



# Urban and peri-urban forests: Innovative approach in Tunisian development strategy -

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# Forestry and pastoral sector in Tunisia

## Some indicators

- ❑ **5.7** million ha - 34% of the national territory
  - 1,3 Million Ha Forests
  - 4,4 Million Ha Rangelands
- ❑ **17** National parks,
- ❑ **27** Natural reserves,
- ❑ **4** Wildlife areas,
- ❑ **41** Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR)
- ❑ **1** approximately one million inhabitants



# CONTRIBUTION OF THE FOREST TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY



- A Forest Economic Value & Range estimated at 920 MDT
- 15 to 25% of livestock needs
- 14 % of the country's energy needs
- 30% of the annual income of the forest population
- 6 million annual working days

# forestry policies in Tunisia

- ❑ Initially, the Tunisian forestry policy focused on **conservation and reforestation**, conducted exclusively by a centralized and concentrated administration
- ❑ This policy has finally shown its limits, in view of the new orientations in terms of **economic and social development** policy and in relation to the commitments made by the State in terms of Natural Resources management policy
- ❑ 1988  Forestry Code: a new forestry policy which aims to focus on the objectives of conservation, valorization of forest products and socio-economic development of forest populations, with a goal of **sustainability**
- ❑ **Also with a stronger concern given to the participatory approach and integration in the management of ecosystems and the reduction of poverty in forest environments**

# National forest sector development strategies

- The first called «National Reforestation Strategy» (1990-2001) was based on reforestation and desertification control
- The second called «Forest and Pastoral Sector Development Strategy» (2002-2011) has integrated a new axis aimed at improving the management of forest ecosystems and the development of the National Forest Plan (NFP, 2007-2030)
- The third designated under the name «National Strategy for the Development and Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands» (2015-2024) was based on an



**integrated development vision and co-management approach for the sector**

# The Challenges of the sector

- ❖ the establishment of a sustainable management of sector resources;
- ❖ control of the anthropogenic pressure on forest and pastoral resources;
- ❖ enhancement and building of the capacities of the Forest Administration;
- ❖ opening of the sector to its environment through the development of a Public Private Partnership, the improvement of communication and synergies with partners and the alignment of forest policy on the strategic objectives of the Rio Conventions (UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC) and the demands arising from a switch to a green economy.

These challenges need a number of adjustments and changes, in order to meet immediate needs and get ready to meet future needs.

# **THE STRATEGIC VISION OF THE FOREST AND PASTORAL SECTOR**

***Tunisia's forest and pasture resources shall be extended, restored and actively and effectively managed in the long term through good governance of all the goods, services and values they contain, in the interests of***

- (i) the socio-economic well-being of the populations concerned and of the national economy, and***
- (ii) the conservation of biodiversity (ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic resources, etc.) as well as the fight against land degradation and the mitigation of the effects of climate change".***

# INNOVATIVE IDEAS

- ▶ The development of the green economy by seeking to involve the most vulnerable social groups, particularly women and youth;



- ▶ landscape management project : access to economic opportunities for targeted communities in the North West and Center West regions of Tunisia (ongoing project).
- ▶ The Project is helping Professional Organizations and Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to create in these regions a highly qualified workforce and a dynamic private sector.
  - ✓ Promotion of participatory and bottom-up participatory planning of landscape development.
  - ✓ Identification of production possibilities to increase local economic activities and absorb labor, and increase the incomes of poor households.
  - ✓ The promotion of better access to existing and new markets with higher added value (Value chains for aromatic and medicinal plants).



# INNOVATIVE IDEAS

- ▶ **Socio-economic development of forest and pastoral areas by promoting the organisation of user populations around the co-management of resources, particularly in the context of the development and implementation of integrated participatory plans for the planning and sustainable management of forests and rangelands,**
- ▶ **Development of the Public Private Partnership around:**
  - the search for new opportunities to use forest and pastoral products;
  - the development of the green economy;
  - the integration of the forest and pastoral sector with other related sectors, particularly in the field of the use of non-conventional resources such as regional products, natural landscapes and biodiversity, through different types of tourism, etc.

## Basic guidelines for the development of forest cover

### Urban and peri-urban plants: an interesting issue

- ❖ Establishment of public-private partnership agreements to support state reforestation efforts
- ❖ support for the planting of species of multiple uses and economic interest (carob, caper, etc.)
- ❖ National Reforestation Award to encourage private sector and reforestation initiatives (2021)
- ❖ Promote the initiative to support reforestation through the development of agreements with civil society (associations, clubs, etc.) and public bodies (municipalities, hospitals, schools and colleges, etc.)

# Actions

- ▶ 490 agreements signed with various partners (municipalities, ministries, associations and NGOs, etc.)
- ▶ Reforestation companions in schools and hospitals,

Urban forests, trees and green spaces for improved resilience to COVID-19



# *urban and peri-urban forestry*

## *WHY?*

- ▶ To promote INNOVATIVE solutions for health;
- ▶ TO WIN the urban population in the environmental protection;
- ▶ the growing interest of people to surround themselves with plants (cities, villages, neighbourhoods, streets and roads, villas), especially trees;
- ▶ Trees and ornamental plants (inside and outside dwellings) also contribute to the monetary value of the property on which they are located;
- ▶ improving environmental conditions, limiting anarchic urban sprawl;
- ▶ improving the living conditions of the population;
- ▶ promotion of an eco-tourist circuit and development of green spaces

# *urban and peri-urban forestry*

## **WHY?**

- ▶ -Urban parks: high bio diversity, spaces for children and elders.
- ▶ - Social Wellbeing.
- ▶ -green areas as places for social aggregation.
- ▶ -Food forests to increase food security.
- ▶ -use of green in hospitals and green facilities .
- ▶ - Tourism (when possible).
- ▶ - Recreation.
- ▶ -Socialization.
- ▶ - Payment for environmental services,
- ▶ - Economy in terms of management of green areas.
- ▶ - Assessing socio-economic aspects.

# *Project Proposal: Urban and peri-urban forest management and natural resource development*

## **OBJECTIVE:**

- ▶ With the aim of improving environmental conditions, limiting the anarchic urban extension and improving the living conditions of the population, it is necessary to integrate means of distractions by the installation of a biological belt, the promotion of an eco-tourist circuit and the development of green spaces. These measures will help to develop tourism and economic activity in the region.
- ▶ the overall objective of the project will be to contribute to the sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests, Promote green spaces to keep a biological belt facing increasingly felt urban expansion and the promotion of ecotourism

# ACTIONS - WORK PLAN

- ▶ Based on a participatory approach, the project will promote collaboration with forest groups, which constitute organizational structures. As well as working with homogeneous interest groups (IG) such as women's groups, youth etc.,
- ▶ The proposed approach is perfectly in line with the State's policy and strategies, which favors the disengagement of the administration and encourages the organization of the population.
- ▶ The proposed sector approach for the sustainable exploitation of capers, carob, eucalyptus, and Aleppo pine is based on a partnership with the different partners involved, at different levels (forest users, private promoters, administration, research, etc.
- ▶ The project will try to focus on the spirit of partnership.

# Roles and responsibilities: Who and How

Support needed from SILVAMED

- ▶ Sectors involved/ interested in developing tools and strategies: civil society, biodiversity monitoring Forestry organizations;
- ▶ Planning, design, management, implementations options solutions;
- ▶ partnerships: schools, private owners of green spaces, municipalities
- ▶ Typologies, management, linkage, local urban development;
- ▶ Decision makers, technical staff, opinion leaders, communication;
- ▶ Stakeholders: types, mapping, interests Roles and responsibilities: who and how;
- ▶ Relationships: which sectors are involved/ interested in developing tools;
- ▶ Policies, governance, norms, protocols;
- ▶ Planning, design, management;
- ▶ Green species should be planted more and more;
- ▶ Biodiversity strategy for sustainable plan.



# MAIN COMPONENTS

- ▶ The rehabilitation of forest ecosystems through the establishment of a forest reforestation program in the glades as well as on the banks of wadi and retaining hilly lakes using agro-forest plantations based on caper, carob, eucalyptus, Aleppo pine, olive...
- ▶ The recreational development of urban and pre-urban forests that will be the subject of a study and this through the realization of spaces of relaxation, sport and leisure.
- ▶ The equipment of the Eco museum and the establishment and marking of an eco-tourist circuit.

The estimated budget .....  
The timetable for the implementation of the  
programme in question is .....