

Presentation of the Mediterranean Forest Week of Antalya (Turkey)

13-16 April 2010

Introduction

Mediterranean forest ecosystems provide multiple goods and services including an exceptional richness in terms of biodiversity, which are crucial for the socio-economic development of rural areas as well as for the welfare of the urban populations of the Mediterranean region. Several challenges have emerged in a context of global change that need to be addressed by managers and policy-makers to ensure the sustainability of Mediterranean forests:

- How can Mediterranean forests and forestry adapt to climate and land use changes?
- Which policies and economic instruments need to be implemented to ensure the provision of valuable forest goods and services?
- How should multifunctional forests within complex multiple-use landscapes be managed?

Meeting these challenges call for both, sound science- based information and a fluent, transparent and interactive science-policy dialogue. In this context, new ways must be found to improve the science-policy dialogue through: promotion of science-policy networking; targeted capacity building; development of specific communication tools (publications, events and meetings), etc.



Picture 1:

The participants of the first Mediterranean Forest Week, during the field trip organized by the SAFRI

EFIMED, Silva Mediterranea (FAO), and several organizations (including AIFM, Plan Bleu, ARCMED, Mediterranean Forest Model Network as well as Silva Mediterranea member countries) joined forces to create a common regional platform for cooperation on Mediterranean forests.

These efforts led as a first step to the organization of a Mediterranean Forest Week.

This meeting was organized as a common platform for regional cooperation on Mediterranean forests, aiming to improve dialogue between scientific community, decision-makers and concerned stakeholders, and to promote the importance of Mediterranean forests and their challenges to an international audience and the general public.

The first Mediterranean Forest Week was organized in Antalya (Turkey) and hosted by the Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute (SAFRI) on 13 - 16 April 2010.

During this first Mediterranean Forest Week, several events were organized:

- EFIMED organized his scientific seminar on “Knowledge base management for Mediterranean forests under climate driven risks: the ways ahead” (See. pp. 351-432);

- Silva Mediteranea organized the third session of his Enlarged Executive Committee (See pp. 327-328);

- parallèll workshops were organized, included the preparation of a position paper on the “Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean” (See pp. 337-344). This

position paper was prepared by a panel of experts in the context of the Enlarged Executive Committee of Silva Mediterranea, for adoption and inclusion as part of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture at the “Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development” that might have taken place on 15-16 June 2010, in Cairo, Egypt. The panel of experts comprised members of Silva Mediterranea Enlarged Executive Committee, representatives of research organizations and networks, landowner associations and non-governmental organizations active in the Mediterranean;

- a field trip was also organized by the Turkish authorities.

The success of this first Mediterranean Week drove the Silva Mediterranea and its regional partners to organize, during the International Year of Forests (2011), the Second Mediterranean Forest Week in Avignon (France), 5-8 April 2011.

The various parallel or plenary sessions of this Second Week will tackle the following topics:

- Forest governance in the Mediterranean,
- Interactions Water/Forests,
- ArcMed’s General Assembly,
- AIFM’s General Assembly,
- Enlarged Executive Committee of Silva Mediterranea,
- EFIMED scientific seminar: “biodiversity in Mediterranean wooded ecosystems: change the paradigm for conservation”,
- Profitability (social and private) of Mediterranean forests,
- Capitalization of past and current projects on Mediterranean forests,
- Agora Project,
- Forest Fire Prevention,
- Silva Mediterranea’s 100th Anniversary.

The Second Mediterranean Forest Week will be organized by Silva Mediterranea, EFIMED (secretariat), AIFM, ArcMed, the Mediterranean Model Forest Network, COFOR International, with the support of INRA and the French Ministry for Agriculture.

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