

THE SEVENTH MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK

Antalya, Turkey | 21 - 25 March, 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOST

The location of Turkey, with its 1577 km long Mediterranean coastal strip overlooking the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, has uniquely shaped its forests.

In this period of political and economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are turning towards those valuable renewable resources for goods, as well as ecosystem services provided by the forests.

Besides Mediterranean forests' social and cultural dimensions, and their relationships with sustainable food systems and non-wood forest products, forest-based opportunities focusing on youth and gender employment provide opportunities green job opportunities for the new generations by using Mediterranean forests.

However, the Mediterranean forest faces global challenges and threats: climate change, deforestation, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, and forest fires. Solutions for these challenges and threats require effective communication strategies, capacity building, knowledge transferring, experience sharing, and awareness-raising in the Mediterranean region.

Moreover, forest and ecosystem restoration, through nature-based solutions, restore degraded forests and enhance their resilience against climate change, deforestation, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, and forest fires.

Furthermore, innovations, case studies, calls for action, environmental opportunities, such as the EU Green Deal, ecological Transition, and the new EU Forest Strategy for managing Mediterranean forests given post-pandemic scenarios, play a crucial role in forest and ecosystem restoration.

In this context, and under the title "Forest and Ecosystem Restoration for the Next Mediterranean Generations", we invite you all, forest administrators, policymakers, the scientific and academic community, the private sector, donors, civil society, environmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in the Mediterranean region, to this platform to highlight the importance of forests and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations.

Embracing this global issue as a unified cohort will result in a significant output. Only with cooperation will we make a difference.

It is with great honour that Turkey is organizing the Seventh Edition of the Mediterranean Forest Week, as it is a precious opportunity for us to welcome you to our country, in Antalya, a city with natural Mediterranean forests, where we chose to organize this event to give you a glimpse of our forests.

I wish all the participants a fruitful and successful experience.

Bekir KARACABEY

General Director of Forestry

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey

AGENDA

Agenda

	Monday 21/03/2022	Tuesday 22/03/2022	Wednesday 23/03/2022	Thursday 24/03/2022	Friday 25/03/2022
09:00	Opening ceremony and International Day of Forests	Silva Med. session working groups activities		Silva Med. session The Agadir commitment	Silva Med. session the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration and future projects
11:00	Coffee break			Coffee break	
11:30	NWFP certification and labelling CTFC & INRGREF	The use of new technologies & forest maps ETC-UMA		Young entrepreneurs Protect Mediterranean climate, society and development MMFN	
13:00	Lunch break			Lunch break	
14:30	NWFP for people, nature and the green economy EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE	Sharing good practices on FLR in Turkey OGM TURKEY	Field Trip	Financing opportunity for forest and landscape restoration in the Mediterranean FAO	
16:30	Coffee break			Coffee break	
17:00	Side events and Mediterranean Model Forest Network Meeting	Restoring Landscapes and Forests in Lebanon LEBANON REFORESTATION INITIATIVE		High level segment	
18:00		Side events and Mediterranean Model Forest Network Meeting		Closing remarks	
20:30				Gala dinner	

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

7th Mediterranean Forest Week: Forest and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations

Held every two years, the Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) brings together a multidisciplinary set of actors engaged in Mediterranean forest activities. The main scope of the MFW is to strengthen cooperation amongst the research community, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders by providing a common regional platform for dialogue in the management of Mediterranean forests. The MFW also promotes Mediterranean forests worldwide and calls attention to their specific challenges. Participants include forest administrators, scientific and academic communities, the private sector, forest owners, investors and key donors, young professionals, civil society, media, environmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

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 environmental challenges that they will have to face in a changing global environment. Young people in the age range between 15 to 24 years represent 14% 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% and 33% depending on the country and there are significant disparities between sub-regions and according to gender.

Building a bridge between the forest and the labour force of Mediterranean youth 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, to bridge the afore-mentioned 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.

These are the motivations leading to propose themes and topics addressing Forest Ecological Restoration topics and its relationship with the young generations in the next Mediterranean Forest Week, entitled “Forest and ecosystem restoration for the next Mediterranean generations.”

The 7th MFW will be held in Antalya, Turkey from the 21st to the 25th of March 2022 and it will explore the opportunities offered by Mediterranean forests and challenges related to ecosystem restoration to provide jobs and opportunities to young people while facing the forest threats raised by global changes.

The themes of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week are:

- Youth and green jobs: provide opportunities using Mediterranean forests
- Forest and landscape-based solutions: - degraded forests, desertification, and forest fires
- Forest-based opportunities with a focus on youth generations and gender employment
- Environmental opportunities: EU Green Deal, Ecological Transition and New EU Forest Strategy
- Social and cultural dimension of Mediterranean forests
- Management of Mediterranean forests in view of post-pandemic scenarios
- Non-wood forest products of Mediterranean forests and their relationships with sustainable food systems
- Innovation in Mediterranean forests: case studies and call for actions
- Communication strategies, knowledge transferring and sharing experiences in Mediterranean forests
- Training and giving experience

The objectives of the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week are the following:

- Identify opportunities offered to young people by forest-based solutions in the Mediterranean and anticipate 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.

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

OPENING CEREMONY

Room: Aspendos 6

9.30 – 11.00 (TRT)

The opening ceremony welcomes participants and establishes the framework for the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW).

Speakers		
9.30	Chadi Mohanna	Chair of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
9.45	Florence Lacrosse	Université Côte d'Azur and Marine & Environmental Research Lab
9.55	Patricia Sfeir	Mediterranean Forest Communicators Network
10.05	International Day of Forests video projection	
10.10	Seher Alacaci Ariner	UNDP Turkey - (Assistant Resident Representative)
10.20	Viorel Gutu	FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia, FAO Representative in Turkey
10.25	General Directorate of Forestry of Turkey (OGM) – video projection	
10.30	Bekir Karacabey	General Directorate of Forestry of the Republic of Turkey

21 March

THEMATIC SESSION - IMPROVING THE VALUE-CHAIN OF MEDITERRANEAN WILD FOOD PRODUCTS (WFP): SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO HOW CERTIFICATION, BRANDING AND LABELLING CAN UPGRADE THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF EDIBLE NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS.

Location: Aspendos 2

11.30-13.00 – (TRT)

This session is presented as a part of the WILDFOOD project (Eating the wild: Improving the value-chain of Mediterranean Wild Food Products) funded by the PRIMA initiative. The session is structured in three parts: First, there will be a general presentation of the WILDFOOD project followed by a specific presentation on certification and labelling; Second, there will be two presentations on NWFP certification and labelling overview; and third, two case studies on NWFPs certification in Turkey and Portugal.

It is important to note that in the afternoon there will be another session on NWFPs with the title: *Non-wood forest products for people, nature and the green economy. Recommendations for policy priorities in the Mediterranean* (coordinated by Eduard Mauri, EFI). After that session, there will be a joint debate between the two sessions.

Profiles

Moderator: Marta Rovira is Project Manager of the PRIMA-funded WildFood project coordinated by the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC). Master in Sustainable Tourism, Master's in international Trade and Finance and a postgraduate degree in international development cooperation project management. Rovira has more than 15 years participating and coordinating projects in the field of the rural development and agroforest sector, especially related to Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) and ecotourism, in the Mediterranean area and at international level. Rovira is the coordinator of projects under EuropeAid's CSO Programme in Turkey, Russia and Iran promoting NWFP and actors' integration and cooperation.

Rapporteur: Ibtissem Taghouti is a researcher of rural economics at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (Spain) and former Assistant Professor at the National Research institute of Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry (Tunisia). She holds a PhD in Agri-food Economics from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain) and she received her Master of Science in agri-food marketing from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (CIHEAM-Spain). During her PhD, her research interests have focused on the impact of non-tariff measures and food safety standards on agri-food trade in the Mediterranean area. Lately, she has extensive research experience in forest economics and marketing of non-wood forest products. Her interests have expanded to the exploration of livelihood strategies adopted by small producers and rural development. She also has broad research experience in adoption and impact assessment of improved technologies in crop and livestock production systems. She worked as a lead member or a Coordinator in different international research projects in various Mediterranean countries.

Speakers

Davide Pettenella is Co-founder and member of the Etifor Scientific Committee, and is a full-time professor at the Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (LEAF) Department of the University of Padua, where he is teaching Forest Economics. He has published more than 400 papers as a result of his research activities and field work carried out within programmes financed by the European Commission, FAO, European Forestry Institute, World Bank, and by Italian national and regional institutions. He is coordinator of the working group dedicated to the development of Italian national forest strategy, where non-wood forest products and ecosystem services play a key role.

Elise Heral is TRAFFIC Europe's Programme Officer for Sustainable Trade, based in Budapest. In this role, she supports the implementation of TRAFFIC's work on wild-sourced resources trade. She works on a wide range of issues, including approaches for better regulations to ensure trade is sustainable, the development of private-sector standards, and the engagement of businesses. Elise has several years of experience working on wildlife trade issues, focusing on implementing the best practices in the sustainability of harvesting and trade in wild-collected plants in source and consumer countries, such as the implementation of the FairWild Standard for Licorice in Kazakhstan. Elise is also involved in policy work to ensure that EU policies take wild commodities into account and aim for sustainable supply chains. She has a background in the timber industry and forest management and kept looking at natural resources from their landscape of origin until the end consumer, including non-timber forest products and wild plants.

Huseyin Ucar graduated from the Ankara University Agricultural Engineering program and has been working in the Certification business for twelve years. Ucar is an inspector of KAYOS Certification Body which works on organic control and certification jobs for the Turkish Forestry and Agriculture Ministry for twelve years as well. Beside Ucar's home Certification, Body KAYOS, Ucar is an auditor for Mayacert S.A. on NOP/USDA and EU scopes for one and half years. During these years, he did several inspections for Non-wood forest products such as Laurel leaf/ oil, thyme etc. for both Turkish regulations and NOP.

Susete Marques has a PhD in Forestry and Natural Resources. She is a Research Assistant in CEF/ISA. Her work over the last seventeen years has focused on forests and natural resource management, wildfire risk and damage, wildfire behaviour, ecosystem services, wild food products, forest management planning, optimization, multiple criteria decision analysis and decision support systems. She co-authored 20 articles in WoS, six book chapters and several presentations in international conferences. Currently, she is Principal Investigator (PI) of the MODFIRE project and CO-PI of the BIOECOSYS and NOBEL projects. She is also the national responsible for the WP3 of the project WILDFOOD developing work on marketing, labelling and certification innovations in the wild food products sector (acorn, pennyroyal and pine nuts) in Portugal. Marques also participates/has participated in several international projects (e.g., FIRERES, ALTERFOR, SUFORUN, DECISIONES, INTEGRAL). She is also IUFRO Deputy coordinator of unit 3.04.01 - Operations Systems and Modelling, from the Division 3 - Forest Operations Engineering and Management.

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
12 min	WildFood project presentation (PRIMA funded project)	Marta Rovira
15 min	WildFood Policy forum output	Ibtissem Taghouti
14 min	Certification schemes and standards for edible Non-wood forest products	Davide Pettenella
14 min	Certification of Non-wood Forest products: market and economic opportunities and challenges. Case study: wild certification (online presentation)	Elise Heral
10 min	Organic Control and certification of the non-wood forest products in Turkey	Hüseyin Ucar
10 min	Certification of Non-wood Forest products in Portugal	Susete Marques

Partners

Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), National research Institute of rural engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF)

THEMATIC SESSION - THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND OPEN DATA TO BETTER SUPPORT RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

Location: Aspendos 6

11.30 - 13.00 (TRT)

Spatial information and resulting maps are essential tool for knowing the territory, planning, and prioritizing actions. In the case of forest maps, they support decision making and management of forest resources in the region which ensures improved governance systems, informed decisions for restoration prioritization, for instance. Obtaining an accurate map requires a major effort. Traditionally, land cover maps have been done photo-interpreting aerial photographs and complementing with field data. However, these maps are expensive to produce, and the process takes several years. In the best-case scenario, field inventories and land cover maps take five to ten years to be updated. In the latest years, satellite data and automatic classification techniques have been used to reduce time of production and human manpower.

Today, there are some reference forest maps at global scale; however, the precision of these maps is different than the traditional ones, plus they only provide generic forest classes, such as distribution of coniferous and broadleaved forests, or dense and open forests. At the Mediterranean level, the European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA), the Department of Super computation and Bioinformatics at University of Malaga (Khaos), the MEDFORVAL network, the European Environment Agency, and Silva Mediterranea are working collaboratively on developing an enhanced forest map based on dominant tree species in the Mediterranean, by means of satellite data and artificial intelligence. This map will support the implementation of international targets (Sustainable development Goals –SDG–; Convention on Biological Diversity –CBD–; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change –UNFCCC–, among others) by sharing new knowledge, improving understanding of science, and providing innovative solutions to identifying and quantifying potential restoration sites. In the development of the forest map, researchers and institutions of several countries along the Mediterranean are involved to collect local and national forest data to feed our machine learning models and validate our results.

As a side product, a specific database of Mediterranean forest types is generated. As a result of these interactions, a debate arose about what is a forest and what kind of basic / essential information, building on expert rules, must be in a map to help the different stakeholders who might use it. This session will also be the opportunity to have a conversation about the job opportunities that this work triggers. Open-source data and technology enables young people to create their own job initiatives on a green line, as big data analysis is a low impact and sustainable activity. Moreover, the most innovative machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques are used to produce the map.

Profiles

Moderator: Nelly Bourlion, ETC-UMA is a biodiversity expert with an engineering diploma in Agronomy and a MSc. in Economy. She has been working in international project management for several years. She works as a consultant for the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) providing technical assistance to national teams and developing projects in various countries.

She previously has worked as a Biodiversity and Forest Ecosystem Program Officer at Plan Bleu, a regional activity centre of UNEP/MAP where she managed numerous projects in the Mediterranean, one of which in partnership with ETC-UMA. She also has worked for the GEF performance evaluation team in Washington DC on evaluation of environmental projects focused on biodiversity protection.

Rapporteur: Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, EEA has more than 30 years of professional experience on forests ecosystems and habitats, forest resources, sustainable management and multiple use of forests mainly in international context. Annemarie is Project Manager on Forest Information and Assessments at the European Environmental Agency (EEA). Recent work has focus on the impacts on main drivers and pressures on forest ecosystems (natural and semi-natural) and how to reconcile forest management to resilient, healthy, and biodiverse forests. Another main area of work comprise the development of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE: www.forest.europa.eu).

Speakers

Cécile Roddier-Quefelec is an Ocean Governance and Mediterranean Cooperation Expert. She currently works at the European Environment Agency (EEA), within the Biodiversity and Ecosystems programme, where she leads and facilitates further engagement and sustainability of partnerships and technical networks of relevance for the ecosystem and biodiversity working area. She coordinates EEA's activities with Regional Seas Conventions and engagement with the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet). She leads the regional cooperation with the Mediterranean region and EEA engagement on ocean governance, in support to knowledge for ecosystem-based management. She, in particular steers the implementation of the strategic partnership between and UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention, and leads EEA's contribution to the Union for the Mediterranean policy agenda. She ensures operationalisation of regional engagement in knowledge development, with contribution to the Mediterranean Foresight exercise MED-2050, contributing to Europe's State and Outlook Report, as well as thematic and integrated assessments. Her pragmatic vision to address complex challenges among stakeholder groups and her cross-policy knowledge has been key to develop and maintain solid regional cooperation and partnerships. Before joining the European Environment Agency, she worked as a Project Manager State of the Environment and Development at Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, where she led the environment component of the EU-funded regional statistical cooperation programme MEDSTAT and coordinated the Mediterranean State of the Environment and Development Report. Agronomist by education, she has specific knowledge and skills in water management, environment statistics and indicators, environmental accounting, and extensive experience on the design, coordination and implementation and monitoring of projects, capacity development, training and involvement of sectorial stakeholders.

Issam Touhami is a researcher in Forest Ecology at the National Research Institute of Rural Engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF), and member of the Laboratory of Management and Valorization of Forest Resources. He received her first Master of Science in Integrated Planning for Rural Development and Environmental management from the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM- Zaragoza, Spain), and a second Master in Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems from the faculty of Science, University of Alicante (Spain) and her Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Alicante. He has extensive research experience in the field of forest ecology, forest adaptation to climate change, and forest resources conservation. Her research experience focuses also on GIS & Land use/cover change. I have worked as a leader-

member in different European and international research projects (Wildfood, ECOPLANTMED, MENFRI etc.).

Nizar Hani is a protected area specialist, graduated as a biochemist and has a Master's degree in Agro Marketing- Agricultural Sciences from Lebanese University. He currently works as an environmental specialist, Manager of Shouf Biosphere Reserve, at the Ministry of Environment in Lebanon. Most of his training and experiences are related to biodiversity conservation, forest landscape restoration, and monitoring various plant usages, protected areas management, assessment of ecosystem services, transhumance and grazing management, project proposal writing, management and funding, ecotourism management involving local stakeholders, infrastructure development and maintenance, environmental education, and awareness.

Virginia Garcia Millan is an expert in Remote Sensing for nature conservation. She worked as a researcher in Canada, Germany, and Sweden, basing her research on evaluating the suitability of different sensors for environmental monitoring, such as satellites, drones, airborne cameras, or laser scanners, for mapping succession of tropical dry forests in Latin America and for the characterization of boreal forests in Canada. In the last years she shifted her scientific interest into upscaling from field inventories to regional mapping, using Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, that can be transferred and repeated to other spatial and temporal scales. She is currently working on databases and maps of Mediterranean forest types.

Alessio Martinoli is an expert in zoology and wildlife management (MSc in 2009; PhD in 2018 at the University of Insubria, Italy, including a period at the CNRS-CEFE in Montpellier, France). Currently a post-doc at the University of Insubria, he collaborates with the NGO Instituto Oikos (Milan, Italy) since 2016 as project manager involved in biodiversity monitoring and protected areas planning (chiefly Natura2000). On behalf of Instituto Oikos, he is the current coordinator of the Medforval network of High Ecological Value Mediterranean forests, which include 18 sites from 12 countries.

Partners

European Topic Centre –University of Malaga (ETC-UMA).

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
10 min	Contributing Mediterranean regional partnerships on forests.	Cécile Roddier-Quefelec and Annemarie Bastrup-Birk: The European Environment Agency
15 min	Supporting Forest conservation and restoration policies: A Mediterranean-wide forest map	Virginia Garcia–ETC-UMA
10 min	Q&A session	
15 min	Current Forest inventories in the Mediterranean	Issam Touhami – Tunisian Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF)
10 min	Transboundary collaborations for forests: The MedForValnetwork	Alessio Martinoli – <i>Institute Oikos</i>
10 min	Local Forest management efforts, the Shouf Biosphere Reserve	Nizar Hani: The Shouf Biosphere Reserve
15 min	Q&A Session	
5 min	Summary and next steps	Nelly Bourlion–ETC-UMA

THEMATIC SESSION - NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND THE GREEN ECONOMY -RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Location: Aspendos 6

14.30 - 16.45 (TRT)

This session is divided into three blocks. The first block (30 minutes) introduces the linkage between entrepreneurship in NWFP and appropriate policies that allow these businesses to thrive, with special emphasis on the Turkish context. It includes a short presentation of the EU Policy Priorities for the Sustainability of Non-Wood Forest Products: a white paper based on lessons-learned from around the Mediterranean. The second block (1 hour) presents five success cases on how adequate policies maintain the sustainability of NWFP value chains, secure competitive and equitable value chains, allow market transparency, data and information flow, and enable conditions for NWFP businesses to flourish. Finally, the last block (45 min) is a joint debate of the sessions Improving the value-chain of Mediterranean Wild Food Products (WFP): to provide special insight into how certification, branding and labelling can upgrade the economic value of edible non-wood forest products and Non-wood forest products for people, nature and the green economy. This will be followed by recommendations for policy priorities in the Mediterranean.

Profiles

Moderator: Eduard Mauri is junior researcher at the European Forest Institute's Mediterranean Facility since 2018. He holds a degree in Forest Management and a M.Sc.A. in Forest Sciences from Laval University (Quebec City, Canada). For more than ten years he has developed applied research and knowledge transfer projects in silviculture and sustainable forest management in Canada, Spain and France. From 2018 to 2021, he assisted in the coordination of the project "Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin" (INCREDIBLE). He also develops activities supporting innovation in forest circular bioeconomy at the Bioregions Facility of the European Forest Institute.

Rapporteur: Giulia Muir is a non-wood forest product specialist for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), where she has been working for over fourteen years. Giulia has a background in agroforestry, food security and environment. She received her PhD from the University of Padua (Department of Land and Agro-Forestry Systems), with a focus on the role of wild forest products in shaping more nutritious and healthy food systems. She also holds M.Sc. degrees from the University of Oxford and Edinburgh. Giulia's recent work focusses on improving knowledge and data on the contribution of wild foods and gathering to food security and nutrition and supporting the development of sustainable and nutritious wild product value chains.

Speakers

Sara Maltoni is the Head of the Forest value chains and Cooperation Office at the Regional Agency for Forests and the Environment of Sardinia (FoReSTAS), a public Agency managing around 220 000 hectares of forest land. After an MSc in Environmental Science and Technology at Imperial College (University of London) and a PhD in Monitoring and Management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems (University of Sassari) she gained research experience at the National Research Council prior to entering the state forest agency as a public officer in 2007. Her field of expertise refers to cooperation projects on agroforestry and multi-resource forest management in the Mediterranean.

Álvaro Picardo is a forester, born in Madrid (Spain) in 1961. He works as Technical Adviser to the General Direction in Natural Heritage and Forest Policy of the regional government Junta de Castilla y León (Spain). His main activities include participation in the Castilla y León Forestry Law and in the main regional forest policy instruments. He has also developed his activity in the international arena, within the framework of the Standing Forestry Committee of the European Commission, the International Model Forest Network and ERIAFF, with a large involvement in the promotion of sylvopastoralism, fire prevention and non-wood forest products, and participating in international projects like INCREDIBLE.

Ismail Belen works for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Turkey. Previously, he served as Deputy Director General of Forestry. From 2012 to 2017, he was the Chairman of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions. He has taken part in many national and international projects. After Faculty of Forestry, he completed two M.Sc. programmes on science and public administration. He attended to “Special Program for Senior Managers in Government” at Harvard University. He also actively works in non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He works as the foreign relations consultant at the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkey. He is the President of the “Foundation of the People Caring for Future-CARFU” and The Platform of the Associations of Nature and Forestry (PLANFOR).

Ramón Santiago Beltrán has a PhD in Forestry (2001). Between 1987 and 1997 he worked on the Forest Map of Spain. From 1997 to 2022 he has developed his activity at the CMC Institute from CICYTEX as an expert in cork production. He has carried out field work in northern Africa and southern Europe. His research and work topics are cork quality, debarking technologies, and cork-oak afforestation. He has published 40 books, monographs, and book chapters, 23 vegetation maps, and 26 scientific articles. He has participated in 12 R&D projects funded by public calls and eight international cooperation projects on cork production. He has seven patents related to debarking technology and one to cork quality.

Andreja Kandolf Borovšak is a food safety advisor at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association. She has a doctorate of biosciences in the field of food. She has completed a national professional qualification for beekeeper and apitherapist, professional training in queen bee breeding, a course for honey evaluation at the Department of Food Science of the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, completed a program for a mentor in beekeeping, obtained a license as an advisor. She is a member of the International Honey Commission in the group for *Meliss* palynological analysis. She actively participates in international beekeeping congresses such as Apimondia, Apimedica. She participates in the organization of round tables on honey quality, safety, and authenticity. She is part of the editorial board of the journal Slovenian Beekeeper (Slovenski čebelar).

Özgür Balci is the Head of Department for Non-Wood Forest Products and Services at the General Directorate of Forest, Turkey, since 2018. He graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Forestry Engineering, and he completed his graduate education at Süleyman Demirel University Faculty of Forestry in 2016. Between 2002 and 2018, he worked at the field as Forest Ranger in Bolu, Bursa and Ankara Regional Forestry Directorates. He served until October 2018 as the founding Division Director of the Herbal Products Branch Directorate, which was established under the Department of Non-Wood Forest Products and Services, which was created as a result of the restructuring of the General Directorate of Forestry in 2011. Mr Balci is serving as the Fourty-Seventh Term Board Member of the Chamber of Forestry Engineers.

Alessandra Stefani is the Chief of the General Directorate of Forestry at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (Direzione Generale delle foreste del Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali) and former General Director of the National Forest Guards body (Corpo Forestale dello Stato), Alessandra Stefani has a wide experience in the governance of all forestry matters in Italy, coordinating activities such as the National Forestry Law n.34/2018 and the Italian Forest Strategy.

Davide Pettenella is the Co-founder and member of the Etifor Scientific Committee, and is a full-time professor at the Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (LEAF) Department of the University of Padua, where he is teaching Forest economics. He has published more than 400 papers as a result of his research activities and field work carried out within programmes financed by the European Commission, FAO, European Forestry Institute, World Bank, and by Italian national and regional institutions. He is coordinator of the working group dedicated to the development of Italian national forest strategy, where non-wood forest products and ecosystem services play a key role.

Ibtissem Taghouti is a researcher of rural economics at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (Spain) and former assistant professor at the National Research institute of Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry (Tunisia). She holds a PhD in Agri-food Economics from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain) and she received her Master of Science in agri-food marketing from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (CIHEAM-Spain). During the PhD, her research interests have focused on the impact of non-tariff measures and food safety standards on ago-food trade in the Mediterranean area. Lately, she has an extensive research experience in forest economics and marketing of non-wood forest products. Her interests have expanded to the exploration of livelihood strategies adopted by small producers and rural development. She also has broad research experience in adoption and impact assessment of improved technologies in crop and livestock production systems. She worked as a lead member/ coordinator in different international research projects in various Mediterranean countries.

Partners: European Forest Institute (EFI) – Mediterranean Facility, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Forestry Department & IUFRO Task Force Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products, Agenzia Forestale Regionale per lo Sviluppo del Territorio e dell’Ambiente della Sardegna (FORESTAS), Junta de Castilla y León – Department of the Environment – General Direction on Natural Heritage and Forest Policy, Forest Research Centre (INIA, CSIC) & IUFRO RG1.08.00 Silviculture for edible non-wood forest products & IUFRO Task Force

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
30 min	Block 1 - Setting the scene	
10 min	Introduction and presentation of short video testimonials presenting the needs, challenges and innovations from entrepreneurs that can be solved through adequate policy support of NWFP.	Sara Maltoni and Alvaro Picardo
10 min	The national Turkish context: The National Turkish Program on Non-Wood Forest Products.	Ismail Belen
10 min	Brief presentation of the document <i>EU policy priorities for the sustainability of Non-Wood Forest Products: a white paper based on lessons-learned from around the Mediterranean</i>	Sara Maltoni and Alvaro Picardo
60 min	Block 2 – Success cases from policy to practice	
12 min	1st success case on securing the sustainability of NWFP value chains: cork oak plantations establishment in Portugal and Spain to ensure future cork supply	Ramón Santiago Beltrán
12 min	2nd success case on securing competitive and equitable value chains: associations of producers and the interbranch organisation for honey	Andreja Kandolf Borovšak
12 min	3rd success case on transparency, data and information flow: the Turkish NWFP information system	Özgür Balcı
12 min	4th success case on enabling conditions: the adaptation of legal regulations and taxation system for mushroom and truffle harvesters in Italy	Alessandra Stefani and Davide Pettenella
12 min	5th success case: empowering women harvesting non-wood forest products in Tunisia: perspectives and new approaches.	Ibtissem Taghouti
45 min	Block 3 – Common debate on NWFP	
45 min	How the NWFP value chains can become stronger thanks to policy recommendations, certification, branding and labelling?	<u>Moderator:</u> Eduard Mauri

**Common debate of the sessions “Improving the value-chain of Mediterranean Wild Food Products (WFP): special insight into how certification, branding and labelling can upgrade the economic value of edible non-wood forest products”) and “Non-wood forest products for people, nature and the green economy. Recommendations for policy priorities in the Mediterranean”.*

22 March

THEMATIC SESSION - RESTORATION STRATEGIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: EXPLORING COST-EFFICIENT INTERVENTIONS THROUGH ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION AND APPROPRIATE USE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES.

Location: Aspendos 6

11.30 - 13.00 (TRT)

The Mediterranean region includes more than 25 million hectares of forest and about 50 million hectares of other wooded lands, which represents 1.80 percent of the total global forest area. There are 80 million hectares of degraded land -including forests -in the Mediterranean. Natural regeneration is a biological process that can be assisted and managed to increase forest cover and achieve recovery of the native ecosystem or some of its functions. Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) represents a low-cost opportunity to conserve biodiversity and improve ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and watershed protection. It emphasizes the protection of natural shoots and seedlings from fire, invasive species, and uncontrolled grazing by livestock. ANR can be a component of forest and landscape restoration (FLR), among other types of interventions such as agroforestry and reforestation, which support national, regional, and global ecosystem and forest restoration goals. The main objective of the session is to share knowledge related to the restoration of degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes by focusing on assisted natural regeneration and forest genetic resources; what is ANR, when is ANR appropriate, the factors to consider in setting up ANR, basic procedures to be put in place, fire recovery strategies, forest genetic resources, recovery and improvement of biodiversity, interactions between species and movements within landscapes, financial resources available for ANR and restoration. The session will also be an opportunity to share experiences and expertise, thus contributing to regional dynamics and knowledge sharing. In 1 and a half hours, this session will include four interventions, presented by representatives of FAO FLRM, EFI, Alliance of Bioersity International and CIAT and AIFM.

Profiles

Moderator: Abdelhamid Khald is a forestry researcher at INRGREF (National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forests -Tunisia). He graduated from the Agronomic Institute (Tunisia) as an Agronomic Engineer in 1984, and from the GREF (forestry) of the ENGREF (National School of Rural Engineering, Water and Forests - France) in 1986. He obtained a PhD from the Agronomic Institute (Tunisia) in 2009. As a researcher, he works mainly on the restoration of Mediterranean forests and the valorization of forest products (in particular, NWFPs). He has published more than 50 scientific papers in the last 10 years. He teaches silviculture and forest ecosystem management at the Agronomic Institute (Tunisia). He is the current President of the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (<http://aifm.org>) and a member of the International Council of IUFRO.

Rapporteur: Alain Chaudron is General Engineer of civil works, water, and forests, honorary, retired from the French civil service. He graduated from the École Polytechnique (Paris) as an engineer in 1973, then as an engineer in the rural, water and forestry engineering corps in 1975. During his career

he has held various important positions: Head of the Departmental Service of the National Forestry Board of Bouches-du-Rhône (1985- 1992), Senior advisor for international forestry affairs at the French Ministry of Agriculture (2001-2011), President of the FAO European Forestry Commission (2006-2008) and Vicechair of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), President of the Council Working Party on Forestry during the EU French Presidency (2008), Member of the Extended Executive Committee of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Matters "Silva Mediterranea" (FAO). He is the current vice-president and treasurer of the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (<http://aifm.org>).

Speakers

Valentina Garavaglia from FAO FLRM is an expert on natural resources management with a PhD from the Earth, Environment and Biodiversity School from the University of Milan. She is currently working with the FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism supporting Mediterranean countries in developing and implementing restoration projects. She previously worked for the Secretariat of Silva Mediterranea and in the last years she has been collaborating with many other groups of the FAO Forestry Department. She was the scientific secretary of Cost Action FP1202 on marginal/peripheral populations of forest trees (2012-2016) at the Forestry Research Center of Arezzo (Italy). Prior to that, she has worked as researcher at the University of Milan.

Barbara Vinceti is from the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT. She joined IPGRI/Bioversity in January 2002 and is currently senior scientist within the Tree Biodiversity for Resilient Landscapes team, at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, based in Rome (Italy). She holds an MSc in Forestry (University of Florence, Italy) and a PhD in tropical forest ecology (University of Edinburgh, UK). She is responsible for planning and coordinating research activities on conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. She is also working on aspects related to the appropriate supply and use of forest genetic resources in forest landscape restoration, such as a better inclusion of diverse planting material of native tree species, with a particular emphasis on indigenous food trees.

Magda Bou Dagher is from the European Forest Institute. She is a geneticist with special interests in biodiversity conservation. She employs genomic tools to investigate Mediterranean ecosystems and unravel the complex interactions linking the species therein. These interactions are at the heart of the comprehensive approach to Ecosystem Restoration she implemented through the NGO Jouzour Loubnan, which she co-founded in 2008 and managed as president. The results of her research conducted at Saint Joseph University of Beirut, have allowed her to create new protected areas and define conservation policies and forest ecosystem restoration strategies that are optimizing the survival of tree populations in the face of climate change.

Anaïs Loudières is the coordinator of the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (<http://aifm.org>). Graduated from the University of Aix-Marseille with a Master 2 in International and European Law in 2015. She started her career in Burkina Faso and Cameroon as a project manager for the empowerment of rural women's agricultural cooperatives and coordinator of the decentralized cooperation between Bordeaux and Douala. At the AIFM since September 2019, she oversees the RESTOR'MED FORESTS project in Morocco and Lebanon which aims to implement sustainable management practices and restoration actions on forest areas, considered as emblematic.

Kaoutar Aouane is the Director of the National Park of Talassemtane (Morocco). State forestry engineer, forest economy option. Graduated in 2017 from the National Forestry School of Engineers of Rabat-Salé. She started her career in the city of Al Hoceima as a royal project manager "Manarat al motawassit" in the national park of Al Hoceima. She followed flagship projects in the park such as the famous marine observatory and the Eco Museum of the national park of Al Hoceima and contributed to the assembly of the development projects of the Doum and Alpha sector, and the development of ecotourism offers in the same park. In Talassemtane National Park, she has carried out several types of projects in the conservation and development of natural resources. She is currently leading a RESTORE'MED FORESTS project with the AIFM and other partners.

Partners

Association Internationale des Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM), Bioersivity International, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
10 min	Setting the scene: the role of restoration in the Mediterranean region, the regional and global context.	Valentina Garavaglia, FAO-FLRM
25 min	The strategic role of genetic resources for forest and landscape restoration.	Magda Bou Dagher, EFI
20 min	A decision-making tool for tree species and seed sources selection when tree planting is needed for restoration.	Barbara Vinceti, Alliance of Bioersivity and CIAT
15 min	Morocco case study	Anaïs Loudières, AIFM Kaoutar Aouane, National Park of Talassemtane
15 min	Questions and discussion	Abdelhamid Khaldi, AIFM
5 min	Rapporteur's summary	Alain Chaudron, AIFM.

THEMATIC SESSION - INCOME GENERATING RESTORATION ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY – SHARING GOOD PRACTICES ON RESTORATION OF FOREST AND ECOSYSTEM IN TURKEY

Location: Aspendos 6

14.30 - 16.00 (TRT)

Restoration of ecosystems in the fight against climate change is important for the survival of ecosystems. In this session, good practices in Turkey within the scope of ecosystem restoration will be presented. These presentations will share experiences on watershed-based, income-generating restoration practices, international restoration processes, and grassland restoration practices in Turkey. In addition, work on post-fire restoration in the California region, which has similar characteristics with the Mediterranean region, will also be presented in this session.

Profiles

Rapporteur: Cuma Uykun is a Forest Engineer working as a forest engineer (forester) at Governmental Institutions, General Directorate of Forestry-Department of Foreign Relations, Education and Research. Working with a team of experts to calculate Green House Gases emissions and removals in forestry sector (LULUCF Core Team) and to report to the UNFCCC. Uykun has participated in the training workshops of the project “Technical Assistance for Developed Analytical Basis for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Sector” in 2019. Uykun is further involved in the training course on project “Technical Assistance for Developed Analytical Basis for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Sector.”

Speakers

Professor Dr Ali KAVGACI was born in 1977 in Zonguldak, Turkey. After completing his primary, secondary and high school education in this city, he graduated from the Faculty of Forestry of Istanbul University as a Forest Engineer in 1998. He completed his master's and doctoral studies in the Department of Silviculture of the same faculty. He completed his PhD thesis titled "Plant communities and Stand Structures of İğneada Longoz (Demirköy - Kirklareli) Forests and Surroundings" in 2007. After his PhD, he conducted research on plant sociology (vegetation ecology), biological diversity, silviculture, and fire ecology. Between 1999 and 2005, he worked as a research assistant at the Department of Silviculture, Faculty of Forestry of Istanbul University. He worked as a researcher at the Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute between 2005 and 2019. He became Associate Professor in 2012. In October 2019, he was appointed as a professor in the Department of Forestry Botany of Forestry Faculty of Karabük University. He is fluent in English, is married, and has two daughters.

İbrahim ERGÜVEN is a Forest Engineer (Bsc), After graduating from Istanbul Forestry Faculty, he started to work as the Forest Sub-District Manager at the Balıkesir Regional Forest Directorate of the General Directorate of Forestry. Following this, he worked as Chief Engineer and Division Director of the General Directorate of Afforestation and Erosion Control at the field. He also worked on the production of seedlings. He worked as the Deputy Regional Director in Erzurum and as Regional Director of Kutahya. In Ankara he served as the Head of Soil Conservation and Watershed

Rehabilitation Department. Recently he has been working as the Coordinator of TULIP Project and preparation of National Basin Rehabilitation Strategy.

Ümit Turhan is a Forest Engineer, Msc, Deputy of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Education and Research of OGM. Working both Deputy Head of Foreign Relations, Training and Research Department and Division Director on Relationship with International Institutions. Turhan is currently working as a team leader of experts who calculate Green House Gas emissions and removals in forestry sector (LULUCF Core Team- OGM LULUCF Focal Point). Turhan is carrying out works and transactions related to the European Union, international organizations, agreements, meeting, program and project development on forestry and climate change mitigation, funds, and adaptation. Turhan is actively participating in international conferences and serving as a country delegate. Turhan has conducted publications about Turkey Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990 to 2018 Annual Report Submission under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, Turhan took a leading role on the project “Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region” called the GEF5 Project, GEF-UNDP, GDF 2014 to 2019.

Tarik Durmus M.Sc. Is a Forest Engineer at the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF), Turkey. He completed his bachelor’s degree at Kahramanmaraş Sutcu Imam University majoring in Forest Engineering and completed his Master’s degree at the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University (NCSU), focusing on Non-wood forest products (NWFP), agroforestry systems, and the ecological impacts of these systems. After completing his studies at NCSU, he started working in the Department of Ecosystem Services at GDF, focusing on NWFPs by addressing research questions by using machine-learning techniques that help identify more effective and sustainable ways to utilize and preserve our natural resources.

Eray Özdemir Msc is a Forest Industry Engineer, UNFCCC Review Expert of LULUCF GHG Inventories of Annex 1 Parties, FAO-Silva Mediterranea Focal Point of Turkey. Eray Özdemir has been working as an engineer for the General Directorate of Forestry since 2007. He has completed an MBA degree. He has been one of the reporters of the Turkish National GhGs Inventory Report-LULUCF Section for 10 years. He is also Review Expert of LULUCF GHG Inventories of Annex 1 Parties of UNFCCC. He conducted the review of the National GhGs Inventory Report-LULUCF Section of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Russia with Expert Review Team in 2020

Hugh Safford, PhD is the Chief Scientist at Vibrant Planet Research Scientist, Department of Environmental Science and Policy University of California. Before joining Vibrant Planet as its chief scientist in January 2022, Dr Hugh Safford was Regional Ecologist for the US-Forest Service’s Region 5 (California, Hawaii, Pacific territories) for more than twenty years. Safford managed a boundary-spanning unit of Forest Service ecologists that provides expertise in vegetation, fire, and restoration ecology, climate change, inventory, and monitoring to the 18 National Forests in Region 5. In synergy with his work at Vibrant Planet, Safford is an adjunct member of the research faculty in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC-Davis. The Safford Lab at UC-Davis (<https://safford.faculty.ucdavis.edu/research/>) is focused on applied ecological support to resource and fire management in California, neighbouring states, and other Mediterranean climate regions. Safford is director of the Sierra Nevada section of the California Fire Science Consortium, and PI of the California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program (a partnership with CALFIRE), as well as the multiparter Southern California Montane Forest Conservation Strategy, which is developing guidance for forest managers and conservationists beset by the various threats associated with global change. Since the 1990s, Safford has provided international technical assistance on fire, forest management, and climate

change issues, often in partnership with the International Program of the Forest Service and the US-Agency for International Development (USAID). Recent projects include fire hazard and risk mapping in Georgia, fire management planning in northern Mexico, climate change adaptation in southeast Brazil, and forest restoration in North Africa and the Levant. Safford was a fellow with the Fulbright Global Scholars Program between 2017 and 2019, where he studied post-fire ecosystem restoration practices in the Mediterranean Basin. Safford co-edited a recent book entitled Valuing Chaparral: Ecological, Socioeconomic, and Management Perspectives, published by Springer in 2018, which deals with the complicated issues surrounding management and sustainability of chaparral ecosystems in California. He was also a co-editor of the 2021 Postfire Restoration Framework for National Forests in California, which provides guidance for management decision-making in burned ecosystems under changing environmental baselines. Safford was featured in the 2020 book Trees in Trouble by Daniel Matthews, as well as in a recent episode of the UK-based Conservation Careers Podcast: <https://www.conservation-careers.com/conservation-jobs-careers-advice/podcast/dr-hugh-safford-forest-fires-conservation/>.

Partners

The Chamber of Forest Engineers, Turkey

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
5 min	Introduction	Professor Dr Ali Kavgacı
10 min	Basin Restoration activities of the Turkey Resilient Landscape Integration Project (TULIP)	İbrahim Ergüven
10 min	Income Generating Restoration/Rehabilitation Activities of OGM	Tarık Durmuş
5 min	Restoration activities of Turkey under Bonn Challenge	Ümit Turhan
10 min	Pasture Restoration activities and effects of this activates on Rural Development of Turkey.	Eray Özdemir
15 min	Prioritization tools for post-fire restoration in Mediterranean-type ecosystems in California.	Hugh Safford, PhD
10 min	Q&A session	

THEMATIC SESSION - RESTORING LANDSCAPES AND FORESTS IN LEBANON FOR COMMUNITIES

Location: Aspendos 6

16.30 – 18.30 (TRT)

This event will cover diverse initiatives and research findings related to Lebanon's forests and landscape restoration projects, with a special emphasis on case studies regarding the involvement of women and youth in the sector. The initiatives and findings will be presented in a series of PowerPoint presentations, each followed by a brief Q&A session. The last ten minutes of the session will be dedicated to establishing lessons learned and sharing experiences with the audience on ways to move forward.

Profiles

Moderator: Dr Maya Nehme is the Director of the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), a Lebanese NGO established in 2014 that aims at conserving and expanding Lebanon's forests in a community-based approach. Dr Nehme holds a diploma in agricultural engineering from the Lebanese University; a MS degree in Plant Protection from AUB-FAFS; a dual-title PhD degree in Entomology and Comparative and International Education from The Pennsylvania State University, USA and a PMP certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI). Recipient of six awards in leadership, she also has a considerable international research experience working in Lebanon, USA, China, France, Holland and Germany.

Speakers

Leticia Rahal is the lead on the urban forestry program at Lebanon Reforestation Initiative and is also working in the climate change program. She has a background in natural resource management, ecosystem services and political science/international affairs. In 2019, she participated in the US Forest Service/ IP climate change seminar in California and is still actively engaged in the global seminar network.

Dr Chadi Mohanna graduated as an Agriculture engineer from the Lebanese University and has a PhD from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes. Director of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries from 1998 to 2008. From 2008 until present, he is the Director of the Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon. This directorate oversees forestry, fisheries, pastures, irrigation, and agroindustry. Dr Mohanna is also a Professor at the Saint Joseph University of Lebanon; Team leader in charge of the preparation of the National Forestry Program and of the National Reforestation Program of Lebanon; National focal point for UNFF, FAO forest activities, FLRM; Chairman of the NEFRC; and Chair of *Silva Mediterranea*.

Dr Jean Stephan is an associate professor at the Lebanese University-Faculty of Sciences, department of Life and Earth Sciences. He has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of forestry and management of natural resources. Dr Stephan is an expert within the IUCN Tree Specialist Group, a

board member of the AIFM and the LRI, a member of the International Oak Society, and a consultant for several UN agencies. His research and field of expertise encompass forest ecology, biodiversity assessment, forest management, impact assessment, adaptation to climate change, and strategic land use planning. Many outcomes of his work are published in peer reviewed journals.

Dr Georges Mitri is a Professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences and Director of the Land and Natural Resources Program at the Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, Lebanon. He has more than 20 years of research experience in the field of environmental sciences. His research interests lie in the area of Earth Observation and Geo-Information Analysis and their applications in land cover/land-use planning, forest management, wildfire risk assessment, drought and land degradation assessment, and impact of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems. Dr Mitri has more than 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, and book chapters.

Joseph Bechara is an expert in forest and wildfire management working since 2011 at LRI. He is responsible for the implementation of the Firewise project which is a community-based fire prevention approach aiming to engage local communities in forestry activity and decision making to protect their value at risk. He is also a GIS specialist who has an extensive experience in generating maps and managing data collection campaigns. He holds two masters in geomatics and agricultural engineering.

Eliane Charbel is an expert in Climate Change and ecosystem services valuation. She holds a MSc degree in Climate Change and Development from the University of Reading, UK. She leads the Climate Change Resilience program at the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative with specific focus on adaptation and mitigation activities leading to resilient land ecosystems and livelihoods. She is also a remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems expert by training. Part of her current work focuses on highlighting the economic value of land ecosystems, especially forests, for the local and national economy to advocate for these ecosystems' conservation and expansion.

Abdo Nassar, Lebanese, holds a Master's degree in Sciences and Management of Environment from St Joseph University-Lebanon. Abdo chose the environmental path due to the exciting challenges and diversified topics that he can be engaged in, let alone the need to conduct positive impact to reduce or alter the environmental degradation Earth is facing on all levels. Abdo joined the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) in 2016. Now he occupies the position of "Restoration and Rehabilitation Specialist." Abdo's responsibilities at LRI include reforestation, forest management, rangeland management and land use planning.

Maria Salamouni has been the community engagement specialist since 2017 at LRI. She holds a BS in Political Science and International Affairs. She works in engaging local community members in LRI projects by empowering women and youth while focusing on rural tourism and facilitating income generating trainings. She led the first pilot Youth Conservation Corps Program in Lebanon funded by the US Forest Service that aims on training eligible youth in the educational, social, and vocational skills, while assisting in the conservation of natural resources.

Partners: Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture-Directorate of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Lebanese University, College of Sciences, University of Balamand-Institute for the Environment, US Forest Service (Partners on the YCC program), National Fire Prevention Association of the US.

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
5 min	Lebanon Forestry and Restoration current status-overview of the last decade	Dr Chadi Mohanna, MOA
20 min	High level planning and national monitoring systems for forests and other land uses: assessment methodologies and reporting	Dr Georges Mitri, University of Balamand-Institute of the Environment
20 min	Lebanese forest ecosystem services and ecosystem-based financing for managed forest areas	Eliane Charbel, LRI-Climate Change Program
20 min	Native species distribution using remote sensing, ArcGIS and site visits as a support tool for biodiversity conservation and restoration taking into consideration trees and shrubs of native species	Dr Jean Stephan, Lebanese University, College of Sciences
15 min	Firewise approach on the Fire shed level: a community-led approach to reduce fire risk and protect forests and reduce desertification, while promoting positive change in gender roles in forest restoration towards a more transformative integration of women	Joseph Bechara, LRI-Firewise® Program
15 min	Forest management and land use planning case studies covering gender integration, sustainable management, community engagement and local authorities support—including a socio-economic assessment of FM work	Abdo Nassar, LRI-Landscape Management Program
15 min	Youth Conservation Corps –a model for engaging youth in conservation. Overview and lessons learned from the Lebanon program	Maria Salamouni, LRI-YCC coordinator
10 min	Open Discussion	Dr Maya Nehme, LRI Director

24 March

THEMATIC SESSION - YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS: HOW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) APPROACHES, CAN HELP PROTECT MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE, SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT.

Location: Aspendos 6

11.30 - 13.00 (TRT)

Even more now, with Covid-19, we need "green" solutions for the development of our planet, specifically, nature-based business solutions and socio-economic initiatives that can make profit by marketing, promoting, and enhancing, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Sustainable approaches can come from different areas, for example, agroforestry, sustainable tourism, sustainable water management, and pastoralism. This begs the questions, what are the best strategies for the Mediterranean landscape? Which Good Practices already exist, and what are the job prospects for the new generations and for young entrepreneurs?

Profiles

Moderator: Toni Ventre, is a forest engineer, since 2019 he has been the Secretary of the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (www.medmodelforest.net), board member of the Montagne Fiorentina Model Forest Association and International Relationship Thematic Commission Coordinator. Board member of FIPER (Italian Federation Renewable Energy Plants). Since 2002 he has been Director of the Technical Area of the Valdarno and Valdisieve Union of Municipalities where he deals with sustainable forest management, project management within EU programs (Horizon, LIFE, Erasmus+, etc.), training for forest workers (www.formazioneforestale.it), environmental planning and collaboration, forest management, landscape restoration and renewable energy sources valorization.

Speakers

Richard Verbisky is the Head of the International Model Forest Network Secretariat, he also works for the Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service (<https://imfn.net/>).

Álvaro Picardo is a forester, born in Madrid (Spain) in 1961. He works as Technical Adviser to the General Direction in Natural Heritage and Forest Policy of the regional government Junta de Castilla y León (Spain). His main activities include participation in the Castilla y León Forestry Law and in the main regional forest policy instruments. He has also developed his activity in the international arena, within the framework of the Standing Forestry Committee of the European Commission, the International Model Forest Network and ERIAFF, with a large involvement in the promotion of sylvopastoralism, fire prevention and Non-Timber Forest Products, participating in projects like INCREDIBLE.

Riccardo Castellini is the Head of the Cesefor's Project management, Cooperation & Fundraising Department (www.cesefor.com). He has been member of the MMFN Secretariat since 2009. He is a Doctor in Law and a Lawyer, with 15 years of field experience in International Cooperation and UE project design and management. In the current MMFN Secretariat, his purpose is to foster the international relationships in the Network framework. He can speak French, English, Spanish and Italian fluently.

Pablo Sabin is the Director-CEO of Cesefor and a Forestry Engineer at the Polytechnic University of Madrid in 2000. Sabin is an expert in forest management and silviculture with a wide experience in coordination and development of several management plans and forest inventories in Spain since 2005 combined in combined with applied work of management of 5 000 hectares of private ownership land in Spain. Sabin has also worked as expert forest marker in thinning's in *Pinus sylvestris*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus pyrenaica*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Pinus nigra*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Castanea sativa* y *Fagus sylvatica*, for a global amount over 50 000 m³. Passionate about forest management, Sabin became Vice-president of the association, Prosilva Spain, since 2011, and has taken part in the creation of the Spanish network of promotion Continuous Cover Forestry. Since 2009, he has led the coordination and development of a network of forest classrooms in different stands and species where several training courses have been developed manly for different Regional Forest Service staff. Sabin is experienced in participation in EU funding project related to forest management like FP7 Simwood, H2020 Rosewood, among others. Sabin has participated in publications like: "Handbook for wood mobilisation in Europe, Measures for increasing wood supply from sustainably managed forests," Simwood. 2018; "Spanish forests report," for the Spanish Society of Forestry; Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management." Further projects include: Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente; "Carbon sinks at a local level," Red de Ciudades Españolas por el Clima, and Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias.

Michele Rumiz acts as the Slow Food Travel director and coordinator for the Slow Food network in Turkey. He has relevant experience in the development of value chains in the agri-food sector, with a specific focus on food, tourism, and sustainable rural development; and is devoted to building networks amongst companies, chefs, and academicians to raise consumers' awareness on food and agriculture sustainability issues.

Pénélope Blanchard is a farmer in the Mediterranean South of France, in Collobrières. After their studies in international trade, Blanchard chose to work in the family property, with their parents and brother. Blanchard is first, responsible for the commerce, and client's relations, as well as the daily gestion of the property. Blanchard make wines in côtes de provence, as well as apples, juice, olive oil, and hydrolat of *pistacia lentiscus*. Blanchard has recently planted *pistachier vera*, thanks to the Forêts Mediterranean Provence. Now, Blanchard and her mother are working on the development and evolution of their property, with the vision to develop different Mediterranean cultures, according to the biotope like *pistachia lentisca*, trees, grenades, and more to come. It is during a journey in Turkey, when Blanchard's parents had the idea to plant grenades on their property.

Nabila BenArbia is a young graduate in Biology with an applied genetics option, trained in medicinal plants at ISO, BenArbia oversees the whole production of TRARAS. She is responsible for picking, maintenance of the crops, harvesting, distillation and packaging, as well as the selection of partners she also takes care of the entire transformation chain, from the plant to the bottle. All her values and passions for plants are reflected in the smell of the essences passed through her hands.

Silvia Vannini has been the the Executive Assistant of Montagne Fiorentina Model Forest Association since 2012, she has a degree in Linguistic and Multimedia Communication from the University of Florence. Since 2019 she has been a member of the Secretariat of Mediterranean Model Forest Network where she holds the role of program officer, and she offers support to the General Secretary and to the whole senior team.

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
10 min	Brief introduction about topics of the TSand Video dedicated to Mediterranean Model Forest Network	Toni Ventre (MMFN Secretary -Italy)
15 min	“Model Forests” approach: from the International to the Mediterranean Model Forests Network	Richard Verbisky (IMFN Secretary-Canada)
15 min	EU policies towards young entrepreneurs linked with Nature Based Solutions in rural areas	Alvaro Picardo(CyL region-Spain)
15 min	55Digital solutions and Knowledge transfer for sustainable wood mobilization in Europe: The Rosewood Network	Riccardo Castellini (South-West Europe Hub Manager of the Rosewood Network–Italy)
15 min	Bottom-up approach for the development of bioeconomy in rural areas. Soria case study.	Pablo Sabin (CESEFOR –Spain)
15 min	"Slow Food projects to safeguard the Common Goods". Food, NBS and YE: the case of Extra Virgin Olive Oil from Aegean Indigenous Landscapes	Michele Rumiz (Slow Food International-Italy) Food; Icle Tuba Kilic (Slow Food –Turkey)
10 min	Presentation of a young economic Best Practices of the Mediterranean area. A successful examples of youth entrepreneurship “Domaine de la Portanière	Pénélope Blancard (France)
10 min	Presentation of a young economic Best Practices of the Mediterranean area. A successful examples of youth entrepreneurship “Huiles essentielles artisanales Traras	Nabila Benarbia (Algeria)
25 min	10 Question Time -Final Discussion and results; What’s the challenge for YE and NBS? – Conclusions	Toni Ventre (MMFN Secretary-Italy)

THEMATIC SESSION - FINANCING OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Location: Aspendos 6

14.30 - 16.00 (TRT)

The degradation of land and forest resources threatens the livelihoods of the millions of people who depend on them. Every year, approximately 12 million hectares of land are degraded, while 7.6 million hectares of forest are converted to other uses or lost through natural causes. There are 80 million hectares of degraded lands – including forests – in the Mediterranean region and the drivers of degradation are represented mostly by land abandonment and fires in the north, as well as by overexploitation of fuelwood, overgrazing, and population pressure in the south-east.

Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) is a relevant approach to address the drivers of degradation in the Mediterranean region. This approach points towards reversing degradation and the upscaling of the sustainable management of natural resources, including land, soil, forests, and water. It involves trade-offs between agricultural and forestry production and environmental conservation, ensuring the best possible integration at the landscape level. In the context of climate change, FLR may be combined with adaptation techniques to predict changes undergone by the ecosystem had it not been degraded. FLR complements forest restoration with participatory approaches involving stakeholders in all affected land use sectors to manage the dynamic and often complex interactions between people, natural resources, and land uses.

The global community has shown strong commitment to FLR by embracing ambitious targets, such as the Bonn Challenge, that calls for restoring at least 350 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, and the recently launched UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 to 2030 that aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent, and in every ocean. At the regional level, Mediterranean countries committed, through the endorsement of the Agadir Commitment (V Mediterranean Forest Week, Agadir, Morocco, 2017) to the restoration of 8 million hectares of degraded forest and land by 2030. This session will describe present and future financing instruments that can be mobilized, used, and adapted for Mediterranean countries and the implementation of FLR efforts at the national, regional, and global level.

Participants will have key experts of financing instruments like the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Funds, and the Adaptation Fund presenting the future programmatic approach, and describing where the Mediterranean region can best fit into current framework. Furthermore, concrete examples from Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean countries with both public and private sectors will be presented. This event will help participants better understand the present and future financial architecture related to FLR and will identify opportunities at both the national and regional level.

This session will have a high-level panel of experts organized to address “burning questions” from Mediterranean stakeholders and hear from key representatives and experts on financing opportunities to address what the challenges and possible solutions that the Mediterranean region can undertake are.

Profiles

Moderator: Chadi Mohanna graduated as an Agriculture engineer from the Lebanese university, and has a PhD from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Rennes. Mohanna is the Director of the institute of Oceanography and Fisheries from 1998 to 2008. From 2008 until present he has been the Director of the Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon. This directorate oversees forestry, fisheries, pastures, irrigation, and agroindustry. Dr Mohanna is also Professor at the Saint Joseph University of Lebanon. Mohanna is the Team leader in charge of the preparation of the National Forestry Program and of the National Reforestation Program of Lebanon. He is also the national focal point for UNFF, FAO forest activities, FLRM, and finally, the Chairman of the NEFRC.

Speakers

Nelly Bourlion has been working in International Project Management for nine years. She worked as a Biodiversity and Forest Ecosystem Program Officer at Plan Bleu, a regional activity centre of UNEP/MAP where she managed numerous projects in the Mediterranean, some in collaboration with FAO such as the publication of the second edition of the State of Mediterranean Forest 2018. She worked for the GEF performance evaluation team in Washington DC. She also has work experience around the world in Agricultural Economics. Nelly holds an Engineering degree in Agronomy and a MSc. in Economics.

Anaïs Loudières is the coordinator of the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (<http://aifm.org>). Loudières Graduated from the University of Aix-Marseille with a Master's in International and European Law in 2015. She started her career in Burkina Faso and Cameroon as a project manager for the empowerment of rural women's agricultural cooperatives and Coordinator of the decentralized cooperation between Bordeaux and Douala. At the AIFM since September 2019, she oversees the RESTOR'MED FORESTS project in Morocco and Lebanon which aims to implement sustainable management practices and restoration actions on forest areas, considered as emblematic.

Programme

Time	Content	Speaker
10 min	Setting the scene: presentation of the session and speakers and brief introduction to the topic	Chadi Mohanna, Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture
15 min	Climate finance: the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Finance. Opportunities for the Mediterranean region	Nelly Bourlion, FAO FLRM
15 min	GEF 8 replenishment	Christophe Besacier, FAO FLRM
15 min	The potential role of public-private partnership in financing restoration: a case study from France	Anaïs Loudières, AIFM
30 min	Expert panel	Moderated by Chadi Mohanna, Chair of the session
5 min	Rapporteur's summary	

SIDE EVENTS

21 March		
16.30–18.00	MEDLENTISK, valorisation of lentisk tree and its non-wood forests products International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)	Aspendos 2
16.30–18.00	Scaling up forest and landscape restoration to restore biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean region. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Lead Technical Unit in charge of the project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions”	Aspendos 6
16.30-19.00	How Model Forests can contribute to the development of youth entrepreneurship based on NBS MED FORUM 2022 Mediterranean Model Forest Network	Aspendos 4
18.00-19.30	Opportunities from Green Initiatives to Environmental Rights Context of the event: green jobs opportunities for the Youth and environmental rights about framework and best practices. Green Forest School - Turkey	Aspendos 2
18.00-19.30	Best Practices and Innovations in Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Restoration in Turkey. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Turkey	Aspendos 6
22 March		
13.00-15.00	Mediterranean Youth Dialogue	Aspendos 2
16.30-18.30	How Model Forests can contribute to the development of youth entrepreneurship based on NBS MED FORUM 2022 Mediterranean Model Forest Network	Aspendos 4
18.30-20.00	How can we preserve the Mediterranean natural heritage in the face of mass tourism? International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)	Aspendos 3
18.30-20.00	Resilient landscapes, Safe communities: Innovative Practices for Integrated Fire Management in the Mediterranean. European Forest Institute/EFIMED Barcelona Provincial Council Silva Mediterranea Forest Fires Working Group (WG1)	Aspendos 2
18.30-20.00	Turkey’s approaches to combat desertification and to achieve the goal of land degradation neutrality Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change – General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion of Turkey	Aspendos 6

FIELD TRIP

9.00	Departure from the Venue
10.00–10.30	<p>Fire Memory Point</p> <p>On June 26th 2016, 520.00 ha. area of forest burned in this Seylemit location, which was managed by the Kumluca Forestry Enterprise. Damaged trees were immediately removed from the area after the forest fire. In order to increase the biological diversity and the natural species of red pine (<i>Pinus brutia</i>), many species suitable for the local climate were planted. The complete story of these activities is explained in the Fire Memory Point by charts.</p>
10.45-11.15	<p>Yahya Beleni Location</p> <p>After reforestation by the Kumluca Forestry Enterprise in the Seylemit location in 2016, the following activities have been executed: fire safety roads, fire suppression zones and fire break lanes. These have been adopted to establish a forest resistant to possible forest fires, monitoring the current situation and the growth performances of fire-resistant species (such as cypress, oleander, carob, etc.) planted around the facility.</p>
11.30-12.45	<p>Karaöz Hurmalık Location</p> <p>A visit to the Gene Conservation Area of Datça Date (<i>Phoenix theophrasti greuter</i>), which is an endemic species of the region managed by the Kumluca Forestry Enterprise. The visit also includes an overview of the ecological characteristics of the region.</p>
13.00-14.15	<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Kumluca Kargılı Dere Park</p>
14.15-15.15	<p>Sarnic Hill</p> <p>This visit to Sarnic Hill includes seeing the fire access and fire suppression lanes together with the fire response created to prevent the existing forests from being damaged in a possible fire. It also proposes to analyze the benefits of these facilities together with the fire-resistant species planted around them by the Kumluca Forestry Enterprise.</p>
15.30-16.45	<p>Laurel Production Facility</p> <p>The processing of the laurel leaves and fruits (sorting, drying and transportation, etc.) in a small-scale private facility is seen in situ. These activities fall within the scope of the Kumluca Forestry Enterprise non-wood revenue plan.</p>
17.00	Return to the Venue

SELECTED POSTERS

Title of poster	Author(s)	Country
Identifying biodiversity-related success factors of ecological restoration projects	Rhea Kahale, Lilianne BouKhdoud, Carole Saliba, Christina El Habr, Tony Chahine, Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat	Lebanon
Truffles, a natural product for the rehabilitation of degraded land and sustainable territorial development	Soukaina Hakkou, Nadia Machouri, Mohamed Sabir	Morocco
La liste rouge des écosystèmes pour la sauvegarde des forêts tunisiennes	Hélène Willem, Marcos Valderrabano, Hela Guidara, Habib Abid	Tunisia
Evaluation of Antalya Kepez urban forest and its environment in the framework of urban expansion models	Sila Balta, Meryem Atik	Turkey
Educational Observatory of Nature: A Euro Mediterranean experiment	Floriane Flacher Solène Merer, Bénédicte Gastineau, Olivier Briand, Nicolas Hermann, Palazzolo Lucile Palazzolo, Michel Bourelly, Philippe Susini, Sophie Gachet	France
Population age structure of a Mediterranean oak coppice woodland growing in Cyprus	Panayiotis Chrysanthou, Petr Maděra, Alan Crivellaro, Dimitrios Koutsianitis, Dimitrios Sarris, Nikolaos Grigoriadis, Petros Tsioras, Martin Šenfeldr, Tomáš Kolář, Daniel Volařík	Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Greece, Cyprus,
CAPTURAPP: Catch registration and management of hunting grounds in Castilla y León	Diego Rello	Spain
Turkish Megafires of 2021 and Post-Fire Restoration Opportunities Based on Ecosystem Resilience	Türkan Özdemir Gökhan Ergan, İrem Tüfekçioğlu, Çağatay Tavşanoğlu	Turkey
Land Tender: A collaborative, cloud-based decision support platform for resource management and wildfire mitigation	Hugh Safford, Joe Flannery, Scott Conway	USA
Restoration with medicinal and aromatic plants in Mediterranean forests and opportunities for young	Meltem Kalay Goktepe	Turkey
Sharing forest management solutions in a changing climate, the ONEforest European project	Andrea Barzagli, S. Berti, E. Gravano, A. Ventre	Italy
Potential to use plant-sourced humic acid for soil remediation in post-fire Mediterranean forests	Abdullah Sarimehmetoğlu	Turkey
Important Non-Wood Forest Products Produced in Turkey and Their Economy	Edanur Ayhan	Turkey

MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

Antalya, Turkey | 21 - 25 March, 2022

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LIMAK LIMRA HOTEL & RESORT MAP



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED)

Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon

University of Florence

Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forest Policies of Italy

Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkey

Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Turkey

Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM)

Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)

Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)

Forest Communicators Network for the Mediterranean and the Near East (FCNMedNE)

Trade Union – Agriculture & Forestry Workers Union

The meeting has been organized with the financial support of:

General Directorate of Forestry (OGM) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey

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

Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO) of Spain

Ministero per le politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali (MIPAAF) of Italy

International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry of the Environment project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions”