

MedForum2025

10th EDITION | THE MMFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOOSTING THE GLOCAL APPROACH OF MODEL FORESTS TO TACKLE GLOCAL CHALLENGES

ROLE AND VISION OF MMFN

26 May 2025 - OTTAWA, CANADA



Kemptville Campus Education and Community Center
Parish Hall - 112



Mediterranean
Model Forest Network



International
Model Forest
Network



In partnership with

Canada

AGENDA

MAY 26th, 9:00 - 12:30



Kempville Campus Education and Community Center - Parish Hall - 112

COORDINATED BY: TONI VENTRE (MMFN General Secretary) & ELISABETTA GRAVANO (MMFN Secretariat)

Session Agenda

9:00 | Welcome words

TONI VENTRE - *MMFN General Secretary*

RICHARD VERBISKY & PATRICK WYLIE - *Head of the IMFN Secretariat / IMFN Secretariat, Senior Policy Analyst and Mediterranean regional Lead*

JOHN PINEAU^{*tbc} - *Executive Director of both the Ontario Woodlot Association and Eastern Ontario Model Forest*

9:15 | Presentation Round

9:30 | IMFN Climate Funding Program : What we have done in the first 2 years and what we are going to complete with the third.

INTRODUCTION BY TONY VENTRE

- **EDUCASE PROJECT**

SILVIA VANNINI

- **THE MMFN'S FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION MONITORING WEBPLATFORM**

PAOLO SABIN

- **COMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

ANDREA BARZAGLI

- **HIRING AND SCHOLARSHIP**

LAZHARI CHATER & MARIANNE FAHED

10:00 | MMFN's guests to GF – Interaction to be effective

- **ONGOING RESTORATION EFFORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND WAY FORWARDS**

CHRISTOPH BESACIER - *Senior Forestry Officer and currently coordinating the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) at FAO*

- **CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND FORESTS: A MULTILATERAL PERSPECTIVE**

GIULIANA TORTA - *Climate adaptation coordinator, European Commission; UNFCCC Co-chair of the Adaptation Committee*

GLOBAL FORUM SIDE EVENTS

- **FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AT THE UFM/UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: THE 2030 GREENERMED**

ALESSANDRA SENSI - *Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy at Union for the Mediterranean*

- **ITALIAN CLUSTER FOREST AND WOOD AS AN ACTION OF ITALIAN FOREST STRATEGY: OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES**

ALESSANDRA STEFANI - *President of the Italian National Forest-Wood Cluster (Cluster Nazionale Italia Foresta Legno)*

- **STRENGTHENING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY: THE MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH TASK FORCE ROADMAP 2024**

SATIA RAS - *Coordinator of the Mediterranean Youth Task Force (MYTF)*

10:50 | coffee break

11:00 | MMFN Working Groups – 40 minutes of brainstorming among Model Forests

- **WG1: WILDFIRES** | The Model Forest approach to prevention: between silviculture and firewise communities
- **WG2: STRONG ECOSYSTEMS, STRONG TERRITORIES** | Biodiversity and resilience in territorial development
- **WG3: LEARNING FROM (AND IN) THE FOREST** | Environmental education, art, and forest pedagogy to connect people - and territories.
- **WG4: COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPES** | The Model Forest approach to Forest and Landscape Restoration

11:40 | WGs Reporting

12:00 | Signing of the Collaboration Agreement MMFN – MYTF

12:10 | Closing Remarks

**Richard Verbisky**

Head, International Model Forest Network Secretariat Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service

A Senior Advisor for the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Head of the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Secretariat, a global initiative implementing multi-stakeholder approaches to sustainable landscape management. Currently more than 60 Model Forests in over 30 countries comprise the International Model Forest Network. Rich joined the Canadian Forest Service in 2009 and supports international partnership building, science integration, outreach and policy influence in areas such as wildland fire management, landscape level governance and approaches to sustainable forest management. Earlier in his career Rich worked as a forest ecologist in the forest industry, both in Chile and in Canada leading terrestrial and predictive ecosystem mapping, wildlife habitat mapping, forest inventory design and applied research in alternative silviculture practices. Rich is a proud father of three children and lives with his wife in Ottawa, Canada.

**Patrick Wylie**

Senior Policy Analyst - International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Secretariat

He is a Senior Policy Analyst at the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Secretariat, based within the Canadian Forest Service, in Ottawa where he amplifies the efforts of Model Forest networks in Asia, the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

A forester by training with a Master of Arts in International Studies, he has previously served as Senior Forest Policy Officer with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Washington, DC, with provincial government leading forest carbon consultations and on land-use planning, forest certification, spatial timber supply and community forest development in Ecuador, Bolivia, Asia, and his native Canada.

**John Pineau *tbc**

Executive Director of the Ontario Woodlot Association

He is currently the Executive Director of the Ontario Woodlot Association and a part-time Professor with the Forestry Technician Program at Algonquin College in Pembroke. Prior to this he worked as Provincial Leader Ontario for FPInnovations from 2014 to 2020. John also served as the Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Forestry from 2006 to 2014. John worked for Tembec Inc. and the Forestry Research Partnership as Forest Science Extension Manager from 2000 to 2006. John has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Trent University (1983) and a Diploma in Geographic Information System (GIS) Application Development from Fleming College (1991). In his spare time John enjoys golf, canoeing, and strumming his guitar around the campfire in his family's backyard near Mattawa Ontario (Near North Chapter).



Christoph Besacier

Senior Forestry Officer and currently coordinating the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) at FAO

He provides technical assistance and implements restoration projects in more than 20 countries. He mobilized resources to scale-up restoration reaching a 40 million USD portfolio with multiple key financial partners. He is involved in major international restoration initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge, the GPFLR and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. From 2009 to 2014 he oversaw Silva Mediterranea. From 2000 to 2009, he worked as regional advisor for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Sahel and the Congo Basin regions.



Alessandra Sensi

Head of Sector Environment, Green and Blue Economy at Union for the Mediterranean

She has a University Degree in Political Science, Economic Branch, and a master's degree in management and economics of Energy and Environment. She is Head of Sector of the Environment, Green and Blue Economy portfolio at the Union for the Mediterranean since March 2013. She was Senior Programme Manager for Environment/Green and Blue Economy/Climate Change at the European Commission, EuropeAid, up to 2012. Previously, she worked for FAO, Rome; for UNEP/Global Environment Facility in Nairobi and Geneva; for the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi, Vietnam; and for Eurostat – the Statistical Office of the EU in Luxembourg.



Giuliana Torta

Climate adaptation coordinator, European Commission; UNFCCC Co-chair of the Adaptation Committee

Serves as senior official and coordinator for International Climate Adaptation in the Directorate-General for Climate, European Commission; Giuliana has been working at EU and international level for over 30 years. She was Counsellor for Climate, Environment and Ocean policies in the EU Delegation for the US in Washington DC from 2017 to 2021; Team leader for EU international forest policies from 2008 to 2016, covering all aspects of legal timber trade and EU policies to fight deforestation and forest degradation. Over her career she carried out assignments in a range of different environmental policy areas, in Europe, Asia and in the Pacific region. Giuliana holds a PhD in Forest Ecology, is a forester by background and a forest owner.

**Alessandra Stefani***President of the Italian National Forest-Wood Cluster (Cluster Nazionale Italia Foresta Legno)*

She is an Italian forestry expert and senior public official with a long and distinguished career in forest governance. She served as Director General of Forests at the Ministry of Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies until her retirement in June 2024. Previously, she held various leadership roles in the State Forestry Corps, including Deputy Chief and Regional Commander. She is currently President of the Italian National Forest-Wood Cluster and a lecturer in environmental forest legislation. Stefani holds a degree in Forest Sciences from the University of Padua and is a Knight of the Italian Republic.

**Satia Ras***Coordinator of the Mediterranean Youth Task Force (MYTF)*

From Indonesia, holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of North Sumatera, where he authored three international papers on vegetation and medicinal plants. Active in conservation since his undergraduate years, he participated in a 2017 Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship. Recently, Satia completed a master's in Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management at the University of Padova and the Catholic University of Portugal, focusing on forest land ownership fragmentation. He has also volunteered extensively in Europe.