# World Restoration Flagship Application Form

# United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

# Mediterranean Flagship

## Submitting Organization

Government entity/Regional organization/ Official UN Decade Partner

1.Member State

2.Government Agency:

3. Or Regional Organization:

The Committee of Mediterranean Forestry Questions -*Silva Mediterranea*

4.Or Official UN Decade Partner

List of UN Decade Partners: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/partners

*Silva Mediterranea* is a FAO statutory body

5.Name of the Flagship

Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems as nature-based solutions to build resilience in the Mediterranean region

6.Nomination number

0069

## Head Office Address

7.Street:

Viale Terme di Caracalla

8.City:

Rome

9.Province/ State

10.Post/Zip Code:

00153

11.Country:

Italy

12.Region

*Please follow the UN Environment Programme’s classification of regions. Head to unep.org / Where we work?*

 Africa

 Asia-Pacific

 Europe

 Latin America and the Caribbean

 West Asia

 North America

13.Website:

https://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/fr/

14.Twitter:

15.LinkedIn:

16.Instagram:

17.Facebook:

## Focal Point

18.Title

 Ms

 Mr

 Non-binary

 Prefer not to say

19.First name:

Chadi

20.Last name:

Mohanna

21.Email:

chadi.mohanna@gmail.com

Silva-Mediterranea@fao.org

22.Phone

+ 39 06 570 54265

23.Address (Skip if address same as head office address)

Street

City

Province/ State

Post/Zip Code

Country

Region (Please follow the UN Environment Programme’s classification of regions. Head to unep.org / Where we work? For more)

## UN Decade Partner(s) involved in the flagship (if applicable):

*Please see the list of partners of the UN Decade here: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/partners*

24.Name of the partner organization(s) or individual(s):

FAO

UNEP *(to be confirmed with Elizabeth Sellwood)*

25.Address

26.Country

27.Website

## World Restoration Flagships

*Flagship initiatives are the first, best or most promising examples of successful ecosystem restoration that a country or region would like to be globally known for. The main role of Flagships is to provide inspiration to other countries and regions for scaling up successful restoration efforts, and to attract global attention and investments. Selected Flagships will act as a basis for joint learning across the world. Up to 10 Flagships selected in the first round will be launched in 2022, likely in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in September. All official Flagships of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will feature prominently in the UN Decade's publications, campaigns, outreach, advocacy and education efforts going forward, and will be listed in the UN Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly at its 81st session.*

28.Geographic scope: Please indicate the geographic scope of your/ your members’ activities. Please tick all applicable boxes.

 National

 Multi-national/cross-boarder

29.Please list all countries your Flagship is active in?

*Being “active” as a Flagship in a specific country is defined by implementing restoration efforts on the ground. Administrative or other supportive offices are excluded from this definition*

The Mediterranean Flagship proposal is targeting four countries as follows: Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Those countries have been selected based on their (i) level of political will and tangible commitments at national level, (ii) learning, replicability, and scalability potential, (iii) global and regional outreach potential.

**1/** **Political will and tangible commitments/entry points at regional and national level**

At regional level, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia are among the countries that endorsed the Agadir Commitment in 2017, during the Fifth Mediterranean Forests Week held in Morocco. The Agadir Commitment wants to improve Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region. It supports the achievement of the Bonn Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 15 and it encourages political and administrative authorities at the national level, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their respective FLR efforts in the context of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 of the United Nations Forum for Forests (UNFF) and in line with the global FLR objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Lebanon**

* Lebanon launched in 2015 its **National Forest Programme** the main instrument of the national forest policy for upcoming decade 2015–2025 decade and the country’s first national forest programme. The programme identifies the Government’s interventions in the forest sector and beyond, aiming at the sustainable management of Lebanon’s forest resources, including restoration of degraded forest land. In addition, Lebanon launched its **National Afforestation and Reforestation Programme** in 2012: also known as the Roadmap for 40 Million Trees, the programme aims at restoring and developing forest land and tree cover to increase forest cover from 13 percent of Lebanon’s total area to 20 percent over 20 years. This objective will be achieved by planting 40 million forest trees.
* In addition, the revision of the **Lebanese Forest Law** to include rangeland management as important component of forest and landscape restoration is currently ongoing.

**Morocco**

* The government of Morocco has developed and implemented in the past several strategies, plans and programs to deal with the root causes behind land degradation and promote restoration, such as the **National Plan for Watershed Management** (1996-2016), the previous National Forest Programme launched in 1999, the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2015-2020**.
* More recently, the new forestry strategy “**Forests of Morocco 2020-2030**”, includes a reforestation program with ​​600,000 ha of forest plantations in the twelve regions of the country at a rate of 50,000 ha at the start of the program to reach 100,000 ha by 2030. The strategy focuses on restoring degraded forest land with the systematic involvement of local populations in the sustainable development of forests, through adequate incentives and planning.
* The **National Sustainable Development Strategy 2017-2030** highlights the need to reduce land degradation and promote the sustainable management of natural resources, including restoration.
* In 2021 Morocco submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat the revision of the NDC to better integrate FLR in the forestry sector. It raised its NDC ambition to a 45.5 percent GHG emissions reduction by 2030 against the business-as-usual scenario and setting a conditional target of 27.2 percent GHG reductions.

**Tunisia**

* The Government has established the new **National Strategy for the Development and Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands 2015-2024**. With this new strategy social, economic and material support have become of paramount importance to promote forest resources. The 2016-2020 development plan was the first step in implementing the strategy for the development and sustainable management of the forestry and pastoral sector.
* Since 2020, the General Directorate of Forests has started carrying out the **Forest, Pastoral and Olive Inventory (IFPON)** to update data and statistics on forest and pastoral resources through the production of structured and reliable information to support the decisions and programs carried out in the forestry sector, in particular, but also Tunisian economic and social development in general.
* To contribute to the purpose of restoring forests and landscapes as well as neutrality in terms of land degradation, the General Directorate of Forests has conducted a reflection and planning of an action plan for the establishment of an adequate forest governance framework, through the revision of the legal framework and the institutional set-up relating to forest resources as well as a program of land clarification.

**Turkey**

* The government has adopted the **Forest Law** in 1956. It is wide ranging and addresses forest definition, categories of forest, forest management and protection, forest improvement, development of forest villages, forest fires, in-forest pastures and penalties.
* The general policy in Turkey is defined by the Ministry of Development through the National Development Plan. The main policy documents are the **Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018), the National Forestry Program (2004- 2023), the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (2013-2017) and the General Directorate of Forestry’s Strategic Plan (2013- 2017)**. The General Directorate of Forestry's Strategic Plan (2013-2017) was updated to cover the period 2017-2021 and was put into implementation on 01 January 2017. The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA) is responsible for preparation of **plans for combating desertification and erosion** and carrying out activities concerning protected areas, national parks and hunting. The General Directorate of Forestry’s strategic plan sets out the overall vision and four main objectives i.e. (1) protect the forests and biodiversity against biotic and abiotic pests, (2) develop and expand the existing forests, increase their efficiency, (3) meet the developing and changing expectations of the public for the forest goods and services and (4) ensure the institutional development for providing sustainable forest management.
* In 2008, Turkey started the **Forestry Rehabilitation and National Afforestation Campaign**, which is the basis for the preparation of its National Determined Contributions (NDC), began.

**2/ Learning and replication potential.**

One particularity of the region is the contrasting social and economic realities across the Mediterranean borders. Successful case studies from different Mediterranean countries are showcased and inspire restoration processes to be replicated in other Mediterranean environments. Beyond the Mediterranean, lessons from this specific region can be transferred to non-Mediterranean countries, with mosaic landscapes.

In terms of specific site selection over the four targeted countries to implement practical scalable pilot forest ecosystem restoration/conservation measures, the Mediterranean Flagship proposal has identified some site selection criteria.

* Sites where forest ecosystem restoration/conservation project(s) are under establishment or in place,
* Sites suitable for application of innovative restoration approaches, allowing inter-sectoral policy coordination, collaboration and biodiversity mainstreaming across conservation and the ecosystem services they can provide,
* Sites where private sector investments and returns can be improved (particularly through tourism),
* Sites where local communities live and depend on forest ecosystems for their day-to-day livelihoods.

**3/** **Regional and Global outreach potential.**

The Mediterranean Flagship aims to ensure fair geographical representativeness by having at least one country on each border of the Mediterranean region (Eastern Mediterranean and Southern Mediterranean). This will allow to strategically expand the Mediterranean Flagship outreach potential by triggering policy dialogue, joint advocacy and peer exchange within the region, as well as elevating lessons learned to the global community, serving as prominent showcase for the potential of forest restoration.

30.Please give a brief description of your Flagship, its primary activities and how they relate to restoration. (up to 4000 characters).

Regional context

The circum-Mediterranean region is a territory encompassing thirty-one countries and a wide range of political, economic, social and environmental contexts. The region has an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage. Here, human and economic development is largely dependent on at times scarce natural resources and a vulnerable environment. Today, human activity has placed substantial pressure on this environment, the impact of which is felt differently in the northern, southern and eastern sub-regions.

The Mediterranean basin, extending over more than 2 million square kilometers, is the largest of the world’s five Mediterranean Climate regions and the world’s second largest biodiversity hotspot (Myers et al., 2000). Based on a bioclimatic definition of Mediterranean forests, the forests of the Mediterranean region cover about 88 million hectares and represent two percent of the global forest area. Insofar as there has been an increase of 1.8 million hectares of forest between 2010 and 2015, there are 80 million hectares of degraded lands - including forests - in the Mediterranean. Over 400 000 hectares of forests are burnt each year and at least 16% of Mediterranean forest animal and plant species are threatened to be extinct due to global threats like climate change. Forests in Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Morocco have the highest number of threatened species (26 percent in Spain, 24 in Italy, 21 in Greece, 17 in Turkey, 15 in Morocco) (FAO and Plan Bleu, 2018).

Mediterranean forests ecosystems are very much tied to human activity: the current level of endemism and biodiversity is the result of this interaction. Since the beginning of human history, forests have adapted to pressures caused by human development, resulting in a complex socio-ecological balance. These pressures, however, have never been more extreme than they are today. Global change, understood as the wide range of global forces resulting from human activity, is affecting the entire Mediterranean basin. The threats caused by global change are exposing Mediterranean forests and its forested environments to risks, thus endangering the wide range of socioeconomic benefits they are offering to local communities and government policies could be affected by the intensity and dynamics of these threats.

Climate change is emerging as the primary driver of environmental change in the region. The Mediterranean has been identified as one of the most reactive regions to climate change and defined as a major “hotspot” (Giorgi, 2006) based on the results of global climate change projections. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifies the Mediterranean as one of the region's most vulnerable to the impacts of global warming.

Forest fires are another key threat in the region. Mediterranean forest ecosystems are undergoing change as a result of extensive rural migrations and land abandonment. The most productive lands are used intensively, while less productive areas are abandoned or subject to less intensive use and afforestation. Demographic shifts from rural to urban areas may favour fuel build-up and, consequently, may result in large fires. According to this hypothesis, less frequent but more intense and large fires are expected in the region. Recent studies on forest fires in the Mediterranean basin, however, have recognized a shift in fire frequency and size, and an extension of the fire season.

Within this context, Mediterranean forests make crucial contributions to rural development, poverty alleviation, food security, water, tourism, and energy sectors, but the rich diversity and variability of Mediterranean forest ecosystems is threatened by increasing human pressure and accelerated climate change, leading to habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss, forest and land degradation and desertification, putting human health and livelihoods at risk.

Flagship objective

Mediterranean countries have committed to an ambitious restoration programme of 8 Millions hectares by 2030. In preparing to meet these commitments, the Mediterranean’s restoration opportunities have been assessed to draw attention to the need for restoration in the Mediterranean region and roughly estimate the magnitude of restoration opportunities.

**The Mediterranean Flagship consists of scaling-up of mosaic landscape restoration in selected territories of the Mediterranean region, contributing to the implementation of the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration according to regional and national commitments.**

The Mediterranean Flagship is the conception of a regional development model based on the sustainable use of land and the conservation of natural resources, stressed by the degradation associated with inappropriate use and the impacts of climate change.

These productive and ecological restoration practices in mosaic landscapes could be scaled up to the landscape level with appropriate legal frameworks and incentives. Its success could reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and provide sustainable income to families.

31.Which types of ecosystems do your restoration-related activities address (can be more than one): *(Please see the IUCN typology here: https://global-ecosystems.org/)*

 Tropical-subtropical forests

 Temperate-boreal forests & woodlands

 Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

 Savannas and grasslands

 Deserts and semi-deserts

 Polar-alpine

 Intensive land-use systems

 Palustrine wetlands biome

 Rivers and streams biome

 Lakes biome

 Artificial wetlands biome

 Marine shelf biome

 Pelagic ocean waters biome

 Deep sea floors biome

 Anthropogenic marine biome

 Shorelines biome

 Supralittoral coastal biome

 Anthropogenic shorelines biome

 Brackish tidal biome

32.Have any of the ecosystems under restoration been assessed under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (https://iucnrle.org/)?

It seems that only some ecosystems in Tunisia have been assessed. However, we found it difficult to access information as the RLE website is under construction. The RLE team answered that they do not have information on the focus areas, which doesn’t mean that they aren’t important but they haven’t benefitted from this kind of studies yet.

33.How many hectares does the flagship expect to have under restoration by 2030 within the nominated area? *Provide a concrete figure in hectares (can be an estimate) - Flagships can be on-going or completed*

In 2017, ten countries - Algeria, France, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey – endorsed the Agadir Declaration and committed to improve Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region. This Regional Mediterranean Initiative aims to restore at least 8 million hectares by 2030.

In the four specific countries targeted by this flagship the restoration target are as follow:

* Lebanon has also developed a National Afforestation/Reforestation Programme aiming to increase forest cover from the current level of 13 percent to 20 percent of the country’s surface area by 2030 (equivalent to 70 000 ha).
* Morocco has committed to restore 4 500 000 ha of land by 2030 as their LDN targets.
* Tunisia has committed to restore 2 000 000 ha of land by 2030 in their NBSAP.
* Turkey has committed to restore 2 300 000 ha by 2030 and to increase its forest area to 30 percent by 2030 through afforestation, erosion control and rehabilitation activities.

34.How many hectares has the flagship already restored? *Provide a concrete figure in hectares and submit documentation (project reports, photos, satellite timelines) to* *restorationdecade@un.org* *- Flagships can be on-going or completed*

Regional efforts: How many hectares have already been restored at regional level?

**Lebanon**

Through the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, 2 566 ha have already been restored.

**Morocco**

The restoration of sylvopastoral ecosystems in Morocco is a long-term, nation-wide programme which has been running since 2005 to restore forests and sylvopastoral ecosystems while improving livelihoods. Around 120 000 ha of forestland were restored between 2005 and 2018, involving 180 associations representing about 20 000 users and mobilizing 25 million MAD/year (over 2.3 million euros) in compensation from the government for foregone pasture.

The ‘Management and Protection of the Mountain Forests of the Ifrane Province’ project started in 2002 and lasted 6 years. It focused on the 163 000 ha in and around the Ifrane National Park in the Middle Atlas of Morocco. The co-management approach with protection (mise en défens) and compensation – here called “social sylviculture” – has been implemented since 2002, proving fairly successful.

**Tunisia**

Forest and pastoral plantations are considered among the main restoration works of forest and pastoral ecosystems in Tunisia. From 2017 to 2021, Tunisia planted 13 200 ha with forest species in burnt, degraded and exploited forests and 18 590 ha with pastoral tree and shrub species for the conservation of rangelands, the improvement of fodder production and the restoration degraded ecosystems.

**Turkey**

Turkey has pledged 2.3 million ha between 2011 and 2030. 2 million ha has already been completed between 2019-2021 and remaining 300 000 ha will be completed until 2030.

It appears difficult to have the full area under restoration in the region and at national level. One first key element is to understand what it the strict definition of “under restoration”. Many projects are ongoing in the region, with many hectares restored or “under restoration”. This shows the importance of developing a monitoring system that can be harmonized for all countries in the region. Monitoring restoration in the four countries targeted and in the region will be a key component of this flagship if selected for funding.

35.What are some of the main lessons-learnt which could be shared with other restoration initiatives of similar scale and ecosystems?

During the fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (Agadir, Morocco, 2017) titled “Towards an enhanced regional cooperation to restore Mediterranean landscapes: improving resilience for the benefit of people and environment” country representatives came together to discuss forest management issues and establishing a Mediterranean forest cooperative framework with the scope of restoring degraded lands, reaching a land degradation neutrality (LDN) and improving the biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean region. To this purpose, ten Mediterranean country representatives with the support of several international organizations like CBD Secretariat, FAO, IUCN, WRI, GPFLR, World Bank, Global Mechanism, Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, EFIMED, Mediterranean Model Forest Network, CTFC agreed on a regional greening strategy focussed on landscape restoration of 8 million hectares across the Mediterranean. Consequently, they endorsed the Agadir declaration, thus committing to finalize one of the biggest forest restoration initiatives in the Mediterranean. At now, this cooperation is taking place several advantages to Mediterranean forest restoration activities as many national initiatives have been issued and financed by the respective governments to accomplish the commitments taken during the Mediterranean Forest Week. For instance, such initiatives are devoted to rehabilitating and integrating sustainable development of Algerian Cork oak forest production landscapes([https://www.thegef.org/projectsoperations/projects/9806,](https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9806%2C) <https://www.fao.org/gef/projects/detail/en/c/1105494/>), to realize a massive reforestation initiative in Lebanon (<https://www.lri-lb.org/>), developing projects addressing the management and protection of the mountain forests of the Ifrane Province in Morocco (<https://imfn.net/regional-networks/ifrane-model-forest/>), to encourage continuing the Spanish Landscape Restoration Programme for the conservation of Abies pinsapo (https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal/[),](https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal/home%20%29) developing projects for Rehabilitation of Murat River Watershed in Turkey (https://www.ifad.org/en/-/turkey-1100001623-mrwrp\_murat-supervision-report-april-2021[)](https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/1100001623%20%29) and restoring by reforestation and afforestation plans more than 56000 hectares of lands (with eucalypts, pines, chestnut and cork oaks) in Portugal ([https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/a4f4d6b4b5be40c4).](https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/a4f4d6b4b5be40c4%29.)

36.Please provide a brief description of how the flagship embodies the synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions for terrestrial ecosystems or UNFCCC and CBD for marine/coastal projects (max 1000 words):

Countries in the Mediterranean region have made commitments to forest and landscape restoration under the Rio Conventions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

Most Mediterranean countries have prepared their national reports and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in the context of CBD Aichi Targets 5 and 15 (CBD, 2017), reporting on their efforts towards the achievement of these targets.

The Fifth National Report and Assessment of NBSAPs under the CBD reveals the following level of
progress towards these Aichi Targets in the Mediterranean region (CBD, 2017):

* Percentage of Mediterranean countries that have submitted their Fifth National Report to the CBD: 92 percent
* Percentage of Mediterranean countries that have submitted their NBSAP: 48 percent
* Percentage of Mediterranean countries that have set a national target under Target 5: 65 percent
* Percentage of Mediterranean countries that have set a national target under Target 15: 57 percent.

The objectives developed in the Global framework for managing Nature through 2030 are also directly relevant to the targets established by the Mediterranean countries and the activities envisioned by this flagship. For example, the objective of enhancing the integrity of all ecosystems, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, relates with the fragmentation of Mediterranean ecosystems, or the objective of having nature and its contributions to people fully accounted for relates to the current efforts of valuing forest ecosystems services in the Mediterranean countries.

With regard to the sustainable development goals, target 15.3, which aims to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), is closely linked to FLR. Mediterranean countries have already embarked on the process of establishing national LDN targets. These include North African countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, East Mediterranean countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, as well as European Mediterranean countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro and Serbia. Three Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Italy and Turkey) have engaged in LDN pilot projects to implement the LDN target-setting approach.

Initiatives and projects around the Mediterranean are already contributing to poverty alleviation and the achievement of SDG 1. Mediterranean forests also make a strong contribution to SDG 3. Nowadays the role of forests and nature-based activities in promoting health, well-being and quality of life are well known (Cervinka et al., 2014) and Mediterranean forests are valued and widely preferred over other forests for tourism and recreational activities (UNWTO, 2017). Various initiatives in the Mediterranean region are and will continue to contribute to the achievement of SDG 15. Initiatives such as the Ankara Initiative, launched at the UNCCD COP 12 and aimed at strengthening implementation of the UNCCD, will support the global sustainable development agenda and leverage the lessons learned from Turkey’s experience and approaches to land management. Regional initiatives such as this flagship are designed to integrate policies and investments at the country level in order to adapt forests to climate change (SDG 13). The Mediterranean region is extremely sensitive to climate change, facing longer and more frequent droughts and heat waves, increasing the risk of large-scale forest fires and severe water scarcity (SDG 6). Understanding the contribution of Mediterranean forests towards building a green economy (SDG 8), such as generating employment and providing ecosystem services, has been much discussed over recent years. Achieving SDG 11, which relates to cities, will depend on the sustainable management of urban and peri-urban Mediterranean forests. Well-designed and managed Mediterranean urban forests make significant contributions to the environmental sustainability, economic viability and habitability of cities.

With the exception of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Paris Agreement has been adopted by all
Mediterranean countries. Forests and forest policy play a pivotal role in reaching the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) established under the Agreement. EU member countries submitted a joint INDC, which considers afforestation and reforestation under the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector, but without providing specific measures regarding emissions reductions. Other Mediterranean countries such as Algeria, Morocco and Turkey have reflected restoration and reforestation in their NDCs. These include either specific measures to increase forest cover and carbon stocks or reflect their commitments to implement the NDCs through existing national restoration efforts (e.g. Lebanon and Tunisia).

REDD+ was developed prior to the Paris Agreement to provide incentives to Non-Annex I countries to undertake mitigation activities in the forestry sector. Two Mediterranean countries have joined the UN-REDD Programme: Morocco in October 2012 and Tunisia in December 2013. Tunisia has conducted preliminary studies into implementing a national REDD+ strategy. Other Mediterranean countries have explored the option of NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions) to carry out mitigation or adaption activities in the forestry sector (Torres and Martinet, 2016).

37.If needed, how much additional funding (in USD) would provide significant support to the flagship and how?

The support provided by the MPTF will look at improved design and dissemination of restoration models to accelerate the implementation and escalate restoration in areas prioritized by the countries in the Mediterranean region. At the same time, it will generate evidence about the benefits of restoration in contributing to the regional effort to a green recovery.

The contribution of the MPTF will allow consolidating the political, technical, and governance efforts that the region has been developing on issues related to restoration (Agadir commitment, Bonn Challenge, REDD Programs, IKI programs, etc.). It will be possible to consolidate and spotlight national restoration plans, strategies, and programs and raise them politically within the framework of national and regional policies and promote scalability with different actors.

It will also enable consolidation of the synergies of various initiatives that work to adapt the impacts of climate change in the agricultural, forestry, and environmental sectors and to promote the conservation of critical natural resources for adaptation. It will also be an important vehicle to consolidate the processes of knowledge management and exchange of experiences not only within the region but also globally.

The estimated funding needs to support the activities mentioned above and upscale the flagship is 5 Million USD. The tentative budget breakdown is presented in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Budget Categories | USD |
| 1. Staff and other personnel costs  | 1.200.000 |
| 2. Travel  | 500.000 |
| 3. Contractual services  | 2.700.000 |
| 4. General operating and other direct costs  | 260.000 |
| 5. Total Budget without ISC | 4.660.000 |
| 6. ISC (7%) | 326.200 |
| 7. Total Budget with ISC (7%) | 4.986.200 |
| 6. Share of budget channeled through national institutions  | 60% |

If this flagship is selected for funding, this budget will be fine tuned according the different components and activities planned.

38. Please share geographic coordinates on the area currently under restoration

**Lebanon**

Shouf Reserve: 33°41′39.25″N 35°42′07.63″E

Qadisha Valley: 34°16’ 35.16”N 35°57’3.49”E

Mhaidthe (Rashaya): 33°30’27.59”N 35°49’ 59.99”E

**Morocco**

Maamora: 34°7'43"N 6°37'18"W

Ifrane : 33°25′54.32″N 5°7′48.58″W

120 000 ha of forestland were restored between 2005 and 2018

**Tunisia**

M’sid-Nefza : 36º 56´N, 9º 03´E

Kesra Forest : 35° 46' 5" north, 9° 21' 27" east

Jendouba : 36.50825230137529, 8.776660895162205

Beja : 36.75609706548735, 9.188039713351307

Le Kef : 36.16975911281855, 8.70901783648347

Siliana : 36.089336377020096, 9.36464334354393

Bizerte : 37.27819340605295, 9.864936208765464

Kasserine : 35.211833860578395, 8.846878391514329

Kairouan : 35.71288650686868, 10.10013259720623

Sidi Bouzid : 35.057237966449954, 9.494614506275504

Gafsa: 34.43170348847792, 8.776064614966668

Tozeur: 33.87804823120289, 8.17889260006199

Kebili: 33.87804823120289, 8.17889260006199

Gabes: 33.707950781079724, 8.971453344124365

**Turkey**

The Murat River Watershed provinces of Elazığ, Bingöl and Muş, in eastern Turkey: 39° 23' 59.99", 43° 44' 59.99" E

In the four countries and in the Mediterranean region as a whole, many other sites are under restoration through various projects. If this flagship is selected to receive fundings, the full list of area under restoration in the selected area will be done at the project document stage.

 39. Please share geographic coordinates on the area planned for restoration

**Lebanon**

Balbek

**Morocco**

**Tunisia**

Through the Integrated Landscape management in the least developed regions of Tunisia project, 100 000 ha are planned to be restored in several areas:

Jendouba 36.50825230137529, 8.776660895162205

Beja 36.75609706548735, 9.188039713351307

Le Kef 36.16975911281855, 8.70901783648347

Siliana 36.089336377020096, 9.36464334354393

Bizerte 37.27819340605295, 9.864936208765464

Kasserine 35.211833860578395, 8.846878391514329

Kairouan 35.71288650686868, 10.10013259720623

Sidi Bouzid 35.057237966449954, 9.494614506275504

**Turkey**

Through the Murat River Watershed rehabilitation project, a total of 289 000 ha are planned for restoration: 40°04 - 40°02N, 38°53' - 43°46'E

If this flagship is selected to receive fundings, consultations processes will be organized to select the most appropriate areas for restoration.

40.Please provide a link to a file with the Flagship’s Polygon data

*Shapefiles should include “.shp”, “.shx” and “.dbf” shared in folder*

41.Is your proposed Flagship already considered a part of national commitments to Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality) or the Bonn Challenge? *Please also share links to relevant documents.*

In 2017, at the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (Agadir, March 2017), ten Mediterranean countries – Algeria, France, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey – endorsed the Agadir Commitment to restore at least 8 million hectares of degraded forest ecosystems by 2030. This regional Mediterranean initiative encourages political and administrative authorities at the national level, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their respective forest and landscape restoration efforts. These efforts take place in the context of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 of the United Nations Forum for Forests and in line with the
global Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Agadir commitment is led by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, a statutory body of FAO and is recognized as aligned regional initiative by the Bonn Challenge.

42.How does your country / region already offer political support to the proposed Flagship? *Include links to relevant legislation or sources or share documents with us via Email (see below)*

Since 1948, the Committee of Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* is a FAO statutory body where the Mediterranean member countries of the European Forestry Commission, the Near East Forestry Commission and the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission meet, share experiences and establish cooperative programmes.

The Committee includes 28 members (27 countries and the European Union). Since its foundation, *Silva Mediterranea* has worked with the governments and institutes of member countries to examine regional trends in forest and land use, identify priorities for research and implement studies and surveys. Member countries exchange information and technology and share resources and expertise as they work together on selected topics of mutual interest. *Silva Mediterranea* currently comprises five working groups on forest fires, cork oak and non-timber forest products, forest genetic resources, urban and peri-urban forestry, desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands.

*Silva Mediterranea* adopted a conceptual strategic framework, the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme in order to support Mediterranean countries in setting up their own forest policies and implementing the recommendations of the International Conventions. In this framework, the **Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests** (SFMF) (FAO, 2013) was developed to provide policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes. Nine strategic lines form the key pillars of which strategic line six aims to “Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes.”

Within this context - realizing that Mediterranean forests make crucial contributions to rural development, poverty alleviation, food security, water, tourism, and energy sectors - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Plan Bleu, published **the**[**State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) 2018**](https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA2081EN). The first edition of State of Mediterranean Forests was launched successfully in [2013](http://foris.fao.org/portal/frameset.jsp?module=webdev&url=http://foris.fao.org/webdevhttp://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/89603/en/), and the second edition in 2018 and focused on the main questions posed in the realm of forestry: the need to have a monitoring process at regional level to raise awareness on the status of Mediterranean forest resources and to promote the role of Mediterranean forests at the international level. Chapter 7 of the 2nd edition is dedicated to forest and landscape restoration in the region.

*Silva Mediterranea*, along with its regional partners, is committed to organizing the Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW), bringing 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 that these forests face. Participants include forest administrators, the scientific and academic community, the private sector, donors, civil society, environmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The VII MFW, organized in Antalya Turkey from 21st to 25th of March 2022, focused on ‘’Forest and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations’’.

During the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week in Morocco in 2017, the Agadir Commitment has been endorsed by 10 countries to improve regional forest and landscape restoration, achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts, thereby agreeing to restore eight million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030. This commitment is strongly supported by several international organizations: CBD Secretariat, FAO, IUCN, WRI, GPFLR, World Bank, Global Mechanism, Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, EFIMED, MMFN, CTFC. This commitment is built on current national programmes. In support of this effort, countries agreed to establish a FLR Regional Mediterranean Initiative with the support of FAO and other partners, to support the achievement of the Bonn Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15). This initiative also encourages national political and administrative authorities, as well as stakeholders involved in the management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands, to strengthen their FLR efforts in furtherance of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 of the United Nations Forum for Forests (UNFF) and in line with the global FLR objectives of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The endorsed Commitment includes four specific objectives:

* To assess ongoing national efforts on FLR;
* To reinforce regional cooperation on FLR and LDN;
* To strengthen cooperation among interested partners to develop a consensual and diversified strategy for FLR financing efforts and reinforce national capacities;
* To assess respective FLR and LDN efforts through the establishment of a voluntary monitoring and reporting system in the Mediterranean.

During UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech in 2016, Morocco launched the AFMS Initiative entitled
“Enhanced Action for Forests in the Med-Sahel Region in the Context of Climate Change,” which aims to establish a regional cooperation and partnership framework. This initiative reinforced regional FLR and LDN cooperation, particularly through enhancing coordination among organizations. It also involved the experts from *Silva Mediterranea* working group on Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean drylands and developed targeted strategic collaborations with regions that are facing similar challenges in drylands, such as the Sahel.

43.How does your country / region already offer financial support to the proposed Flagship? *Include links to relevant legislation or sources or share documents with us via Email (see below)*

A preliminary mapping of past and ongoing restoration initiatives was conducted by FAO in 2017
(Parfondry et al., 2017), analysing data from 40 initiatives in 13 Mediterranean countries. The results indicate a shift away from large-scale monospecific afforestation, often using exotic species, throughout the twentieth century (e.g. “Green Dam or Barrage Vert” in Algeria), to a recent trend towards holistic approaches and initiatives with multiple objectives, combining several socioeconomic and environmental benefits. This mapping also indicates that restoration
is currently practiced through research pilot/small scale projects rather than large-scale programs.

Public funds are by far the main source of funding for all practices in the Mediterranean: from regional and national administrations to bilateral cooperation (the French Facility for Global Environment) and international bodies (the EC via the LIFE Programme or the Rural Development Funds, IFAD). Complementary funds have come from private foundations (MAVA and Cariplo) and from the local communities or other local stakeholders.

Some of the projects that provide financial support to the flagship at regional and national levels.

**Lebanon**

The Smart Adaptation of Forest Landscapes in Mountain Areas (SALMA) project funded by the GEF from 2016 to 2021 (extended till 2022) with a budget of 7 Millions USD intends to achieve climate resilience of both vulnerable forest ecosystems and rural mountain communities living in and partially depending on these forest ecosystems.

The Livelihoods In Forestry (**LiF**) is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and implemented by the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (**LRI**) NGO.

The “Mediterranean Mosaics” (MM) project aims to contribute to the 40 million trees programme, increasing the resilience to climate change of forest ecosystems in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR) and implementing adaptive forest management and forest landscape restoration interventions

PARSIFAL a project funded by AFD with an amount of 15 Million euros, contribute with its reforestation component to the 40 Million Trees programme allover Lebanon.

**Morocco**

The “Management and Protection of the Mountain Forests of the Ifrane Province” project started in 2002 and lasted 6 years. It focused on the 163,000ha in and around the Ifrane National Park in the Middle Atlas of Morocco and cost over 20 million euros. This vision was subsequently extended beyond the Ifrane National Park with the establishment of the Ifrane Model Forest in 2011, which capitalized on the project’s preliminary good results.

The restoration of sylvopastoral ecosystems in Morocco is a long-term, nation-wide programme which has been running since 2005 to restore forests and sylvopastoral ecosystems while improving livelihoods. The new programme has been launched in 2002 (with decree n. 1855-01, although effectively starting in 2005). Around 120,000ha of forestland were restored between 2005 and 2018, involving 180 associations representing about 20,000 users and mobilizing 25 million MAD/year (over 2.3 million euros) in compensation from the government for foregone pasture. After the first 10 years (2005- 2014), a new phase of the compensation programme is ongoing (2015- 2024), capitalizing on the lessons learned from the first decade for which results are not yet available.

**Tunisia**

Since 2020, the General Directorate of Forests has started carrying out the Forest, Pastoral and Olive Oil Inventory (IFPON) through a trust fund agreement (UTF) with FAO as part of the integrated landscape management project (development project co-financed by the World Bank).

The Directorate General of Forestry with its central and regional structures is preparing a technical assistance project with FAO for the conduct of forest management studies within the framework of the activities of the PGIP project, taking into account the new orientations of the National Strategy for the Development and Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands 2015-2024. This technical assistance project is designed to increase the pace of carrying out forest and alfatier management studies, the adaptation of management approaches to the specificities of forest ecosystems and landscapes.

The Tunisia Oases Ecosystems and Livelihoods Project is linked to the Middle East and North Africa Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (MENA-DELP). Its preparation was supported by a US$380,000 grant from the Program on Forests. The total project cost is US$6,338,730, with a US$5,760,730 GEF grant and contributions from the government of Tunisia (US$320,000) and beneficiaries (US$280,000). The project was scaled up by the recently approved US$100 million project on Integrated Landscape Management in Lagging Regions.

**Turkey**

The Murat River Watershed Rehabilitation Project (MRWRP) is a large-scale, 61-million-USD effort of the Turkish government, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and local administrations to reduce poverty and restore degraded forests and rangelands. The project started in 2012 and will end in 2022.

The National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization Action Plan covered 2.3 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes – almost 3 per cent of the country’s entire land area. Its objectives included rehabilitating forests and making them more productive, combating climate change and desertification and raising environmental awareness. The action plan, with a total cost of more than $1.8 billion, was applied from 2008 to 2012. The major source of the funds was the national budget as well as donors and the private sector. The work was undertaken by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs together with public institutions and organizations, municipalities, nongovernmental organizations and communities.

In addition to efforts at a national level, several regional initiatives are jointly tackling common issues affecting countries.

The [International Climate Initiative](https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en?iki_cookie_check=1) (IKI) of the German Ministry of the Environment project, “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions” build regional and national dynamics in three regions with high potential for forest, increase and provision of ecosystem services through large-scale FLR programmes, one of which is the Mediterranean. The project has regional activities and national activities in Lebanon and Morocco).

The research community is leading some of the regional initiatives, including the following COST Actions (EU funded research programmes) that have addressed the issue of restoration:

* The project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions” (2018-2022) funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry of the Environment and led by FAO is building regional and national capacity in three designated regions, including the Mediterranean region. The project aims at increasing restoration efforts through the creation of an enabling environment focused on pilot activities that apply suitable FLR approaches on how best to contribute to the achievement of national and global restoration targets as set out by the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Bonn Challenge, Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Mediterranean component is also labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean that recognizes the strategic political role of the project.
* The COST Action ES1104 “Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification: Setting Up a Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub” (2012-2016) (Kotzen, 2017) focused on “practical measures that can be used by practitioners, stakeholders and authorities to restore degraded drylands and manage their recovery.” This Action was largely confined to Europe, but also extended to countries in North Africa and the Near East. Among other achievements, it facilitated the development of fact sheets highlighting good practice in soil management, sustainable land management, revegetation and many other issues linked to restoration. It also made key recommendations to policy-makers and other stakeholders involved in combating desertification and in drylands restoration.
* The COST Action FP0701 “Post-fire forest management in southern Europe” (2005-2012) was established to help respond to the overall question of how to manage 500 000 ha of forests burnt in Europe every year. Its primary objective was therefore to develop and disseminate scientifically-based decision criteria for post-fire management, applicable from stand-level to landscape-level planning. A total of around 170 researchers from 22 countries, including Tunisia and Morocco, were involved in activities divided into five working groups: (1) Fire hazard and resilience; (2) Fire effects and severity and global warming impacts; (3) Economic assessment of damage and current practices in post-fire management; (4) Forest conversion and post-fire management techniques; and (5) Knowledge transfer. The Action, which was closely linked to the European Forest Institute Project Center “Phoenix – Fire ecology and post-fire management” (Birot, 2009), also led to the publication of the book “Post-fire Management and Restoration of Southern European Forests” (Moreira et al., 2012).

44.What is the biggest achievement your proposed Flagship had so far? *(For example: Did restoration lead to the return of a locally extinct animal or plant species? Did it lead to the creation of new jobs or livelihood opportunities?)*

**Political -** From the political point of view, a joint cooperative framework among the Mediterranean countries may be established to reach the same target in different Mediterranean environments. Forest restoration activities can be carried out with different modalities and according to country needs as the Mediterranean Basin presents several geographically fragmented environments and different socio-cultural aspects.

Past and similar experience was conducted in 2017 by ten Mediterranean countries and under the supervision of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea* (FAO statutory body) which have signed the Agadir Commitment during the V Mediterranean Forest Week in Agadir (Morocco) with the purpose of committing the restoration of 8 million hectares of degraded lands. This is a big achievement since ten Mediterranean countries have committed themselves to reach the same objectives but in different Mediterranean environments. Indeed, ten Mediterranean countries have emanated their National Forest Strategies to motivate, define and organize the forest restoration activities and consequently to fix annual objectives to get the final target.

To this purpose the Mediterranean Flagship candidacy has been presented to the members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea* as well as during the High-Level Segment session in the occasion of the next Mediterranean Forest Week which took place in Turkey in 21-25 March 2022. The *Silva Mediterranea* member countries endorsed the decision to submit a Mediterranean Flagship to the UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration.

**Ecosystem services** – It is well established that restoring degraded lands involves an increase of forest ecosystem services in terms of biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water and climate local regulation, climate change mitigation as well as provide positive results for contrasting desertification. According to an evaluation made in 2005 (Ding et al. 2011), the economic value of carbon storage in Mediterranean forests ranges between 34 and 58 billion €, i.e. 13% of the total economic value of forests across the globe (around 360 billion €), under the IPCC climate change scenarios A1 and B2, respectively, with 2050 as the horizon. This allows to consider the potential economic and environmental impact that a Mediterranean Flagship could have.

In this context, several mechanisms and tools exist or are being developed to encourage greenhouse gas emission reductions and carbon sequestration. They include joint implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism (UNFCCC, 2017), the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU Commission, 2013), and then proposed scheme to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) (UN-REDD, 2013). Indeed, voluntary markets and public payments hold promise for the forest sector, since buyers are keener to use carbon payments to restore degraded lands and encourage agroforestry systems on a large scale. Payments contemplated in the framework of REDD+ for avoided deforestation and forest degradation, carbon stock enhancement and sustainable management, are also of growing interest and could finance significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions in developing countries of the Mediterranean region.

**Economic impact -** The beneficial effects of an increased forest surface after forest restoration in terms of woody materials and their surrogates and non-wood-forest products (NWFPs) is to be noted. Merlo and Croitoru (2015) estimated the Total Economic Value of Mediterranean Forest at € 133 per forest hectare (in 2001 prices) – or almost 50 € per capita/year.

Mediterranean forest emerging economies benefit from forest restoration in particular from the extraordinary variety of non-wood forest products used and produced by local populations (e.g., cork, medicinal and aromatic plants such as thyme and rosemary, berries, carob, pine nuts, chestnuts, acorns, gums, resins, fibres, truffles, mushrooms, and honey). The estimated economic value for NWFP production from Mediterranean forests was estimated to be € 822.4 million (9% of the Total Economic Value of Mediterranean Forests).

It is also important to notice that the Mediterranean Flagship could increase the production of some forest economic sectors in terms of incomes and generate new job opportunities and promote sustainable forest management. This employment generates direct income (marketable goods and services), shadow remuneration (self-consumption) and indirect income through connected products (tourism services, increase values of houses).

45.Please share any links to media stories, films, blogposts, and other communication items documenting success of your proposed Flagship (in English or local languages)

**State of Mediterranean Forests 2018**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The report provides an overview of the status of forest resources in the Mediterranean region, which represent two percent of the global forest area. The region’s forest area increased by two percent between 2010 and 2015 but it has also been considerably affected by degradation and is increasingly in jeopardy from climate change, population rise, wildfires and water scarcity.

 <https://www.fao.org/3/CA2081EN/ca2081en.PDF>

**The Agadir Commitment**

Adopted during the fifth Mediterranean Forest Week, the Agadir Commitment proposes to establish a new Regional Mediterranean Initiative on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) to support the achievement of the Bonn Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 15 SDG15).

<https://www.fao.org/forestry/45685-0ad87e3a1d4ccc359b37c38ffcbb5b1fc.pdf>

**The Brummana Declaration**

Adopted during the sixth Mediterranean Forest Week, the Brummana Declaration provides a framework for discussing the importance of sustainable forest management and the forest and landscape restoration to address climate change issues in the Mediterranean. It is consistent with *Silva Mediterranea*'s strategies as the Declaration combines the commitments of the Agadir Commitment with the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

<https://vi-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/brummana-declaration.pdf>

**Sustainable Mediterranean Journal**

**Issue “Climate change: The rapidly increasing challenge for the Mediterranean"**

**Article “Forests and climate change”**

An overview of the activities of Silva Mediterranea and its strategic vision in relation to the role of Mediterranean forests in the context of climate change was published in a special issue of Sustainable Mediterranean. The article summarizes the main threats affecting Mediterranean forests and proposes a call for action to halt land degradation and restore degraded land by involving young people and local rural communities.

<https://mio-ecsde.org/project/climate-change-the-rapidly-increasing-challenge-for-the-mediterranean-issue-no-78/>

**Forest and Landscape Restoration Practices in the Mediterranean – a Survey**

**Oikos Institute**

This survey of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) practices in the Mediterranean was undertaken to collect promising and good practices of initiatives contributing to FLR in the region. It was designed to assess the extent to which restoration initiatives in the Mediterranean fulfil FLR principles and includes restoration projects undertaken without an explicit intention to implement formal FLR processes.

<https://www.istituto-oikos.org/files/download/2021/FLR_Survey_18_1_czjbSQd.pdf>

**A Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda MFRA 2010-2020**

**European Forest Institute**

The document presents a common vision on the challenges of Mediterranean forests as well as a Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) that describes the main research priorities for forestry in the region during 2010–2020.

<https://efi.int/sites/default/files/images/publications/Mediterranean%20Forest%20Research%20Agenda%202010-2020_.pdf>

46.Please give your Restoration Flagship a nickname of no more than five words. This will help us track your submission and additional documentation. Please include the country / region of your flagship, as well as the factors that make it unique.

**MEDFORM** (MEDitERRanEan FOREst EcOsystEM REstORatiOn)

47.Principle 1: Global contribution

These activities contribute to strategic objectives B and D of the CBD and targets 7, 14 and 15 of the Aichi targets, to Land Degradation Neutrality and to adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

48.Principle 2: Broad engagement

Broad engagement will be followed through the different components of the proposal to ensure proper ownership at every level. While relevant Government entities will be involved to facilitate inter-ministerial collaboration, private sector entities particularly in the tourism sector, as well as community-based organizations in selected sites will be fully integrated into the decision-making process. The Flagship will particularly pay attention to the voices of underrepresented and marginalized groups, such as women and youth. In addition, the Flagship will ensure that countries that are not targeted by this proposal also benefit from the knowledge and experience generated by this project.

49.Principle 3: Many types of activities

Restoration actions are intended to generate, in addition to environmental services, which are often intangible, tradable or consumable goods. This is a key part of the sustainability strategy of this initiative, the generation of food, income, and jobs. The interventions will also be carried out with in-kind contributions from the participants/beneficiaries, which is why the continuity of the actions is expected.

50.Principle 4: Benefits to nature and people

All the proposed measures have been selected for their ability to recover critical environmental services and direct economic benefits to the population.

51.Principle 5: Addressing causes of degradation

The main drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Mediterranean region are directly related to the anthropogenic pressures (overgrazing, climate change, forest fires, etc) and exacerbated by climate change, making the Southern and Eastern rims of the Mediterranean basin examples for the region and north European countries where similar climatic conditions are likely in the near future. For that reason, this project mainly promotes alternatives of sustainable use and productive restoration, understanding that the only way to reduce and avoid deforestation and degradation is through sustainable use alternatives that actively involve local populations. All proposed restoration activities are aimed at improving carbon capture and sink, nutrient retention, biological diversity, resilience to climate change and the generation of economic and social benefits such as income, diversification of self-consumption, employment, etc.

52.Principle 6: Knowledge integration

There is documented technical information and validated experiences for the successful and sustainable implementation of the restoration practices in the region. Likewise, it is necessary to reinforce and use science-based information to show the benefits at the landscape level and work will be done on the dissemination of the information generated as a strategy for the expansion of best practices. This will be particularly supported through a specific component supporting dissemination and knowledge sharing of relevant knowledge, lessons learned and best practice on ecosystem restoration, through dedicated Mediterranean webinars, knowledge products, various international events.

53.Principle 7: Measurable goals

At this stage of the concept note, targets have not yet been determined for this specific project, but the restoration Barometer will be used to identify financial flows, activities planned or implemented with community participation in the restoration areas.

Measurable and reachable goals will be defined by the countries. Through one specific component on monitoring, the monitoring of restoration will be strengthened to include environmental and social benefits linked to restoration. In order to plan the interventions and monitor global environmental benefits, the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) will be used in alignment with all the M&E work under the Decade. When needed, adaptive management practices will be encouraged. Further development of existing monitoring methods adapted to the region, and potentially scalable also to other Mediterranean countries will be collected and disseminated.

54.Principle 8: Local and land/seascape contexts;

The proposed restoration measures are part of the Mediterranean commitments (Agadir Declaration for example) and seek to strengthen policies, instruments, and actions for landscape restoration and obtain benefits in a comprehensive and connected way.

55.Principle 9: Monitoring and management;

Monitoring restoration efforts is an important activity and contribution of this project and is developed in one specific component. In addition to the implementation of methodologies such as the FERM, the aim is to promote integration and harmonization of the different instruments that have been developed, including REDD and those that are in the process of being prepared to promote national measurement systems, which after strengthening capacity, can monitor and follow up the restoration achievements. Four countries are directly targeted by this proposal but regional cooperation will be key for the flagship and will be promoted in each output.

56.Principle 10: Policy integration

There is a whole component dedicated to policy integration and mainstreaming of landscape restoration principles. There is a great expectation about the positive impact that restoration may have on landscapes, not only from its s

## Supporting Documents

Please submit any supporting documents (Official government documents, reports, press releases, articles, photos etc.) by sending it to restorationdecade@un.org (mailto:restorationdecade@un.org).