



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Lisbon, Portugal, 27-30 April 2010

### **SILVA MEDITERRANEA: PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES**

#### *The twentieth Session of the Silva Mediterranea Committee*

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)/European Forestry Commission (EFC)/Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*, held its Twentieth Session in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 7 to 10 April 2008. The session was attended by twelve member countries (Algeria, Bulgaria, Spain, Serbia, Portugal, Morocco, Italy, Israel, Greece, France, Cyprus and Turkey) in addition to observers from international non-governmental organizations namely The Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), *Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques* (CIHEAM), *Plan Bleu* and *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ).
2. During the session the activities of the four working groups were presented and discussed: Forest Fires; Cork Oak; Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development; and Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean Region. Two new working groups were established: Forests and Climate Change, led by Morocco, and Funding Mechanisms led by Bulgaria.
3. The lead countries of the six working groups were invited to communicate to the Secretariat the terms of reference for their activities (work plans with corresponding objectives, expected outputs, activities and budget). The Committee authorized the enlarged Executive Committee to approve the work plans at its next meeting scheduled for 20 October 2008.
4. Member countries and FAO decided to reinforce the involvement of the Committee in all relevant forest events (notably through its secretariat) and to develop relevant communication material (logo, newsletters, leaflets, posters and *Silva Mediterranea* Website [www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/)).

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5. The Committee also welcomed the preparation of the draft document on “Guidelines for good forestry and range practices in arid and semi-arid zones of the Near East”, and commended the initiative of the Near East Forest Commission to set up the “Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species” network. Among the series of topics discussed, during the Sofia session, forest fires were considered of high importance. Italy and FAO subsequently organized related field days in Sabaudia, Italy, in May 2008 for *Silva Mediterranea* members.

6. The Committee decided that its official sessions be held every four years instead of every two and accordingly recommended that the next meeting be held in 2012. It was also decided that inter-sessional meetings be organized, including during sessions of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). In addition, it proposed that the enlarged *Silva Mediterranea* Executive Committee meet every year.

### ***Meeting of the Enlarged Silva Mediterranea Executive Committee***

7. A first post-Sofia meeting of the enlarged *Silva Mediterranea* executive committee was held in October 2008 in Rome, where *inter alia* the work plans of the following five working groups were endorsed: Forest Fires (WG 1), Cork Oak (WG 2), Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development (WG 3), Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean Region (WG 4) and Forest and Climate Change (WG 5). All adopted work plans for the period 2009 to 2012 are available on the *Silva Mediterranea* Website ([www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en)).

### ***Reinforcement of the Silva Mediterranea Secretariat***

8. The *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat, hosted by the Forest Conservation Service (FOMC) has been reinforced with the arrival in July 2009 of Ms Nora Berrahmouni, Forestry Officer (Arid Zones) and of Mr. Christophe Besacier (seconded by France) in November 2009.

### ***Strengthening regional and international cooperation***

9. To address relevant and regional issues affecting Mediterranean forests and mobilize financial support for the implementation of work plans of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups, several projects, initiatives and relevant partnerships are under development in collaboration with Spain/the Spanish Cooperation (AECID), France/Le Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Germany/GTZ and the European Commission.

- **A new partnership on Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change**

10. As a follow-up to the Sofia meeting, a workshop was organized in July 2009 by FAO, *Silva Mediterranea* and GTZ, hosted by Morocco, to identify crucial needs for external support to facilitate adaptation of forest policies and sustaining forest-related ecosystems services (including biodiversity) in the North African and Middle Eastern Mediterranean in the context of climate change.

11. A total of 22 people participated in the workshop, representing three countries of the southern Mediterranean region (Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), two European countries (Italy and Germany) and of three regional institutions (The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), *Plan Bleu*, and EFIMED) together with *Silva Mediterranea* and FAO. As a further step, bilateral meetings with different governments in the Near East region were launched, resulting in the preparation of a project proposal on “Adapting policy framework conditions for sustainable forest management in the North African and eastern Mediterranean (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) to implement the Morocco workshop outcomes.

12. A meeting was held in Marseille, France in September 2009 and hosted by the *Plan Bleu* to prepare a joint agreement between GTZ, *Plan Bleu*, France and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* (with possible enlargement to other partners) to define the contributions of different partners to the regional project of the GTZ (WG 5 – Forest and Climate Change) and the process of strengthening the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*.

- **Forest Genetic Resources, a priority issue for adaptation of Mediterranean Forests to climate change**

13. In November 2009, a regional workshop was organized by FAO *Silva Mediterranea*, CIHEAM and EFIMED in Chania, Greece and hosted by the CIHEAM on “Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources and Climate Change”, as a follow-up to the recommendations of the twentieth Session of the Committee for the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group 4. Relevant information on the workshop objectives, outcomes and material are found in on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/35411/en/>.

14. During this workshop a presentation of the *Silva Mediterranea* work plan on Forest Genetic Resources and Climate Change (2010-2013) was made by the leader of the *Silva Mediterranea* Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group 4). Key issues related to forest genetic resources and adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean were identified and approved by expert members of *Silva Mediterranea* WG 4. Recommendations were provided to integrate forest genetic resources issues in national strategies for adaptation to climate change (Cf. *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter n<sup>o</sup>2 on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/53178/en/>

#### ***Development of new communication tools and organization of events in the Mediterranean***

- Two issues of the *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter were published with a special focus in the last issue on forest genetic resources. The next issue will be prepared in April 2010, focusing on climate change. During the period 2010-2011 a *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter will be published every three months in order to provide regular update on implementation of the activities of the six Working Groups.
- The first Mediterranean Forest Week, which will be held during 13-16 April in Antalya, Turkey, will bring together participants and members of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*, the network members of EFIMED as well as key partners (including representatives from Forestry departments, Research institutions and Universities as well as NGOs). During this week, a Scientific Seminar on “Knowledge Base Management of Mediterranean Forests under Climate-driven Risks: The Ways Ahead” is organized and the members of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* Enlarged Executive Committee together with key partners will prepare a joint “position paper” highlighting the importance and the key role of forests in rural development strategies in the Mediterranean.

- The later will be used as a tool for advocacy within the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (Union Pour la Méditerranée – UPM). Presentation of the position paper is planned during the European Forestry Commission session for endorsement. Furthermore, it is aimed to present the endorsed position paper during the high level meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM) to be held in Cairo, Egypt on 15-16 June 2010. In this context the European Forestry Commission members are also invited to discuss wider cooperation with the UPM.