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NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION

TWENTIETH SESSION

SECOND NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK

ANTALYA, TURKEY
29 JANUARY – 02 FEBRUARY 2012

Good Governance of Forests and Rangelands : Pillar of Food Security

**SECOND MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK AND PROGRESS
REPORT OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA COMMITTEE FOR THE
PERIOD 2010-2011**

1. The Second Mediterranean Forest Week was held in the Palais des Papes, Avignon, France, from 5 to 8 April 2011. This week was organized by the secretariat of the FAO Silva Mediterranea Committee together with the Mediterranean Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), as well as several organizations aiming to promote forest cooperation in the Mediterranean region.
2. Beside a scientific seminar and working group meetings, it consisted of the following sessions and events:
 - Enlarged Executive Committee of Silva Mediterranea.
 - Session on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean region.
 - Session on the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).
 - Session on Forests, Societies and Territories (FST)
3. The Second Mediterranean Forest Week was also an opportunity to promote the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, signed in 2010 by FAO, Plan Blue, France (French Ministry of Agriculture, MAAPRAT), Germany (German International Cooperation,

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GIZ), EFIMED and many other organizations involved in the adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change.

4. During the Press Conference held on 6 April, two new members joined the Collaborative Partnership: the International branch of the French Association of Forestry Municipalities, COFOR International, and the French Agency for Development, which confirmed its financial contribution through the French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM) during 2011 (2,65 millions of Euros).

I. ENLARGED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

5. The FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*, meets every four years to discuss common issues and work on regional cooperation and sustainable development (its twenty-first formal session will be held in 2012). However, the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*, consisting of nominated members and key partners of the Mediterranean forestry cooperation (Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and the six coordinators of the working groups), meets annually in formal sessions to share information with the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*.

6. In addition to the main recommendations on the regular activities of the various working groups of the Committee (to be presented in the Chapter D), substantive results of this meeting are the following:

- Continuation of the strategy to mobilize financial resources through the preparation of regional projects by the various working groups and through promotion and advocacy activities that are implemented by the working group focused on “Sustainable Financing Mechanisms” (WG6).
- Preparatory work for the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) to be presented during the twenty-first session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee at the beginning of 2012.
- Discussion on an Integrated Strategy for Mediterranean Forests to be presented to Member States at the next *Silva Mediterranea* Committee session in Turkey (Joint sessions of the NERFC and *Silva Mediterranea* Committee).

II. SESSION ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

7. Recognizing the importance of the prevention of wildfires at the Pan European and Pan Mediterranean levels and based on recommendations of several recent events organized in the Mediterranean for improving prevention of wildfires (Sevilla Conference in 2007, Sabaudia Expert meeting in 2008 and Rhodes Workshop in May 2010), the main objective of the session was to endorse a “Position Paper” on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean Region, to be presented at EU level, in member countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and to decision makers in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean.

8. The draft version of this paper was presented to participants as a structured model of guidelines for wildfire prevention policy and practices. It integrated the main recommendations of the previous events (Sevilla, Sabaudia and Rhodes) and the main results of recent research projects (Fire Paradox and other European research projects) on prevention of wildfires in the Mediterranean.

9. The main recommendations of this position paper on wildfire prevention are focused on:

- Enhancement of the international cooperation on wildfire prevention ;
- Enhancement of harmonized Information Systems to deal with new wildfire risks ;
- Integration of wildfire prevention in National Forest Programs/Policies and in Strategies for Adaptation to climate change ;

- Promotion of knowledge and education on wildfire prevention ;
- Enhancement of sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires.

10. The Position Paper on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean was finalized; adopted and endorsed by Mediterranean partners. The final version of this position paper on wildfire prevention is available in English, Spanish and French.

III. SESSION ON THE EUROPEAN FOREST FIRE INFORMATION SYSTEM (EFFIS)

11. The result of the session is a programme of actions for 2011-2012 for the extension of EFFIS in South and East member countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (Morocco, Algeria, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey). The first main action of this agenda for the period 2011-2012 was a Workshop held in Rabat from 24 to 28 October 2011.

IV. SESSIONS ON FORESTS, SOCIETIES AND TERRITORIES

Towards new governance approaches for managing woodlands

12. Given their multi-functional nature, managing Mediterranean forests necessitates the development of a more integrated approach. With a view to adapting to climate change, it is absolutely crucial that modes of forest governance should move forwards to enable the Mediterranean area to develop in harmonious and sustainable way. Enhancing cooperation between the forestry sector and other sectors involved in Mediterranean forest management (water, agriculture, energy, tourism, environment, land planning, etc.), as well as between the various stakeholders involved at local and regional level (forest owners, breeders, farmers, environmental associations, local councillors, park managers, the general public, etc.), is therefore of the essence. This argues for participatory decision-making processes and improving the means for dialogue on the planning and management of rural areas.

A call for enhancing experience sharing among territories

13. There is nowadays a strong demand from Mediterranean stakeholders for sharing experiences on initiatives of integrated and participative management, and beyond, for enhancing collaboration and synergies between territories. In this context, initiatives have recently emerged to promote exchanges on territorial and cross-sectoral approaches for forest management among Mediterranean countries and regions (AIFM's MED Qualigouv project, the Mediterranean Model Forests Network, Working Group 3 of Silva Mediterranea, the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, etc.).

14. The sessions *Forests, societies and territories* held during the II MFW in Avignon provided an opportunity for linking these different networks and gathering a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers. The discussions enabled far-ranging exchange of experience, methodological tools and ideas for integrated and participative forest management, and led to the identification of the main issues, risks and opportunities as well as keys to the success of such approaches, with recommendations subsequently being drafted for the attention of local decision-makers, forest managers and international cooperation stakeholders (See annex 1). The outcome of these sessions will feed into the work programme to be drawn up for Silva Mediterranea's group n°3 on *Mediterranean Forests and sustainable development*.

V. PROGRESS REPORT OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2011

15. The different working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* organized several workshops and events in 2010-2011:

- Workshop in Tunis (March 2010) for the preparation of a project proposal on Forest Genetic Resources ;
- Meeting of the Working Group 2 of *Silva Mediterranea* on Cork Oak (April 2010) ;
- Organization (with EFIMED and Turkey) of the first Mediterranean Forest Week in Antalya (April 2010) ;
- Workshop in Istanbul (September 2010) for the preparation of the Plan of Operation 2010-2013 of the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) ;
- Side event on Cork Oak (Photo exhibition on the art of Cork in Sardinia) during COFO (October 2010) ;
- Extraordinary meeting of *Silva Mediterranea* during the last COFO (October 2010) for the presentation of the new CPMF and discussions on the concept of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) ;
- Organization (with EFIMED and France) of the Second Mediterranean Forests Week in Avignon (April 2011);
- Organization (with EFFIS and Spain) of sessions and workshops on Wildfires Prevention in the Mediterranean (April and May 2011) and EFFIS extension (April and October 2011);
- Organization (with GIZ, WWF, France and Tunisia) of Workshops on Payment for Environmental Services (Tunis – June 2011 – See Annex 2) and REDD + in the Mediterranean (Marseille – June 2011).

16. Two projects proposals prepared with the support of *Silva Mediterranea* were approved during period 2010-2011:

- GIZ Project on Adaptation to Climate Change in the MENA Region (4 millions of Euros – January 2010);
- FFEM Project on REDD+ opportunities in the Mediterranean (2.65 million of Euros – July 2011).

17. Ten *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletters were published during the period 2010-2011.

18. Two position papers (endorsed by the Committee on Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea*) were published during the period 2010 – 2011 on:

- *Contribution of Forests and Other Wooded Land to Food Security and Rural Development in the Mediterranean region*
- *Wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean region*

ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSION *FORESTS, SOCIETIES AND TERRITORIES*

1. Improving the knowledge base on the territorial context, the forest resources, the services provided by woodland ecosystems, and the risks and opportunities, by including the “climate change” factor (impact, mitigation potential, adaptation options).
2. Promoting inter-sectoral approaches and the inclusion of forest management within local projects for the long term.
3. Bringing relevant local stakeholders into projects from the outset, particularly local decision-makers (political backing) and administration (consistency with existing activities and budgets, financial support).
4. Defining the project area in compliance with the social, politico-administrative, geographical and ecological context.
5. Devoting the necessary time and human and financial resources to the learning processes offered by territorial development operations, particularly in terms of running activities and communicating.
6. Assessing the benefits rendered by woodland ecosystems and associated management costs. Identifying beneficiaries. Developing sustainable funding mechanisms.
7. Developing, improving and adapting tools for collective approaches (including the use of prospective approaches) in order to facilitate the emergence of joint visions, strategies and programmes of action.
8. Testing, assessing and developing instruments and measures (legal and economic) for the implementation of collectively adopted programmes of action.
9. Developing and running networks for the effective sharing of experience between Mediterranean areas.
10. Clarifying and enhancing the links between consultation and decision-making processes.

The sessions were organized by AIFM and Plan Bleu, in collaboration with the FAO Committee Silva Mediterranea and other networks including the Forest Municipalities Federation, the Mediterranean Model Forest Network and the Association of Mediterranean forest private owners.

ANNEX 2: MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION MAKERS IN THE MENA REGION

The conference organized in Tunis from 28 to 30 June 2011 highlighted nine key recommendations. To guide decision-making in the recognition and financing of forest ecosystems goods and services (FGS) in the MENA region, it would therefore be useful to increase and promote:

1. **The evaluation of goods and services of forest ecosystems and biodiversity, and the integration of their value into political choices:** this is about improving knowledge on the FGS provided to partner sectors (tourism, agriculture, biodiversity, climate, etc...), on the impacts of global change on FGS, and on their contribution to national economies, as well as about disseminating information to policy-makers and stakeholders to raise awareness. In this context, it is important to build on existing assessment and integration initiatives at national level, such as in Morocco and Tunisia.
2. **The definition of policy measures for the optimal management of forests for the sustainable provision of their goods and services:** this involves implementing the approaches, methods and tools for multifunctional management of forest ecosystems by opening up opportunities for win-win situations between sectors, for example by supporting the development of eco-tourism in wooded areas.
3. **The adaptation of national budgets to ensure the sustainable provision and use of forest ecosystems goods and services:** this concerns initiating the appropriate tax reforms and supporting the creation of forest funds to collect additional financial resources coming from public and private sectors.
4. **The design of mechanisms to maintain benefits on site,** such as the compensation mechanism for forest protection in Morocco, developed in recognition of the loss of revenue from grazing in forested areas. To do this, investment in social engineering towards local populations should be facilitated in countries in the MENA region.
5. **The recognition of the role of the private sector in capturing the value of FGS:** the private sector, increasingly involved in policies of corporate social and environmental responsibility, appears to be a partner in highlighting the solutions for the valorization of FGS, particularly regarding value chains for Non Timber Forest Products (*bio-ethical certifications, ABS mechanism, and support to SMEs in rural areas*), and investment in forest concessions. **The forestry sector should also consider offering "Green Solutions" to national and international companies in order to internalize CO2 emissions and impacts on biodiversity caused by the private sector.**
6. **The development of innovative financing mechanisms of payment for environmental services (PES), systems to compensate impacts on biodiversity and offset emissions of greenhouse gases via forest solutions:** this is about improving the understanding of these mechanisms and learning from their application in other regions, innovating in order to develop new patterns or on the basis of existing mechanisms (*compensation mechanisms for forest protection for example*). For this purpose, providing a marketing and communication strategy to attract private donors is important.
7. **The use of funding opportunities offered by the Rio conventions.** The Rio Conventions (*UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD*) present funding opportunities in recognition of FGS to which countries in the MENA region should develop appropriate positions. To do this, coordination challenges at national and international levels must be addressed, especially in view of REDD + (*UNFCCC*), ABS (*CBD*), and funds from the Global Mechanism (*CCD*).
8. **The development of participation and dialogue among stakeholders.** This is a sine qua non condition to develop win-win partnerships for capturing FGS. Therefore

forums of consultations at national level as well as forms of local community organizations should be supported in the MENA region.

9. **Building on existing partnerships and initiatives.** Supporting the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and following its activities offers funding and innovation opportunities. Other regional initiatives such as the Environmental Arab Fund (EAF), or international initiatives such as TEEB should also be followed by countries in the MENA region.