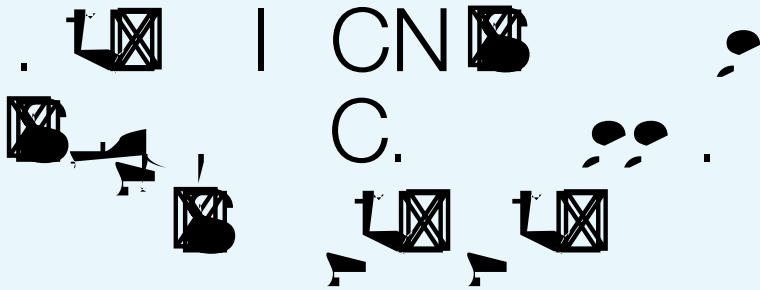




Species

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2023 Report



Mission Statement

The vision of the Crop Wild Relative

Specialist Group (CWRSG) is the effective
conservation and use of crop wild relatives

(CWR) and their indigenous knowledge and traditional uses.

-021 Maintain and update CWR-related websites.

Status: Achieved

-022 Organise webinars on CWR conservation.

Status: Achieved

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-006 Implement research projects on CWR conservation and sustainable use. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 5

Result description: The project "Climatic changes and plant genetic resources: the overlooked potential of Cabo Verde's endemic flora" led by a member of the CWRSWG from the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, Lisbon (Portugal), aimed at identifying the unexplored CWR taxa of Cabo Verde and came to an end in 2023. The locally funded project entitled "Conservation and promoting the use of vegetable Crop Wild Relatives native to Jordan" ended in 2023

Result description: In Iceland, inventories of CWR in urban and green areas of Reykjavík, were carried out in 2023. The work was led by the Reykjavik Botanic Garden; the results

networks of CWR *in situ* conservation in the participating countries.

-012 Improve CWR conservation policy context at national level. (KSR 9)

the accessions that live up to the minimum criteria set at NordGen (gene bank for the Nordic countries), will be conserved long-term and made available for users.

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-003 Build capacity in CWR conservation planning. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 37

Result description: In Italy, members of the CWRSG supervised 15 Master of Science students in 2023 ('[Plant Biodiversity Conservation and Management](#)' course). Members of the CWRSG supervised two annual degree theses on network design for the *in situ* conservation of wild olive trees and wild grapevine in Spain. Twenty researchers from National Agricultural Research Centers from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria were trained on CWR identification and conservation in West Asia in a training workshop organized by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the University of Birmingham, UK, which was held in Terbol (Lebanon), between May 29 and June 9, 2023.

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-002 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation for the group by inviting new experts from Africa, Central/South America, Asia, the Middle East and Oceania. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: In 2023, experts from Canada, Jordan, Lebanon, Portugal, Sri Lanka, the UK, and the US joined the CWRSG.

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-001 Establish effective links among various stakeholders for the implementation of CWR conservation actions. (KSR 1)

Number of in-kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: In 2023, members of the CWRSG organized and participated in the Nordic stakeholder workshop "Long-term Conservation and Access to Nordic Crop Wild Relatives" that took place in Helsinki (Finland) in October 2023; representatives of both Nordic and Baltic countries were present and discussed the themes of conservation of CWR in protected areas as well as potential synergies amongst the two regions. Additionally, members of the CWRSG established connections with experts in South and Southeast Asia to develop future grant

wild relatives in Indonesia and implications for conservation planning". *Journal for Nature Conservation* 73: 126368. (13)
Sacristán-Bajo, S. et al. (2023). "Population origin determines the adaptive potential for the advancement of flowering onset in *L. angustifolius* L. (Fabaceae)". *Evolutionary Applications* 16(1): 62–73. (14) Sayde, E. et al. (2023). "Crop wild relatives in Lebanon: mapping the distribution of Poaceae and Fabaceae priority taxa for conservation planning". *Genetic Resource and Crop Evolution* 70: 2097–2113. (15) Torres, E. et al. (2023). "Facilitated adaptation as a conservation tool in the present climate change context: a methodological guide". *Plants* 12(6):1258.

-021 Maintain and update CWR-related websites. (KSR 12)

CWR related websites maintained and updated: 2

Result description: The [webpage](#) on the CWR genetic reserves in the Biosphere Reserve of Sierra del Rincón in Spain was updated with new information. The [webpage](#) "The Italian flora of human interest: Crop wild relatives and wild harvested plants" has been maintained by members of CWRS and the database of [Italian CWR and wild-harvested plants](#) has been made available online. The Nordic CWR website is maintained by NordGen; on this website, several new CWR plant portraits were published during 2023 (*Mentha arvensis*, *Allium fistulosum*, *Trifolium repens*, *Prunus spinosa*) as well as a short film about the effect of climate change on the [geographic distribu](#)

