



Newsletter n°7: Editorial on the Mediterranean Forests Week

A few weeks after attending the Second Mediterranean Forest Week (IIMFW) held in Avignon (April 5 – 8, 2011), I am particularly happy to personally sign this Editorial of the Newsletter of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.

First of all, I would like to thank the Forestry Department (Sous Direction de la Forêt et du Bois) of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Development” (MAAPRAT) and the Region “Provence-Alpes-Côtes d’Azur (PACA) for their support to the Second Mediterranean Forest Week, jointly organized with the FAO Forestry Department and the Mediterranean Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED).



This event, included in the agenda of the International Year of Forests 2011, was an excellent opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between different categories of actors involved in the management of woodland ecosystems

in the Mediterranean. In the current context the recommendations discussed during the sessions “Forests, Society and Territory” (See Newsletter of AIFM) could be extremely useful in improving the local governance of forest management in areas south, east and north of the Mediterranean. The variety of topics discussed during the sessions “Forests, Society and Territory” is witness to the interest felt in tackling the management of forests through a more multisectoral approach in the context of climate change.

Much other progress was also made during the other sessions held at the Palais des Papes by the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*. The most worthy of mention are: the preparation of a position paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean Region and a precise timetable for the extension of the European System of Information on Forest Fires (EFFIS) to several countries of the southern Mediterranean (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia).

The results of this work on wildfire undertaken in Avignon were then presented at the regional sessions of the 5th International Conference on Wildland Fires held in South Africa (Sun City - May 9 -13, 2011). Moreover, Turkey has proposed to host the XXIst Session of *Silva Mediterranea* at the end of 2012 and, thereby, to take over the presidency for the period 2012 – 2016, when Bulgaria will have finished its mandate.

The Second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon was also an opportunity to promote the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, signed in 2010 by FAO, Plan Blue, France (MAAPRAT), Germany (GIZ), the European Institute of Forests (EFIMED) and many other organizations involved in the adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change. During the Press Conference on 6 April 2011 held in Palais des Papes, the signature of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests by the Association COFOR International and the French Agency for Development (AFD), which confirmed its financial contribution through the French Environmental Fund (FFEM) during 2011, showed how a collective approach can be effective in strengthening the coordination of different partners and mobilizing financial resources, essential for the rapid solution of problems of adaptation in Mediterranean forest ecosystems.



Lastly, as Mr. TITAH, Director General of Forests of Algeria, proposed at the conclusion of the II MFW (8 April 2011), to host the next Mediterranean Forest Week, I would like to close this editorial by wishing every success to Algeria for the organization of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week in 2013.

Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES
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News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

MEDPINE 4, the 4th International Conference on Mediterranean Pines will be organized in Avignon (France) from 6 to 10 June 2011. You can find more information on this international conference on: <https://colloque.inra.fr/medpine4>

A conference supported by the German Cooperation (GIZ) will be held in Tunis from 28 to 29 June 2011 on: "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Recognizing the value of forest ecosystem services (FES) and design appropriate financing mechanisms in the MENA region."

Two workshops entitled "Payment for ecosystem services (PES): what role for the Green Economy?" and "The forests and water in arid zones: a virtuous cycle" will be held from July 4 to 8, 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva by the Forest and Timber Committee (UNECE / FAO).

For more information: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/>

Main outcomes of the session of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*. Tuesday 5th April 2011 – Palais des Papes – Avignon - France

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* meets every four years to study common problems and to work on regional cooperation and sustainable development (*the XXI formal session will be held in the second part of 2012*). During the interval between two formal sessions, the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*, consisting of nominated members (*Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and the coordinators of the working groups*) and key partners of the Mediterranean forestry cooperation, meets annually in April.

Although some working groups met in Avignon during specific sessions, such as for instance those on forest fires (*See articles in Newsletter 7*) and on forest management and sustainable development (*three sessions called "Forests, Societies and Territories" were organized by the Plan Blue and AIFM - See AIFM Newsletter*), during this week in Avignon the Enlarged Executive Committee members also met to share several important issues with the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*.



Silva Mediterranea: Session of the Enlarged Executive Committee

The sessions were chaired by Mr. Spas TODOROV and Mr. Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES with the support of the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. The main bullet points of the agenda were:

- 1) Progress reports 2010/2011 on the activities carried out by the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* on: Forest Genetic Resources (WG4 - Fulvio DUCCI), Cork Oak (WG2 - Maria Carolina VARELA), Forests and Climate Change (WG5 - Abderrahim HOUMY) and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (WP6 - Spas TODOROV);
- 2) Information on the preparation and the implementation of the first "State of the Mediterranean Forests" (SoMF);
- 3) Presentation of the Terms of References (ToRs) of the mid-term review of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* to be implemented by the end of 2011 (Christophe BESACIER);
- 4) Agenda for the preparation of the Integrated Regional Strategy on Mediterranean Forests (Alain CHAUDRON);
- 5) Date and place of the next formal session (XXI) of *Silva Mediterranea* in 2012.

Main decisions taken during the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*:



Ismail BELEN - Turkey

Besides the recommendations and decisions about the regular activities of the various working groups of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - which will be available soon in the detailed report to be released by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* - the main decisions of this session are the following:

- ⇒ The implementation of the strategy of mobilizing resources through the preparation of regional projects by the various working groups (*Cork Oak, Forest Management and Sustainable Development, Forest Genetic Resources and Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change*) and through promotion and advocacy activities undertaken by the working group specifically focused on "Sustainable Financing Mechanisms";
- ⇒ Presentation to Member States of *Silva Mediterranea* of a draft "State of Mediterranean Forests" (SoMF) during the formal session of the XXIst *Silva Mediterranea* Committee by the end of 2012. The preparation of this draft will reflect existing data (*National Reports under the FRA 2010/SOFO 2011, National Reports under the European State Forestry, 2011 State of the Environment and Sustainable Development in Mediterranean of Plan Blue and data on forest fires available from EFFIS*). A consultant will be recruited before the end of 2011 to prepare the synthesis of these data and to produce the regional maps. Financial resources must be identified for the editing of the first SoMF.
- ⇒ Preparation of an Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests to be presented to member states at the next formal session of *Silva Mediterranea* (October/November 2012). The first preparatory workshop on this Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests, financially supported by the French Ministry of Agriculture, will be held in Marseille at the beginning of November 2011.
- ⇒ Formal proposal of Turkey to host the XXIst formal session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* at the end of October/beginning of November 2012 and, consequently, to undertake the Presidency of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee for the period 2012-2016 at the end of Bulgarian mandate.

Spas TODOROV (President of *Silva Mediterranea*) and
Christophe BESACIER (Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*)

Preparation of the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean: a key issue to reduce the increasing risk of Mediterranean wildfires in the context of climate change.

Recognizing the relevance of prevention of wildfires at the Pan European and Pan Mediterranean levels and based on recommendations of several recent events organized in the Mediterranean for improving prevention of forests fires a session on Forest Fire Prevention was held in Palais des Papes on April 5, 2011, during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week.



The main objective of this session was to endorse a Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean to be presented at EU level, in member countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF - Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and also to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

A draft of the Position Paper integrating main recommendations of previous events and main results of research projects on this issue was discussed by participants of the session who gave their suggestions on the document. After the Second Mediterranean Forest Week, a final version of the Position Paper (integrating all the change discussed in Avignon) was endorsed at the Mediterranean level by several national and regional institutions/organizations.

“While wildfires are already a preoccupation in the Mediterranean, in the light of the scientific world’s diagnosis of new climatic scenarios, managers are faced with a general trend of increased burnt areas and a rise in the frequency, intensity and severity of fires. Significant prevention efforts have been focused on training, investigation, awareness raising and structural prevention. As a consequence of social economic processes, the vegetation structure has already changed drastically, increasing the risk of a traditional use of fire.

However, these efforts need to be intensified to deal with the consequences of climate change.

Opportunities to address wildfire prevention at international level were identified within the framework of:



- 1) The 4th International Conference on Wildland Fire in Seville, Spain (2007);
- 2) The FAO Workshop on “Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region”, Sabaudia, Italy (2008);
- 3) The workshop on “Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention” - Rhodes, Greece (2010).

During those workshops, several recommendations on wildfire prevention were provided by experts from Mediterranean countries. The present position paper was prepared on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of these previous events in the Mediterranean.

The main recommendations of this position paper on wildfire prevention are focused on:

1. Enhancement of international cooperation in wildfire prevention;
2. Integration of wildfire prevention into National Forest Programs/Policies and National Strategies for Adaptation to climate change;
3. Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention;
4. Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires;
5. Enhancement of harmonized information systems to deal with new wildfire risks.

This position paper on Wildfire Prevention was endorsed by the main Mediterranean stakeholders during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week organized in Avignon from 5 to 8 April 2011. The document provides an opportunity to address wildfire prevention in the context of climate change and the implementation of these recommendations in all countries of the Mediterranean. It was also used to present the position of Mediterranean stakeholders during regional session IV of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference, held in South Africa (Sun City) on May 11, 2011.”

Inazio MARTINEZ DE ARANO (USSE)
and **Elena HERNANDEZ PAREDES**
(Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino)

For further information on the Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>

Session on the extension of European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

The session on the extension of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) was held on April 8, 2011 and focused on the importance of this system for creating adaptation strategies in South and East Mediterranean countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) in the context of climate change.

Objective of the session on the extension of EFFIS

The objective of the session on the extension of EFFIS was to elaborate a clear and operational programme of actions (2011/2012) for the extension of the system to southern and eastern member countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey*).



Mr. Ernst Schulte (European Commission), who chaired the session, presented the European Fire Database and the variables requested from countries wishing to join the system in accordance with Regulation 1737/2006, Article 9.



Jesus San Miguel

There followed Mr. Jesús San Miguel Ayanz (*Joint Research Centre in Ispra*), who introduced the history and the objectives of EFFIS. He showed how to use EFFIS website to gather information regarding the status of European wildfires.

The website also provides information on fire danger forecasts, active fire detection, maps of burnt areas, estimates of forest fire emissions and socio-economic impact of wildfires.

The condition of wildfires in Morocco was also described by Mr. Fouad Assali (*Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification, Morocco*).

Ms. Elena Hernández Paredes (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino, Spain) closed the session with a presentation of the programme of action for the extension of EFFIS.

Results of the session on the extension of EFFIS

An agenda for action in 2011/2012 was shared with all concerned partners and approved at the end of the session. The Programme of action will include:

- The official invitation to the Mediterranean Basin countries not yet incorporated in EFFIS (*May 2011*);
- The coordination with EFFIS and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* of the answers and reactions of the invited countries (*May – December 2011*);
- The organization of a regional workshop in Morocco with the support of EFFIS (JRC), FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and GIZ (*CPMF countries*) (*October/November 2011*);
- The invitation of the focal points to be designated by new EFFIS countries at JRC for “training” at the occasion of the annual meeting of EFFIS in Ispra (*October – December 2011*);
- The implementation of the providing forest fire information to EFFIS (*January – December 2012*).



Participants to the session on EFFIS

Ernst SCHULTE
 Head of Forest Sector
 DG Environment – ENV B1
 European Commission

For more information on this session on EFFIS: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>

First Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)

The first Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership for Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) took place Friday, April 8, 2011 in Avignon during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week. This session was chaired by Mr. Abderrahim HOUMY (HCEFLCD/SG). Günter Winckler moderated the Steering Committee.



The following issues were discussed:

- Plan of Operation of the CPMF for the period 2011-2013;
- Monitoring of the progress of CPMF (and its Plan of Operation);
- Issues related to the steering committee (meetings, composition and other issues related to the mandate).

Main results of the discussion on the “Plan of Operation” of the CPMF

A draft of the plan of operation 2011-2013 was presented during the Steering Committee. It demonstrated that, together, the members of the CPMF have the ability/experience to deal with the crucial issues of the MENA region for adaptation of Forest Ecosystems and Forest Policies to climate change. This broad experience of CPMF members allows an immediate start of main activities proposed in the “draft plan of operation” on the basis of available resources of the CPMF.



As several projects are still under preparation by several members of the CPMF (ERANET project of EFIMED, FFEM Project of FAO/Plan Bleu...), there was a general agreement that the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests needs some time to consolidate the ways and means to work together and to coordinate their interventions through **a more comprehensive plan of operation to be adopted by the end of 2011 in order to be effective in 2012**. During 2011, CPMF members will have to concentrate their efforts on the main priorities of the “draft plan of operation” already discussed during the previous workshops in Istanbul (September 2010) and Avignon (April 2011).

Main results of the discussion on monitoring of the CPMF

A simple “self-evaluation” system with a low reporting burden was proposed by the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* to analyze the results and the achievement of operational plans, using a simple scoring system. The system would also include a joint evaluation after three years of implementation of the CPMF. The scoring should be carried out using categories 0 to 3 (“nothing has been achieved” to “implementation gives full satisfaction and expected result have been achieved”). At the same time a monitoring on the quality and on the dynamics of the CPMF should take place. This monitoring should help understand whether the CPMF has increased efficiency in cooperation between the members (*Coordination between members and coherence of their contributions; Mobilization of know-how and external resources; Active participation in CPMF activities and events...*). The proposed system was found to be adequate and useful for the follow-up of the implementation of CPMF. It has been decided that this monitoring system would only be applied for the period 2012-2014 and it will be adapted (in a flexible way) to the specific characteristics of the CPMF.

Main results of the discussion on the mandate of the CPMF Steering Committee:

There was general agreement that the Steering Committee should:

- Adopt the annual Operational Plans of the CPMF (*each year in April*);
- Adopt the internal rules and regulations of the Steering Committee of the CPMF;
- Decide the external relation activities of the CPMF;
- Decide the requirements for acceptance of new CPMF members;
- Follow-up the efficiency of activities implemented under CPMF umbrella.



The Steering Committee of CPMF should hold two annual meetings (*if possible, in March/April and October/November*) during the period 2011 – 2013. The meetings should be open to all members of the CPMF and to the six partner countries.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized at the beginning of November 2011 in Marseille (*Week 45 from 7 to 11 November 2011*) during the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (*MEDFORUM 2011*). During this week a workshop will be held for the preparation of the Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests. The Representative of Turkey, Ismail BELEN, confirmed during the Steering Committee that one expert from his country could be designated for a new position at the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* in order to facilitate the coordination between CPMF members and to support the Secretariat of the CPMF.

There was also a general agreement that new partners will be welcomed to the CPMF. They should endorse the basic objectives (the “mission”) of CPMF. For this purpose, the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* is asked to prepare and disseminate among CPMF members a short paper on the “mission” of CPMF, which can be used as a tool for communication regarding new memberships and alliances.

A follow-up of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* decision to elaborate a longer-term Strategy for Sustainable Management of Forest in the Mediterranean was recommended by the Steering Committee. Concerning the Strategy on Mediterranean Forests, Mr. Ernst SCHULTE (European Commission) suggested the idea of organizing a meeting with the Committee for Environment of the European Parliament.

Guenter WINCKLER/Christophe BESACIER

For further information on the Steering Committee of the CPMF, please contact: Mr. Christophe BESACIER: christophe.besacier@fao.org (Secretariat *Silva Mediterranea*) and Mr. Gunter WINCKLER (GIZ) : guenter.winckler@eco-strat.de

100th Anniversary of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*



In 1911, Mr. M. Hickel launched Mediterranean forestry cooperation during the 9th “Congrès International d’Agriculture” held in Madrid, stemming from his recognition of the need for countries to work together and share forestry issues.

Some years later, a Mediterranean Forestry League was officially established under the name of *Silva Mediterranea*. Since then, every year, foresters of the Mediterranean have worked together to combat Mediterranean forests degradation.

One hundred years on, *Silva Mediterranea* remains one of the main statutory bodies of FAO involving the Mediterranean. It represents the only international forum dedicated to

Mediterranean forest issues in which Mediterranean countries, including members from the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, the European Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission, can meet, share experiences and establish cooperative programmes.



In one of the most elaborate rooms (*Grand Tinel*) of the historical palace “Palais des Papes” in Avignon, *Silva Mediterranea* reaffirmed its commitment and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forestry questions (6th April 2011).

Surrounded by posters highlighting the main achievements of *Silva Mediterranea* working groups since 1911, Mr. Spas Todorov (*President of Silva Mediterranea*) opened the celebration with a reminder of how this regional cooperation was built on strong foundations and how some of the issues identified in 1911 are still relevant today in the context of climate change.



Some of the most effective quotes from Mr. Hickel’s visionary speech were presented to the audience by Mr. Jean Paul Lanly (*Académie d’Agriculture, France*). Afterwards, Mr. Fulvio Ducci (*coordinator working group on Forest Genetic Resources*) and Ms. Elena Hernández Paredes (*working group on Forest Fires*) presented the main results of the working groups they represent.

Finally, several key Mediterranean foresters involved in *Silva Mediterranea* activities for the last forty years were decorated by Mr. Spas Todorov and Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briaies (*FAO Forestry Assistant Director-General*). The celebration concluded with a toast proposed by the representative of the FAO Forestry Department and the representative of the French Ministry of Agriculture.

Caterina MARCHETTA/Christophe BESACIER
Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*

For further information, please see the Newsletter special 100th Anniversary: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/>

