

STATUTORY REPORT 2021



1996 – 2021

25 years

exchange of good
practices, projects and
actions



**ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALE
DES FORETS
MEDITERRANEENNES**

STATUTORY REPORT – YEAR 2021

On 11 October 2021, the AIFM celebrated its 25th anniversary: 25 years of sharing, exchange, and conviviality around Mediterranean forests. We have come a long way since our founding General Assembly on October 11, 1996, in Nice!

As it has grown, this platform for Mediterranean forestry has experienced many moments of great satisfaction. Thus, the AIFM has been actively involved in meetings on Mediterranean forestry themes: participation in the first six Mediterranean Forestry Weeks as a session leader, in parallel events or as a co-organiser, the World Forestry Congress in Durban with a stand on Mediterranean forests, and many other enriching meetings.

The Association has also had the honor of playing an important role in many projects over the years and has rapidly positioned itself as an operator of important projects for Mediterranean forests. Since its inception, the AIFM has led or participated in more than 15 international cooperation projects, several of which are still ongoing. For example, FORCLIMADAPT, from 2010 to 2013, aimed at developing techniques for adapting Mediterranean forest areas to the effects of climate change; MEDFORVAL, from 2015 to 2018, for the networking of Mediterranean woodland areas with high ecological value; or the ongoing INHERIT project, which started in 2018 and is due to end in 2022, and which aims to develop sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and enhance the Mediterranean natural and coastal heritage.

A presentation of all these projects and their results is available on our website www.aifm.org.

For 25 years, the association has been contributing to a better consideration of the specific issues of Mediterranean forests in the decision-making and action processes, through the coordination of networks and the engineering of cooperation projects. It is recognised by national and international institutions as the only international and interdisciplinary Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) entirely dedicated to the knowledge, sustainable management, and protection of Mediterranean forest ecosystems.

Today, we are reporting on the management and the moral and financial situation of the association during the financial year ending 31 December 2021.



PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. KHALDI'.

Abdelhamid KHALDI

Life of the association

The AIFM has **observer** status with the following organizations:



The AIFM is also **accredited** by the **1% for the Planet** label, which recognizes its mission for the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests and opens up special funding opportunities.



ASSOCIATIVE LIFE

The 26th Ordinary General Meeting of the AIFM was held by videoconference on 27 April 2021. The Board of Directors met by videoconference on 2 March 2021 and 14 May 2021. Finally, the Executive Committee met on 7 January 2021 and 22 December 2021, also by videoconference.

LOCAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

Since 2020, the AIFM has benefited from the support of France Active PACA for an economic and financial analysis, leading to loan offers in 2021.

The AIFM has also benefited from the **Local Support Scheme**, a public scheme coordinated by France Active PACA, dedicated to employing structures in the Social and Solidarity Economy that wish to consolidate their activity or that are questioning their development strategy. The project ended on 30 March 2021 and enabled the design of the AIFM's **2021-2024 strategic plan**.



RECEPTION FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS ON CIVIC SERVICE MISSION

In 2019, the AIFM was **accredited for the Civic Service commitment**. The team was thus able to welcome a young French volunteer in September 2021 to support him in his professional project and to support the association's actions.

In the framework of a partnership signed with France Volontaires, and with the aim of helping the mobility of young people in the Mediterranean, a young Tunisian volunteer began a civic service mission in October 2021.

WEBASSOC.ORG

During the year 2021, Webassoc.org, the web of solidarity and volunteers, an association of web professionals, supported the AIFM in its activities on a voluntary basis with **the launch of a new website** and **the design of logos** for the projects. The AIFM would like to thank the Webassoc volunteers for their help, skills and support!



PLATFORM VENDREDI

The AIFM also benefited in 2021 from the support of volunteers from the Vendredi platform through a mission to **help with the communication of our new strategic plan**. A big thank you to the platform volunteers for their precious support!



Activity report

INTERREG MED INHERIT PROJECT

🚩 OBJECTIVE

Supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Council, the **INHERIT project “Sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and enhance the natural and coastal heritage of the Mediterranean”** continued throughout the year and is due to end on 30 April 2022.



Implemented jointly by the AIFM and 14 state, regional and thematic partners from 10 Mediterranean countries (France, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, Montenegro), it seeks to alleviate the pressures exerted by economic tourism activities on the Mediterranean coastal heritage. This project aims to improve the level of protection of Mediterranean coastal areas through concrete measures resulting from consultation with local stakeholders (“bottom-up”). The INHERIT approach makes it possible to **protect the natural heritage and to develop a sustainable tourism offer**.

➤ IN 2021

- The year 2021 has allowed to capitalise on the data obtained in the previous years and to disseminate the INHERIT approach to the environmental and tourism actors. An **INHERIT Sustainable Tourism EducTour workshop** was organised on 27 September 2021 at the Carry-le-Rouet Tourist Office in partnership with the Atelier Bleu - Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement. Bringing together more than twenty environmental and tourism stakeholders, the workshop provided an opportunity to communicate on the INHERIT approach and to reflect on the problems of sustainable tourism. A video on the [workshop](#) and an [interview with Pierre-Christophe Herzog](#), forestry technician at the ONF, were produced on this occasion.



INHERIT Sustainable Tourism Educ Tour Day to Carry-le-Rouet

PARTICIPATION IN IUCN CONGRESS



Dr. Chadi Mohanna, president of Silva Mediterranea committee, presenting UNESCO/FAO maps on the AIFM stand.

The **World Congress of Nature of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** was held from **3 to 11 September 2021 at the Parc Chanot in Marseille**. The AIFM held a stand dedicated to Mediterranean forests. In total, **more than 250 visitors** came to the stand and were able to learn more about our association and our actions, thanks to exchanges with our members and the many communication elements: panels, cards, goodies. As part of the INHERIT project, [a video on our participation](#) in the event was produced.



THE MEDLENTISK PROJECT

🚩 OBJECTIVE

Supported by the European Erasmus+ programme, the project **"MEDLENTISK: Partnership for the exchange of best practices on lentisk oil, an iconic non-wood forest product in the Mediterranean"** started on 1 September 2020 and has been extended until 30 June 2022.

Involving 6 partners from 5 Mediterranean countries, this project aims **to promote the exchange of good practices** on the Mediterranean rim concerning the little-known lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus* L.) and its fixed oil.



Second Joint Learning Event in Pula (Sardinia)

➤ IN 2021

In 2021, two Joint Learning Events (JLE) could be held.

The 1st JLE took place at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), on the island of Crete in Greece from 29 June to 1 July 2021. Co-organised by MAICh, the Region of Crete and the AIFM, the event brought together **more than 75 people**, both online and on site. Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the ecological aspects of the lentisk tree (taxonomy, distribution in the Mediterranean, phytostabilising properties and methods of clonal propagation by cuttings), as well as the socio-cultural aspects of the traditional use of lentisk and its products. A field trip was also organised to observe the local fauna and flora and to meet a farmer growing aromatic plants.

The 2nd JLE took place from 16-18 November 2021 at the Sardinia Conference and Research Centre in Pula, Sardinia (Italy). Co-organised by the University of Cagliari, the Sardinia Conference and Research Centre and the AIFM, **more than 300 people** participated in the event, of which more than 60 were on-site. This JLE focused on fixed lentisk oil, once again proposing to approach the subject from several angles: the physico-chemical properties of fixed oil were the subject of numerous presentations (nutritional and metabolic properties, spectrometry, curative use), as were the socio-cultural aspects of the exploitation of fixed oil, such as its heritage importance and its traditional and economic role for the Sardinian populations. A day in the field allowed us to meet with companies offering products based on fixed oil.

THE MENJEZZINE PROJECT



Supported by the SUD PACA Region, the MenJEZZine project started in September 2021 and is due to end in December 2022.

In partnership with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative and the Lebanese municipalities of Menjez and Jezzine, the project aims to **educate the public about biodiversity using the trails of the Menjez black forest and the Bkassine forest** in Jezzine. It will raise **public awareness** of the many endemic species of the region and **develop eco-tourism activities** in partnership with local stakeholders. The aim is also to guide visitors along the existing and newly created signposted paths to limit their impact on the local flora and fauna. Educational field trips will be organised for the children of the surrounding primary school classes.



Pines forest in Jezzine zone



LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH FAO

The AIFM and FAO signed a Letter of Agreement in December 2020 as part of the regional Mediterranean component of the project "The Paris Agreement in Action: Scaling up Forest and Landscape Restoration for Nationally Determined Contributions", funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The protocol should enable the **organisation of training sessions, exchange visits and international events to promote forest and landscape restoration efforts in the Mediterranean region.**

As part of this LoA, the AIFM held a pavilion on Mediterranean forests at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille. The association has also started the preparation of several events to be held in 2022: two visits to exchange best practices at two Moroccan and one Italian site, a training session in Morocco, and the preparation of a stand on Mediterranean forests and a side event on forest restoration at the 15th World Forestry Congress in Seoul in May 2022.



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)



THE RESTOR'MED FORESTS PROJECT



🚩 OBJECTIVE

Supported by the EDF Group Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the SUD PACA Region, the RESTOR'MED FORESTS project began on 1 January 2021 and is due to end on 31 December 2023. It aims to **implement sustainable management actions for forest ecosystems around the Mediterranean basin to increase their resilience while involving, raising awareness and training the local population.** At present, it is divided into two national components: RESTOR'MEDFORESTS Morocco and RESTOR'MED FOREST Lebanon.



➤ IN 2021

Le The **Moroccan component** of the project is located in the **Chefchaouen region, in the Talassemrane National Park (PNTLS)**, in collaboration with the Moroccan Department of Water and Forests, the Talassemrane Association for Environment and Development (ATED) and the Moroccan Association of Regional Sciences (AMSR). During the year, a study was carried out under the PNTLS to assess the biophysical and socio-economic context of the park. The partners were then able to meet face-to-face in Chefchaouen from 1 to 3 November 2021. This meeting made it possible to hold the first consultation and awareness-raising workshop for local stakeholders and local populations, and to define a 15-hectare perimeter on the Madissouka site to test the restoration of maritime pine and Moroccan fir *Abies Marocana*.



Workshop for the Moroccan component of the RESTOR'MED FORESTS project to dig pot for maritime pine seedlings in the Talassemrane National Park

Planting work was able to start in December 2021 and continued in January 2022. Several awareness-raising and training workshops will be held, as well as scientific monitoring of the plantations and the creation of a local nursery.

➤ COMMING IN 2022

The **Lebanese component** of the project started in January 2022 and will take place in the **Bentael Nature Reserve** and the **Menjez Forest**, in collaboration with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative. It will allow the design of a sustainable management plan for these two sites, the restoration of 3 hectares of forest and the implementation of various pruning and biological control action.



**THEY
TRUSTED
US !**



The AIFM would like to warmly thank the partners and contributors who have made it possible for the AIFM to carry out all its activities in 2021.

**Not to be
miss in
2022 !**

- The 7th Mediterranean Forest Week will take place from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Antalya (Turkey).
- The 15th World Forestry Congress will take place from 2 to 6 May 2022 in Seoul (Republic of Korea). The AIFM will have a stand on Mediterranean forests and will host a side event.