# Context of the extraordinary session

The Extraordinary session of the of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea took place on March 18, 2015 in Barcelona, during the IV Mediterranean Forest Week (17-20 March 2015).

The two main items of the agenda were:

* the discussion of the Evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea based on the Management Response prepared by the Forestry Department of FAO ;
* the booth on Mediterranean forests to be organized with all interested Mediterranean partners at the XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, 7-11 September 2015).

# Decisions on the Evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea

During the Extraordinary session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea, the Secretariat presented to Member States the Management Response prepared by the Forestry Department.

Based on this Management Response and the discussion with Member States of the multiple recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel in charge of the evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea the list of all the approved recommendations was established and the following decisions have been taken by the Committee:

## Decisions towards a renewed framework

* To review the mandate of the Committee in order to focus itself again on (1) the dialog in terms of forest policy and (2) the identification and follow up of regional cooperation priorities;
* To reflect upon the composition of Silva Mediterranea after a systematic sum up of the situation of the current Member States;
* To elaborate a common view and its own strategy based on the identification of priority areas among the lines and/or recommendations of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest;
* To elaborate an action programme based on this new strategy of Silva Mediterranea;
* To aim at a more continuous and sustained participation of the high level decision makers of the region in the Committee's sessions;
* To aim at an effective articulation of the Committee with the bodies and forums directly or indirectly engaged in forestry questions;
* To follow the evolution of the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and UNFCCC, UNCDD, UNCBD negotiations related to forests;
* To regularly update the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);
* To grant added visibility to the Silva Mediterranea Committee during the sessions of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and contribute to a greater visibility and consideration of Mediterranean forests issues in the agenda of international bodies and forums (CPF, UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF, WFC);
* To regularly raise awareness of FAO regional offices and regional forestry Commissions within the countries on the issues addressed by the Silva Mediterranea Committee;
* To implement a transversal thinking on the status and role of the observers within statutory and subsidiary bodies and to have the Committee beneficiate from this thinking.

## Decisions for more readable links with the partners:

* To intensify bidirectional exchanges (needs and feedbacks/outputs) with the working area of research, training, capacity-building and information production;
* To promote the participation of key stakeholders in these different working areas as observers of the Committee's sessions;
* To contribute to the organization of the Mediterranean Forest Week regularly as an open forum for different sectors, stakeholders and sensibilities;
* To request the Committee's Secretariat to ensure the coordination of the organization of the Mediterranean Forest Weeks;
* To reanalyse its communication (Website, Newsletter, etc.) so that a clear distinction is made between its own contributions and those of each partner.
* To establish a light coordination platform between the main intergovernmental organizations interested in the Mediterranean forests including CIHEAM, Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), EFIMED, FAO, Plan Bleu, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), (rotating secretariat, equal footing etc.);
* To request the Committee's Secretariat to ensure the Chair of this new regional platform.

## Decisions for a smoother internal functioning

* To direct the Committees Secretariat's activities towards the reinforcement of the link between the members states and the internal dynamics and towards effective and continuous reactivation of the national focal points' network;
* To define the respective roles of the chair, secretary, members of the Bureau and of the Executive Committee by drafting terms of reference and to update the internal rules;
* To reinstate the biennial Committee's sessions;
* To organise the Committee's sessions every two years on the occasion of Mediterranean Forest Weeks;
* To reconsider the existence of the Enlarged Executive Committee;
* To ensure a full time Secretariat for the Committee with the support of seconded experts funded by Member States within the Forestry Department;
* To carry out and animate a transversal and internal reflection on the functioning and animation of the national focal points' networks (capitalize on experiences within the Forestry Department like FRA, Mountain Partnership, UNREDD...and outside the Forestry Department in order to identify good practices).

## Decisions on interface subsidiary bodies

* To ensure the supervision of the connection between the Committee's future strategy and the subsidiary bodies' activities (thematic groups and task forces);
* To foresee the establishment of two new types of subsidiary bodies: (1) interface thematic groups and (2) Task Forces;
* To promote targeted themes for which FAO Forestry Department has experts and at the very least to continue its work around forest fire issues, biodiversity and forest genetic resources, non-wood forest products (NWFP), urban and periurban forests (UPF) and the fight against desertification/restoration of degraded lands and forests;
* To ensure a transition from the existing working groups to the new types of groups;
* To identify the coordinators, who are representatives of member states, based on motivation criteria and limit their mandate's duration;
* To formally add contribution of FAO Officers in the description of their respective position;
* To promote the FAO Officers' mobilisation for the benefit of the Committee's activities
* To ensure internal coordination between the FAO Officers connected to the Committee.

## Decisions on better structured voluntary contributions

* To explore new regional or global financing opportunities;
* To encourage the mobilization of voluntary contributions from Member States.
* To ensure a long term, efficient and dynamic functioning of the national focal point;
* To ensure that a relay is established at national level between the Committee's national focal points and the stakeholders and sectors involved in the management of the Mediterranean forests;
* To supply representatives who are engaged in the Committee's activities with the necessary resources and support
* The above-mentioned decisions have been taken into account during the High-Level Session of Director in charge of Forests organized on March 20, 2015 and several key decisions have been formally endorsed by the High Level Session (See annex 2 : Barcelona Declaration).