

Grant to the best scientific work on Mediterranean Model Forests

2010-2011

BACKGROUND

Model Forests are national initiatives established in areas where forest landscapes are an important feature. These initiatives are based on an approach that combines the social, cultural and economic needs of local communities with the long-term sustainability of such forest landscapes. By design they are voluntary, broad-based initiatives linking forestry, research, agriculture, mining, recreation, and other values and interests within a given landscape.

In the Mediterranean area, Model Forests are organized and coordinated from the **Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN)** thanks to the support of the International Cooperation Department of **CESEFOR** ([*Centro de servicios y promoción forestal y de su industria de Castilla y León*](#)). Since 2009, **EFIMED** ([*the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute*](#)) and the MMFN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborating in developing the concept of Model Forests based on sound science. In this context, starting in 2010 the MMFN will finance a **Mediterranean Model Forest Grant**, which will be offered and evaluated by EFIMED in order to improve the scientific knowledge regarding the implementation of the concept of the Model Forest in one of the countries developing such initiative.

The Grant should be addressed to:

- make a significant contribution to advancing Mediterranean forest science on one of the **topics prioritized in the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda** as applied or potentially applicable in **Model Forests**;
- contribute to the scientific objectives of the Model Forests;
- strengthen both MMFN and EFIMED networks by conducting a Study Visit to the Model Forest (see in [Annex VII](#) eligible Model Forests and contact persons) and
- developing an original scientific paper that addresses a research question relevant to the MFRA (See below) and the Model Forest.

The Study Visit should last one month (four weeks meaning 20 working days). It should take place between 15th January and 30th June 2011. Scientists coming from the Mediterranean southern and eastern sub-regions are especially encouraged to apply.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants	Scientists enrolled in an institution dealing with forest research.
Language of application and reporting	English NOTA: proficiency in local language is desirable for the communication with locals, field works
Expected output	A scientific article published in a journal based in the work undertaken during the study visit. A draft will be requested as a scientific report of the study visit in order to receive the full grant.
Topic of the scientific work	The topic of the research should fit within the priorities of the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA – Annex I): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of climate and land-use change on Mediterranean forest ecosystems functioning: assessing and monitoring main physical and biological processes including biodiversity 2. Integration of the risk of forest fires in land use and landscape planning and management 3. Policy, economic and institutional aspects for sustainable provision of forest goods and services 4. Forest and woodlands in the context of integrated management of land resources: models and decision systems for optimising multi-objective and multi-actor problems The thesis should geographically focus on the Mediterranean region and not on other Mediterranean climatic regions.
Candidate's origin	There are no origin restrictions for applicants; applicants can come from everywhere, but work on the Mediterranean region. In case the applicant comes from a different country than the Model Forest to work with, s/he should indicate the reasons/motivation for such selection.
Age	There is no age limit; however, proposals coming from young scientists will have preference.

PROCESS of the GRANT

Steps	Dates
Reception of Applications (Annex II , III and IV)	Deadline: 30 th November 2010

Communication with selected candidate. Practicalities (Annex V)	15 th December 2010
Study visit period	From 15 th January to 31 st October 2011
Reporting (Annex VI) and grant transfer	28 th February 2011

GRANT

The grant consists of a lump sum of up to 3000 EUR. It will be transferred in two payments to the grantee: the first 1000 EUR before the trip and the rest 2000 EUR after the approval of the scientific reporting. This amount is expected to cover expenses such as:

- Travel costs to the selected Model Forest in tourist class;
- Visa costs and insurances required as well as accommodation, meals and internal transportation during the stay.

Expenses surpassing this amount will be covered by the same beneficiary.

Further information can be obtained from: [elena.gorriz\(at\)efi.int](mailto:elena.gorriz@efi.int).

Website: www.efimed.efi.int/portal/1493

ANNEX I:

Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda priorities

Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda	
Strategic Objectives	Research approaches
1. Development of innovative products for changing markets and customer needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evaluating and developing financing mechanisms to promote the optimal provision of non-market services (e.g., systems for payment for environmental services by the final users, by the forest managers or by public authorities); - new marketing instruments for the supply of forest products and services, also based on the horizontal and vertical integration of economic agents in the value chain.
3. Enhancing availability and use of forest biomass for products and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - structural and functional genomics at ecosystem level to study adaptive responses to global change in Mediterranean forest ecosystems. - networks of long term genetic experiments to analyze responses of plant material (provenances, families, genotypes) to changing environmental conditions. - modeling approaches at genotypes, tree, ecosystem and landscape level to climate change and management options; As the speed of expected changes is fast, approaches based on modeling of the demographic, ecological and genetic aspects of the communities' evolution should be developed and implemented.
4. Meeting the multifunctional demands on forest resources and their sustainable management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new forest growth and yield models that can provide predictions on the provision of relevant goods and services (mushrooms, pine cones, fodder, water yield, scenic beauty) and take into account the changing climatic conditions; - goal-based silviculture models and adaptive approaches to optimize the provision of relevant goods and services under global change; - new multi-criteria, scenario analysis, and group- decision methods for analyzing stakeholders' preferences on forest management objectives and support consensus building; - new multi-objective forest planning models and advanced optimization techniques to solve multiple objective problems considering the economic, social and environmental functions, within a multi-scale stand-to-landscape-level approach; - new knowledge on the interactions and trade-offs of different types of land uses and development of integrated approaches for forest-land-use planning in the context of rural development; - new presentation techniques such as visualization to show the consequences of alternative management strategies to different stakeholders, thus addressing participatory planning and social sustainability concerns; - new decision support systems to support Mediterranean forestry decision making in a broader context of land use planning. The use of demonstration forests might be instrumental for developing, testing and disseminating the new tools; - long term ecosystem monitoring and experiments (<i>sites ateliers</i>) on the effects of global change and environmental stresses (climate anomalies, salinity and other soil limitations) on natural and planted forest ecosystems, with the use of forest-atmosphere flux stations, instrumented watersheds, water and nutrient cycling; different types (from extensive to intensive) of comparable monitoring sites that cover well the forest typologies, as well as the geographical and climatic diversity of the region should be established; - mobile sensors equipment systems to study effects of forest

	<p>management, logging operations and fire regimes on carbon budget of forest and other wooded ecosystems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ecosystem experiments on forest-atmosphere interactions with special emphasis on organic signalling (i.e. VOC) and particular attention on polluted atmospheric conditions (O₃ and other air pollutants) in sub-urban vs. natural environments; - landscape experiments on the impact of land use change and forest ecosystem management on water resources and soil erosion protection. - landscape experiments on the impact of land use change and forest ecosystem management on biodiversity and biogeochemical cycles at forest landscape level; special emphasis on bi- and tri-trophic interactions at foodweb level (i.e. plant-pests and plant-animal interactions); - large scale infrastructures for whole tree and ecosystem manipulation experiments to simulate responses to changing climatic (temp., precipitation, UV), atmospheric (CO₂ and other GHG, N deposition) and soil conditions.
<p>5. The sector in a societal perspective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of environmental accounting systems for forest resources at regional and national level, also for the evaluation of the efficiency of defensive expenditure in relation to the value of the stocks and products and services delivered; - environmental accounting system should be associated to forecast modeling in order to evaluate the costs of inaction, as well as the cost of active policies; - designing innovative forest policies or measures within the framework of wider rural development strategies and using a joint territorial approach between all concerned parties; - developing participatory approaches for stakeholders' involvement and responsibilities sharing in local and regional development programmes based on public-private partnership (see the EU "Leader" approach in rural development policies); - developing valuation methods and benefit transfer methods for valuing in an integrated and comparable manner non-market forest services.

ANNEX II:

MMF Grant - APPLICATION FORM

Date

PERSONAL DATA

Family name (Surname):

First name (Given name):

Gender: Male Female

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy):

Nationality:

Private address (street, no., floor):

Town: Province:

Country: P.O. Box: Post code:

Tel. (Indicate country and area codes):

Fax (Indicate country and area codes):

E-mail address:

Motivation for applying for the *MMF Grant*

(if you are from a country different from the MF you will study, indicate the reasons why you are interested in it)

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Title of the project:

Home institution (name, country)

Position at home institution

Host institution (name, country)

Please specify the dates at the host institution, including travel days (dd/mm/yyyy)

/ / - / / equivalent to working days

Abstract of the project (objectives, methodology, data, time schedule) (about 250 words):

HOST INSTITUTION DATA

Contact person's name and surname:

Contact person's e-mail:

Name of the institution:

Department or Faculty:

Complete address:

Country:

Tel. (Indicate country and area codes):

Fax (Indicate country and area codes):

FORECAST OF EXPENDITURE

International travel (to and from home to host institution only) Place of departure: Destination: Mean of transport: Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	€
Visa costs, medical insurance if compulsory	€
Costs of stay (includes accommodation, meals, local transport)	€
Total visit costs Remind that the grant will cover up to 3000 EUR	€
Other funding received: <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> under preparation	

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the information given is correct and I agree to inform of any modification

Date:

Signature:

**ANNEX III:
WORK PLAN of the Study Visit**

Project title

Date of preparation / /

Applicant

Applicant's name
Title / affiliation
Contact information

Host

Tutor's name
Title / affiliation
Contact information

Tentative SV dates / / to / /

task	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20

4. Links to other relevant activities

List here other recent or ongoing projects and activities of relevance to the proposed project.

ANNEX IV:

ENDORSEMENT LETTER

MUST BE ON OFFICIAL HEADED PAPER OF THE MODEL FOREST or HOST
INSTITUTION

OBJECT: Invitation for a *Visit* to our institution in the framework of *MMF Grant Study Visit*

Dear Sir/Madam,

We hereby invite you to the *(name of the institution)* , *(name of the Host institution)* , from *day/month/year* to *day/month/year* (*XX* working days), in order to *(please introduce the title of your proposed work)* .
During your *Visit* at our institution , we will help you in carrying out the following activities:

(List of activities to be carried out by the participant)

(Add any practical arrangements/comments you deem necessary)

For all matters linked to your *Visit*, you can contact *(name of tutor, with contact details)*

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE of the MF contact person or the legally authorised to represent the host institution

POSITION of the person legally authorised to represent the host institution

OFFICIAL STAMP or SEAL of the host institution

ANNEX V

MMF GRANT 2010

TRAVEL PLAN FORM

to be returned by 15th January 2011 to [elena.gorriz\(at\)efi.int](mailto:elena.gorriz(at)efi.int)

Travel from home city to Host :

Remind that before purchasing any ticket, travel plan should be approved by EFIMED Secretariat.

Departure city	Day (dd/mm/yy)	Time (xx:xx)	Destination	Time (xx:xx)	Transport mean	Flight code	Transport company	Cost (local currency)	Exchange rate (local to €)	Cost (€)	
											Supporting document

In case you need some connections, please fill in here:

Connection city	Day (dd/mm/yy)	Time (xx:xx)	Destination city	Time (xx:xx)	Transport mean	Flight code	Transport company	Cost (local currency)	Exchange rate (local to €)	Cost (€)	
											Supporting document
											Supporting document
											Supporting document
											Supporting document

ANNEX VI.

STUDY VISIT REPORT

Based on the approved work plan, and following the structure of a scientific publication, it should contain the following information:

A. Cover Page

Technical Data

1. Project title
2. Dates of the visit
3. Granted person's name, title/affiliation and contact information

B. Introduction explaining the problematic of your topic and how science has dealt with it up to now. Why is relevant/original your work and the knowledge learnt during the visit? Please include what is understood in the context of your study the different key terms (definitions, sources, background). Note that the reviewers are not necessary familiar with acronyms and specific terms.

C. Objectives (Purpose of the *Visit*)

D. Methodology explaining the variables, formules, origin of data, the statistical process applied, cartographic treatments applied, i.a.

E. Description of the work carried out during the *Visit* (include the workplan, activities)

F. Main preliminary **results** obtained: results, tables, maps, etc

G. Discussion

H. Conclusions

(Note that Discussion jointly with the Conclusions' points are the sections which should show the individual and specific contribution by the granted scientist).

I. References: bibliography, websites, other sources of the specific terms, theories used along the report.

J. Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

K. Projected **publications**/articles resulting or to result from the *Study Visit*

L. Abstract of the Mission (2 paragraphs) for EFIMED/MMFN website

M. Other comments (if any)

N. (Attached) Letter of Confirmation by the tutor on the host institute of the successful execution of the mission:

'Hereby I would like to inform that the above Mediterranean Model Forest Study Visit has been completed and the scientific report approved by the Host.

Name. Signature and Seal/stamp. Date'.

As a reference, the report should take up around 8-10 pages (including images).

EFIMED and MMFN will deal confidentially with this information; it is only for internal use and justification of the grants.

ANNEX VII

MEDITERRANEAN MODEL FORESTS

MAP OF THE AREAS - Landsat image with the MMFN Members and the Model forests



Country	Region - Model Forest	Category	Contact person			Entity	Email
			title	Name	Surname		
Spain	Castilla y León - Urbión	Model Forest	Mrs.	Sonia	Martel	Asociación MM Urbión	urbion@urbion.es
Morocco	Ifrane	Candidate Model Forests	Mr.	Mohamed	Qarro	Association F.M. Ifrane	mohamedq53@gmail.com
Croatia	Istria	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mrs.	Ana	Fornazar	Istria region	anaf@sumins.hr
Greece	Magnesia Prefecture	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Apostolos	Tsaknakis	KEKANEM S.A.	a.tsaknakis@anem.gr
France	PACA - Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mrs.	Valérie	Martinez	Région PACA	vmartinez@regionpaca.fr
France	Corse	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Olivier	Riffard	Office du Développement Agricole et Rural de Corse (ODARC)	olivier.riffard@oddarc.fr
Italy	Cerdegnna	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Andréa	Abis	Regione Autonoma della Sardegna	aabis@regione.sardegna.it
Italy	Toscana - Montagna Fiorentina	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mrs.	Elisabetta	Gravano	Regione Toscana	elisabetta.gravano@regione.toscana.it
Spain	Castilla y León - Dehesa Charra	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Pablo	Martín	ASFOSA	asfosa@asfosa.es
Spain	Murcia - Sierra Espuña	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Mario	Velamazán	Gobierno de Murcia	mario.velamazán@carm.es
Tunisia	Kroumerie-Mogods	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Ameur	Mohktar	Ministère d'Agriculture - D.G. Forêt	ameur59@yahoo.fr
Turkey	Yalova	MMFN Member, MF u.d. (*)	Mr.	Mehmet	Özdemir	OGM - G.D. Forestry	mehmetozdemir@ogm.gov.tr

(*) MF u.d. = Model Forest under development