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Mediterranean landscape restoration: context, global initiatives and regional dynamics

by Valentina GARAVAGLIA & Christophe BESACIER

Objective

The Monday sessions of the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week (Vth MFW) were mainly focused on the context, global initiatives and regional dynamics on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR). The debate was inspired by several presentations focusing on key recognized FLR concepts and background information on both international commitments and current regional initiatives in the Mediterranean. The discussion focused on: (i) how FLR can contribute to achieving international targets in the context of the three main Rio Conventions and (ii) how FLR can contribute to the implementation of the “Tlemcen Declaration”, endorsed during the third Mediterranean Forest Week in Algeria (March 2013), in the context of a regional initiative on Forest and Landscape Restoration under the Bonn Challenge umbrella.

Background and key definitions on Forest and Landscape Restoration

Land degradation is generally defined as a “persistent decline” in the provision of goods and services that an ecosystem provides, including biological and water-related goods and services as well as land-related social and economic goods and services (FAO/LADA). Forest degradation refers to a reduction of the capacity of a forest to provide goods and services (FAO, 2011). Continued forest and land degradation poses serious obstacles to the elimination of poverty and hunger and the reversal of biodiversity loss in many parts of the world today, as well as to the ability of farmers and local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This degradation process also increases competition for scarce resources, with possible conflicts between users. These in turn threaten the livelihoods, wellbeing, food, water and energy security, and resilience (defined as the ability of people to adapt to climate change) of millions of people.

Restoration is defined as any intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state (IPBES). Restoration efforts should be planned at the landscape level with the aim of re-establishing ecological integrity and supporting human wellbeing (MAGINNIS and JACKSON, 2003).

A landscape can be regarded as the heterogeneous mosaic of different land uses (agriculture, forestry, soil protection, water supply and distribution, biodiversity conservation, pasture provision, etc.) across a large area of land or a watershed. A landscape approach seeks to better understand and recognize the interactions between various land uses and stakeholders by integrating them in a joint management process (GLF, 2014). Natural resources can be better managed when viewed from a broader perspective, considering and involving the perceptions, needs and interests of all stakeholders, including local communities and individual land users. Landscape approaches are increasingly seen as essential in developing sustainable land-use and livelihood strategies in rural areas (FAO, 2012).

Forest and landscape restoration (FLR) is an emerging concept that refers to an approach involving stakeholders in all affected land-use sectors and applying participatory decision-making processes. According to the most consistent existing definition, proposed by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), FLR is “an active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses” (GPFLR). FLR seeks a balance between restoring ecosystem services related to wildlife habitats and biodiversity, water regulation, carbon storage and more, and supporting the productive functions of land for agriculture and other related uses (FAO).

Several international agreements, initiatives and commitments by countries have aimed to reduce degradation and to promote restoration and sustainable land management. Examples of these initiatives include: (i) the recently approved Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), (ii) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets endorsed by CBD in 2010, (iii) the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the context of the Paris Agreement, (iv) the New York Declaration on Forests (September 2014), (v) the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept endorsed by UNCCD in October 2015, (vi) the Bonn Challenge launched in 2011 and (vii) its multiple regional initiatives in Latin America (20*20) and Africa (AFR100).

“The Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF): Policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes”, endorsed during the third Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) held in Tlemcen, Algeria in 2013, is well aligned with this global context addressed by the Forest and Landscape Restoration partners. It also urges restoration of “degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes” and, more in detail, it promotes resilience to climate change by restoring Mediterranean forest ecosystems with a global vision to cope with desertification issues, forest ecosystems restoration as an opportunity to enhance food security and livelihood in Mediterranean drylands, environmental and cultural services (including biodiversity) regained in these restored forest ecosystems and it encourages forest restora-

tion as a long-term and integrated approach to manage, monitor and evaluate forest ecosystems. Building on this regional vision on forest and landscape restoration (FLR), endorsed in March 2013, it seems totally relevant to move towards a regional commitment in the Mediterranean.

Key contributions of Forest and Landscape Restoration to global targets in the context of the three main Rio Conventions

Catalina Santamaria from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity opened the debate presenting the linkages between Forest and Landscape Restoration and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15.

Target 5 aims at having by 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation significantly reduced.

Target 14 intends by 2020 having restored and safeguarded ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15 would enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks by 2020, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 percent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Those three targets are central to the success of the overall objective of the Strategic Plan since the loss and degradation of habitats is the main driver of biodiversity loss, and the maintenance of ecosystem services a pillar of the sustainable use of ecosystems. A specificity of Targets 5 and 15 is that they introduced quantitative elements in the Strategic Plan, paving the way for clearer measurement of progress. Concerning the relation between Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15 and FLR in the Mediterranean region, an

The Aichi Targets

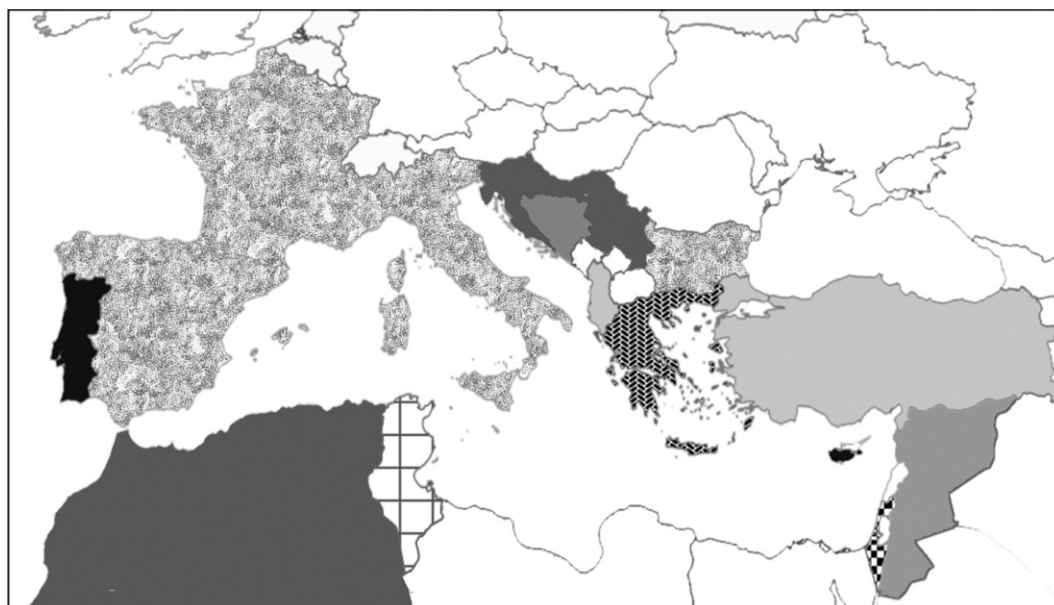
- Incorporated in the Strategic Plan For Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- Adopted at CBD COP 10 in Nagoya (Japan) in 2010.
- Twenty global targets, to be pursued by national governments through their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) which spell out national targets.
- Parties to the CBD periodically report on progress under the Strategic Plan through National Reports.
- The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, funded by the Korean Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, is mainly focused on the achievement of Targets 5, 14 and 15.

evaluation of current progress under the targets can be done component by component. Some components, such as “halving the rate of loss of natural forests and reducing it to zero where possible”, lend themselves to the use of relatively obvious indicators (e.g. forest area), for which data is already available. Other, more subjective, components such as “taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable”, require the development of new indicators.

Halve the rate of loss of natural forests and reduce it to zero where possible (Target 5)

One of the most recognized global dataset of forest area comes from the five-yearly FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments. Figure 1 distinguishes Mediterranean countries according to changes in their natural forest area since the start of the Strategic Plan. The rate of change has been compared for the period 2005-2010 and 2010-2015, to see if a change has occurred and it showed that North Mediterranean countries are on a path of natural forest gain or reduction of the rate of forest loss, while South and Eastern Mediterranean countries are struggling to abate their rate of loss of natural forests. Exceptions to this rule are Portugal, where extensive forest fires in recent years have caused a rebound of the rate of forest loss and the Balkans, where previous trends of forest gain seem to have reversed since 2010. In the South and Eastern Mediterranean, Tunisia and Israel stand out respectively for reducing the rate of forest loss by more than 90 percent and reversing

Figure 1:
Change in average annual rate of change in natural forest area between the periods 2005-2010 and 2010-2015.
Source: FAO FRA 2015.



- Increase in rate of natural forest lost
- Went from net natural forest area gain to net loss
- No change in natural forest cover
- NoData Reduction in rate of natural forest area loss < 25%
- NoData Reduction in rate of natural forest area loss 25-50%
- Reduction in rate of natural forest area loss > 50%
- Reduction in rate of natural forest area loss > 90%
- Went from loss in natural forest area to net gain
- Natural forest gain in , slowing
- Natural forest gain, accelerating
- NoData

the trend of net natural forest loss to net natural forest gain (CBD and FERI, 2017). In the Mediterranean region, some indicators are available on forest fires (e.g. FAO and PLAN BLEU, 2013) but the development of regional indicators, across relatively similar biomes or ecosystems, could be a significant manner to improve available data for decision-making at the regional and national scale.

Remote-sensing can complement available data, giving for example indications on the gross forest cover loss in the Mediterranean forest ecoregion that seems accelerating over the period, indicating that further efforts are urgently needed for this ecosystem to contribute to the objective of Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. A more fine-scale analysis can help countries identify particular hotspots and related causes, in order to design the right policy responses (Figure 2).

Halve the rate of loss of natural habitats and reduce it to zero where possible (Target 5)

As said above, assessing progress against this component of Target 5 is difficult owing to the lack of consistent indicators for tracking the extent of ecosystems other than forests. Efforts are underway to develop cri-

teria that enhance the efforts to curb the loss and degradation of natural ecosystems. In the absence of baseline data on their extent, such a trend would remain undocumented.

Significantly reduce the rate of degradation and fragmentation (Target 5)

Between 1992 and 2009, the area of arable land decreased by 7 million hectares (13 percent) in the Northern Mediterranean Countries and by 4 million hectares (9 percent) in the South-East Mediterranean countries (FAO and PLAN BLEU, 2013).

Very little data is available consistently across the world or even at regional scale on the state of ecosystems. Indeed forests are somewhat of an exception in terms of available while a majority of countries present data on trends in forest loss, very few present data on other ecosystems and even less so on rates of degradation and fragmentation. This is also particularly important because if we only measure change in forest, there is a risk that reforestation could be done at the detriment of other ecosystems that are crucial for certain species. Biodiversity-rich wetlands or grasslands should not be replaced with forests.

The State of Mediterranean Forests 2013 compiled by FAO and Plan Bleu represents a very relevant source of data at the regional level that countries could use to inform the design of their national targets under Targets 5, 14 and 15. It discusses a range of indicators on degradation, resilience and provision of ecosystem services. Such

regional efforts are welcome and supported by several institution in order to increase the quality and amount of consistent data available.

Concerning how Mediterranean countries have interpreted these targets and planned for their implementation, it is first needed to assess how many countries have indeed set such targets:

- 92 percent of the Mediterranean countries have submitted their 5th National Report to the CBD;
- 42 percent of Mediterranean countries have submitted their NBSAP;
- 62 percent of the Mediterranean countries have set a national target under Target 5;
- 54 percent of the Mediterranean countries have set a national target under Target 15¹.

Whilst most Mediterranean countries have successfully complied with their reporting obligation, more than half have yet to adopt a revised version of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP), the key instrument for the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan 2011-2020. Among those countries that have revised NBSAPs, some require further elaboration of the actions planned to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However many countries have set preliminary national targets in their 5th national reports and CBD Secretariat has been able to analyse all targets thus submitted and look at how SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-Bound) these targets were (CBD and FERI, 2017). Countries are not bound by the Strategic Plan to adopt corresponding national targets for all of the Aichi Targets, therefore this requires a level of interpretation. Nevertheless, most countries have adopted targets concerning the reduction of the rate of loss, degradation and fragmentation, and targets related to the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

In order to have all those efforts that align with other initiatives for Mediterranean FLR, objectives related to the conservation and restoration of ecosystems should fall under the scope of the three Rio Conventions, as well as other platforms for political action and cooperation such as the Bonn Challenge. In reviewing individual countries' commitments under these related

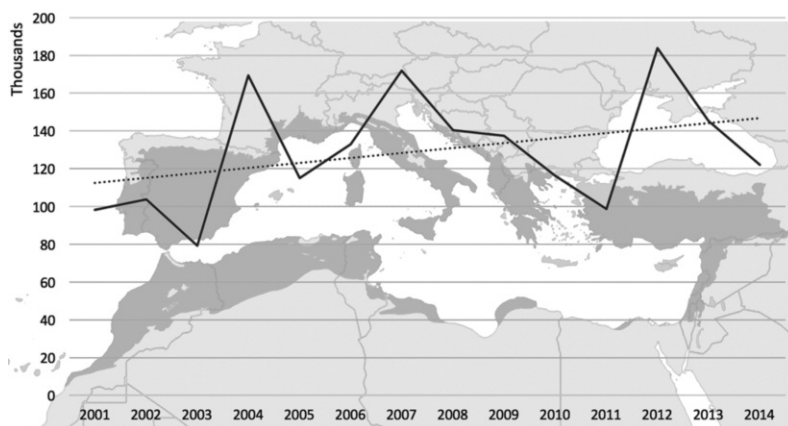


Figure 2: Forest cover loss in Mediterranean Forest Ecoregion, in hectares (original figure created with Global Forest Watch using WWF data on Terrestrial ecoregions).

fora, the CBD Secretariat found that sometimes those targets do not align: ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation commitments made in a country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), for example, do not necessarily reflect the commitments on restoration made under their NBSAP, although these commitments are very relevant to ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation. This review of national targets under the CBD, Bonn Challenge and UNFCCC has been conducted for almost a hundred countries now (CBD and FERI, 2017), and the results should be now validated by countries. To provide guidance to countries on how to plan for restoration actions in a manner that is beneficial to biodiversity the Conference of the Parties of the CBD has adopted guidance on a Short Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, which breaks down the steps that countries may wish to follow in the design of their restoration plan.

Ludwig Liagre from the Global Mechanism presented the perspective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat on the contribution of Forest and Landscape Restoration to the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 15.3 become a strong tool for UNCCD implementation, while at the same time contributing to other SDGs relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, food and water security, disaster risk reduction and poverty alleviation. At the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the

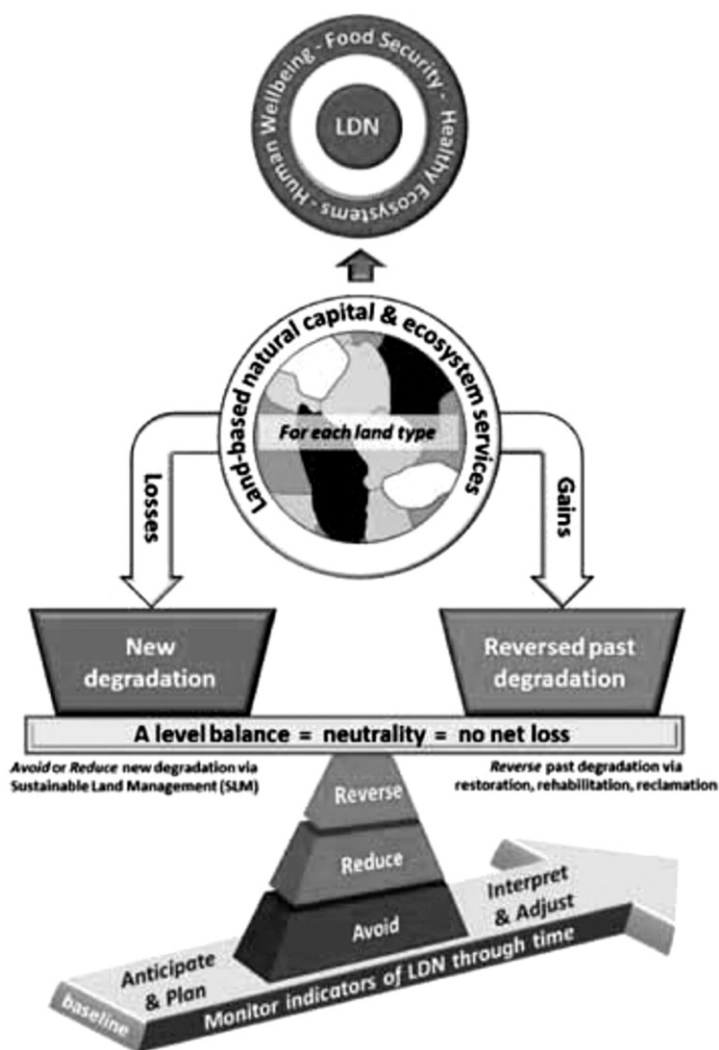
1 - Many countries that have yet to submit a fully revised NBSAP have provided an indication of what their national targets might be in their 5th National Report.

SGD target 15.3

“By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.

UNCCD (October 2015, Ankara, Turkey), country Parties reached an innovative agreement to link the implementation of the Convention to the SDGs in general and, in particular, target 15.3. LDN aims to maintain or enhance the land-based natural capital and associated ecosystem functions and services and requires balance between losses and gains. In terms of land degradation, it means counterbalance ongoing degradation (loss) with restoration of degraded land (gain) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Conceptual framework for Land Degradation Neutrality.



The Secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD are supporting 106 countries in the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting process, including 12 members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*.

This multi-partner initiative has been established with the financial support of France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, GEF/IUCN, GEF/UNEP, UNDP and the technical support of a wide range of partners [European Space Agency, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, World Soil Information (ISRIC)] and want to support countries providing operational guidance to define national LDN baselines, identify voluntary targets and associated measures (Figure 4).

The LDN response hierarchy is an overarching principle that guides decision-makers in planning measures to achieve LDN. The response hierarchy of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation (Figure 5) is based on the recognition that “prevention is (much) better than cure” i.e., avoiding or reducing further land degradation will maximize long-term benefits and is generally more cost-effective than efforts to reverse past degradation. Priority for intervention is placed first on lands where prevention or avoidance of land degradation is possible, followed by land where mitigation through improved land management practices is suited, and lastly on land suitable for restoration or rehabilitation.

Reversing land degradation calls for actions that are designed to improve land-based natural capital: one option is FLR that in some cases may go beyond “no net loss” (neutrality) and drive for net gains.

LDN target setting exercise is a nationally-driven process that can support intersectoral planning for FLR and it seems relevant to combine the LDN target setting exercise (based on precise data sets and quantitative analyses) with other ongoing FLR opportunities assessments (e.g. Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology developed jointly by WRI and IUCN) which are more qualitative. This will call for necessary partnerships with ongoing restoration initiatives especially for country level support (e.g. with the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI)/CBD and the FAO FLR Mechanism (FLRM)).

To complete the perspective on the contribution of FLR to the international commitments, Abderrahim Houmy from the High Commission for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification presented the conclusions of the Marrakech Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 22) (Morocco, November 2016) related to the contribution of FLR to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Article 5 of the Paris Agreement is mainly dedicated to forests: it recognizes the role of forests in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the importance of non-carbon benefits and the contributions of the REDD+ programme. At global level, the contributions (NDC) of 118 countries mention mitigation measures related to forests and land use and 105 countries have integrated an adaptation component based on forests and other land uses. Nevertheless, while the role of forests in mitigation is formally binding (NDC), their contribution to adaptation remains voluntary and non-binding.

Despite differing ambitions concerning adaptation and mitigation initiatives cohabit at the level of northern, southern and eastern Mediterranean region, the Paris agreement is fully in favour of Mediterranean forest ecosystems and offer numerous opportunities for FLR.

Among main results of the COP 22 there is the Marrakech Action Proclamation, a shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate change and sustainable development. It celebrates the global momentum on climate change and sustainable development action by governments, businesses, investors, and cities. It calls for the highest political commitment so that climate action can fully support the achievement of the SDGs. The COP 22 also saw the launch of the NDC partnership, a new coalition of developing and developed countries and international institutions working together to ensure countries receive the technical and financial support they need to achieve ambitious climate and sustainable development goals as fast and effectively as possible. Other specific initiatives for the African continent that were presented and that capture the need of implementation and action for climate and for sustainable development are the Adaptation of African Agriculture, the Triple S (3S) Initiative to promote Stability, Security and Sustainability, the Strengthened Action in Favour of Forests in the Mediterranean-

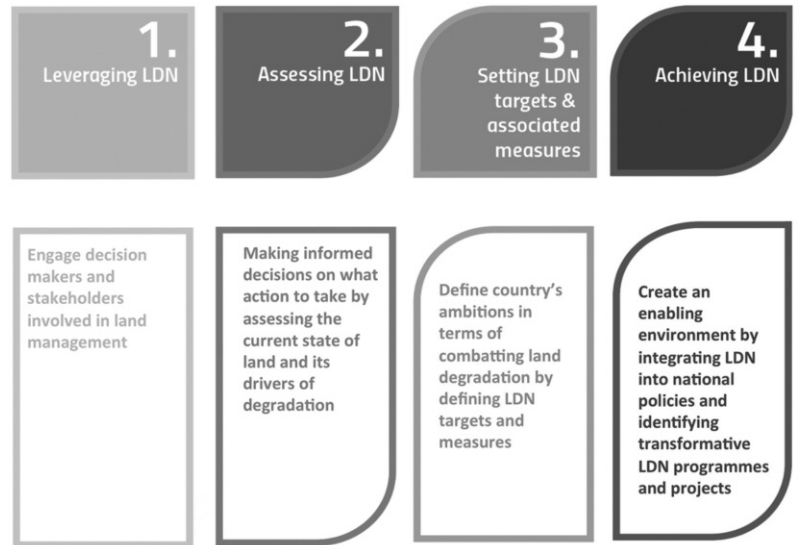
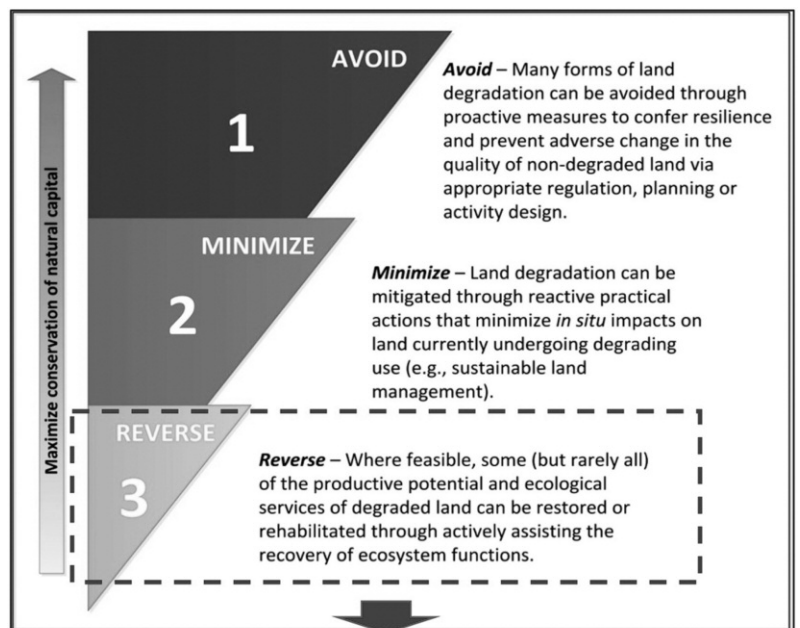


Figure 4: Main steps that provide operational guidance on how to define national LDN baselines and to identify voluntary LDN targets and associated measures.

Sahel Region in the Context of Climate Change.

During the Forest Action Day at COP 22 all countries recognized that achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs will be impossible without action to protect, restore and sustainably manage all types of forests. The assessment of progress on the New York Declaration on Forests has highlighted important improvements but also emphasized the need to refocus or expand efforts that require leadership and governance, partnerships between state and non-state actors, intensify and accelerate

Figure 5: The LDN response hierarchy.



Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) role

investment, an integrated approach to land use and adaptation and resilience of forests and societies.

The results of the COP 22 emphasized that FLR is a key entry point for the implementation of initiatives under the Rio conventions and the Paris agreement offers real opportunities for implementing FLR initiatives in the Mediterranean region. The numerous initiatives launched at COP 22 constitute a promising platform for the forest sector in the Mediterranean region that needs to develop bankable projects in the framework of coordinated and better-integrated actions.

The regional dynamic: Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Mediterranean

In the Mediterranean region, land degradation is mainly caused by rapid land-use changes and unsustainable land use (e.g. urbanization, over-grazing, wild fires, poor or lack of management) (BLUM, 2014). This occurs in the context of climate change, which exacerbates the effects of these changes through increasingly frequent extreme events like droughts, heat waves, an overall temperature rise and precipitations decrease (KOVATS *et al.*, 2014).

Following this detailed overview on the placement of Mediterranean forests in the international scene, Peter Besseau presented the Global Partnership on the Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), a global, voluntary partnership uniting governments, organisations and academic/research institutes working on restoration since 2003 (no nearly 30 partners involved) with IUCN as its secretariat. The GPFLR is an implementation vehicle for international commitments such as the SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Paris Agreement and LDN that facilitates the achievement of domestic targets on food, water security and livelihoods. It connects partners in a community of practice to spread best practices, build cooperation and exchange new ideas and solutions. It proposes valuable solutions to FLR challenges like the provision of FLR assessment methodology that responds to the gap in expertise about approaches and methodologies for on-the-ground implementation. P.

Besseau highlighted the existences of several regional initiatives to support FLR (e.g. the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Initiative 20*20 in Latin America and Caribbean) and the opportunity to establish a regional approach to FLR also in the Mediterranean, in order to knit together regional efforts toward the global Bonn Challenge target.

P. Besseau also stressed that many GPFLR partners are already active in the Mediterranean and welcome opportunities to collaborate to achieve important regional FLR objectives.

Nicolas Picard, in charge of the Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, focused his presentation on the Mediterranean region. He mentioned the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF) involving seventeen members and six target countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) to improve the political frame conditions for sustainable management of forests and related ecosystem services in the context of climate change. He highlighted the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) endorsed in March in 2013 (Tlemcen – Algeria – 3rd MFW) by the members of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* as a voluntary tool for policymakers in the forest sector to monitor progress on the key issues regarding Mediterranean forests.

Under the objective of promoting resilience under global changes, this SFMF strongly encourages the restoration of degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes (Strategic line 6) recognizing FLR as an opportunity to enhance food security and livelihood in the Mediterranean drylands.

He also explained that among the eight existing working groups established under the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, the working group on Desertification and restoration was launched in October 2015 (Ankara – Turkey) with the aim of i) supporting the implementation of the SFMF (Strategic Line 6), ii) promoting and supporting the implementation of the FAO's Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands – Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods at the Mediterranean level, iii) promoting and sharing best prac-

tices and lessons learned at the regional level through projects, programs and other initiatives on restoration of forest and landscapes in drylands with, in particular, the technical support of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM).

Conclusions

The Monday sessions clearly acknowledged that Forest and Landscape Restoration can contribute to achieving international targets in the context of the three main Rio Conventions and that several ongoing innovative approaches and concrete results are already available in the region. Participants highlighted the need for more experience sharing and mainstreaming into national policies and institutions and recognized that regional cooperation platforms are critical to this end. A better coordination, partnership and renewed dynamic could be built on already ongoing restoration initiatives especially for country-level support. An important part of the discussion was related to the need of more consistent and homogeneous data on Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Several valuable source of regional data and sophisticated tools are already published and are crucial if we want to meaningfully identify where to best invest our efforts for successful Forest and Landscape Restoration programmes.

V.G., C.B.

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Summary

Continued landscape degradation poses serious obstacles to eliminating poverty and hunger, maintaining biodiversity and to the ability of farmers and local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Land degradation also increases competition for scarce natural resources and therefore, threatens livelihoods, food, water and energy security as well as the resilience of both people and natural ecosystems. In the Mediterranean region, land degradation is mainly caused by rapid land-use changes occurring in the context of climate change which exacerbates the effects of these changes through increasingly frequent heat waves, droughts, and an overall temperature rise. To reduce the effects of climate change and land degradation, several international agreements, initiatives and commitments by countries have aimed to promote restoration and sustainable land management. Momentum is building around national activities regarding forest and landscape restoration, and heading towards a regional commitment at the Mediterranean level. This article sets the Mediterranean scene within the context of both international commitments and regional initiatives focused on the Mediterranean region. It acknowledges how Forest and Landscape Restoration can contribute to achieving international targets in the context of the Rio Conventions. Building on current efforts in the region, the aim is to find opportunities for "regionalization" of the Bonn Challenge in the Mediterranean and to identify the value for countries to be part of a regional initiative.

Résumé

La dégradation des terres pose de sérieux obstacles à l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim, au maintien de la biodiversité et à la capacité des agriculteurs et des communautés locales à s'adapter aux impacts du changement climatique. La dégradation des terres augmente également la concurrence pour les ressources naturelles et, par conséquent, menace les moyens de subsistance, l'eau, l'énergie et la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que la résilience des populations et des écosystèmes naturels. Dans la région méditerranéenne, la dégradation des terres s'explique principalement par des changements rapides d'utilisation des sols dans le contexte du changement climatique, ce qui exacerbe les effets de ces changements par des vagues de chaleur de plus en plus fréquentes, des sécheresses et une élévation globale de la température. Pour réduire les effets du changement climatique et de la dégradation des terres, plusieurs accords, initiatives et engagements internationaux des pays visent à promouvoir la restauration et la gestion durable des terres. Un certain dynamisme se met en place autour des activités nationales concernant la restauration des forêts et des paysages et s'oriente vers un engagement régional au niveau méditerranéen. Cet article présente la scène méditerranéenne dans le contexte des engagements internationaux et des initiatives régionales axées sur la région méditerranéenne. Il reconnaît comment la restauration des forêts et des paysages peut contribuer à la réalisation d'objectifs internationaux dans le contexte des conventions de Rio. En s'appuyant sur les efforts actuels dans la région, l'objectif est de trouver des opportunités de «régionalisation» du défi de Bonn en Méditerranée et d'identifier l'intérêt pour les pays de faire partie d'une initiative régionale.

Resumen

La continua degradación del paisaje genera serios obstáculos para erradicar la pobreza y el hambre, así como para mantener la biodiversidad y la capacidad de los agricultores y las comunidades locales para adaptarse a los impactos del cambio climático. La degradación de las tierras también aumenta la competencia por los escasos recursos naturales y, por lo tanto, amenaza los medios de subsistencia, la seguridad alimentaria, hídrica y energética, así como la resiliencia de las personas y de los ecosistemas naturales. En la región mediterránea, la degradación del paisaje es causada principalmente por cambios rápidos en el uso del suelo que ocurren en el contexto del cambio climático, lo que agrava los efectos de estos cambios a través de olas de calor cada vez más frecuentes, sequías y un aumento general de la temperatura. Para reducir los efectos del cambio climático y la degradación del suelo, varios acuerdos, iniciativas y compromisos internacionales de los países tienen como objetivo promover la restauración y la gestión sostenible de la tierra. Un nuevo dinamismo está desarrollando actividades nacionales relacionadas con la restauración de bosques y de paisajes y está orientándose hacia un compromiso regional a nivel mediterráneo. Este artículo sitúa el panorama mediterráneo en el contexto tanto de los compromisos internacionales como de las iniciativas regionales centradas en la región mediterránea. Reconoce cómo la restauración de bosques y paisajes puede contribuir al logro de los objetivos internacionales en el contexto de las Convenciones de Río. Basándose en las iniciativas actuales en la región, el objetivo es encontrar oportunidades para la « regionalización » del Desafío de Bonn en el Mediterráneo e identificar la importancia para los países de ser parte de una iniciativa regional.