

AISF

THE ITALIAN ACADEMY OF FOREST SCIENCE

FAO - ROME

EFUF - IUFRO

DISAAT

DEISTAF

University of Bari

University of Florence



MED-ways

Guidelines and common routes for the future challenges of Urban and Peri-urban forests in Mediterranean cities



A COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

FLORENCE, ITALY, the 16th of DECEMBER 2011



**1st
ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR
PARTICIPANTS**



OUR COMMON IDEA

The intention is to meet and work together in order to share ongoing experiences and to develop ideas for new Urban and peri-urban Forestry initiatives in the Mediterranean Region.

Please feel free to suggest contacts, ideas and to share the announcement with your colleagues and with any person that could be interested in the initiative.

The workshop will be held on December 16th 2011 in Florence, Italy, and will be hosted by the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences and the city of Florence.



MED-ways - Common challenges of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry in Mediterranean cities

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

In the frame of the International Year of Forests, Urban and Peri-urban Forestry has been recognized as one of the important, emerging issues in forestry sector, addressed both to the environmental and to the social aspects, that can tackle a wide range of weaknesses and threats of the expanding urban world. Urban and Peri-urban Forestry is well rooted in Central-North Europe and North America and it is emerging as a key-issue in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in Asia. Quite surprisingly, despite the longstanding history of urbanization and the role played by the region in the past and at present in discourses and actions about cities, Southern Europe and the Mediterranean are still silent in developing a common strategy of communication and implementation regarding Urban and Peri-urban Forestry and, moreover, in debating the crucial present and future aspects of trees and forests living in the cities and in their neighbourhoods.

Thanks to the opportunity offered by the International Year of the Forest, we would like to invite to a one-day workshop at the end of 2011 on the topic of Urban and Periurban Forests (UPFs) in the Mediterranean region.

The workshop aims, first of all, to strengthen the exchange of experiences in an area where urban and peri-urban forests have always been a crucial factor for human development. The management, design and planning of urban and peri-urban forests is strategic because of the contribution that the green structure and open spaces in and around towns can make to counteract and mitigate the effects of Global Change, both at regional and local levels. This consideration is particularly relevant in the Mediterranean Basin, one of the areas exposed to more severe risk from climate change. Closely linked to this subject are also aspects related to desertification, loss of soil fertility and water conservation. Moreover, urban and peri-urban can be implemented as one of the most effective tools to be adopted for the sustainable governance of cities in order to guarantee a better future of human communities. Urban and peri-urban forests can ameliorate the quality of life of urban dwellers according to a wide range of challenges and opportunities related to e.g. public health and well-being, amenity and better urbanscapes, food supply, recreation and formal/informal physical activity in open spaces, jobs and income generation, nature and biodiversity conservation, watershed management and disaster risk prevention (e.g. floods, landslides, droughts), and so on. Establishing and managing urban forest and trees means providing crucial ecosystem services to urban societies, including carbon sequestration and carbon storage, soil development, mitigation of extreme winds and weather events.

The general objective of the workshop is to identify the State of the Art of research and experience in UPFs in the Mediterranean Area. In addition, the event will offer an occasion to reflect on proposals oriented to encourage the development of initiatives and the mobility of researcher and practitioners by using the existing European (e.g. the Seventh Framework Programme, Interreg, LIFE +, EU Forest Action Plan) and non-European programs, and to indicate key milestones in bridging





MED-ways - Common challenges of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry in Mediterranean cities

PROGRAMME

A one-day workshop is proposed structured according to the following Tentative Programme

09h30 - Opening (15 min)

- Presentation of the Workshop - Organizers (20 min)
- Hosting City/Country (10 min)
- IUFRO-EFUF (10 min)
- FAO (10 min)
- Countries/Cities presentations (10 min each)
- Regional institutions: e.g. Silva Mediterranea, EFIMED, Forêt Méditerranéenne (10 min each)
- Discussion: focusing on key questions

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Discussion: focusing on key questions

16h30 TBD: Tele-Conference with administrators/experts of other regions (Hosting City of the Seminar; e.g. Brazzaville, Millennium Cities, Delhi, Santiago del Chili)

17h00 Wrap-up Conclusions and Recommendations

17h30 - Closure

A "Second Announcement for Participants" will be available by the end of October and posted on the website <http://www.greenlab.uniba.it> and on the FAO Website on Urban Forestry:

<http://km.fao.org/urbanforestry/>. The final agenda and other logistical information will be posted at that time.

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION

Attendance at the workshop may have to be restricted due to space limitations. You are requested to respond to this call for participation as soon as possible, but in any case no later than 30 November 2011.

Send your request by return email to: Fabio Salbitano, DEISTAF, University of Florence (fabio.salbitano@unifi.it); Giovanni Sanesi, DISAAT, University of Bari (sanesi@agr.uniba.it)

REGISTRATION FEES

No registration fees are applicable..

WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language will be English.

VENUE

Italian Academy of Forest Sciences (Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali)

Piazza Edison, 11 FIRENZE – ITALY



MED-ways - Common challenges of Urban and Peri-urban Forestry in Mediterranean cities

ORGANIZATION

The event is co-organized by the Italian Academy of Forest Science, the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Science of the University of Bari, the Department of Economy, Engineering, Science and Technology in Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Florence, in cooperation with FAO Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division and IUFRO – European Forum of Urban Forestry.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE & SECRETARIAT

- Orazio Ciancio, AISF
- Giovanni Sanesi, DISAAT
- Fabio Salbitano, DEISTAF
- Michelle Gauthier, FAO
- Cecil C. Konijnendijk, EFUF - IUFRO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Giovanni Sanesi
DISAAT – University of Bari
Via Amendola, 165/A
70126 BARI - ITALY
Tel. +39 080 5443023
Fax. +39 080 5442508
Email: sanesi@agr.uniba.it
Web: www.greenlab.uniba.it/sanesi

Fabio Salbitano
DEISTAF –
Via San Bonaventura, 13
50145 FIRENZE - ITALY
Tel: + (39) 055-3288607
Cell: + (39) 3200488024
Email: fabio.salbitano@unifi.it

