Tourism and Mediterranean forests

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Side-event: Preservation and valorization of forests from mass tourism impact
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The world's leading tourist destination

More than 300 million international tourist arrivals (2015) = 30% of all global tourist arrivals


International tourist arrivals in Mediterranean countries in 2015. (UNWTO, 2017)
Note: Data not available for: Holy See, Gibraltar, Libya, and Syria.

27% of all UNESCO World Heritage sites are located in Mediterranean countries

UNESCO World Heritage site: Tyre, Lebanon © UNESCO

Tourism, a driver of degradation

“The primary drivers of environmental degradation are urbanization, tourism, transport, business and industry and agricultural developments” (State of Mediterranean forests 2018)

The prospect of deriving short-term financial benefits from tourism outweigh incentives to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services (Dernegi, 2010)

Environmental degradation

- Land fragmentation
- Biodiversity losses
- Waste generation
- Air pollution
- Etc.

Alteration of cultural heritage, traditional values and local identities

- Standardization
- Degradation of authenticity and aesthetic
- Unbalanced relationships
- Etc.

Tourism = 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions
Tourism, a driver of degradation

Unmanaged primate tourism:

→ health problems for macaques (Maréchal et al., 2011, 2016)

→ risk of road traffic accidents (Campbell et al., 2016)

→ theft of infants for the pet trade (Ménard et al., 2014c)
Tourism is a key pillar of Mediterranean economies:

- employment: 11.5% of the total number of jobs in 2014
- economic growth: 11.3% of the region's GDP
- USD 333 billion in 2016

Over the last 20 years, the direct contribution of tourism to GDP in the Mediterranean region has increased by **53%** for the economies of coastal regions (*Plan Bleu, 2017*)

*Reminder:*
*Coastal regions are covered at 28% by forests*

International tourism receipts in 2015 per capita and as a percentage of GDP 2000-2015 (*World Bank, 2017*)
Tourism, a valuable service

**Düzlerçami - Turkey**

- Biodiversity protection: €4/ha/year
- Wood production: €16/ha/year
- Recreation and tourism: €19/ha/year
- Carbon sequestration: €58/ha/year

**Jabal Moussa - Lebanon**

- Grazing: €77/ha
- Medicinal and aromatic plants: €44/ha
- Wood: €18/ha
- Honey: €11/ha
- Recreation: €8/ha

**Chrea National Park - Algeria**

- Arbutus berry picking: €68/ha/year
- Water purification: €74/ha/year
- Recreation: €172/ha/year

Values (€/ha/year)
How to preserve forests while ensuring tourism development?

Exploratory project with AFD: PPP in PAs
Potential of PPP to manage tourism, bring economic returns while conserving biodiversity

Objective:
- to build on the technical and financial capacities of the private sector to respond to the need for a **global and integrated model of sustainable management** of Mediterranean PAs

1. Inventory of existing legislative and regulatory resources
2. Identification of partners and potential pilot sites
3. Focus on two pilot sites: Ifrane, Morocco – Kuriat, Tunisia
4. Capitalization and regional lighting to come up with recommendations
THANK YOU

For more information:

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