

The Latest on Mediterranean Forests

N°16 December 2009



Editorial

A “shared statement”

For the thirteenth time, the World Forestry Congress was held in 2009 in Buenos Aires (Argentina), with 7,000 participants (!), and once again Mediterranean forests and woodlands were given no specific or significant attention.

Our readers, if they have looked at the previous issue, will now know about the work of Henri-Nöel Le Houérou: to be sure, his position is open to debate but, in reading him, it becomes clear that Mediterranean ecosystems are undoubtedly much more widely spread around the world than had previously been assumed and are omnipresent on the three parts of the Mediterranean Rim (Africa, Asia, Europe).

Furthermore, according to the most recent work of the International Union for Nature Conservancy and “Conservation Internationale”, the Mediterranean Rim forms one of the planet’s thirty-four biodiversity hot-spots and the main one in the EU.

And finally, in case it needs repeating, the heads of state of the countries making up the Mediterranean Rim, along with the EU, together launched in Paris the Union for the Mediterranean, co-chaired by France and Egypt.

Thus, all of us -foresters, ecologists, elected representatives or ordinary citizens- who, in the course of their activities, have become aware of such neglect, particularly at the four most recent World Forestry Congresses (Paris 1991, Antalya 1997, Quebec 2003, Buenos Aires 2009) and in numerous other international or regional assemblies, feel impelled to propose the following:

Let us organise ourselves, all pulling together, to draft and publish a “shared statement” common to Mediterraneans in the North, the South and in the East, on the issue of their forests and natural land areas. If we, as Mediterraneans, do not make our position clear, no one will hear us. And nobody else can speak in our place.

Over the coming years, the IAMF intends to devote itself to this challenge -in its modest way, but in its way.

Also, let’s hope that the project devoted to the periurban and coastal forests, that we are currently preparing with the Department Government Council of the Bouches-du-Rhône within the framework of the European “ENPI CBC Med” Programme, will allow us to involve more of the countries of the Mediterranean Southern and Eastern banks.

Mohamed Larbi CHAKROUN
IAMF President

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Recently, IAMF took part in...

Montpellier (France)
October 8-9 2009

David Gasc, Project Manager, attended the national conference on sensitive natural areas, organized by the Department Government Council of Hérault.

Brussels (Belgium)
October 28 2009

David Gasc attended the information meeting on the 2010 NGO operating grants held within the framework of the Life+ European Programme.

Chania (Greece)
November 24-26 2009

David Gasc took part in the regional Workshop "Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources and Climate Change", organized by the FAO and the CIHEAM.

Buenos Aires (Argentina)
October 18-23 2009

Maria do Loreto Monteiro, IAMF member, participated in the 13th World Forestry Congress.

Naples (Italy)
November 16-17 2009

David Gasc took part in the one-day meeting "Capitalization for MED current projects" and attended the 3rd Annual Conference of the MED Programme.

Le Luc-en-Provence (France)
November 26-27 2009

Louis Amandier, Administrator, Jean Bonnier and Jean de Montgolfier attended the final conference "Energy - Forest - Territories", organized by the French association Forêt Méditerranéenne.

Tlemcen (Algeria)
October 19-20 2009

David Gasc took part in the seminar "Cork oak management and quality", organized by the Forestry Department of the University of Tlemcen.

Eygalières (France)
November 18-20 2009

Jean Bonnier, Executive Secretary, Gaëlle Fossoy, Secretary, David Gasc and Jean de Mongolfier, Administrator, attended the 2nd QUALIGOUV seminar, organized by the Regional Nature Parks of the Alpilles and Luberon.

Brussels (Belgium)
November 26-27 2009

David Gasc attended a seminar on European forest policy, jointly organized by the Umbria and Tuscany regions (Italy).

Membership and/or subscription form

<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee for individuals (15 €) and reduced subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" (2 €) : 12 €	I would like to receive my mail: <input type="checkbox"/> in French <input type="checkbox"/> in English <input type="checkbox"/> by email (for suitable documents only)
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee for organizations (50 €) and reduced subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" (2 €) : 52 €	I will pay my membership fee by: <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive an invoice
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee only for individuals : 10 €	<input type="checkbox"/> international money order <u>net of exchange and transfer charges</u> on the account HSBC Marseille n°30056 0019401945406464 60
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee only for organizations : 50 €	<input type="checkbox"/> cheque (to attach in your mail), only if your bank account is <u>located in France</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee only for major bodies : 1 000 €	<input type="checkbox"/> credit card (except American Express) Number: _____ Expiry date: ____ / ____ Last three numbers on the back of your card: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" : 3,5 €	<input type="checkbox"/> Tell me to whom I can forward payment in my country
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation, support..... €	Home / Office e-mail (to specify):
TOTAL : €	Home / Office address (cross out the wrong indication):
Surname :	Country:
First name :	Phone (with country code):
Nationality :	Fax (with country code):

The Qualigouv MED project 2009-2012

by David Gasc, project coordinator at IAMF

The IAMF, along with its seven other partners, is currently involved in carrying out the QUALIGOUV project that was selected for the MED Programme in February 2009.

The Qualigouv project: difficulties in common, a shared aim, coordinated action

QUALIGOUV aims to improve the concertation needed for the sustainable management of protected Mediterranean forests and woodland areas by focusing on the conception and implementation of good governance and policies for quality. The fact is that the multi-purpose nature of these protected areas requires the designing and fine tuning of new strategies for shared activities capable of involving a variety of participants. Such activities range from simple popularisation of information to the involvement at an institutional, technical and / or financial level of the different stakeholders and parties involved.

At the same time, QUALIGOUV is undertaking to facilitate

collaboration between people residing in urban centres and those from nearby rural areas.

To attain its objectives, QUALIGOUV intends to undertake concrete, innovative action at the pilot sites. In particular, such initiatives include:

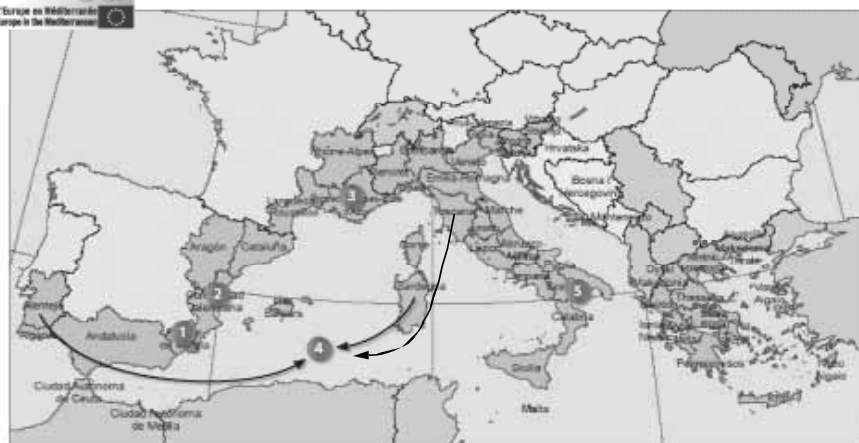
- ✓ a survey of what is presently being done, at a local or regional level, in the way of governance and quality policies for forestry management;
- ✓ identifying and taking into account the assorted outlooks, viewpoints and expectations;
- ✓ setting up procedures for resolving disputes and conflict and for making the most of the synergy between the various people and parties involved;
- ✓ designing and testing functional, reproducible tools for multi-purpose management and control;
- ✓ ensuring that the results obtained are monitored and assessed and that such results and information are communicated to everyone involved, from stakeholders to the interested public.

The partners, backed up by research institutes and other bodies, will be active participants and direct recipients of the benefits accruing from the cooperative undertaking.

Pilot experimental action has been set up in order to test and identify good practice relating to:

- ✓ the governance of forested areas based on the institutional, technical and financial involvement of stakeholders and other concerned parties, from simple popularisation of information to the active participation in the decision-making and management processes;
- ✓ the quality of silvicultural methods and land management which are grounded on monitoring, follow-up and assessment;
- ✓ concerted interaction between an involved urban population and people living in the countryside. And further, this should involve decision-makers in the management of peri-urban natural land areas and forests, leading ultimately to a mutually-felt responsibility shared by the Administration, landowners,

 Area of the MED Programme and QUALIGOUV partners



- 1 Murcia Region
- 2 Valencia Region
- 3 IAMF - RNP Luberon - RNP Alpilles – ONF
- 4 WWF European Policy Program
- 5 Province of Taranto



managers and users;

✓ communication with, and raising the awareness of, the general public about the value of these natural areas and the issues involved in their integrated management.

Depending on local context and priorities, the pilot action undertaken by each partner will centre on wildfire prevention, visiting by the general public, forestry planning, management for biodiversity or the development of new market opportunities such as wood for energy.

QUALIGOUV is proposing an ambitious strategy for the widest possible redeployment of the benefits accruing from the project. Project activities will be conducted within a framework of collaborative transnational reflection via a peer group composed of representatives from the partner organisations along with external experts. This group has been conceived for the advantageous redeployment of the results obtained from the project's experimental action. Having once ascertained the strengths as well as the weaknesses of the various activities, the peer group will contribute to the design and application of innovative mutually-shared tools for governance, assessment and management for quality. The project's results and accrued knowledge and competence will be widely disseminated using the various media throughout the partner regions and the MED Programme area.

Expected results

Over and above the tools for communication that are mentioned below, QUALIGOUV will produce several documents and reports destined for managers of protected areas, people needing reference works and decision-makers who seek an integrated overview of their area.

A log of sites will be compiled for every second seminar in

order to present the pilot territories visited, project action and, above all, to give an account of the main subjects of discussion in the peer group.

Each exchange meeting and event related to the project will be written up in reports which are to be more descriptive than the site log.

A capitalisation manual will round out the project. It will synthesise the acquired benefits and gains accruing from the project and its pilot activities and indicate, also, how good practice in forestry management and the governance of local and regional entities can be transferred to other areas in the MED Programme area. This manual will be largely based on the work carried out by the peer group.

At the project's half-way point, the project leader will commission a quality assessment report to be made by an independent auditor whose brief will be to judge the quality and relevance of the action undertaken in the light of the project's initial objectives and, as a consequence, suggest certain lines for improvement for the remaining period of the project.

The project partners will undertake to produce, in as cooperatively sharing a way as possible, a number of guides and reports such as:

- ✓ Preliminary diagnosis and surveys;
- ✓ Guide to the methodology for designing Wildfire Prevention Plans (Valencia);
- ✓ "Tool Box" for the conception, management, monitoring and assessment of protected forest areas (WWF);
- ✓ Communication strategy for integrated forest management (Alpilles);
- ✓ Technical guides for multi-purpose management of forests (Luberon);
- ✓ Methodology for conducting surveys and sociological studies (Alpilles and Taranto).

Overall, QUALIGOUV seeks to achieve cooperative sharing among the various Mediterranean-based initiatives that centre on the management of forests and natural land areas and thus foster their regrouping in order to speak to European and international bodies with one specifically identifiable "shared Mediterranean voice" (a from-the-bottom-up approach).

Start-up of activities

The project start-up date selected by the Programme was May 15, 2009. Scheduled to last 36 months, QUALIGOUV will terminate on May 14, 2012.

The official launch of the project took place on June 22-24, 2009 in Murcia, the home region of the project leader. This first meeting provided the occasion for setting up both the steering committee and the peer group as well as for defining a strategy for communication and capitalisation and allocating tasks to be done. At this stage, it was vitally important to give detailed information about first-level registering and monitoring of expenditure connected to the project. In fact, each partner must log in his expenditure using the PRESAGE-CTE monitoring software and maintain a detailed file comprising all the documentary proof of the expenses incurred. These files will be audited at half-yearly intervals by an independent auditor. This demanding and rigorous procedure is different from procedures involved in previous programmes.

During the field trip organised by the project leader, the participants (some 50 people) were able to visit a number of sites in the Sierra Espuna Regional Park located on the outskirts of the city of Murcia. This outing enabled participants to better comprehend the local context and issues which, all things considered, are very similar to those ob-

taining in other partners' localities. More specifically, a Guideline Plan for the protection of outstanding landscape was presented. This framework was drawn up in a participative way with stakeholders and the local population, a method for concertation that will be enhanced and widely applied to other sectors of the Park within the QUALIGOUV framework.

At the same time, each partner began his own activities, devoted in general to a diagnosis of the pilot sites as a sort of status-taking prior to carrying out project action.

Within a short time, the eight partners met again, along with elected representatives and association delegates, on the occasion of the second seminar held on November 18-20, 2009 and jointly organised by the Alpillles and Luberon Regional Nature Parks. These two entities bordering on Provence facilitated the the identification of points of convergence linked to wildfire prevention, to the preservation of biodiversity and, also, to the involvement of stakeholders and the local population in forestry management, an approach that is sometimes contested. The Alpillles Park proposes to identify the expectations of Park residents and stakeholders involved at a local level concerning forestry work that is mainly focused on wildfire prevention. With survey information collected, the Park will design a strategy for communication aimed at both informing and involving people and responding to their various fears and expectations. The Luberon Park has been striving for several years to develop local activity based on saw-wood as well as on wood for energy. Following on studies of the potential local resource, the Park hopes to organise this supply by ensuring, on the one hand, the quality of the wood in collaboration with forest owners; and, on the other, the quality of the management of the stands from

which the timber is harvested.

Despite some delays (normal) concerning financial forecasting, the project is now truly under way and is running smoothly. The next meeting has been scheduled for the end of April 2010 in Taranto.

Financial matters

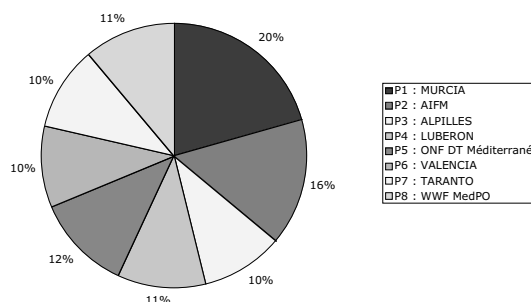
QUALIGOUV's total budget as approved by the MED Programme is 1,818,000 euros for an operating period of 36 months, to be shared variously amongst the partners. This sum is the maximum amount -75%- eligible for funding by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).

The residual 25% is funded by national public monies which come, in the main, from the resources of the partner organisation (self-financed) or from outside sources (see charts below).

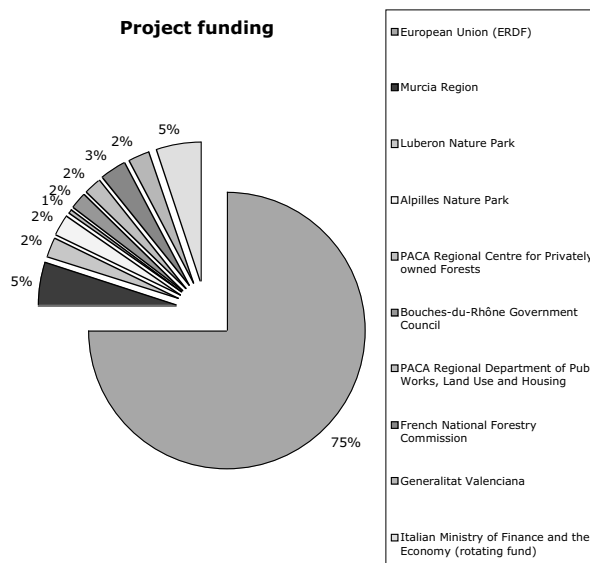
For further information, contact:

- Francisco Flores, Region of Murcia: francisco.flores@carm.es
 - David Gasc, International Association for Mediterranean Forests (IAMF): david.gasc@aifm.org
- Project website: www.qualigouv.eu

Share of total budget per partner



Project funding



For.Rest.Med Ltd, working to make the most of a region

by Patrizia Tartarino, University of Bari (Italy)



The University of Bari's Department of Plant Production Science includes a research unit, coordinated by Vittorio Gualdi and Patrizia Tartarino, devoted to forest improvement and development, planning for the ecological management of local and regional entities, and for the restoration of vegetation. In March 2008, this research unit hatched the idea of applying proven knowledge and understanding to Mediterranean contexts as a way of enhancing the basic worth and profitability of local and regional areas.

In October 2008, For.Rest.Med. Ltd (Forest Restoration for the Mediterranean) was set up as a spin-off of the University of Bari. This company provides quality services in the forestry sector, based on state-of-the-art technology and the latest methodology developed by the scientific community.

Created within the framework of the University of Bari, the company is made up of the University itself, Professor Vittorio Gualdi as chairman of

the Board, Board member Patrizia Tartarino, and forestry experts, all with doctorates, Roberto Greco, Daniele De Giglio, Gioacchino De Vanna and Lea Piscitelli.

The company offers to both the private and public sectors the support of cutting-edge technical back-up developed, thanks to a tradition of research over many years, in the field of management planning for an area based on ecological features characterised by plant cover in a Mediterranean environment with a significant forestry component, whether self-seeded or planted.

The services offered by For.Rest.Med. have been designed to provide a concrete response to the requirements of an area understood in the light of the awareness, at both a local and global level, of the problems in the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources.

By providing consultancy and technical assistance in the transfer of results from research and the development of new tools and services in the field of forest improvement and development, planning for the ecological management of local and regional entities, and for the restoration of vegetation, For.Rest.Med. helps in:

✓ the design and drafting of management and improvement plans for plant cover

involving forests, particularly in Mediterranean environments with the use of IT, for example GIS;

✓ the design and drafting of plans for creating, restoring and maintaining vegetation with a forest component, especially in a Mediterranean environment;

✓ carrying out inventories of woodland resources;

✓ defining dendrometric parameters for the tree and shrub components of forest stands;

✓ providing back-up to the public and private sectors in obtaining European funding aimed specifically at their field of activity;

✓ defining, setting up, managing, monitoring and following up dedicated programmes and projects, including training and communication.

Initially, the company's activities will focus on the regions of Southern Italy. Then, as the growth and competitiveness of the company develops, its input will be extended around the Mediterranean Rim.

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... a new membership fee

During the last Annual General Meeting of the IAMF, held on June 20 at Murcia (Spain), it was decided to reduce the membership fee in order to encourage individuals to join in the greatest numbers, especially those from the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean Rim.

Thus, as of 2010, the indivi-

dual membership fee will be 10 euros (12 euros when including a subscription to our magazine *The Latest on Mediterranean Forests*). The membership fee for organisations will remain unchanged at 50 (52) euros.

Additionally, the IAMF is creating a new membership category for "major" public and private bodies: the membership

fee of 1,000 euros will bear witness to their commitment in helping the IAMF ensure its long-term finances (contact us for details).

Don't delay! Join the IAMF right now! Just send the membership form enclosed on page 2 of this Magazine.

... the project For Climadapt

We are happy to announce the pre-selection, within the framework of the second call of the MED Programme, of the project For Climadapt, devoted to the adaptation of Mediterranean forest ecosystems to the effects of climate change.

The seven partners in the project are: the Vesuvius National Park and the Umbria Region (Italy), the Murcia Region (Spain), the Mértola Association for the Defence of Heritage (Portugal), the North-Aegean Region (Greece), the National Forestry

Commission and the IAMF (France).

We will, of course, inform you about the next results expected at the beginning of 2010.

... a new Administrative Board member



Nisrin Alami and Jean Bonnier during the field trip of Forêt Méditerranéenne in 2008 - Photo : F. Besse

Nisrin Alami joined our association in 2009 as a member of the Administrative Board Council.

An agricultural engineer who qualified at the Hassan 2nd Agricultural and Veterinary Institute in Rabat, Morocco, Nisrin at present teaches project engineering at the

National Institute for Social Action in Tangiers.

At the same time, she has been working for six years as a consultant engineer in the Environment Department of the Tangiers-Tetouan Regional Government Council and in this capacity took part in the Franco-Moroccan seminar "Erosion, Risks, Population" organized by the French association Forêt Méditerranéenne in June 2008.

She has been very involved in organising the Bouhachem Regional Nature Park project (setting up and attending work group meetings, drafting an area charter...).

She undertook further training in agricultural research at Montpellier (France), focusing

on development, and thus acquired understanding of how to approach innovation and institutional change in rural communities. Also, she carried out a study on goat farming in the Province of Chefchaouen and developed an action plan for inter-organisational collaboration aimed at enhancing the reach of agricultural research for development.

Nisrin Alami participated in a course held at the Luberon Regional Nature Park (South-East France) on the operations of French regional parks.

She is fluent in Arabic, French and English and can manage in Spanish.

You can reach Nisrin Alami at: nisrin_parc@yahoo.fr

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

4th International Congress "Fire ecology and management"

30 November-4 December 2009 - Savannah (USA)
Website: <http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home.html>

International Conference "People, Forests and the Environment: coexisting in harmony"

25-27 May 2010 - Casablanca (Morocco)
Website: <http://sylvamonde.110mb.com/welcome.htm>

EFIMED Annual Meeting

14-16 April 2010 - Antalya (Turkey)
Website: <http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/1205>

23rd IUFRO World Congress

23-28 August 2010 - Seoul (Korea)
Website: <http://www.iufro2010.com>

IAMF Annual General Meeting

26 April 2010 - Bari or Taranto (Italy)
Contact: info@aifm.org

6th International Conference on Forest Fire Research

15-18 November 2010 - Coimbra (Portugal)
Website: <http://www.adai.pt/icffr>

3rd Seminar of the European co-operation project Qualigouv

27-29 April 2010 - Taranto (Italy)
Contact: filippo.bellini@provincia.ta.it

5th International Wildland Fire Conference

9-13 May 2011 - Sun City (South Africa)
Website: <http://www.wildfire2011.org>

CIHEAM Advanced Course "Adaptive management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems to climate change"

10 May 2010 - Zaragoza (Spain)
Website: http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/en/pages/paginas/pag_formacion6.htm

At the time of going to press, we are learning the death of Mr Henri-Noël le Houérou on 20 December 2009.

We offer our sympathy to Mrs le Houérou and her family.

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

