

The Latest on Mediterranean Forests

N°13 March 2009



Editorial

After its official approval, the QUALIGOUV project is up and running. Two years of hard work have been necessary in which the soundness of our professional Mediterranean network, created thanks to the RECOFORME project, has been demonstrated.

Different proposals and lines of work have been generated thanks to bonds between the former partners and similar links with those who have joined the project in a quest for solutions to the problems of Mediterranean forests. One such proposal, which is the core of this project, concerns the improvement of governance and the quality of forest management in protected areas.

The concept of natural protected area has been evolving over the last decades. Although, in the past, a natural protected area was considered to be just a space to be kept intact from human interference, nowadays it has become clear that what needs to be protected is the role of man in the creation of natural areas. Especially in the case of Mediterranean landscapes which have been modified and formed by human beings throughout history. It is not possible to understand either mankind or landscape separately or independently.

Therefore, it is not a question of removing people from our natural areas; what is required is making their use conditional on the needs for maintenance and improvement. And, in this context, the role of local populations is fundamental because they live close to or inside these territories and they must be rewarded for the care they bring to their landscapes. The challenge for all of us taking part in the QUALIGOUV project is this: finding mechanisms that will transform the conservation of our protected areas into a motor for the sustainable development of those people involved in preserving them.

Mario VELAMAZAN ROS¹
IAMF Administrative Board Member

¹ Mario Velamazán Ros belongs to the Murcia Regional Government Administration. As a member of the lead partner of the Qualigouv project and an IAMF Administrative Board member, he is happy to announce in this editorial the good news of Qualigouv's acceptance.

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Recently, IAMF took part in...

Marseille (France)
December 18 2008

David Gasc, Project Manager, attended the annual meeting of the MED programme on evaluating the results of the first call for proposals and the conditions for submitting for the second call, dating from February 16 2009.

Rome (Italy)
January 29-30 2009

Jean Bonnier, Executive Secretary, David Gasc and Jean de Montgolfier, Council member, participated in the working meeting between the partners of the NATURA ECO and CLIMATE RISKS projects, for the second call for proposals of the MED programme.

Paris (France)
March 13 2009

Louis Amandier, Council member, took part in the Seminar "Forests faced with climate change", coordinated by the Institute for Forest Development. This meeting, attended by more than 100 participants, established at a national level the "intertech-nological network".

Marseille (France)
January 27 2009

David Gasc took part in the technical information meeting of the MED programme regarding the second call for proposals in February 2009.

Marseille (France)
March 3 2009

David Gasc attended the Lead Partner Seminar of the first call for proposals of the MED programme, with a view to launching the QUALIGOUV project selected in February 2009.

Rome (Italy)
March 16-20 2009

Beti Piotta, Council member, represented the IAMF at the 19th session of the Committee of Forestry, organized by the FAO.

Membership and/or subscription form

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<input type="checkbox"/> Membership fee for organizations (50 €) and reduced subscription to the quarterly "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" (2 €) : 52 €	I will pay my membership fee by: <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive an invoice <input type="checkbox"/> international money order <u>net of exchange and transfer charges</u> on the account HSBC Marseille n°30056 0019401945406464 60
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The organization of forestry in Cyprus

by Nektarios Karios and Andreas Antoniou

Introduction

Cyprus is an island situated in the south-east of the Mediterranean, with an area of 9,251 km². The variety of topographical features, the geology and the climate have created an outstanding landscape and great diversity in plant species.

The Mediterranean climate hinders the forests' timber productivity, leading to insignificant economic and social results within the national economic context. Conversely, their indirect benefits are highly appreciated and the demand for services and non-commercial uses is increasing.

The decline of the broad agricultural sector has resulted in the abandonment of the countryside which in turn has led to the expansion of wild plant cover. These areas are classified in two

major groups: forests and other woodlands and they are either state-owned or private holdings.

Land tenure and cover

The land tenure system was established about a century ago and is based on cadastral (land register) mapping. Ownership is categorised as private or public, public ownership is managed under the forest law (forest land) and the land law (*hali* land).

According to the statistics of CORINE land cover 2000 (Figure 1), the island has the following categories:

Categories	%
Artificial surfaces (1**)	7,63
Agricultural areas (2**)	47,89
Forest and semi-natural areas (3**)	44,12
Wetlands (4**)	0,21
Water (5**)	0,15

Figure 1: Cyprus CORINE land cover (2000)



Forest administration

The Forestry Department (FD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources formulates the country's forestry policy and has absolute responsibility for the general management of state forests and other state woodlands on the island.

Forest policy

Cyprus implements a National Forest Programme devised for carrying out the Rural Betterment Strategy, which aims at safeguarding forest resources for the benefit of the whole community while procuring the advantages of development based on ecotourism. It is achieved by:

- ✓ action to protect and enhance forest cover, water supplies, wildlife and the national heritage in State forests,
- ✓ afforestation and the restoration of degraded land in the wider countryside,
- ✓ safeguarding

Table 1: Distribution of forest areas according to land tenure (x1000 ha)

Class	State Land			Private Land			Total		
	Area (ha)	% of the total forest area	% of the total area of Cyprus	Area (ha)	% of the total forest area	% of the total area of Cyprus	Area (ha)	% of the total forest area	% of the total area of Cyprus
Forests	105,8	27.37	11.48	66,97	17.32	7.27	172,77	44.69	18.75
Other woodland	50,74	13.12	5.50	163,12	42.19	17.70	213,86	55.31	23.20
Total	156,54	40.49	16.98	230,09	59.51	24.97	386,63	100	41.95

Source: Forestry Department (2005)

ding (as national parks, nature reserves etc.) particular locations which have outstanding landscape or cultural importance, possess exceptional ecological or scientific interest, developing them for recreation and tourism where this does not conflict with conservation aims. These special sites can be demarcated both inside and outside the State forests,

✓ encouraging, guiding and controlling recreation and tourism development through local planning, zoning and development permits, always in compliance with Town and Country Planning Regulations, with the strict proviso that State forests will on no account be used for building development.

Forest areas

Almost all forest areas are either natural (*Cedrus brevifolia*, *Pinus nigra*, *Quercus alni-folia*...) or semi-natural (*Acacia saligna*, *Pinus pinea*, *Eucalyptus*...). Of the total forest area, high forests comprise 44.69%, whereas maquis and lower vegetation such as scrub and *phrygana* account for 55.31%. Plantations comprise only 2.3% and are mostly composed of *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Acacia saligna*, *Pinus spp.*, and *Cupressus sempervirens*.

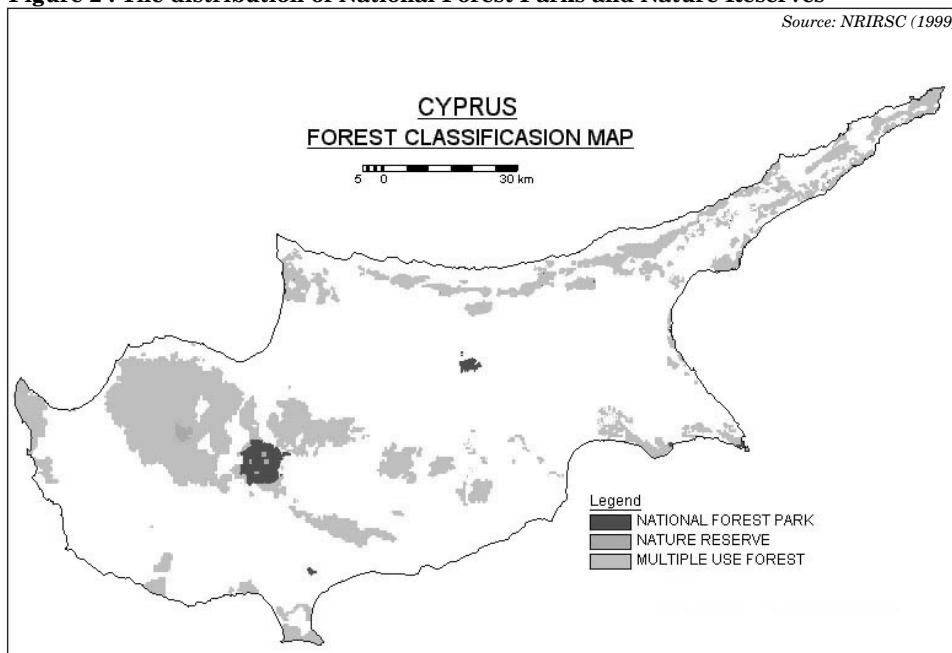
Forest vegetation is primarily found in the Troodos and Pentadaktylos ranges and along the coastal belt (Figure 3) such as the Akamas,

Akrotiri and Karpasia peninsulas, Cape Gkreko and along the northern coasts. Forest vegetation is lacking from the central plain of Mesaoria, which is a semi-arid zone. There the plant cover is made up from communities of *Ziziphus lotus* and *Crataegus azarolus*, and low shrubs e.g. *Sarcopoterium spinosum* and *Thymus capitatus*.

State forests

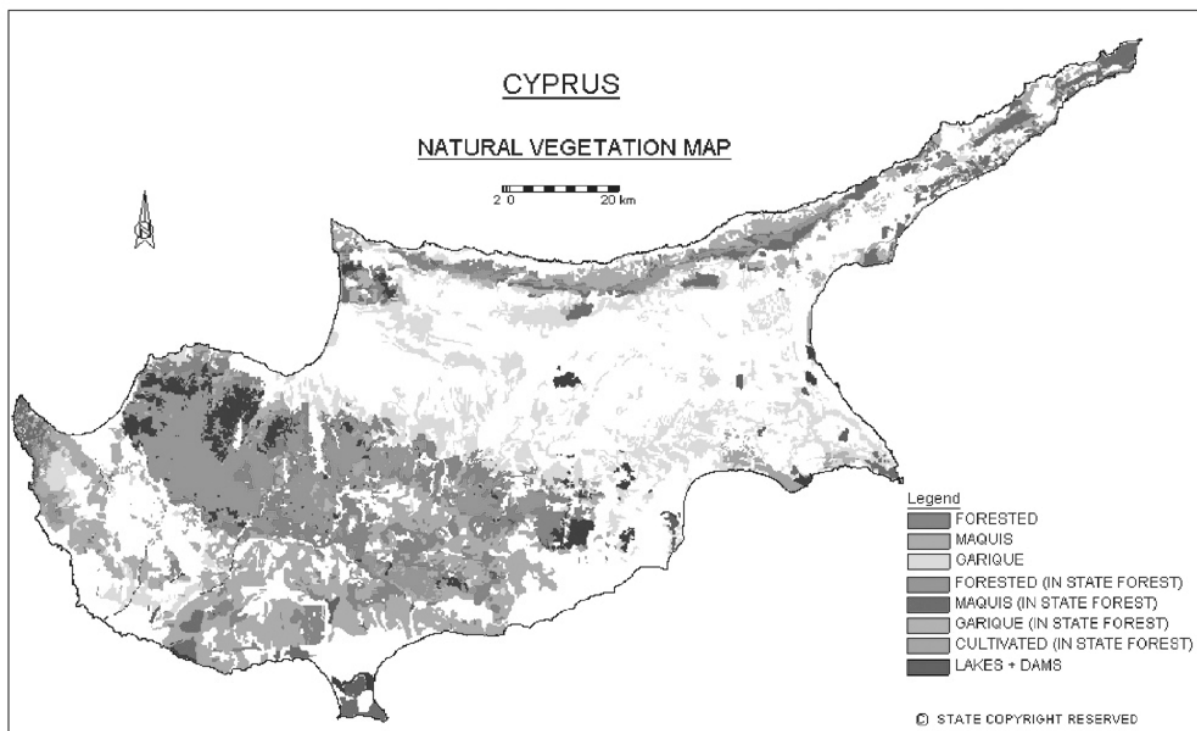
The state forests and state woodlands cover 16% of the total area of the island and 40.49% of the total forest area (Table 1). They comprise large continuous areas, found mostly in the Troodos and Pentadaktylos ranges. They

Figure 2 : The distribution of National Forest Parks and Nature Reserves



Source: NRIRSC (1999)

Figure 2: Natural vegetation of Cyprus



are managed on a regular basis exclusively by the FD.

State forests are managed multipurposely, mainly for protection, recreation and conservation. To these ends, considerable areas are classified as Nature Reserves, National Forest Parks (Figure 2) and “Nature 2000” sites.

Private Forests

Private forests and other private woodlands cover 24.97 % of the island’s total area and 59.51% of its total forest area (Table 1). Their scattered distribution and the difficulty in determining who are their owners are brakes on the development of functional management of such private forests holdings – though a limited number of grants are available.

These holdings are also subject to pressures from unregulated development and competing uses. Therefore, for their protection the government has classified considerable portions either as Areas of Extreme Natural Beauty under land development law or as “Nature 2000” sites under nature protection legislation.

Biodiversity

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the world’s biodiversity hot spots and Cyprus has a very rich biodiversity. It is home to around 1,900 plant taxa of which about 140 (7%) are endemic. It lies on bird migration routes and 370 bird species have been recorded: 6 of them are endemic, 52 permanent residents and 114 breeders. There are also 32 mammals, 22 serpents, 3

amphibians, 52 butterflies and some 6,000 insects.

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All the maps are available in colour on request

Forestour: enhanced value for Mediterranean forests through greater public reception

by Isabelle Desmartin, Coordinator



The association Forestour - a French acronym from Forêt Réseau Tourisme - was set up in 1993 by a small group of forest landholders in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region in S.-E. France. These owners sought to form a network for exchange and reflection on the theme of profitable forms of leisure activity in forests and the conditions for subsidising landholder projects.

In fact, forest owners, faced with the low return on logging in Mediterranean forests, point out the obvious riches of their forests as well as the general public's strong impulse to take part in outdoor recreational activities and green tourism, especially in this southern (Mediterranean) part of France. So, developing activities related to receiving a wider public in woodland areas has been seen as a way of making more use of, and bringing value to, areas which have gradually gone into decline. However, such reception should not take place to the detriment of the environment which is itself the actual attraction or the backcloth. Respecting the environment thus represents a commitment that members adhere to by signing a sustainable management charter which provides a framework for their activities.

From the outset, the Association has fostered meetings between landholders with projects, discussions, field trips to work carried out and, via the newsletter Flash Forêt Tourisme, has monitored activities and progress in their shared efforts. As a result, several projects have taken shape on woodland holdings in the region: horseriding centre, adventure trail and educational woodland park, walking holidays, special events venues, fishing trail and lake, forest campsite, gîtes and bed-and-breakfasts...

Such individual undertakings have been further underpinned by recognition of the collective initiative led by Forestour: promotion of the "social" function of forests parallel to its economic (timber...) and environmental (biodiversity, water resource...) roles, (re)discovery of forests and woodlands by government and forestry professionals at the regional as well as, more gradually, at a national level.

Such recognition has manifested itself by the incorporation of the concept of the forests' social function into the Forestry Orientation Act of 2001. The groundwork for this legislation was prepared by the report on forests written by Jean-Louis Bianco and by the growing number of requests for information about Forestour's initiative and its undertakings, and the activities now run by its members.

At present, the association maintains an active network, notably through its internet site

www.forestour-paca.org and through its event "Forum on private woodlands open to the public". This gathering, held annually since 2004, brings together for one day forest landowners along with elected representatives and technical staff from local councils, national and regional civil services and other bodies as well as professionals involved in forests, the environment and tourism, all of whom are very aware of the issues relating to the social and environmental functions of woodlands. Some of the topics considered have included: the process of setting up activities open to the public, special events in the forest, carbon sinks, certification, sustainable management of forests. There have been contributions from experts and accounts of activities from active members.

Studies carried out by Forestour, particularly of administrative areas incorporating shared reflection (Countries, grouping a number of municipalities, rural districts with a forestry charter) have highlighted existing projects and activities and informed forest landowners, making them more aware of the possibilities for setting up tourist and leisure activities in woodlands. Certain studies have led to the designing and dissemination of tools as aids in setting up projects involving reception of the public in woodland contexts: an administrative tool kit to support landowners in putting together a project (advice, examples, resources...), a manual for sustainable management of woodlands for owners who receive the public, presentation sheets describing

possible activities engaging the public in forests...

Also, the association is behind an initiative linking public reception with action for the protection of the environment. In 2006, Forestour launched a scheme called "ForestAvenir – I'm planting against the greenhouse effect" whose aim is obtain recognition for the role of forests and foresters in the fight against climate change through concrete example: in this case, planting trees to thwart the greenhouse effect. Recognised by the campaign "For seven million trees" launched by

the United Nations' Programme for the Environment, ForestAvenir made a contribution to this objective in 2007 by an initial planting in the Var department. Renewed planting is underway now, at the beginning of 2009.

Forestour is an original undertaking, as yet unduplicated, bringing together private forest landholders to move forward in thinking about issues involving the social and environmental functions of forests and woodlands, especially Mediterranean forests. On this basis, the associ-

ation has established links with other regions with a view to developing similar projects and, by virtue of its aims and manner of working, is open to exchange and sharing of experience.

FORESTOUR

contact@forestour-paca.org

Zooming in on... a new member

With each new issue, "The Latest on Mediterranean Forests" will introduce a new IAMF member



Ana Fornazar joined our association in 2009.

A Croatian forestry expert, she enrolled at the Faculty of Forestry in the University of Zagreb.

During her studies, she was an active member of the social initiatives in the uprising of civil society after the war in Croatia.

She was a volunteer in "Green Action" in Zagreb, an environmental NGO, while attending different gender and peace, project management and

team-building educational workshops.

After graduating in forestry, she obtained another university diploma in journalism at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. She found her link to environmental journalism by writing for "Alert!", an environmental webzine, and "Una terra" magazine.

She is author and editor of 26 "Environmental features", short television programmes about current environmental problems, good practices and protected natural and forest areas in Istria where she lives and works.

From 2008, she has worked as an expert in the new branch of the Croatian Forest Research Institute specialising in non-wood forest products and services in the Region of Istria.

This position creates links in two directions - with departments of the Istrian Regional Government Council and the Croatian Forest Research Institute in Jastrebarsko, near Zagreb.

Collaboration with the regional department for agriculture and forestry has led to a participation in the Mediterranean "model forest network" of her branch institution.

She will be actively involved in the implementation of a MED model forest project which should result in establishing a model forest in region of Istria in the next three years.

Apart from Croatian, her mother tongue, she is fluent in English, uses Italian and understands Spanish, too.

You can reach Ana Fornazar at: anaf@sumins.hr

Mediterranean forests, the talk of the town!

For more details and the latest updated information, don't forget to check the diary on our website (www.aifm.org).
And don't forget: tell us about any event that doesn't appear in the diary - it will make it that much better!

First preparatory workshop "Energy-Forest-Territories"

19 March 2009 - Oppèdes (France)

Website: <http://www.foret-mediterranienne.org/evts2.htm>

Conference "Sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region"

6-7 April 2009 - Nice (France)

Website: http://www.eesc.europa.eu/sections/sdo/index_en.asp?id=1310001sdoen

Training workshop on forests and forest fires

15 April 2009 - Marguerittes (France)

Contact: contact@grainelr.org

2009 EFIMED Annual Meeting

28 April-1 May 2009 - Marrakech (Morocco)

Website: http://www.efi.int/portal/about_efi/organisation/regional_offices/efimed/networking/efimed_annual_meetings/efimed_am_2009_-_marrakech

International Conference "Climate changes and environmental evaluation"

26-29 May 2009 - Niamey (République du Niger)

Website: http://www.sifee.org/Niamey_2009/Niamey_2009.htm

IUFRO Workshop "Forestry utilization in Mediterranean countries"

17-18 June 2009 - Calabria Region (Italy)

Website: www.ciosta.unirc.it

Conference "Biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean area"

22-28 June 2009 - Cagliari (Italy)

e-mail: info@ccb-sardegna.it

19th Regional Meetings on the Environment

1-3 October 2009 - Château-Arnoux / Saint-Auban (France)

Website: <http://www.arpe-paca.org/infos.asp?ThNum=Th00000275>

6th National Forestry Congress "Forest in a globalized world"

6-9 October 2009 - Ponta Delgada (Portugal)

Website: <http://www.spcf.pt>

13th World Forestry Congress on the topic "Forests in Development: a Vital Balance"

18-25 October 2009 - Buenos Aires (Argentina)

e-mail: info@cfm2009.org

Website: www.wfc2009.org

4th International Congress "Fire ecology and management"

30 November-4 December 2009 - Savannah (USA)

Website: <http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home.html>

5th International Wildland Fire Conference

9-13 May 2009 - Sun City (South Africa)

Website: <http://www.wildfire2011.org>

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