

First meeting of the second edition of the *State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)*

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MEETING

Date: Thursday afternoon, 7 April 2016

Venue: FAO HQ (Finnish Forestry room – D440), Rome, Italy

Context

The circum-Mediterranean region encompasses 31 countries and a wide range of political, economic, social and environmental contexts. It has an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage, and human and economic development is largely dependent on sometimes scarce natural resources and a vulnerable environment. Today, human activities are creating substantial environmental pressure, with significant disparities between the northern, southern and eastern subregions.

The Mediterranean region has more than 25 million ha of Mediterranean forests and about 50 million ha of other Mediterranean wooded lands (where forests and other wooded lands are defined according to FAO, 2010a), and these lands are strongly interconnected with urban and agricultural/rural areas. Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands in the region make crucial contributions to rural development, poverty alleviation and food security, and the agricultural, water, tourism and energy sectors. Such contributions are difficult to quantify, however; moreover, changes in climate, societies and lifestyles in the Mediterranean region could have serious negative consequences for forests, with the potential to lead to the loss or diminution of those contributions and to a wide range of economic, social and environmental problems.

Background

To compensate for the lack of data on Mediterranean forests and provide sound basis for the management of Mediterranean forests in the future, members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions–*Silva Mediterranea* requested FAO, at a meeting held in April 2010 in Antalya, Turkey, to prepare a report on the state of Mediterranean forests, in collaboration with other institutions. It was agreed to use already available data collected by regional and international institutions in the context of other environmental assessment processes, such as the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean process (Plan Bleu, 2009) and FAO's five yearly global forest resources assessment (FRA, <http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/>).

The first edition of the *State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)* was published in 2013 with the contribution of 21 institutions coordinated by Plan Bleu and FAO. The 2013 edition was launched at the third Mediterranean Forest Week in Tlemcen, Algeria, and was published in English (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf>) and French (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226f/i3226f.pdf>).

Consistently with the role of the SoMF as a monitoring tool and based on the recommendations of the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* made in 2013, members of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* requested FAO, at a meeting held in March 2015 during the fourth Mediterranean Forest Week in Barcelona, to regularly update the SoMF.

Preliminary survey

As a preliminary step towards a second edition of the SoMF, a survey was addressed in January 2015 to all contributors of the SoMF 2013, all members of *Silva Mediterranea*, and all members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, regarding

1. The main topics that could be addressed in the new edition of the SoMF
2. The main modifications and additions that could be brought to the topics already addressed in 2013 (in terms of both form and content).

The results of this survey are available in Annex 1. It was agreed that the second edition of the SoMF should not be simply an update of the 2013 edition using updated data, but it should be different and complementary. It is highly likely that most statistics and indicators reported in 2013 have little changed since then. Using updated data (such as FRA 2015), it may still be interesting to check it and report on major changes, if any. The 2013 edition of the SoMF tried to provide data coverage for *all* countries of the Mediterranean, using data sources (such as the FRA) that systematically addressed all countries, so as to get a regional overview. The second edition may deal with subjects that are more focused, both geographically and thematically, but still having a regional interest. In addition to the FRA, Plan Bleu indicators and EFFIS, new data sources that provide a systematic regional coverage will be used, such as the FAO Global Drylands Assessment.

One limitation of the 2013 edition of the SoMF is that reported national data did not make a distinction between Mediterranean forests and non-Mediterranean forests within countries. This limitation raises two questions: (1) What is the definition of a typical Mediterranean forest, what is the limit between the Mediterranean and the non-Mediterranean types? (2) How to get data at the subnational level? Regarding the first question, there is no definite answer depending on the criteria used (climate, geography, vegetation, etc.) and considering that vegetation types change progressively with overlapping species assemblages. Regarding the second question, a trade-off will have to be found between the level of details of data that can be locally high and the coverage of these data that should ideally be regional.

Based on the results of the preliminary survey, the following draft table of contents for the second edition of the SoMF can be proposed. This proposal is nothing more than a starting point for future discussions:

1. *The Mediterranean biome*
 - Limits of the ecoregion: bioclimatic approach, vegetation types, definition of forest
 - Forest cover, changes in land use
 - Biodiversity, invasive species, emblematic species (Algerian oak)
 - Threatened species
 - Forest genetic resources, seed stands
 - Impact of climate change (shifts in species composition), vulnerability

- II. *Forest management and related sectors*
 Forest degradation (including causes and drivers), land degradation neutrality
 Reforestation, landscape restoration
 Forest and water
 Non-timber forest products
 Forest and food security
 Management of emblematic areas, protection, conservation
 Forest fires
- III. *Forest and people*
 History of the Mediterranean forests
 Urban and periurban forestry
 Rural rights, land tenure
 Forest policies
 Comparison of legislations, international agreements
 Governance, multi-actors approach
 Ecosystem services (including soil protection and cultural services), disservices
 Innovation in green economy, job creation
 Financing mechanisms
 Research on Mediterranean forests

Tentative calendar (by 2017)

April 2016: First meeting of the contributors: first version of the table of contents, distribution of tasks among chapter coordinators, tentative identification of chapter authors

Between April and September: authors are contacted by coordinators, data are collected, outline of chapters is made

September 2016: second meeting of the contributors: reviewing of the chapter outlines, update of the table of contents, identification of the proofreading committee, identification of a major event where the new edition of the SoMF will be launched

Between September and the fifth Mediterranean Forest Week: chapters are written

During the fifth Mediterranean Forest Week: presentation of the draft of the new edition of the SoMF + third meeting of the contributors

Objective of the first meeting of the contributors

The first meeting of the contributors to the second edition of the SoMF will convene partners that wish to contribute on a voluntary basis as chapter coordinators and/or authors. The objective is to plan and initiate the preparation of the preparation of the new SoMF.

Expected results of the first meeting of the contributors

- Definition of the draft table of contents of the SoMF
- Tentative identification of chapter authors
- Distribution of tasks among chapter coordinators

- Definition the steps and schedule from now until the publication of the second edition of the SoMF

Participants to the first meeting of the contributors

All partners that wish to participate to the second edition of the SoMF as chapter coordinators and/or authors. All participations are on a voluntary basis.

Provisional agenda of the first meeting of the contributors

1. Welcome address, objective of the meeting
2. Presentation of the results of the preliminary survey, outlook of what the second edition of the SoMF should be
3. First version of the table of the contents of the SoMF: chapter division, topics to be addressed within each chapter
4. Identification of chapter coordinators and of forecasted authors
5. Distribution of tasks among chapter coordinators till the next meeting: data collection, contact with forecasted authors, writing of the outline of the chapters
6. Retro-planning till the publication of the second edition and next steps.

Annex 1: synthesis of the preliminary survey on the new edition of the SoMF

Country	SoMF 2018		SoMF 2013
	Suggested topics	Related comments	Suggested modifications
Algeria	Impacts of the rural degradation on forests	<i>Forest fires prevention is related to the sustainability of agricultural practices. Forest degradation leads to the abandonment of these practices that make it vulnerable to forest fires for example: cork oak and Atlas cedar. Cork oak is massively exploited without almost no conservation measures while the Atlas cedar is completely protected and almost not exploited, despite its economic value (almost all Algerian cedar forests are in protected areas)</i>	Regarding biotic and abiotic disturbances, it should be added the colonisation of new xeric vegetation (risks and development strategies)
	A common status for the development (conservation and exploitation) of emblematic forest vegetation areas	<i>The analysis shows that Algerian oak forest have not been affected by fires. Therefore it is a species eligible for extending its surface in the Mediterranean, not only in the context of forest fires but also considering future climatic changes.</i>	Regarding the legal, political and institutional framework, it should be added the rural right and its impact. The ownership transmission and its impact on land abandonment, first source of fire outbreaks.
	Promotion of <i>Quercus faginea</i> (Algerian oak or Chêne zéen) as emblematic species in terms of fire-resistance and development of a strategy for its expansion in the region through a joint programme.		Regarding adaptation of forests to climate change: develop the topic of climatic shift (décalage?) and a strategy to adapt practices to phenological and bioclimatological shifts (décalages?)
Italy	Updating the forest basic material list (seed stands) of the Mediterranean region, possibly creating a DB via EUFGIS.	<i>That means that in the next few months we should have data ready for the 2018 State of Med Forest.</i>	Form and content of the state of threats (social, climate, pest and diseases, etc.) of endangered species and populations (FGR)
	A compared study on legislations in the different countries should be considered about protected areas, fire, forest reproductive material etc. to highlight gaps and to develop common criteria where needed		Present the far history of the main forest areas in Mediterranean
	Showing the main results, information and guidelines issued from the Cost action FP1202 on FGR in Marginal populations where most of Silva Med Countries are participant		
	Showing the main results, information and guidelines issued from the FFEM project, where most of south eastern Silva Med Countries are/were participant		

Mediterranean Forest and Society	<p><i>Mediterranean region is a hotspot of biodiversity but also of cultural and societal diversity. In this sense, the State of Mediterranean Forests should emphasize the multiple interactions between forest and people, including ecosystem services, and the differences and commonalities among South, North, East and West areas of the region. Med Forest in dialogue with the highly urbanised societies of the mediterranean could be an excellent perspective for the next future of mediterranean region.</i></p>	<p>State of threats (social, climate, pest and diseases, etc.) of endangered species and populations (FGR). I suggest to extend this als at HABITAT level</p>
Forest as a strategic component of Mediterranean Landscape	<p><i>Silva Mediterranea focuses on forest resources, but the interdependancy between forest and other (cultural) landscape components is extremely strong and dates back two millennia at least. This topic could highlight several implications on the role and dynamics of forests in Mediterranean landscape and policies: forest management, legislation, conflict of uses, land tenure, role of urbanisation, cultural and natural heritage, protected areas, genetic drift, relationship with agricultural land, role of agroforestry and trees outside forest.</i></p>	<p>A chapter focused on the forest (landscape) history and dynamics</p>
Med Forest Governance	<p><i>Institutions, Organisation, Actors, Knowledge and Processes towards the challange of multifunctional and sustainable Med Forests</i></p>	<p>Refine the statistics provided as much as possible so that they fit the Mediterranean bioclimate (and not just countries) (for example collecting information at within-country level from regional administrations);</p>
		<p>A section on research. PLUS (according to the topics that we are developing in WG7)</p>
		<p>An extended chapter on current benefits, ecosystem services and DISSERVICES</p>

		<p>Highlights on current management styles and policy issues matching the multiple roles of Mediterranean Forest</p> <p>Indicators (biological, ecological, societal, economic, etc) on Urban and Peri-Urban forests</p> <p>A collection of guidelines and best practices</p>
Spain	<p>Refine the statistics provided as much as possible so that they fit the Mediterranean bioclimatic zone</p> <p>State of forests from the ecosystem perspective</p>	<p><i>The idea is to communicate that big forest areas are not necessarily indicating that a forest ecosystem is functioning well. The section could include some analysis on the lack of forest regeneration and the decline of forest associated species among others. This could include for example data from the Red List of Mediterranean saproxylic beetles. It is a group which have an important role in the forest functioning, and a report on its conservation status is expected to be published at the end of this year.</i></p>
Lebanon	<p>Newest findings and research in reforestation and Forest /Landscape restoration techniques especially regarding lowering the costs in light of the limited financial resources</p> <p>Highlighting the role of sustainable innovations in forestry to alleviate global challenges related to climate change, water and food security as it was underlined in the World Forestry Congress in Durban</p>	Forests and Water

SoMF should tackle available financing mechanisms creating partnerships, mobilizing resources, revealing the opportunities in order to facilitate access of the Mediterranean countries to Forest restoration and management finances		
Biodiversity		Refine the statistics provided as much as possible so that they fit the Mediterranean bioclimate (and not just countries)
France	<i>Including products and services and framing that using the recent international agreements that apply to Mediterranean forests</i>	
People		Add a section on forest genetic resources, their status and their sustainability
Climate		Add a section on research

To enlarge the definition of Mediterranean forest in order to include all "other wooded lands" that are managed as forests (alpha steppes...) but cannot be included in statistics

Lors de la troisième Semaine forestière, à Tlemcen (Algérie), le ministre algérien chargé des forêts a indiqué que son administration gère, avec pertinence, des territoires qui ne sont pas considérés comme forestiers au titre de la définition internationale, comme la willaya de Tamanrasset par exemple.

En effet, ni le terme « forêt », ni le terme « autres espaces boisés » ne couvrent la réalité forestière méditerranéenne. Il est des garrigues, des phryganas, des landes, des éboulis ou des « badlands » ou encore des nappes de palmiers nains ou d'alfa qui sont gérés au même titre que les forêts dans les pays méditerranéens et qui ne peuvent figurer dans les statistiques telles qu'on les établit aujourd'hui.

C'est sans doute une caractéristique des pays méditerranéens que d'avoir de tels écosystèmes.

Un chantier nous paraîtrait utile pour enrichir la définition et trouver un moyen pour mieux prendre les réalités écologiques en compte. Il faudrait aussi pouvoir englober des données techniques concernant également les périmètres non encore boisés mais faisant l'objet d'une politique de défense et restauration des sols ou de restauration des terrains en montagne.

On pourrait, par exemple, convenir de comptabiliser les forêts et autres espaces boisés, selon les normes internationales et créer une rubrique spécifique permettant de comptabiliser ces territoires très importants, peu ou pas pourvus d'arbres, voire d'arbustes, mais relevant de la sollicitude des gestionnaires des forêts, des parcs et autres territoires.

	<p><i>Il n'est pas raisonnable que des pays comme la France, l'Espagne, la Turquie, et tant d'autres, ne distinguent pas dans leurs statistiques les forêts méditerranéennes des autres types de forêts. Cela rend difficile la présentation globale de la réalité de l'ensemble du Bassin méditerranéen.</i></p>	
<p>To adapt national inventories to biogeographical realities</p>	<p><i>C'est pourtant possible, en France, en tous cas, car l'Inventaire, distingue des petites zones que l'on peut retenir et dont on peut agréger les données au bon niveau. L'association Forêt Méditerranéenne se propose d'ailleurs de mettre en évidence la réalité des forêts méditerranéennes françaises en agrégeant les données de l'inventaire à ce niveau, différent de l'ensemble des régions et des départements concernés.</i></p> <p><i>Cela pourrait sans doute être fait également dans d'autres pays si. Et pour les pays où cela n'est pas encore possible, il serait bon de les inciter à s'y engager progressivement.</i></p>	
<p>Moving toward a truly complementary document and not a repetition of the previous edition</p>	<p><i>Most information presented in 2013 will be still valid in 2018, so no need to represent it</i></p>	
<p>Address the first observable change in statistics 2013-2018, if significant</p>		
<p>Prepare and propose standard data collection methodologies</p>	<p><i>certaines expériences dans le domaine des indicateurs internationaux suggèrent qu'il est parfois facile d'avoir des chiffres mais beaucoup plus laborieux d'avoir une vraie cohérence globale et l'effort de standardisation n'est pas vain et prend du temps... il n'y a qu'à voir par exemple le travail que vous avez fait sur l'estimation de la surface des forêts méditerranéennes</i></p>	
<p>Socioeconomic drivers that shape present Mediterranean Forest. Criteria for adapted management.</p>	<p><i>It would aim to identify the main active drivers that make and impact in the Mediterranean forests, i.e. rural abandonment, changes in forest management policies, poverty, agricultural progression, agro-forestry expansion, forests fires...This would provide/compile a series of</i></p>	<p>Integrated assessment of sustainability of the Mediterranean forests</p>

<p>Potential contribution of the updated international agreements to the sustainable management of the Mediterranean forests</p> <p>Estimating the impact of climate change on Med forests (at regional scale?)</p>	<p><i>criteria and guidelines for an updated management.</i></p> <p><i>This would provide a attempt of elucidate how the nowadays increased asset of international commitments and initiatives could be used in benefit of the conservation and environmental improvement of the Mediterranean forest and its socio-economic integration</i></p> <p><i>Avoir la possibilité de conseiller une gestion forestière plus adaptée aux aléas climatiques futurs.</i></p> <p><i>tester par exemple les études des feux de forêts qui ont été faites et les confronter à des gestion et des adaptations théoriques via MOSAICC.</i></p>	<p>Forest fire MANAGEMENT under new climatic conditions</p>
<p>Restoration of Mediterranean Forest Landscapes and Achieving Land Degradation Neutral Mediterranean Region</p> <p>Forest related institutions (including Government Agencies, Universities, NGO's, Private Sector etc) and cooperation on forestry issues among Mediterranean Countries</p> <p>Turkey Possible supporting activities for forest goods and services and institutions</p> <p>Forests and Water</p> <p>Forests and Food Security</p> <p>Forest and Employment</p> <p>Forests and Culture</p>		

Spain	<p>Restoration of Mediterranean Forest Landscapes and Achieving Land Degradation Neutral Mediterranean Region</p> <p>Biodiversity. I would suggest approaching biodiversity from management side- ie "Natural solutions to forest management" or something on this line</p> <p>Multi-actor approach of forests as complex (ecological, economic and social) systems and forest governance are very topical</p>	<p>Regarding the format, I would strengthen the online version of the publication. I can understand that paper one may have advantages, but online version, with interactive maps, and friendly navigation seems more effective to me. If build before the material is ready could even serve as platform for exchange between participans (but this is minor issue</p>
Albania	<p>Economic analysis of Mediterranean forests in terms of their multifunctionality and environmental services</p> <p>State of Mediterranean threatened and endangered forest species</p> <p>Forest protection/conservation and holistic forest ecosystem's conservation issues</p> <p>Forest protective role of forests in terms of river's-watershed's and water balance, soil erosion, land slides-risk management</p> <p>Forest legislation aspects and law enforcement in terms of illegal activities, illegal logging and wood trafficking; (which is still a problematic issue in the Balkan countries and/or Eastern Europe..).</p>	
FAO	<p>Forest and landscape restoration (cf. FAO/FLRM)</p> <p>Forest fires (with updated data from EFFIS)</p>	

Drylands assessment (with Danilo Mollicone and Chiara Patriarca)

NWFP

Urban and periurban forestry

Forest genetic resources

Goods and services provided by forests

Forest policies (with Irina Buttoud)

Participative governance (to valorise the results of the FFEM project)

Forest ecosystem vulnerability (to valorise the results of the FFEM project: cf. decisions of the last Steering Committee)

Causes and factors of deforestation and forest degradation (to valorise the results of the FFEM project)

Climate change projection/species distribution

Water and forests (with WPMMW)

Migration and forests (?)