



Newsletter Special: Sessions "Forests, Societies and Territories"

The **Second Mediterranean Forest Week** was held from 5 to 8 April 2011 at the Palais des Papes in Avignon, France. The event, organized under the auspices of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Committee by several organizations including EFIMED, **Plan Bleu** and the **Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes** (See the newsletter n°7 of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea*), gathered a wide range of stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forests.



Sessions on Forests, Societies and Territories - Avril 2011

On this occasion, the sessions "Forests, societies and territories" took a prominent place.

They highlighted in particular **the crucial need to improve modes of forest governance**

to enable the Mediterranean area to develop in sustainable way, with a view to global changes, and the high demand for sharing experiences about participatory management of Mediterranean forests.

These sessions were organized by **Plan Bleu** and **AIFM** in cooperation with various Mediterranean partners and brought together over 150 participants from 14 countries of the three Mediterranean shores. The discussions were an opportunity to promote territorial and cross-sectoral approaches for forest management and initiatives to improve forest governance.

The Mediterraneans have started to express a **"common voice"** on the management of their natural and forested areas, and this will be facilitated by the activities of the **Working Group N3 on "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Management"** of the **Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea***.



Merzifin - 2011

This newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea* highlights the main outcomes of these sessions **"Forests, Societies and Territories"** and the main **conclusions and recommendations** formulated by experts in Avignon.

You will find more details on these sessions "Forests, Societies and Territories" in the **international issue "Special Avignon"** of the **Mediterranean Forest magazine** to be published by the end of the year 2011.



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Agenda of sessions Forests, Societies and Territories

Session 1: case Studies

Moderator: **Abdelhamid Khaldi** (AIFM - INRGREF)

Accounts and discussions on territorial experience with the participative management of Mediterranean woodland ecosystems, based on four case studies:

1. The participative creation of Bouhachem Natural Park (*Nisrin Alami, Tangier-Tetouan Regional Council, Morocco*)
2. Dannieh: National Park project for the protection and promotion of forest heritage (*Mohamad Saadieh, Dannieh municipality, Lebanon*)
3. Regional nature parks in the Region of Puglia: example of the « Terra delle Gravine » Park (*Patrizia Tartarino, Bari University, Italy*)
4. Public participation in forest management and proposals for improvement: the case of Mersin (*Ahmet Senyaz, Ministry of the environment and forests, Turkey*)

Session 2: Participative methods and tools

Moderator: **Nello Broglio** (Communes Forestières)

Presentation and discussion on two methodological approaches to territorial and forest governance:

1. The « Imagine » method of systemic and prospective sustainability analysis (*Julien Le Tellier, Plan Bleu*)
2. The Model Forest concept (*Riccardo Castellini, Réseau méditerranéen de Forêts Modèles*)

Critical analysis of two methods for applying territorial and forest governance:

3. Territorial forest policy and governance tools in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region (*David Devynck, Communes forestières PACA, France*)
4. Master Plans for the sustainable development of the Sierra Espuña nature park (*M. Velamazán, Murcia region, Spain*).

Session 3: Synthesis and recommendations

Moderator: **Francisco Castro Rego** (AIFM - ISA, Portugal)

Summary of previous sessions by the Reporter (*Pierre Dérioz, Avignon University, France*)

Formulation and discussion on conclusions and recommendations

Sessions « Forests, Societies and Territories » - 5 to 8 April 2011, Avignon (France)

I) Towards new governance approaches for managing woodlands



Given their multi-functional nature, managing Mediterranean forests necessitates the development of a more integrated approach. With a view to adapting to climate change, it is absolutely crucial that modes of forest governance should move forwards to enable the Mediterranean area to develop in harmonious and sustainable way. **Enhancing cooperation between the forestry sector and other sectors involved in Mediterranean forest management** (*water, agriculture, energy, tourism, environment, land planning, etc.*), **as well as between the various stakeholders involved at local and regional level** (*forest owners, breeders, farmers, environmental associations, local councillors, park managers, the general public, etc.*), is therefore of the essence. This argues for **participatory decision-making processes** and improving the means for dialogue on the planning and management of rural areas.

II) A call for enhancing experience sharing among territories

There is nowadays a strong demand from Mediterranean stakeholders for sharing experiences on initiatives of integrated and participative management, and beyond, for enhancing collaboration and synergies between territories. In this context, initiatives have recently emerged to promote exchanges on territorial and cross-sectoral approaches for forest management among Mediterranean countries and regions (*AIFM's MED Qualigouv project, the Mediterranean Model Forests Network, Working Group 3 of Silva Mediterranea, the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, etc...*). **The sessions « Forests, societies and territories » held during the 2nd Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon provided an opportunity for linking these different networks and gathering a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers.**

The discussions enabled far-ranging exchange of experience, methodological tools and ideas for integrated and participative forest management, and led to the identification of the main issues, risks and opportunities as well as keys to the success of such approaches, with recommendations subsequently being drafted for the attention of local decision-makers, forest managers and international cooperation stakeholders (see the box below). **The outcome of these sessions will feed into the work programme to be drawn up for *Silva Mediterranea's* group n°3 on «Mediterranean Forests and sustainable development»** (See the article in this Newsletter).



III) Recommendations from the sessions « Forests, societies and territories »

1. **Improving the knowledge base on the territorial context, the forest resources, the services provided by woodland ecosystems, and the risks and opportunities, by including the « climate change » factor** (*impact, mitigation potential, adaptation options*).
2. **Promoting inter sectoral approaches** and the inclusion of forest management within local projects for the long term.
3. **Bringing relevant local stakeholders** into projects from the outset, particularly local decision-makers (*political backing*) and administration (*consistency with existing activities and budgets, financial support*).
4. **Defining the project area in compliance with the social, politico-administrative, geographical and ecological context.**
5. Devoting the necessary time and human and financial resources to the learning processes offered by territorial development operations, particularly in terms of running activities and communicating.
6. **Assessing the benefits rendered by woodland ecosystems and associated management costs. Identifying beneficiaries. Developing sustainable funding mechanisms.**
7. **Developing, improving and adapting tools for collective approaches** (*including the use of prospective approaches*) in order to facilitate the emergence of joint visions, strategies and programmes of action.
8. **Testing, assessing and developing instruments and measures (legal and economic)** for the implementation of collectively adopted programmes of action.
9. **Developing and running networks for the effective sharing of experience between Mediterranean areas.**
10. Clarifying and enhancing the links between consultation and decision-making processes.

Forests, societies and territories in the Mediterranean: towards an integrated, participatory approach to the role of forests within territorial systems



Besides the increasingly widespread recognition of the long-standing multi-functional role played by Mediterranean forests, the mainstreaming of forestry questions within global socio-economic development issues (such as combating poverty by promoting activities which valorise forest resources, or developing leisure outdoor activities) means that they are now being addressed within a systemic context.

Although forest boundaries never perfectly match administrative borders and the regulatory and financial systems established by States or supra-national bodies (EU) have to be borne in mind, the intermediate level of the « territory » (French-style « pays », parks, groups of municipalities, rural federations, cities...) would appear to be the most appropriate one at which to follow this integrated approach.

Linked in a myriad of ways to local societies – resources, recreational activities, fire hazard, landscape, etc. –, **Mediterranean forests should be considered in terms of their role within territorial systems.** While certain territorial structures (Territorial Forest Charter, Massif and Territorial Development Plans, Model Forests) are likely to arise from a forest-based approach, the issues they raise also extend beyond strictly woodland matters.

Adopting this type of multi-faceted approach to woodlands means that from the outset the aims of forest protection and good management can be faced up to the situation on the ground, its constraints and possibilities. Whatever the stakeholders - from the forest owner with little involvement to the State administration and the municipalities - the issue of forest management and its objectives (*protection / production*) often arises in blunt economic terms, with the income it generates or could potentially create being compared with the costs involved. Just as the costs are multiple (*the costs of management but also « non-management »*), so « **benefits** » may also come in numerous guises: **wood, non-wood products, tourism, carbon fixation and storage, regulation of water regimes, or improved fire defenses with managed forests.**

This raises the question of what contribution beneficiaries (*possibly society as a whole*) should make to management costs. The relevance, sustainability and potential spread of experimentation underway, which calls for the deployment of means tailored to the objectives and guaranteed for the medium/long term, require broad social backing and the participation of many different players or groups of players in approaches of a more « bottom-up ».

Broad-ranging consensus would appear to have been reached on the forest management front regarding the development of consultation and participatory democracy. The terms for such participation are not a given, however, and raise questions regarding the legitimacy of the players involved (*the issue of appropriation is crucial in this respect, as are uses and management competences*).

Moreover, besides the eternally tricky task of defining social parameters for the players to be included, the extent of participation also has to be clarified: participation in the diagnosis, in determining the stakes, in drawing up the project, in deciding on its implementation and assessing its effectiveness?

There is scope here for huge misunderstanding and frustration and for seeing the debate monopolized by frontline managers, with the risk that the views of forestry experts may be steam-rolled by those of players for whom forests are a matter of secondary importance.

Thus in France, the scope would appear to be limited solely to stakeholders from the forestry and timber sectors in the case of **Massif and Territorial Development Plans**, whereas the negotiation of **Territorial Forest Charters** tends to involve a wider range of territorial stakeholders.



Applied to different territorial contexts, the same concepts (park), principles and apparent concerns (biodiversity) seem to produce somewhat divergent results which, according to the feedback collected during the sessions, raise questions about the key elements in their success.



The importance of recognized leaders assuming guidance of the approach (*councilors, professionals or members of associations*) and selecting the appropriate social perimeters for the participatory approach, ensuring that councilors and administrations are highly involved from the outset (*since they are ultimately responsible for making decisions and acting as the favored mediators vis-à-vis financial partners on other levels*) – both call to mind the crucial significance of determined political backing.

Choosing the « right » approach and providing for effective leadership with adequate means (*human and financial*) to ensure correct functioning over a relatively long period go hand in hand with the relevance of the territorial backdrop to the projects, in other words fine-tuning them to the local context, their geographical, administrative and social coherence (notion of «*population catchment area*»).

It is indeed these median levels which provide for subsidiarity and stakeholder proximity, with the occasional need to also involve stakeholders from nearby urban centers, given the inter-linkage between built-up, agricultural and woodland areas in the Mediterranean (*Dannieh, Provence*). Yet for all this local relevance, which is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of the initial diagnoses, the appropriate legal framework is still of the essence - able to provide the correct instruments (*Regional Nature Park, joint syndicate...*) or on the contrary to jeopardize the approach (*See The legal «duds» in the case of the Terra delle Gravine park*).

The long-term rollout of such initiatives sets the scene for the gradual emergence of a joint local culture on forest and/or consultation through « collective learning », evolving towards forms of « adaptive management ». It depends on the openness of the participatory approach, in other words its readiness to embrace a potentially very different stance to that of the approach backers, such as local people's dire **need for firewood or grazing land or the disengagement and lack of interest on the part of some forest owners**.

A key element in this « openness » involves providing for transparency of communication and procedures for circulating information, as well as clearly defining the roles attributed to participants, leaving scope for scientific knowledge to feed into the debate without stifling it, and ensuring the accuracy of the monitoring/assessment procedures required to provide effective guidance.

Through networks open on the outward, such as the AIFM and its Qualigou project, the Plan Bleu, Mediterranean Network of Model Forests and *Silva Mediterranea* Committee networks, ideas and methods can be exchanged and good practices transferred (ensuring that they are suitably adapted to each specific context before being transposed) and appropriate tools produced for creating synergy between initiatives and territories: the indisputable virtues of meetings and structures which allow for cross-analysis should prompt the rapid creation of a « meta-network » (a « network of networks »), to which cooperation projects and this 2nd Mediterranean Forestry Week have probably made a useful contribution.



Once all of these conditions are present, leadership tools are operational (*rich pictures, Imagine or Masterplan methods, study trips...*), stakeholders are on board and the project hangs together (*spatially, socially, technically, but also in terms of its phasing*), some (*visible*) signs of success as of the first steps would not go amiss – hence the strategic importance of their choice at operational level and of correctly gauging stakeholders' initial expectations.

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To access all session presentations on Forests, Societies and Territories please use the website of the Plan Bleu: http://www.planbleu.org/actualite/uk/SessionsPB_AIFM_SemaineForestiereMedUk.html

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Meeting of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee working group n°3: « Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development » - Avignon (France) - Friday 8 April 2011

The FAO's *Silva Mediterranea* Committee working group n°3 on «Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development» (MFSD) convened during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week (II MFW) with a view to rebooting its activities for the next two years.



Under joint FAO/Plan Bleu coordination between 2003 and 2006, the working group fostered cooperation and the sharing of experience as a means of consolidating the contribution made by the forestry sector to the sustainable development of Mediterranean territories. **This was done mainly by conducting case studies on land and forest management at local scale** (Six sites in Albania, Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco and Turkey), which were presented and discussed at the Rabat regional forum on « The forestry sector and sustainable development in the Mediterranean: challenges, policies and governance » in 2005.

Based on the recommendations from this forum, and following the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's decision to breathe new life into the current working groups, a second four-year programme of work was adopted in 2009. **Under the recent Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and preparations for the Second Mediterranean Forest Week, FAO, the AIFM and the Plan Bleu proposed that the MFSD's programme of work should be updated and its activities re-launched through an operational plan to be drawn up for 2011-2012.**

Some fifteen representatives of the countries and organizations concerned consequently discussed the working group's objectives, priority themes of intervention and modus operandi as well as implementation of the selected activities.

Based on proposals made by the group coordinators and bearing in mind the means currently or potentially available, participants chose to focus on 3 priority activities for 2011-2012 (taking particular account of the recommendations which emerged from the « Forests, societies and territories » sessions):

1. **Input to the Report on the – SoMF - State of the Mediterranean Forests (marked interest given the lack of data on Mediterranean forests);**
2. **Preparation of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week, which will focus on desertification** (exchange of past experience and development of new pilot integrated management activities for combating desertification, with a view to organizing input sessions along the lines of the « Forests, societies and territories » sessions presented at the Second Mediterranean Forest Week) and running workshops to capitalize on experience;
3. **Conducting the study on the economic assessment of the services rendered by Mediterranean wooded ecosystems (strong argument with decision-makers).**

These activities will be mainly financed and implemented through the project on "Optimizing the production of forest goods and services in a context of changing climate and water scarcity" funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and coordinated by the secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and the Plan Bleu.

The Plan Bleu, which coordinated the working group during its first phase of activities (2003-2006), was again entrusted with the task, along with the AIFM, in accordance with the wish expressed by *Silva Mediterranea's* Enlarged Executive Committee in Antalya (2010) that it should be included.



The participants agreed on the tasks to be entrusted to the working group, in other words guiding, monitoring and assessing the programme of activities on « Mediterranean forests and sustainable development » coordinated by the Plan Bleu and AIFM, which also joins up with the CPMF.

Besides the three priority activities chosen, the members of WG3 may also support implementation of the programme of activities by helping to track down data, information and good practices and identify experts in Mediterranean countries and by passing on information (*study outcomes...*) within the relevant, competent structures in these countries.

The following *Silva Mediterranea* member states have so far appointed representatives to the working group: **Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.** The group's composition will be tailored to the various activities in which relevant experts will be involved: national representatives as well as other stakeholders with an interest in the study themes, such as the members of Mediterranean networks active in the woodland sector, environmental associations, representatives of regional and local authorities, donors, scientists, etc...

The working group will adopt a relatively informal format and is expected to become operational within the next few weeks. It will report on its first progress to the next meeting of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in early 2012.

For further information:

Minutes of the meeting of Working Group 3 of *Silva Mediterranea*

Point V of the report of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* during the second Mediterranean Forest Week (II MFW): <http://www.fao.org/forestry/28277-0404303d8058a0ba0915ea4f3eaa1549b.pdf>

Pages on the main activities of the Working Group 3 of *Silva Mediterranea* soon be available on the websites of the Plan Bleu (www.planbleu.org), AIFM (www.aifm.org) and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Committee (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en>).

International issue "Special Avignon" of the magazine Forêt méditerranéenne to be published by the end of 2011.

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New French focal point of *Silva Mediterranea*, Catherine Rivoal is from the first September 2011, the responsible for international affairs on forestry questions in the "sous-direction de la Forêt et du Bois" (MAAPRAT : Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche, de la Ruralité et de l'Aménagement du territoire, DGPAAT, SFRC). She replaces Alain Chaudron to this position (See *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter 8).

A journalist by training, she first worked in the written press and in the field of information and communication before addressing international issues and globalization at the center of studies and prospective of the French Ministry of Agriculture (MAAPRAT).

As part of her new role in the French Ministry of Agriculture, Catherine Rivoal will be responsible for the follow up of "international and regional forums of debate and negotiations on forest issues"

