



GENMEDA network: results and future challenges for the conservation of the Mediterranean flora

Gotsiou, P., De Montmollin, B., Favier, C., Kokkinaki, A., Meloni, F., Touhami, I., & Bacchetta, G.

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- IUCN/SSC/MPSG Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group, Switzerland
- Conservatoire Botanique National de Corse (CBNC), France
- Laboratory of Management and Valorisation of Forest Resources, National Research Institute of Rural Engineering,
 Water and Forestry (INRGREF), Tunisia
- Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (CCB), Sardinian Germplasm Bank (BG-SAR) Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Italy

GENMEDA co-organizing MPCWs





Organizers 4th MPCW





Organizing Committee



a la Soutembilitat Ambiental





PREVIOUS EDITIONS

1st Mediterranean Plant **Conservation Week**

Ulcinj (Montenegro) - 24-29 october 2016



"Building a regional network to conserve plants and cultural diversity*

2nd Mediterranean Plant **Conservation Week**

La Valetta (Malta) - 12-16 november 2018



*Conservation of Mediterranean Plant Diversity: Complementary Approaches and New Perspectives"

3rd Mediterranean Plant **Conservation Week**

Chania, Creta (Grecia) - 27 sep-loct 2021



"Plant conservation strategies: from science to practice".











The GENMEDA Network of Mediterranean Plant Conservation Centres

is a community of seed banks, gene banks, botanical gardens and other conservation centres of plant genetic resources, including local/regional authorities, national bodies, national/regional networks and international experts' groups and associations, all dealing with the conservation of Mediterranean plants







GENMEDOC project

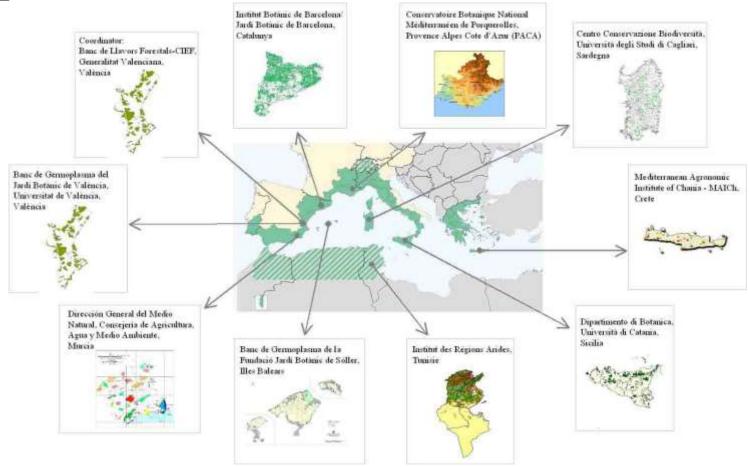
'INTER-REGIONAL NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN SEED BANKS' (Interreg IIIB MEDOCC) Coord.: CIEF







2004-2006











SEMCLIMED PROJECT COORD.: CIEF

National and

Kapodistrian

University of

Athens (UNKA)

'IMPACT OF THE CLIMATIC CHANGE ON THE

MEDITERRANEAN FLORA AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS'

Conservatoire Etudes des Ecosystemes de Provence/Alpes du

Sud-CEEP Service Dorman de Harveloue Conservators Betragger Makeud Such Bestigns de Bestelone. Midromoreo de Propresidos Diversion Alpen Coin if Ages (PACA) Centre Conveyanteur Birdyworn. Université degli litteli de Cagliani. Boss de Liscoer Forestelos CRF. Characterist Voluments Diseas de Chemophomes del Мейкогором Аргонова Sandi Biotiness de Vallances. hymnus of Chases - MAICh. Direccoin General del Medio Operhands & Britains Natural, Coursposa de Agriculture Darrentti di Consissi Agency Mississ Audienses Series do Especialidades Date of Chicagonal scare de la Prophosic Smith Statement of Station Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels du

Institut Scientifique de Rabat-Département de Botanique et Ecologie Végétale, Morocco

Languedoc-Roussillon

(CENLR)

Mansoura University, Sciences Faculty, Egypt Argotti Herbarium and Botanic Gardens, University of Malta

GENMEDOC & SEMCLIMED

OUTPUTS (2004-2006, 2006-2008)





Pratiques de germination dans les banques de semences du réseau GENMEDOC

ELABORATION & VALIDATION OF GERMINATION PROTOCOLS (in FR, ES, GR)



COMMON
METHODOLOGY –
MANUAL for the
COLLECTION, STUDY,
CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF
PLANT GERMPLASM
(in IT, EN, FR)



THE
STRUCTURAL
BASE OF A
HABITAT
(in ES)



Editions to free download at:

http://genmeda.net/en/resources

GENMEDOC & SEMCLIMED

OUTPUTS (2004-2006, 2006-2008)

que leur statut de conservation in situ. Un traté synthétique récente d'enner il Thompson 2005; condut que les conséquences du changement classifique.





- 2 new seedbanks created (Morocco, Malta)
- rock botanical gardens created by several partners
- pilot projects with demonstration actions on habitat restoration (PACA, Valencia)
- **seed germination experiments** of various species in order to evaluate the impact of climate change



GENMEDOC & SEMCLIMED

OUTPUTS (2004-2006, 2006-2008)

SEMCLIMED: Newsletter 'Odissea Semina'

Editor: Universitat de València-Jardí Botànic

(edit.in chief: Elena Estrelles)







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Odissea Semina

Deuxième rencontre de la phase 4 du projet Semclimed à Valencia (Espagne)



Du 19 au 21 février 2008 a eu lieu à Valence (CEF, Centre pour la Recherche et Expérimentation Forestière de la Generalitat de Valence) la seconde rescontre interpartenariale pour l'échange d'expériences et de méthodes de travail développées dans les différentes actions programmées de la phase 4 du projet SEACLIAED. Cette phase de travail est consacrés fondamentalement au développement de strotégies de conservation in situd'espèces menacées et très sensibles à une altération du milieu.

a principalement eu comme objectif l'évaluation et l'analyse critique des travaux de restauration et de renforcement démographique qui pet été menés à bien par le CEF dans le cadre de ce proiet.

Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranées de Porquerolles Conservatoire Études des Ecosystèmes de Provence/Alges du Sud, Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels du Languedoc Roussillan, Bréversità ta' Halta - Argotti Herbarium and University Botanic Gardens, Dirección General del Medio Natural de la Región de Murcia, Jardin Sotánico de la Universidad de Valencia y Centro para la investigación y Experimentación Forestal de la Generalitat Valenciana) ont visité plusieurs localités de la région de Valence au apparament deux des habitats concernés dans la cadre de Sendined.

programme SACLMED est co-financia par l'Union Europianne au trave Programme Interrug IES Medico (http://www.interrug-residuc.info/) pour une dunie de 20 meio paptembre 2006 à anti 2006.



'Rencontre finale du Projet SEMCLIMED' Athènes, Grèce 16-19 Avril



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Experimentación







4 issues: July 2007 – July 2008

Odissea Semina

EDITORIAL

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SEMCLIMED - Impact du changement climatique sur la flore méditerranéenne et actions de conservation

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Seminaire SEMCLIMED "Climate Change Impacts on Mediterranean Plant Diversity" MED CHEE - DES - GROW

🗷 Odissea Semina

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> representant difference coveres questaltats a l'imple et à la commented the for flow Address watering, members the proper que sira (II) spécialistes, extreves au projet, set été invité aux perior de théries en intidior directs son la projet.

point de voir Dimotologique, welt entythion our té bourn Allahamientes Dr. Helena Planas (Sintrenale d'Alberen, Dreve) et Dr. Daniel Carell Committe Enquires Antonomora del Madinormora CEAN, Women Plangement (rimations global, his participation of Planget Mr. or







See and download at genmeda.net/

GENMEDA est.2010

In 2010, Signature of the Agreement / Statute and Internal Rules of Function of the 'GENMEDA network' among the 13 founding members

(see at 'genmeda.net/' 'members' and 'newsletter')



Toni Marzo (CIEF), GENMEDA leader







2010, Barcelona meeting after signing

GENMEDA mission (art.2)





to contribute to the conservation of Mediterranean flora genetic resources, through the following objectives:

- share information and equipment among members
- promote the exchange of training and know how
- adopt common work methodologies
- harvest genetic material of the most threatened species
- exchange duplicated seed lots/batches of threatened species
- create living plant collections and promote ex situ cultivation for the more threatened species in order to dispose material for reinforcement of natural populations
- create a virtual common collection of plant genetic and reproduction materials
- plan joint initiatives and projects concerning flora conservation and/or management
- support decision-making processes of flora conservation public policies
- support environmental education and public awareness for biodiversity conservation









Photos: JBS Spain INRGREF, Tunisia

CIHEAM – MAICH, Greece

CIEF, Spain

Tuscia SB, Italy

Deuxième réunion GENMEDA

Barcelone, 10 juin 2010

n an après la première réunion du réseau à Cagliari, les membres GENMEDA ont organisé une autre rencontre à Barcelone afin de finaliser les dernières questions nécessaires pour la mise en place effective du réseau.

Pendant ce temps, des débats et des pluies d'idées ont été menés sur toutes questions clés du réseau. Notamment en ce qui est la mission et les objectifs du réseau, l'organisation, composition, le financement, les lignes de travail et les outils de communication. Tous aspects ont été formalisés dans le texte fondateur et les normes de fonctionnement interne du réseau qui ont été signés par les représentants de chaque membre.

certain type de flore ou à un cadre strictement méditerranéen au sens géographique du terme. C'est ainsi que la mission globale du réseau est la conservation de ressources génétiques de flore méditerranéenne et que ses objectifs portent sur des actions de conservation in situ et ex situ ou des actions de communication et éducation environnemental, thématiques ont été égalen mais aussi sur des projets et prévus et leur implémenta initiatives conjointes dans le sera effective dans les r cadre de l'UE et au-delà et sur des actions de support aux Ensuite, en ce qui concerne décideurs des politiques de outils de communication. végétale.

conservation de la biodiversité

Concernant la mission et les à terme cette mission a été objectifs du réseau, l'idée définie de façon classique, avec principale a été celle de ne pas trois postes principaux restreindre l'éventail de possi- président, secrétaire et trésorier bles actions, sans le limiter à un - et deux organes, le Comité de



pilotage et l'Assemblée nérale. Afin de compléter c structure et de rendre performantes les activités réseau, des groups de tra

efforts ont été focalisés su logo du réseau, le bull La structure en charge de porter Odissea Seminum et le site





FISH AVEC GIPSOPHEA STRUTHOUN & VALENCY

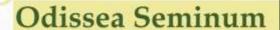
H OK VALENCE, ESPAGNE | HOMOLEA AN

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2011



2010



Vol. 5 Segmonthre 2010



EFFORTS TO HALT BIOGNERSITY LOSS (LEPROJET LIFE PROVIDURE JAKON) ROCALLE DE FLORE NS DE MICHO RESERVES DE PLORE À VALENCE (ESPAGNE) GREENING JUSTICE







GENMEDA members on the map until the GA on 23rd October 2023:

25 numerary and 2 associate members that became numerary too: International Association of Mediterranean Forests (AIFM) and the Sicilian Plant Germplasm Repository of the University of Palermo (SPGR/PA)









GENMEDA 27+ four (4) new associate members NOT yet on the map after the GA on 23rd October 2023:

- BIOPOLIS association (linked to the CIBIO Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Lisbon, Portugal
- the Forest Research Centre (CEF) of the School of Agriculture (ISA) of the University of Lisbon, Portugal
- The Marimurtra Botanical Gar2den in Blanes, Costa Brava (Girona), Spain
- The Botanical Garden of Castilla-la Mancha, Albacete, Spain

GENMEDA representatives





2021 - 2025

President

Gianluigi BACCHETTA (HBK, Universita' degli Studi di Cagliari, Italy)

Secretary/Treasurer

Adamantia KOKKINAKI (CIHEAM MAICh, Greece)

Steering Committee coordinator

Emilio LAGUNA (Centre for Forest Applied Research, Valencia, Spain)

Steering Committee members

- Lara DIXON (Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen de Porquerolles, France)
- Sara MAGRINI (Rete Italiana Banche del Germoplasma -RIBES, Italy)
- Joseph BUHAGIAR (Department of Biology, University of Malta)
- Boštjan SURINA (Natural History Museum Rijeka, Croatia)
- Evangelia DASKALAKOU (Institute of Mediterranean & Forest Ecosystems-Hellenic Agricultural Organization "DEMETER", Greece)



Photo: Acis_nicaeensis, IUCN EN, Katia DIADEMA, CBNMed Porquerolles

GENMEDA working groups





WG1 - Communication

(lead by Adamantia Kokkinaki, CIHEAM-MAICH)

Newsletter Odissea

Seminum - Editor-in-chief: Issam Touhami, INRGREF

WG2 - Database

(lead by Lara Dixon, CBNM Porquerolles)

WG3 - Orchids and microbiota

(lead by Sara Magrini, RIBES & Tuscia Germplasm bank)

WG4 - Seed Force International

(lead by Vito Emanuele CAMBRIA, Botanical Garden 'La Sapienza', Rome)



Photo: CIEF- Generalitat Valenciana

GENMEDA figures





- A total of 27 actual members from 12 different countries of the Mediterranean
- 24 possess germplasm/ seedbank
 - ✓ Total number of accessions / seed lots preserved in active and base collections: 65,066 (with only RIBES included for Italy)
 - ✓ Total number of taxa preserved: 12,300 (with only RIBES included for Italy)



Photo: CCB



Photo: Palermo seedbank





Collaborative Projects among GENMEDA members





2011-2013 GARDMED Interreg IV Italia Malta

Project on twinning botanic, public and private gardens in Malta and Sicily as tourist, education and conservation venues







2011-2014 'Ensuring the survival of endangered plants in the Mediterranean' (some GENMEDA members (islands) participating (JBS, DBUC, CCB, MAICH) (coord.KEW) MAVA co-funded project

Focus on the 'ex situ' conservation (seed banking) of the most endangered plants in the Mediterranean islands-more than 900 seed accessions collected and duplicated in total







2014-2015

ECOPLANTMED project (coord. MAICH)
Participating GENMEDA members: CIEF, CCB, MAICH;
the other two partners, INRGREF-Tunisia & USJ- Lebanon,

became later members of GENMEDA, until today ecoplantmed.eu/en EcoplantMed ECOlogical use of native PLANTs for environmental restoration and sustainable development in the MEDiterranean region PUBLICATIONS -INTRANET THE PROJECT -PARTNERS * NEWS & EVENTS . LINKS CONTACT ECOlogical use of native PLANTS: for environmental restoration and sustainable development in the MEDiterranean region











ECOPLANTMED OBJECTIVE

enhance the conservation of native plants and promote their use in habitat restoration and the plant production

sector

- ✓ A new seed bank (with a cold room for seed storage and dry room) was set up at INRGREF facilities (Tunisia)
- ✓ Training on seed bank functioning among partners



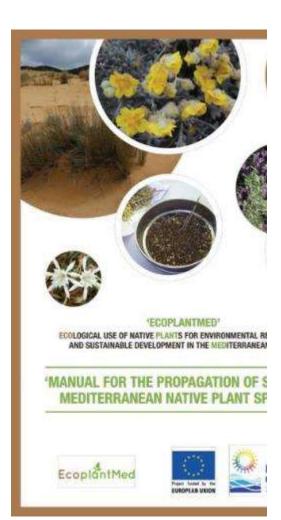






ECOPLANTMED

Edition of a "Manual For The **Propagation of** Selected Mediterranean **Native Plant Species**" in English and partners' local languages (available for downloading at www.ecoplantmed. eu) (CCB coord.)







Ptilostemon casabonae (L.) Greuter

Growth conditions in the wild

Endenic species of Santon, Cornca, Eiba island and Hyèses islands.

It grows both on limestons and silceous substrata. It occurs frequently in yearpe and mudvides and ran be frond in hedfill mining (mainly

It is a perennial marriocopic berb, It. is located in a wide altitudinal mage. from ca. 100 to 1300 max l.

probestment, light (12 h light / 12 h

Smile resilts were obtained when seeds were treated with GAs or pre-

stooel at 25°C for 3 months on sil-

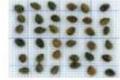
ea gel (Dry After Repensing - DAR).

Average generations up to 100%.

Seed germination

dielo, at 15°C.

Seed information and collection



Accesses weight for 100 sands in 0.071 g (100 g = 140,000

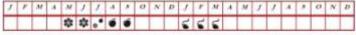
•When collecting weels, it is useful to bring a pair of sciones to: cut the flower heads imide a plantic bag, in order to wood the dispension of the material due to wind.

Non-portexted species, except inside provered again where collection is applicable

Seed management

*Cleaning is very env. Seeds full sport after first debasence, just cemowe manually the stone (been part) of the seed.

*Seeds are orthodox, so can be deliminated at 15°C and 15% MH and streed at 5°C for several years, or -25°C as have malection.









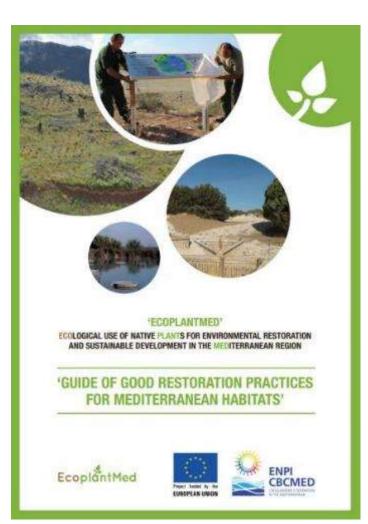






ECOPLANTMED

Edition of a 'Guide of Good restoration **Practices for** Mediterranean habitats' in English and partners'local languages (available for downloading at www.ecoplantmed. eu) (CIEF coord.)















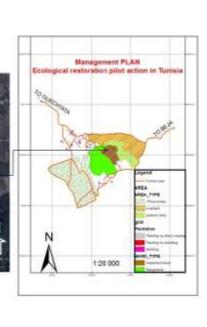




ECOPLANTMED – pilot restoration action in Tunisia

- Location: Nefza region Area: 7 ha Annual rainfall: 922 mm/year
- commonly developed management plan for restoration & monitoring
- integrated approach to reduce degradation and to promote land rehabilitation using native plants of local origin (INRGREF in collaboration with the local Forest Authorities)















ECOPLANTMED – pilot restoration action in Lebanon

- Location: Kfardebian (Mt Lebanon)
 Area: 7 ha (8 plots)
 Annual rainfall: 1720 mm/year
- Commonly developed management plan for restoration & monitoring
- promote land restoration using native plants of local origin (USJ in collaboration with the local NGO, Jouzour Loubnan)

















2015 – 2018 HEI PLADI Erasmus +

e-learning platform for teaching of plant biology & ecology

Participating GENMEDA members: CCB, UoM, CIHEAM-MAICH







2016 - 2019

CARE-MEDIFLORA project -coord.by IUCN/ SSC/ MPSG
(Bertrand de Montmollin) & MAICH (MAVA co-funded project)
Same partners as in 'MAVA-1 project'- different coordintation
Participating GENMEDA members (islands): JBS, DBUC, CCB,
MAICH— two other partners, ARI-Cyprus & CBN Corse-France,
became later members of GENMEDA, until today

care-mediflora.eu



glish Español Français Italiano Ελληνικό.

Conservation Actions for Threatened Mediterranean Island
Flora: ex situ and in situ joint actions

HOME

ABOUT

NEWS

PUBLICATIONS

PARTNERS

OUTPUTS

CONTACT



2016 -2019 CARE-MEDIFLORA project (http://www.care-mediflora.eu/)

- ✓ in situ conservation of 51 of the most endangered plant species of the Mediterranean islands through in situ translocations and other management measures
- ✓ ex situ conservation of 429 of the most endangered plant species through the collection, seed banking and duplication of accessions representative of the overall diversity of the species
- ✓ dissemination and awareness raising of the local and institutional stakeholders
- ✓ sharing good conservation practises among the partners
- ✓ reinforcement and enlargement of GENMEDA - Network of Mediterranean Plant Conservation Centres







CARE-MEDIFLORA

A conservation project for threatened plants in Mediterranean islands

2016 - 2019

PROJECT SUMMARY

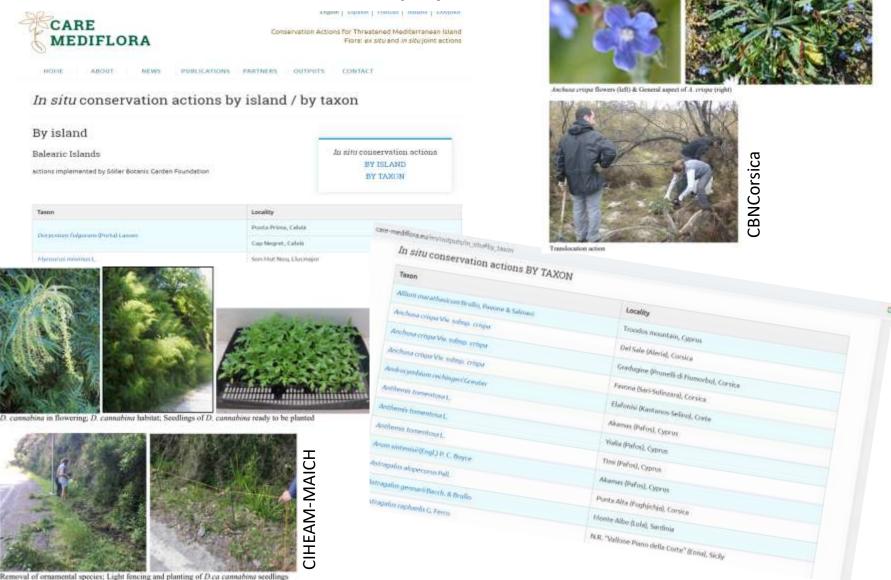






2016 - 2019

CARE-MEDIFLORA project







2016 - 2019

CARE-MEDIFLORA project





Article

A Common Approach to the Conservation of Threatened Island Vascular Plants: First Results in the Mediterranean Basin

Giuseppe Fenu ¹, Gianluigi Bacchetta ^{1,2}, Charalambos S. Christodoulou ³, Donatella Cogoni ^{1,*}, Christini Fournaraki ⁴, Giusso del Galdo Gian Pietro ⁵, Panagiota Gotsiou ⁴, Angelos Kyratzis ⁶, Carole Piazza ⁷, Magdalena Vicens ⁸ and Bertrand de Montmollin ⁹

The CARE-MEDIFLORA final publication "Common Approach to the Conservation of Threatened Island Vascular Plants: First Results in the Mediterranean Basin." published in the Diversity journal Volume 12 (2020), Issue 4 was announced winner of the 2022 Diversity Best Paper Award.

Available online also at http://www.care-mediflora.eu/

2016 -2019 CARE-MEDIFLORA project (http://www.care-mediflora.eu/)

✓ reinforcement and enlargement of **GENMEDA - Network of Mediterranean Plant Conservation Centres**



Home The Network Members News Gallery Resources Projects Contact



Supporting creation of new GENMEDA website (http://genmeda.net/) at CIHEAM- MAICH server and several communication & networking activities





Supporting GENMEDA meetings



2017, BG Sapienza, Rome





2019, BG Sapienza, Rome







SIMASeed Project (2018-2021)

Interreg V Italia Malta

seed banking, habitat restoration and plant conservation in Natura 2000 sites

Participating GENMEDA members: DBUC, UoM











Jan. - Oct. 2023

Simaseed Plus Interreg V Italia Malta

Capitalisation fund for purchase of more equipment for the seedbank

Participating GENMEDA members: DBUC, UoM





BESTMEDGRAPE 2019-2023



New Business opportunities & Environmental suSTainability using MED GRAPE nanotechnological products

<u>Priority:</u> A.2.1 - Support technological transfer and commercialization of research results

<u>Partners:</u> 8 (Tunisia, Italy, France, Lebanon and Jordan)

University of Cagliari ITALY

Institute for Food Production Sciences – National Research Council ITALY

National Institute for Health and Medical Research FRANCE

University of Carthage TUNISIA

Saint Joseph University of Beirut LEBANON National Trade Union Chamber of wine, beer and spirits' producers TUNISIA

Berytech Foundation LEBANON Jordan Society for Scientific Research JORDAN





2020-2022 MEDLENTISK ERASMUS+

"Partnership for an exchange of best practices on lentisk fixed oil, an emblematic non-timber forest product in the Mediterranean"

Participating GENMEDA members:

AIFM (coord.), HBK (CCB), CIHEAM-MAICH, INRGREF



MEDLENTISK: Second Joint Learning Event in

Pula

MEDLENTISK: Second Joint Learning Event in Puls The second MEDLENTISK...

Henri More

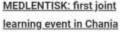


Presentations at the first MEDLENTISK joint

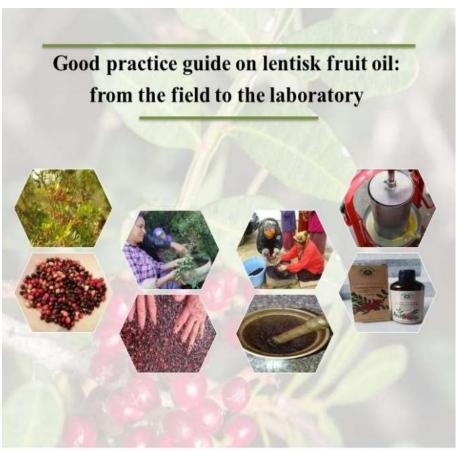
learning event

Presentations at the first MEDLENTISK joint learning event The first...





MEDLENTISK: First joint learning event in Chania From Tuesday 29















in EN, FR, GR, AR





2021-2022 The pilot project "Gavdos Island - Crete - Endangered Plant Recovery Project"

implemented in the context of the wider project "Mediterranean Islands Collective: Collaborating to protect Nature on Mediterranean Islands" (coord.PIM)

Participating GENMEDA members: CIHEAM – MAICH and

IUCN/SSC/MPSG





Focus on the conservation of the two most endangered plants of the small Greek island of Gavdos, the small annual endemic of Gavdos *Bupleurum gaudianum* and the annual hygrophilous plant considered Critically Endangered *Callitriche pulchra*

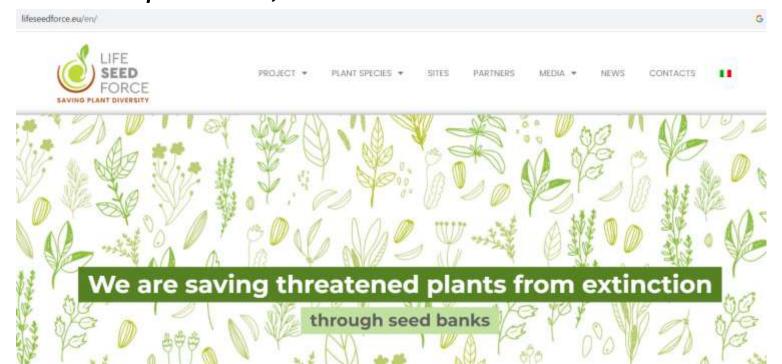




2021-2026 SeedForce LIFE project

on conservation of rare and threatened plant species in Italy

Participating GENMEDA members: CCB/HBK, DBUC, SBTuscia, SBPalermo, BGRoma, (RIBES), CBNMPorquerolles, UoMalta







2021-2026 SeedForce LIFE project

Plant translocation cycle in 139 populations of 29 species in 76 SCI/SACs for a total surface of 450,250 ha



Conservation actions

C.1 Germplasm collection
C.2 Plant propagation
C.3 Site preparation
C.4 IAS eradication and mitigation
C.5 Plant translocation (population reinforcement/reintroduction/introduction)

C.6 Site protection

Monitoring of the impact of the project actions



Linaria pseudolaxiflora -Collecting

in 2022 in Linosa we had collected only 300 seeds of *Linurla pseudolaxiffora*, while this year, thanks to the 40 plants grown

APPROFONDIGO



Adenophora liliifolia

White August memories... Adenuphora IIIIII ella from our slovenion partner.

APPROFUNDED

Galium litorale Guss.











2021- 2023 Collaboration between CBNM Porquerolles and the Botanical Garden Hamma in Algiers, financed by the PACA - SUD region for common seed collections, germination experiments



Hamma Jardin



CBNMed





2021- 2023 Collaboration between CBNM Porquerolles and the Botanical Garden Hamma in Algiers





Hamma BG & SB





Future challenges

Challenges...

for Mediterranean Plant Conservation:

- Setting up common priorities & strategies for conservation with active involvement of local people
- Capitalizing experiences of on-going in situ and ex situ conservation actions
- Mitigation of threats and particularly of climate change, tourism, invasive species

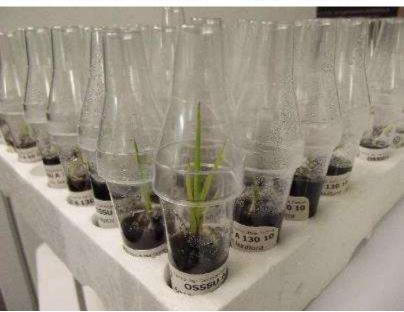




Hamma RG







Orchids in vitro (S. Magrini, Tuscia GB)

for Mediterranean Networks:

- Socio-political conditions (demography, migration, wars...)
- Funding issues
- Remaining active...
- Other....?







Thank you!

Brassica villosa subsp. drepanensis

Germination after 26 years of conservation
at -20°C (Sicilian Plant Germplasm Repository
of the University of Palermo, C.Salmeri)