

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDITERRANEAN FORESTS

1997-2017

سنة 20 ans  
years



*20 years of associative life  
for Mediterranean forests*



## Our President's words

Dear members, dear partners, dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I unveil today this leaflet, made for our twentieth anniversary, which illustrates our past, current and near future actions.

The creation of our association was a response to a real need for exchanges at the Mediterranean scale; all those who have contributed to AIFM's creation and development for 20 years know that their efforts have resulted in the realization of shared expectations. We have thus become an essential actor of protection, conservation and management of Mediterranean woodlands.

In the context of the current global changes, the involvement of Mediterranean actors around a collaborative platform is more necessary than ever.

Do you want to contribute too to the dissemination of sustainable development good practices? Would you like to support this platform, AIFM?

Then feel free to join us because, as the proverb says, «a good tree can lodge ten thousand birds».

# The International Association for Mediterranean Forests

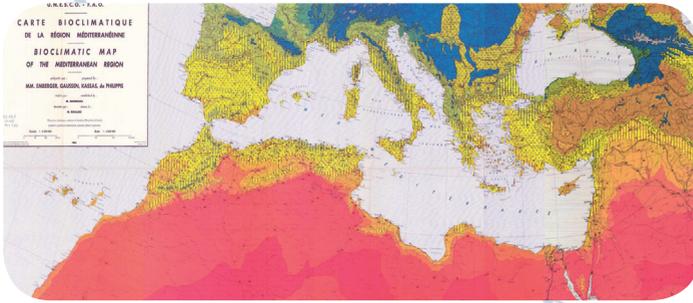
**The International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) was established in 1996 to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience about Mediterranean forests in a cross-field and multidisciplinary approach, on an international level.**

**The aim of these exchanges is to identify and solve, through common discussion, the issues and challenges encountered in the management and use of Mediterranean forested areas.** AIFM thus contributes to an enhanced consideration of the challenges faced by Mediterranean forests in policies, decisions and concrete actions at all levels.

**AIFM works with a network of actors from all around the Mediterranean basin and who work in different fields, thus guaranteeing a diversity of approaches.** This network stems partly from cooperation projects carried out since 2000 (European programs: Interreg, MEDOCC, MED).



# Mediterranean forests...



**are subject to the Mediterranean climate**

Warm and dry summers and mild and wet winters

**take various forms**

Garrigue scrublands with kermes oak, shrublands, green oak, cork oak or downy oak forests, Aleppo pine forests, cedar trees forests, etc.

**cover 75 million hectares in 25 countries of the Mediterranean basin**

25 million ha of forests and 50 million ha of other wooded lands (FAO definitions)

**are present elsewhere in the world**

In South Africa, Australia, Chile, United States of America or Mexico



**are ecologically exceptional**

Great specific richness, reservoir of endemic species, remarkable habitats.

**have always hosted human activities**

Ecological dynamics closely related to the organization of the societies that surround or inhabit them.

**are the scene of multiple issues**

Production of wood and non-timber products, prevention of natural hazards, carbon storage, mitigation of climate change impacts, etc.

**are the subject of many expectations**

Forests around the Mediterranean basin are considered as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

However, it is also one of the planet's regions which is most threatened by global changes (including climatic changes).

# Our actions...

## To facilitate its network, AIFM:

- Communicates (website, newsletter, publications, etc.)
- Collaborates with other international institutions
- Establishes and implements international cooperation projects
- Raises awareness among local authorities
- Participates in events related to Mediterranean forests
- Develops relationships and partnerships



## ...past...

**Problematic ...**  
1999-2001

**QUALIGOUV**  
2009-2012

**CPMF**  
2010-in progress

**Support**

**RECOFORME**  
2003-2006

**FORCLIMADAPT**  
2010-2013

**PROF**

 **Problematic of the Mediterranean forest (Interreg IIC, 1999-2001)**

 **RECOFORME (MEDDOC, 2003-2006):** "Structuring of networks and cooperation activities of the Mediterranean forest"

 **QUALIGOUV (MED, 2009-2012):** "Improving governance and quality of the forest management in Mediterranean protected areas"

 **FORCLIMADAPT (MED, 2010-2013):** "Adaptation of Mediterranean woodlands to climate change"

 **PROFORBIOMED (MED, 2011-2014):** "Promotion of residual forestry biomass in the Mediterranean Basin"

 **MEDLAND 2020 (MED, 2013-2014):** "Design of a future common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation"

 **"Support to decision making in the field of management and protection of natural and Mediterranean forest areas" (MAVA, 2011-2014)**



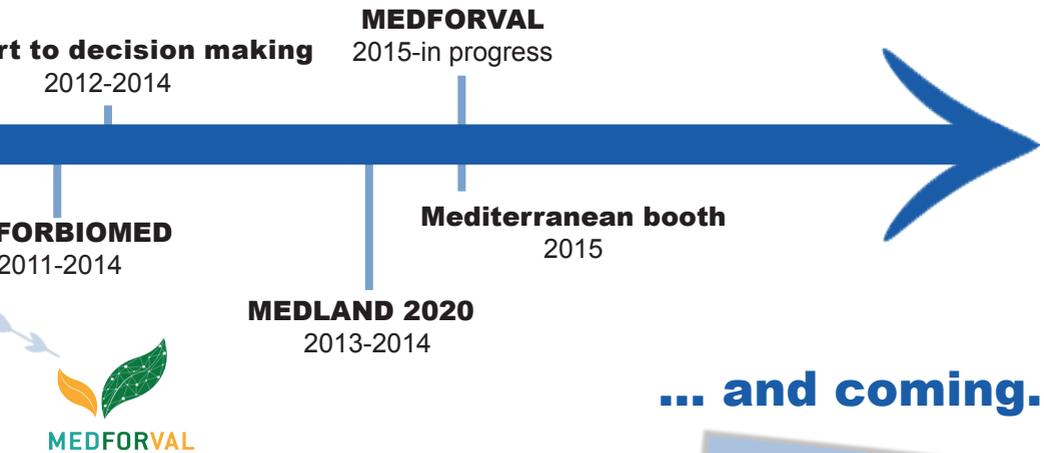
In 2010, a Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) was signed between the FAO's Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*, and 14 organizations, including AIFM.

This partnership aims to strengthen cooperation between its signatories with a view to accelerate up the implementation of sustainable forest management and the protection of the services provided by these ecosystems under climate change conditions.

In this context, AIFM coordinated the Mediterranean forests booth at the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban (South Africa) in 2015.



## ...present...



## ... and coming.

*AIFM is co-organizing the 5<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week in 2017 in Agadir (Morocco).*

*This edition will focus on Mediterranean forest and landscape restoration.*

**MEDFORVAL (2015-2018)** is a unique Network for the "High ecological value forests of the Mediterranean", funded by MAVA Foundation for Nature.

The objectives of the Network are:

- To exchange knowledge and good practices
- To promote the concept of high ecological value
- To implement measures in order to protect, manage or restore ecological values

*Paule Gros,  
Director, Mediterranean Basin Program, MAVA*

**Since 2011, we accompany AIFM, fostering exchanges between actors, and then the launch of MEDFORVAL network of mediterranean forested areas of high ecological value.**

**We discovered an organization whose openness to new ideas, neutrality and spirit of service make it a strong and unavoidable partner for the conservation of the Mediterranean forests.**



*Jean Bonnier  
Founding member of AIFM*



**I first met Mohamed Larbi Chakroun in 1993, while preparing a Tunisian-French seminar for Forêt Méditerranéenne. Abdelhamid Khaldi was present. When we created AIFM, three years later, Larbi Chakroun was the «Founding President» and Abdelhamid Khaldi succeeded him. Just like forests, associations grow in nurseries and then develop themselves.**

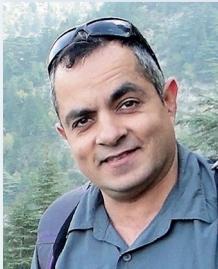
*Nisrin Alami  
Chief Engineer, Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region*

**I joined AIFM in 2009, in particular in the framework of a partnership with the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (France). I was then invited to join the Executive Committee, where I have been Secretary of AIFM since 2013.**

**I was in charge of the organization of MedCOP 22 in Tangier, thus allowing AIFM to represent civil society in this forum.**



*Jean Stephan  
Associate Professor at the Lebanese University*



**My experience with AIFM started at the 4th Mediterranean Forest Week in Barcelona.**

**Being a real platform for academic researchers and foresters, AIFM has allowed me to broaden my vision as an ecologist and a conversationalist, and to forge links with Mediterranean colleagues, working on research or development which are reciprocally interesting for each other.**



*Eva Muller*

*Director Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO*



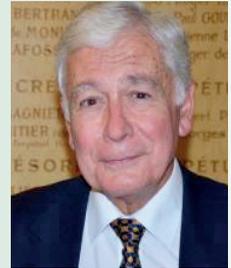
**AIFM has been a long-standing partner of FAO, having contributed to the development of the Strategic Framework for Mediterranean Forests, the evaluation of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in 2013, and the implementation of activities within the framework of the regional project on goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change. FAO has always appreciated the technical competence, the responsiveness and the seriousness of AIFM.**

*Jean-Paul Lanly*

*Perpetual Honorary Treasurer, French Academy of Agriculture*

**Born in Morocco where I lived all my youth, then trained at the Ecole forestière de Nancy, I devoted 35 years of my professional life to international forestry, including that of the Mediterranean region.**

**Back in France the year AIFM was created, I immediately joined the association to participate through it, even if only by far and very modestly, to the sustainable development of the wooded areas bordering our Common Sea.**



*Annita Logotheti*

*MSc Environmental Scientist, Society for the Protection of Prespa*

**Being part of a Mediterranean association is a fantastic opportunity.**

**In the last 20 years the AIFM has attracted members from the three corners of the Mediterranean, allowing us to learn about the varied forests habitats that we share, from people on the ground.**



**AIFM: 14 Board members from 11 countries around the Mediterranean**





**ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
FORÊTS  
MEDITERRANEENNES**

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t [@AIFM\\_foretmed](https://twitter.com/AIFM_foretmed)

We also have an email address

✉ [contact@aifm.org](mailto:contact@aifm.org)

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14, rue Louis Astouin  
13002 Marseille  
FRANCE**

Are you interested in our activities? You can join us or make a donation.

Find more information at [aifm.org/en/page/join-us](http://aifm.org/en/page/join-us)

During these twenty years, AIFM benefited from the help of:



Région  
Provence  
Alpes  
Côte d'Azur



DÉPARTEMENT  
**BOUCHES  
DU RHÔNE**



And the support of partners:



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