



for a living planet®



cork land news

WWF Cork Oak Landscapes Programme - protect, manage and restore cork oak forest landscapes in the southwest Mediterranean.

FSC IN PORTUGAL

Portugal has now joined Spain and Italy with its own national FSC initiative. WWF Mediterranean was proud to launch the FSC National Initiative with a forum in Lisbon, Portugal, last December. Two hundred people attended this event including the FSC Executive Director, Heiko Liedeker and the representative of the Civil House of the Portuguese Republic who supported the forum. Participants learnt more about the FSC certification system and the creation and dynamics of FSC working groups. An honorary commission has been formed, involving important personalities from Portuguese society, including José

Saramago, the Portuguese Nobel Prize winner. Commission members present at the forum reaffirmed their support for WWF and the FSC certification system as a solution to the sustainable management of Portuguese forests.

While the Portugal FSC National Initiative has been launched, the process is ongoing and awaiting official endorsement from FSC, as required. To know more about the FSC National Initiative and to be updated on the progress of FSC in Portugal see www.fscportugal.org (in Portuguese), the new website presented at the Lisbon forum.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Vera Santos
WWF Mediterranean
vsantos@wwfmedpo.org



The table of honours at the FSC National Initiative launching event, Lisbon, Portugal
©WWF Mediterranean

FSC CERTIFICATION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

The Moroccan government, through the High Commission on Water, Forests and the Fight against Desertification, has decided to certify their national forests according to the FSC system. A seminar on FSC and how to implement it was organized last January. A pre-assessment process has begun in two forest areas (a cork oak forest and Argania forest) both of them valuable for the non-timber forest products they produce. The Moroccan government's effort is supported by WWF. The kingdom's nine million hectares of forest land are invaluable in the fight against desertification. A commitment to FSC certification is also part of the

country's movement towards biodiversity conservation and securing incomes for local communities. Over the coming months an FSC national working group will be created to develop national FSC standards for Morocco. WWF welcomes Morocco's commitment to responsibly manage their forests. FSC certification is a unique instrument for economically viable forestry while guaranteeing equitable sharing of resources with local communities and preserving the immense natural wealth of the land.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Youssef Melhaoui
WWF Mediterranean
ymelhaoui@wwfmedpo.org

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: SEMINAR IN CORDOBA

The seminar *Sustainable forest management and cooperation in the Mediterranean region* was held at the University of Cordoba, Spain, last November. The importance of sustainable forest management as a tool for development was debated. Experiences were presented and models and tools for sustainable management, such as FSC certification, were proposed. The seminar included presentations on IPADE's work in Tunisia and Morocco, presentations from the Moroccan NGO ATED and WWF Spain on the importance of responsible purchasing of forest products.

FSC Spain presented FSC certification as a tool for sustainable forest management and the regional Government of Andalucía, presented the certification of their public forests. A more academic vision of forest conservation was given in presentations from the University of Cordoba and the University of Tetouan. The seminar was conducted by a representative of the Spanish Aid Agency (AECI) in Tunisia.

Gestión Forestal Sostenible y Cooperación al Desarrollo en la Región Mediterránea was organized by the Institute for the Promotion and Aid to Development (IPADE) and FSC Spain.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Elisa Pardo
FSC Spain
pro_fsc@yahoo.es

EFI REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The achievements of the European Forest Institute (EFI) Project Centre MEDFOREX and its network were well represented at their recent annual conference, in Spain last November. The 2006 meeting of the Project MEDFOREX (Mediterranean Forest Externalities) was held at the Centre Tecnològic i Forestal de Catalunya, in Solsona. The first day was dedicated to a seminar - *Scientific tools and research needs for multifunctional Mediterranean forest ecosystem management*. Experts on Mediterranean forest ecosystems, forest management systems and forest values gave presentations which were followed by research studies in these three fields presented by young researchers. The 50 seminar participants from 15 Mediterranean countries appreciated this mix of presentations which was reflected in lively discussions. The second day of the meeting

concerned the future establishment of the EFI Mediterranean Regional Office and the continuity of MEDFOREX within this new framework. Issues such as the revision of current activities, strategies for future actions and potential funding opportunities and research topics dominated discussions. The MEDFOREX team, with EFI, should now focus on developing a strategic plan for the coming years as well as an effective and transparent way of incorporating the network into the decision-making process of the Office. The Regional Office should be operative in 2007 after EFI and the Ministry of Science have signed the EFIMED agreement.

A special issue of the EFI Pan-European Insider bulletin dedicated to EFIMED will be released in the coming weeks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Marc Palahí
Centre Tecnològic i Forestal de Catalunya
marc.palahi@ctfc.es
www.medforex.net

WWF SPAIN WINS THE EUROPA CORK AWARD

Europa Cork, the top cork sector magazine, awarded WWF Spain a prize for the campaign to raise awareness within the wine and retail sectors of the importance of cork oak landscapes. Campaign activities included a strong WWF presence at the Madrid wine fair last November and promotion work in supermarkets. A ceremony was organized for

the presentation of the award which gathered both government and cork organizations. WWF Spain took this opportunity to remind the cork industry that progress and communications regarding quality need to continue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Felix Romero
WWF Spain
fromero@wwf.es

AUTOCHTHONOUS PLANT SPECIES IN MOROCCO

A two-day training course on the production and plantation of autochthonous plant species was organized in Chefchaouen, in the Rif mountains of Morocco last January. The training served the double purpose of presenting the techniques needed for the production in a tree nursery of local shrub and herbaceous species and of officially starting the ecological restoration activities planned by WWF in collaboration with the local NGO ATED and the Spanish NGO IPADE. The course was attended by staff of the three NGOs organising it as well as by members of different Moroccan institutions interested in forest landscape restoration such as: the Station Régionale des Semences and the Service Provincial des Eaux et Forêts, the Ecole Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs, the Centre National de la Recherche Forestière, the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Tétouan and the Local Network of Environmental Education Clubs. Local representatives of the Municipality and the associations of local development of the areas involved in the restoration

work in the field, were also in attendance. During the first day of the training all the interested parties formed a Monitoring Committee for the restoration activities that will be put in place and established a list of tasks with which each of them will contribute to this pilot project. A Memorandum of Understanding between all the parties was finalised and will be officially signed in the near future. Before proceeding to the practical training at the Ain Rami tree nursery (outside Chefchaouen), all the participants had the opportunity of visiting the two one-hectare field plots that have been selected by the project for the field restoration work. The project aims at producing about 5,000 plants of six different species during the course of 2007.

The training workshop was part of the activities developed under the project "Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for the benefit of the population of the Laou river in Morocco" funded by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI) and the WWF Cork oak Landscapes Programme funded by WWF UK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Alessandro Badalotti
Forest Projects Coordinator
WWF Mediterranean
abadalotti@wwfmedpo.org

VITALITY OF CORK AND HOLM OAK: SEMINAR

The Directorate General of Forest Resources from Portugal (DGRF) together with Silva Mediterranean (FAO), WWF and the International Association for Mediterranean Forests organized a two-day conference on the Vitality of Cork and Holm oak stands forests in Évora, Portugal, last October. The seminar was followed by a workshop to devise a research programme promoting the improvement and restoration of these forests. During the seminar the decline of cork and holm oak forests was stated scientifically and the root causes of this decline were analysed. Causes include climate change, bad management practices and damage during cork stripping, forest fires, lack of regeneration due to overgrazing, opportunist diseases (mushrooms and insects), soil degradation and

erosion. The impact of climate change on the carbon balance in these species was also analysed. A joint research programme was discussed and the importance of sharing and cooperation between the different countries was clear to all attendants. A joint effort of cooperation was devised in order to attract attention at a political level on the conservation of these landscapes in the Mediterranean, to encourage information and the exchange of good practices and for the creation of a joint platform for lobbying, discussion and training.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
AIFM
www.aifm.org



Cork Oak tree with wounds from bad stripping. These wounds will affect the growth of cork.
©WWF Mediterranean / X. ESCUTE

FIVE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTING FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION: LESSONS TO DATE

WWF International launched a publication on Forest Landscape Restoration based on a study tour and visits to the south of Portugal and Spain (Andalusia) in June 2006. WWF staff from several countries visited WWF Mediterranean's FLR Projects in Mértola (Alentejo region) and Monchique (Algarve region). This publication includes descriptions of several FLR initiatives that are being developed worldwide. WWF Mediterranean's projects in Portugal are presented as a case study. The publication (in English) is at: www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/our_solutions/restoration/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=93380

HISTORY OF CORK HARVESTING IN ALGERIA

At Vivexpo 2006, Jean-Yves Puyo presented an article about the first years of cork harvesting in Algeria *Les premiers temps de la mise en valeur coloniale des suberaies algériennes - le triste épisode des concessions privées*. You can see it in *l'Homme et le liège*, acts of the international meeting Vivexpo 2006 at <http://www.institutduliege.com/colloque2006.php> (in French).

CORK TERRITORIES: THE NETWORK

All information from the meeting on the Network of Cork Producing territories has been uploaded to the following blog <http://territorioscorcheros.wordpress.com/>. Here you can see the proposed statutes, presentations and other information related to this initiative (in Spanish and French).

INFORMATION ON ALGERIAN CORK OAK FORESTS AND CHALLENGES FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT

After a seminar organized by the Directorate General of Forests held in October 2006 in Wilaya d'El Tarf in Algeria, to discuss the challenges / strategies for promoting the sustainable management of Algerian cork oak forests. Presentations as well as results of the seminar can be consulted at <http://cfw.eltarf.ifrance.com/> (in French)

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

The HCVF concept has been applied around the world. This has been accompanied by exciting innovations but has also brought challenges in maintaining consistency. This new WWF brochure aims to clarify the concept, show its strengths and limitations, illustrate how it has been applied so far, and look forward to how the concept may evolve in the future. Portugal has been selected as one of the case studies for work on the Cork Oak Forests. Download the brochure at: www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/forests/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=93560

RESEARCH ON CORK STRIPPING

A research group from the Centre for Ecological Research and Forest Applications in Spain seeks historical data on the start and duration of cork stripping activities in different Mediterranean regions through the years. If you have historical records on cork stripping seasons, please contact: josep.penuelas@uab.es

DEUXIÈMES ASSISES DE LA RECHERCHE FORESTIÈRE SUR LE CHÊNE-LIÈGE

Le Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification is organizing a meeting on the ten-year forest programme in Morocco, in Kénitra this coming spring. The aim of the meeting is to analyse present knowledge of cork oak landscapes, restoration activities, projects of consolidation and reconstitution, valorisation of forests and future perspectives.

For more information: Secrétariat +212 037 67 25 47 or rechfor@iam.net.ma

INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE

Building on the objectives and outputs of the previous International Wildland Fire Conferences (Boston 1989, Vancouver 1997, Sydney 2003), the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference will: provide a forum to discuss and work on critical fire issues and consolidate a Global Wildland Fire Management Strategy; strengthen the effectiveness of the Regional Wildland Fire Networks and support their links to the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network; and display innovations, new technologies, products and methods for wildland fire management.

Organized by the Ministry of the Environment and the Junta de Andalucía of Spain, in cooperation with the International Liaison Committee, sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the Fire Management Working Group, the Wildland Fire Advisory Group of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the International Association of Wildland Fire.
13-17 May 2007, Seville, Spain.

www.aifm.org/page/doc/lncendies_conf_interna_4.pdf

THANK YOU

The WWF Cork Oak Landscapes Programme team would like to thank Raquel Gomez, the Spanish coordinator of the programme, for all her efforts and achievements while working for the conservation of cork oak landscapes. Our very best wishes for the new challenges of this new period of her life. The contact for the Cork Oak Landscapes Programme in Spain is now Felix Romero, Head of the Forest Programme at WWF Spain.

