

# The Latest on Mediterranean Forests

N°2 June 2006



## Editorial

**O**ur President has told you, and at the risk of being heavy-handed, I'll say it again: this magazine is the ONLY one which, from Gibraltar to Bhagdad, from Valence (France) to Ouarzazate, forms a link between all those people concerned in whatever way with Mediterranean forests and natural land areas.

We are the ONLY people in the world who consider that the alfa at Kasserine and the forests on Mount Olympus, the *dehesas* in Extremadura and the cedar stands in the Taurus require one and the same approach, in opposition to national policies which tend to bracket Mont Blanc with Calabria (because both are in Italy) or the Basque Country with Andalousia (since both are Spanish) – which is politically legitimate but ecological nonsense – and in opposition to international policies worldwide which lump Mediterranean forests with dry tropical forests.

Faced with such dominant currents, it becomes legitimate to swim against the flow rather as the salmon does, because we are compelled to express our Mediterranean nature: not only to ensure our survival – like the salmon – but because it is important, not only for our countries but also for the European Union and for the whole world, that the Mediterranean contribution at home and abroad be fostered and its message amplified.

Through the ebb and flow of history the Mediterranean Rim has endured as a matrix where the ideas, concepts and techniques reaching fruition here continued to benefit not only the Mediterranean but regions and societies far beyond.

So I implore you to send us, by whatever channel suits you best, the €3.50 (\$5 US) subscription that will enable us to keep sending you this journal.

Or even better!...the €17 (\$25 US) IAMF membership fee and reduced-rate subscription.

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**Jean Bonnier**

## Recently, the IAMF took part in...

**Saint Rémy de Provence  
(France)  
March 23-24, 2006**

Jean Bonnier, executive secretary, and Denys Poulet, engineer, took part in a seminar on Natura 2000.

**Gardanne (France)  
April 25, 2006**

Denys Poulet took part in a meeting of the Observatory of Mediterranean Forests project concerning cork.

**Italy  
May 15-17, 2006**

Jean Bonnier met with official representatives of the Appulia Region and the Gargano Park (Italy) to tell them about IAMF and encourage them to participate in our activities.

**Torre Del Greco (Italy)  
May 18-19, 2006**

IAMF participated as a partner in the wind-up seminar of the RECOFORME project.

The Final Declaration can be found in "Info Recoforme", in the middle section of this issue.

**Torre Del Greco (Italy)  
May 20, 2006**

The IAMF held its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and the Administrative Council also met.

**Tangiers (Morocco)  
June 15-17, 2006**

Mohamed Larbi Chakroun, IAMF President, took part in a seminar organised by Forêt méditerranéenne on involving local population in the protection of catchment areas and the fight against erosion.

## Membership and/or subscription form

- Membership fee for individuals (15 €) and reduced subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" (2 €) : ..... 17 €
- Membership fee for organizations (50 €) and reduced subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" (2 €) : ..... 52 €
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# IAMF 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the IAMF was held on 20 May 2006 at Torre del Greco (Italy).

President Mohamed Larbi Chakroun presented the Annual Report, first of all thanking IAMF's partners who gave financial backing.

In what follows, we present you with a summary of the main points.

"We have not got enough paid-up membership, despite the fact that our numbers are directly related to activities which bring us into contact with a considerable number of potential members who might be persuaded to join.

As of January 2006, our contacts file includes more than 3,000 people coming from 53 different countries.

## Information and Communication

In 2005, we published the

Increase in visits to our [www.aifm.org](http://www.aifm.org) website

last four issues of our Information *Bulletin* (numbers 13 to16), which can be consulted on our Internet site.

Numbers 13 and 14 had a print run in both French and English of 1200 copies each.

Numbers 15 et 16 were not translated for lack of money. However, they got widespread coverage on the Internet via our website and an electronic newsletter.

Apart from four bilingual newsletters sent to a list of more than 700 email addresses from our own network, the Internet site [www.aifm.org](http://www.aifm.org) is enjoying an ever-increasing success : from 2,191 visits in 2002, the year of its creation, it has risen to 25,067 visits in 2005 ; and the downloading of documents on-line has gone up from 582 in 2003 to 7,283 in 2005.

## The development of our network

In 2005 IAMF took part in

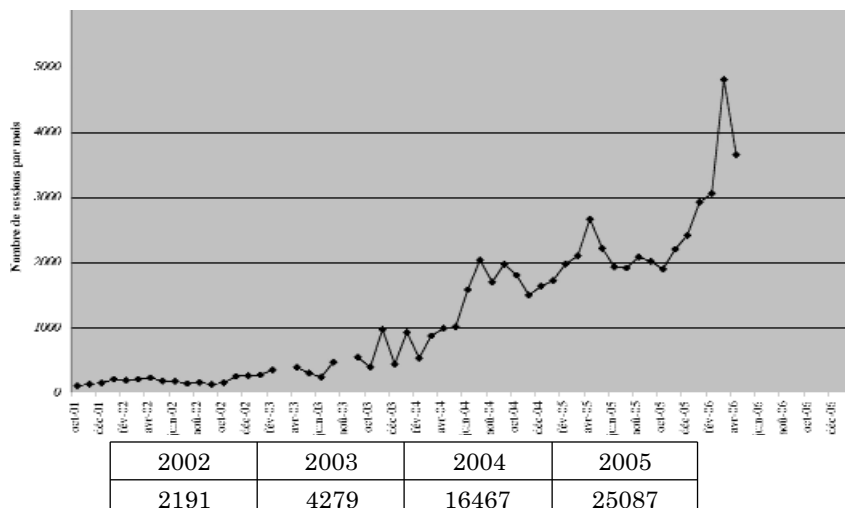
various international gatherings concerning natural Mediterranean woodland areas.

The headquarters Secretariat is unstinting in its efforts to disseminate throughout our network, and beyond it whenever possible via our Internet site, the maximum of information on Mediterranean forests and any event related to them. **You can greatly facilitate** this coverage by telling the Secretariat about any event you are aware of, giving also the name of a contact who may be able to supply a report of the proceedings.

## Life in the Association

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 14; 2006 at Valencia (Spain).

The Administrative Council then met once, on the same date, after the AGM.



### **Participation in or running cooperative activity**

✓ Running of the Interreg IIB MEDOCC programme (RECOFORME) *Structuring Networks and Cooperative Action Concerned with Mediterranean Forests.*

[We recommend our readers look at the Info RECOFORME section in the middle of this issue for relevant information. To find out more, go to the website at [www.recoforme.net](http://www.recoforme.net)]

✓ Preparation of the project *Technical exchange for designing policies for Mediterranean forest and woodlands in parks and nature reserves.*

✓ Proposition for services to be provided within the framework of the Interreg IIC project *INCENDI* Regional-Scale Operation (Pilot tests for the prevention of wildfire risk in the regions around the Mediterranean Rim).

### **Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development**

We have been invited to take part in the work of the MCSD (set up by the Mediterranean Action Plan, part of the United Nations Programme for the Environment - see [www.unepmap.gr](http://www.unepmap.gr)) and have had confirmation that IAMF, qualified as an NGO, will have its expenses defrayed. This will, of course, enable us to make a greater contribution to this body's work.

Many of us have been individually involved in writing up work undertaken, or in networks and projects to which IAMF could profitably be associated, either as an observer or as a partner. It would be a good idea for all of us to remember that our Association can definitely bring to such projects the advantages deriving from its own network. So I would like to invite all of you to remember that, whenever the possibility arises, you should facilitate the participation of IAMF.

I'm sure that, in relation to the wide variety of audiences and organisations, **each and every one of you can help us** in some way to obtain greater public attention, and more means."

### **Financial report and planned schedule for 2006**

Both documents were unanimously approved by the members present or represented.

For a more detailed account of the reports and documents presented to the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM of the IAMF, we refer our readers to our Internet site [www.aifm.org](http://www.aifm.org) where the documents can be downloaded.



Participants at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the IAMF - Photo : Denys Poulet

# **COST Action E27**

## **Protected Forest Areas in Europe, Analysis and Harmonisation (PROFOR)**

The Final Conference of the COST Action E 27 highlighted the success of the work carried out by the teams involved in the analysis and harmonisation of Protected Forest Areas across Europe.

COST E 27 results underline the challenges that European Protected Forest Areas need to tackle in the immediate future: biological and legal protection within the framework of a coherent European-wide network, harmonisation of (eco)regions on a bio-geographic basis, integration of human activities and maintenance through management. Further, the work carried out in the fields of analysis and harmonisation has shown there exists a relationship between legal nature conservation schemes and other regulatory planning programmes such as Natura 2000.

Some speakers and delegates stressed the point that, henceforward, the challenges involved in Protected Forest Areas extend beyond this strict classification into issues of sustainable management and land use planning. This last item in particular was emphasised by the Mediterranean speakers and delegates.

In brief, other discussion topics suggested by the guest speakers and the COST E27 delegates and debated during the conference included:

### ***COST E27 has confirmed the enormous diversity of PFA found across Europe, with an even richer and more varied mosaic of PFA in the different countries***

Several analyses have highlighted the regional effects of such variety in the assessment of PFA.

### ***The strategic significance of the nature conservation policy in the Mediterranean area***

Some of the items discussed in relation to nature conservation issues were as follows: species protection; overall land management; protection in areas with highly fragmented landholdings; protection and conservation based on economic worth and heightened public awareness despite the low levels of timber production; increase in total woodland area due to land abandonment; forest fire prevention and risk management though prescribed winter burning; natural regeneration.

### ***Degrees of naturalness in forests***

The differences inherent in the concept of the naturalness

of forests around the Mediterranean Rim and in central and northern Europe were an ever-present topic of discussion. In areas with a longstanding human use of forests, ongoing discussions were held on the percentage of wild land to be preserved untouched for full naturalness, so as to serve as reference plots for biological monitoring.

### ***PFA need to be managed under the simultaneous application of two key policies, namely: one for Nature Conservation Policy, the second for Forest Management***

Forest conservation and forest management issues ought to be rendered compatible. To this end, time was specially devoted during discussions to dealing with the relationship and links established between PFA and regional land use planning policies. The issue of how to manage non-productive forests, and in particular the role of shrublands and other marginal woodlands such as PFA around the Mediterranean Rim was stressed. It was wisely suggested there was a need to define specific management models for such non-productive wooded areas.

...  
***The issue of protective forests: is there a dichotomy between protected and protective forests in Europe?***

Another key issue that recurred throughout the conference was the consideration of protected forest areas as protective areas: forests have a direct role in environmental protection, preventing or minimising natural hazards or risks such as landslides, avalanches, floods, top soil erosion, desertification, water quality control, etc.

***Conservation of whole landscapes***

European forests have been home to man and his activities for millennia so that nowadays these forests harbour significant cultural heritage whose value as an historical and social artefact require protection. Delegates agreed that a general aim should be to focus

on optimising existing PFA so that the benefits from their protection and conservation would redound on whole landscapes.

***Connectivity***

This concept implies both an institutional and an ecological connectivity.

✓ A number of PFA networks are already effective throughout Europe. These PFA are linked through cooperation agreements at institutional and administrative levels. Such networks of cooperation foster the transnational exchange of knowledge and effective technical interplay between the professionals engaged in maintaining PFA.

✓ In relation to the second, ecological aspect of connectivity, delegates emphasised the role of PFA as core areas between which natural corridors can develop. Such corridors should be seen as an effective tool for enhanc-

ing biodiversity.

***Socio-economic value of PFA for stakeholders***

Basing their argument on the concept of sustainable development, delegates stressed the multifunctional value of PFA, a value which can be augmented through integrated management policy. In this perspective, it was noted that forest owners are the clients and the end users benefiting from many of the decisions taken in COST E27. It would be very desirable, both as an advantage to society at large and a most fitting successful completion of COST E27, that forest owners and the industry show their willingness to sign, on a voluntary basis, contracts for the conservation of biodiversity

***Emphasis on effectiveness***

A proposal was put forward on the need to carry out an assessment of the effectiveness



**National delegates from 26 COST Action E 27 member countries on the field visit of the final conference in Barcelona - Photo Karl-Manfred Schweinzer**

...

of PFA and PFA networks. In this context, all possible tools (economic, social, etc) would be most relevant to the examination of technical aspects and structural organisation. Generally speaking, the evaluation of the effectiveness of PFA must depend on the relation existing between the stated objectives and the management programme. In addition, a further conclusion in the final summary stressed that PFA should not be too vast, otherwise they may become unmanageable. Sites must be chosen carefully, be of manageable size suited to hands-on management and with well structured interconnectivity corridors running between them (to facilitate networks).

The Chairman summed up the main points of the discussion thus:

- ✓ COST E27 results have been taken into account by external observers (IUCN, EEA, MCPFE).
- ✓ A compendium of ideas has been drafted to stimulate further cooperation.
- ✓ The relevance of the legal status of PFA constitutes a key factor.

Other recommendations featuring in the Chairman's summary were:

- ✓ An integrated approach for the actual management operations of PFA.
- ✓ The levels of connectivity between PFA must be monitored and their representative value maintained to become core reference areas. They should always have physical links to the other

forested areas.

- ✓ The willingness of private owners to cooperate in nature conservation through voluntary forest management practices must be fostered.
- ✓ The value of the social and ecological dimensions inherent in PFA needs to be made clear and promoted.
- ✓ A comprehensive statement should be made of the basic principles underlying a PFA in order to ensure equitable and fair discussion with stakeholders.

The final remarks underlined four main objectives behind PFA management:

- ✓ Preserve and improve the vital health of forests.
- ✓ Increase the economic potential of Protected Forest Areas.
- ✓ Preserve and enrich biodiversity through management.
- ✓ Raise general awareness of the degree to which a large number of social issues are closely interconnected to forest and woodlands.

**Cristina Montiel Molina  
and Julia Yagüe Ballester**  
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<sup>(1)</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature, European Environment Agency and the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe

# Mediterranean forests, the talk of the town!

For more details and the latest updated information, don't forget to check the diary on our website ([www.aifm.org](http://www.aifm.org)).

And don't forget: tell us about any event that doesn't appear in the diary - it will make it that much better!

## International Conference on "Water and Forests from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century"

September 13-15, 2006 in Bordeaux (France)

Contact: Aline Fernandez, Groupe d'histoire des forêts françaises, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris, France

## Italian national symposium on "Mediterranean Plants in the Strategic Choices for Agriculture and Environment"

September 27 - October 1, 2006 in Bari (Italy)

Contacts: Barbara de Lucia - Giuseppe De Maestro

e-mail: [cpmbari@agr.uniba.it](mailto:cpmbari@agr.uniba.it)

Website: [www.jsbf.net/cpmbari/index.php](http://www.jsbf.net/cpmbari/index.php)

## Mediterre 2006 - Mediterranean Parks Fair

September 27 - October 1, 2006 in Bari (Italy)

Website: [www.mediterre.it](http://www.mediterre.it)

## Seminar on the Decline of Planted Cork Oak and Quercus ilex Forests: Known Reasons, Lack of Knowledge and Actions Required"

Late September 2006 (to be specified) in Portugal

Contact: Denys Poulet - AIFM

email: [denys.poulet@aifm.org](mailto:denys.poulet@aifm.org)

## International Congress on Cultivated Forests: "Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Development"

October 3-7, 2006 - Bilbao (Spain)

Website: [www.usse.es](http://www.usse.es)

## Scientific Conference "Ecosystem Goods and Services from Planted Forests"

October 4-7, 2006 - Bilbao (Spain)

Website: [www.waldbau.uni-freiburg.de/bilbao.html](http://www.waldbau.uni-freiburg.de/bilbao.html)

e-mail: [conference86@iefc.netp](mailto:conference86@iefc.netp)

## Forestal congress: Forestal Sector and Rural Development

October 9-11, 2006 - Burgos (Spain)

Contact: Asociación de forestales de España en Castilla y León (PROFOR Cyl)

e-mail: [congresforestal06@proforcyl.org](mailto:congresforestal06@proforcyl.org)

## International conference "Deserts and Desertification: challenges and opportunities"

November 6-9, 2006 - Sede Boqer Campus (Israël)

Website: [www.desertopportunities.org/site/](http://www.desertopportunities.org/site/)

## Mediterranean Meeting for Ecology

November 7-9, 2006 - Béjaïa (Algeria)

Contact: Pr Aïssa Moali - University A. Mira de Béjaïa - Ph.: 00 213 34 21 47 62

email: [recontreecologie06@yahoo.fr](mailto:recontreecologie06@yahoo.fr)

## INRGREF's scientific days on the integrated management of cork oak and Aleppo pine forests

November 15-17, 2006 - Hammamet (Tunisia)

Website : [www.iresa.agrinet.tn/jsingref2006](http://www.iresa.agrinet.tn/jsingref2006)

## Preparatory workshop for a project on Technical Exchanges to Elaborate Forest Management Policies in Mediterranean Protected Natural Spaces

November 29 - December 1, 2006 - Marseilles (France)

Contact: Denys Poulet - AIFM

email: [denys.poulet@aifm.org](mailto:denys.poulet@aifm.org)

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Wildfire Conference

May 13-17, 2007 - Seville (Spain)

*This issue was published with help from the following partner organizations:*

