



## Newsletter n°8: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat

Only a few weeks since the launch of the **Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)** in Avignon, during the **Second Mediterranean Forest Week** (5 - 8 April, 2011), there have already been significant achievements worthy of reporting in our *Silva Mediterranea* September 2011 Newsletter.

**Firstly**, the Conference on **“The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Recognizing and capturing the value of forest ecosystem services in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa)”** was held in June 2011 by the Agriculture and Environment Ministry of Tunisia together with German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the Mediterranean Office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



This conference, scheduled in the Plan of Operations 2011-2014 of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), was also labelled as a Tunisian event in the context of the **International Year of Forests 2011**.

The event brought together over **130 participants from five MENA countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests**: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

The conference focused on the following objectives:

- Introducing the main concepts related to the initiative **“The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)”** with an emphasis on **Mediterranean forest ecosystems**;
- **Raising awareness on the importance of forest ecosystem goods and services (FGS)** in the MENA region particularly as regards **mitigation and adaptation to climate change**;
- **Exchanging experiences from existing initiatives in economic evaluation and financing mechanisms** for forest ecosystems and biodiversity protection in the MENA region;
- **Identifying opportunities and specific initiatives for the integration of FGS in the development strategies of countries in the MENA region and the design of financing mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management.** The conference was also a unique opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between different categories of stakeholders involved in the territorial management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems.

The main outcomes of this conference and the **recommendations of experts for decision makers** are presented in this Newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea*.

**Secondly**, in accordance with the agreement signed in Avignon last April 2011 by the Representative (Ms. Catherine GARETTA) of the French Development Agency (AFD) to confirm its participation in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, an initial part of the **French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) contribution equal to 1.35 million Euros was approved on July 6, 2011**. A second tranche of funding equal to 1.3 million Euros will be presented for approbation to the Steering Committee of the FFEM by the end of November 2011.



This new project of the French Global Environment Facility, presented in detail in this newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea*, **will have as its main objective to explore the opportunities offered by the REDD+ mechanism in the Mediterranean** through concrete actions in pilot sites still being identified (**REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation**). Till now, REDD+ has been in implementation mainly in humid tropical forests. **However, from today, following the decisions of the Conference of Parties in Cancun (UNFCCC), it should also be considered for Mediterranean forest ecosystems.**

**Christophe BESACIER**  
*Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat  
Forestry Department - Roma - ITALY

### News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

The management of cork oak and cork quality in Algeria Second Mediterranean meeting between researchers, managers and industrials – **17 to 19 October 2011 - Jijel - Algeria**. For further information please visit the following website: <http://www.rencontre-medsuber.com>

The Mediterranean Model Forest Network and the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) are jointly organizing **MEDFORUM 2011 - Ramatuelle - France - 22 to 24 November 2011**. On this occasion a workshop organized by AIFM and MAAPRAT will also be held to prepare the Integrated Strategy for Mediterranean Forests and the second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests. For further information please visit the following website: <http://www.mmf.fr/?q=fr/#Francais>

**Regional Conference: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Recognizing and capturing the value of Forest Ecosystem Services in the MENA region (Middle East - North Africa)**

**I) Background and outcome of this Conference in Tunis:**

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) of Tunisia, and organized at the "Cit  des Sciences" of Tunis from 28 to 29 June 2011 in collaboration with GIZ (German Development Cooperation), mandated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and WWF MedPo, the conference brought together over 130 participants from five countries, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey, all involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).



The events' main objectives were:

- o **Introducing concepts related to the initiative "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)"** with an emphasis on Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- o **Raising awareness on the importance of forest ecosystem goods and services (FGS) in the MENA region** particularly in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- o **Exchanging experiences from existing initiatives in economic evaluation and financing mechanisms for forest ecosystems** and biodiversity protection in the MENA region;
- o **Identifying opportunities and specific initiatives for the integration of FGS in the development strategies of countries in the MENA region** and the design of financing mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management.

The conference first provided the opportunity to introduce already existing initiatives and **studies on economic evaluation of forest ecosystem goods and services in the MENA region**. After discussing the groundbreaking work of Merlo & Croitoru (2005), thoughts on the future knowledge needs and approaches to integrate the forest ecosystem goods and services (FGS) into strategies and decision-making were presented and discussed.

**The Tunisian experience on economic evaluation of FGS in view of their integration into the national accountancy is, similar to the approach developed in Morocco, an example of good practice to increase the visibility of the forest sector at a national level and advocate adequate budgetary allocations on the basis of the recognition of the real contribution of the forest sector to the national economy.** Tools such as **vulnerability analysis** were also presented to highlight (i) the current and future pressures to be dealt with, such as climate change impacts, and (ii) the **damage costs** incurred.



**The conference also focused on the existing solutions for capturing the value of forest ecosystem goods and services in the MENA region and thus contributing to financing the forest sector.**

Among the mechanisms proposed, were the following: **Payments for Ecosystem Services, REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)** and related opportunities for the specificities of the MENA region, the **ABS mechanism "Access and Benefit-Sharing"** as an objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, **ecological tax reform** and tools like **environmental funds (or forestry funds)**, similarly to the FONAFIFO in Costa Rica (*Example presented by the representative of the World Bank*).

**The subject of developing win-win situations between partner sectors was also highlighted, in particular, with an example based on the topic of eco-tourism development in wooded areas.**

Clearly, the context of the MENA region requires from the actors involved in sustainable forest management an ability to innovate, in order to define the perfect mix of innovative financing solutions to ensure the sustainable provision of goods and services of Mediterranean forests.

II) **Main recommendations and orientations for decision-makers in the MENA region:**

The conference highlighted nine key recommendations. To guide decision-making in the recognition and financing of forest ecosystems goods and services (FGS) in the MENA region, it would therefore be useful to increase and promote:



1. **The evaluation of goods and services of forest ecosystems and biodiversity, and the integration of their value into political choices:** this is about improving knowledge on the FGS provided to partner sectors (*tourism, agriculture, biodiversity, climate, etc...*), on the impacts of global change on FGS, and on their contribution to national economies, as well as about disseminating information to policy-makers and stakeholders to raise awareness. In this context, it is important to build on existing assessment and integration initiatives at national level, such as in Morocco and Tunisia.
2. **The definition of policy measures for the optimal management of forests for the sustainable provision of their goods and services:** this involves implementing the approaches, methods and tools for multifunctional management of forest ecosystems by opening up opportunities for win-win situations between sectors, for example by supporting the development of eco-tourism in wooded areas.
3. **The adaptation of national budgets to ensure the sustainable provision and use of forest ecosystems goods and services:** this concerns initiating the appropriate tax reforms and supporting the creation of forest funds to collect additional financial resources coming from public and private sectors.



4. **The design of mechanisms to maintain benefits on site,** such as the compensation mechanism for forest protection in Morocco, developed in recognition of the loss of revenue from grazing in forested areas. To do this, investment in social engineering towards local populations should be facilitated in countries in the MENA region.

5. **The recognition of the role of the private sector in capturing the value of FGS:** the private sector, increasingly involved in policies of corporate social and environmental responsibility, appears to be a partner in highlighting the solutions for the valorization of FGS, particularly regarding value chains for Non Timber Forest Products (*bio-ethical certifications, ABS mechanism, and support to SMEs in rural areas*), and investment in forest concessions. **The forestry sector should also consider offering "Green Solutions" to national and international companies in order to internalize CO2 emissions and impacts on biodiversity caused by the private sector.**

6. **The development of innovative financing mechanisms of payment for environmental services (PES), systems to compensate impacts on biodiversity and offset emissions of greenhouse gases via forest solutions:** this is about improving the understanding of these mechanisms and learning from their application in other regions, innovating in order to develop new patterns or on the basis of existing mechanisms (*compensation mechanisms for forest protection for example*). **For this purpose, providing a marketing and communication strategy to attract private donors is important.**



7. **The use of funding opportunities offered by the Rio conventions.** The Rio Conventions (*UNFCCC*, *CBD* and *UNCCD*) present funding opportunities in recognition of FGS to which countries in the MENA region should develop appropriate positions. To do this, coordination challenges at national and international levels must be addressed, especially in view of REDD + (*UNFCCC*), ABS (*CBD*), and funds from the Global Mechanism (*CCD*).
8. **The development of participation and dialogue among stakeholders.** This is a sine qua non condition to develop win-win partnerships for capturing FGS. Therefore forums of consultations at national level as well as forms of local community organizations should be supported in the MENA region.
9. **Building on existing partnerships and initiatives.** Supporting the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and following its activities offers funding and innovation opportunities. Other regional initiatives such as the Environmental Arab Fund (EAF), or international initiatives such as TEEB should also be followed by countries in the MENA region.

For further information and to access the presentations, please visit the website of the conference: <http://teeb-tunis.yolasite.com/>

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**Message from Alain Chaudron on the occasion of his retirement - Aug. 31, 2011**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

**I wish to inform you personally that I recently left my service and I retired after a career as an Engineer in charge of Water and Forestry** during which the Mediterranean forests held a special place in my heart and in my daily professional activities.

I have been for seven years the head of the National Forestry Office (ONF) for the French Department of Bouches du Rhône in Aix-en-Provence. **And, after more than ten years of being in charge of International Forestry Issues at the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Territorial Management (MAAPRAT), I finally left my post on August 31, 2011.** I want to use the opportunity given to me by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* with the publication of this newsletter n°8 to thank all of you for your continued support and your help throughout these years. It is thanks to your many contributions and your regular support if the activities of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* (FAO statutory body for which I acted for many years as the French Focal Point and for which I was part of the Enlarged Executive Committee), are now more visible at the regional level and also better appreciated within the FAO.

My official involvement in these Mediterranean Forestry Questions comes to an end with the many activities organized during the first half of the year 2011: the second **Mediterranean Forest Week** organized in Avignon in April 2011, the first **Steering Committee meeting** of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and **the approval by the Steering Committee of the French Global Environment Facility of a significant financial contribution of 1.35 million Euros on July 6, 2011.** I hope that your future support to the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and its various working groups will keep the momentum going in our new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.



**In spite of my retirement you may be sure that my interest in Mediterranean forestry issues will not wane.** I intend to get involved again, this time with an associative cap, in the regional dynamics that I have modestly helped to build up with you. You can always count on my contributions to increased visibility of Mediterranean forests and activities of *Silva Mediterranea*.

**Alain CHAUDRON**

## A new project of the French Global Environment Facility in the forestry sector to explore the REDD+ opportunities in the Mediterranean

Mediterranean forests in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East will be increasingly subject to human pressures (overgrazing, fuel wood collection, wildfire, agricultural conversions, etc.) and the effects of climate change (increasing temperatures, declining rainfall, pest attacks, etc.) As a consequence, the phenomena of deforestation and forest degradation will be especially significant in the MENA countries (Middle East and North Africa). These consequences are all the more evident where populations are strongly dependent on forest ecosystems. In this region, forest administrations and managers also have to face significant technical and financial difficulties in sustainably managing Mediterranean forest ecosystems.



In this context, a regional cooperation project supported by the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* - and the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) emerged at the end of 2010. The FFEM project, presented by the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing (MEDTL) to the FFEM Steering Committee, aims to “**maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change**” in six countries in North Africa (**Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia**) and the Near East (**Lebanon, Syria and Turkey**) which represent a forest cover of nearly 19 million hectares. The project appraisal took place during the first half of 2011 and was discussed in several meetings of partners, including during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon (5 to 8 April 2011) and at a workshop in Marseille (9 June 2011) where the Project Engagement Note (NEP) was validated by main partners. **The first round of funding for this project was finally approved by the Steering Committee of FFEM on July 6, 2011, for an amount equal to 1.35 million Euros.**



This FFEM project, supported by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing (MEDTL), is co-financed by the German Cooperation (GIZ), the European Union (EU) and the French Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Territorial Management (MAAPRAT) with a **budget of 8.5 million euros for three years (2011-2014)**. The financial support of FFEM, which should be about **2.65 million Euros (Round 2 to be presented to the Steering Committee by the end of November 2011 for an amount equal to 1.3 million Euros)**, will be managed by two organizations : the Plan Bleu and FAO with the support of the Secretariat team of *Silva Mediterranea*.

### The project focuses on five major components:

- Component 1:** **Production of data** and development of tools to support decision and management of vulnerable Mediterranean forest ecosystems affected by climate change and the ability of these forest ecosystems to adapt to global change;
- Component 2:** **Evaluation of the economic and social value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems** in particular through the study of multiple issues related to environmental changes and their potential effects on the socio-economic development of Mediterranean territories;
- Component 3:** **Development of participatory and territorial approaches for forest governance** in these Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- Component 4:** **Optimization of environmental goods and services provided by the Mediterranean forests** and valorization of these efforts of optimization (including carbon sequestration);
- Component 5:** **Support to the coordination and communication activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).**

This project will aim to promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems by optimizing the production of goods and services (including carbon sequestration). The main goal of the project, which is ambitious and innovative, is to explore REDD+ opportunities in the Mediterranean region.



**Component 4: What are REDD+ opportunities for the Mediterranean?**

**Mediterranean forests are recognized for their multi-functionality and especially for their provision of goods and services.** They benefit local populations (PFNL, fuel wood, etc...), the country or the region (water regimes, soil stabilization, etc...) and the whole world (biodiversity, carbon storage, etc...).

**REDD+ is a mechanism that aims to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases due to deforestation and forest degradation.** A REDD+ project has the objective to optimize carbon storage by reducing the drivers of deforestation and degradation. Originally designed for tropical regions, this REDD+ mechanism could well find a legitimacy to be applied in the Mediterranean region, particularly in developing countries where wildfires, overgrazing, firewood collection and conversion of forests to agricultural land or urban areas are sources of GHG emissions that contribute to climate change. **REDD+ is primarily focused on carbon, but indirectly includes a wide range of goods and services which will benefit from activities designed to optimize forest carbon stocks.**

However, the Mediterranean context is very particular, and the current REDD+ methodologies are not necessarily adaptable to it. **Thus, the implementation of REDD+ in the Mediterranean should be carefully studied, in particular as regards the feasibility, the methodological implications and the sustainability in the long run of REDD+ projects.** The development of pilot activities under the component 4 of the FFEM project will assess, at the local level, the relevance of such a strategy, which could be successfully replicated, in case of success, on a much larger scale.

The different activities are expected to be developed in several forest pilot sites selected in the six countries involved in the FFEM project. The selection process of these sites is in progress. The results of the implementation of the activities on these pilot sites will benefit a wider scale through the capitalization of results and exchanges of information. **The direct beneficiaries will be populations of rural forest lands, ecosystem managers and forest services of the selected countries.** Furthermore, all Mediterranean countries will receive feedback, knowledge and lessons learned from the implementation of this FFEM project.

This FFEM project also shows the potential for regional cooperation between different forest stakeholders of the Mediterranean. It will obviously strengthen the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and the administrations of member states of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, by giving to policy-makers some answers eagerly awaited on the important issue: “What are the opportunities for REDD+ in the Mediterranean?”

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