



Newsletter n°12: Editorial of *Silva Mediterranea*

The third quarter of the year 2012 was especially intense for the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*.

A workshop of experts was organized to develop a **Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests** : policy orientations for integrated management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems.



The event was held in Chania (Crete) from 10 to 13 September 2012 with the support of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

This workshop was part of the preparation of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW), to be organized in Tlemcen (Algeria), where the main strategic lines proposed by the experts could be adopted (See article on page three dedicated to the expert workshop in Chania).

The inception workshop and the first Steering Committee of the regional project funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) was held at FAO, Rome, from 18 to 21 September 2012. The project entitled "Maximize the production of goods and services by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes", will be mainly implemented at the scale of the pilot sites proposed by partner countries.

During this inception workshop, each partner country (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) presented all potential pilot sites to the Steering Committee, which selected sites that better fulfill criteria for implementation of the various components.

After this consultation, the final selection of pilot sites was confirmed and the first actions to be implemented before the next Steering Committee in Beirut, 23 - 25 April 2013, were approved by main partners (See article dedicated to this FFEM project Steering Committee).



An extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva*

Mediterranea was held in Rome on September 25, 2012 during the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2012, 24 - 28 September 2012). This meeting was an opportunity to inform all members about decisions taken in Antalya,

during the 21st formal session of *Silva Mediterranea* organized at the beginning of February 2012. This meeting was also an opportunity for Turkish representatives to propose the roadmap of their presidency for the period 2012 - 2016. Finally, this session was a chance for five new organizations to sign their membership to the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).

During the ceremony we had the pleasure of welcoming in the CPMF (i) the Turkish country office of the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Forest Technologic Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) and the Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA).



Lastly, a regional training focused on wildfire causes and investigations post fires was held in Sabaudia, Italy, from 22 to 26 October 2012. This training, which was an activity in the context of *Silva Mediterranea* working group on forest fires, brought together participants from Northern Europe (Sweden), Southern Europe (Spain, France, Italy and Turkey) and North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon). The training was jointly supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Italian Corpo Forestale dello Stato, FAO and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (See last article of this Newsletter dedicated to the training in Sabaudia).

Ismail BELEN

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News of *Silva Mediterranea* partners:

The Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests will be held in Tlemcen, Algeria, from 19 to 22 November 2012.

A workshop on prevention of forest fires in the Mediterranean region will be held in Batna, Algeria, from 3 to 6 December 2012.

The third Mediterranean Forest Week will be held in Tlemcen, Algeria, from 17 to 21 March 2013. For more information: <http://www.iii-med.forestweek.org>

An extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* with five new organizations joining the CPMF (25 September 2012)

An extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* was held in Rome on 25 September 2012 during the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2012, 24 - 28 September 2012). This session was an opportunity to share with members the main decisions made during the 21st formal session of *Silva Mediterranea* held in Antalya, Turkey at the beginning of February 2012.



The secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* highlighted several key regional initiatives such as: (i) the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF); (ii) the preparation of the first State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF); (iii) the organization of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) to be held in Tlemcen, Algeria, from 17 to 21 March 2013 and (iv) the current consultation on the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests— policy orientations for integrated management of Mediterranean forests landscapes.

The work plans 2012-2013 of the working groups of the Committee on Forestry Questions of *Silva Mediterranea* were briefly presented and the evaluation process of these *Silva Mediterranea* working groups, to be implemented by a high level panel of Experts by end of 2013, was shortly presented by the Secretariat.

This meeting was also an opportunity for representatives of Turkey to propose a roadmap of their presidency for the period 2012 - 2016. This roadmap shows the commitment of the new Presidency in promoting the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

The President of *Silva Mediterranea* expressed his intention to focus the year 2013 on several events in order to promote current regional dynamics. He especially highlighted a major involvement in the organization of the III MFW in Tlemcen (17 - 21 March 2013) and the promotion of Mediterranean priorities during the 10th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 10) to be held in Istanbul from 8 to 19 April 2013.



This short session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, was also an opportunity for five new members to sign the document of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).



During the signing ceremony we had the pleasure of welcoming in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF): (i) the Turkish country office of the United Nations Program for Development (**UNDP**), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (**CIHEAM**), the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**), the Forest Technologic Centre of Catalonia (**CTFC**) and the Turkish Cooperation Agency (**TIKA**).

Many of these new members, already very active in the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forests briefly explained the reasons of their commitment before the formal ceremony of signatures. **They will have the opportunity to give more details on their future contributions in 2013 at the next Steering Committee of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests to be held in Tlemcen, Algeria, on 20/21 November 2012 (See *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter 13 to be published in January 2013).**

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An experts workshop to prepare a Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests: Policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes (10-13 September 2012)

A workshop of experts was held in Chania, Crete, from 10 to 13 September 2012 to prepare a Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) with the purpose to propose new policies orientations for the integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes. This workshop, jointly supported by



the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agro business and Forest (MAAF) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), was organized in the context of the preparation of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) which will take place in Tlemcen, Algeria, from 17 to 21 March 2013.

Over twenty-five participants with different backgrounds (*international NGOs, Universities, Research Institutions, General Directorates in charge of forests from several Mediterranean*

countries and Association of Mediterranean Forest Owners - ArcMED) participated in these discussions on the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests held in the Cretan training center of CIHEAM.

At the end of this intense work week, experts proposed the "version zero" of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests, a rationale presenting the key questions for integrated management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems (*developed on the basis of the key findings of the State of Mediterranean Forests*) and nine strategic lines presenting the main recommendations addressed to Mediterranean decision makers.

These nine strategic lines, proposed by the experts in Chania, are structured around three objectives:

Objective 1: Develop and promote goods and services provided by forest ecosystems:

Strategic line 1: Improve sustainable production of goods and services by Mediterranean forests;

Strategic line 2: Enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in rural development;

Strategic line 3: Promote good governance at landscape level taking into account inter sectoral approaches;

Objective 2: Promote resilience of forest ecosystems in the context of global change:

Strategic line 4: Promote wildfire prevention in the context of global changes;

Strategic line 5: Manage forest genetic resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change;

Strategic line 6: Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes;



Objective 3: Improve capacity and resource mobilization:

Strategic line 7: Develop knowledge and enhance communication on Mediterranean forests;

Strategic line 8: Reinforce international cooperation on Mediterranean forests;

Strategic line 9: Adapt existing financing mechanisms and develop innovative ones to support forest policies and programs in the Mediterranean;

This first version of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests is currently under review by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

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An inception workshop and the first Steering Committee of the project financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) in order to select pilot sites proposed by partners of the South and East of the Mediterranean (18 - 21 September 2012)



Steering Committee of the FFEM project - September 2012

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the project **“Maximize the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes”** was held in Rome on 21 September 2012. It followed a three-day Inception Workshop (from 18 to 20 September, 2012) which aimed to analyze the interest of the pilot sites proposed by partners and the first activities to be implemented by project coordinators, in particular, actions to be done in cooperation with UN REDD (to mobilize international expertise on REDD+ in Mediterranean countries involved in this FFEM project).

Thirty participants attended these meetings:

- ✓ The representatives of five beneficiary countries of the project (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). Syria did not participate due to the current political situation that didn't allow to mobilize partners in Damas;
- ✓ The representatives of the French Development Agency (AFD), the Secretariat of French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE);
- ✓ The representatives of project coordinators selected by the FFEM Secretariat (FAO and Plan Bleu);
- ✓ Several institutions members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (AIFM, CTFC, GIZ, MMFN/CESEFOR, ONFI, UNDP Country Office in Turkey, WWF MedPO).

Activities planned for the various components of this project will be mainly implemented on pilot sites proposed by partners (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). This project is intended to promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems by maximizing production of goods and services (including carbon sequestration).

The program is structured around the following five components:

- Component 1:** Production of data and development of tools to support decision-making and management in terms of both the vulnerability of these Mediterranean forest ecosystems to climate change and their ability to adapt ;
- Component 2:** Assessment of the socio-economic value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- Component 3:** Development of local, participatory modes/approaches of governance for Mediterranean forest ecosystems;
- Component 4:** Optimization of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems and valorization of their potential role for mitigation of climate change (including carbon sequestration);
- Component 5:** Support to the coordination of several regional initiatives and communications activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF).



After a week of consultation in FAO headquarters, Rome, nine pilot sites were selected by the Steering Committee in each country for implementation of planned activities for the several components (see detailed table of pilot sites). The first actions, to be implemented in the countries with the support of project coordinators (FAO and Plan Bleu) by the next scheduled meeting in Beirut from 23 to 25 April 2013, were also approved by the Steering Committee. This pilot sites selection fully respects the criteria of ecosystems diversity present in the Mediterranean region with the main tree species present in the pilot sites: Atlas Cedar, Cedar of Lebanon, Aleppo Pine, Green Oak, Cork Oak, Black Pine, Argan and Thuya.

Algeria	Lebanon	Morocco	Tunisia	Turkey
Chr�ea	Jabal Moussa	Ifrane	Barbara	Ciglikara
Djelfa/Senalba	Kamouaa*	Maamora	Siliana	
		Taznakht		

* Security conditions of Kamouaa site (Site not far from Tripoli) do not guarantee the effective implementation of project activities. It was agreed with the representative of Lebanon to keep open the option to work on the site of Nahr El Kalb. This decision will be quickly taken in order to be sure that activities on the site fit into the dynamic of the project.FFEM.



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Euro-Mediterranean Training on Forest Fire Causes and Investigation Post Fires: how to prevent wildfires in the Mediterranean (22 - 26, October 2012)

Wildfires are considered as a major threat to forests in the Mediterranean region. Every year forest fires cause massive and irreparable damage to our Mediterranean forest ecosystems, often resulting in significant economic and human losses. **The Training on Forest Fire Causes and Post Fire Investigations, held in Sabaudia from 22 to 26 October 2012, was an opportunity to understand what factors cause wildfires in the Mediterranean region and what techniques can be applied to find the responsible for those disasters.**



Training on investigation post fires in the Mediterranean - Sabaudia - October 2012

This training was organized in the context of the the Working Group 1 on Forest Fires of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*. Its Agenda for actions 2011/2012 included the organization of a regional workshop in Morocco on the "Extension of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) to MENA countries". **During this event (held in Rabat on October 2011) several partners: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia, agreed to join EFFIS and addressed their need for a specific regional training focused on causes of fires and post fire investigation methods.**

The training, jointly organized by the Corpo Forestale dello Stato (CFS - Italy), the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* and the German Cooperation (GIZ), aimed to **share best practices and scientific methods developed by the**

Investigation Task Force against Forest Fires (NIAB of the CFS) on the subject of forest fires in the last 10 years.

The course was attended by participants from South and East of the Mediterranean: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia. Participants from North of the Mediterranean were also present with several experts from Sweden, Spain, France and Kosovo.

The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) also supported this training on Forest Fire Causes and Investigation Post Fires in Sabaudia. The expert from the Joint Research Center (European Commission), Mr. Andrea Camia, presented the new European Classification Scheme on Forest Fires adopted by the European Union Expert Group on Fires in 2011. This new classification should allow harmonizing EFFIS database on forest fire causes.

Nowadays, EFFIS is currently the focal point for information on forest fires in Europe with the largest existing database (over 2 million fire events have been already reported in EFFIS database).

If members of this European Information System on Forest Fires do not adopt a common classification it will be impossible to fully understand causes of many forest fires and, therefore, to develop relevant and appropriate prevention strategies for different national contexts.

On the first day of the training, national experiences of Spain and France, on the subject of forest fire causes and post fire investigations, were presented by Ms. Moreno Ruiz (Spanish Minister of Agriculture), Mr. Seprona (Spanish Department of Interior) and Mr. Yvon Duché (French National Forests Office).

Moroccan and Algerian experiences were also briefly described by representatives of the Moroccan "Gendarmerie Royale" and Algerian experts (Ministry of the Interior and the General Directorate in charge of Forests). Following sessions were lead by NIAB representatives who illustrated which activities have been carried out in the Italian territory and what new tools and techniques were developed to find responsibilities for forest fires in recent years. National universities and research centers representatives and several key partners of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato were also present and gave their academic support to better understand the factors involved in forest fires in the Mediterranean.

According to the CFS, this year Italy has already experienced 9,000 forest fires, burning more than 100,000 hectares of woodland. Ninety eight percent of these forest fires are caused by individuals who start fire on purpose or for negligence. Inappropriate agriculture practices, especially during summer months, seem to be the main reason for fires in Italy as well as for most countries in the Mediterranean. **Find legal responsibility and punishment for these irresponsible actions are good measures to prevent and reduce forest fires.** However, it is hard to prove that an attempt to make fires was made and for this reason NIAB propose the use of all modern investigative techniques available.



Practical session on post fire investigations - Sabaudia – October 2012

NIAB demonstrated how most fires are started by the same single individual. The profile of the typical arsonist was compiled. Interesting details were given to help detecting the criminal who usually sets up the fire not far from his/her home and stays around it without really hiding. NIAB showed cases of arsonists arrested thanks to the use of advanced devices as: small video camera systems located in strategic spots and advanced software, as the IBM "Analyst's Notebook for Investigation" which tracks people creating a visual analyze that links phone calls.

Practical exercises on the field were organized with participants. Methods to collect physical evidences and to analyze proofs were presented by NIAB experts. Techniques to identify the starting point of a fire and what devices were used to set it up were also showed during the day on the field (25 October 2012).

At the end of the training the feedback from participants was positive. They appreciated the opportunity to evaluate the situation of other countries and share differences and similarities with their own nation. Participants also expressed the need for more support in the future in order to implement the knowledge acquired during the course in their own country. Material, as handbooks and/or manuals, was also required for them to better organize similar training in their national schools. CFS, Spain and France offered to provide these tools, as they already have the material available (in French and English). The Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* proposed to try to find possible funding for translation of these documents in Arabic. It was also highlighted that such material can only be used as a support for national training and not as guidelines. Each country should adapt this knowledge/manuals/handbooks to its own context (different vegetation, different legal constraints, etc...).

The *Silva Mediterranea* working group on forest fires also proposed to help for the organization of trainings at the national level on forest fire causes and post fire investigations (*mobilization of key experts from France, Italy and/or Spain*) and to integrate this activity in its work plan for 2013.

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Chréa National Park: pilot site of FFEM project



Signature by new members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests



Side event on the III Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW)

