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## The origin of the micro-reserve idea

The plant micro-reserve is a figure of 'in situ' plant protection created in the Valencian Community (Spain) by the early 1990s

The idea was to catch at least one population of each singular plant species (endemic, threatened, rare), encompassing their trend to live together in microhabitats (so protecting small, but selected sites)



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## The consolidated model in the Valencian Community

The Valencian model consists of sites up to 20 ha placed on public property, or on private lands whose owners accept to permanently protect the site without periodical grants (only funds to develop conservation actions are given).

Small sites are legally, strictly protected but allowing traditional activities which benefit the wild plants. The protection is made to ensure long term monitoring and practices of active conservation. Is not only focused on threatened plants (also in common endemics)



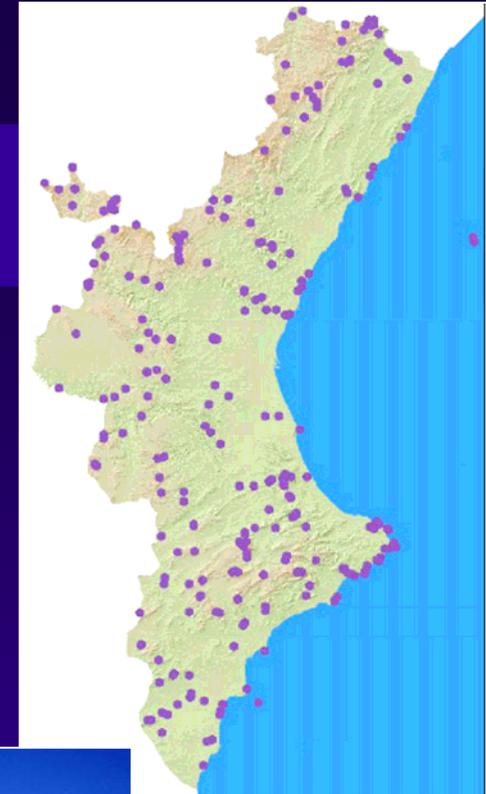
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## Development and current status in the Valencian area

The establishment of a Plant Micro-reserves network in the region of Valencia (=Valencian Community) was selected by the European Commission to receive LIFE-Nature funds by 1993-1998

In 1994 the government of the Valencian Community passed a regulation (Decree) to create the legal figure 'Plant Micro-reserve'. The first micro-reserves were protected at the end of 1998.

Currently there are 259 protected Valencian micro-reserves for wild plants, covering ca. 1.800 ha. They hold populations of 1.505 species of vascular plants (including 270 Spanish endemic plants, 70% of the regional content). 1.200 populations are targeted for population monitoring and periodical seed harvesting for germplasm banks.



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## Enlargement models: MRs and PMRs

MR: Micro-reserves (not only for plants or plant habitats)

PMR: Plant Micro-reserves, fully focused on the conservation of wild plants



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## Enlargement ways of the PMR model

A set of possibilities has been developed, depending of facilities, funds, etc.:

Basic level: Mail/e-mail assessment (sending documents, reports, etc.)

Collaboration (1 way) level:

- Training or demonstrative stays in the region of Valencia
- Stays of Valencian officers in regions liking to set up MR/PMR networks

Cooperative level: Integration of Valencian officers and/or funds in projects developed to generate MR/PMR networks abroad



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## Translation into a juridic language

Spain:

Valencian Community: PMR,  
Decree, 1994

Castilla-La Mancha: MR, Law, 1998

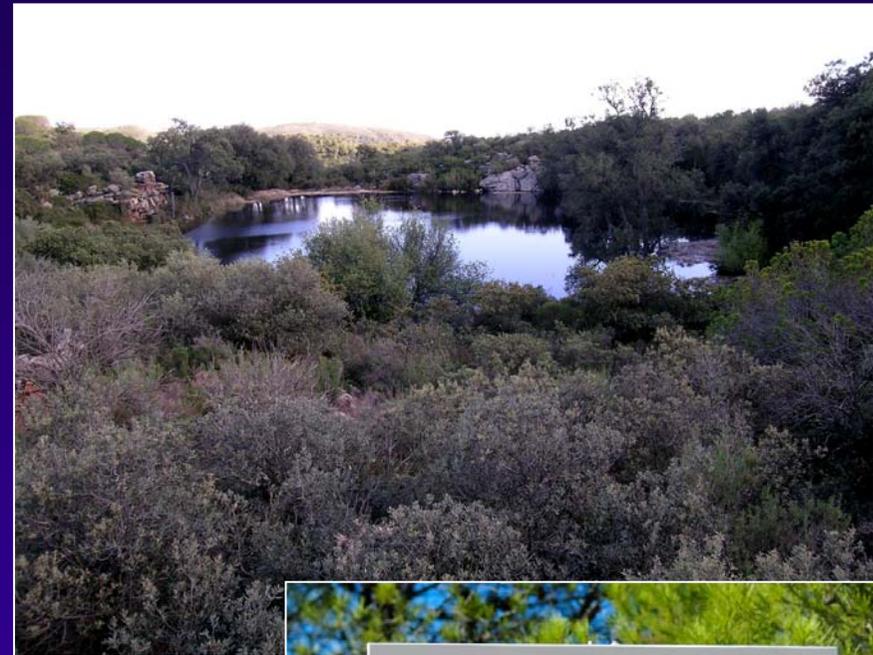
Balearic Islands: MR, Law, 2005

Castilla y León: PMR, Decree, 2007

Latvia: MR, Law and Regulations, 2000-  
2001\*

\*Law 5/2000 on Conservation of Species and Habitats (adopted  
on March 16 - 2000)

\*Regulation N° 54/2001 of the Cabinet of Ministers, on the  
Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-  
Reserves (adopted on January 31 - 2001)



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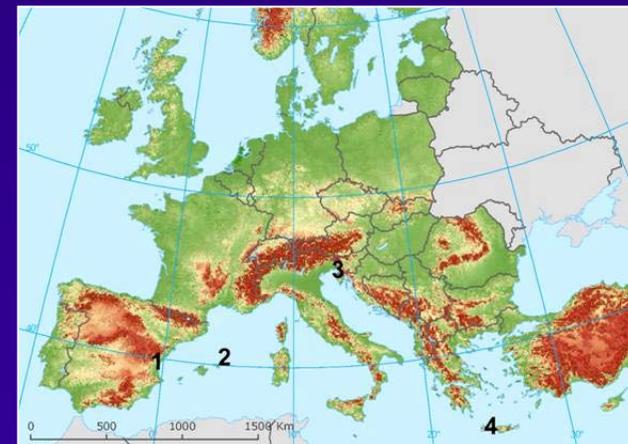
## The cooperation in action: LIFE-nature funds

3 LIFE-Nature funds have supported first steps to generate MR/PMR network under assessment or cooperation of the Valencian officers:

**Minorca, Balearic Islands:** 2001-2004: LIFE00 NAT/E/007355 'Conservation of areas with threatened plant species in Minorca (Spain)'

**Karst Edge, Slovenia:** 2002-2005: LIFE02 NAT/SLO/008587 'Conservation of endangered species/habitats in the future Karst Park (Slovenia)'

**Western Crete, Greece:** 2004-2008: LIFE04 NAT/GR/000104 'A pilot network of plant micro-reserves in Western Crete (Greece)'



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# Minorca, Balearic Islands

Model: PMR

Sites proposed: 24

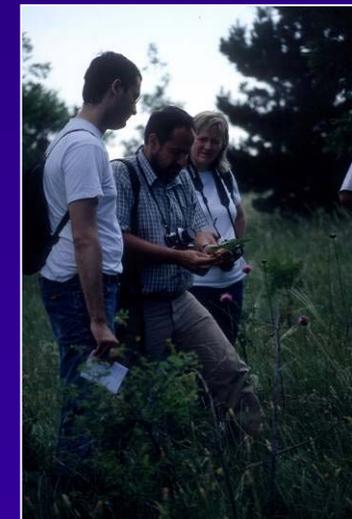


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## Karst Edge, Regional Park of the Slovenian Karst

Model: MR, focused preferently on plant species and habitats listed at the Directive of Habitats 92/43/CEE, as well as karstic ponds.

Sites proposed: 30



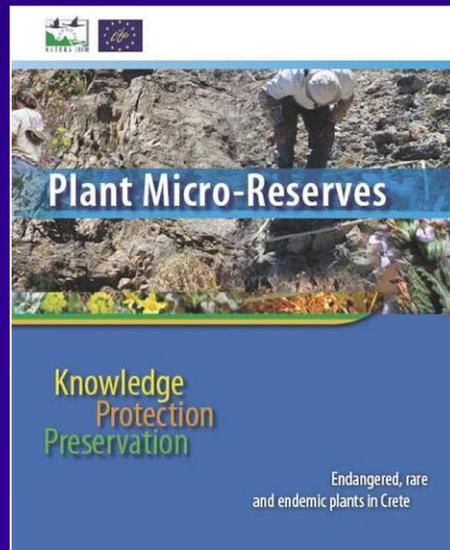
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# Western Crete

Model: PMR, only for species or priority habitats listed at the Directive of Habitats 92/43/CEE

Sites proposed: 7



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## Going on: Towards an European PMR network

Chania, Crete, November 2005: First international Workshop on PMRs (Coord., Dr Costas Thanos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)



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## ... and more

May 2007: A Valencian officer has assessed *in situ* the Mecedinal Plant Conservation Project (MPCP) in St. Kahterine's Protectorate (Sinai Peninsula, Egypt) to establish a network of 14-20 PMRs



A short new on this PMR project is available at the microreserves blog: <http://microreserve.blogspot.com>

Information on the MPCP is available at the website <http://www.mpcpegypt.com> ; the MPCP is developed by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, and funded by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and GEF (Global Environmental Facility)

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## To obtain assessment or more information

e-mail: [laguna\\_emi@gva.es](mailto:laguna_emi@gva.es)

Download area: LIFE Cretaplant project website:

<http://cretaplant.biol.uoa.gr/>

News Weblog: <http://microreserve.blogspot.com>

