FORESTERRA

Enhancing FOrest RESearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration

www.foresterra.eu

Mediterranean Forests

Mediterranean forests and woodlands, which cover about 9% of the Mediterranean region's land area, require special attention because:

- They constitute a unique world natural heritage in terms of biological diversity, hosting around 25,000 species of vascular plants (50% are endemic species) and a high degree of tree richness and endemism with extraordinary genetic diversity.
- Their conservation and appropriate management have crucial impacts on the sustainability of the region's most strategic resource: water.
- They provide highly appreciated and unique non-wood products and non-market services.

However, Mediterranean forests and the important goods and services they provide are seriously threatened by drastic and rapid climate and land use changes.

We need new scientific knowledge based on advancing and integrating research from different scientific areas and disciplines to support decision-makers in the development of:

- New policy frameworks to promote new economic instruments to ensure the delivery of key forest goods and services.
- New adaptive management strategies based on the understanding of forest ecosystem functions and risks in a changing environment.

Strategic aim

FORESTERRA's strategic aim is to reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean programmes in forest research as well as the scientific cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean area and with countries from other Mediterranean climate areas.

Concept

The concept of FORESTERRA is based on four steps:

- Mapping and information exchange to improve mutual knowledge of existing programmes and capacities.
- Defining common strategic activities to reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies.
- Implementation of joint activities to consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening of facilities.
- Calls for joint research projects to maximise the research impact of the network.

In addition, a targeted action will focus on "upscaling" these four steps at a global Mediterranean level.

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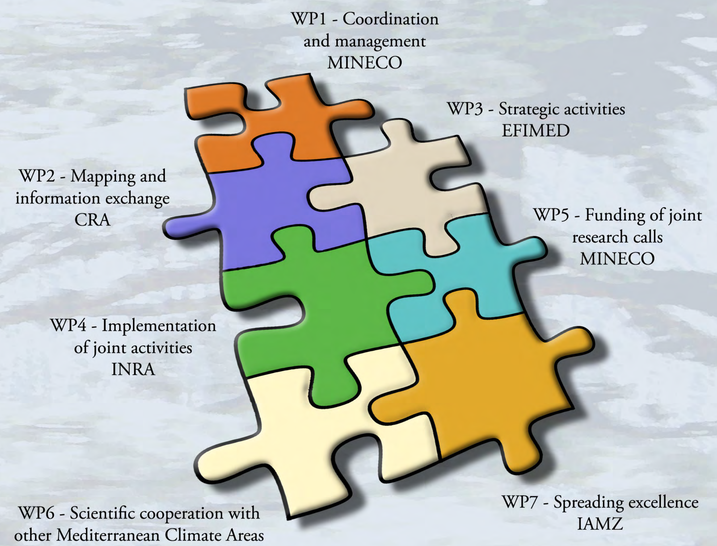
Expected results

FORESTERRA will yield three main achievements:

- Better coordination between partners' forest research programmes.
- In-depth and durable cooperation and integration among FORESTERRA partners.
- Long-term contribution to structuring the European Research Area.

Project structure



Project Consortium

- Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (MINECO), Spain. Coordinator
- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), Portugal
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza/International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (IAMZCIHEAM), International
- Institution de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles (IRESA), Tunisia
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt (MAAF), France
- Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD), Morocco
- Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali (MIPAAF), Italy
- Executive Forestry Agency (EFA), Bulgaria
- Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs, General Directorate of Forestry, Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute (SAFRI), Turkey
- REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
- European Forest Institute (EFIMED), International. Secretariat
- Republic of Croatia Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
- Consiglio per la Ricerca e Sperimentazione in Agricoltura (CRA), Italy
- Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), Greece
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France
- Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural, Institut National de Recherche Forestière (INRF), Algeria

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