

# PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTAL AND SINGULAR TREES OF THE VALENCIAN COMMUNITY (SPAIN)

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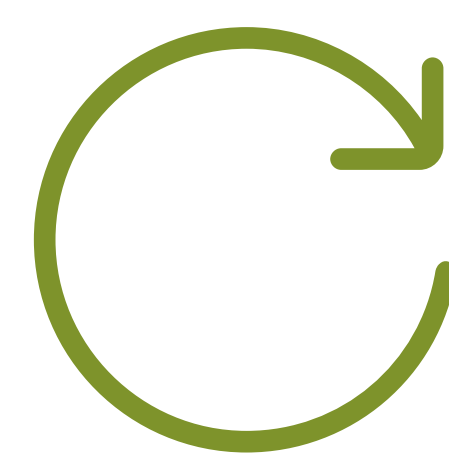
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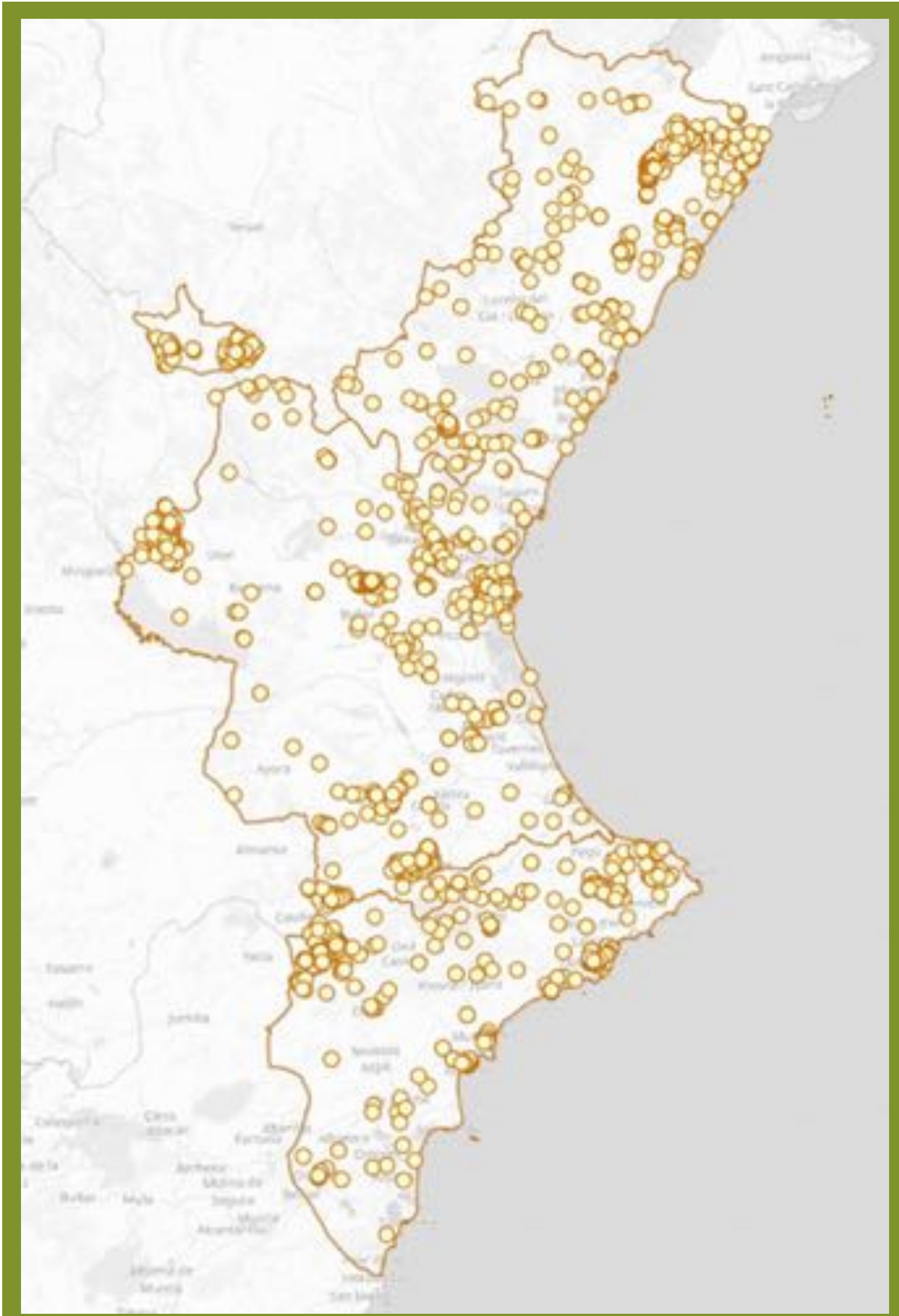
## The Valencian Law 4/2006 on Monumental Tree Heritage

The **Valencian Law 4/2006 on Monumental Tree Heritage** is Spain's most advanced regulation for protecting old, veteran, monumental, and singular trees. It is the unique one considering **generically protected** —without needing of a specific declaration— those trees surpassing some dimensions or ages (special dimensions are set for palm trees):



**+ 30 m height + 600 cm in trunk perimeter + 25 m in tree crown diameter + 350 years old**

In addition, **regional and local authorities** (municipalities) may **expressly protect** trees of smaller size or age with exceptional cultural, scientific or historical value.



Protected trees in the Valencian Community

## Valencian Catalogue

The **Valencian Catalogue**, established in **2006** and renewed in **2012, 2013, 2016** and **2023**, currently **contains 2439 trees**. It holds Spain's most important list of individually protected trees. The most represented species are ***Olea europaea*** (600 trees), ***Phoenix dactylifera*** (254 trees) and ***Ceratonia siliqua*** (246 trees). The region's tallest recorded tree is a ***Populus nigra*** reaching 44.7 m, while the largest crown diameter (40.5 m) and trunk perimeter (14.69 m) belong to ***Ficus macrophylla*** trees.



Evolution of the Valencian Catalogue over time  
IL = Monumental of Local Interest; PG = Generic Protection



«Ficus de Benalúa» in Alicante, the largest trunk-size specimen in Valencian Community (circumference = 14.69 m). In 2017, environmental improvement work was carried out, removing the pavement that restricted root growth, gas exchange, and water absorption.



Olive tree in the northernmost part of the province of Castellón, in the recently designed by FAO as GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) «Olivos Milenarios Territorio Sénia».



Construction of a wall made of branches interlocked with stones to retain soil and runoff water and prevent the passage of people, in «Roure de la Roca», in Barranc dels Horts (Ares del Maestre, Castellón).



Old *Juniperus thurifera* in Cañadillas area (Puebla de San Miguel, Valencia). Its use as a beehive and the carved steps eventually caused the trunk to split. To prevent complete breakage, the tree was supported with static cabling, and two markers were placed to monitor the size of the fissure.



Generically protected carob tree due to the size of its trunk (circumference = 6.50 m), in Pla de l'Assut, in Montrouli (Valencia).

## Care of catalogued trees



Around 270 catalogued trees are situated in **public forests** under the care of the regional government (**Generalitat Valenciana**), mostly comprising native species like ***Pinus spp.***, ***Quercus spp.***, and ***Juniperus spp.***. To ensure their conservation, in addition to a team of officers, a conservation brigade performs up to **40-50 interventions per year**. Regular inspection of catalogue specimens is essential to monitor their health and changes in key parameters.



The remaining protected trees are primarily located on **private and municipal properties**, in both agricultural and urban areas. For the first case, **Castellon province** boasts a rich heritage of monumental olive trees (***Olea europaea***), while in **Valencia province**, notable big carob trees (***Ceratonia siliqua***) can be found. In urban areas, significant cases include palms (***Phoenix spp.***, ***Washingtonia spp.***) and trees from various exotic genera like ***Eucalyptus***, ***Araucaria***, and ***Platanus***.