



ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF ENDANGERED
PLANTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

<http://www.medislandplant.eu/>

PROJECT PARTNERS



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London (United Kingdom)



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Sóller, Mallorca (Spain)



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Corse, Corsica (France)



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MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE
Chania, Crete (Greece)



THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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PROJECT MAIN FUNDER



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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

“ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF
ENDANGERED PLANTS IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS”

18th-20th April 2013



The Mediterranean Basin is one of the world's most bio-diverse regions with 25,000 different plant species. The region has been classified as one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots. It contains one in ten of all known plants on Earth, of which over half are found nowhere else in the world.

The region's flora is critically threatened by human development and requires urgent protection. The Mediterranean Basin is recognized as amongst the four most significantly altered biodiversity hotspots on the planet. Less than 5% of the hotspot is protected in nature reserves, leaving the majority of plant species unprotected.

It is necessary therefore to complement *in situ* conservation action through *ex situ* techniques, such as seed banking and habitat restoration, to safeguard the region's flora.

The Mediterranean Seed Conservation Partnership will ensure the survival of 900 endangered plants in the Mediterranean by addressing both short-term and long-term needs, including:

- urgent *ex situ* conservation of the most endangered plants
- dissemination of research on these species to aid conservation and restoration activities
- development of a local conservation network to foster long-term co-operation and collaboration

Aims of the Workshop:

- to strengthen networking in Mediterranean flora conservation
- to exchange experiences and learn from projects in the Mediterranean Basin that integrates *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation
- to update the recent advances in seed banking in the Mediterranean Basin
- to disseminate the project "Ensuring the survival of endangered plants in the Mediterranean"
- to prepare the future continuation of the project "Ensuring the survival of endangered plants in the Mediterranean"

THURSDAY, 18th April

9.15

Welcome

Introduction to the Workshop: structure, objectives and expected outcomes

Gian Pietro Giusso del Galdo (University of Catania, Italy)

Introduction and first results (progress made so far) of "Ensuring the survival of endangered plants in the Mediterranean" project

Jonas Müller (Millennium Seed Bank, United Kingdom)

Discussion

11.00-11.30 - Coffee break

SESSION 1: Mediterranean flora conservation: challenges and recent advances

(Chair: Valerio Lazzeri)

Projects funded by MAVA in the Mediterranean Basin

Paule Gros (MAVA Fondation pour la Nature, Switzerland)

IUCN conservation programmes in the Mediterranean

Bertrand de Montmolin (IUCN/SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group, Switzerland)

Discussion

13.30-15.00 - Lunch

SESSION 2: Seed dormancy and germination of Mediterranean plants in the framework of operation and management of a seed bank

(Chair: Christina Fournasaki)

Germination and dormancy trends amongst Mediterranean collections held at the Millennium Seed Bank

Robin Probert (Head Conservation and Technology, Millennium Seed Bank, UK)

Deciphering seed germination requirements for Mediterranean plants: "the ecological way" of thinking

Costas Thanos (University of Athens, Greece)

Discussion

17.00-17.30 - Coffee break

The use of seed image analysis technique for seed dormancy and germination studies: the case of *Brassica insularis*

Andrea Siano, Elisio Mattana, Oscar Orillo* & Gianluigi Bacchetta (University of Cagliari, Italy)

Evaluation of the viability of seeds preserved in the Seed Bank of the Soler Botanic Garden for 20 years

Magdalena Vicens (Jardí Botànic de Sóller, Mallorca, Spain)

Discussion

18.30 - *End first day*

FRIDAY, 19th April

9.00

SESSION 3: Adding value to *ex situ* collections: link between seed banking of native plants and ecological restoration

(Chair: Teresa Gil Gil)

The *ex situ* conservation strategy and its relation with *in situ* conservation in Comunidad Valenciana region

Emilio Laguna, Antoni Marzo & Daniel Arizpe* (Centre for Forestry Res. and Exper., Spain)

In vitro propagation, cultivation and reintroduction of the genus *Ophrys* (Orchidaceae) during one of the largest orchid restocking projects in the world

Simon Pierre (University of Milan, Italy)

The SIMBIOTIC project: environmental restoration of SE Sicilian salt-marshes

Anna Guglielmo*, Angela Landieri & Giovanni Spampinato (University of Catania, Italy)

11.00-11.30 - Coffee break

The orchids of the Natural Reserve of Vendicari (SE Sicily): an example of *ex situ* conservation supporting *in situ* intervention

Daniela Cataldo, Rosario Galesi & Pietro Minissale* (University of Catania, Italy)

Problems and perspectives on the use of native species: landscape restoration project within the "International Verdura Golf & SPA Resort" of Sciacca (Sicily)

Giuseppe Barbera, Leonardo Scuderi* & Carlo Di Leo (University of Palermo, Italy)

From the safeguard of *Caretta caretta* nesting sites to *in situ* conservation of locally endangered plants: combined effects of the LIFE Project at Spiaggia dei Conigli (Lampedusa, Sicily)

Salvatore Pasta*, Angelo Dimarca, Salvatore Livreri Console, Giuseppe Messina, Giusi Nicolini, Elena Prazzo & Tommaso La Mantia (Legambiente; ARPA Sicilia; University of Palermo, Italy)

Relic plants in time of climate changes: preventing the extinction through integrated conservation approaches

Giuseppe Garli (National Research Council, Institute of Plant Genetics, Palermo, Italy)

In situ conservation strategy for the establishment of genetic reserve of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) in Europe: the AEGRO project

Ferdinando Branca*, Alessandro Tribulato, Sergio Argento (University of Catania, Italy)

Discussion

13.30-15.00 - Lunch

FINAL SESSION (Chair: Gian Pietro Giusso del Galdo)

Future challenges for the flora conservation of the Mediterranean islands

Frédéric Médail (University Paul Cézanne, Aix-Marseille, France)

Discussion

Conclusions and workshop closing

16.30-17.00 - Coffee break

17.00-18.30 - Visit Seed Bank

17.00-20.00 - MAVA Project meeting

SATURDAY, 20th April

8.00 - 19.00

FIELD EXCURSION: "Natural Reserve of Vendicari" Siracusa (SE Sicily)