



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

Twenty-Fifth Session

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Secretariat Note 4 Item 6

The flagship “Restoring Mediterranean Forests”

Executive summary

This document presents the status of the World Restoration Flagship “Restoring Mediterranean Forests” and the progress achieved in implementing the targeted support on post-fire restoration from the Multipartner Trust Fund established in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.

Suggested action by the committee

The committee may wish to encourage its members to:

- contribute actively to the survey prepared for collecting information on post-fire restoration good practices by December 2024; and
- identify relevant experts to participate in the planned in-person events (workshops, exchange visits, e-learning courses, online discussions) from January to December 2025.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. Introduction

1. World Restoration Flagships of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (hereafter the “UN Decade”) are identified as the best or most promising examples of successful ecosystem restoration for which a country or region would like to obtain global recognition, embodying the ten Restoration Principles of the UN Decade.
2. The concept note of the Mediterranean flagship was finalized at the Seventh Mediterranean Forest Week in Antalya, Türkiye, and submitted by committee members on the UN Decade website on 31 March 2022.
3. On 27 February 2024, the flagship “Restoring Mediterranean Forests” was officially launched at the Gala of Hope organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. As one of seven newly selected initiatives, the Restoring Mediterranean Forests flagship represents a substantial endeavour for addressing the degradation of forest ecosystems in one of the planet’s most crucial biodiversity hotspots.

II. Implementation of the Restoring Mediterranean Forests flagship

4. The Mediterranean flagship has received targeted support (USD 200 000) from the Multipartner Trust Fund established in the context of the UN Decade.
5. The targeted support focuses on the following activities (Annex A):
 - a) Collect good practices:
 - i. Prepare a survey (based on the work done by the Taskforce on Best Practices).
 - ii. Collect data from Mediterranean counterparts and share these data among them.
 - iii. Organize in-person events with post-fire restoration experts in Cairo, Egypt, by June 2025 and participate in other international events of interest to collect and share relevant data (including the session on forest fires to be held during the Eighth Mediterranean Forest Week).
 - b) Compile and analyse results during the first semester of 2025.
 - c) Organize technical exchange visits to restoration sites in different countries to witness and document good restoration examples on the ground.
 - d) Organize a regional in-person workshop during the first semester of 2025.
 - e) Develop an e-learning training session or course based on the results during the second semester of 2025.
6. Collecting effective good practices for post-fire restoration in the Mediterranean will provide a knowledge-sharing and learning opportunity for all stakeholders dealing with fire management in the region. It will showcase all effective post-fire restoration practices being used in the Mediterranean that could be replicated in different areas of the region, creating a regional momentum for collaboration on post-fire restoration. The collection activity will be carried out with strong participation from national counterparts and local communities, involving all relevant stakeholders, including youth and women, in order to generate knowledge and foster learning.
7. Building on the work being done by the Taskforce on Best Practices led by FAO, these post-fire restoration best practices will be documented and disseminated through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform with a view to increasing the Mediterranean region’s visibility at the global scale.

ANNEX A**Activities planned under the Restoring Mediterranean Forests flagship funded by targeted support from the Multipartner Trust Fund**

Session on wildfire prevention and post-fire restoration	Eighth Mediterranean Forest Week, Barcelona, Spain	5 November 2024
Knowledge-sharing event on post-fire restoration in the Mediterranean region	Cairo, Egypt	By June 2025
Finalization of the guiding document and e-learning course	---	By the end of 2025
Launch of the guiding document and e-learning course	To be determined: likely to happen during the Ninth Mediterranean Forest Week or at a mid-term event for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	During the second or third quarter of 2026