

THE FIFTH MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK



Agadir
Morocco
20 - 24
March

MEDITERRANEAN FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

INSIDE

Message host
Background & objectives
Agenda
Location
Organizing Committee



Towards an enhanced regional cooperation to restore Mediterranean landscapes: improving resilience for the benefit of people and environment



Message from the host

Morocco, being part of the Mediterranean region, offers exceptional richness in terms of geographic, climatic and environmental variability. It has, over time, determined a variety of ecosystems so significant that it has placed the Kingdom at the forefront in terms of ecosystemic richness within the Mediterranean and North-African region. This richness derives from the particular area on which the country insists: at the conjunction between Africa and Europe. The Atlantic and Mediterranean maritime fronts, the presence of mountain chains with numerous peaks surpassing 3000 meters and the proximity to the Sahara are factors that contribute to the shaping of biodiversity.

However, this richness is subject to multiple pressures. Human activities increasingly menace natural resources in the region, notably through changes in lifestyle, especially considering the Mediterranean regions high sensibility to Climate Change. Within this dynamic, the reinforcement of regional cooperation (North-South and South-South) through the exchange of experiences and the common

design of innovative solutions is crucial in facing these new challenges. Indeed, on this spirit of cooperation Mediterranean Forest Weeks are built as a platform for mutual exchange and dialogue.

The theme of restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes of the fifth edition of this event, that Morocco has organized in Agadir from the 20th to the 24th of March 2017, concerns all Mediterranean countries and transcends ongoing initiatives and commitments within the framework of the international agenda: the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality, the Bonn challenge, the Aichi targets, the resilience to Climate Change based on sustainable land management.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all partners, who never cease to act fervently in favor of Mediterranean forest ecosystems, and to welcome all participants of the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (5 MFW) to Morocco.

**The High Commissioner for Water, Forests
and the Fight against Desertification
Doctor Abdeladim Lhafi**

Background and objectives

Mediterranean forest and landscape restoration

The Mediterranean Forest Week brings together a diverse set of actors to participate in one of the most vital fora on Mediterranean forests today. The biennial event facilitates cooperation amongst the research community, policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders by providing a common regional platform for dialogue.

The event also promotes the relevance of Mediterranean forests globally and calls attention to the specific challenges these forests face. Participants include forest administrators, the scientific and academic community, the private sector, donors, civil society, environmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

This year, Morocco will host the 5 MFW, which will focus on the restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes. The event will promote forest and landscape restoration as essential to the ongoing initiatives of the Rio Conventions and will call for an ambitious action agenda in the field that mobilizes technical and financial partners across the Mediterranean.

The 5 MFW will advance a new approach to forest restoration that encourages cross-sectoral cooperation by working with local actors to foster productive and multifunctioning landscapes that increase economic, social and environmental benefits. This approach promotes synergies between the three Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification and thereby contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

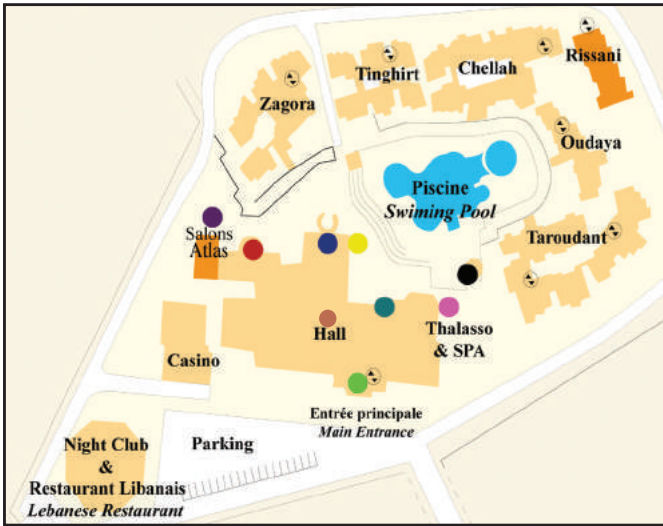
The objectives of the 5 MFW are the following:

- To strengthen exchanges and synergies between global stakeholders in the restoration of Mediterranean forests and landscapes.
- To help achieve SDG 15, especially target 15.3, by supporting efforts on the restoration of degraded lands in the Mediterranean.
- To contribute to Aichi target 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by facilitating the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in Mediterranean forest ecosystems.
- To facilitate the mitigation and adaptation of Mediterranean forest landscapes to climate change, as well as the achievement of non-carbon benefits in order to support the implementation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) as part of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.
- To reach the land degradation neutrality goals set by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by actively promoting forest restoration.

Agenda

	Monday 20	Tuesday 21	Wednesday 22	Thursday 23	Friday 24		
09:00	Registration	SESSION 3 Ceremony International Day of Forests	Field trip The field trip will begin at the Souss Massa National Park to discover the Rokein footpath, an enclosure with Saharian fauna within a stand of Argan trees and Eucalyptus. The visit will proceed to an Argan tree restoration area, west of Agadir, to illustrate the restoration efforts of the Argan tree ecosystem. A cooperative will present the products supplied by this endemic ecosystem	SESSION 8 Monitoring, evaluation of impacts <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>	High-level segment <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>		
10:30	Coffee break			Coffee break			
11:00	SESSION 1 Opening ceremony <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>	SESSION 4 State of play, Success stories, Mediterranean restoration baseline <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>		SESSION 9 Perspectives and obstacles to the funding of restoration <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>	High-level segment <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>		
13:00	Lunch break						
14:30	SESSION 2 Context, Global initiative and regional dynamics, Evaluation of forest degradation <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>	SESSION 5 Identification of opportunities for restoration <i>2/3 Atlas room</i>	SESSION 6 Local governance <i>Taj Mahal room</i>	22 nd session Committee Silva Mediterranea <i>2/3 Atlas room</i>	SESSION 7 Scientific session <i>Taj Mahal room</i>	SESSION 9 Perspectives and obstacles to the funding of restoration <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>	Posters will be displayed during the whole week at the coffee break area
16:30	Coffee break						
17:00	CBD training session <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i> IBP side-event <i>Mamounia room</i> CPMF side-event <i>Taj Mahal room</i>	CBD training session <i>Taj Mahal room</i> Forest health side-event <i>Mamounia room</i> MEDFORVAL side-event <i>2/3 Atlas room</i> BeWater side-event <i>1/3 Atlas room</i>	22 nd session of Silva Mediterranea <i>2/3 Atlas room</i> Great Green Wall side-event <i>Mamounia room</i>	Scientific session <i>Taj Mahal room</i> Communication side-event <i>1/3 Atlas room</i>	SESSION 9 Perspectives and obstacles to the funding of restoration <i>Atlas room (plenary)</i>		
				Gala dinner <i>Hotel Sofitel Agadir</i>			

Location



- Atlas room
- Taj Mahal room & restaurant
- Mamounia room
- Exhibition Posters & Oasis restaurant
- Pacha restaurant
- Oasis bar
- Escale bar
- Panoramic bar Belvedere

Contacts

If you need any further information on the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week or for any urgent matters please contact Mr. Isam Ahabri at isamahabri@yahoo.fr (mobile +212 661-130702) or Mr. Nicolas Picard at Nicolas.Picard@fao.org. Download the complete version of the booklet of participants on www.5.medforestweek.org under the tab "Resources".

