

Project partner: Mediterranean Plant Conservation Unit, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania

Island

CRETE

Species name (Family)

Limonium elaphonicum A. Mayer (Plumbaginaceae)

Common name

No common names

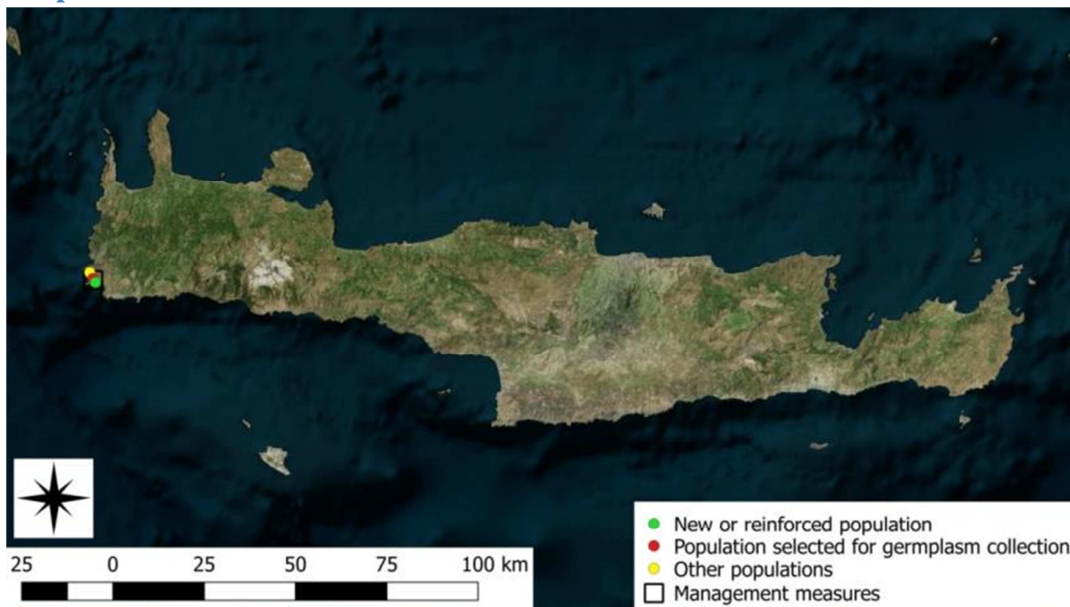
Plant description

- ✓ Plant perennial, glabrous, forming a sub-shrub 25–50 cm tall. Corolla pale blue.
- ✓ Life form: Chamaephyte, Flowering: June-October, Fruiting: September-November.
- ✓ Calcareous rocky coast and sandy places.

Distribution

Confined to the southwestern coast of Crete, between Cape Elaphonisi and Cape Krios (Brullo & Erben, 2016).

Map



Legal status

L. elaphonicum is a threatened endemic species of Greece and is protected by the Law 3937/2011. The species can be characterized as potentially ornamental and is therefore also protected by the Greek Presidential Decree (80/90).

Main threats and conservation status

Threat categories according to IUCN classification scheme, version 3.2:

- 1.3 Tourism and recreation areas
- 2.3 Livestock farming & ranching - 2.3.1 Nomadic grazing
- 6.1 Recreational activities

The species is characterized as vulnerable (VU) according to the Red Data Book of threatened plants of Greece (Phitos et al. 2009) following the criteria D1+2 of the IUCN (2001).

Conservation actions carried out in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project

The selected actions for this target species include *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation for the population in Elafonisi.

A seed collection was made in October 2016 from the wild population, part of which was stored in the Seed Bank of MAICH.

The remaining seedlot was used for *in situ* conservation, namely the reinforcement of the natural population. Seeds were either used to produce seedlings to be planted at the selected sites, or were sown directly in the soil. Other management measures included individual fencing with protective structures for plants planted in unfenced areas, fencing and placement of information signs.

Photos



Limonium elaphonicum at flowering stage



Elaphonisi area (Southwest Crete) where *Limonium elaphonicum* is found