



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 4.7 of the Provisional Agenda

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

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

AGADIR, MOROCCO, 22 MARCH 2012

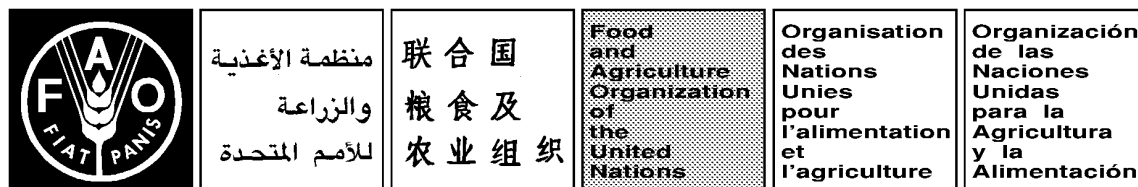
WORKING GROUP ON DESERTIFICATION AND RESTORATION IN MEDITERRANEAN DRYLANDS

I. FUNCTIONING

1. This working group was established in 2012 at the 21st Session of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea*. It benefits from a strong support (including financial support) from the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, in particular its General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion, from TÜBÝTAK and from TİKA. The working group also benefits from a support from the FLR team of the Forestry Department of FAO, and from additional partners like the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD.

2. Consistency with the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF): The topic of this working group is totally in line with the strategic line 6 (“Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes”) of the SFMF. It is also related with strategic line 3 (“Promote forest governance and land tenure reforms at landscape level”) and strategic line 8 (“Reinforce international cooperation”). This topic was also explicitly addressed in the Tlemcen Declaration adopted during the III Mediterranean Forest Week: “Convinced that combatting the already on going desertification in our Mediterranean landscapes should be a priority in our forest and environmental policies.”

3. Desertification and restoration of degraded lands and forests are among the topics to be prioritized for a subsidiary body of *Silva Mediterranea* according to the decisions taken by the Committee in March 2015 based on the recommendations of the 2013 evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*.



II. ACTIVITIES IN THE CURRENT WORKING PLAN

4. Support to the preparation of the FAO “Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands” (<http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/b7d56c46-ed26-4211-9911-f8e4dfe9a609/>)

- a) Two international workshops organized in Konya, Turkey, in May 2012 and in Dakar, Senegal, in February 2013
- b) Side event organized at FAO, during COFO in 2012

5. Organization of the workshop on “Desertification and Restoration in Mediterranean Drylands” on October 16, 2015, on the occasion of the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Ankara, Turkey (see report of the workshop at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamediterranea/90989/en/>)

- a) Launching of the working group 8 and preparation of the working plan and objectives of the working group
- b) Identification and discussion on opportunities for collaborative efforts in FLR at the regional level.

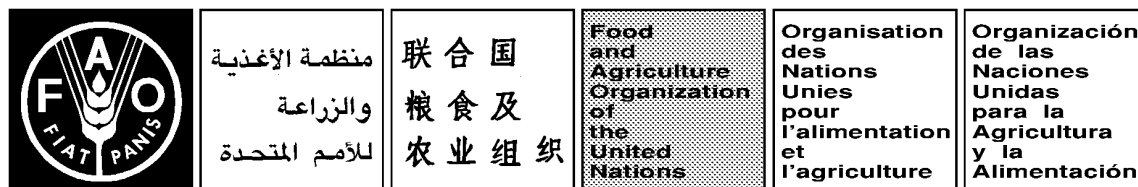
6. Focus the 5th Mediterranean Forest Week in Agadir, Morocco, in March 2017 on Forest and Landscape Restoration and contribute to the organization of the week.

7. Promote the activities of the working group during international conferences and meetings:

- a) 30 May-5 June 2016 in Konya-Mersin, Turkey: International Training Course on Combating Desertification (<http://www.unccd.int/en/mediacenter/MediaNews/Pages/highlightdetail.aspx?HighlightID=431>)
- b) 17 June 2016 World Day to Combat Desertification: countdown campaign (<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-andcampaigns/LandForLife/Pages/WDCD-Countdown-Campaign.aspx>)
- c) 18-22 July 2016 in Rome, Italy: participation to a COFO side event “Forest and Landscape Restoration regional initiatives: toward the regionalization of the Bonn Challenge” (20 July 2016) where a regional Mediterranean initiative on FLR was promoted like other regional initiatives on FLR at the global scale.


8.





III. WORKING PLAN FOR 2017-2019

9. The mid-term objectives and planned activities of the working group are:
- Promote the dissemination and implementation of FAO's "Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands - Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods" at the Mediterranean level:
 - Encourage member countries to prepare their own national guidelines based on these global guidelines, as Turkey did in March 2016
 - Proposition from the working group that the topic of the 2017 International Day of Forests (21 March 2017) could be "Forest and landscape restoration" •
 - Capitalize on existing successful restorations efforts already implemented in the Mediterranean and sharing best practices and lessons learned at the regional level through projects, programs and other initiatives on restoration of forest and landscapes in drylands 27 with, in particular, the support of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) launched by FAO on the occasion of COFO in June 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/flrm/en/>)
 - Encourage the commitment of Mediterranean countries in FLR in the context of the Bonn Challenge through a regional Mediterranean initiative on FLR
 - Prepare a significant chapter focused on restoration in the next edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests.
 - Establish partnerships with organization supporting the development of innovative financing mechanisms for FLR and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), in particular
 - Partners within the Ankara Initiative
 - The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
 - UNCCD Northern Mediterranean Regional Coordination Centre (<http://www.unccd.int/en/regional-access/Northern-Mediterranean/Pages/NM.aspx>)
 - UNCCD Annex 4 countries, with activities to be implemented according to their regional action plan
 - Organize a workshop (probably in the fall of 2016) in partnership with UNCCD Annex 4 countries
 - Promote the activities of the working group during international conferences and meetings.

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
---	--	--------------------	--	--	--

10. On the longer run (up to 5 years), the working group aims at:

- a) Establish a forum to share experiences on LDN, desertification/ land degradation and drought under “The Institute of Combatting Desertification” which is mentioned to be established according to the Ankara Initiative
- b) Develop collaborations under the Ankara Initiative
- c) Identify criteria and indicators for LDN
- d) Contribute to the development a Desertification Monitoring System