



CASE STUDIES - ESPC Target 8

60% of threatened plant species in accessible ex situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10% of them included in recovery and restoration programmes

European Native Seed Conservation Network (ENSCONET)

GSPC Target 8 (ESPC targets 1.9, 2.4-6, 2.11)

Project coordinators Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK)

Partner organisations (full and associate members):

National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece; Institute of Botany, Bratislava, Slovakia; Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden, Hungary; Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Chania (Crete), Greece; IMGEMA-Jardín Botánico de Córdoba, Spain; Trinity College Dublin, Ireland; Jardín Botánico Gran Canaria, Spain; Agricultural Research Institute Cyprus Nicosia, Cyprus; Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain; National Botanic Garden Belgium Meise, Belgium; Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris, France; Università di Pavia / Centro Flora Autoctona della Lombardia, Italy; Università di Pisa, Orto Botanico, Italy; Jardí Botanic de Soller (Mallorca), Spain; Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali Trento, Italy; Universitat de València, Spain; Universität Wien, Austria; Botanical Garden Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw, Poland; Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Germany; Helsingin yliopisto, Helsinki, Finland; Jardim Botânico - Fundação da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal; Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway; Institute of Botany - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria; Musée national d'histoire naturelle Luxembourg, Luxembourg; Conservatoire et Jardin botanique de la Ville de Genève, Switzerland; Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Austria

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Description

One of the main purposes of ENSCONET is to improve quality, co-ordination and integration of European seed conservation practise, policy and research for native plant species. ENSCONET also aims to assist the European Union and its conservation policy to meet its obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GSPC. ENSCONET currently holds a combined list of holdings of its member seed banks with 36,600 accessions, representing 6,100 taxa. Among them, 2,100 species are red-listed (>60% of all threatened species in Europe).

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Description (II)

There are 4 main activity areas:

Collection: to prepare a detailed seed collection programme based on the species priorities in the GSPC, the EPCS, and the EU Sixth BAP, and to create an international standard for seed collecting of wild plant species, to maximise the genetic diversity effectiveness and longevity of the collected seed. (lead - *Jardin Botánico Gran Canaria*)

Curation: to make an inventory of the seed conservation facilities and resources in the biogeographic regions in Europe, to disseminate information on best practices, to assess the capacity of the resources to meet needs and to initiate further research on the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the native European spermatophyte flora. (lead - Centre of Biological Diversity Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Data Management: to create a virtual seed bank for wild plant species native to Europe to integrate the collected data of ENSCONET partners. (lead - Trinity College Botanic Garden, Dublin)

Dissemination: to create a web-page with information for specialists and non-specialists, an e-forum for discussing key concepts of seed preservation and facilitating exchange of specialised information, and an annual newsletter. (lead - University of Valencia, Botanic Garden)

Date of case study

Citations and Publications

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