



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Progress of *Silva Mediterranea*

EFC Matters: Agenda item 6 c

San Marino, 22-23 November 2023

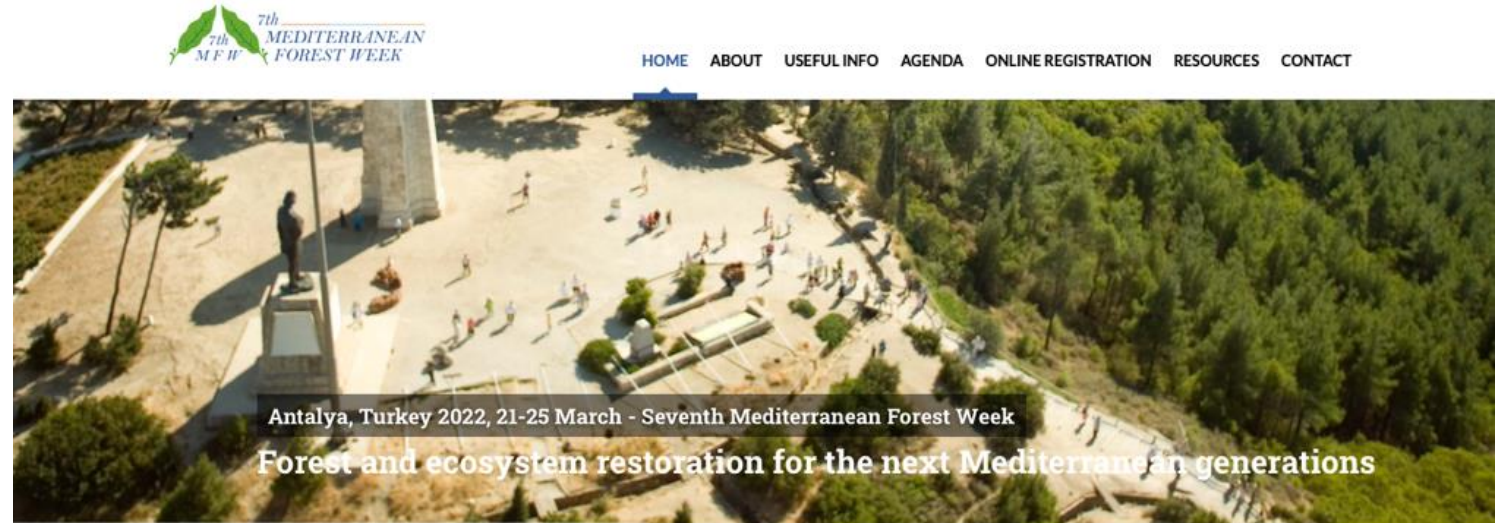


I. Activities of *Silva Mediterranea*

- A. Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week and Twenty-fourth session of Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea*
- B. Mediterranean Flagship Initiative in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Flagship
- C. State of Mediterranean Forests
- D. Unsylva
- E. The Mediterranean Youth Taskforce
- F. Points for Consideration

**A. Seventh
Mediterranean Forest
Week and Twenty-
fourth session of
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Mediterranean
Forestry Questions –
*Silva Mediterranea***

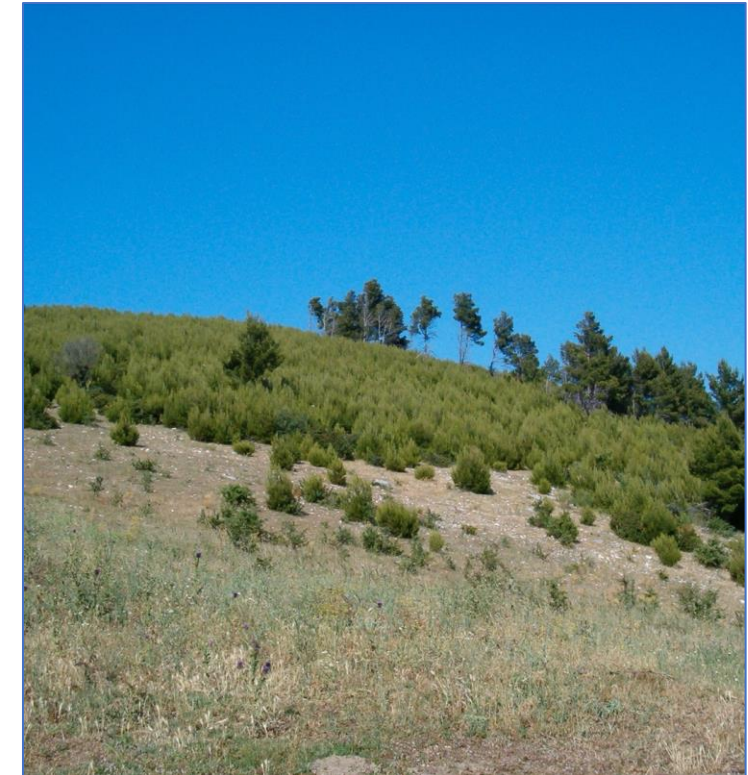
- Antalya, Türkiye, 21-25 March 2022
- Forest and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations
- Mediterranean Youth Dialogue and Youth Statement
- Antalya Declaration
- Flagship endorsement and submission
- Next session



B. Mediterranean Flagship Initiative (1)



- World Restoration Flagships
- The Mediterranean flagship was shortlisted as official UN World Restoration Flagship
- Capitalizing good practices on post-fire restoration in the Mediterranean”



FROM FIRES TO FORESTS – RESILIENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

At a glance:

Contacts: Rivera Lima, Lucia (NFOD) <luca.riveralima@fao.org>;
Marchetta, Caterina (NFO) <caterina.marchetta@fao.org>;
de Dato, Giovanbattista (NFO) <Giovanbattista.DeDato@fao.org>

Countries: All mediterranean countries, focus on **Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia,** and **Turkey**

Ecosystems: Forests

Submitted by: FAO (Silva Mediterranea), Ministries from Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey

UN DECADE PARTNERS: Lebanon Reforestation Initiative

KPI:

Mediterranean basin is world's second largest biodiversity hotspot, with **16% of forest species threatened with extinction**

2 million hectares of forests restored in the Mediterranean since 2017, **8+ million hectares** planned under restoration by 2030; create 50,000 new jobs in forest-dependent communities by 2030

B. Mediterranean Flagship Initiative (2)

C. State of the Mediterranean Forests (1)

- The first and second issues of previous SoMF in 2013 and 2018
- The new edition
 - overview of the status of forest resources in the Mediterranean region based on the most recent available statistics
 - showcase sound management, nature-based solutions and sustainable socioeconomic actions by reporting case studies and good practices
 - also report on recent advances and products in Mediterranean forest monitoring efforts

C. State of the Mediterranean Forests (2)

- SECTION 1 General Introduction
 1. Introduction
- SECTION 2 Mediterranean Forest Statistics
 2. State of Mediterranean forest resources
- SECTION 3 Mediterranean forest threats lead by changing climate and other degradation drivers
 3. Abiotic and biotic threats affecting Mediterranean forest ecosystems
- SECTION 4 Key pathways able to increase the resilience of Mediterranean forest ecosystems to current threats and emergencies
 4. Forest and landscape restoration initiatives in the Mediterranean region
 5. Forest fire management interventions in the Mediterranean region
 6. Role of urban and peri-urban forests for developing a sustainable rural-urban interface
 7. Monitoring Mediterranean forest resources to increase resilience to changing conditions
 8. Conclusion

Special issue on restoration in the Mediterranean

Objective

- Showcasing the status of restoration efforts of Mediterranean forest resources with a specific focus on recent developments, and opportunities to achieve regional and global pledges
- This special issue on the Mediterranean region will contribute to disseminate the restoration results that the UN Decade wants to promote at global scale

Structure

- 14 articles with concrete case studies evenly geographically distributed in the region. Gender and youth balance assured in the authorship



MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH
TASK FORCE



E. The Mediterranean Youth Task Force (1)

- It is a self-led group of youth
- supported by *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat and EFIMED
- need and agreement to involve more young people to participate in forest sector issues in the region
- Mediterranean Youth Dialogue and Youth Statement: main challenges and recommendations presented by young participants to all stakeholders in the region
- promote and guide a regional network of engaged young people -students, researchers, young professionals or who have other active roles in the forest sector of the region

E. The Mediterranean Youth Task Force (2)

2023 activities:

- Organization of a side-event in partnership with IFSA focused on youth-led agroforestry during the World Food Forum (WFF) flagship event (October, Rome – FAO HQ).
- Masterclass "From trees to wellness" organized during the International Day of Forests (March)
- Contribution to the drafting of the article "*State and priorities of young generations of the Mediterranean in the forest sector*" for Unasyva
- Launch of the communication strategy and social media channels.

2024 planned activities:

- New Direction Board to be elected.
- Online series of masterclasses on Voluntary Carbon Market and its Climate Change Mitigation Potential – in partnership with the Youth Skills Hub of the WFF.

F. Points of consideration

- Encourage Committee members to contribute to the development of the activities related to the Mediterranean Flagship Initiative
- Encourage the Committee to support the implementation of the priority topics of the Mediterranean Youth Task Force
- Recommend FAO and in particular the secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* to coordinate the preparation of the planned publications (Unasyuva and State of Mediterranean Forests), engaging with members, working groups and partners.



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Thank you

Silva-Mediterranea@fao.org

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The Progress report of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

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Mission and Structure of the Working Party (WPMMW)

Vision

- The vision of the WP is to promote sustainable development in mountain watersheds with a view to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters and to ensure the long-term provision of environmental services by watersheds for both upstream and downstream areas.

Institutional Framework

- The WP is a country driven **technical body under the umbrella of the EFC**. Each EFC member country is also a member of the WP-MMW. Member countries officially designate a “focal point” from a related Government-agency, who represents the country in the activities of the WP-MMW
- **Steering Committee** provides programmatic orientation to the WP-MMW and serves as a representative body of its members.
- FAO hosts **the Secretariat** of the WP and provides logistical support



Mission and Structure of the Working Party (WPMMW)

Working Groups

- Thematic or regional WGs form the main implementation mechanism to fulfil the mission of the WP and to satisfy the different needs and priorities within the European region. WG1 “Protective Forest in Mountain Watersheds”, and WG2 “Hazard and Disaster Risk Management in Mountains”

Biannual Sessions

- The WP holds its sessions on a biannual basis, in the same year of the session of the EFC, ideally before the EFC session to allow for a timely preparation of the report and the presentation of the key outcomes of the meeting to the EFC session.
- The structure of the sessions of the WP includes the following components: technical seminar, field excursion, reporting from WGs, reporting from national partners/observers, deliberation on emerging issues, communication and housekeeping matters.



Activities of the Working Party in 2021-2023

- Two Steering Committee meetings took place virtually. The October 2022 meeting marked a smooth transition of the Chair of WP from Austria to Italy, while the June 2023 meeting laid a foundation of the 34th Session of the WP.
- WG1 “Protective Forest in Mountain Watersheds”, and WG2 “Hazard and Disaster Risk Management in Mountains” have prepared their work plans as outlined in their strategic documents.
- The Working Groups are coordinated by lead countries (WG1: Austria and Slovenia, WG2: France and Austria).



Activities of the Working Party in 2021-2023

- In October 2022, WG1 held a workshop on “Protective Forest Management after largescale disturbance” in Villach/ Beljak, Austria.
- The workshop addressed the crucial issue of managing protective forests in general and after large-scale disturbances such as windthrow, bark beetle calamities, and wildfires.
- An excursion was organized to Lesachvalley, Austria, as well as Mojstrana and several other locations in Slovenia to enhance their knowledge of reforestation in the protective forest.

Activities of the Working Party in 2021-2023

- 1st online workshop of the WG2 was hosted by Austria, on ‘Loss of Protection Function of Forests due to Storm Events with a focus on avalanches’ on 29-30 November 2022.
- WG2 also organized a workshop on “How to manage a catchment prone to torrential hazards after the disappearance of protection forests” on 8-10 November 2023 in Cerbère, France.
- The workshop explored the protective effect of forests against torrential floods, preventive management of protective forests against fires in mountainous areas, and management of torrential watersheds after a forest fire.
- Furthermore, a field visit to the Riberal torrential watershed was organized as a case study to develop a proposal on how to manage the torrential watershed after a recent forest fire.

Activities of the Working Party in 2021-2023

- The 34th Session of the Working Party was held on 27 September 2023, followed by a workshop on “Management of mountain watersheds in a climate change perspective: from the Alps to the Mediterranean areas” from 28-29 September in Bolzano-Bozen, Italy (hybrid format).
- An excursion was organized by the Forest Department and Mountain Watersheds Department of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano on upstream watershed management, including forest damage and disturbance cases.
- Key messages:

“WP to focus on climate crisis and the consequences of catastrophic flooding and forest disturbances driven by climate-induced factors”

“Integrated watershed management, incorporating disaster risk reduction, should be a priority, and the EFC should expand its mandate to address these issues more comprehensively”

“Addressing the crosscutting and multi-stakeholder challenges in the face of climate-induced disasters requires a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach beyond forestry sector”

F. Points of consideration

- The Commission may wish to take full advantage of the services of the Working Party and facilitate its work by:
 - (a) Strengthening further their commitment to the Working Party, including through designating a focal point to serve on the Working Party.
 - (b) Providing continued guidance for the Working Party, in particular in terms of identifying priority topics to be addressed.
 - (c) Publicizing the work of the Working Party and making full use of its services.



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Thank you

WPMMW Secretariat

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