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StrategyMedFor

Shaping the future of Mediterranean forests

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NATURAL HERITAGE WORKING GROUPS WEBINAR

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How can restoration priorities identified through StrategyMedFor's geospatial mapping be integrated into EU and national restoration plans?

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Restoration is not a one solution for all and restoration actions and prioritization require stewardship and locally grounded planning and prioritisation *(i.e. management, supervision, administration, governance…)*

Dinaric Alps

1. Close to nature forest management
2. Management approaches by forest type
3. Climate change in area bordering Mediterranean and Continental climates
4. Application of the Index of Biodiversity Potential

Samaria National Park

1. Restoration of ancestral olive groves
2. Promote sustainable agroforestry
3. Strengthen local livelihoods
4. Improve connectivity and fire resilience

Galičica National Park

1. Sustainable management of endemic Greek juniper forests
2. EU Natura 2000 sites proposal
3. Dissemination of lessons learned
4. Goals and target setting for long-term biodiversity conservation

StrategyMedFor aim and scope

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The StrategyMedFor project aims to **develop a robust and adaptable strategy, considering future climate scenarios, for sustainable management of Mediterranean forests,** with a focus on the Balkan region, where our three pilot sites are located.

The innovative component of StrategyMedFor is the **integration of cutting-edge technologies, in-depth research, and collaborative partnerships.**

The **process is consultative** with key associated partners and stakeholders.

Collective rethinking of the meaning of **Sustainable Forest Management**
in the Mediterranean led to the following considerations:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Regulation and Carbon Sequestration
- Soil and Water Resource Protection
- Ecosystem Services Delivery
- Socioeconomic Benefits at Local & Regional Levels

A Mediterranean-centered Supplementary Indicators framework for the sustainable management of forests

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FOREST EUROPE Criteria

		FOREST EUROPE INDICATORS	MEDITERRANEAN FOREST SUPPLEMENTARY INDICATORS
C1	Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles	1.1. Forest area 1.2. Growing stock 1.3. Age structure and/or diameter distribution of forest 1.4. Carbon stock	● **1.1.1. Mediterranean forest area**
C2	Maintenance of Forest Health and Vitality	2.1. Deposition and concentration of air pollutants 2.2. Soil condition 2.3. Defoliation 2.4. Forest damage 2.5. Forest land degradation	● **2.4.1. Forest fire management effectiveness**
C3	Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)	3.1. Increment of fellings 3.2. Roundwood 3.3. Non-wood goods 3.4. Services	● **3.5. Mediterranean forests under management plans**
C4	Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems	4.1. Diversity of tree species 4.2. Regeneration 4.3. Naturalness 4.4. Introduced tree species 4.5. Deadwood 4.6. Genetic resources 4.7. Forest fragmentation 4.8. Threatened forest species 4.9. Protected forests 4.10. Common forest bird species	● **4.1.1. Understory species diversity** ● **4.6.1. Proportion of Populations within Species with Ne > 500** ● **4.7.1. Mediterranean landscape mosaic** ● **4.11. Threatened Mediterranean-endemic forest species** ● **4.12. Index of Biodiversity Potential** ● **4.13. Climate-Induced Migration in Mediterranean tree species** ● **4.14. Threatened or rare Mediterranean forest habitat types**
C5	Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably soil and water)	5.1. Protective forests - soil, water and other ecosystem functions – infrastructure and managed natural resources	
C6	Maintenance of other Socioeconomic Functions and Conditions	6.1. Forest holdings 6.2. Contribution of forest sector to GDP 6.3. Net revenue 6.4. Investments in forests and forestry 6.5. Forest sector workforce 6.6. Occupational safety and health 6.7. Wood consumption 6.8. Trade in wood 6.9. Wood energy 6.10. Recreation in forests	● **6.3.1. Mediterranean forests ecosystem service provisions**

From Strategy Development to Spatial Planning

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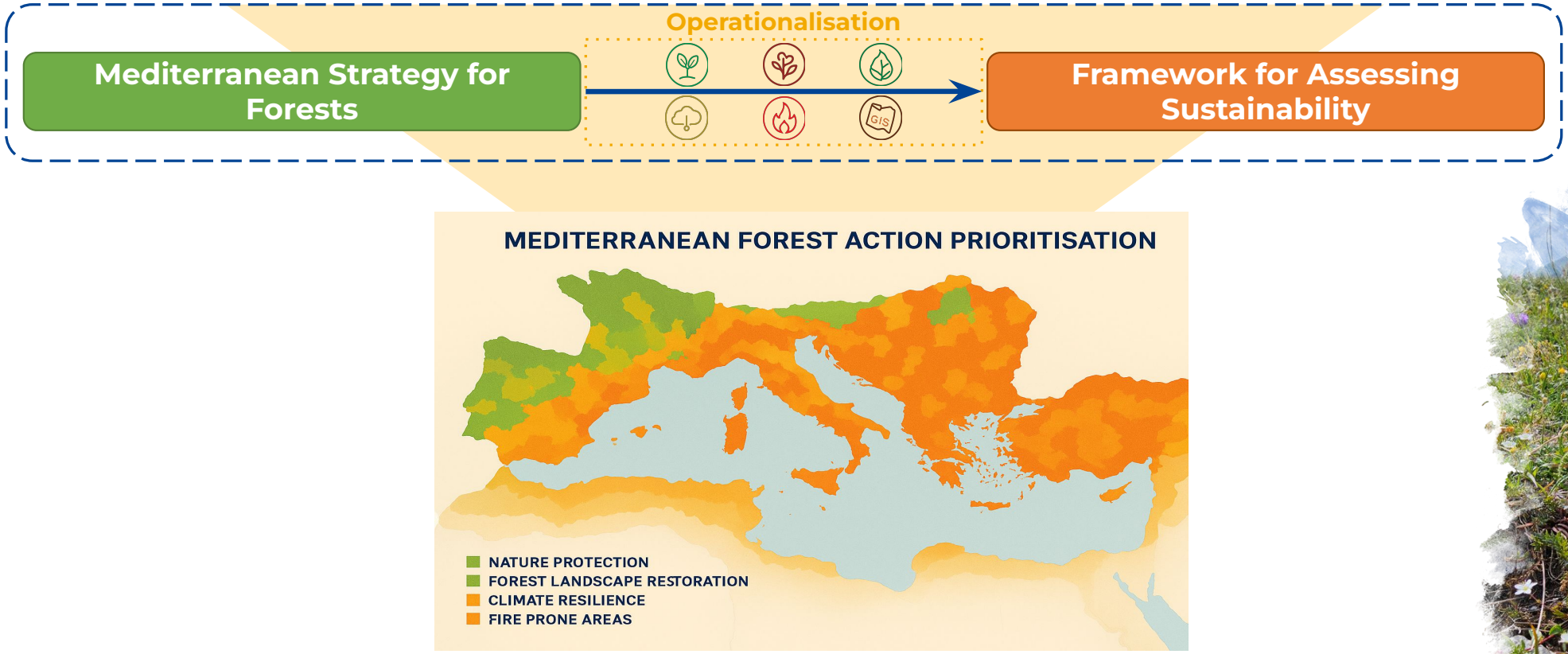

The StrategyMedFor partnership intends to **propose a voluntary, non-legally binding cooperation framework for the transboundary governance of forests in the Mediterranean**

Assessing and Monitoring Progress Against Set Targets at Regional and Local Scales

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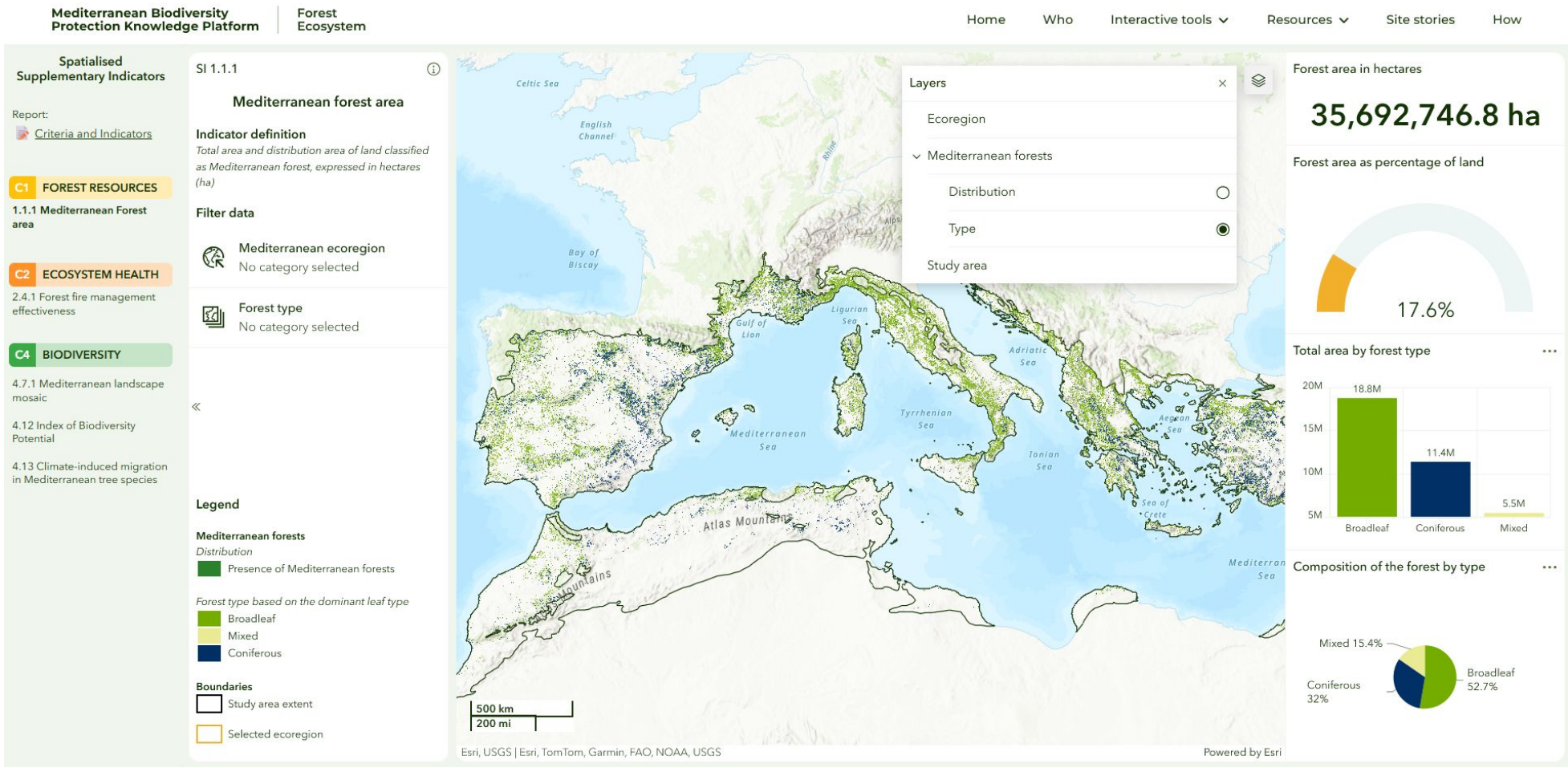

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The Nature Restoration Regulation foresees monitoring of progress that shall be carried out "at least every six years". 2030 is only an intermediate date, with the work continuing with a 2050 target

Recommendations

- StrategyMedFor products - such as the Supplementary indicators tailored to the Mediterranean context - are designed to be **used in the long term**
- Support decision-making for **managers on the ground**, and provide evidence for **policy making** at higher levels.
- Help **develop or adjust management practices** to maintain, and if possible improve, status (e.g. mitigation of fire risk)
- Practices are **general**, or need to be **adapted** to specific environmental conditions.
- **Publicize** and actively promote the developed products to interested countries
- Provide **support to stakeholders** who want to make **use of geospatial tools**
- **Adapt** tools to reply to questions about prioritization based on levels of degradation

How can monitoring frameworks and data sharing be standardized across borders to fulfil EU reporting obligations?

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Standardization is key for the successful implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation

Recommendations

- Adopt database standards as early as possible (e.g., proposed standards in the EU Forest Monitoring Law)
- Adopt open software platforms/tools
- Prepare training courses and free material for users
- Develop a Mediterranean network of users for monitoring and data provision
- Organize exchange visits between user teams to solve problems by sharing examples and lessons learned

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How should land abandonment and fire-risk management be integrated into restoration policy for long-term forest resilience?

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Restoration policy can impose further restrictions on rural people, which are likely to be perceived negatively *(e.g., the EU Forest Strategy highlights involving a diversity of voices in policy-making at all political levels: EU, national, regional and local).*

Land abandonment

- Promote local engagement in policies and legislations preparation
- Engage locals in policy implementation
- Make restoration policy accessible
- Provide compensation (e.g., payments for ecosystem services)
- Provide scientific guidance and financial support
- Reduce bureaucracy

Fire risk

- A healthy and active population
- Promotion of education, training, volunteerism.
- Fire management policy not dictated by Civil Protection, but be the outcome of compromises with environmental agencies
- Protect the soil through appropriately planned cultivations (e.g., low flammability)
- Provide incentives for farmers

Thank you

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