



The StrategyMedFor project final event agenda

Strategy for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests

Date: June, 3-5 2026

Location: FAO Headquarters, Rome

Event Format: Presencial only

Contributors: StrategyMedFor partnership and Committee on
Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*



Objectives of the event

The StrategyMedFor project (January 2024 to June 2026) developed a region-specific vision for the sustainable management and resilience of Mediterranean forests adapted to foreseeable climate scenarios, thus contributing to their restoration and conservation.

Building on innovative methodologies and tools as tested site-level pilot actions, the project developed applicable tools and strengthened capacities of their implementation for assessing forest condition, identifying priority areas for protection or restoration, and supporting decision-making.

The objective of this final event is to present the project outcomes, and discuss the alignment and complementarities with the work that FAO is carrying out in the region for replication and further use by Mediterranean countries.

- **The Framework for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests to decision makers:** vision, mission, strategic pillars, and alignment with national and regional policies.
- **The Supplementary policy indicators:** tools to inform the framework and assess their implementation to measure progress towards regional targets.
- **Leveraging spatial indicators:** the role of geotechnologies in establishing baseline knowledge on the condition, pressures, impacts, and responses affecting forest ecosystems in the region.
- **Implementing tools and transferability at territorial level:** present the action plans and work carried out in the pilot sites and vision for the future.
- Showcase the **existing and new products and statistics from FAO and StrategyMedFor:** applications, differences, complementarities, and collaborations.
- **Action and Policy uptake:** guided discussion on the replication, upscaling, adoption, transference and impact of the project outcomes
- **Involve relevant networks and country representatives** in an interactive discussion about the opportunities and challenges for implementation, uptakes, adoption, transference and impact of the project outcomes.

Target participants

Participants include Project Partners and Associated Partners, relevant actors of the forest scene, FAO experts and FAO *Silva Mediterranea* country focal points, local authorities, and other international institutions, forestry professionals, national managers, young forest and protected area managers interested in reporting their progress towards national biodiversity and development goals (CBD, SDG, EU NRR).



AGENDA

Day 1 Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026	
13:00-16:00	Mediterranean Forest Week Joint Organization Committee Meeting <i>(hybrid- by invitation only)</i>
16:00	Registration
16:30-18:30	<p>CET: The StrategyMedFor Journey:</p> <p>Welcome: <i>FAO Deputy Director, Ms Tiina Vähänen</i></p> <p>StrategyMedFor Journey - Exhibition</p> <p>Networking - Cocktail</p>
END OF DAY 1	

Day 2 Thursday, June 4th, 2026	
8:30-9:00	<i>Registration</i>
9:00-09:30	<p>Introductory Session - <i>Welcome and Opening Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO representative – <i>Christophe Besacier</i> • Chair of Silva Mediterranea – <i>Mohamed Naoufel Ben Haha</i> • Interreg Euro-MED Programme – <i>Christoph Maier</i> • StrategyMedFor Lead – <i>Dania Abdul Malak</i>
Short wrap-up from exercise DAY 1	
<p>Session I – The Forward-Looking Framework for Sustainable Forest Management in the Mediterranean Region</p> <p>Time: 09:30 – 10:45</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (University of Copenhagen)</i></p> <p><u>Link to background brief: A Forward-Looking Framework for Sustainable Forest Management in the Mediterranean Region</u></p>	



This session presents the Framework for Sustainable Forest Management in the Mediterranean Region developed by the project. It will provide information on the Strategic goals, supplementary indicators, and the spatial tools developed to support their adoption and tracking.

Furthermore, as a teaser for the next sessions: this session will introduce very briefly spatial tools “tested” during the project implementation to support decision-making e.g. the High Ecological Value Forest, Fire risk and impact assessment, the map of climate-driven tree species migration routes, and the interactive Mediterranean Knowledge Platform.

Overarching presentation: The Framework - Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (Uni. CPH)

Panel discussion:

- *Valentina Garavaglia, FAO*
- *Andreas Eriksson, FOREST EUROPE*
- *Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, EFI MED*
- *Ümit Turhan, General Directorate of Forestry, Türkiye*
- *Maria Pasalodos Tato, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain*

Session II – Enhancing Forest Landscape Resilience and Ecological Integrity: Applying Mediterranean Forest Fire Spatial Assessments

Time: 10.45 – 12:00

Moderator: Gavriil Xanthopoulos (CIHEAM-MAICh)

[Link to background document: Integrating spatial indicators to evaluate fire risk and impacts on Mediterranean forests](#)

This session examines the rising impact of wildfires on Mediterranean forests through a harmonised, data-driven assessment approach. It addresses the problem of increasing fire frequency and its effects on ecosystem resilience. A panel discussion will explore mechanisms to restore forest resilience, highlighting risks, hotspots, and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It will also show how this framework supports prevention, restoration, and strategic planning for sustainable forest management. It will further underline the importance of harmonised geospatial data for consistent monitoring and informed decision-making.

Panel discussion:

- *Carolina Gallo Granizo, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forestry Department, Rome, Italy*
- *Sofia Kollarou, Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretariat for Forests, Greece*
- *Sofia Martins, Comunidade Intermunicipal do Baixo Alentejo, Portugal*
- *Joelle Hanna, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, Lebanon*
- *Issam Touhami, National Research Institute of Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry, INRGREF, Tunisia*



COFFEE BREAK (12.00 - 12.30)

Session III – Climate-informed Forest-planning: Conserving Biodiversity, Enhancing Connectivity, and Advancing Landscape Restoration

Time: 12:30 – 13:45

Moderator: *Annemarie Bastrup-Birk (University of Copenhagen)*

[Link to Background Brief: Shifting Forests: Assessment of Tree Species Migration and Extinction Risks in the Mediterranean Region](#)

This session explores how to translate strategic goals into concrete actions for conserving biodiversity, ecosystem services and restoring Mediterranean forest landscapes. It highlights tools and indicators addressing species, habitats, connectivity, genetic viability and long-term recovery. A dedicated presentation will showcase work on species distribution and migratory routes to inform climate-adaptive planning. Panellists will argue how such knowledge and modelling outputs can be integrated into real-world management and decision-making. Through Q/A with the floor, the discussions will focus on prioritising on-the-ground actions and strengthening uptake across institutions and regions.

Overarching presentation: Forests in Transition: Spatial Planning for Resilient Landscapes – *Dania Abdul Malak (ETC-UMA)*

Panel discussion:

- *Antonios Barnias*, Samaria National Park Manager, Greece
- *Andon Bojadji*, Galicia National Park Manager, Northern Macedonia
- *Ahmet Lojo*, Faculty of Forestry - University of Sarajevo, Bosnia I Herzegovina
- *Martina Spada*, Istituto Oikos, Italy
- *Pierre Gonin*, National Center for Private Forest Ownership (CNPF), France

LUNCH (13.45 - 15.00) Self paid at FAO canteen



Session IV – From tools to action: *Advancing sustainable forest Management through an informed monitoring mechanism*

Time: 15:00 – 16:15

Moderator: Edoardo Esposito or Filippo Zibordi (Oikos)

Rapporteur: Edoardo Esposito or Filippo Zibordi (Oikos)

[Link to Background Link: The Mediterranean Forest Ecosystem Platform](#)

This session focuses on the exchange of tools supporting Sustainable Forest Management and their applicability, including those developed and tested within the StrategyMedFor project and their complementarities with FAO geospatial resources. We will showcase the spatial proxies that support the Strategic Framework on biodiversity and ecosystem services through the interactive Mediterranean Knowledge Platform.

The panellists will reflect on the robustness, usability and scientific value of these products for operational use. The session will explore how such tools can be integrated into regional and global institutional workflows to strengthen evidence-based forest and biodiversity management.

Speakers:

- *Valeria Contessa*, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment team, Italy
- *Yelena Finegold*, FAO Restoration Monitoring team, Italy
- *Gabriel Martorell Guerrero*, ETC-UMA, Spain
- *Andros Solakis Tena*, ETC-UMA, Spain
- *Alice Wittevrongel*, Plan Bleu, France

COFFEE BREAK (16.15)



Session V: From Project Results to Regional Action: *Advancing Mediterranean Forest Cooperation*

Time: 16.15 – 17:30

Moderator: Valentina Garavaglia, FAO

This session builds on the outcomes of the StrategyMedFor project with the objective to translate project results into a policy-relevant discussion and insights for the sustainable management, restoration, and resilience of Mediterranean forests. The session is designed to encourage reflection, sharing of experiences, and collective discussion of key messages and actionable recommendations on how the project outcome can be integrated and benefit the current regional dynamic on the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests.

Speakers:

- *Mohamed Naoufel Ben Haha*, DGF Tunisia and Chair of Silva Mediterranea
- *Chadi Mohanna*, Ministry of Agriculture - Lebanon
- *Enrico Pompei*, FAO Silva Mediterranea NFP Italy
- *Maria Pasalodos Tato*, Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, Spain (TBC)
- *Vlatko Trpeski*, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia (TBC)
- *Edoardo Esposito*, Mediterranean Youth Task Force
- *Elizabeth Sellwood*, UNEP-MAP (TBC)
- *Christoph Maier*, Interreg EuroMed Joint Secretariat

17:30-17:45

Wrap-up

17:45-18:00

Conclusions and closing

END OF DAY 2


20:00 - SOCIAL DINNER



Day 3 Friday, June 5, 2026

Field Trip to the Italian Presidential Estate of Castel Porziano

 **Departure:** 08:30 sharp from FAO Headquarters

 *Participants are kindly requested to be punctual. The bus will leave on time and will not wait for late arrivals.*

The field visit will take place with the support of the Castel Porziano Operations Center team, together with:

- **Dora Cimini**, for the visits to the Museum of History and Nature and Farnete,
- and **Maria Grazia Cinti**, for the visit to Tor Paterno.

 **Site Entrance Point:**

Via Cristoforo Colombo 1671, corner with Via di Malafede

Proposed Programme

09:00 – 09:30 Arrival at Malafede entrance and access procedures

09:30 Transfer by group vehicle to the Museum of History and Nature

10:00 Screening of a 15-minute presentation video (English) on the Castel Porziano Estate, followed by a technical presentation on *Toumeyella* and forest restoration activities

11:00 Transfer to Tor Paterno for an archaeological guided visit

12:00 Transfer to Farnete for:

- demonstration of the IBP index application,
- and field testing activities by participants

13:30 Lunch break

15:30 The visit will conclude in the afternoon with return transfers to Rome and direct airport transfers for participants concerned.