

The Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week

Following the success of the previous editions, the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, along with its regional partners and the High Commission on Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD), are pleased to announce their commitment to organize the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (V MFW). The Mediterranean Forest Week has been held every two years in a different Mediterranean member country and it has served as a common regional platform for cooperation on Mediterranean forests. It aims at improving the dialogue between the Mediterranean forest research community, policy-makers and the relevant stakeholders as well as at communicating to the international community and the society at large the relevance and challenges affecting Mediterranean forests. After the editions of 2010 in Antalya, 2011 in Avignon, 2013 in Tlemcen and 2015 in Barcelona, the fifth edition of the MFW will be hosted in Morocco in 2017. **This Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week will deal with the restoration of forests and Mediterranean landscapes.** A first meeting of the Organizing Committee will be held on 30-31 March in Rabat to discuss details on the preparation of the Mediterranean Week (for more information see <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88944/en/>).

MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

First Organizing committee of the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week on Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Mediterranean
30 - 31 March 2016 - HCEFLCD
(Rabat, Morocco)

Preparation meeting for the second edition of State of Mediterranean Forests
7 April 2016 - Finnish Forestry Meeting Room
D 440 - FAO HQ (Rome, Italy)

Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*
8 April 2016 - Finnish Forestry Meeting Room
D 440 - FAO HQ (Rome, Italy)
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88944/en/>



Nicolas Chenet (ONF International) at COP 21 - 2015
Paris, France @D. Simon

Mediterranean forests and us facing climate change at COP 21

Mediterranean forests provide many goods and services to local populations: fuel wood, fodder for cattle, cork, mushrooms, honey, aromatic and medicinal plants, pine nuts, acorns. They also play a key role in soil erosion prevention and water quality, and are important for recreation and hunting. Mediterranean forests also act a genetic pool that may be determinant to adapt to climate change. Climate change and demographic evolution are likely to strongly disturb Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the future. Genetic resources and forest services are a guarantee of nature-based solutions. Therefore, assessing the goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests at their true economic value with the implication of populations and users in the management of forest lands is essential to increase their resilience to climate change. Developing a green economy based on these goods and services with and for the benefit of populations would enable to address climate change adaptation and mitigation while improving the livelihoods of local populations. On Monday 7 January, a one-hour event entitled «Mediterranean forests and us facing climate change» was organized at the «Nature-based solutions» pavilion of the Climate Generation area of the UNFCCC COP21 at Le Bourget, France. The French Facility for Global Environment and FAO showcased the importance of Mediterranean forests, today and for future generations. Key results from the regional FFEM project “Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes” were presented. After an introductory talk (N. Picard), the short movie «Mediterranean forests: a pool for future generations» (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDMMvGB-mBjw>) was projected, then key results were presented for

component 2 (N. Bourlion - Plan Bleu), component 3 (M. Maire), component 4 (N. Chenet - ONF International) and component 1 (F. Ducci - CRA) of the regional FFEM project. Following discussion underlined overgrazing as the main driver of forest degradation in North African Mediterranean forests, and questioned the scaling of the results from local sites to countries or the region.

Towards a new operational plan for the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests

The sixth Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) held from 12 to 13 November 2015 in Rabat was the occasion to define a new operational plan for the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests. Discussions held during the steering committee has identified the following priorities:

1. Strengthen the financial, technical and operational competence of countries in the management of woodlands to benefit local people, users and institutions (including the National Forestry Funds)
2. Communication, capacity building, and strengthening knowledge on Mediterranean woodlands
3. Integrate the dimension of the economic evaluations of goods and services (including value chains) and participatory approaches (including co-management) in public policy
4. Improve forest management tools (including prevention and fight of wildfires).

These priorities were translated into various activities.

First priority: promoting the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms; develop payment mechanisms for environmental services with users and beneficiaries; develop contracts resulting in a compromise between local users and local populations through win-win contracts; develop public-private partnerships; launching a regional technical cooperation project on the National Forestry Funds (FFN) to perform a feasibility study in the context of each country; communicate on innovative financing mechanisms with stakeholders: local populations and users but also from institutions in other sectors, NGOs and especially players in the private and voluntary sector, to enable partnerships and/or contracts to

develop these mechanisms; establish sustainable socio-economic development models on the ground to create a socio-political and technical environment favourable for participatory and partnership management of woodlands; structure stakeholders; implement integrated regional development planning (IRDP) corresponding to the ethno-spatial reality; improve the conditions for success of forest reconstruction work (natural regeneration, assisted, artificial); discourage the exploitation of pastoral resources by non-beneficiaries; replicate these socio-economic models in different national sites and contexts of the CPMF countries.



6th Steering Committee of the CPMF - 2016
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

Second priority: optimize the initial training of young forest managers by strengthening their capacity to develop and implement integrated, multifunctional and participatory forest development; teach analytical methods for an integrated approach of forest and multifunctional management; teach economic assessment tools for goods and services and cost of degradation (overexploitation); arise attention to the participatory dimension in the context of development and implementation of forest management plans/social teaching; teach communication; strengthen the training of forest managers currently working on the themes of climate change, goods and services provided by forests, users and populations; communicate on management modalities adopted with stakeholders: to local populations and users but also to the institutions of other sectors and the private sector; develop a database to enhance the knowledge of Mediterranean woodlands and facilitate decision making; develop a socio-economic, silviculture, genetic database; develop a database on adaptation and mitigation to face global change; develop a database where Mediterranean forest experts can provide support (register of experts).

Third priority: institutionalize through legal texts components related to the economic assessments of goods and

services and participatory approaches in national strategies; implement “quality” process operations for the development and implementation of forest management plans; arrange the integration of stakeholders in a participatory management; organize the integration of socio-economic data; continuously improve processes through a quality practise and the establishment of indicators.

Fourth priority: define the terms of reference of forest management plans to strengthen their integrated, multifunctional and participatory approach; take better account of the multifunctionality of woodlands and promoting integrated silvopastoral management through a multisectoral approach (multi-institutional, in order to better take into account the economic, social and environmental dimension); take better account of the “new challenge” posed by global changes (climate change, desertification, human pressure) by promoting guidance including mitigation and adaptation to change; take better account of the poor who live in the forest and depend from it, in particular all users within the framework of participatory approaches, for their involvement in a co-management system and a win-win contract; integrate in forest management of data related to economic evaluation; establish an inventory including an accurate database of all goods and services and their distribution by beneficiary; develop a cost-benefit analysis of integrated management options including goods and services; strengthen cross-border cooperation in the prevention and fight against wildfires.

The links between the priorities of the CPMF and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) were highlighted, in particular as regards as objective 2 “rural areas, agriculture and food security” and 5 “Green Savings and Credit”. The entrepreneurship component, training, education, capacity building becomes central in the area of forests, as it was highlighted during the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week in Barcelona. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015 at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development also provide a good opportunity to highlight the importance of forests. CPMF members are now invited to fill the Operational Plan 2016-2018 activities, indicating the level of involvement they will undertake for each action. The Operational Plan 2016-2018 will then be consolidated in a document to be presented at a round table of donors to be organized in the first half of 2016. The sixth Steering Committee of the CPMF was also an occasion to revise the conclusions of the evaluation of

the CPMF (the report is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/89593/en/>). The importance of the CPMF history, as a dynamic process of activities on Mediterranean forests since 2010, was highlighted by the CPMF Steering Committee. This dynamic of the CPMF was closely linked to the revival of Silva Mediterranea. The CPMF agreement shows that the CPMF was conceived as part of Silva Mediterranea work plan for the MENA countries and with a specific attention on Mediterranean forests in the MENA countries.

The Steering Committee stressed the need to continue this upward momentum, without stopping the work of the CPMF, and reaffirmed its central attention to MENA countries. The CPMF must be energized and motivated by strengthening its foundations and through a balanced dialogue between donors, institutions and countries; taking better account of common priorities and expectations and needs of countries.



Sabina Bianchini evaluator of the CPMF - 2015
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

Based on the discussions at the session dedicated to the evaluation of the CPMF, the following recommendations were adopted by the Steering Committee of the CPMF:

1. Keep the purpose of the CPMF to improve the implementation of sustainable management policies for Mediterranean forests in the MENA countries, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey
2. Maintain the goal of the CPMF to implement technical activities
3. Clarify activities reporting directly to the CPMF and those that contribute to the objectives of the CPMF
4. Improve governance / transparency of CPMF specifying its operating modalities
5. Maintain internal communication of the CPMF through regular meetings and exchange of information between Partnership countries, its members and the secretariat
6. Strengthen CPMF external communication based on a communication strategy and relying on the Network of Mediterranean forest communicators.

A training seminar on National Forest Funds

A training seminar on national forest fund was held from 9 to 11 November 2015 in Rabat (Morocco). Based on the publication of Rao Matta: «Towards effective national forest funds» 2015 FAO, a training seminar was organized by the German international Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with FAO (led by Magali Maire and Rao Matta from FAO and Ludwig Liagre from GIZ) to provide the opportunity to participants from the five countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) - Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia Turkey - to build capacity on National Forestry Funds.



Training seminar on National Forest Funds - 2015
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

Why such training on National Forestry Funds?

While the role of forests is recognized as fundamental to face global challenges such as climate change, food security and poverty reduction, it is more than ever essential to support sustainable forest management (SFM); therefore, funding funds is a key issue and a challenge. In this context, National Forest Funds (NFFs) have a key role in financing SFM. Those are mechanisms that work to include also objectives related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, forest degradation reduction. That is why today, NFFs should not only be seen as a simple financial mechanism: they are rather institutions that play multiple roles, beyond receiving and allocating money. Indeed, they can be important players in the implementation of international and national forest policies or programs.

It is estimated that NFFs hold or manage 12-13 billion of US dollars in developing countries, which is approximately five times the amount that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has allocated to SFM in developing countries since 1992. Thus, NFFs represent a considerable untapped resource relatively unknown to progress SFM but also clear evidence of national contributions to forest financing.

How Mediterranean countries are affected?

Mediterranean forests are subjected to increasing pressures: human pressure, dieback phenomenon, desertification, etc. hence, the urgency to develop innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, REDD+ and mechanisms of compensation in order to reverse the trend of degradation: in this context, NFFs can offer tailored and flexible solutions to develop customized financing approaches for SFM.

It is important to propose an increase in knowledge and level of expertise of NFFs for CPMF countries. This event was seen as a real opportunity to work together on the potential offered by the NFFs as a catalyst for the mobilization of financial resources for the benefit of CPMF countries. Some of them already had significant experience of NFFs, as Morocco and Turkey, where NFFs exist and are operational. The need for operationalization, evaluation and reform was expressed. In Tunisia and Turkey, NFFs are mentioned in the legislation but are not functional.

What were the content and objectives of this training?

The main objective was not to recommend an «already-made» solution. Indeed, the analysis conducted by Rao Matta* revealed that there are not «ad hoc» NFFs; the structure, scope of activities, priorities and procedures of the NFF change according to their objectives of changing opportunities, challenges they face and socio-political contexts of countries that create them. Additionally, NFFs are operated in highly dynamic environments and are subject to changes and constant variations.

Identify reasons of success of existing NFFs could be a very interesting exercise to build or reform a NFF. This is precisely the content we have given to this training to deliver to all CPMF countries:

- Main relevant information on how NFFs work and how they can be created and managed optimally
- The main lessons learned through their implementation in a number of countries in the world

The plan was also to develop and compare ideas in order to establish or reform NFFs: participants, organized into working groups by country, bringing together representatives of Ministries of Forests, Environment and Finance able to reflect and propose what could be their roadmap for NFFs. The restitution of this work on the last day of the seminar at a High Level meeting was the occasion to propose very concrete ways in terms of governance, capitalization, usage and evaluation of NFFs and present them to decision makers present to discuss the feasibility of the proposals.



Training seminar on National Forest Funds - 2015
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

Next steps

These three days of training produced great enthusiasm and great motivation to participants who expressed their desire to continue the work undertaken. The training team also learned a lot of the contexts and challenges posed in each country: there was a general agreement that this work should be continued and valued in each country, including the establishment of feasibility studies or further studies as needed.

Moreover, in the context of the High Level session, held on the third day of the seminar, policymakers have expressed interest to organize an event at the next Committee on Forestry (COFO) at FAO in July 2016 Rome. An opportunity to encourage the exchange of experiences between countries and to continue efforts to strengthen the performance of NFFs especially in Mediterranean countries.

Magali MAIRE
Forestry officer - FAO

** Towards effective national forest funds, FAO 2015*

Water as an ecosystem service provided by forests - a side event at the European Forest Week and further steps

Water is a vital ecosystem service to be provided on regular basis and in high quality. Forests are essential for this availability by the regulation of water flows and the enhancement of water quality. Provision of ground water, minimization of soil erosion, filtration of nutrients and pollutants, moderation of surface-runoff and thereby floods but also effects on precipitation patterns are only some examples of the multiple beneficial effects of forest

on water. Creating forest-water value chains, promoting financial means to manage forests for water, developing synergies between water and forest policies are current challenges to address so as to promote water as an ecosystem service provided by forests.

At the third European Forest Week Silva2015 the Working Group on Forest & Water of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW) organised a joint side event with *Silva Mediterranea* in Engelberg, Switzerland to discuss this topic and potential future actions to advance this complex issue. After an introductory talk, a keynote talk was presented by Nelly Bourlion (Plan Bleu). Afterwards an example on water and boreal forests by Eero Kubin (Natural Resources Institute Finland - Luke) and Josef Krecek (Czech Technical University, Prague), and an example on Mediterranean forests and water by Ninon Sicard (BRL, France) were presented. However, there are still few examples of water services requiring and paying for services from forest services, or vice versa. A discussion with approximately fifteen people attending the side event was organized.

This discussion showed the importance to have forest and water stakeholders on board to tackle this issue and to develop studies (on the long-term) related to the effects of forests on water provision and quality was discussed. Furthermore the group reflected on the difficulties of marketing the interlinkage of forest and water. Either people are not aware of the services that can be obtained, or the transactions costs are still too high. In more detail the discussion evolved around the importance of studying the market situation and of having concrete guidelines was highlighted. In this sense, it is also essential to identify where the value and markets are.

As follow up of these discussions the Working Group on Forest & Water of the EFC WPMMW is now planning a workshop with various stakeholders to elaborate values and markets but also to identify concrete actions and products to address relevant policy makers.

Presentations made at the side event are available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88943/en/>.

Catrin PROMPER

Workshop of the Forest Communicators Network for the Mediterranean and the Near East in Rabat

Communication is a main issue for the global forest sector, world's forests must be recognized as "more than trees". This is also true for Mediterranean forests, even more due to the social role they play in the region, and the Forest Communicators Network for the Mediterranean and the Near East in Rabat has been created in may 2014 to work for a better communication.



Workshop of the FCNMedNE - 2015
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

In the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week and of the Forest Communicators Network for the Mediterranean and the Near East in Rabat (FCNMedNE), it was proposed the organization and the realization of a workshop for the reinforcement of communication capacities and the support to the organizing committee of the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week in terms of communication. The workshop took place in Rabat (Morocco), from 9 to 11 November 2015, with the participation of more than twenty people from eight countries.

The goals of the event were:

- Improve the communication capacities for FCN-MedNE members: the forest services, NGOs and other interested partners
- Design and set up of an organization structure to start feeding up the website and connect the people/countries together
- Endorse the Terms of Reference of the FCNMedNE already finalized
- Set up the FCNMedNE strategic plan
- Define necessities, priorities and possibilities of collaboration

- Prepare recommendations for the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week communication (Morocco, 2017)

The workshop consisted on presentations (European Forestry Week 2013, Third and Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week, Forest Communicators Global Network, European Forest Communicators Network, Communication results from the World Forestry Congress,), think-tanks (Mediterranean Forest Week 2017), participative workshops (Structure of the FCNMedNE, Strategic Plan of the FCNMedNE, priorities for the coming year, etc.) and training sessions (use of social media, website, live tweeting, etc.).

The think-tank session for the Mediterranean Forest Week 2017 was very intense and there were HCEFLCD participants in order to take all the ideas to the Organizing Committee of the event. The main sessions were about the structure and the strategic plan of the FCNMedNE, based on the commitment signed by the members of the network. One on the main activities is the support to the communication of the Mediterranean Forest Week 2017 and the new website of the network, where the member will share information about Mediterranean forests: <http://med-forest-communicators.org/en/Home>.

This workshop was a great success thanks to the support of GIZ and FAO, many ideas, many activities, many plans and a lot of energy and commitment from the members.

Pilar VALBUENA

Member of the Steering Committee of the FCNMedNE



Workshop of the FCNMedNE - 2015
Rabat, Morocco @P. Valbuena

For more information related to the newsletter of *Silva Mediterranea* please contact Nicolas Picard (Nicolas.Picard@fao.org) or Caterina Marchetta (Caterina.Marchetta@fao.org)