

EFI Mediterranean Network Forum 2026

Day one: Monday, 23 March 2026

Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia

14.30 – 15.30	Registration
15.30 – 17.00	Opening session
15.30 – 15.40	Michele Bozzano , Head of European Forest Institute Engagement Unit
15.40 – 15.50	Representative from the Spanish Minister for Science, Innovation, and Universities is
15.50 – 16.00	Representative from the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge
16.00 – 16.10	Santiago Morán Medina , Head of Area of the Regional Programme with the Arab World Masar al'an, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
16.10 – 16.20	Representative from the Generalitat Valenciana
16.20 – 16.30	Representative from the Polytechnical University of Valencia
16.30 – 16.40	Representative from the Botanical Garden / University of Valencia
16.40 – 17.00	Science guiding Mediterranean forest futures: Launching a week of dialogue and action
	Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat , Lead of the Mediterranean Facility of the European Forest Institute.
17.00 – 17.30	Group photo
17.30 – 18.30	<i>Guided visits in the Botanical Garden (optional)</i>
18.30 – 20.30	Social cocktail

Day two: Tuesday, 24 March 2026

Valencia Polytechnic University

9.00 – 10.45		Session 1: Forests and Diplomacy
9.00 – 9.10	Introduction by the session chair	Constanza Parra Novoa , KU Leuven
9.10 – 9.40	Keynote presentation: <i>Title TBD</i>	Alicia Perez-Porro , CREAM
9.40 – 10.20	Panel discussion	Eduardo Rojas , Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV) Valentina Garavaglia , Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Giuseppe Provenzano , Union for the Mediterranean Laurent Alfonso , Embassy of France in Jordan (Amman) Santiago Morán Medina , Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) Margarida Barceló Fontanals , Diputació de Barcelona (DIBA) Roland Andary , Metrit municipality, Lebanon
10.20 – 10.35	Q&A with panellists	
10.35 – 10.45	Poster flash talks	
10.45 – 11.15		Coffee break
11.15 – 13.00		Session 2: Ecosystem Services and Bioeconomy
11.15 – 11.20	Introduction by the session chair	Toni Ventre , Mediterranean Model Forest Network
11.20 – 11.40	Keynote presentation: <i>Title TBD</i>	Bart Muys , KU Leuven
11.40 – 11.50	Featured talk 1: Fire avoidance	
11.50 – 12.00	Featured talk 2: Market based instruments	
12.00 – 12.10	Featured talk 3: Carbon Credits	Bianca Sipala , Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) <i>online</i>
12.10 – 12.40	Panel discussion	José-Vicente Oliver-Villanueva , Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV) Samiha Khelifa , Tunisian National Engineering School of Manouba TBC Matilda van den Bosch , European Forest Institute (EFI)
12.40 – 12.50	Q&A with panellists	
12.50 – 13.00	Poster flash talks	

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.15 **Session 3: Biodiversity and Resilience**

14.30 – 14.35 Introduction by the session chair

Daniel Arizpe Ochoa, Forest Research and Experimentation Center (CIEF)

14.35 – 14.55 Keynote presentation:

Xavier Morin, CEFE, CNRS Montpellier **TBC**

14.55 – 15.05 Featured talk 1: Forest Resilience

15.05 – 15.15 Featured talk 2: Forest vulnerability to drought

15.15 – 15.25 Featured talk 3: Pests and diseases

15.25 – 15.55 Panel discussion

Representative from Valencian Municipalities Forest Owners Association (AMUFOR)

Monica Hernandez, IUCN Med

Shouf Biosphere reserve

15.55 – 16.05 Q&A with panellists

16.05 – 16.15 Poster flash talks

16.15 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 17.30 **MEDFORGEN launch**

16.30 – 16.35 Introduction

Michele Bozzano, Head of European Forest Institute Engagement Unit

16.35 – 16.50 Presentation of the MEDFORGEN project

Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat, European Forest Institute (EFI)

16.50 – 17.05 Presentation of the Mediterranean trees' checklist

Bruno Fady, INRAE

17.05 – 17.20 Changes in potential habitat suitability of key Mediterranean forest trees

Dania Abdul Malak, University of Malaga

17.20 – 17.30 Q&A

Day three: Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Valencia Polytechnic University

9.00 – 10.45

Hackaton *part one*

Participants will be divided in groups to work together and discuss innovations connected to some focus topics:

- **Watershed management**
- **Carbon credits**
- **Forest genetic resources**
- **Carob value chain**

10.45 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.15 – 13.00

Hackaton *part 2*

Hackaton Continuation

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 15.45

Hackaton *wrap up*

Hackaton plenary and wrap up

15.45 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 18.00

Innovative Youth Engagement Strategies for Forests

16.00 – 16.10

Introduction

Maria Gonzales, European Forest Institute (EFI)

16.10 – 17.00

Presentations of innovative initiatives

17.00 – 18.00

Roundtable with presenters and Q&A

Day four: Thursday, 26 March 2026

Field visits

The timings are approximate, the detailed programmes will be available soon.

8.30

Departure point TBC

Field visit A - Watershed management

The visit will show the impact and importance of natural spaces and vegetation in regulating runoff after an extreme event. The visit will include stops at natural areas along the basin affected by the torrential rains of the 2024 DANA.

Field visit B - Carob value chain

The visit includes a tour of a modern carob production field and an explanation on key cultivation methods and varieties. Participants will also visit a monumental carob tree in Chiva to learn about its ecological, cultural, and historical significance.

19.00

Return to Valencia

Day five: Friday, 27 March 2026

Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia

Carob workshop

9.00 – 10.15		Session 1 Getting to Know Our Carob Trees: Carob as a Resource
9.00 - 9.05		Introduction by the session chair Stefano La Malfa, University of Catania
9.05 – 9.20		Presentation title TBC Joan Viruel , University of Zaragoza
9.20 – 9.35		Presentation title TBC Agusti Romero TBC
9.35 – 9.50		Presentation title TBC INRA Morocco TBC
9.50 – 10.05		From Centennial Carob Trees to Future Cultivars: Diversity, Drought Resilience, and Conservation Strategies. Mohamad Ali E Chami , University of Córdoba
10.05– 10.15		Q&A
10.15 – 11.30		Session 2 Sustainable Cultivation Practices for Climate-Resilient Carob Systems in the Mediterranean
10.15 – 10.20		Introduction by the session chair Mokhtar Baraket, INGRES
10.20 – 10.35		Development of Carob Cultivation in Tunisia and Value Addition of Its Products AbdelHamid Khaldi , INGRES
10.35 – 10.50		Adaptation of Mediterranean Tree Crop Systems to Climate Change Scenarios: The Carob Tree as a Case Study Mehdi ben Mimoun , INAT
10.50 – 11.05		Local Practices and National Governance: Developing an Agroecological Carob Value Chain in Tunisia Eduard Jan , CAPTE TUNISIA
11.05 – 11.20		Presentation title TBC Hicham Bel Mir , ARBOVERT Nursery
11.20 – 11.30		Q&A
11.30 – 12.00		Coffee break
12.00 – 13.15		Session 3 Processing, Industrial Applications, and Value Addition
12.00 – 12.05		Introduction by the session chair Edgar Esteve, UPV
12.05 – 12.20		Presentation title TBC Harris PRATSINIS , institute of Biosciences and Application, NCSR
12.20 – 12.35		Presentation title TBC

	Mondial Caroub / NEXIRA / LBG/ EIG/INEC TBC
12.35 – 12.50	Presentation title TBC
	Imen Ismaili , GDA women cooperative
12.50 – 13.05	Presentation title TBC
	Hala Daoud , Saint Joseph University
13.05 – 13.15	Q&A
13.15 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 – 15.45	Session 4 Market development and trade
14.30 – 14.35	Introduction by the session chair
	Nabil Assaf, FAO
14.35 – 14.50	Presentation title TBC
	Hamed Daly , INGREF
14.50 – 15.05	Presentation title TBC
	TBC
15.05 – 15.20	Presentation title TBC
	Ikram Boublenza , BOUBLENZA industry
15.20 – 15.35	Presentation title TBC
	Ayman Moghaniyeh , NAKED INNOVATION
15.35 – 15.45	Q&A
15.45 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00 – 18.00	Session 5 Carob Natural and Cultural Heritage
16.00 – 16.15	Introduction by session chair and Presentation title TBC
	Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat , European Forest Institute (EFI)
16.15 – 16.30	Presentation title TBC
	Vicente Serena
16.30 – 16.45	Presentation title TBC
	Epimenides Museum representative
16.45 – 17.00	Presentation title TBC
	Luca Iozzia
17.00 – 17.30	Presentation title TBC
	Rachel Thomas
17.30 – 17.45	Presentation title TBC
	Nuria Ferriol
17.45 – 18.00	Presentation title TBC
	Dulçaina Musica
18.00 – 20.00	Carob Food exhibition