

*Once again we bring you Medforval's news while things continue to be far from normal around the Network. While Covid-19 may have changed the way in which we are currently working, it in no way affects our commitment to Mediterranean forests.*

*Let's stop the circulation of the virus, but not the circulation of news!*

## **Poblet: planning for the future**



**Poblet**, a natural site of national interest in Catalonia, includes 3,380ha ranging from lowland dry evergreen forests to mountain mixed deciduous forests. The

team at Poblet are just completing their **forest management plan** for the next 15 years for the area of main public ownership (2,180ha). In this forest, **logging is forbidden and only thinning is allowed**. In this crucial context, planning will focus on conservation – for instance, improving mature characteristics – and adaptation to climate change and fire prevention. The plan will include a **plot map** with the Potential Biodiversity Index (PBI), the first time that this index has been applied in a Catalan management plan. The Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia was commissioned by the Forest Service of the Catalan Government to develop this tool with the **participation of park managers**.

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Photo: Generalitat de Catalunya

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## Australia: Medforval approach to contribute to Forest Management Plans



Medforval carried out a complex **participatory process** to map out the criteria to identify high ecological value forests based on 1) diversity 2) dynamics and ecosystem functioning and 3) age and maturity. We consider the resulting document to be a work in progress; nevertheless it has caught the attention of a regional forest management body in Australia who are planning to draw on the approach developed by Medforval for identifying forests of high ecological



value. The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are currently undertaking a major forest **policy reform program** and have found the criteria to be useful and insightful. They have looked at how other jurisdictions around the world conceptualise the many ecological values that occur within forests, drawing on this to set management objectives. They will keep us updated regarding how they ultimately draw upon HEV criteria as part of their work.

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Photo: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria

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## Working together for the benefit of all



Networks, as we know, foster the generation, exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experience. How beneficial, then, for two networks operating on similar issues to work together, sharing knowledge, promoting innovative initiatives and joining forces to improve the ecological status of Mediterranean forest landscapes. The **Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)** promotes and supports the development of Model Forests in the Mediterranean, and is a member of the **International MFN** that includes over 65 Model Forests around the world. Collaboration between Medforval and MMFN is of benefit to both, and **they plan to work together** to identify

synergies and act together on relevant issues. The two networks share similar objectives and strategies and – partially – geographical coverage.

Cooperation is foreseen between the two secretariats and between their member sites: in particular **Spain, France, Italy, Turkey and Morocco** all have sites who are members of both networks. MMFN works with a range of organizations – including the CESEFOR Foundation (Spain), an expert in international environmental planning, and the Compagnia delle Foreste (Italy) who are particularly active in communication in the forestry sector, publishing and planning within EU programmes. Medforval may collaborate with them in the future. In addition, the Medforval network is currently discussing its contribution to the **7th Mediterranean Forest Week** to be held 22-26 March 2021, in Tunisia. MMFN is one of the organizers of the Week.

To subscribe to the MMFN newsletter [click here](#).

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Photo: MMFN

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## A Medforval site is part of the International Model Forest Network





In October 2018, the Abruzzo Region in Italy formally joined the **International Model Forest Network (IMFA)** and designated the Aterno River Valley (which forms part of a Medforval site with the Sirente – Velino Natural Park) as a pilot area for the realization of the project. It is early days, but the **Aterno River Valley Model Forest** website is online, with the statute of the new Association and the draft strategic plan. Only in Italian for the time being, as soon as the Association is established, the website will be finalised and the projects will begin.

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Photo: Sirente-Velino Regional Natural Park

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## Forest Management and Climate Change



Today we are faced with urgent questions regarding climate change, the role to be played by forests and wood products, and the growing conflicts between the functions of forests in metropolitan areas. A new study for French forests – Forest Management and Climate Change – seeks to provide **a deeper understanding of the evolution of the carbon sink represented by forests** and the wood sector, to propose a strategy optimising the role of forest

management in mitigating climate change by 2050. The subject matter is complex, and the study sets out to demystify the knowledge and calculations necessary to understand and simulate changes in carbon stocks and sinks under different management scenarios, proposing **a tool for reflection and evolving dialogue**. Forest Management and Climate Change aims to contribute to a truly **multifunctional management plan for French forests** between 2020 and 2050.

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Photo: Gaëtan du Bus de Warnaffe / Sylvain Angerand

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## Medforval's contributions to the 2021 Horizon Scan



The **2021 Horizon Scan promoted by BiodivERsA** is an initiative for global conservation and biological diversity supporting the collaboration of multinational teams of scientists. It seeks to identify emerging topics in the conservation community that could have substantial effects on biological diversity at a large scale in the medium to long term and to stimulate debate about these subjects. Topics for the 2021 Horizon Scan are currently being considered; **Medforval members have submitted six proposals:**

- Use of dendrochronology to measure the effects of dried mountain lakes at micro-ecological level (Nesat Erkan, Köprülü)
  - Explore forest aerosol compartment (Elodie Magnanou, La Massane)
- Agroforestry and holistic planned grazing as profitable agricultural land uses that promote natural regeneration and ecosystem restoration (Filipe Silva, Guadiana)
- Adaptive management of Mediterranean forests under the changing climate (Dany Ghosn and Ilektra Remoundou, Samaria).

- The detrimental effects of water-saving rice cultural practices on groundwater table and biodiversity (Ticino Valley and Oikos)
- Biodiversity in urban green spaces: a key to promote urban ecosystem services (Oikos)

The topics that will be selected, among all those submitted, will be funded under the future Horizon 2020 research program.

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Photo: biodiversa