

heritage. Additionally, they provide a wide array of benefits that have a high potential to contribute to local economies. Higher pressure on natural resources, combined with a lack of information on many of their benefits has contributed in increasing forest degradation leading to a decrease of ecosystem service provision. **"Their future is seriously endangered by rapid and drastic climate and land-use changes,** which add to long-lasting problems related to **forest fires,** forest **over-exploitation** and the **advance of desertification** in the region" (EFIMED, webpage). Thus, there is a need to raise awareness on the value of Mediterranean forests, especially those of the MENA region, and a necessity to implement Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) mechanisms.





Sustainable management of Mediterranean forest ecosystems requires the explicit recognition of their benefits, proper valuation of their goods and services, as well as the consideration of the costs of forest degradation. A variety of economic tools, mechanisms and policies have been developed to support sound forest ecosystem use and management, by better integrating biodiversity and ecosystem values into individual, household, corporate and public sector decision-making.

The event will highlight the importance of Mediterranean forest ecosystems for livelihoods and economic development in the MENA region. It will discuss how to properly value forest goods and services as well as how to take the cost of forest degradation into account when making decisions. Additionally, it will discuss the challenges and opportunities for developing concrete initiatives and development policies in the region which will recognize forest ecosystems as a source of improved, more sustainable and equitable development and economic growth. This will include the **presentation of a variety of economic mechanisms for supporting sound forest ecosystem use and management,** including: environmental fiscal reform, access and benefit sharing, environmental funds, as well as the potential of various types of payments for ecosystem services for the MENA-region.

Because of all the links between forest, water, tourism, agriculture, climate, etc. which imply costs and benefits for the MENA society, the event will also be the place for an inter-sectoral dialogue.



MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE :

-  **Introduce main concepts,** elements and strategies related to the **Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity** with a focus on forest ecosystems
-  **Increase the awareness** on the importance of **forest ecosystem services** (FES) in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region, in particular in regard to adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change
-  **Exchange** experiences from existing initiatives on economic valuation and finance mechanisms for forest ecosystems and biodiversity protection in the MENA region, and
-  **Identify** opportunities and concrete initiatives for integrating FES and biodiversity into development planning in MENA countries and for the design of sustainable finance mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE :

-  Conference participants **understand the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity-related concepts,** elements and approaches and their relevance to forest ecosystems in the MENA region.
-  Experiences, knowledge, methodologies and lessons learned on **forest ecosystem valuation and sustainable finance mechanisms are shared between countries.**
-  Orientations and **recommendations** are designed for decision-makers in the MENA region in order to consider the value of FES and to take into account the design of adapted finance mechanisms

CONTACTS

Mrs Maike Potthast	Maike-Christine.Potthast@giz.de	+216 70 728 622
Mr Ghazi Gader	Ghazi.Gader@giz.de	+216 78 443 601
Mr Ludwig Liagre	Ludwig.Liagre@giz.de	+212 537 66 63 01
Mr Faouzi Maamouri	Fmaamouri@wwftunis.org	+216 71707238
Mr Raffaella Mancini	rmancini@atw-wwf.org	+34 93 278 8030
Mr Youssef Saadani	youssef.saadani@iresa.agrinet.tn	216-71283727
Mr Ameer Mokhtar	ameur.mokhtar@iresa.agrinet.tn	216-71283727
Mr Nabil Hamada	pfn.cbd@mineat.gov.tn	216-70728644
Mr Hamda Aloui	dgeqv@mineat.gov.tn	216-70728644



The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Recognizing and capturing the value of **forest** ecosystem services in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa)

Cité des sciences - Tunis
28th and 29th June 2011

<http://teeb-tunis.yolasite.com>



Day 1: 28th June 2011

08:30-09:00	Registration of Participants
09:00-10:00	Welcome Addresses
10:00-10:30	Keynote address The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) – Approaches, concepts and relevance to Forest Ecosystem Services (the TEEB initiative; Dr. Matteo Roggero)
10:30-10:40	Presentation of the Conference Objectives and Agenda
10:40-11:00	Coffee Break

Session 1: The economics of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the MENA region

11:00-11:10	Film – Tunisian Forest Ecosystem Services
11:10-11:40	The value of Mediterranean forest ecosystems for livelihoods, economic growth and development in MENA countries (Dr. Lelia Croitoru)
11:40-12:00	Forest ecosystem services in the MENA region: need for further knowledge for sustainable forest governance options (EFIMED, Dr. Robert Mavsar)
12:00-12:30	Discussion panel with representatives from the MENA-region: "Applying TEEB approaches and concepts in forest ecosystems in MENA countries: national and regional perspectives?"
12:30-13:00	Questions & Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch

Session 2: Examples of tools and approaches to integrate the economics of forest ecosystems and biodiversity into planning and decision-making

14:30-14:50	Economic Valuation of Goods and Services of the Tunisian Forest, based on the current valuation study conducted by the Tunisian GDF (Tunisian GDF, Youssef Saadani)
14:50-15:10	Vulnerability assessment of Tunisian forest ecosystems to Climate Change and socio-economic consequences (CCC/GIZ, Maïke Potthast)
15:10-15:30	Integration of the economics of forest ecosystems into planning processes, strategies and policies (with an example from the Med-region) (EFIMED, Dr. Robert Mavsar)
15:30-16:00	Questions & Discussion
16:00-16:30	Coffee break

Session 3: Examples of mechanisms to capture the value of forest ecosystem services (1)

16:30-16:50	General introduction on finance mechanisms to capture the value of forest ecosystem services, including introduction on PES (World Bank, Dr. Stefano Pagiola)
16:50-17:10	PES case from the MENA-region (WWF MedPo, Dr. Meryem El Madani)
17:10-17:30	PES case from the MENA-region (World Bank, Dr. Stefano Pagiola)
17:30-17:50	The role of the private sector in taking into account the economics of forest ecosystems
17:50-18:20	Discussion panel with representatives from the MENA-region: "Which perspectives for PES to capture the value of FES in the MENA-region?"

Day 2: 29th of June 2011

Session 4: Examples of mechanisms to capture the value of forest ecosystem services (2)

9:00-9:20	Compensation mechanism for forest protection: case of Morocco (Moroccan HCEFLCD, Said Moukrim)
9:20-9:40	REDD+: Concepts, main elements and potential for MENA countries (ONF International, Marie Calmel)
9:40-10:00	Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism – with focus on Non Timber Forest Products. Potential for local and national economies (GeoMedia GbR, Suhel Al-Janabi)
10:00-10:20	Environmental Funds allocated to Sustainable Forest Management (CDR Lebanon, Nancy Awad)
10:20-10:40	Environmental Fiscal Reform: incentives and financial resources for Sustainable Forest Management (Aequilibrium Consulting GmbH, Dr. Jürg Klarer)
10:40-11:10	Questions & Discussion
11:10-11:40	Coffee break
11:40-12:40	Presentation/Discussion of orientations and recommendations to decision-makers on how to deal with forest ecosystem services and related-challenges (Dr. Hamed Daly-Hassen)
12:40-13:00	Closure
13:00-14:00	Lunch



To emphasize on the key role of forests in achieving sustainable development, the United Nations declared the year **2011** as the **International Year of Forests**. The UN resolution recognizes "that **forests and sustainable forest management** can contribute significantly to **sustainable development, poverty eradication** and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the **Millennium Development Goals**". It also emphasizes on "the need for sustainable management of all types of forests, including fragile forest ecosystems". Forest ecosystems worldwide shelter most of the terrestrial biodiversity and generate a substantial number of goods and services that benefit people. They contribute to water and air purification; climate regulation; carbon storage; prevention of erosion, floods and desertification; conservation of biodiversity among many others. Forest ecosystems are claimed to be of great economic value and their services are likely to fetch higher values than forest products or alternative land uses.

At the same time, the **worldwide degradation** and depletion of forest ecosystem services and biodiversity can **incur significant economic costs and losses** – especially for the poorest and most vulnerable sections of the population – and involves imminent risks such as impacts on human health, accelerated climate change, increased watershed disruption, loss of water quality, and loss of biodiversity among others. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that about 13 million hectares of the world's forests are lost due to deforestation each year.

The continued loss and degradation of forests is partly due to rapid population changes, forest fires, climate change, but also due to the fact that many important forest ecosystems have no markets, and hence, no apparent economic value, justifying the use of forest land for other purposes. Maintaining forest ecosystems requires the explicit recognition of their benefits, proper valuation of their goods and services, as well as consideration of the costs of biodiversity degradation.

Mediterranean forests, including those in the MENA region, have specific features which make them a **unique world natural**

