LIFE SAVING BUSKETT

Soil stabilisation measures to protect Annex I habitats in Buskett-Girgenti Natura 2000 site

LIFE12 NAT/MT/000180

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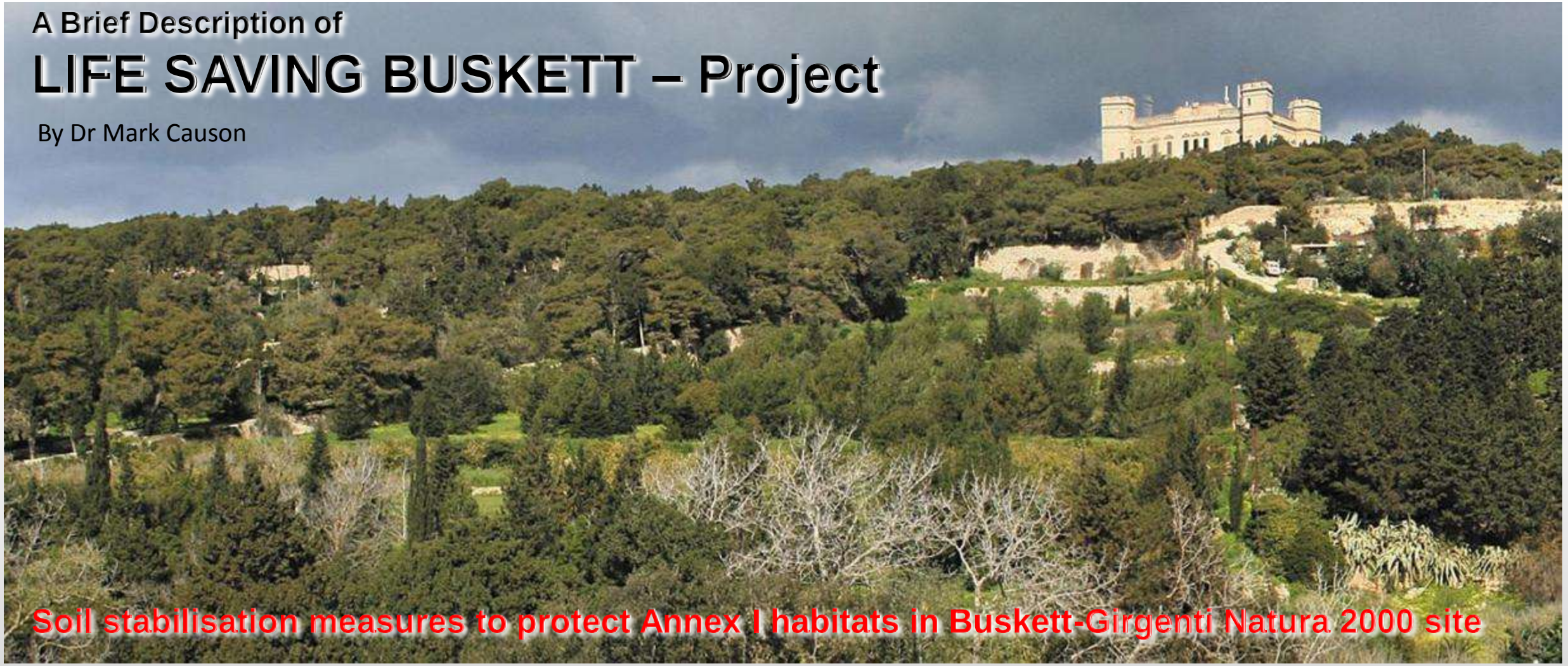
A Brief Description of

LIFE SAVING BUSKETT – Project

By Dr Mark Causon



LIFE+ : Soil stabilisation measures to protect Annex I habitats in Buskett Girgenti - Natura 2000 site
01/07/2013 - 31/05/2016
This project is part-financed by the European Union through the LIFE+ financial instrument Co-financing rate: 80% EU Funds; 20% National Funds

C. Concrete conservation actions.

C1. Repair/restoration/rebuilding of retaining walls, arched buttresses and stone slabs along watercourse supporting Annex I habitats.

Completed Volume 547.38m3 and 178 of walls

Completed 49 arches

C2. Introduction of soil stabilisation measures including repair/restoration/rebuilding of retaining walls (not included in Action C1) supporting Annex I habitats along watercourse and on valley sides.

Completed Volume 16,432m^3 corresponding to a

Length 5,014m

73% total project

86 Completed walls

C3. Selective removal of silt and boulders from parts of the watercourse.

100% completed

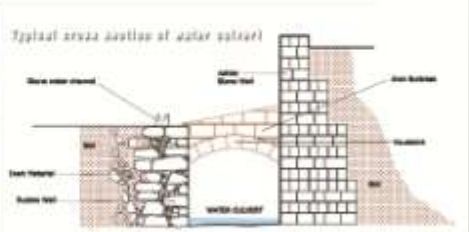
C4. Removal of invasive alien species.

Approximate removal of an area of 24,250 m^2

C5. Seed collection and planting of saplings of characteristic trees.

2,340 trees planted

The retaining walls and arched buttresses along the watercourse will be repaired, restored and/or rebuilt. Such soil stabilisation measure, apart from consolidating the definition of the watercourse itself will reduce the deposition and sedimentation of soil and debris on the watercourse coming down from the valley sides.



Action C1

Action C1:

554 m³ along a stretch of 176 metres of dry stone ashlar wall along the watercourse will be repaired/restored or rebuilt. Another **317m³** (176 metres) of the flanking stone rubble wall along the watercourse will be rebuilt.

A total of 49 Arched Buttresses along the watercourse that collapsed or are in danger of collapsing, will be rebuilt. In this way, a total of 15,600m² of two important natural habitats will be safeguarded from the danger posed by the current

Action C2:

17,149 m³ in volume along stretches of 6,297m in length of **dry stone rubble walls** along the watercourse and further up the valley sides will be repaired/restored and/ or rebuilt.

4,499 m³ in volume along stretches of 1,020 metres in length of **masonry ashlar walls** along the watercourse and higher up the valley sides will be repaired / restored and/or rebuilt.

Geotextile material , mulches and dead wood are placed over an area of 15,000m². This action will safeguard natural habitat areas from the dangers posed by the current state of the walls and the consequent soil instability.

Action C3

Selective removal of silt and boulders currently harming targeted habitats along the watercourse will be carefully removed.

From this action will directly benefit clusters of *Populus alba, Fraxinus angustifloia* and *Ulmus canescens* trees growing at the lower end of the watercourse.

Such trees need protection from deposition and accumulation of silt and debris in the watercourse so that these indigenous trees can grow into a mature Populus alba gallery.

Action C4

Alien invasive species that are competing with native species will be remove completely from the whole area targeted by the project **(Totalling to 241,742m²)**

Species will mainly include;

1. ***Ailanthus altissima.***
2. ***Agave spp.***
3. ***Vitis spp.***
4. ***Ricinus communis.***
5. ***Arundo donax.***
6. ***Opuntia ficus indica.***






Action C5

3,300 Trees that are specific of the targeted habitats will be planted.

These include;

Populus alba, Ulmus canescens, Fraxinus angustifolia, Salix alba and Salix pedicellata, Ceratonia siliqua, Olea europaea, Laurus nobilis, Pistacia lentiscus and Rubus ulmifolius

15 out of 30 newspapers articles published
11 out of 20 TV slots participated

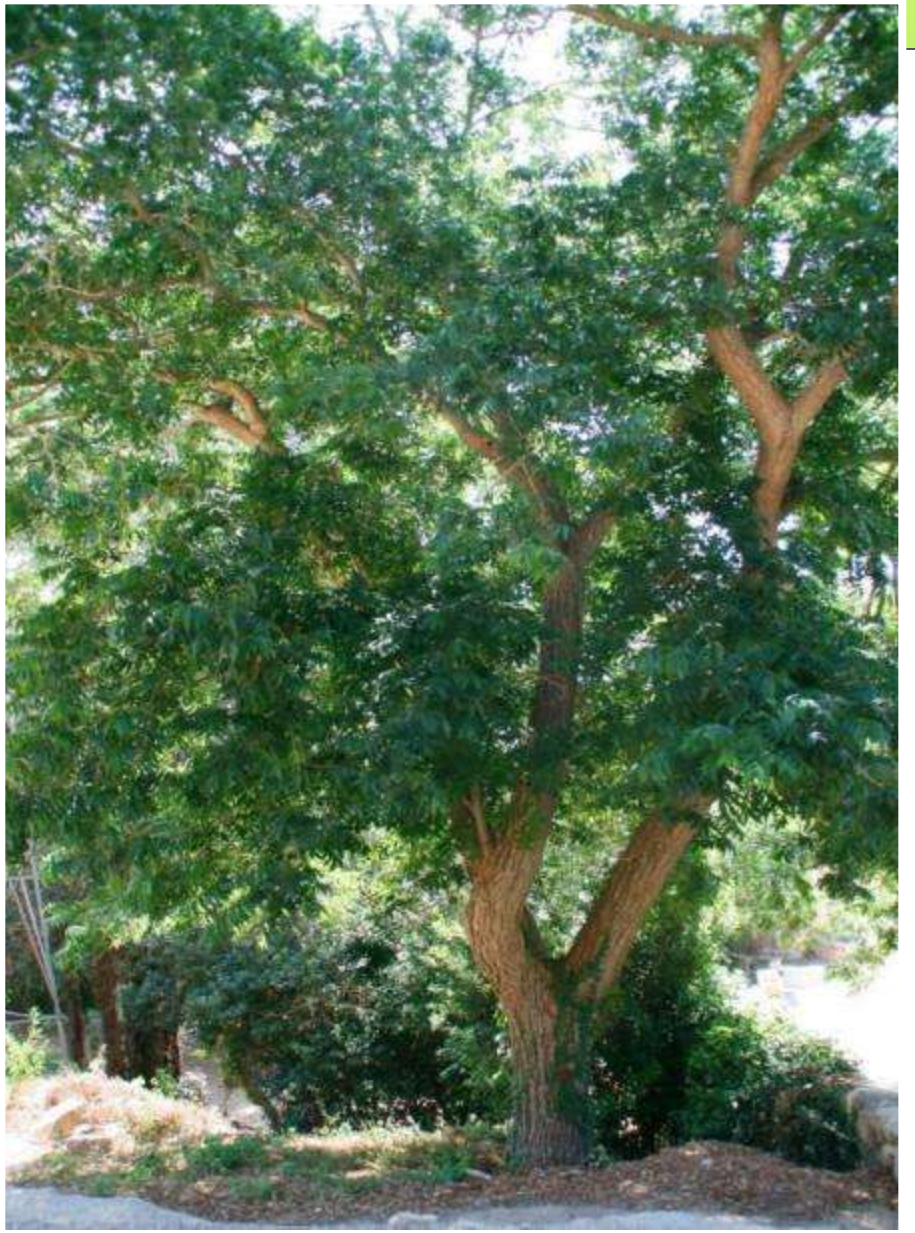
Total visitors reached **11501**


Eco-Schools
FEE


2014/04/16


IL-BUSKETT
WOODLAND GARDEN

Baroque style layout, with passage and paved horse drawn carriage ways. ‘Orangeries’ or Citrus tree groves and artificial lakes



Fraxinus angustifolia **-**Wild narrow-leaved Ash – Sigra tal-Fraxxnu**.**

Scallop fungus-Arzella ta’ L-Art

Bear’s Breeches –Hannewija

Italian Lords and Ladies-Garni

Avifaunal species

The site ideal for bird observation, particularly migrating birds of prey:

Pernis aviforus –Honey Buzzard – Kuccarda

Circus aeruginosus – Marsh Harrier – Baghdan ahmar

Falco peregrinus – Peregrine –Bies

Painted frog - Zring

***Ulmus minor*-English Elm-Nemmiesa/Ulmu**

Deciduos fast growing large tree asociated with watercourses

Leaves dark greenalmost orbicular.

The wind pollinated reddish purple hermaphrodite flowers are without petals

Thank you for your attention.

Dr Mark Causon Project Manager