

PANEL 33 Experiencias exitosas de Conservación de Plantas

Intensively Monitored Plant Micro-Reserves (IMPMPR), a new model of in situ plant conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean region

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The model of *in situ* conservation through Plant Micro-Reserves (PMR) was set up in the Valencian Community, by establishing a network of permanent plots both for extensive monitoring and plant conservation practices (Laguna, 2000). In this 'extensive monitoring' way, the PMR network can hold a high number of small protected areas, but the conservation effort for each PMR cannot be very intensive. Therefore, the implementation of research projects for the collection of detailed data that are substantial for the development of sound conservation practices can take place only in few sites. Proportionally, a network more focused on research purposes (i.e. fine relationships between the biology of the targeted species and the environmental or biological factors causing its decline) should be compound of a few intensively monitored plots, so being designed for a small list of selected species (i.e., endangered taxa, protected plants in highest legal levels); in this cases, important environmental parameters affecting the survival of the most endangered species (e.g. soil and air temperature and humidity, light quality and intensity) as well as biotic factors (e.g. predators, competitors), can be finely monitored through specific monitoring techniques. During the last years, this complementary model of Intensively Monitored Plant Micro-Reserves (IMPMPRs) has been successfully set up in the Western Mediterranean area, through two LIFE-Nature projects focused on the conservation of endemic priority species and habitats. The CRETAPLANT project (<http://cretaplant.biol.uoa.gr/> , Thanos *et al.*, 2007) established a network of 7 PMRs in the prefecture of Chania (Crete), giving protection to selected populations of *Androcymbium rechingeri*, *Anthemis glaberrima*, *Bupleurum kakiskalae*, *Cephalanthera cucullata*, *Hypericum aciferum* and *Nepeta sphaciotica*, as well as the palm groves of *Phoenix theophrasti* (*9370). The project PlantNet-CY (www.plantnet.org.cy, Kadis *et al.*, 2010) established a national network of 5 PMRs in Cyprus, in order to ensure the study and conservation of selected plots for the Cypriot endemics *Arabis kennedyae*, *Astragalus macrocarpus* subsp. *lefkarensis*, *Centaurea akamantis* and *Ophrys kotschyi*, as well as the endemic habitat types domined by *Quercus alnifolia* (*9390) and *Cedrus brevifolia* (*9590).

Laguna, E. 2000. *The micro-reserves as a tool for conservation of threatened plants in Europe*. Nature & Environment series n° 121. Council of Europe. Strasbourg.

Thanos C.A *et al.* 2007. *The Establishment, Monitoring and Management of a Pilot Network of Micro-Reserves in Western Crete for the Conservation of European Threatened Plants (CRETAPLANT Project, EU-LIFE)*. In *Proceedings, MEDECOS XI Conference*. Perth: 249-250

Kadis C. *et al.* 2010. *Establishment of a Plant Micro-reserve Network in Cyprus for the Conservation of Priority Species and Habitats*. In *Proceedings of the 1st International Bi-communal Biodiversity Conference*, Cyprus: 113-120.