

Workshop 3

In situ conservation and management

POSTER

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The role of small reserves in plant conservation in the Valencian region: an appraisal.

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PMRs are small land plots (up to 20 ha) of peak value in terms plant species richness, endemism or rarity, given over to long term monitoring and conservation of plant species and vegetation types. The legal frame confers PMRs a permanent status and provides strong protection to plants and substrate while allowing traditional activities compatible with plant conservation. Since the creation of this new statutory protection figure in 1994 by the Generalitat Valenciana, the network has grown to include important populations of endemic species and endangered flora, as well as the best examples of priority habitats. Nowadays the PMR network represents a comprehensive strategy for the protection of the rich flora of the Valencian region. Within PMRs, active management of protected plant populations – seed collection and storage, population reinforcements and introductions, herbivore exclusion, scrub clearance, restoration of suitable environmental conditions, population monitoring – and vegetation plots is carried out. Thus, PMRs are designed to conserve vegetation and to develop or test active conservation methods that bring together *ex situ* and *in situ* actions. The poster dwells on how the network was established and will focus on the problems encountered as well as major successes.