



StrategyMedFor Launches First Consultation Workshop on Sustainable Mediterranean Forest Management

Chania, Greece, September 13, 2024 – The Interreg Euro-MED StrategyMedFor project is pleased to announce its inaugural Consultation Workshop, titled “Defining Criteria & Indicators for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests”. This important event will take place from September 17 to 19, 2024, at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (CIHEAM-MAICh) in Chania, Greece.

The workshop aims to bring together experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss and develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable forest management in the Mediterranean region. Participants will have the opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences, and insights on a range of topics, including:

- **Assessing the current situation** of Mediterranean forests and identifying key challenges and opportunities,
- **Examining best practices** in forest management and lessons learned from successful initiatives,
- **Exploring the role of StrategyMedFor Pilot Sites and proxies** in guiding forest management decisions,
- **Developing a shared vision** for the future of Mediterranean forests and outlining key objectives and strategies,
- **Identifying concrete measures** to promote the implementation of a sustainable forest strategy.

The workshop program will feature presentations by members of the StrategyMedFor partnership, as well as representatives from associated partners such as the European Environment Agency (EEA) and Silva Mediterranea. Additionally, experts from the Interreg governance projects Community4Nature and Dialogue4nature will contribute their valuable perspectives.

On September 18, participants will have the opportunity to visit the Samaria National Park in Sfakia, a renowned protected area that showcases the unique biodiversity and ecological significance of Mediterranean forests.

The StrategyMedFor project is funded by the Interreg Euro-Mediterranean Programme and seeks to promote sustainable forest management in the Mediterranean region through a collaborative and participatory approach. By fostering dialogue, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, the project aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean forests for future generations.

For more information about the StrategyMedFor project and the Consultation Workshop, please visit:

<https://strategymedfor.interreg-euro-med.eu/consultation-workshop-2024-09-17-19/>

About StrategyMedFor

Despite the increase in Mediterranean forest cover in recent decades, these forests are not in good condition and require urgent action to increase their resilience to climate change and restore their biodiversity. According to recent studies, the Mediterranean basin is the second most affected region in the world by climate change. This will have an impact on the quality, integrity, distribution and cover of forest species, which will in turn impact the livelihoods of local communities.

The StrategyMedFor project aims to develop a targeted Strategy for Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Forests for each forest type, adapted to foreseeable climate scenarios, thus contributing to their restoration and conservation. The project is scheduled to last for 2.5 years, from January 2024 to September 2026.

About CIHEAM-MAICH

The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (CIHEAM-MAICH) is a leading international research and training institution dedicated to sustainable agriculture and development in the Mediterranean region. Located in Chania, Crete, Greece, CIHEAM-MAICH offers a wide range of programs, including postgraduate studies, research projects, and capacity-building activities. The institute's expertise spans various fields, including plant science, animal science, agronomy, rural development, and environmental management. CIHEAM-MAICH plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable agriculture practices, fostering innovation, and addressing the challenges facing the Mediterranean region.

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