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# AFWC/EFC/NEFRC COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS – *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

## TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Antalya, Turkey, 21 – 25 March 2022**

### SECRETARIAT NOTE ITEM 4 IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS OF THE AGADIR COMMITMENT AFTER FIVE YEARS FROM ITS ADOPTION

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week, held in Agadir, Morocco, culminated on 24 March 2017 with a commitment endorsed by ten countries - Algeria, France, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey – and strongly supported by several international organizations – the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), the World Bank, Global Mechanism, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Plan Bleu, the Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED), the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN), the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) - to improve forest and landscape restoration (FLR), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region. The [Agadir Commitment](#) proposes to establish a new Regional Mediterranean Initiative on FLR to support the achievement of the [Bonn Challenge](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal 15](#) (SDG 15). This Regional Mediterranean Initiative also 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

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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). Furthermore, this Initiative remains in line with the global FLR objectives of the [Rio Conventions](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

2. The Regional Mediterranean Initiative, which aims to restore at least 8 million hectares of degraded land in the Mediterranean region by 2030, is focused on four main components:

- assess the ongoing national efforts on FLR;
- reinforce regional cooperation on FLR and LDN;
- cooperate, among interested partners, to develop a consensual and diversified strategy for the financing of FLR efforts and reinforce national capacities; and
- assess countries' respective efforts through the establishment of a voluntary monitoring and notification system for FLR and LDN efforts in the Mediterranean context.

3. At the Twenty-Third Session of *Silva Mediterranea*, the first follow-up of the Agadir Commitment discussed was the preparation of project proposal "The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions" that was submitted and then funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany. The project started in 2018 and is currently ongoing with a Mediterranean regional component and two national components implemented in Morocco and Lebanon.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS AFTER FIVE YEARS FROM THE AGADIR COMMITMENT'S ADOPTION**

4. The Twenty-Fourth Session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee addresses the issue of the implementation and progress made exactly five years after the adoption of the Agadir Commitment. It would be of utmost importance to assess the restoration activities that are being promoted and implemented in the region, how restoration is integrated in national and regional targets, and the area under restoration itself.

5. A survey consisting of multiple data searching criteria was carried out for collecting preliminary data for this assessment and will be presented during the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Committee. The data collecting criteria have been organized by consulting three main data sources:

- i) projects being implemented in the Mediterranean region which restoration activities have been conducted since 2017;
- ii) from published papers, articles and reports clearly reporting the number of hectares subject to reforestation in Mediterranean countries since 2017; and
- iii) relying on the expertise of *Silva Mediterranea* focal points and experts of the region that were contacted to provide support for this data collection and/or validate the information found.

6. The findings on the status of implementation of the Agadir Commitment will be used for oral communications at the XV World Forestry Congress (2-6 May 2022, Seoul, Republic of Korea).

7. The Secretariat asks country members to validate the findings presented on the status of implementation of the Agadir Commitment and similarly requests their assistance in completing and refining the assessment.

8. The *Committee* recommends the Secretariat to continue the assessment and publish a report by the end of 2022 on the implementation and progress of the Agadir Declaration.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMITTEE**

- The Committee recommends to the Secretariat to mobilize members/partners for the preparation and coordination of data collection for the assessment of the Agadir Commitment
- The Committee recommends to the Secretariat to keep it informed on the progress and status of the Agadir Commitment also assessing a monitoring system regarding post-Agadir efforts
- The Committee recommends to the Secretariat and its members to use the opportunity of the ongoing Mediterranean component of the project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions” to accelerate the implementation of the Agadir Commitment, to organize knowledge sharing events on forest and landscape restoration priority topics and to prepare new project proposals for submission to relevant financial instruments (Cost Actions, Adaptation Funds, Integrated Programme on Ecosystem Restoration in preparation in the context of GEF 8, etc)