Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and reverse degradation.

Ambassador of SDG 15:
Samia Mouelhi is assistant professor in ecology at the University of Tunis El Manar, Higher Institute of Biological Sciences of Tunis and Coordinator of the professional master's degree in Environmental Risk Management. She is a member of the laboratory Diversity, Management & Conservation of Biological Systems, the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis.

The entire UTM community wants to preserve its green spaces. Together we contribute to restore and conserve terrestrial ecosystems. The National tree day is always an opportunity to be eco-friendly and learn about good citizenship and respect for earth.

The Regreening Tunisia project

In order to **fight against desertification and restore bare land and soil**, Regreening Tunisia creates Oasis-Forests. The oasis is kept as a model while introducing modifications resulting from the imitation of the forest ecosystem. To contribute to the preservation of local biodiversity, only indigenous plant species and peasant seeds that are resilient to global warming (fruit trees, medicinal plants, vegetables, and flowers) are planted. The clever mix of plants takes into account the interactions between species and contributes to the return of terrestrial insects. In 2021, in addition to the participation in the seed festival and the organization of planting days, the activities of Regreening Tunisia resulted in the defense of two students of the Professional Master in Environmental Engineering. The thesis is a contribution to education for sustainable development by creating vegetable gardens based on permaculture in universities and schools. The second thesis is a contribution to the enrichment of soils through the recovery of the organic fraction of household waste by a composting alternative adapted to urban areas.

Source:
https://www.facebook.com/ReverdirlaTunsiee

https://www.webmanagercenter.com/2021/09/06/472286/fete-des-semences-paysannes-creation-dun-reseau-des-agriculteurs-semenciers/

Scientist publications on 2021

catalogue was pubished in the field of **sustainable management of forests**

- In collaboration with Tunisian Wildlife Association, members of UTM – FST participated to the Project Valorization of the Resources of the Khroufa Nature Reserve And The Jebel Khroufa Nature Reserve and write with co-authors the Preliminary Catalog of the Biodiversity of the Khroufa Nature Reserve – Ouechtata.

7 scientific articles were published in the field of **biodiversity and terrestrial conservation**:

- Under responsibility of Pr Karima Nasri Ammar, UTM-FST, the Diversity, Management & Conservation of Biological Systems research laboratory conduct studies on assessment of various ecosystems and threatened species. In 2021, the laboratory team published on endemic crustacean, insect and turtles species in arid, desert and freshwater ecosystems.
- Under the supervision of Feik Errouissi, Pr associate at UTM-ISSBAT, the first data on the daily and seasonal activity patterns of *Stomoxys calcitrans* (Diptera: Muscidae) under Mediterranean semiarid climate in a dairy cattle farm in Tunisia were collected.
- Hedia Bourguiba, UTM-FST worked on endemic fruits species and published with co-authors on prunus species in the oasis agroecosystems and apricot germplasm in Tunisia.

5 scientific articles were published in the field of **restore degraded land and soil**:

- Dr Nadhem Brahim, assistant Professor UTM-FST, is interested with co-authors in enhancing soil fertility in the oasis agro system by combined Bentonite clay with organic amendments.
- Pr. Abdessatar Hatira, UTM-FST, and coauthors worked on works on the valorization of iron ore Jerissa to improve the quality of calcareous soils.