



...Silva Mediterranea : Meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee – Antalya

Mediterranean forest ecosystems provide multiple goods and services including an exceptional richness in terms of biodiversity, which are crucial for the socio-economic development of rural areas as well as for the welfare of the urban populations of the Mediterranean region. Several challenges have emerged in a context of global change that need to be addressed by managers and policy-makers to ensure the sustainability of Mediterranean forests:

- How can Mediterranean forests and forestry adapt to climate and land use changes?
- Which policies and economic instruments need to be implemented to ensure the provision of valuable forest goods and services?
- How should multifunctional forests within complex multiple-use landscapes be managed?

Meeting these challenges call for both, sound science-based information and a fluent, transparent and interactive science-policy dialogue. In this context, new ways must be found to improve the science-policy dialogue through: promotion of science-policy networking; targeted capacity building; development of specific communication tools (publications, events and meetings), etc.

EFIMED, *Silva Mediterranea* (FAO), and several organizations (including AIFM, Plan Bleu, ARCMED, Mediterranean Forest Model Network as well as *Silva Mediterranea* member countries) joined forces to create a common regional platform for cooperation on Mediterranean forests. These efforts led as a first step to the organization of the Mediterranean Forest Week, during which the scientific community, policy-makers and other stakeholders met to discuss pan-Mediterranean forestry challenges and agree on joint initiatives and projects to address emerging needs in an efficient manner.

The first Mediterranean Forest Week was organized in Antalya (Turkey) and hosted by the Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute (SAFRI) on 13 - 16 April 2010. The third session of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* was included in the programme.

During this first Mediterranean Forest Week a position paper was prepared by a panel of experts in the context of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*. The panel of experts comprised members of *Silva Mediterranea* Enlarged Executive Committee, representatives of research organizations and networks, landowner associations and non-governmental organizations active in the Mediterranean.

This position paper was prepared for adoption and inclusion as part of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture at the “**Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development**” taking place on 15-16 June 2010, in Cairo, Egypt.

It is aimed at raising awareness of Agriculture Ministers about the “**Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean.**”

Spas TODOROV

President of *Silva Mediterranea*
Head of Sector “International cooperation”
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News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

An inter-academic conference will be organized in Alexandria (Bibliothèque Alexandrine) on 22-24 June 2010. One session will be focused on the biodiversity of Mediterranean trees and forest landscapes. FAO will present a regional synthesis on Mediterranean forests based on the data compilation and analysis of Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (*FRA 2010*).

For further information on this conference, please contact Jean Paul LANLY at: jean-paul.lanly@noos.fr

Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN) will organize the second annual meeting of its network: MEDFORUM 2010 – Ifrane - Morocco – Date: 22-24 June 2010

For further information on this meeting, please contact Riccardo CASTELLINI at: riccardo.castellini@cesefor.com

INRGREF, Tunisia, will organize its 15th scientific days on the theme: "Valorization of Non-Wood Forest Products" - 28-29 September 2010.

You can find more information at: www.iresa.agrinet.tn.

L’Institut Méditerranéen du Liège (IML) will organize VIVEXPO 2010 in Vives on 17-18 June 2010. This event will include an international workshop, entitled “*Climate Change and its impact on Cork Oak forest landscapes*” on 17 June 2010

For further information on VIVEXPO 2010, please contact Renaud PIAZZETTA at: contact@institutduliege.com

Main outcomes of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*

The third Enlarged Executive Committee meeting was held at the Hotel Porto Bello (Antalya - Turkey) on Tuesday, 13 April 2010 (14:30-18:00) and Thursday, 15 April 2010 (9:00 – 13:00), on the occasion of the **first Mediterranean Forest Week**. The meeting was chaired by M. Spas TODOROV, President of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.



Plenary session of the MFW with EFIMED

The meeting was opened with a statement of Mr. Jose Antonio PRADO, Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division, FAO Forestry Department. **Before addressing the main issues of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* and the various challenges of this meeting in Antalya in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr. PRADO confirmed FAO's active engagement in the first "Mediterranean Forest Week".**

Mr SPAS TODOROV and Turkish Authorities (Dr. Ahmet ŞENYAZ) welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continued support to the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. The provisional meeting agenda was adopted and **M. Spas TODOROV presented the progress report of activities of *Silva Mediterranea* since the 20th Session in Sofia in 2008.**

After this brief presentation, made by M. Spas TODOROV, detailed progress on activities implemented by the different working groups and the secretariat in 2009/2010 was then presented and discussed with the members of the Enlarged Executive Committee.

The main outputs of this session of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* are:

- **Preparation of the first "State of Mediterranean Forests" with several steps to follow during 2010/2011.** A first step based on data collected by FAO for the Forest Resources Assessment 2010 and presentation of a first working paper during the conference on "Biodiversity of trees and wooded land in the Mediterranean" to be held in Alexandria, Egypt on 22 - 24 June 2010 and during a side event to be organized during the next session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in Rome on 4-8 October 2010. This working paper will also highlight the gaps in available data and propose an institutional process for the preparation of a publication on "The States of Mediterranean Forests" in 2011. Next step will be the preparation of this report on the "State of Mediterranean Forests" in collaboration with several partners active in the Mediterranean;
- **Organization with other Mediterranean partners of the second "Mediterranean Forests Week" in Avignon (France) at the beginning of April 2011** (including the next meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*);
- **Organization of several events in Rome during COFO in October 2010** (Information meeting with all *Silva Mediterranea* members, a side event on Mediterranean Forests in collaboration with EFIMED and a photo exhibition on the art of Cork in Sardinia);
- **Agreement for integration of *Silva Mediterranea* activities in the programme of work on Timber and Forestry of UNECE/FAO** (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe based in Geneva) **with five main items of collaboration during the period 2010/2011: Climate Change** (Incorporate findings from Mediterranean region into guidance on climate change related activities conducted by UNECE/FAO), **State of Mediterranean Forests** (Contribute experience from the "State of European Forests" and FRA), **Forest Fires** (Contribute findings from *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group to climate change analysis, outlook studies and forest fire related activities under UNECE/FAO joint timber and forestry programme), **Wood energy** (exchange of experiences and joint capacity building efforts) and **collaboration with the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.**



Field trip organized by SAFRI (Turkey)

- **A “position paper” (See box 1) and a “background paper” (See box 2) were prepared, discussed, agreed and adopted by the EEC.** The position paper was prepared by a panel of experts comprised of representatives of member countries of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, research organizations and networks, landowner associations and non-governmental organizations active in the Mediterranean. The position paper was prepared for adoption and inclusion as part of the declaration of Ministers of Agriculture at the “Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Food security, Agriculture and Rural Development” taking place on 15-16 June 2010, in Cairo, Egypt. It is aimed at raising awareness of Agriculture Ministers on the “Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean.”



Participants of the first Mediterranean Forest Week

- **Adoption of the Work Plan 2010 - 2012 proposed by the coordinator of Working Group 6 on Sustainable Financing Mechanism, M. Spas TODOROV** (See Work Plan of WG 6 in *Silva Mediterranea* Website).

For further information on the outcomes of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* please download the report of the meeting from: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/>

Box 1

Position paper to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on Food security, Agriculture and Rural Development (15-16 June 2010, Cairo, Egypt)

“Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean”

1. **Mediterranean forest and other wooded lands contribute significantly to poverty alleviation and food security** through the provision of multiple goods and services such as water supply, soil protection, rangeland use, biodiversity conservation, energy supply and wood and non wood forest products.
2. **In the context of climate change and other increasing human pressures, investment in avoiding deforestation and in sustainable forest management are key issues** for the provision of these goods and services threatened by drought, wildfires, erosion, desertification, emerging pests and diseases.
3. **A better intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination with participation of local communities and other stakeholders is needed** to foster the integration of agriculture, pastoralism, forestry, water, energy and other land-use sectors at policy, management and research levels.
4. Based on the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on climate change and food security held in Istanbul on 8 of March 2010 and recommendations of the Mediterranean Forest Week held in Antalya on 13-16 of April 2010, which gathered the experts and the international organizations of the region,

We, Ministers, recommend to:

- develop an integrated strategy for sustainable management of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands to ensure the provision of goods and environmental services relevant to food security,
- implement the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2010-2020 by developing an ERA-NET scheme¹,
- organize a high level Mediterranean conference with all relevant stakeholders in 2012 to develop a shared vision on this regional integrated strategy.

1. The objective of the ERA-NET scheme under the 7th Research Framework Programme of the European Commission is to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes through the provision of a framework for actors implementing public research programmes to coordinate their activities e.g. by developing joint activities or by mutually supporting joint calls for trans-national proposals. Under the ERA-NET scheme, national and regional authorities identify research programmes they wish to coordinate or open up mutually.

Box 2

Background document in preparation of the Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on Food security, Agriculture and Rural Development (15-16 June 2010, Cairo, Egypt)

Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean

Executive Summary

Forests and other wooded lands are highly **integrated into rural Mediterranean areas**. Over the millennia, the civilizations that have followed on each other around the Mediterranean Rim have made use of the multiple social, economic and environmental goods and services provided by these territories, including food security. In doing so, they have deeply modified present-day forest ecosystems and landscapes. During modern times, the development of urbanization and industrialization along with the globalization of trade and tourism has altered their appearance and their uses, **causing great disparities between the northern and the southern parts of the Mediterranean Rim**.

In the north, where forest land is mostly privately-owned, following to land abandonment, the vegetation has expanded thanks to its natural dynamics but, as a consequence of lack of management, has increased risk of wildfires, all too often, anarchic urban sprawl. In the south, great pressure on the resources from a dense and poor rural population can, through overgrazing and overexploitation of forest resources like fuel wood, lead to desertification. Such threats are now compounded by economic crisis and climatic change. In a joint statement, the experts gathered together in **Antalya 13 - 16 April 2010** at the invitation of the FAO (Silva Mediterranea committee) and the EFIMED underlined this context and invited the Union for the Mediterranean to take action in order to protect and enhance the role of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands to food security and sustainable development of its rural territories.

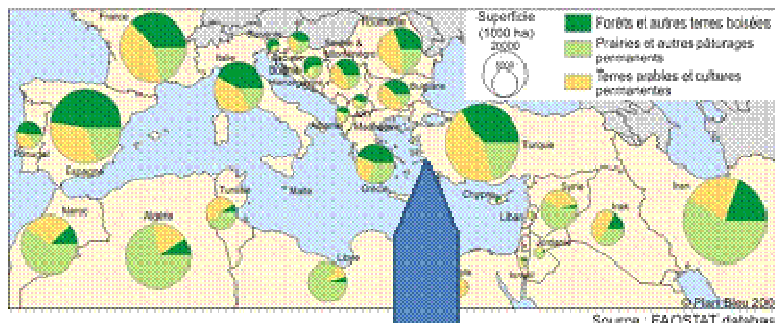
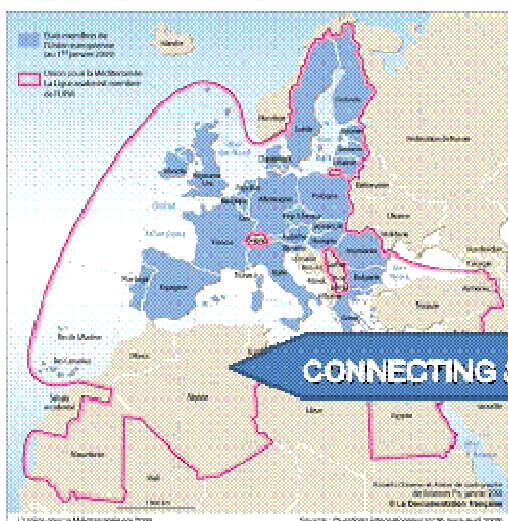
Action need to be based on the **following principles**:

- The integration of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands is key to promote the truly sustainable development of the territories. As a follow up of the regional forum, Rabat 2005, an **integrated strategy for sustainable management** of those areas should be developed so as to highly contribute to poverty alleviation and food security.
- Emphasis must be put on research and development based on concrete regional programmes and projects carried out in close collaboration with research institutions and networks in the Mediterranean and on sharing and widely disseminating the acquired knowledge. The implementation of the Mediterranean Research Agenda (MFRA) by developing an **ERA-NET scheme** should be recommendable.
- Practices of good governance, **involving all stakeholders** as well as all relevant segments of the society, should be enhanced, firstly in the development of strategies and projects, then in their implementation, their management and their evaluation.

The **main fields for action** will include, but will not be limited to: alleviating poverty, sustainable land management, valuation and marketing of environmental goods and services including water supply, development of the economic sectors based on wood and non-wood products, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification, wildfire prevention.

Member states of Silva Mediterranea

Union for the Mediterranean



CONNECTING SILVA MEDITERRANEA AND UfM

Progress report of activities presented during the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* for the Working Group on Cork Oak (WG2)

In parallel to the activities of the 19th session of the Near East Forestry Commission, held in Hammamet (Hotel Diar Lemdina) on 5-9 April 2010, FAO and the Tunisian General Directorate of Forests (DGF) organized a workshop on the 7th April 2010 on the “Conservation, sustainable management and restoration of cork oak forests in North Africa”.



This workshop was organized in the framework of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Committee activities (cork oak working group), with the support of France (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries) and the “Mediterranean Network of Model Forests”.

The workshop was attended by 23 participants from Forestry Directorates and Departments as well as Research Institutes from Algeria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia and representatives of NGOs, networks and technical agencies active in the Mediterranean region.

The workshop had the following objectives:

- Promote exchange of information and knowledge among actors and partners involved in the management of cork oak forests and the cork sector on the current situation of cork oak forests and the cork sector in North Africa, as well as challenges and priorities for future action;
- Promote exchange of information and experiences across the Mediterranean basin;
- Present and get relevant inputs for the finalization of the 4-year draft work programme of the cork oak working group of the *Silva Mediterranea*; the final programme being intended to be presented to the meeting of the *Silva Mediterranea* enlarged executive committee, to be held in Antalya, Turkey (13-16 April 2010);
- Identify synergies and opportunities for collaboration between the different organizations and programmes at the Mediterranean level.

Several presentations by participants described the situation as well as the many challenges facing the cork oak forests and the cork sector. Ongoing projects, initiatives run in the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean were also illustrated to address these issues.

Participants recognized the suitability and the unique opportunity given by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, in particular through its cork oak working group, to build a Mediterranean alliance among all interest groups for ensuring the conservation and enhancement of the values of cork oak forests. Participants committed to joining the *Silva Mediterranea* cork oak working group and recommended and agreed to include the following components as part of the work programme for the next four years of this working group:



- Facilitating the development of a joint Mediterranean alliance/strategy for cork oak forests conservation and sustainable management;
- Advocacy and marketing of cork oak forest social, cultural, economic, educational and environmental values amongst all segments of society at national, regional and international levels to attract attention and investment on cork oak forest management and conservation;
- Putting in place a cork land knowledge centre/data base to share information and enhance collaboration among all relevant actors, practitioners and researchers. This needs to be developed based on the use and linking of existing databases and initiatives;
- Promoting the implementation of best practices through the development of a long-term network of cork land territories, capacity building and twinning programmes;
- Supporting the development of a long-term evaluation and monitoring system of the status and management impacts of cork oak forests throughout the region;
- Supporting the implementation of long-term sustainable community forestry mechanisms, involving all partners and promotion of entrepreneurship building for local communities;

- Supporting the development of long-term programmes on research, management and restoration of cork oak forests and the mobilization of funds and investments for their implementation;
- Capacity building on cork oak forest management issues, including cork harvesting techniques at larger scale;
- Supporting the development and dissemination of technologies to address cork harvesting issues and other management issues;
- Exploring further labelling issues on bottles and ways for cork labelling promotion.

The entire set of presentations, report and list of participants is available on the *Silva Mediterranea* website <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed>

Following this event, on the 9th April 2010 afternoon, FAO organized a meeting with its partners and workshop participants to discuss **the project concept on « Adaptation of management and restoration practices for combating degradation of cork oak forests and poverty in North Africa » that was submitted for funding to the Spanish Cooperation AECID**. Partners discussed and agreed that this planned three years project should aim at reducing the current trends of cork oak forests degradation and loss in North Africa while providing rural development opportunities to local communities by :

- Developing adequate mechanisms for sustainable management and valuing of the full range of products and services to be applied in North Africa;
- Communicating and raising awareness both at the Mediterranean and North African level about cork oak forests values and environmental services and their contribution to rural development in North Africa and the Mediterranean as a whole.

FAO is waiting feed back from the AECID to plan the full preparation of the project document with the partners.

Following the presentation of these events held in Hammamet during the Near East Forestry Commission, the Enlarged Executive Committee of Silva Mediterranea adopted the main orientation of the revised Work Plan 2010 – 2014 for the Cork Oak Working Group presented by Maria Carolina VARELA (Portugal).

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