

# **Evaluation 2013** **of Silva Mediterranea Committee**



Version: February 2014

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**Evaluation 2013**  
**of FAO AFWC/EFC/NEFRC Committee**  
**on Mediterranean forestry questions**  
***(Silva Mediterranea)***



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## **Acknowledgments**

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The panel also wishes to extend its warmest thanks to FAO Forestry Department and to the Secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee for their efficient collaboration, their responsiveness and the excellent environment that they have instilled in this exercise throughout the year.

The panel also acknowledges all the persons consulted within the framework of this evaluation for the quality of their exchanges and the richness of the debates which punctuated the entire evaluation.

## **Abbreviations/Acronyms**

AFD	<i>Agence Française de Développement</i> / French Development Agency
AFWC	African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (FAO)
AIFM	<i>Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes</i> / International Association for Mediterranean Forests
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
COFO	Committee on Forestry (FAO)
CPMF	Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests
EEC	Enlarged Executive Committee
EFC	European Forestry Commission (FAO)
EFFIS	European Forest Fire Information System
EFI	European Forest Institute
EFIMED	European Forest Institute MEDiterranean regional office
EMUNI	Euro-Mediterranean UNiversity
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
EUFORGEN	EUropean FORest GENetic resources programme
EUROMED	EURO-MEDiterranean partnership
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGEF / FFEM	French Global Environmental Facility
FGR	Forest Generic Resources
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i> / German Agency for International Cooperation
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IML	<i>Institut Méditerranéen du Liège</i> / Mediterranean Institute of Cork
INRGREF	National Research Institute of Rural Engineering, Water and Forests
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
JRC	Joint Research Centre (European Commission)
LBA	Legally Binding Agreement
MBI	Market-Based Instrument
MEDFOR	MEDiterranean FORestry and Natural Resources Management
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MFW	Mediterranean Forest Week
MMFN	Mediterranean Model Forest Network
NEFRC	Near East Forestry and Range Commission (FAO)
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REIO	Regional Economic Integration Organization
SFMF	Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests
SoMF	State of Mediterranean Forests
TIKA	Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
USSE	South European Foresters Union
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## **Preamble**

In order to make this document easy to read, but also in order to avoid misunderstandings, the panel has considered useful to clarify the meaning of specific terms that it will frequently employ:

Bureau of the Committee	Sub-body of the Committee composed of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs elected by the Committee
- Committee - <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee - <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>	FAO Statutory body composed of members and several sub-bodies
Executive Committee	Sub-body of the Committee composed of the Bureau and the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies, responsible for the implementation of the work programme during the intersession period
Enlarged Executive Committee	Sub-body of the Committee and composed of the Executive Committee and representatives from France and Morocco, in charge of the yearly follow-up of the subsidiary bodies' programs
Sub-bodies of the Committee	Secretariat, Bureau, Executive Committee, Enlarged Executive Committee and subsidiary bodies
Intersessional Period	Period between two formal sessions of the Committee
Members of the Committee	Statutory members of the Committee; i.e. 27 countries and the European Union (as a Regional Economic Integration Organization)
Subsidiary body	Sub-body of the Committee being working group or research network implemented by the Committee that contributes to the execution of its mandate by providing information and advice
National focal point	Person designated by a member state of the Committee in charge of ensuring the contact between the country in question and the Committee's sub-bodies during the intersessional period
Secretariat of the Committee	Sub-body of the Committee composed of a minimum of one secretary assigned by FAO, in charge of administrative tasks



## **1. Evaluation mission**

### **1.1. Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference of the evaluation were adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva-Mediterranea*, which was held in Antalya in February 2012 (Annex 1).

In response to additional questions from the FAO Forestry Department, closely related to the presence of new stakeholders and initiatives on the Mediterranean forestry scene (European Forest Institute - Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED) and its network, the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), etc.), the panel has broadened its scope of analysis. Apart from the examination of the works and functioning of the six working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee for the period 2009-2012 that constituted its initial mandate's core, the panel examined the relevance of two new working groups created in 2012 but also, and above all, the overall functioning of the Committee throughout that period, its added value, its positioning on the Mediterranean scene, how it's covering stakes and issues, and finally its sustainability.

The common guiding thread of this work is the issue of the specific added value brought or which could be brought by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee to its members.

### **1.2. Method of work**

#### **1.2.1. Composition of the Panel**

The independent panel is composed of experts who know well the Mediterranean region and its stakes:

- Christine FARCY, University of Louvain, Belgium (Chair)
- Alain CHAUDRON, Association Internationale des Forêts Méditerranéennes, France
- Ameer MOKHTAR, General Directorate of Forests, Tunisia
- Placido PLAZA, International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, Spain
- Giuseppe SCARASCIA, University of Tuscia, Italy

Some of them have participated in the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's previous activities while others have never been in touch with the Committee, this allowed the panel to have some kind of memory of the process but also a detached perspective that ensures the required neutrality.

#### **1.2.2. Development**

The works began in January 2013. At the request of FAO Forestry Department, the panel presented a midway progress report during a work session held on June 17, 2013 in Rome.

At the beginning of November, a *first draft* was submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee for a reading in order to correct any possible factual errors. A *second draft* was presented to the annual session of *Silva Mediterranea* Enlarged Executive Committee (EEC) held on December 4, 2013 in Hammamet, Tunisia. The panel took note of the reactions and comments expressed by the members and observers who were present and suggested the date of December 31, 2013 for sending additional remarks.

The final version of the document was finished in January 2014. After its translation into English, the final report will be presented in Rome, in June 2014, at an extraordinary session of the Committee organised back to back to the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).

### 1.2.3. Methodology

The methodology adopted for the evaluation of this complex object named *Silva Mediterranea* Committee is mainly qualitative and relies on one hand on the triangulation or cross-checking information and on the other hand on the saturation, namely the data collection until no new significant element is found.

Although the evaluation reference period is 2009-2012, the panel has also taken into consideration elements and important events of 2013 that constitute a logical follow-up or that are the products of an important process previously started.

Information and data result from the analysis of documentation available on the rich website of the Committee (Annex 2), from a questionnaire addressed to the national focal points (Annex 3) and from interviews of working groups' coordinators, working groups' members, FAO's officers and executives, national focal points and other Mediterranean forestry stakeholders (Annex 4). These meetings with the entire FAO panel or some of its members, as appropriate, were organised in Rome from 21 to 24 January 2013, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week from 17 to 21 March 2013 in Tlemcen (Algeria), at a meeting of the Working Group on Forest Fires, from 18 to 19 April 2013 in Slovenia, at the annual EFIMED meeting in Barcelona, from 4 to 5 September 2013, at the sessions of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) in Rovaniemi, from 9 to 13 December 2013 and of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) in Amman from 26 to 30 January 2014. More informal meetings with the chair were also held during international events and meetings which took place in 2013 (European meetings in Brussels, FAO Conference on forest for food security and nutrition in Rome, negotiation sessions for a legally binding agreement on Forests in Europe).

A brainstorming session was organised on 24 July 2013 in Rome on the initiative of FAO Forestry Department. At this session were gathered persons in charge and experts from this Department involved in the Committee's working groups. It allowed the panel to test or validate specific propositions.

The work was distributed within the panel. Ameer MOKHTAR and Alain CHAUDRON mainly collected the information that were useful for the examination of the working groups' works and functioning while Placido PLAZA, Giuseppe SCARASCIA and Christine FARCY concentrated their attention on the Committee functioning and positioning. The text written by the chair was regularly submitted to a collective proofreading.

## **2. General functioning of the Committee**

After a brief outline of the history of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, its current general functioning will be examined in terms of status, mandate, internal functioning and governance, as well as budget.

### **2.1. Brief history**

The history of the Committee goes back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the launch in 1911 of an international association of technicians interested in Mediterranean forestry questions that became the *Silva Mediterranea* Mediterranean Forest League in 1922. The specificities of the region and the need for an adapted response are the main elements of the key thread throughout its history up to the present. The association, which maintained its activity up to 1935, deals basically with technical and scientific issues: choice of species, treatment and reforestation methodology, grazing restoration and fight against forest fires.

After the Second World War, at the countries' request, *Silva Mediterranea* activities came into the fold of FAO via the creation in 1948 of a statutory body, in this case, a Sub-commission linked to the European Commission on Forestry. In order to be in line with FAO organizations, its internal structures and especially the six regional Committees created between 1947 and 1959, the Sub-commission was progressively placed under the joint authority of concerned forestry Sub-commissions (Europe, Africa and Middle-East). As we will see later, this evolution had its consequence; the Committee opened to new members such as Iran, Soudan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia and lost some of its flexibility, due to the multiplication of bodies that are able to act interactively.

Figure 1 shows the chronology and positions the different stages and events that took place in the history of this Committee since its foundation and that will be mentioned later in the text.

### **2.2. Status and mandate**

#### **2.2.1. Status**

Within the forestry domain, we can distinguish within FAO, the Committee on Forestry (COFO) which is the highest FAO forestry statutory body, the six regional forestry Commissions<sup>1</sup> as well as the three existing technical statutory bodies composed of countries or individually appointed experts: the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, the International Poplar Commission and the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF<sup>2</sup>).

*Silva Mediterranea* Committee (formally AFWC/EFC/NEFRC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*) is a technical statutory body of FAO in accordance to article 6 of the FAO Constitution. Its status was established by resolution 62/59 of the FAO Conference.

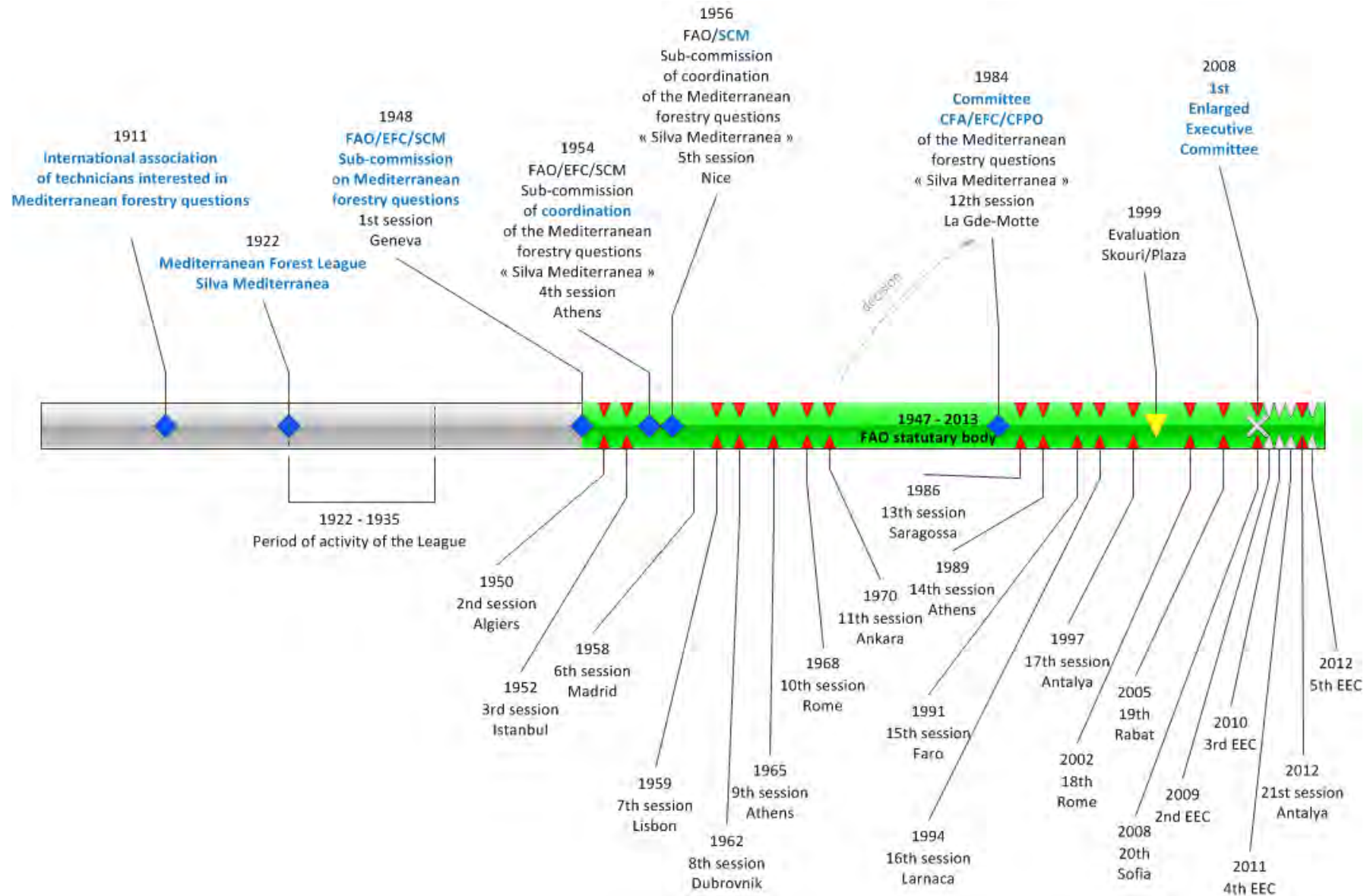
FAO technical statutory bodies are neutral bodies that must allow an international dialog that may support the efforts that countries make in order to have adequate policies, practices and institutions. Their task is mainly to identify problems and provide technical and political advice to its members and others, in accordance to the circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> North American Forest Commission (NAFC), European Forestry Commission (EFC), African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) and Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)

<sup>2</sup> [www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/gsb-forestry/en](http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/gsb-forestry/en)

Picture 1: Chronological overview of the evolution of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee since its foundation



### 2.2.2. Terms of reference

The current terms of reference of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee read as follows:

- a) *“To periodically review the trends in the use of forest land in the Mediterranean area and to assess the impact of changes implemented in the agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors, and to advise Member Governments accordingly on reorientation or improvements necessary to meet changed situations or newly-emerging needs; conversely, to periodically examine progress in forestry technology within regional and ecological contexts in order to better assess present forest land utilization methods;*
- b) *To identify forestry research priorities in the Mediterranean area, determine forestry research projects of common interest to Member Governments in the Region and recommend to the Director-General of FAO and Member Governments the adoption of measures necessary to coordinate the concerted execution of these projects by the forestry research institutes in the Region;*
- c) *To determine and carry out, in collaboration with Member Nations and with the support of the appropriate national forestry agencies, the technical studies and surveys which are deemed necessary to assist Governments of the Region formulate national forest policies or facilitate their implementation<sup>3</sup>”.*

This mandate was issued in 1970 and has not been formally reviewed since then; in practice, gradual shifts have occurred in particular in the research component. A more explicit review of the Committee's terms of reference should be undertaken and examined in the light of the deep ongoing institutional and stakes changes.

### 2.2.3. Composition

#### – Members

*Silva Mediterranea* is an intergovernmental forum. Its members are countries, as well as the European Union being a Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO). The status of membership presupposes participation in the decision process.

The specificity of the Committee is that it is interested in a region implicitly outlined by a combination of historic, geographic, climatic and economic criteria and thus it is straddling on several FAO regional Commissions:

*“The Committee is open to all members of the African, European, and Near East Forestry Commissions of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or in part in the Mediterranean basin proper or whose forest, agricultural, or grazing economies are intimately associated with those of the Mediterranean Region<sup>4</sup>”.*

The Committee is currently composed of 28 members. Table 1 presents their distribution among the three regional forestry Commissions in question.

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<sup>3</sup> Report of the 11th session of the Sub-commission on Mediterranean forestry questions “*Silva Mediterranea*” (Ankara)

<sup>4</sup> Report of the 8th session of the Sub-commission of coordination of the Mediterranean forestry questions (Dubrovnik)

**Table 1:** Distribution of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee members among FAO regional forestry Commissions

<b>European Forestry Commission (EFC)</b>	Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, European Union
<b>African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)</b>	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia
<b>Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)</b>	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen

The table 1 shows that six member states of the Committee belong to two Commissions: the countries located in the African continent and that are also part of the Near East<sup>5</sup>, Turkey, as well as Cyprus that joined the European Forestry Commission thanks to its accession to the European Union.

Being the unique intergovernmental forum dedicated to forests in the Mediterranean key region, the Committee occupied for decades a very specific niche and thus a privileged position. The sense of belonging and ownership is nevertheless quite uneven. Some members have a specific branding image and are sentimentally attached to *Silva Mediterranea*, while other members think of it like the Secretariat or have a very blurred image. Some other members even ignore their membership; it is the case of Sudan or Jordan but also Iran, a country with six million hectares of Mediterranean forests that represent approximately 55% of the national forest coverage.

#### – Observers

*Silva Mediterranea* terms of reference foresee the participation of non-member states of the Committee but also of organizations and institutions, in the formal sessions of the Committee and in the work of subsidiary bodies. In this case, the Committee grants the status of observer that allows intervening in the debates or submitting memoranda or declarations but does not authorise the participation in the decision-making process. We will later look at the ambiguity of this status and at the increasing pressure from stakeholders and associations in particular for intervening in a more active and decisive way within the Committee. This situation reflects the current ongoing change at global level with the new concept of governance, which is also encountered in other FAO committees.

Since the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee (2008), we have seen an increasing participation of observers that we will find later on within the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF). The proximity between the CPMF and the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee justifies a short presentation of the former in order to clarify the casual reader (see 6.1.4 for a more detailed presentation). Created in 2010 based on a regional project but formally established between the German cooperation (GIZ) and Morocco (named GIZ project within this report), this voluntary partnership presenting itself as an international association<sup>6</sup>, gathers nowadays around fifteen institutions and associations that wish to coordinate their activities in order to reinforce the capacities of six target countries that are also members of *Silva Mediterranea*: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Its Secretariat has been assigned to the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat in order to facilitate communication between CPMF members and member countries of the Committee targeted by this initiative.

FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Committee has therefore the same secretary than the temporary platform that constitutes the CPMF and collaborates closely with the latter but formally these are entities that are independent from one another as shown by their respective different logo; they are different in terms of status, governance, geographical scope but also in their aim. We shall see that in practice, this is not as straightforward.

<sup>5</sup> The initial definition of Africa by FAO limited the former to the countries located in the south of the Senegal river

<sup>6</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/36744-0da0daf97010af0c98cce660f15273b8.pdf](http://www.fao.org/forestry/36744-0da0daf97010af0c98cce660f15273b8.pdf)

#### 2.2.4. Functioning within FAO

The relations between the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and other FAO forestry bodies are twofold:

- The link between *Silva Mediterranea* and the three regional forestry Commissions, to which it is connected to, is normally formalized during the biennial sessions of these Commissions, via the specific point on Mediterranean forestry questions that is on the Agenda;
- At the Forestry Committee (COFO) that also meets every two years, two points of the agenda are susceptible to integrate the recommendations of the Committee: the first refers to the decisions and recommendations of FAO bodies of interest to the COFO and the second one relates to the regional forestry Commissions' recommendations to FAO and in particular to its work programme.

Reading COFO and the regional forestry Commissions sessions' reports and participating in EFC and NEFRC sessions reveal the tenuous, irregular and basically informative nature of their relations with the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee. We will see later that there are nevertheless specific needs and demands from the Committee that could, despite its apparent complexity, be usefully present within the informational and decisional structure of FAO that we have briefly mentioned.

### 2.3. Governance and internal functioning

The main functioning elements of *Silva Mediterranea* are settled by an internal regulation adopted in 1958 and reviewed in 1960 and in 1962<sup>7</sup>. Other elements are the result of occasional decisions made by the Committee.

#### 2.3.1. Sessions

The Work of the Committee is marked by formal sessions that up to 2008 were biennial sessions; it is usually during these sessions that decisions are taken. The representatives of the members participating in the sessions must have been formally previously designated. Table 2 presents the level of participation of the members in the last five sessions.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/gsb-forestry/detail/en/c/188/](http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/gsb-forestry/detail/en/c/188/)

**Table 2:** Participation of members in the last five sessions of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee  
(In number of participants per session and number of participations in the last five sessions)

Members	Antalya 1997	Rome 2002	Rabat 2005	Sofia 2008	Antalya 2012	Participation per country
European Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albania	0	0	1	0	0	1
Iran	0	1	0	0	0	1
Iraq	0	1	0	0	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	0	0	1
Libya	0	0	2	0	0	1
Malta	1	0	0	0	0	1
Romania	0	0	1	0	0	1
Serbia <sup>8</sup>	-	-	-	3	0	1
Egypt	1	1	0	0	0	2
Israel	0	0	0	1	1	2
Sudan	1	0	1	0	0	2
Lebanon	0	1	2	0	2	3
Tunisia	3	1	0	0	1	3
Algeria	0	1	1	1	1	4
Bulgaria	0	2	1	1	1	4
Greece	1	3	0	1	1*	4
Spain	0	3	1	1	1	4
Turkey	15	2	0	1	3	4
Cyprus	1	2	1	1	1	5
France	3	2	3	1	1	5
Italy	3	7	2	4	3	5
Morocco	1	1	4	1	1*	5
Portugal	4	2	2	1	1	5
<b>Number of members per session</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	

\*: Greece and Morocco had to cancel their participation to the 2012 session *in extremis* due to climate conditions or exceptional national constraints. Nevertheless, their participation has been taken into account in the table.

At these last five sessions, with the exception of the 2002 session in Rome, less than half the members were present. Thirteen members out of the twenty-eight only participated in one session or did not participate in any of the five sessions of the Committee. These members are also usually absent from the key events organised by the Committee and its partners as the Mediterranean Forest Weeks; some of them ignore that they are members of the Committee. We find in this group countries a bit more withdrawn like Albania, Jordan or Libya but also five countries not bordering the Mediterranean, the two countries of the Arabic peninsula, Iraq, Iran and Romania. The European Union is also in this group, which can be explained by the absence of a unique interlocutor for forestry questions in general and *a fortiori* Mediterranean within this institution where the forestry theme that is not an exclusive competence is fragmented and scattered within the different specialised services.

<sup>8</sup> 2003 : State Union of Serbia and Montenegro – 2006 : Independence of Serbia



The Committee can count on a dozen countries among which some have been very active and present for many years; some have been slightly more silent or irregular lately due to different types of crises affecting the region. Finally, it should be noticed that some countries are interested in the Committee but they have scarce human resources and they have to allocate them to priority dossiers, for example the integration in the European Union, such as in the case of Croatia.

The level of participants in the sessions is heterogeneous and irregular. Thus, when we examine the list of participants in the 2012 session, we see that some countries are represented by a member of a working group as the coordinator that in fact does not belong to the Ministry in charge of Forestry. It is also noticed that only a small minority of countries is represented by a high level officer, i.e. those who have decision-making power; in fact it is basically the two countries that pass the torch of the presidency of the Committee to each other. This observation should be considered together with one of the components of the Committee's mandate, i.e. the mobilisation of the political level.

Most of the observers present at the last Committee session (Antalya 2012) are currently members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).

### 2.3.2. Bureau and Executive Committee

Over the course of its history, *Silva Mediterranea* has passed through several recurrent phases of questioning and interrogation about its future and even maybe its survival. Even if it has shown a real capacity of adaptation, it has often looked for more efficient and more pertinent operational modalities; evolution of the supervision authorities, shift of the mandate, cohabitation among active and latent members, transition between presidencies with different personalities or projects, greater or lesser Secretariat presence, difficulty to maintain the interest throughout the times of more or less Mediterranean activity and current events. These were factors that have frequently tested the resilience of the Committee.

*Silva Mediterranea* has long relied on a Bureau and an Executive Committee. Nowadays, the Bureau is established following each session during the designation of a chair and two vice-chairs. The Bureau established is usually active up to the following session. Together with the persons in charge/coordinators of the networks or working groups that will be discussed in point 2.3.4, it constitutes the Executive Committee that is supposed to act on behalf of the Committee during the intersessional period and to be responsible for the implementation of the programme of work.

In 2008, two decisions were taken in order to try to solve the difficult equation of cohabitation between countries that are present and active and countries that are more silent, even frequently absent:

- The Committee's sessions that until then were held every two years were set to take place every four years;
- An Enlarged Executive Committee (EEC) that meets once a year was created; it is composed of the Executive Committee's members and of representatives of France and Morocco.

Concerning the first decision, regardless of other considerations, we take notice that the timing chosen is atypical and that it is different from those of the regional Commissions and COFO, which could have contributed to disconnect and isolate the Committee from other FAO bodies.

The second decision has allowed creating a mobilisation around the Mediterranean forestry theme based on strongholds and creating a new very useful dynamic throughout the recent phase of coming out of the dormancy of the Committee.

Nevertheless, its implications are not anodyne. In fact, since the creation of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) in 2010, the annual meetings of the EEC and the Steering Committee of CPMF take place at the same location, at the same dates and with the same people. This situation, as well as echoing the respective agenda, might have created and contributed to the maintenance of some confusion on each other's role, even if they are justifiable in budget terms in order to avoid multiplying expenses and regional meetings on Mediterranean forests. For most of the partners and members met, a confusion of this kind is in fact a palpable reality to which, according to some of them, a perception of lack of transparency and an image of an exclusive club are undoubtedly connected to.

Therefore we are witnessing a turning point because a two speed functioning from the Committee is also endorsed and marginalises a series of members that do not belong to the EEC nor to the CPMF and among which we find forestry countries as emblematic as Spain, Italy or Iran. We are also observing some kind of blurring of the standard with regard to the observers' status with an increasing interference of some of them in functions statutorily reserved to members, as we will analyse in detail in section 3.

We can thus legitimately wonder if the two decisions of 2008 have reinforced the Committee or if, together with other factors, they might not have contributed to its gradual structural weakening. On the issue of the composition of the Committee that was at the origin of these decisions, we can ultimately consider that the presence of inactive members does not create major problems; on the contrary, the absence of some key members is much more problematic.

### 2.3.3. National focal points

In order to animate the network, ensure the information dissemination among the bodies of the Committee and its members and contribute to the positive internal functioning of the Committee, it is foreseen to use a network composed of national focal points nominated by their countries and usually allocated to the forestry administration; the list of the national focal points is available on the Committee website.

This relay does not seem being very stimulated and requested, nor does it seem active and reactive; the internal percolation of information is thus weakened and is *in fine* very insufficient. Thus, only three countries, Spain, France and Italy, have answered to the questionnaire sent by the evaluation panel to all the national focal points of *Silva Mediterranea* (Annex 3). Why such low response rate?

- The list of national focal points is incomplete and partially obsolete;
- Some countries have definitely “dropped out”; they cannot usefully answer the questionnaire or, they do not feel concerned by it because they have no knowledge that they are members;
- Some national focal points were not able to answer the questionnaire due to a partial view of the Committee's activities, of the working group's activities that they coordinate or in which one of their representatives participates;
- Some national focal points that came into office after the creation of the CPMF have a scattered or blurred view of the sphere of operation of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and of the role of the Secretariat to the extent of mixing both.

The responses from Italy and Spain, which are not part of the EEC or the CPMF, can be interpreted as willingness in showing those countries' presence and stating their interest despite some detachment, in practice.

Important efforts were made by the Secretariat in terms of communication: Newsletter, Website, etc. These tools contribute undoubtedly to spread the achievements of the committee, although a better distinction could be made between the respective contributions of the different partners of *Silva Mediterranea* and its own. A dissemination channel like the Newsletter is, nevertheless, unidirectional, formatted and linear and does not replace the use of a network of people who ensure a dynamic and

adapted relay between *Silva Mediterranea* bodies and its members. If this task is becoming increasingly complex at the national level due to the multiplication of sectors and themes at stake as of the stakeholders involved, it is nonetheless essential for the proper functioning of a Committee whose ambition is regional cooperation. The implementation of a specific and structured animation will therefore be a short term necessary step.

#### 2.3.4. *Subsidiary bodies*

FAO's functioning rules foresee that statutory bodies like *Silva Mediterranea* can implement subsidiary bodies; the latter have no decision-making power, which remains a prerogative of the Committee, but they contribute to the accomplishment of its mandate by providing it with information, support and advices.

*Silva Mediterranea* subsidiary bodies have the period between two sessions to make some progresses within the activities, progresses that they report at the sessions of the Committee or of the recently enlarged Executive Committee. In accordance to the Committee rules of procedures, which are subject to the functioning logic of an organization whose members are essentially States, its subsidiary bodies can be composed of just representatives of those countries, and the person in charge/coordinator must be elected by his peers. Note that these composition rules are more restrictive than those of the parent body because FAO foresees the possibility of experts who are intervening individually to be members of subsidiary bodies. Note also that these composition rules of the Committee provide for observers to intervene in the debates and works of subsidiary bodies.

During the course of its history, *Silva Mediterranea* has had intense periods and others much more discrete. There has been the opportunity to "test" different modalities of implementing its work programme:

- The Committee has regularly relied on working groups, permanent or *ad hoc*, or thematic research networks; forests and watersheds, fodder trees economy, firefighting planning, multi-purpose species, conifer seed stands, cedar, stone pine, cork oak are some of the topics addressed. Some of the questions asked during the first works of the Committee like the ones about the limits of the Mediterranean region remain partially current;
- The Committee has alternated periods in which it was more interested in technical and scientific questions with stronger support phases committed to more political projects or programs, such as: (1) in the 60's with FAO Mediterranean Development Project, whose emergence "*marked the transition between two periods of activities of the sub-Commission: the period during which the forest was studied as a natural environment and the period during which the forest was more considered as a mean for regional development*"<sup>9</sup>, or (2) in 1994 when the Committee shows the intention of shifting towards an intergovernmental forum for the coordination, follow-up and guiding of the Mediterranean Forest Action Program.

The evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* performed by SKOURI and PLAZA in 1999-2000 suggested, among other things, that a set of more flexible and dynamic working groups should be created instead of the existing research networks. This recommendation that also envisioned the identification of the coordinators and the establishment of specific programs of work followed the observation that the research networks were operating irregularly, in a not very structured and efficient way and that there was the need for going beyond the research framework. Without wanting to establish any cause-effect relation, this recommendation can nowadays be compared to the emergence of EFIMED some years later; it is in fact in 2007 that this regional office of the European Forest Institute (EFI) is implemented to dedicate itself to Mediterranean Forestry Research (see 6.1.2.).

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<sup>9</sup> Final report of the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Commission of coordination on Mediterranean forestry questions « *Silva Mediterranea* » (FAO/SCM/62)

For the 2009-2012 period, the Committee endorsed the constitution or the continuation of the activities of six working groups whose topics are respectively: forest fires (Working Group 1), cork oak (WG2), sustainable development (WG3), forest genetic resources (WG4), climate change (WG5) and sustainable financing mechanisms (WG6). In 2012, two additional groups were added: a group on the restoration in arid zones and another on urban and periurban forests. The cork oak group was extended to the whole non wood forest products.

The examination of the composition, functioning and positioning of the working groups is done in a specific section (point 3). However, it should be noted that these subsidiary bodies play a key role because the Committee's programme of work is exclusively composed of the sum of their programs of work, especially for the period that we are interested in.

### 2.3.5. Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Committee is ensured by the FAO forestry Department. It intervenes upon the request of the Committee but it has in fact some flexibility.

Since November 2009 and after a period of more discrete activities where it was assumed in part-time by the forestry Officer<sup>10</sup> in charge of the arid zones, the Secretariat was ensured in full-time by Christophe BESACIER, French Officer seconded to FAO with the support of the forestry Officer in charge of the arid zones. The allocation of a full time person, which was considered fundamental in the evaluation by SKOURI and PLAZA in 1999-2000, seems more than ever indispensable due to the evolution of the challenges and the major and increasing number of tasks entrusted to the Committee, like the dual role of the Secretariat of the Committee and of the CPMF. The presence of Christophe Besacier at FAO is planned until November 2014. His continuation or his replacement by a FTE is unanimously considered essential to the durability and sustainability of the Committee.

From this availability on, the Secretariat has contributed to a much appreciated revitalisation of the topic and the actuality of the Mediterranean forest as well as to important mobilisation of new direct and indirect financing in particular via the CPMF. It has been very active in several working groups of the Committee and an important part in the organization of key events like the Mediterranean Forest Weeks (2010, 2011, 2013) as well as a key driver for the recent elaboration (2013) of two reference documents: the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) and the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF).

This increased activity was essential to awaken a Committee too many times subjected to dormant phases. Nevertheless, it seems it would have been wise and relevant that the Committee asks the Secretariat to spend more energy and to give more importance to a real reappropriation of the Committee from its members as well as to actions that could ensure an efficient internal coordination. A greater clarity could have also been given to the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the Committee and its partners, in particular those of the CPMF; the structure and organization of the website of the Committee, even maybe of its Newsletter illustrate this situation in a truly inspiring way.

Similarly, special attention should be given to the quality and efficiency of the tandem Presidency/Secretariat. A clearer description of their respective roles could contribute to a better articulation and a greater complementarity of their activities. An additional clarification of the programme of work of the Committee and of the role of the Presidency and the Secretariat seems furthermore useful when the country that presides over the Committee is also a beneficiary of the CPMF, with whom, as a reminder, the Committee shares the Secretariat.

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<sup>10</sup> The English term *officer* was translated into French as *fonctionnaire*

## 2.4. Budget

The Committee does not benefit from any systematic and mandatory contribution from its members. The participation fees of the members' representatives, their alternates and advisers to the activities of the Committee (sessions, meetings and working groups) are borne to the respective governments or organizations. Only the experts invited in their individual capacity are supported by the budget of the Committee. Throughout the recent period of which one of the aims was to reinvigorate the Committee, it seems that some work coordinators and country representatives were financially supported in order to guarantee a sufficient participation in some events.

The precariousness of human and financial resources and of the Committee and its Secretariat is real and its dependence on France to ensure the Secretariat is just as important. For the period 2009-2012, the budget made available to ensure the functioning of the Secretariat was the following (table 3).

**Table 3: Budget allocated to the Secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee (2009-2012)**

<b>2009</b>	Regular FAO Budget	25.000 USD Bureau + means of work + time of arid zones' forestry Officer: Nora Berrahmouni
	France	4 months Christophe Besacier
<b>2010</b>	Regular FAO Budget	25.000 to 35.000 USD Bureau + means of work + time of arid zones' forestry Officer: Nora Berrahmouni
	France	12 months Christophe Besacier
		33.000 USD ( <i>trust fund</i> )
<b>2011</b>	Regular FAO Budget	30.000 to 40.000 USD Bureau + means of work + time of arid zones' forestry Officer: Nora Berrahmouni
	France	12 months Christophe Besacier
<b>2012</b>	Regular FAO Budget	40.000 USD Bureau + means of work + time of arid zones' forestry Officer: Nora Berrahmouni
	France	12 months Christophe Besacier
		35.000 USD ( <i>trust fund</i> )

As this budget was far too low to cover its activities, the Committee was forced to find complements and in the absence of a euro-Mediterranean financing mechanism, the Secretariat was obliged to bring together several financing sources. The overlapping of the activities of the Committee working groups with those of the CPMF, as presented in point 3, prevents however from having a clear picture of the situation. Thus, in-kind contributions were added from CIHEAM, JRC/ CCR/EFFIS, Italy and Spain, more specific contributions from countries like Italy, Greece or Cyprus to organise workshops, or from Turkey, France and Algeria to host the Mediterranean Forest Weeks and more recently French contributions to the elaboration, translation and edition of the State of the Mediterranean Forests and the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests.

The approval at the beginning of 2013 of a European project of researchers networking (COST Action) allowed increasing these contributions in about 150.000 euros per year for 4 years.

Moreover, Germany and France are two important fund donors on the Mediterranean scene within the framework of two projects from the CPMF respectively entitled in this report *GIZ project* and *FFEM project*<sup>11</sup>.

Before going deeper into the analysis of budgetary issues, it is useful to address the functioning of the working groups (point 3). The issue of sustainability of the Committee in financial terms will be specifically addressed in point 5.

## **2.5. Discussion**

Unique intergovernmental forum dedicated to the forestry questions within the region since several decades, the Committee was for a long time the main player for regional cooperation on the Mediterranean forest, including in terms of research.

Statutory body within FAO since 1948, it has performed its duties in a fairly independent manner and did not considered useful to rely on the levers that the regional forest Commission or COFO can be to achieve other decision-making spheres.

For some years now, new stakeholders, partners and fund donors have motivated a new dynamic. Gathered together, especially within CPMF or under EFIMED leadership, they have contributed to giving increased visibility to the Mediterranean forestry questions and to mobilising new resources, of which the Committee undeniably benefited.

Statutorily composed of 28 members, i.e. 27 countries and the European Union, *Silva Mediterranea* can count on a core of a dozen countries that constitute the powerful engine of regional cooperation in that matter. Some recent decisions (session every 4 years and creation of an Enlarged Executive Committee) have, nevertheless endorsed a two speed operating mode that marginalises some key countries - which seems much more prejudicial than having to cohabit with inactive countries.

Combined with a deficient and a not very smooth internal functioning, a weak appropriation by the members and a dynamic presence of new stakeholders and fund donors, these decisions have certainly contributed to structurally weaken the Committee, even maybe jeopardize it. The Committee has been through several dormant phases throughout its history, but the risk of seeing it starting to sleep again and even to disappear has never been greater. After having seen EFIMED starting with Mediterranean forest research, *Silva Mediterranea* seems to have slowly diluted itself in the temporary platform that constitutes the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests for the emergence of which it nevertheless directly contributed so that there has been a blurring of the standard, a displacement of the gravity centre and a progressive inversion of the governance between both. In the absence of specific, clear and re-updated terms of reference, the borders between FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and the CPMF which have the same secretary are getting blurrier. This progressive dilution is also a consequence of the precarious resources of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, but above all of the concurrent difficulty that it seems to have in achieving a continuous mobilisation and a follow-up of the level of the decision-makers, mobilisation that constitutes nevertheless an implicit specificity of its mandate.

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<sup>11</sup> GIZ Project (2010-2015) : 7,5M€ (4M€ in 2010 and 3,5M€ in 2012) : « Adaptation of the framework conditions of forest policy to climate change within the MENA region » ; FFEM project (2011-2015) : 2,65M€ in 2011 : « Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in a context of global changes »

### **3. Review of the positioning of the working groups**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

As indicated in the introduction, the initial mandate of the panel was focused on the evaluation of the six working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* throughout the period 2009-2012. The centre of gravity of the study having diverted towards functioning and positioning issues, it is specifically from these points of view that the working groups were examined.

**Therefore, the present chapter does not constitute an evaluation of the activity and the production of the different working groups; it is an analysis that will allow identifying and understanding the mechanisms inherent to the positioning of the Working groups of the Committee with regard to the other stakeholders.** The interested reader will find in Annex 5 a description of the activities undertaken by each working group of the Committee throughout the reference period as well as the description of the main results obtained at the end of the period. It is also possible to consult the six synthesis notes elaborated by the Secretariat for the session of Antalya in 2012<sup>12</sup>.

This choice of the panel is the consequence of its wish to be able to provide the most constructive and useful knowledge and recommendations to the Committee, its members and FAO. It is also part of the diagnosis logic explained in the previous section, i.e. on one hand, the lack of smoothness in the Committee's functioning and in particular in its focal points network and, on the other hand, following the findings resulting from the first interviews made, namely an important heterogeneity of the working groups and above all a positioning problem from most of them towards other stakeholders and/or partners of the Mediterranean forest. The first point renders illusory the perspective of a real evaluation of the working groups' activities in terms of efficiency or impacts. The second implies the need for a cautious look at the results of the different working groups, being that the authorship of the initiatives and actions is often difficult to establish.

It should be noted that the panel has also chosen to only analyse what is specifically a matter for the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee; the panel considered that a detailed analysis of results of the dynamics of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests for example would go beyond its mandate and its capacity to act.

We must add that the analysis mainly focuses in what the working groups have really done, regardless their initial intentions; this is an important aspect to consider as several groups has evolved throughout the period and that several working groups have undergone changes, some have adjusted/connected a posteriori to projects or projects' components that emerged in between, and others have slightly changed course.

After all, let's clarify that the issues of relevance and adequacy of the topics addressed by the working groups with the current and future stakes, including for the two new groups created in 2012, are analysed in another section (point 7).

Finally, let's recall the guiding thread of this work, i.e. the specific added value that the Committee brings to or could bring to its members which are, as a reminder, governments (with the exception of the European Union) with as background the questions of the reasons of its possible inclusion in the Mediterranean scene and of the niche on which it is possible to (re)position itself.

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<sup>12</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/)

### **3.2. General operating framework**

The analysis will focus on the types of working groups, the modalities of coordination and composition of the groups, FAO's involvement, the scope of action of the groups and the possible overlap with other initiatives or projects, their financing and their added value.

The analysis will be based on a reference operating mode, in this case, the one established at the 18th session of the Committee held in Rome in 2002 and that is part of the compliance with the internal rules presented in point 2.3.4.

This framework provides that each group must be composed of members of the Committee and coordinated by one of them; a coordinator is therefore nominated by his country and he is in a position where he will be able to benefit from his country's support. The groups can count on the support of the Secretariat and FAO Officers in charge of the topics considered. The general framework provides that the financial means of working groups are those that they will have been able to mobilise. The groups must set their general aims and operate based on a 4 year work plan, which corresponds to the duration of the intersessional period. The work plan is basically drafted in terms of activities. The different work plans must be elaborated by coordinators and submitted to the approval of the Committee. Finally, it is provided that the groups should report their activities at the sessions of the Committee, being the Secretariat in charge of disseminating the information relevant to the member states and take note of their needs and feedbacks via the network of national focal points.



**3.3. Working group 1: “forest fires”**

<b>Type of working group</b>	The “forest fires” working group is based on the regional and cross-border coordination and cooperation while integrating training aspects.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	<p>While all other coordinators are identified with persons or institutions, the “forest fires” group coordinator is identified with a function, in this case, the person in charge of the topic at the Spanish ministry. It thus beneficiates from a direct and implicit support from its country.</p> <p>The “forest fires” group is also the only group to be supported by a network of national focal points clearly identified and nominated by their respective countries. This network is currently composed of representatives of 12<sup>13</sup> members out of the 28 that the Committee has; these representatives know each other, meet at the different international bodies concerned with forest fires<sup>14</sup> and are used to work together bilaterally and multilaterally. It should be noted that specific support demands were addressed to FAO by some inactive countries or countries that ignore being members of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>, at the last session of NEFRC.</p>
<b>FAO involvement</b>	The group has beneficiated from an active and intense support from the Secretariat of the Committee and from the Officer in charge of fires at the Forestry Department. The latter has ensured the coordination with the other international bodies by addressing the situation and is the link with the programme of work that FAO develops around that topic and in particular: (1) the voluntary guidelines for fire management established in 2006 and aiming at helping the countries to develop an integrated management approach of fires; and (2) the Alliance for fires management implemented with the aim of stimulating an improved management of fires and reducing the damages resulting from fires all over the world. Nevertheless, it should be noted that at the recent sessions of the regional forest Commissions (EFC, NEFRC) no mention was made by FAO at the presentation of its global actions to the contribution of the Committee.

<sup>13</sup> Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey

<sup>14</sup> Global Wildland Fire Network; Informal working group of forest fire prevention experts (EU); UN-ECE/FAO Team of specialists on Forest Fires; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

<p><b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b></p>	<p>Throughout this period the main goal of the working group was to animate and facilitate information and experience exchange concerning the fight against forest fires within the Mediterranean basin with a specific focus on prevention, including via the organization of training courses.</p> <p>Its main achievement is a contribution to the integration of countries of the Committee<sup>15</sup> to the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)<sup>16</sup> whose coordination is ensured by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the General Directorate of the Environment of the European Commission (EC). The <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group was not the only one to contribute to this process since the topic was also on the agenda of the GIZ project that addressed climatic change; a specific page of the website of this project is dedicated to forest fires<sup>17</sup> and inventories the activities organised on this topic among which is the extension of EFFIS to the MENA countries of CPMF. It is interesting to notice that <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> member states that have joined EFFIS are all beneficiaries from CPMF while other countries that are not have asked FAO for its support in the fight against forest fires during the last NEFRC session held in January 2014.</p> <p>With this integration in EFFIS, beneficiary countries have joined the EU Expert Group on Forest Fires of the European Commission that is linked to it; this group meets every six months and supports initiatives like the implementation of the voluntary guidelines of fire management developed under FAO's responsibility, including the commitments engaged within this area by Forest Europe at the Pan European level. It allows for the annual publication of the situation of the forest fires after each campaign. It should be noted that FAO participates actively in this group's meetings.</p> <p>While the integration process continues with the arrival of Israel, the Spanish coordination and <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group are seeking a new breath that should allow defining the new axis or orientations of a regional cooperation regardless of EFFIS dynamic and the geographically restrained input from the CPMF. The issue of the specific role that the working group could/should play in the future at the regional scale is thus raised; that of the relevance of the topic for the member states of the Committee should not be questioned while the increase of fires frequency and intensity is expected due to the climatic change.</p> <p><b>Specific input from the Committee</b></p> <p>The specific role of the Committee via its Secretariat was to contribute to an impulse and a direction, in this case that of joining a more specialised, more performing network with more financial and human resources. It has contributed to the identification of a platform and supported the accession of some member states.</p>
<p><b>Resources/financing</b></p>	<p>For its judicious link to the European system, the working group allowed the countries that joined EFFIS to benefit from the support of JRC that finances the attendance of an expert per country at the meetings (two meetings per year; one to Ispra and the other to one of the member states of EFFIS). The group has also benefited from the support of the CPMF via the GIZ project of which one of the components is dedicated to this problematic.</p> <p>For the remaining part, the working group can only count on national resources that seem difficult to mobilise, due to economic and financial crisis and to the lack of projects sufficiently mobilising outside the network of European experts or the GIZ project.</p>

<sup>15</sup> Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Turkey

<sup>16</sup> <http://forest.jrc.ec.europa.eu/effis/>: "The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) supports the services in charge of the protection of forests against fires in the EU countries and provides the European Commission services and the European Parliament with updated and reliable information on wildland fires in Europe".

<sup>17</sup> [www.giz-cpmf.org/thematic-issues/climate-change-adaptation/forest-fires-prevention/](http://www.giz-cpmf.org/thematic-issues/climate-change-adaptation/forest-fires-prevention/)

<b>Added value</b>	<b>For the Committee members</b>
	<p>The national focal points interviewed have expressed different elements that constitute for them an added value provided by the working group: data, information and experience exchanges, contribution to the elaboration of framework documents.</p> <p>Reference is made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– By the MENA countries targeted by CPMF to the EFFIS system that is supported by an Internet platform allowing the members of the Committee to benefit of its services and this, independently from the internal functioning of the Committee;</li> <li>– To the Rhodes' workshop report of May 2010 published by Forest Europe "Evaluation of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention";</li> <li>– To the "Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean" document published jointly by <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and the CPMFin 2011;</li> <li>– To the annual report published in 2012 and 2013 by JRC and the General Directorate on Environment of the European Commission "Forest fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa".</li> </ul> <p>The reality of this added value for <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> member states is nevertheless conditioned by a relevant control from the Committee, by a (re)appropriation by the members and by the (re)activation of a functional focal points network within <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and from a real lever towards the political sphere.</p> <p>This is why other member states of the Committee, which sometimes ignore that they are members, and that are not part of the beneficiaries from the partnership have recently addressed FAO some support demands on the subject (Libya, Jordan and Sudan).</p>
	<b>For other stakeholders</b>
	<p>If we pay close attention to the driving forces and elements of the group throughout the period, we observe an externalisation dynamic towards a thematic partner, in this case, EFFIS and its European experts network; the latter benefits directly from the process because it sees its scope of action enlarge itself in terms of space. It is therefore consolidated and reinforced.</p> <p>The GIZ project and through it the CPMF also contribute to the dynamics and benefit directly and indirectly from its impacts.</p>

**3.4. Working group 2: “cork oak”**

<b>Type of working group</b>	The “cork oak” working group is part of the support to a sector of activity and addresses mainly issues of promotion of the sector, in particular of a label for corks.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	<p>The coordination of the working group was led by Portugal, one of the main cork producing countries. This responsibility was not ensured at the ministry level but at the level of the National research institute on agriculture and forest. The coordinator seems to have had broad autonomy and little support from the ministry.</p> <p>The group has a list of persons who participated in some activities but it does not really constitute an effective working group composed of active members formally designated by the member states of the Committee.</p>
<b>FAO involvement</b>	<p>The group benefited from the technical support of FAO Forestry Department and specifically from the Officer in charge of arid zones, who helped in the organization of events in particular via the preparation of informational and communication support, off a workshop with the countries and technical partners implied within the topic, at Hammamet, as a side event of the NEFRC session and the elaboration in 2010 of a proposition of project for the financing of the Spanish cooperation, which unfortunately was not successful.</p> <p>A more important link could have been established with FAO programme “Promotion and development of non-wood forest products<sup>18</sup>” or the actions developed by FAO concerning the social contribution of forests.</p> <p>It should be noted that the example of this group illustrates that if a technical support from FAO is really important, it is only efficient, or even meaningful if it falls within a project and/or a strategy shared by the member states of the Committee.</p>
<b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b>	<p>The activities of the group were relatively low during the period; they were involved in a dynamic of events that would have taken place if the group was not present. Based on events such as workshops or seminars, they were basically supported by the VIVEXPO international exhibition and symposium that takes place every two years in Vivès (France) organised by the Mediterranean Cork Institute (IML). This partner, whose aims cut across those of the working group, is since 2012 the coordinator of the sub-group “Cork” from the Committee new working group “Non Wood Forest Products”; IML, which is very small (1 FTP), is essentially active in Europe but has some relays in North Africa. It must be noted that other similar bodies exist, namely within the European Cork Confederation<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>Finally, it must be noted that Portugal currently coordinates a new COST Action (FP1203)<sup>20</sup> dedicated to non-wood forest products; Morocco, Tunisia and some FAO teams are associated to it but no link seems to be considered for the moment with <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee working group.</p>
<b>Resources/financing</b>	<b>Specific input from the Committee</b>
	In 2012, the Committee validated the constitution of the new working group previously mentioned which was enlarged to all non-wood forest products.
<b>Resources/financing</b>	<p>The member states do not seem to have really committed to the working group. The coordinating country does not seem to have the financial means to promote actions.</p> <p>A project that might have allowed having the resources to develop activities was considered but it could not be materialised for budget reasons linked to the economic and financial crisis.</p>

<sup>18</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp/fr/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp/fr/)

<sup>19</sup> [www.celiege.com/Ingles/home/home.htm](http://www.celiege.com/Ingles/home/home.htm)

<sup>20</sup> [www.nwfps.eu/](http://www.nwfps.eu/)

<b>Added value</b>	<b>For the Committee members</b>
	<p>The national focal points interviewed are unfamiliar with the activities and eventual benefits of the working group.</p> <p>Regardless of the internal functioning issues of the group, the analysis shows the lack of shared vision and strategy at the Committee level on a topic that nevertheless constitutes a national priority for countries such as Algeria and Portugal, for example. The question of the potential added value brought by a group of this type is implicitly present. What does a working group of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee add to its members that an external independent body such as the Cork Mediterranean Institute does not have? Such as it is, is this type of group in the right place? Is it not the consequence of a scope of action of a different tool allowing an opening to the public and private stakeholders upstream and downstream the sector?</p>
	<b>For other stakeholders</b>
	<p>As for the previous group, there is an externalisation dynamics towards a partner, in this case, the Cork Mediterranean Institute that sees its own network expand and its notoriety reinforced thanks to its close collaboration with FAO. The benefits of its action on the members will depend on the control that the Committee will eventually exercise upon the means of action and strategy of IML.</p>

**3.5. Working group 3: “Forest Management and Sustainable Development”**

<b>Type of working group</b>	In its current version, the group is interested in the joint production of analyses, reports and synthesis. It results from the reorientation in mid-2011 of a group dedicated to exchanges concerning landscapes issues and approaches.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	<p>The initial coordination of the working group was ensured by Plan Bleu and the Secretariat of the Committee. The Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM) joined them during the reorientation of the programme of work. Plan Bleu and AIFM have received the authorisation from France to participate in the coordination of this group on behalf of the country. Both are members of CPMF and have shown that they are eager to progress within precise activities.</p> <p>These three partners constitute the hard core of this working group to which other stakeholders were associated on a voluntary basis.</p>
<b>FAO involvement</b>	FAO was very involved via the Secretariat.
<b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b>	<p>The programme of work of this group was adjusted halfway. Its scope of action was initially focused on landscape approaches and its priority was the organization of an international conference for the Mediterranean based on case studies.</p> <p>The work plan became much more diversified. The group contributed to the elaboration and edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests, prepared the Third Mediterranean Forest Week and started a study on the economical valuation of goods and services provided by wooded ecosystems within MENA countries targeted by CPMF. In this second phase, it seems more difficult to identify the specific outputs produced by the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee; all the activities have been submitted to and executed in close collaboration with committed players within CPMF and within some of its projects. The roles and contributions of the Secretariat of the Committee and the Secretariat of the CPMF are not very clear.</p>
	<b>Specific input from the Committee</b>
	The Committee supported the first phase of the activity and contributed to the reorientation of the group.

<p><b>Resources/financing</b></p>	<p>The first phase of activities was basically financed via a French grant (Ministry of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forest and Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur) and supported by GIZ that ensured the travel of some representatives of MENA countries targeted by CPMF.</p> <p>The evaluation panel had some difficulties in identifying precisely the different components of the financing that allowed the implementation of the second phase activities. Nevertheless, it must be noted that a link can be established with the FFEM project<sup>21</sup> developed within the CPMF framework and whose coordinators are the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Secretariat and Plan Bleu (two of the working group coordinators) that respectively beneficiate from 1,59 M€ and 1,06 M€. The FFEM project was approved in November 2011 and its financing agreements were signed in July 2012. Two of the components of this project are in line with the topics targeted by the working group, that is, component 2 (Valuation of the economic and social value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in particular through the study of multiple issues related to environmental changes and their potential effects on the socio-economic development of Mediterranean landscapes) and component 3 (Development of participatory and landscape approaches for forest governance in Mediterranean forest ecosystems).</p>
<p><b>Added value</b></p>	<p><b>For the Committee members</b></p> <p>The national focal points interviewed or that answered the questionnaire seem to be unfamiliar with the activities of the working group.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the activities and documents coproduced by the group constitute an undeniable added value for the Mediterranean forest stakeholders.</p> <p>Furthermore, an effort was made to achieve the political and decision-making level at the third Mediterranean Forest Week held in Tlemcen (Algeria) in March 2013. This type of attempts is rare but important. That of Tlemcen deserves to be highlighted and attributed to the Committee.</p> <p><b>For other stakeholders</b></p> <p>The involvement of CPMF members in the coordination of this <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group is worth thinking about, in particular because it takes place in a defective internal functioning of the Committee. The results can hardly percolate in such environment and in fine are more profitable for CPMF members involved, who gain in continuing the process, than for the member states of the Committee.</p>

<sup>21</sup> Optimize the production of goods and services through the Mediterranean wood ecosystems within a context of global changes. Component 1: Production of data and development of tools to support decision and management of vulnerable Mediterranean forest ecosystems affected by climate change and the ability of these forest ecosystems to adapt to global change; component 2: Evaluation of the economic and social value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in particular through the study of multiple issues related to environmental changes and their potential effects on the socio-economic development of Mediterranean territories; component 3: Development of participatory and territorial approaches for forest governance in Mediterranean forest ecosystems; component 4: Optimisation of environmental goods and services provided by the Mediterranean forests and valorisation of these efforts of optimization (including carbon sequestration) ; component 5 :Contribution to the coordination and communication activities within CPMF and promotion of project's results and Mediterranean forests specificity on the international scene.

**3.6. Working group 4: “Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources”**

<b>Type of working group</b>	While the Committee has long relied on scientific networks or groups associated to research activities, among the six groups identified within the period, only the “Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources” group is still within this scope of activity.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	<p>The coordination of the group is ensured by Italy. Like the “cork oak” group, coordination is not attributed to a ministry but to a research centre. The coordinator was nominated by his country but seems to have benefited from a broad autonomy.</p> <p>The group is constituted by experts who share the same scientific questioning. These mainly European experts are generally not nominated by their country and are rather participants to the groups' activities, participants who intervene on their behalf and who often have an incomplete picture, even a vague one, of the mandate and of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> aims.</p> <p>Experts who work on forest genetic issues within the ministries in charge of forestry do not seem to know the group and its activities.</p>
<b>FAO involvement</b>	The working group benefited from the active support of the Officer in charge of the issue at FAO Forestry Department, who ensured the link with FAO's activities within that area; he specifically facilitated the participation of African countries to the preparation of the report on the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources. He also gave its technical support to the groups' activities. Nevertheless, no relation was established with the activities of the Committee working group at the presentation of the preparation of that world report, which was recently done by FAO to the different forest regional Commissions connected to <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> (Europe, Africa and Near-East). The group also received an important support from the Secretariat with which project proposals were prepared and that plays an active role in the implementation of one of those projects because it coordinates one of the four working groups of the COST Action FP1202 <sup>22</sup> that started its activities at the beginning of 2013.
<b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b>	<p>This group is particularly active at different levels: constitution of a database, implementation of ex situ conservation networks, methodological development. It ensures the integration of researchers from the South and East of the Mediterranean and the training of students from those regions. Nevertheless, it could better meet the sometimes more practical needs of the administrations of those countries in terms of forest genetic resources.</p> <p>The experts that are part of this group also meet in other forums, for example, the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)<sup>23</sup> or a branch of IUFRO<sup>24</sup> whose coordination is ensured by the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group coordinator in collaboration with two experts who are also involved in the working group.</p> <p>The question of the overlap of the scope of action of the group with that of the most important stakeholder in terms of Mediterranean forest research, that is EFIMED, is an issue and even more because genetics is one of the priorities of the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2012 coordinated by this body, but no coordination between <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and EFIMED seem to have been foreseen.</p>

<sup>22</sup> COST Action FP1202 “Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe (MaP-FGR)” [http://www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.euforgen.org/>

<sup>24</sup> Division 2.02.13 – Breeding and genetic resources of Mediterranean conifers



	<p>The programme of work of the group is echoed in the programme of the COST Action FP1202 but also in component 1 of FFEM project (Production of data and development of tools to support decision and management of vulnerable Mediterranean forest ecosystems affected by climate change and the ability of these forest ecosystems to adapt to global change) to which it seems predicted that it will contribute to. Overlaps seem to exist here with CPMF too.</p>
	<p><b>Specific input from the Committee</b></p>
	<p>The Committee via its Secretariat has contributed directly to the emergence of the COST Action FP1202 around which the activities of the group were organised.</p>
<p><b>Resources/financing</b></p>	<p>To start its activities, the group counted on the mobilisation of specific funds from the budget of the Officer in charge of the topic within FAO Forestry Department, and on some support from CIHEAM in order to organise workshops during which the COST Action was elaborated.</p> <p>The evaluation panel had some difficulty in identifying the contribution of component 1 of the FFEM project to the group activities even though the group coordinator explicitly mentioned the existence of such link.</p> <p>From 2013 on, the group has benefited from the COST Action FP1202 previously mentioned that finances the travels of researchers including from countries from the South of the Mediterranean, in a total of 193.000€ in 2013 and 150.000€/year for the three following years (duration: 4 years).</p>
<p><b>Added value</b></p>	<p><b>For the Committee members</b></p>
	<p>Except for Italy, country of the coordinator, the national focal points interviewed do not seem to be able to identify the added value of this working group.</p> <p>Considering the composition and the functioning of this group that seems more connected to the Committee than that part of it, it is more adequate to speak of a possible added value than seems important in terms of sharing research outputs, in particular with Southern and Eastern countries but also in terms of support in the political decision making. This added value is nevertheless conditioned by an internal reactivation, an effective presence of the members of the Committee within the different projects and the taking into account of these regional actions within the framework of the world action plan on forest genetic resources approved by FAO Council in June 2013.</p>
	<p><b>For other stakeholders</b></p>
	<p>The category of stakeholders that gain important added value from the group is the community of researchers on Mediterranean forest genetic that benefited from FAO commitment for the elaboration of the COST Action FP1202. This community is also active within other spheres but it has found in the Committee an opportunity to develop its activities within the Mediterranean area.</p> <p>In turn, CPMF will benefit from the working group's expertise and from some outputs from the COST Action within the framework of component 1 of FFEM project.</p>

### 3.7. Working group 5: “Mediterranean Forest and Climate Change”

<b>Type of working group</b>	The “Climate change” working group was a platform that contributed to the conception of a regional project; as soon as the project was elaborated it ceased its activities.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	<p>The working group's coordinator is Morocco. This country is also the official GIZ partner in the regional project “Adapting forest policy framework conditions to climate change in the MENA region” (i.e. the GIZ project), which aims at supporting public policies and the reinforcement of its capacities in the six CPMF beneficiary countries.</p> <p>The working group does not exist on its own and has no members. It is considered equivalent to the GIZ project as is illustrated by the presentation of the progress report of the project as an activity report for working group 5, performed by Morocco and GIZ at the 2nd Mediterranean Forest Week, held in Avignon in 2011<sup>25</sup>.</p>
<b>FAO involvement</b>	FAO is not involved in the direct implementation of the project excepted as CPMF secretary. Nevertheless, it was put in charge of the implementation of some actions funded by the GIZ project within the MENA region.
<b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b>	<p>The working group handed the baton over to the GIZ project. As a reminder, this regional project signed in 2010 between Morocco and GIZ was the catalyst that allowed the creation of CPMF and currently represents the German contribution to CPMF that has since increased.</p> <p>At the implicit passing of the torch between the Committee working group and the GIZ project and through it the CPMF, there was no update of the programme of work of the group that, lacking of its own activities, even disappeared from the Committee website.</p> <p>It seems useful to notice that when reading the project elaborated by the German cooperation, some confusion is patent, even maybe an incorrect vision of the mandate and the status of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee and its Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Specific input from the Committee</b></p> <p>The Committee was a melting pot within which the CPMF was imagined and implemented and that allowed GIZ to position its regional project within the framework of a regional dynamics. The Committee provided the impetus and offered its forum for a shared thinking.</p>
<b>Resources/financing</b>	The budget of the GIZ project was of 4 M € in 2010 with an additional amount of 3.5 M€ in 2013; it started in 2010 for a duration of 5 years.
<b>Added value</b>	<p><b>For the members</b></p> <p>The national focal points interviewed are unfamiliar with the activities developed within the framework of this working group.</p> <p>The GIZ project focuses on six beneficiary countries for which the expected impacts are real. Its ambitions are within a more bilateral cooperation framework with Germany than regional at the geographical scale of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee.</p> <p><b>For other stakeholders</b></p> <p>The CPMF targeted countries are the main beneficiaries of this project as well as the donors who see it as a potentially efficient action lever and an opportunity to enlarge the geographical scope of their actions and influence.</p>

<sup>25</sup> Note nr. 6 of the Secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in order to prepare the thirty-first session of the Committee (Antalya, 2012)

**3.8. Working group 6: “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms”**

<b>Type of working group</b>	Initially focusing on the mobilisation of financial resources to reinforce the regional cooperation, the “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms” group is dedicated to the implementation of the routine activities of the Committee and the CPMF Secretariat. It also encompasses a component of elaboration of studies.
<b>Coordination and composition</b>	As the case may be, the coordination is ensured by the Secretariat of the Committee or of the CPMF. The group is not composed of members. Experts, Officers from FAO or CPMF stakeholders are mobilised on ad hoc basis to participate in precise activities.
<b>FAO involvement</b>	The main player of the group is the Secretariat of the Committee and of the CPMF.
<b>Scope of action and overlap with other initiatives / projects</b>	The actions undertaken concern the development of communication tools, the contribution to the improvement of the strategy of advocating for the Mediterranean forest and the support to studies related to the issues of innovating financial mechanisms. As the case may be they are directed to the Committee or the CPMF.  The work on the economical tools is implemented in a more specific manner within the CPMF framework via component 2 of FFEM project (Evaluation of the economic and social value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in particular through the study of multiple issues related to environmental changes and their potential effects on the socio-economic development of Mediterranean territories) and via GIZ that studies the possibility of a financing platform for CPMF. The inclusion of these last two initiatives within working group of the Committee is far removed from the Committee functioning rules and seems particularly ambiguous.
	<b>Specific input from the Committee</b>
	The respective overlap and implications of the Committee and CPMF are such that the evaluation panel finds it difficult to identify the specific contribution of the Committee.  Furthermore, this group's mandate integrates too many tasks, most of them resulting from a Secretariat mission statement.
<b>Resources/financing</b>	The group beneficiates from several resources: SoMF (FAO and France), Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (FAO and France), Newsletters (FAO), Website (FAO and France), economic study (component 2 of FFEM project) and organization of the 3rd Mediterranean Forest Week (Germany and France).
<b>Added value</b>	<b>For the Committee members</b>
	The Committee national focal points interviewed are unable to clearly describe the activities developed by this group.  The communication and advocating actions are directly relevant for the Committee's members (SoMF, SFMF, Position paper, etc.). The added value is nevertheless conditioned by the (re)activation of a network of functional focal points within <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> but also by a political lever.
	<b>For other stakeholders</b>
	CPMF members and the Mediterranean forest community as a whole are beneficiaries of several activities from this working group more informal and more directly driven by the Secretariat.

### 3.9. Synthesis

The following table comparatively resumes the main elements of the analysis.

Table 4: Summary elements of the positioning analysis of *Silva Mediterranea* working groups for the 2009-2012 period

Working Group	Type	Coordination	Composition	FAO implication		Overlap	Role of the Committee	Added value		Dynamic
				Secr.	Official			For the members	For other players	
<b>Forest fires</b>	Regional coordination and cooperation	Ministry	Thematic focal points	Very strong	Very strong	External groups CPMF	Impulsion Coordination	Strong (conditional)	Very strong	Externalisation
<b>Cork Oak</b>	Support Sector	Research institute	-	Average	Strong	External group	Impulsion	Weak	Strong	Externalisation
<b>Sustainable development</b>	Exchange	Secretariat Plan Bleu	Coordinators	Very strong	Weak	CPMF	Melting pot and coordination	Strong (conditional)	Strong	Externalisation
	Analysis	Secretariat Plan Bleu AIFM	Coordinators							
<b>Genetic resources</b>	Research	Research institute	Experts intervening individually	Very strong	Very strong	External groups CPMF	Project elaboration	Strong (conditional)	Strong	Partnership or opportunity
<b>Climate change</b>	Cooperation project	High Commission	-	Weak	Weak	CPMF	Melting-point	Unbalanced	Very strong	Externalisation
<b>Financing mechanisms</b>	Secretariat	Secretariat	Secretariat Voluntaries	Very strong	Weak	CPMF	Secretariat	Strong (conditional)	Strong	Internalisation
	Analysis						Impulsion Coordination			Externalisation

### 3.10. Discussion

From the previous analysis, we should note the very heterogeneous characteristics of the different working groups, both in terms of their aim and in terms of their operating mode and their contribution to the overall added value of the Committee for its members.

The groups are quite distant from the functioning scheme foreseen at the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee as well as from FAO's internal procedure rules. Thus, we noticed the often tenuous character of the link between the working groups' coordinators and their respective national authorities. National support to the coordinators is quite low and coordinators have broad autonomy. The term 'working group' is in fact spurious; only one group is composed of members nominated by their respective countries. In practice, we also see hard cores of some members around the coordinator and the Secretariat with an informal mobilisation of partners interested in the topic and/or some emblematic actions from the working groups. These partners do not necessarily intervene on behalf of a country and the border between the statutes of member and that of observer seems to tend to become blurred.

The very active role of the Secretariat of the Committee within several groups is also evident without a clear distinction for the members of the panel from the actions executed as secretary of CPMF. The Secretariat contributed to the elaboration and the implementation of projects, to its animation, the seeking funding and the framework documents' production. It is involved in the implementation phase of one of the projects. In fact, a working group took its routine activities under its umbrella. FAO thematic Officers have also contributed with important technical support to three working groups that was very appreciated.

Finally, we noticed the weakness of the links within the Committee and an internal quite partial view of the working groups, their composition, their scope of action and, *a fortiori*, of their outputs but also a lack of appropriation of the working groups by the member states.

The confusion with the actions undertaken in partnership with other stakeholders is a reality, much as a consequence of a lack of strategic vision shared and present within the Committee. The transversal analysis undertaken has allowed highlighting that no working group can be considered as particular to the Committee, that all obtain more or less support from another structure and that it is difficult to attribute to the Committee the exclusive paternity of the possible added value of the activities undertaken within the working groups. We also notice an overall externalisation dynamics, being that this externalisation is not problematic as such but it becomes so when conjugated with a deficient internal functioning, like in this case. Not being able to count on its own internal network of focal points and thematic experts within the working groups, and as a consequence of a vigorous incentive from outside, the Committee seems to have slowly glided or even evolved towards a dynamic of services provided by/to partners and stakeholders that obtain from the Committee working groups and from the implication of the Secretariat, an added value higher to that gained by the Committee members states. The designation of external partners as coordinators of specific Committee working groups without the authorisation of a member state is within this logic.

This situation clearly shows that the Committee is not the only niche targeted by its working groups. Therefore, the question is to know if Mediterranean countries really need the Committee to implement concrete actions while other more specialised, efficient and reactive partners than the Committee and that the Mediterranean countries already finance, directly or indirectly, are available. Some of the donors met question the usefulness of maintaining two or even three coordination structures such as *Silva Mediterranea*, CPMF and EFIMED.



#### **4. Overall added value provided by the Committee to its members**

This section focuses on the representation that the national focal points have of the current and potential added values that the Committee provides or could provide to its members. The information arises from the questionnaires sent by the evaluation panel to the national focal points and from the interviews undertaken with several of them. The succession of elements listed below is composed of extracts from the forms filled in or from notes from meetings.

##### ***4.1. Current added value***

- Great historical value and high level connection role at the governmental level on the most relevant topics in which the Mediterranean forest is interested in
- Its members, who come from administrations, have more capacity of changing decision-making and creating new determined policy action lines
- Debate forums where opinions and experiences are exchanged
- Capacity to gather institutional decision makers
- Groups all the countries and approaches all the topics
- Network directly linking all the Mediterranean governments (administrations) with FAO's technical support
- Joint response at regional level on a type of forest with its own specific characteristics that constitute a forest really different from that which predominates at European level
- Production of support documents during/for the definition or the revision of forest policies
- Recent production of framework documents (SoMF and SFMF) that will be very useful for the development of policies that aim at promoting and value Mediterranean forests
- Link with the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests
- Obtaining of FAO labelled projects without the cumbersome administrative procedure usually required.

##### ***4.2. Wishes mentioned by the members***

- Have an impact on decision-making processes and policies within the forest domain
- Contribute and better coordinate with other forest forums at regional and/or international level (United Nations Forum on Forests, Forest Europe)
- Clarify the positioning with respect to other institutions (EFIMED, CPMF, AIFM) in order to avoid an unnecessary duplication of efforts or the confusion of roles
- Provide inputs to the debates currently taking place at international level (UNFF and review of the IAF, post-2015 development agenda, etc...)
- Constitute a voluntary development forum for a regional forest policy specific to the Mediterranean questions drawing on the voluntary process of Ministerial Conferences on Protection of Forest in Europe (currently Forest Europe)
- Benefit from synergies with other working groups and organizations aimed at exchanging opinions and experiences which benefits everyone and works as a basis for the identification of common problems and solutions
- Develop links between field research and the implementation of an integrated policy between different Mediterranean countries with FAO advices and ideally with a long term financial support
- Adopt a clearer positioning whether by financing very precise in situ projects, whether by concentrating on the content and by adopting reference publications backed by network experts. These publications could take stock in terms of research, policy positioning and economics on forest subjects specific to the Mediterranean
- Demonstrate an active presence by organising its own events and participating in other relevant events at national or regional level

- Integrate the Mediterranean countries or watersheds located in other continents (Chile, Australia, California, ...)
- Show the importance of forests within the Mediterranean regions
- Show the contribution of Mediterranean forests and the forest sector to the creation of jobs and to social and economic development within the rural area
- Promote positive externalities of Mediterranean forests within the economic, social and environmental areas.

### **4.3. Discussion**

What strikes us in this enumeration is the gap between the representations and the wishes expressed and the overall orientation of the activities undertaken by the Committee throughout these past years. We should recall that the current Committee programme of work consists exclusively of the sum of working groups programs of work. However the list is fairly coherent and we see, as background, a thread arising mainly from the regional and international policy. It seems to give priority to the “intergovernmental forum” component of the Committee's mandate instead of the execution of concrete actions, a component that has been privileged these past years although the results of some working groups (SoMF and SFMF) can possibly contribute to it in the future.

This situation suggests a lack of capitalisation of a potentially useful and powerful tool within the dialog at the regional forest policy level and as a regional cooperation forum. Despite regional disparities in socio-economic terms, the added value of a joint action with regard to forestry seems sufficiently relevant to justify the existence of a common statutory body like the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee to member states. The active and growing presence of other stakeholders on the Mediterranean scene and the absence of a general coordination constitute additional arguments in favour of the evolution of *Silva Mediterranea* in that direction.

It should be noted that such evolution would not have been foreseeable in the dormant situation in which the Committee was several years ago. A transitional period focused on an overall revitalisation should without any doubt be a necessary intermediate step. However, it seems now urgent to change course.



## **5. Durability of the Committee in terms of financing**

The durability of the Committee depends on its sustainability as an institution, on the relevance and efficiency of its action but also on the human and financial resources it has available. We will examine here its durability in terms of financing by distinguishing the one necessary for having a full-time secretary and the one useful to the financing of the activities of the Committee as a whole.

On the issue of the Secretariat, FAO seems unable to allocate a member from its staff who could dedicate himself to the Committee Secretariat full-time. It seems that France remains committed to maintaining its support to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and it is planning to extend the availability of a French seconded officer beyond 2014. Italy and Turkey also plan to give their contribution to that key element of the Committee.

Overall, the vast geographic scope of *Silva Mediterranea* and its intersection with different regions and continents constitute an asset and richness; nevertheless it is a source of difficulties and constraints when it is a question of financing. In fact there is no unique financial tool able to sustain a project that benefits to all the Committee members.

As seen up to now, except for voluntary contributions from member states, there are direct and indirect financing; they are whether from the scope of the cooperation to the development, whether from the scope of neighbourhood instruments and of partnership with the European Union. In the first case, they are actions undertaken under the umbrella of CPMF; some targeted countries are focused by donors with their own cooperation policy and strategy. In the second case, neighbouring countries of the European Union are invited to join some of its initiatives and to contribute to the aims established by their member states.

The respective weight of the indirect financing of the Committee resulting from the cooperation to the development is, in fact, too important. Some countries benefit from it and others are, in fact, marginalised. The truth is that we should not underestimate the consequences that can arise from a too great dependence of this kind of financial resources in terms of freedom of action.

Indeed, in the case of the European Union, an overall support to the Committee seems difficult due to the absence of a common European forest policy. A resource is nevertheless possible via programs that enter the scope of action of services dedicated to specific topics. Some programs that could possibly interest the Committee are mentioned below; it should be specified that they should be undertaken by the member states or the eligible national or international institutions.

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  - INTERREG IVC<sup>26</sup> provides funding for interregional cooperation essentially within the areas of innovation, knowledge-based economics, environment and risk prevention;
  - MED Programme<sup>27</sup> is a transnational cooperation programme of European territorial cooperation that is interested to the cross borders' issues such as the management of environmental risks. With more than 250 M€, it covers the coastal and Mediterranean regions of nine member states of the European Union;
- LIFE is a financial instrument of the EU that supports projects such as nature conservation and environment projects within the European Union as well as in some candidate and neighbouring countries. LIFE+ (2007-2013) is open to public and private stakeholders and institutions registered

<sup>26</sup> [www.interreg4c.eu/accueil\\_en.html](http://www.interreg4c.eu/accueil_en.html)

<sup>27</sup> [www.programmemed.eu/index.php?id=5175&L=1](http://www.programmemed.eu/index.php?id=5175&L=1)

within the European Union; based on annual open calls, it includes a component on nature and biodiversity, another on environmental policy and governance and a third one on information and communication;

- The multilateral cross-border cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme<sup>28</sup> is part of the new European neighbourhood policy and of its financial instrument, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI);
- Innovation at the service of a sustainable growth: a bioeconomy for Europe is a strategy published in February 2012 by the European Commission and for which the Mediterranean region has undeniable assets.

The possibility of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), an intergovernmental organization composed of 43 member states<sup>29</sup> was examined; it could eventually intervene usefully in the support of the elaboration and seeking funding for some projects within the framework of its mandate. Currently organised around six themes among which water, environment, energy, education, entrepreneurial development, transport and civil society, the UfM Secretariat controls the implementation of projects with a future, sustained by unanimity by 43 member states and thus accredited by the organization.

The panel has essentially explored Euro-Mediterranean possibilities. It would be wise to equally examine other regional instruments in particular more towards the East, but also global mechanisms of funding support to the sustainable forest management like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), REDD+, the World Bank (WB) or the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), even maybe the mobilisation of private funds and foundations. The recent increase of the visibility of the Mediterranean Forest problematic thanks to the joint actions of *Silva Mediterranea* and partners of CPMF and EFIMED, constitute without any doubt a useful lever on which they can get support for the future during the research for new funding sources of the Committee.

We noticed that the Committee also operates thanks to voluntary contributions of member states; these contributions are usually not very structured and concern people more than structures. A model inspired in the Forest Europe process (previously Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest) could be very useful and give the Committee some mid-term autonomy. Here is its functioning, as an example. This process concerns 47 Pan European countries and is divided in 4 or 5 year cycles marked by conferences that gather the forest ministers of the member states. Each cycle is steered by a General Coordination Committee (GCC) constituted of five countries that ensure the financing; the host country of the forthcoming conference ensures the Secretariat during the intersessional period. At the end of each cycle, a new voluntary country integrates the GCC and the oldest one leaves it. The contribution thus results from a voluntary choice of countries that commit for some years and that actively contribute to the steering process.

It is clear that ultimately in such cases like the *Silva Mediterranea* one, the mandatory financing is the only one that can offer the Committee a real freedom of action. Nevertheless, it is not the easier to implement due to the shared political determination that it requires within the Committee and that seems quite illusory due to the current very heterogeneous level of participation and implication of its members.

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<sup>28</sup> [www.enpicbmed.eu/en](http://www.enpicbmed.eu/en)

<sup>29</sup> The 15 countries of the south and oriental shores and the 28 countries of the European Union

## **6. Positioning of the Committee on the Mediterranean scene**

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the initiatives, programs and partners that revolve around Mediterranean forestry questions with a regional scope; it should allow enriching the thinking on the strategic positioning of the Committee on the Mediterranean forest scene.

On the political plan, two successive initiatives that aimed at establishing the basis for a new regional partnership followed one another since 1995. For some years now, also as a sign of renewed interest in the challenges and issues of the region, an increasing number of stakeholders, including donors, manifest themselves on the Mediterranean forest scene. Several networks and other forest or forest-related consortiums were created within the areas of research, teaching, even development cooperation. Some partners are in fact present in several of them. Different projects that are interesting or that deal with Mediterranean forest were also created.

The following information presents the main ongoing networks in 2013. They will end with the related international processes in particular that of negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe with which a link could be possible in the future.

### **6.1. Main Mediterranean networks and consortiums**

The networks and consortiums presented herein are all international. A distinction is made between those within the intergovernmental regional cooperation scope, those within the research and/or teaching, those that are focused on experience exchanges and those resulting from development cooperation. The texts are from their respective websites. The bodies and other associations defending specific interests or trends are not mentioned here.

#### **6.1.1. Intergovernmental regional cooperation**

- Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED)

In November 1995, as a result of a decision from the European Council, a Euro-Mediterranean conference of the foreign affairs ministers was held in Spain. The conference marked the launch of the EURO-MED Partnership (EUROMED) also known as the Barcelona Process whose objective is to lay the foundations of a new regional partnership. The EUROMED process includes political, economic and social cooperation in which the 27 Member states of the European Union, nine Mediterranean partner countries and several observers participate in. Most financial support comes from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the European Union. Funds are allocated to programs from individual countries in accordance to their needs and abilities. A fresh impetus was given to EUROMED in 2008 via the Union for the Mediterranean.

- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)<sup>30</sup>

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was created by 43 Heads of States and of euro-Mediterranean governments in Paris in 2008. It is an intergovernmental partnership which aims at increasing the regional integration potential and the cohesion among euro-Mediterranean partners. UfM relies on a Secretariat based in Barcelona that operates around the support granted to specific projects labelled by the organization and on ministerial and high officials' meetings that validate or endorse strategic instruments that thus gain political visibility; the SFMF could integrate it. UfM currently operates on a priority topics basis; the forest could integrate it via its environmental component in particular its link with the water issue, even via its contribution to job development in the rural area.

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<sup>30</sup> [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### 6.1.2. Research, teaching and capacity-building

- International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)<sup>31</sup>

CIHEAM is a regional intergovernmental organization created in 1962 with the mandate to contribute to the training of human resources and executives of the Mediterranean agriculture within a cooperation spirit. Since the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee session that was held in La Grande Motte in 1984, it contributed, within the framework of its institutional agreements with FAO, to the revitalisation of the Committees activities in terms of natural resources management. This institution that is well established in the Mediterranean Basin as well as its links at the decision-making level in terms of agricultural policy can be an interesting asset for the Committees' works.

CIHEAM is a member of CPMF; it is not a member of EFIMED but it is part of its network of institutions.

- EFIMED<sup>32</sup>

EFIMED is the regional Mediterranean Office of the European Forest Institute. Based in Barcelona, it was created in 2007 and it is the first regional Office created by the Institute.

EFIMED coordinates a network of more than 60 institutions<sup>33</sup> that are members of the Institute and that come from 17 Mediterranean countries, mostly European. *Silva Mediterranea* and several members of CPMF are part of it. EFIMED ensures the promotion of research and networking on forest, Mediterranean forestry and forest products. EFIMED has recently developed a research strategy for the forest of the region: Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2010-2020. One of the strategic pillars of EFIMED is to develop useful research for decision-makers and thus work at the interface between research and policy. It also supports the capacity-building, in particular in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

EFIMED is a member of the CPMF. Nevertheless, we observed some distancing from EFIMED towards the CPMF and *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in 2012 and 2013

- Euro-Mediterranean UNiversity – EMUNI<sup>34</sup>

Since its creation in 2008, the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), which has been the embodiment of one of the priority projects of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), has become an international institution that gathers knowledge from experts and experience from the Euro-Mediterranean countries and contributes, in a significant way, to the creation of a unified and integrated system of higher education and research. It is an International Association of Universities and its headquarters are in Slovenia. EMUNI can undertake research activities within the scientific domains including forestry; the study programmes are validated by partner universities within the member states.

- Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDFOR)<sup>35</sup>

MEDFOR consortium is composed of 7 world leading universities. It is supported by a consultancy panel that includes 7 international research and dissemination organizations interested in Mediterranean forestry. The consultancy panel coordination is ensured by EFIMED. The consortium is in charge of the MEDFOR organization that is a two year Erasmus Mundus Master programme that aims at contributing to the improvement of Mediterranean forestry, in particular within the natural resources and policy elaboration's management. Launched in 2011, the programme focuses on the education of the leaders of the next generation of engineers, managers, researchers and teachers involved in the Mediterranean forest and the management of its natural resources.

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<sup>31</sup> [www.ciheam.org](http://www.ciheam.org)

<sup>32</sup> [www.efimed.efi.int](http://www.efimed.efi.int)

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.efimed.efi.int/files/attachments/efimed/efimed\\_network\\_consortium\\_countries\\_and\\_contact\\_persons\\_2011\\_12\\_21.pdf](http://www.efimed.efi.int/files/attachments/efimed/efimed_network_consortium_countries_and_contact_persons_2011_12_21.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> [www.emuni.si/en/strani/451/About-EMUNI.html](http://www.emuni.si/en/strani/451/About-EMUNI.html)

<sup>35</sup> [www.medfor.eu](http://www.medfor.eu)

– Plan Bleu<sup>36</sup>

Plan Bleu is a centre for observation, analysis and prospective studies launched in the late 1970 within the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). The centre is managed by a non-governmental French law association (1901 Law) named "Plan Bleu for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean".

Its activities include the development of databases and meta-databases on environment, economics and society, analyses and prospective studies on the main issues of sustainable development at the Mediterranean Basin scale; publication and dissemination of the results of its studies and synthesis; development and animation of experts' networks in the Mediterranean countries and support for capacity-building.

Plan Bleu is a CPMF member and it is part of the EFIMED institutions network.

### 6.1.3. Exchange of experience

– Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)<sup>37</sup>

*Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes* (AIFM) was created in 1996 on the initiative of the Mediterranean Forest French Association with the support of the Portuguese Society of Forest Sciences and then the *Foresta Mediterranea* association in Italy with the support of UNESCO (MAB), FAO (*Silva Mediterranea*), PNUE (PAM) and thanks to the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region as well as the French Government. It aims to promote effective knowledge, experience and ideas exchange about Mediterranean forests in a transversal, multidisciplinary and international way. Therefore, it works inter alia for developing and implementing decentralized cooperative initiatives. AIFM is a CPMF member; it is not an EFIMED member but it is part of its network of institutions.

– Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)<sup>38</sup>

Since it was established in 2008, 13 regions and countries of the Mediterranean region have joined the Mediterranean Model Forest Network. The network studies the specificities of the Mediterranean region, develops common aims and establishes collaboration models among the members. The network promotes knowledge exchanges, cooperation within those common interest areas and develops innovation capacities and learning modes.

MMFN is a CPMF member and it is part of the EFIMED institutions network.

### 6.1.4. Development cooperation

– Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)<sup>39</sup>

The Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests was initiated in 2010 around a common regional project financed by the German cooperation that the FFEM project, funded by France, joined at the end of 2011. This initiative resulted from thinkings conducted among others within the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and to which also contributed FAO, Plan Bleu and CIHEAM. This voluntary partnership composed of several institutions aims at better coordinating and integrating its members' activities in order to create synergies to reinforce the capacity of six targeted countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey). The Secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee also acts as the CPMF secretary. The members' contributions depend on their mission and their skill and can be implemented in different ways (financial contributions, technical expertise, studies or steering contributions). The duration of the partnership will depend on the projects' dynamics that it will be able to create.

<sup>36</sup> [www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)

<sup>37</sup> [www.aifm.org](http://www.aifm.org)

<sup>38</sup> [www.mmfncp.org/sitio](http://www.mmfncp.org/sitio)

<sup>39</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/66624/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/66624/en)

Although its title may refer to it, CPMF is not at the register as the Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF)<sup>40</sup> that acts globally and is chaired by FAO. CPF is an inter-agencies coordination mechanism that allows its member institutions rationalising and aligning their own works towards a main common aim, based on an *equal footing* relationship. CPMF is a consortium composed of different partners and must allow its members developing and implementing together cooperation projects for the benefit of the target countries previously mentioned. Its name might lead to consider a geographical expansion to the whole Mediterranean basin, if only for the climatic region, and it sometimes creates some ambiguity because CPMF only addresses a fraction of the region.

## 6.2. Main Mediterranean forest projects

Some of the most recent main international projects, directly or indirectly related to Mediterranean forests, are restated here. The list is not exhaustive and some other regional cooperation projects mainly of the Near East that the panel did not have the chance to analyse in detail are not mentioned. Nevertheless, the panel estimates that this restriction should not limit the scope of its conclusions.

- Adapting forest policy framework conditions to climate change in the MENA region–GIZ Project, 2010-2015, 7.500.000 €, GIZ<sup>41</sup>

The aim of this project is to improve the conditions for a sustainable management of forest ecosystems and for the production of their environmental services within the climate change context in the projects' beneficiary countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey). This project between Morocco and GIZ is part of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests' framework (CPMF) to whose emergence it contributed.

- AGORA - Advancing Mediterranean Forest research Capacities, 2010-2012, 1.000.000€, 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program (FP7), European Union (EU)<sup>42</sup>

AGORA, whose coordination is led by EFIMED, aims at making scientific knowledge on forests' sustainable management in Tunisia and Morocco improve thanks to the scientific cooperation, networking and capacity-building. It is based on the available resources from different European institutions on forest research within the Mediterranean region. Although EFIMED is part of CPMF and the countries targeted by the project are two of the beneficiaries, this project is not part of the CPMF framework.

- European NWFPs network - COST Action FP1203, 2013-2017<sup>43</sup>

The aim of this COST Action, whose coordination is led by Portugal, is to build a multidisciplinary network of researchers and managers who work on non-wood forest products throughout Europe, to examine the current state of the technique, to highlight the existing innovation, share information and experiences, identify the research topics and look for research synergies. Portugal is a member of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and coordinator of the working group on non-wood forest products. Nevertheless no link seems to have been established with the COST Action, which deals with the same subject.

- FOR CLIMADAPT - Adaptation of Mediterranean woodland to climate change, 2010-2013, 1.700.000€, MED Programme, EU<sup>44</sup>

FOR CLIMADAPT aims at improving the adaptability of Mediterranean natural areas to the climate change risks, in particular to erosion, fires and diebacks. It is based on the following partnership: Vesuvius

<sup>40</sup> [www.cpfweb.org](http://www.cpfweb.org)

<sup>41</sup> [www.giz-cpmf.org](http://www.giz-cpmf.org)

<sup>42</sup> [www.efimed.efi.int/portal/projects/agora/english\\_version](http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/projects/agora/english_version)

<sup>43</sup> [www.nwfps.eu](http://www.nwfps.eu)

<sup>44</sup> [www.forclimadapt.eu/en](http://www.forclimadapt.eu/en)

National Park (Italy) (lead partner), Umbria Region (Italy), National Forest Office (France), *Forêt Méditerranéenne* (France), North Aegean Region (Greece), Association for the Defence of Mertola Heritage (Portugal), AIFM and CTFC.

- FORESTERRA - Enhancing FOrest RESearch in the MediTERRanean through improved coordination and integration, 2012-2015, 1.998.000€, FP7, EU<sup>45</sup>

FORESTERRA is part of the European Union ERA-NET initiative<sup>46</sup> whose aim is to reinforce the coordination of research activities. It aims at reinforcing the scientific coordination of forest research Mediterranean projects as well as the scientific cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean basin and other countries with a Mediterranean climate. FORESTERRA has partners from 12 Mediterranean countries and it is associated with EFI and CIHEAM.

- Map-FGR - Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe, COST Action FP1202, 2012-2016, EU<sup>47</sup>

This COST Action, whose coordination is ensured by Italy, is focused on the issue of marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees on which climate change effects should be stronger. The study of these populations is important in order to understand the evolution of species and improve within the elaboration of a management strategy. The Map-FGR members are basically European: some countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean as well as FAO and EFIMED are associated with it.

This COST Action was designed within the framework of the activities of *Silva Mediterranea* working group on "Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources" in collaboration with CPMF.

- MEDLAND 2020 - Design of a future common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation, 1.000.000€, 2013-2014, MED Programme, EU<sup>48</sup>

MEDLAND is a capitalisation project and its overall aim is to reinforce the impact of the achieved MED project on sustainable lands and natural resources management in the Mediterranean basin. It aims at promoting a common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation in the Mediterranean basin. The project includes 13 partners among which AIFM, CTFC and CIHEAM, from seven European Union countries bordering the Mediterranean (France, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece and Portugal) and one guest country (Albania).

- NEWFOREX - NEw Ways to value and market FOrest Externalities, 2010-2013, 3.500.000€, FP7, EU<sup>49</sup>

NEWFOREX, whose name is quite explicit, is focused on 5 European case studies, being one of them a Mediterranean one. NEWFOREX has 11 partners in 7 European countries, among which EFIMED and CTFC. The project's coordination is ensured by the University of Copenhagen.

- Maximize the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes, FFEM project, 2011-2015, 2.650.000€, FFEM<sup>50</sup>

The aim of the project established within the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) is to encourage stakeholders to manage and/or restore the Mediterranean woodlands with a perspective of sustainable supply of environmental goods and services. The six countries covered by the

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<sup>45</sup> [www.foresterra.eu/index.html](http://www.foresterra.eu/index.html)

<sup>46</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp6/index\\_en.cfm?p=9\\_eranet](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp6/index_en.cfm?p=9_eranet)

<sup>47</sup> [www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202)

<sup>48</sup> [www.medland2020.eu/fr](http://www.medland2020.eu/fr)

<sup>49</sup> [www.newforex.org/](http://www.newforex.org/)

<sup>50</sup> [www.tinyurl.com/projet-ffem](http://www.tinyurl.com/projet-ffem)

CPMF are its addressees. Its coordinators are FAO through the Secretariat of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* and Plan Bleu.

- PROFORBIOMED - Promotion of residual forestry biomass in the Mediterranean Basin, 2011-2014 4.240.000€, MED Programme, EU<sup>51</sup>

PROFORBIOMED aims at developing and promoting residual forest biomass for the generation of a sustainable wood energy sector within the Mediterranean region with the medium term emergence of a biomass market for the energy. The project includes 18 partners among which AIFM and CTFC from six Mediterranean countries: France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

- Star Tree, 2013-2016, 7.500.000€, FP7, EU<sup>52</sup>

*Star Tree* is a Pan European project that wishes to support the sustainable exploitation of forest resources for rural development. It is a project that should allow showing how trees with multiple uses and non-wood forest products can be used to reinforce and diversify the economic activities within rural areas. EFI, FAO and CTFC are part of this project that has 24 European partners, including Turkey.

- SylvaMED, 2010-2013, 1.278.000€, MED Programme, EU<sup>53</sup>

SylvaMED is a European project of territorial cooperation that is part of the MED program. It wishes to demonstrate that Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and the Market-Based Instruments are economically and ecologically achievable and sustainable and that they provide in the long term natural resources and additional revenues for local populations. The project concerns heavily wooded areas and is focused on France, Catalonia, Liguria region in Italy, Slovenia and Greece. Among the partners involved are CIHEAM, CTFC and EFIMED.

### **6.3. International related processes**

- Legally binding agreement on Forests in Europe

Since January 2012, there are ongoing negotiations at the Pan European level around a project of an International treaty on forest. While there are international conventions on biodiversity, climate or desertification in which forest is an integrating part, none deals with forest as a whole. Started within the Forest Europe framework, this process should lead to a legally binding agreement. Written in a generic way, it would be open to non-European signatory countries. The text foresees the future development of specific protocols that might be regional or thematic.

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<sup>51</sup> [www.proforbiomed.eu](http://www.proforbiomed.eu)

<sup>52</sup> [www.star-tree.eu](http://www.star-tree.eu)

<sup>53</sup> [www.sylvamed.eu](http://www.sylvamed.eu)



#### **6.4. Discussion**

The panorama that was previously established and is definitely not exhaustive shows a diversity of initiatives, thus demonstrating that there are in fact opportunities and levers.

The number of new regional cooperation bodies, scientific structures and research and training programs interested in the environment-wood-forest sector at the Mediterranean region level has significantly increased since the 1970s. This evolution runs parallel to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee evolution towards its current structure.

If regional cooperation bodies have focused on the intergovernmental relations' intensification within several areas of the economic and environmental development and on the integrated planning, the research and training structures are clearly dedicated to the conservation and planning of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and broadly cover the topics and aims of some *Silva Mediterranea* working groups.

Whether considering only the formal mandate, whether considering the activities really undertaken, the positioning of *Silva Mediterranea*, which does not have its own strategic framework, is unclear. We observe overlapping areas in terms of actions and in terms of topics. In fact, the Committee's member states are involved in different projects, without the sharing of information downstream or upstream being considered with the other members of the Committee, not even the Secretariat. The same is true for CPMF. The need for coordination is obvious.

A partner such as EFIMED seems to have stabilised within a special niche and has gain in legitimacy to the point where it developed a specific regional strategy in terms of forest research, output of a shared and concerted approach.

We can also easily verify that these programs and structures face two important limitations that can arise from a broken bond with the level of decision-makers, politicians and stakeholders: on one hand, the difficulty of translating the research outputs in strategic plans and concrete actions, on the other hand, the risk that scientists operate in closed circuits due to a low connection with reality and a reduced capacity to address particularly significant research questions. The added value and the role of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee on all the previously mentioned topics can become significant by contributing to the establishment of links between the research, national and regional governmental strategic managers and concrete actions on the ground.



## **7. Coverage of challenges by the Committee**

This chapter will firstly address the coverage of the challenges by the Committee throughout the reference period and the years to come, and then the pertinence of the topics at the core of the Committee working groups.

### **7.1. Support on the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests**

A recent product debated and validated in Tlemcen (Algeria) in March 2013, the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) presents a series of recommendations structured in strategic lines, susceptible of answering the three considered main objectives: (1) developing and promoting goods and services, (2) promoting resilience under global changes and (3) enhancing capacities and mobilizing resources; for each strategic lines, a series of outputs are expected. Built and validated throughout a vast process of Mediterranean forest partners and stakeholders' consultancy, this document that covers all the current challenges, should be progressively analysed by the different Committee member states in order to enrich or update their forest policies. This process could beneficiate from a previous analysis aiming at comparing the existing national policies and programs.

Some recommendations could definitely be carefully prepared or implemented thanks to contribution of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee or other partners or active consortiums on Mediterranean forestry questions. Obviously, it is not the aim of the panel to execute the strategic positioning work that the Committee should implement before the debate with the different interested stakeholders. Nevertheless, the panel can propose to the Committee a reading grid that could be useful for that collective exercise. We can expect the final result to be at least as interesting as the learning resulting from the process itself.

The idea would be to start from the strategic lines and recommendations of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests and to analyse them in terms of challenges coverage by the Committee throughout the 2009-2012 period while distinguishing the Secretariat, the working groups and the members, and if needed to specify the external partner or partners involved. The qualification of the challenges coverage would correspond to a rate of 0 (null) to 3 (very good). The same exercise would then be performed for the following period, i.e. 2013-2016. An example is given in table 4.

### **7.2. Thematic issues of the Committee working groups**

With no intention of interfering in the previously mentioned exercise or of anticipating the recommendations of the panel regarding the Committee's functioning and strategic positioning, some useful elements can already be proposed in accordance to the analysis in point 3.

Overall, it seems important that the proposed thematic issues are part of FAO expertise area and ideally that the contribution of FAO Officers, who are engaged to contribute to *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's actions, are officially part of the terms of reference of their respective functions within FAO Forestry Department.

More specifically, the thematic issues of working groups 3 and 5, respectively sustainable development and climate change, seem too transversal and too imprecise to be able to usefully and efficiently gather the energies within the working group.

**Table 5:** Analysis grid for examining the past and future coverage of issues by the Committee

Strategic Framework Objective - Recommendations	2009-2012				2013-2016			
	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i>			Another player/ partner	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i>			Another player/ partner
	Secretariat	Working group	Members		Secretariat	Working group	Members	
<b>Line 1 – recommendation 1</b> “Value the forest sector and non-wood forest products (cork, honey, mushrooms) while preserving Mediterranean forest resources”								
<b>Line 1 – recommendation 2</b> “Develop knowledge on the quantity and quality of goods or services produced and used in order to improve management plans and increase forest management sustainability”								
<b>Line 1 – recommendation 3</b> “Associate all stakeholders, in particular the local populations and the private sector within the conception, formulation, implementation and follow-up processes of forest policies”								
<b>Line 1 – recommendation 4</b> “Acknowledge, increase awareness and explore the services supplied to the populations by the urban and periurban forests”								

With regard to the “sustainable development” group, the underlying issue of the landscape approaches that has been specifically discussed at the beginning of the period is on the agenda of many international forums and should gain more importance in the future; nevertheless, it remains too general, even maybe too theoretical or paradigmatic to drive a working group by itself.

The issue of forest fires, which is in fact the topic of a strategic line of the SFMF, seems indispensable within the region and should be even more important in the future because of the expected increasing risks and frequency of fires due to climate change. Improved and reinforced cross-border coordination and cooperation are necessary on this subject. A particular attention should also be given to restoration actions after fires.

The issue of non-wood forest products such as, for example, the pine nuts or the cork seems very relevant in the Mediterranean, birthplace of emblematic products. Cork is thus considered as a priority in some countries such as Algeria, where it has a main role within the five year plan 2015-2019 and where a recent reactivation of the Inter-professional National Cork Council (CNIL) was launched. The theme is also important due to its close links with the emerging issue of bioeconomics.

The issue of Mediterranean forest genetic resources is also crucial in the region at a time of climate change and on one hand, the needs for restoration with precise demands from the countries of the South of the Mediterranean namely in terms of concrete applications (choice of species, seed stands and seed orchards, seeds counter, ...) and on the other hand, the needs for preparing the future of the forests and, in particular, of their adaptation to the climate change foreseen by scientists.

The constitution of a new working group on urban and periurban forests in a region where the urban population has become a majority seems appropriate. The member states of the Committee have similar climate constraints and should directly benefit from a shared approach on the subject, and even from a shared strategy.

The issue of the restoration of forest ecosystems in arid zones is also important within the region although the Mediterranean specificities of the problematic in question are less obvious than in the previous cases and this decreases its relevance for the Committee.



## 8. Synthesis

The synthesis of the main elements arising from the analysis is presented below in a SWOT diagram within which the strengths and weaknesses of the Committee as well as the external opportunities or threats that it faces nowadays are identified.

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Unique intergovernmental exchange platform on Mediterranean Forestry issues (to be created if non existing)</li> <li>– Coverage of a hinge region</li> <li>– Accumulated experience and influence network</li> <li>– Research, technique and politics interactions</li> <li>– Stowage to FAO (world leadership, technical support, Secretariat, multilateralism, neutrality, professionalism, acknowledgement)</li> <li>– Existence of reference framework documents (SFMF, SoMF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hot Mediterranean thematic news (bioeconomics, ecosystem/environmental services, ...)</li> <li>– Coverage region of several international conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD)</li> <li>– Arrival on the Mediterranean scene of new partners, including donors,</li> <li>– Multifunctional role of forestry within the region with, as consequence, a welcomed opening to other sectors and to food security in the rural and urban world</li> <li>– Medium term inevitable rediscovery of the Euro-Mediterranean political interest</li> <li>– Potential use of territorial data available at regional scale (environmental knowledge and monitoring)</li> </ul>
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lack of interest and weak appropriation by several member states</li> <li>– Poor integration of linguistic diversities (English, Arabic, Spanish, French)</li> <li>– Insufficient added value of the working groups for the members</li> <li>– Fluidity and low transparency of the internal functioning and governance</li> <li>– Insufficient strategic positioning</li> <li>– Blurring of the standard and tendency to externalise working groups' activities with risk of losing/diverting the added value to external partners/stakeholders</li> <li>– Specificity of FAO's anchoring (weak relative importance of the Mediterranean forest, internal comitology)</li> <li>– Uncertainty of funding and human resources</li> <li>– Insufficient connexion with decision-makers</li> <li>– Inertia when facing more flexible structures such as the partnerships and when facing the rapid evolution of challenges</li> <li>– Lack of operational impact of the recommendations from the Committee at the higher level and within international forums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Economic, financial and societal crisis</li> <li>– Political crises/mutations in many countries of the Mediterranean area</li> <li>– Multiplication of power/decision-making centres due to the arrival of new stakeholders and donors (for example CPMF) without regional coordination and specific terms of reference</li> <li>– Lack of financing mechanisms common to the different rims of the Mediterranean</li> <li>– Low visibility of the direct economic value and mostly of the indirect value of Mediterranean forests</li> <li>– Risk of marginalising Mediterranean forests in the context of climate change (Committee's scope)</li> <li>– Fragmentation of the forest topic and consequently multiplication of partners that deal with it</li> </ul>





## **9. General discussion**

Before summarising its recommendations, the panel wishes to share the key elements of a general discussion focused on the functioning and positioning aspects while sitting on the side lines on the more strategic issues, considering that it is FAO and the Committee's sphere of competence. Figure 2 presents a general diagram with the elements of a possible positioning scheme of *Silva Mediterranea* that should facilitate the reading.

### ***9.1. Towards a renewed framework***

It seems that there is a real interest from the forest service of the region in an intergovernmental neutral forum of exchanges and a strong need for coordination around forestry questions in the region. The panel believes that such forum should be created if it does not yet exist.

There are also explicit demands from the members in favour of a more effective articulation of *Silva Mediterranea* with higher international bodies that deal directly or indirectly with forests so that the Mediterranean forestry questions can find in those bodies a useful echo chamber for better facing its specific social and environmental challenges. The panel estimates that the alignment with FAO Forestry Department, which is the worldwide coordinator of forest issues and that chairs the CPF, constitutes a major asset. Greater visibility of *Silva Mediterranea* within CPF and during COFO should nonetheless be foreseen; this would contribute to a stronger positioning with the COPs of UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC and a greater and more continuous mobilisation of the decision makers of the region, indispensable parameter to the development of a Committee that would be more political than operational.

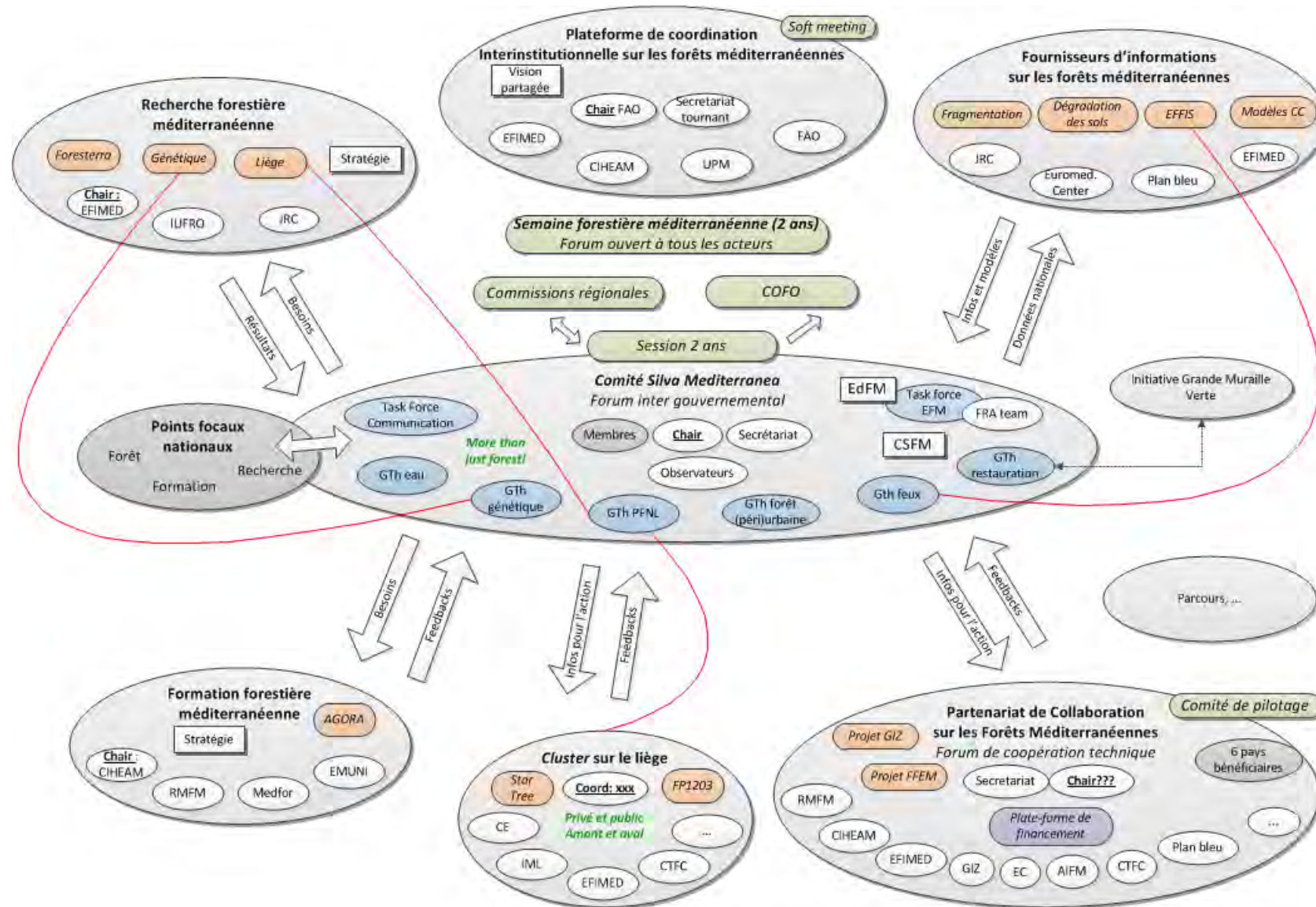
The efforts required by this evolution will not be justified if they are not based on a real interest from the members of the Committee for a regional cooperation that respects each other's interests. The panel encourages appropriation and mobilisation from the member states around a common vision and the identification of priority areas among the lines and/or recommendations of the SFMF; it considers that this step is a *sine qua non* starting point.

Such evolution presupposes an adjustment, even maybe a revision of the *Silva Mediterranea* mandate, in particular on its role within the animation of forest research and refocusing on two pillars: the dialog in terms of forest policy and the identification of regional cooperation priorities. A State of Mediterranean Forests periodically updated would particularly be useful within this renewed framework.

The panel estimates that thinking on the composition of *Silva Mediterranea* should be undertaken after a systematic approach of the current member states in order to update each member's argument in favour of a possible continuation as member of the Committee.

The panel recommends that the Committee keeps a close eye on the evolution of negotiations for a legally binding agreement on Forests in Europe. If the current version of the text should become definitive, an accession of the non-European countries that are members of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee would be possible as well as the later development of specific protocols dedicated, for example, to the forest issues of the Mediterranean region. An articulation with the Committee should then be foreseen.

Figure 2: Elements of a possible positioning of *Silva Mediterranea* on the Mediterranean forest scene



## 9.2. More readable links with the partners

In the lack of specific terms of reference, in some cases even the lack of their own strategy, the respective positioning of the different stakeholders of the Mediterranean forest seems unclear. The Committee's evolution towards a more political than operational body should allow it to evolve within a better defined scope of action of its partners.

The panel strongly encourages the partners to develop initiatives to better clarify the situation; it believes that this suggestion is particularly important for the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests whose implicit technical cooperation aim should be more clearly highlighted and delimited. CPMF proximity to donors committed with the development cooperation constitutes a specificity of this instrument that makes its possible change towards a structure with wider aims, difficult and even inadequate. A possible change of its too ambiguous name should be considered.

As Figure 2 shows, the panel recommends the creation of a light coordination structure among the main intergovernmental organizations that have a mandate solely or partially on Mediterranean forests (FAO, EFIMED, CIHEAM, UfM). The idea is that these organizations, having a shared vision, will find there a space for debate within which they will be able to align their work and their respective scope of action and thus decrease, or even, avoid dispersing efforts, fragmentation and redundancies. This structure could, for example, confirm the space occupied by EFIMED in the Mediterranean forest research coordination and specify its role in the interface areas between, on one hand, research and capacity-building and, on the other hand, research and development of policies. It would be a perennial consultation structure going beyond temporary mandate which would be independent from possible external influences. Chaired by FAO with a secretariat that could be a rotating one, it would operate based on an *equal footing* relation and would be composed by Executives of the different organizations involved.

The recurring establishment of a Mediterranean Forest Week jointly organised by the different partners of the Mediterranean forest would operate as an open forum for different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities and should allow the Committee to keep in touch with the concrete realities and expectations on the field as well as being aware of innovations and emerging ideas. Internal FAO thinking on observers could be useful in order to clarify and even maybe make their role evolve, since the latter has become too ambiguous within the statutory bodies such as *Silva Mediterranea* and subsidiary bodies that these have considered necessary to implement.

## 9.3 A smoother internal functioning

The panel believes that the Committee's sessions should regain their initial biennial rhythm that is in alignment with the one from international forums, FAO's in particular, and also constitutes a positive engagement allowing having enough time to breathe between two sessions while avoiding possible loss of interest from member states. The organization of sessions back to back with COFO instead of in the country presiding over the Committee should allow promoting a more effective participation of the members and the presence of high level representatives. Maybe should it then be considered to organize the Mediterranean Forest Weeks in the country that is presiding to *Silva Mediterranea*?

On the internal functioning of the Committee, the panel believes that the systematic use of clear and precise terms of reference for the different component of the Committee (Chair, Secretariat, Bureau, Executive Committee, national focal points) and an update of the internal rules should allow a smoother, more efficient, transparent and coherent activity, as well as a more flexible transition when mandates are renewed. Furthermore, it recommends the Committee to reconsider a body like the Enlarged Executive Committee which, in the opinion of the panel, might have been a source of confusion in the Committee's governance.

The panel believes that, in the future, the efforts of *Silva Mediterranea* and in particular of its Secretariat, should, concentrate more on the internal dynamic of the Committee. It promotes an in-depth, creative and innovative thinking on the interaction modalities between the bodies of the Committee and its members, in particular on the functioning and animation modalities of its network of national focal points. The panel suggests that during these moments of thinking, flexible solutions based on limited duration mandates and a rotating principle might eventually be implemented to avoid the turf battles and benefit from the efficiency originated by the much needed coordination that this option presupposes. Considering the presence of FAO in several partnerships and committees and taking into account that the use of the national focal point concept is quite frequent in these situations, the panel believes that it would be judicious that transversal thinking based on the exchange of experiences would take place about the issue within FAO.

Nevertheless, the panel thinks it is useful to remind that these different bodies serve the member states, i.e., they serve strategies and projects that they have considered useful to elaborate jointly. The panel encourages a strong remobilisation of the member states so that the latter reappropriate the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.

#### **9.4 Interface subsidiary bodies**

The aim of the subsidiary bodies that have no decision-making power is to facilitate the Committee's work and the accomplishment of its mandate. In order to maintain some coherence and avoid possible unbalances, the panel considers important that the subsidiary bodies implemented respect the geographical scope of the Committee and concentrate on key issues that interest the majority of members.

Concerning this matter, the panel recommends an explicit link with the strategy that the Committee would have elaborated. Without anticipating the process, the panel proposes two types of subsidiary bodies.

- Task Forces mobilised around highly targeted issues or occasional projects of the Committee; as illustrated in Figure 2, a Task Force could be focused on the communication during specific events and another one on the regular updating of the State of Mediterranean Forests;
- Thematic groups or platforms that ensure the control, follow-up and interface with the ongoing or future initiatives, programs and projects on the Mediterranean forest scene for the priority issues identified by the Committee including the FAO program; these thematic groups would contribute to feeding and animating the national focal points network during the intersessional period and would constitute the thematic interlocutors of the Committee's members during the formal sessions.

This more flexible and lighter formula would allow the Committee to expand its thematic scope of action without spreading its efforts.

These subsidiary bodies would be composed of representatives nominated by their countries and to which FAO's Officers in charge of the subjects would lend a strong hand. The Committee could also occasionally designate on an *ad hoc* basis, experts that would intervene on its behalf; this option would have to go through a review of the Committee's procedure rules that, as a reminder, are more restrictive than those from the parent body.

Flexibility should be present regarding the format of the subsidiary bodies whose operational modality should be able to adapt to the specificities of the issues addressed. Nevertheless, the systematic identification of a coordinator is necessary; the choice of the person, who would be a representative of a

Committee member state, should be done based on the inspiration and creativity that he/she can promote. Nevertheless, this coordinator's mandate should be limited in time in order to have an overall dynamic of sharing the responsibilities between the different *Silva Mediterranea* member states and of promoting a climate of trust based on transparency. The experts engaged in the process should be able to count on a continuous support from their national institutions in order to play their role and participate in the specific or formal Committee's meetings. The use of externalisation or subcontracting should only be occasional and with the condition that the Committee maintains a control over the process and its product(s) via, for example, simpler form of specifications; it should solely be about support actions, being that FAO's operational rules exclude the use of such modalities for the coordination of a subsidiary body.

The implementation of an improved coordination between the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and its partners, such as previously mentioned, as well as the monitoring work over the thematic groups should contribute to the expansion of the range of possibilities offered to the member states without burdening the Committee's functioning nor demand additional funds. Let us take the example of the constitution of a cluster on cork mentioned in Figure 2. Such initiative could be developed by the private and public stakeholders, active to the different phases of the sector in collaboration with the research scope and some Committee's member states, but with no implication on the Committee itself, except for the previous case downstream, at the initiative of the project and upstream at the sharing of lessons learned or possible outputs. Thus, a connection would be established with the thematic group in charge of that issue within the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.

A progressive transition from the current Committee's working groups to a new formula should be planned. Some should be able to evolve quite naturally towards that direction while others should, without any doubt, be subjected to a deeper mutation.

### **9.5 Which financing modalities?**

The different recommendations of the panel presuppose that FAO and the countries will continue to support the existence of a full time operating secretariat. They also account for budgetary constraints and the scarce resources of the Committee. The organization of sessions back to back with COFO is an example; it should allow increasing the frequency of the formal sessions and the level of representation within the Committee while decreasing the travel costs.

Focused again on more policy issues, the Committee would then be less constrained than in its privileged formula of the past years, to develop projects without which it could hardly implement its programme of work.

An improved internal and inter-institutional coordination and an improved integration of the regional Offices and of FAO regional forest Commissions should contribute to the development of new opportunities which should promote, even maybe motivate the member states to support the Committee functioning in a more continuous and more structured way.

The panel suggests that *Silva Mediterranea* Committee explores new regional and global financing options and reflects upon the solution mentioned in point 5, to use its rotating voluntary contributions from a group of member states that wish to be involved in the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's steering temporarily and in a more active way.

### **9.6 Towards a progressive opening to other sectors and disciplines**

Considering the ongoing changes and the complexity of the challenges but also the sometimes hard and rich journey of *Silva Mediterranea*, the panel wishes to mention the very useful opening, even maybe the association with the human and social sciences' experts. We think in particular, but not exclusively, about the communication sciences or the political sciences without forgetting the precious input of an historical view for the establishment of the projects within the reality or the planning of possible future ones. A progressive articulation of the forest theme with the related sectors and landscapes (water, agriculture, urban, tourism) could also be beneficial thanks to its contribution to the progressive elaboration of more encompassing solutions. The panel encourages the Committee to not hesitate in being creative on the matter.

## **10. Recommendations**

### **10.1. Towards a renewed framework**

*The panel recommends*

#### To the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

- To review its mandate in order to focus itself again on (1) the dialog in terms of forest policy and (2) the identification and follow up of regional cooperation priorities
- To reflect upon the composition of *Silva Mediterranea* after a systematic sum up of the situation of the current member states (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- 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 (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- Then, to elaborate an action programme to which the different component of the Committee will contribute to
- To aim at a more continuous and sustained participation of the high level decision makers of the region in the Committee's sessions (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To aim at an effective articulation of the Committee with the bodies and forums directly or indirectly engaged in forestry questions
- To follow the evolution of the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and the UNFCCC, UNCDD, UNCBD negotiations related to forests
- To constantly update the State of Mediterranean Forests.

#### To FAO Forestry Department

- To grant added visibility to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee during COFO and contribute to a greater visibility and greater consideration of the Mediterranean forests issue in the agenda of international bodies and forums (such as UNFF, CPF, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD, World Forestry Congress) (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To regularly raise awareness of FAO regional offices and regional forestry Commissions within the countries on the issues addressed by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee
- To implement a transversal thinking on the status and role of the observers within the statutory and subsidiary bodies and to have the Committee beneficiate from this thinking.

### **10.2. More readable links with the partners**

*The panel recommends*

#### To FAO Forestry Department

- To establish a light coordination platform between the main intergovernmental organizations interested in the Mediterranean forests, i.e. FAO, EFIMED, CIHEAM, UfM (rotating secretariat, *equal footing*) (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To ensure the presidency of this platform.

#### To *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

- To intensify the bidirectional exchanges (needs and feedbacks/outputs) with the spheres of research, training, capacity-building and information production
- To promote the participation of the key stakeholders of these different spheres as observers of the Committee's sessions

- To contribute to the recurring implementation of a Mediterranean Forest Week as a place of open forum to the different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities
- To foresee with the partners that the meeting is to be held in the chair country of the Committee
- To request the Committee's Secretariat to ensure the coordination of the organization of this event
- To reanalyse its communication (Website, Newsletter ...) so that a clear distinction is made between its own contributions and those of each partner (*this recommendation is considered a priority*).

*The panel suggests*

To *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's partners

- To contribute to a clarification of the overall panorama and, if needed, to update or define the terms of reference allowing to delimit their respective scope of action
- To contribute to the recurring implementation of a Mediterranean Forest Week as a place of open forum to the different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities and to actively participate in that event
- To foresee a possible change of the name of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.

### **10.3. A smoother internal functioning**

*The panel recommends*

To FAO Forestry Department

- To ensure a full time Secretariat for the Committee (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To carry out and animate a transversal and internal thinking on the functioning and animation of the national focal points' networks and to have the Committee beneficiate from this thinking.

To *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

- To direct the Committee's Secretariat's activities towards the reinforcement of the link between the members states and the internal dynamics and towards effective and continuous reactivation of the national focal points' network (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To delimit the respective roles of the chair, secretary, members of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee by drafting terms of reference and to update the internal rules
- To reinstate the *biennial* Committee's sessions
- To organise the Committee's sessions in Rome as a session back to back with COFO
- To reconsider the existence of the Enlarged Executive Committee.

To Committee's member states

- To ensure a long term, efficient and dynamic functioning of the national focal point (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To ensure that a relay is established at national level between the Committee's national focal point and the stakeholders and sectors involved.



#### **10.4. Interface subsidiary bodies**

*The panel recommends*

##### To FAO Forestry Department

- To formally add the contribution of FAO Officers to the Committee's activities in the description of their respective position (*this recommendation is considered a priority*)
- To promote the Department Officers' mobilisation for the benefit of the Committee's activities
- To ensure internal animation/coordination between the Departments' Officers connected to the Committee.

##### To the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

- To ensure the supervision of the connection between the Committee's future strategy and the subsidiary bodies' activities
- To foresee the constitution of two new types of subsidiary bodies : (1) interface thematic groups and (2) Task Forces
- To promote the implementation of subsidiary bodies while respecting the geographical scope of the Committee and focusing on the issues that interest all the members
- To promote targeted themes for which FAO Forestry Department has experts and at the very least to continue its work around forest fire issues, biodiversity/forest genetic resources, non-wood forest products, urban and periurban forests and the fight against desertification/restoration of degraded lands and forests
- To ensure a progressive transition from the existing working groups to the new types of groups
- To identify the coordinators who are representatives of member states based on motivation criteria and limit their mandate's duration
- To use externalisation and subcontracting only occasionally and, if needed, to develop some type of specifications or a chart indicating the respective commitments.

##### To the Committee's members

- To supply their representatives, who are engaged in the Committee's activities (coordinator, Task Force or theme group) with the necessary resources and support (*this recommendation is considered a priority*).

#### **10.5. Better structured voluntary contributions**

*The panel recommends*

##### To the Committee

- To explore new regional or global financing opportunities
- To foresee the possibility of a progressive structuring of the voluntary contributions from members based on the Forest Europe model (rotating group of countries ensuring the financing and the steering).



# **ANNEXES**



**Annex 1: Evaluation terms of reference adopted in 2012 in Antalya**



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**AFWC/EFC/NEFC COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY  
QUESTIONS - *SILVA MEDITERRANEA***

**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION**

**ANTALYA, TURKEY, 2-3 FEBRUARY 2012**

**SECRETARIAT NOTE 8: EVALUATION OF THE WORKING GROUPS  
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2012**

**PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Mediterranean forests share many common and unique features. As far back as 1911, countries in the region recognized the need to work together on shared forestry problems and create the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, which became in 1948 an FAO statutory body: the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions. It remains the only international forum dedicated to Mediterranean forest issues in which the Mediterranean countries from the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, the European Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission can meet, share experiences and establish cooperative programmes. Twenty-six countries and the European Commission are members of the Committee. The *Silva Mediterranea* Committee works with the administrations and institutes of its member countries to examine trends in forest and land use in the region and to identify priorities for research and implement studies and surveys. Member countries exchange information and technology and share resources and expertise as they work together on selected topics of mutual interest. Until 2008, the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee used to meet every two years to work towards regional cooperation and sustainable development. In 2008, it was decided to hold formal sessions every four years. Extraordinary sessions can be organized to examine important or urgent matters.

In response to a recommendation by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992) that all countries set up National Forest Action Programmes, the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee developed a conceptual framework, the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme, to support Mediterranean countries in establishing their own forest policies.





Where research was needed, the Committee established cooperative research networks on subjects identified during sessions. At the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, held in Rome in 2002, the future of the Committee was the main topic on the agenda. The Committee proposed that the research networks be phased out and replaced by working groups with a specific mandate and clear objectives, outputs and time frames. The participants noted that the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee had to be more responsive to the needs of countries, in particular in the following areas:

- Improving the responses and contribution of the forest sector to the well-being and socio-economic advancement of the population, including poverty alleviation and food security;
- Contribution of the forest sector to the implementation of the international conventions on biological diversity, climate change and desertification control;
- Forest sector planning through national forest programmes;
- Achieving sustainable forest management.

At the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) in 2008, it was decided to revitalize the existing working groups and create two new working groups on "Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change" and "Sustainable Financing Mechanisms".

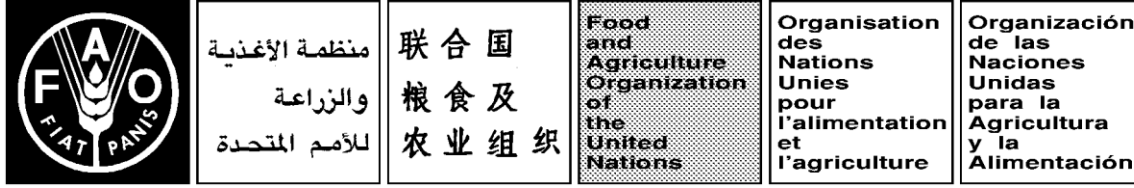
Today the six active working groups are the following:

- Working Group on Forest Fires (WG1);
- Working Group on Cork Oak (WG2);
- Working Group on Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development (WG3);
- Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (WG4);
- Working Group on Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change (WG5);
- Working Group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (WG6).

At the meeting in Sofia, members of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee asked each working group to develop a work plan for the period 2009-2012. These work plans were presented and approved during a special session of *Silva Mediterranea* which took place at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO (in 2009).

## II. EVALUATION OF THE SIX *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* WORKING GROUPS

An impact assessment was planned to be carried out at the end of the work plans (available on the *Silva Mediterranea* website), to be jointly implemented by the coordinators of the working groups, the secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee hosted by the Forestry Department of FAO, and a consultant to be recruited for this purpose. This activity would result in a report which would specify the work accomplished, relevant impacts and follow-up actions required, with the aim to identify “strengths” and “weaknesses” and improve performance.



This review takes place in a very strategic moment for the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee. In fact, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week, which was held from 5 to 8 April 2011 in Avignon (France), provided lots of useful recommendations to orientate the future activities of several working groups. The meeting also discussed the work plan of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (see item 13), providing positive grounds for raising awareness, commitment and funds from partner institutions and involving them in activities related to *Silva Mediterranea*'s working groups.

The present formal session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee offers the opportunity to present the activities of the working groups during the period 2009-2012, to verify interest and commitment from members in the long-term perspective, and to discuss the terms of references (ToRs) of this evaluation, in order to prepare relevant work plans for the period 2013-2016.

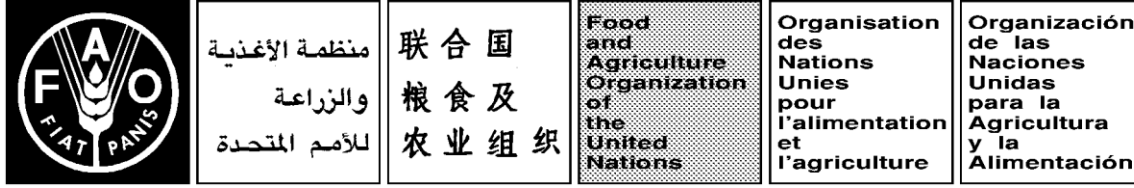
There are a number of strategic questions which need to be answered in order to increase relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the working groups:

- How do the working groups position themselves within the many organizations and institutions dealing with similar issues in the Mediterranean?
- Are the current vision, mission and approach of the working groups appropriate enough?
- Is the way working groups are organized and functioning effective enough?
- Are the priorities, on which the working groups are focusing, addressing the real, burning and priority issues?
- How can the financial sustainability of the working groups be ensured in view of the 2013-2016 work plan?
- Is there scope to do more active fundraising with different potential donors for the activities of the Working Groups?

### **Objectives and structure of the evaluation of the working groups**

In order to address the above-mentioned questions, a consultant will be recruited to undertake, through either phone interviews or questionnaires, a thorough consultation with the coordinators of the working groups, the secretariat, partner institutions and sample active and inactive member countries. The consultant, who will work under the overall supervision of the Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division (FOM), the Officer in charge of the Arid Zone Forestry Programme and the secretariat of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, will prepare a report presenting the conclusions of the survey as well as the recommendations to improve the performance of the working groups. The consultant will be based in Rome and will be funded through voluntary contributions from members and/or partner organizations.





The consultant will review the reality, dynamics and experiences of the working groups, the sharing of responsibilities and the level of participation of members in on-going activities, as well as the extent of involvement of the secretariat in triggering and moving activities forward.

Additionally, the consultant will identify the bottlenecks and constraints, both financial and administrative, which hinder a smoother implementation of the activities foreseen by the work plans and will provide recommendations on how to improve the results expected from the working groups.

More in particular, the evaluation for the period 2009-2012 is expected to:

- document and review the achievements of the working groups with regard to the 2009-2012 work plans (see work plans on the *Silva Mediterranea* website);
- identify and measure quantitative indicators in order to assess the adherence of the results of the working groups to the work plans and the overall efficiency of the groups, these will include:
  - activities implemented;
  - products delivered;
  - meetings organized or attended;
  - publications released;
  - project proposals submitted; etc.
- review the structure, management set-up and arrangements of the working groups, make recommendations for changes, if deemed necessary;
- look at the long-term sustainability of the approaches introduced by the work plans and mechanisms to ensure continuity in view of the forthcoming 2013-2016 work plans, including financial issues;
- assess how effectively the designated coordinators of the working groups are supported by their countries. According to the rules of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee, countries leading the working groups should nominate the relevant coordinators;
- provide guidance to the revision of the work plans for approval by the working groups;
- review the approaches and methodology followed in the development of the work plan and in the identification of priority activities;
- make suggestions on improvements, where necessary.

Budget and timeline for the evaluation of the working groups on the period 2009-2012 are to be established. The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee will provide an apt occasion to look at these issues in detail and in a participatory manner, involving coordinators of the working groups and all other concerned professionals.

## **Annex 2: List of main documents consulted**

### **Websites**

See footnotes

### **Documents of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee**

*Silva Mediterranea* Newsletters (1 to 15)

Reports of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's sessions (1 to 21)

Minutes of the Enlarged Executive Committee's meetings (1 to 5)

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**Annex 3: English version of the questionnaire sent to the national focal points (also available in French and Spanis)**

*ENGLISH VERSION*

**Evaluation 2013 of the working groups of the Committee of Mediterranean Forestry Questions  
- *Silva Mediterranea*: Questionnaire for national focal points**

Thank you to return **by 22 April 2013** to Christine Farcy, chair of the evaluation panel  
E-mail : christine.farcy@uclouvain.be

**1. *Is Silva Mediterranea important? For whom? Why?***

--

**2. *What are the benefits gained by your country / institution from activities of the working groups of Silva Mediterranea since 2009?***

WG Forest fires	
WG Cork oak	
WG Climate Change	
WG Sustainable Development	
WG Forest Genetic Resources	
WG Sustainable Financing Mechanisms	
General Comments on the working groups	

3. Do you have a direct interest or implication in events organized by *Silva Mediterranea* such as Mediterranean Forest Weeks?

--

4. What are the main strengths and weaknesses of *Silva Mediterranea*

In terms of functioning	
Strengths	
Weaknesses	
In terms of positioning	
Strengths	
Weaknesses	

5. What is the main current added value of *Silva Mediterranea* compared with other organisations active in the Mediterranean forest scene? (EFIMED, Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests,...)?

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6. What could be the potential added value of *Silva Mediterranea* compared with other organisations active in the Mediterranean forest scene? (EFIMED, Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests,...) ? Under what conditions?

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**7. What is the desirable evolution of *Silva Mediterranea*?**

<b>In terms of functioning:</b>
<b>In terms of positioning:</b>

**8. If appropriate, what funding opportunities could be explored to ensure sustainability to the committee?**

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**9. Other**

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**Annex 4: List of persons encountered**

Name and surname	Country	Organisation	Function	Implications throughout the recent period
Moujahed ACHOURI		FAO	Deputy Regional Representative	In charge of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> from 2007 to 2009
Rafik AINI	Tunisia	Ministry	Director of silvo-pastoral development	GIZ - CPMF Project
Nabil ASSAF		FAO	FAO representative in Algeria	-
Joelle BARAKAT	Lebanon	Association	Project manager	FFEM - CPMF Project
Driash BAYAT	Iran	Ministry	Manager of national project	-
Ismaël BELEN	Turkey	Ministry	Deputy Director General	- Chair of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> (2012-2016) - National focal point
Samir BELHAJ SALAH	Tunisia	Ministry	Deputy Director of forest protection	Focal point of the WG 1 "Forest Fires"
Rachid BENABDALLAH	Algeria	Ministry	Project manager	National expert on forest fires
Fayçal BENCHEKROUN	Morocco	High Commission	Director of Planning	National focal point
Nora BERRAHMOUNI		FAO	Forestry Officer (arid zones)	Technical support to the WG2 "Cork Oak" and support to the secretariat
Christophe BESACIER		FAO	Forestry Officer	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Secretariat since November 2009 CPFM Secretariat Coordinator of the WG 6 "Sustainable financing mechanisms" Coordinator of the WG 3 "Sustainable development"
Marion BRIENS		Plan Bleu	Project manager	Co-coordinator of WG 3 "Sustainable development"
Valentina CARAVAGLIA		FAO	Consultant	Scientific support to the secretariat
Elias CHNAIS	Lebanon	Association	Project manager	Project FFEM - CPMF
Lorenza COLLETTI	Italy	Ministry	Senior Forestry Officer	National focal point Focal point of the WG 1 "Forest Fires"
Patrick DEBLONDE	France	Ministry	Project manager	Focal point of the WG 1 "Forest Fires"
Jean de MONTGOLFIER		Plan Bleu	Administrator	CPMF
Fulvio DUCCI	Italy	Research centre	Researcher	Coordination WG 4 "Forest Genetic Resources"
Elsa ENRIQUEZ ALCALDE	Spain	Ministry	Head of department	Coordination WG 1 "Forest Fires"
Bruno FADY	France	Research centre	Researcher	Expert from WG 4 "Forest Genetic Resources"
Sukran GOKDEMIN	Turkey	Research centre	Researcher	Expert from WG 4 "Forest Genetic Resources"
François GUERBER		Union for the Mediterranean	Expert	-
Abdel Hamied HAMID		FAO	Regional Officer	Recent mobilisation of the countries
Abdelaziz HAMMOUDI	Morocco	High Commission	Head of Division	National focal point

Name and surname	Country	Organisation	Function	Implications throughout the recent period
Elena HERNANDEZ PAREDES	Spain	Ministry	Project manager	Coordination of WG 1 “Forest Fires”
Abderrahim HOUMY	Morocco	High Commission	Secretary General	Chair of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> (2005-2008) Coordinator of WG 5 “Climate Change”
Srecko JURICIC	Croatia	Ministry	Head of Division	-
Alexander KASTL	Germany	GIZ	Regional manager	GIZ – PCFM Project
Dominique LEGROS		Plan Bleu	Unit Manager	CPMF
Ludwig LIAGRE	France	GIZ	Cooperating agent	CPMF
Eduardo MANSUR		FAO	Director	Supervision of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Secretariat
Caterina MARCHETTA		FAO	Consultant	Logistic support to the Secretariat
Inazio MARTINEZ de ARANO		EFIMED	Head of the Bureau	CPMF
Chadi MOHANNA	Lebanon	Ministry	Director General	National focal point
Inès MORENO RUIZ	Spain	Ministry	Project manager	National forest fire expert
Marc PALAHI		EFIMED	Former Head of the Bureau	CPMF
Evi PAVIZOTI	Greece	Research centre	Researcher	Expert from WG 4 “Forest Genetic Resources”
Renaud PIAZZETTA	France	Mediterranean Cork Institute	Director	Coordination of the new sub-WG “cork oak”
Catherine RIVOAL	France	Ministry	Project manager	National focal point
Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES		FAO	Assistant Director General	Committee’s Supervision
Youssef SAADANI	Tunisia	Ministry	Director general	Member
Tatiana SARMIENTO		AIFM	Project manager	Co-coordinator of the WG 3 “Sustainable development”
Hassan SBAY	Morocco	Research Centre	Researcher	Expert from WG 4 “Forest genetic resources”
Ernst SCHULTE		European Commission (DG ENV)	Head of Unit	Forest fires expert
Isa SHOBAKI	Jordan	Ministry	- Assistant Secretary General - Chair of the NEFRC Executive Committee	-
Jose Maria SOLANO	Spain	Ministry	Advisor to the Director General	National focal point
Oudara SOUVANNAVONG		FAO	Forestry Officer (genetic resources)	Support to WG 4 “Forest genetic resources”
Pilar VALBUENA	Spain	International Model Forest Network	Communication manager	CPMF
Maria-Carolina VARELA	Portugal	Research Centre	Researcher	Coordination of WG 2 “Cork oak”
Pieter VAN LIEROP		FAO	Forestry Officer (fires)	Support to WG 1 “Forest Fires”
Giuseppe VENDRAMIN	Italy	Research centre	Research Director	Expert from WG 4 “Forest Genetic Resources”

## **Annex 5: Main activities and results of the six *Silva Mediterranea* working groups during the 2009-2012 period.**

### ***Working group 1: "Forest fires"***

The forest fires issue, which is inherent in the Mediterranean region, is on the agenda of the Committee rather continuously since its beginning. While forest fires were on the agenda at the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee session in 1948, around 40 years later in Grande Motte, forest fires prevention and control are identified as a priority. The working group's activities thus fall into continuity.

Throughout the period, the main goal of the "Forest Fires" working group, whose coordination is ensured by Spain, is to animate and facilitate the information and experiences' exchanges in terms of fight against forest fires in the Mediterranean Basin with a specific focus on the prevention. It is based on a national focal points' network that must interface with stakeholders and relevant services. For its members, the group's role is to be a facilitator and thus render easier the information and negative or positive experiences' exchanges.

The programme of work for 2009-2012 is set out below; it is completed with the main achievements throughout the period.

<b>Programme of work 2009-2012</b>		
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Activities foreseen</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Update of the working group network</b>	Request the designation of a focal point to the different national services with responsibilities in terms of fire management	The last update was performed in February 2012 before the 21st session of the Committee
	After the official establishment of the focal points of the network of the Near East region on forest and natural land fires (in April 2010), integrate them as focal points of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group on forest fires in the Mediterranean region	The network was not created and the Near East Forestry and Range Commission cancelled the idea in January 2012 at the Antalya session
<b>Foster the integration of all Mediterranean countries in the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)</b>	Send an invitation to the countries that have not yet joined EFFIS	Letter sent to Ernst Schulte in 2012
	Ensure the coordination of the reactions of the countries invited	Coordination with Ernest Schulte (EC) and Jesus San Miguel (JRC)
	Promote the integration of the member states of the future network of the Near East region on forest and natural land fires as active members of EFFIS	Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia have joined the EFFIS system ; Turkey has confirmed its commitment and played a key driver role by sharing its experience with the new EFFIS members Collaboration in the organisation of the workshop on the expansion of EFFIS to Algeria, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia in October 2011 in Rabat, with the JRC, Spain, Italy, Turkey, GIZ and the Moroccan High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification Collaboration with the Italian forestry service and GIZ for the organisation of a training session on the causes of forest fires and means of investigation, held in Sabaudia (Italy) from 22 to 26 October 2012



<b>Promote prevention initiatives at local level</b>	Disseminate technical documents on local experiences	Low effective achievement, mainly due to language issues; note that there was the publication of the experience from the region of Valencia (Spain) on the prevention of fires at local level
	Identify the existing initiatives in the Mediterranean Basin	Organisation of session during the 2nd Mediterranean Forest Week held in Avignon in April 2011 Contribution to the development of the Position Paper on forest fires prevention in the Mediterranean region drafted jointly by the Committee Secretariat, the working group and some members of CPMF, among others, and to the facilitation of an agreement in order to adopt the measure Collaboration with Forest Europe, USSE, Cyprus and Greece to the organisation of the workshop "Evaluation of forest fire risks and innovative strategies for fire prevention" held in Rhodes (Greece) from 4 to 6 Mai 2010
	Promote projects' financing by donor countries	Promotion of the expansion activities of EFFIS
	Facilitate collaborations (experience exchanges, translation of guidelines, training workshops and internships, exchange visits...) of this future network of the Near East with other countries of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> working group on forest fires in the Mediterranean region	Performed within EFFIS expansion initiatives' framework. In particular, via the participation of Near East countries to the meetings of the European Commission group of experts Collaboration to the presentation of the Position Paper at the 5th International Conference on Forest Fires "Living with Fire Addressing Global Change through Integrated Fire Management" held in Sun City, South Africa from 9 to 13 May 2011 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Promote bilateral agreements between countries for joint actions on the border zones and cooperation in fire suppression.</b>	Identify the existing agreements in the Mediterranean Basin	An inventory was elaborated in 2012; some answers were obtained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Algeria/Tunisia : Exchange of resources, information and prevention measures</li> <li>– Croatia/Hungary, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, France, Montenegro, Russia, Macedonia, Albania: Exchange of resources</li> <li>– Greece/Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Russia, Ukraine and USA: Exchange of resources and prevention measures</li> <li>– Portugal/Spain: Exchange of resources</li> <li>– Countries of the EU/Mechanisms of civil protection of the European Commission: Exchanges of resources</li> </ul>
	Disseminate information on the agreements by sending the model approved at the Sydney Conference in 2003	Not executed
	Make the information on the agreements available in the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> website and in other FAO relevant sites on forest fires	Not executed due to the fragmentation of the inventory done

<sup>a</sup> [www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/southafrica-2011/04-Wildfire-2011-Recommendations-Regional-Session-IV.pdf](http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/southafrica-2011/04-Wildfire-2011-Recommendations-Regional-Session-IV.pdf)

<b>Promote participation of all Mediterranean countries to the Fire Management Actions Alliance carried by FAO</b>	Convene a promotion meeting by inviting all the Mediterranean countries	Not executed for budgetary reasons
	Disseminate information on the voluntary directives	Executed whenever there was the opportunity to do so
	Promote the participation of the future members of the new network of the Near East Region on forest and natural land fires to the Fire Management Actions Alliance carried by FAO	Partially executed, the integration process in EFFIS is still ongoing. The working group activities were presented by the person in charge of the thematic issue at FAO during the last meeting of the members of the Alliance in July 2012

The main achievements of the working group are essentially contributions to products produced jointly with other partners or to indirect products that benefited from the Committee's activities:

- Collectif, 2010, Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention. 4-6 May 2010, Rhodes, Greece. Workshop report. Forest Europe-Liaison Unit Oslo
- Collectif, 2011. Position Paper on Wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean
- EC/JRC, 2012. Technical reports – Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2011.

In 2013, the working group contributed to the elaboration of the chapter of the State of Mediterranean Forest dedicated to forest fires; the chapter on the evolution of forest fires' risks within the climate change context was elaborated by EFFIS.

Also in 2013, the JRC published its annual technical report:

- EC/JRC, 2013. Technical reports – Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2012.

**Working group 2: “Cork oak”**

Since it was first established, *Silva Mediterranea* has been interested in the flagship species of the region: cork oak, cedar and stone pine have been the subject of specific research networks.

The research network on cork oak silviculture was created at the 15<sup>th</sup> Committee's session held in Faro, Portugal in 1992. In 1997, the idea of a cork trademark or label to promote the cork by-products was launched. In the short term, the aims of this trademark would be to foster consumers to choose corks and other cork based products instead of other similar substitutes and to establish a common strategy to all the countries that produce and sell cork. Within a longer term, this initiative aims at obtaining the certification of all cork based products, as well as strict quality criteria for the different products and namely corks.

The programme of work announced for 2009-2012 is set out below; it is completed with the main achievements throughout the period.

<b>Programme of work 2009-2012</b>		
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Activities foreseen</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Manage the cork oak stands in a proper way</b>	Implement the best management practices for an improved valorisation of the cork oak stands, by eliminating the idea of irreversibility of their disease and by demystifying the decline/decay of cork oaks and holm oaks	Not executed
	Promote the multifunctional valorisation of the cork oak by showing that, besides cork, their stands provide many other relevant services	Organisation of a workshop on “conservation, sustainable management and restoration of cork oak forest in North Africa” in April 2010 in Hammamet as a side event of FAO Near East Forestry and Range Commission
<b>Increase the use of cork</b>	Show the important and renewable ecological features of the cork	Not executed
	Highlight that defending cork is defending the use of corks, the by-product of the cork chain	Promotion of the cork as a side event to the COFO session in Rome in October 2010 (photo exhibition and tasting of wines from different Mediterranean countries)
	Promote the different uses of the cork, besides corks (bio-architecture, connection to the climate change mitigation, industrial and commercial innovations, etc...)	Participation in the cork and Mediterranean forest biennials (VIVEXPO) in Vivès in 2010 and 2012 with the Mediterranean Cork Institute Contribution to the publication of two Newsletters from the Committee dedicated to these events
<b>Simplify the obscure technical language</b>	Intensively disseminate information within the target groups (producers, general public, end-consumers, politicians)	Contribution to the elaboration of the chapter on the cork oak for the State of Mediterranean Forests

The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee in February 2012 “*recommended to evolve/expand the mandate of the working group initially focused on the cork oak (and, consequently, change its noun) to all the Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products to reinforce the active participation of all countries involved*”.

**Working group 3: “Forest Management and Sustainable Development durable”**

The working group was created at the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee in 2002. Its creation took place within the framework of the partnership agreement between FAO and Plan Bleu formalised that year and renewed in 2005 with the support of France.

In 2009, the aims of the group coordinated by Plan Bleu and FAO fell within the framework of territorial approaches in order to promote sustainable management of wood ecosystems; they are mentioned below. An activity was organized in 2011 before the revision of the programme of work.

<b>Programme of work 2009-2012</b>		
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Activities foreseen</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Maintain and reinforce the exchanges and the promotion of experiences on sustainable management of the forest lands and resources</b>	Study cases: other countries, innovative topics National reports, followed by indicators Regional analyses in the Mediterranean	Organisation of a session “Forests, societies and territories” held in 2011 at the 2nd Mediterranean Forest week  – Presentation of several study cases – Recommendations on territorial governance (see specific Newsletter)
<b>Facilitate the elaboration and implementation of national forest strategies that contribute to a sustainable development</b>	Organisation of a Second regional forum in June 2011 Best practices reference list Exchange platform (sharing regional experience)	
<b>Foster the development of sustainable management integrated within agro-silvo-pastoral lands</b>		
<b>Communicate on the groups' activities and promote the Mediterranean forest at international scale</b>		

In 2011, FAO and Plan Bleu, joined by AIFM, decided to try to reactivate a group with very broad and transversal initial aims; the activities were then refocused on the three following points:

<b>Programme of work reviewed (2011-2012)</b>		
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Activities foreseen</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
	Contribution to the drafting of the 1st edition of the State of Mediterranean Forest	Successful completion of chapters 1 and 3 (Plan Bleu coordination)
	Contribution to the preparation of the 3rd Mediterranean Forest Week with the idea to promote the exchange of experiences and new steering activities of integrated management of the forests and organisation of workshops to exchange experiences and evaluate the lessons learnt	Successful achievement
	Carry out a study on the economical evaluation of goods and services supplied by wood ecosystems, within the FFEM project framework on the payments for Ecosystems Services and REDD+ within the Mediterranean Basin	Ongoing study at the geographical scale of CPMF beneficiary countries within the framework of component 2 of the FFEM project

**Working group 4: “Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources”**

The Committee has been interested in the issues of research connected to genetics for a long time. This is how, already in 1967, the aim of the “conifer stands” research network, which was interested in the selection of conifer stands for the production of seeds for the afforestation programs was the implementation of provenance tests for pine, cedar and cypress trees. In 2008 in Sofia, the group changed its noun and expanded to include Mediterranean forest genetic resources in a broad sense.

Led by Italy, the working group falls under the continuity and its aim is to promote the conservation of endangered species and the preservation of genetic diversity for the adaptation of forest ecosystems within a context of climate change.

Its programme of work adopted in 2011 and its achievements throughout the period are stated below.

Programme of work reviewed in 2011		
Objective	Activities	Achievements
Improvement of national strategies on forest genetic resources and national reports on forest genetic resources		The North West countries (Spain, France, Greece, Turkey and Lebanon) participated actively in this component. Concerning the Maghreb region, Morocco and Tunisia are very active, whether hosting meetings or supplying data, whether actively participating in technical and/or preparatory workshops. FAO organized a workshop in Tunisia to support the South Mediterranean countries in the preparation of national reports on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources
Implementation of long term activities of the working group	Database on Mediterranean forest genetic resources	INRA-Avignon is in charge of updating the DB Foradat database ( <a href="http://www.avignon.inra.fr/ForSilvaMed">www.avignon.inra.fr/ForSilvaMed</a> ) and all countries supply the requested information on ex situ resources and land tests (species in question: <i>Pinus halepensis</i> , <i>Cedrus</i> sp., <i>Abies</i> sp., <i>Cupressus</i> sp., ...). A part of this information is also entered and/or connected in the Treebreedex European project of databases ( <a href="http://www.treebreedex.eu">www.treebreedex.eu</a> ), with a specific reference to the origin of the data, in this case, <i>FAO Silva Mediterranea</i> . The Foradapt DB database has also been connected to the Trees4Future project ( <a href="http://www.trees4future.eu/">http://www.trees4future.eu/</a> ). The Directory of Seed Sources of the Mediterranean Conifers coordinated by Muzaffer Topak (1997, FAO) was made available online: <a href="http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/ad112e/AD112E00.htm">www.fao.org/docrep/006/ad112e/AD112E00.htm</a> An expansion to deciduous trees is planned for the future
	Ex situ conservation network in the Mediterranean countries	It is a very active network. A book was published in 2011 (Besacier et al., 2011) in which 53 authors from 9 Committee member states present the results of the common international tests established since 1970. The information is supplied for 15 species. This book constitutes the Minutes of the workshop organised by the working group in Arezzo in 2007
	New methodologies for the conservation (including in situ conservation methods)	New methodologies were developed within the FFEM project framework in the 6 countries targeted by CPMF. The working group contributed to the setting up of the project
	Targeted species for the preservation and management of genetic resources in the Mediterranean area	<i>Abies alba</i> , <i>A. nebrodensis</i> , <i>A. cephalonica</i> , <i>A. normanniana</i> , <i>A. bormuelleriana</i> , <i>A. numidica</i> , <i>A. borisii regis</i> , <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> , <i>C. libani</i> , <i>Pinus halepensis</i> , <i>P. brutia</i> , <i>P. eldarica</i> , <i>P. pinaster</i> , <i>P. pinea</i> , <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> , ...
	Conclusion of regional	Not yet; probably at the end of the FFEM project and the COST

	agreements for the ex situ preservation on the Mediterranean	Action
	Sustainable financial resources to support the regional strategy for the preservation of Mediterranean forest genetic resources	The current crisis makes the search for permanent funding more difficult
<b>Test of new in situ preservation methods for the most critical Mediterranean territories/species</b>		<p>Pilot sites selected for the implementation of component 1 of the FFEM project (GCP/GLO/458/FRA) are: Algeria : Djelfa/Senalba ; Lebanon : Jabal Moussa ; Morocco : Maarmora ; Tunisia : Siliana ; Turkey : Duzlercami</p> <p>New methods will soon be developed within the Cost Action FP1202 framework</p> <p>A letter of Agreement was developed with CRA SEL (Italy) to maximise the connections and interactions between COST Action and the FFEM project in order to support test activities.</p> <p>Another was signed with INRA Avignon</p>

Throughout this period, the following actions were also carried out:

- Organisation of the workshop “Forest genetic resources in the Mediterranean region” in La Canée (Chania), Crete, with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), EFIMED and FAO from 24 to 26 November 2009.
- Organisation of the workshop “Reinforce the preservation and management of forest genetic resources (FGR): a major issue for the adaptation of Mediterranean forests to environmental changes” in Tunis with INRGREF, CIHEAM and the General Directorate in charge of forest ecosystems in Tunisia from 10 to 12 March 2010.
- Organisation of specific activities (training sessions, workshops, short term experts, etc.) to help the countries from the South and the East of the Mediterranean to prepare their national reports for the first State of World’s Forest Genetic Resources (workshop organised in Hammamet in 2011), up to 2012.
- Contribution to the preparation of several projects propositions, partially or completely on forest genetic resources:
  - Component 1 of the project: “Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes» from the French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM). In November 2011, the FFEM project approved a total of 2,65 M€, of which 0,5 M€ is for component 1
  - COST Action FP1202-MaP-FGR “Reinforce preservation: a key issue for the adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees to climate change in Europe”. The workshop of the project's launch was held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome in January 2013. The project is implemented by four working groups, of which one (networking, communication) is coordinated by the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.

Concerning that period, the following document was published:

- Besacier Ch, Ducci F., Malagnoux M., Souvannavong O. (Eds), 2011. Status of the Experimental Network of Mediterranean Forest genetic resources. CRA SEL, Arezzo Italy/FAO, Rome.

In 2013, a training session on marginal populations was organised in Chania and two calls for the training of young researchers were carried out within the framework of COST Action FP1202 (short term scientific missions).

### ***Working group 5: “Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change”***

Created in 2008 in Sofia, the working group “climate change”, whose coordinator is Morocco, had as initial intent to focus on actions to be undertaken for an improved adaptation of the Mediterranean forest ecosystems to climate change while taking into account the development of the regional and national research networks, as well as the exchanges of experiences through visits, workshops and publications.

The first working programme announced for the 2009-2012 period had 4 main aims which read as follows:

- Development of a database on soils, based on the analysis of soil samples taken from specific selected study sites
- Assessment of carbon stored in soils and its fluxes
- Elaboration of maps of possible carbon stocks in the soil
- Organisation of regional and national workshops and other scientific manifestations

The result was the development of a research programme led by Morocco and focused on the quantification of carbon stocks in Mediterranean ecosystems.

In June 2010, the working group handed the baton to the GIZ project “Adapting forest policy framework conditions to climate change in the MENA region” which was the catalyst that allowed the creation of CPMF. The aim of this regional project is to improve the conditions of implementation of policies in some countries of the MENA region (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria and Lebanon) in order to guarantee a sustainable management of forest ecosystems and preserve the multiple environmental services that these forests supply to the rural populations within the climate change context.

The project is built around 3 components:

- Capacity-building for a sustainable management of forest within the climate change context
- Improvement of communication and public relations on issues related to climate change and to the value of the Mediterranean forest for its users
- Mobilisation of external support and partnerships for forest management within the climate change context

At the implicit passing of the torch to the GIZ project and to CPMF, there was no formal update of the programme of work of this group that, lacking of its own activities, was never made available online on the *Silva Mediterranea* website.

**Working group 6: “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms”**

The aim of the group created in 2008 in Sofia and whose initial coordinator was Bulgaria, was to mobilise financial resources to reinforce the regional cooperation on forest questions and promote innovating financing mechanisms such as Payments for Environmental Services (PES) and the Market Based Instruments (MBI). The aim was to make Mediterranean forests and their regional and global importance known and to increase financing that could be destined to the former to ensure their sustainable management.

In 2010, the group coordinated by the Committee Secretariat refocused its activities around three aims that are part of its own programme of work:

<b>Delayed programme of work (2010-2012)</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Develop new communication tools to improve the visibility of Mediterranean forests</b>	Global evaluation of the financial resources allocated to the forest sector in the Mediterranean region	Database of projects/programs use to evaluate the financial resources allocated to the forest sector; it has not been updated since it was made available online in 2010
	Regular publication of a Newsletter from <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>	Publication of at least 4 <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Newsletter per year in English, French, Spanish and Arabic
	Development and regular update of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Website	Development and regular update of the Committee Website
	Elaboration of a work document on the State of Mediterranean Forests	Contribution to the conception, elaboration and edition of the first State of Mediterranean Forests
	Publication of a document on the State of Mediterranean Forests	
	Support the organisation of Mediterranean Forest Weeks	Major role in the organisation committees of Mediterranean Forest Weeks (2011 and 2013) Publication with other partners of a special edition of the magazine “Forêt Méditerranéenne” on the Second Mediterranean Forest Week Contribution to a special edition of the Newsletter from CIHEAM dedicated to Mediterranean Forests after the 3rd MFW
<b>Improve the strategy of advocating for the Mediterranean forests in several international bodies (Secretariat, members or partners)</b>	Advocacy on Mediterranean forests within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean	No specific action was undertaken within the Union for the Mediterranean framework Nevertheless, some activities were carried out in 2012 within the preparation of the SFMF that constitute a support for advocating on Mediterranean forests (work document elaborated in Antalya in 2010, workshop in Chania in May 2012 and consultancy during the winter of 2012)
	Support given to working groups and partners in fund raising	Regular updating of the database of projects on Mediterranean forests available on the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> website (English, French and Spanish) Organisation of workshops for the preparation of new project propositions (FFEM project and COST action)
	Organisation / participation in parallel events during the strategic meetings of the partners (UNCCD, IUFRO, UNFF,	Organisation of side events in collaboration with CPMF members, during the strategic meetings of different partners, in particular



	COFO 2010, European Forestry Commission, Near East Forestry Commission, etc...)	of COFO 2010 and 2012 and Rio +20
<b>Increase the profitability and implementation of innovating economic instruments, in particular of Payments for Environmental Services (PSE)</b>	Capitalisation of the case studies concerning PES/MBI (Market based instruments), identification of successes in other regions and exchange of experiences for the Mediterranean stakeholders	Workshop on Payment for Environmental Services (Tunis, June 2011) Ongoing within the framework of activities of component 2 of the FFEM project
	Support in the preparation of a proposition on PES and MBI in the Mediterranean to reinforce the capacities and networking on this subject	Ongoing
	Contribution to the preparation of a project proposition to develop pilot actions in the Mediterranean	FFEM project prepared and approved in 2011

In 2013, the group contributed to the conclusion of the SFMF, to its adoption and to the publication of its final version in four languages. It coordinated the drafting of the Tlemcen Declaration for the high-level segment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MFW. It ensured the coordination and preparation of the State of Mediterranean Forests and its publication in English and French. It contributed to the organisation of a meeting at the European Parliament to present the SoMF and the SFMF.





