

Mediterranean Model Forest Network Secretariat

Report conference call MMFN July 7, 2020

The meeting, organized by the MMFN Secretariat and moderated by Toni Ventre, started at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with a short introduction of each participant. The following Associations have been represented: Montagne Fiorentine by Stefano Berti, Silvia Vannini, Elisabetta Gravano, Toni Ventre (also from MMFN Secretariat), Riccardo Castellini from Cesefor and part of the MMFN secretariat team too, Tlemcen by Mohammed Moumani and Bensalem Khelil, Ifrane by Mohamed Qarro, Yalova by Mehemet Ozdemir, River Mirna Basin by Ana Fornazar and also the two candidate Model Forests: Valle dell'Aterno by Alessio di Giulio and Palencia by Pilar Valbuena and Fatima Cruz. From the IMFN Secretariat Richard Verbinsky and Patrick Wyle were present as well.

The meeting continued with a report of the activities carried out by the MMFN secretariat, especially about the first half of 2020, in particular the presentation of several projects and the implementation of web tools for the dissemination of activities. A report was presented about communication analysis, in particular the progress of the social pages and the website.

The meeting continued with the presentation of the activities of each MF which at the moment are made difficult because of the problems related to Covid-19 and the social distancing.

Many activities focus on environmental education & pedagogy (excursions, publications dedicated to mushrooms, wild herbs...) but also to design not only local but also international project.

In particular the Croatian Model Forest is working on environmental education projects in schools through Forest Pedagogy; in the coming days a book dedicated to local mushrooms will be published; it is also involved in European projects in particular Erasmus+ (Forest Ed, PACA MF is the Project leader) and H2020 SWAFS whose results are still awaited.

The candidate MF Valle dell'Aterno is now working on the implementation of the MF from candidate to recognized with the involvement of the local administrations, of the National Park and the local private subjects, and in particular also to the production of the final Strategic Plan. It is also presented a project for the AICS call intended (the same call in which the MMFN secretariat participated with FORMOD@KR) for Libano.

At the moment Tlemcen is carrying on a great activity on no wood products, in particular on herbal extracts for medicinal use. A similar project carried out also in Ifrane in this case addressed to traditional medicine (in particular on arbutus, for whose exploitation they have acquired a distiller).

In Turkey at the moment the work has slowed down because they are waiting for the reorganization of the two associations (Yalova and Bukak) by the Forestry Authority, anyway they are focusing on projects dedicated to mushrooms.

The candidate MF Palencia is also working on projects related to environmental education and sustainable tourism in their territory.

Montagne Fiorentine is working on the new edition of Tre Passi a Monte (thematic excursions). This year the theme will be dedicated to the particular places of the Resistance during the Second World War in the territory. They were also planning environmental education in schools, but it is postponed due to the closure of schools for Covid.19

All the Model Forests have been invited to share their activities (projects, news, etc.) with the secretariat, in order to foster their dissemination through the regular MMFN newsletter and social media activity.

In conclusion Patrick Wylie and Richard Verbisky have updated on the activities of the International Secretariat, in particular a new member will be added in the coming days to replace Emilie Sasseville (currently on maternity leave) in the management of the International Network Communication.

He informed about the next commitment of the Network's secretariats, on July 15, in a meeting dedicated to the Strategic Plan of the International Network for the next 5 years.

After the greetings and the invitation to a next meeting very soon, the MMFN Secretariat continued the meeting with the candidate FM Valle dell'Aterno, to discuss some of the input received in recent weeks, from IMFN and MMFN, for the compilation of its Strategic Plan.