



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

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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









PREVIOUS EDITIONS

1st Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

Ulcini (Montenegro) - 24-29 october 20%



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

2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

La Valetta (Halta) - 12-16 november 2018



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

3rd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

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



"Plant conservation strategies: from science to practice".







Plot second Commediated

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

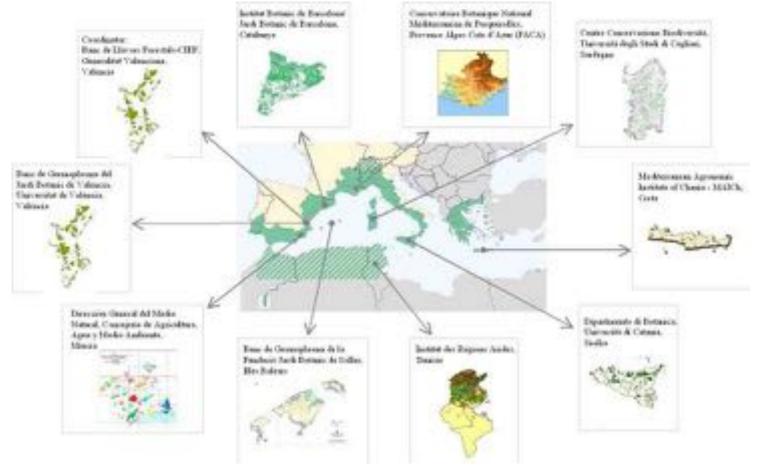
'INTER-REGIONAL NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN SEED BANKS' (Interreg IIIB MEDOCC) Coord.: CIEF







2004-2006





Institut

Scientifique

Département de Botanique et Ecologie

de Rabat-

Végétale,

Morocco

2006-2008





SEMCLIMED PROJECT COORD.: CIEF

'IMPACT OF THE CLIMATIC CHANGE ON THE

MEDITERRANEAN FLORA AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS'

Conservatoire Etudes des Ecosystemes de Provence/Alpes du Sud-CEEP

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National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (UNKA)

Espaces Naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon (CENLR)

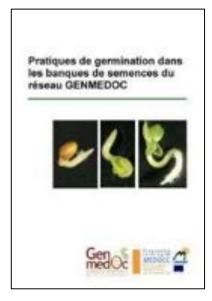
Mansoura University, Sciences Faculty, Egypt Argotti Herbarium and Botanic Gardens, University of Malta

GENMEDOC & SEMCLIMED

OUTPUTS (2004-2006, 2006-2008)







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)



EDITION FOR 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)





- 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)

4 issues: July 2007 – July 2008









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









INRGREF, Tunisia

CIHEAM – MAICH, Greece

CIEF, Spain

Tuscia SB, Italy

Deuxième réunion GENMEDA

Barcelone, 10 juin 2010

n an après la première. Concernant la mission et les la terme cette mission a été riéssaux.

représentants de chaque végétale. membre.

réunion du néseau à objectifs du réseau. Tidée définie de façon classique, avec Capliari, les membres principale a été celle de ne pas trois postes principaux -GENMEDA ont organisé une restretedre l'éventail de possi président secrétaire et trésorier autre rencontre à Barcelone afin bles actions, sans le l'imiter à un et deux organes, le Comité de de finaliser les dernières certain type de flore ou à un questions nécessaires pour la cadre strictement médithramise en place effective du néen au sens géographique du terme. Cest ainsi que la mission. globale du niseau est la Pendant ce temps, des débats et conservation de ressources des pluies d'idées ont été menés génétiques de flore méditerra- pilotage et l'Assemblée sur toutes questions clès du néenne et que ses objectifs nérale. Afin de compléter c réseau. Notamment en ce qui est portent our des actions de structure et de rendre la mission et les objectifs du conservation in situ et existu ou performantes les activités la desactions de communication réseau, des groups de ts composition, le financement, les et éducation environnemental, thématiques ont été égaler lignes de travail et les outils de mais aussi sur des projets et prévus et leur impléments communication. Tous per initiatives conjointes dans le sera effective dans les « aspects ont été formalisés dans : cadre de l'UE et au-delà et sur : suivants.









2011



2010







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

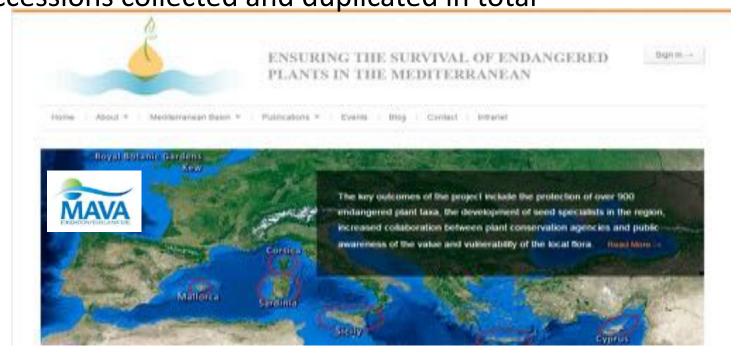






2011-2014 'Ensuring the survival of endangered plants in the Mediterranean' (some GENMEDA members (islands) participating (JBS, DBUC, CCB, MAICH) (coord.KEW) MAVA co-funded project

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 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



INRGREF



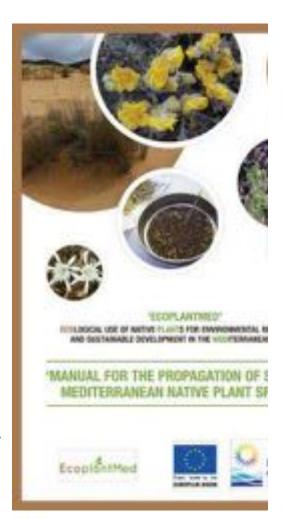






ECOPLANTMED

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.)









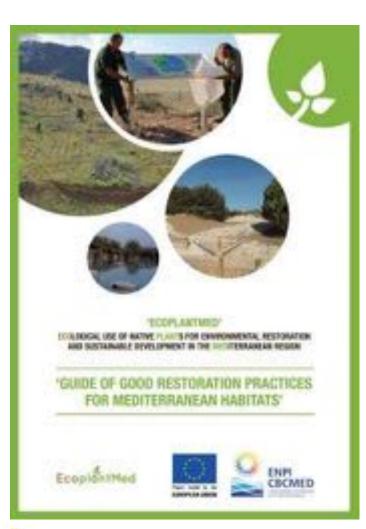






ECOPLANTMED

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



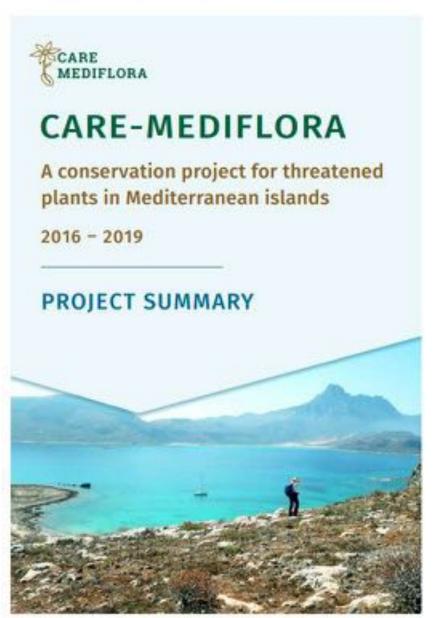


2016 -2019 CARE-MEDIFLORA project (http://www.care-mediflora.eu/)

- ✓ 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







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CARE-MEDIFLORA project 2016 - 2019 CARE Consequence aroung his Timesterney the other brown liberth MEDIFLORA Project as belowed to obsciously actions In situ conservation actions by island / by taxon By inland Endersole Indianalis distribution of the second section of the second CBNCorsica PT III AND actions risplainemed by batter the error Dames Franchises BET DOOR IN has broad John An extra conservation actions BY TAXON tons on Reveneing. It communities believed, foundings of (1) communities ready to be planted CIHEAM-MAICH to discovery transcription (more "desired for the





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**



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

Partners: 8 (Tunisia, Italy, France, Lebanon and 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:

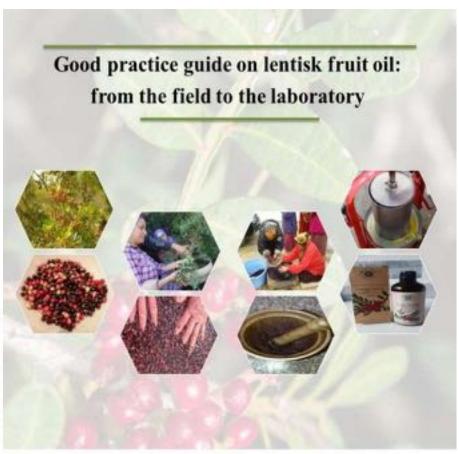
AIFM (coord.), HBK (CCB), CIHEAM-MAICH, INRGREF























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*

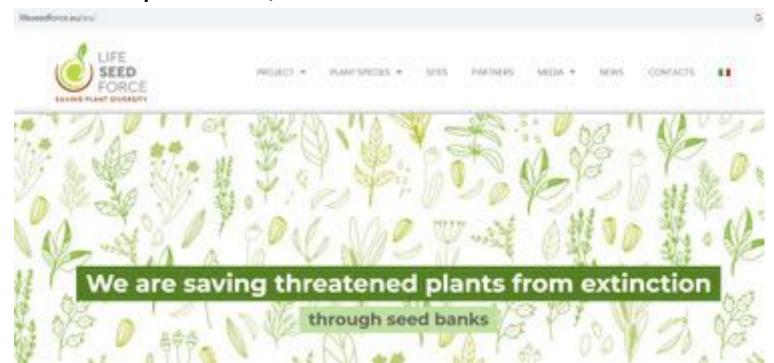




2021-2026 SeedForce LIFE project

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

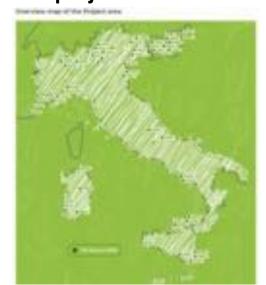


Gallium Alterate Guss.



Allesee excellent in Sardinia









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 BC







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)