

## Workshop 5. Education.

### POSTER:

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### Rehabilitation of lost calcareous fens in Almenara (eastern Spain).

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Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* (priority habitat 7210 from EU Directive) have experienced a long history of human intervention in the Valencian Community. This has often resulted in direct loss of habitat or a profound deterioration. In most cases, human-induced wetland losses have been the result of drainage, water diversion and subsequent artificial rising of land levels to allow cultivation. Peat extraction and cattle grazing have also contributed to the alteration of this habitat. In the face of ongoing habitat degradation the Regional Environmental Council (Conselleria de Territorio y Vivienda), the Town Council (Almenara) and the local NGO Acció Ecologista Agró, undertook a comprehensive restoration project co-financed by a Life Natura project (Life99 NAT/E/6417) and funds from Environmental Ministry, Custodia del Territori and environmental volunteers (VOLCAM). Actions included: assessment of habitat functions, diverting water, monitoring of rare and endangered plant populations, population reinforcement of critical species and public awareness by means of educational campaigns. The project was awarded as "Best NGO project on Conservation, 2003" by Centre Excursionista de Valencia (Spain).