

PRESS RELEASE

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AGORA: decision-makers and stakeholders from North Africa met over the scientific challenges and needs of Mediterranean forests

The AGORA project has now focused on the identification of gaps of knowledge from the point of view of stakeholders and decision-makers from Tunisia and Morocco. With these results, AGORA will fine-tune the objectives of development of scientific capacities in the framework of the project and will propose adjustments of the research strategies of the partner institutions.



The main challenges identified during the workshop are the following:

- Enhancement of the understanding of climate change impacts on forests and their adaptation;
- Quantification and valorisation of non-wood products and non-market services;
- Instruments for internalising the value of non-wood products and non-market services;
- Integration of the participation of local communities in forest management for the sustainable provision of goods and services;
- Development of new models of multi-resources forest management (including non-wood products and non-market services).

At the moment the mobility measures for Moroccan and Tunisian researchers are already being implemented in view of responding to the above mentioned needs. There will also be a scientific workshop in Tunisia (September 2010) for reinforcing the research capacities of Morocco and Tunisia focusing on the identified processes.

AGORA workshop brought together 50 stakeholders, decision-makers, researchers and experts to Rabat, Morocco. The participants represented, among others, the High Commissariat for Water,



Forest and Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD), the Forest Research Center (CRF) and the National School of Forest Engineers (ENFI) from Morocco, and the Forest Service and the National Research Institute on Rural Engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF) from Tunisia, FAO and EFIMED.

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