



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest REsearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



Synthesis of Session 3 about Networking activities



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest REsearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



Networking allows to take advantage in the most efficient way of the existing scientific capacities and knowledge, to maximize research impacts

To consolidate and explore the creation of networks in the four strategic themes of FORESTERRA:

- i) discuss together about their contents ;**
- ii) identify the tasks / objectives that could be developed in common;**
- i) identify opportunities to establish common research projects**
- ii) plan a process to develop a network for each strategic theme.**

General remarks from participants:

- Need for **prioritization** of issues within frameworks
- Not too large and not too many networks
- **Modular structure** of networks to make them more efficient
- Focus of networks should be **regional or thematic** and then find relations among them
- Let's try to **avoid frustration** caused by limited resources using creative approaches (ex. why not involve key players in MC countries and tap on private funds?)
- **Be proactive**: let's try to convince key stakeholders, and “impose” our conceptual framework on issues concerning Mediterranean forests (ex. let's fill *political buzzwords* with our concepts!)

Understanding **Global change** drivers, impacts & indicators on forest ecosystems: a Mediterranean scale approach

- Global change may be a too large issue to deal with: focus on existing experimental sites, **integrate different “manipulation ecosystem”** experiments (common, simple protocols), **improve coverage** of species/ecosystems
- Need to develop common approaches (ex **risk approach framework**)
- Let's **match climate modelling** exercises and forecasts with time series of ecological data being collected in monitoring/experimental plots all over the Mediterranean (let's make use of existing plots and data sets and compare with modelling)
- Need to **network existing “placettes expérimentales”** to provide integrated information on impact of climate change shifting ecosystems, biodiversity, desertification (ex. remonté des espèces sahariennes)



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest RESearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



Fostering forest system resilience through managing **biodiversity**, from genes to communities

- Importance of focusing on managing **forests as hotspots of biodiversity**
- Concentrate on same issues, processes, ecological compartments; it's crucial the concept of **functional biodiversity** (ex. within the soil compartment)
- Links with other large, international projects on biodiversity
- Make clear the objectives and new results to be expected from this (these) network(s)

Multi-purpose forest landscapes management to enhance the role of non-wood products and related ecosystem services in rural development

- Need for **eco-regional approach**
- Much more **scientific information is needed** to provide answers for landscape management; where to start?
- **Integrate** results of ecosystem manipulation experiments in **modelling** and analyse the trade off on wood production
- What about the interaction between forests and such **NWFP as game/hunting?**
- Clarify the role of Mediterranean forests in the concept of green **economy**



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest REsearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



Integrated watershed management for delivering forest **water-related services**

- Not enough resources in the first FORESTERRA call
- But...keep an eye on **JPI on Water** that is launching a new call; so try to bring ideas/proposals from Mediterranean forestry in this JPI
- Last World Congress of Water Operators paid no attention to forests

Let's work on communication too!!