



## Minutes of the third steering committee meeting of the "Forest and Protected Areas"

**ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
FORETS  
MEDITERRANEENNES**

Rome (Italy), June 4, 2007

### *Presents:*

Nora BERRAHMOUNI - WWF-MedPo (Italy)  
Jean BONNIER - International Association for Mediterranean Forests (France)  
Sophie BOURLON - Parc naturel Regional du Luberon (France)  
Juan de Dios CABEZAS - Region Murcia (Spain)  
Valeria CASULLI - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)  
Giulio CICCALLE - Region Marche (Italy)  
Bruno DEL VITA - Vesuvius National Park (Italy)  
Manuela DI GIUSEGGE - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)  
Mauro FRATTEGANI - Region Umbria (Italy)  
Paolo GASPARRI - APAT (Italy)  
Francesco GROHMANN - Region Umbria (Italy)  
Nektarios KARIOS - Association for the Protection of Palaichori Monuments (Cyprus)

Jérôme LUCCIONI - Parc naturel Regional du Luberon (France)  
Francesca PIERINI - Region Umbria (Italy)  
Beti PIOTTO - APAT (Italy)  
Denys POULET - International Association for Mediterranean Forests (France)  
Jordi RIERA MORA - Députacion of Barcelone (Spain)  
Ettore ROSSI - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)  
Antonio RUGGIERI - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)  
Brigitte SCHRIVE - Office national des forêts (France)  
Tim SPARHAM - Traducteur de conférence (France)  
Patrizia TARTARINO - Université de Bari (Italy)  
Francesca TRISOLINI - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)  
Mario VELAMÁZAN - Region autonome de Murcia (Spain)

### *Absent persons:*

Pilar ARA LAZARO - Generalitat Valenciana (Spain)  
Fady ASMAR - Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (Liban)  
Carlo BIFULCO\* - International Association for Mediterranean Forests (Morocco), \* arrived in the last fifteen minutes of the meeting for reasons independent of its will  
Michel BARITEAU - Institut national pour la recherche agronomique (France)  
François BESSE - CIRAD (France)  
Françoise HALLARD-BOUROULET - Société du Canal de Provence (France)  
Ana CAMPO - Generalitat Valenciana (Spain)  
Claudio CIARDI - Region Toscane (Italy)  
Gérard DUBOIS - Conseil général du Var (France)  
Bruno FADY - Institut national pour la recherche agronomique (France)  
Stéphanie GARNERO - Conservatoire des espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon (France)  
Pietro GIACOVELLI - Parco delle Gravine, Taranto province (Italy)

Claudie HOUSSARD - Conservatoire des espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon (France)  
Jean-Paul HETIER - BRL ingénierie (France)  
Alain LESTURGEZ - Observatoire de la forêt méditerranéenne (France)  
Jean de MONTGOLFIER - International Association for Mediterranean Forests (France)  
Marcello ORTENZI - Region Toscane (Italy)  
Jean-Michel PIRASTRU - Agence publique du massif des Alpilles (France)  
Matteo RINALDI - Vesuvius National Park (Italy)  
Carine RITAN - Agence publique du massif des Alpilles (France)  
François ROMANE - Conservatoire des espaces naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon (France)  
David SOLANO - CTFC Catalogne (Spain)  
Jorge SUAREZ - Generalitat Valenciana (Spain)  
Paul-Antoine SUSINI - Parc naturel Regional de Corse (France)  
Daniel VALLAURI - WWF-France (France)  
Dimitris ZIANIS - MAI of Chania (Grèce)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR MEDITERRANEAN FORESTS

TEL.: +33 (0)4 91 90 76 70 - FAX: +33(0)4 91 90 71 62 - 14, rue Louis Astouin 13002 Marseille France - n°SIRET 411 404 346 000 16  
Email: [info@IAMF.org](mailto:info@IAMF.org) - Site Internet: <http://www.IAMF.org>

## **Formal agreement of the agenda**

The following agenda has been accepted:

- Formal agreement of the agenda
- Formal agreement of the minutes of the steering committee of December 1, 2006
- Presentation of the work of APAT on protected areas (PAESI)
- Report on the process of the call for projects of the European program "territorial cooperation" (former Interreg)
- Clarification of the objectives of the project, choice of the name of the project
- Methodology of the project
- Choice of the topic (or topics) of the project
- Determination of the expected products and results
- Examination of the wished partnerships, their expected geographical location and the maximum number of partners; determination of Lead partner(s)
- Estimated diary until the deposit of the candidates' project document
- Other questions

## **Formal agreement of the minutes of the steering committee of December 1, 2006**

The report of the Steering committee of December 1, 2006 has been accepted.

## **Presentation of the work of APAT on protected areas (PAESI)**

Paolo Gasparri (director of the APAT) and Beti Piotto presented the Italian Agency of environmental protection (APAT) as well as its projects in progress in connection with protected areas. This presentation is in appendix.

## **Report on the process of the call for projects of the European program "territorial cooperation" (former Interreg)**

The MED programme was presented. The powerpoint presentation as well as the memo AIFM/07/399 related to this subject are in appendix.

The main criteria of selection of the project in the framework of MED will be: The quality of the partnership.

- The quality of the partnership.
- Their strategic and integrated character.
- Their transnational dimension.
- Their real and quantifiable practical impact, making a concrete contribution to the successful carrying out of the "regional cooperation" MED.
- The existence of shared, commonly-agreed goals.
- Their outlook in relation to existing public policies and the involvement of public authorities.
- Their plan for communication and capitalising on results.
- The taking into account of the specific features of the regions involved to ensure regional integration.

## **Raised specific question: how the countries not belonging to the European Union could take part of our projects of cooperation?**

The question was related to the Maghreb countries and Montenegro.

In the framework of MED, the monitoring committees for accepted projects may decide to devote:

- 20% of the funding contributed to a project by the ERDF to costs incurred by partners located outside the zone involved in project operations.
- 10% of the same funding to costs incurred in carrying out operations, or part of them, in territory belonging to countries outside the European Union.

This possibility is for the moment that an assumption which should be confirmed or not about October 2007. It is specified in the operational programme of "territorial cooperation" MED that the cooperation with third countries is not any more one priority (contrary to Interreg IIIB Medocc).

In addition the integration of third country could be considered through other more adapted programmes as the program "Neighbourhood" (ENPI) and " Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance " (IPA). The "Neighbourhood" programme should be operational approximately 1 year after the MED programme.

The first stage of our projects of cooperation will be to constitute a hard core of European partners that will correspond to the criteria of the MED programme. A widening will be then considered through the possibilities that may be offered by the MED programme or through those of ENPI and IPA programmes. It would be necessary however that the possible non Community partners provide some means and do not await everything from the project.

## **Clarification of the objectives of the project, choice of the name of the project / Methodology of the project / Choice of the topic (or topics) of the project / Determination of the expected products and results**

Proposals for projects of cooperation on the Mediterranean forests within the framework of the MED programme has been presented. The powerpoint presentation and the document AIFM/07/415 are in appendix.

The proposals correspond to the conclusions of the workshop held in November 29 and 30, 2006 and to the decisions of the steering committee held in December 1, 2006; and integrate the criteria of selection of the operational programme of MED. This operational programme specifies that projects will have to be focused on a particular point and to avoid dispersing. For this reason, the steering committee has decided to work on the different themes in independent projects.

### **The choice of the projects**

The adopted projects are as follows:

- POLIFORME - Designing quality policies for forestry management in protected Mediterranean areas

- NATURA ECO - Reconciling the relation between the conservation of protected Mediterranean woodland areas and economic activity
- MED GOUV – Improving the governance of the management of Mediterranean and peri-urban protected forest areas
- CLIMATE RISKS – Anticipating and attenuating the risks involving Mediterranean woodlands (wildfire, flooding and evolution in ecosystems) and associated with climate change

The acronyms and titles of the projects are provisional.

The various projects would fit preferentially in the objectives and priority guidelines of the MED programme as follows:

- POLIFORME - Priority guideline 2 "Protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable regional development", **Objectif 2.1 "Protection and profitable use of natural resources and cultural heritage"**
- NATURA ECO - Priority guideline 2 "Protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable regional development", **Objectif 2.1 "Protection and profitable use of natural resources and cultural heritage"**
- MED GOUV – Priority guideline 4 "Promotion of polycentric and integrated development throughout the whole Mediterranean area", **Objectif 4.1 "Coordination of development policy and the improvement of regional governance"**
- CLIMATE RISKS – Priority guideline 2 "Protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable regional development", **Objectif 2.4 "Prevention of and combating natural risks"**

The proposal to divide some of the 4 exposed projects to better be able to go further in certain points (for example to divide into three CLIMATE RISKS by approaching the diseases, the wildfires and the desertification) has not been adopted.

### **The methodology of the projects**

The general methodology of the projects will consist in:

- 1/ to carry out in pilot areas experiments of a process, a technique or a step with an aim of testing its effectiveness, its range and of making it generalizable.
- 2/ to frame these experiments by a transnational reflexion (through the system of the peer review) which will lead to:
  - draw up an inventory of what already exists and assess such action using a commonly-agreed evaluation grid;
  - establish shared methods and solutions;
  - assess the needs of each region along with the adaptability of the envisaged solutions.
- 3/ to set up an ambitious system of capitalization and communication.

The objective is to lead to strategic and structuring results having a concrete incidence on the competitiveness of MED area, in a sustainable development approach.

The experiments in the pilot areas will have to:

- 1/ correspond to specific needs for the territories justified by detailed analysis based on objective elements (regional studies, statistics).

- 2/ have a transnational interest bringing an add value on the project as a whole.

A common identity (logo, Internet site) by project will be built.

To secure itself to the fact that the products processed on a transnational scale generally suffer from a problem of diffusion and adaptation, the development of common products will require to go to seek the tools already existing in each territory, then to model or objectify them, before locally diffusing (towards the elected officials, local actors...) the end products.

### **The group of experts of the "peer review" system**

A group, composed of the same permanent people, will work on the basis of pilot experiments to analyze them, propose solutions and to evaluate their transferability. This group of experts will have a mission of comparative technical evaluation (not a mission of scientific evaluation).

It will be composed of only one representative by partner, as well as external experts (on average one for two partners). The word "outside expert" as well gathers academics, research specialists in a particular field as representatives of the society (like elected people) or technicians (managers of protected areas...) according to the problems.

This group of experts thus made up will be the guarantee of a systemic approach of the problem, a taking into account of geographical specificities, and of a better receptivity of the project within public targets.

The members of these groups of experts will have to commit themselves in really taking part in the project, being present during all its duration and at each key stage. The criterion of their availability will have to be taken into account for their selection. The constitution of the group of experts will have to be considered from the very start of the implementation of each project.

Social, biological etc... common indicators will be defined to lead to a commonly-agreed evaluation grid making it possible to evaluate the experiments in the field and their transferability.

### **Products of the projects**

Each project will have its products that are related to general methodology. Specifically, POLIFORME will develop A Mediterranean guide to protected woodlands and forests (see general presentation AIFM/07/415) and CLIMATE RISKS will aim at establishing terms of reference for research projects relating to the climate changes (and to help to the implementation of such projects within the framework of the FPRTD).

A work of evaluation of the management of the Mediterranean forests in protected areas will feature them at European and world level (by fostering their richness). That reinforces the idea of the Mediterranean guide. It will be necessary to go further on what is expected of this data base and make sure that it is the most relevant.

The products corresponding to the work of the groups of experts should be clarified so that it could be more visible and could have a stronger impact.

Terms of references for research and the academic formation (master on forest management in protected area in the Mediterranean) will be a collective output of one or more project.

In order not to remain unknown good practices or ideas and to benefit from them, it will be necessary to look further into the development of extension, diffusion and communication.

Local products of projects to the attention of stakeholders of pilot areas of each partner will be conceived with the idea of extending results.

It is suggested that in POLIFORME the various pilot areas are representative of various values of in the Mediterranean. That would make it possible to develop a Mediterranean network representative of Mediterranean forests in the protected areas, and would integrate the idea of a Mediterranean ecological network (or corridor).

Each partner may associate local stakeholders whom it wishes. It is suggested associating regional (or other partners of the institution that is an official partner of the project) universities, research centres etc...

### **The template file of contribution of each partner for the drafting of the projects**

A template file permitting to have information of each partner related to specific projects, will be established. It will be then filled in by all partners. It may include:

- The main local topic/problematic
- The justification of the choice of the pilot area and of local needs
- The description of the selected site
- The considered strategy
- Scheduled actions
- Public targets

The IAMF will suggest a template document which will be presented to the approval of the partners.

### **Examination of the wished partnerships, their expected geographical location and the maximum number of partners; determination of Lead partner(s)**

The Authority of management (AUG) of the MED programme was requested to know if it were acceptable to present 4 projects on Mediterranean forests. It seems that it would not be provided that there is not exactly the same partnership in all projects and that the lead partners are different. This is just an advice of the AUG, which does not have a value of official answer.

In addition, to be operational, the number of partners by project should be between 6 and 9.

The partners who have attended to the steering committee have indicated their priorities between the 4 projects. After consultation of official partners that could not take part in the meeting on June 4 (and validation of choices for partners whose representatives were not entitled to decide), the list of the partners for each project will be drawn up **at the latest on June 22, 2007**. Each official partner will take part in at least two projects (except so explicitly it wishes to take part only in one project of the MED programme).

*Table of priorities for each partner who has attended to the steering committee (1 = the highest priority, 4 = the weakest priority)*

	POLIFORME	NATURA ECO	MED GOUV	CLIMATE RISKS
Cyprus	4	1	2	3
ONF	3	1	4	2
Vesuvius National Park	3	2	4	1
Region Murcia	4	3	2	1
Taranto province	1	3	4	2
Deputation of Barcelona	3	2	4	1
WWF	1	2	3	4
Parc naturel Regional Luberon	3	1	2	4
Region Umbria	3	1	4	2

Lead partners of each project could be:

- POLIFORME : *to be determined*
- NATURA ECO : Region Umbria (Italy)
- MED GOUV : Region Murcia (Spain)
- CLIMATE RISKS : Vesuvius National Park (Italy)

Partners have thought that it would be better if the lead partner of POLIFORME has been French .

It is not advised that the IAMF is a lead partner of a project because, taking into account the weakness of its structure, that could be an argument of rejection of the candidature of a project. Nevertheless the IAMF will occupy for each project the technical role of organizer that if has held in RECOFORME.

## **Estimated diary until the deposit of the candidates' project document**

The list of the partners by project will be stopped **on June 22, 2007**.

To write each project document, a template file bringing information on each pilot are and each partner will be adopted. The IAMF will make a proposal which will have to be validated by the partner **on June 25, 2007 at the latest**.

The partners will have to return their file filled in **before July 23, 2007**. One is reminded that the working languages are French and English (official languages of the MED programme).

The IAMF will submit to the whole partners concerned the proposals of the projects **in September 2007**. The projects could then be improved by the partners. The beginning of the first call for proposals is scheduled in **November 2007**.

## **Other questions**

To better answer to the concern of common production, it might be necessary to contact the European observatory of the Leader+ programme to take as a starting point what was made.

The contact people for each partner are:

- PNR Luberon: Sophie Bourlon
- WWF: Daniel Vallauri or Nora Berrahmouni (to be determined)
- Deputation of Barcelona: Jordi Riera Mora
- Region Umbria: Francesca Pierini
- Parco delle Gravine (Taranto): Valeria Casulli
- Region Murcia: Mario Velamazan
- ONF: Brigitte Schrive ou Albert Maillet (to be determined)
- Cyprus: Nektarios Karios
- Vesuvius National Park: Bruno del Vita

It will be necessary to take care to establish the link with projects in progress in other programmes (example Interreg IIIC OCR INCENDI, Life+).

It is not envisaged other meetings between the partners before the deposit of the projects. Nevertheless, if that were necessary, such a meeting could take place.

Without that being excluded, it was considered to be preferable that the members of the group of experts will not be remunerated for their contribution because that would constitute, on the one hand, a total budget probably too important, and on the other hand, an inequality with the experts who would take part on a purely voluntary basis. A budget covering their travel and accommodation expenses will of course be scheduled.

The group of experts will not be in charge of the total evaluation of the project. An external cabinet could be indicated for that.

The steering committee of "Forest and protected areas" primarily considered the opportunities of the MED programme for calendar reason. Thus, several partners (including WWF France, the PNR of Alpilles and Luberon, the conservatory of natural areas in Languedoc-Roussillon, the Umbria Region) would wish to work on the conservation/management of the old Mediterranean forest settlements. A partnership on this subject could be developed within the framework of the Life+ programme<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> whose call for proposals may be scheduled to end on November 30, 2007 (information known after June 4, 2007).