



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Sixth Meeting of the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*

Date: Friday 8 April 2016

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

Context

The identity and mandate of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* result from the history of the Committee. Some of the working groups were recently established while others are the continuation of thematic research networks that made the core of the activity of *Silva Mediterranea* before 2002, when *Silva Mediterranea* was coordinating six research networks. Based on the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* led by Mr Skouri and Plaza in 1999, the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* took decision in 2002 at its 18th session in Rome to replace research networks by working groups. The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* currently comprises eight working groups:

- Working group 1: forest fires, led by Spain and coordinated by D^a. Elsa Enríquez Alcalde, Head of the Forest Fire Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain. As endorsed by the Committee at its 18th session in 2002¹, WG1 is the continuation of the research network on forest fire management that was established in 1987 at the 13th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Zaragoza.
- Working group 2: cork oak and non-timber forest products, led by Portugal. As endorsed by the Committee at its 18th session in 2002, WG2 is the continuation of the research network on the silviculture of cork oak that was established in 1992 at the 15th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Faro. WG2 was originally focused on cork oak and was extended to non-timber forest products in 2012 at the 21st session of the Committee in Antalya.
- Working group 3: forest management and sustainable development, led by France and coordinated by Plan Bleu and AIFM. WG3 was established in 2002 at the 18th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Rome. The 2012-2013 work plan of WG3 focused on: (1) the preparation of the 2013 edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests; (2) the preparation of the 3rd Mediterranean Forest Week; (3) the economic valuation of the goods & services provided by Mediterranean forests (component 2 of the regional FFEM project).
- Working group 4: forest genetic resources, led by Italy, coordinated by Fulvio Ducci (CRA). WG4 was revived in 2008 at the 20th session of the *Silva Mediterranea*

¹ Article 32 of document FO:SCM/2002/REP

Committee in Sofia as the continuation of the research network on the selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seed to be used in reforestation programmes that was established in 1987 at the 13th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Zaragoza, although this research network had been disbanded in 2002 at the 18th session of the Committee. The activities of WG4 are currently aligned with those of the COST Action FP1202 “Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe – MaP-FGR”.

- Working group 5: forests and climate change, led by Morocco and Italy, and coordinated by GIZ. WG5 was established in 2008 at the 20th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Sofia. Its activities are aligned with those of the regional GIZ project “Adapting forest policy framework conditions to climate change in the MENA region (Middle East-North Africa)”.
- Working group 6: sustainable financing mechanisms, led by the country chairing the *Silva Mediterranea* committee, i.e. Bulgaria in 2008. WG6 was established in 2008 at the 20th session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Sofia.
- Working group 7: urban and peri-urban forestry, led by Italy and coordinated by Fabio Salbitano (Università degli Studi Firenze) and Andrej Verlič (Slovenian Forestry Institute). WG7 was established in 2012 at the 21st session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Antalya.
- Working group 8: desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands, led by Turkey. WG8 was established in 2012 at the 21st session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Antalya.

Background

The 2013 evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* evidenced that the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* had different functioning modalities, with different scopes and different implications of FAO. Several decisions taken by the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* at its extraordinary session in Barcelona on 18 March 2015, on the basis of the recommendations of this evaluation, dealt with working groups:

1. To ensure the supervision of the connection between the Committee's future strategy and the subsidiary bodies' activities (thematic groups and task forces);
2. To foresee the establishment of two new types of subsidiary bodies: (1) interface thematic groups and (2) Task Forces;
3. 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;
4. To ensure a transition from the existing working groups to the new types of groups;
5. To identify the coordinators, who are representatives of member states, based on motivation criteria and limit their mandate's duration;
6. To formally add contribution of FAO Officers in the description of their respective position;
7. To promote the FAO Officers' mobilisation for the benefit of the Committee's activities.

The first of these decisions refers to the establishment of a specific strategy for *Silva Mediterranea*, based on the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF). Members of the *Silva mediterranea* originally expressed their interest in the SFMF on the occasion of the 2nd Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon (April 2011). The SFMF was presented at the 3rd

Mediterranean Forest Week in Tlemcen and endorsed by the high-level segment of this conference under the Tlemcen Declaration. Members of *Silva mediterranea* confirmed their interest for the SFMF during the extraordinary session of the Committee held in Barcelona on 18 March 2015 with two decisions taken on the basis of the recommendations of the evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*:

8. 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;
9. To elaborate an action programme based on this new strategy of *Silva Mediterranea*.

Objective

The meeting of the Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* will aim at initiating the definition of a specific strategy for *Silva Mediterranea* based on the SFMF and at ensuring the consistency between the activities of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* and this strategy. Synergies between working groups will be sought, e.g. through the identification of possible joint actions for project proposals, or by the establishment of a common communication line regarding publications. The meeting will also aim at reinforcing the mobilisation of FAO Officers for the benefit of the activities of the working groups.

Expected results

- The work plans of the working groups for 2016-2017 are clarified, updated and shared among groups.
- The main axes for a specific *Silva Mediterranea* strategy are identified and a roadmap towards the definition of this strategy is established.
- Synergies and interactions among working groups are developed.

Participants

The Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* is composed of the Bureau, of the coordinators of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea*, and of representatives of France and Morocco. The participation of FAO Officers that contribute to the activities of the working groups, and more generally of experts that take part in the activities of the working groups, will strongly contribute to the success of this meeting.

Provisional agenda

1. Welcome address, introduction of participants, meeting agenda, presentation of the objectives and expected outcomes
2. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on forest fires (coordinator of WG1)
3. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on cork oak and non-timber forest products (coordinator of WG2)
4. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on forest management and sustainable development (coordinator of WG3)
5. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on forest genetic resources (coordinator of WG4)

6. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on forests and climate change (coordinator of WG5)
7. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on sustainable financing mechanisms (coordinator of WG6)
8. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on urban and peri-urban forestry (coordinator of WG7)
9. Presentation of the activities and 2016-2017 work plan of the Working group on desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands (coordinator of WG8)
10. Building a specific strategy for *Silva Mediterranea*
11. Developing synergies and interactions among working groups