

# ***REPORT***

**Antalya,  
Turkey,  
2 – 3 February  
2012**

**AFWC/EFC/NEFRC  
Committee on  
Mediterranean Forestry  
Questions-*Silva Mediterranea***

**Twenty First Session**

## PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

First session	Rome, Italy	13 – 17 December 1948
Second session	Algiers, Algeria	8 – 13 May 1950
Third session	Istanbul, Turkey	13 – 15 May 1952
Fourth session	Athens, Greece	1 – 5 June 1954
Fifth session	Nice, France	27 – 29 May 1956
Sixth session	Madrid, Spain	17 – 21 April 1958
Seventh session	Lisbon, Portugal	2 – 7 May 1960
Eighth session	Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia	12 – 15 May 1962
Ninth session	Athens, Greece	23 – 26 June 1965
Tenth session	Rome, Italy	3 – 9 May 1968
Eleventh session	Ankara, Turkey	1 – 3 October 1970
Twelfth session	La Grande-Motte, France	2 – 6 December 1985
Thirteenth session	Zaragoza, Spain	28 Sept – 2 Oct 1987
Fourteenth session	Athens, Greece	9 – 13 October 1989
Fifteenth session	Faro, Portugal	16 – 20 March 1992
Sixteenth session	Larnaka, Cyprus	13 – 17 June 1994
Seventeenth session	Antalya, Turkey	10 – 13 October 1997
Eighteenth session	Rome, Italy	2 – 5 April 2002
Nineteenth session	Rabat, Morocco	28 – 29 November 2005
Twentieth session	Sofia, Bulgaria	7 – 10 April 2008

**REPORT**

of the

**AFWC/EFC/NEFRC\* COMMITTEE ON  
MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS -  
*SILVA MEDITERRANEA***

Twenty First Session

Antalya, Turkey  
2 – 3 February 2012

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 2012**

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\* AFWC : African Forestry and Wildlife Commission  
EFC : European Forestry Commission  
NEFRC : Near East Forestry and Range Commission

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## MAIN DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS OF THE XXI SESSION OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA

### I) GOVERNANCE OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

1. Election of the chairman of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* for the period 2012-2016: Mr Ismail Belen (*Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs - Turkey*);
2. Election of two vice-chairmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*: Mr. Ameer Mokhtar (*Tunisia*) and Mr. Spas Todorov (*Bulgaria*);
3. Election of rapporteurs of the 21st Session in Antalya: Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* with the support of the representatives of Spain, Italy and Turkey;
4. Confirmation of the mandate of the Enlarged Executive Committee with a meeting every year by 2016 and decision to keep the current composition of the Enlarged Executive Committee (*Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and the coordinators of the Working Groups*) with addition of Tunisia (*Mr. Ameer Mokhtar*);
5. Decision to prepare a road map 2012-2016 for Turkish presidency to be presented in September 2012 in Rome (*FAO Headquarters*) at the occasion of 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (*COFO 2012*);

### II) WORKING GROUPS OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

1. Progress report on recommendations of the last session (*Sofia*) was presented and adopted by the participants at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* (*Antalya*);
2. Adoption of the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 (*see paragraph 11*) of Working Group on Forest fires (*WG1*) and proposal to develop collaboration with the UNDP project in Turkey and with the recently built International training center on Forest Fires in Antalya (*Turkey*);
3. Adoption of the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 (*see paragraph 17*) of Working Group on Mediterranean Forest and Sustainable Development (*WG3*);
4. Adoption of the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 (*see paragraph 20*) of Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (*WG4*), with some activities implementation pending on approval of project proposals recently submitted (*Project proposal MaP-FGR submitted to the European Union*) and, if possible, additional funds to be mobilized by Italy (*Trust Fund ?*);
5. Adoption of the work plan for 2012-2013 (*see paragraph 23*) of Working Group on Sustainable financing mechanisms, with the following recommendations:
  - to include in this work plan the organization of several side events on Mediterranean forest issues during RIO+20 (*June 2012*), COFO 2012 (*September 2012*) and UNFF 10 in Turkey (*April 2013*);
  - to prepare project proposals with TIKA (*Turkish International Cooperation Agency*) for potential financial resources mobilization for the implementation of *Silva Mediterranea* activities (*in particular linked to forests management and restoration*);
6. Adoption of the work plan for 2012 (*see paragraph 22*) supported by GIZ for the Working Group on Mediterranean forests and climate change (*WG5*) with recommendations to link/integrate other important ongoing initiatives on climate change in the Mediterranean region (*UNDP projects in Turkey, For ClimAdapt initiative managed by AIFM, Agora project supported by EFIMED, etc...*);

7. Decision to evolve / extend the mandate of the Working Group on Cork oak (*and, consequently, change the name*) to the broader strategic question of Mediterranean Non Wood Forest Products (WG2) in order to reinforce the active participation of interested countries (*including those of the Eastern Mediterranean countries which are non-cork producing countries*) and, consequently, review the 2012-2013 work plan (*taking advantage of the evaluation process of all Working Groups*);
8. Decision to implement the evaluation process of the working groups presented/proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* (*see paragraph 25*) with the three main following recommendations:
  - Use of the high level panel option to lead the evaluation process of WGs;
  - Include Prof. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (*Italy/EFIMED*) in the panel;
  - Final methodology to be adopted at the first meeting of the high level panel.
9. Decision to create a new working group on Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF) with the presented draft work plan for 2012-2013 (*see first tasks already identified in paragraph 37*) with the following recommendations:
  - WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be coordinated under the lead of Italy (*to begin with*) with the support of Turkey based on their experience and FAO Forestry Department (*Michelle Gauthier*);
  - WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be managed with the objectives to involve all relevant stakeholders (*see paragraph 38*);
  - WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be responsible of the chapter on UPF to be included in the State of Mediterranean Forests to be presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week (*Tlemcen – Algeria – 2013*);
  - WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean should also emphasize communal forests.
10. Decision to create a new working group on ‘‘Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zones’’ (WG8) to be lead by Turkey (*to begin with*) with the technical support expressed by FAO (*Forestry Officer in charge of Arid Zones*) and Italy.

### III) OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY

#### 3.1. State of Mediterranean Forests (SOMF)

Adoption of the draft plan of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) presented by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and Plan Bleu (*see paragraph 29*) with the following recommendations:

- Add a sub-chapter under the chapter 3 (*Climate Change*) on ‘‘Adaptive management of Mediterranean forests (*silvicultural issues*)
- Add in the sub-chapter on legislation one analysis of forest policies in the region and one identification of existing instruments;
- Reinforce chapter 1 on the ‘‘Mediterranean Context’’ with an solid analysis on social changes/global change in the region;
- Clarify the definition of Mediterranean forests in the map presented on the basis of the Remote Sensing Survey 2011 (*Mediterranean Forests / Non Mediterranean Forests*);
- Take into consideration available data in existing regional/national states of forests (*Turkey, Catalunya, PACA region, Tuscany, etc...*);
- Give more emphasis on data and analysis of land ownership (*private and public*) and access of local communities to forest resources and multiple ecosystem services;
- Put additional efforts in using this opportunity (*SoMF preparation*) to fill when possible gaps (*data on social issues/ data on ecosystem services*).

### 3.2. Mediterranean Forest Weeks

The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* appreciated the results of the I MFW (*Antalya – 2010*) and the II MFW (*Avignon – 2011*) and all participants confirmed the relevance of such events every 2 to 3 years to highlight Mediterranean Forestry Questions.

#### **Third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) to be held in Tlemcen (Algeria)**

- Agreed to the proposal of including three *Silva Mediterranea* members in the organizing committee: Turkey (*as new President of Silva Mediterranea*), France (*as previous hosting country of the II MFW in Avignon*) and Tunisia;
- Appreciation of Algeria for confirmation of hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forests Week in Tlemcen, as well as the relevance of the agenda and themes proposed by the Organizing Committee after the first meeting held in Algiers (*January 2012 - Secretariat Note 15*);
- Opportunity of Algeria as a Chair of the 77 group, to support the proposal of registering/formalizing the UN International day of forests every 21<sup>st</sup> of March. The Chair of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* invited all members to support this process.

### 3.3. Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) and new FFEM PROJECT

- The committee noted the new partners (*CTCF, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and CIHEAM*) accepted during the Steering Committee of the CPMF in Ramatuelle;
- UNDP Turkey (*National Office*) confirmed its interest to join the CPMF;
- The formal signature by new members will be held at the occasion of *Silva Mediterranea* events to be organized during COFO in Rome in September 2012.

### 3.4. Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (2010-2020) - ERANET scheme (EFIMED):

The 21<sup>st</sup> session agreed to have FAO (*Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea*) and the President of *Silva Mediterranea* (*Ismail Belen-Turkey*) as part of the Stakeholders Advisory Group of the new ERANET FORESTERRA to be implemented by EFIMED.

### 3.5. The Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests: a relevant tool for the period 2012-2016

Decision was reached to go ahead with the initiative which was presented by AIFM with the following recommendations:

- Have a broader vision of forests' contributions - *beyond food security* - to rural development and other functions played by mediterranean forests in overall development/green economy and in the light of climate change;
- Important to define further the target groups, sharing the drafts / participation of countries (*including countries supported by GIZ: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey*);
- Important to coordinate ISMF with the EU strategy on forests currently under review;
- Use strategic events to highlight the ISMF (RIO+20).

### 3.6. Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (UPF)

Decision to create a new working group on Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF) with the draft work plan presented for 2012-2013 (*see paragraph 37*) with the following recommendations:

- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be coordinated under the lead of Italy (*as a start*) with the support of Turkey based on their experience and FAO Forestry Department (*Michelle Gauthier*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be managed with the objectives to involve all relevant stakeholders (*see paragraph 38*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be responsible of the chapter on UPF to be part of the State of Mediterranean Forests report and to be presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week (*Tlemcen – Algeria – 2013*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean should also emphasize communal forests.

#### IV) FUTURE OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA

##### Support of *Silva Mediterranea* by members:

- France confirmed the extension of Mr Christophe Besacier, in support to the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* secretariat (up to November 2014);
- France confirmed the adoption of the FFEM project proposal entitled "Optimizing the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change" (Euros 2,65 millions);
- Turkey will support project proposals development with TIKA;
- UNDP Turkey expressed interest in supporting *Silva Mediterranea* through preparation of project proposals;
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* recommended that all members:
  - make an effort to support *Silva Mediterranea Secretariat* – through provision of human resources, budget for travel, budget for preparation of communication tools (Newsletter, Website, etc...)
  - support the implementation of the 2012-2013 work plans of the several working groups (in particular members in charge of the coordination of the WGs)
- Italy expressed the will to try to obtain additional resources to support the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* by 2013.

#### V) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (SESSION XXII)

No formal proposals were registered from *Silva Mediterranea* members during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee. Any country interested to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea* is welcomed to send, as soon as possible, a formal letter of application (or *Note Verbale*) to the General Director of FAO. The next session will be held in 2016 (probably at the occasion of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week) at a date to be decided in consultation with the designated host country and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. By 2016 the Enlarged Executive Committee will meet every year and special events/sessions will be organized on the occasion of COFO 2012 and COFO 2014.



## INTRODUCTION

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the AFWC/EFC/NEFRC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, held its **Twenty-First Session** at the Conference Center of the Vogue Avant Garde Hotel, Antalya, from 2 to 3 February 2012. Despite difficult weather conditions recorded in Southern Europe, eleven member countries (*Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey*) and several observers from international and non-governmental organizations attended totally or only partially the session. Despite their strong interest in this 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*, Morocco and Greece have apologized for internal reasons. The final list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

2. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr Spas Todorov (Bulgaria), Chairperson of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee, in the presence of M. Recep Kasan, Assistant Director General in charge of Forests (OGM-Turkey), Mr Ismail Belen, Assistant Director General, General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion at the Turkish Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs and Mr Moujahed Achouri, on behalf the Assistant Director General of the Forestry Department of FAO (*unfortunately blocked by a snow storm in Istanbul*).

3. Mr Todorov welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its hospitality and the organization of the session. He also thanked the Secretariat for its efforts and the excellent technical documentation provided before this 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*.

4. In his intervention, Mr Belen welcomed all participants to the Twenty First Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*. He thanked FAO, the members of the Committee, the current Chair of the Committee and its Secretariat for having chosen the Republic of Turkey to host the session and for their untiring efforts since the previous session held in Sofia in 2008. He emphasized the importance his country accorded to the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee which, among other benefits, provided it with an opportunity to share its forestry experiences with other members affected by the consequences of climate change. He outlined the state of forestry in Turkey and the prospects for the future. Mr Belen concluded by wishing the session full success (*see full speech of Mr Ismail Belen – Annex 2*).

5. In his statement, Mr Achouri, on behalf of Mr Rojas-Briales (*unfortunately blocked by a snow storm in Istanbul*), expressed his profound gratitude to the Turkish authorities for having accepted to host the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee and for the human, financial and material support without which the session could not have taken place. He briefly explained the topics and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* and said a few words about FAO's renewed interest in the Mediterranean region. He highlighted the main results obtained by *Silva Mediterranea* since the last session in Sofia (*Bulgaria – 2008*) and he drew the participants' attention on several new collective initiatives developed since 2008. He explained that the first two Mediterranean Forest Weeks in Antalya (*2010*) and Avignon (*2011*) were successful and yielded several concrete results. The celebration of the Centennial launch of *Silva Mediterranea*, last April 2011 in Avignon, was an impressive highlight in the history of this Mediterranean cooperation on Forestry Questions. He also explained that the preparation of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (*III MFW – TLEMEN - 2013*) had just started the with strong involvement of Algeria.

### D) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

6. The provisional agenda (Annex 1) was adopted without any comments from participants. The list of session documents (*Fifteen Secretariat Notes*) prepared by the Secretariat is given in Annex 4. The list of Powerpoints presented during the 21<sup>st</sup> session is given in Annex 5. All these documents are available on the Website of *Silva Mediterranea* on: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/en/> and on: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/35411/en/>.

## II) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND RAPPORTEURS (Item 2)

7. In accordance with Article II.2 of its rules of procedure, the Committee unanimously elected the following Bureau for the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions:

**Chairperson:** Mr Ismail Belen (Turkey)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Spas Todorov (Bulgaria)  
Mr Ameer Moktar (Tunisia)

Rapporteurs: Ms Elena Hernandez (*Spain*) and Ms Rita Manella (*Italy*) with the support of the representatives of Turkey and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* (*Christophe Besacier and Nora Berrahmouni*)

## III) FOLLOW-UP TO THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS (Item 3)

8. The Committee took note of the Secretariat Note 1: ‘Progress report of *Silva Mediterranea* Committee for the period 2009-2012 on actions taken in follow-up to recommendations from its Twentieth Session’. The Committee took special note of progress made in setting up the Website and the multiple Newsletters of *Silva Mediterranea*. The Committee highlighted the recent progress made with the preparation of the work plan 2009-2012 for the six working groups and the huge efforts made on advocacy and fund raising with the establishment of the working group 6 on ‘Sustainable Financing Mechanisms’.

9. The Committee expressed its appreciation over the observed strengthened activity of the Secretariat (*with financial/human resources provided by FAO and France*) and certain working groups (*with financial/human resources provided by FAO, Italy, GIZ and France*). It took note of the active participation of certain members/partners in the preparation and the implementation of the work plan 2009-2012 for the six working groups. It therefore recommended the following main innovations:

- to evolve/extend the mandate of the Working Group on Cork oak (*and consequently, change the name*) to the broader strategic question of Mediterranean Non Wood Forest Products (*WG2 - Mediterranean NWFP*) in order to reinforce the active participation of interested countries and, consequently, review the 2012-2013 work plan (*taking advantage of the evaluation process of all Working Groups to be implemented in 2012*);
- to implement the review of working groups presented/proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* (*see paragraph 25*) with the three main following recommendations:
  - ✓ Use of the high level panel option to lead the evaluation process of WGs;
  - ✓ Include Mr Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (*Italy/EFIMED*) in the panel;
  - ✓ Finalize the evaluation methodology to be adopted at the first meeting of the high-level panel.
- to create a new working group on ‘Urban and Periurban Forestry’ (UPF) with the presented draft 2012-2013 work plan (*see first tasks already identified in paragraph 37*). This new working group will be lead as a start by Italy with the support of Turkey and FAO;
- to create a new working group on ‘Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zone’ (2012-2013 work plan to be prepared by the end of september 2012). This new working group will be lead as a start by Turkey, with the support of Italy and FAO.

#### IV) PROGRESS REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* AND OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES (Item 4)

##### Working Groups

The leaders of the following working groups reported on the progress of their respective activities:

##### 4.1. Working Group N° 1 on Forest Fires

10. The Spanish delegation presented a detailed report on the main results for the period 2008-2012:
  - Organization of the workshop on “Forest Fires in the Mediterranean Region: Prevention and Regional Cooperation” in Sabaudia – Italy - with the Joint Research Center (JRC) and the “Corpo forestale dello Stato” (13 - 15 May 2008).
  - Organization of the workshop on “Assessment of Forest Fire Risks and Innovative Strategies for Fire Prevention” in Rhodes – Greece - with Forest Europe, USSE, the Republic of Cyprus and the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change in Greece (4 - 6 May 2010) – see details in the *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletter 4.
  - Organization of several sessions in Avignon, France (*Mediterranean Forest Week - April 2011*):
    - ✓ Adoption of the agenda for action on the extension of European Forest Fires Information Systems - EFFIS (8/04/11);
    - ✓ Adoption of the position paper on wildfires prevention in the Mediterranean (5/04/11);
  - Presentation of the position paper on wildfire prevention during the Fifth International WildFires Conference –Sun City South Africa - May 2011;
  - Publication of the position paper on wildfire prevention (*French/English*) – October 2011;
  - Organization of the workshop on the extension of EFFIS in *Silva Mediterranea* members from the Southern rim of the Mediterranean (*Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia*) - Rabat - Morocco - with JRC, Spain, Italy, GIZ and the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification (24 - 28 October 2011).
11. The Spanish delegation presented also the work plan for the period 2012-2013 (*Secretariat Note 2*):
  - Translation and dissemination of the position paper on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean in Spanish and Arabic by the end of the year 2013;
  - Promotion of the position paper on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean in Arabic, English, French and Spanish by the end of 2013 (*COFO 2012, UNFF 2013, etc...*);
  - Implementation of the main conclusions of the workshop held in Rabat on EFFIS extension:
    - ✓ Organization of a regional training at JRC in Ispra - or in other relevant locations - (JRC/EFFIS) with designated focal points to start the process of compiling EFFIS databases (2012/2013);
    - ✓ Organization of a regional training on forest fires causes and post fire investigation methods;
    - ✓ Regular participation of new *Silva Mediterranea* focal points for EFFIS in meetings of the *European Commission Experts Group on Forest Fires* in April and November of each year.
  - Elaboration and adoption of a work plan for the period 2013-2016.
12. The Italian delegation informed the Committee of its intention to organize, with Spain (*WGI Coordinator*), EFFIS, GIZ and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*, the training on forest fires causes and post fires investigations in the Mediterranean to be held in Sabaudia (*Italy*) by the end of 2012.
13. The Committee adopted the 2012-2013 work plan and took note of the position paper on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean published in collaboration with many Mediterranean partners.

#### 4.2. Working Group N° 2 on Cork Oak

14. The Committee welcomed with interest the progress report of the Working Group on Cork Oak which organized several regional seminars and workshops and took note of the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 presented by Portugal and the Secretariat and based on the recommendations of the previous events: workshop in Hammamet and VIVEXPO held in 2010 (*see Secretariat Note 3*);

15. It recommended to evolve / extend the mandate of the Working Group on Cork oak (*and, consequently, change the name*) to the broader strategic question of Mediterranean Non Wood Forest Products (WG2 - *Mediterranean NWFP*) in order to reinforce the active participation of interested countries from eastern mediterranean and non-cork producing countries and, consequently, review the 2012-2013 work plan (*taking advantage of the evaluation of all Working Groups to be implemented in 2012*).

#### 4.3. Working Group N° 3 on Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development

16. Mr. David Gasc, AIFM representative, presented on his behalf and on the Plan Bleu representatives' the background of working group 3 and the main recommendations of the sessions on "Forests, Societies and Territories" (*FST*) proposed during the II MFW in Avignon (*April 2011*).

17. The AIFM representative presented also the main priorities adopted as the work plan for 2012-2013 by the participants at the last meeting of working group 3 (*Avignon – 8 April 2011*). During this last meeting of the working group it was decided to contribute to the following priority activities (*see details in Secretariat Note 4*), with a view to producing concrete results over a two-years period:

- Input to the Report on the State of Mediterranean Forests (*marked interest in this study given the lack of data on Mediterranean forests*);
- Preparation of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week by promoting exchanges of experiences and new pilot activities of integrated forest management (*with a view to organizing input sessions along the lines of the "Forests, societies and territories" sessions held at the Second Mediterranean Forest Week*), and organization of workshops for experience exchange and stock-taking of lessons learnt ;
- Conducting the study on the economic assessment of the services provided by Mediterranean wooded ecosystems (*to help convincing decision-makers of their socio-economic importance*).

18. The Committee adopted the 2012-2013 work plan. It recommended that FAO should continue its current collaboration with Plan Bleu and AIFM for the coordination of the working group during that period and highlighted the important financial and human support of France.

#### 4.4. Working Group N° 4 on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) in the Mediterranean

19. The Italian delegation reported to the Committee on activities implemented by the working group which collaborated closely with IUFRO and several Mediterranean Research Institutions in order to publish the "*Status of the Experimental Network of Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources*".

20. The Italian delegation presented the 2012-2013 work plan (*see Secretariat Note 5*):

##### Component 1: Improvement of National Forest Genetic Resources Strategies

- ✓ Regional workshop, regional training for researchers/forest managers and exchange of experiences/study tours are organized for South Mediterranean countries to help them to promote and develop FGR Strategies in National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change ;
- ✓ Preparation of guidelines for forest managers to integrate Forest Genetic Resources strategies in silvicultural and forest management and restoration practices;
- ✓ Organisation of specific activities (*training, workshops, short term experts, etc...*) to help South Mediterranean countries to prepare their country reports for the first State of the World Forest Genetic Resources by the end of 2012.

Component 2: Implementation of long-term activities of *Silva Mediterranea* FGR Working Group 4;

- ✓ Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources Databases;
- ✓ Ex situ conservation networks in Mediterranean countries;
- ✓ New methodologies for conservation (including in situ conservation methods);
- ✓ Species targeted for conservation and genetic management in the Mediterranean;
- ✓ Regional agreements are concluded for ex situ conservation in the Mediterranean;
- ✓ Sustainable financial resources to support regional strategy for conservation of Mediterranean FGR.

Component 3: Test of new in situ conservation methodologies for the most critical landscapes/species in the Mediterranean region (*feasible upon funding of focus projects to be supported by partners*)

21. The Committee appreciated the determination of the working group in preparing several project proposals submitted to the COST Instrument of the European Union and adopted the proposed work plan for 2012-2013. The Committee took note that the full implementation of the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 will depend on the approval of the project proposal "*Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe*" by the Cost Instrument in March 2012 (*full proposal submitted in January 2012*).

#### **4.5. Working Group N° 5: Mediterranean forests and climate change**

22. The Committee adopted the work plan 2012 presented by GIZ on behalf of Mr. Abderrahim Houmy (*Morocco*), Coordinator for the Working Group on Mediterranean forests and climate change (*WG5*), with the main recommendation to link/integrate other important ongoing initiatives on climate change in the Mediterranean region (*UNDP projects in Turkey, For ClimAdapt initiative managed by AIFM, Agora project supported by EFIMED, etc...*).

#### **4.6. Working Group N°6: Sustainable Financing Mechanisms**

23. Mr. Todorov, Representative of Bulgaria, presented the progress report of the working group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms and proposed the following work plan for 2012-2013:

- Publication of at least 4 *Silva Mediterranea* Newsletters per year in English, French, Spanish and Arabic (*8 Newsletters by the end of the biennium 2012-2013*);
- Publication with other partners and wide dissemination of a special International issue of "Forêt Méditerranéenne" on the II MFW in Avignon by the end of March 2012;
- Publication of a special Arid Zone Forests and Forestry Working Paper on Mediterranean Forests and on REDD+ in the Mediterranean by the end of 2013;
- Development and regular update of the Mediterranean Forest Projects Database available on the *Silva Mediterranea* Website in the following languages: English, French and Spanish;
- Organization of workshops for preparation of new project proposals for the following working groups by end of 2013: Forest Fires (*TCP/EU*), Cork Oak/Non Wood Forest Products (*ENPI*), Forests Genetic Resources (*Cost Action and other EU financial instrument*) and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (*REDD+*);
- Evaluation of the 2009-2012 work plans of the several *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups;
- Publication of the first State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) by 2013;
- Support to the coordination and communication activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) in synergy with other CPMF members;
- Implementation of the regional project to be financed by the French Global Environmental Facility for the period 2012-2015 (*this project focuses on maximizing the production of goods and services of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change in six North African and Near East countries: Algeria, Lebanon Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey*);
- Contribution to the third Mediterranean Forests Week to be held in 2013.

24. The Committee adopted the proposed work plan 2012-2013 of the Working Group on ‘‘Sustainable financing mechanisms’’ with the following recommendations:

- to include in this work plan the organization of side events on Mediterranean forest issues during RIO+20 (*June 2012*), COFO 2012 (*September 2012*) and UNFF 10 in Turkey (*April 2013*);
- to prepare project proposals with TICA (Turkish International Cooperation Agency) for potential financial resources mobilization for the implementation of *Silva Mediterranea* activities (in particular linked to arid zone forests’ management and restoration).

#### 4.7. Evaluation of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea*

25. The Secretariat presented the Terms of Reference of the proposed review of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea*. It drew the attention of participants on a number of strategic questions which need to be answered in order to increase the relevance, the effectiveness and the efficiency of the working groups:

- How do the working groups position themselves within the many organizations and institutions dealing with similar issues in the Mediterranean? Nomination of National contact persons per working groups?
- Are the current vision, mission and approach of the working groups appropriate enough in the context of global changes in the Mediterranean?
- Is the way working groups are organized and functioning effective enough?
- Are the priorities, on which the working groups are focusing, addressing the real, burning and priority issues of Mediterranean Forests?
- How can the financial sustainability of the working groups be ensured in view of the 2013-2016 work-plan (commitments of the leader country?)?
- Is there scope to do more active fundraising with different potential donors for the activities of the Working Groups (with the support of the leader country?)?

In particular, the evaluation for the period 2009-2012 is expected to:

- Document and review the achievements of the working groups with regard to the implementation of the 2009-2012 work plans (*see Secretariat Notes on the six working groups*);
- Identify and measure quantitative indicators in order to assess the consistency of the results of the working groups to the work-plans and the overall efficiency of the groups:
  - ✓ Activities implemented;
  - ✓ Products delivered;
  - ✓ Meetings organized or attended;
  - ✓ Publications released;
  - ✓ Project proposals submitted;
  - ✓ Etc...

Two options for conducting the evaluation, were proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*:

- First option: by an independent consultant;
- Second option: by a high-level panel of recognized experts with six members identified at this stage: Christine Farcy (*University of Louvain*), Alain Chaudron (*AIFM*), Placido Plaza (*CIHEAM*), Marc Palahi (*EFIMED*), Omar M’Hirit (*Morocco – To be confirmed*) and Abdelhamid Khaldi (*INRGREF – Tunisia – To be confirmed*).

26. The Committee decided to implement the evaluation process of the working groups proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* with the following three main recommendations:

- Use of the high-level panel option to lead the evaluation process of the working groups;
- Include Prof. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (*Italy/EFIMED*) in the panel;
- Final methodology to be reviewed and adopted at the first meeting of the high-level panel.

## Other relevant initiatives

### 4.8. State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)

27. The Secretariat presented the draft plan of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF).
28. The Committee adopted the proposed draft plan of the SoMF with the following recommendations :
- Add a sub-chapter on “adaptive management of Mediterranean forests (silvicultural issues) under chapter 3 (Climate Change);
  - Add in the sub-chapter on legislation an analysis of forest policies in the region and an identification of existing instruments;
  - Reinforce chapter 1 on the “Mediterranean Context” with a solid analysis on social changes/global change in the region;
  - Clarify the definition of Mediterranean forests in the map presented on the basis of the Remote Sensing Survey 2011 (*Mediterranean Forests / Non Mediterranean Forests*);
  - Take into consideration available data in existing regional/national states of forests (*Catalunya, PACA region, Tuscany, GIS data could be available from Turkish Forest Map under the GDF, etc...*);
  - Give more emphasis on data and analysis of land ownership (*private and public*) and access of local communities to forest resources and multiple ecosystem services;
  - Put additional efforts in using this opportunity (*SOMF preparation*) to fill gaps, when possible (*data on social issues/ data on ecosystem services*).
29. On the basis of these recommendations, the outline of the SoMF will be:
- I. The Mediterranean context: changes and prospects
    - 1.1. A region under economic, social, environmental and political changes
    - 1.2. Increasing pressure on the environment: climate change and human activities
  - II. State and roles of forest resources in the Mediterranean region
    - 2.1. Assessment of changes in Mediterranean forest areas
    - 2.2 Biotic and abiotic disturbances
      - 2.2.1 Forest fires: assessment and risk evaluation
      - 2.2.2 Insects and diseases
      - 2.2.3 Other disturbances
    - 2.3. Goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems
      - 2.3.1 Mediterranean forests and water-related services
      - 2.3.2 Mediterranean forests and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)
        - 2.3.2.1 *Cork oak in Mediterranean Forests*
        - 2.3.2.2 *Pinus pinea in Mediterranean Forests*
        - 2.3.2.3 *Other NWFP (Thyme, Sage, Laurel...)*
      - 2.3.3 Other goods and services provided by Mediterranean forests (*including Ecotourism and other recreative functions*)
    - 2.4. Urban and Peri-urban Forests in the Mediterranean
  - III. Forest policies, institutions and legal frameworks
  - IV. Mediterranean forests and climate change
    - 4.1. Forest Genetic Resources (FGR): a key issue for adaptation of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems
    - 4.2. Forest fire prevention under new climatic conditions
    - 4.3. Impacts of climate change on insects and diseases in Mediterranean forests
    - 4.4. Adaptive silvicultural and restoration practices in Mediterranean forests
    - 4.5. Climate change mitigation by forests and financing opportunities through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation mechanism (REDD+)
  - V. Some key management issues at landscape/territorial level (*7/8 landscapes to be chosen in order to highlight specific Mediterranean Forestry Questions: impacts of global changes on Cork Oak landscapes, forest fires prevention at local level, adaptive silvicultural and restoration practices, fight against erosion and desertification through forest landscape restoration, PES Schemes, Watershed management, Tourism and Non Wood Forest Products*)

#### 4.9. Mediterranean Forests Weeks (including III MFW in Algeria)

30. The 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea* appreciated the results of the I MFW (*Antalya – 2010*) and the II MFW (*Avignon – 2011*) and all participants confirmed the relevance of such events every 2 to 3 years to highlight Mediterranean Forestry Questions.

31. The committee took note that the third Mediterranean Forest Week would be held in Tlemcen (*Algeria*) on 17-21 March 2013 including a high-level segment. It agreed to the proposal of including three *Silva Mediterranea* members in the organizing committee: Turkey (*as new President of Silva Mediterranea*), France (*as previous hosting country of the II MFW in Avignon*) and Tunisia. It appreciated the confirmation by Algeria of hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forests Week (*III MFW*) in Tlemcen, as well as the relevance of the agenda and themes proposed by the Organizing Committee after the first meeting in Algiers (*see Secretariat Note 15*).

#### 4.10. Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF)

32. The 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea* appreciated the initiative of the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*CPMF*) presented by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* and all participants confirmed the relevance of such regional platform to improve the efficiency of the cooperation on Mediterranean Forestry Questions.

33. The Committee took note that the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* is also in charge of the Secretariat of this new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forest. It noted the new partners accepted during the Steering Committee of the CPMF in Ramatuelle (*November 2011*): CTCF, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and CIHEAM, and UNDP Turkey (*National Office*) confirmed its interest to join the CPMF. The formal signature by new members will be held on the occasion of *Silva Mediterranea* events to be organized during COFO in Rome in September 2012.

#### 4.11. ERA-NET scheme FORESTERRA and MFRA 2010-2020 (EFIMED)

34. Mr. Marc Palahi, Representative of EFIMED, presented the ERANET Scheme submitted to the European Commission, under the FP7, in order to implement the MFRA 2010-2020. This ERANET Scheme will reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean programmes in forest research as well as the scientific cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean area (*including EU and non-EU member states*) and with countries from other Mediterranean Climate Areas (*Australia, South Africa, Chile, California*).

The aim of FORESTERRA is to foster the coordination of the network participants' programmes based on **four steps**, each one contributing on its own to reinforcing the cooperation, and at the same time providing the basis for the design of the next stages:

- **Mapping and information exchange** to improve mutual knowledge of existing programmes and capacities as well as for sharing best practices;
- Defining **common strategic activities** to reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies among existing capacities and identifying scientific areas that required transnational funding;
- **Implementation of joint activities** to consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening of facilities, laboratories and experimental sites;
- Calls for **joint research projects** to maximise the research impact of the network.

In addition to these four steps, a targeted action will focus on “upscaling” the previous four at a global Mediterranean level by exchanging information on existing programmes with other Mediterranean Climate Areas in order to identify common strategic activities and priorities of mutual interest.



The EU contribution is of almost 2 million Euros for supporting the coordination of the scheme. The Joint research projects will be financed by voluntary contributions from the participating funding agencies (*see list of partners below*). FORESTERRA is coordinated by the Ministry of Science of Spain. EFIMED will act as the secretariat supporting the coordinator and, in addition, will be responsible for coordinating the development of the strategic plan.

35. The 21<sup>st</sup> session took note of this very interesting initiative promoted by EFIMED and the Ministry of Science of Spain. It was agreed to have FAO (*Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea*) and Mr Ismail Belen (*Turkey*), President of *Silva Mediterranea* as part of the Stakeholders Advisory Group of the new ERANET FORESTERRA to be implemented by EFIMED.

#### 4.12. Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests (ISMF)

36. The Committee decided to go ahead with the initiative presented by AIFM on “The Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests: a relevant tool for the period 2012-2016” (*see Secretariat Note 13*) with the following recommendations:

- Have a broader vision of forests contributions - *beyond food security* - to rural development and other functions played in development/green economy in the light of climate change;
- Define further the target groups, sharing the drafts / participation of countries (*including countries supported by GIZ: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey*);
- Coordinate the ISMF with the EU strategy on forest currently under review;
- Use strategic events to highlight the ISMF (*RIO+20, COFO 2012, UNFF 10 and the III MFW*).

#### 4.13. Urban and Peri Urban Forestry in the Mediterranean

37. The Secretariat (*Michelle Gauthier*) presented the main objectives and the 2012-2013 draft work plan for the proposed working group on Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF). The purpose of this new working group is to strengthen the exchange of experiences and the networking among the Mediterranean countries on the strategic emerging theme of Urban and Periurban Forests (UPF):

- Put in place the Working Group (*Mandate, Modalities, Members & Partners, Financing*)
- Implement the initial proposed 2012-2013 work plan and prepare the 2013-2016 work plan:
  - ✓ Contribute to the preparation of the European Call on periurban forests (*AIFM*);
  - ✓ Prepare the chapter on UPF in the State of the Mediterranean Forests by July 2012;
  - ✓ Contribute to UPF Guidelines for policy and decision makers by 2013;
  - ✓ Participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> European Forum on Urban Forestry "*Urban Forests – Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Management*", EFUF – IUFRO, Leipzig, Germany (8-12 May 2012);
  - ✓ Organize one day for “Mediterranean countries” on this occasion in Leipzig;
  - ✓ Organize the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the *Silva Mediterranea* UPF Working Group 7.
- Promote synergy with several international events during the period 2012-2013:
  - ✓ World Urban Forum 7 – UN-HABITAT, 1-7 September 2012: Naples.
  - ✓ 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (*COFO*), FAO, Rome. 24-28 Sept. 2012
  - ✓ UNFF 10 – Item on "Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities" (*Istanbul, May 2013*)

38. The Committee decided to create the new working group on Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF) with the presented 2012-2013 draft work plan with the following recommendations:

- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be coordinated under the lead of Italy (*to begin with*) with the support of Turkey based on their experience and FAO Forestry Department (*Michelle Gauthier – Forestry Officer in FAO*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be managed with the objectives to involve all relevant stakeholders (*see Secretariat Note 14*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean to be responsible of the chapter on UPF in the State of Mediterranean Forests to be presented during the Third Mediterranean Forest Week (*Tlemcen – Algeria – 17 to 21 March 2013*);
- WG7 on UPF in the Mediterranean should also emphasize communal forests.

#### V) FUTURE OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA (Item 5)

39. The Assistant Director-General of FAO in charge of Forests, Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, introduced item 5 with the following possible issues for discussion:

- Road map for the Turkish Presidency of *Silva Mediterranea* for the period 2012-2016;
- Establishment of new working groups and agreement on the evaluation process of the existing ones proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*;
- Human and financial resources for the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* for 2012-2016;
- Fund raising strategy (*FAO, EU, Member States, Regional Development Banks*);
- Involvement of the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* in the coordination of the CPMF.

40. He highlighted the three following key questions for *Silva Mediterranea* members:

- How to ensure that the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* (*governance, working groups, etc...*) and its Secretariat take full advantage of its extensive potential during the period 2012-2016?
- How can members of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee reinforce their support using all relevant available resources?
- How can the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* and its Secretariat contribute to other relevant regional initiatives like the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, the Mediterranean Forest Weeks (*Tlemcen, 2013*) and the Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests (ISMF)?

41. Following this introduction the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* adopted the following main recommendations:

- Implement the evaluation process of the working groups presented/proposed by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* with the three main following recommendations:
  - ✓ Use of the high-level panel option to lead the evaluation process of the working groups;
  - ✓ Include Prof. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (*Italy/EFIMED*) in the panel;
  - ✓ Final methodology to be adopted at the first meeting of the high level panel.
- Create a new working group on Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF) with the presented 2012-2013 draft work plan (*see first tasks already identified in paragraph 37*) with several important recommendations (*see paragraph 38*):
- Create a new working group on “Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zone” (WG8) to be lead by Turkey (*to begin with*) with the technical support expressed by FAO (*Forestry Officers in charge of Arid Zones*) and Italy.
- Prepare a road map 2012-2016 for Turkish presidency to be presented in September 2012 in Rome (*FAO headquarters*) on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (*COFO 2012 – 24 to 28 September 2012*).

#### 42. Support of *Silva Mediterranea* by members:

- France confirmed the extension of Mr Christophe Besacier in support of the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat (*up to November 2014*);
- France confirmed the adoption of the FFEM project proposal entitled "Optimizing the production of goods and services by Mediterranean woodland ecosystems in a context of global change" (*2,65 millions Euros*);
- Turkey should support project proposals development with TIKA;
- UNDP Turkey can support *Silva Mediterranea* through preparation of project proposals;
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea* recommended to all members:
  - to make an effort to support *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat – human resources, budget for travel and budget for communication tools (*Newsletter, Website, etc...*);
  - to support the implementation of 2012-2013 work plans of the several working groups (*in particular members in charge of the coordination of the working groups*).
- Italy expressed the will to try to obtain additional resources to support the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* by 2013.

#### VI) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 6)

43. No formal proposals were registered from *Silva Mediterranea* members during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee. **Any country interested to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea* is welcomed to send, as soon as possible, a formal letter of application (or Note Verbale) to the General Director of FAO.** The 22<sup>nd</sup> session will be held in 2016 (*probably on the occasion of the Fourth Mediterranean Forest Week*) at a date to be decided in consultation with the designated host country and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. **By 2016 the Enlarged Executive Committee will meet every year** and special events/meetings will be organized on the occasion of COFO 2012 and COFO 2014.

#### VII) OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS (Item 7)

44. No other relevant matters were proposed/discussed by participants to this 21<sup>st</sup> Session. Nevertheless, the secretariat informed briefly participants about the FAO led initiative on "*Restoration of drylands – analysis, documentation and lessons learnt from past restoration efforts*" and the planned international expert workshop, to be held in Konya in May 2012, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs of Turkey and TIKA. This initiative is seen as a great contribution to the development of the new working group on desertification and the preparation of practical guidelines on restoration in drylands in the context of global change (*further information will be available on the *Silva Mediterranea* website*).

#### VIII) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 8)

45. The Committee examined the draft report and main recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session submitted by the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. After introducing a few amendments, it unanimously adopted the report and asked the Secretariat to finalize it in the Committee's different languages with the support of elected rapporteurs (*Italy, Spain and Turkey*)

**ANNEX 1**

**OUTLINE OF THE TIMETABLE OF THE TWENTY FIRST SESSION**

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the Twenty First Session
2. Election of Officers and *Rapporteur* of the Twenty First Session
3. Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Committee
4. Activities of Working Groups and other collective initiatives
5. Future of *Silva Mediterranea*
6. Date and Place of the Twenty Second Session of the Committee
7. Other Relevant Matters
8. Adoption of the Report prepared by *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat

## DETAILED AGENDA OF THE TWENTY FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS - *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

### Thursday 2 February 2012

**9H00 to 12H00:** Registration of participants at the Vogue Avantgarde Hotel  
<http://www.avantgardevoguehotel.com/>

### 14H00 to 18H00: Session 1 of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions

**14H00 to 14H30: Opening of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*** with speeches by the President of *Silva Mediterranea* (*Spas TODOROV – Bulgaria*), the Representative of Turkey (*as host country and also as new President of Silva Mediterranea for the period 2012-2016*) and the FAO Representative

#### 14H30 to 16H00: Follow up of recommendations of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

Item 2: Election of Officers and *Rapporteur* of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

Item 3: Follow-up to the main recommendations of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*  
*(See progress report of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions)*

- 1) Establishment of two new Working Groups (*Climate change and Funding mechanisms*);
- 2) Elaboration of Work Plan 2009-2012 for each Working Group;
- 3) Establishment of an Enlarged Executive Committee with a meeting every year and organization of intersessional meetings during COFO 2010;
- 4) Communication material on *Silva Mediterranea* (*New Logo, Website, Newsletters, Posters...*);
- 5) Human and financial resources of the Secretariat to be strengthened during the period 2008-2012;
- 6) Publication of Guidelines on good practices in the arid zones of the Near East;
- 7) Participation of *Silva Mediterranea* to International events for the period 2008-2012;
- 8) Collaboration with other partners (*UN Agencies, NGOs, EFIMED, Plan Bleu...*) – **See Item 4.10**

#### 16H00 to 16H30: Coffee Break

#### 16H30 to 18H: Progress report and work plan of Working Groups (WG1/WG2/WG3)

Item 4: Activities of Working Groups and other collective initiatives

- 1) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on Forest Fires (*Spain*);
- 2) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on Cork Oak (*Portugal/IML*);
- 3) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on “*Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development*” (*Plan Bleu – France – AIFM*);

### Friday 3 February 2012

### 9H00 to 12H00: Session 2 of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions

#### 9H00 to 10H30: Progress report and work plan of Working Groups (WG4/WG5/WG6)

Item 4: Activities of Working Groups and other collective initiatives

- 4) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on FGR (*Italy*);
- 5) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on CC (*Morocco*);
- 6) Progress report and work plan 2012/2013 of the working group on “*Sustainable Financing Mechanisms*” (*Bulgaria and Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea*);
- 7) Review of the six Working Groups of *Silva Mediterranea* (*ToRs*);

**10H30 to 11H00: Coffee Break****11H00 to 12H30: Other collective initiatives on Mediterranean Forests**

- 8) State of Mediterranean Forests – SoMF (*Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea/Plan Bleu*);
- 9) Mediterranean Forest Weeks (*Antalya 2010/Avignon 2011/Algeria - Tlemcen 2013*);
- 10) Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (*CPMF*) and REDD+ initiatives;

**14H30 to 17H30: Session 3 of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions****14H30 to 16H00: Other collective initiatives on Mediterranean Forests**

- 11) Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (*2010-2020*) - ERANET scheme (*EFIMED*);
- 12) The Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests: a relevant tool for the period 2012-2016 (*Report of Ramatuelle Workshop by AIFM and next step for implementation of this ISMF*);
- 13) Optimization of trees and forests contribution to the Mediterranean cities: Towards the situation of urban forestry, policy guidelines, a common vision and national strategies (*an opportunity for a new Silva Mediterranea working group for the period 2012-2016*);

**16H00 to 16H30: Coffee Break****16H30 to 17H30: Future of *Silva Mediterranea* and Other Relevant Matters**

Item 5: Future of *Silva Mediterranea*

Item 6: Date and Place of the Twenty Second Session of the Committee

Item 7: Other Relevant Matters

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

**ANNEX 2**

The speech text for the 21st Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Committee on Mediterranean Forest Questions  
(*Silva Mediterranea*)

by **İsmail BELEN**,  
Deputy Director General  
General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion,  
Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs  
**Republic of Turkey**

İsmail BELEN

Forest Engineer Msc - Public Administration Specialist

President of Silva Mediterranea 2012-2016

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**2 February 2012-Antalya**

Dear Participants, Dear Colleagues

I would like to welcome you with my deepest respect and I would like to convey my happiness about being here with you.

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Dear Participants,

Food and Agriculture Organization is a “specialized agency” of the United Nations, which is responsible for food, agriculture, husbandry and natural resources as well as forestry. Turkey has been a member of FAO since 1948.

The relations between FAO and Turkey have strengthened within the framework of the Host Country Agreement between FAO and the Republic of Turkey, which was published in the Official Gazette and put into force on December 6, 2008 and established the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (SEC).

*The works and activities of FAO regarding forestry are being carried out by;*

- *Committee on Forestry- COFO,*
- *Regional Forestry Commissions,*
- *Technical Statuary Bodies<sup>1</sup>;*

*Turkey is actively involved in these bodies and is a member of both Europe Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission.*

We have come together here for the 21st Session Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, namely *Silva Mediterranea*.

First of all, I would like to remember our dear colleague Robert Hickel with respect, who pioneered this valuable initiative and fostered the idea of cooperation for Mediterranean forests 100 years ago, in 1911.

Being established in 1911, *Silva Mediterranea* became the main advisory body and a common platform of FAO Mediterranean forestry with the participation of FAO European, African and the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in **1948**. It has now 27 members including the European Union.

A variety of projects have been carried out since then, and the process has continued without any interruption. Though it sometimes lapsed into silence; it has inspired a lot of international cooperation, like Barcelona<sup>2</sup> and Union for Mediterranean<sup>3</sup>. And **after the 20<sup>th</sup> Session in Sofia, the process has gained acceleration. Recently under the umbrella of *Silva Mediterranea*, two projects with a budget of 6.6 million Euros were brought into action with the support of German and French Development Agencies.**

**Personally, I would like to share my excitement and happiness to undertake the Presidency of Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (2012-2016) on behalf of Turkey.**

Like the improvements in *Silva Mediterranea*, **during the period 2008-2012**, Turkish forestry has experienced several positive developments, and international relations have intensified.

Turkey has been a host country for many meetings in the framework of the idea as we mentioned very simply in the early 2008 as **“All foresters all over the world will be our guest, and our foresters will explore the world”**.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm)



Besides these meetings, Turkey became partner in existing projects, developed new projects, and actively celebrated the International Year of Forests. Also necessary amendments to legislation and some changes in the administration were made. Also capacity building was among the priorities.

*In this context I am very pleased to inform you that;*

- *The Presidency of Near East Forestry Commission,*
- *The Presidency of Silva Mediterranea,*
- *The Presidency of European Forestry Commission Working Group on the Management of Mountainous Watersheds will be executed by Turkish Foresters.*
- *Turkey is a member of Forest Europe General Coordination Committee and a member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for European Forestry Agreement.*
- *The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forestry will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in the year of 2013.*
- *The Government of Turkey, with the hand of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs will do its utmost, like the Undersecretary mentioned in his speech here for the opening of NEFRC.*

We have attached great importance to enabling our staff to go abroad for several occasions since we are fully aware that achieving all the above mentioned works is **only possible with well-trained human resource**. In this context, in 2012, 35 forest engineers who were selected in cooperation with the Ministry of Education will be sent to abroad for doing their master's degree.

Also we have made some Legislative Amendments dated 4 July 2011 to Support International Efforts.

*With the decree having force of law<sup>4</sup> dated 4 July 2011 and no/645 regarding the Structure and Duties of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs, General Directorate for Combating Desertification<sup>5</sup> and Erosion was established; and with the article 30/A the duties and powers of General Directorate for Forestry were redetermined.*

*With this regulation;*

- *Ecosystem integrity, participatory and multi-functional planning,*
- *Urban forests, biodiversity protection areas in forest, model forests,*
- *Products and services provided from forest ecosystems,*
- *Institutions, directorates and research units to operate on local, national and global level,*
- *To work in a close cooperation with non-governmental organizations, universities and private sector which produce, manage, market, import and export any kinds of forest products,*
- *Such issues as providing consultancy service at home and abroad, implementing projects and marketing products and services, were for the first time placed in our law.*

More importantly, based on the existing FAO-Turkey Partnership, **a special partnership agreement on forestry negotiations has been started in the late of 2010** and it is expected to finalize before the end of this year, like **the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Prof. Dr. Lutfi AKCA mentioned in his speech at the opening of Near East Forestry Commission, 29<sup>th</sup> of January.**

With a view to making good use of 2012-2016 Turkish presidency of *Silva Mediterranea* for all the partners, it is aimed to put into practice the working plan for Turkish presidency of *Silva Mediterranea* **to be prepared in cooperation with different Ministries and Institutions.**

*Some of them like below;*

- *Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs,*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs,*
- *Ministry of Development,*
- *Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Husbandry,*
- *Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) as from June 2012.*

In this process;

- It is aimed to work in a close cooperation with the agencies below, especially the ones mentioned at the document prepared for NEFRC with reference number: **FO:NEFRC/2012/4.1** The Mandate and Activities of the Regional Forestry and Rangelands Bodies in the Near East: An Overview<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2011/07/20110704M1-2.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/partners/stories.php?newch=NewDirectorate>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/024/Mc933e.pdf>

- Besides these agencies and organizations;
  - European Forestry Commission, African Forestry and Wildlife Forestry Commission and Near East Forestry and Range Commission,
  - Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly<sup>7</sup> still headed by Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the parliamentarian of Antalya,
  - General Secretariat of Union for Mediterranean<sup>8</sup>.
  - Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forestry
  - Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe<sup>9</sup>(Forest Europe) and the Liaison Unit in Madrid and the Bureau of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for European Forestry Convention,
  - United Nations Forum on Forests<sup>10</sup>(UNFF),
  - UNECE Timber Committee,
  - Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia<sup>11</sup>,
  - Organization of Islamic Cooperation<sup>12</sup>
  - Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>13</sup>
- Also special attention will be given to cooperate with nongovernmental organization and private sector like;
  - Exporter and Importer Unions for Wood<sup>14</sup> and Forestry Products<sup>15</sup>,
  - European Wood, Turkish National Timber Association<sup>16</sup>, Bee-Keeping Associations<sup>17</sup>
  - Universities, Research Institutions, Chamber of Forest Engineers, Unions, Cooperative Societies.

There are so many important issues on our agenda here like;

- The Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forest,
- Preparations the State of Mediterranean Forest,
- Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.
- Mediterranean Forest Week.
- And the Future of Silva Mediterranea

And of course, the agenda will be open for new ideas, proposal and projects.

Before closing my speech, please allow me to thank my dear colleagues, Mr. Spas TODOROV, from Bulgaria, the Former President of *Silva Mediterranea*, and to Ms. Nora BERRAHMOUNI and Christophe BESACIER. I am sure that; the *Silva Mediterranea* members will remember this wonderful team with wonderful memories and full of respects. My special thanks also go to Mr. Mohamed Saket and his team, as well as to Mr. Erdoğan Şirin, Abdurrahman KOK and Dr. Şükran GÖKDEMİR and to Mr. Mustapha SINECEUR from FAOSEC and of course to Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES from FAO and to those who support us with their invaluable efforts.

<sup>7</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/defaultE.asp>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ufmsecretariat.org/en/organisation/>

<sup>9</sup> [www.foresteurope.org](http://www.foresteurope.org)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/asyada-isbirligi-ve-guven-arttirici-onlemler-konferansi.tr.mfa>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/islam-isbirligi-teskilati.tr.mfa>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.turkishwood.org>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.oaib.org.tr/en>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ahsap.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.tab.org.tr>

**And my sincere thanks to all of you for being here with us in spite of harsh weather conditions.**

I wish you will return your country, your home with beautiful memories from Turkey, from this part of the Mediterranean, which has been a cradle for many civilizations and from Antalya, the pearl of the Mediterranean.

I wish that the waves of the Mediterranean lashing against our shores, sometimes softly like caressing the hair of a lover or of a cutest child will bring us friendship and brotherhood and I also wish that the sun of Mediterranean will warm our hearts and thoughts both today and in the future.

I believe foresters are special, so, let's keep doing good and special things for the humanity and for the world.

Let's prepare ourselves not for one or two years, but decades or beyond, just like the lives of trees!

Thank you for your attention.

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012



21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on  
Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*  
*Antalya, Turkey*  
*2 - 3 February 2012*

**Opening ceremony**  
**2 February 2012**

Statement by  
***Eduardo Rojas-Briales***  
***Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department***

Honourable Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to address you for the first time at this 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* in Antalya. First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Turkish authorities for agreeing to host this event in this beautiful region, which is both rich in history and typical Mediterranean natural sites. My thanks go also to all members of *Silva Mediterranea* for their collaboration and regular cooperation with *Silva Mediterranea* working groups and the Secretariat.

On behalf of the Director General of FAO, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, I would like to convey his gratitude to the Bulgarian Presidency for the country's high level of involvement during the period 2008-2012 and also to the Government of Germany for its financial support for the organization of this 21<sup>st</sup> Session.

Before outlining the topics and challenges before us during the next two days, I would like say a few words about FAO's renewed interest in the Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Its mosaic of forest landscapes contributes greatly to the outstanding biological richness and multiple values that attract millions of tourists to visit the region every year. Mediterranean forest landscapes also contribute to poverty alleviation, socio-economic development of rural areas, food security of local people and the preservation of the multiple environmental services considered of major importance to the international community.

Despite their apparent fragility, Mediterranean forest landscapes have been shaped by human activities and have demonstrated for several centuries their strong resilience to changes by negative anthropogenic factors. However, today they face threats of unprecedented magnitude to which they must adapt. For instance, climate change is expected to have significant, if not severe, impacts on Mediterranean ecosystems while at the same time the population of the Mediterranean region will increase steeply by 2050.

Urgent responses to these complex issues are required to ensure sustainable management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the coming decades. Only a collective mobilization and cooperation of all stakeholders involved in the management of forest ecosystems will overcome these challenges. The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions is one important tool and mechanism for cooperation that is indispensable to overcome the challenges faced by Mediterranean forest ecosystems today.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Since the last formal session in Sofia in April 2008, *Silva Mediterranea* has gained momentum, including through the establishment of Working Groups and a Work Plan for the period 2009-2012.

The Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* has been strengthened by FAO with the support of the French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (MAAPRAT). Several initiatives have been launched by the coordinators of the various Working Groups and a number of technical and financial partners have mobilized significant financial resources to support the activities undertaken during the period 2009 to 2012.

Additionally, communication tools such as newsletters, a website, posters, and a logo were developed or improved and other ideas such as the decision to produce a State of Mediterranean Forests by 2013 are taking being implemented. At this time, **it is therefore appropriate to assess whether current actions fit well with the expectations of our key partners** and, especially, with the priorities of forest services and other stakeholders. This will be fully assessed **with representatives appointed by members of *Silva Mediterranea*** and the various partners involved in this process.

Several collective initiatives were also developed since our last session in Sofia in April 2008. **The first two Mediterranean Forest Weeks** in Antalya (2010) and Avignon (2011) **were successful** and yielded several concrete results. The celebration of the Centennial launch of *Silva Mediterranea* last April in Avignon was an impressive highlight in the history of the network.

The preparation of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) has just started with strong involvement of Algeria, whose representative will tomorrow morning share with us the first proposals by the Organizing Committee, which recently met in Algiers. **This session represents a great opportunity for the other *Silva Mediterranea* partners and members to discuss these proposals.**

The preparation of an Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests, or ISMF, for the period 2012-2020 has been proposed by the Enlarged Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*. This kind of exercise requires a strong ownership by users of the future ISMF, who include *decision makers within Silva Mediterranea, stakeholders at local, national and regional level and public and private owners of Mediterranean forests.* **This session represents a unique opportunity to share the main objective of the ISMF and confirm requests within ISMF by all *Silva Mediterranea* members.**

The Secretariat of the new Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, launched in 2011, is currently the responsibility of the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. The additional responsibilities of the Collaborative Partnership, including holding Steering Committee meetings as well as addressing communication and fund raising issues, represents increased workload but real opportunities for FAO, Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests members and the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. **This 21<sup>st</sup> session is also an opportunity to make main *Silva Mediterranea* members aware of the involvement of their Secretariat in the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, the CPMP, and urge their increased cooperation on these issues.**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

**Cooperation in the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions is now very active** thanks to: (i) the support of several partners/members, (ii) the energy of the team involved in the Secretariat at the FAO Forestry Department (*Nora Berrahmouni and Christophe Besacier*) and the common objective shared with several organizations and decision makers to reinforce regional dialogue on Mediterranean Forestry Questions. Historic changes have affected the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions during the past months. Despite the uncertainties, intensified integration and cooperation will certainly be crucial to opening an avenue of opportunities for the *Silva Mediterranea* network. FAO stands ready to support *Silva Mediterranea* to position forests at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda.

## ANNEX 3

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

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## ANNEX 4

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS-SILVA MEDITERRANEA**

- 1) Agenda of the 21st Session of *Silva Mediterranea***
- 2) Reports of previous session of the Committee (2008) and of annual sessions of the Enlarged Executive Committee 2009/2010/2011)**
  - ✓ Report of the 20th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* (Sofia-May 2008)
  - ✓ Report of the Enlarged Executive Committee 2009
  - ✓ Report of the Enlarged Executive Committee 2010
  - ✓ Report of the Enlarged Executive Committee 2011
- 3) Secretariat Notes prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea***
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 1: Progress Report of *Silva Mediterranea* for the period 2008-2012
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 2: Working Group on Forest Fires
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 3: Working Group on Cork Oak
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 4: Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 5: Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 6: Working Group on Climate Change
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 7: Working Group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 8: Evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 9: First State of Mediterranean Forests
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 10: Report on the II Mediterranean Forest Week
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 11: New Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 12: MFRA 2010-2020 and Eranet Scheme Foresterra
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 13: Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 14: Urban and Periurban Forestry in the Mediterranean
  - ✓ Secretariat Note 15: First proposal for the III Mediterranean Forests Week in Tlemcen
- 4) Other usefull documents available on this 21<sup>st</sup> Session of *Silva Mediterranea***
  - ✓ Rules of *Silva Mediterranea* (adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session in 2000)
  - ✓ Statutes of *Silva Mediterranea*
  - ✓ Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (signed by members in 2010/2011)
  - ✓ Official list of members of *Silva Mediterranea*

## ANNEX 5

**LIST OF THE SEVERAL POWERPOINTS PRESENTED DURING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS-SILVA MEDITERRANEA**

- 1) Progress report of *Silva Mediterranea* 2008-2012
- 2) Progress report of the Working Group on Forest Fires
- 3) Progress report of the Working Group on Cork Oak
- 4) Progress report of the Working Group on Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development
- 5) Progress report of the Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources
- 6) Progress report of the Working Group on Mediterranean Forests and Climate Change
- 7) Progress report of the Working Group on Sustainable Financing Mechanisms
- 8) Evaluation of the working groups of *Silva Mediterranea*
- 9) State of Mediterranean Forests
- 10) Mediterranean Forests Weeks (2010\*/2011/2013)
- 11) Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests
- 12) ERANET Foresterra and MFRA 2010-2020
- 13) Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests
- 14) Urban and Peri Urban Forestry in the Mediterranean
- 15) Future of *Silva Mediterranea* (2012-2016)