LOGOTYPE

Central Fountain in Jardim Botânico Da Ajuda

A detail of the fountain was chosen as the emblem for the EuroGard VIII. At the center of the lower level of Jardim Botânico Da Ajuda stands a monumental fountain, the Fonte das Quarenta Bicas (Fountain of the Forty Spouts). The eighteenth-century fountain has actually forty-one water spouts, disguised as serpents, fish or sea horses. Plenty more statues of frogs, shells and ducks decorate the fountain which is placed in the middle of a large basin filled with water plants.

This fountain represents the idea that there was about aquatic animals at XVIII century, and represents also the aquatic biodiversity rarities, as the horses' sea in the top of it.

Presently, represents the fountain of knowledge, since the Botanic Garden, the laboratories of Chemistry and Physics, the House of Drawing and the Natural History Office had made part of the first museology center of Natural History in Portugal.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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natural flora and in order to continue to fulfill this important mission, is currently being implemented the "Faial Botanic Garden expansion, an ***ex-situ*** conservation project of Azores natural flora". This project aims to increase the capacity of ***ex-situ*** conservation by expanding the area dedicated to the plant collection of the garden, thus creating different areas with associations of plant species characteristic of natural habitats classified as a priority for conservation; and the construction of a new Seed Bank infrastructure that meets the international seed banking standards.

In addition, in this new expansion area, is being built the new Orchidarium of the Azores that will house one of the largest collections of orchids in Europe. This orchidarium will receive Henrique Peixoto's collection, until then kept in a small greenhouse in Faial Botanic Garden; some orchids species and hybrids acquired by the Regional Government of the Azores; and the collection provided by the Ranta family, one of the most important private donations made to the region to date, not only for its heritage but also for its scientific value.

KEYWORDS: Azores; *In-Situ* Conservation; *Ex-Situ* Conservation

O088

ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION OF THE ENDANGERED MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS FLORA: THE CARE-MEDIFLORA PROJECT IN BALEARIC ISLANDS

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Mediterranean islands represent a center of plant diversity featured by an endemic richness rate higher than mainland areas. However, such plant richness is threatened by several physical and biological factors. Given that, many plants of these islands are facing the risk of a severe impoverishment and require urgent protection measures. The CARE-MEDIFLORA

project, an initiative of seven institutions with long experience in plant conservation, is using ***ex situ*** collections to experiment with ***in situ*** management actions and measures for some taxa in the Mediterranean islands.

The involved institutions work to address both long-term and short-term needs, including: (1) ***ex situ*** conservation of the most endangered plant species of the Mediterranean islands through the collection and seed banking of representative accessions of the overall diversity of the selected taxa;(2) use part of this genetic material conserved in the seed banks to test ***in situ*** conservation for some of the most endangered plant species of the Mediterranean islands through active management actions (e.g. reintroduction, reinforcement, fencing, etc.), in collaboration with the most relevant local authorities to ensure the sustainability of the results; and (3) establishing a network connecting scientific institutions from the Mediterranean islands in order to ensure the circulation of information, knowledge and project results sustainability.

The Soller Botanic Garden, as a partner uncharged of Balearic Islands, is carry out 7 ***in situ*** actions and 111 seed lots representative of 58 taxa has been collected and will be stored in the Soller Botanic Garden seed bank and as well duplicated in another seed bank of the Spanish network REDBAG. The final objective of the project will significantly contribute to the achievement of the GSPC targets in the Mediterranean islands.

KEYWORDS: Botanic Gardens, Mediterranean Islands, Threatened Flora, Endemic Plants, Seed Bank, ***Ex Situ*** Conservation, ***In Situ*** Conservation.

O089

PLANTS AND HERITAGE: THE TROPICAL GREENHOUSE OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

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