



## Newsletter n°17: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea*

It is a great pleasure for me to sign this editorial after hosting in Morocco the regional workshop, “**REDD+ Negotiations: What could be a common position of countries involved in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests?**”, organized jointly by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, Salva Terra, GIZ, ONF International and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (Rabat, 12-14 March 2014).



First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues of the *Haut-Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification* (HCEFLCD) and the teams of technical and financial partners for their support in organizing the sessions. I would like also to thank all participants who attended this workshop in Rabat.

The different sessions of the workshop focused on the following objectives:

- Share a possible common vision on key negotiation issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the forestry and agriculture sector in the MENA region ;
- Share key results of the cost-benefit analysis of REDD+/LULUCF implemented in several countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and brainstorm on a common vision for the possible profile of REDD+ in the MENA region;
- Define a common position on the key issue “*REDD+ non-carbon benefits*” for possible submissions (national or regional) to be sent to the UNFCCC Secretariat (following the approval of national qualified authorities).

Therefore, this regional workshop was an important opportunity to capitalize on the results of several previous studies and workshops (national and regional) implemented in 2013/2014 with the support of GIZ and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM).

In this newsletter, entirely dedicated to the results of this workshop held in Rabat on March 2014, you will find articles focused on:

- The REDD+ cost-benefit analysis implemented with the support of GIZ in Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey ;
- The process of developing a common regional vision on key UNFCCC negotiation issues in the forestry sector supported by FAO and funded FFEM;
- The full text of the submission formally sent by Tunisia to the UNFCCC Secretariat on “*REDD+ non-carbon benefits*”.

Concluding this editorial, I would like to thank warmly all member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests for supporting Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries exploring, in a coordinated way, opportunities potentially offered by REDD+ in the Mediterranean through concrete actions at the international (negotiations), regional and national level. So far, this REDD+ issue has been mainly addressed for implementation in tropical humid forests. However, following decisions taken during the Conference of Parties held in Cancun (UNFCCC), it deserves now to be also considered in forest ecosystems of the South and East of the Mediterranean.

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### News from *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

**An extraordinary Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*** will be held in Rome on June 27, 2014 during the 22<sup>sd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry scheduled from 23 to 27 June 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en>).

**The Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW)** will be held in Barcelona in Spain from 17 to 20 March 2015 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en>).



## I) Assessing the Costs and Benefits of REDD+ in the CPMF partner countries

Thanks to the support of the **Forest Governance Programme (FGP)** of the **German Federal Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation (BMZ)**, the **Regional Project GIZ-CPMF** launched a series of Costs-Benefits Analyses (CBA) of REDD+ for Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia and a CBA of LULUCF for Turkey. The objectives of this series of studies concern two levels:

- 1) at the **national** level, the CBA aimed at :
  - a. developing capacities of national institutions on the REDD+ issues ;
  - b. raising awareness among policy makers from various sectors about the feasibility of REDD+ implementation and related direct and indirect costs and benefits ;
  - c. identifying the cost-efficiency of REDD+ options and highlighting possible priorities for action ;
- 2) at the **regional** level, the CBA process targeted :
  - a. the identification of common points between CPMF partner countries about the REDD+ options to be implemented ;
  - b. the agreement on key messages regarding direct and indirect costs and benefits, such as the importance of non-carbon benefits (i.e. co-benefits of REDD+)

In each country study, key deforestation and forest degradation drivers have been selected in a participatory process (table 1). For each one of these drivers, REDD+ options were proposed and their cost-efficiency determined (table 2).

**Table 1: Selected deforestation and forest degradation drivers**

REDD+ options	Country where the REDD+ option has been analyzed
Fighting against forest fires	Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia
Afforestation and reforestation	Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey
Reducing needs for wood fuel	Morocco
Producing sustainable wood fuel	Lebanon
Reducing overgrazing	Morocco and Tunisia
Managing forests	Tunisia (implementation of forest management plans) and Turkey (all management practices)
Controlling agricultural and urban expansion	Lebanon

Results are presented hereunder but are to be considered carefully as they are based on many assumptions that are described in details in the full text of the studies (*click on the link at the end of the article*).

**Table 2: Abatement costs of selected REDD+ options**

REDD+ options	Lebanon	Morocco	Tunisia	Turkey
Fighting against forest fires	31,8 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	49,2 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	494 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e**	-
Afforestation and reforestation*	266,6 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	87 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	45,7 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e to 229,9 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	86,4 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Reducing needs for wood fuel	-	The potential has been estimated but not the costs of the activities	-	-
Producing sustainable wood fuel	56,9 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	-	-	-
Reducing overgrazing	-	17 to 43,6 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	30 à 81 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e	-
Managing forests	-	-	The cost of forest management has been estimated but not its impact	14,6 US\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Controlling agricultural and urban expansion	No promising activity has been identified	-	-	-

\* Calculation based on the carbon storage in 2030. On a longer term, abatement costs decrease.

\*\* Very high operational costs but several discussions with the concerned services confirmed this estimate.

The results show a high variability between countries in terms of abatement costs for the same activity. More than a difference in the REDD+ potential, **this variability underlines that results are highly dependent on the availability and quality of data** (highly variable between countries) **and on the hypothesis made for the calculation**. Therefore, the results cannot be decoupled from the calculation methodology.

In all cases, the current carbon price (variable, between 5 and 15 US\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>e) could not cover the abatement costs of activities while the tutelary price of carbon in 2030 (around 140US\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>e) would cover most of them.



Rabat Workshop  
Morocco - March 2014

**Afforestation and reforestation projects are penalized if carbon benefits are estimated on short term because investments are made during the first years of plantations while carbon storage is a long term process.** Fighting against forest fires induces high operational costs to protect little areas compared to other activities. **Reducing overgrazing generally represents an interesting REDD+ potential due to the important areas overgrazed** (but difficult to estimate) **and low cost existing alternatives.**

**Finally, the inclusion of the values of ecosystem goods and services provided by forests justifies, from an economic point of view, most of the REDD+ options.** The value of these goods and services are estimated between 110 (Tunisia) and 762 (Lebanon)

US\$/ha/year. Therefore, as this value, or at least a part of it, is produced every year by forests, the benefits of the forest protection and creation are theoretically infinite on a long term.

The documentation on this process can be found under the following link:

<http://www.giz-cpmf.org/thematic-issues/green-economy/innovative-financing-mechanisms/>

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## 2) Process of preparation for a regional shared vision on REDD+ non-carbon benefits

Representatives of countries involved in the regional project funded by the French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM) met in October 2013 in Rabat to build a roadmap on "REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector" for the Mediterranean region. They expressed their wish to initiate a process of regional dialogue and capacity building of forest administrations on negotiations under the UNFCCC. This process should take into account specificities of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in climate negotiations.

In order to meet this demand, **several activities were scheduled as part of Component 4 of this regional project funded by FFEM, "Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes", implemented by FAO with the technical support of ONF International.**

Among key topics on the agenda of negotiations in 2014 in the forestry sector, **the issue "REDD+ non-carbon benefits" seems particularly relevant for the region.** While the carbon results expected in the context of a potential implementation of REDD+ in the Mediterranean could be lower than in other regions the non-carbon benefits (*environmental, social, economic or institutional*) could be potentially higher in Mediterranean forest ecosystems.



Maamora Forest  
Morocco - March 2014

As **SBSTA** (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice) **calls for submission from countries on the "REDD+ non-carbon benefits" issue by 26 March 2014**, several workshops were held in February/March 2014 in order to discuss the position of national partners on this subject. **Preparatory national workshops were successively organized by ONF International team in Lebanon (17/18 February 2014), Turkey (20/21 February 2014), Tunisia (6/7 March 2014) and Morocco (10/11 March 2014).** These national workshops, organized with the support of forestry administrations, had, as a key target, capacity building on climate negotiations (especially in forestry and agriculture) and identification of main issues on "REDD+ non-carbon benefits" for each country.

These preparatory national workshops were followed by a regional workshop, organized jointly with GIZ in Rabat from 12 to 14 March 2014. At this regional workshop, a session was dedicated to discuss the position of each country on the “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” issue and to prepare a text for submission to the Secretariat of UNFCCC.

The text prepared for submission tries to answer to the three following questions:



- What could be the specific “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” in Mediterranean countries?
- Is it necessary and how to measure the “REDD+ non-carbon benefits”?
- Do “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” contribute to the maintenance of carbon benefits over the long term and should they be supported in the framework of the future REDD+ mechanisms?

This submission highlights the importance of supporting the “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” due to the following specificities of the Mediterranean region:

- **REDD+ strategies that Mediterranean countries could implement not only incorporate the carbon dimension but should also generate social and economic benefits for local populations necessary for the protection of forest ecosystems over the long term, especially in a context of increasing population pressure and vulnerability to climate change;**
- **REDD+ strategies of Mediterranean countries should integrate future impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems (e.g. increased risk of fires or pest attacks) and, consequently, will generate benefits for adaptation of the forest ecosystem itself, ensuring the protection of forest carbon stocks over the long term;**
- **Finally, REDD+ strategies of Mediterranean countries will also help reducing impacts of climate change on populations and landscapes by limiting the risk of erosion and desertification.**



**This submission** (the full text is available below and can also be downloaded from the Internet at: [https://unfccc.int/files/methods/redd/submissions/application/pdf/20140406\\_subm\\_redd\\_tunisia\\_ncb.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/methods/redd/submissions/application/pdf/20140406_subm_redd_tunisia_ncb.pdf)) **has been officially sent by the Government of Tunisia and will be considered by SBSTA at its next meeting to be held in Bonn on June 2014.**

Due to uncertainties still existing on the modalities of payment of REDD+ results, **it is also proposed to SBSTA in the submission to organize a new call for submissions on the specific issue of measurement and incentives for “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” in the second half of 2014** with a workshop on this issue during the next Conference of Parties to be held in Lima.

In the context of the component 4 of the regional project funded by FFEM, a new preparatory workshop at the Conference of Parties of Lima will also be organized in the second half of 2014. This second regional workshop will allow exploring further this “REDD+ non-carbon benefits” issue and/or other important topics for the region after the SBSTA to be held in Bonn in June 2014.

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## **Tunisia's submission to UNFCCC on "REDD+ non-carbon benefits"**

Tunisia is hereby submitting its views in response to the call for submissions made at SBSTA 38 regarding REDD+ non carbon benefits, in particular on methodological issues identified by Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40, in view of their consideration at the SBSTA 40 meeting to be held in June 2014.

Tunisia is engaged to contribute to an effective implementation of the UNFCCC and therefore to global efforts to fight against climate change, in mobilizing all possible instruments, including REDD+. As a low emitting country but increasingly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, Tunisia is willing to promote, on a voluntary basis, the essential role that its forests play for both climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of the current international climate regime, and to prepare for the post-2020 regime.

Aware of the specific characteristics of Mediterranean forest ecosystems, Tunisia is involved in a regional process of dialogue and experiences' sharing on integrated management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Together with its partners in the region, Tunisia has approved on 21 March 2013 the Tlemcen Ministerial Declaration ([www.iii-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/press/tlemcendeclaration21032013\\_eng.pdf](http://www.iii-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/press/tlemcendeclaration21032013_eng.pdf)), which recommends to promote goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems, notably in « adapting and strengthening available financing mechanisms, and through innovative financing mechanisms which can support the implementation of policies and programmes » that are necessary to ensure a sound management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean region, including the REDD+ mechanism established under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

In a context of a fast growing demographic pace and of high population density in forest ecosystems (100 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, which is about twice the national average), and in order to promote forest sustainable management, the Tunisian forest administration pays a particular attention to the multi-functionality of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Those are in fact carbon sinks which should be maintained, strengthened, and also adapted. They provide goods and services, such as wood, wood energy, cork, feed, food, aromatic and medicinal plants, or entertainment areas, which respond to essential needs of the population and support income generating activities. From this perspective, forest ecosystems contribute significantly to the economic and social development of Tunisia through the improvement of livelihoods and poverty eradication of the forest villagers (who represent from 8% to 10% of Tunisian population and nearly 23% of the rural population, considered as the poorest population of the country).

According to the first elements of the forthcoming Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, and looking at the State of Mediterranean Forests Report 2013 ([www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf)), it is clear that the Mediterranean region is one of the regions that will be the most impacted by climate change. Such adverse impacts include an increase of forest fire risks or extreme and recurring weather events. Despite their vulnerability, Mediterranean forests, especially from the South border of the Mediterranean Sea, are playing a key role for adaptation to climate change. In effect, they contribute notably to the fight against desertification and erosion.

The REDD+ strategic options envisaged by Tunisia in the framework of its sustainable forest ecosystems' management policy show the possibility to generate a number of environmental, social, economic, and governance related benefits. With the view to maximizing and rationalizing support to REDD+ activities towards an integrated approach of the fight against climate change, it seems necessary to support those co-benefits which guarantee the achievement of positive results in terms of mitigation and carbon stock permanence in the long term while creating synergies between mitigation and adaptation measures.

This is particularly the case in the Mediterranean region, in a context of an important demographic pressure on forests (30% of the income of forest villagers is provided by the forest sector through working days and harvesting of several forest products) and an increased vulnerability of forest populations to the adverse impacts of climate change:

1. Tunisia's strategic REDD+ options take into consideration future adverse impacts of climate change on the country forestry ecosystems, for instance through the development of early warning systems and the adaptation of forestry management practices to increased risks of forest fires, pest infections, extreme weather events, etc.
2. In addition, Tunisia's strategic REDD+ options target the fight against desertification and soil erosion, the improvement of the overall water lifecycle in a context of increased resource scarcity (less than 500 m<sup>3</sup>/inhabitant/year)<sup>2</sup>, and the conservation of an important inter and intra-specific genetic diversity (which is indeed necessary for country adaptation capacity in the future). As such, the REDD+ options can limit the negative impacts of climate change on populations, landscapes and infrastructures.

*The mitigation potential of Mediterranean forests should not be neglected by the UNFCCC; it should be strengthened instead, including through the REDD+ mechanism. Given their specificities, it is crucial to provide an incentive in the framework of UNFCCC implementation to support co-benefits which can maintain carbon results achieved through REDD+ activities in the long term, in particular those supporting adaptation of forestry ecosystems to climate change.*

*At this stage of discussions among Parties, Tunisia strongly supports the need for incentive which can valorise non-carbon benefits in the framework of REDD+, and in a consistent manner with the decision the COP recently adopted in Warsaw (paragraph 22 of Decision 9/CP.19), which recognizes the importance of such incentive. Such incentive may take different forms of implementation while taking account of national REDD+ priorities, national circumstances and countries' respective capacities, and it shall be provided through additional, sufficient, predictable and sustainable resources coming from a variety of sources.*

*In order to provide for an incentive, which is adequate with regard to the carbon and non-carbon results expected in the UNFCCC framework, Parties should agree on a methodological framework to measure and verify non carbon benefits and their role in maintaining carbon benefits. Notably, principles for their assessment together with indicators could be elaborated and used for these purposes. Reference should be made to existing principles and indicators on adaptation already elaborated within the UNFCCC framework or under other international forums or mechanisms, if they are relevant to measure non-carbon benefits in forest ecosystems (for example for the measurement of soil and landscape quality, water resource state, or biodiversity conservation). Such international principles and indicators may be complemented by national indicators, in order to measure accurately non carbon benefits. Measuring non-carbon benefits requires an efficient institutional and organizational framework based on a sound management and effective monitoring of forest ecosystems. In this regard, Tunisia would like to stress that it has been developing decennial forest strategies since the 1990's towards sustainable forest management policies, in a way that is adapted to its national context, by targeting forest ecosystems conservation and reconstitution and promoting at an early stage the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.*

*Tunisia's forest administration, in charge of forest management, has proved its strong capacity of measuring and monitoring non-carbon benefits. In effect, Tunisia has carried out two forest and pastoral inventories (for 1995 and 2010) and three Greenhouse Gases inventories (for 1994, 2000, and 2010), enabling the measurement, verification and reporting on REDD+ carbon and non-carbon benefits on a transparent and accurate manner.*

*Tunisia acknowledges the COP19 Decision adopted in Warsaw relating to the work program on result based payments for REDD+, which constitutes an important step towards making REDD+ fully operational. However, a number of uncertainties remain as to how to determine exactly the amount of payments that will be made for the carbon results achieved through REDD+ activities. As far as the incentive for non-carbon benefits may be determined by taking into account modalities for making result-based payments and their levels, it is necessary that UNFCCC Parties further explore what the possible options are to set the incentive at an appropriate level and according to modalities which correspond to the requested needs.*

*Consequently, Tunisia proposes that Parties submit their views and express their expectations in relation to the way to measure non-carbon benefits and modalities to determine the form and the level of adequate incentives for their support in early September 2014, taking into account progress made at the meeting of SBSTA 40 in June 2014. In addition, in view of preparing a constructive discussion on these methodological issues at the Lima Conference, Tunisia proposes that the UNFCCC Secretariat arranges for a technical workshop on REDD+ non carbon benefits that could take place in the margins of SBSTA 41, where the importance of providing support to non-carbon-benefits as a key mean to ensure the permanence of emission reductions and of the carbon stock in the long run under specific circumstances could be demonstrated, especially in Mediterranean forests.*

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