more emphasis to data and analysis of land ownership (*private and public*) and access of local communities to forest resources and multiple ecosystem services;
- Put additional efforts into using this opportunity (*SOMF preparation in 2012*) to fill gaps when possible (*data on social issues/ data on ecosystem goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests*).

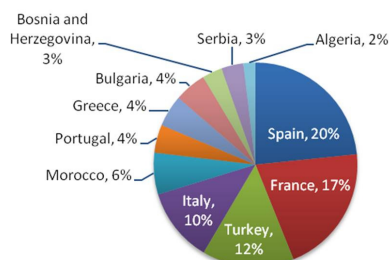


On the basis of these recommendations, the final outline of the SoMF 2012 should be:

### I. The Mediterranean context: changes and prospects

- 1.1. A region under economic, social, environmental and political changes
- 1.2. Increasing pressure on the environment: climate change and human activities

Ten countries of Mediterranean basin with the largest forest area in 2010



### II. State and roles of forest resources in the Mediterranean region

- 2.1. Assessment of changes in Mediterranean forest areas
- 2.2. Biotic and abiotic disturbances
  - 2.2.1 Forest fires: assessment and risk evaluation
  - 2.2.2 Insects and diseases
  - 2.2.3 Other disturbances
- 2.3. Goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems
  - 2.3.1 Mediterranean forests and water-related services
  - 2.3.2 Mediterranean forests and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)
    - 2.3.2.1 Cork oak in Mediterranean forests
    - 2.3.2.2 Stone Pines (*Pinus Pinea*) in Mediterranean forests
    - 2.3.2.3 Other NWFP (*Thyme, Sage, Laurel...*)
  - 2.3.3 Other goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests (including Ecotourism and recreational functions)
- 2.4. Urban and Peri-urban Forests in the Mediterranean

### III. Forest policies, institutions and legal frameworks

### IV. Mediterranean forests and climate change

- 4.1. Forest Genetic Resources (FGR): a key issue for adaptation of Mediterranean forest ecosystems
- 4.2. Forest fire prevention under new climatic conditions
- 4.3. Impacts of climate change on insects and diseases in Mediterranean forests
- 4.4. Adaptive silvicultural and restoration practices in Mediterranean forests
- 4.5. Climate change mitigation by forests and financing opportunities through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation mechanism (REDD+)

V. Some key management issues at landscape/territorial level (7/8 landscapes to be chosen in order to highlight specific Mediterranean forestry questions: impacts of global changes on cork oak landscapes, forest fires prevention at local level, adaptative silvicultural practices, fight against erosion and desertification through forest landscape restoration, PES Schemes, Watershed management, Tourism and Non Wood Forest Products).

Valentina GARAVAGLIA (FAO)

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## The new FORESTERRA ERA-NET scheme presented by EFIMED

During the 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the representative of EFIMED presented the new ERA-NET scheme FORESTERRA. **The European Commission, under FP7, finances an ERA-NET Scheme to reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean programmes in forest research as well as scientific cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean area (including EU and non-EU member states) and with countries from other Mediterranean Climate Areas (Australia, South Africa, Chile and California).** The aim of FORESTERRA is to foster the coordination and integration of Mediterranean forest research based on four steps, each one contributing on its own to reinforcing the cooperation, and at the same time providing the basis for the design of the next stages:

- Mapping and information exchange to improve mutual knowledge of existing programmes and capacities as well as for sharing best practices;
- Defining common strategic activities to reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies among existing capacities and identifying scientific areas that require transnational funding;
- Implementation of joint activities to consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening of facilities, laboratories and experimental sites;
- Calls for joint research projects to maximize the research impact of the network.

In addition to these four steps, a targeted action will focus on their up-scaling at a Mediterranean level by exchanging information on existing programmes with other Mediterranean Climate Areas in order to identify common strategic activities and scientific priorities of mutual interest. **The EU contribution is almost 2 million Euros to support the coordination of the scheme.** Joint research projects will be financed by voluntary contributions from the participating funding agencies (see list of partners below). Mediterranean forest research organizations will benefit directly from the joint research calls as well as from joint activities for the development of new research partnerships.

**List of partners involved in FORESTERRA:** Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness- MINECO (Spain); International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies - CIHEAM (International); Ministry of Agriculture - MAAPRAT (France); Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali - MIPAAF (Italy); Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute - MEF (Turkey); European Forest Institute - Mediterranean Regional Office - EFIMED (International); Research Council for Agriculture - CRA (Italy); Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA (France); Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia - FCT (Portugal); Institution of Agricultural Research and Higher Education - IRESA (Tunisia); Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification - HCEFLCD (Morocco); Ministry of Agriculture and Food - MoAF (Bulgaria); Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food - MAFF (Slovenia); Ministry of Science, Education and Sports - MZOS (Croatia); Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change - MEECC (Greece) and Institut National de Recherche Forestière - INRF (Algeria).

**Call for potential Pan-Mediterranean research ideas:** During the next EFIMED annual meeting on 13 June 2012 in Tunis, FORESTERRA activities will be presented to EFIMED Network. Due to the strategic importance of FORESTERRA, EFIMED annual meeting will be dedicated to a “brainstorming session” to discuss potential Pan-Mediterranean research ideas. The results of such discussion session would serve as basis for preparing further the scientific plan of FORESTERRA (also built around the MFRA 2010-2020), which should derive, after discussion and approval by FORESTERRA partners, in an International call for Mediterranean forest research projects. In order to structure in advance the session and use efficiently the time available for discussions, EFIMED would like to receive in advance ideas for potential research projects within the framework of the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda. The project ideas should be supported by at least three different organizations coming from three different Mediterranean countries participating in FORESTERRA (see the list of partners involved in FORESTERRA). The proposals should be prepared using the template available on the EFIMED Website and should be sent to Marc PALAHI ([marc.palahi@efi.int](mailto:marc.palahi@efi.int)). **The deadline for receiving proposals is the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.**

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