



## CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 5

Protection of 50% of the most important areas for plant diversity assured by 2010

### Plant Micro Reserves Methodology (PMR) (Valencian Community - Spain)

GSPC Target 5 (ESPC targets 1.4-5; 2.1-3; 2.14)

#### Relevant species or habitats

#### Project coordinators

Generalitat Valenciana Conselleria de Medio Ambiente

#### Partner organisations

#### Funding mechanisms

Generalitat Valenciana and EU LIFE Project 'Conservation of priority habitats of the Valencian Community'



1. Plant Micro Reserve sign - 2. *Sarcocapnos saetabensis* - 3. *Convolvulus valentinus* (Photo: Hugh Syngé)

#### Description

**Context.** The Valencian Community in eastern central Spain is home to 3150 vascular plant species. 350 of them are endemic taxa (60 endemic to the Valencia area) and 68 are listed as critically endangered under IUCN criteria. Many of the endemic taxa and the rare species such as the Eurosiberian relicts live in micro-habitats, e.g. non zonal vegetation types occupying small surface areas (such as temporary ponds, dunes, gypsy outcrops, cliffs, etc). Many important Mediterranean species follow this pattern and PMRs are a valuable tool for plant conservation in this diverse region. They are intended as an addition to and not a replacement of larger protected area networks.

#### Methodology

- The PMRs are legally protected by the Valencian Government
- All the plants are strictly protected but traditional activities such as grazing and mowing are permitted
- The site selection is made by teams of botanists and includes public consultation
- Privately owned sites can be added to the network if the owner agrees to a contract for the management of the sites, accompanied by a one-off payment and in some cases grants for specific management techniques

(Continued on page 2)



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### Plant Micro Reserves (PMR)

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#### Description (II)

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- The declaration of a PMR (published in the official gazette) is accompanied by a management plan which can include *in situ* conservation actions and *ex situ* methods such as collection of seed for the germplasm bank at the Botanical Gardens of Valencia

The sites are marked in the field by a series of information boards

*Progress:* Currently 230 PMRs have been identified in the Valencian Community, 30 on private land and 200 on public land. They cover an area of 1440 ha and contain natural and semi-natural habitats. The majority of PMRs are less than 4ha. Over 85% of the endemic species are represented by at least one population within the network. Habitat restoration and/or management of endangered species was carried out in more than 30% of micro-reserves during the 1999-2003 LIFE funded project. The marking of sites has increased awareness and prevented developments in certain areas.

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#### Date of case study

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#### Citations and Publications

Laguna E., 2004, The plant micro-reserve initiative in the Valencian community and its use to conserve populations of crop wild relatives. *Crop Wild Relative*, Issue 2, July 2004, pp.10-13

Laguna, E. 2001, The micro-reserves as a tool for the conservation of threatened plants in Europe, *Nature and Environment Series No. 121*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Proceedings of the Fourth Planta Europa Conference Valencia 2004 ([www.nerium.net/plantaeuropa/Proceedings.htm](http://www.nerium.net/plantaeuropa/Proceedings.htm))

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#### Website

[www.orto.cth.gva.es/website/metadatos/epp\\_microrreservas.xml](http://www.orto.cth.gva.es/website/metadatos/epp_microrreservas.xml)

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#### MORE INFO:

[http://www.gijon.es/documentos/jba/Actividades/congreso/COMUNICACIONES%20ORALES/Comunicaci%F3n%20Oral%20Emilio%20Laguna/ORAL2-La%20experiencia%20de%20la%20red%20valenciana%20de%20microreservas\\_Emilio%20Laguna.PDF](http://www.gijon.es/documentos/jba/Actividades/congreso/COMUNICACIONES%20ORALES/Comunicaci%F3n%20Oral%20Emilio%20Laguna/ORAL2-La%20experiencia%20de%20la%20red%20valenciana%20de%20microreservas_Emilio%20Laguna.PDF) (Spanish)

[http://www.plantaeuropa.org/pe-EPCS-hot\\_issues-Micro\\_reserves.htm](http://www.plantaeuropa.org/pe-EPCS-hot_issues-Micro_reserves.htm) (English)

[http://www.uv.es/elalum/arts/Laguna\\_2007\\_Enskonews2\\_12a13.pdf](http://www.uv.es/elalum/arts/Laguna_2007_Enskonews2_12a13.pdf) (English)

