

Strategic line 1



EXPECTED RESULTS

-  Policies are improved and adapted to Mediterranean challenges with an intersectoral approach
-  Mediterranean forests are managed to provide multiple goods and services
-  Benefits to forest owners are ensured to promote sustainable forest management
-  Environmental and social services are recognized as challenging elements in Mediterranean forest management



Improve sustainable production of goods and services by Mediterranean forests

Recommendation 1:

Valorize processing market chains values of wood and NWFP (cork, honey, mushrooms...) while preserving Mediterranean forest resources;

Recommendation 2:

Develop knowledge on quantity and quality of goods and services that are produced and used, to improve management plans and increase sustainability of forest management;

Recommendation 3:

Involve all stakeholders in the process of forest policy design, formulation, implementation and monitoring, especially local population and private sector;

Recommendation 4:

Recognize, make the population aware and further explore services provided by urban and peri-urban forests to population;

Recommendation 5:

Develop and implement forest policy rules and mechanisms facilitating trade-off between water, soil protection and other goods and services;

Recommendation 6:

Define management rules and practices that support provision of goods and services benefiting rural population;

Recommendation 7:

Set up financial mechanisms (national funds, PES, compensations) to support policies ensuring the provision of environmental and social services;

Recommendation 8:

Improve knowledge and assessment on social and environmental services for their integration into policies;

Recommendation 9:

Integrate existing international initiatives on the economic valuation of ecosystems goods and services, such as TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) and the IPBES (International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services);

Recommendation 10:

Promote researches to provide valuable tools which will ensure the sustainable production of goods and services.

Strategic line 2



EXPECTED RESULTS

-  Income and employment are created in rural areas
-  Local resources are valorized and their local added value is enhanced to benefit rural population
-  Local population is involved in maintenance, protection and development of forest resources
-  The role of Mediterranean forests is increased in rural development policies



Enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in rural development

Recommendation 1:

Adapt measures and fiscal arrangements to encourage rural pluriactivity;

Recommendation 2:

Support local stakeholders to organise themselves (cooperatives, associations, groups of producers for innovative activities);

Recommendation 3:

Develop management plans which recognize the wide range possible sources of income from Mediterranean forests;

Recommendation 4:

Encourage production, quality label development, marketing and traceability of local products, especially through short supply chains;

Recommendation 5:

Enhance the development and marketing of ecotourism by promoting eco-touristic strategies and related-investments in wooded areas;

Recommendation 6:

Clarify land use rights and adapt rules in order to facilitate or control the access of local population to forest resources;

Recommendation 7:

Encourage sharing of experiences in innovative approaches of integrating forest issues in rural development through existing international networks;

Recommendation 8:

Raise necessary investment capacities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) working in WFP and NWFP value chains;

Recommendation 9:

Create job opportunities for young people (men and women) in the WFP and NTFP value chains as a way to combat rural exodus.

Strategic line 3



Promote forest governance and land tenure reforms at landscape level

Recommendation 1:

Support the development of inter-sectoral collaborative bodies at all levels;

Recommendation 2:

Ensure the involvement of stakeholders in the decision making process;

Recommendation 3:

Better communicate on benefits provided by forests and success stories outside the forest sector;

Recommendation 4:

Launching pilot projects at landscape level integrating various sectors that benefits from forest goods and services;

Recommendation 5:

Encourage a bottom-up approach for landscape planning based on local expectations and needs in order to adapt forest management practices and to optimize the production of goods and services;

Recommendation 6:

Reframe the role and structure of forest administrations towards coordination and support service;

Recommendation 7:

Promote networking efforts to produce cross-checked and shared knowledge on Mediterranean forests;

Recommendation 8:

Consider forest-based solutions to adapt economic sectors and people to climate change at landscape level.

EXPECTED RESULTS

All relevant stakeholders are involved in Mediterranean forest management

Dialogue is enhanced between the forest sector and other sectors

Decisions taken at various levels are coordinated (from local to international level)



Strategic line 4



EXPECTED RESULTS

The increasing risk of wildfires are addressed through new fire management approaches and policies

Good practices are developed in order to reduce the increasing risks of Mediterranean wildfires in the context of Climate Change



Promote wildfire prevention in the context of global changes

Recommendation 1: Enhance international cooperation on wildfire prevention

Promote exchange programmes at all levels and improve bilateral or international cooperation;

Place the debate on wildfire management in the international agenda;

Encourage agencies and groups to support the adoption of Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines;

Recommendation 2: Integrate wildfire prevention in forest programs/ policies and in adaptation strategies to climate change

Carry out cross sectoral prevention actions with more coordination among stakeholders to face forest, agricultural and spatial planning issues (grazing, stubble burning, woodland organization);

Clarify legal aspects and define obligations of stakeholders;

Encourage development of wildfire management plans;

Promote integrated fire management approaches including possible use of prescribed fire;

Recommendation 3: Promote knowledge and education on wildfire prevention

Tackle the priorities on forest fires identified in the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) for the period 2010 – 2020;

Develop and implement International training courses with a harmonized training methodology on wildfire prevention for land and forest managers;

Implement awareness campaigns targeting local communities and people visiting the region;

Recommendation 4: Enhance sustainable financial mechanisms for prevention of wildfires

Allocate specific funds to support wildfire prevention plans and programmes;

Promote the economic value and potential of forests to increase interest and engagement on their management in order to decrease the cost of wildfire prevention;

Evaluate effects and efficiency of prevention measures;

Recommendation 5: Enhance harmonized Information Systems to deal with new wildfire risks

Share updated information between countries on structural prevention issues;

Maintain, improve and enlarge the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).

Strategic line 5



EXPECTED RESULTS

Management rules practices and tools are improved to enhance forest resilience to climate change

Quality and genetic diversity of reproductive materials are improved in order to build resilient landscapes



Manage Forest Genetic Resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation of Mediterranean forests to climate change

Recommendation 1:

Integrate knowledge on genetics, eco-physiology and forest dynamics to develop new decision support models and tools useful for forest managers and develop adaptive silvicultural practices in the context of climate change;

Recommendation 2:

Keep forest management options open to maintain genetic diversity over the long term;

Recommendation 3:

Take action on natural regeneration and plantations to foster evolutionary processes;

Recommendation 4:

Choose the suitable species, varieties and genotypes, in particular native ones, well adapted to local constraints and needs;

Recommendation 5:

Promote innovative technologies with low water intake for plant production in tree seed centres and nurseries to improve the quality of seeds, seedlings and cuttings;

Recommendation 6:

Review existing guidelines (e.g. FAO and EU guidelines) for transferring reproductive material, in particular to facilitate *ex situ* conservation of specific endangered species;

Recommendation 7:

Produce high quality reproductive plant material (seeds, seedlings, cuttings) of Mediterranean trees, shrubs and grasses with wide gene diversity;

Recommendation 8:

Incorporate the management of forest genetic resources into National Forest Programmes and National Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change;

Recommendation 9:

Maintain and establish networks for long-term multidisciplinary experiments to analyse responses of species/ ecosystems in a changing environmental context;

Recommendation 10:

Establish protected areas to conserve forest genetic resources and biodiversity for the future generation, particularly in order to protect endangered species and habitats (especially ancient forests).

Strategic line 6



EXPECTED RESULTS

-  Resilience to climate change is enhanced by restoring Mediterranean forest ecosystems with a global vision to cope with desertification issues
-  Forest ecosystems restoration is promoted as an opportunity to enhance food security and livelihood in Mediterranean drylands
-  Environmental and cultural services (including biodiversity) are regained in these restored forest ecosystems
-  Forest restoration is considered long term and with integrated approaches, restored forest ecosystems are managed, monitored and evaluated



Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes

Recommendation 1:

Recognize and ensure the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management in the combat against desertification;

Recommendation 2:

Identify restoration priorities and goals as well as required funding on the long-term;

Recommendation 3:

Develop capacity of foresters and users on restoration approaches, practices and tools;

Recommendation 4:

Manage restoration as a collaborative action by promoting good governance at local level, involving all relevant stakeholders and sectors;

Recommendation 5:

Plan forest restoration actions at the right scale and with an integrated approach on the long-term and addressing drivers of land degradation and desertification;

Recommendation 6:

Select the right species, varieties and genotypes. The promotion of native species is often the best choice as they meet social, environmental, cultural

and economic demand and they are well adapted to environmental constraints such as water scarcity and communities needs;

Recommendation 7:

Use high quality reproductive plant material (seeds, seedlings, cuttings) of Mediterranean trees, shrubs and grasses with wide genetic diversity;

Recommendation 8:

Promote natural regeneration to restore forest ecosystems as often as possible particularly after wildfires;

Recommendation 9:

Ensure sustainable management and protection of the restored areas;

Recommendation 10:

Ensure monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.

Strategic line 7



EXPECTED RESULTS

-  A shared vision is developed on Mediterranean forestry questions
-  Knowledge and expertise are improved on Mediterranean forests
-  Communication is reinforced towards other sectors and the general public
-  Capacity is strengthened to help stakeholders in addressing new challenges



Develop knowledge, training and communication on Mediterranean forests

Recommendation 1:

Promote training of forest sector stakeholders (forest owners, forest managers and private sector), students, local representatives and other decision-makers;

Recommendation 2:

Improve the coordination of forest research in the Mediterranean (Foresteria, Horizon 2020, COST, etc.) and implement the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2010-2020;

Recommendation 3:

Promote innovation on Mediterranean forestry issues;

Recommendation 4:

Develop and, when necessary, harmonize information systems avoiding administrative burden (EFFIS, national monitoring systems, national forest inventories and other international processes such as Forest Resources Assessment or State of the European Forests);

Recommendation 5:

Publish every 5 years, an updated report on the State of Mediterranean Forests taking into account the new challenges. The preparation process of this report will be an opportunity to identify gaps in data and to improve and strengthen monitoring systems;

Recommendation 6:

Promote and adapt forestry training to new challenges in the Mediterranean. Strengthen cooperation among forestry training centres;

Recommendation 7:

Enhance dialogue and cooperation with other sectors: water, energy, mining, tourism, rural development as well as other regions in the world with Mediterranean climate conditions;

Recommendation 8:

Develop and implement a communication strategy on Mediterranean forests to highlight their positive impacts on Mediterranean landscapes and rural development;

Recommendation 9:

Raise media awareness on Mediterranean forestry issues and reinforce the quality of communication for forest users and the general public;

Recommendation 10:

Continue the networking efforts developed by members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea* and partners to produce cross-checked and shared knowledge on Mediterranean forests.

Strategic line 8

Reinforce International Cooperation



EXPECTED RESULTS

Regional institutions and collaborative partnerships are strengthened in the Mediterranean

New regional cooperation programmes are developed to enlarge the current projects portfolio

Fundraising and investments are promoted in Mediterranean forest sectors

At the institutional level

Recommendation 1:

Continue the current dynamic of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea, in terms of exchange of experiences and promotion of collaborative partnerships;

Recommendation 2:

Integrate forestry topics in the several fora on the UE-MENA dialogue and raise awareness of the European Commission on Mediterranean forest issues;

Recommendation 3:

Develop shared vision and positions on Mediterranean forests specific issues, and promote them within international organizations (UNFF, Forest Europe, UNECE, EU, FAO, EFI, World Bank, Rio conventions);

Recommendation 4:

Integrate forest issues in the programs of bilateral cooperation agencies (North-South, South-South and North-North);

Recommendation 5:

Simplify administrative procedures and reduce the delay for the preparation and negotiation of project proposals;

At the level of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests

Recommendation 1:

Strengthen and expand the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) as an open and flexible model of cooperation and dialogue;

Recommendation 2:

Raise awareness among managers of European funds and programmes eligible for Mediterranean forests (European Neighbourhood-Policy Instrument, Structural Funds, Social funds, Europe Aid, Horizon 2020, etc.);

Recommendation 3:

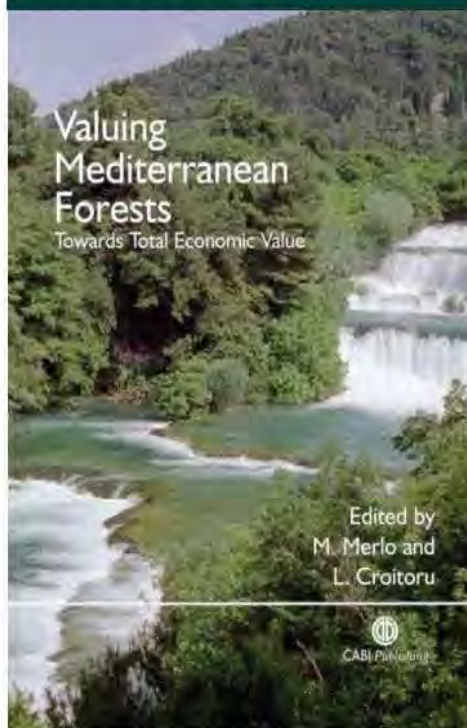
Support local stakeholders in the establishment and preparation of bilateral, European or international project proposals;

Recommendation 4:

Encourage decentralized cooperation mechanisms to reinforce direct links between Mediterranean landscapes.



Strategic line 9



EXPECTED RESULTS

Budget allocations of forest administrations are adapted to financial needs for ensuring sustainable forest management (SFM) and the sustainable provision of forest goods and services

Sustainable financing strategies for the forest sector are developed, based on a wide range of financing solutions from public, private, national and international sources

Innovative financing mechanisms and instruments are explored and adapted to the Mediterranean



Adapt existing financing schemes and develop innovative mechanisms to support implementation of forest policies and programmes

Recommendation 1:

Adapt the budget allocation of the forest sector in the Mediterranean region by developing financing strategies based on a wide range of financing solutions from public, private, national and international sources;

Recommendation 2:

Develop, according to the legal framework, the use of National Forest Funds (NFF) as a key institutional and financial instrument for supporting SFM through mobilization of public and private resources;

Recommendation 3:

Promote the assessment of the value of forest goods and services and related management costs and benefits in order to:

- Advocate for adapted budget allocations for the forest sector;
- Help to build cost-efficient financing mechanisms for SFM;

Recommendation 4:

Adapt to the Mediterranean context Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFM) and instruments such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, REDD+ and compensation mechanisms;

Recommendation 5:

Create the enabling environment for the development of Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFM):

- Improve the understanding of these mechanisms through capacity development;
- Learn good practices from other regions;
- Communicate widely on the importance of forest ecosystems goods and services and the need to raise necessary financial resources for their sustainable management;

- Start designing first initiatives of IFM, such as REDD+ pilot projects in selected areas of the region;

Recommendation 6:

Enhance the involvement of the private sector in developing the value chains of wood and non wood forest products;

Recommendation 7:

Promote the use and the value of wood and non-wood forest products from sustainable forest management including the use of certification schemes (forest management certification, ethical bio-trade, fair-trade, etc);

Recommendation 8:

Support decentralized financing tools (micro-finance, local investment banking) for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) working on wood and non-wood forest products;

Recommendation 9:

Promote forest-based solutions to offset emissions of greenhouse gases or compensate biodiversity loss and develop systems for the private sector to support these solutions through their Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) strategies;

Recommendation 10:

Explore and seize the financing opportunities of the three Rio conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC), including the REDD+ mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism (ABS), the opportunities presented by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, and the synergies between Rio conventions (financed by GEF).