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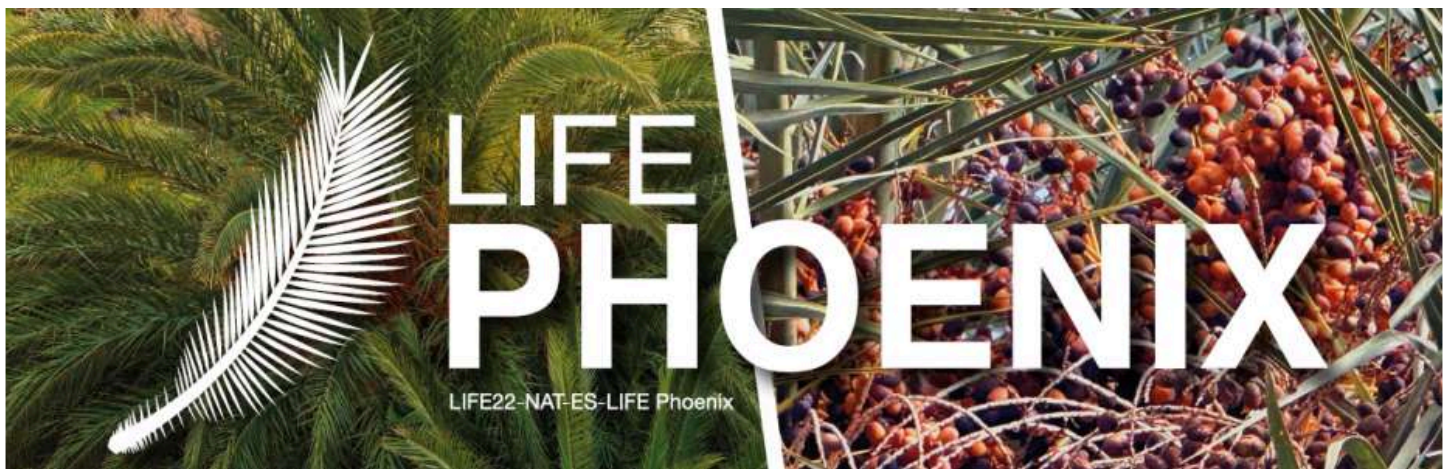
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2nd Monitoring Visit in Gran Canaria

Coinciding with the halfway point of the project, LIFE Phoenix has undertaken a week of technical monitoring in Gran Canaria, together with representatives from the European Commission and the rest of the partners. The agenda included a field review of the actions carried out so far in the project areas on the 3rd and 4th February 2026, as well as a technical and financial follow-up meeting on the 5th February. In Gran Canaria, progress has been made in preparing the land, controlling invasive vegetation and pest control (specifically *Diocaladra frumenti*), as well as in cross-cutting governance and communication actions. Since January 2026, the first repopulation tasks with endemic species have also begun in the interior of the Guguy Grande ravine.





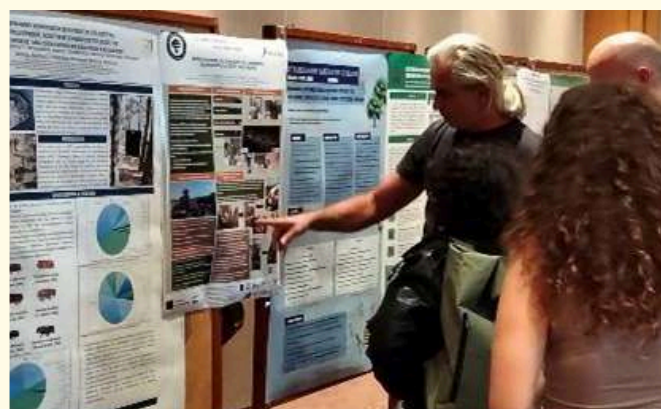
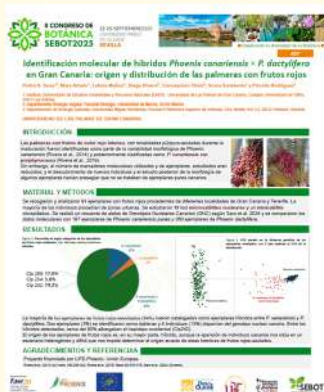
Networking and technical training

The LIFE Phoenix project was present at different public events during the second half of 2025, like the Hybrid University of Asterousia, Crete (29-31/10/25), co-organised by MIO-ECSDE and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, with the participation of partner HSPN. On the other hand, a new technical training session on pest control and best practice for the management of *Phoenix canariensis* was conducted by Carina Ramos and Estrella Hernández (ICIA) and co-organised by ICIA and GESPLAN in Maspalomas, Gran Canaria (30/10/25). Finally, a technical visit was guided in Fataga (Gran Canaria) by Agustín Suárez (CGC) and Diego Gamo (GESPLAN) with colleagues from the Interreg-MAC “PALMAC” project (21/01/26).



Participation in scientific conferences

A number of scientific and technical events have served as showcases for the actions developed by LIFE Phoenix: a technical workshop on *Diocalandra frumenti* in Lanzarote (17/07/25); 19th International Conference on Environmental Science & Technology (CEST2025) in Kos island (04/09/25); II Spanish Botanical Congress (SEBOT) in Seville (22-25/09/25); Telesforo Bravo Training Conference in Tenerife (4-7/11/25); 22nd Forestry Conference in Ioannina (28/09-01/10/25); General Assembly of the Pancretan Association of Hotel Managers (25/11/25); 12th Conference of the Hellenic Ecological Society (HELECOS 12) in Athens (1-4/10/25).



Governance strategy

Two new collaboration agreements have been signed to foster the project's governance activities: between HSPN and the Region of Crete (27/05/25) and between GESPLAN and Canaragua MA in Gran Canaria (03/07/25). In parallel, a total of 15 Codes of Conduct have been signed so far with relevant stakeholders (9 in Gran Canaria and 6 in Crete). The activation of the Early Detection Network of Pests/IAS in Crete (made up of 4 local volunteer teams) took place in August 2025 through initial field monitoring visits. Finally, Working Groups continue their activity in both regions: a new technical visit was carried out with authorities in the Fataga project area (20/11/25); in Crete, the first WG meeting was organised in Heraklion (26/01/26) by HSPN and UoC.



Fieldwork in Gran Canaria

Control/elimination of pests and invasive vegetation

The fieldwork teams keep working in the two project areas (SAC Fataga and SAC Güigüí), focusing efforts on pest control (*Diocalandra frumenti*) and elimination of invasive vegetation (*Arundo donax*). Around 10 hectares have been cleared of reeds and are being monitored with pheromone traps.

1.- Clearing of reed bed in Fataga ravine



2.- Checking of pheromone traps in Güigüí



Collection of seeds/cuttings and production of keystone species

These tasks continue to be implemented on a regular basis, in order to ensure reproductive material and seedlings with geographic and genetic traceability to be used in the later stages of reforestation. Some 4,300 seedlings have been produced until January 2026.

3.- Collection of seeds in the project areas



4.- Ex-situ conservation in seed bank



First planting works

Once the plants have been grown in the nursery, they are transported to the two project areas, where they undergo several weeks of acclimatisation before being planted in the ground. The first planting works (700 plants) initiated in January 2026 in Guguy Grande ravine.

5.- Transport of plants from the nursery



6.- Planting works in Guguy Grande



Fieldwork in Crete

Seed collection and propagation of *Phoenix theophrasti*

More than 20,000 seeds of *P. theophrasti* were collected from the six project areas, ensuring wide genetic representation. Following controlled propagation procedures, over 3,000 seedlings were successfully produced and planted to reinforce natural populations and support habitat restoration.

1.- Seed bank implementation/management



2.- Phoenix production in public nursery



Mitigation of anthropogenic impacts

Fencing works have been completed at Chrysoskalitissa, Agios Nikitas and Vai, significantly reducing anthropogenic pressures and grazing impacts on the palm groves. In Vai, six fire-protection water tanks were installed to enhance the site's preparedness against wildfire risk. Planting activities were carried out in Agios Nikitas, while new plantations are currently ongoing in Chrysoskalitissa.

3.- Fencing works in Chrysoskalitissa



4.- Planting works in Agios Nikitas



Early detection network of pest/IAS with volunteers

The Early Detection Network for pests and IAS was successfully established in Crete by HSPN in collaboration with NHMC-UoC through a structured stakeholders' engagement approach. This included local meetings and targeted training sessions, enabling the rapid identification of threats such as the red palm weevil. The network is fully operational, with four local volunteer teams conducting regular field visits and supporting on-site prevention efforts across project areas.

5.- Field training with volunteers



6.- Souda Plakias volunteer team



General project performance

After slightly more than half of the project has been completed, LIFE Phoenix continues to develop its entire range of activities in both islands (Crete and Gran Canaria). At this moment conservation actions combine pest and IAS control, reforestation works and mitigation of anthropogenic impacts. In addition, field monitoring has increased, as well as the governance and communication strategies are also contributing to amplify the project results.

WP1. Project Management



WP3. Conservation (GC)



WP3. Conservation (Crete)



WP4. Monitoring/Evaluation



WP5. Sustain./Exploitation



WP6. Communication



Highlights

Project Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contracts: new staff, new external services and public tenders.● 4th Technical Activity Report (Jul 2025).● 4th Steering Committee meeting (18-19 Nov 2025).● 5th Technical Activity Report (Jan 2026).● 2nd Monitoring Visit in Gran Canaria (3-5 Feb 2026).
Conservation Actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Control and elimination of invasive vegetation.● New traps for pest control (<i>D. frumenti</i>, <i>R. ferrugineus</i>).● Collection of seeds/cuttings and plant production.● First plantations in Gran Canaria and Crete.● Fencing of target palm groves and in Crete.● Working Groups, participatory networks and new collaborations.
Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● First information boards installed in Crete.● News in press and website, interviews in TV and social media.● Social Media: new posts in Facebook and Instagram.● New materials: newsletter, manuals, booklets, videos.
Networking & Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● New training on pest management in Gran Canaria (30 Oct 2025).● Participation in 10 new public events: networking sessions, workshops and national/international conferences.

Visit the LIFE Phoenix Website

The project website (<https://lifephoenix.gesplan.es>) was published in December 2023 and has been regularly updated with new contents. Stay tuned for our last news and don't miss any of our videos!

- Updated news
- New picture galleries
- Links to our social networks
- New technical and dissemination documents
- Videos: new “video-pills” recently uploaded

Contact

For feedback, partnerships, or further information, please feel free to contact us at:
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