

## Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week

Since April 2010, over the course of its several editions, the Mediterranean Forest Week has been the leading event for catalysing exchanges within the Mediterranean forest community. The fourth edition of the Mediterranean Forest Week, held in Barcelona from 17 to 20 March, 2015 at the hospital of Santa Creu i Sant Pau, focused on: «Improving livelihoods: the role of Mediterranean forest value chains in a green economy». The event brought together a large number of stakeholders from all Mediterranean forest community.

This edition highlighted the role of Mediterranean forests in the provision of goods and services for each of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* categories: provisioning services (fuelwood, timber, non-wood forest products, grazing, fresh water, etc.); regulating services (climate regulation, flood control, etc.); cultural services (recreation, ecotourism, etc.); supporting services. The value of these services is not enough recognized. However, as highlighted during the first session of this Mediterranean Forest Week, innovative approaches taking into account the role of forests in value chains can develop economy and create green jobs. Sessions on «Forests and water», «Energy and forests», «Tour-



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ism and forests» and «Forest products» have deepened the role of forests in providing major goods and services in the Mediterranean region. Presentations and discussions highlighted different dynamics of countries, while emphasizing their common characteristic for challenges.

Adapt our approaches in forest management to make it more efficient with regard to goods and services such as water, energy or tourism requires human and financial resources. The third day of the Mediterranean Forest Week was dedicated to education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and the mobilization of financial resources. Donors such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), which already support projects for Mediterranean forests and the European Union, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), were consistent with the objectives identified for Mediterranean forests. Instruments of climate finance have been demonstrated through examples. Especially the cost-benefit analyses of the REDD+ mechanism in different Mediterranean countries showed that mitigation and an adaptation should be complementary, monetary valuation of co-benefits making profitable a project that otherwise would not be such if only based on carbon credits.

The implementation of new forest management methods that value goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests requires, first, a political will.

### MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

**Plenary meeting of the project  
COST Action FP1202 MaP-FGR**  
14 - 16 October 2015  
(Bucharest, Romania)

**Final workshop of components 2 and 3  
of the FFEM regional project**  
26 - 30 November 2015  
(Sophia Antipolis, France)

**3<sup>rd</sup> European Forest Week  
Silva 2015: the value of forests**  
2 - 6 November 2015  
(Engelberg, Switzerland)

The Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week was also an opportunity to follow up the declaration of Tlemcen endorsed at the previous edition of the Week and that notified the adoption of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests. This document consists of nine strategic axes structured around three main objectives for Mediterranean forests; it is a tool to inspire on a voluntary basis forest decision makers of the Mediterranean.

Between 2013 and 2015, the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests has been implicitly or explicitly quoted in various policy documents of Mediterranean countries, such as the national Rural Renewal Program in Algeria (2014-2019), the strategy for sustainable development of forests and rangelands in Tunisia (2015-2024), the new forest strategy of Portugal, the new ten-year national plan of the High Commissioner for Water, Forests and Desertification Control in Morocco (2015-2025), or the national program of forest and wood in France (2015-2025). This strategic vision is also widely consistent with the objectives assigned to intergovernmental bodies such as the Union for the Mediterranean or the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI).



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- Forestry in Turkey for sustainable development: forests for nature, for people, for all (event organized by the UNDP Turkey)
- Mediterranean Bioeconomy: top 10 key issues for achieving the bioeconomy in the Mediterranean (event organized by EFIMED)
- Mediterranean urban and periurban forests for improving the environment and quality of life in our cities (event organized by CNR/IBAF)
- Gender and Forestry (event organized by GIZ)
- Future projects: setting-up new projects together: which priorities and financing opportunities? (event organized by CTFC)
- Engaging Mediterranean communities in wildfire risks mitigation (event organized by CTFC and PCF)
- Revising the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development under Barcelona Convention - MSSD 2.0 (event organized by Plan Bleu).



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During the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week also nine side events were held on the following topics:

- Ecological value, conservation and protected areas (event organized by AIFM- International Association for Mediterranean Forests)
- Triangular cooperation Morocco - Costa Rica - Germany: to improve the sustainable management and use of forests, protected areas and watersheds in the context of climate change (event organized by GIZ)

In the wings of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week, taking advantage of the gathering of a large number of Mediterranean forest stakeholders, several project meetings, committees or working groups were held.

The COST Action FP1204 project «Green Infrastructure approach: linking environmental with social aspects in studying and managing urban forests» and MEDFORVAL («Network of high ecological value forested areas») have held meetings, as well as the expert group of the European Union on forest fires, the



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Working Group 7 of *Silva Mediterranea* on urban and peri-urban forests, and forest owners federation presidents from the south of Europe.

By bringing together stakeholders from different areas policy makers, donors, forest service and forest owners, environmental organizations, scientists and forestry technical experts, and experts from sectors related to forestry (water, tourism, agriculture, energy), the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week kept the promise to serve as a platform of exchanges on Mediterranean forests.

More details on the content of presentations, discussions and exchanges on the conclusions can be found in the report of the Week published as a special issue of *Forêt Méditerranéenne* (volume XXXVI, n° 2, 2015). Until the next edition of the Mediterranean Forest Week that will be held in Morocco.



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## Evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*

On the sidelines of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week, on March 18, 2016 it was held, in Barcelona, the extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*. It followed the extraordinary session held in Rome on June 27, 2014 during which the final version of *Silva Mediterranea* assessment report was submitted, and FAO response to the various recommendations made by the panel of evaluators.

This extraordinary session's main objective was to review recommendations of the evaluators. Based on these recommendations, the Committee has taken a list of thirty-eight decisions concerning a renewed framework for *Silva Mediterranea*, more readable links with the partners, a smoother internal functioning, interface subsidiary bodies, and better structured voluntary contributions.

On March 20, 2015, during the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week in Barcelona, the list of decisions of the Committee was deliberated at the session of the high-level segment bringing together Directors General of Forests. This deliberation has led to the "Barcelona Declaration", which express the will of member States to continue working together and cooperate on Mediterranean Forestry issues. Find in the next page the text of the Barcelona Declaration.

### BARCELONA DECLARATION

We, participants at the high-level segment of the fourth Mediterranean Forest Week held in Barcelona - Spain - March 20, 2015, have taken note of the important recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel in charge of the evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* and of the subsequent decisions taken by Members States on the occasion of the Extraordinary Session of the Committee held this week (March 18, 2015).

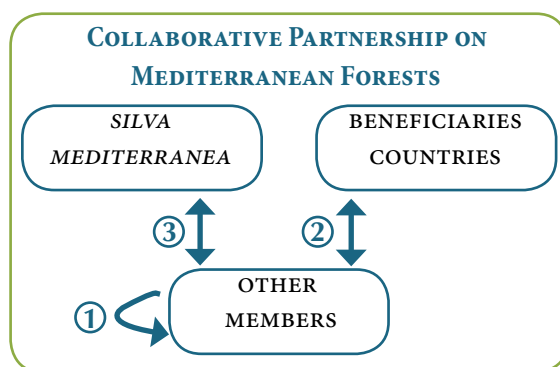
We believe that the implementation of the following decisions will provide a new impetus and a renewed framework for countries in the region to collaborate and work together in Mediterranean forest issues. To this end we endorse the below mentioned decisions of *Silva Mediterranea* extraordinary session:

- 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;
- To regularly update the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) in order to provide a sound, basic information for policy makers;
- To contribute to a greater visibility and consideration of the Mediterranean forests issues in the agenda of international bodies and forums (CPF, UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF, WFC...);
- To intensify the bidirectional exchanges (needs and feedbacks/outputs) with the spheres of research, training, capacity-building and both production as well as dissemination of information;
- To promote the participation of the key stakeholders;
- 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 ask *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's Secretariat to coordinate the organization of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks;
- To support existing regional initiatives and invite the main intergovernmental organizations interested in the Mediterranean forests including CIHEAM, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), EFIMED, FAO, Plan Bleu and Union for Mediterranean to improve synergies by establishing a light coordination platform;
- To promote, inter alia, the existing regional initiatives and FAO Forestry Department's work on 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.

**Evaluation of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests**

*Silva Mediterranea* is one of the original members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), launched on September 20, 2010 in Istanbul on the occasion of a workshop of the regional GIZ project “Adapting forest policy framework conditions to climate change in the MENA countries”. The CPMF aims to improve the framework for implementation of forest sustainable management policies and environmental services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change in member countries of *Silva Mediterranea* (currently: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey). The initial agreement was between 8 members and it has expanded now to 17 members. The 5<sup>th</sup> CPMF Steering Committee was held from 29 to 30 January 2015 in Rabat, Morocco. Before this meeting, another one on the evaluation of the CPMF was held in the same place on 28 and 29 January. The 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the CPMF defined (1) the organization of a Mediterranean booth at the World Forestry Congress in Durban from 7 to 11 September 2015, (2) possible interactions between the CPMF and the new mechanism for the forest restoration and landscape led by FAO, and (3) the evaluation of the CPMF.

Agreed in 2013 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the CPMF in Hammamet and conducted by an independent expert, Ms. Sabina Bianchini, the CPMF evaluation aims to analyse (1) the results and impacts obtained by the CPMF for and in beneficiary countries, (2) cooperation between the members of the CPMF and synergies developed between them, (3) the effectiveness of the governance of the CPMF, (4) the CPMF communication strategy on how the partnership is perceived by outside institutions, and (5) the CPMF impact on *Silva Mediterranea* (taking into account the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*). Preliminary results of the CPMF assessment were presented at the meeting on 28-29 January 2015 in Rabat. The draft assessment report was distributed to members of the CPMF in May 2015, and the final version disseminated in July 2015. The evaluation of CPMF was performed shortly after the evaluation of *Silva editerranea*, Shortly after the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*, the evaluation of CPMF was performed, allowing detailed analysis of the place and role of *Silva Mediterranea* in the Mediterranean forest community. Four scenarios were proposed in the assessment report for the evolution of the CPMF. While the first two scenarios (status quo or dissolution) do not consider any change in the internal operation of the CPMF, the other two propose new ways of operating for the elements of CPMF:



Scenario	① Between CPMF members	② Between members and beneficiaries countries	③ Between members and <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
N°3	Establishing a responsible external projet	Committee of “stakeholders”; a country assures rotating presidency	Inclusion of the Partnership into <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
N°4	Independent team responsible for the management of fund (pooled) and projects	Beneficiaries countries become partners	

**The regional project «Maximizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes»**

The component 1 of this regional project funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) held its final workshop from 13 to 15 January 2015 in Antalya, Turkey. Component 1 aims to produce data and develop 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. In each of the pilot sites selected for this component of the project - namely Siliana in Tunisia, Maâmora in Morocco, Jabal Moussa in Lebanon, Senalba in Algeria and Duzlercami in Turkey - a forest ecosystem vulnerability assessment to climate change was conducted using a common methodology, the multivariate spatial modeling.

Another result of the component is the production of spatial distribution maps of Mediterranean forest species. Based on a compilation of nearly a hundred scanned paper maps, georeferenced and digitized, the spatial distributions of 24 Mediterranean tree species were mapped. These maps were presented to the World Forestry Congress in Durban and published on-line on the web page dedicated to the FFEM project (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/82782/en/>).



Maâmora Forest - 2015  
Kenitra, Morocco @C. Marchetta

Component 1 of the project has also produced a bibliographic database, which lists over 200 scientific papers and projects - in their original language - conducted in Mediterranean forest areas since 1990 and closely linked to climate change.

A query tool for the database was created, with a menu that allows filtering publications by country, by species of tree or keywords. This tool is available on the project web site hosted on *Silva Mediterranea* site and now operational at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/89068/en/>. It was presented at the World Forestry Congress in Durban.



Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve - 2015  
Jabal Lubnân, Lebanon @C. Marchetta

The regional project held its 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee on 26 - 27 January in Rabat, Morocco. Apart from the results of component 1 already mentioned above, the steering committee allowed reviewing the results of component 4 which aims to optimize and value the mitigation potential of Mediterranean forests (carbon sinks). The results of studies on agents and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in pilot sites of component 4 have been presented, as well as project proposals on mitigation in the pilot sites.

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