Background  WG on UPF established by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea (Antalya, Turkey, 2-3 February 2012)

Mandate  To develop an urban and peri-urban forestry networking strategy for the Mediterranean countries.
Allowing the exchange of valuable information on the state-of-the-art of UPF in the Mediterranean countries

Act as a neutral forum

Following priorities

- Improve North-South and South-South cooperation between stakeholders
- Raise local and regional awareness on the benefits and incomes
- Push green infrastructures and UPF upward on the political agendas
- Build a common strategic vision on green infrastructures and urban forests
- Promote economic, environmental and social sustainability in urban and peri-urban areas, and a sustainable use and management of resources
Secretariat of the WG: FAO UPF programme; one/two coordinators elected among the members of the group.

Role of the Secretariat: to facilitate the dialogue between members, coordinate the implementation of the activities, and represent the WG in the framework Silva Mediterranea meetings and relevant international events.

The coordinators of the Secretariat for the biennium 2017-2019 are Mr. Fabio Salbitano (University of Florence) and Ms. Michela Conigliaro from (FAO).

The WG meets once/twice a year

Meetings of the WG (2017-2019)
6° Workshop: Padua, Italy, 2017; 7° Workshop: Barcelona, Spain, 2017; 8° Workshop: Braganza, Portugal, 2017; 9° Workshop: Roma, Italy, 2018; 10° Workshop: Mantova, Italy, 2018
At present, more than 100 experts are members of the WG, although only around 20 of those regularly participate in meetings and actively contribute to the activities implemented.

Participation to the WG is open and on voluntary basis. Travels to participate to the meetings are self-funded.

Active in networking at national, regional, global contexts
As examples
WFUF, APUFM, LACFBUP
IDF, COFO
EFI week
The symbolism of trees is very rooted in prehistoric and paleo historic human societies of the Mediterranean (Salbitano (ed.), 1988).
Activities 2017-2019

1) CITIES AS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes give us place and reveal our relationship with land and environment over time.

Nowhere else as in cities nature meets culture and culture needs nature.
COST ACTION

CONTRIBUTION OF URBAN FOOD FOREST TO ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN URBAN REGION

FOOD4URB

promoted by the SilvaMediterranea working group on urban and peri-urban forests, FAO
Definition of terms, standards and indicators about UPF and related concepts, adapted to the Mediterranean region (continue..)

- Identified indicators applicable to the whole Mediterranean region and not be country specific.
- Both private and public green areas are to be considered.
- Green accountability and economic benefits from the improvement of UPF highlighted
- Consistent links with the outcomes of strategies and activities implemented CBD (City Biodiversity Index), ICLEI, EU Commission, etc. on issues related to green infrastructure and urban sustainability.
- Highlight the linkages between Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services provision.
Indicators should be drafted bearing in mind that they need to be:

(i) simple and easily interpretable;
(ii) referring to accessible data;
(iii) measurable;
(iv) multifunctional and applicable to a high number of Mediterranean cities as well as to large/medium/small cities.

Categories:
- BioEcological
- Socio-Economic
- Policy
- Structural
Criterion (ii): The Botanical Garden of Padua has represented a source of inspiration for many other gardens in Italy and around Europe and has influenced both their architectural and functional designs and their didactic and scientific approaches in medicinal plants studies and related disciplines.

Criterion (iii): For more than five centuries, the Botanical Garden of Padua has represented an exceptional testimony of scientific and cultural significance.
People spend time in Aleppo Public Park on the government-held side of the city, left, and the remains of a market in the rebel-held old city of Aleppo. (Photos by Lorenzo Tugnoli/For The Washington Post)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Indicator name</th>
<th>Measurement unit</th>
<th>Correspondence with CES category</th>
<th>Spatial dimension/Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Landscape aesthetics</td>
<td>Spatial proxy</td>
<td>Aesthetic values</td>
<td>Unknown resolution grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Park visitation</td>
<td>Spatial proxy</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism</td>
<td>Unknown resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Density of photographs</td>
<td># photographs per 1 km²</td>
<td>Aesthetic value</td>
<td>1 km grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agriculture Heritage</td>
<td>Spatial proxy of different dimensions that are spatially estimated with kernel density</td>
<td>Cultural heritage, knowledge systems, social relations</td>
<td>100 resolution grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Recreation potential</td>
<td>Spatial proxy of different aggregated variables</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism</td>
<td>Different spatial resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>EcoTourism potential</td>
<td>Spatial proxy of different aggregated variables</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism</td>
<td>Different spatial resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tourist attractions</td>
<td>Number of tourist attractions in certain area (Tourist attractions/km²)</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism</td>
<td>Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rare species</td>
<td>Number of observations of rare species in certain area (Observations of rare species/km²)</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism</td>
<td>Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tax value of cottages</td>
<td>Tax value of cottages (Tax value of cottages/km²)</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism, aesthetic values, cultural heritage, inspiration, spiritual and religious values</td>
<td>Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Respondents' willingness to pay (WTP) for landscape maintenance</td>
<td>Estimation of the monetary value of environmental services</td>
<td>Recreational and ecotourism, aesthetic values, cultural heritage, inspiration, spiritual and religious values</td>
<td>Vector Landscape features (unknown resolution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Travel time-cost estimate</td>
<td>Calculation of estimated respondents’ travel costs (D /km)</td>
<td>Inspiration, spiritual and religious values</td>
<td>Vector Landscape features (unknown resolution)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BREATHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PARKS

COORDINATOR:
PALOMA CARIÑANOS GONZÁLEZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

PARTICIPANTS: MEMBERS OF SILVAMED-WG ON UPF

Paloma Cariñanos\textsuperscript{1}, Manuel Casares-Porcel\textsuperscript{1}, Paolo Semenzato\textsuperscript{2}, Pedro Calaza-Martínez\textsuperscript{3}, María Beatrice Andreucci\textsuperscript{4}, Cristina Branquinho\textsuperscript{5}, Teresa Mexia\textsuperscript{5}, Andreia Anjos\textsuperscript{5}, Paula Gonçalves\textsuperscript{5}, Otilia Correia\textsuperscript{5}, Filipa Grilo\textsuperscript{5}, Margarida Santos-Reis\textsuperscript{5}, Nezha Acil\textsuperscript{6}, Elena Paoletti\textsuperscript{7}, Elisa Carrari\textsuperscript{7}, Artur Gonçalves\textsuperscript{8}, José Castro\textsuperscript{8}, Anna Chiesura\textsuperscript{9}, Pietro Massimiliano Bianco\textsuperscript{9}, Marzia Mirabile\textsuperscript{9}, Silvia Brini\textsuperscript{9}, Enrico Castro\textsuperscript{10}.
WHAT IS «BREATHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PARKS»?

It is a project that aims to estimate the potential allergenicity of urban green infrastructure elements, mainly parks and gardens.

Villa Revedin Bolasco. Castelfranco Veneto, Italy.
Publications....
State of Mediterranean Forests 2013

2.4 Urban and peri-urban forestry in the Mediterranean region

Contributing authors: Fabio Sabatini, Michela Congianni, Beatrice Fagetti, Michelle Guadagni, Giovanna Barezzi

a University of Firenze, Italy; b FAO, Rome, c University of Bari, Italy

“Mediterraneans feel closer to their cities than to their states or nations; indeed, cities are their states and nations more,” wrote Márquez in 1999. Today, most Mediterranean cities suffer for a lack of green space. Urbanization and the associated process of land consumption continue to increase. Recent decades have been characterized by changes in climate, deep modifications to lifestyles, and heavy landscape alteration, posing major challenges for urban decision-makers. New approaches can help in facing these challenges: high-tech “smart cities” are pursuing new models and tools of urban governance. Nevertheless, planning, designing, and managing urban forests or parks (Figure 2.6.1) is still challenging — in the Mediterranean region (see below) — to advance quality of life, give livability to city landscapes, build green economies, and mitigate the effects of climate change. In recent decades, urban and peri-urban forestry (UPF) has emerged as an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to the planning, designing and managing of forest and tree resources in and around urban areas. The UPF approach addresses economic, social, and environmental challenges by providing multiple services and benefits that are highly valuable for the quality of life of urban dwellers. Potential benefits of urban and peri-urban forests and trees include climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas, supplemental food supply, increased health, well-being, jobs and incomes, biodiversity conservation, watershed management, and disaster risk prevention. A coherent investment by communities and governments in the protection and restoration of forests and trees can make a real contribution to creating a healthier environment, including by helping to reduce poverty and malnutrition. It requires partnerships and alliances based on multi-stakeholder approaches between local and decentralized authorities, mayors, civil communities, practitioners, and researchers in various disciplines.

The faces of urbanization

The spatial distribution of a population is a key element in understanding the use and consumption of resources in a given area. The Mediterranean region is one of the world’s largest urbanized areas and has one of the highest urban footprints on the planet (Bourne, 2012). According to Plan Bleu’s most recent demographic forecasts (Plan Bleu, 2013), 1.5 million inhabitants live in the Mediterranean region in 2010, which is 7% of the global population. The total is projected to reach 1.7 million by 2055, with most growth (65 percent) concentrated in the SMMEs. Despite the high rate of urban population growth and changes to other highly populated parts of the world, urbanization in the Mediterranean region occurs mainly in a large number of small to medium-sized cities.

Figure 2.6.2. “Parc Arthur Rimbaud” in Montpellier, France © Fabio Sabatini

3 UPF: Urban and peri-urban forest. This management of trees for their contribution to the physical, ecological and economic well-being of urban societies. UPF interacts with groups of trees and individual trees as people live. It is multifunctional because urban areas include a great variety of habitats (parks, parks, dedicated cemeteries, etc.) where there exists a great variety of benefits and problems (Carré, 1995, after Silvani and Cottini, 1996).
...ops! Yes, this one

4 Trees outside forests in the Mediterranean region

Fábio Sabatino, UNF
Michelle Congierto, FAO
Noelia Arola, University of Birmingham
Simona Bonelli, FAO
Paloma Caffèno González, University of Granada
José Castro, IFAR
Ayax Vinci, SIPI
Mauro Tezakabili, UNH
Silvia Krämer Ossau, UNF

Introduction

Trees play a key role in sustaining the livelihoods of communities across the globe by providing ecosystem services, food and products for home consumption and income generation. Over the centuries, however, many forest and woodland areas have been cleared or degraded through unsustainable uses or to make way for expanding urban and agricultural areas. As a result, trees scattered across the landscape – so-called trees outside forests (TOF) – play an increasingly relevant role in the provision of ecosystem services and products.

Any trees and shrubs that do not fit into the “forest” or “other wooded lands” category of a country’s forest classification can be considered TOF. As a result, the exact definition of TOF will vary from country to country, depending on how the terms “forest” and “land use” are defined. TOF can be found both in rural and urban landscapes. Their presence is either the result of the degradation or fragmentation of a previously forested area or of the purposeful planting of groups or individual trees on a given piece of land.

Due to the large variability and heterogeneity of TOF systems, sometimes characterised by scarce distribution, limited spatial footprint, complex ownership and institutional arrangements – the contribution of trees outside forests to the environment, people’s livelihoods and national economies can be quite diverse. In this regard, several publications and reports have been produced in recent years with the aim of highlighting the economic and environmental importance of TOF in the context of international conventions such as UNCCD, CBD and UNWTO. (Rodriguez et al., 2008; Kurnai and Naíl, 2011; Morlet, 2013; van Noordwijk, 2013; Batstott et al., 2013; Schnittl, et al., 2014; Lendörfer, 2015).

This demonstrates that, in the global context of climate change, financial crises and food insecurity, the role of TOF in local and national economies is likely to increase.

This chapter will provide an overview of the key role TOF play in Mediterranean landscapes. In particular, it will focus on current distribution trends and dynamics, management challenges and risks in the near future, and policy and governance approaches to foster their sustainable management.
Publication of a Scientific paper on the Urban forest research in the Mediterranean: a systematic review

Review

Urban forest research in the Mediterranean: A systematic review

Silvija Krajter Ostojić a,*, Fabio Salbitano b, Simone Borelli c, Andrej Verlic d

a Croatian Forest Research Institute, Department for International Scientific Cooperation in Southeast Europe – EFISEE, Perkovićeva 5/II, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
b University of Florence, Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Systems (GESAAF), Via S. Bonaventura 13, 50145 Flor c Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Viale delle Terme di Caracal d Slovenian Forestry Institute, Department of Forest Ecology, Večna pot 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all the friends actively participating in the UN FAO’s Silva Mediterranea Working Group 7 on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry. They never stopped to encourage and promote this study and we are very grateful for the suggestions and help they gave us during the last meetings of the group.
VIEWS ON THE BENEFITS AND CONSTRAINTS OF REGIONAL NETWORKING IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

BENEFITS:

- Collaboration, partnerships and networks was a powerful mechanism through sharing expertise and strategies

- Openness: aiming to reach more and more people irrespective of the region, nationality and geography.

- There are no constraints for people with different localities and languages when this form is concerned.

- Participate in high level meetings / forums

- Participate in the proposal of actions to be implemented

- Establish a Network of Collaboration across Mediterranean Countries

- Possibility of approaching a topic from different multidisciplinary perspectives
CONSTRAINTS:

- Still Few countries represented
- Absence of funds / resources that facilitate participation
- Activities must be done voluntarily
- The initial high positive energy vanishes if short-term results are not obtained
Strategy towards the following biennium (2020-2022)

ECOLITERACY AND URBAN FOOD FORESTS:
alfabetizzazione ecologica per la produzione di cibo e la gestione consapevole delle foreste urbane

REHABILITATION OF BEIRUT PINE FOREST
Raising awareness (i.e. what should municipalities do to address sustainability challenges through UPF). The development of the policy brief would provide administrators with a guidance on how to enable the environment for UPF implementation.

Providing tools (i.e. how to implement UPF): successful, inspirational cases of UPF for cities administrators; technical and communication guidelines and tool-box.

Organization of summer schools on specific topics as a support service for administrations, practitioners, scholars, and scientists of the Region.

Validating indicators (i.e. how to measure progresses in UPF implementation). The indicators would be used by cities to monitor their progresses in the implementation of UPF actions.

Networking and building partnerships (i.e. how to spread the word on UPF).

Local adaptation of the outcomes of the World Forum on Urban Forests 2018. The Call for Action and the Tree City of the World Programme will be promoted and taken as a reference for UPF implementation within the Region.

Implementing projects (i.e. how to build concrete opportunities for the Region). As a follow-up of the work done from 2017 to 2019, the WG is preparing project proposals to be submitted in the framework of a number of calls (e.g. MED-REG programme) to implement concrete actions in the Region.
Thanks for your attention

fabio.salbitano@unifi.it

(on behalf of all friends of the WG UPF SILVA MED)

Our urban forests