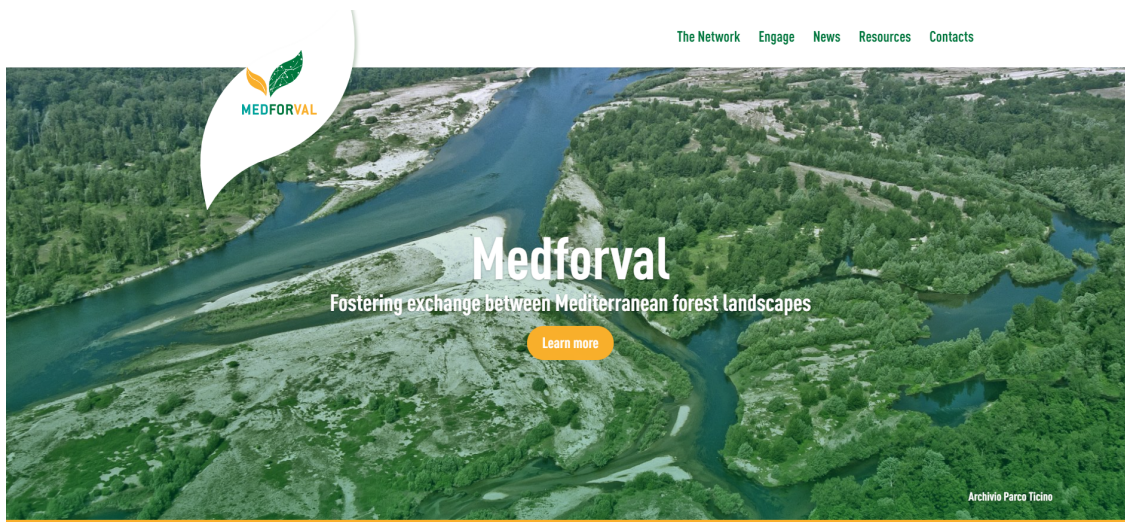


Medforval, the new website is online



Eighteen sites have joined forces to preserve Mediterranean forests: together they are **Medforval** – a network of Mediterranean forest landscapes and forests with high ecological value. The Network's website is a useful tool with which to investigate issues related to Mediterranean forests through **updates, studies, documents and publications**. It has information on current Medforval member sites, and materials produced by the sites themselves and by the broader Mediterranean forest sector are available to download.

Medforval was established in 2015 thanks to the support of the **MAVA Foundation**, and was re-launched in May 2019. The secretariat, first under AIFM, is now headed by **Istituto Oikos**. This **new phase of the Network** will facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices between members to better protect, manage and restore forest sites, and will ensure continuity with

the previous phase of the Network. You can engage with Medforval in many ways: learn how, stay updated and subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

Shouf Biosphere Reserve: encouraging news for the Nubian Ibex



The Shouf Biosphere Reserve is looking to the future, with the long-term goal of **reconstructing a wild living minimum viable population of Nubian Ibex** (*Capra nubiana*) in the SBR and surroundings. Recently, with the support of international experts, the Reserve produced a **management and monitoring plan**, with guidelines and a strategy for avoiding conflict between Ibex and livestock, and a feasibility study and executive project for the initiative as an essential basis for the reintroduction of the animals into the wild. In addition, the Reserve, with **lead partner Istituto Oikos**, submitted a USD 25,000 grant request to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ, United Arab Emirates) which was approved. The review board of MBZ decided to honour this project with a **Chairman's Award**, and they plan to visit the SBR this coming spring.

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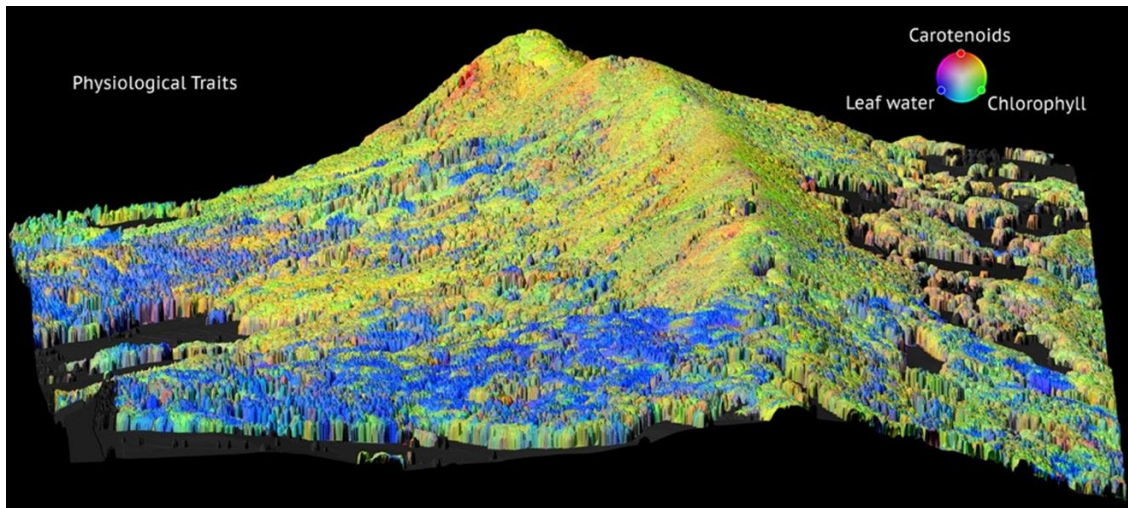
Mediterranean old-growth forests: where art meets science



The National Nature Reserve of Massane features in a **French-Catalan cross-border dialogue** between art and science through an innovative exhibition. The stunning images of Jose Casanova, a photographer from Barcelona, and Josep Casacuberta, a French scientist and passionate photographer, with text by Joseph Garrigue, curator of the Massane Reserve, capture **the essence of one of the last old-growth forests** of the Mediterranean basin. The balance between the life and death of trees and the action of wind and water create a variety of textures changing with the days and seasons. The photographs remind us of the **complexity and beauty of nature**, the value of time and reflection, introspection and silence. More than **24,000 visitors** over the past year have immersed themselves in this exploration of the importance of our old-growth forests and the challenges of their preservation.

*For more information: Diane Sorel, National Nature Reserve Massane
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Addressing climate change: predicting the adaptive landscape of the European common beech



Climate change is causing global shifts in environmental pressures to an extent and at a pace which are impossible to characterize using *in situ* sampling alone. Remote sensing allows the rapid and repeated characterization of these changes, and of species' responses, allowing us to **map variation in several functional traits**. A team from the University of Zurich is developing approaches to describe intra-specific variation using remote sensing, studying variation in remotely-sensed leaf optical properties and connecting it to genetic variation, and also to identify optical signatures of stress responses or stress resilience within a species. A **field campaign** is planned for next June at the National Nature Reserve of Massane to collect aerial imaging spectroscopy data and to predict the adaptive landscape of the European common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in the face of climate change. This project is a continuation of the **LIDAR campaigns**, carried out with support from the Medforval network.

For more information: Diane Sorel, National Nature Reserve Massane
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Planning an ecological corridor between the Alps, Apennines and Adriatic Sea



The protected areas and the administrations of the **Ticino Valley** are partners in a one-year project, which will prepare the ground for a landscape-scale effort to **restore connectivity in this transnational river basin** shared by Italy and Switzerland. The Medforval site Valle del Ticino is one of the partners in the project which is coordinated by **Istituto Oikos** and funded by the Endangered Landscapes Programme (supported by the Arcadia Fund). Together, Swiss and Italian public administrations, protected areas and NGOs have worked on this project since November 2019, to coordinate existing initiatives and guide them towards **a common strategy and programme**. The first workshop took place in Milan on 19 February to develop the **Theory of Change** which will be at the basis of the planned programme to restore the Ticino River Valley as a **functional corridor** between the Alps, the Apennines and the Adriatic Sea.

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