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Issue 26 - May 2017

Special edition on the 5th MFW



José Manuel Jaquotot Saenz de Miera - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

Editorial

The 22nd session of the Committee Silva Mediterranea has set the basis for a renewed framework and functioning of the Committee based on the 2013 evaluation of Silva Mediterranea. Reviewing the mandate of the Committee to focus itself again on the dialog in terms of forest policy and the identification and follow up of regional cooperation, reflecting upon the composition of Silva Mediterranea after a systematic sum up of the situation of the current Member States, elaborating a common view and an own strategy based on the identification of priority areas among the lines and/or recommendations of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest are among the decisions that were taken at the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on 18 March 2015 and confirmed at the 22nd session of the Committee on 22 March 2017.

Forests are receiving growing demands from society which claims arising services at higher environmental and social quality levels. At the same time the need for forests goods and products is also growing in wide areas of the Mediterranean.

Forests are a cornerstone of the policies of climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. We should then ask ourselves if forest protection, management and promotion is receiving equally growing attention from the society and policy makers through institutional, legal and economic tools. We could make this reflection specifically in relation to the Mediterranean Forests which are particularly menaced by global warming and drier conditions ahead.

The Committee will develop a strategy and elaborate an action program based on it for its <u>six working groups</u> currently dealing with forest fires, cork oak and non-wood forest products, sustainable development, forest genetic

resources, urban and peri-urban forestry, and desertification and restoration.

The 22nd session of the Committee also validated the coorganization of the sessions of the Committee and of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks, the latter addressing technical topics and targeting a wide audience, while the former refocusing on the activities of the Committee and on the decisions to be taken by Member States.

During coming years, developing this renovated framework, *Silva Mediterranea* may contribute to increase the political, social and economic relevance of Mediterranean forests. Let us work together with that aim.

José Manuel Jaquotot Saenz de Miera Chair of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea

The Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week

The Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (5th MFW) entitled "Towards an enhanced regional cooperation to restore Mediterranean landscapes: improving resilience for the benefit of people and environment" was held from 20 to 24 March 2017 in Agadir, Morocco. Focusing on the restauration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes, the conference was attended by 284 participants from 26 countries.

The 5th MFW culminated during its high-level segment on Friday 24 March 2017 with the "Agadir commitment" endorsed by 9 countries – Algeria, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey – and strongly supported by several international organizations to improve Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region.



The opening ceremony - 5 MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

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Abdeladim Lhafi (HCEFLCD Morocco) - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The Agadir Commitment proposes to establish a new Regional Mediterranean Initiative on FLR to support the achievement of the Bonn Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15), with an objective to restore 8 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030. It also encourages political and administrative authorities at the national level, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their respective FLR efforts in the context of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 of the United Nations Forum for Forests (UNFF) and in line with the global FLR objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new commitment will aim at reaching the following objectives by 2030:

- Assess the ongoing national efforts on FLR to determine a voluntary regional target to be reached by 2030.
- 2. Reinforce regional cooperation on FLR and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).
- 3. Cooperate, among interested partners, to develop a consensual and diversified strategy for the financing of FLR efforts, and reinforce national capacities.
- Assess the respective efforts of countries through the establishment of a voluntary monitoring and notification system for FLR and LDN efforts in the Mediterranean context.

After the welcome address by the High Commissioner of the hosting institution, the High Commission for Waters and Forests and the Fight against Desertification of Morocco (HCEFLCD), by the chair of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea*, and by local authorities, the opening session of the 5th MFW on Monday 20 March morning set the global and regional background on FLR by present-

ing the perspectives on ecosystem conservation and restoration from the COP 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Bonn Challenge, the scientific background on FLR, and the Mediterranean context. The subsequent session in the afternoon presented the context on FLR with the different global and regional ongoing initiatives on FLR.

At the global level, the contribution of FLR to the global targets of the three Rio conventions was clarified. The regionalization process of FLR in the context of the Bonn Challenge and its link with the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration was then presented. At the regional level, the strategic importance given to FLR was recalled and recent data from the Global Drylands Assessment showed that the potential for restoration in the Mediterranean was around 80 million hectares of degraded lands.

The subsequent sessions from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 March followed the different steps that will be needed to implement a regional initiative on FLR at the Mediterranean level. The first step (addressed by session 4) is to check the current status of FLR in the region, to establish a baseline on FLR with respect to which future progress on FLR will be assessed. Session 4 thus presented successful stories on FLR and experiences to be shared at the regional level, and was complemented with session 6 that focused on local governance in FLR.

The second step is to identify opportunities for ecological restoration, improved biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Mediterranean region, to know where FLR actions are the most needed and would achieve the highest efficiency in restoring the services lost by land degradation. This second step was addressed by session 5.

The third step is to monitor FLR and evaluate impacts, to ensure that FLR actions have reached their goal. Different tools and approaches for FLR monitoring and assessment were presented in session 8. The last step is to mobilize financing tools to implement FLR, which was addressed by session 9 that shared lessons learned and good practices on FLR financing innovations from the Mediterranean region and beyond, identified risks and barriers limiting FLR financing, proposed risk mitigation solutions, and presented emerging financing opportunities for FLR from climate and LDN finance. All presentations made during the 5th MFW are accessible on the dedicated web site, and a synthesis of the discussions and results will be published in the proceedings of the

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5th MFW as a special issue of the journal Forêt Méditerranéenne.

The <u>International Day of Forests</u> was also celebrated during the 5th MFW on Tuesday 21 March 2017. On this occasion, a report on the operation launched by the HCEFLCD during the <u>UNFCCC COP 22</u> to plant over a million trees in one day was made and the three Moroccan regions that were the most successful in planting trees were rewarded.

Moreover, in parallel to the 5th MFW, a training workshop on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the <u>Aichi biodiversity targets</u> was organized by the Secretariat of the <u>CBD</u>. The CBD training sessions and the 5th MFW sessions were largely complementary and consistent. Several side events and meetings were organized back-to-back to the 5th MFW, including the MedForum 2017 of the <u>Mediterranean Model Forest Network</u>, and side events on the index of biodiversity potential, on the <u>Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests</u>, on forest health, on the <u>Med-ForVal project</u>, on the <u>BeWater project</u>, on the <u>Great Green Wall</u>, and on communication.

During the gala dinner of the 5th MFW, Lebanon announced its willingness to host the 6th MFW in 2019. Mark it on your calendar!

The 22nd Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea

The 22nd session of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* was held in Agadir, Morocco, on 22 March 2017 from 14:30 to 18:30, during the 5th MFW.



 $22^{\rm nd}$ Committee Silva Mediterranea - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena



22nd Committee *Silva Mediterranea* - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The session was attended by 44 participants including representatives from ten member countries and observers. During this session, Mr. José Manuel Jaquotot Sáenz de Miera from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment was elected as the new chairman of the Committee Silva Mediterranea, replacing Mr. Ismail Belen who had chaired the Committee during five years from 2012 to 2017. Mr. Chadi Mohanna from the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Abdelmalek Abdelfettah from the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries were elected as vice-chairmen.

During its 22nd session, the Committee validated all the decisions that it had previously taken during its extraordinary meetings from 2012 to 2017, including the decisions taken on the basis of the recommendations of the 2013 evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* (extraordinary meeting of the Committee on 18 March 2015) and the concept for the new edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests 2018 (extraordinary meeting of the Committee on 22 July 2016). The Committee also confirmed the <u>Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests</u> adopted in 2013 as a voluntary tool to prioritize forestry questions in the region and monitor progress on the key forestry questions.

The Committee recommended to give impetus to the establishment of a specific strategy for *Silva Mediterranea*, in line with the decision taken on 18 March 2015 during the extraordinary meeting of the Committee "to elaborate a common view and its own strategy based on the identification of priority areas among the lines and/or recommendations of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest". It was pointed out in particular that the topic of the restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes addressed by the 5th MFW could represent a strong axis of the *Silva Mediterranea* strategy.

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22nd Committee *Silva Mediterranea* - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The Committee discussed the respective role of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks and of the session of the Committee. The Committee took note in particular that the Mediterranean Forest Weeks have replaced the technical content of the sessions of the Committee as they used to be organized formerly, which is consistent with the decisions taken by the Committee during its extraordinary meeting on 18 March 2015 "to contribute to the organization of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks regularly as an open forum for different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities" and "to organize the Committee's sessions every two years on the occasion of Mediterranean Forest Weeks".

The Committee adopted the overall organization process of the 6th Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in 2019 based on regular meeting of an Organizing Committee. Nevertheless, the Committee recommended to have better control on the thematic to be addressed by the Mediterranean Forest Week, and that the high-level segment of the Mediterranean Forest Week be replaced by the Session of the Committee.

The Committee took note of the publication in 2013 of the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests and approved the structure for its new edition. The Committee further validated the concept for a Mediterranean agro-silvo-pastoral memento as a complementary book to the State of Mediterranean Forests, that could be developed in collaboration with the working group on dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems established at the 23rd session of the Committee on Forestry.

As regards the 8 working groups of *Silva Mediterranea*, on the basis of the recommendations of the 2013 evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*, the Committee recommended to suppress the working group on sustainable financing mechanisms, and to reconsider the existence, or at least the mandate, of the working group on climate change. Based also on the recommendation of the 2013 evalua-

tion of *Silva Mediterranea*, the Committee recommended to change the working group on Mediterranean forests and sustainable development into a task force focusing on the preparation of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks and on the new edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests 2018.

The Committee adopted the working plans for the biennium 2017-2019 of the other working groups: working on forest fires; working group on cork oak and non-wood forest products; working group on forest genetic resources; working group on urban and periurban forestry; working group on desertification and restoration of Mediterranean drylands.

The Committee discussed the draft Agadir Commitment towards a Mediterranean regional initiative on forest and landscape restoration to be discussed and adopted at the high-level segment of the 5th MFW on 24 March 2017 and that was built on the priority already given on forest and landscape restoration by the Committee, in particular in the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests. The Committee approved this initiative but recommended to review the text before presenting it at the high-level segment of the 5th MFW.

The Committee finally gave its support to the ongoing regional dynamics on Forest and Landscape Restoration, in particular to the development of a regional project proposal to be funded by the Global Environment Facility within its 7th replenishment cycle.



Eva Muller (FAO), Ismail Belen (Turkey) - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The new edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests

To compensate for the lack of data on Mediterranean forests and provide sound basis for the management of Mediterranean forests in the future, members of the

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Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions—*Silva Mediterranea* requested FAO, at a meeting held in April 2010 in Antalya, Turkey, to prepare a report on the state of Mediterranean forests, in collaboration with other institutions.

The first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) was published in 2013 with the contribution of 21 institutions coordinated by Plan Bleu and FAO. Following this success, a second edition of the SoMF has been prepared since January 2016. After a preliminary questionnaire that was addressed to the contributors of the SoMF 2013, a first meeting of the contributors to the new edition of the SoMF was organized in April 2016 in Rome (see Newsletter 24) to present the results of this survey and to define a draft table of contents of the new edition of the SoMF. It was agreed that the second edition of the SoMF should not be simply an update of the 2013 edition using updated data, but it should be different and complementary.

The 2013 edition of the SoMF relied on data coverage for all countries of the Mediterranean, using data sources (such as the FRA) that systematically addressed all countries, so as to get a regional overview. The second edition will deal with subjects that are more focused, both geographically and thematically, but still having a regional interest. In addition to the FRA, Plan Bleu indicators and EFFIS, new data sources that provide a systematic regional coverage will be used, such as the FAO Global Drylands Assessment.

An outcome of the first meeting of the contributors to the SoMF was a draft table of contents with 3 parts and 13 chapters. Between April and December 2016, terms of references for each of the 13 chapters were prepared. On 15-16 December 2016, a second meeting of the contributors to the second edition of the SoMF was organized in Rome to validate the terms of reference of the chapters and identify chapter coordinators. The current table of contents of the second edition of the SoMF is:

Part 1: The Mediterranean landscape: importance and threats.

Chapter 1. Contribution of Mediterranean forests to the global agenda – coordinator: Mr. Ismail Belen, Turkey.

Chapter 2. Importance of Mediterranean forests – coordinator: Mr. Pablo Martín Ortega, Spain.

Chapter 3. Forests and trees outside forest (urban forests, agroforests, etc.) – coordinators: Mr. Fabio Salbitano, Italy and Ms. Samira Benamar, Morocco.

Chapter 4. Drivers of degradation and threats – coordinator: Mr. Enrique Doblas Miranda, Spain.

Part 2: Mediterranean forest-based solutions.

Chapter 5. Human needs and ecosystem services – coordinator: Mr. Inazio Martínez de Arano, Spain.

Chapter 6. Forest and landscape restoration – coordinator: Ms. Carolina Gallo Granizo, FAO.

Chapter 7. Adaptation and mitigation – coordinator: Mr. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza and Mrs. Anna Barbati, Italy.

Chapter 8. Biodiversity conservation/protected areas – coordinator: Mrs. Catherine Numa, IUCN.

Part 3: Enabling environment to scale up solutions.

Chapter 9. Contribution of Mediterranean forests to the green economy – coordinator: Mr. Inazio Martínez de Arano, Spain.

Chapter 10. Local approaches to community engagement – coordinator: Mrs. Magali Maire, FAO.

Chapter 11. Policy frameworks and governance styles – coordinator: Mrs. Irina Buttoud, FAO.

Chapter 12. Valuing the ecosystem services for the decision-maker agenda – coordinators: Mr. Hamed Daly-Hassen, Tunisia and Ms. Nelly Bourlion, France.

Chapter 13. Financial incentives and tools – coordinators: Mr Ludwig Liagre, UNCCD Secretariat and Ms. Elena Górriz, Spain.

A scientific board composed of Mr. Jean de Montgolfier (France), Mr. Eduardo Rojas (Spain) and Mr. Youssef Saadani (Tunisia) has been established to provide scientific guidance and overall review of the new edition of the SoMF.

Guidelines for the preparation of the chapters have also been prepared. The table of contents of the new edition of the SoMF was presented at a side event during the 5th MFW in Agadir, Morocco, and was validated by the participants. The writing of the chapters under the coordination of the chapter coordinators is currently underway.

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Outcomes of the regional project "Maximizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes"

After four years of activities (2012-2016), the regional project "Maximizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes" funded by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) came to an end on 31 December 2016. The last workshop and closing meeting of the project was organized on 10-12 October 2016 in Paris, France.

On 10-11 October, an overview of the REDD+ activities in the Mediterranean region was made together with the <u>UN-REDD Programme</u>, which was an opportunity to make a review of both the activities of the component 4 of the project in the five target countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) and of the advances of the UN-REDD Programme in Tunisia.



Argan tree (field trip) - 5th MFW 2017 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The role of the forest sector in the Nationally Determined Contributions of the five target countries of the project was also presented, and a discussion on the tools needed to ensure that the forest sector will play its role in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change of the Mediterranean countries took place.

On 12 October, the main outcomes of the regional project were reviewed, the preliminary results of the evaluation of the project were presented and discussed, and follow-up actions were defined. The main lessons learned from the regional project for future actions are the following:

- Reinforce the systematic collection of data on Mediterranean forest ecosystems.
- Adapt institutional and legal frameworks to the

- needs of local populations who are keen to return to managing their natural resources sustainably.
- Systematically integrate participatory approaches and socioeconomic analyses in forest development plans.
- Reinforce the organizational skills and capacity of local communities and strengthen value chains for forest wood and non-wood products.
- Reinforce the Mediterranean forest sector's financial capacity by creating conditions conducive to investment.
- Facilitate synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly by identifying the value of incorporating REDD+ cobenefits i.e. primary and additional benefits of REDD+ approaches.
- Promote collaboration between Mediterranean countries facing common issues e.g. water scarcity, forest and land degradation.
- Promote regional approaches in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences, knowledge and lessons learned.
- Improve knowledge and raise awareness of Mediterranean forests, while respecting the diverse needs of Mediterranean countries and their populations.

The independent final evaluation of the project took place between July and November 2016 and was realized by an independent expert from BRL Ingénierie selected by the FFEM Secretariat.

The independent evaluation highlighted that "the project, as a whole, was a success and most of the expected outcomes were achieved or even surpassed", and that "the project had also made a great contribution to implementing the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and the Strategic Framework for Mediterranean forests." On the other hand, the evaluation pointed out that the results of the project were immaterial, which questioned the sustainability of their impacts and deferred offsets of the project, that the participation of North Mediterranean countries to the project did not take place, and technical assistance lacked continuity.

Considering the possibility of a future follow-up project, the evaluation recommended to focus on participatory, integrated management of pilot sites based on the methodology already developed by the project, "because the project proved that, so far, the most effective climate

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change adaptation measure is to regulate wood-cutting". Additional recommendations from the evaluation for a future project include to:

- Focus activities on a single pilot site per country, and avoid protected areas
- Plan mechanisms to replicate the results
- Include a component on the possibilities of setting up ecosystem services payment mechanisms
- Consider extending the list of beneficiary countries (Albania, Jordan, Iran)
- Seek effective collaboration with north Mediterranean countries
- Seek appropriate co-financing, including counterpart funding by the beneficiary countries.

The FFEM project's challenges, results and lessons learned have been documented in a set of documents co-published by FAO and Plan Bleu. These include technical reports, guidelines, and short syntheses highlighting the project's main experiences and how successful activities can be scaled up and applied in similar climatic regions in other parts of the world.

The publications are aimed at practitioners, forest managers, and decision-makers who are working to support the development of the Mediterranean in general and the management of Mediterranean forests in particular. Regional syntheses are the following:

- 1. Booklet presenting the main results of the FFEM project components 1 to 5 and lessons learned -Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global challenges
- 2. Mediterranean forests: towards a better recognition of the economic and social value of goods and services through participative governance
- 3. Assessment of the socio-economic value of the goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems: Regional synthesis
- 4. Improving Mediterranean woodland areas governance through participative approaches implementation. Regional synthesis
- 5. Agents et causes de la déforestation et dégradation dans les sites pilotes du projet
- 6. Geographic distribution of 24 major tree species in the Mediterranean and their genetic resources

- 7. Guide pratique pour la mise en œuvre d'une gestion participative et durable des espaces boisés dans les pays du Maghreb
- 8. Digital map Geographic distribution of 24 Mediterranean and European Forest tree species

In addition to these regional syntheses, 14 national reports presenting the results of the different components of the project in the eight pilot sites of the project were published. The complete list of published report is available at www.fao.org/forestry/85751/en/.

The outcomes of the regional FFEM project, its publications and the results of the independent evaluation of the project were presented and discussed at a side-event organized on 20 March during the 5th MFW in Agadir, Morocco.

Moving toward a strengthened cooperation in the Mediterranean region

A side-event "Moving toward a strengthened cooperation in the Mediterranean region" was held during the 5th MFW in Agadir, Morocco on Monday 20 March 2017. This side-event aimed at re-activating the regional dynamic of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) by connecting it to ongoing regional initiatives. About 30 people attended the meeting, including representatives from Lebanon, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran and members of the CPMF.

Four presentations were made to present the context and the current situation of the CPMF. The first presentation made an overview of the results of the CPMF between 2010-2016, highlighting that two regional projects (one implemented by GIZ and the other funded by the FFEM) have supported most of the activities of the CPMF operational plan 2011-2015.



Agadir, Morocco @C. Marchetta

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Documents display booth - 5th MFW 2016 Agadir, Morocco @P. Valbuena

The second presentation focused on the <u>FFEM project</u> that ended in December 2016, to make an overview of its results and to outline the main conclusion of the independent final evaluation of the project made by BRL Ingénierie in July-November 2016.

The third presentation introduced the preparation of the new edition of the <u>State of Mediterranean Forests</u>, which is one of the cross-priorities achievement of the CPMF. The last presentation suggested possible prospects for the CPMF, based on the four priorities identified during the last steering committee of the CPMF in November 2015, but also recalling that the CPMF agreement that was signed in 2010-2012 for a period of four years has formally expired. The discussion addressed the following points:

- New edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF): except when significant changes are to be reported, the new edition will not be an update of the forest statistics given in the SoMF 2013 because there are little changes regarding Mediterranean forest statistics between the FRA 2010 data and the FRA 2015 data. The new edition will rather focus on forestry questions of current interest for the Mediterranean region. The agro-sylvo-pastoral memento would complement it, by dealing with practices and concret aspects.
- Evaluation of the regional FFEM project: the evaluation was directly driven by the FFEM Secretariat and was made by an independent reviewer from the firm BRL Ingénierie. The evaluation report has been sent to all the focal points of the FFEM projects.
- The re-activation of the CPMF requires some financial support from a donor that wishes to accompany
 the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forests.
 It also requires clear priority questions to be addressed, and should take advantage of the recom-

mendations of the evaluation of the CPMF made in 2015. Depending of the priorities identified, funding opportunities could come from donors like the European Commission (through budget support to partner countries), the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, or the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. It is also recommended that national projects include the facilitation of regional exchanges.

 A new text agreement for the CPMF will have to be signed. The set of partners of the CPMF should be updated by asking former partners to renew their commitment and possibly including new partners (WRI, The Node, etc.) target countries of the new agreement could be signatories of the agreement.

The side-event made the following recommendations regarding a roadmap for the CPMF:

- Establish a small think tank with a few country representatives to identify priorities to be addressed by the CPMF in the next biennium.
- 2. Lobby donors/organize a donor roundtable to mobilize resources on these priorities.
- 3. Set up a new agreement to be signed by target countries, former members of the CPMF that want to be part of this new agreement, and additional new members.

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