

SUPPORT DOCUMENT FOR THE EUROPEAN FOREST MUSEUM

One of the major tasks for the new millennium is the salvation of trees and forests, and so we need to know about them.

European forests cover almost half of the surface of the continent – specifically 1.2 billion hectares, around 25% of the world's total (FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO, 2011. State of Europe's Forests 2011). The bioclimatic conditions of the continent allow for the existence of a great diversity of ecosystems with a huge wealth of species.

Among the European forest ecosystems are the Mediterranean woodlands, well known for the extraordinary variety of goods and services that they offer and the communities that they support (FAO, 2013. State of Mediterranean Forests 2013). Historically, Mediterranean civilisations have supplied many products and services from these ecosystems, giving rise to today's Mediterranean landscapes. The total forest surface in the Mediterranean area is more than 85 million hectares, representing 2% of the world's forests (FAO, 2010. Global forest resources assessment 2010. Main report. FAO Forestry Paper No. 163. Rome). For some authors, the Mediterranean region is a hybrid example of social and natural history where forests play a fundamental role.

It is within this context that the idea for the creation of the European Forest Museum came about as a reference centre in Europe for spreading knowledge about forest systems and their functions from a twenty-first century perspective.

Right from the start, the European Forest Museum has received the support of the Catalan government and Parliament. The initiative was launched by the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB) and the municipal government of Sant Celoni and includes the support of institutions associated with forests in the areas of science, technology, management and communication on a European and international scale as well as the Forest Division of the FAO, the EFI and EFIMED.

The MEdB is based in the Biosphere Reserve of Montseny, Sant Celoni, in the north-west of the Iberian peninsula. This is a geographically strategic point in the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona, situated on the AP-7 – one of the main motorways in southern Europe.

The MEdB has been conceived as an advanced institution for promoting awareness and participation in essential forest processes and their associated values linked to environmental services. This focus aims to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable bio-economy on a European scale.

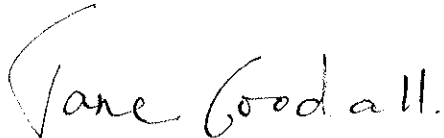
The MEdB aspires to contribute to meeting some of the major environmental challenges in the twenty-first century, closely related to the dynamics of the forests

such as mitigating climate change or the links between the use of land-water-energy-food. The MEdB also has an essential role as a platform for knowledge exchange, for the transfer of social, ecological and economic values of forests which can be seen as a tool for well-being, competitiveness and social inclusion and a means of facilitating north-south dialogue.

In the current environmental crisis, forests as dynamic systems can make an important contribution to achieving a more sustainable development model capable of generating new opportunities. It is therefore in our best interests to enhance the value of a component that is so important for the socio-environmental situation of the region: **the forests**.

Given the context and the magnitude of this proposal, I declare my support for the creation of the European Forest Museum.

In witness whereof:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Goodall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE

Founder

The Jane Goodall Institute

Barcelona, July 27th, 2015