

# 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

“Conservation of Mediterranean Plant Diversity: Complementary Approaches and New Perspectives”

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## S2 - In situ plant species conservation: technical aspects, methodology, monitoring

**TITLE:** Invasive alien species in the Mediterranean islands: the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Eradication of alien species is globally acknowledged as a key management option for mitigating the impacts caused by biological invasions. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) calls for a hierarchical approach, primarily based on the prevention of unwanted introductions, but considering eradication as the best alternative when prevention fails.

The Mediterranean islands are particularly vulnerable to biological invasions since climatic conditions may favour the establishment of (sub-)tropical plants introduced accidentally or as ornamental species (Turbelin et al. 2017). The Mediterranean Basin could be severely affected by the impacts caused by invasive alien plants, and therefore there is an urgent need to gather, analyse and share lists of invasive alien plants and control options, including eradication strategies and success indicators, as well as to establish priorities for action and management of species pathways in different regions or habitats.

The CARE-MEDIFLORA project, an initiative implemented by institutions of six Mediterranean islands and the IUCN/SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group with a long lasting experience in the field of plant conservation, promote the in situ conservation of the threatened island flora by eradicating or limiting the diffusion of the alien plant species (Fenu et al. 2017).

Several eradication actions were carried out in all islands, often linked to translocation actions. In each island different methodological protocols have been followed, chiefly depending on the alien target species and the local environmental conditions. For each eradication action, a specific mid- and long-term monitoring plan is implemented in order to ensure its sustainability.

During the project meetings carried out in all islands, the different local experiences are shared among partners and local managers in order to highlight criticisms and refine methodologies, information exchange being well recognised as a key component for an effective response to biological invasions.

Management of plant invasions (Early et al. 2016), and particularly eradications, requires a level of public awareness and support; thus, promoting education and increasing public awareness about this issue is particularly relevant.

**KEY WORDS:** Mediterranean islands, invasive alien species, in-situ conservation, eradication, natural habitat restoration