



5MPCW CY-2025

5TH MEDITERRANEAN PLANT CONSERVATION WEEK

Building alliances for plant diversity conservation
in the Mediterranean

April 07-11, 2025 • Limassol, Cyprus



CEPF and the Mediterranean Basin: A Partnership for Plant Conservation

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is dedicated to conserving biodiversity hotspots around the world by empowering civil society organizations. One of our key areas of focus is the Mediterranean Basin, a region renowned for its rich biodiversity and unique plant species. Since 2012, CEPF has been a pivotal supporter of conservation efforts in this region, awarding numerous grants to local organizations to protect and restore vital ecosystems, investing more than USD 25 million in the Mediterranean Basin.

While the Mediterranean Basin is home to approximately 25,000 plant species, more than half of which are endemic, there has been limited focus on the conservation of endangered plant species, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the hotspot. To foster greater engagement of civil society in plant conservation, CEPF opened a specific financial window in 2017 and encouraged partners to consider plants in all our strategic directions, whether in coastal zones, freshwater ecosystems, or agricultural landscapes.

Over the last six years, CEPF has supported 38 projects with more than USD 1.7 million, and has integrated plant conservation actions into many more projects, directly benefiting 78 threatened plant species. A new phase has just been launched for 2025-2030, with a budget of USD 2.2 million for plant conservation in the Eastern and Southern part of the Mediterranean Basin!

Through our continued investment and collaboration, CEPF strives to build a resilient and robust network of conservation partners in the Mediterranean Basin who are engaged in plant conservation. Together, we are making significant strides in preserving the region's unique plant diversity and ensuring a sustainable future for its ecosystems.



Members of Association LACT on a project site in Dyr-el-Key, Tunisia (Photo P.Carret, CEPF)

Find more about CEPF!

Follow us on our [E-newsletter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) !

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Department of Forests
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Environment
(CYPRUS)



Constantinos Kounnamas

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FREDERICK UNIVERSITY



Among University's key operational pillars is the advancement and transfer of knowledge through basic and applied research work as well as the encouragement of the creative output of its faculty members. Frederick University aims to continuously enhance its standing as a reputable research institution of international standards, with significant contributions to science and technology, and innovations for the benefit of local and European economy and society.

Through its Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities, the University aspires to be an exemplary case in Cyprus in research to industry/society links with significant impact in advancement of the local economy through innovative application of new knowledge developed at the University or through collaborations with other research organizations.

To support and facilitate the Technology Transfer aims of its R&I Strategy, the University has adopted an Intellectual Property Policy. The policy is based on internationally accepted principles that govern the ownership rights emanating from research of and/or materials produced by the University's members of staff and students, and establishes objectively fair and equitable criteria for the transfer of knowledge.



NATURE CONSERVATION UNIT (NCU)

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment aims at promoting sustainable development for agriculture and fishing, while contributing to environmental protection and sustainable management of both the environment and Cyprus natural resources through projects, initiatives and actions.

The vision of the Forestry Department is to maintain forests in optimal condition and to achieve the highest possible environmental, social, and economic benefits. These benefits are to be balanced, grounded in the principle of sustainability, and aligned with the expectations of society.

Mission

The mission of the Forestry Department is to protect and promote sustainable forest management while enhancing green spaces through:

- Developing and implementing Forest Policy and Legislation
- Protecting forests from fires, climate change, and other threats
- Strengthening the protective functions of forests
- Preserving biodiversity
- Promoting forest-based recreation
- Producing forest products.

10° EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS

EURO GARD



Botanic Gardens in the UN Decade of
Ecosystem Restoration

September 22 - 26, 2025 ROME, Italy



TOPICS



- 1 ROLE IN PLANT CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
- 2 POLICIES AND STANDARDS
- 3 NETWORKING, SOCIETY, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION
- 4 SCIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES



EXCURSIONS



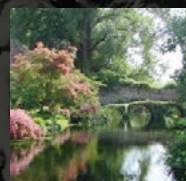
THE WOOD OF
PALO LAZIALE
(Nature 2000
site - Ladispoli,
Rome)



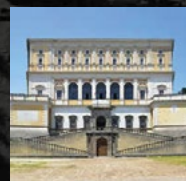
VILLA
GREGORIANA
(Tivoli, Rome)



THE GARDEN
OF NINFA
(Cisterna di
Latina, Latina)



PALAZZO
FARNESE
(Caprarola,
Viterbo)



BOTANIC GARDEN OF ROME

Largo Cristina di Svezia, 23 A - 24
00165 Rome RM



FAO - Headquarters

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome RM



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SAPIENZA
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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING NEW PLANT CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE

Information


Date: 7th of April

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Workshop Registration: Free but Mandatory

Although the workshop is included in the registration fee, we kindly request that all participants register in advance to help us ensure the smooth organization of the event.



Visit website 

Contact

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5 University of Palermo, Italy

6 University of Catania, Italy

One objective of the currently running Life Seedforce project (LIFE20/NAT/IT/001468 – Using SEED banks to restore and reinFORCE the endangered native plants of Italy), is to replicate the project approach in other areas, aiming at submitting to Life future calls 3 proposals for similar projects centred in biodiversity-rich areas of Europe in urgent need of conservation actions such as the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Macaronesia. In a nutshell Life Seedforce focus on Annex II species reported in bad conservation status and puts in place well targeted actions to improve their conservation status and reverse the bad conditions such as: plant propagation, habitat improvement and plant translocation in key sites (either reintroduction, reinforcement or introduction), having acquired essential preliminary knowledge on genetic diversity, niche requirement and change, developing the best site-adapted translocation mix.

This workshop plans to develop initiatives aimed at replicating this approach, identifying suitable areas and partners willing to develop such projects, and driving their development, offering guidance and experience from the currently running Life Seedforce project.

Participants should identify in advance of the workshop a list of target species that qualify (annex II species reported in bad conditions either U1 or U2 divided per country and per biogeographical region as detailed on the European Environmental Agency: Conservation status and trends of habitats and species portal) and a list of Natura 2000 sites where they can work on (where these species are still present or were present in the past). Participants should identify in advance per species per site the key threats that imperil the survival of the target species in these areas and devise a strategy to remove or mitigate them such as habitat improvement and/or population reinforcement. Once this preliminary background research is validated, new project ideas can be discussed and their development begin.

Keywords: Habitats Directive, conservation measures, European hotspots, reversing bad conservation status

Acknowledgements: Life Seedforce received funding by the Life Programme – The European Union funding instrument for the environment and climate action, under contract LIFE20/NAT/IT/001468



Bassia saxicola



Gladiolus palustris



Astragalus verrucosus



Linum muelleri

09:00 - 10:00	CEPF Workshop Room: MEGARON B	
10:00 - 11:00		GENMEDA General Assembly Room: MEGARON B
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break for GENMEDA and CEPF meetings	
11:30 - 13:00	CEPF Workshop Room: MEGARON B	GENMEDA General Assembly Room: MEGARON G
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break for GENMEDA and CEPF meetings	
14:00 - 16:00	Workshop: Developing new plant conservation projects in Europe Room: MEGARON B	
16:30 - 17:00	Conference Opening Ceremony Room: Panorama	
17:00 - 19:00	Plenary Talks Room: Panorama The Flora of Cyprus <i>Charalambos Christodoulou</i> Small reserves: A new breath of life for wild plants <i>Emilio Laguna</i>	
19:00 - 20:30	Welcome Reception Room: Venue Hotel	



08:30 - 10:30

Session I: In situ, ex situ and integrated plant diversity conservation**Chair: Katerina Koutsovoulou****Room: Panorama****Integrated Approaches to Plant Diversity Conservation in the Mediterranean - Bridging In Situ and Ex Situ Strategies: the case of Greece***Katerina Koutsovoulou***Integrated Conservation approach for endemic species in Lebanon***Rhea Kahale, Magda Bou Dagher, Carole Saliba, Christina Haber, Lilianne Bou Khoud***Floral Biodiversity and conservation of wetlands in the Jordan Valley***Mazin Qumsiyeh, Banan Al-Sheikh, Johann Gideon***The restoration of Mediterranean habitats passing by an integrated conservation approach: the case of *Limonium strictissimum****Maria Enrica Boi, Ludovica Dessì, Alba Cuena Lombraña, Mauro Fois, Lina Podda, Marco Porceddu, Gianluigi Bacchetta***Ex situ seed conservation of the native flora of Greece***Spyridon Oikonomidis, Katerina Koutsovoulou, Apostolis Kaltsis, Sofoklis Mouratidis, Aikaterini Stefi, Ian Willey, Lee Oliver, Aisyah Faruk, Elinor Breman, Costas Thanos***Ex situ Conservation Actions in Cyprus; Current Status and Future Priorities***Angelos Kyrtziz, Dimitris Kourtellarides***Conservation translocation of the endangered *Anthemis aeolica* Lojac. on small islets of the Aeolian archipelago***Cristina Blandino, Agata Irene Di Paola, Giuseppe Emma, Mario Di Stefano, Pietro Lo Cascio, Antonia Cristaudo***Propagation of the “Extinct in the Wild” *Limonium intermedium* (Guss.) Brullo and planning of its potential reintroduction in Lampedusa Island (Italy)***Salvatore Cambria, Cristina Blandino, Agata Irene Di Paola, Danilo Monari, Damiano Trovato, Adriana Santanello, Francesco Laspina, Serena Pannuzzo, Martina Salamanca, Gianpietro Giusso del Galdo, Antonia Egidia Cristaudo***How can we help a threatened plant species to survive – a case study of *Cardamine serbica****Mira Fiškalović, Judita Zozomová, Predrag Lazarević, Marek Šlenker, Jasmina Šinžar-Sekulić, Maja Lazarević*

10:30 - 11:10

Coffee Break

11:10 - 11:40

Session I: In situ, ex situ and integrated plant diversity conservation**Chair: Katerina Koutsovoulou****Room: Panorama****Restoration of populations of *Acis nicaeensis*, an endangered endemic species of the Riviera (France, Principality of Monaco, Italy)***Katia Diadema, Lara Dixon, Manon Laqueuille, Frédéric Médail***First systematic assessment of germination requirements in the endemic quillwort *Isoetes malinverniana****Thomas Abeli*

<p>11:10 - 11:40</p>	<p>Lichen translocations for conservation purposes in Mediterranean environments: the project BioConLobaria <i>Luca Paoli, Marta Agostini, Renato Benesperi, Elisabetta Bianchi, Patrizia Campisi, Silvia Del Vecchio, Juri Nascimbene, Giovanna Pezzi, Luca Di Nuzzo, Monica Ruffini Castiglione, Luigi Sanità di Toppi, Sonia Ravera</i></p>
<p>11:40 - 13:30</p>	<p>Session II: Agriculture, pastoralism, and forest management in plant conservation Chair: Joëlle Salameh Room: Panorama</p> <p>Agriculture, pastoralism and forest management in plant conservation <i>Joelle Salameh</i></p> <p>Revisiting a small Mediterranean island: how vegetation has changed in the last 15 years <i>Michele Mugnai, Eugenia Siccardi, Mariasole Calbi, Bruno Foggi, Lorenzo Lazzaro, Alice Misuri, Virginia Amanda Volanti, Lorella Dell’Olmo, Daniele Viciani</i></p> <p>CAROLINA project: preliminary results on plant diversity from the first year of sampling <i>Virginia Amanda Volanti, Eugenia Siccardi, Andrea Coppi, Andrea Scartazza, Eleonora Peruzzi, Valerio Lazzeri, Maurizio Sarti, Francesca Bretzel, Serena Doni, Leonardo Latilla, Michele Mattioni, Birhane Gebrehiwot Tesfamariam, Olga Gavrichkova, Lorenzo Lazzaro</i></p> <p>Conservation, Protection and Valorization Efforts of Plant Agrobiodiversity in Sardinia <i>Ludovica Dessì, Davide Pinna, Chiara Maria Posadinu, Francesca Serralutzu, Antonella Sirigu, Daniela Spano, Luciano De Pau, Gianni Lovicu, Marco Porceddu, Monica Rodriguez, Andrea Porceddu, Maurizio Mulas, Claudio Antonio Porqueddu, Guy D’Hallewin, Gianluigi Bacchetta, Anna Barbara Pisanu</i></p> <p>PHENOTYPOS project - Screening and Characterization of Potential Carob Rootstocks within the Cypriot Indigenous Feral Germplasm <i>Marios Kyriacou, Elias Bassil, Chrystalla Antoniou, Katerina Karpasitou, Georgios Soteriou, Maria Emmanouilidou, Andreas Pallides, Stavros Louka, Harris Papadopoulos, Andreas Constantinides, Ieswaria Sreedharan, Iasonas Iasonos, Andreas Katsiotis, Vasileios Fotopoulos, Nikolaos Nikoloudakis, Charalampos Panayiotou, Stavros Hadjiyiannis, Christos Constantinou, Kyriacos Tsapparellas, Kyriakos Petasis, Angelos Kyratzis</i></p> <p>Effects of anthropogenic drivers of change on the taxonomic and functional diversity of local plant communities in chestnut groves on the island of Elba, Tuscan Archipelago, Italy <i>Eugenia Siccardi, Michele Mugnai, Lorenzo Lazzaro, Daniele Viciani</i></p> <p>Threats and conservation strategies for wild flora in Trentino related to land management <i>Stefano Azzolini, Chiara Parisi, Costantino Bonomi</i></p> <p>From plant biodiversity to the use of resources: an integrated approach for the conservation of the seminatural dry grasslands of Umbria region (central Italy) <i>Federica Bonini, Anna Grassi, Emanuele Lilli, Luciano Morbidini, Mariano Pauselli, Bernardo Valenti, Francesco Antonielli, Cecilia Parracciani, Marco Vizzari, Daniela Gigante</i></p>
<p>13:30 - 13:40</p>	<p>Conference Photo (Amphitheatre - outside)</p>
<p>13:40 - 14:40</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>

14:40 - 16:50	<p>Session III: Restoration and management of Mediterranean habitats and ecosystems Chair: Vito Emanuele Cambria Room: Panorama</p> <p>Ecological Restoration in the Mediterranean Region: Living the Tipping Point <i>Vito Emanuele Cambria</i></p> <p>Improving the soil health before native plant reintroduction: a pipeline for the restoration of plant habitats <i>Iduna Arduini, Sergio Saia, Milos Di Gregorio, Marco Mariotti</i></p> <p>The LIFE Phoenix Project: Restoring and improve the Priority Habitat 9370* “Palm groves of Phoenix” in Crete <i>Eleftheria Antaloudaki, Michalis Probonas, Kalliopi Baxevasi, Vasileios Samaritakis, Lampros Papalampros, Elena Loukaki, Konstantinos Kontos, Christos Georgiadis</i></p> <p>Restoring the priority habitat “Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.” in Portugal, conservation practices in the Zimbral for LIFE project <i>Diogo Moreira Sá, Luís Ferreira, Beatriz Romão, Mariana Machado, Carlos Pinto Gomes, Catarina Meireles</i></p> <p>Enhancement and creation of suitable habitats for pollinators through the selection of seeds of native Mediterranean species <i>Lara Lucchetti, Andrea Giunta, Maurizio Bianchelli, Simona Casavecchia</i></p> <p>Building alliances for conservation of nature and mitigation of natural risks linked to water through Nature-based solutions. A Mediterranean perspective <i>Freddy Rey, Joana Guerrin, Bénédicte Rulleau</i></p> <p>Biotechnical Properties of Mediterranean Plant Species for Soil and Water Bioengineering: Database Development and Applications in Technique Design <i>Daniel Arizpe, Guillermo Tardío, Mercedes Valenzuela, Albert Sorolla, Paola Sangalli</i></p> <p>Elaboration and implementation of a conservation strategy targeting habitats in the Mediterranean region: example of the south of France <i>Louise Turpin, Olivier Argagnon, Katia Diadema, Maëlle Le Berre, Ileana Quiquerez, Laetitia Hugot, Noémie Fort, Nicolas Bianchin</i></p> <p>A predictive occupancy model for vascular plants in temporary freshwater rockpools (TFRs) <i>Sandro Lanfranco, Leanne Camilleri</i></p> <p>Old-growth forests and flora conservation in Menorca (Balearic Islands) <i>Pere Fraga Arguimbau</i></p>
16:50 - 17:20	Coffee Break
17:20 - 19:20	<p>Poster Session I Room: Panorama</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation of Conservation Efforts for 20 Priority Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Morocco: Towards a Typification of Conservation Actions, <i>Salma El Amane</i> 2. Distribution Patterns of Characean Species Across Aquatic Habitats with Varying Salinity in Cyprus, <i>Alena-Maria Maidel</i> 3. Mitigating Pressures and threats on Coastal Dunes: A Conservation and Restoration Example in Cyprus, <i>Constantinos Kounnamas</i>

17:20 - 19:20

4. The rare, the expanding and the moor Red list flora of Akrotiri Marsh- Facts and a Toolbox of conservation actions, *Athina Papatheodoulou*
5. Akrotiri Marsh – A Unique Wetland under Restoration, *Melpo Apostolidou*
6. Temporal Comparison of Habitat Mapping in Natura 2000 Wetlands of Cyprus: Insights from Local Surveys and CORINE Land Cover Data, *Marios Andreou*
7. Observation of morphological and anatomical features of needles of *Cedrus brevifolia* Henry: A Tool for better understanding their population structure, *Nicolas-George Eliades*
8. Elaboration of an Action Plan for the conservation of *Phlomis brevibracteata*, an Endemic Species of Cyprus, *Iro Kouzali*
9. Wheat yield is not affected by the co-occurrence of arable weeds *Agrostemma githago* and *Centaurea cyanus*: implications for conservation, *Thomas Abeli*
10. Photic Barriers to Plant Migration in the Mediterranean: Implications for Assisted Migration Strategies under Climate Change, *Martina Tarascio*
11. Coordinated action for invasive species: A cohesive approach to IAS management across the southern regions of France, *Louise Turpin*
12. Exceptional plants under threat: conservation actions at the Botanical Garden of the University of Valencia, *Olga Mayoral*
13. MONALISA Project: Case Study for the Implementation of Nature Restoration Actions in Asterousia Area, Crete, Greece, *Michalis Probonas*
14. An everlasting tug-of-war: Pressures, threats & conservation actions at protected habitats, *Athina Papatheodoulou*
15. Morphological and flow cytometry analysis reveals a significant cytotype diversity within the *Allium* spp. Cypriot germplasm, *Nikos Nikoloudakis*
16. AI for biodiversity monitoring to support decision making: the GUARDEN project and Cyprus' case study, *Iro Kouzali*
17. The distribution of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in West Bank, State of Palestine, *Banan Alsheikh*
18. Revealing cryptic diversity and evolutionary processes in *Erysimum* species endemic to the western Balkan Peninsula, *Richard Bačák*
19. Capsules for the future: safeguarding genetic resources, *Estrella Alfaro-Saiz*
20. LIFE TEIXERES: Monitoring seed dispersal and wildlife interactions using camera trapping in *Taxus baccata* forests of eastern Spain, *Antonio Mercader*
21. Biogeographic assessment of the Mediterranean *Jubaea chilensis* palm groves of La Campana National Park (Chile), *Emilio Laguna*
22. Micro-reserves as key strategies for biodiversity conservation in fragmented Mediterranean landscapes, *Emilio Laguna*
23. Communication and environmental education strategy of the Centre for Forestry Research and Experimentation (Valencian Community, Spain), *Ana Cebrián*
24. Towards sustainable landscaping in Mediterranean climates: a study of adaptations of two *Mesembryanthemum* spp to water stress conditions, *M. Isabel Martínez-Nieto*
25. Heard it Through the Grapevine: A Phytolith Study of Roman and Modern Vineyards to Identify the Hidden Diversity of Plant Assemblages, *Greta Micallef*
26. Review of Flora of Syria: FSOL as a tools, *Mwaffak Chikhali*
27. Flora of Maghreb, efloramaghreb.org, *Cyrille Chatelain*

17:20 - 19:20

28. Halophytes and xerophytes: 'adaptations' or 'responses' to proximal stress?, *Lena Schmidbauer*
29. The first inventory of Sardinian mining vascular flora, *Marco Sarigu*
30. Evaluating the socio-economic and ecological impacts of conservation and awareness-raising activities at the Troodos National Forest Park, Cyprus, *Marios Andreou*
31. Challenges in Conserving a Long-Lived Relict Species in a Rapidly Changing Environment: The Case of *Taxus baccata* in Eastern Spain, *Daniel Arizpe*
32. Global monitoring of Plantaginion crassifoliae vegetation (mediterranean salt Meadows) in France: protocol elaboration and implementation, *Ileana Quiquerez*
33. Exploring the role of botanical gardens in promoting plant awareness: insights from Marimurtra Botanical Garden, *Anna Sans*
34. Flora of archaeological sites in Malta, *Sandro Lanfranco*
35. Agrobiodiversity Conservation: Genomic Insights into Sardinian Common Bean Landraces, *Monica Rodriguez*
36. Plant and soil indicators for relating land management to plant conservation, *Iduna Arduini*
37. Evaluating conservation efforts in coastal dune habitats: a plot resurvey in La Maddalena National Park (Italy), *Simonetta Bagella*
38. Inter-Population Diversity in the Endangered Plant Species *Primula palinuri* Petagna: Insights from the Population Structure, *Vito Emanuele Cambria*
39. Invasive Alien Plant Species in a Mediterranean botanic garden: identification, characterization and management, *Pere Fraga Arguimbau*
40. Strategies for the Conservation of *Berberis hispanica* Valencian Community (Spain): An approach to increase genetic diversity and team collaboration, *Rafael Barrero Sánchez*
41. Could a change in the ecological niche requirements account for the anomalous decline of *Crepis pusilla* (Sommer) Merxm.?, *Joseph Buhagiar*
42. Proposal of a new vulnerability index for the eradication of *Ailanthus altissima* (P. Miller) Swingle, *Joseph Buhagiar*
43. Preliminary assessment of the threat category of *Muscari parviflorum* Desf. in Spain, *Silvia Villegas-Navarro*
44. Progress in assessing the conservation status of the Greek flora under Article 17 of the 92/43/EEC Habitats' Directive, *Panayiotis Trigas*
45. Conservation status, distribution patterns, and ecological characteristics of Campanulaceae in Greece, *Eleni Liveri*
46. Diversity, endemism and conservation status of the genus *Verbascum* L. in Greece, *Panayotis Dimopoulos*
47. New conservation and genetic data for the Greek endemic *Campanula papillosa* Halácsy, *Eleni Liveri*

TUESDAY, 08 APRIL 2025

Registration hours: 08:00-13:00 & 14:00-19:30

19:20 - 20:30	<p>Miyawaki Session Chair: Vito Emanuele Cambria Room: Panorama</p> <p>Adapting the Dense-Evergreen Miyawaki Forest Methodology to Drier Climates <i>Elgene Box</i></p> <p>Creation of Miyawaki Forests in Mediterranean Istanbul <i>Kazue Fujiwara</i></p> <p>Application of the Miyawaki Method for Plant Community Self-Assembly: Perspectives from Mediterranean Tiny Forests <i>Virginia Chiara Cuccaro, Vito Emanuele Cambria, Carlo Fratarcangeli, Ilaria Panero, Michele De Sanctis, Luca Malatesta, Fabio Attorre</i></p> <p>theOtherForest: a nature-based tool for ecological and social regeneration <i>Adib Dada, Mohammad Kabakibi, Zouhair Challah</i></p> <p>The Eco-Pedagogical Microforest Project in Rome: methodology and results <i>Fabiola Fratini, Tullia Valeria Di Giacomo</i></p>
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WEDNESDAY, 09 APRIL 2025

Field Trip (Optional)

08:00	Departure from St. Raphael Resort & Marina
09:30 -10:00	Moufflon Enclosure
10:00 - 11:00	Botanical Garden 'AG Leventis'
11:00 - 11:30	Almyrolivado
12:00 - 15:00	Trails
15:00 - 16:00	Lunch
16:00	Departure of Buses
17:00	Arrival at St. Raphael Resort & Marina

08:30 - 10:20	<p>Session IV: Climatic crisis and plant diversity Chair: Constantinos Kounnamas Room: Panorama</p> <p>The climatic crisis and its impact on plant diversity in the Mediterranean Basin <i>Constantinos Kounnamas</i></p> <p>Shifting Shores: Future Habitat for <i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i> (L.) Ledeb. <i>Mariacristina Villani, Aaron Lemma</i></p> <p>Brewing crisis: Forecasting the future of endemic Mountain Tea (<i>Sideritis</i> sect. <i>Empedoclia</i>) under global change <i>Konstantinos Kougioumoutzis, Panayotis Dimopoulos, Bilge Tunçkol, Panayiotis Trigas</i></p> <p>Paradise at stake: Human pressure on local endemic plant taxa in Greece's holy mountain (Mt Athos) under climate change scenarios <i>Panayotis Dimopoulos, Arne Strid, Thomas Raus, Konstantinos Kougioumoutzis, Ioannis P. Kokkoris, Stylianos Charalambidis</i></p> <p>Unraveling the Influences of Edaphic and Topographic Factors on High-Mountain Plant Communities: first results from the MO.MO.ME. Project <i>Alessandro Silvestre Gristina, Corrado Marcenò, Riccardo Guarino, SALVATORE PASTA, Giuseppe Garfi</i></p> <p>How climate relict trees cope with the Mediterranean climate: the importance of refugial settings and plant adaptive ability <i>Giuseppe Garfi, Laurence Fazan, Ghosn Dany, Gristina Alessandro Silvestre, Guarino Riccardo, Kozłowski Gregor, Marcenò Corrado, Motisi Antonio, Remoundou Ilektra, Pasta Salvatore</i></p> <p>Paleoclimatic projections from JSDMs refine those of SDMs, outperforming them in rare species. <i>Daniel Romera-Romera, Francisca Alba-Sánchez, Daniel Abel-Schaad, Diego Nieto-Lugilde</i></p> <p>Elaboration of pharmaceutical properties of endemic plants in Cyprus <i>Despina Charalambous, Eleni kakouri, Petros A. Tarantilis, Marios Andreou, Nicolas G Eliades, Maria Pantelidou, Charalambos D. Kanakis</i></p>
10:20 - 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 13:00	<p>Session V: Plant conservation priorities within protected areas and IPAs in the Mediterranean Chair: Imtinen Ben Haj Jilani Room: Panorama</p> <p>Plant conservation in the Mediterranean: drawing strength from its rich past to sustain the present and shape a resilient future <i>Imtinen Ben Haj Jilani</i></p> <p>Harnessing Plant Diversity to Advance Key Biodiversity Areas in the Mediterranean <i>Catherine Numa, David Diaz Fernandez</i></p> <p>National plant conservation priorities for protected areas network in Lebanon <i>Hicham El Zein, Dominique Choueiter, Maher McKenna</i></p>

10:50 - 13:00	<p>Representativeness of the Palestinian terrestrial ecosystems in its protected areas networks – strategic recommendations for biodiversity conservation <i>Mohammed Saleem Ali-Shtayeh, Salam Abu Zaitoun, Rana Jamous</i></p> <p>The vascular flora of conservation interest in Sicily: a multistep procedure aimed at identifying the priority targets for risk assessment and plant conservation <i>Salvatore Pasta, Riccardo Guarino, Giuseppe Garfi, Alessandro Silvestre Gristina, Vincenzo Ilardi, Alfonso La Rosa, Corrado Marcenò, Dario Salemi, Leonardo Scuderi, Angelo Troia, Bertrand de Montmollin</i></p> <p>Assessment of the effectiveness of Natural Protected Areas for the conservation of cliff flora in Spain <i>Carlos Eced Royo, Juan Lorite Moreno, Eva María Cañadas Sánchez</i></p> <p>What's new about Important Plant Areas identification in northern Algeria? <i>Errol Vela, Yassine Beghami, Salima Benhouhou, Mohamed Djamel Miara, Khellaf Rebbas, Nassima Yah</i></p> <p>From Taxonomy to Conservation: Can We Conserve Plants We Don't Fully Know? Taxonomic Ambiguities in the Mediterranean Juniperus phoenicea Complex, with a Focus on J. turbinata from Algeria <i>Yassine Beghami, Merouane Elmir</i></p> <p>Deciphering the diversity of floral species and butterflies (Lepidoptera) within four valleys in Al-Arqoub- South of Jerusalem, West Bank- State of Palestine <i>Johann Gedeon, Mazin Qumsiyeh, Banan Al-Sheikh</i></p>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:10	<p>Session VI: Genetic tools and bioinformatics for plant conservation Chair: Juli Caujapé-Castells Room: Panorama</p> <p>The NEXTGENDEM bioinformatics platform: Providing biodiversity managers with Science-based indicators to conserve biodiversity in Macaronesia...and beyond? <i>Juli Caujapé-Castells, Isabel Saro, Ruth Jaén-Molina, Rafael Nebot, Antonio Díaz-Pérez, Inmaculada Guillerme, Miguel Ángel González-Pérez, Daniel Reyes, Alejandro Curbelo, Carlos Caraballo, Carlos García-verdugo, Isabel Sanmartín, Javier Fuertes, Juan Francisco Rodríguez</i></p> <p>An Integrated Approach to Conserving Portugal's Most Endangered Tree: Quercus canariensis Willd. <i>Carlos Vila-Viçosa, João Nunes, Iuri Frias, Sara Freitas, Carmen Correia, José Gonçalves, Nuno Rico, Bruno Marcos, João Gonçalves, Herlander Azevedo</i></p> <p>Are Mediterranean mountain endemics threatened by hybridization with widespread congeners? Cautionary case studies on Cardamine apennina and C. rivularis <i>Judita Zozomová-Lihová, Marek Šlenker, Barbora Šingliarová, Terezie Mandáková, Adam Kantor, Hana Majerová, Karol Marhold</i></p> <p>Conservation genetics of the Adriatic endemic Centaurea ragusina L. (Asteraceae) <i>Sandro Bogdanović, Ivica Ljubičić, Mihaela Britvec, Ivana Vitasović Kosić, Zlatko Šatović, Zlatko Liber, Martina Temunović</i></p>

15:10 - 16:50	<p>Session VIII: Participation of civil society in conservation projects</p> <p>Chair: Pierre Carret</p> <p>Room: Panorama</p> <p>Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Preserving Threatened Flora in the Mediterranean Basin <i>Pierre Carret, Vedran Lucić</i></p> <p>TOPIO project enhance environmental public awareness in Akamas Peninsula Styliani Koukosoula, Sofia Theodoridou, Evanthia Manaridou, Cristina Musacchio, <i>Julia Nerantzia Tzortzi</i></p> <p>Two brief presentations by CEPF grantees</p> <p>Conservation challenges for the Flora of Santo Antão Island - Cape Verde Daniela Duarte, <i>Silvana Roque</i>, Gilda Monteiro</p> <p>Two brief presentations by CEPF grantees</p> <p>Improving knowledge of the flora of the island of Djerba and the conservation status of its heritage species <i>Zeineb Ghrabi-Gammar</i>, Amina Daoud Bouattour, Imtinen Ben Haj Jilani, Majdi Calboussi, Sami Dhouib, Khaoula EL Kadi</p> <p>Two brief presentations by CEPF grantees</p>
16:50 - 17:20	Coffee Break
17:20 - 19:20	<p>Poster Session II</p> <p>Room: Panorama</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Abies cephalonica</i>: a 10-year monitoring study of cone production in Parnitha National Park (Attica, Greece), <i>Evangelia N. Daskalakou</i> 2. Enhancing Resilience of the Akrotiri Salt lake ecosystem - The ARISE project, <i>Elli Tzirkalli</i> 3. Conservation and Evaluation of Fruit and Forestry Tree Genetic Resources in Sardinia (Italy), <i>Chiara Maria Posadinu</i> 4. Rare and threatened plants of arable land: results from a recent study in the plains of Thiva (central Greece), <i>Theophanis Constantinidis</i> 5. In situ and ex situ plant conservation in the Aegean Archipelago, <i>Christini Fournaraki</i> 6. Biological control of <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> by means of the dispersion of <i>Dactylopius opuntia</i> in the Cap de Creus Natural Park - LIFE medCLIFFS project, <i>Maria Guirado</i> 7. Multi-metric analysis of <i>Hypericum</i> taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional diversity in Greece, <i>Konstantinos Kougioumoutzis</i> 8. Functional and Biological Diversity of Wild Edible Plants in Italy: Insights from the FuD WE PIC Project, <i>Corrado Marcenò</i> 9. <i>Sideritis lurida</i> J.Gay ex Lacaita locally named “té de monte”: more knowledge for best conservation, <i>Estrella Alfaro-Saiz</i> 10. Impact of pine forest soil and herbivory on <i>Quercus ilex</i> L. acorns: a case study from Giglio Island (Tuscany, Italy) within the LIFE LETSGO Giglio project, <i>Benedetta Favre</i> 11. Raising awareness of plant diversity conservation and sustainable development in Greece: case studies, <i>Maria Panitsa</i> 12. Integrated Approaches to Landscape Conservation: The Case of Massiccio del Monte Cairo, Italy, <i>Virginia Chiara Cuccaro</i>

17:20 - 19:20

13. *Silene conglomeratica*, in situ and ex situ conservation actions for a geo-specialized taxon, Maria Panitsa
14. *Centaurea spinosa* communities' conservation status in the Aegean area (Greece), Maria Skotadi
15. Propagation of endangered species for the translocation of individuals into the wild, Stefano Azzolini
16. Tunisia: A small treasure trove of endemic vascular flora within the Mediterranean, Imtinen Ben Haj Jilani
17. A tale of 50 years: the conservation of *Maytenus senegalensis* subsp. *europaea* habitat in SE Spain, Julio Peñas
18. Germination ecology and salinity tolerance of an Ibero-Balearic restricted species, Carles Cardona
19. Long-term influence of municipal solid waste compost on the fertility, functionality and biodiversity of a soil contaminated with potentially toxic elements, Pier Paolo Roggero
20. CromoCat chromosome database as useful tool for Plant Conservation in Catalan Countries, Cesar Blanche
21. University gardens as tools for plant conservation and education at the University of Barcelona, Cesar Blanche
22. Molecular diversity of *Scilla madeirensis* (Menezes) Speta, Maria Manuela Câmara de Gouveia
23. Was Dumortier right? Deciphering the subspecies puzzle of *Musschia aurea* (L.f.) Dumort. (Campanulaceae), an endemic species of the Madeira Archipelago (Portugal), Tiago José Gouveia Andrade
24. New threat to the endemic flora of Madeira: The impact of *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché, 1833) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) on *Musschia aurea* (L.f.) Dumort. (Campanulaceae), Tiago José Gouveia Andrade
25. Analysis of stress tolerance mechanisms of the endemic halophyte *Limonium irtaense* in support of conservation programs, Diana-Maria Mircea
26. Interaction of the invasive grass *Spartina patens* (Ait.) Muhl. with the coastal local plant and microbiota communities, Adrián Sapiña-Solano
27. Gone with the heat?: the adaptive edge of hybridization under rising temperatures, Isabel Marques
28. Comparative germination strategies of annual species under varying temperature and light conditions, David Draper
29. In situ and ex situ conservation actions on *Galium litorale*, a priority species of the Habitats Directive strictly endemic to Sicily, Cristina Salmeri
30. Biobanking and conservation of endemic threatened plant species at the National Biodiversity Future Centre (NBFC) in Italy, Cristina Salmeri
31. A dynamic checklist of the endemic vascular flora of Lebanon mountain ranges, Hicham El Zein
32. National IUCN Red List Assessment of Rare and Endemic Plant Species in North Macedonia, Renata Čusterevska
33. Community-based participatory research for the conservation of three plants endemic to Tunisia and restricted to a single site, Zeineb Ghrabi-Gammar
34. Floristic Study of Ariggibba Region-Fezzan Province in Libya, Mohammed H. Makhlouf
35. Habitat Selection to Reintroduce *Iris bismarckiana* in Semi-Arid Environments, Bilal Ayasrah

<p>17:20 - 19:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Assessment of the current protection status of endemic plants in the south-east of Albanian, <i>Abdulla Diku</i> 37. Taxonomic Reassessment of Maltese Narcissus (Amaryllidaceae): Implications for Species Delimitation and Conservation, <i>Stephen Mifsud</i> 38. Increasing the conservation value of a Mediterranean cypress forest thanks to the contribution of fungi, <i>Claudia Perini</i> 39. <i>Silene hiesiae</i>: an insight into the reproductive biology of an insular endemic plant affected by pollen-limitation and seed-predation, <i>Agata Irene Di Paola</i> 40. LIFE – AgrOasis: Regenerative approaches for building climate change resilience in EU agricultural regions prone to desertification, <i>Elli Tzirkalli</i> 41. <i>Ornithogalum sibthorpii</i> Greuter in Montenegro – habitat shift and conservation state-of-art, <i>Marina Šoškić</i> 42. Priority areas for the establishment of genetic reserves to actively protect key crop wild relative species in Lebanon, <i>Lorenzo Raggi</i> 43. LIFE Beyond the Project: Communication Strategies for Long-Term Impact Conservation Actions, <i>María Seguí Moreno</i> 44. Introducing SeedPOD, the Seed Portal for Online Data, <i>Lee Oliver</i> 45. Conservation of threatened species: the role of stereomicroscopy, scanning electron microscopy and education in plant conservation, <i>Silvia Villegas-Navarro</i> 46. High-quality genomic resources for Cannonau: towards the conservation of Sardinian agrobiodiversity, <i>Chiara Maria Posadinu</i> 47. Unlocking the secrets of reproductive biology and pollinators in the rare <i>Musschia wollastonii</i> Lowe (Campanulaceae) of Madeira Island, <i>Maria Manuela Câmara de Gouveia</i>
<p>20:00</p>	<p>Conference Dinner (Optional)</p>



08:30 - 09:30	<p>Session VII: Plant conservation in Environmental Education and enhancement of environmental awareness Chair: Olga Mayoral García-Berlanga Room: Panorama</p> <p>Pre-service teacher's awareness of plants. An approach through mental maps <i>Olga Mayoral, Raquel de Rivas</i></p> <p>Raising Awareness Among Italian Students About the Pollinator Crisis and Habitat Conservation: A Case Study from the Marche Region, Central Italy <i>Simona Casavecchia, Lara Lucchetti, Nicole Hofmann, Sara Ruschioni, Maria Chiara Battistelli, Andrea Giunta, Adriano Mancini</i></p> <p>The Code of Conduct, avoid the trade and use of invasive non-native plants. A first step towards more aware and responsible gardening. <i>Edgard Mestre, Arnau Bosch Guiu, Carlos Gómez Bellver, Maria Guirado, Roser Melero, Sònia Garcia</i></p> <p>The Role Of Citizen Science In Monitoring And Characterizing The Habitat Of The Annex II-IV Target Species <i>Himantoglossum Adriaticum</i> H. Baumann <i>Anna Grassi, Federica Bonini, Cecilia Parracciani, Valentina Ferri, Francesco Falcinelli, Giuseppe Ratini, Maurizio Conticelli, Marco Fratoni, Daniela Gigante</i></p>
09:30 - 10:30	<p>Session IX: Plant conservation and cultural heritage – networking with civilization, history, and archaeology Chair: Magda Bou Dagher Kharat Room: Panorama</p> <p>Entangled Destiny: Trees & People of the Mediterranean <i>Magda Bou Dagher Kharat, Maria Contreras, Sara Camnasio</i></p> <p>Morphometric Analysis in Archaeobotany: Bridging Plant Conservation and Cultural Heritage <i>Marco Sarigu, Mariano Uccesu, Gianluigi Bacchetta</i></p> <p>The role of archaeological sites in plant conservation: a first look at the Mediterranean panorama <i>Giulia Albani Rocchetti, Zohreh Hosseini, Thomas Abeli, Giulia Caneva</i></p> <p>Conservation actions for rare and threatened plants found in archaeological sites - Examples of actions on the island of Crete - Greece <i>Christini Fournarakis, Panagiota Gotsiou, Adamantia Kokkinaki, Eleni Markaki, Michalis Chorefakis</i></p>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 11:40	<p>Session IX: Plant conservation and cultural heritage – networking with civilization, history, and archaeology Chair: Magda Bou Dagher Kharat Room: Panorama</p> <p>Unearthing Biodiversity: A Meta-Analysis of Vascular Flora in Urban Cemeteries <i>Erika Puglisevich, Fabrizio Buldrini, Gianmarco Tavilla, Sandro Lanfranco</i></p> <p>Diversity, Conservation and Untapped Potential of Levantine Edible Plants <i>Benedetta Gori, Pablo Gomez Barreiro, David Coleshill, Khaled Abulaila, Hicham El Zein, Melanie-Jayne Howes, Nizar Hani, Gianluigi Bacchetta, Tiziana Ulian</i></p>

11:00 - 11:40	<p>Ethnobotanical Heritage and Flora Conservation in the Barroso Ecoregion: Sustaining Traditions in Transboundary areas <i>Constança Andrade, Paulo Alves, Miguel Serrano, Gonçalo Pacheco, Carlos Aguiar, Carlos Vila-Viçosa</i></p>
11:40 - 13:20	<p>Session X: Approaches and techniques for combating alien and invasive plant species Chair: Vanessa Lozano Room: Panorama</p> <p>Winning the battle against invasive alien plants: strategies for action <i>Vanessa Lozano</i></p> <p>Aliens among us - Cape Pyla Sustainable management of <i>Acacia saligna</i> with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration <i>Phoebe Vayanou, Athina Papatheodoulou, Panagiotis Georgiou, Zoe Makridou, Pantelis Charilaou, Margarita Hadjistylli</i></p> <p>New Technique for the Control of Alien Invasive Tree Species in Natural and Protected Habitats in Mediterranean and Arid Regions <i>Jean-Marc Dufour-Dror</i></p> <p>The escape of alien plants from the Hortus Botanicus Karalitanus (HBK) of Cagliari: the role it plays in the introduction of invasive species in the natural habitats of Sardinia (Italy). <i>Lina Podda, Andrea Lallai, Giacomo Calvia, Gianluigi Bacchetta</i></p> <p>Life Tetide project, first steps in the management of invasive plant species in Mediterranean island ecosystems <i>Alice Misuri, Renato Benesperi, Lorella dell'Olmo, Bruno Foggi, Michele Giunti, Michele Mugnai, Daniele Viciani, Lorenzo Lazzaro</i></p> <p>Mistreated native plants or overlooked invaders? <i>Emanuele Del Guacchio, Olga De Castro, Adriana De Luca, Daniele De Luca, Luca Paino, Paolo Caputo</i></p> <p>Conservation of endangered endemic plant species via invasive species adaptive management using a livelihood approach in a small-island developing state context <i>Dheeraj Jayant, Carlos Bango</i></p>
13:20 - 14:30	<p>Awards and Closing ceremony</p> <p>Awards' recipients: <i>Dr Emilio Laguna</i> <i>Prof. Gianluigi Bacchetta</i> <i>Prof. Emer. Kyriacos Georghiou</i></p>



Emilio Laguna

Technical Director of the Centre for Forestry Research and Experimentation (CIEF)

Title of the Lecture:

“Small reserves: A new breath of life for wild plants”

Emilio Laguna (Valencia, Spain, 1961) is a PhD biologist specializing in plant conservation. Since 1986, he has worked with the Regional Government of the Valencian Community (Generalitat Valenciana). He currently serves as the Technical Director of the Centre for Forestry Research and Experimentation (CIEF) and was previously the Head of the Plant Conservation Section within the Regional Wildlife Service.

Dr. Laguna is widely recognized as a pioneer in conceptualizing and implementing the technical and legal framework for “Plant Micro-Reserves” (PMRs). He initiated the first PMR network in the Valencian region, which now comprises over 300 legally protected sites. To establish this network and advance forest and plant conservation, he has led seven EU LIFE projects and contributed to more than a dozen other international initiatives (LIFE, Interreg, Erasmus+, etc.) as an advisor, collaborator, or committee member.

He has an extensive academic and professional output, having published over 1.000 works, including articles, books, book chapters, and reviews, with a focus on plant conservation, taxonomy, ecology, ethnobotany, and related botanical subjects. Dr. Laguna has participated in 120 conferences, presenting or co-authoring 400 papers, and has given 150 lectures at symposia and academic courses to promote plant conservation.

Dr. Laguna is an advisor to Planta Europa, coordinator of the steering committee of GENMEDA, a member of the IUCN Mediterranean Plants Specialist Group, and part of several Spanish commissions on nature conservation. He is also an active member of numerous national and international scientific societies. Notably, he was a founding member of the Spanish Society for Plant Conservation Biology (SEBiCoP) and the Ibero-American Society of Biogeography (SIB).

His contributions have been recognized with awards such as the Silver Leaf Award from Planta Europa for excellence in European plant conservation and the César Gómez Campo Award from SEBiCoP in recognition of his lifetime achievements in Spanish plant conservation.



Charalambos Christodoulou

Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Environment

Title of the Lecture:

The Flora of Cyprus

Charalambos Christodoulou is a graduate of the Cyprus Forestry (1988) and the National School of Forestry, University of Central Lancashire (2003). In 2015, he obtained a PhD in Systematic Conservation Planning, at the University of Reading, focusing on the design of reserve areas using threatened species.

He works with the Department of Forests, from 1988 to 1991 at the Management Sector and from 1991 at the Parks and Environment Sector.

In his professional career he has been intensively involved with the study of the flora and vegetation of the island, the establishment and organisation of the Department of Forests' Herbarium, the in- and ex-situ conservation of threatened and/or endemic plant species, as well as the restoration of important habitats and the management of protected areas. Also, among his research interests is the impact of invasive plant species on the autochthonous communities and their control, especially in ecologically sensitive areas.

He has an active participation in the design and setting up of the Natura 2000 network in Cyprus, as a flora and vegetation expert, as well as the mapping, monitoring and evaluation of conservation status of plants and habitats.

Since 1993, he participated in 15 research and co-funded projects, related to the protection and conservation of threatened species and habitats and the management of Natura 2000 sites.

He co-authored 22 peer-reviewed articles, including the description of plant species new to science and reserve selection methods, as well as the books "Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus", "Trees and Shrubs in Cyprus" and "Flowers of the Eastern Mediterranean".

He is a co-editor of the online portal "Flora of Cyprus a – dynamic checklist", which provides information on all species and subspecies of vascular plants occurring in Cyprus.

THEMATIC AREA CHAIRS



**Katerina
Koutsovoulou**



**Joelle
Salameh**



**Vito Emanuele
Cambria**



**Constantinos
Kounnamas**



**Imtinen
Ben Haj Jilani**



**Juli Caujapé
Castells**



**Olga M.
García-Berlanga**



**Pierre
Carret**



**Magda Bou
Dagher Kharrat**



**Vanessa
Lozano**

Click on the Chairs' photo for their short bio

FIELD TRIP: A JOURNEY INTO TROODOS' NATURAL HERITAGE

This field trip offers participants a chance to explore the rich biodiversity, unique habitats, and endemic species of the Troodos Mountain region while immersing themselves in Cyprus' natural beauty. The itinerary includes three remarkable stops, followed by a choice of hiking trails to further connect with the area's distinct habitat types. All visits are located within the Natura 2000 site 'Troodos National Forest Park' (CY5000004).

The three main stops:

1. Platania: Encounter the Cyprus Moufflon

There is a Moufflon Enclosure at Platania, which is a fenced area that houses a small herd of Cyprus moufflons (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), which is a type of wild sheep that is endemic to the island. The enclosure was created by the Department of Forests, along with other Governmental departments, to provide a safe and natural habitat for the animals and to allow visitors to observe them in their 'natural' environment.

Conservationists and experts will provide insights into the species' ecological significance, conservation status, and the challenges the animals face in their natural habitat.



- Wear appropriate nonslip footwear, preferably hiking boots or shoes.
- Bring a walking stick (optional).
- Carry water.
- Wear a hat.



2. Botanical Garden 'AG Leventis': Let's gather at the Botanics

The Troodos Botanical Garden 'A.G. Leventis' is located in Troodos National Forest Park, within the boundaries of the old Amiantos asbestos mine, at an altitude of 1400 m. It is one of the three botanic gardens established by the Department of Forests.

The Garden aims towards the conservation and promotion of the Island's botanical heritage, focusing on Troodos' native flora. The Garden is also a hub for conservation and environmental education and includes a visitors' center, a herbarium and a seed bank.



3. Almyrolivado: Exploring the Troodos Peat Grasslands

A visit at Almyrolivado provides an up-close look at the unique habitat type of ‘Peat Grasslands of Troodos’ (6460), a rare and endemic habitat type teeming with specialized flora and fauna. This habitat type is located in two adjacent areas in Troodos Natural Forest Park (Almyrolivado and Livadi tou Pashia), where depressions are formed, the substrate keeps its moisture all over the year and is characterised by endangered endemic and other important plant species.



At the same time, the peat grasslands are of great scientific value since in them lies the history of the development of every type of vegetation in Troodos’ area; a history that remains to a great extent unrevealed.


Trail Options

Following the main stops, participants can choose between two exceptional hiking experiences:



Caledonia Falls Trail (3 km – Linear, Moderate to Difficult)

This trail descends from Troodos Square to ‘Psilo Dentro’ (1600 m to 1200 m elevation) and follows the ‘Kryos Potamos’ River, where water flows year-round. The path winds through dense forests of black pine and transitions to Calabrian pine at lower altitudes. Along the way, hikers will encounter a variety of endemic plants and a lush riverbed ecosystem dominated by planes, alders, and ivy.

More info can be found here 




Artemis Trail (4 km – Circular, Easy)

This circular route encircles ‘Chionistra’, the highest peak in Cyprus, at an average altitude of 1850 m. The trail traverses a mix of black pine and juniper forests, showcasing a wealth of rare and endemic plants, including Troodos catmint, Troodos germander, Troodos alyson, and Troodos sage. At forest openings, visitors will have the opportunity to view

the Serpentinophilous grasslands of Cyprus (62B0 habitat type), an endemic habitat type, found only on Troodos Mountain and Akamas peninsula. The vegetation consists of small patches of sparse plant cover on rocky outcrops and stony places with a specialised flora, including several endemic species.

With gentle gradients, this trail is accessible and ideal for those seeking a more leisurely experience while appreciating the mountain’s unique flora.

More info can be found here 

Highlights

- Gain first-hand insights into the flora and fauna of Cyprus.
- Choose between a challenging riverine descent or an easier mountaintop hike.
- Experience the scenic beauty and ecological significance of Troodos Mountain region.

This field trip promises a blend of education, adventure, and connection with nature, leaving participants with lasting memories of Cyprus’ unique biodiversity.



ST. RAPHAEL RESORT & MARINA – 5 *

St. Raphael Resort is located on one of the most renowned beaches in Limassol, only a short coastal drive from the lively centre of town, approximately 10 minutes away. The Larnaca International Airport is 35 minutes away, and Paphos International Airport is 55 minutes away. There are shops, restaurants and bars within walking distance and a bus stop exactly outside the hotel.



This carefully chosen, tranquil location with the calm sea at your doorstep and the town only a few moments away; has convenient access to the island’s motorway. Any other coastal town, mountain village or tourist attraction is hardly more than an hour’s drive away.

General Facilities

Apart from swimming in either one of the two outdoor or one indoor pools, the hotel also has a table tennis, , two tennis courts, beach volleyball and badminton courts, workout programs, darts, French bowls, Archery, a fully equipped gymnasium with the latest equipment, sauna, steam bath, Jacuzzi, scuba diving and all types of water sports. The St. Raphael Spa also offers all types of spa treatments using Thalgo products and is open seven days a week.

Food & Beverages

- Sailor’s Rest Lounge Bar Restaurant: Serves an array of gourmet cuisine with fresh fish, meats and pasta.
- Seashells Beach Tavern: Serves a variety of fast food, grills, salads and desserts next to the beach. Lunch only.
- The Palladium: Offers international themed buffet dinners with live musical entertainment.
- Octagon Restaurant: Serves American buffet breakfast, and international buffet, carvery, and salad bar for lunch.
- The Phoenician Restaurant: Serves a fusion of Mediterranean and Arabic cuisine meze.
- The Captain’s Bar: Offers the perfect retreat while enjoying cocktail favorites.
- Splash Restaurant: The perfect outdoor restaurant, offers fast food and a salad bar. Open for lunch and early dinner.
- The wet and dry Amphibion Pool Bar: A symbol of St. Raphael Resort, all guests can swim up to the bar and order from a wide variety of drinks.



The St. Raphael is an optimal conference venue as it offers an array of fully equipped venues, with the main conference room, the Panorama, seating more than 500 participants. It also has spacious breakout rooms and a comfortable coffee break area.

- Panorama is on the ground floor, but you need to press 5 in the elevator.
- Megaron Rooms are on level -2, but you need to press 3 in the elevator.
- Altium Rooms are on level -3, but you need to press 2 in the elevator.
- Phoenix is on level -4, but you need to press 1 in the elevator.

Of the 272 rooms and suites, 216 have been completely renovated and the new addition of the 56 Executive Rooms has ensured that every type of guest can find the facilities to suit him/her. All rooms are equipped with 26 inch flat-screen television with satellite, pay movies on demand and play station games, complimentary coffee and tea making facilities, direct-dial telephones, radio, safes and mini-bars. The en-suite marble bathrooms are fitted with every amenity, while the carefully designed building allows 90% of the rooms breathtaking views over the Mediterranean Sea which one can enjoy from his/her private balcony.

Distances

- Hotel to city centre 15.8 km 20 minutes
- Hotel to Larnaca International Airport 57.2 km 49 minutes
- Hotel to Paphos International Airport 72.5 km 54 minutes
- Hotel to General Hospital 20.6 km 20 minutes
- Hotel to Amathus Ruins 2.1 km 5 minutes



Public Services

Bus 30 connects the venue with the city centre, via the Limassol seafront avenue. Bus lines circulate from Monday to Sunday, from 06:00 until after midnight, on average every 15 minutes. The price for a single route is €1.50 (day bus) and €2.50 (night fare, after 21:00). A daily ticket for unlimited journeys costs €5.

Bus 30 route schedule: <https://limassolbuses.com/>

Key accessibility features at St. Raphael Resort include:

Wheelchair Accessibility: The resort is fully equipped with ramps and elevators, providing easy access to all areas, including conference rooms, restaurants, and recreational facilities.

Accessible Rooms: St. Raphael Resort offers specially designed rooms for guests with disabilities, featuring wider doorways, grab bars, and roll-in showers to ensure a comfortable stay.

Assistance Services: The resort staff are trained to assist guests with disabilities and are available to provide support as needed, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for all attendees.



Geography

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia, with an area of 9.251 sq. kms (3.572 sq. miles).

It is situated at the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at a distance of 300 km north of Egypt. The Greek island of Rhodes lies 360 km to the north-west.

Cyprus' coastal line is indented and rocky in the north with long sandy beaches in the south. The north coastal plain, covered with olive and carob trees, is backed by the steep and narrow Pentadaktylos mountain range of limestone, rising to a height of 1.042 m. In the south, the extensive mountain massif of Troodos, covered with pine, dwarf oak, cypress and cedar, culminates in the peak of Mount Olympus, 1.953 m. above sea level. Between the Troodos range and the Pentadaktylos mountain range lies the fertile plain of Messaoria. Arable land constitutes 46.8 per cent of the total area of the island. There are no rivers, only torrents which flow after heavy rain.

Demography

The population of the Republic of Cyprus is 918.100 (2021) of whom 724.000 are Cypriot (78,9%) and 193.000 (21,1%) are foreign citizens residing in Cyprus.

History

The earliest presence of human beings in Cyprus dates back 10,500 years. Noteworthy from the prehistoric period are a burial dating back to 7,500 BC, which contained the remains of a cat, making it the earliest evidence of feline domestication in the world and the Neolithic settlement for Choirokoitia, which dates back to 6,800 BC and is a Unesco World Heritage site.

The introduction of copper made Cyprus one of the most important exporters of the metal in the Middle East and beyond and during this time we find Cyprus being mentioned in letters between its kings and the kings of Egypt, the Hittite kingdom and the kingdoms of the Levant. It is during the second millennium BC that contact with the Minoan civilization and then the Mycenaeans from Greece brought the first waves of Greek colonization to the island. By the end of the second millennium BC the Greek identity was firmly established on the island. This is also the time that the modern name, Cyprus (Kypros in Greek), appeared for the first time.

Other peoples from the Levant, like the Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, and Persians interacted with Cyprus, either by setting up trading posts or by bringing Cyprus under their direct or indirect control.



Alexander the Great seized the island in 333 BC and subsequently it was passed on to Ptolemaic Egypt and then Rome. Christianity was preached in Cyprus by Apostle Paul in the first half of the first century AD and it is said that the Roman proconsul of Cyprus, Sergius Paulus, converted to Christianity, becoming the first Christian ruler. Christianity remains the predominant religion on the island.

The island then passed to the Eastern Roman Empire in 330 AD. The island was invaded by the Arabs in 649 AD and from 688 AD it was considered a condominium between the Byzantines and the Arabs. This lasted until 965 AD when the Arabs were defeated by the Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus II Fokas. In 1191 AD King Richard the Lionheart conquered Cyprus and sold it to the Knights Templars who, in turn, sold it to Guy de Lusignan, the former King of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. He was the first King of the Frankish dynasty which ruled Cyprus until 1489 when the widow of the last king, Catherine Cornaro, abdicated her throne in favor of the Republic of Venice. In 1570 the Ottoman Turks invaded Cyprus which fell after a year of fighting. The Ottoman occupation lasted until 1878 when Cyprus became a British Protectorate and, from 1925, a Crown Colony.

After an armed struggle by the Greek Cypriots in 1955-59, the island was granted independence in 1960. In 1974 Turkey invaded the north of the island in response to a coup which overthrew the elected president of the Republic of Cyprus and has been occupying 37% of the island since. This resulted in the mass displacement of 160,000 Greek Cypriots to the south and 40,000 Turkish Cypriots to the north. Today the island is a European Union Member State, but the northern part is not controlled by the internationally recognized government of the Republic of Cyprus.



Flag

The flag of the Republic of Cyprus was defined in 1960 when Cyprus became an independent sovereign state.

The background is white with a copper-coloured (pantone 1385 C) silhouette of the map of Cyprus in the centre of the flag, above two crossed olive-green-coloured (pantone 574 C) olive branches. The copper colour has a dual symbolism: first, the name of the island is said to derive from an ancient word for copper (Eteocypriot or Sumerian); and second, copper is closely associated with Cyprus since antiquity when the island became a major producer and supplier of this mineral resource. The olive branches are symbols of peace.

Climate

Cyprus has a Mediterranean climate: hot, dry summers from June to September and mild, wet winters from November to March, which are separated by short Autumn and Spring seasons. Sunshine is abundant during the whole year, particularly from April to September when the daily average exceeds eleven hours. Winds are on the whole light to moderate. Gales are very infrequent and heavy storms rare.

Snow hardly falls in the lowlands and on the northern range, but is a frequent feature, every winter on ground above 1.000 metres in the Troodos range. During the coldest months it lies in considerable depth for several weeks, attracting skiers.

Food and Drink

The food of Cyprus reflects the rich and turbulent history of the island and its indelible Greek culture. You will find tastes influenced by the Middle East, Asia Minor and the Venetians, all using fresh local ingredients, herbs and spices and olive oil. The Mediterranean diet, with its grains and pulses, sun-ripened fresh fruit and vegetables, high-protein fish, lean meat and poultry and wine, is a healthy option.

Cyprus is known for its Hallumi cheese which is made from goat milk and unlike other cheeses it can be cooked in a variety of ways without melting.

Cyprus has a long tradition in wine-making that goes back over 4,000 years. In ancient times wine was a major source of wealth for the island. The island supplied the Pharaohs of Egypt and Cyprus wines were in great demand amongst the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Commandaria is acknowledged to be the oldest wine in the world and was probably the first to be given an 'Appellation d'Origin'(label of geographical origin). Legend says that Commandaria was originally made for Richard the Lionheart and the Crusaders. The dessert wine, which has a taste like sweet sherry, has been made using the same method for hundreds of years. The grapes are picked late, dried in the sun to enhance their sugar content and then pressed. The run-off is collected and fermented in tanks or in huge earthen ware jars. The sweet wine of Cyprus became known throughout Europe under the name Commandaria depicting its geographical origin "Commandarie" which was the name given to the land owned by the Knights Templar and later the Knights of St. John.

Limassol, a city counting centuries of history, is located between two of the most renowned ancient kingdoms of the island, Amathous at the east and Kourion at the west. “Lemessos” as it is called by locals, is the second largest urban area in Cyprus (after the capital, Nicosia) and its municipality is the most populous in the country with 235,000 inhabitants (2011 Census).

Limassol is one of the fastest growing modern metropolises in Europe. The city’s infrastructure is constantly upgraded from all aspects (way of living, public construction projects, education, etc) with the most distinct project of this sort being the Limassol Marina – an exclusive waterfront development combining elegant residences and a full service marina, with its own shopping and dining area. Also, the revamped coastline now covers a 15 km distance, lined with hotels and beach bars and cafes, interspersed with eucalyptus groves and linked by a promenade popular with walkers and joggers.

In recent years Limassol has progressed as one of the largest commercial ports in the Mediterranean region and it is now considered as one of the most important centres of tourism, trade and offshore companies. The city is also the business and financial centre of Cyprus as hundreds of international shipping and financial companies have their headquarters here.



Limassol, the city of fun

It is undisputable that Limassol’s prosperity is not an achievement of nowadays. Since antiquity, Cyprus source of income has been wine, which according to testimonials was a “must” during religious events, festivals or even moments of sorrow. Wine production in Limassol has started thousands of years ago along with the vineyard plantation and, especially after 20th century, contributed in the city’s welfare, as it has become the centre of wineries.





Limassol Castle

There is no doubt that Limassol Castle occupies the dominant position in the landmark and tourist attractions in the city. Richard the Lionheart is supposed to have married his fiancée Princess Berengaria of Navarre in this castle after her ship was grounded as she accompanied him to the Third Crusade, on his way to Holy Land. The Castle was used as a prison between 1790 and 1940 and it now serves as a medieval museum. The collection that the museum provides covers the era of 400 – 1870 AD. A visitor can see numerous exhibits: cannons, wood carvings of the 17th and 18th century, paintings and tombstones, statues, suits of armour, coins, terracotta, metalware and pottery, glass and marble artifacts.



Kolossi Medieval Castle

The Kolossi Medieval Castle is situated in the village of Kolossi, 11 km west of Limassol. A renowned archaeological site, the castle was built in the 15th century by the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem on a land gifted by King Hugh I. Earlier, it used to be home to a 13th century fortress whose ruins are still visible in the castle. Later the castle was occupied by the Richard I of England and the Knights Templar.



Amathus Ruins

The ancient city of Amathus on the southern coast of Agios Tychonas is one of the oldest imperial cities on the island. There have been many myths behind the origin of this city, one of them believing in Cinyras as the city's founder, whose son Adonis named the city after his mother Amathus. Hellenic myth would have Amathus built by one of the sons of Heracles who was worshipped there. The city had a very special place for Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty and love. Visitors at the ruins can perceive an era that existed 3000 years ago, through the mythical excavations and artefacts.



Kourion Archaeological Site

The Kourion Archeological Site, located at 18 km west of Limassol near Episkopi village, is one of the most famous attractions in Cyprus. A stunning archaeological excavation, thanks to its impressive Greco-Roman theatre, stately villas, spectacular floor mosaics, an early Christian Basilica and other kingly treasures. Built in the 2nd century B.C. Kourion twin city through its various ruins reflects public life in Early Christian period.



Municipal Garden

The Municipal Garden, along the coastal road, has a rich bounty of green and shady space where visitors relax or take a stroll down the pathways. The nearby area plays host to several family attractions like the Lemesos Zoo Garden and Dinosaur Park. This also includes a large open-air garden theatre, where several events take place throughout the year.



Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum in Limassol is a particularly interesting sight for art and history lovers. The museum houses artefacts related to societal development of Cyprus, which include ceramics, pottery and antiquities from the Roman period. Also, on display are findings from the Neolithic until the Late Bronze Age. Sculptures, pottery, lamps and inscriptions with ancient Hellenistic and Roman koine catch the eye of many visitors.

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