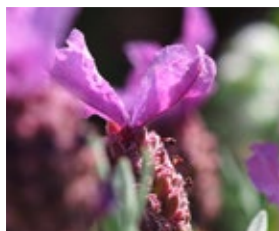
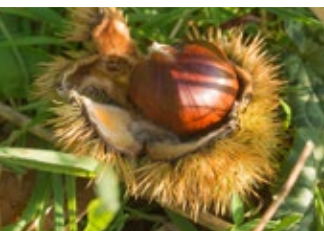
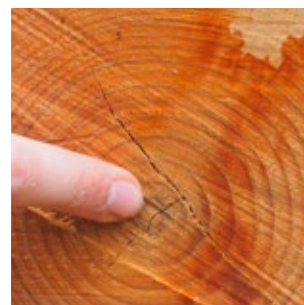
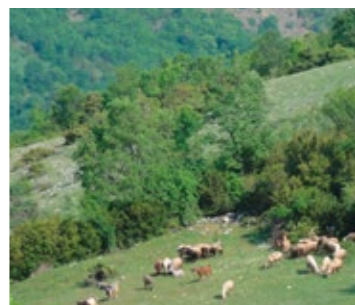
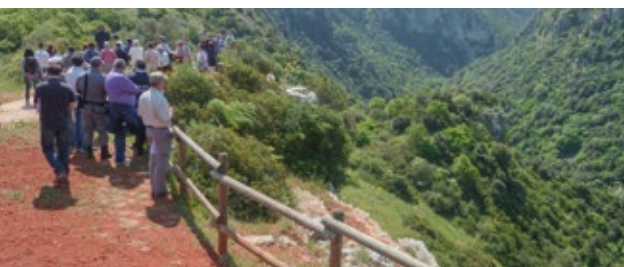


SUGGESTIONS OF INNOVATIVE TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND SMART CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN





INTRODUCTION

Mediterranean forests and natural areas have always been the structure within which **human activities** take place. There is no clear separation between economic activity and the natural environment: the dynamics of Mediterranean ecosystems have always been closely linked to the human **societies** that have developed around. Mediterranean **landscapes** are the result of human activities over time.

Mediterranean forests and natural areas are highly multifunctional **ecosystems**:

- * They possess outstanding **ecological particularities**: biodiversity hotspot, great specific richness, endemic species pool, remarkable habitats, etc.

- * They have intrinsic **economic value** and are the source of a wide variety of products including timber and cork, non-timber products (medicinal plants, truffles and mushrooms, acorns, fruits, honey, pine resin), as well as traditional agricultural products, etc.

- * They are under great **social pressure**: the forests provide a living environment for many communities and also play a role in terms of recreation (increase in tourism and outdoor activities in the countryside and in forests, particularly in urban and suburban forests).

Mediterranean forests and natural areas are thus ecosystems of great interest but remain fragile and lack promotion.

Yet they are under **increasing pressure** and are submitted to various **threats**:

- * Intrinsic threats such as **natural hazards**, especially wildfires and erosion, difficult climatic and edaphic conditions, which increase with **climate change**,

- * External threats such as an increasing **social and economic pressure**, especially close to cities and coasts, which lead to scattered urbanisation and soil sealing, and intensify the risk of wildfire.

Moreover, Mediterranean rural areas concern a wide range of private and public stakeholders and good **coordination** and strong **synergy** between all parties is necessary.

The Mediterranean context has a number of particularities which necessitate a specific approach for the conservation and valorisation of natural resources under EU and international strategies and programmes.



Mediterranean forests and natural areas are highly multifunctional **ecosystems**





This Policy brief
gathers **political
recommendations
drawn from 13 EU
MED projects
and 14 partners**

How to improve governance in Mediterranean forests and natural areas? How to tackle climate change effects? How to manage protected areas and conserve biodiversity? How to better manage natural hazards, in particular wildfires? How to address urbanisation and soil sealing? How to enhance the economic value of Mediterranean rural areas?

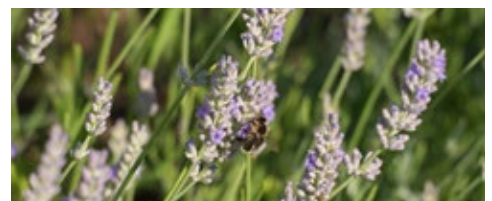
These were the key topics and questions addressed throughout the course of the **MEDLAND2020 project** “Design of a future common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation” (timeframe: July 1st, 2013 to December 31st, 2014). MEDLAND2020 is one of 13 capitalisation projects selected after the first call for capitalisation of the MED Programme, funded by the European Union in 2012. The overall aim is to **strengthen the impact of the results, achievements and lessons learned** from previous MED projects on territories, in the fields of sustainable land and natural resource management in the Mediterranean basin.

This Policy brief gathers **political recommendations drawn from 13 EU MED projects** and 14 partners, from seven northern countries (Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece and Portugal) and one guest country (Albania), eligible for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

This Policy brief is entirely in line with the **Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests** (SFMF). Indeed, for Mediterranean forests and woodlands, an open and transparent two-year long working process has given birth to a strategic framework. On March 21st 2013, the Ministers of Mediterranean countries met during the 3rd Mediterranean Forest Week (Tlemcen, Algeria, 2013) and pledged to continue to implement actions and measures in order to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests while taking into consideration the specific needs of each country. An assessment is currently underway and will be presented during the 4th Mediterranean Forest Week (Barcelona, Spain, 2015).

The Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests is and remains the reference document for the management of Mediterranean forests and woodlands.

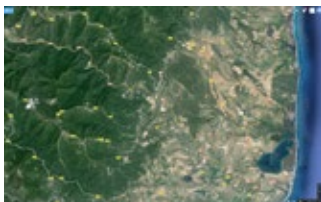
This Policy brief, drafted by partners of the MEDLAND2020 project and coordinated by AIFM, has been prepared as an extension of the SFMF to other natural areas of the Mediterranean, including agricultural and suburban territories.





CONSIDER THE RELEVANCE OF THE **SCALE** OF REFLECTION AND ACTION FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SCHEME OF MEDITERRANEAN NATURAL RESOURCES AND RURAL AREAS

Projects : all



✱ To promote **collaborative management of forests** (private and/or public) through forest management plans, at a larger scale than that of forest property.

✱ To promote **collaboration** between neighbouring small-scale land owners, for the implementation of uniform **large-scale natural resource management systems**.

✱ To improve the link and transmission of knowledge and skills between **research and field**.

To improve the link between research and field



2.

TO IMPROVE THE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF **GOODS AND SERVICES** IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS

Projects : SYLVAMED, 2BPARKS, OSDDT-MED, WOODe3, PROFORBIOMED

✱ **To promote the use of forest and agricultural products** at all levels to reinforce the social (employment), economic (territory valorisation) and ecological (fire prevention, biodiversity, landscape) benefits provided by traditional and cultural sustainable management of resources in the Mediterranean.

✱ To create funding schemes and technical support to **promote pro-biodiversity businesses and green growth in protected areas.**

✱ To take into account the economic potential of biodiversity valorisation by setting up a strategic framework at the Mediterranean level to support the valorisation of **aromatic and medicinal plants.**

✱ To strengthen sustainable and legal forest management, by improving, whenever necessary, effective vigilance methods for timber harvest or by promoting **forest certification.**

✱ To provide local policy makers and stakeholders with information on **timber resource availability** (via good mapping of the areas of forest harvesting, tonnage collected and radius of existing and predictable supply to prevent overexploitation).

The average Total Economic Value of Mediterranean Forests was estimated at 133 €/ha*





This value is higher for the countries of the North of the Mediterranean (173 €/ha) than for the countries of the South (70 €/ha) and the East (48 €/ha)*

✱ To consider **payment for ecosystem services (PES)** as a valuable financial mechanism to implement sustainable strategies for natural resource management and to incorporate the valuation of ecosystem services into environmental planning policies.

✱ To assess the economic value of ecosystems and their services and promote the **integration** of these values into **accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level**.

✱ To **promote PES schemes** with regard to the sustainable use/exploitation of forest services and products. Promote the use of PES schemes to private forest owners and involve them in the designing of such schemes.

✱ To integrate PES schemes into forest **management plans** and develop explicit policies and strategies with reference to the PES schemes.

✱ To reinforce the fact that the basic starting point of the regulation of forest fruit picking has to be related to the inalienable right of the land owner to use the product in a sustainable way or to transfer that right to another private person or a legal entity.

✱ To **set up studies before project approval**: the authorities should demand studies of the timber supply chain in order to avoid conflict over raw materials and to prevent damage to employment and traditional uses. Facilities funded by public money can serve as sites for educational visits and an expansion of interdisciplinary perspectives of educational institutions.



* : Croitoru, L. and Merlo, M. (2005) Chapter 4. *Mediterranean Forest Values*. In: Merlo, M. and Croitoru, L. (Eds.) *Valuing Mediterranean forests: Towards Total Economic Value*, CABI Publishing, Wallingford, p.406.





THE PROMOTION OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS

Projects : QUALIGOUV, 2BPARKS, SYLVAMED, PROFORBIOMED, OSDDT-MED, WOODe3, MODEL FOREST



To involve all the private and public stakeholders of a territory right from the start



* For effective governance, it is necessary to **involve all the private and public stakeholders of a territory right from the start**; it is essential to **involve the owners of natural areas**.

* Before starting a local development project, public authorities and project leaders must be aware of the **way in which the territory is governed (governance diagnosis and context understanding)**.

* During the implementation phase of a local development project, it's necessary to keep **direct and permanent communication amongst stakeholders** (partners and policy makers).

* To better **integrate** environmental concerns into other policy areas, in particular economic areas.

* To support and implement **co-management models** for protected areas.

* To create favourable conditions for **dialogue at all levels** (local, national, international) and facilitate **public participation** in decision making.

* To foster collaboration between private and public forest **stakeholders**.

* To assist forest owners in making **management plans** for their forests (financial incentives, e.g. tax deduction, etc.).

* To regulate ownership **issues** of village property (especially forests).

* To draw up the appropriate **legal and institutional framework** taking into account the fact that **PES** have emerged in a multitude of forms regarding contractual agreements, methods of charging and payment, stakeholder participation, etc.





* Sustainable governance of territory should limit soil and natural resource consumption in general, and should be effective at an **intermediate level (inter-community level)**.

* To reduce bureaucracy, by creating a “one-stop shop” **preventing and reducing barriers to private initiative or entrepreneurship**.

* **To foster institutional coordination:**

- » Coordination between different levels of administration and their operational programs.
- » The necessity for coordination between forest policy and energy policy.
- » A more holistic approach involving several regions should be adopted.



* To redefine the objectives and policy for protected areas and to strive to **reconcile nature conservation and business development**.

* **To encourage associations of forest owners**, be they public or private, by also providing technical assistance. This will lead, for instance, to better technical assistance and mobilization for the biomass and wood sectors.

* **To enhance joint management** between supply and production/sale of energy. Joint management is required between supply and production/sale of energy in order to have a better response capacity in the face of possible changes in costs and quantities, and to ensure greater synergies overall.

* To adopt **new management and funding models** for protected areas in order to increase proximity with local communities and to contribute to local development.

To foster joint management models





RESTORE AND CONSERVE MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS AND LIMIT SOIL CONSUMPTION

Projects : OSDDT-MED, 2BPARKS, SYLVAMED, MEDISS FORCLIMADPT

*To limit soil consumption it is necessary to **raise awareness** among stakeholders about the **consequences of soil sealing** on the environment.

*To promote policies related to **building taxes** which motivate stakeholders to reuse areas already consumed or sealed.

*To finalize the **EU Soil Framework Guidelines** (2006) which limits soil consumption.

*Public authorities must have at their disposal tools to better understand and assess the **direct costs resulting from accidents and natural disasters** when operators build in areas at risk. These costs should be incorporated into building taxes.

*Public authorities should take into account the **costs of soil sealing** and should know the economic value of the environmental **functions and services provided by natural soils**.

*For effective **land planning**, it is important to have a **wide range of skills**: geology, geography, urbanism, logistics, forestry, ecology, sociology, architecture, agronomy, etc.

*The Mediterranean area is highly populated and urbanized, particularly along the coasts, leading to the intrusion of urban areas into the hinterland, an increase in soil sealing and a decline in natural areas. It is therefore necessary to **rethink the urban and suburban space** and to introduce natural elements which are sources of biodiversity (including forest areas) and will assist in mitigating climate change.



*To incorporate the **valuation of ecosystem services** in environmental and spatial planning policies.

*To promote effective **land use planning** in protected areas, aiming at soil consumption efficiency and sustainability and taking into account the need to develop local businesses.

*To give economic value to soil by **promoting the agricultural sector**.

*To support **knowledge on Mediterranean biodiversity** to increase both valorisation and interest.

*To remove **illegal landfills** in Mediterranean rural areas.

*To enhance requests made to research teams by taking into account **stakeholder expectations**.

To finalize the EU Soil Framework Guidelines (2006)



TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF **GREEN ENERGY:** THE MOBILIZATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION

Projects : PROFORBIOMED, WOODe3



✳ To promote a different **scale of consumption:** from the small boiler to the large heating plant. The supply chain requires that all consumer groups develop.

✳ Support the provision of **grants** for Renewable Energies, particularly for biomass:

» Reductions in local taxes for biomass heating systems, due to the indirect benefits of biomass.

» Grants to cover the cost difference between the purchase of a fossil fuel boiler and a biomass one.

» Specific tax reductions or subsidies for forestry operations related to extraction, transformation and transport of biomass.



» Forestry micro-enterprise grants for investments in infrastructure and equipment.

» The establishment of a competitive grant program for sustainable forest biomass research, with a focus on ecosystem function, soils, water and biodiversity as well as the effectiveness of woody biomass.

✳ To address the lack of **incentives** for thermal energy and combined heat and power (CHP) or extend existing incentives.

✳ To support the providing of **incentives** to Renewable Energies, particularly to biomass:

» **Reduction of tax on renewable energies** or the Value Added Tax (VAT) when applicable.

» The launch of government schemes to **subsidize householders** in order to help them buy renewable heating technologies (Renewable Heat Premium Payments). A taxation related to property could also encourage the private forest owners to engage in business logic and **better forest management**.



» **Reward low emissions** and sustainability of heating systems. Provide a reward system for plants that are able to guarantee low emissions (NOx, dust, SOx, etc). Create a CO₂ tax or provide an incentive for bio energy to promote its development. Favour heating plants that ensure a high number of hours of steady state operation (2,200 hours).



5.



* To set up major **disincentives for fossil fuels** compared to renewable that will boost innovation and research, e.g. a tax on greenhouse gas pollutants (CO₂ emissions), compulsory gasoline tax (or gasoline price floor) in the context of liquid transported fuels.

* To **foster R&D** to adapt boilers to the specificities of local biomass.

* To **regulate the different uses of biomass**. To encourage the **best possible use of timber**, to generate incomes for the forest owner and not to unbalance the global supply chain (avoid competition on the resource).

* To improve knowledge on timber extraction **consequences on the environment**.

* To **promote the use of biomass in public administration**: to encourage the installation of biomass in public buildings. Forest bio fuels must be used in public facilities and skilled technicians that support projects on the use of biomass should be promoted.

* To encourage the creation of **forest biomass clusters** and within them knowledge clusters in order to provide the necessary information and solutions. This will foster greater opportunities to attract funding, create better bargaining power and the sharing of common facilities with less expense.

* To clarify and raise awareness on the wood energy market: **identification of competing users and other uses of wood**, which impact the cost and availability of biomass.



* To **understand better forest biomass supply** of a given region: identification of supply areas, forest biomass suppliers, the distance between the resource and the plant etc.





*To set up **biomass supply contracts** to ensure sustainability. The contracts must include specific terms regarding the qualitative characteristics of biomass in order to guarantee transparency, cost reduction and high quality biomass supply.

*To introduce **technical codes, mainly in construction**, to facilitate the installation of boilers.

*To introduce **standards for bio fuels**, such as quality assurance for solid bio fuels to give confidence to end users.

*To increase **managed forest areas** with the implementation of management tools and short term planning. To promote forest harvesting in public forests to ensure long-term supply.

*To stabilize authorization procedures, economic/tax incentives and wood harvest authorization procedures.

*To secure **coordination** on each connected issue (energy, environment, forests).

*To create special “**welcome centres**” where anyone can “exchange” biomass production with final energy products (pellets, briquettes, etc.) in order to stimulate the use of biomass.

*To set up **exemplary pilot projects**: the construction of small scale plants with pellet production and the burning of wood biomass for energy production etc., which the general public can visit in order to visualise and better understand this technology. Wherever possible, priority for funding should go to existing communal facilities or council housing.

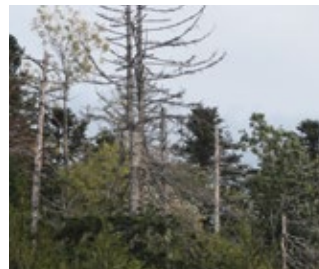


To support the providing of incentives to Renewable Energies, particularly to biomass



TO PROMOTE **WILDFIRE** RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF OTHER **NATURAL HAZARDS** IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Projects : PROTECT, CYPFIRE, FOR CLIMADAPT, QUALIGOUV, MEDISS



* **To give socio-economic value to the impacts of climate change** and to the costs of prevention through mitigation strategies, for instance the use of a cost-effectiveness approach for forest management as a tool for reducing the expected increase in wildfire risk.

* **To be aware of the interaction** between natural perturbation (droughts, pests and fires) under the climate change scenarios which are reinforced with the parallel process of land management abandonment.

* **To reduce social vulnerability** to natural hazards especially under climate change scenarios where extreme events such as wildfires, floods or storms will occur with a new regime of spatial distribution, frequency and intensity, affecting new populations as yet unaccustomed to these phenomena.

* **To adopt as soon as possible the necessary climate change mitigation strategies** although long-term results do not fit comfortably with policy cycle. The **effective inclusion of all economic sectors** which can be affected by the loss of forest goods and services due to climate change (landscape quality and tourism for instance), can offer a **new cooperation paradigm** between private and public bodies (enhancing, for instance, the participation of local forest owners in the conservation of landscape as a resource for tourism).

* **Land planning and management** in the Mediterranean should take into account the **forest fire risk** at all levels (from spatial planning to housing levels, for instance).

* **To spread effective land management measures** for wildfire risk management and other natural hazard prevention and make them more visible to policy makers.

* **To implement methodologies** at a scientific level in order to increase the efficiency of wildfire prevention measures based on land management.

To reduce social vulnerability to natural hazards



✳️ To develop field methodologies to **assess wildfire risk** and increase **the efficiency of wildfire prevention measures**.

✳️ To support best practices of land management for wildfire prevention at a local level. Integrate the proposed tools into interdisciplinary models for territorial management.



✳️ To **promote active social participation** in forest fire prevention:

» Make stakeholders (fire services, forest managers, users) work together more effectively: **co-construction and co-responsibility** (integration)

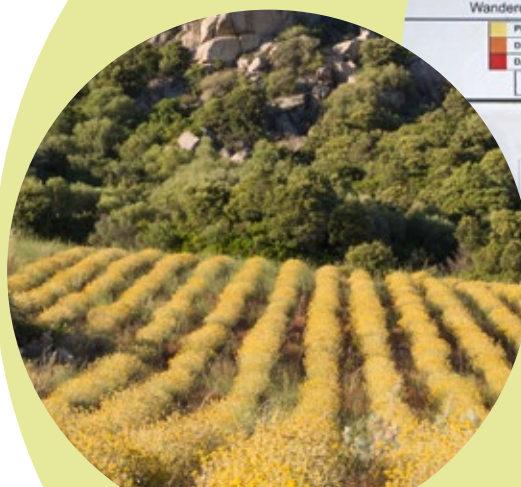
» Involve the local population in wildfire prevention: by making them part of active management, particularly through **volunteer surveillance of fire programmes**

✳️ To **raise awareness of local populations** on wildfire prevention measures and techniques and on emergency management.

✳️ If necessary, to promote the creation of **plantations** (forestation) to reduce the impact of natural risks related to climate change (soil erosion, desertification, and wildfire).

✳️ To integrate local prevention plans with **effective and detailed forest fire forecast systems** in order to better manage surveillance activities in the territory.

✳️ To develop production of **aromatic and medicinal plants** in natural areas and use them as a **corridor against wildfire**.





TO ADAPT AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRACTICES TO **CLIMATE CHANGE** AND INCREASE THE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY TO **BIODIVERSITY**

Projects : FOR CLIMADAPT, SYLVAMED, CYPFIRE, MEDISS, OSDDT-MED

To correct some agricultural practices which are likely to become unsuitable



*To integrate sustainable natural resource management effectively into climate change mitigation strategies, for instance, promoting the multiple use of wood (energy & construction) to achieve **low carbon economies**.

*To promote **active landscape management** for reducing the vulnerability of forest and society to climate change (wood mobilization and wildfire prevention, forest management and better water provision, tree harvesting and CO₂ fixation, etc.).

*To correct some agricultural **practices** which are likely to become unsuitable.

*To implement the recommendations from the **new EU Forest Strategy** for forests and the forest-based sector.

*To promote production of **plants consuming less water** such as aromatic herbs.

*To be aware of the global costs of **land management abandonment**; ecological (loss of biodiversity, increase of wildfire or flood risks, etc.), social (territory depopulation, loss of employment, loss of landscape quality, etc.) and economic (lack of territorial development).

*To support **knowledge on Mediterranean biodiversity** to increase valorisation and interest in the agricultural sector.

*To employ **PES** schemes to generate **income for private owners**, encouraging the implementation of relevant measures.



*To set up legislation at the EU, national and regional levels to improve **protection and management of monumental trees and mature forests**.



TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF LOCAL PRODUCTS IN A SHORT SUPPLY CHAIN

Projects : MEDISS, 2BPARKS, SYLVAMED, RURURBAL, WOODe3

8.

*To enhance the **interaction and collaboration among local suppliers** (SMEs), to better integrate local resources and to build solutions for coupling tourism and marketing of local products.

*To promote an **eco-friendly mentality** and respect for the environment during the production of forest goods and increase their market value through **PES schemes**.

*To promote **research** to estimate the value of environmental **services** and **create a market** for them.

*To support the production and use of local products, such as **aromatic and medicinal plants** in the **short supply chain**.

*To promote **dietary models** as a means for expanding and reinforcing **local networks based on solidarity**.

*To develop actions favouring **fair relations between suburban agricultural areas and city centres**.

*To increase the **share of local production** in the supply of 'staple' products.

*To support and enhance **local biomass chains** with production of **forest based added value** and the use of biomass in local biomass heating systems.

*To encourage short supply chains for harvesting to reduce the impact of road transport on the **carbon footprint**.



To favour fair relations between suburban agricultural areas and city centres





TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS

Projects : SUSTEN, 2BPARKS, SYLVAMED, MEDISS



- *To promote and support sustainable tourism companies through **the adoption of regional policies incorporating and connecting** tourism as well as sustainable development planning and management.

- *To improve coordination among public authorities related to territorial planning, environmental protection and economic activities, in order to **enhance the connection of environmental policies to economic development.**

- *To support (e.g. via grants and other incentives) the tourist industry, and in particular SMEs, in adopting **managerial principles based on environmental soundness, quality, innovation and integration of offer.**

- *To develop and support sustainable tourism models for protected areas, based on **participatory approaches** involving local and regional public bodies, tourism companies and the local population.

- *To improve **communication models**, supporting businesses and public bodies to jointly exploit the new ICT potential in terms of interactivity between natural heritage, tourism suppliers and consumers.

The Mediterranean is the world's leading tourist region. In 2005, its countries have received 246 million visitors, or 30.5% of global tourism*





*To promote a participative **management approach** in the field of sustainable tourism among enterprises in the tourism sector through the promotion of relevant models and practices.

*To use local products and mainly **aromatic and medicinal plants** to support **territorial marketing** of tourism areas.

*To involve multiple stakeholders all impacted by tourism in active participation in **tourism planning activities** in order to take into account varied social, cultural, environmental, economic and political issues all affecting sustainable development.

* : Bourse, L. (2012). Programme d'activités 2009-2012 – « *Tourisme et développement durable en Méditerranée* », Plan Bleu, Centre d'Activités Régionales PNUE/PAM, Sophia Antipolis, 39p.

*To employ **PES schemes** to encourage private owners to promote the forest's social role including that related to tourism.

*To improve **operational capacity** in the field of sustainable tourism via institutions and the stakeholders of tourism development, in the private sector and at the local authority/government level through the adoption, support (ex. financial) and promotion of sustainable models and practices.

637 million tourists (international and national) are expected in the region in 2025, with half in coastal regions*





TO DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION ON MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS

Projects : all



*To promote and support **capacity building actions for the managing** authorities of protected areas, in such key areas as governance, communication, bringing together nature conservation and territorial development, etc.

*To encourage **knowledge and experience capitalisation actions** (meetings, seminars, training, workshops, etc.) involving all stakeholders, on biodiversity protection, establishment of PES, risk management, etc.

To foster knowledge transferability and mainstreaming at all level

*To improve **data collection** significantly in order to strengthen analysis and support policy making.

*To promote and support **methodologies and training activities** for effective implementation of the sustainable management approach amongst field professionals involved in day-to-day planning and management of tourism activities, as well as high level decision-makers.

*To provide **guidance for policy development** on research, innovation and higher education both within the IPA Programme and the national Operational Programme financed by the Structural Funds. The goal is to improve alignment capacity to EU policies and targets in the field of research and innovation, as well as taking into account the contribution of the Associates



» **horizontal mainstreaming**, namely checking conditions of transferability of the collaborative platform to other sectors and supply chains of the regional economies of Countries involved;

» **vertical and cross-border mainstreaming** through the development of project results in relation with national and international successful experiences in the field of innovation and technology transfer networks



To enhance education on environmental issues such as forestry and renewable energies

*To support the positioning of products on the **local market**, including communication through the use of **logos and labels**.

*To encourage the use of **local products** through education, training, awareness raising, public dialogue and the implementation and dissemination of new initiatives.

*To better qualify manpower/training: There is need for professional training for operators in the field of energy supply production in order to:

- » Improve the quality of biomass
- » Forge integration along the production chain.



*This will bring about an improvement in the quality of biomass as the training will provide operators with the necessary knowledge on the subject.

***To foster education on issues relative to renewable energies and biomass:** Facilities financed by public funds should serve as sites for educational visits.

***To include courses** on environmental stewardship, marketing, financial management, appropriate technology, wood biomass use, etc., at Universities and Polytechnics.

***To raise public awareness on on-going projects:** it is necessary, for the success of project initiatives, to promote information and awareness activities for the general public and the stakeholders' groups regarding the activities and content of the project, from the preparation to the end of a project development. Participation should include all phases (including *ex ante* and, particularly welcome, *ex post*).

***To disseminate the positive benefits** of sustainable management of traditional natural resources in Mediterranean cultural landscapes as a tool for territorial development, nature conservation and the mitigation of the effect of natural hazards.





TO REINFORCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS

Projects : all



*To promote and support **international networking** between protected areas and other territorial units relevant to natural resource management. The goal being to share experience and create transnational added value.

*To establish the **appropriate legal framework to encourage PES schemes** at trans-boundary level.

*To promote exchange of **technology and know-how**, to find new solutions for local constraints.

*To increase **cooperation and experience sharing between producers** of aromatic and medicinal plants at the Mediterranean level (one of the world's largest production areas for aromatic and medicinal plants).

*To support **knowledge on Mediterranean biodiversity**, including aromatic and medicinal plants, to increase valorisation and interest in this area for medical and cosmetic sectors.



*To strengthen inter-regional cooperation and **share experiences with other projects and programmes**.

*To build **consensus** around the environmental and social issues of biomass: develop shared solutions and positions between stakeholders through seminars, conferences, workshops etc. This is a need to improve professionalism within the sector by providing accurate information to positively assess the overall use of biomass.

*To promote knowledge based platforms and exchange, because in the context of **global change** - where the effects of climate change and ongoing changes in land use generate a high level of uncertainty - the **lessons learned** in some regions could be useful for others (**transferability**).

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