



The opportunity provided by Sunderland Museums and Winter Gardens for 'Flowers of Crete' Charitable Trust, based in Pano Elounda, Crete, has caused a considerable amount of interest amongst residents, concerned with the protection of the Cretan environment.

Three palms are to be planted immediately in the grounds of Bioaroma, the locally based essential oils company, which is establishing Lassithi's first botanic gardens and a small natural history museum. Amongst plants already well-established here are beds of *O. dictamnus*, *C. creticus*, as well as wild thymes, marjoram and sage. The owner, Manoussos Pedititis is committed to environmental protection and is a member of 'Flowers of Crete'. The palms will provide a focal point in the area set aside for Crete's endemic and endangered species.

A further five palms have been accepted by the Committee of 'The Gouves Wetlands Trust' near Hersonissos in order to establish a protected colony on the north coast. These will be planted in a small ceremony for local people and Committee members during December.

The remaining palms will be in the care of 'Flowers of Crete's' founder, Julia Jones, until a safe and stable, wild environment can be established. The wetlands east of Aghios Nikolaos, near the beach of Almyrida has been put forward as an ideal site and, if and when local authorities have given their approval, five more palms will be planted in a protected area.

This is the first time such a project has been attempted, thanks to the support of Lee Stephenson and the Winter Gardens in Sunderland and, it is hoped, that this will be the first of such projects. The concept has been welcomed by conservationists, botanists and nature lovers on the island.

On behalf of 'Flowers of Crete' Julia Jones would like to extend thanks to Lee and The Winter Gardens for this generous help. Thanks are also offered by the Committee of the 'Gouves Wetlands Trust' and by Manoussos Pedititis at 'Bioaroma Botanic Garden'.

Julia Jones
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