

**Interreg**



Cofinanziato  
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**Italia - Malta**

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 **MEDMAQUIS**

# MEDMAQUIS PROJECT

**A bridge between Italy and Malta to preserve  
the richness and stability of the Mediterranean maquis**

ph. M. Ramarro

# 1 Project Overview

MedMaquis is a cross-border cooperation project between **Italy and Malta** aimed at preserving the richness and stability of the **Mediterranean maquis**, one of the most characteristic ecosystems of the Mediterranean region.

Through **field actions and environmental education activities**, the project develops solutions to address some of the main threats affecting these natural habitats, including the spread of **invasive plant species**, the increasing **risk of wildfires**, and **desertification**.

MedMaquis promotes collaboration **among public bodies, universities and environmental organizations** to strengthen the protection of Mediterranean biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change.



Interreg VI-A  
Italy-Malta  
Programme  
2021-2027



2 Countries  
involved



7 project  
areas across  
Sicily and  
Malta



5 main  
partners



30 months  
(2025/2027)



1 ecosystem to  
protect:  
Mediterranean  
maquis



6 Work  
Packages

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# 2

## A green bridge between Italy and Malta

MedMaquis operates directly in the territories through targeted actions aimed at improving the condition of natural habitats, combining field activities with exchange and dialogue among partners, schools and experts to foster knowledge sharing.

The project works at multiple levels, combining field interventions and operational tools:

- **monitoring and analysis of invasive species** through surveys, drones and aerial imagery;
- **development and implementation of management strategies** for invasive species removal and habitat restoration in pilot areas;
- **wildfire prevention measures and the development of information tools and signage** for land management;
- **educational and participatory activities** involving schools and local communities, including exchanges between Sicily and Malta.

### Concrete actions for the protection and restoration of Mediterranean maquis ecosystems



Actions are implemented in a coordinated way between Sicily and Malta, turning project areas into open-air **pilot laboratories** to test replicable solutions.



The project name combines “Med” (Mediterranean) and “Maquis”, the international term for Mediterranean shrubland

# 3

## A network for nature

MedMaquis is the result of collaboration among organizations, public bodies and universities in Italy and Malta, bringing together complementary expertise for the protection of Mediterranean biodiversity.

The project brings together partners with diverse expertise — from scientific research to land management, from environmental education to habitat conservation — creating a network capable of addressing environmental challenges in an integrated way.

Cooperation among partners enables:

- knowledge and best practices sharing;
- coordinated approaches across territories;
- strengthened local intervention capacity;
- scientific quality assurance of actions.



Università degli Studi di Palermo



AMBJENTMALTA

**Fondazione AVSI (Lead Partner)  
Associazione Il Ramarro | Università di Palermo  
Nature Trust – FEE | Ambjent Malta**

**The partnership is a key element of the project, enabling local experiences to be transformed into shared and replicable solutions**

*Alongside the core partnership, the project also involves associated partners active in environmental protection, supporting the dissemination of results and the local uptake of project actions.*



Università di Catania



L-Università ta' Malta



*Comune di Caltagirone, Assocea Messina, Università di Catania, LIPU, Comitato dei Comuni Custodi della Macchia Mediterranea, University of Malta, Civil Protection Department Malta*

# 4

## From research to action

MedMaquis adopts an integrated approach combining scientific knowledge, operational planning and field interventions to ensure effective and sustainable actions over time.

The project follows a pathway that connects analysis, testing and implementation, turning research results into concrete solutions.

Activities are organised into six Work Packages (WPs):

**WP 1**

**Management and coordination**

Ensures effective implementation and achievement of results.

**WP 2**

**Communication and awareness**

Promotes the project and engages citizens and schools on biodiversity issues.

**WP 3**

**Habitat restoration**

Restores ecosystems through invasive species control and renaturalisation.

**WP 4**

**Wildfire prevention**

Reduces fire risk through targeted actions and information tools.

**WP 5**

**Environmental education**

Promotes good practices through educational activities and exchanges between Sicily and Malta.

**WP 6**

**Monitoring and scientific evaluation**

Assesses the effectiveness of actions and measures biodiversity outcomes.

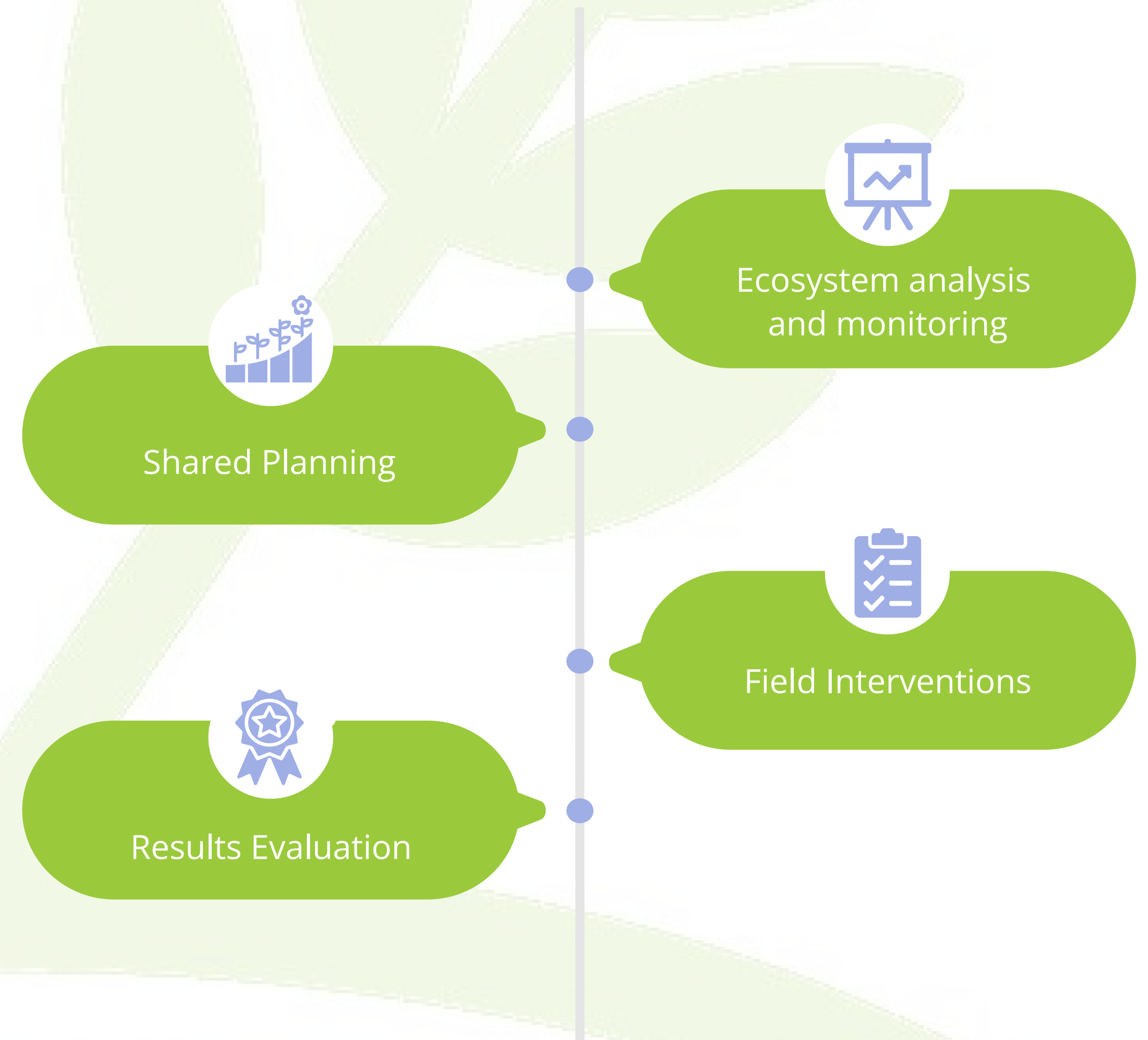
*The direct beneficiaries of the project are local communities, schools and stakeholders involved in environmental protection*

MedMaquis activities generate concrete results in the territories:

- **healthier and more resilient natural habitats;**
- **improved capacity to prevent and manage wildfires;**
- **dissemination of good environmental practices;**
- **active participation of students and local communities.**

This approach contributes to more effective land management and to the development of models that can be replicated in other Mediterranean contexts.

The project follows an operational pathway structured in phases:



# 5

## Project Areas

MedMaquis is implemented in seven high ecological value areas in Sicily and Malta, selected for their representativeness of Mediterranean maquis ecosystems.

Despite their differences, these territories share similar environmental characteristics and face common challenges, making them ideal contexts for coordinated conservation and sustainable management actions.

### Seven natural areas, united by a common challenge



Sicilia 

Malta 

 **Bosco di Santo Pietro** | sito Natura 2000 [Caltagirone, CT]

 **Xrobb I-Għagin Nature Park**

 **Riserva Naturale Vallone Piano della Corte** [Agira, EN]

 **Pembroke** | sito Natura 2000

 **Complesso Immacolatelle - Micio Conti** [area etnea, CT]

 **Buskett Gardens**

 **Riserva Naturale Orientata Isola delle Femmine** [PA]

# 6

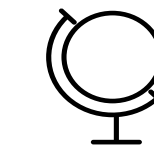
**A shared commitment for more resilient ecosystems and more aware communities.**

Mediterranean maquis is a fragile ecosystem, increasingly exposed to climate change and environmental pressures.

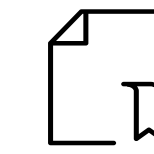
Acting today means improving the ability of habitats to adapt and regenerate over time.

MedMaquis contributes to this goal through concrete actions integrating environmental protection, scientific knowledge and community engagement.

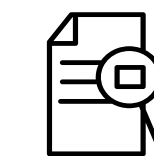
*Project benefits:*



**Environmental**  
improves  
the condition of  
natural habitats



**Social**  
increases  
awareness  
and participation



**Institutional**  
strengthens  
cooperation  
and governance

# Protecting biodiversity today for tomorrow



**Interreg**

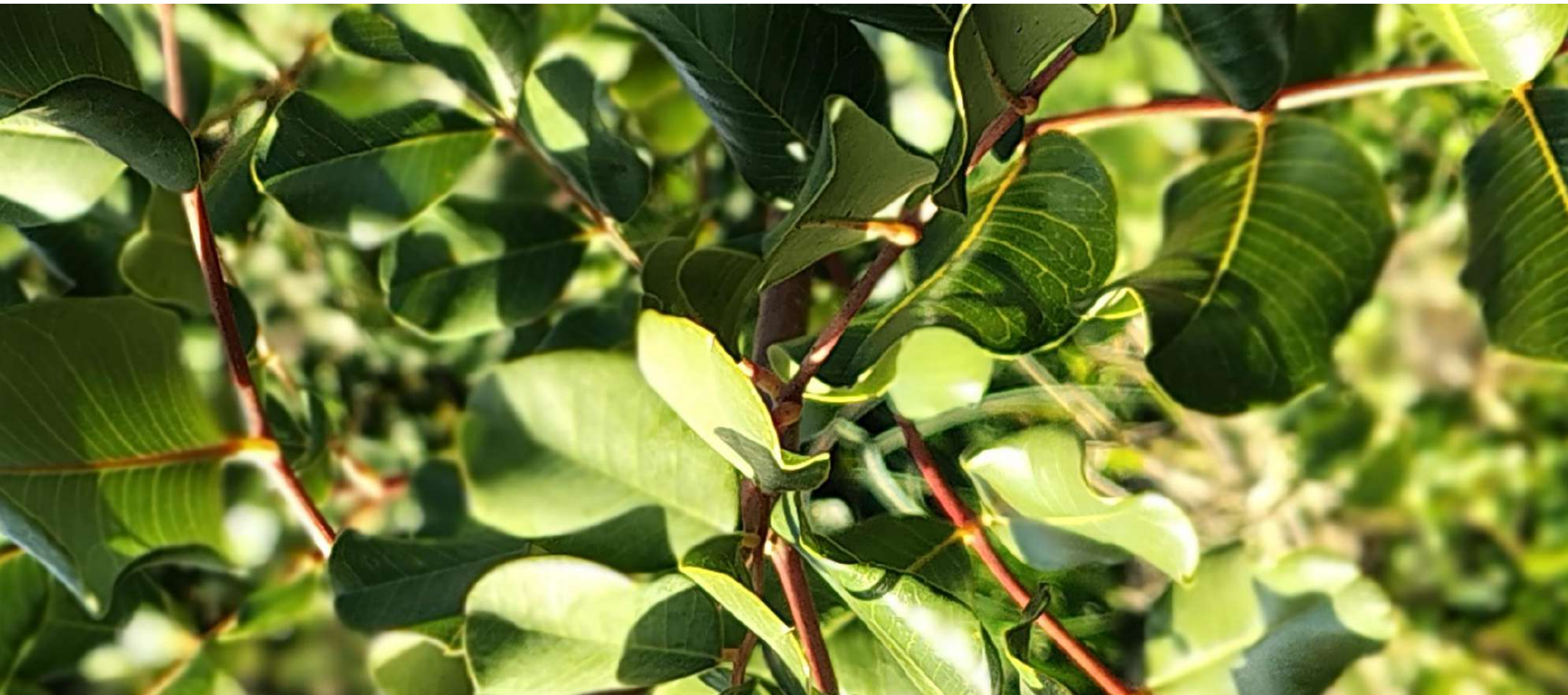


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## Follow the project



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People for development



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Palermo**



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