

DONATELLA COGONI

Curriculum Vitae

Personal data and contacts

Institution: University of Cagliari

Department: Department of Life and Environmental Sciences (DiSVA)

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I hold a degree in Natural Sciences (2008) and a PhD in Environmental and Applied Botany (2012), both awarded by the University of Cagliari (Italy). My early research activities focused on plant conservation, beginning with a fellowship on the project “Conservation biology studies on the threatened flora in the main Sardinian micro-hotspots and their conservation implications” at the University of Cagliari. Subsequently, I held a post-doctoral position within the European LIFE+ project “LIFE07 NAT/IT/000519”, aimed at the conservation and recovery of priority dune habitats. This initiative contributed to the local implementation of the EU Habitats Directive and the recommendations of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Subsequently, as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Cagliari, I held a research fellowship dedicated to the conservation biology of threatened plant species within Sardinia’s key micro-hotspots, with the aim of informing long-term biodiversity conservation strategies.

From 2020 to 2023, I served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Cagliari, focusing on conservation plant biology. I am currently Associate Professor of Systematic Botany (SSD BIO/02 – BIOS-01/B - Botanica sistematica) within the same department.

My research activity is primarily situated within the field of conservation biology, with a specific focus on the conservation of plant diversity. The core objectives of my work include investigating the ecological and demographic processes that drive the dynamics of plant communities, particularly those composed of endemic and threatened species. I aim to model extinction risk and assess population viability, providing data-driven insights to inform effective conservation strategies. My current research also encompasses the ecology of plant population reintroductions and reinforcements, reproductive biology of rare and endemic taxa, and the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. In addition, I conduct floristic surveys in natural ecosystems to support biodiversity assessments. More recently, my research has expanded to include the study of environmental impacts caused by beach litter on Sardinian dune ecosystems on vegetation. Another emerging research direction involves analyzing the response of Mediterranean vegetation to large-scale and high-intensity wildfires, which have become increasingly frequent due to climate change.

Over the course of my academic career, I have been involved in research activities centered on conservation biology and the implementation of environmental policy, with a particular emphasis on the conservation of plant diversity.

My work has also extended to several nationally funded projects. These include a contract for the development of the New Red Italian List, funded by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection, and participation in a national project coordinated by ISPRA (the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), which developed species-specific monitoring protocols for plant species protected under Annexes II, IV, and V of the Habitats Directive. In addition, I contributed to the drafting of Italy’s Fourth National Report under Article 17 of Directive 92/43/EEC.

In parallel with my research activities, I have taken part in numerous conservation initiatives at international, national, and local levels. Notably, I was involved in the CARE-MEDIFLORA project (Conservation Actions for the Threatened Island Flora: ex situ and in situ joint actions), funded by the MAVA Foundation, which sought to harmonize conservation strategies for threatened island flora across the Mediterranean.

I am currently an expert member of several international working groups and networks under the IUCN framework, including the Species Survival Commission’s Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group, the

IUCN Translocation Group, the International Translocation Network, and the Species Monitoring Specialist Group. At the national level, I am a member of the Working Group for the Conservation of Nature, contributing to the formulation of conservation policies and strategies. At present, I am also part of the research unit of the PRIN project “Community Functional Structure Effects on Mediterranean Ecosystem Functions”, which investigates the role of woody plant communities in driving key ecological processes within Mediterranean ecosystems

I serve as a reviewer for several international scientific journals in the fields of plant science, ecology, and conservation. In addition, I hold the position of Associate Editor for the *Natural Areas Journal* and have served as Guest Editor for the Special Issue “*Conservation and Research of Aquatic Endangered Plants*” published in the journal *Water*.

My scientific research has been published in a range of peer-reviewed journals in the fields of conservation biology, plant ecology, and environmental science. A full list of my publications, along with my scientific profile, is available at the following links:

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=55361712000>

https://web.unica.it/unica/it/ateneo_s07_ss01.page?contentId=SHD31028

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