The Working Group (WG) on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry was established by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea in the framework of its 21st session (Turkey, Antalya, 2-3 February 2012) with the mandate to develop an urban and peri-urban forestry networking strategy for the Mediterranean countries. Its role is to act as a neutral forum where nations can meet and develop agreements, as well as debate policy aspects on urban and peri-urban forestry issues. In particular, the WG focuses on the following priorities: (i) improve North-South and South-South cooperation between stakeholders; (ii) raise local and regional awareness of all stakeholders on the benefits and incomes related to the presence of forests and green infrastructures in and around cities; (iii) push green infrastructures and UPF upward on the political agendas of Mediterranean countries and build a common strategic vision on green infrastructures and urban forests; (iv) promote economic, environmental and social sustainability in urban and peri-urban areas, and a sustainable use and management of resources. The WG normally meets twice a year. Due to the CoVid19 outbreak, this workshop and the previous two (XI and XII Workshops) were held online (via Zoom). The Agenda of the meeting can be found in Annex I. A complete list of participants is available in Annex II.

This report, along with the presentations given during the event, will be uploaded on the FAO Urban Forestry webpage (under the session Events) and stored in a dedicated folder on the DGroups platform. Additional information on the WG can be found at the link: http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88929/en/
Summary of the event

The workshop was structured in five sessions of about 2-3 hours each, distributed over three days. More than 64 members from more than 10 countries registered to the event, and all sessions counted on the participation of at least 30 participants. These included members of the WG, Silva Mediterranea National Focal points, members of the Silva Mediterranea Board.

Main objective of the event was to actively work in thematic working sessions with the coordinators of the different Task Forces to advance on the activities currently under development. The main results of the working sessions held for each of the task forces are reported in the following page.

The event also represented an occasion to present relevant FAO urban forestry related initiatives and programmes currently under development/implementation. Among those, the FAO Green Cities Programme launched in 2018, and the Green Urban Oases Programme currently under development. A dedicated session was also allocated for voluntary presentations from the members of the WG. All the presentations given at the event are available for download at the link: http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88929/en/.

The official language of the workshop was English. Although no interpretation into French was available, support was provided to French speaking participants to ensure their involvement in the discussion.

Task forces working sessions: outcomes and next steps

- **Task Force 1: Thematic briefs – Ms Michela Conigliaro and Mr Simone Borelli**

  Aim of this task force is to develop a series of thematic briefs addressed to support administrators, communities and relevant stakeholders of the Mediterranean Region in developing and implementing concrete policy actions to maximize the contribution of urban forests and green spaces to address key urban environmental and social challenges within the Region. Title of the Series is “Rethinking the Mediterranean cities: the role of urban forests and green spaces for resilient urban communities”. The briefs consist of short documents of 2-4 pages reporting a brief introduction on the topic, key messages, and a series of policy recommendations.

  **State of the Art**

  The Brief n.0 (introducing the series) was issued in Summer 2020 [link]. The Brief n.1 is currently under finalization and is addressed to present the contribution of UPF in improving human health and resilience to pandemic crisis (i.e. Covid-19 pandemic). A preliminary draft of the thematic brief (based on the draft shared by Ms Anna Chiesura in summer 2020) was shared with participants prior to the meeting.
Objectives of the working session
Aim of the working session was to: (i) agree on the structure proposed for the briefs (i.e. number of pages and layout); (ii) revise the draft content proposed (i.e. highlighting lacking issues or information to be revised); (iii) integrate the policy recommendations session; (iv) compile a list of reference cases of cities which have been taking action to allow local communities continue using urban green spaces also during the covid-19 pandemic; (v) agree on deadlines and modalities of publication and dissemination of the brief/s; (vi) identify possible topics for the next issue.

Inputs and feedbacks received
A detailed overview of the outcomes of the brainstorming session can be found in Annex III. Concerning the structure of the brief, participants suggested to keep the 2-page structure and to consider adding pictures, diagrams and bullet points to make the messages more clear and visually catchy. With regard to the content, a number of issues were suggested for inclusion in the text: the increased use of urban green spaces by local people during the pandemic period, the reaction from local communities with regard to the closure of green spaces, the need to increase the perceived safety of urban green spaces to incentives the use by women, children and elder. A number of policy recommendations to be included in the brief were also suggested and will be revised/taken into consideration in the next round of revision of the brief. Some preliminary examples of cities taking actions to make urban green areas accessible and safe also in times of pandemics were also provided. Participants were invited to share possible interesting cases over the coming weeks. With regard to publication and dissemination, an email will be sent to the coordinators of the Secretariat of the Silva Mediterranea to propose to discuss (at the upcoming meeting of the Executive Committee of the Silva Mediterranea Statutory Body) the possibility of starting a Silva Mediterranea thematic brief series. Should this decision be confirmed, the thematic briefs developed by the WG would be published as official Silva Mediterranea thematic briefs. Proposal topics for the next briefs of the series include, among others: Feeding cities, UPF and landscape restoration, UPF and livelihood, Trees and thermal comfort, UPF and air quality, UPF in Med drylands.

Next steps and deadlines
29 May: revised draft of the thematic brief + graphic proposal for the layout shared for comments (by Ms Michela Conigliaro and Mr Simone Borelli)
07 June: feedbacks from members received
21 June: final draft shared for final revision
Early-July: Thematic brief published

How to join the task force
To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-1_policy-brief. To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Ms Michela Conigliaro and Mr Simone Borelli (FAO) at: michela.conigliaro@fao.org, simone.borelli@fao.org
Task force 2: Position Paper – Mr Fabio Salbitano

Aim of this task force is to develop a position paper on the role of UPF in supporting health and quality of life of urban dwellers in the Mediterranean region. The paper would focus on the relationship between urban forests, urban density, air pollution and human health. The social and economic impact of urban forests in terms of healthcare savings and disease prevention would also be addressed.

State of the Art and inputs
A detailed overview of the outcomes of the brainstorming session can be found in Annex III.

How to join the task force
To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-2_position-paper. To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Mr Fabio Salbitano (University of Florence) at: fabio.salbitano@unifi.it

Task force 3: Project proposal - Ms Paloma Cariñanos (University of Granada)

The aim of this task Force is to facilitate the exchange and collaboration between the members of the WG towards the development of joint project proposals. The activity currently under implementation is the development of a project proposal on the topic “food forests”, for submission in the framework of the COST Action EU-funded Programme 2021/2022. The proposal would be based on the Food4Urb project proposal, unsuccessfully submitted in the framework of the COST Action Programme in 2019.

State of the Art
Ms Paloma Cariñanos confirmed to be available to support the submission of the project in the framework of the upcoming call of the COST Action (2021-2022). As leader of the proposal, she has started revising the project proposal submitted in 2019 in light of the comments received from the COST Action evaluation board. The next steps to be taken towards the finalization of this new proposal include:

Objectives of the working session
The working session was addressed to: (i) define of the geographical scope of the project (European or Mediterranea); (ii) establish contacts with new potential partners to be involved in the project: (iii) create dedicated working groups to support in the draft of the project proposal; and, (iv) revise the name of the project (current name: Food4Urb).

Inputs and feedbacks received
A detailed overview of the outcomes of the brainstorming session can be found in Annex III. Some 21 members expressed their interest in being actively involved in the draft of the new proposal. A good number of potential partners from a wide range of different sectors were suggested. With regard to the geographical scope of the proposal (European vs Mediterranean), participants highlighted both pros and cons of the two options. Additional key topics related to UFF to be
considered for inclusion in the proposal include: mental and physical health, circular economy, social aspects, value chains, combination of productive and recreational activities, links to urban agriculture and food systems. Alternative titles were also suggested.

**Next steps and deadlines**

- **May 2021**: DGroup Task force 4 dedicated space to be used for internal communication and docs sharing created (by Paloma Cariñanos)
- **Mid-July 2021**: first revised draft of the proposal circulated for comments (by Paloma Cariñanos)
- **October 2021**: second draft circulated (by Paloma Cariñanos)

**How to join the task force**

To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: [https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-3_project-proposals](https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-3_project-proposals). To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Ms Paloma Cariñanos (University of Granada) at: [palomacg@ugr.es](mailto:palomacg@ugr.es)

- **Task Force 4: Thematic webinars - Ms Michela Conigliaro and Mr Simone Borelli**

  Aim of this task force is to organize thematic webinars to address specific issues related to UPF in the region. Events will be organized on 6 month basis. The format will consist of online webinars of 90 min each, held on the Zoom platform and open to all those interested in attending.

  **State of the Art**

  Since April 2020, the Task force has been regularly meeting to plan and organize the online events. The topics for the following webinars will be selected based on the interests expressed by the members of the WG. Webinar n.1 was held in July 2020, Webinar n.2 in November 2020 ([link](#)).

  **Next steps and deadlines**

  The next webinar will be held in June 2021. Exact date and title for the event will be posted in due course on the dedicated webpage: [http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/97377/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/97377/en/)

- **Task Force 5: Selection of species – Mr Alessio Fini**

  The main objective of this task force if to develop technical guidelines for the selection and use of tree species in urban and peri-urban contexts in the Mediterranean Region. Aim is to retrieve and share science-based information about Mediterranean woody species suitable for the urban environment. More specifically, the resulting product will be addressed to: (i) provide information about the level of tolerance of Mediterranean species to biotic and abiotic stresses typical of urban sites; (ii) provide guidance to meet the “right species at the right place with the right management” rule; (iii) indicate and quantify the ecosystem services provided by the different species; (iv) alert against potential disservices. The members of the task force agree that the product of this activity will consist in a web tool where users can find parameters and attributes related to the tree species more commonly used in Mediterranean cities. For each species, the database will report both
qualitative (for practitioners, technicians and general public) and quantitative (for scientists, decision makers and urban planners, who may use it for modelling) parameters. So far, a preliminary identification of the clusters of information that could be reported in the factsheets has been drafted by the task force, and responsibilities have been assigned to the different members for the draft of the qualitative and quantitative parameters to be included for each of those clusters.

**State of the Art**

The task force had already identified qualitative and quantitative traits worth to be included in the fact sheets and had decided to use *Acer campestre* as a case study. In the April meeting, parameters collected so far for *Acer campestre* were revised, consolidated, and approved.

**Inputs and feedbacks received**

Discussion about how to present qualitative data yielded the decision to keep the description short and simple (i.e. few words rather than sentences, except for “cultural benefits”, “Delivery of goods”, and where strictly needed). Thresholds for the different classes of qualitative parameters (low, moderate, high) should be defined using a fixed or relative (among the species included) scale. The Silva Med Fire Management Network can be asked for collaboration to rank fire resistance. Phytoremediation was included in the soil amelioration trait. For quantitative ES-provisioning parameters, it is probably better to report values per unit leaf area than per plant. The latter would require a detailed description of plant age, size, management. Finally, to make the search criteria consistent across species, we agreed to define keywords to be used for the search of each individual parameter.

**Next steps and deadlines**

**End-September:** pertinent keywords to be used for the search of each specific parameter identified.

**How to join the task force**

To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: [https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-5_selection-species](https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-5_selection-species). To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Mr Alessio Fini (University of Milan): alessio.fini@unimi.it

- **Task force 7: Indicators – Mr Artur Gonçalves**

  Aim of this task force is to develop a framework for the classification of UPF indicators that can be used by municipalities to monitor their activity on the management of their urban forest. Aim is to come up with a limited number of simple and relevant that could be easily applied by local administrators. Municipalities (e.g. through the implementation of dedicated surveys) would also be expected to play an active role in the refinement of the preliminary draft list of indicators that will result from this activity. Contacts with municipalities could start from the cities that have adhered to the Tree City of the World programme launched by FAO and Arbor Day Foundation in 2019.
State of the Art
Discussions held by members over the last months resulted in the definition of two parallel lines of action: (i) development of a framework of indicators providing basic metrics to be applied by municipalities to assess their UPF; (ii) compilation of lists of indicators to be used by the municipalities to address specific issues, such as the effects of UPF on the mitigation of the urban climate.

Objectives of the working session
The meeting was addressed to discuss the selection of priority indicators and the need to establish a basic framework for the classification of those indicators.

Inputs and feedback received
A detailed overview of the outcomes of the brainstorming session can be found in Annex III. The feedback provided by participants regarding the type of indicators to be produced as outcome of this activity ranged from scientific to technical and political/decision making-related indicators. With regard to the expected outcome from this activity, suggestions included the draft of guidelines for city planning, publication of a technical/scientific paper, development of an online database of indicators. Following a debate, two lines of work stand out as potential action:

- Indicators Framework: a pre-existent line of work, with the definition of indicators methodologies, and other elements that can provide a basic framework for the replication in different Mediterranean contexts. This line resonates with the technical/political perspective in the use of indicators.
- Indicators Scientific Article: development of a joint article on the use of indicators in the Mediterranean context.

Next Steps and deadlines
End-May 2021: Google shared Drive to support exchange and communication towards the development of the above activities created
July 2021-October 2021: draft of a scientific paper on UPF indicators in the Mediterranean region
October 2021: 10 priority indicators defined

How to join the task force
To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-7_indicators. To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Mr Artur Gonçalves (University of Braganza) at: ajg@ipb.pt. Finally, the Task Force Coordinator expressed his willingness to be replaced in this task; however, as there were no volunteers, he will carry on until the next meeting.

- Task Force 8: Med living labs - Ms Maria Beatrice Andreucci and Mr Artur Gonçalves
Aim of the task force is to support the organization of living laboratories and activities addressed to facilitate knowledge sharing and support capacity development within the region. Objectives of the labs are: (i) raise awareness on the importance of UPF; (ii) support the sharing of information
between experts and countries; and, (iii) support experts in addressing local constraints to the implementation of UPF, in identifying knowledge gaps and in building their know-how.

State of the art
Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, coordinators could not follow-up on the activity. However, should you wish to join the task force in view of the upcoming restart of the activity, we invite you to contact his coordinators at: mbeatrice.andreucci@uniroma1.it and ajg@ipb.pt.

How to join the task force
To exchange and communicate, the task force uses the DGroup platform: https://dgroups.org/fao/silvamed-wg7/task-force-8_local-laboratories. To join the task force and get access to the DGroup, we invite you to contact Ms Maria Beatrice Andreucci (University La Sapienza of Rome) and Mr Artur Gonçalves (University of Braganza) at: mbeatrice.andreucci@uniroma1.it, ajg@ipb.pt

Urban forestry in drylands: brainstorming session

This session was addressed to exchange on key challenges, solutions, best practices and existing experiences on the implementation of urban forestry in drylands. Aim was to provide inputs to integrate the background document that is being prepared under the FAO Green Urban Oases Programme (see below session for more details). A detailed overview of the outcomes of the discussion can be found in Annex III.

FAO and urban forestry

FAO is currently involved in a number of activities related to UPF, worldwide:

- **FAO Green Cities Initiative**
  Aim of the Green Cities Initiative is to improve food security, nutrition and the quality of life in urban and peri-urban areas, reducing degradation of natural resources and contributing to climate change resilience by developing integrated plans and actions on urban forestry, urban agriculture and urban food systems. For more information, you can access the link: http://www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/en/

- **FAO Green Urban Oases Programme**
  The overall objective of the Green Urban Oases Programme is to turn dryland cities of Africa and Asia into “green urban oases” and to strengthen their overall resilience to climatic, health, food and economic crisis, as well as to reduce the impact of urbanization on biodiversity and the surrounding natural environment. The programme will support urban communities in drylands to strengthen their policy and technical capacity to design and implement integrated urban forestry and urban greening strategies through multi-stakeholder engagement, optimize the use
of public spaces and improve the provision of ecosystem goods and services to urban communities. The programme will also work towards the creation of a movement of dryland cities decision makers and leaders adopting green agendas and supporting each other through city-to-city cooperation. A number of countries from North-Africa would also be involved in the programme. More information on the Programme will be available soon at the link: http://www.fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry/en/

- Tree City of the World
  The Tree Cities of the World programme is an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. The celebration programme has been jointly developed by FAO and Arbor Day Foundation. To be recognized as a Tree City, a community must meet five core standards that illustrate a commitment to caring for its trees and forest. Applications must be submitted by the Mayor’s office of the city. For more information on how to apply to receive the recognition, please access the link: https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/about.cfm

- Upcoming FAO UPF Regional Fora
  1st African Forum on Urban Forests (5-9 July 2021)
  3rd Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Forestry (25-29 October 2021)
  2nd World Forum on Urban Forests (2023)

### Inspirational UPF projects/experiences from the Region

Three voluntary presentations were given at the event:

1) AIRFRESH Project - by Mr Pierre Sicard, ARGANS

2) Urban and peri-urban forests: Innovative approach in Tunisian development strategy - by Mohamed Boufaroua, DG Forests, Tunisia

3) Overview of ongoing UPF-related projects implemented by the University of Reggio Calabria – by Maurizio Badiani, University of Reggio Calabria

The contributions are available for download on the webpage: http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88929/en/

### Next workshop

The next workshop of the WG will be held in Autumn 2021. In light of the current pandemic situation, it will be probably held online. Exact date and time will be communicated in due time on the webpage of the WG. Ms Paloma Cariñanos and Mr Alessio Fini confirmed their interest and availability in continuing acting as Coordinators of the WG.
Annex I

Agenda of the Workshop (online event)

Monday, 26 April 2021

**Session 1**
Time: 11.00-13.00 (Rome time)
**Zoom link:** received upon registration
**Password:** silvamed13
**Agenda:**
- 11.00-11.10: Introduction to the workshop
- 11.10-11.30: FAO updates – Ongoing relevant programmes and initiatives
- 11.30-13.00: Task force #4: Food4Cities – *Led by Ms Paloma Cariñanos*

**Session 2**
Time: 14.30-17.00 (Rome time)
**Zoom link:** received upon registration
**Password:** silvamed13
**Agenda:**
- 14.30-16.00: Task force #2: Position paper – *Led by Mr Fabio Salbitano*
- 16.00-17.00: Task force #7: Indicators – *Led by Mr Artur Gonçalves*

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

**Session 3**
Time: 11.00-13.00 (Rome time)
**Zoom link:** received upon registration
**Password:** silvamed13
**Agenda of the session:**
- 11.00-13.00: Task force #5: Database for species selection – *Led by Mr Alessio Fini*

**Session 4**
Time: 14.00-16.00 (Rome time)
**Zoom link:** received upon registration
**Password:** silvamed13
**Agenda of the session:**
- 14.00-15.00: Task force #1: Thematic Brief Series – *Led by Ms Michela Conigliaro and Mr Simone Borelli*
- 15.00-16.00: Urban Forestry in drylands: brainstorming session – *Led by Simone Borelli*
Wednesday, 28 April 2021

Session 5
Time: 11.00-13.00 (Rome time)
Zoom link: received upon registration
Password: silvamed13
Agenda of the session:
11.00-12.15: Voluntary presentations
  • AIRFRESH Project - by Mr Pierre Sicard, ARGANS
  • Urban and peri-urban forests: Innovative approach in Tunisian development strategy - by Mohamed Boufaroua, DG Forests, Tunisia
  • Quick overview of upcoming projects – by Maurizio Badiani, University of Reggio Calabria
12.15-12.45: Reporting from Task forces Coordinators and next steps
12.45-13.00: Closure and way forward
Annex II

List of registrants

The following registered the workshop:

1. Simone (FAO, Secretariat of the WG)
2. Michela (FAO, Secretariat of the WG)
3. Beatriz Kauark Fuentes (Secretariat of the WG)
4. Paloma Cariñanos (Spain, Coordinator of the WG)
5. Alessio Fini (Italy, Coordinator of the WG)
6. Giovanni Di Matteo (FAO, Secretariat of the Silva Mediterranea)
7. Giovanbattista de Dato (FAO, Secretariat of the Silva Mediterranea)
8. Fabio Salbitano (Italy)
9. Elena Paoletti (Italy)
10. Anna Chiesura (Italy)
11. Pierre Sicard (France)
12. Artur Gonçalves (Portugal)
13. Nezha Acil (Morocco)
14. Ilaria Zappitelli (Italy)
15. José Castro (Portugal)
16. Urša Vilhar (Slovenia)
17. Maurizio Badiani (Italy)
18. İsmail Belen (Turkey)
19. Francesca Ugolini (Italy)
20. Ghania Bessah (Algeria)
21. Kailene Jamel (Tunisia)
22. Sara Di Lonardo (Italy)
23. Paolo Semenzato (Italy)
24. Silvano Fares (Italy)
25. Alessandra Stefani (Italy)
26. Samir Ben Haj Salah (Tunisia)
27. Lucia Mondanelli (Italy)
28. Giuseppe Carrus (Italy)
29. Inazio Martinez de Arano (EFI)
30. Yasutomo Hoshika (Italy)
31. Sami Dhouib (Tunisia)
32. Ignacio Rojo (Spain)
33. Angela Canfarelli (Italy)
34. Nihan Parlak (Turkey)
35. Lahouari Djardini (Algeria)
36. Paolo Semenzato (Italy)
37. Andy Speak (Italy)
38. Jacopo Manzini (Italy)
39. Saliha Fortas (Algeria)
40. Erdoğan Atmiş (Turkey)
41. Mohamed Abes (Algeria)
42. Hamida Salhi (Algeria)
43. Mauro Maesano (Italy)
44. Anna Steidle (Germany)
45. Javier Clopes Alemany
46. Marco Marchetti (Italy)
47. Rocío Alonso del Amo (Spain)
48. Irene Vigevani (Italy)
49. Barbara Baesso Moura (Brazil)
50. Josep Penuelas (Spain)
51. Thomas Campagnaro (Italy)
52. Denise Corsini (Italy)
53. Silvia Ferlazzo (Italy)
54. Claudia Cocozza (Italy)
55. Ali Mahmoudi (Algeria)
56. Sabrina Rachedi (Italy)
57. Alessandra De Marco (Italy)
58. Mohamed Boufaroua (Tunisia)
59. Sondes Fkiri (Tunisia)
60. Dimitris Tsimplinas (Greece)
61. Cristian Ioja (Romania)
62. Silvija Krajter Ostoić (Croatia)
63. Giorgio Vacchiano (Italy)
64. Fatine El Euch (Tunisia)
Annex III

Outcomes of brainstorming sessions

- **Task force 1: Thematic brief n.1**

**COMMENTS ON CURRENT FORMAT/STRUCTURE**
(number of pages and outline)

- **Format is fantastic!**
- **two pages are fine, bullet points recommended**
- **may be bullet points could be better to have a rapid overview? or infographic?**
- **Figure or photos make it visual**
- **Number of pages are ok, make it longer avoid people to read it**
- **2 pages, bullets, pictures**
- **If it includes real cases/good practices as Simone showed, it may require images/diagrams, and then, it can go up to 3/4 pages**
- **the format is good, key messages and photos will be better**

**EXAMPLES OF CITIES TAKING UPFG ACTIONS AS A RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

- **Padua**: example of a park designed and build during the covid period (planned taking into consideration the need for social distance). Paolo Semenzato
- **Simone**: [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41289-021-00153-x](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41289-021-00153-x) has many case studies
CONTENT (Lacking issues/information to be revised)

Lacking issues

- Increased use and, therefore, pressure on urban green spaces (in some periods these were the only places that could be used).
- Define better the term “quality green”
- The growing role of the community level in decision making about public space
- Citizens and associations requiring to open the green areas when they have been closed
- “New” users: many were not using green spaces, but now this with COVID-19 it is more valued as a place to meet
- Promote and create green spaces with high natural value, people appreciate natural value, biodiversity
- Social media

Information/data to be revised

- I think that the title should be rethought and should be said lesson learned from the pandemic better than Mediterranean cities during and after the pandemic
- Consider that in some countries there was an increase of women visiting parks and feeling safety can be an issue

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Closer small/pocket gardens become more important than large urban/city parks
- Better management/monitoring of the green spaces to increase the perception of safety (especially for vulnerable people)
- Mention the rule: 3 - 30 - 300. Check if this kind of approach is applicable to Med cities.
- Make sure to involve local communities in choices made, (ex. trees cut to increase visibility and perceived safety in parks, strong reaction from people)
- Tackling increased use, “New” users need more info on the role and importance of parks.
- Improve inclusiveness for different social groups
- Trade-offs between security and isolation must be studied and taken into account in new designs post-COVID-19
- Collective and individual stay sites should be designed so that they can be swapped when needed
- http://aayvmadrid.org/noticias/manifiesto-en-defensa-del-derecho-al-juego-y-al-aire-libre/ manifesto signed by more than 40 associations of parents, neighbors, citizens etc claiming to reopen green areas in Madrid
DEADLINE AND MODALITIES FOR PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- Facebook, LinkedIn, social media
- Urban planners and landscapers societies
- Executive committee meeting of Silva Med will be held soon. Send a request from the WG to see if possible to activate a brief series in the frame of Silva Med
- Landscape and urban planning magazines

PROPOSAL OF TOPICS FOR THE NEXT THEMATIC BRIEFS

- The real value of urban forest-ecosystem services
- Feeding cities
- Urban forests and extreme climate events
- Urban forests and water
- Urban forests inspiring grassroots movements
- Urban forests and livelihoods
- Policies against soil sealing
- Trees and ‘desert’ urban heat island (as Mediterranean areas can also be drylands)
- Trees and thermal comfort
- Urban regeneration with NBS
- Urban forest and pollutants removal
- Urban forests and landscape restoration, particularly in peri-urban areas
- Species selection to minimize disservices from urban forest
• **Task force 2: Position Paper**

1. **Background: the principles**

1.1 Strategies in action: levels and scales

- **Existing**
  - SDG
  - Green Belt in Granada
  - Italian strategy for urban green
  - Green infrastructure plans in Spain
  - Existing green spaces in cities

- **Needed**
  - Green spaces management
  - Planning green spaces in cities
  - Italian strategy for urban green

- **Example**
  - In France: From city scale to conurbation scale to national & European scale; from masterplan in city to EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 -> Urban Greening Plans for cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants & 3 billion trees by 2030
  - Green spaces management at regional level
  - Link between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment: green prescriptions

1.2 Stakeholders: types, mapping, interests

- **Existing**
  - Forestry organisations
  - Municipalities
  - Civil Society
  - Ministry of Health
  - Urban planner managers
  - Big Enterprises
  - Regional Administrations
  - NGOs
  - Landscape architects
  - Local communities’ organizations

- **Needed**
  - Schools
  - Mapping at city scale & conurbation scale
  - Regional agencies for the protection of the environment
  - Students
  - Environmental associations
  - Patients’ associations
  - Physicians associations
  - Citizens
  - Health Care Professionals
  - Ministry of Environment
  - Youth associations
  - Environmental specialists
1.3 Roles and responsibilities: who and how?

- Ministry of Health to allow green prescriptions
- Ministry of Environment to promote nature based solutions for health
- Ministry of education: MSc programs on educating professional in UPF therapies
- WHO, review of evidence
- Local Administration
- Environmental Protection agencies - air quality monitoring
- Citizens to push for a greener way of managing cities

1.4 Relationships: which sectors are involved/interested in developing tools and strategies?

- Public health
- Public health sector
- Social assistance
- Mobility (e.g., for co-benefits with bike lanes, greenways)
- Forestry sector should be more involved
- Environment and Planning sector
- Public education sector
- Housing (e.g., for energy saving from cooling effects)
- Civil society
- Biodiversity monitoring (ecological connectivity)
- Private/public companies interested in savings for health expenditures
- Establishment of pollutant emission standards/limits
2. The state of the art

2.1 Research: facts, figures, achievements, gaps


- European Environmental Agency


- EEA Report No 01/2021

- WHO has published a review of evidence

- national health databases

- Possible gap: health and social aspects of UF in the south of Mediterranean


- https://www.age.dlimn/bfnt/klimewan
del/Dokumente/ECBC
C2015/2015-11-18/Sessio
n3/Braubach_-_Green_
spaces__equity_and_r
esilience.pdf

- https://www.mdpi.co
m/2225-1194/7/10/198/h

2.2 Policies: governance, norms, protocols

- municipal regulations for urban green

2.3 Planning, design, management, implementations options and solutions

- spatial optimization algorithms

- vulnerability analysis

- remote-sensing assisted mapping of urban green, vitality change and ES

- environmental justice

- simulation models of future tree and urban forest development

- participatory planning

- Detection, Classification and Features of Individual Urban Trees from Very High-Resolution Satellite images
2.4 Partnerships

- Partnership
- Forest
- Therapy
- research
- cluster UNIFI, ISS, CNR...
- municipalities
- schools
- SoBigData++ project
- with tree nurseries
- Research institutes
- with private owners of green spaces
- Administration-Associations-NGOs
- with museums e.g. for citizen science
- networks of social agriculture
- with Google or other big data company

2.5 Development: green infrastructure as infrastructure of Health and Wellbeing

- Guía a la Infraestructura Verde para la Salud
- Infraestructura verde - sistema natural de salud pública - Pedro Calaza
- Baños de bosque, una propuesta para la salud DKV
- The practice of nature therapy
- Nice city and metropolis (France) - Green valley including plenty of NIBS & green buildings + Green corridor (former buses lines) in the city + New green area (former stadium) in the old city
- Aix-en-Provence - new peri-urban forest
- urban parks: high biodiversity, spaces for children and elders, recovery of abundant areas
- Green areas as places of social aggregation
- Regarding planning therapeutic gardens - at this link there are resources we can look at. https://www.ahta.org/the-journal-of-therapeutic-horticulture-qSili.de+4; Associations, NGOs for caring people
- studies relating green areas with children's cognitive performance and self-reliance
- use of green and trees in hospital and medical facilities
- food forests to increase food security of vulnerable persons
- Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
3. The geography of relationships between UPF and H&W in the Med Region

3.1 Ideas and responsibilities

- recreation
- tourism (when possible)
- exercise
- forest bathing
- small cities vs. metropolitan areas
- socialization
- urban vs periurban areas
- payment for environmental services
- assessing socio-cultural inclusiveness
- a place to practice art, dance, music, paint...
- coastal/inland cities
- economy of country in terms of management of green areas
- industry/services/health cities
• Task force 3: Project proposal Food4Urb

Your name, contact email and affiliation (please use sticky notes, not this box)

Other potential partners (please use sticky notes, not this box)
Ideas for making the proposal more appealing (please use sticky notes, not this box)

Dimension of the proposal: Med or European? (please use sticky notes, not this box)

Focus on the Mediterranean might become more attractive particularly if we include countries from outside Europe.

Mediterranean scenario may be more strategic, but European countries are gaining knowledge and practices in urban food where one can build on.

European with a specific focus to Mediterranean because of COST arena.

If the project is only for Mediterranean region, then the topic of the project has to be with high relevance for this region. Otherwise, the European dimension is better.

For this topic, European dimension is better.

We have to take into account that in the Northern part of Europe Economic is (still) very strong and Ecotourism is the first who will be AGAINST UFF. Why should they promote something instead of selling it in the supermarket?

Europe has to do something to show the world that ‘s Europe. BUT Europe has to do something for the Mediterranean Area. because “Europe” (Germany) one something to the Mediterranean. So both is ok.

International Society of Arboriculture

Med focus could be good but we have to take into account that North Europe countries have knowledge on this topic.

on the project, I think the topic is of European relevance and we should also include the COVID-19 moment in the project. Having access to private green space including gardens was very important for overavail.

Here the link to a FAO publication on integrating food into urban planning that may hold as background literature http://www.fao.org/3/CAB2160BN/en/

Mediterreanean focus, with “monitoring” from other EU countries where UFF have been long implemented

WG 1 - UFF in Europe: typologies, management, and linkages with the local urban development

WG 2 Design and management practices addressed to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks associated to the implementation of UFF systems

WG 3: Economics, Governance and Funding of UFF systems

WG 4: Communication, Dissemination and Marketing

Link to health both mental and physical

Relationships to Urban Foodprint

Social benefits to be more harmonious and inclusive of urban ecosystems

Value chain and UFF circular bioeconomy

Health’s cultural green infrastructural should combine productive and leisure activities

Link to urban agriculture and urban food systems

One Health

Link WG 1 - with local food agenda as well
OLD TITLE: CONTRIBUTION OF URBAN FOOD FOREST TO ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN URBAN REGION

FOOD4URB

NEW TITLE: MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK FOR THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF EDIBLE URBAN FORESTS IN URBAN REGION

MEDIBLE

OTHER IDEAS?

- I would not change the name, even if the focus is on the Mediterranean Region.
- Mediterranean Network to Promote Edible Urban Forests
- Mediterranean Network to Promote Edible Landscapes Medible
- We have a system "constant dripping water, the neck away", it works also with COST.
- Mediterranean Network towards sustainable edible urban forests
- MEDIBLE UFORNET
- Medible Forests
- FORMEDIBLE
- MedFor or ForMed
- Urban forestry in drylands: brainstorming session

**Key Challenges**

- Urban heat island & air pollution
- Water management
- Reuse of city water
- Lack of knowledge on water recycling
- Invasive alien species / pests
- Tree preferences - likes and dislikes of the people
- Climate change
- Water treatment and water harvesting
- Quality of tree planting
- Need to be fast - Establishment of tree cover cluster planting
- Canopy
- Making the urban forest sustainable (including water cycling and management's self-maintaining cases)
- Soil organic matter/soil fertility
- How public green space in dry climates is used primarily. Shade? Public gatherings and events? Evening strolls?

**Key Solutions**

- Generate rain by planting plants in a depression in face of the prevailing humid wind
- Mulching
- Water recycling
- Adaptive management
- Cores of trees
- Local management by neighbors better than management by the municipalities
- Sustainable costs of management
- Incentives and disincentives for planting trees
- Involvement of local communities (users of green spaces) from the start (they will help identifying practical and applicable solutions)
- Suitable selection of tree species for tree planting programmes (city planners)
- Flood control - Green infrastructure
- Remote sensing monitoring
Good Practices

From Cape Verde, the "pedagogical forests" of the FAO project, and a garden created as a result of the UPF project.