



## Newsletter special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Editorial

**Madrid, May 1911, IX International Congress of Agriculture:** Robert Hickel, French forestry officer who had served for a long time in the Algerian territory, concluded his presentation on the problem of reforestation in the Mediterranean Basin, ***"In a word, we must create and test new methods, methods that have nothing in common with those we teach in Northern Forestry. For this reason, we must create a Unit of the Mediterranean Sylve, a link between all Mediterranean foresters, regardless of nationality. This link, I propose, could take the form of an international association of technicians from the various countries concerned."***

**Avignon, April 2011 (International Year of Forests), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week:** Researchers and forest managers in the region commemorate one hundred years of cooperation, specifically of the concept of the association *Silva Mediterranea* (later on the *FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions*) which has been its melting pot.

**Major crises and global changes during the 20th century have certainly impeded the development of this cooperation but without killing its roots.** Instead, it restarts each time stronger, after periods of enforced dormancy, such as:

- **the First World War**, which had delayed for a decade the creation of the association called by Robert Hickel - the first "Mediterranean Forestry League - *Silva Mediterranea*", the league became very active for fifteen years starting in the year 1922;
- **the Second World War**, after which the League *Silva Mediterranea* was enhanced by its transformation in 1948 to the intergovernmental Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions under the aegis of the newly created UN agency, FAO. During the '50s and '60s an intensive forestry cooperation between the three sides of the Mediterranean was developed with many multilateral and bilateral programs;
- **or, finally, the 70's and early 80's, during which international forestry cooperation was focused almost exclusively on the tropical world.**

Fortunately, once again, and in particular with regard to *Silva Mediterranea*, the activities resumed in 1985, with the 12<sup>th</sup> session organized at La Grande Motte (France): research networks were revived, other created, joint studies were conducted, and the Committee met every two years. From the late 90s, a large number of bilateral and multilateral programmes emerged in the Mediterranean region, mainly concerning the conservation of biodiversity and the environmental consequences of climate change.



It was at this time (1994) that *Silva Mediterranea* supported the preparation of the Mediterranean Forestry Action Programme which was the starting point for the development and implementation of National Forest Programmes in several countries in the Mediterranean.

There were many reasons for the survival and development of *Silva Mediterranea* and forestry cooperation in the region despite the major crises of the past century. In particular:

- **shared climatic conditions and physical constraints, as outlined by Robert Hickel in 1911**, requiring similar actions to prevent and fight land degradation and related natural hazards: fires, floods, droughts... and calling for sharing of experiences;
- the same seriousness and realism from the part of public forest managers in the region, whatever the political regime and the status of the territories concerned; professional guided primarily by the long term and the "sustainability" of their actions (*long before other sectors of human activity became concerned with sustainable development*);
- the "international forestry guild"; this complicity between the foresters of the world, is the reason why our profession has been one of the first to create associations and other unions across borders, **as shown by the creation of the IUFRO in 1892, or the appeal of Robert Hickel in 1911.**

However, the sustainability of Mediterranean forestry cooperation would not have been achieved if both foresters and their organizations had not devoted the necessary effort and resources: in addition to FAO, other intergovernmental organizations involved were UNESCO, CIHEAM and UNEP (*through the Plan Bleu, the Regional Activity Center of the Mediterranean Action Program*). Particular mention should also be made of national governments and some of their decentralized authorities, their public research institutions and universities, and national and international NGOs. It is also important to acknowledge the role of **France** and its organizations, not just because the celebration



of this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is held in Avignon, but because this country has continued to make several significant contributions to this Mediterranean forestry cooperation. Their support includes the activities of *Silva Mediterranea* throughout the last twenty-five years. As shown by the several concrete achievements presented in this special number of *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter, focused on its Anniversary, several other countries in the region and numerous forestry institutions have

also invested heavily and with a long term vision in international cooperation in the Mediterranean, especially, **Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey**. We should also highlight the recent significant roles of **Germany** and the **European Union**.

**I should like to conclude this editorial by celebrating the memory of two people, no longer with us,** whose contribution to Mediterranean forestry cooperation has been very significant. I would like to express the debt of gratitude we owe them.

**First, our Tunisian colleague, the late Brahim Ben Salem, FAO senior officer for arid zone forestry, and *Silva Mediterranea* secretary from 1983 until his death in 1991. We owe the successful resumption of the Committee's activities to his dedication, competence and charisma. In addition, I want to commemorate the life of the late Riccardo Morandini who was, until two months ago, the "dean" of *Silva Mediterranea*. Professor at the University of Florence and former Director of the Experimental Institute for Forestry of Arezzo, his intelligence, interpersonal skills and tenacity were essential assets in the revival of Mediterranean forestry cooperation in the 80's. Riccardo Morandini, who was a former student of Professor Aldo Pavari, an Italian companion of Robert Hickel, had planned to be here in Avignon during this commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, personifying the link between us and the founders of Mediterranean forestry cooperation.**

Statuts de la "Silva Mediterranea",

ARTICLE 1.<sup>er</sup> — Il est constitué, sous le nom de *Silva Mediterranea*, ligue forestière méditerranéenne, une association dont le but est défini ci-après.

ARTICLE 2. — L'association étudiera toutes les questions forestières concernant le bassin méditerranéen, et notamment les meilleures essences spontanées et exotiques, les méthodes de traitement, de reboisement, de réglementation et de restauration des pâturages, de lutte contre les incendies, etc.

ARTICLE 3. — Elle étudiera et fera connaître les moyens de propagande propres à modifier, dans un sens favorable à l'idée forestière, la mentalité des populations. A cet effet, elle favorisera la diffusion de l'idée forestière par la création de musées, par des expositions, des conférences, etc. Elle encouragera la formation de sociétés locales, sociétés de reboisement, d'améliorations pastorales, associations sylvo-pastorales, et les guidera de ses conseils. Elle stimulera par des récompenses et des subventions en argent ou en nature, l'activité et l'émulation de ces sociétés.

ARTICLE 4. — La ligue encouragera les travaux de ses membres, notamment par leur publication dans son bulletin. Les travaux publiés dans ce bulletin pourront l'être en espagnol, en français ou en italien.

ARTICLE 5. — La qualité de membre s'acquiert, sur la présentation de deux membres, par le paiement, dans les trois premiers mois de l'année, d'une cotisation annuelle de dix francs au moins ou d'une somme, une fois versée, de cent francs. Des réductions pourront être consenties aux Sociétés affiliées.

Le bureau prononce sur l'admission.

Les villes, établissements publics, sociétés forestières ou scientifiques, industrielles et commerciales, ainsi que tous autres groupements intéressés au but que poursuit la ligue, sont admis comme membres de la Société.

ARTICLE 6. — Les étrangers sont admis dans la ligue.

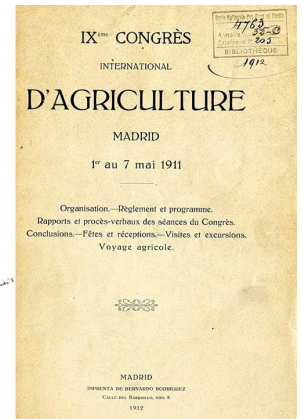
ARTICLE 7. — Le siège de la Société est provisoirement fixé à Paris.

ARTICLE 8. — La ligue est administrée et représentée par un bureau choisi parmi les membres et comprenant: un président, plusieurs vice-présidents, un secrétaire général, et un trésorier. Les membres du bureau sont nommés pour 3 ans et rééligibles.

ARTICLE 9. — Le Conseil de la Ligue comprend, en outre des membres du bureau, 10 membres au moins, 20 au plus, élus pour 3 ans et renouvelables par tiers.

Le Conseil choisit les travaux qui seront publiés dans le bulletin; il décide sur toutes les questions qui lui sont soumises par le bureau. Il est convoqué par celui-ci. Il établit le règlement relatif à son fonctionnement et à ses séances.

ARTICLE 10. — Il est tenu chaque année une assemblée statutaire, sur la convocation du bureau, qui fixe également le lieu de l'Assemblée. Il y est procédé à l'arrêté des comptes de l'exercice compris entre sa date et celle de la précédente assemblée statutaire, ainsi qu'au renouvellement du bureau. Le vote par correspondance est admis.



**Good luck to the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* and to Mediterranean forestry cooperation on the eve of its second centenary!**

**Jean-Paul Lanly**  
Academy of Agriculture of France  
(Former Director of the Division  
Forest Resources, FAO, 1984-96)

## SOME IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA BETWEEN 1991 AND 2011

A significant result of the Cork Oak Working Group of *Silva Mediterranea* with the label C O ® K - 1998



**Quercus suber L.** - cork oak - is the only species able to produce a continuous and renewable layer of cork with suitable physical-chemical qualities for making stoppers for wine and spirits. The cork stopper is the crucial added value of wine's history. Liberated from irreversible oxidation processes, wine could improve to long lasting delicacies, the vin-de-guard and oenology turned into both a science and an art.

By the end of the XX<sup>th</sup> Century, cork stoppers were under threat from synthetic materials. Since the stoppers are the backbone of cork oak system economy, a decrease of the value of cork entails jeopardizing these odd multifunctional forests and opening the door to their substitution by other more-profitable species or land uses. However, cork is NATURAL, with a distinctive glamour that no synthetic material can ever equal, a quality for which "green"

consumers are disposed to pay for (Laroche et al, 2001).

### The mighty small, inconspicuous cork piece

Hidden by the neck of the bottle, the cork stopper is, in many ways, the most neglected of wine elements, in spite of the key role it has played in the long history of wine improvement. **The need to defend and promote the cork stopper became an imperative.** At the XVII<sup>th</sup> Session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Turkey, Antalya, October 1997, Maria Carolina Varela, the new cork oak group coordinator, proposed the creation of a trade mark logo to be patented on wine bottles to provide in-a-glance recognition of the cork stopper before-bottle-opening.



This proposal was immediately supported by Hosny El Lackany, Assistant Director-General of FAO Forestry Department, Michel Malagnoux, the secretary of *Silva Mediterranea*, and all the members of the *Silva Mediterranea* Cork Oak Working Group. Under the auspices of FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat working group, a comprehensive process to build up a trademark for cork was implemented, bringing together institutions from the wine sector, the cork oak industry, stakeholders and environmental NGOs.

### Wines are not all the same for the cork oak economy

The sustainability of the cork economy depends on young wines, which represent around two-thirds of the world's production, and this is where promotion efforts should be concentrated. Expensive wines, vin-de guard or vintage reserves have a long and solid affinity with the cork stopper. It is a small fraction of wines

that drive disproportionate added value for the cork economy since they need - and their producers can afford to pay for - high price cork stoppers. **Without outside labeling on the bottles and promotion to encourage consumers' positive discrimination in favour of NATURAL stoppers,** cork use will become restricted to the vin-de guard. For this type and quantity of stoppers only a small fraction of high-quality cork is needed, and this would lead to the decline of thousands of hectares of cork stands that do not produce cork for whole-piece stoppers.



References: M Laroche, J Bergeron & G Barbaro-Forle - 2001 - Targeting consumers who are willing to pay more for environmentally

friendly products JOURNAL OF CONSUMER MARKETING, VOL. 18 NO. 6, 2001

**Maria Carolina Varela**

Coordinator of the cork oak WG

Forest engineer, senior researcher

INRB- UISPF, Quinta do Marquês- Oeiras, PORTUGAL

**A book on the state of the experimental network on Forest Genetic Resources - 2011**



STATUS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

FAO - *Silva Mediterranea* Wg. - Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean Region and IUFRO Unit 20211 - Breeding and Genetic Resources of Mediterranean Conifers



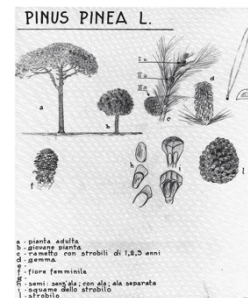
Eds: Christophe Boudier (FAO), Fulvio Ducci (CRA SRI), Michel Malgouyres (FAO), Oultra Soomrangsang (FAO)



This book represents a milestone in the history of a very complex network connecting numerous countries, cultures and histories. This surely means that our Mediterranean environment is important to us and we are all aware that this sea is a real link between us. **We hope that future generations will continue to follow this path of regional cooperation and pooling our efforts to Mediterranean forests.**

Through this book on the “**Status of the Experimental Network of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources**” our working group wishes to demonstrate a fundamental truth: namely the existence of a long-term ability to preserve, manage and use an important and very extended research network, above all, a true open-air laboratory. This network was established in human and natural environments really challenging for this type of activity, where the social, historical

and climatic conditions are sometimes an important source of risk for natural resources. It should now be carefully preserved, maintained, operated and controlled. Nowadays it acquires particular importance and knowledge of its meaning must be increased and applied to the new challenges posed by the rapid effects of global change. This is particularly relevant in a region where these changes will be severe and where several natural factors have an impact on forest genetic resources.



**This book is also important as a source of basic information for future actions of *Silva Mediterranea*.** It is organized in chapters where the context of experimental activities concerning reproduction and genetic improvement is presented with the main recommendations made jointly by FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and IUFRO (*Meeting held in Antalya - Turkey in 2006 and the meeting of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea*, held in Arezzo and Rome in 2007*). After this first part, the book is divided into chapters by themes and / or by species or group of species under study in this large experimental network of forest genetic resources of the Mediterranean:

- 1) **Database:** with the presentation of Spanish, Italian, French and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* databases and with a short description of the program of activities “TREEBREDEX”;
- 2) **Abies species:** with three articles on several Mediterranean firs in Italy and France;
- 3) **Cedrus Species:** with six papers from France, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Algeria and Morocco;
- 4) **Cupressus Species:** with a description of the main results obtained in Turkey and Italy;
- 5) **Pinus of the group of Aleppo Pine:** the most extensive network in the region with contributions of Greece, Spain, Turkey, Italy, France, Morocco, Israel and Tunisia;
- 6) **Pinus pinea:** mainly with reference to the recent IUFRO network established around the Mediterranean with contributions of France, Tunisia, Spain and Morocco.
- 7) **A final chapter with documents of general interest for the working group and the general conclusion** on the challenges and new potential uses of this network in the context of adaptation of Mediterranean forests to the impacts of global change.



A summary of the action plan of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources is also presented at the end of the book. In total, 53 authors contributed to this book on the “**Status of the experimental network of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources**” (*Algeria, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey*).

**Fulvio Ducci**

Coordinator of the Working Group of *Silva Mediterranea* on Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean

**Historical data on the Atlas cedar (Journal of Forestry Research in Morocco) - 1994**



An International Seminar on the Atlas cedar was held from 7 to 11 June 1993 in Ifrane, Morocco. Organized within the framework of activities of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, on the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session (Portugal - 16 to 20 March 1992), this seminar has helped to highlight the ecological value and the economic, social and cultural interest of this species particularly emblematic for the Maghreb countries.

It was prepared jointly by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) and Moroccan authorities. **The seminar's main objectives were: (i) take stock of all knowledge and perspectives for future research on the Atlas cedar in the Mediterranean and (ii) to take stock of the many works of the research network on Cedar driven by the *Silva Mediterranea*.**

All papers presented at the seminar were published in 1994 in a special volume "The Atlas cedar" (Annals of Forestry Research in Morocco) by the Scientific Committee at the time controlled by M. Omar M'HIRIT from Morocco. A few years later (2006) Omar M'HIRIT also published from these numerous studies the reference book entitled "The Atlas cedar: Memory of time" with the support of the Walloon Region of Belgium and the High Commissariat for Water and Forests and the Fight Against Desertification in Morocco.



**Christophe BESACIER**  
Expert Forestier de la FAO  
Secrétariat du Comité *Silva Mediterranea*

**Data sheets for protection against forest fires for the Mediterranean Basin countries published with the support of the working group focus on Forest Fires of *Silva Mediterranea* – 2001**



Under the coordination of the working group on "forest fires" of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, with financial support of France, FAO coordinated in 2001 the development of a practical and comprehensive tool, capable of enhancing the training of prevention and fight against forest fires. This practical book is useful for all countries in the Mediterranean region. This work was part of a larger project which aimed to strengthen national capacity in prevention against forest fires in the Mediterranean. Several network partners of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* (including Cemagref Aix en Provence) spared no efforts to collect all available information, by contacting all member countries of *Silva Mediterranea*, conducting a wide literature review and visiting several countries around the Mediterranean.

**The practical guide is organized into eight broad themes covering the whole issue of forest fires in the Mediterranean:** (i) the mechanism of fire, (ii) databases, (iii) the causes of fires, (iv) risk analysis, (v) prevention, (vi) precaution against any outbreak of fire, (vii) controlling the spread of fire and (viii) control and rehabilitation measures after the fire. At the Forestry Department of FAO, the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*, in the person of Mr. Michel Malagnoux, coordinated the preparation of this work and in collaboration with experts of Cemagref (Pierre-Yves Colin Marielle Jappiot and Anne Mariel) mobilized for this study from the preliminary phase to the final preparation of the handbook published in 2001.

**Rafael GÓMEZ del ALAMO**  
Coordinator of Working Group on Forest Fires of *Silva Mediterranea*  
Head of the Spanish Forest Fire Service Ministry  
of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR RICCARDO MORANDINI** (F. Ducci, E. Amorini, S. Avolio, G. Fabbio)

**An important figure of the forestry world has recently passed away.** Professor Riccardo Morandini, a long time director of the Research Institute for Silviculture in Arezzo, was one of the leading figures in the Italian forestry panorama for various organizations. From 1954, he was a student of Aldo Pavari in the Experimental Station of Silviculture of Florence. As the first director of the Experimental Institute for Silviculture of Arezzo, which was born out of the reorganization of the “Experimental Stations”, he held this position from 1969 to 1995. He then became ordinary director until year 2000.

The reorganization of the institute resulted in adding three operational bases in Cosenza, Isernia and Florence, in addition to the headquarters in Arezzo, which led to his involvement in the beginning of the 1970 with the main institutions that governed the forestry sector and most importantly in developing a better knowledge of the diverse realities of forests in Italy, ranging from the alpine and subalpine to Apennine and Mediterranean. This brought him to realise that forests deserve more attention. For this reason he created a group of researchers and specialists in the institutes of Arezzo and Cosenza able to face problems with an integrated vision for the forest sector in the Mediterranean regions. His work was very innovative and contributed to the establishment of many faculties of Forest Science in the South of Italy that in the last decades of last century led to the development of important research and education centres. Apart from this primary involvement as a director of the Institute, Professor Riccardo Morandini carried out difficult and important international activities in the forest sector which brought him widespread recognition. His awards included an *honoris causa* degree in forestry Silviculture and Genetics from the University of Vienna “Universitat fur Bodenkultur” in 1979. His international activities made him an important and well-known figure outside Italy. Professor Riccardo Morandini was a member of the Executive Board for the Global Network for Forest Science Cooperation (IUFRO) from 1955 to 1981; a member of the IUFRO Board from 1981 to 1990 and a member of IUFRO Enlarged Board with a special role as focal point for FAO and the European Community. From 1993 to 2000 he was the Italian representative in IUFRO International Council. From 1992 Professor Riccardo Morandini was nominated Honorary Member of IUFRO for his constant commitment to promote forest research in the Mediterranean regions. Professor Riccardo Morandini was also part of the scientific committee of FAO – *Silva Mediterranea*. He participated in FAO activities on Forestry Genetic Resources from 1956 helping with the development, preparation and organization of research activities, nowadays still ongoing and fundamental for new important programmes of research in the Mediterranean regions.

From 1968 to 1972 he was deputy president of the FAO Panel of Experts for Forest Genetic Resources and then President until 1993. Another area where Professor Riccardo Morandini was deeply involved was the training of forest specialists in the Mediterranean Basin. He made a huge contribution to this objective, promoting and supporting the development of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (CIHEAM) as a member of the Scientific Committee and Chairman of the Forestry group from 1974 to 1990. Moreover, he participated in several initiatives carried out by UNESCO including: Program MAB 6 on ecological problems of mountain areas, Program MAB 2 issues in the Mediterranean area, and Program MAB 8 on Natural Resources Conservation. Professor Riccardo Morandini was also involved in numerous other international activities in the course of his professional life. **His death has been an immense loss for the entire forest world.**

Emilio Amorini, Silvano Avolio,  
Fulvio Ducci, Gianfranco Fabbio and Lorenza Colletti

