



Newsletter n°6: Partnership on Mediterranean Forests

The last quarter of 2010 was particularly excellent to Mediterranean forests, in particular with the signing of a new "Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests" (CPMF) in Istanbul at the workshop organized with the support of the GIZ and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* to launch the project "Adapting Forest Policy Conditions to Climate Change in the MENA Region".



This launching workshop was held in Istanbul from September 28 to October 1, 2010. It began with the opening remarks by the Director General of Forests in Turkey, Osman Kahveci. Several

forestry officials from Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon also took part to the discussions with also many representatives of international organizations active in the region (*Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat, FAO, WWF Mediterranean Programme, Blue Plan, IUCN Mediterranean Office, AIFM).

During this workshop in Istanbul, the Mediterranean forests have been widely viewed as a means of mitigating the effects of climate change. It was also mentioned that these Mediterranean forest ecosystems will be particularly affected by climate change over the next decades. This confirms the need to adapt the management of these forest ecosystems to future climate conditions.

The main results obtained during the workshop in Istanbul are described in the following articles of this *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter. The recommendations all aim to protect multiple goods and services provided by forest ecosystems in the current context of climate change and formulate a strategic framework for the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests.

Another major event that should be reported during this week in Istanbul: the signing of the new "Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests", on the eve of the International Year of Forests, the 29th September 2010. The signing of this Collaborative Partnership has confirmed the intention to develop synergies between different institutions involved in regional cooperation on Mediterranean forests.

The main objectives of this Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) are presented in this issue of the Newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea*. Turkey, already very active member of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* will be fully involved in the coming years in this new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.



Besides these two events that occurred in Turkey (and for which special thanks were extended to the entire organizing team by the participants who had the opportunity during the week to explore Istanbul and Turkish culture), I would also draw the attention of readers of this newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea* on the side event held during the Committee on Forestry of FAO (COFO) in Rome on the 7th October 2010 by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. During this side event, opened by the Assistant Director General of FAO Forestry Department, Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES, it was possible to interact with key members of *Silva Mediterranea* on the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and on the preparation of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF).

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News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

II MFW, the Second Mediterranean Forest Week will be held in Avignon (France) from 5 to 8 April 2011. You can find more information in this Newsletter of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* and, also, on the following website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/65366/en/>

WildFire 2011, the 5th International Conference on Forest Fires (IFWC V) will be held in Sun City (South Africa) from 9 to 13 May 2011. You can find more information on WildFire 2011 on: <http://wildfire2011.org/programme.php>

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: <https://colloque.inra.fr/medpine4>

Main Outcomes of the Planning Workshop of the Regional Project “Adapting Forest Policy Conditions to Climate Change in the MENA Region”, Istanbul, from September 28th to October 1st 2010.

Organizers: The Turkish General Directorate of Forestry (OGM), the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat (FAO), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Participants: Representatives of forest administrations from the six partner countries (*Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey*), and representatives of partner organizations (*Silva Mediterranea Secretariat, FAO, WWF MedPo, Plan Bleu, ONF-I, MEEDTL, MAAPRAT, AFD/FFEM, IUCN, AIFM, MMFN*).

Main objectives:

The workshop aimed at designing the first year operational plan for the Regional Project led by GIZ, in a participative way and according to the following objectives:

- ⇒ Clarify the orientations of the 4 project components financed by Germany:
 - **Component 1 : Capacity development of forest administrations ;**
 - **Component 2 : Inter-institutional relations with other sectors ;**
 - **Component 3 : Communication, information and awareness raising targeting the general public ;**
 - **Component 4 : Mobilization of external support and partnership ;**
- ⇒ Define, in close cooperation with partner countries and organizations involved in Sustainable Forest Management, the main project activities and in particular the outcomes to be achieved in 2011 ;
- ⇒ Determine how the forest administrations will use this support in the context of the Regional Project.

Main results:



- ⇒ The participants shared a common understanding of the objectives of the regional project piloted by GIZ ;
- ⇒ The necessary elements to design the operational planning were gathered for the year 2011 ;
- ⇒ The attendees of the workshop discussed and validated the work axes of the four project components, and specified the activities to be implemented in 2011 ;
- ⇒ Possible collaborations in the achievement of activities were identified with the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) members.

The Operational Planning for the year 2011 - Expected outcomes in 2011:

⇒ **Component 1 : Capacity development of forest administrations**

Work package A: Climate Change vulnerability analysis for policy adaptation

- A baseline assessment on institutional capacities and needs for training is available at the end of 2011 ;
- Gaps related to climate change (CC) in forest policies are identified at the end of 2011 ;
- A capacity development plan (*with balanced participation of men and women*) is established at the end of 2011 ;
- A methodology for gender differentiated Vulnerability Analysis (VA) and capacity of adaptation analysis is developed before the end of 2011 ;
- A decision at national level to carry out a VA is taken.

Work Package B: Analysis of the potential for Payments for Environmental Services (PES)

- Gaps regarding ecosystem services (ES) in forest-related policies are identified ;
- A baseline assessment on needs for training is available ;
- Criteria for pilot sites and for PES stakeholders are identified.



⇒ Component 2 : Inter-institutional relations with other sectors

Milestones/Outcomes during 2011:

- Forest administrations have identified priorities regarding Climate Change relevant issues at the end of 2011 ;
- Forest administrations have carried out related stakeholders analyses at the end of 2011 ;
- At least one win-win oriented dialogue process with another sector has been initiated before the end of 2011.



⇒ Component 3 : Communication, information and awareness raising in the general public

Milestones/Outcomes during 2011:

- A communication plan is developed (including selection of target groups, objectives, specific messages, etc...) ;
- Units/persons in charge of communication develop communication strategies in particular for the promotion of environmental services provided by forest ecosystems.

⇒ Component 4 : Mobilization of external support and partnership

Work Package A: Access to international funding

Milestone/Outcome during 2011: Forest administrations have assessed their institutional capacities regarding access to potential funding mechanisms and have selected priorities.

Work Package B: Integration of forest-related positions in international processes

Milestone/Outcome during 2011: A lobbying group has been initiated and started collective work in 2011.

For more information on this Planning Workshop organized in Istanbul, please contact Mr. R. Alexander Kastl: Reinhard.Kastl@giz.de (Chief Technical Advisor) and Mr. Ludwig Liagre: Ludwig.Liagre@giz.de

A new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)

a) **Background:**



A Collaborative Partnership on Forests Mediterranean has been launched in the fourth quarter of 2010. The 29th September 2010, several institutions (*See list of signees of this CPMF*) have signed the Collaborative Partnership in Istanbul. The European Forest Institute (*EFIMED*) signed the 7th October 2010 during the side event on Mediterranean forests held in Rome during the Committee on Forestry organized at FAO Headquarters (*COFO 2010*). The Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Ms. Julia Marton Lefevre, signed November 22, 2010 for the Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation during the meeting of its members in Malaga on the occasion of 10th anniversary of the Mediterranean office of IUCN.

The signing of the Collaborative Partnership by AFD / Fond Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (*FFEM*) could take place the 6th April 2011 during the press conference of the second Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in Avignon from 5 to 8 April 2011. The members of the Collaborative Partnership wish to jointly strengthen the capacities of member countries of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* and of its Secretariat, based in Rome, to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (*SFM*) to ensure sustainable production of goods and services provided by these ecosystems under current conditions of climate change. It focuses on the most forested countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey.

b) Objectives and functioning of the CPMF: The Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) especially seeks to solve the four main problems identified for the adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change during the workshop jointly organized by GIZ and the Forestry Department of FAO in July 2009 in Rabat:

- Inadequate policies and lack of inter-sectoral cooperation;*
- Lack of knowledge and information on forest ecosystems;*
- Insufficient public awareness;*
- Lack of adequate funding.*

The principle of action of this PCFM will be to promote synergies between the several institutions involved in this regional cooperation with their own interests, skills and modes of behavior, but whose common goal is the sustainable management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Based on the contributions of each partner, an annual operation plan for the Collaborative Partnership will be developed each year for the period 2010-2013.

The first annual operational plan will be approved at the first meeting of the Steering Committee to be held in Avignon the 8th April 2011 during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week (II MFW). This steering committee will meet once a year to approve the annual operational plan, to monitor the impact of the joint program and to consider possible adjustments and additional measures needed for effective implementation of the CPMF.



c) Partners and possible evolution of this CPMF:

The current signatories of the Collaborative Partnership for the Mediterranean Forests are:

- Agence Française de Développement / Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (AFD/FFEM)
- Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)
- European Forest Institute - Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED)
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN)
- Ministère de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche de France (MAAP)
- Plan Bleu/ Mediterranean Action Plan (PB/PAM)
- World Wide Fund For Nature - Mediterranean Initiative (WWF-Mediterranean)
- Office National des Forêts - International (ONF-I)
- Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN).



They should be joined by new signees during the second [Mediterranean Forest Week](#) bringing together key stakeholders of forest sector in Avignon (France) from 5 to 8 April 2011.

Each partner will contribute to a maximum of transparency and collaboration in the implementation of annual operational plan approved through intensive and regular communication. **The Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea will serve as a platform for communication between member institutions, but also between the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and the six members of the Southern Mediterranean.**

Günter WINCKLER/Christophe BESACIER

For more information on this Collaborative Partnership: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/66624/en/>

Main results of the side event organized by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* during the Committee on Forestry of FAO in Rome (COFO - October 7, 2010)

From 4 to 8 October 2010, FAO organized the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2010), the highest-level FAO forestry statutory body, and the second World Forest Week. The theme this year was "**Forests and Sustainable Development – you are the key**". These biennial sessions of COFO bring together every two years, the General Directors of Forestry and many other forestry officials of all member states of FAO. **At these meetings the main objectives are: (i) identify emerging issues for forest management, (ii) to seek solutions and advise FAO and (iii) propose the implementation of appropriate measures to overcome the new challenges of sustainable forest management. Other international institutions and, especially, more and more non-governmental organizations (NGOs), participate in COFO.**

During this 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry of FAO, *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat organized a side event to inform all its members (and main partners) on current initiatives within the new Collaborative Partnership on Forests Mediterranean (CPMF).

The main objectives of this side event were to share:

1. information on key regional initiatives on Mediterranean forests conservation, and adaptation to climate change ;
2. lessons and promote networking among current initiatives addressing the environmental and socio-economic challenges in Mediterranean forest landscapes ;
3. the final draft of the concept note (*Terms of reference*) in order to launch the initiative on the State of Mediterranean Forests (SOMF).



Participants : Representatives from many forest services in countries around the Mediterranean (*Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey*) and the main partners involved in regional cooperation with Mediterranean countries (*GIZ, FAO, UNECE/FAO, EFIMED, Blue Plan, Switzerland, Mountain Partnership, MMFN, IUCN, WWF, AIFM, COFOR International and ARCMED ...*)



Chaired by the French representative in the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, Alain CHAUDRON, this side event was opened by the Assistant Director-General of FAO in charge of forests, Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES and by the Chairman of *Silva Mediterranea*, Spas TODOROV.

Apart from a brief presentation by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* on the main achievements of 2010 and the major activities planned for 2011, the session has been especially marked by the discussions around the following priorities:

1. The Regional Project "Adapting Forest Policy Conditions to Climate Change in the MENA Region" (*Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon*) and the signature of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*See details in previous articles of this Newsletter 6*) ;
2. Presentation by the Director of EFIMED, Marc PALAHI, of the [Mediterranean Forests Research Agenda](#) for the period 2010-2020 (*MFRA 2010-2020 for which a European project ERANET is currently being prepared with the support of EFIMED*) and announcement of the second [Mediterranean Forest Week](#) (*II MFW*) to be held in Avignon from 5 to 8 April 2011 (*See Newsletter - Page 6*);
3. Presentation by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* of the terms of reference developed by the working group "**Sustainable Financing Mechanism**" of *Silva Mediterranea* (WG6) to prepare the first [State of Mediterranean Forests](#) (SoMF) during the period 2011- 2012.

Concerning the preparation of the State of Mediterranean Forests (*SoMF*) during the period 2011/2012 **all participants recognized the importance of preparing this first report before the next formal session of the Committee on Mediterranean forestry questions - *Silva Mediterranea* to be held during the second half of 2012.**

Complementarity sought by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* - particularly in the process of data collection - with other similar exercises:

(i) Global Forest Resources Assessment - FRA 2010 (*FAO*), (ii) State of European Forests - SoEF 2011 (*UNECE/FAO*), and (iii) State of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean - 2009 (*Blue Plan*) was also raised by participants and, especially, by the representative of the team responsible for preparing the State of European Forests (SoEF), Mr. Roman MICHALAK.

Lack of financial resources to complete this first State of Mediterranean Forests has also been highlighted by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. Therefore it will be necessary to mobilize additional resources from member states of *Silva Mediterranea* in order to prepare this first SoMF before the end of 2012.

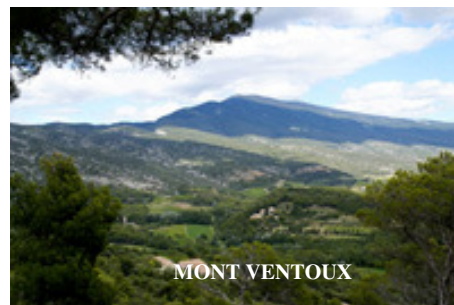


Alain CHAUDRON/Christophe BESACIER

For further information on the side event, please contact: M. Christophe BESACIER: christophe.besacier@fao.org (Secretariat *Silva Mediterranea*) and M. Alain CHAUDRON : alain.chaudron@agriculture.gouv.fr

Second Mediterranean Forest Week – Avignon – 5 to 8 April 2011

Mediterranean forest ecosystems provide multiple goods and services. They are crucial for the socio economic development of rural areas as well as for the welfare of the urban populations of the Mediterranean region. They represent an exceptional richness for Europe and a unique world heritage in terms of biodiversity (*Hotspot*). The Mediterranean region which is already highly vulnerable to natural disasters (*earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, drought and forest fires*) will also have to adapt to the exceptional effects of climate change (*increase of temperature - low rainfall - increased frequency of summer droughts...*) while at the same time its population will increase very significantly (See "State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean - Plan Bleu - 2009).



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These new challenges pose several crucial questions:

"What can be done to ensure that Mediterranean forest landscapes adapt to new social, economic, environmental and climate conditions so they can continue to provide the goods and services on which people depend?"

"How can regional cooperation in this area, located at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and Asia, help countries respond effectively to the new challenges posed by climate change?"

"How can the Mediterranean region, which can be particularly hit by global change, become a sort of laboratory to develop, test and disseminate best practices to promote the adaptation of forest ecosystems to climate change and other pressures during the twenty-first century?"

"How Silva Mediterranea and key partners, including FAO, can provide effective and sustained support for forest-based adaptation, now and over the coming decades?"

In this context, new ways have to be found to improve the science-policy dialogue through: (i) promotion of science-policy networking, (ii) targeted capacity building and (iii) development of specific communication tools (*publications, events and technical meetings...*).

This second "Mediterranean Forests Week" (II MFW), to be held in Avignon from 5 to 8 April 2011, can greatly contribute to this necessary mobilization around the following priorities:

1. promote synergies between different partners involved in forest policies (*researchers, forest administrations, private sector and civil society*) ;
2. encourage policy makers to mainstream forest policies in their territorial planning ;
3. strengthen regional cooperation as a key element in achieving the necessary "sharing" of human resources, financial resources and also forest genetic resources (FGR) ;
4. overcome the challenge of adapting Mediterranean forest ecosystems not only to climate change, but to many other pressures that will accompany population growth and development in the Mediterranean during the future decades.

At the end of the several sessions of this second Mediterranean Forest Week, it is expected an improved Science-Policy / Society dialogue on Mediterranean environmental challenges and on the role of forests and forestry within the Mediterranean region which will be particularly hit by climate change and other pressures in the coming decades.

The Organizing Committee of the second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon

For further information, please see: <http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/mfw2011/>

