



Liquid-Safe

Safeguarding the unique European endangered Oriental Sweetgum (*Liquidambar orientalis* L.) in the island of Rhodos.

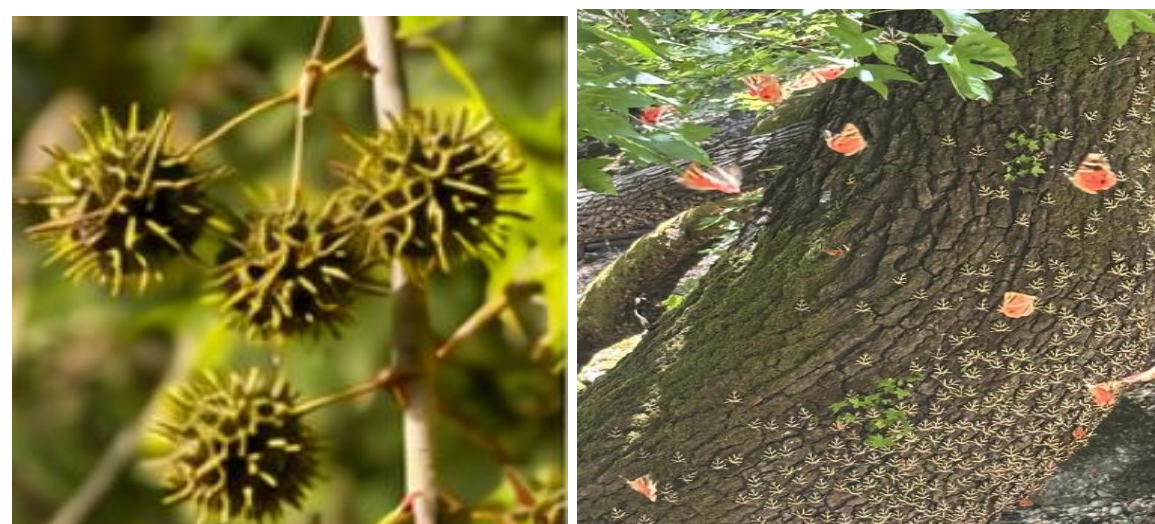
The project is implemented in the framework of H.F.R.I.'s 2nd Call "Actions to protect, conserve and promote biodiversity. Field studies of endemic, endangered and nationally important species of Greece" (Project Number: 27951) funded by the National Environment & Climate Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A.).

INTRODUCTION

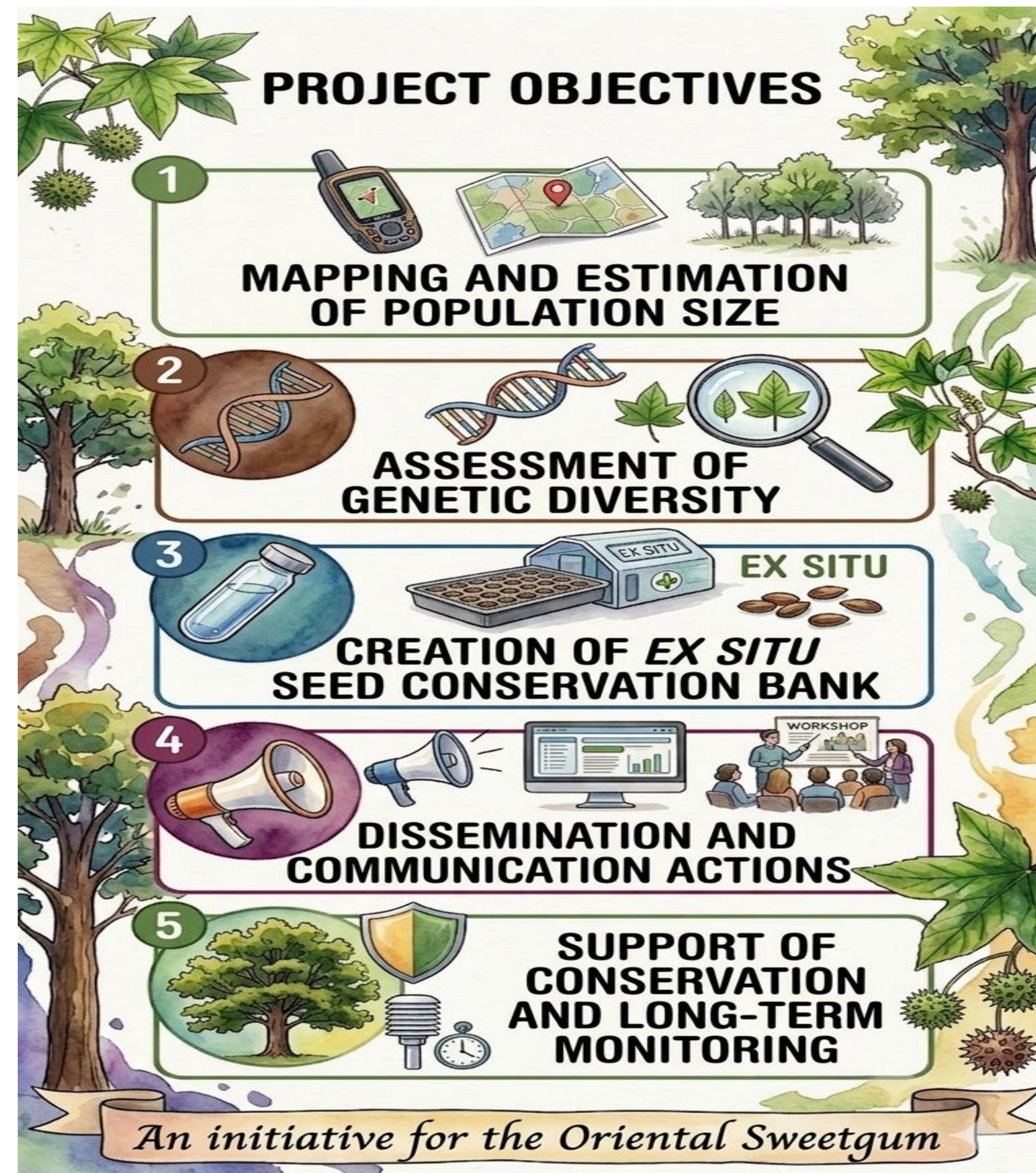
Liquidambar orientalis L. is a rare deciduous tree and a Tertiary relict species occurring in southwestern Turkey and on the island of Rhodes, Greece.

In 2017, it was assessed as Endangered (EN) according to the IUCN Red List. On Rhodes, it provides critical habitat for the rare butterfly species *Euplagia quadripunctata* (Valley of the Butterflies) and produces balsam (resin) of economic importance.

The species' populations are threatened by forest fires, climate change, and other environmental pressures. This project aimed to discover, genetic diversity and conserve the species' only European population.



Liquidambar orientalis L.

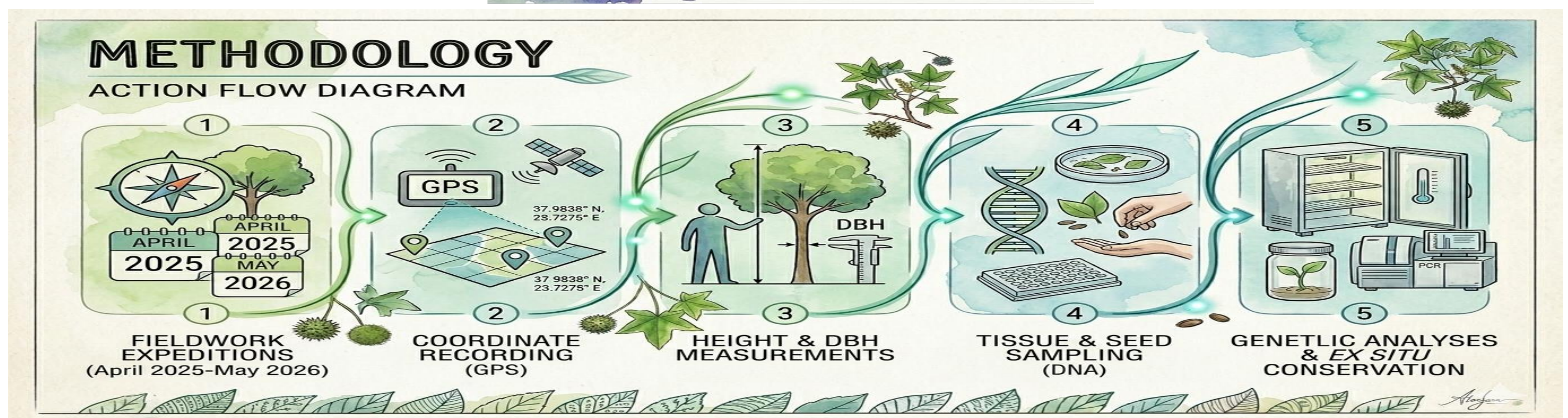


PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project was carried out from **1 April 2025** to **16 September 2026** by the **Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems**, under the scientific coordination of **Dr. Evangelia Avramidou**.

The project team consisted of: Dr. Alexandra Solomou, Dr. Evangelia Korakaki, Dr. Georgios Karetsos, Dr. Ermioni Malliarou, Georgios Mantakas, MSc, Konstantinos Kaoukis, MSc, PhD Candidate, Nikoleta Soulioti, MSc, PhD Candidate, Christos Georgiadis, MSc, PhD Candidate, Panagiotis Trigas, Professor, Agricultural University of Athens, Panagoula Tzenou and Evangelia Nisioti.

Collaborating Organization:
Directorate of Forests of the Dodecanese



FIELD WORK



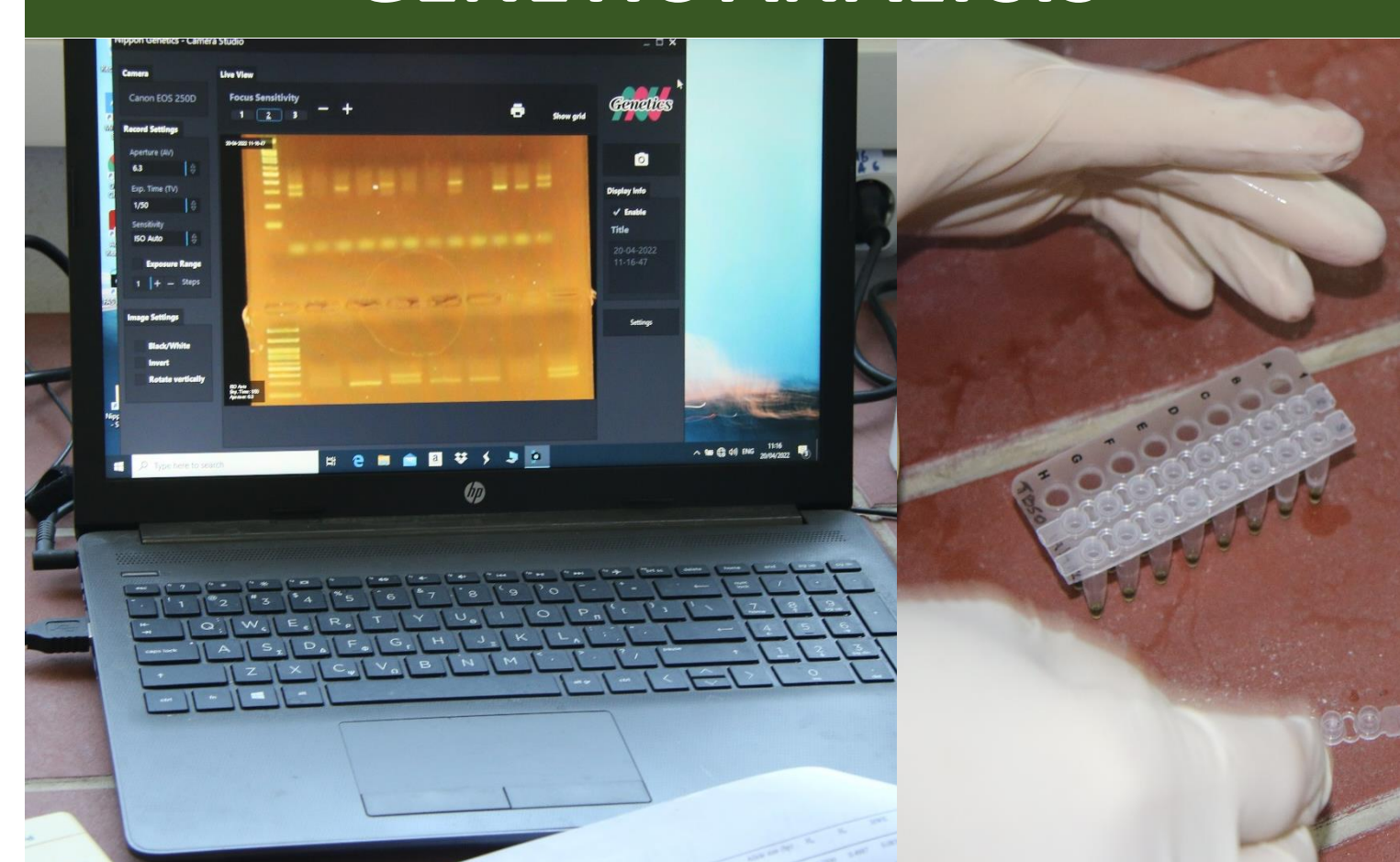
EX SITU CONSERVATION



SEED COLLECTION



GENETIC ANALYSIS

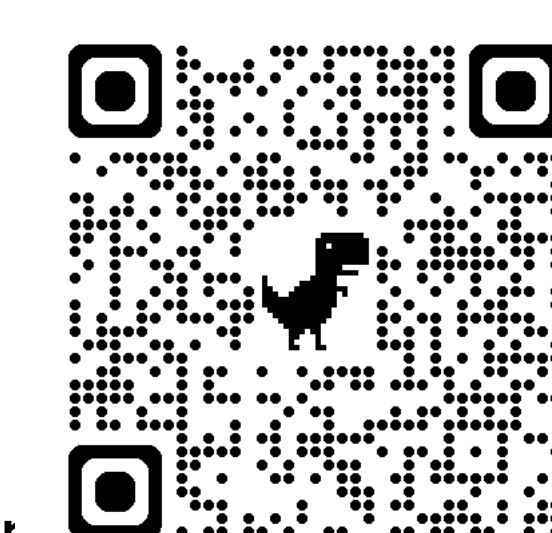


DISSEMINATION



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Significant populations of the endangered species *Liquidambar orientalis* L. were recorded on the island of Rhodes.
- ✓ A total of 1,595 trees were documented across four main locations.
- ✓ Genetic material and seeds were collected for genetic analyses, and a conservation seed bank was established.
- ✓ The project has laid the foundation for the conservation and long-term monitoring of the species' only European population



Communication

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