

Gavdos Island – Crete, Greece - Endangered Plants Recovery Project

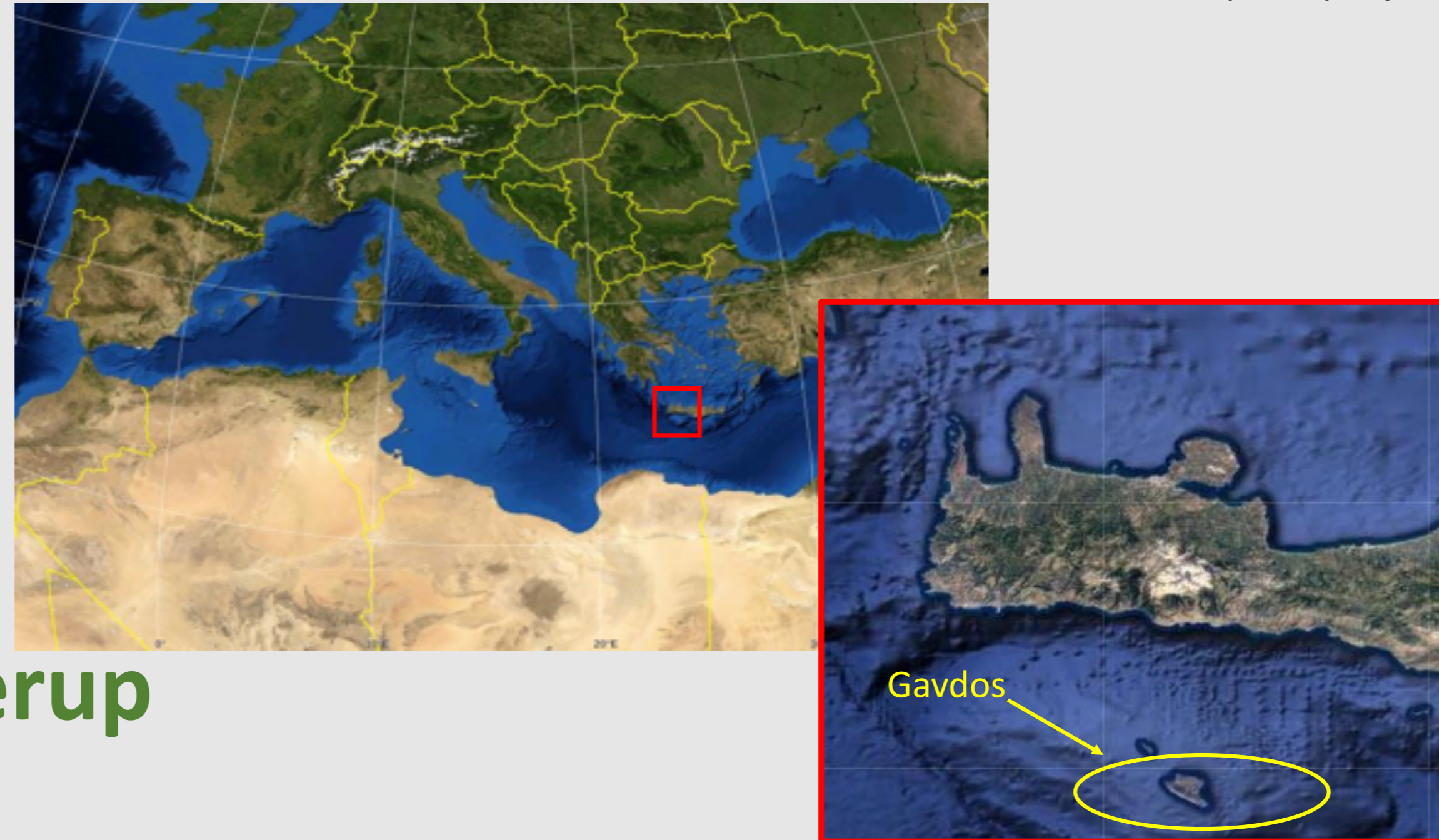
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Gavdos is a small Greek island with an area of about 30 km² and it is located at the southernmost point of Greece and Europe. The flora of Gavdos is particularly remarkable for its affinities to North Africa and especially to Cyrenaica of Libya. On Gavdos, 490 taxa have been recorded until today, from which about 70% are also present in Cyrenaica, while 10 taxa are included in the Red Data Books of Rare and Threatened Plants of Greece.

The two most endangered taxa of Gavdos are the annual therophyte *Bupleurum gaudianum* Snogerup, endemic to this small island and also 'Vulnerable' according to the IUCN Red List, and the annual hygrophilous plant considered 'Critically Endangered', *Callitriche pulchra* Schotsman, which grows in very characteristic karstic rock pools of Gavdos island, named 'arólithi', a specific type of the prioritized for conservation habitat of "3170*- Mediterranean temporary ponds".



These two taxa were in the focus of a pilot project that was implemented by the Mediterranean Plant Conservation Unit of CIHEAM-MAICH, IUCN/SSC/MPSG and the Municipality of Gavdos, in the context of the wider project "Mediterranean Island Collective: Cooperation for Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean Islands" under the coordination of the PIM Initiative and partially funded by the MAVA Foundation. Gavdos pilot project was 50% co-funded by CIHEAM-MAICH.

At the end of the project, among other deliverables described below, an informative booklet about all the threatened plants of Gavdos and Gavdopoula islet was published in English and in Greek, and a Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation and management of plant diversity in the area of Gavdos was signed between CIHEAM-MAICH, IUCN/SSC/MPSG and the Municipality of Gavdos.

Bupleurum gaudianum Snogerup (Apiaceae)



Bupleurum gaudianum in flower



Bupleurum gaudianum habitat



Monitoring populations and seeds of *Bupleurum gaudianum*

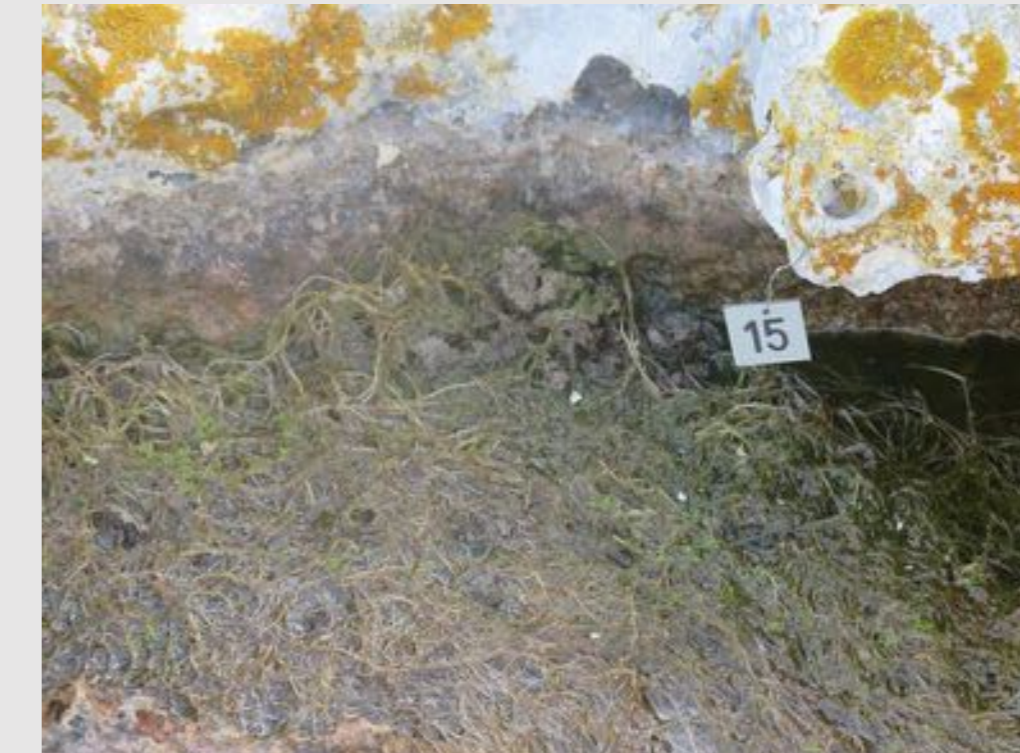


Deliverables of the Gavdos pilot project

- ✓ **Two Action Plans for long term conservation** for the studied endangered species, which include measures for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, cooperation actions for the sustainability of the conservation actions, public sensitization and active involvement of the local people
- ✓ **Permanent monitoring plots** established for *Bupleurum gaudianum*
- ✓ **Reinforcement protocols for both species** elaborated
- ✓ **Conclusions of the open consultation procedure** with Gavdos residents and stakeholders, during the public information event in Gavdos, shared with the Mediterranean Islands Collective
- ✓ **Information material** for local people and visitors of Gavdos: T-shirts and canvas bags with drawings of the plants
- ✓ An **informative booklet** about all the threatened plants of Gavdos and Gavdopoula islet was published in English and in Greek (in <http://www.genmeda.net/> and in <https://gavdos.gr/>)
- ✓ A **Memorandum of Understanding** for the conservation and management of plant diversity in the area of Gavdos was signed between CIHEAM-MAICH, IUCN/SSC/MPSG and the Municipality of Gavdos



MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS COLLECTIVE PROJECT



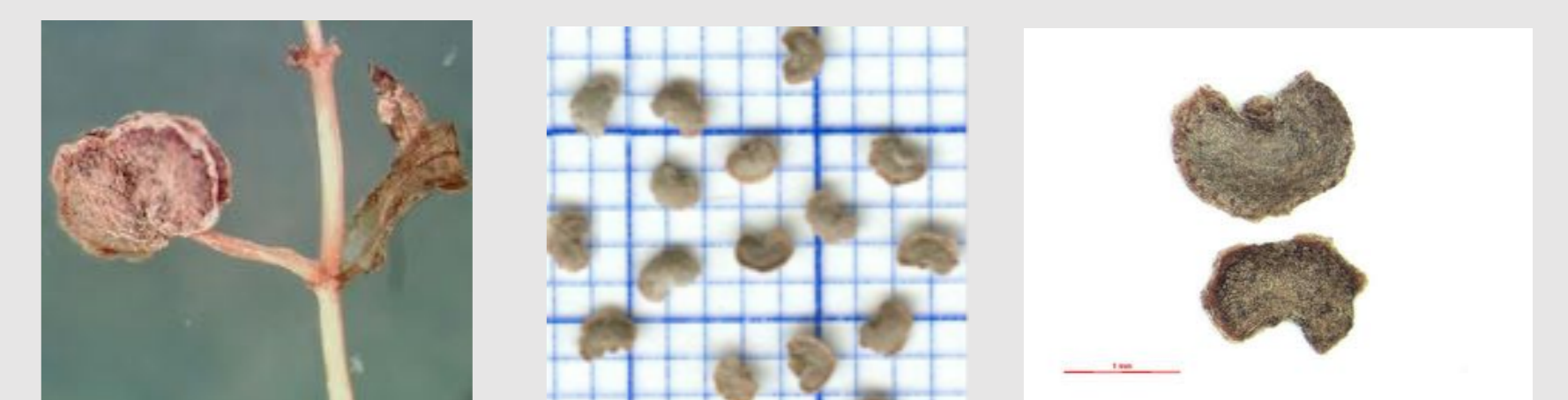
Monitoring populations and collecting seeds (mericarps) of *Callitriche pulchra*



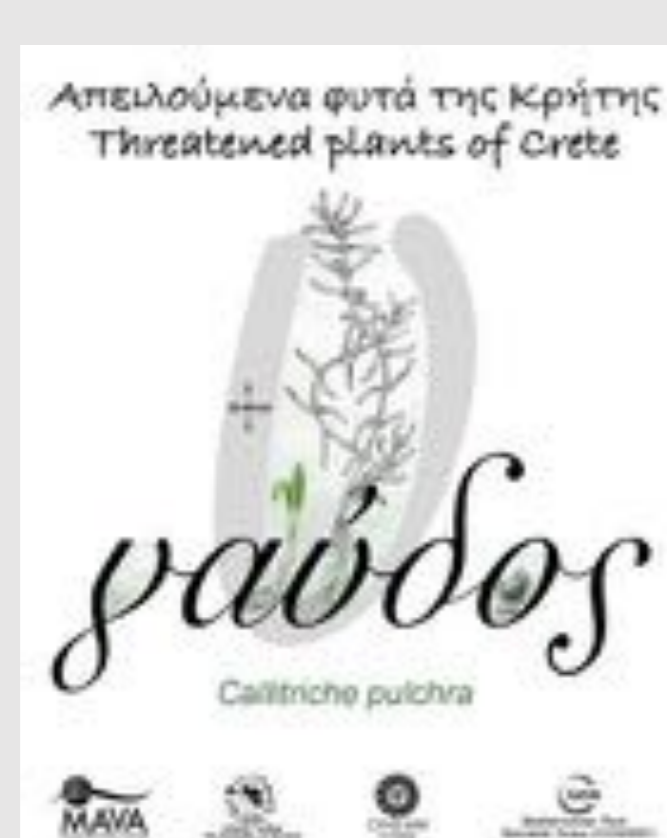
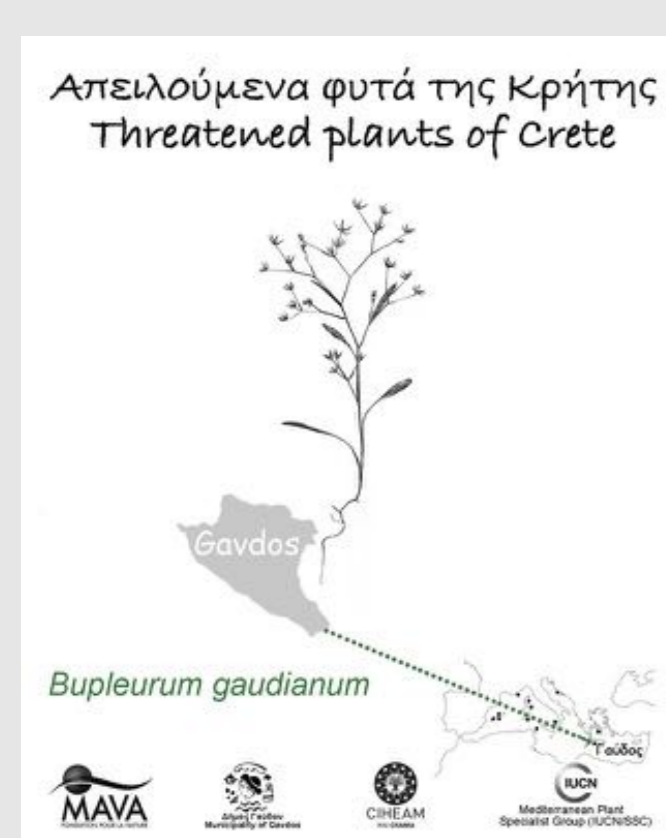
The aquatic plant *Callitriche pulchra*



Habitat of *C. pulchra*: karstic rock pools at Agios Pandeileimon



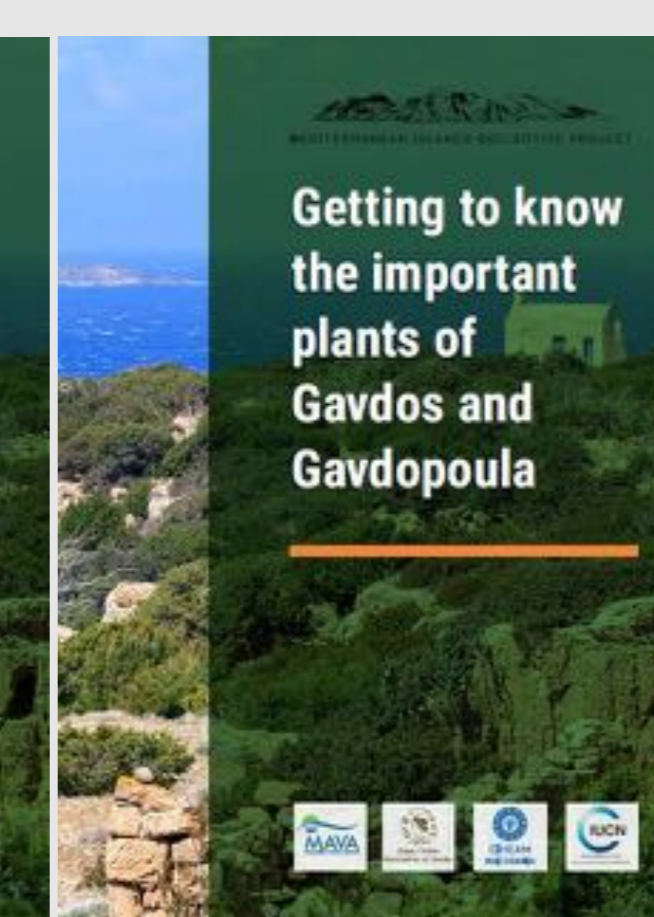
Fruits and mericarps of *Callitriche pulchra*



Public dissemination event in Gavdos
(photo: Louis-Marie Preau)



T-shirts and bags with drawings of the endangered plants



Signing the MoU