

Interview To
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Q: Which are the objectives and the role of the project botanical garden and the relationship on yours job of partnership care the Mediterranean area in Albania?

Q: Which are your experiences on the coastal humid areas and your ideas care their conservation and their restoration?

A: INTERREG II was born in the Mediterranean area and of the Balkans with the purpose to supply to the conservation of the vegetable biodiversity. It is shared opinion from the greater experts of the field that the predisposed institutions to the conservation of the vegetable biodiversity are the botanic gardens. It was believed to create a botanic garden in Lecce and to upgrade that one existing in Tirana (Albania), operating between the both ones because the conservation of the vegetable biodiversity had similar problematical on both the sides of the Adriatic. In fact, along the coasts of the both countries it is present a strongly Mediterranean vegetation subordinate to the anthropical actions tied to the tourism (beaches, villages, tourist ports), to the industry (Manfredonia, Bari, Brindisi) to the pollution (industrial, city and agricultural). The botanical garden can operate to safeguard the vegetables species both *in situ* and *ex situ*, with collections of rare species and/or in danger of extinction and structuring species the main Mediterranean vegetations that it allow to supply materials of environmental restoration. The botanic garden currently collaborates with the municipality of Lecce in the environmental restoration of some coastal humid areas: the safeguard or the restoration of the dune cordon, the regulation of the water flow between the sea and the lagoon that regulates the delicate equilibrium of this ecosystem putting in more sensitive danger the species (those rare ones or in extinction). In particular in the pond of Acquatina it has supplied the species for the restoration of the dune cordon, while in Rauccio it took part in works of settlement and widening of the forest. The botanical garden has supplied to introduce of a rare species, *Periploca graeca*, that it had been destroyed from a fire, in other part of the province of Lecce, the Vernole municipality, a humid area of international interest (SIC and the Special Security area of the Cesine), The importance of the restoration carried out from the botanic garden is that the utilized individuals are all obtained from plants captures in the participation area so as to avoid whichever type of genetic pollution. The objective of the project is to equip the garden botanists of Lecce and Tirana of collections to supply vegetable material for the restoration of every habitat and to introduce extinct species present in the territory of competence.