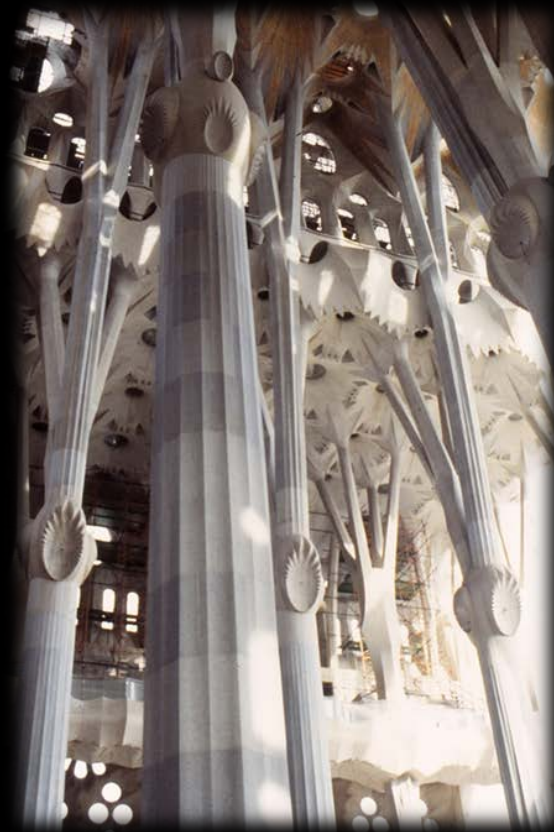


Silva Mediterranea

Working Group on Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry

Report 2017-2019



Background WG on UPF established by the *Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea* (Antalya, Turkey, 2-3 February 2012)



Mandate To develop an urban and peri-urban forestry networking strategy for the Mediterranean countries.



Allowing the exchange of valuable information on the state-of-the-art of UPF in the Mediterranean countries



Act as a neutral forum



Following priorities

- ☐ Improve North-South and South-South **cooperation** between stakeholders
- ☐ Raise local and regional **awareness** on the benefits and incomes
- ☐ Push green infrastructures and UPF upward on the **political agendas**
- ☐ Build a common **strategic vision on green infrastructures and urban forests**
- ☐ Promote economic, environmental and social **sustainability** in urban and peri-urban areas, and a sustainable use and management of resources

Secretariat of the WG: FAO UPF programme; **one/two coordinators** elected among the members of the group.

Role of the Secretariat: to **facilitate the dialogue** between members, **coordinate the implementation** of the activities, and **represent the WG** in the framework Silva Mediterranea meetings and relevant international events.



The coordinators of the Secretariat for the biennium 2017-2019 are Mr Fabio Salbitano (University of Florence) and Ms Michela Conigliaro from (FAO).



The WG meets once/twice a year

Meetings of the WG (2017-2019)

6° Workhsop: Padua, Italy, 2017; 7° Workhsop: Barcelona, Spain, 2017; 8° Workhsop: Braganza, Portugal, 2017; 9° Workhsop: Roma, Italy, 2018; 10° Workshop: Mantova, Italy, 2018

At present, more than 100 experts are members of the WG, although only around 20 of those regularly participate in meetings and actively contribute to the activities implemented.

Participation to the WG is open and on voluntary basis. Travels to participate to the meetings are self-funded.



Active in networking at national, regional, global contexts

As examples

WFUF, APUFM, LACFBUP

IDF, COFO

EFI week

Trees and Symbolism

*Palm tree
motifs nahala*



The symbolism of trees is very rooted in prehistoric and paleo historic human societies of the Mediterranean (Salbitano (ed.), 1988)

Activities 2017-2019

1) CITIES AS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES_1

Cultural landscapes give us place and reveal our relationship with land and environment over time



Nowhere else as in cities nature meets culture and culture needs nature

Preparation of regional project proposals



COST ACTION

**CONTRIBUTION OF URBAN FOOD FOREST TO
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN URBAN REGION**

FOOD4URB

promoted by the SilvaMediterraneaworking group on urban and
peri-urban forests, FAO



JOINT ACTIVITIES

Definition of terms, standards and indicators about UPF and related concepts, adapted to the Mediterranean region (continue..)

- Identified indicators applicable to the whole Mediterranean region and not be country specific.
- Both private and public green areas are to be considered.
- Green accountability and economic benefits from the improvement of UPF highlighted
- Consistent links with the outcomes of strategies and activities implemented CBD (City Biodiversity Index), ICLEI, EU Commission, etc. on issues related to green infrastructure and urban sustainability.
- Highlight the linkages between Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services provision.

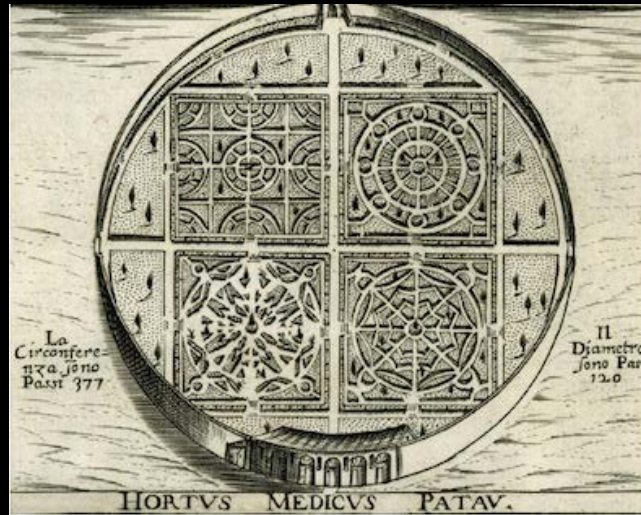
Indicators should be drafted bearing in mind that they **need to be**:

- (i) simple and easily interpretable;
- (ii) referring to accessible data;
- (iii) measurable;
- (iv) multifunctional and applicable to a high number of Mediterranean cities as well as to large/medium/small cities.

Categories:

- BioEcological
- Socio-Economic
- Policy
- Structural

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE AND UPF: SOME MED EXAMPLES

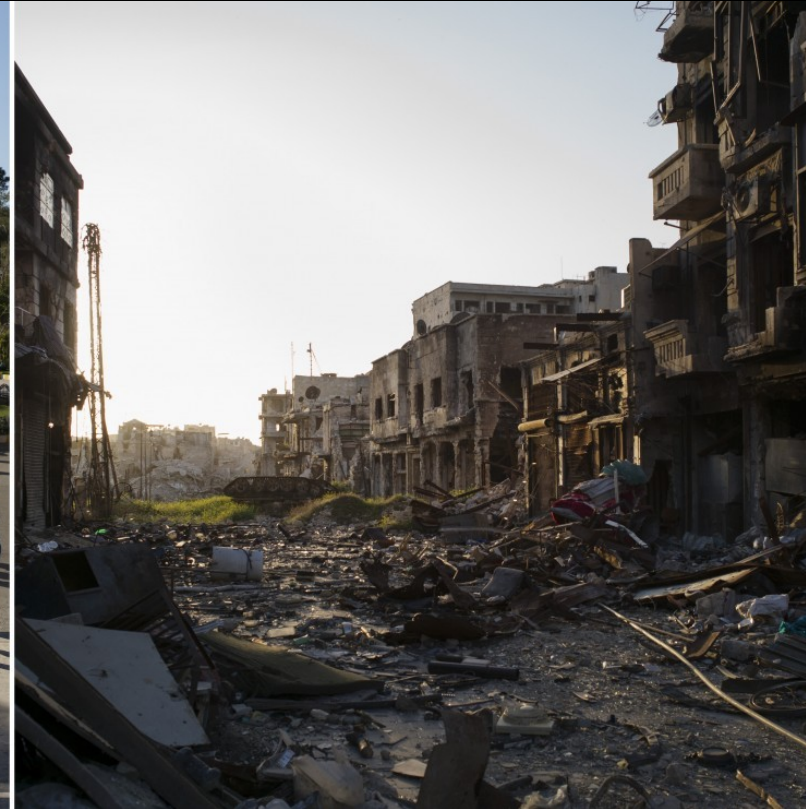


Criterion (ii): The Botanical Garden of Padua has represented a **source of inspiration for many other gardens in Italy and around Europe** and has influenced both their architectural and functional designs and their didactic and scientific approaches in medicinal plants studies and related disciplines.

Criterion (iii): For more than five centuries, the Botanical Garden of Padua has represented **an exceptional testimony of scientific and cultural significance.**

THE INHERITANCE BEYOND THE HERITAGE_1

A tale of two cities in Aleppo – The Washington Post, 19 March 2016



People spend time in Aleppo Public Park on the government-held side of the city, left, and the remains of a market in the rebel-held old city of Aleppo. (Photos by Lorenzo Tugnoli/For The Washington Post)

Use of the Indicators: towards a register of the med-aufs _ ces

No	Indicator name	Measurement unit	Correspondence with CES category	Spatial dimension/Calculation
1	Landscape aesthetics	Spatial proxy	Aesthetic values	Unknown resolution grid
2	Park visitation	Spatial proxy	Recreational and ecotourism	Unknown resolution
3	Density of photographs	# photographs per 1 km ²	Aesthetic value	1 km grid
4	Agriculture Heritage	Spatial proxy of different dimensions that are spatially estimated with kernel density	Cultural heritage, knowledge systems, social relations	100 resolution grid
5	Recreation potential	Spatial proxy of different aggregated variables	Recreational and ecotourism	Different spatial resolutions
6	EcoTourism potential	Spatial proxy of different aggregated variables		Different spatial resolutions
7	Tourist attractions	Number of tourist attractions in certain area (Tourist attractions/km ²)	Recreational and ecotourism	Municipality
8	Rare species	Number of observations of rare species in certain area (Observations of rare species/km ²)		Municipality
9	Tax value of cottages	Tax value of cottages (Tax value of cottages/km ²)		Municipality
10	Respondents' willingness to pay (WTP) for landscape maintenance	Estimation of the monetary value of environmental services	Recreational and ecotourism, aesthetic values, cultural heritage, inspiration, spiritual and religious values	Vector Landscape features (unknown resolution)
11	Travel time-cost estimate	Calculation of estimated respondents' travel costs (D /km)	Inspiration, spiritual and religious values	Vector Landscape features (unknown resolution)

BREATHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PARKS

JOINT ACTIVITIES



COORDINATOR:
PALOMA CARIÑANOS GONZÁLEZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA

PARTICIPANTS: MEMBERS OF SILVAMED-WG ON UPF

Paloma Cariñanos¹, Manuel Casares-Porcel¹, Paolo Semenzato², Pedro Calaza-Martínez³, María Beatrice Andreucci⁴, Cristina Branquinho⁵, Teresa Mexia⁵, Andreia Anjos⁵, Paula Gonçalves⁵, Otilia Correia⁵, Filipa Grilo⁵, Margarida Santos-Reis⁵, Nezha Acil⁶, Elena Paoletti⁷, Elisa Carrari⁷, Artur Gonçalves⁸, José Castro⁸, Anna Chiesura⁹, Pietro Massimiliano Bianco⁹, Marzia Mirabile⁹, Silvia Brini⁹, Enrico Castro¹⁰.

WHAT IS «BREATHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PARKS»?

It is a project that aims to estimate the potential allergenicity of urban green infrastructure elements, mainly parks and gardens



Villa Revedin Bolasco. Castelfranco Veneto, Italy.



Publications....

Contribution to the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) 2018...

State of Mediterranean Forests 2013



State of Mediterranean Forests

2.4 Urban and peri-urban forestry in the Mediterranean region

Contributing authors: Fabio Salvitano^a, Michela Conigliaro^b, Bertille Fages^b, Michelle Gauthier^b, Giovanni Sanesi^c

^a University of Florence, Italy; ^b FAO, Rome; ^c University of Bari, Italy

"Mediterraneans feel closer to their cities than to their states or nations; indeed, cities are their states and nations and more," wrote Matvejevic in 1999. Today, most Mediterranean cities suffer for a lack of green space. Urbanization and the associated process of land consumption continue to increase. Recent decades have been characterized by changes in climate, deep modifications to lifestyles, and heavy landscape alteration, posing major challenges for urban decision-makers. New approaches can help in facing these challenges: high-tech "smart cities" are pursuing new models and tools of urban governance. Nevertheless, planting trees and designing and managing urban forests or parks (Figure 2.67) are still effective ways – in the Mediterranean and elsewhere – to advance quality of life, give lifeblood to city landscapes, build green economies and mitigate the effects of climate change. In recent decades, urban and peri-urban forestry³ (UPF) has emerged as an integrative, multidisciplinary approach to the planning, design and management of forest and tree resources in and around urban areas. The UPF approach addresses economic, social and environmental challenges by providing multiple services and benefits that are highly valuable for the quality of life of urban dwellers. Potential benefits of urban and peri-urban forests and trees include climate-change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas, supplemental food supply, increased health, well-being, jobs and income, biodiversity conservation, watershed management, and disaster risk prevention. A coherent investment by communities and governments in the protection and restoration of forests and trees can make a real contribution to creating a healthy environment, including by helping to reduce poverty and malnutrition. It requires partnerships and alliances based on multistakeholder approaches between local and decentralized authorities, mayors, civil communities, practitioners and researchers in various disciplines.

The faces of urbanization

The spatial distribution of a population is a key element in understanding the use and consumption of resources in a given area. The Mediterranean region is one of the world's largest urbanized areas and has one of the highest urban footprint on the planet (Bourse, 2012). According to Plan Bleu's most recent demographic forecasts (Plan Bleu, 2010), 507 million inhabitants live in the Mediterranean region (in 2010), which is 7.7 percent of the global population. The total is projected to reach 570 million by 2025, with most growth (95 percent) concentrated in the SEMCs. Despite the high rate of urban population growth and contrary to other highly populated parts of the world, urbanization in the Mediterranean region occurs mainly in a large number of small-to-medium cities,

³ UPF: The management of trees for their contribution to the physiological, sociological and economic well-being of urban society. UPF deals with groups of trees and individual trees where people live. It is multifaceted because urban areas include a great variety of habitats (streets, parks, derelict corners, etc.) where trees bestow a great variety of benefits and problems (Carter, 1995, after Grey and Deneka, 1978).

State of forest resources in the Mediterranean region



Figure 2.67. "Parc de l'Esplanade" in Montpellier, France
© Gilles Miles



Figure 2.68. "Parc Arthur Rimbaud" in Montpellier, France
© Fabio Salvitano

...ops! Yes, this one



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



State of Mediterranean Forests 2018



4 Trees outside forests in the Mediterranean region

The Mediterranean landscape: importance and threats

Fabio Salbitano, *Unifi*
Michela Conigliaro, *FAO*
Nezha Aci, *University of Birmingham*
Simone Borelli, *FAO*
Paloma Carriñanos Gonzalez, *University of Granada*
José Castro, *IPB*
Andrej Verlič, *SFI*
Maurizio Teobaldelli, *UNINA*
Silvija Krajer Ostoić, *CFRI*

Introduction

Forests play a key role in sustaining the livelihoods of communities across the globe by providing people with ecosystem services, food and products for home consumption and income generation. Over the centuries, however, many forest and wooded areas have been cleared or depleted through unsustainable use or to make way for expanding urban and agricultural areas. As a result, trees scattered across the landscape – so-called *trees outside forests* (TOF) – play an increasingly relevant role in the provision of ecosystem services and products.

Any trees and shrubs that do not fit into the "forest" or "other wooded lands" category of a country's forest classification can be considered TOF. As a result, the exact definition of TOF will vary from country to country, depending on how the terms "forest," "land cover" and/or "land use" are defined. TOF can be found both in rural and urban landscapes. Their presence is either the result of the degradation or fragmentation of a previously forested area or of the purposeful planting of groups or individual trees on a given piece of land.

Due to the large variability and heterogeneity of TOF systems – sometimes characterized by sparse distribution, limited spatial footprint, complex ownership and institutional arrangements – the contribution of trees outside forests to the environment, people's livelihoods and national economies can be quite diverse. In this regard, several publications and reports have been produced in recent years with the aim of highlighting the economic and environmental importance of TOF in the context of international conventions such as UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD (Rigueiro-Rodríguez *et al.*, 2009; Kumar and Nair, 2011; Metzler, 2013; van Noordwijk, 2013; Barbati *et al.*, 2014; Schnell *et al.*, 2014; Laestadius, 2015). This demonstrates that, in the global context of climate change, financial crises and food insecurity, the role of TOFs in local and national economies is likely to increase.

This chapter will provide an overview of the key role TOF have played in Mediterranean landscapes over centuries. In particular, it will focus on current distribution trends and dynamics, management challenges and risks in the near future, and policy and governance approaches to foster their sustainable management.

The Mediterranean landscape: importance and threats



Figure 2.17. Married grapevine in
Central Italy
© Fabio Salbitano



Figure 2.18. Trees outside forests
in urban areas place a major role in a
variety of ecosystem services, most
notably cultural services. This is the
case in the Albaicín district in
Granada, Spain, which was
declared a World Heritage Site
(together with Alhambra) thanks to
the presence of an outstanding
design which harmonized TOF and
architectural elements
© Michela Conigliaro

Publication of a Scientific paper on the Urban forest research in the Mediterranean: a systematic review

Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 31 (2018) 185–196



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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Urban Forestry & Urban Greening

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ufug



Review

Urban forest research in the Mediterranean: A systematic review

Silvija Krajter Ostoić^{a,*}, Fabio Salbitano^b, Simone Borelli^c, Andrej Verlič^d

^a Croatian Forest Research Institute, Department for International Scientific Cooperation in Southeast Europe – EFISEE, Perkovčeva 5/II, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

^b University of Florence, Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Systems (GESAAF), Via S. Bonaventura 13, 50145 Florence, Italy

^c Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00151 Rome, Italy

^d Slovenian Forestry Institute, Department of Forest Ecology, Večna pot 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



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We would like to acknowledge all the friends actively participating in the UN FAO's [Silva Mediterranea Working Group 7 on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry](#). They never stopped to encourage and promote this study and we are very grateful for the suggestions and help they gave us during the last meetings of the group.

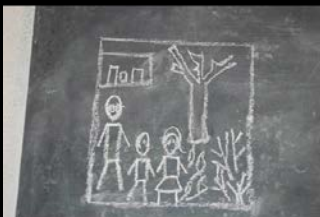
VIEWS ON THE BENEFITS AND CONSTRAINTS OF REGIONAL NETWORKING IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

BENEFITS:

- Collaboration, partnerships and networks was a powerful mechanism through sharing expertise and strategies
- Openness: aiming to reach more and more people irrespective of the region, nationality and geography.
- There are no constraints for people with different localities and languages when this form is concerned.
- Participate in high level meetings / forums
- Participate in the proposal of actions to be implemented
- Establish a Network of Collaboration across Mediterranean Countries
- Possibility of approaching a topic from different multidisciplinary perspectives

CONSTRAINTS:

- Still Few countries represented
- Absence of funds / resources that facilitate participation
- Activities must be done voluntarily
- The initial high positive energy vanishes if short-term results are not obtained

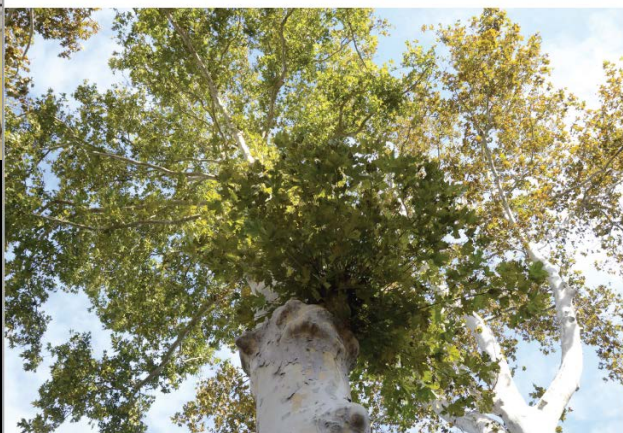
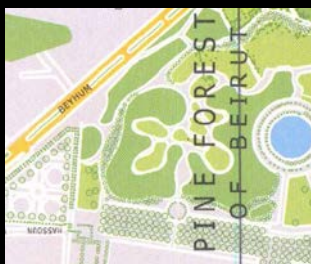


Strategy towards the following biennium (2020-2022)



ECOLITERACY AND URBAN FOOD FORESTS:

alfabetizzazione ecologica per la produzione di cibo e
la gestione consapevole delle foreste urbane



REHABILITATION OF BEIRUT PINE FOREST



ZONES

THE CULTURAL / PUBLIC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS ZONE
The cultural zone offers learning pathways, whereas the open fields allow the creation of different events. The functions that are suggested in this zone are:
- The Open Field that creates a setting for public programs and community events such as festivals & markets

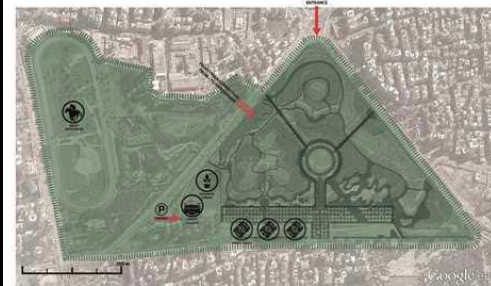
THE GREEN LIVING ROOM
The green living room is where families can meet. The functions that are suggested in this zone are:
- The Platform (the highest point in the forest)
- The Seating Area where tables and benches serve as an urban living room for landscaping, where parents & other kids gather
- The Open Field that creates a setting for relaxing activities such as picnics, sunbathing and breaks in the grass

THE URBAN EXTENSION & FITNESS ZONE
The Urban Extension has everything from a city that is not a building or a road. The functions that are suggested in this zone are:
- The Urban Extension
- The Children's Park
- The Open Air Theater
- The Open Field that creates a setting for street performers and gathering points
- Open Air (Outdoor) Fitness Area

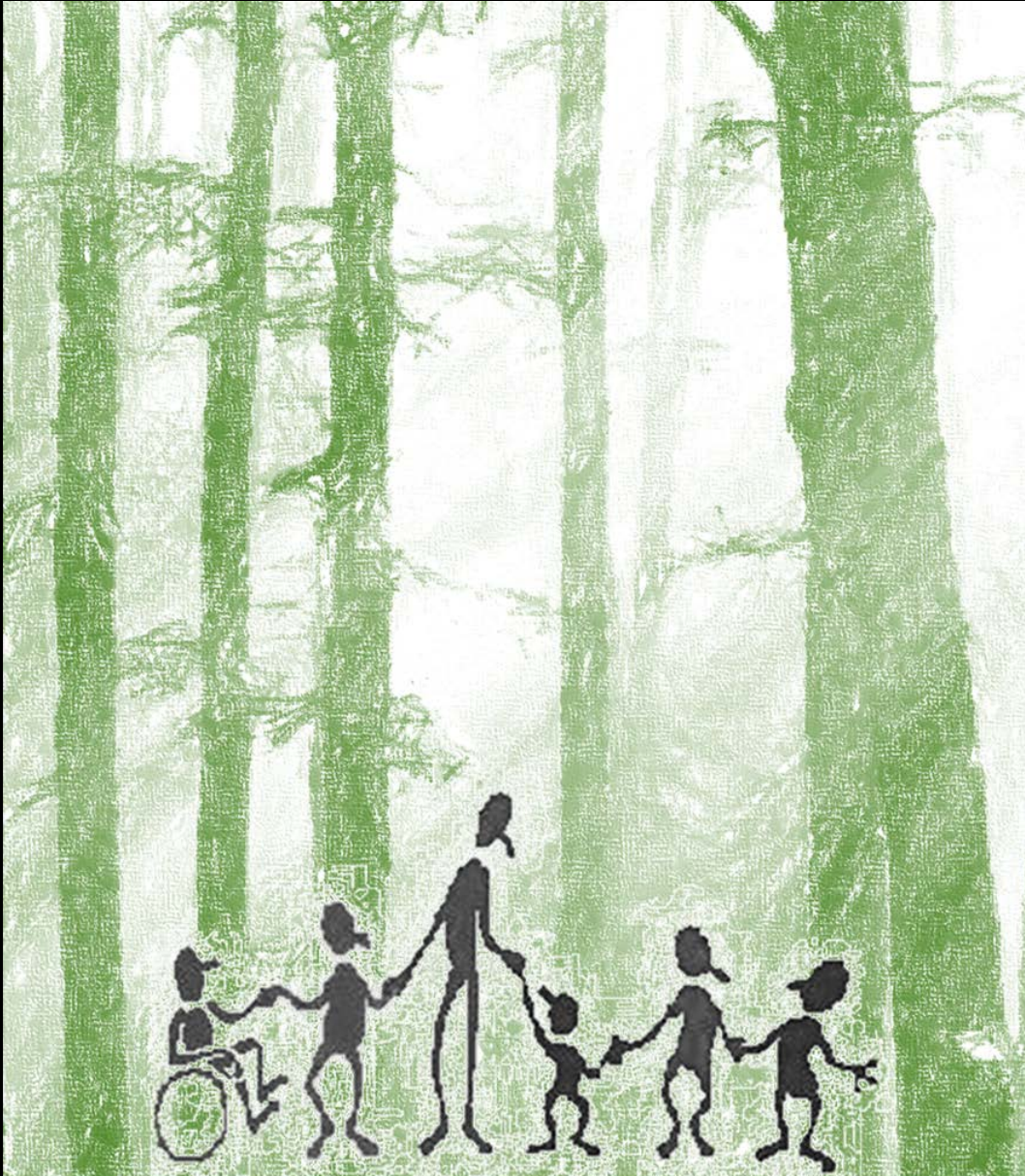
LEGEND

- THE URBAN EXTENSION & FITNESS ZONE
- THE GREEN LIVING ROOM
- THE CULTURAL / PUBLIC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS ZONE
- BOTANICAL GARDEN TO BE SPONSORED BY BEIRUT MUNICIPALITY & TO BE DEVELOPED BY SWITZERLAND AS PART OF THE BEIRUT PINE FOREST

FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION ON THE PINE FOREST



- **Raising awareness** (*i.e. what should municipalities do to address sustainability challenges through UPF*). The development of the policy brief would provide administrators with a guidance on how to enable the environment for UPF implementation.
- **Providing tools** (*i.e. how to implement UPF*): successful, inspirational cases of UPF for cities administrators; technical and communication guidelines and tool-box.
- **Organization of summer schools** on specific topics as a support service for administrations, practitioners, scholars, and scientists of the Region.
- **Validating indicators** (*i.e. how to measure progresses in UPF implementation*). The indicators would be used by cities to monitor their progresses in the implementation of UPF actions.
- **Networking and building partnerships** (*i.e. how to spread the word on UPF*).
- **Local adaptation of the outcomes of the World Forum on Urban Forests 2018**. The [Call for Action](#) and the [Tree City of the World Programme](#) will be promoted and taken as a reference for UPF implementation within the Region.
- **Implementing projects** (*i.e. how to build concrete opportunities for the Region*). As a follow-up of the work done from 2017 to 2019, the WG is preparing project proposals to be submitted in the framework of a number of calls (e.g. MED-REG programme) to implement concrete actions in the Region



Thanks for your attention

fabio.salbitano@unifi.it

(on behalf of all friends of the WG UPF SILVA MED)

Our urban forests

