

## **Presentation of the website Trees and shrubs natives of North Africa**

Jesús Charco  
IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group  
E-mail: jcharcociamed@gmail.com

The website Trees and shrubs natives of North Africa is presented.

The collaboration between the IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation and an extensive network of more than 50 experts from different countries, for almost 5 years, has made possible to update existing information and lay the creation of this web page.

It features all native species of trees, shrubs, and woody climbing plants in North Africa. Sometimes very small but woody plants are included, or herbaceous but large plants with a more or less lignified stem base. In total, about 880 species have been included, out of 290 genera and 76 families. Their number may always vary a little depending on taxonomic updates or new discoveries.

Up-to-date taxonomy, identification keys for all species, extensive descriptions, photographs, and interactive distribution maps are provided here.

The website is freely accessible and will allow scientists, technicians, teachers, students and, in general, all nature lovers, to explore the extraordinary forest and botanical biodiversity of this part of the planet with such high biological diversity.

This website also aims to be a meeting point to exchange information, plan and develop projects, open collaborations with other related websites and, ultimately, be useful for all those interested in the greater flora of North Africa. Undoubtedly the most important to stop the loss of biodiversity and fight against erosion and desertification.

Above all its main objective is to revalue the native species. It is already well known that one of the main threats to ecosystems worldwide is the expansion by natural habitats of invasive species. Every day it is more fashionable to plant trees but the most important thing is to conserve and allow the recovery of natural vegetation. If trees and shrubs are planted, they should be only native.

**Keywords:** Trees and shrubs natives of North Africa. Website. Network. Biodiversity and fight against erosion and desertification.