

Silva: Forest Conservation Training Course

Training Contents

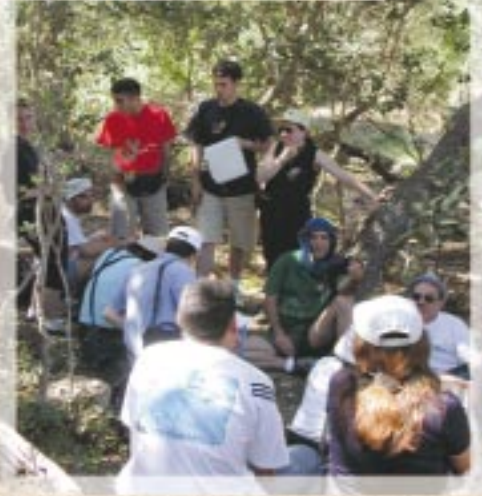


SILVA

WWF/Edward Parker



WWF/Fabio Palma



Up: Los Alcornocales, Cádiz (Spain); down: El-Haouaria (Tunisia).

SILVA is held on an annual basis, usually in the early autumn. The course lasts for 12 days, and is open to: the staff, volunteers and active members of NGOs; officers and other civil servants from local, regional or national administrations; protected areas managers; teachers and representatives of other educational bodies and other stakeholders. Applicants should reside in a riverine Mediterranean country.

All the sessions are held in English or French. A maximum of 15 participants, carefully selected on the basis of their curriculum and nationality, are admitted. The interaction and exchange between people of different backgrounds and experience is one of the most unanimously valued and appreciated outputs of the Silva course.

The Silva programme includes a number of conservation and development themes considered by WWF to be high priority:

- The "Mediterranean Forests, Woodland & Scrub" Ecoregion: biological diversity, conservation status and threats.
- The ecoregional conservation approach: a regional scale long-term conservation framework, aiming to maintain the ecological processes and to integrate the needs of nature and local people, through the establishment of long-term commitments and partnerships.
- Community-based conservation: generating income and conserving natural resources.
- The evolution of Mediterranean forest landscapes: socio-economic dynamics and traditional management systems.
- Environmental Education: raising awareness about, and promoting public participation in, forest conservation.
- Forest Landscape Restoration: a multi-purpose ecological and socially beneficial restoration approach.

WWF/Pedro Regato



El Chouf Nature Reserve (Lebanon).

For further information please contact:

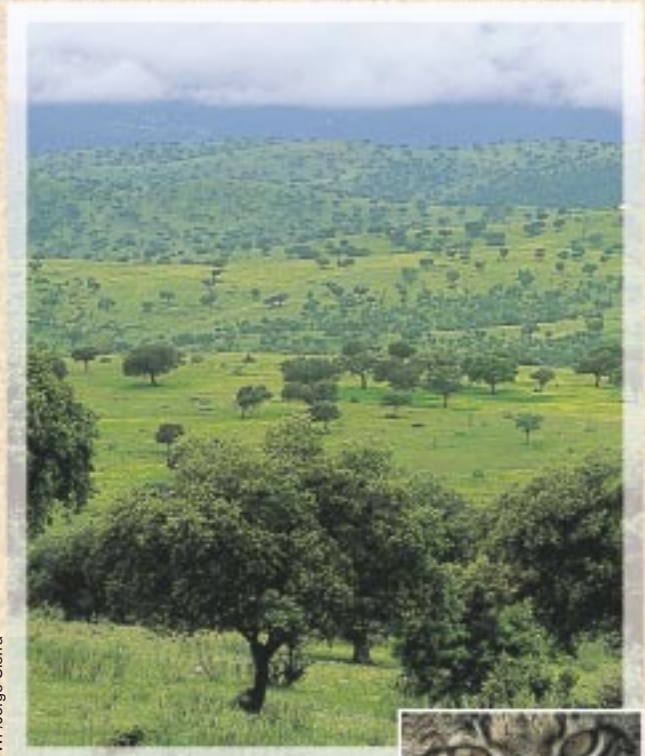
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Mediterranean Forest Conservation Training



The Mediterranean Forests

Forests have always played, and still play, an important role in the daily life of Mediterranean people. But forests are fragile and under threat. Before humans began exploiting the regional ecosystem of the Mediterranean thousands of years ago, forests covered 82% of the landscape. Today the area they cover is five times smaller and in great danger of shrinking further.



WWF/F. Cámara

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Extremadura (Spain).

Despite such alarming depletion, however, "Mediterranean forests, woodland and scrub" is considered among the most biologically outstanding and globally threatened of terrestrial ecoregions. The Mediterranean is still extraordinarily rich in forest habitat types, flora and fauna, most species of which are endemic.

WWF: Action for a Living Forest

WWF is developing new tools to tackle the threats facing forests, and has launched a Mediterranean Forest Hot Spots Campaign, urging governments to take immediate action towards protecting their respective and unique national forests. The campaign focuses on a number of forest areas, highly valuable in terms of their biological diversity. WWF has developed a model for action at the field level – the "Green Belts Against Desertification" –. It is a concept, which will inspire and steer work on forest conservation at the ecoregional level, making forest conservation relevant to local communities and promoting positive dialogue between different stakeholders. Its major aim is to set up functional forest landscapes, formed by an effective ecological network of nature reserves.



WWF/J.A. Camacho



WWF/Jorge Sierra

Up: Forest fires heavily threaten Mediterranean forests; down: Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), Doñana (Spain)

Developing Conservation Capacity

Developing conservation capacity requires a long-term perspective and a deep understanding of the Mediterranean environment, cultures, and societies.



WWF/Pedro Regato

Riparian woodlands, Cuenca (Spain).

Effective partnership and networking need strong human resources and organisational skills, which WWF seeks to develop, together with its partners, through specific capacity-building activities.

The Across the Waters Mediterranean Training Schools address the organisational and programmatic needs of individuals from NGOs and governmental institutions and aim to develop the human resources of partner organisations through conservation training courses like the Silva, Mediterranean Forest Conservation Training.

- Southern European & Northern Anatolia Mountain Conifer Forests
- Southern European & Northern Anatolia Broadleaf Deciduous Forests
- Mediterranean Mountain Conifer Forests
- Mediterranean Broadleaf Deciduous Forests
- Mediterranean Sclerophyllous and Dry Conifer Forests
- Mediterranean Tree-steppes
- Macaronesian "Laurisilva" and Pine Forests
- Arganian Woodlands



WWF-Canon/M. Gunther

Barbary Deer with El-Feija National Park guardian (Tunisia).