



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Committee on Mediterranean
Forestry Questions

SILVA MEDITERRANEA

1. What is *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*?

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* is a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It has been active for over 90 years. Its members include 27 countries and it is partnering with several international organizations and institutions in the Mediterranean region.

Silva Mediterranea's goal is to facilitate exchanges related to forestry and the cooperation between Mediterranean countries and institutions.

The Committee holds its **sessions every two years**. Spain is presently chairing the Committee after its election during the 22nd session of *Silva Mediterranea*.



2. What is the **Mediterranean Forest Week**?

Together with regional partners, *Silva Mediterranea* is committed to organizing a **Mediterranean Forest Week every two years**.

This event provides a **common regional platform for cooperation** on Mediterranean forestry issues. It aims to promote dialogue between policy makers, forest researchers, relevant stakeholders, and to enhance exchange of information and experiences within the international community's concerns of the Mediterranean forests.

It also aims to enhance communications within the international community in everything concerning or affecting Mediterranean forests.

3. What is the focus of *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*?

Silva Mediterranea focuses mainly on sustainable forest management and well-being of populations relying on forests. The Committee works jointly with international partners to support local populations relying on forests, and offers projects and initiatives aimed at improving their livelihoods.

Activities are designed to meet the **needs expressed by member countries and the forest sector**, especially regarding:

- the socio-economic role of forests;
- the conservation of biological diversity;
- climate change and desertification.

4. Main priorities:

The Agadir Commitment

At the 5th Mediterranean Forest Week (Agadir, 2017), nine member states of *Silva Mediterranea* adopted the **Agadir Commitment to improve Forest and Landscape Restoration, Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region**, with the objective of restoring 8 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes in the Mediterranean region by 2030.

Enhancing initiatives in the areas of bioeconomy and young entrepreneurship has also been identified as a priority.



5. Main activities: *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* operates through working groups and task forces

- 1 Forest fires.
- 2 Cork oak and non-timber forest products.
- 3 Forest management and sustainable development.
- 4 Forest genetic resources.
- 5 Urban and peri-urban forestry.
- 6 Desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands.

6. Relevant documents and publications

- **Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests.** Published within the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, it provides guidance regarding forest management in the region and emphasizes forest goods and services, as well as the importance of improving capacity in these areas.
- **State of Mediterranean Forests.** The report, compiled by *Silva Mediterranea*, is designed as a tool for monitoring and assessing the changes and risks faced by Mediterranean forests.





Members of *SILVA MEDITERRANEA*

Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen. The European Union is also a member.

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