

# **Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests**

between

**the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the  
Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea***

and

**Agence Française de Développement / Fonds Français  
pour l'Environnement Mondial (AFD/FFEM)**

**Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)**

**European Forest Institute - Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED)**

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)**

**International Union for Conservation of Nature - Centre for  
Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN - Med)**

**Ministère de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche de France (MAAP)**

**Plan Bleu/ Mediterranean Action Plan (PB/PAM)**

**World Wide Fund for Nature - Mediterranean Initiative (WWF-MedPO)**

**Office National des Forêts - International (ONF-I)**

**Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)**

The Parties to this Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (hereinafter referred to as “Partnership”) intend to jointly strengthen the capacity of member countries of *Silva Mediterranea* (Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions), a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and of the *Silva Mediterranea* secretariat to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and the protection of forest-based ecosystem services under climate change (CC) conditions in the Southern Mediterranean region.

For this purpose they intend to coordinate their respective support activities in the frame of a common programmatic approach based on agreed objectives and expected results, defined by this Partnership.

## 1. Background

Mediterranean forests and woodlands require special attention because they play a key role in the welfare of urban and rural Mediterranean societies, and they constitute a unique natural heritage in terms of biological diversity. Their conservation and management affects the availability of soil and water resources - key strategic resources for Mediterranean societies.

The importance of timely regional and national strategies for dealing with climate change, but also with land-use and related socio-economic changes in relation to poverty reduction and conflict and crisis mitigation has been emphasized in various forums addressing the issue of security in the Mediterranean region. Adaptation and mitigation strategies are urgently recommended in the context of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and also by the UN Conventions on Biodiversity (CBD) and Desertification (CCD). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recommends integrating adaptation to climate change into all future development activities.

All the Mediterranean countries are faced with the question of how to respond appropriately to climate change and, to the extent possible, mitigate greenhouse gases emissions due to unsustainable land use activities. Stronger engagement in regional and international cooperation and dialogues on SFM and climate change issues will be essential for identifying adequate national responses to this challenge and their implementation.

This challenge, one of the most strategic for the future of the Mediterranean in order to ensure a sustainable development of this region, is reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of the regional *Silva Mediterranea* Forum held in Rabat, Morocco, in November 2005. It has also been broadly taken into account in the priorities defined at the Ministerial meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean held in Marseille, France, in November 2008, as well as in the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2010-2020.

During the first Mediterranean Forest Week held in Antalya, Turkey, from 13 to 15 April 2010 a “position paper” and a “background paper” on “contribution of forests and other wooded land for food security in the Mediterranean” was also adopted by the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* for consideration by the Ministers of agriculture of the Union for the Mediterranean.

## **2.Key problem areas**

At a planning workshop in Rabat, Morocco, (organized by GTZ and FAO in July 2009) four main problem areas were identified as being responsible for the ongoing degradation of forest resources in the region, which are interlinked and cannot be considered and treated in an isolated way:

### **a) Need for strengthened policies and lack of inter-sectoral cooperation**

Adaptation and mitigation measures have not yet become integral parts of forest policies. Inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination for harmonized planning and implementation of activities is insufficient. Forest-related ecosystems services are not yet given the same importance in forest and other sectoral policies as other goods and forest products. There is a general lack of incentives and compensation schemes for sustainable forest management. Policy and decision makers in forestry and related sectors in southern Mediterranean countries still need to strengthen their negotiation power at the international level through more intensive regional cooperation.

### **b) Need for improved knowledge and information**

A flexible and efficient response to the impact of CC and other influential drivers on land use change calls for advancing and sharing knowledge (and best practices) on the understanding of the complex feedbacks between climate-ecosystems-economy and society. This requires a joint and coordinated effort (and concerted funding) to access available and collect new science-based data and information in the right format and the right scale.

### **c) Need to increase public awareness**

Due to a lack of targeted and understandable information the general public in the southern Mediterranean countries is not able to comprehend the order of magnitude and the gravity of the impact of CC on livelihood of people, and to appraise the adequacy of the reaction of governments.

### **d) Need to identify adequate funding**

The lack of specialized funding for adaptation and mitigation measures, both at national and international level is unanimously recognized. Adaptation to and mitigation of CC cannot be financed, or only to a marginal extent, through normal and already existing financial mechanisms. Instead, adaptation and mitigation measures require additional and specialized funding from various sources.

## **3. Objective and expected results of a Collaborative Partnership for Mediterranean Forests**

Almost every problem area mentioned above requires both **an adequate political and strategic response from the countries themselves** and **additional external support**, either through specific services (i.e. information, capacity development, research, etc.), or through support measures by external partners (including funding). For this reason, the Parties to this Partnership will be involved in the development of adaptation and mitigation policies in the forestry sector of the southern Mediterranean countries, thus reinforcing the respective political initiatives of the countries concerned.

The Parties agree that the present Partnership can contribute substantially to facilitating the change of policies in the region in order to accelerate the necessary adaptation and mitigation processes. The envisaged Partnership approach represents an important contribution to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's programme of work.

**a) Objective of the Collaborative Partnership for Mediterranean Forests:**

To improve the political frame conditions for sustainable management of forests and related ecosystem services in the context of climate change in selected member countries of *Silva Mediterranea*

**b) Programme region:**

Mediterranean North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) and Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Turkey)

**c) Expected results:**

Governmental and non-governmental actors of the southern Mediterranean region, in the new context of Climate Change, will reinforce their policies and actions towards enhancing sustainable forest management, protecting forest resources and valorizing goods and services delivered by forest ecosystems

## **4. Contributions of the Parties to the Collaborative Partnership for Mediterranean Forests**

### **4.1 Planning of joint activities**

Every Party will, before the end of 2010, identify the nature and modes of delivery of its individual contribution to the present Partnership. The contributions of each partner will be agreed in writing between the party and FAO. Such agreements will be annexed to this document and will constitute an integral part thereof.

On the basis of these individual contributions an annual operational plan for the Partnership will be elaborated, starting with the year 2011. The first annual operational plan in 2011 will take into consideration the results and recommendations of the Istanbul workshop of October 2010.

The specific steps for the elaboration of the first annual operational plan will be defined by the first meeting of the Steering Committee of this Partnership (see point 4.4).

### **4.2 Mutual information**

Every partner will contribute to a maximum of transparency and collaboration within the agreed annual operational plan through intensive communication. The *Silva Mediterranea* secretariat will serve as a communication platform between Parties of the Partnership, but also between the Collaborative Partnership for Mediterranean Forests and its Southern Mediterranean partner countries.

#### **4.3 Monitoring of results of the Partnership**

The Parties of the Partnership will establish a simple monitoring system with a low reporting burden, which will allow the follow-up of the implementation process and the adjustment of the annual operational planning, if necessary.

The information produced by the monitoring system should also facilitate the reporting back to decision makers in the respective headquarters, and serve as an information basis for the discussions in the steering committee.

#### **4.4 Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee will be established at the Istanbul workshop of September 2010. The members of the Partnership established by the present Partnership will define the functions and the mode of operation of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will meet once a year to approve the annual operational plan, to follow up the impact of the joint programme and to discuss adjustments and additional measures necessary for a successful implementation of the Partnership.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Steering Committee shall be presented for consideration to the Enlarged Executive Committee (EEC) of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee to ensure coherence with the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee's programme of work and its relevant working groups.

#### **4.5 Joint evaluation**

After 3 years of implementation a joint evaluation based on OECD standard criteria should take place in order to analyze the results of the Partnership.

### **5. General principles of cooperation**

Each Party to the Partnership is free to choose his particular contribution to the Partnership described under point (3), provided that points (4.1) and (4.2) be respected. Contributions can be made in the form of support services or interventions as well as in the form of financial contributions, as long as they contribute to the achievement of the agreed expected outcome of the Partnership.

The Partnership established by the present Partnership is open to other members who are ready to pursue the same goal. New members can sign the Partnership following a recommendation of the Steering Committee, subject to the condition that no Party to the Partnership objects within a time limit fixed by the Steering Committee.

All members of the Partnership agree to ensure that the activities contained in the operational plan are implemented according to the Declaration of Paris on Aid Effectiveness and as an enhancement of the political will of the countries of the Southern Mediterranean.

## **6. Signatures**

By signing this Partnership, the Parties agree to respect the principles, goals and modes of implementation of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests described in this document.

## **7. Standard clauses**

### **7.1. Use of Logos**

The Parties agree not to use in any press release, memo, report or other published disclosure related to this Partnership any of the other Parties' name or logo without prior written agreement by the Party concerned.

### **7.2. Privileges and immunities**

Nothing in this Partnership or in any document or arrangement relating thereto, shall be construed as constituting a waiver of privileges or immunities of FAO, nor as conferring any privileges or immunities of FAO to the other Parties or to their personnel.

### **7.3. Intellectual property rights**

Intellectual property rights, in particular copyright of material to be used to carry out the activities under this Partnership, shall remain with the originating Party unless separately negotiated and agreed.

### **7.4. Settlement of disputes**

Any dispute between FAO and any of the other Parties concerning the interpretation and the execution of this Partnership, or any document or arrangement relating thereto, shall be settled by negotiation between the Parties. If the dispute is not settled by negotiation between the Parties or by another agreed mode of settlement, it shall, at the request of either Party, be submitted to a conciliator. Should the Parties fail to reach agreement on the name of a single conciliator, each Party shall appoint one conciliator. The conciliation shall be carried out in accordance with the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, as at present in force.

The Parties may request conciliation during the execution of the Partnership and in any case not later than twelve months after the expiry or the termination of the Partnership. The Parties may request arbitration not later than ninety days after the termination of the conciliation proceedings.

Any arbitration award rendered in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be final and binding on the Parties.

The conciliation or the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English in one official language of FAO.

### **7.5. Applicable Law**

The present Partnership and any document or arrangement relating thereto shall be governed by general principles of law, to the exclusion of any single national system of law.

### **7.6. Amendment clause:**

This Partnership may be modified by the written mutual consent of the Parties, in accordance with their respective rules and regulations. Such amendments shall enter into force one month following notifications of consent by all Parties.

### **7.7. Entry into force and termination:**

This Partnership shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties for a period of four years. This Partnership may be terminated by either Party upon six-month written notice given to the other Parties. In that event, the Parties will agree on measures required for the orderly conclusion of ongoing activities.

### **Signature of collaborative partners:**

(Date, Signatures)