FORESTS AND CITIES: FOREST-BASED SOLUTIONS IN URBAN AREAS

SILVAMEDITERRANEAN WORKING GROUP ON URBAN AND PERIURBAN FORESTRY (WG7)

Presenter: Paloma Cariñanos
University of Granada (Spain)
palomacg@ugr.es
Worldwide (2016) cities with less than 1 million residents host the 57.6% of Urban Population.

Particularly in the Mediterranean, the Region of “Little Big Cities”
UNPLANNED URBANIZATION PROCESSES IN MED-CITIES HAS BEEN THE DRIVER SO MANY SECTORS OF THE POPULATION ARE EXPOSED TO SITUATIONS OF RISK, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND INCREASED VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- Urban Sprawl and Fragmentation
- High Degree of Soil Sealing
- Inefficient Use of Resources
- Increasing Extreme Climatic Events
- Detriment Air Quality
- Increasing Migration Waves and Urban Poverty
CHALLENGES:
HOW CAN WE MAKE CITIES ENVIRONMENTALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT?

URBAN TREES, PARKS AND URBAN FORESTS IS ONE OF THE EARLIESTS APPLICATIONS OF WHAT IS NOW TERMED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS).

Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are defined by IUCN as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”. In Med-Cities, NBS may consider the Mediterranean city model: its density of population, its compactness, its complexity in terms of diversity, and the abundance of legal entities and organizations based there, as well as its social cohesion.
Mamora forest, considered the largest cork oak forest in the world, located on the Atlantic plain on the outskirts of Rabat (Morocco). This forest covers an area of more than 131,000 hectares in the lands that extend from Rabat to the north and east; it is an area occupied essentially by cork oaks.
The re-naturalization of the Manzanares River in Madrid has allowed the creation of flood banks on both sides with native plant species and since 2017 the biodiversity of birds, reptiles and amphibians has increased.
THE UPF PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF FIRES

To face the wave of serious fires that have devastated the country in recent years, the Government of Portugal has decided to replace 900,000 hectares of Eucalyptus with less flammable autochthonous forest species.
The Picasso Food Forest is the first experimental site of a public urban food forest in Parma, Italy. Started in December 2012, it provides ecosystem services typical of a tree system including making biodiverse fresh edible fruits and vegetables easily accessible to adults and children reconnecting them to healthy eating habits, food growing and the special experience of foraging and harvesting food directly from the plant in a nature-like setting.
The Administration of Cairo (Egypt) is promoting the creation of pocket parks in residential neighborhoods with a high density as spaces for outdoor activities and social interactions among residents of different social groups.
THE SILVA MEDITERRANEA WORKING GROUP ON URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FORESTRY WAS CREATED IN 2012 WITH THE MANDATE OF ACTING AS A NEUTRAL FORUM WHERE NATIONS COULD MEET, DEVELOP AGREEMENTS AND DEBATE POLICY ASPECTS ON THE URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FORESTRY.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE WG7 IS TO FACILITATE THE BUILDING OF A SHARED VISION OF SUSTAINABLE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROMOTE A COOPERATIVE APPROACH BETWEEN NORTHERN, WESTERN, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF UPF UP ON THE LOCAL AGENDAS OF MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.

THANK YOU!