



Newsletter n°14: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee

I am particularly pleased to sign this Editorial of the *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter 14 few weeks after attending the High Level Segment organized during the Third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) held in Tlemcen, (Algeria) from 17 to 21 March 2013.



First, I would like to warmly thank the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Park of Tlemcen for their key support and involvement to this important conference jointly organized by Algerian General Direction in charge of Forests, FAO Forestry Department, Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), Plan Bleu, Forestry Research Centre of

Catalonia (CTFC), Turkish Presidency of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, International Association on Mediterranean Forests (AIFM), International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and German Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

This event, entitled "**Mediterranean forests for sustainable development of territories: strategies of mitigation and adaptation to global change?**", will remain a milestone in the history of the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forest ecosystems in particular for the following results:

- The launch of the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);
- The endorsement of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) and the formal adoption of the Tlemcen Declaration;
- The organization of a high level segment, chaired by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, to validate strategic priorities for Mediterranean forests;
- The celebration of the first International Day of Forests on March 21, 2013.

This International Day of Forests, to be celebrated each year on March 21, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2012 on the proposal of Algeria (Presidency of G 77). It is an opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness on the importance of all types of forests. It was a great pleasure for me to take part to this event in Algeria, celebrated in Tlemcen National Park, with a symbolic tree planting ceremony which involved representatives of several countries from the Mediterranean region.

This tree planting ceremony was an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands for Mediterranean landscapes.

These ecosystems contribute significantly to rural development, poverty alleviation and food security of local population. Sources of energy, food and incomes, they provide important goods and environmental services often crucial for many of the region's economic sectors (agriculture, drinking water, tourism, energy, etc.).

We should be aware about global changes that affect today the Mediterranean region (changes in societies and lifestyles with, in addition, climate change) heavily mortgaging the future of these forest ecosystems and other wooded land and, therefore, jeopardizing the sustainable provision of these multiple goods and services to populations

These changes, already visible in the Mediterranean region, lead to major threats such as: loss of biodiversity, increasing risk of forest fires and other biotic hazards, watershed degradation, desertification processes etc.



The Third Mediterranean Forest Week was an opportunity to reflect on these risks and to find solutions to face this pressure on our forests.

I would like to close this editorial by thanking authorities of the Catalonia region for having proposed to host the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week in Barcelona (Spain). This fourth edition will represent an excellent opportunity to assess implementation of the Tlemcen Declaration adopted on March 21, 2013. Thus I will conclude this editorial by wishing success to the Catalonia region for the organization of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week in 2015.

Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES

FAO Assistant Director General
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News from *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

Second Steering Committee of the FFEM project will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 4 to 6 June 2013.

EFIMED Annual Meeting will be held in Barcelona, Spain, from 4 to 6 September 2013.

(http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/annual_meeting/).

Adoption of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF)

The Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) is the result of a long regional dynamic initiated in April 2011 in Avignon, France, during the Second Mediterranean Forest Week (II SFM). It was on this occasion that the member States of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* formulated for the first time their request for the preparation of a Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests.



In September 2012 in Chania, Greece, an expert workshop was organized to prepare the first draft of this strategic document which aims to provide common policy orientations for the integrated management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems.

The SFMF has been structured as follows:

- **a rationale focused on the situation of Mediterranean forests** on the basis of information available in the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);
- **three main objectives:**
 1. Developing and promoting goods and services provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean region;
 2. Promoting the resilience of these forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean to face global changes;
 3. Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean.

Each of the three main objectives propose the implementation of three key strategic lines with expected results and concrete recommendations for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean:

- 1) **Developing and promoting goods and services** provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean region through implementation of the following strategic lines:
 - ✓ Improve sustainable production of goods and services by Mediterranean forests;
 - ✓ Enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in rural development;
 - ✓ Promote forest governance and land tenure reform in Mediterranean landscapes;
- 2) **Promoting the resilience** of these forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean to face global changes through implementation of the following strategic lines:
 - ✓ Promote wildfire prevention by integrating the increasing risks associated to ongoing climate change in the Mediterranean region;
 - ✓ Manage forest genetic resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands to ongoing climate change in the Mediterranean region;
 - ✓ Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes.
- 3) **Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization** necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean through implementation of the following strategic lines:
 - ✓ Develop knowledge, training and communication on Mediterranean forests;
 - ✓ Reinforce international cooperation on Mediterranean forests;
 - ✓ Adapt existing financing schemes and develop innovative mechanisms to support implementation of forest policies and programs on Mediterranean forests.





An extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, held in Rome in September 2012 on the occasion of the COFO (FAO Committee on Forestry), was an opportunity to validate the structure of the document prepared in Chania by Member States. The document was then shared with foresters throughout the Mediterranean region during a long process of consultation which ended in Tlemcen in Algeria with the presentation of the final document during a session of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) and the **adoption by the high-level segment chaired by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on March 21, 2013.**

At the end of its session, the high-level segment also adopted, the Tlemcen Declaration, which calls for an increased focus on the sustainable development of Mediterranean landscapes (See full text of Tlemcen Declaration in this *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter n°14).

Discussion on the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests emphasized what opportunities (global, regional and national) can be offered by this type of policy document, namely:

- Improve the visibility of the forest sector and promote the mobilization of financial and human resources in the coming years;
- Provide a consensual framework to improve intersectoral coordination and fostering partnerships between the various stakeholders involved in the management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in countries of the region after its integration in national policies (public / private);
- Contribute to a better coordination for development and implementation of sub-regional and intersectoral programs and / or projects;
- Facilitate identification and promotion of common positions on Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in international fora;
- Provide a common vision and roadmap to the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*.



Christine FARCY
Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium)
Chair of the session dedicated to the SFMF

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Full text of the Tlemcen Declaration

Mediterranean forests for sustainable development of Mediterranean landscapes: adaptation and mitigation strategies to face with global changes?

We, participants at the high-level segment of the third Mediterranean Forest Week held in Tlemcen - Algeria - March 21, 2013, have taken note of the policy orientations proposed by experts from the Mediterranean and discussed during the week.

Convinced that forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean are an important component of our landscapes and they contribute significantly to rural development, poverty alleviation and food security of these Mediterranean landscapes.

Aware that these forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean are both sources of wood, cork, energy, food, incomes and many other environmental goods and services (biodiversity conservation, soils and water protection, recreational areas, significant potential for carbon storage) often crucial for many economic sectors of our country (food and agriculture, soils and water conservation, drinking water supply, tourism, energy and forest industry).

Whereas the global changes that affect today the Mediterranean region (changes in societies and lifestyles with, in addition, climate change) heavily mortgaging the future of these forest ecosystems and other wooded land (loss of biodiversity, increasing risk of forest fires and other biotic hazards, watershed degradation and desertification processes) and, therefore, jeopardizing the sustainable provision of these multiple goods and services to populations.

Convinced that combating the already ongoing desertification in our Mediterranean landscapes should be a priority in our forest and environmental policies.

We wish that the political and administrative authorities at national, regional and local level and all other stakeholders involved in the management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean (private or public managers and civil society) continue to develop and, if necessary, adapt their strategies and policies, including governance, for sustainable development of our landscapes.

We also ask forest managers, experts and scientific community of the forestry sector to develop and implement, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, innovative and sustainable management practices of landscapes to be disseminated and shared between countries of the Mediterranean region.

In this spirit, according to characteristics and needs of each country, we are committed to continue implementing actions and measures in order to achieve the proposed objectives in the document entitled "Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests: policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes", namely:

- 1) *Developing and promoting goods and services provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean through implementation of the following strategic lines:*
 - *Improve sustainable production of goods and services by Mediterranean forests;*
 - *Enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in rural development;*
 - *Promote forest governance and land tenure reform in Mediterranean landscapes;*
- 2) *Promoting resilience of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean to face global changes through the implementation of the following strategic lines:*
 - *Promote wildfire prevention by integrating the increasing risks associated to ongoing climate change in the Mediterranean;*
 - *Manage forest genetic resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands to climate change in the Mediterranean ;*
 - *Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes.*
- 3) *Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean through the implementation of the following strategic lines:*
 - *Develop knowledge, training and communication on Mediterranean forests;*
 - *Reinforce international cooperation on Mediterranean forests;*
 - *Adapt existing financing schemes and develop innovative mechanisms to support implementation of forest policies and programs on Mediterranean forests.*

High Level Segment of the third Mediterranean Forest Week

Tlemcen, March 21, 2013

Maintain and enhance goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodlands: what innovative mechanisms / instruments?

III Mediterranean Forest Week (Session 2)

At the occasion of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW), Tlemcen, Algeria, the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and Plan Bleu organized a one-day session for exchanging knowledge and experiences on current initiatives for assessing forest values and designing sustainable forest financing mechanisms in the Mediterranean region.

Under the overall facilitation of Professor Gerard Buttoud (University La Tuscia, Italy), the first section on "the contribution of Mediterranean woodlands to the economy and populations' well-being" enabled the participants to realize the extent of the economic and social value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems, and the distribution of related costs and benefits. Mr. Hamed Daly-Hassen (INRAT, Tunisia) presented the diversity of services provided by Tunisian forests and how local, national and international populations benefit from them.



Mr. Ludwig Liagre (GIZ) reminded of the potential of Mediterranean forests to contribute to a Green Economy by reinforcing the resilience of Mediterranean landscapes and creating jobs and additional incomes especially through the development of non-wood forest products value chains and sustainable tourism in wooded areas.

Finally, representatives of Ministry of Tourism from Lebanon, Mrs. Zeina Haddad, and of Ministry of Tourism from Tunisia, Mrs. Aroussia Khamassi, pointed out the important potential in increasing partnerships between forest administrations and tourism ministries for the development of sustainable tourism based on nature. Mr. Metin Türker, Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock also emphasized the importance of sustainable forest management for watershed management and combating soil erosion.



In the framework of the second section on “Innovative mechanisms and instruments to help maintain and improve the supply of goods and services by Mediterranean woodlands” participants could discuss innovative solutions for financing sustainable forest management in Mediterranean woodlands, and understand the key issues for their implementation.

Mr. Davide Pettenella (University of Padua, Italy) provided the audience with an overview of the different types of financing instruments to preserve or restore woodlands and to improve the

supply of forest goods and services, after which examples of innovative financing instruments for sustainable forest management in the Mediterranean have been presented:

- 1) Forest financing platform through the participation of the private sector in Morocco (“Partnership for Moroccan Forests”) by Mr. Fayçal Bencheikroun (HCEFLCD, Morocco);
- 2) Croatian "Green tax" by Mr. Stjepan Posavec (University of Zagreb, Croatia);
- 3) Carbon finance opportunities, through the presentation of the UNDP/GEF project in Turkey by Mr. Nuri Özbagdatli (UNDP, Turkey) and the presentation of a cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ for Morocco by Mr. Abdelaziz Hammoudi (HCEFLCD, Morocco);
- 4) Bioprospecting agreements, in particular the “Access and Benefit-Sharing” mechanism (under the Nagoya Protocol), by Mr. Ammar Boumezbeur (DGF, Algeria).

In general, the session gave the opportunity to share a common understanding of the challenges ahead concerning forest goods and services economic valuation and sustainable forest financing options.

The Declaration of Tlemcen endorsed at the end of the III MFW and the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (strategic lines 1 and 9) have built upon the discussions of this session to launch a further call to more actions on these key issues.



In the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, two seminars already fit with this call:

- Regional workshop on “Sustainable financing mechanisms for the forest sector in Middle East and North Africa region”, held in Rabat, Morocco from 3 to 5 April 2013 ;
- Regional workshop on “Access and Benefit-Sharing” held in Algiers, Algeria, from 28 to 30 April 2013.

The regional cooperation project “Optimizing the production of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests in a context of global changes” funded by the French Global Environmental Facility is also addressing this issues as it includes a critical review of methodological approaches and tools used for assessing the value of ecosystems goods and services in the Mediterranean (to be published by end of 2013) as well as case studies on the value of forest goods and services in selected pilot sites in partner countries: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

Ludwig LIAGRE (GIZ) and Marion BRIENS (Plan Bleu)

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Conference on Mediterranean Forest Landscapes at the European Parliament in Brussels

Immediately after the Third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) and the adoption of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF), a conference on Mediterranean Forest Landscapes was organized at the European Parliament in Brussels on 26 March 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to highlight the regional dynamics following the III MFW and to present its main results. On this occasion the State of Mediterranean Forests and the new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests were presented to participants as well as the specificities of Mediterranean forests to be considered in the context of European initiatives for sustainable forest management (neighbourhood policy, environment, agriculture, civil protection, etc.).



Two members of the European Parliament, Mr. Gaston Franco and Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis respectively in charge of the Working Groups "Forests" and "Mediterranean" of the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, chaired the conference. The event was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the European Parliament Intergroup "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development", the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, Plan Bleu and ARCMED.

It was recognized that Mediterranean forests are among the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world and members of the European Parliament called for developing knowledge and experience sharing, improving the dialogue between the countries of the region and using participatory approaches to improve the management and conservation of multiple environmental goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. The need for a better understanding/knowledge on the economic value of Mediterranean forests was also stressed by several speakers (especially in the context of the current economic crisis). More cooperation in the implementation of EU sectoral policies and measures to achieve economies of scale were proposed by keynotes speakers to deal with the multiple threats to the Mediterranean forests.

Mr. Ernst Schulte from the Directorate General for the Environment at the European Commission noted the excellent existing cooperation with the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* and proposed several ideas to develop new common actions. Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales (Forestry Department of FAO) and Mr. Hugues Ravenel (Plan Bleu) has shown that the state of Mediterranean forests can become catastrophic due to lack of financial resources in the context of climate change. Both have recommended a better interaction/dialogue between scientists and policy makers and the development of innovative instruments to cope with current challenges.

The Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*, Ms. Catherine Rivoal from the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forests and Ms. Marion Briens from Plan Bleu also stressed the need to raise awareness of media and general public on issues related to Mediterranean forests. Finally, Mr. Denis Boglio, representing ARCMED and CTFC, emphasized that Europe misses very significant opportunities in terms of rural development when it does not include the neighboring Mediterranean countries into European projects on Mediterranean forests funded by the European Commission. A general call was made to adapt existing European cooperation instruments with the reality of the situation in order to ensure a more balanced regional cooperation between the two rims of the Mediterranean and to allocate resources in a more coordinated manner.

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European Parliament
Brussels – 26/03/2013



Old pines in Tlemcen
National Park



Official dinner of the III SFM
Algeria – 20/03/2013

