

# MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS WG REPORT FOR PHASE X (2019-2023)

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## 1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

### 1.1. Achievements and success stories

- To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection

Efforts have been made by the MAP WG members to provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection, for the Medicinal and Aromatic Species. Two hundred and forty-four (244) accessions from 57 species were integrated in the EUROPEAN MAP COLLECTION, from four countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal and Romania).

- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity *ex situ* and *in situ* through the EURISCO catalogue

MAP WG members have made efforts to provide all the information produced from the phenotypic evaluation of their collections, and to make them available, as well as multiplication, regeneration and safety duplication of MAP species, in EURISCO, including passport data.

- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives

Some countries have improved their strategy for *in situ* conservation of MAP species and also *in situ* evaluation, as well as *ex situ*.

- To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity

On-farm conservation and management have to be improved. Strategies need to be defined.

- To promote use of PGRFA

The characterization and evaluation of MAP species allow their promotion to the users, as well as making available the documentation of the information obtained.

All accessions that were transferred between genebank, collections and users, using sMTA.

## Gaps or constraints identified

- Systematic actions for documentation of *ex situ* collections and *in situ* populations: information organized according to EURISCO needs to be reinforced. Training and support for the WG members should be considered.
- Compile systematic information that contains 'key aspects' of the MAP species [e.g. annual or perennial sp; type of seed (orthodox, intermediate, recalcitrant); optimum germination conditions; optimum storage conditions; in- or outbreeding; the most appropriated technique of propagation and key aspects to field collection conservation]
- Orchestrate the know-how available in the respective pool of experts to resolve specific technical issues that might evolve as part of the operation of the WG.
- Expand the original 'priority list' of MAP species, identified by the WG members to show the existence of some common regional strategies and priorities. This expanded priority list can show the level of threat and the Red List status for MAP species in Europe and give support to the Strategy for European MAP Conservation.

## 2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES, WG MEETINGS AND EVA ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted:0; approved:0)**
- **Total number of partners involved: n/a**
  - ECPGR-funded: n/a
  - Self-funded: n/a
- **Meetings held**  
None
- **Reports and related data**  
[MAPEUROCOLLECTION \(Phase IX\) Final Activity report](#) (2022)
- **Funds mobilized**
  - ECPGR granted funds: n/a
  - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: n/a

## OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- **Cross-Working Group activities:**

Other opportunities for cooperation and integration between WG members and other WGs, need to be improved:

- Need to increase the focus on *in situ* conservation;

- Potential of *in vitro* or cryopreservation methods to improve the status of conservation and safety-duplication of MAP species; cooperation with the Cryopreservation WG is welcome;
- Need to increase cooperation with the future 'Network of Genebank Managers', since MAP include an immense number of species, which have specific conservation and management needs.
- **Others:** No international projects were proposed, during this period.

### 3. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The MAP WG has defined a list of 10 priority species to serve as models and for which species-specific descriptor lists needed to be developed:

*Achillea millefolium* agg.; *Artemisia absinthium*; *Carum carvi*; *Gentiana lutea*; *Hypericum perforatum*; *Mentha piperita* e *Mentha spicata*; *Melissa officinalis*; *Origanum spp*; *Salvia officinalis*; *Thymus vulgaris* e *T. serpyllum*.

During this phase the descriptors for *Gentiana lutea* and *Achillea millefolium*, were finalized. Therefore, the previous list is complete and descriptors are available to support the characterization of the collections in each country.

### 4. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PGR STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

After a long period, a meeting of the MAP WG is being prepared to be held in Albania, in October 2023.

During that meeting WG members will propose and discuss future activities that can support the implementation of the PGR for Europe. The focus will be actions that support:

- Consolidating and sustaining *ex situ* conservation
- Expanding *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants
- Strengthening a comprehensive information system for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (Documentation).
- Promoting sustainable use of PGR.