

REPORT

**Rabat,
Morocco,
28–29 November
2005**

**AFWC/EFC/NEFC
Committee on
Mediterranean Forestry
Questions**

Silva Mediterranea

Nineteenth Session



PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

First session	Rome, Italy	13 - 17 December 1948
Second session	Algiers, Algeria	8 - 13 May 1950
Third session	Istanbul, Turkey	13 - 15 May 1952
Fourth session	Athens, Greece	1 - 5 June 1954
Fifth session	Nice, France	27 - 29 May 1956
Sixth session	Madrid, Spain	17 - 21 April 1958
Seventh session	Lisbon, Portugal	2 - 7 May 1960
Eighth session	Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia	12 - 15 May 1962
Ninth session	Athens, Greece	23 - 26 June 1965
Tenth session	Rome, Italy	3 - 9 May 1968
Eleventh session	Ankara, Turkey	1 - 3 October 1970
Twelfth session	La Grande-Motte, France	2 - 6 December 1985
Thirteenth session	Zaragoza, Spain	28 Sept - 2 Oct 1987
Fourteenth session	Athens, Greece	9 - 13 October 1989
Fifteenth session	Faro, Portugal	16 - 20 March 1992
Sixteenth session	Larnaka, Cyprus	13 - 17 June 1994
Seventeenth session	Antalya, Turkey	10 - 13 October 1997
Eighteenth session	Rome, Italy	2 - 5 April 2002

REPORT

of the

NINETEENTH SESSION

of the

**AFWC/EFC/NEFC¹ COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY
QUESTIONS – *SILVA MEDITERRANEA***

Rabat, Morocco
28-29 November 2005

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2006**

¹ AFWC: African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
EFC: European Forestry Commission
NEFC: Near East Forestry Commission

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Focal points: The Committee recommended that those countries that had not yet designated their focal points in the questionnaire should kindly do so and communicate the names and contact details to the Secretariat (para. 14).
2. Dissemination of results: Le Committee recommended that the Secretariat and member countries should make better use of the *Forêt Méditerranéenne (F.M)* journal for the dissemination of the outputs of the Committee itself and of the working groups, institutions and individuals associated with the Mediterranean forestry sector. A draft agreement between the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) and FAO would be submitted within three months (para. 17).
3. Strengthening of the Secretariat: The Committee recommended that the Secretariat be strengthened. It thanked Italy and FAO for their efforts in this regard and invited *Silva Mediterranea* members to work to this end (para. 18).
4. Mediterranean conifers: The Committee recommended that the Secretariat and member countries support the continuation of the project "Inventory and Status of Comparative Conifer Plantations in the Mediterranean." It asked those member countries that had yet not done so to nominate a focal point and called for the facilitation of a meeting of researchers involved in the drafting of the summary reports, particularly for cedars and pines of the *halepensis* section (para. 25).
5. Follow-up and strengthening of working group activities: the Committee recommended that agreements be drawn up between the leaders of the working groups (currently sponsored by Spain, France and Portugal) and FAO in order to enhance follow-up to the groups' work (para. 30).
6. Programme of work of the Committee: the Committee recommended that the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum on the Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean be appended to the Report of its 19th Session, together with a summary table of the programme of work of *Silva Mediterranea* as amended during the session (para. 31).
7. Future of *Silva Mediterranea*: following a proposal by Italy and intense and constructive debate, the Committee recommended that a working group be set up to reflect upon the future of *Silva Mediterranea* and to look into the possibilities of strengthening its present framework. The working group would examine different scenarios for the future of *Silva Mediterranea* and would present its conclusions at the next session of the Committee. The working group would be led by Italy, Lebanon and Morocco (para. 35).

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* held its Nineteenth session in the *Centre d'Accueil et de Conférences* (CAC) at Hay Riad in Rabat, from 28 to 29 November 2005. Delegates from thirteen member countries and observers from UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations attended. A list of participants is given in [Appendix 2](#).

2. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr Fady Asmar (Lebanon), Chairperson of the Committee, in the presence of Mr Hammou Jader, Secretary-General of the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (Morocco), Mr Habib Halila, FAO Representative in Morocco, Mr José Antonio Prado, Director of the Forest Resources Division, Forestry Department, FAO (Rome), and Mr Jean Prosper Koyo, Secretary of the Committee.

3. Mr Fady Asmar welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its hospitality and the arrangements for the session.

4. In his statement, Mr Jammou Jader, Secretary-General of the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control, welcomed all the participants to the 19th Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*. He thanked FAO, the member countries of *Silva Mediterranea*, the current chair of the Committee and the Committee's Secretariat for having chosen the Kingdom of Morocco to host the meeting and for their untiring efforts since the previous session held in Rome in 2002. He remarked that the meeting was taking place in an international and regional context marked by the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, important challenges and ever greater awareness of the need to conserve natural resources, safeguard forests and ensure sustainable development. He noted that the session followed on from the Regional Forum on the Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean held in the same location, in collaboration with FAO, the *Plan Bleu* and France. The forum had offered an opportunity not only to exchange experiences and to take joint stock of challenges, policies and governance relating to Mediterranean forests, but also to look into the prospects of achieving closer regional cooperation on forests and sustainable development.

5. The forum participants had recommended that *Silva Mediterranea* take special note of its conclusions and recommendations, which it should examine and discuss during the course of its meeting and take into account, to the extent possible, when determining the future programmes of activity of *Silva Mediterranea*. They asked the Committee to serve as their mouthpiece to have international bodies recognize the specific characteristics of Mediterranean forests.

6. In his opening session speech, Mr José Antonio Prado expressed his sincere gratitude to the Moroccan authorities for having agreed to host the 19th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* and for all their human, financial and material support, without which the session could not have taken place. He also thanked the French authorities and the *Plan Bleu* for their manifold contributions in the organization of the session.

7. Mr. Prado then highlighted: i) the importance of *Silva Mediterranea* which, after more than 57 years of existence, continued to serve as a unique framework for regional cooperation in the sustainable management of wooded lands and the restoration of soils in the Mediterranean; ii) the major challenges faced by the member countries of *Silva Mediterranea*, in particular forest fires, environmental changes and their economic and social impact, and; iii) the many opportunities deriving from the geographical location and membership of *Silva Mediterranea*.

8. Mr. Prado recalled that the 19th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* was taking place two weeks after publication of the findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment. The 2005 forest resources assessment showed a net improvement in Mediterranean forest cover from 2000. Wildfires had been the major topic of discussion at the Ministerial Meeting and 17th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2005. Several recommendations made at these two events had advocated that greater attention be paid to this scourge in policies for the sustainable management of wooded areas.

9. As for the future of *Silva Mediterranea*, Mr Prado stressed the need to reinforce regional cooperation in the Mediterranean, to improve communication between member countries and the Secretariat, and to retain the existing working groups but to better define their operating modalities. He concluded by hoping that the 19th Session of *Silva Mediterranea* in Rabat would be remembered as the session that firmly reinvigorated the Committee's activities.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

10. The provisional agenda (Appendix 1) was adopted with a slight amendment to the timetable whereby Item 6 was moved from 9:00 to 10:00 hours on 29 November to 17:00 to 18:00 hours on 28 November. The list of documents prepared by the Secretariat for the session is provided in Appendix 3.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND RAPPORTEUR (Item 2)

11. In accordance with Rule II.2 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee unanimously elected as:

Chairperson: Aberrahim Houmy (Morocco)

Vice-Chairpersons: Abdelmalek Titah (Algeria)
Jorge Gosalbez (Spain)

Rapporteur: Ms Zhaneta Prifti (Albania)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE (Item 3)

12. The Committee took note of document FO:SCM/05/2 which reported on the actions taken in follow-up to its recommendations from its previous session, notably by the Secretariat. The Committee's observations and comments are recorded in paragraphs 13 to 34.

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* ACTIVITIES SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION (Item 4)

1. Activities of the Secretariat

13. The Committee was informed of the activities that had been undertaken by the Secretariat since its 18th Session.

Proposed programme of work 2005-2007 (Appendix 5)

14. A questionnaire aimed at improving communication between the Secretariat and the Members of the Committee was sent out in January 2005. A programme proposal was presented on the basis of the replies received. This presentation prompted extensive discussion on the relevance and feasibility of the programme. The issue of raising funds for implementation of *Silva Mediterranea* activities was discussed at length. The Committee recommended that those countries that had not yet designated their focal points in the questionnaire should kindly do so and communicate the names and contact details to the Secretariat.

Programme of work of the Secretariat

15. The member countries agreed on the need to: i) reinforce the Secretariat, for which several scenarios were envisaged; The representative of Italy reiterated its promise to make a full-time expert available to the Secretariat; ii) optimize and disseminate the outputs of FAO and other programmes in the region and; iii) promote Mediterranean forestry issues at the international level.

16. The Secretariat would play a dynamic role and its programme of work should be directed towards:

- i) The reinforcement of communication and information management:
 - enhanced communication between countries by electronic mail;
 - compilation and management of information relevant to *Silva Mediterranea* spheres of activity;
 - ongoing updating of website www.fao.org/forestry/site/4646/en;
 - website sharing of information on Mediterranean forestry issues.
- ii) The optimal use of FAO outputs and other programmes in the Mediterranean region:
 - regional presentation of Mediterranean forest data in the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Programme;
 - synthesis of outlook studies on the forestry sector in the Mediterranean countries;
 - follow-up to evaluation of the results of the provenance trials on Mediterranean conifers;
 - creation of databases using outputs from FAO and other programmes;
 - publication of the cedar monograph.
- iii) Strengthening of the Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea*:
 - follow-up to the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat support project submitted to Italy for funding;
 - involvement of other FAO divisions and services in the activities of *Silva Mediterranea*;
 - working relationships and arrangements with other intergovernmental institutions and NGOs in the Mediterranean region.

- iv) Promotion of Mediterranean forestry issues:
- presentation on the development of Mediterranean forests at international conferences, and;
 - publication of articles, books and documents on topics relating to Mediterranean forests.

17. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat and the member countries make better use of the *Forêt Méditerranéenne (F.M.)* journal for the dissemination of the outputs of the Committee itself and of the working groups, institutions and individuals associated with the Mediterranean forestry sector. A draft agreement between the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) and FAO would be submitted within three months.

18. Le Committee recommended that the Secretariat be strengthened. It thanked Italy and FAO for their efforts in this regard and invited *Silva Mediterranea* members to work to this end.

Programme of work of the Members of the Committee

a) Working Group n° 1: Forest fires (led by Spain)

19. Forest fires are causing increasing international concern and were one of the main topics addressed at the 17th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests (Rome, March 2005). The dramatic events in the region confirm the need to strengthen cooperation. The working group on forest fires should propose an agreement with FAO to prepare a reinforced programme of work that takes into account the recent recommendations of COFO and the Ministerial Meeting on Forests. Framework guidelines for the drafting of bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in forest fire prevention and control in the Mediterranean region should be formulated. Forest fires are increasing everywhere, especially in the region, and social aspects linked to forest fires should be addressed in greater depth. Problems relating to forest fires in the Mediterranean region will be examined at the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference and Exhibition to be organized by Spain in Madrid in May 2007.

20. The programme of work of the working group on forest fires therefore centres on the following aspects:

- drafting of an agreement between FAO and the lead team of the working group as part of a reinforced programme on forest fires;
- elaboration of framework guidelines for bilateral agreements on cooperation in the prevention and control of forest fires;
- decentralized regional databases on forest fires in collaboration with the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS);
- dissemination throughout the Mediterranean region of daily fire risk forecasts prepared by EFFIS, which are currently sent to the European Union countries;
- updating of the FAO inventory of bilateral reciprocal assistance agreements for the prevention and control of forest fires;
- promotion of the exchange of experiences gained during such reciprocal assistance operations;
- inventory of available resources and logistical requirements for such reciprocal assistance operations;
- promotion of exchanges of technical staff for such operations;
- preparation and contribution for the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference and Exhibition.

b) Working Group n° 2: Cork oak (led by Portugal)

21. This group should also propose an agreement with FAO to define a reinforced programme of work that takes into account the expressed needs of producer countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Spain) and the recommendations of recent cork and cork oak events, including "VIVEXPO Seminar 2004: Cork Oak and Forest Fires" in Vives, France, and the "2004 International Conference on Environmentally Compatible Forest Products", Porto, Portugal. The working group could focus on collecting data on activities relating to cork oak ecosystems and cork trade and processing in all the countries concerned. A subregional seminar could then be organized on the occasion of Cork Oak Day (21 June) to examine and coordinate ongoing efforts in each country. The resulting outputs would be disseminated under the envisaged agreement between FAO and the International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM).

22. The programme of work of the working group on cork oak can be summarized as follows:

- formulation of an agreement between FAO and the lead team of the working group as part of a reinforced programme on cork oak;
- collation of data on ongoing activities relating to cork oak ecosystems and cork trade and processing;
- organization of a subregional seminar on cork oak.

c) Working Group n° 3: Land use and sustainable forest management (led by France)

23. France wished to co-lead activities with other countries. This group should propose a programme of work that would take into account the outputs of Project GCP/INT/904/FRA "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" and the "Forum on Forests and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Challenges, Policies and Governance". The project steering committee is scheduled to meet in Sophia Antipolis on 3 and 4 February 2006.

24. The activities of the working group on land use and sustainable forest management can be summarized as follows:

- implementation of Project GCP/INT/904/FRA "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" until 31 December 2006, subject to renewal of the partnership agreement between FAO and *Plan Bleu*;
- preparation of a new project based on the outputs of the forum and identification of funding for its implementation.

d) Other activities (provenance trials on Mediterranean conifers)

25. The Committee commended the efforts that had been made by France, FAO and other countries and recommended that the Secretariat and member countries support the continuation of the project "Inventory and Status of Comparative Conifer Plantations in the Mediterranean". It asked those member countries that had not yet done so to nominate a focal point and called for the facilitation of a meeting of researchers involved in the drafting of the summary reports, particularly for cedars and pines of the *halepensis* section. The preliminary results are available on the homepage of the Forestry Department at www.fao.org/forestry/site/fgr/en.

e) Mobilization of funds

26. The three working groups should actively seek to raise funds so that they can effectively implement their ongoing activities and future programmes.

f) National Forest Programme Facility

27. Member countries interested in receiving support from this facility are invited to contact FAO for the submission or reformulation of their projects.

The following two activities are envisaged in the framework of support from the National Forest Programme Facility:

- monitoring by the Committee and its Secretariat of the participation of Mediterranean countries in the National Forest Programme Facility;
- efficient and concerted implementation of projects supported by the Facility.

WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES (Item 5)

28. The leaders of the following working groups each reported on the progress of their respective groups:

- (i) Working Group n°1 on forest fires: a statement was given by the representative of Spain. The prominence of this scourge in the region was of particular interest to the Committee;
- (ii) Working Group n°2 on cork oak: a statement was made by the representative of Portugal, who proposed establishing a partnership agreement with FAO to ensure efficient follow-up and better dissemination of related information;
- (iii) Working Group n°3 on land use and sustainable forest management: the representative of France invited the officers responsible for the project "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" and the programme of evaluation of comparative trials of conifer provenance to report on the progress of their activities.

29. Mr Luc Dassonville, Chief of the Project "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" reported on the outputs of this project and the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum on the Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, held in Rabat from 24 to 26 November 2005. The representative of France proposed the renewal, for a further three years and as soon as possible, of the FAO/*Plan Bleu* partnership agreement which would expire at the end of 2005, as France's funding of the project (one hundred seventy five thousand euro: € 175,000) until the end of 2006 was subject to such a renewal.

30. The Committee recommended that agreements be drawn up between the leaders of the working groups (currently sponsored by Spain, France and Portugal) and FAO in order to enhance follow-up to the groups' work.

31. The Committee also recommended that the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum on the Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean be appended to the Report of its 19th Session (Appendix 4), together with a summary table of the programme of work of *Silva Mediterranea* as amended during the session (Appendix 5).

Evaluation of work carried out in previous programmes

32. Provenance trials on Mediterranean conifers: In his statement on this subject, Mr Bariteau of the National Agricultural Research Institute (INRA, France) stated that the joint efforts of France, FAO and member countries had permitted the identification of 837 provenance trials covering 7 species in 12 member countries of *Silva Mediterranea* (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

33. Monograph on cedar: The representative of Morocco informed the Committee that a monograph on the Atlas cedar was being published with the support of the Walloon region, Belgium. The representatives of Lebanon and Cyprus proposed that monographs be implemented on the Lebanon cedar and on the Cyprus cedar respectively.

34. The Low Forest Cover Countries Initiative: The *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat supported the Low Forest Cover Countries Initiative (LFCC) in order to formalize the Tehran Process.

FUTURE OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* (Item 6)

35. Following the proposal of Italy and after intense and constructive debate, the Committee recommended that a working group be set up to reflect upon the future of *Silva Mediterranea* and to look into the possibilities of strengthening its current framework. This working group would examine different scenarios for the future of *Silva Mediterranea* and would present its conclusions at the next session of the Committee. The working group would be led by three countries: Italy, Lebanon and Morocco. Participation would be open to the other member countries and interested organizations, including NGOs. Italy offered to support financially, at least in part, this working group.

36. The first meeting of the leaders of this group should be held as soon as possible in Rome, with financial support from Italy and FAO. This meeting would serve to finalize the terms of reference of the working group. The terms of reference would be submitted to the Member Nations for their consideration.

37. The Committee also agreed to draft a request for a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to be submitted to FAO to help the Mediterranean countries prepare thematic projects of importance to the region and to support the work of the group proposed by the Committee. The terms of reference of the working group would provide the basic elements for the formulation of the TCP.

38. It was also agreed that the Committee could also meet informally at the next session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) scheduled for February 2006 in New York, on the initiative of the Members present. The Secretariat would send an information letter on this matter to the Members of the Committee.

39. The Committee welcomed FAO's proposal to look at the possibility of dedicating a special issue of *Unasylva* to forestry issues in the Mediterranean region.

40. With regard to the adoption of the report, because of difficulties encountered during the session, the Committee proposed that the French version be submitted by electronic mail to all the representatives of the member countries present during the session in order to seek their comments before final adoption and translation.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 7)

41. Following discussion of this agenda item, the Committee decided that FAO would invite all member countries to indicate their interest in hosting the 20th Session of *Silva Mediterranea*.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Officers and Rapporteur
3. Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee
4. State of Implementation of the Activities and Outputs from the Questionnaire
5. Working Groups and other Activities (presentations)
 - 5.1 Working Group n° 1: Forest fires
 - 5.2 Working Group n° 2: Cork oak
 - 5.3 Working Group n° 3: Land use and sustainable forest management
 - 5.4 Mediterranean conifers
 - 5.5 Presentation of the Outcome and Recommendations of the Forum "Forest Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Challenges, Policies and Governance"
6. Future of *Silva Mediterranea*
7. Date and Place of the Next Session
8. Adoption of the Report

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
	FO:SCM/05/1	Provisional Agenda
	FO:SCM/05/2	Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Eighteenth Session
	FO :SCM/05/3	State of Implementation of the Activities and Outputs from the Questionnaire
Information documents		
	FO : SCM/01/Inf.1	Information Note
	FO : SCM/01/Inf.2	Provisional Timetable
	FO : SCM/01/Inf.3	List of Documents

Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Challenges, Policies and Governance

Regional Forum, Rabat, 24 to 26 November 2005

Conclusions and Recommendations

More than one hundred managers, experts and researchers from the Mediterranean countries and international and regional organizations gathered at the Regional Forum "Forestry Sector and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean: Challenges, Policies and Governance" that was held in Rabat from 24 to 26 November 2005. This forum was organized by the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control of the Kingdom of Morocco and by the *Plan Bleu*, as part of the partnership established with FAO with support from France, following the recommendations of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee.

Observations and challenges

The participants:

1. Recall:
 - the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean silvopastoral areas which have been fashioned by humankind during the course of history;
 - their global importance in terms of biodiversity;
 - their crucial role for the production of water and the control of desertification.

2. Underline:
 - the social and economic importance of these wooded areas for the rural populations concerned, notably in the countries of the south and east Mediterranean;
 - the role played by these areas in combating poverty and ensuring food security;
 - their current and potential importance in terms of non-wood forest products, goods and services, especially for the development of sustainable tourism.

3. Alert the policy and economic decision-makers of the Mediterranean countries and the European Union to:
 - the gravity of the degradation of these areas due to their abandonment or overexploitation;
 - the irreversible loss of (ecosystem, species, genetic) biodiversity, the increased risk of fire, the rapid siltation of dams and the resulting impacts;
 - their ever greater repercussions on all Mediterranean economies and societies and on the long-term stability of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

4. Welcome the preliminary assessments of the ecological and economic value of the non-commercial services of Mediterranean forests which indicate the importance of the multifunctionality of Mediterranean wooded areas.

5. Welcome the example of the many cases indicating the possibility of closely associating local populations in the design and implementation of forest actions and of installing better governance involving all players, including those in the field.

6. Herald the recent advances in the integration of sustainable development principles into forestry policies, notably through the implementation of integrated and participatory local development actions, as shown by numerous examples and case studies presented during the forum.

7. Underline:

- the increasing role that forest managers can and must play in promoting sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean;
- the need to reinforce human capacities and financial resources to reverse current unacceptable trends on the economic, social and environmental levels;
- the need to develop and share specific case studies, focusing on problems of local or regional importance (natural and/or assisted regeneration, restoration of landscapes...).

Proposed guidelines and actions

1. Pursue and accelerate the adjustment of national forest strategies, policies and programmes to the challenges and principles of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, prioritizing and generalizing integrated and participatory territorial approaches to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the objectives of the United Nations Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification) and those of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; fine-tune performance indicators; and perfect certification procedures.

2. Reinforce North-South and South-South Mediterranean Cooperation for:

- the continuation and structural organization, in the form of platform or network, of exchanges of experiences and information on indicators, paradigms of good practice and tools for an enhanced contribution of the forestry sector to sustainable development;
- the reinforcement of synergies between regional research and training centres with the aim of introducing the new tools and approaches of integrated and participatory development into their programmes;
- the bolstering of Mediterranean cooperation by developing concrete actions for the prevention and control of forest fires, the mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change, and the sustainable management of cork oak landscapes;
- the promotion of Mediterranean forestry and its challenges on international and regional platforms, including the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Euro-Mediterranean conferences on the environment and rural development.

3. Encourage the involvement of local authorities and civil society, particularly national, regional and international non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of projects for the integrated sustainable development of Mediterranean silvopastoral areas.

4. Recommend the continuation and expansion of experiences involving all players, especially local inhabitants and users, in the design and implementation of forestry actions and in the governance of wooded areas.

5. Ensure that forestry projects consider the restoration of the functions of Mediterranean wooded areas for an enhanced contribution to the economic and social welfare of populations and for the conservation of biodiversity.
6. Evaluate and develop a better understanding of the economic, social and ecological impacts of the global challenges on Mediterranean wooded areas, especially those of climate change, and elaborate appropriate strategies.
7. Evaluate the repercussions of national, regional and international processes, such as bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, on the competitiveness and market access of Mediterranean forest products, and identify appropriate actions.
8. Implement action for the establishment of a platform directed *inter alia* towards the regional sharing of experiences and the monitoring of changes in wooded areas, which would help countries take decisions relating to these areas. This would also help avoid the duplication of effort, reinforce synergies between information centres and encourage the use of existing institutions.
9. Strengthen the financial and political commitment of the Mediterranean countries and mobilize bilateral, multilateral and community financial facilities for the implementation of these guidelines, especially as regards linkages between climate change and Mediterranean forest ecosystems.
10. Pursue, with the support of France, other countries and donors intervening in the region, the project "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development" entrusted to the *Plan Bleu*, taking these guidelines into account.
11. Invite the *Plan Bleu* and FAO to convene the project steering committee, within two months, to determine the concrete follow-up to be given to the forum.
12. Bring the content of this declaration to the notice of the national, regional and international bodies concerned, notably during the next session of *Silva Mediterranea*.

Summary Table of the Programme of Work

Objectives and activities	Action	Timing	Additional funds (US\$)
A. Programme of Work of the Secretariat			
1. Reinforcement of communication and information management			
-The Secretariat will boost communication between member countries (national officers for <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> , country delegates to Committee sessions, working group leaders) through electronic mail	Secretariat, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	
-Collection and management of information relevant to the fields of activity of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>	Secretariat, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	
- Ongoing updating of the website	Secretariat	Permanent activity	
-Sharing of information on Mediterranean forestry issues through the website	Secretariat, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	
2. Optimization of outputs of FAO and other programmes in the Mediterranean Region:			
-Regional presentation of Mediterranean forestry data obtained through the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Programme	Secretariat, FAO	June 2006 and every year	5000 (contract)
-Synthesis of outlook studies on the forestry sector in the Mediterranean countries	Secretariat, FAO	June 2006	5000 (contract)
-Follow-up to evaluation of the results of the provenance trials of Mediterranean conifers	Secretariat, FAO, INRA and other countries	Results and publications between 2005 and 2007	10000 (contract) + 10000 funds to be raised
-Establishment of databases on outputs from FAO and other programmes	Secretariat, FAO, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	Funds to be raised
-Publication of the monograph on the cedar	AIFM, Morocco and Secretariat	February 2006	Funds to be raised

3. Reinforcement of the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Secretariat			
-Follow-up to the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Secretariat support project submitted to Italy for funding	Secretariat and Italy	18 months, EOD: 2 nd sem. 2006	300000, donor, Italy
-Involvement of other FAO divisions and services in activities of the Committee	Secretariat	Permanent activity	
-Working relationships and arrangements with other intergovernmental institutions and NGOs in the Mediterranean region	Secretariat, focal points and NGOs	Permanent activity	
4. Promotion of Mediterranean forestry issues			
-Presentations on Mediterranean forestry development at international Conferences	Secretariat, FAO, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	Cost to be assessed and funds to be raised
-Publication of articles, books and documents on subjects relating to Mediterranean forests	Secretariat, FAO, focal points and working groups	Permanent activity	
B. Programme of work of the Committee members			
Working Group n° 1 on forest fires			
- Establishment of an agreement between FAO and Spain as part of a reinforced programme on forest fires	Spain, FAO and Secretariat	2006	
- Drafting of guidelines for bilateral agreements on cooperation in the prevention and control of forest fires	Spain, other countries and Secretariat	2006	Cost to be determined and funds to be raised
-Decentralized regional database on forest fires	Spain, other countries and Secretariat		Cost to be determined and funds to be raised
-Dissemination throughout the Mediterranean Region of the daily fire-risk forecasts prepared by EFFIS, currently sent to the EU countries			
-Updating of the FAO inventory through bilateral agreements for the promotion of exchanges of technical staff			
-Preparation and contribution to the 4 th International Wildland Fire Conference and Exhibition	Spain, FAO and Secretariat	Mid-2007	To be determined

Working Group n° 2 on cork oak			
-Establishment of an agreement between FAO and Portugal as part of the reinforced programme on cork oak	Portugal, other countries, Secretariat and NGOs	June 2006	
-Collection of data on ongoing activities relating to cork oak ecosystems and cork processing and trade	Portugal, other countries and Secretariat	2006-2007	Costs to be determined and funds to be raised
-Organization of a subregional seminar on cork oak in collaboration with FAO, other countries and NGOs	Portugal, other countries and Secretariat	2007	Costs to be determined and funds to be raised
- Publication of a compendium of articles and documents on cork oak studies in collaboration with the <i>Forêt Méditerranéenne</i> journal and AIFM	Portugal, F.M. journal, AIFM and Secretariat	2007	Costs to be determined and funds to be raised
Working Group n° 3 on land use and sustainable forest management			
-Implementation of project GCP/INT/904/FRA "Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development"	France, FAO, MAP/ <i>Plan Bleu</i> , other countries and Secretariat	Until December 2006	€ 175,000 France
-Design of a new project based notably on the outputs of the forum	France, FAO, MAP/ <i>Plan Bleu</i> , other countries and Secretariat	2006	
National Forest Programme Facility			
-Follow-up on the involvement of Mediterranean countries in the NFP Facility	Mediterranean countries and Secretariat	Permanent activity	
-Efficient and concerted implementation of projects financed through the facility	Mediterranean countries and Secretariat	Permanent activity	
Mobilization des ressources			
- Follow-up of ongoing activities and projects	Mediterranean countries and Secretariat	Permanent activity	
- Design of new projects	Mediterranean countries and Secretariat	Permanent activity	Funds to be raised

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Cyprus	Portugal
European Community (Member Organization)	Romania
Egypt	Saudi Arabia
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Greece	Slovenia
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Spain
Iraq	Sudan
Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Italy	Tunisia
Jordan	Turkey
Lebanon	Yemen