



FORESTERRA

Enhancing Forest RESearch in the MediTERRanean
through improved coordination and integration



TOWARDS BUILDING A MULTI-LEVEL TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK IN MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY RESEARCH



12-13 December 2013

Physics amphitheatre, Faculty of Saint Charles,
University of Marseille, France

Introduction to Session 3: Networking activities

Introduction

- There are several research funding networks (ERAnet, FP, Cost) and research networks (EFIMED) in the mediterranean , however, common funding activities have often remained small-scaled (Genetic resources trials)
- Networking allows to take advantage in the most efficient way of the existing scientific capacities and knowledge, to maximize research impacts



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Objectives of this session :

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;**
- iii) identify opportunities to establish common research projects**
- iv) plan a process to develop a network for each strategic theme.**



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Some objectives of the network (to be discussed)

- Implement a directory of researchers...
- Follow-up of calls for proposals ...
- Look for partners to answer calls for proposals
- Support on collaborative projects building ...

Scientific plan: approach (EFI)

2012

- Step 1:** Call for research ideas MFRA context (February)
- Step 2:** EFIMED (AG) analyse and agregates themes (May)
- Step 3:** Interactive group workshops around 4 themes (June)
- Step 4:** Draft document on strategic research themes (July)
- Step 5:** Feedback (email) from research communitty on the draft document (August)
- Step 6:** Second draft document discussed with FORESTERRA SC and SAG (October).
- Step 7:** Final draft on stratetgic themes (November)

2013

- Step 8:** First draft of the **scientific plan** ready, integrating the results from mapping (WP2) and input from WP4 (joint activities) (May)
- Step 9 :** Strategic plan for joint activities and research topics for transnational funding (May)

4 strategic research themes

1. Understanding Global change drivers, impacts & indicators on forest ecosystems: a Mediterranean scale approach (**Global Change**)
2. Fostering forest system resilience through managing biodiversity, from genes to communities (**Biodiversity**)
3. Multi-purpose forest landscapes management to enhance the role of non-wood products and related ecosystem services in rural development (**Multipurpose landscapes**)
4. Integrated watershed management for delivering forest water-related services (**Water**)

Global change (1)

Justification

- A **sensitive region** to global change;
- clear impacts and warning events ;
- Long-term monitoring through **a large observational network** is essential to gather the information needed to orientate proper management.
- A **Pan-Mediterranean scale approach** to understand the impacts of global change on forest ecosystems and the goods and services they provide.

Objectives

- Identify **vulnerable tree species** and hotspot forest areas requiring special attention
- Monitoring and forecasting** of Mediterranean forest ecosystems (including goods/services, risks, etc) under different global change conditions.

Considerations

- Widely **covered** research topic **at national level**
- Need to **capitalize existing knowledge**/infrastructures/information



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Global change (1bis)

Foresterra Call for a **Networking Action** (duration of maximum 3 years, and a budget of maximum of 250,000 EURO)

- **Mapping** of existing global change projects, programmes, networks, information systems and infrastructures
- **Coordination**, capacity building and networking of research activities
- **Developing a plan to support for transnational access** to existing research programmes, networks and/or to establish new structures ("**Networks of Excellence**" type) designed for research institutions willing to increase integration around global change

Biodiversity (2)

Justification

- Mediterranean forests considered as **a biodiversity hotspot**.
- **New knowledge** to elucidate the **role of biodiversity at different levels** (from genes to communities) **in fostering resilience**, ecological functioning and providing goods and ecosystem services.

Objectives

- To **advance knowledge** on the response of Med. Forest to environmental and socio-economic changes
- To **develop new adaptive forest management models and tools** (including economic instruments, PES, etc) to ensure Mediterranean forest resilience



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Biodiversity (2bis)

FORESTERRA Transnational Call for **Collaborative project** : a maximum of 1,500,000 EURO for one project for duration of 3 years :

- An ambitious **interdisciplinary and innovative project** combining expertise in ecology, genetics, population biology, forest modelling, silviculture, economics and governance.
- **New decision tools** that combine information/knowledge from different disciplines
- New approaches/examples that **combine biophysical-economic knowledge** to develop robust economic instruments to promote adaptive forest management

Multipurpose landscapes for NWFP(3)

Justification

Mediterranean forest-based landscapes provide a high **diversity of economically relevant NWFPs**.

However, **knowledge is needed** regarding its production potential, management strategies, socio-economic importance and existing trade-offs among products (including wood).

Objectives

- (i) to generate **new knowledge and tools** to assess production potential and optimize forest management
- (ii) to provide wider understanding of the **potential markets** for non-wood forest products
- (iii) to develop approaches to include stakeholder preferences in the forest **management planning process**.

Multipurpose landscapes for NWFP(3)

Existing research initiatives :

- **STAR-TREE** Large collaborative project FP7 (7M€) end of 2012
- **COST Action FP1203**: European non-wood forest products (NWFPs) 2013

A **network** focussing on **cork oak landscapes** could be developed.

Water (4)

Justification

- **Water is the most strategic resource** in the Mediterranean climate areas and **the most limiting factor** for forest growth in the Mediterranean region.
- Understanding **forest-water interactions** on different scales is a prerequisite for sustainable and equitable management of water resources,

Objectives

- (i) to increase understanding of the **trade-offs between water-related and other forest ecosystem services** at different scales;
- (ii) to design forest-to-basin level **management models** that contribute to drought adaptation, water harvesting, water productivity, and water quality;
- (iii) to improve understanding of **economic instruments** and policies;
- (iv) to develop **governance models** for a sustainable use for forest and water resources



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Water (4bis)

The relevance and cross-sectorial nature of the theme requires **a multi-scale and interdisciplinary effort** through an ambitious **research collaborative project**

It should be open to research groups in **California, Australia and South Africa.**