



MMFN Secretariat Work Plan (by Elisabetta Gravano, Toni Ventre, Stefano Berti)

Introduction

Considering that:

- With Regional Council Resolution March 2, 2009, n. 128 'Accession of the Tuscany Region to the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN) the Tuscany Region joined the aforementioned Network, also granting membership in the International Model Forest Network (IMFN), of the first Model Forest in Italy established in Tuscany in 2012.
- The Junta de Castilla y Leon held the post of secretariat to the Mediterranean Network for over 10 years.
- Based on the principle of alternating regional network secretariat functions between the various members, and with a view to empower and re-launch the regional network, the Tuscany Region put forward an application to carry out the above activities by replacing the Junta de Castilla y Leon (Spain) as secretariat.
- With the Council Resolution of March 18, 2019, n.357, the Tuscany regional government approved the candidacy for the management of the MMFN Secretariat.
- The above-mentioned application was officially presented on the occasion of the Med Forum 2019, which took place in Brummana, Lebanon in the context of the 6th Mediterranean Forest Week in the first week of April.
- Letters of agreement were received by the Junta de Castilla y Leon (outgoing secretariat) and the Canadian Government (IMFN secretariat).

In order to satisfy the duties which the role of MMFNs entails, we have to plan the short- and longer-term network-wide activities for the coming years,

Starting in April 2019, MMFNS spent several months organizing the appropriate governance and functional structure involving all of the main stakeholders with experience in the Tuscany Region's participation in the MMFN and IMFN. Additional consultation involved Valdarno e Valdiesive Municipalities Union (UCVV) and Montagne Fiorentine Model Forest association (FMMF). Both of these groups have been involved in the development of the Model Forest process in Tuscany, as well as promoted it in Italy, Europe and beyond.

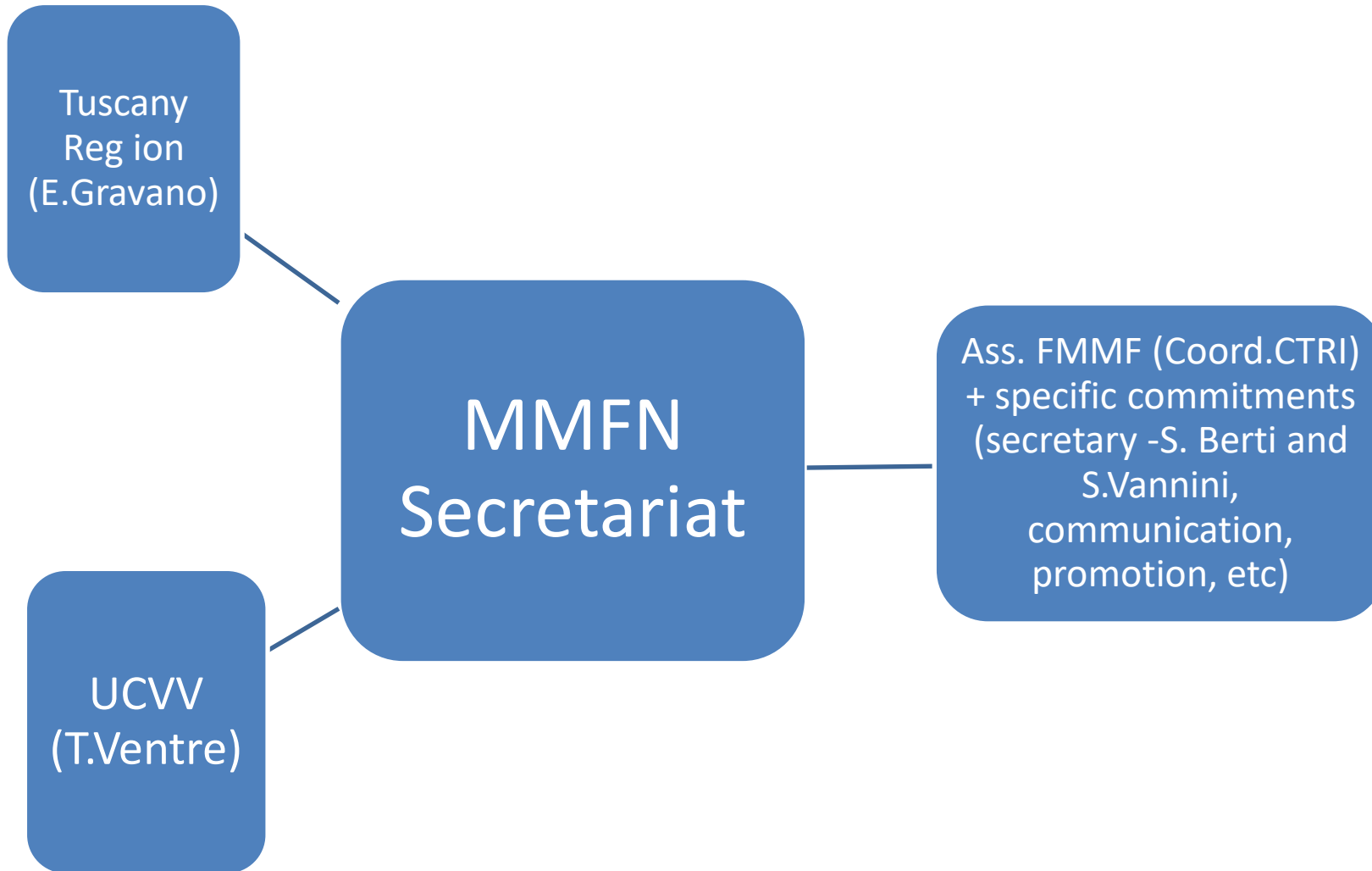
The result of these consultations is summarized below and follows the responsibilities put forward by the IMFNS in its letter:

1. Functional structure

- a. Networking between Model Forests and within the regional network:
 - i. Regular contact (skype conference) bilateral or plenary with each MF;
 - ii. provide direct support to develop network activities funded by MMFNs;
 - iii. promote informal training about MF's issues (sustainability, landscape, biodiversity, ...) to improve skills and competencies for consultants, public or private technicians, students...(we have to design the precise modalities but each participant should be a member of MF)
 - iv. Increase collaboration with the Northern European and Russian Model Forests, specifically with Komi MF, to have occasional university student exchanges (small group of student for study visit one week);
 - v. Lead on organizing Med Forum (every 2 years) and a MMFN workshop (yearly)
- b. Assistance in resource expansion:
 - i. Lead on and draft project proposals on behalf of the MMFN
 - ii. Monitoring of EU Program calls for proposals
 - iii. Periodic overview about other opportunities for financing MMFN projects at national level
- c. Regional communication, advocacy, capacity development and program support:
 - i. commitment for new MMFN web site, newsletter, Facebook Twitter, Instagram management;
 - ii. Represent the MMFN and or IMFN at the regional or global levels, as opportunities arise (i.e. conferences)
- d. Regional partnership development:
 - i. Develop a new series of agreements/MoUs with national and international organizations who works about sustainability (for instance: Slow Food International, FSC , PEFC, ERIAFF etc) .
 - ii. Continue partnership with FAO
- e. Documentation, monitoring and evaluation:

- i. Assessments of Model Forests to ensure the integrity of the concept. These can include virtual/paper-based assessments or in-person evaluations, as needed.
 - ii. Based on these assessments, work with Model Forests in areas they are found to be weaker or promote areas where they are stronger.
 - iii. Produce a regional level annual report and encourage each Model Forest to produce their own reports
 - iv. Help share best practices through the network via email, social media, or other means
- f. Review and approval of new model forest members in the regional network (in coordination with IMFNs):
 - i. Next evaluation for Abruzzo and Palencia candidate MFs,
 - ii. Assist W.Macedonia region (Greece) to create the first Greek MF

Functional Structure



The MMFN secretariat consist of a team in which:

Tuscany Region

- Elisabetta Gravano is the Tuscany Region contact person (resources reserved for mission expenses)
- Sandro Pieroni is the Forest Sector Director
- Marco Remaschi is the temporary agriculture, forest and hunting's alderman (next spring will be held new regional election)

Municipalities Union

- Toni Ventre is the coordinator of the Secretariat indicated by RT to the Municipalities Union upon request of collaboration to the secretariat activities with specific resources destined in the form of 80% co-financing

Montagne Fiorentine Model Forest Association

- Toni Ventre would be anyway appointed, as coordinator of the CTRI (International Relationships thematic committee), also by the FMMF board council which takes on all mission expenses
- Stefano Berti is the president of the association and manages (within board council) the funds transferred by TR addressed to:
 - Compagnia delle Foreste (editor of main forest magazine in Italy and FMMF member) may be identified by FMMF as the entity in charge of managing the communication (website, electronic and / or paper and social media and contacts with IMFN counterparts) amount should be defined
 - CESEFOR (specifically Riccardo Castellini) may be identified by FMMF as animator and fund-raiser. Riccardo's skills in terms of promoter and linkage as well as the ability to design in EU Programm ... We think it is indispensable. Amount to be defined
 - Silvia Vannini as the person in charge of the secretariat to integrate the current existing relationship with FMMF
 - One representative (turning 1 year) of the other MFs of the MMFN to whom is asked to collaborate in the activities of animation and promotion at territorial / national and European level as well as on specific shared projects) amount to be defined. This would create greater accountability from MMFN members with also some concrete gratification
 - Specific funds remain available for other activities / initiatives / events to be made available to the MMFNs with the support of CT coordinators for activities within their competence in the European or international context.