

7th Mediterranean Forest Week and 24th Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

First meeting of the Organizing Committee (OC1)

17-18 December 2019, Tunis, Tunisia

Background

The Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) brings together a diverse set of actors to participate in one of the most vital fora on Mediterranean forests today. The biennial event facilitates cooperation amongst the research community, policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders by providing a common regional platform for dialogue. The event also promotes the relevance of Mediterranean forests globally and calls attention to the specific challenges these forests face. Participants include forest administrators, the scientific and academic community, the private sector, donors, civil society, environmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The last MFW in April 2019 in Brummana, Lebanon, brought together around 220 participants from 31 countries on the topic of the role of Mediterranean forests in the Paris Agreement. After the MFW of 2010 in Antalya, 2011 in Avignon, 2013 in Tlemcen, 2015 in Barcelona, 2017 in Agadir, and 2019 in Brummana, the 7th MFW will be hosted by Tunisia in 2021.

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions–*Silva Mediterranea* is a statutory body of the FAO that has worked closely with partners in the Mediterranean area for the successful implementation of international commitments and initiatives on forestry. Since 1948, the goal of *Silva Mediterranea* has been to facilitate exchanges and cooperation related to forestry between Mediterranean countries and institutions. The 1st to 4th MFW were organized in the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests whose secretariat coincided with the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*. At its 22nd session held in March 2017 during the 5th MFW in Agadir, the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* decided that the MFW should be organized around the sessions of *Silva Mediterranea*, and decided to convert its former working group on sustainable development into a task force dedicated to the preparation of the MFW. Accordingly, the 6th MFW and 23rd session of *Silva Mediterranea* were jointly prepared. At its 23rd session in April 2019 in Brummana, the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* clarified that a good balance should be maintained between the session of *Silva Mediterranea* (open to members and invited observers) and the MFW (open to any interested public).

Context

A meeting of the bureau of the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* was held in Rome on 15 July 2019 to define a roadmap to implement the recommendations taken by the Committee at its 23rd Session, debrief the 6th MFW, and outline the organization of the 7th MFW. It was followed by a meeting of the Directorate General of Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia on 30 July 2019. As an outcome of these meetings, the dates of 22-26 March 2021 were chosen for the 7th MFW.

It was also agreed that the topic of the 7th MFW will be: “Role of youth in Mediterranean forests: creating green jobs and innovation”. A more detailed description of the topic of the 7th MFW is given in Annex 1 below. Moreover, the bureau requested the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* to send an invitation to all members of *Silva Mediterranea* to join the task force for the organization of the 7th MFW and appoint a focal point. The invitations were sent between 20 and 26 September 2019. The current composition of the OC reflects the answers received from countries.

Objectives and expected results of the OC1 meeting

1. Set the objectives of the 7th MFW and refine the topic of the 7th MFW

Expected results:

- Agreed title and narrative of the 7th MFW
- Objectives of the 7th MFW (including expected outcome of the high level segment)

2. Structure of the 7th MFW

Expected results:

- Sessions to be organized directly by the OC
- Terms of reference of the call for sessions addressed to external partners

3. First estimate of the budget

Expected results:

- Estimates of the costs
- Funding opportunities

4. Organizational arrangements

Expected results:

- Communication strategy
- Logo, leaflet and booklet
- Arrangements for the development of the web site of the 7th MFW

Members of the OC

- Algeria, Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development
- France, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Italy, CRA
- Italy, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forest Policies and Tourism
- Italy, University of Florence
- Lebanon, Ministry of Agriculture
- Morocco, HCEFLCD
- Tunisia, INRGREF
- Tunisia, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries
- Turkey, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- FAO, Forestry Department
- European Forestry Institute, EUFORGEN and EFIMED

Provisional agenda of the OC1

Day 1	
09:00-09:30	Introduction and context: outcomes of the meeting of the bureau, objectives of the OC1 meeting
09:30-11:15	Objectives of the 7 th MFW and 24 th session of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of the topic of the title of the 7th MFW: please see Annex 1 for a proposal • Validation of the topic and title • Expected outcome of the high level segment • Products to highlight (e.g. knowledge product)
11:15-13:00	Structure of the of the 7 th MFW and 24 th session of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions to be directly organized by the OC • Call to partnering institutions for organizing sessions • Side events
14:30-16:00	Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the material and human resources needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimation of the costs • Strategy to raise funds (existing projects, sponsors)
16:00-17:00	Progress in the implementation of the decisions of the recommendations of the 23 rd session of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
Day 2	
09:00-09:30	Venue and hosting agreement
09:30-11:00	Communication plan (press releases, press conferences, participation of journalists at the 6th MFW), social media, photographs, announcements and outreach, other communication-related events (posters, exposition of local products, photo contest, videos)
11:00-13:00	Organizational tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue • Secretariat composition and role • Visual identity of the 7th MFW: logo, leaflet, booklet • Web site • Eco-responsibility / carbon compensation measures
13:00-13:30	Next steps and milestones

Working documents

1. List of the material and human resources needed for the 7th MFW (Excel spreadsheet).
2. Report of the meeting of the Directorate General of Forestry of Tunisia, 30 July 2019, Tunis, Tunisia.
3. Report of the meeting of the bureau of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, 15 July 2019, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy
http://foris.fao.org/meetings/download/2019/meeting_of_the_bureau_of_silva_mediterranea/misc_documents/report_annex.pdf

Annex 1: Description of the topic of the 7th MFW

Role of youth in Mediterranean forests: creating green jobs and innovation

Mediterranean forests provide valuable non-wood forest products (cork oak, chestnut, pine nuts, resins, mushrooms, aromatic and medicinal plants...) and ecosystem services (soil erosion control, water regulation, carbon sequestration...) – some, but not all, go through robust value chains and reach the market. One particular characteristic of Mediterranean forests is that, when it comes to the total economic value of the forest, the share of non-wood products and services is higher than that of wood products. Overcoming bottlenecks to have this value recognized would also enable Mediterranean forests to play a better role in addressing global changes.

Young people in the age range between 15-24 years represent 14 percent of the Mediterranean population, a rate that is trending upwards. The proportion of youth that is not in education, employment or training ranges between 7 per cent and 33 percent depending on the country and there are significant disparities between sub-regions and according to gender. At the sixth Mediterranean Forest Week held in Brummana, Lebanon, in April 2019, young Mediterranean professionals in the fields of forestry and environment made a vibrant call for more forest-related job opportunities to tackle the environment challenges that they will have to face in a changing global environment.

Building a bridge between the forest and the labour force of young Mediterranean people can make a difference and give value to the goods and services provided by forests, while implementing forest-based solutions. Improving the social perception of forestry, directing forest management towards participatory

approaches and co-management, better communicating on forestry, and aligning forestry education and training with current challenges are key activities in this regard. Furthermore, in order to bridge the aforementioned gap, one must open the circle and add components like cities, crops, watersheds, and all those components, which are not part of the forest but interact and interdepend with forests at the landscape level.

Held every two years, the Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) brings together a diverse set of experts, actors and stakeholders to participate in one of the most vital fora on Mediterranean forests today. This event facilitates cooperation amongst the research community, policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders by providing a common regional platform for dialogue. The seventh MFW will explore the opportunities offered by Mediterranean forests to provide jobs to young people while facing the forest challenges raised by global changes.

Objectives

- Identify opportunities offered to young people by forest-based solutions in the Mediterranean and anticipate possible bottlenecks so that these opportunities become necessities;
- Capitalize on successful experiences combining innovative forest management and local populations – particularly the youth – and share this experience among countries for possible replication;
- Promote landscape approaches for Mediterranean forest, with focus on restoration and conservation of biodiversity, to open the forest more widely to populations and neighbouring sectors (e.g. cities);
- Mobilize all stakeholders involved in the integrated management of Mediterranean forests to facilitate the integration of young people into forest-based solutions;
- Build a common vision of the role of young people in the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests in a changing world.

Target audience

The Mediterranean Forest Week brings together decision-makers from the Mediterranean region; national and local governments; technical and scientific organizations; forestry experts and managers; forest owners; environmental organizations; NGOs; investors and key donors; young professionals; media; scientists and academia; stakeholders from non-forestry sectors (water, agriculture, cities).

Rôle de la jeunesse dans les forêts méditerranéennes: création d'emploi vert et innovation

Les forêts méditerranéennes fournissent de précieux produits forestiers non-ligneux (liège, châtaignes, pignons, résines, champignons, plantes aromatiques et médicinales...) et d'importants services écosystémiques (lutte contre l'érosion des sols, régulation de l'eau, séquestration du carbone...). Certains de ces biens et services suivent des chaînes de valeur et atteignent le marché, d'autres ne sont pas commercialisés. Une spécificité des forêts méditerranéennes est que la part des produits et services non-ligneux dans la valeur économique totale de la forêt est supérieure à celle des produits ligneux. Surmonter les obstacles pour faire reconnaître cette valeur permettrait aux forêts méditerranéennes de jouer un rôle plus actif face aux changements mondiaux.

Les jeunes âgés de 15 à 24 ans représentent 14 pour cent de la population méditerranéenne, et ce taux continue d'augmenter. La proportion de jeunes qui ne poursuivent pas d'études, d'emploi ou de formation varie entre 7 et 33 pour cent selon les pays, avec des disparités importantes entre les sous-régions et selon le sexe. Lors de la sixième Semaine forestière méditerranéenne qui s'est tenue à Broummana au Liban en avril 2019, les jeunes professionnels méditerranéens des domaines de la foresterie et de l'environnement

ont lancé un vibrant appel pour davantage de possibilités d'emploi dans le secteur forestier afin de relever les défis environnementaux auxquels ils seront confrontés dans un environnement mondial en évolution.

Construire un pont entre la forêt et la population active des jeunes méditerranéens peut faire la différence afin de valoriser les biens et services fournis par les forêts tout en mettant en œuvre des solutions fondées sur la forêt. Améliorer la perception sociale de la forêt, orienter la gestion forestière vers des approches participatives et la cogestion, mieux communiquer sur la foresterie et aligner l'éducation et la formation forestières sur les défis actuels sont des activités clés à cet égard. Pour construire ce lien, il faut également ouvrir les perspectives et replacer la forêt au sein d'un paysage qui compte d'autres composantes comme les villes, les terres agricoles, les bassins versants, composantes qui interagissent avec les forêts et qui en sont interdépendants.

Tenue tous les deux ans, la Semaine forestière méditerranéenne (SFM) rassemble une grande diversité d'acteurs qui prennent part à l'un des plus importants forums sur les forêts méditerranéennes d'aujourd'hui. Cet événement facilite la coopération entre la communauté scientifique, les décideurs politiques et d'autres acteurs en proposant une plateforme de dialogue régional commune. La septième SFM explorera les opportunités offertes par les forêts méditerranéennes pour fournir des emplois aux jeunes tout en faisant face aux défis forestiers posés par les changements mondiaux.

Objectifs

- Identifier les opportunités offertes aux jeunes par les solutions fondées sur les forêts en Méditerranée et anticiper les obstacles éventuels afin que ces opportunités deviennent des nécessités ;
- Tirer parti des expériences réussies qui associent une gestion innovante des forêts et les populations locales – particulièrement les jeunes – et partager cette expérience entre les pays en vue d'une éventuelle réplique ;
- Promouvoir les approches paysagères pour les forêts méditerranéennes, en mettant l'accent sur la restauration et la conservation de la biodiversité, afin d'ouvrir plus largement la forêt aux populations et aux secteurs voisins (par exemple, les villes) ;
- Mobiliser tous les acteurs impliqués dans la gestion intégrée des forêts méditerranéennes pour faciliter l'intégration des jeunes dans les solutions fondées sur les forêts ;
- Construire une vision commune quant au rôle des jeunes dans la gestion durable des forêts méditerranéennes dans un monde en mutation.

Audience attendue

Décideurs politiques de la région méditerranéenne ; autorités nationales et locales ; organisations techniques et scientifiques ; experts et gestionnaires forestiers ; propriétaires forestiers ; organisations environnementales ; ONG ; investisseurs et bailleurs de fonds ; jeunes professionnels ; médias ; chercheurs et universitaires ; parties prenantes de secteurs non-forestiers (eau, agriculture, villes).