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# cork land news

WWF Cork Oak Landscapes Programme - protect, manage and restore cork oak forest landscapes in the southwest Mediterranean.

## EDITORIAL

Andalucía is the source of half of the cork produced in Spain. The Andalucian Government has invested in the cork sector for many years, recognizing its potential for sustainable rural development, one of the main political challenges being to improve and ensure the standard of living for rural communities. One of the outstanding initiatives promoted by la Junta de Andalucía is the project for the certification of cork oak forests. Certification adds value to the final product –cork– from an economic, social and environmental perspective. In 2005 the FSC certificate was obtained for the forests of the Grupo de Montes de Jimena de la Frontera (Cádiz) and of

the Grupo de Montes de las Navas y otros (Sevilla). This is the first step on a steady path towards sustainability. The more than 12,000 hectares certified in Andalucía, together with other areas in Portugal and Italy, were the first cork oak forests in the world to be certified. The Consejería de Medio Ambiente is currently working to increase the certified area in order to ensure that management of the forests meets the recently approved Spanish FSC standards for cork. It is planned to audit 27,645 hectares in Andalucía in the coming summer, 11,000 of which are mainly cork oak forests. The Andalucian government also aims to promote the best management

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Presentations and discussion of certification during the exchange visit of Moroccan representatives from the Haut Commissariat des Eaux et Forêts to la Junta de Andalucía. ©Smartwood/ M. CARINO



## EDITORIAL (CONTINUED)

practices possible for cork oak forests, and supports the building of the new Centro Andaluz del Corcho (Andalucian cork Centre) in Alcalá de los Gazules (Cádiz) inside the Alcornocales Natural Park. This Centre will be a reference point for innovation and development in the cork sector. In addition the Pacto Andaluz por la Dehesa (the Andalucian agreement for la Dehesa) has recently been approved, together with the Consejería de Agricultura, to ensure the conservation of this ecosystem and guarantee the balanced use of its resources. Another priority is the improvement of the environmental and economic sustainability of cork harvesting, increasing competitiveness and promoting diversification to ensure sustainable

management of this natural resource. Sustainable development is the only way of securing the conservation of our natural resources. It must be a collective project with the participation of everybody. Only with this common effort can development be achieved in a harmonized and respectful way with nature.

**Fuensanta Coves Botella, Consejera de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de Andalucía.**



### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA HOSTS EXCHANGE

In January WWF organized an exchange study tour for Moroccan foresters on FSC certification in Andalucía. The visit was arranged in collaboration with la Junta de Andalucía, Smartwood and the FSC Initiative in Spain. The group of three representatives of the Haut Comissariat des Eaux et Forêts et à la lutte contre la Désertification, from Rabat, visited la Junta de Andalucía to learn about the process of certification followed in their cork oak forests. They visited FSC-certified sites, and discussed requirements and

challenges behind certification. They also learnt about the Spanish FSC initiative that has culminated in the development of national standards for sustainable management of forests, approved by FSC recently.

This exchange visit was organised in the framework of the WWF Cork Oak Landscapes Programme and the *Program Aumento de la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de poblaciones rurales vulnerables en Marruecos, Mauritania y Túnez*, funded by the Spanish cooperation agency (AECI).

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## EXCHANGE VISIT ON PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT

Two representatives from the Tunisian Direction Générale des Forêts visited several protected areas in Italy last December, an activity organized by WWF in the framework of the Tunisian component of the cork programme. One of the objectives of the project is the development of ecotourism activities in the area of the Kroumirie cork oak landscape. During their visit to the Abruzzo Region of Italy, the participants visited the Natural Reserve Lago di Penne managed by COGECSTRE. Here they had the opportunity to learn about the different cooperatives, all set up by COGECSTRE, which manage different services and activities within the Reserve. Their management, organisation, objectives, infrastructures and historic evolution were discussed. Field visits included the various types of protected

areas (National Park, Regional Park and Regional Reserves) in the region. The exchange was organized to share the experience of Lago di Penne and build upon it to develop an appropriate management system for the National Park of El Feijja in Tunisia. During their visit, the participants were also able to discuss the data collected by COGECSTRE and WWF in Tunisia during the course of a field mission in November 2005. This work will lead to the development of various ecotourism itineraries in the Kroumerie region that will promote local landscapes and traditional products.

This activity was organised in the framework of the Tunisian component of the Program *Aumento de la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de poblaciones rurales vulnerables en Marruecos, Mauritania y Túnez*, funded by the Spanish cooperation agency (AECI).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Tunisian representatives in the education centre at the Natural Reserve Lago di Penne  
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## SPANISH FSC STANDARDS APPROVED

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved the Spanish FSC standards for forest management at the end of January 2006. These standards define the minimum acceptable levels to guarantee responsible forest management in Spain. They include annexes for the evaluation of two non-timber forest products: cork and resin. The standards were developed by the Spanish FSC working group, created in 1999 and made up of professionals and institutions elected democratically. Many other people participated in

discussions towards definition of the standards, working together to reconcile economic, social and environmental interests. As from February 2006, all managed forests willing to apply for the FSC certification will be evaluated according to the Spanish standards. The forest units certified at present will have one year to adapt to the new standards.

The approved standards document can be consulted (in Spanish) at: <http://www.fsc-spain.org/documentos/FSC-STD-ESP-2006-01-ESP.pdf>.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## WWF SPAIN LAUNCHES CORK CAMPAIGN

On November 30, WWF Spain launched its campaign “Corcho Sí. Alcornocales Vivos” at the Wine Fair in Madrid. This is one of the most important world wine fairs after London LIWST and Bordeaux Vinexpo. The campaign is supported by the Instituto Catalan del Suro and aims to inform, raise awareness and create consciousness in the wine sector about the importance of using cork stoppers to contribute to maintaining cork oak landscapes’ socio-economic and environmental systems. It was also a great opportunity to give visibility to the Cork Oak Landscapes Programme, with 28,000 visitors coming to the fair. Wide coverage was obtained both in specialised and general media. A mailing to 2,500 wineries was



organized at the same time, to identify and involve leaders from the Spanish wine industry. Feedback on the mailing is now being received by WWF Spain.

More information on the campaign is available on the WWF Spain website [www.wwf.es/alcornocales.php](http://www.wwf.es/alcornocales.php).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## RESTORATION TECHNIQUES AFTER FIRES

Forest fires have a devastating effect on cork oak forests every year. To understand and improve restoration techniques and management in cork oak forests after fires, WWF organized a visit for representatives of Portuguese institutions to the restoration experiments run by the Instituto del Corcho de la Madera y del Carbón (ICMC-IPROCOR) in Extremadura, Spain, last January. The 17 participants came from NGOs (LPN, ADPM and WWF), the forest administration in Portugal (CRN-DGRF), a research centre (CEABN), a private company on forestry

(Imobiente) and associations of cork producers (UNAC and Aflops). Participants exchanged information and experiences from their various areas of expertise in the field of forest restoration. They also studied techniques to promote natural regeneration, to optimise cork extraction, and to prepare soil to replant cork oak trees. They agreed that an institute similar to the ICMC-IPROCOR should be created in Portugal.

This exchange was organised in the framework of the Cork Oak Landscapes Programme, funded by WWF UK.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Portuguese visitors at experimental forest plots run by ICMC-IPROCOR in Extremadura, Spain.  
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## SITES SELECTED FOR FLR IN MOROCCO

Project team members from WWF Mediterranean, IPADE and ATED recently visited villages within and outside the Talassemtane National Park, a cork oak area, to identify potential sites for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). The overall aim of the initiative is to improve living conditions for the local communities of the Oued Laou watershed, by contributing to their potential sources of income in the long term with the planting of autochthonous tree species.

The project team selected two sites as plantation areas and are now producing an FLR plan for the area, to be discussed with Eaux et Forêts in the near future.

This activity was organised in the framework of the Program Aumento de la sostenibilidad de los medios de vida de poblaciones rurales vulnerables en Marruecos, Mauritania y Túnez, funded by the Spanish cooperation agency (AECI). In Morocco, the project is run by the Moroccan and the Spanish NGOs ATED and IPADE in collaboration with WWF Mediterranean.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## WEBSITES

**Recoforme** is a programme for cooperation through exchange activity centred on forest pilot sites. The Recoforme project *Structuring Networks and Cooperative Action for Mediterranean Forests* promotes the sustainable management of natural land areas and forests around the Mediterranean. <http://www.recoforme.net>

**Biodiversity Economics:** WWF and IUCN have joined forces to update the Biodiversity Economics website, to encourage the use of economics in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. [www.Biodiversityeconomics.org](http://www.Biodiversityeconomics.org)

## EVENTS

Les feux de forêt en Méditerranée: de nouvelles approches pour une problématique ancienne. International meeting to address the issue of forest fires. **Madrid, Spain, 22 - 24 March 2006**  
[http://www.aifm.org/page/doc/pgm\\_coll\\_feux\\_Madrid.pdf](http://www.aifm.org/page/doc/pgm_coll_feux_Madrid.pdf)

International congress on groundwater in Mediterranean countries. A forum to discuss and exchange views on hydrogeology. Organised by the Spanish Geological Survey (IGME), the School of Mining Engineering, Madrid Polytechnic University and Málaga University. **Málaga, Spain, 24 - 28 April 2006.**  
<http://aguas.igme.es/igme/AQUAiNMED/ing/defaultc.htm>

The 26th London International Wine and Spirits Fair will be the most important event in the global wine and spirits calendar for 2006. Over 1,300 exhibitors from 35 countries are expected along with over 25,000 professionals from all over the world to buy, taste, sell and conduct business. **London, UK, 16 - 18 May 2006**  
<http://www.londonwinefair.com/home/index.htm>

The Wine Academy of Spain is organising the first world conference on Global Warming and Wine. **Barcelona, Spain, 24 - 25 May 2006**  
<http://www.thewineacademy.com/web/eng/noticia01.php?id=46>

International Conference on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Forest Management: the role of traditional knowledge. Organised by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. **Florence, Italy, 8 - 10 June 2006**  
[http://www.forestlandscape.unifi.it/chsfrm\\_2006.asp](http://www.forestlandscape.unifi.it/chsfrm_2006.asp)

