



Opportunities arising from sustainable management of dry-land forests: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification  
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# FSC certification of NWFP: experiences in the Mediterranean region

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# Outline

- Context
- Certification of NWFP
- FSC certification of NWFP
- Conclusions

# 1. Context



# Mediterranean region (Plan Bleu, 2009)

## 4. NWM

North-West  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## 3. NEM

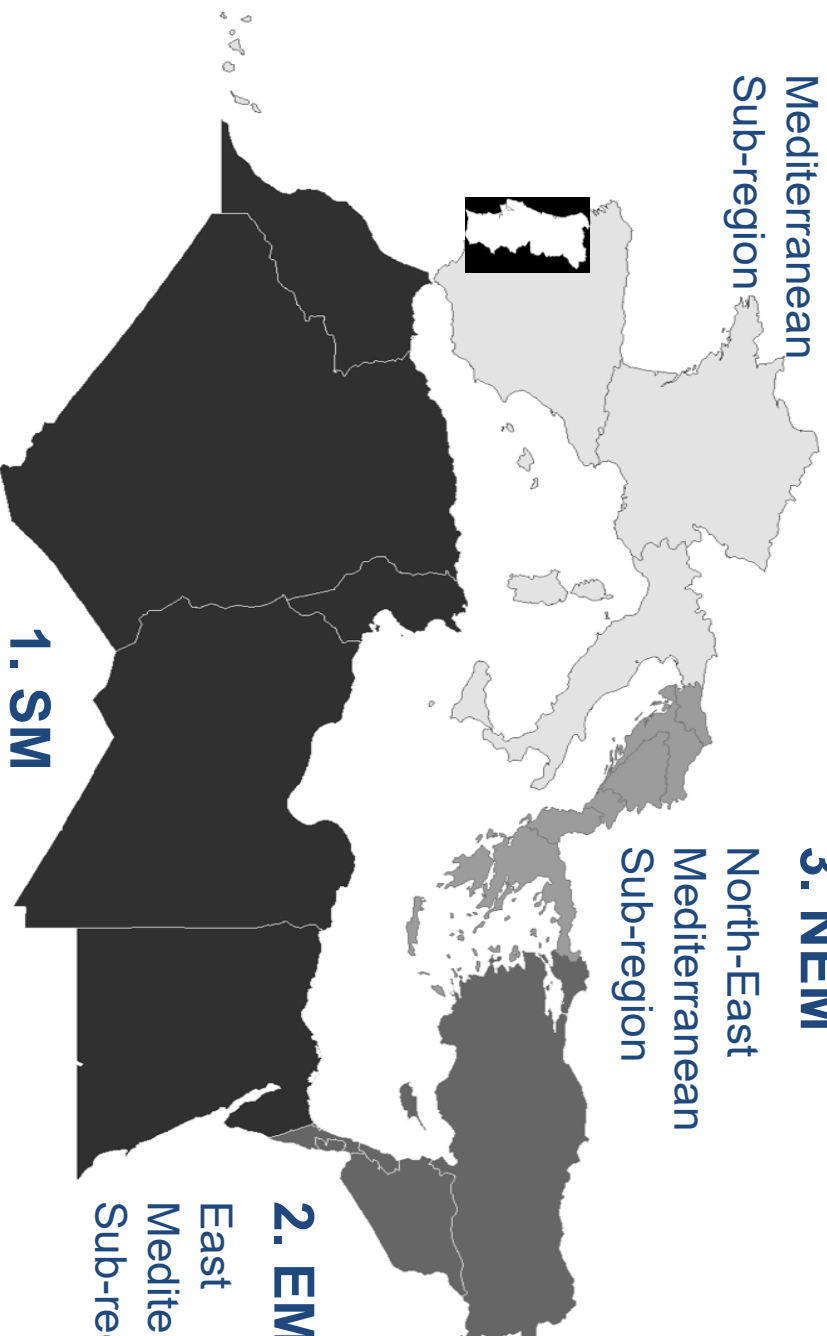
North-East  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## 2. EM

East  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region

## 1. SM

South  
Mediterranean  
Sub-region



- 21 countries
- 4 sub-regions

- Forests: ~ **75 Mha**  
(forest cover: 9.5%)

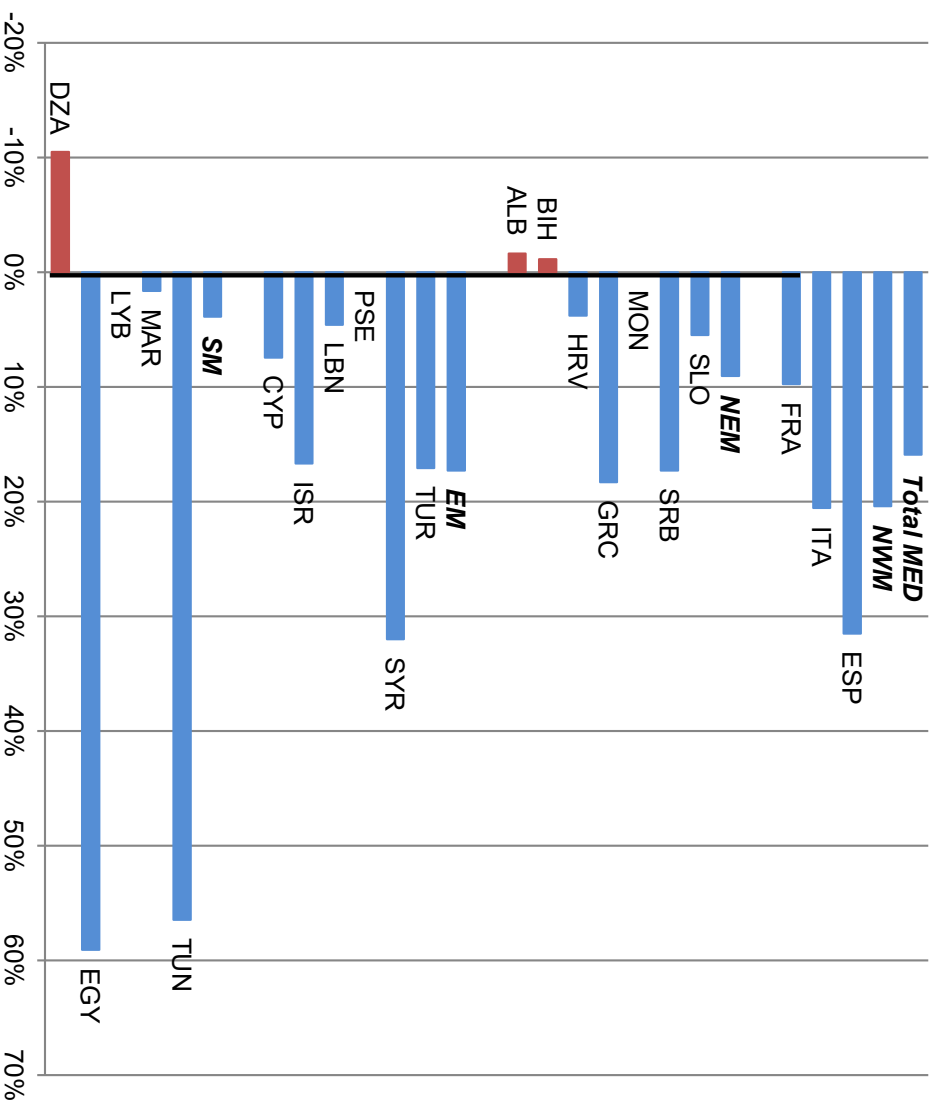
- Uneven distribution:

- 73% NEM + NWM
- 17% EM
- 11% SM

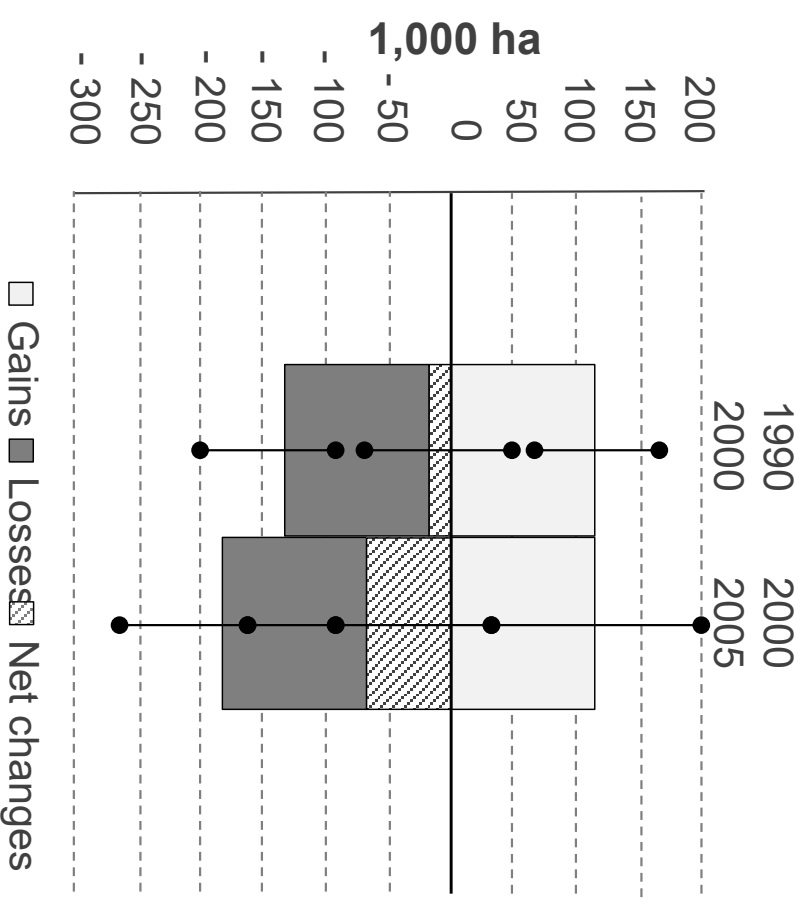
- + Portugal: forests ~ 4.9Mha

Source: own elaboration from FAO FRA 2010

## % forest area variation in Mediterranean countries and sub-regions, 1990-2010



## Changes in area covered by Mediterranean forest types\*, 1990-2005



\* (i) Thermophilous deciduous forests; (ii) Broadleaved evergreen forests; (iii) Coniferous forests of the Mediterranean, Anatolian and Macaronesian region; (iv) Floodplain forests (Barbati *et al.*, 2011)

Source: Masiero (2014) from FAO 2010 and 2013



## Forest Products

### Timber Products



### Non-Timber Products

#### Non –Timber Forest Products

Fuelwood

Small wood



#### Non-Wood Forest Products

Flora



Fauna



Source: adapted from FAO (1999 )

*Berries*



*Aromatic plants*



*Mushrooms*



*Forest nuts*



**NWFP: Products  
of biological origin  
other than wood  
derived from  
forests, other  
wooded land and  
trees outside  
forests (FAO 1999)**

*Tree leaves, flowers and  
foliage*



*Bark*



*Tannins*



*Resin  
and sap*



# Why NWFP are important



## Southern and Eastern Med Regions

## Northern Med Regions

Traditionally used and consumed, especially in rural areas, and traded

- NWFP still primary sources for the subsistence of local economies
- Often cases of pressure over the resources
- Urbanization and better living standards
- less profitability of traditional forestry based on timber
- increasing demand for social and environmental products
- rural development and environmental policies in support



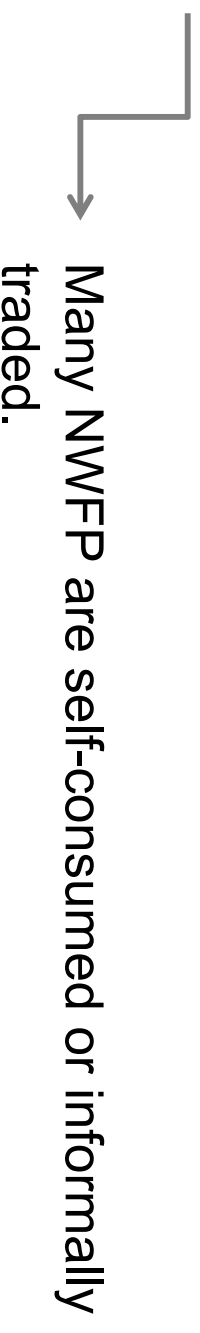
Growing interest for NWFP: they can contribute to improve the profitability of forests and to rural development

Grazing and NWFP are important benefits in the Southern (€36/ha) and Eastern sub-regions (€10/ha), sometimes exceeding the wood forest products benefits.  
For the northern countries: €26/ha.

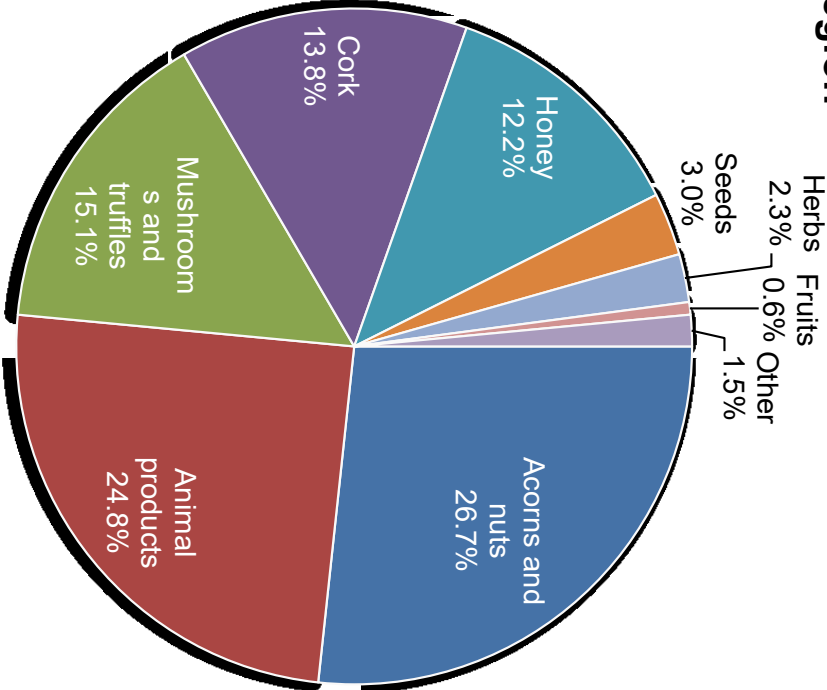


Merlo, M., Croitoru, L. (eds.) (2005)

“...a substantial underestimate as important forest benefits are not estimated for many countries” (Merlo and Croitoru, 2005 )

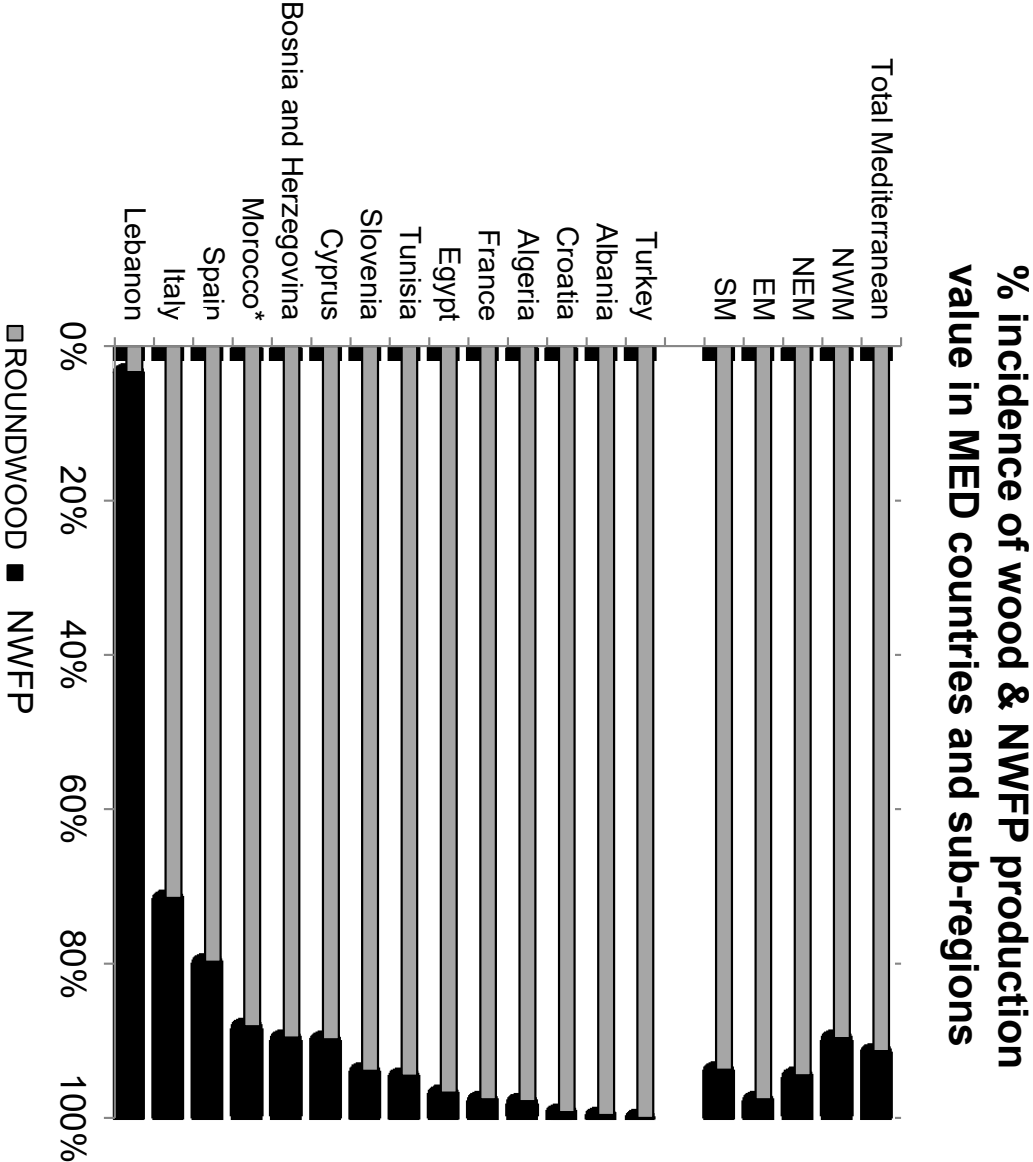


# Relative incidence of NWFP types on the total economic value of NWFP in the Med region



Covered just 14 out 21 countries, and do not refer to all products (e.g. Argan oil in Morocco, pine seeds partially reported, etc.)

Total value: **€822.44 M**  
Average unit value: **€18.10/ha**



Source: Merlo and Croitoru (2005) and Masiero (2014) from FAO, 2010

# 3. Certification of NWFP



# Marketing strategies for NWFP

## a) Mass products

- large amounts of standardized products for a large number of consumers
- competitive factors: reducing production costs → relatively low prices
- capital intensification, land and labour extensification
- high risks (market instability-biological risks)

Wild-semiwild collection

vs

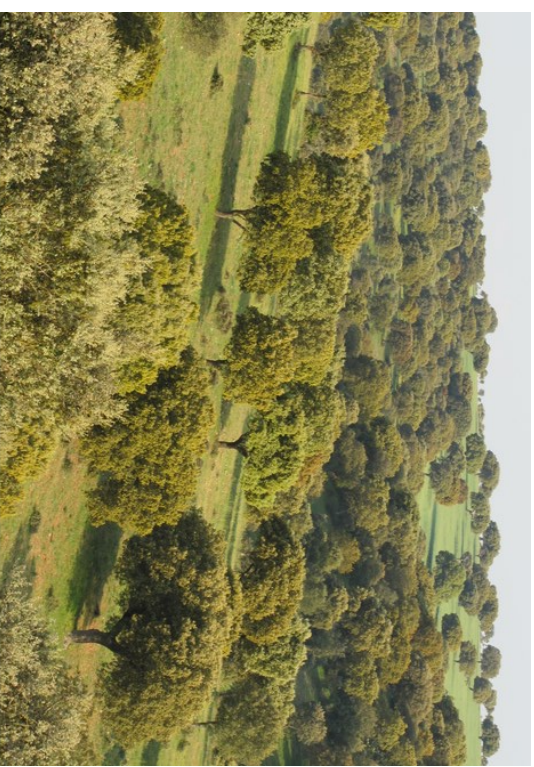
Cropped products/industrial  
production



...in many Mediterranean areas, this is not a winning strategy for promoting multifunctionality of forests and sustainable local development

## Competitive advantages of the Mediterranean region:

- Long traditions of multifunctional forest management systems (no much space for very extensive forest investments)
- High quality landscapes
- Territory rich of culture, traditions, biodiversity

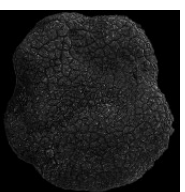
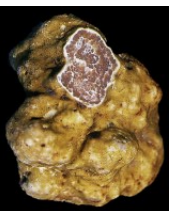


## b) Specialised products

Well differentiated products, high added value, often available in relatively limited quantities, for a target market

What to emphasize:

- **Products:** quality assurance, certification, packaging, links with a territory or/and a local tradition
- **Promotion:** branding, local association, e-marketing



# Certification

*“The provision by an independent body of written assurance that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements” (ISO,2015)*

Several types of certification are applicable to NWFP, with different scopes

# Environmental/ecological

Environmental performance



Wild certification



Sustainable Forest management

Organic certification

Non-GMO certification



Quality and food safety (e.g ISO 9001, ISO 22000)

Origin certification (



Quality/health

Socio-economic certification



Socio-economic

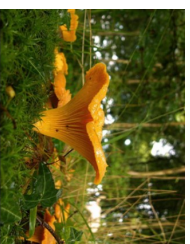
# SFM certification

- Created at the beginning of the 1990s for encouraging sustainable forest management (SFM).
- Today more than 50 SFM certification standards exist, with national, regional or global scope.
- The two largest certification schemes: FSC and PEFC
- Both certificate NWFP with regards to:

- the forest where NWFP grow → FM certification



- The value chain that NWFP undertake → CoC certification



# 4. FSC certification of NWFP



- FSC was the first global forest certification programme to be established, in 1993
- FSC shall promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests



- FSC can become a key tool in achieving a substantial part of the UN SDGs



- Discussions for incorporating NWFP into the FSC scope began few years after FSC creation
- In 1998, the FSC Board approved a policy to allow certification and labelling of NWFP

## Firewood and fuelwood excluded



# NTFP categories



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Code	NTFP
N1	Barks
N2	Soil conditioners and substrates
N3	Corks
N4	Straw, wicker, rattan and similar
N5	Bamboo
N6	Plants and part of plants
N7	Natural gums, resins, oil
N8	Chemical, medicinal cosmetic products
N9	Food
N10	Others NTFP

<https://info.fsc.org/certificate.php>

Chicle-gum from Mexico was the first FSC certified NTFP in June 1999. After that, several NTFP have been certified all around the world

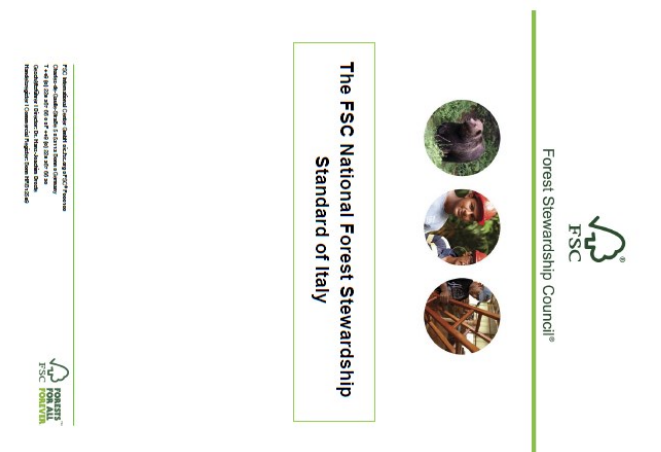


To reach a 20% of the global forest trade (FSC timber today 15.8% )

- Cork: 4.6%
- Natural rubber: 0.1%

# How does it work

- FSC developed a system in which:
  - a. National/regional initiatives may develop a standard that includes in the scope NTFP
- E.g.: FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Italy



This standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within Italy. The standard applies to all forest type including NTFP

- The Organization shall comply with all the legal requirements at national or regional level for the collection of NTFP
- NTFP certification is possible if the requirements of this standard are fulfilled together with specific management indicators
- The Organization shall adopt a public NTFP-related document, which include:

## Legal

I.	A declaration of the NTFP for which a promotional claim is being or will be made;
II.	An updated list of applicable laws to the NTFP
III.	A legal authorization to collect/harvest the NTFP released to The Organization from the competent authorities
IV.	The occurrence of customary rights linked with the NTFP collection/harvesting and how the Organization is dealing with them

## Manag.

V.	A description of the NTFP conditions (pre-harvest inventory): single species assessment, description of the current forest status/structure, etc.
VI.	A description of how the NTFP are included within the management plan, including which silvicultural practices are needed to increase NTFP production
VII.	Harvest/collection plan: harvest areas, harvesting rate justified on the pre-harvest inventory conditions

## Ecol.

VIII.	A post-harvest inventory to evaluate collection/harvesting activities impacts
IX.	Negative impacts assessment on NTFP coming out from forest management activities (pest, disease, wildfires) and the measures to prevent and mitigate the risk
X.	Control systems where the following information are at minimum reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Harvest/collection quantity data</li> <li>• - Harvest/collection areas</li> <li>• - Selling invoices, quantity and customers</li> </ul>

- b. an FSC endorsed organization could create and implement its own NTFP addendum, to be enclosed to the general standard

E.g.: NTFP product certification addendum for Russia



“Developed for use on the territory of Russia for the following NTFP: honey, dogrose fruits, mushrooms, truffles, willow bark, willow rod.”

## C. Global addendum

NEPCon developed a NTFP addendum applicable on a global scale where national or product specific NTFP standards have not been developed.



NEPCon Global Non Timber Forest Product Certification Addendum

NEPCon Global Non Timber Forest Product Certification Addendum

Version 19 December 2014

[www.nepcon.org/library/standard/fsc-forest-management/nepcon-global-NTFP-certification](http://www.nepcon.org/library/standard/fsc-forest-management/nepcon-global-NTFP-certification)

NTFP evaluation may take place during the main certification evaluation, or may be carried out at any time afterwards.



A natural forest managed for the production of only NTFP is qualified as a SLIMF (Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests)



- Reduced certification costs
- Streamlined procedures for getting certified

**SLIMF: useful documents**

In addition to the core documents for forest management certification, including the FSC Principles and Criteria or national FSC forest management standards, the following resources are valuable for group entities:

- > "FSC STD 01 003 V1 0 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria"
- > "FSC-STD-01-003a SLIMF Eligibility Criteria Addendum"
- > "FSC-GUI-60-001 Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria"

All certification documents are available at  
[www.fsc.org/internationalpolicies.html](http://www.fsc.org/internationalpolicies.html)

# Costs

Depend on: surface, forest management, scope. It is the sum of:

1. **Cost of preparation for the certification** (management plan, monitoring plan internal training, technical advice etc. )
2. **Cost of the auditing** (usually from 2-3 days to 4-5 days)
3. **Administrative cost by FSC international (fixed)**

Tab.: Costs for FM, FM/COC certificates

Categories of forest management	Per hectare rate (\$)
SLIMF	0
Natural forest-community forest	0
Natural forest- conservation purpose	0.0001
Natural forest-tropical	0.0020
Natural forest-boreal	0.0035
Natural forest-temperate	0.0045
Plantations	0.0200

# NTFP certified in the Mediterranean region

Forest Stewardship Council®  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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WHAT WE DO

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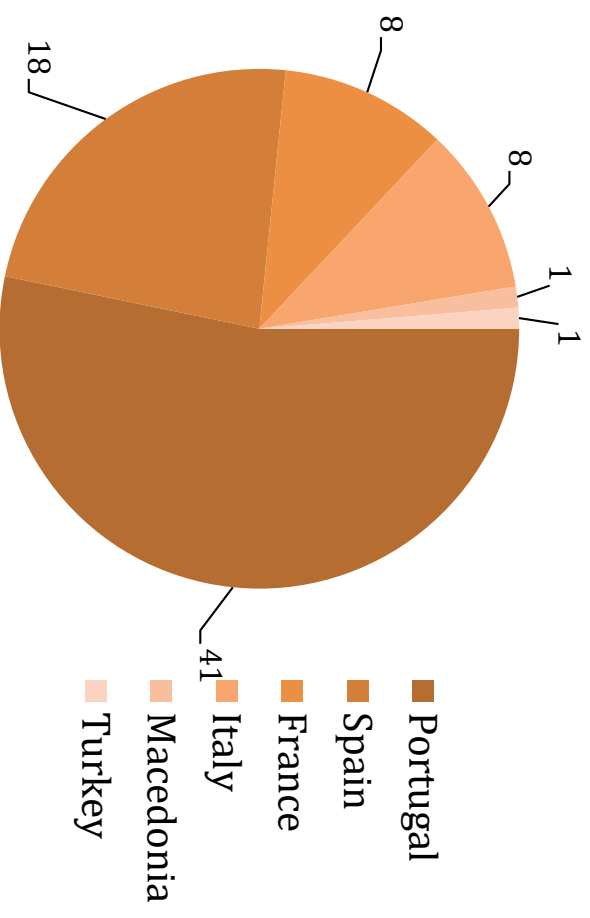
Results									
Found 896 results. Displaying the first 200 results.									
Certificate Code	Certificate Status	CW	License Number	License Status	Organization Name	Sites/Member	Country	Issue Date	Expiry Date
<a href="#">SCS-COC-002535</a>	Valid		FSC-C005046	✓	Source Atlantique U.K. Ltd., Registered Head Office Source Atlantique, Inc.	✓	UNITED KINGDOM	2014-06-16	2019-06-15
SCS-FM/COC-00159P	Valid		FSC-C005814	✓	Hayami Forest		JAPAN	2015-01-26	2020-01-25
IMO-COC-029196	Valid		FSC-C005892	✓	Proiana GmbH		GERMANY	2014-07-08	2019-07-07
IMO-COC-029196	Valid		FSC-C005892	✓	Versigo UK Origo Home Ltd.	✓	UNITED KINGDOM	2014-07-08	2019-07-07
IMO-COC-029196	Valid		FSC-C005892	✓	Versigo GmbH	✓	GERMANY	2014-07-08	2019-07-07
CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C006694	✓	Keiani Valley Plantations PLC		SRI LANKA	2012-09-23	2017-09-22
CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C006694	✓	Panawatte Rubber Processing Center	✓	SRI LANKA	2012-09-23	2017-09-22
CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C006694	✓	Devalakande Rubber Processing Center	✓	SRI LANKA	2012-09-23	2017-09-22
CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C008551	✓	De Prest NV	✓	BELGIUM	2013-05-27	2018-05-26
CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C008551	✓	Dimec NV	✓	BELGIUM	2013-05-27	2018-05-26
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CLFEM/COC-821881	Valid		FSC-C008551	✓	Extremis nv	✓	BELGIUM	2013-05-27	2018-05-26

FSC database: <http://info.fsc.org>

# Cork



77 companies





Mundial leader in cork production  
The 1st packaging company in the world to  
obtain FSC certification



Corticeira Amorim is a major promoter of FSC forest  
management certification system. There are currently 14  
Corticeira Amorim business units holding FSC chain of  
custody certification.

[www.amorim.com](http://www.amorim.com)

# Straw, wicker and rattan

2 companies, in Italy and Turkey



# Plants and parts of plants

5 companies, all in Portugal

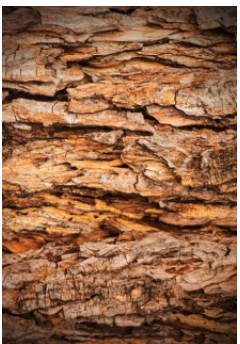


# Chemicals, medicinals and cosmetics

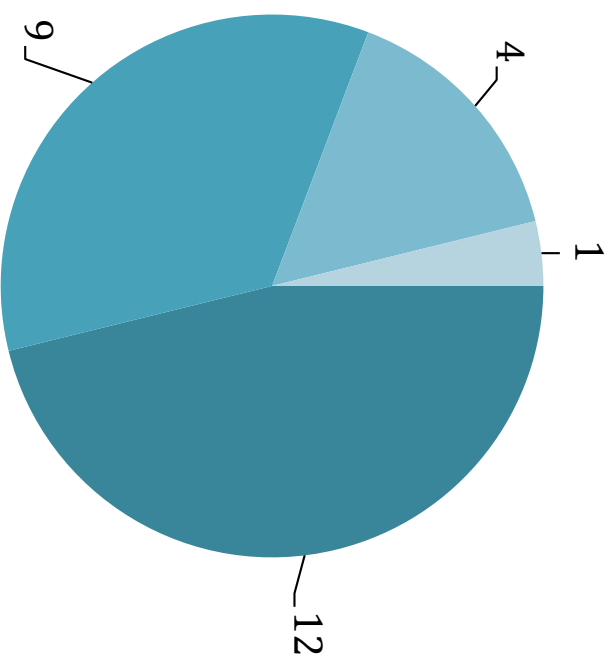
1 company, in Portugal



# Bark



26 companies

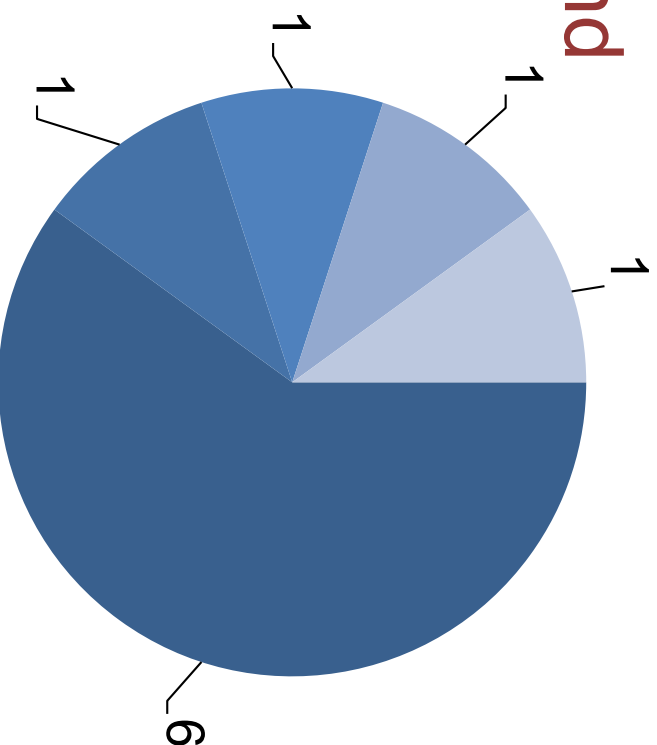


■ Portugal  
■ Spain  
■ Italy  
■ Croatia

## Natural gums, oils and derivatives



10 companies

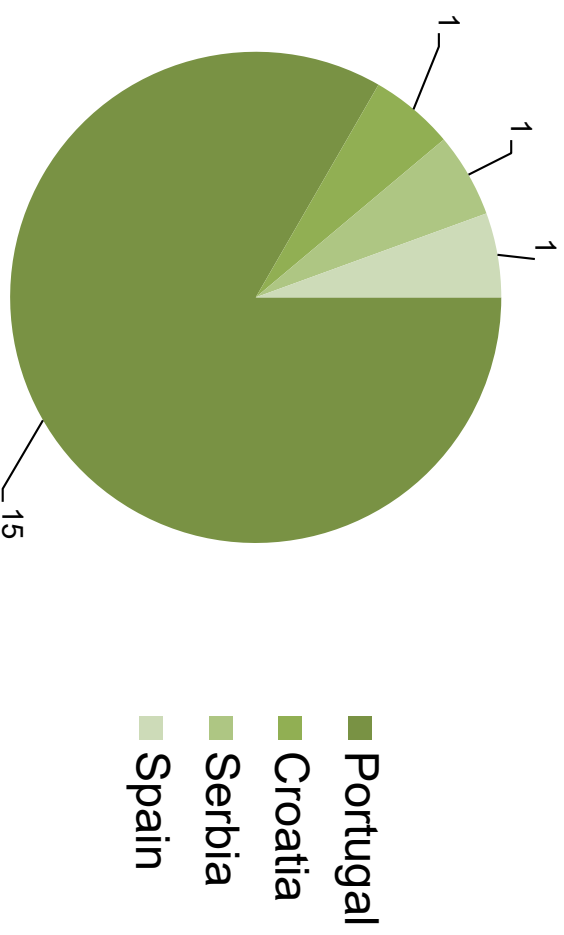


■ Portugal  
■ France  
■ Italy  
■ Spain  
■ Turkey

# Food



18 companies



## Other NTFP

5 company, in Croatia, Italy, Portugal and Turkey

# Forest Producers Association of Coruche (APFC) Group Scheme



- A group certification scheme for owners of small and medium forests in PT
- The group began with 4 members managing 9 forest management units. Today 12 members for 10,320 ha
- Benefits:
  - Establishment of a common Forest Management Plan
  - Improve access to information and technical support
  - Reduce costs of auditing and certification
  - Increased knowledge related to env. and social issues and forest management
  - Financial benefits from the selling with a premium price

# 4. Conclusions

- NWFP important for the Mediterranean region: they can contribute to improve the profitability of forests
- Certification can be a major instrument of NWFP marketing
- FSC certification helps in sustain the production of NWFP
- FSC recognizes that forests managed for NWFP produce few negative impacts and they can be complementary to timber production
- NWFP less diffuse than timber certification but it is growing → successful examples in the Mediterranean region

A low-angle photograph looking up into a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow and long, dark shadows. The tree trunks are thick and gnarled, with rough bark. The leaves are dark green and dense, creating a complex web of branches and foliage. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Thank  
you