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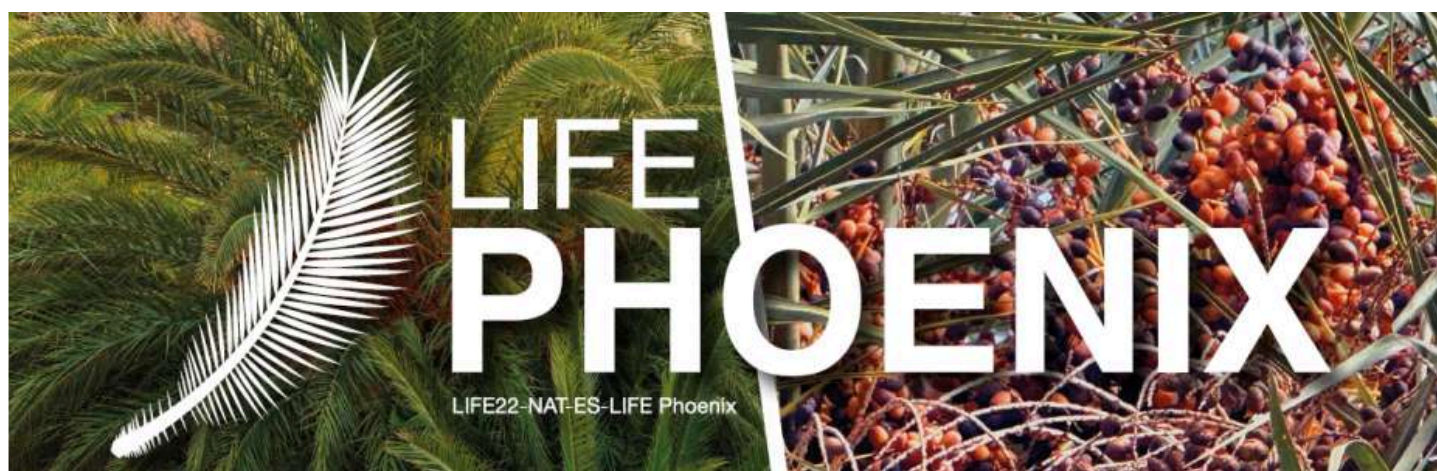
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Main achievements until 2026

LIFE Phoenix has reached its halfway point and successfully progressed from preparatory work to full implementation of conservation actions for Priority Habitat 9370* in Gran Canaria and Crete. A strong governance framework has been established through the Partnership Agreement, a Scientific Advisory Board of **10 experts**, **5 Technical Activity Reports**, and **4 Steering Committee meetings**. The project has restored or improved **13.2 ha** in Gran Canaria and protected more than **17 ha** in Crete through fencing, habitat management and restoration measures, bringing over **26 ha** of priority habitat under regeneration. Pest management has deployed **172 traps**, captured more than **2,000 *Diocalandra frumenti*** adults, and initiated endotherapy treatments on **100 palm trees**. Ex situ conservation has secured **24,500 seeds**, while nurseries have produced over **7,300 plants** for future restoration. Governance achievements include **15 Codes of Conduct**, **4 collaboration agreements**, active Working Groups and a **28-member volunteer network**. Communication and capacity building have reached more than **53,000 people**, trained **126 professionals**, and attracted over **4,500 website visitors**. Overall, project implementation is on schedule, providing a strong basis for the second half of the project.



Networking / training / communication

The partners of the LIFE Phoenix project have taken part in several networking and public events during the first semester of 2026. GESPLAN (Diego Gamo) participated at the Inter-LIFE Sessions, Madrid (11/03/2026), organised by the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), as well as delivered technical presentations at the internal CSR sessions organised in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria by GESPLAN (14/05/2026) and for the Lanzarote Centre for Agricultural Biodiversity (CBAL, 03/06/2026). Partner ICIA (Estrella Hernández), in collaboration with GMR Canarias (Luis Barroso), gave new technical training sessions on pest control and best practice for the management of *Phoenix canariensis* to the company Canaragua Medioambiente (07/04/2026), the Felo Monzón Training Centre (12/05/2026), as well as to local people and professionals from the Municipalities of La Aldea (07-08/04/2026) and La Orotava (14/05/2026). Partner ULPGC (Priscila Rodríguez and Esmeralda Estévez) organised two workshops related to the celebration of the International Tree Day (13/03/2026) and the open university event “Científicate” (19/06/2026). Partners HSPN (Adamantia Pylara, Stavroula Christodouloupoulou) and UoC-NHMC (Kalliopi Baxevasi) organised a workshop with the Centre for Environmental Education and Sustainability (CEES) of Agios Vasilios in Melambes, Crete (23/05/2026). Finally, partner UoC-NHMC took part in the celebration of the World Environment Day with a field trip to the Martsalo Palm Forest (07/06/2026), and in the annual Fascination Plants Day, organized by the Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU) in Heraklion (24/06/2026).



Participation in scientific conferences

Two new scientific and technical events have served as showcases for the actions developed by LIFE Phoenix. GESPLAN participated at the LIFE One Nature Final International Conference, Prague (22-23/04/2026), with a presentation by Diego Gamo. Lampros Papalampros (HOMEOTECH) and Dimos Dimitriou (FPIRC) delivered a dedicated presentation of the project at the European Environmental and Landscape Politics and Projects course organised by the Milan Polytechnic (20/05/2026).



Governance strategy

A new collaboration agreement has been signed to foster the project's governance activities between HSPN and the Centre of Environmental Education and Sustainability of Agios Vasilios in Crete (11/06/2026). In addition, as part of the governance activities developed by HSPN, a volunteer cleanup was organised at Aspri Limni beach (Chrysoskalitissa, Crete) in collaboration with the Municipality of Kissamos and the Chania Forest Directorate (24/05/2026), to coincide with the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May).



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 Güigüi), focusing efforts on pest control (*Diocalandra frumenti*) and elimination of invasive vegetation (*Arundo donax*). Common reed has been cleared/controlled in around 10 hectares and at present more than 90 hectares are being monitored with pheromone traps. Endotherapy treatments have been already applied to 70 palm trees in the Camel Park “living lab” and 30 palm trees in Guguy Grande.

1.- Reed bed control in Aserraderos



2.- Endotherapy treatment in Guguy Grande



Collection of seeds/cuttings and production of keystone species

Following the recent storms in the Canary Islands between late 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, a good year is expected for seed production in natural habitats, and the field teams are making the most of this through their work in the field, providing new plant material for the public nursery.

3.- Collection of seeds in the project areas



4.- Plant production in Tafira forest nursery



Planting works

Planting of the first 700 individuals of keystone species started in Guguy Grande palm grove in January 2026, while it began in Aserraderos palm grove (Fataga) with 100 more individuals during the month of May.

5.- Planting works in Aserraderos (Fataga)



6.- Field nursery in Guguy Grande



Fieldwork in Crete

Supplementary fieldwork

Supplementary field works were carried out across the LIFE Phoenix sites in Crete, including fencing and fire-protection measures at Vai, fencing and planting at Agios Nikitas, and planting and

maintenance works at Aspri Limni–Chrysoskalitissa. Additional activities included red palm weevil control, artificial pollination, seed collection and seedling production for future restoration actions.

1.- Artificial pollination at Aspri Limni



2.- Fencing works in the Vai Palm Forest



Mitigation of anthropogenic impacts

Based on the field visits and joint collaboration of FPIRC and HOMEOTECH, the next-step interventions to enhance habitat protection against the specific threats identified per site are currently being finalized.

3.- Planting/watering in Chrysoskalitissa



4.- Fencing works in Agios Nikitas



Early detection network of pest/IAS with volunteers

The Early Detection Network for pests and IAS established in Crete by HSPN in collaboration with NHMC-UoC remains active through a volunteer-based surveillance mechanism (four local volunteer teams), with regular field visits carried out across the project areas to ensure the timely detection and documentation of potential threats.

5.- Volunteer taking pictures in Vai



6.- Impacts registered by volunteers



General project performance

After three years of implementation, LIFE Phoenix continues to develop its entire range of activities in both islands (Crete and Gran Canaria). At present, conservation actions include ongoing pest and IAS control work, while stepping up reforestation efforts and mitigation of anthropogenic impacts. In addition, new tasks continue to be added in relation to field monitoring, governance and communication strategies, thus 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 	• Contracts: new staff, new external services and public tenders. • 2nd Monitoring Visit in Gran Canaria (3-5 Feb 2026). • Midterm Report submitted to CINEA (March 2026). • Second prefinancing payment received by the consortium.
Conservation Actions 	• 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. • Progress on the plantations in Gran Canaria and Crete • Fencing of target palm groves in Crete. • Installation of water tanks in Crete. • Working Groups, participatory networks and new collaborations.
Communication 	• 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 	• New trainings on pest management in Gran Canaria (7,8 Apr and 12, 14 May 2026). • 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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