



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE  
MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL OFFICE - EFIMED



**ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
FORETS  
MEDITERRANEENNES**

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between**

**EFIMED, Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (hereinafter: EFIMED)**

**and**

**IAMF, International Association for Mediterranean Forests (hereinafter: IAMF)**

**Hereinafter jointly referred to as: parties**

### **Rationale**

EFIMED and IAMF have decided to join efforts in order to better address the overall goal of sustainable management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems. This decision is based on the arguments as follows:

- both organizations address issues targeted at Mediterranean forests and woodlands; and the geographic scope of both organizations covers the whole Mediterranean Basin.
- networking activities are important for both parties
- the two organizations have a complementary background and mission: EFIMED is clearly oriented to science in its various aspects: research activities, networking, capacity building and dissemination, while IAMF targets a broad community of various stakeholders: forest administrations, forest owners, environmental organisations, NGOs and the society as a whole.
- there is a need to improve interaction between the scientific community and society (users of research results, policy-makers, citizens), to disseminate research results, to foster the science/society dialogue, and to influence future research agendas.

The current MoU provides an overall framework for cooperation between EFIMED and IAMF, the guiding principle of co-operation being concrete actions of practical relevance.

### **Fields of cooperation**

#### **a) Improving mutual information**

IAMF and EFIMED agree to stimulate mutual cross-fertilization by facilitating the participation of each party's representatives in their annual meetings and the steering or

advisory bodies (such as boards, advisory boards, etc.) of the other through formal and/or informal arrangements.

**b) Advocating for Mediterranean Forests**

International political processes on forests have constantly emphasized the need for the sustainable management and use of forest ecosystems, the focus having been on the tropics or temperate and boreal zones. IAMF and EFIMED recognize the fact that issues related to Mediterranean forests have been largely overlooked over the last decades, and wish to undertake effective action in order to promote and improve general awareness on Mediterranean forests, not least to demonstrate that, in spite of their fragility and risk exposure, these ecosystems have features which make them attractive and suited for new opportunities. The existing political interest (e.g. within the framework of the 1995 Barcelona process and the recently established Union for the Mediterranean) for developing a Euro-Mediterranean framework for addressing environmental issues provides a good and timely opportunity for co-operation. In this context, IAMF and EFIMED will explore opportunities for the organization of an International Conference on Mediterranean Forests, together with other relevant partners, such as FAO.

**c) Developing joint activities**

The parties will seek opportunities for co-operation in joint projects. As a basis for such joint activities, IAMF is working on the preparation of several INTERREG projects on the technical exchange for designing policies for Mediterranean forests and woodland in protected areas involving a wide range of partners representing both management and research, and in which EFIMED may play a role, whereas EFIMED is working on different research and capacity building projects and activities of potential interest for IAMF.

**d) Improving knowledge exchange and transfer**

IAMF and EFIMED recognize the substantial amount of knowledge existing on Mediterranean forest issues, the distribution of which in the pan-Mediterranean Region has been hindered due to fragmentation or isolation problems. The parties recognize the importance of timely dissemination of most recent results and data and will investigate the feasibility of establishing a new journal to serve as a platform for exchange between scientists, practitioners, environmentalists and other interested parties, and between the practitioners themselves.

The main features of the planned journal are be as follows:

Target: « educated » forest practitioners

Content: technical and/or scientific short articles (5-6 pages) presenting research results, management techniques, success stories in management practices, etc...

Frequency: one issue/year

Language: English

It is intended to use a step-by-step procedure, with a pilot phase at the beginning.

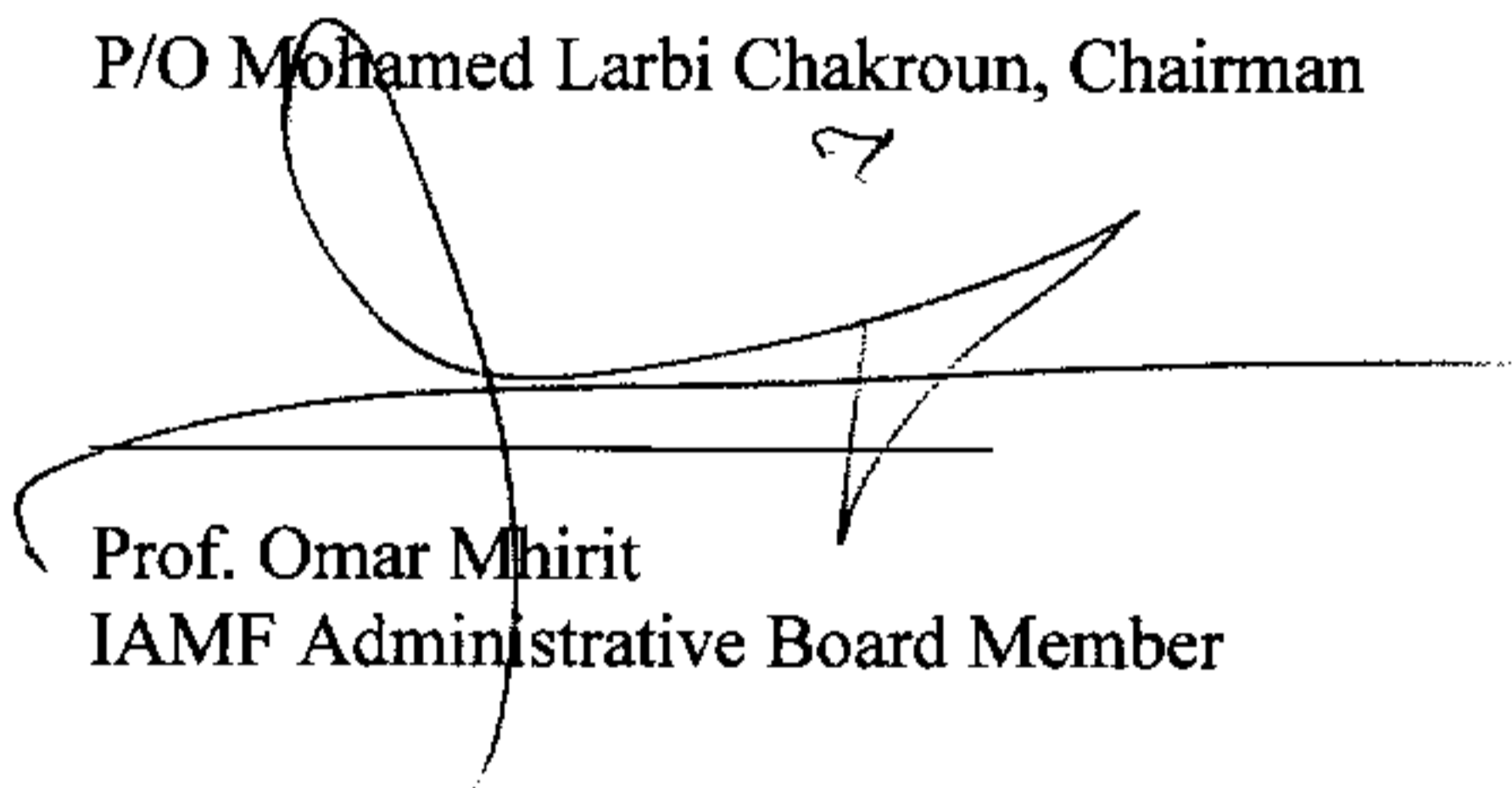
The parties to the Memorandum may, by mutual consent, amend this Memorandum as new topics for co-operation arise.

The Memorandum shall be effective on the date of signature of the last signing party, and will be valid for a period of five (5) years, and may be extended beyond this date if agreed by both parties in writing.

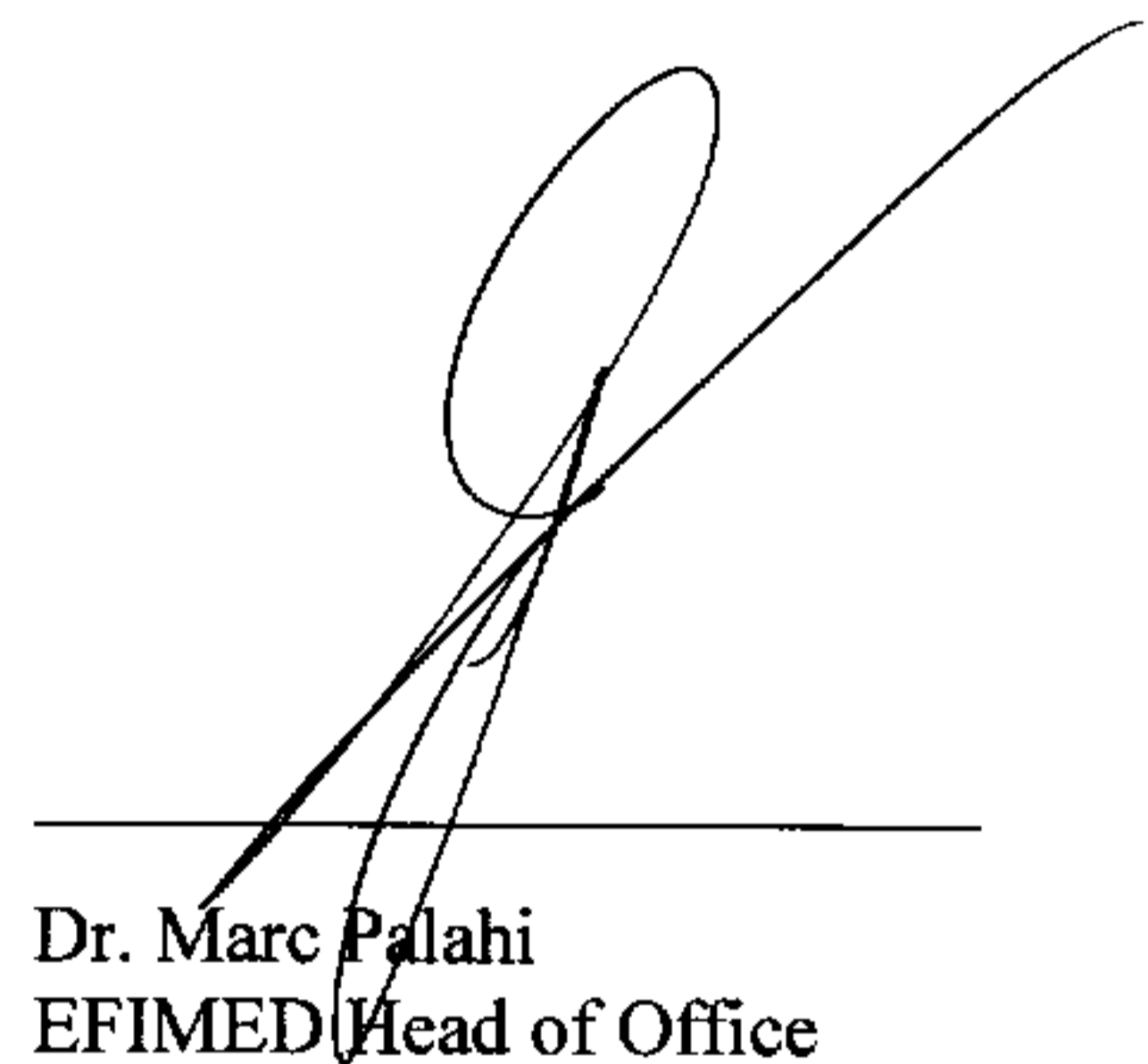
Both parties may at any time terminate their participation in the MoU by giving written notice three (3) months in advance.

Marrakech, 29 April 2009

P/O Mohamed Larbi Chakroun, Chairman



Prof. Omar Mhirit  
IAMF Administrative Board Member



Dr. Marc Palahi  
EFIMED Head of Office