



SUPPORT IN THE SELECTION OF PILOT SITES FOR THE FFEM PROJECT "OPTIMIZE PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE "

Ref.
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Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount* (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
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Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>The woodlands of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey significantly contribute to the fight against poverty, to the socio-economic development of rural areas, to food security, and to the preservation of global and regional public goods. These ecosystems are however under increasing pressure, some of which are linked to climate change. Strategies adopted for woodland management do not sufficiently take into account the impact of climate change, due to a lack of specific knowledge directly usable by managers.</p> <p>The project "Optimize production of goods and services in the Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of climate change", initiated by the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), seeks to capitalise on existing knowledge to generate new results and feedback and encourage a regional dialogue on these issues.</p> <p>In particular, the project will allow for the development, on pilot sites, of activities related to the adaptation of woodlands to climate change, the economic value of goods and services they provide, the governance of these areas and the mitigation of climate change by woodlands.</p> <p>The mission entrusted to the experts consisted of supporting the countries involved in the identification of pilot sites in their territory.</p>	<p>The support involved the drafting of a chapter on forestry projects for the mitigation of climate change (REDD+ and woodfuel energy projects) for inclusion in a guide to identify pilot sites, elaborated for the project. The chapter included the presentation of the objectives of the project concerning mitigation, the presentation of the fundamental concepts of REDD+ and the methodological approach chosen for the implementation of REDD+ projects and guidelines for the selection of pilot sites.</p> <p>To ensure the relevance of the guidelines and illustrate them with examples, a feasibility study of a REDD+ project in Morocco's Maamora forest, was carried out. This feasibility study was based on a field visit, the exploitation of documents and raw data and interviews with twenty stakeholders to assess the existing situation and shortcomings relating to: (i) the assessment of the state of degradation of the site and the evolution of this state, (ii) the diagnosis of existing pressures, (iii) the modeling of the future evolution of degradation in the absence of REDD+ activities (baseline), (iv) the assessment of the mitigation potential of possible activities, (v) the assessment of leakages (displacement of pressures to areas outside the project site) and (vi) the assessment and mitigation of the negative social and environmental impact of possible activities. The additionality of the REDD+ activities was also investigated.</p> <p>These results were presented and shared during two-day workshops in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, each comprising twenty people (representatives of administrations of forests and environment, consultants, researchers, etc.) During these workshops, the team also animated presentations on climate change adaptation and the selection of pilot sites to implement adaptation projects.</p>