



**ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALE
FORETS
MEDITERRANEENNES**

Minutes of the second project Steering Committee meeting "Technical exchange for designing policies for Mediterranean forests and woodlands in protected areas"

Marseilles, December 1, 2006

Formal agreement of the agenda

The following agenda has been accepted:

- Validation of the agenda
- Validation of the minutes of the Steering committee of June 9, 2006
- Assessment of the activities of the project in 2006
- Balance sheet of the project in 2006
- Recall of the conclusions of the workshop for the preparation of a project on technical exchanges for designing policies for Mediterranean forests and woodlands in protected areas held in November 29 and 30, 2006
- Which objectives for the 2007 working programme?
 - Prepare European projects over the period 2007-2013
 - *Which methods?*
 - *With which partners?*
 - Go deeply into reflexions on the Mediterranean forest policies in protected areas
 - *Which topics to privilege (those of the workshop of November the 29th and 30, only some of them, or other topics)?*
 - *With which partners?*
 - Prepare European projects AND Go deeply into reflexions on forest policies
 - *To centre itself on topics chosen for 2007-2013*
 - *Method of widening of the project*
- Work schedule for 2007
- Partnership and financing for 2007
- Other questions

Validation of the minutes of the Steering committee of June 9, 2006

The report of the Steering committee of June 9, 2006 has been accepted.

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Assessment of the activities of the project in 2006

Assessment of the activities since the end of 2005 is:

Sept.-dec. 05	Design of the project
Jan.-feb. 06	Identification of the Mediterranean parks
9 juin 06	Holding of the Steering committee, follow-up of mailing of the English and French minutes
July- August 06	Choice of the speakers
September 06	Sending of the invitations for the Workshop, and promotion
October-nov. 06	Material organization and of the contents of the Workshop
November 29-30, 06	Workshop at the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional council
December 1, 06	Second meeting of the Steering committee for the second step of the project
December 4-31, 06	Drafting of the acts, publication and diffusion

Balance sheet of the project in 2006

The provisional financial assessment for 2006 is as follows.

Expenditure

- Meeting of the Steering committee of June 9, 2006:	1 910 €
▪ Simultaneous translation	
▪ Meals	
- Workshop, November 29-30, 2006:	17 200 €
▪ Translation	
▪ Accommodation and travel (speakers)	
▪ Meals	
▪ Employment of one extra person	
- Impression of documents and valorisation of the acts of the workshop:	3 175 €
▪ Various impressions	
▪ Edition and sending of documents	
- Wage and general Costs:	38 480 €
▪ Network development	
▪ Preparation of meetings and the workshop	
▪ Proceedings and diffusion	
Total expenditure (estimation):	60 765 €

Receipts

Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	25 000 €
European union	10 500 €
Region Murcia	5 000 €
Region Umbria (on standby of payment)	5 000 €
WWF	2 500 €
Department council of the Bouches-du-Rhône	2 000 €
Alpilles Agency (on standby of payment)	1 000 €
Self-financing and other financings	6 646 €
Total receipts (estimation):	57 645 €

Assessment

Expenditure	60 765 €
Receipts	57 645 €
Estimated deficit	- 3 120 €

Recall of the conclusions of the workshop for the preparation of a project on technical exchanges for designing policies for Mediterranean forests and woodlands in protected areas held in November 29 and 30, 2006

The conclusions, below exposed, were presented at the time of the Steering committee of December 1, 2006 without sufficient retreat, and will be refined later on.

The working groups of each topic identified the priority questions which arise in forest management, and as far as possible, proposed co-operation projects to solve the raised problems.

Topic n°1 : To express the total objectives of the management of Mediterranean forests in protected areas

The priority questions raised at the time of work of the topic n°1 were:

- 1. How to identify and know the territories (on their natural and cultural aspects)?
- 2. Governorship (governance): How to imply the various actors?
- 3. How to finance management sustainably?
- 4. How to communicate and raise public awareness?

Topic n°2 : To build a technical and institutional reference framework adapted to the Mediterranean and the changes to come in protected areas ; and to work out common models

The participants of the topic n°2 suggested:

- 1. To collect, synthesize to diffuse L information (reports, data bases, reference work)
- 2. To promote researches on forest management policies in Mediterranean protected natural areas, at the local level, in order to adapt to the changes and the constraints.
- 3. To organize training schemes.
- 4. An architecture of the programmes of co-operation within the framework of the project "forests and protected areas" made up of:
 - A first level of organization (hard core of the project): IAMF and funding partners (regional local authorities of management) having a decision-making power on the project. This core would establish in particular terms of reference for the second level of organization.
 - A second level of organization: institutes of research.
 - A third level of organization: strategic alliance with other networks or consortiums.

Topic n°3 : To transfert the benefits from actins tested in different technico-economic, institutional and governmental contexts

The proposals of the participants of the topic n°3 were:

- 1. To transfer strategic approaches or ideas (because the transfer a local experiment as it is, is difficult).
- 2. To imply a variety of stakeholders in the exchanges.
- 3. To compile thematic documents reporting the experiments carried out.

Topic n°4 : To design policies of quality for forest management in protected areas

The raised questions and proposals of the participants of the topic n° 4 were:

- 1. To make an inventory of the quality policies.
- 2. To exchange on the definition of the quality policies.
- 3. Are the labels existing sufficient or too numerous?
- 4. What could be compared in the various quality policies for protected areas and other areas (which promotion of these policies out of protected areas?)?
- 5. How to set up this policy and to make it acknowledged (social acknowledgement)?
- 6. Which relevant indicators for the current policy and the future?

Which objectives for the 2007 working programme?

Taking into account work of the workshop, the Steering committee has to decide on the following points:

- On which priority questions will we work in co-operation?
- How could we try to solve these questions within cooperation programmes?

It is not excluded to set up several projects:

- To be able to answer different priority questions in the same European programme.
- Because several programmes (territorial cooperation, Life+, RFPDT..) might be used in order to answer a priority question.

The number of projects will depends on the calls for projects over the period 2007-2013, when those are known.

The main scheme of project will be based on cooperation in network.

The projects will be set up in relation to a main topic. Territories will be then suggested by partners according to the selected topics. Choosing firstly a topic allows not to exclude territories that initially would not have been integrated into the project.

The identified topics on which the partners wish to work are:

- Governorship (governance) of Mediterranean forest protected areas. How to involve stakeholders and the society in choice processes of the objectives of Mediterranean protected forest areas, and in the working out of their forest policies? Natura 2000 may be approached under this view in this topic.
- Quality policies in Mediterranean protected forest areas, and their methods of evaluation.
- Planning in protected forest areas in order to control risks (fires, loss of biodiversity, erosion, landscape loss) in the framework of climate change and public expectations (global changes).

These sets of themes prioritize the territorial approach.

Communication with all the stakeholders is a cross topic, and that is the reason why this topic has not been selected.

Common indicators (item that could be dealt in the topic "quality policy") would allow us to profit from a common grid of reading which may foster a better listening and communication with the European Union. It would in particular be necessary to work out a guide on the Mediterranean vision of protected areas in order to have a better knowledge of the diversity of these areas.

The eligible territories should be supported by a legal unit of management (that could decide what to do in its territory). Each regional partner will suggest one even two territories. The idea is that there is only one regional point of impact. Each regional partner might organize its local partnership and decide which stakeholders could be involved. In addition, to be representative of the problems, it would be grateful if the partnership has been made of entities related to different scales of territory.

The importance for our cooperation work in network has been stressed.

Work schedule for 2007

First quarter 2007 will be devoted to the constitution of the hard core of the partnership.

A partnership meeting including the current partners and possibly new ones, will take place in May 2007. The sets of themes of the projects of co-operation will be definitively chosen and specified at this time.

Partnership and financing for 2007

The official partners of the second step of the project in 2007 will be those who will fund the project.

The Umbria Region wishes to keep on its partnership for the second step of the project in 2007 and will co-fund the project.

It is hoped that another Italian partner could join us. It might be the Tuscan Region, the Puglia Region, the Park of Gargano, the Park of Alta Murgia or the Park of Madonies.

The Murcia Region wishes to keep on its partnership for the second step of the project in 2007 and will co-fund the project.

The Generalitat Valenciana is interested in joining the partnership for the second step of the project in 2007 and to co-fund it. A meeting on this issue within the Generalitat Valenciana will be held.

The WWF wishes to keep on its partnership. There are two levels: WWF-France and WWF- Mediterranean Programme. It will be necessary to wait until June 2007 to know the financial implication of WWF (because its annual budget is drawn up from July to June).

The search for partnership in the east and the south of the Mediterranean is wished. The example of the national park of El Kala (Algeria) was given.

The Alpilles regional natural park wishes to keep on its partnership for the second step of the project in 2007 and will co-fund.

The "Conservatoire des espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon" wishes to become a partner of the second step of the project in 2007. It will either directly fund dire, or (which would be better for a better regional impact) ask the Languedoc-Roussillon Region to be a funder.

AFLOPS is interested in principle in being a partner. This point will be decided by its director.

EFI (European Forest Institute) and the University of Porto could be partners of level 3 and 2.

The Federation of the parks wishes to create a network of Mediterranean parks, and could for this reason be a partner of level 3.

The blue Plan, through its project "Mediterranean Forest and sustainable development" and its work on sustainable development in Mediterranean territories could be a partner of level 3.

Links with Medforex and Silva mediterranea are to be considered

The methods of financing of the service of the IAMF for the second step of the project in 2007 will be formulated by each partner according to its regulation.

Other questions

No other questions.

End of the minutes.