



EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE ON RESTORATION OF MEDITERRANEAN HABITATS

Project Work Package WP 5 • WP coordinator: CIEF

INTRODUCTION

The Mediterranean Basin is under tremendous pressure due to human activities, which are causing widespread habitat destruction and fragmentation. The region is one of the world's most bio-diverse regions, but is also recognized as amongst the four most significant altered biodiversity hotspots of the planet: a mere 5% of its extent remains with relatively intact vegetation, and it is expected that almost 19% of its species will be threatened by extinction by 2050.

So there is a clear need, not only to conserve, but to restore the habitats. Habitat restoration is currently a hot environmental topic, and has become a priority in ongoing national and international programs and strategies.

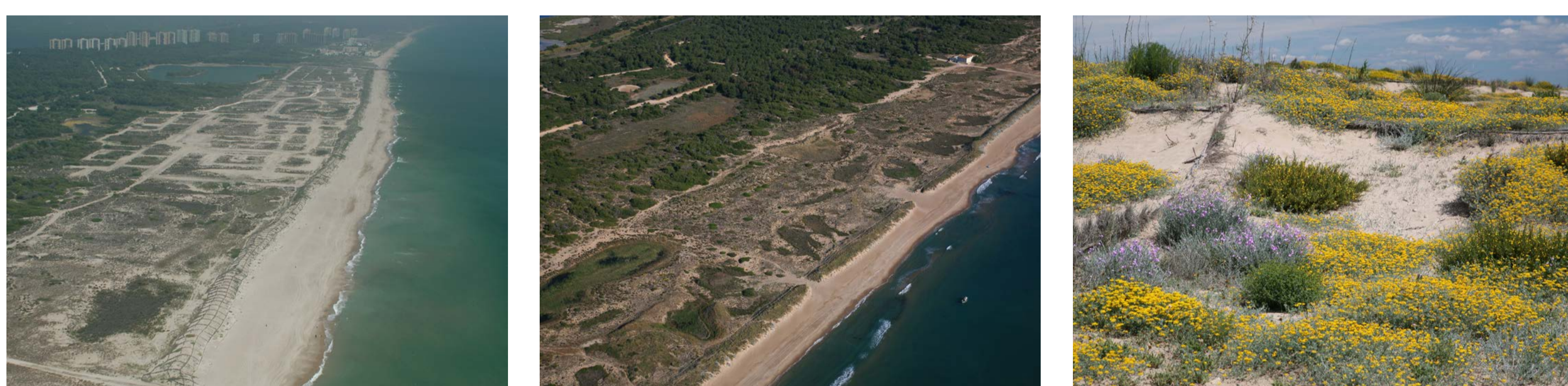
SOME ECOSYSTEM'S THREATS



3 STAGES IN THE RESTORATION OF A WETLAND



3 STAGES IN THE RESTORATION OF A DUNE SYSTEM



WP5 EXPECTED RESULTS

The ECOPLANTMED Guide is addressed to all those involved in habitat, ecosystem and landscape restoration activities including policy makers. The expected results over time are:

- Enhancement of environmental decision-making processes and technical capacity of local technicians, professionals and other relevant stakeholders
- Partners' staff increased experience and professional skills
- Increased sensitization on the importance of use of native plants in restoration activities

WP5 ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

The use of non-native plants in restoration projects is still a widespread practice. The Guide of Good restoration Practices for Mediterranean habitats, the main output of this Work Package, addresses the need to spread out the use of native plant genetic material as key element in restoration actions.

There is also a need to establish efficient information channels: habitat restoration is a complex process, and in the same manner that we must learn from our own mistakes, we should learn from others through the results and conclusions of their restoration actions. The Guide aims to contribute to filling this gap. It has been developed through a combination of bibliographic research, partners' exchange of experience, and with the contribution of external experts: **31 Good Restoration Practices were identified and 15 of these were selected based on commonly developed criteria.**

Main contents of the ECOPLANTMED 'Guide'

- Overview of **regulatory framework** regarding the use of native flora for restoration purposes in the different partners' regions
- **Methodology to select Good Practices**, representing the technical basis upon which the restoration projects should be developed
- **Compilation of techniques for restoration**, focusing on the management of the vegetation
- **15 selected Good Practices:** selected implemented projects involving restoration in Mediterranean habitats
- Summary of the **two ECOPLANTMED pilot actions** developed in Lebanon and Tunisia
- **Review** on ecological restoration practices

DIFFERENT RESTORATION TECHNIQUES USED IN MEDITERRANEAN HABITATS



The project ECOPLANTMED total budget is 1.050 million Euro and it is financed, for an amount of 0.945 million Euro (90%), by the European Union through the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2013-2007.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French (www.enpicbmed.eu)

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