

CYPRUS

Competent authority(ies) for nature & biodiversity:

Environment Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (MANRE)
Forestry Department, MANRE, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, MANRE, Game Fund, Ministry of Interior

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf/environment_gr/environment_gr?OpenDocument
(http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/moa/Agriculture.nsf/index_en/index_en)

Most recent national/subnational biodiversity strategy/action plan:

Environment Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment:

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf/environment_gr/environment_gr?OpenDocument

- (1) The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP), for Cyprus is prepared by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).
- (2) Protocol concerning, Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
- (3) Biodiversity Concerns in ICAM Biodiversity Activity

Latest review of the implementation of biodiversity strategy/action plan:**Alignment with EU biodiversity plan:**

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cy>

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cy/eu/art17/envrui_3a

Alignment with EU 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010):

Reporting on Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/information/foI059413>

Key sources of official nature & biodiversity information used for evaluation:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment:
http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/moa/Agriculture.nsf/index_en/index_en
- Department of Fisheries and Marine Research:
http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLAqa_en/DMLAqa_en?OpenDocument
- Game Fund Service, Ministry of Interior
<http://www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy/index-g.php#>
- Cyprus Operational Programme for Fisheries Press Release:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/44&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
- Cyprus Sustainable Development Strategy:
http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/countr/cyprus/nsds_2007en.pdf
- Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, Mediterranean:
<http://www.rac-spa.org/>

- Country Profile-Convention on Biological Diversity:
<http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=cy>

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN DELIVERY OF OBJECTIVES OF EU BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

A POLICY AREA 1: BIODIVERSITY IN THE EU

1. To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species.

Natura 2000 sites (terrestrial and marine) (A.1.1, A.1.2 & A.1.4)

| | <i>Number of sites</i> | <i>Area (km².)</i> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total SCIs/SACs (Habitats Directive) | 36 | 711 |
| SCIs/SACs with marine component (Habitats Directive) | 5 | 50 |
| Total SPAs (Birds Directive) | 7 | 788 |
| SPAs with marine component (Birds Directive) | 1 | 21 |

Number of SCIs and SACs - Natura 2000 Barometer – June 2008 (Source: European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity based on data supplied by Member State)

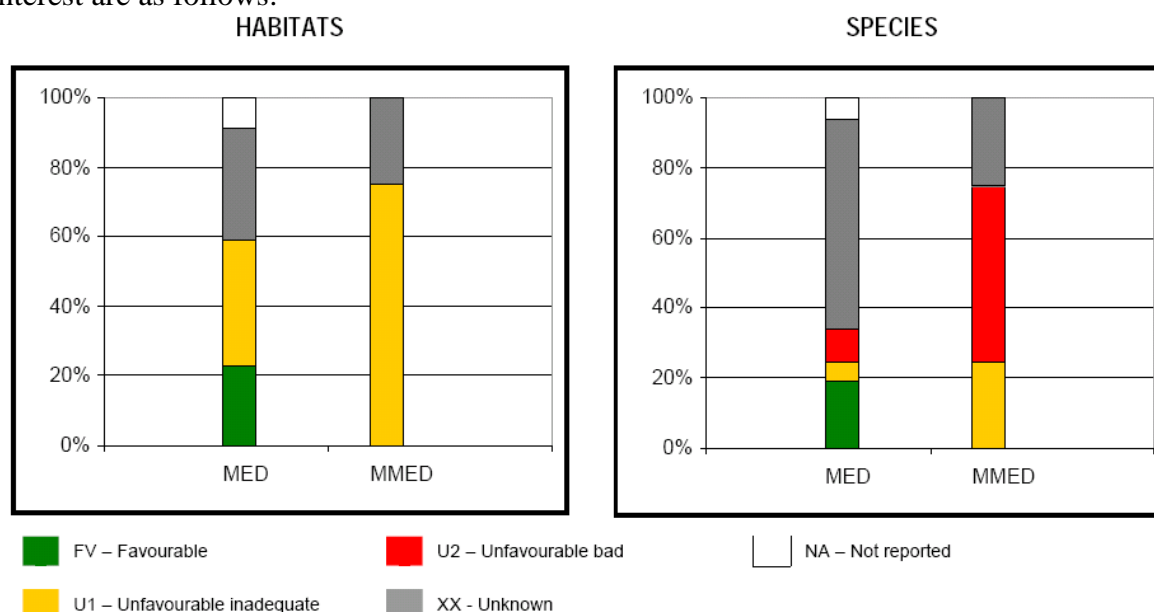
Cyprus was considered, by June 2008, to have achieved a level of sufficiency of 25 % for site selection for species and habitat types under Habitats Directive, in its territory. However, none of Natura 2000 sites have completed/agreed management plans, although 13 will be completed soon.

According to the EC LIFE Programme/Database, under the LIFE Nature programme, there was 1 project in Cyprus with EC contribution of EUR 1 530 766, during the period 2000-2006. In the year 2007, according to indicative national allocations, Cyprus' projects received EUR 2 000 000 from LIFE+ funds.

Spatial data is available online.

Conservation status assessment (A1.2)

Under the Habitats Directive Cyprus has one biogeographical region (mediterranean). The results of the first conservation status assessment for species and habitats of community interest are as follows:



| Region / Conclusion | HABITATS | | | | | SPECIES | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA | FV | U1 | U2 | XX | NA |
| Mediterranean | 23 | 36 | | 32 | 9 | 19 | 6 | 9 | 60 | 6 |
| Marine Mediterranean | | 75 | | 25 | | | 25 | 50 | 25 | |
| Member State | 21 | 40 | | 31 | 8 | 18 | 8 | 12 | 56 | 6 |

*The conservation status categories: FV = favourable, U1 = unfavourable-inadequate, U2 = unfavourable-bad, XX = unknown, NA = no evaluation given by MS

Overall assessment of conservation status by biogeographical region (Analysis by the European Topic centre on Biological Diversity based on data supplied by Member State)

Red Data Books/Lists, National/Subnational Atlases, Action Plans (A1.3)

The data from Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus (2007) is integrated into conservation planning via the Management Plans that are being prepared for the sites included in the Natura 2000 Network. Also the information of the Red Data Book is being widely used during the preparation and assessment of the EIA's prepared under the provisions of the EIA Directive. The same applies for the reports prepared under the SEA Directive. Dated 25/2/2008, atlases are available for the following groups: Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, Butterflies and Vascular Plants. The data from Atlases are integrated into conservation

planning via the Management Plans that are currently being prepared for the sites included in the Natura 2000 Network. It should be noted that the work on species distribution was part of the work done for the reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

Ex-situ conservation is being carried out at the National Genebank (medium term collection), which was founded in 1985 at the ARI, with approximately 12,000 samples are conserved, mainly cereals, food and forage legumes as well as wild relatives, endemic and rare plants

Common bird monitoring (A1.4)

Common bird monitoring is carried out by Game Fund Service (Ministry of Interior) and the BirdLife Cyprus. The results and trend indicators could not be found.

Information could not be found on ecological connectivity tools or species action plans.

2. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU countryside.

Rural Development Programmes (A2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.8):

According to information supplied by the Cypriot authorities, the Axis 2 budget of the RDP accounts for about 43.4 % of public RDP expenditure (i.e. EAFRD allocations plus co-financing). The majority of Axis 2 funds are focused on agri-environment payments (24.3 % of EAFRD expenditure). There is also a small allocation of funding for forest environment measures (0.3 % of total EAFRD expenditure).

Natura 2000 funding measures are not utilised.

Agricultural genetic diversity (A2.1.11):

Besides some initiatives on the international level, the Cyprus' Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) is involved in several projects and programmes at the national level, aiming at the conservation of genetic resources. These include for example the programme for collecting, conserving and utilising the genetic variability existing in local germplasm, as well as the programme for the conservation of the local breed of cattle. Programmes also focus on public awareness rising regarding the usefulness of rare domestic breeds and of the problems that they face as well as the need to conserve them. Furthermore, according to the country, the target to maintain genetic diversity has been incorporated in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Agricultural cross-compliance measures (A2.1.4 & 2.1.10):

According to readily available information no GAEC standards are applied in Cyprus although Good Farming Practice guidelines are used. However, there have been a series of presentations around the island in order to inform the farmers about their responsibilities and how to establish the good agricultural and environmental condition for their agricultural circumstances (at national or regional level).

Afforestation / deforestation policies and biodiversity (A2.1.5):

According to Cyprus, planning tools such as EIA, GIS, guidance documents and biodiversity surveys are used for plans, programmes and projects regarding afforestation and deforestation operations. SEA is mentioned regarding deforestation operations only. Legislation regarding SEA and EIA ensures that biodiversity is taken into consideration for any potential deforestation operations, states the country. The Environment Service and the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (MANRE) are being involved in afforestation procedures through either the EIA process or through guidance under other procedures (e.g., Law on Planning Permit). The aim of this involvement is to ensure that afforestation will not have any effects in the biodiversity. In addition, it seems that a national/ subnational strategy ensures assessments of biodiversity regarding afforestation and deforestation. However, no details are available.

Soil protection and biodiversity (A2.2.1):

With regard to the evaluation of biodiversity loss and the identification of relevant indicators some initiatives have been started, focusing on the monitoring of relevant species such as spiders and fungi. Risks to soil biodiversity loss and the identification of geographical risk areas are taken into account within its National Plan on Combating Desertification and a soil country analysis. Research has been undertaken (e.g., Coastal Area Management Programme). Measures to improve the ecological status of freshwaters (A2.3.1):

Cyprus has completed all the legal transposition and the implementation elements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) which have deadlines during 2004, 2005 and 2007. These include the production of a River Basin District Report and River Basin Analysis report and Monitoring Network Report.

Measures to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity (A2.4.2 & 2.4.3):

According to Cyprus' 2006 National Programme Report under the NEC Directive, the country already meets ceilings set by the European Union. It will be able to achieve them also by 2010, although a slight increase in nitrogen oxide emissions is expected.

3. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU marine environment.

Good marine ecological status (A3.1a):

According to the Article 17 National Summary, 75 % of the Mediterranean Marine Environments in Cyprus have an 'unfavourable-inadequate' status, and a further 25 % are unknown.

Cyprus is a contracting party to the Barcelona Convention and therefore has responsibilities under the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Strategic Action Plan for Protection of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO). According to the Barcelona Convention, the Contracting Parties shall, individually or jointly, take all appropriate measures to protect and preserve biological diversity, rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as species of wild fauna and flora which are rare, depleted, threatened or endangered and their habitats, in the area to which this Convention applies. The Cyprus National Report to SAP-BIO provides information on the current status with regards to Mediterranean biodiversity in Cyprus as well as main issues/threats of relevance and priorities of action.

There does not appear to be a specific national Marine Strategy for Cyprus, but the following strategies contain elements affecting the marine environment: National Strategic Plan for Fisheries 2007-2013 and the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) strategy.

Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) (A.3.1.b):

In 2006, Cyprus reported to the EU on their plans to develop and implement an ICZM Strategy. The report aimed to provide information on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in order to contribute to the 2006 review of the EU ICZM Recommendation. Between 2006 and 2008, Cyprus will focus in promoting a Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP Cyprus) taking into consideration other pertinent initiatives such as the EU Ecolabel, Natura 2000 and EUrosion. The EU review undertaken in 2006 shows that, although Cyprus does not yet have a formal ICZM policy, they currently undertake ICZM through spatial planning processes.

Pollution: Bathing water quality (A3.2)

This is the fourth year that Cyprus has reported data on bathing water quality in coastal areas. During the 2007 bathing season 100 bathing areas were monitored, all with sufficient sampling frequency. These were the same as last year. The bathing water quality was very good during the 2007 bathing season. The results from the monitoring of the water quality demonstrated that 99 % of the bathing areas met both the mandatory and the more stringent guide values. There were no areas where bathing was prohibited.

Ecosystem approaches in Fisheries management measures (A3.3):

Within the National Strategic Plan for Fisheries 2007-2013 the foreseen measures, such as the reduction of fishing effort, the use of more selective fishing gear, and the withdrawal of trawlers, incorporate the ecosystem approach. These measures are undertaken in accordance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy and contribute to the minimization of the impact of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and aim at promoting sustainability of marine resources.

The Plan also sets goals for the protection of the marine environment which include the establishment of marine protected areas according to Natura 2000, the construction of artificial reefs in conjunction with the establishment of protected zones, which will inter alia serve as fish refuges, the mapping of important marine habitats such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, the monitoring of impacts of human activities on the marine environment, and the implementation of relevant National and E.U. legislation.

Community and National Financing under European Fisheries Funds (EFF) (A3.4):

The Operational Programme for Fisheries 2007-2013 incorporates environmentally-friendly measures. These measures include reduction of the fishing fleet capacity, introducing more environmentally-friendly aquaculture methods, and promoting the quality of the coastal environment. The majority of the EFF contribution for Cyprus (65 %) went to Axis 3 'Measures of Common Interest'. Axis 1 'Measures for Adaptation of the Fishing Fleet' received 11 % of the EFF funds and Axis 2 'Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products' received 16 % of the EFF funds.

Within the framework of the Cyprus Operational Programme for Fisheries 2007-2013 funds have been allocated for the protection and development of the aquatic ecosystem. Specifically, support from Axis 1 gives incentives to owners of fishing vessels for permanent cessation of their fishing activities in order to achieve the reduction of the fishing fleet capacity and adjust the fishing effort at levels that correspond to the available fish stocks. Axis 2 supports granting compensation for the use of aquaculture production methods helping to protect and improve the environment and conserve nature, such as organic aquaculture. Axis 3 supports measures of common interest, refers to the protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora, such as the construction of several artificial reefs that will enhance biodiversity and improve the aquatic environment.

Restoration programmes for diadromous species (A3.5.a):

There are no fisheries management plans for diadromous species in Cyprus. No commercial fisheries exist in Cyprus' inland waters, as there are no rivers with perennial flow in the country. In fact, most rivers flow 3 to 4 months a year and are dry the rest, while most of them have been dammed in any case to provide water for drinking and irrigation.

Fishing Capacity-Decommissioning (3.5.b):

According to EU Member State Fleet Statistics, between 2004 and 2006, the number of vessels in Cyprus' fleet declined by 2.8 %. The total tonnage was reduced more dramatically; a decline of 54.4 % over the same period. The total power declined by 22.7 %.

In the 2006 Annual Report on the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the implementation of projects within the framework of the Single Programming Document for Fisheries 2004 – 2006 were described. These included the project 'Scheme for the Scrapping of Fishing Vessels'. The project began in December 2004 and ended in September 2006.

Within the project two bottom trawlers fishing in territorial waters of Cyprus and five multipurpose/ polyvalent fishing vessels were scrapped.

According to the EU press release, the Operational Programme 2007-2013 for Cyprus also contains measures aimed at the reduction of the fishing capacity of the fleet.

Action plans and conservation status for marine species and habitats (A3.6):

As a contracting party to the Barcelona Convention, Cyprus has adopted the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Turtles within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The objectives of this Marine Turtle Action Plan are: (1) the protection,

conservation and, where possible, enhancing of the populations of marine turtles in the Mediterranean; (2) the appropriate protection, conservation and management of the marine turtle habitats including nesting, feeding, and wintering areas and migration routes; (3) improvement of the scientific knowledge by research and monitoring. In addition, five other regional Action Plans have been adopted within the MAP context. These directly concern species conservation for the most threatened and most emblematic species in the Mediterranean. Species included are: monk seal, cetaceans (especially bottlenose dolphin), seabirds such as Audouin's gull, cartilaginous fishes like the great white shark and the saw-shark and marine plants i.e. macrophytes and plant assemblages seen as natural monuments, like *Posidonia* barrier reefs. Since 1978, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) has been running the Cyprus Turtle Conservation Project, the first project of its kind in the Mediterranean, to protect the marine turtles *Chelonia mydas* (Green turtle) and *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead turtle). The project involves the protection of adult turtles, eggs, hatchlings, and nesting beaches, the monitoring of turtle populations and nesting activities, and raising of public awareness in turtle conservation. A coastal/marine protected area, Lara – Toxeftra, has been established since 1989 in order to protect the most important nesting habitats of the marine turtles. The management measures of the protected area are spelled in the Fisheries Regulations. Since 1989 the DFMR with the help of the Cyprus Wildlife Society (CWS) has been running training courses in Turtle Conservation Techniques, sponsored by UNEP/MAP. The Action Plans adopted in the MAP context described above all include an objective relating to the elaboration and setting up monitoring programmes and monitoring networks for the species in question. The Biostrat Marine Biodiversity and Policy Survey for Cyprus describes research programmes relating to marine biodiversity in Cyprus. The LIFE-Nature project 'Conservation management in NATURA 2000 sites of Cyprus' includes monitoring of the habitat type Seagrass meadow *Posidonia oceanica* for the Kavο Gkreko marine protected area.

Aquaculture planning and biodiversity (A3.7):

There is an Operational Programme for fisheries and aquaculture in Cyprus for 2007-2013. Regarding aquaculture development, Cyprus follows the precautionary approach principle. In addition, for issuing an aquaculture license an Environmental Impact Assessment Study needs to be submitted and approved by the Environmental Committee. From that point on, offshore aquaculture farms are obliged to perform environmental monitoring studies based on Monitoring Program Protocol drafted by DFMR. Also within the Fisheries Operation Program 2007-2013, it is not foreseen that any aquaculture development within Natura 2000 areas will take place and it further supports granting compensation for the use of aquaculture production methods helping to protect and improve the environment and conserve nature, such as organic aquaculture. Moreover, the use of non-native species in aquaculture is now managed under the provisions of the Commission Regulation 708/2007 concerning the use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture.

4. To reinforce compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU.

Biodiversity spending under Cohesion and structural funds:

Furthermore, there is no data available for Cyprus on expenditures foreseen under the Cohesion and structural funds for the period 2007-2013 in the areas of Biodiversity & nature protection, Promotion of Natural Assets or Natural Heritage.

5. To substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes.

Strategies to reduce impacts from invasive alien species (A5.1.2):

According to Cyprus, no dedicated national/subnational legislation addresses IAS. However, a study made in 2006 indicates that some regulations are in place regarding the import and export, intentional introduction and control of aquatic invasive alien species. The country states that the Environmental Service is currently preparing a proposal regarding a ban on the import on certain IAS that may harm Cyprus' biodiversity. An action plan referring to species introduction and invasive species in the Mediterranean sea exists. Furthermore, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) has published a scientific report on marine invasive species in Cyprus. Currently a list of marine invasive species is being prepared.

Biosafety measures to reduce impacts from alien genotypes (A5.1.2 & 5.1.3):

Relevant EU Regulations and Directives have been adopted/ implemented in the framework of the country's accession to the European Union, including Regulation 1946/2003 on transboundary movements, which implements the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety into EU law. Furthermore, the country itself ratified the Protocol.

LAW 160(I)/2003 transposed the Directive 18/2001/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into national legislation.

Cyprus installed a scientific working group dealing with coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming. Further consultations have been proposed.

B. POLICY AREA 2: THE EU AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

6. To substantially strengthen effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Cyprus has not prepared their National Biodiversity Strategy yet. The Third National Report to the CBD was prepared in 2005 and it is the first National Report submitted by Cyprus to the CBD. Cyprus has not submitted thematic reports to the CBD. No information is available on how and by how much is biodiversity conservation financed. Moreover, no information is available on financial support to developing countries from Cyprus. Cyprus paid their annual contributions to CBD, Ramsar, CMS, World Heritage Convention and the UNEP Environment Funds. Cyprus is not a member of AEWa, however the agreement has been adopted and it will be ratified within the next few months.

7. To substantially strengthen support for biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU external assistance.

Funds allocated for biodiversity projects and programmes in developing countries (B7.1.3) and Members State's Overseas Countries and Territories (B7.1.6):

The main bodies responsible for Cyprus' development cooperation are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an inter-ministerial committee. The country has developed a list of top priority countries for Cypriot Development Cooperation. According to the country, Cyprus is not yet able to implement projects on its own due to its fairly recent involvement in development activities. Therefore, although its funding of biodiversity related projects in developing countries is unknown, support is unlikely to be currently significant.

Integration of biodiversity considerations into development programmes and projects impacts on biodiversity (Action B7.2.2 & 7.2.5):

Due to time and language constraints on this study, no readily available information could be

found on this subject. The extent to which biodiversity considerations are taken into account in external projects and programmes is therefore unknown.

8. To substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services.

According to the number of CITES certificates, Cyprus has a very low level of trade in CITES species. The number of import documents issued in 2005 was 2. 2003/4 figures also indicate a low level of trade in CITES species. 3 seizures were recorded in 2005/6. No confiscations were recorded in 2003/4. According to the 2003/4 report, national capacity was built through increased budget for activities, hiring of more staff and computerisation. Advice/guidance was provided to the Management Authority, the enforcement authorities and traders. Training was provided to Management Authority, NGOs. Cyprus paid their annual contribution to the CITES Trust Funds in 2006.

C. POLICY AREA 3: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

9. To support biodiversity adaptation to climate change.

Progress on Kyoto targets (C9.1.1):

Cyprus has no legally binding emission limitation commitments under the Kyoto protocol, but as an EU Member State, it is bound by the obligations set in the Emissions Trading Directive. The European Commission in 2007 assessed the National Allocation Plan for 2008-2012 greenhouse gas emissions and substantially cut the proposed number of emission permits to be allocated: the annual allocation is 5.5 Mt of CO₂ allowances, which is 23 % less than Cyprus had proposed.

Over the period 1990-2005, greenhouse gas emissions in Cyprus increased by 63.7 %, reaching 9.9 Mt CO₂ eq in 2005. Projections for 2010 suggest that emissions will continue to increase and will be 101.6 % above baseline levels.

Adaptation measures to increase biodiversity resilience to climate change (C9.4.1 & 9.4.3):

According to its reports to CBD, Cyprus does not appear to have clear targets or strategies for climate change adaptation measures for biodiversity. Its CBD reports indicate that targets relating to increasing the resilience of biodiversity are incorporated in sectoral plans, programmes and strategies. However, no details of these targets or related actions are given. From the information provided in its CBD report there is no indication that Cyprus has undertaken scientific studies of the vulnerability of its habitats and species to climate change.

D. POLICY AREA 4: THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

10. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally.

National research programmes (D10.1):

Cyprus has a national programme to support biodiversity research. There are four main projects included under this programme. These include: mammal monitoring plans (*Ovis orientalis ophion*), which receives EUR 200 000 annually; turtle monitoring plans (*Chelonia mydas*, *Caretta caretta*), which receives EUR 80 000 annually; Life Nature (Plants and Birds Monitoring), which receives total of EUR 2 500 000 for the project; and Transition Facilities - Preparation of Natura 2000 Management Plans, which receives EUT 1 100 000 total for project.

There is currently no national or sub-national biodiversity forum for Cyprus.

E. THE FOUR KEY SUPPORTING MEASURES

1. Ensuring adequate financing

Overall use of Community funds for biodiversity:

Biodiversity-related activities under the relevant priority axes of the Cypriot RDP 2004-2006:

| Axis | EU Contribution (EUR) | National Contribution (EUR) | State aids (EUR) | Total (EUR) |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Strengthening of the socio-economic conditions of rural areas (diversification) | 42 050 000 | 36 330 000 | 13 420 000 | 91 800 000 |
| Protection of the environment & sustainable mgt of natural resources | 4 250 000 | 4 250 000 | 0 | 8 500 000 |

The 2006 annual report from the Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment talks about the Restructure and Variety Conversion of Vineyards Scheme of 2005-2006, applied exclusively in an area covering 199.6 hectares of vineyards found in quality wine produced regions. The total amount paid to vine growers was £1 314 837 and was entirely funded by the European Community.

RDP (2007-2013)

The main priorities under axis 2 of the 2007-2013 RDP cover agro-environmental measures including in the Natura 2000 areas, as well as compensatory payments to “Less Favourable Areas”. Moreover, actions will be undertaken towards the protection of forests and to the further expansion of forest areas through the appropriated forest measures. The budget allocation under this axis is EUR 141 143 400 of which the EAFRD funds EUR 70 571 700 (50 % of the budget).

According to the Cyprus, the estimated allocation to nature and biodiversity spending amounts to EUR 141 000 000 or 45 % of the overall agri budget; and allocations to N2000 management amount to EUR 3 300 000 or 1 % of the overall agri budget.

Specific allocations to biodiversity-related activities provided by the MS in the questionnaire:

| Activity | Allocation (EUR) |
|--|------------------|
| Installation of Agri-Forestry Systems | 289 333 |
| Forest protection from fires and reforestation of burnt areas | 4 500 000 |
| Conservation & Improvements of Social and the Ecological role of Forests | 6 000 000 |

Fisheries OP

Within the framework of the Cyprus Operational Programme for Fisheries funds have been allocated for the protection and development of the aquatic ecosystem. Specifically, the financing of the construction of several artificial reefs with EUR 1 500 000, that will enhance biodiversity and develop the aquatic fauna and flora, is programmed to take place for the period 2007-2013.

Moreover, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) participated in the following EU funded projects:

MedVeg: Funded under the Fifth Framework Programme “Quality of Life” (Contract no.:Q5RS-2001-02456). Its overall objective was to examine the environmental impacts of fish farming on benthic vegetation (seagrass and macroalgae) and benthic fauna, as well as to

provide new insights for monitoring purposes. The budget for this project is EUR 442 000 to which the EU will contribute 50 %

MedMPA: The Regional Project for the development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedMPA) (ref.:ME8/AIDCO/2001/0132/SMAP) was implemented and coordinated by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of UNEP/MAP with funding from EU. In Cyprus the study was in general focused on the study of marine biodiversity and biological mapping in three coastal/marine sites as well as on the drafting of preliminary management plan. The total cost of the project was EUR 2 191 169 with an EU contribution of EUR 1 748 374.

National Programme for the Collection of Fisheries Data

Since 2005 the Cyprus National Programme for the Collection of Fisheries Data is conducted, within the framework of the Data Collection Regulation (Regulation (EC) 1543/2000). The National Programme is co-funded by the Cyprus Government and the European Commission (50 % - 50 %, with a budget of EUR 590 000 in 2008) and covers the following modules:

- a) Module of Evaluation of Inputs: Fishing Capacities and Fishing Effort
- b) Module of Evaluation of the Catches and Landings
- c) Module of Evaluation of the Economic Situation of the Sector.

Under the Module of Evaluation of the Catches and Landings, Cyprus collects, among others, catch information (landing and discards data) for all species caught, even non-commercial ones. This Module also includes the conduction of the International bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITS).

2. Strengthening EU decision-making

Plans and follow-up to UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (E2.1):

Cyprus is following-up the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment at the national level by assessing the following systems; marine, inland water and wetland, coastal and island, cultivated, natural grassland, forest, mountain and urban. The services assessed include: biodiversity, fresh water quality, carbon sequestration, water flow regulation, nutrient cycling and climate and air regulation.

Alignment of national biodiversity strategies with EU (E2.2):

Cyprus does not have a national biodiversity strategy as such. According to the Third National Report on the Convention of Biological Diversity (2005), a wide range of actions to protect biodiversity have been incorporated in the new Environmental Protection Strategy. The main objective of the Environment Protection strategy and the national policy framework for the protection and improvement of biodiversity in Cyprus incorporates biodiversity and ecosystem concerns as well as decision making. National strategy such as the ICAM for Cyprus consider the threats and the quality of the environment, and development of guidelines for the incorporation of biodiversity concerns. Other aims of the Environment Protection strategy include: protection of the country's biological heritage and raising awareness on issues such as the protection of habitats, species, the landscape and the coastal zone; protecting soils and combating desertification; pursuing agri-environmental measures; sustainably managing marine resources; safeguarding forest biodiversity; and regulating biotechnology.

In addition, a Forest Biodiversity Management Action Plan was adopted and is being implemented, including National forest parks management and the construction of a network of well organized and equipped Environmental Information Centres.

The CBD Country Profile for Cyprus states that several national and international plans or programmes have integrated objectives related to the 2010 target, such as the National Forest Programme, the Rural Development scheme, and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

However, a new national environmental policy or strategy has not been created or updated in

light of the Communication 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond.'
Effective integration of Natura 2000, Rural development, river basin management and other territorial plans and programmes in support for biodiversity (E2.5):

A strategic objective of the sustainable development strategy 2007 for Cyprus is the protection of biodiversity, including "Management, protection and sustainable development of the 'Natura 2000' network and the associated populations of flora and fauna."

According to the Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2005), biodiversity-related targets are incorporated into the Rural Development scheme, which encourages sustainable farming systems, as well as the National Forest Programme (2000 to 2009). The Third National Report for the CBD also notes that Cyprus does not currently use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity. However, there are plans to introduce indicators that have been analysed in the Coastal Area Monitoring Programme (CAMP).

Additionally, there is a River Basin Management Plan incorporating a Program of Measures aligned to the EU Water Framework Directive that developed indicators. These will soon be included in a monitoring scheme for biodiversity analysis.

3. Building partnerships

National partnerships for biodiversity including private sector involvement (E3.1):

There are initiatives aimed at promoting biodiversity and business partnerships in Cyprus in both the tourism and mining sectors. A guidance document for sectors is also available in the form of the Natura 2000 Management Plan. A business award scheme was piloted recently by the Environment Service MANRE, taking into consideration, amongst other themes, biodiversity. The award scheme will be repeated every two years.

4. Building public education, awareness and participation

National/Sub-national public awareness campaigns/initiatives (E4.1):

According to the ECNC analysis of the Flash Eurobarometer Survey, 84 % of respondents from Cyprus had never heard of the term 'biodiversity'. Of those who had heard of the term 'biodiversity', only 6 % knew what it meant. Overall, 42 % of respondents from Cyprus felt that they were either 'well informed' or 'very well informed' about biodiversity loss. A total of 71 % of respondents from Cyprus had never heard of the Natura 2000 network, and of those who had, 8 % knew what it was. Despite not necessarily knowing what it meant, 61 % of respondents from Cyprus, felt that they made personal efforts to protect biodiversity. According to the Third National Report for the Convention of Biological Diversity (2005), the Environment Service has a budget dedicated to the funding of environmental awareness-raising campaigns. A study has been carried out, in collaboration with the University of the Aegean, on environmental awareness based on the requirements of the EU Directives. The study assessed the current situation in Cyprus and identified the needs for environmental awareness initiatives.

Appropriate material was also prepared for each segment of the population, so as to promote environmental education, awareness, and public participation based on the requirements of the EU legislative framework.

F. MONITORING

Information on indicators is not available. Very little detailed information is available on monitoring schemes in Cyprus. Monitoring schemes identified in Cyprus include Conservation management in Natural 2000 sites of Cyprus, Special areas of conservation (Directive 92/43 EEC) in Cyprus and the river valleys Project, in Cyprus

DATA SOURCES

A1. To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species:

Member State Questionnaire response

Article 17 report <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>

Natura 2000 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/barometer/index_en.htm

<http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/atlas/viewdata/viewpub.asp?id=2639>

Completeness of N2000

http://themes.eea.europa.eu/TMS/ISpecs/ISpecification20041007131611/guide_summary_plus_public

Spatial data http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/db_gis/index_en.htm#sites

Common Bird Monitoring <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm-cyprus.html>

LIFE expenditure <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

Ex-situ measures <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.doc>

A2. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU countryside

A2.1.1, 2.1.2 & 2.1.8

Published National Rural Development Programmes (IEEP database 2008)

European Commission unpublished data (2008)

MS questionnaire

A2.1.11

Third National Report to the CBD

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.pdf>

A2.1.4 & 2.1.10

Alliance Environment (2007). Evaluation of the application of cross compliance as foreseen under Regulation 1782/2003. Part I: Descriptive Report - 26/07/2007. Report to the European Commission.

A2.1.5 & A2.2.1

MS Questionnaire

<http://www.moa.gov.cy>

A2.3.1

WFD Scoreboard http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/transp_rep/scoreboard_en.htm

A2.4.2 & 2.4.3

Cyprus NEC Directive submission (13 Dec 2007)

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cy/eu/nec>

NEC Directive National Programmes

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/nationalprogr_dir200181.htm

MS reporting to NEC Directive

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/implem_nec_directive.htm

A3. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU marine environment

A3.1a

Article 17 National Summary-Cyprus

<http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=content2&catid=001001002>

http://medmpa.rac-spa.org/pdf/cyprus_fr.pdf

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLSea_en/DMLSea_en?OpenDocument

<http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/agriculture.nsf/All/24A782D6BB26BAA2C22573F2003D8190?OpenDocument&highlight=national%20marine%20strategy,plan,biodiversity>

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLnationalstrategic_gr/DMLnationalstrategic_gr?OpenDocument

A3.1.b

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/evaluation/iczm_national_reporting_cyprus.htm

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/evaluation/iczmdownloads/cyprus2006.pdf>

A3.2

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/summary_report_2008.html

A3.3

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLnationalstrategic_en/DMLnationalstrategic_en?OpenDocument

A3.4

MS Questionnaire

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/op/cyprus_el_01.pdf

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/44&format=HTML&aged=0&language=E>

[N&guiLanguage=en](#)

[A3.5.a](#)

[A3.5.b](#)

[http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/All/1764D8E3317283E5C225730800521516/\\$file/report2006.doc?OpenElement](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/All/1764D8E3317283E5C225730800521516/$file/report2006.doc?OpenElement)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/44&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleetstatistics/index.cfm?lng=en>

[A3.6](#)

http://www.rac-spa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=106&Itemid=149

<http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mul38126.pdf>

http://www.rac-spa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=106&Itemid=149

[http://www.biostrat.org/Marine %20Biodiversity %20ReviewCyprus.doc](http://www.biostrat.org/Marine%20Biodiversity%20ReviewCyprus.doc)

<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/cyprus/>

http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/DMLSea_en/DMLSea_en?OpenDocument

[http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/All/D9759D1D7CF5BF39C22570D60032D8D0/\\$file/TMALIEI1.PDF?OpenElem](http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dfmr/dfmr.nsf/All/D9759D1D7CF5BF39C22570D60032D8D0/$file/TMALIEI1.PDF?OpenElem)

[A3.7](#)

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/op/cyprus_el_01.pdf

A4. To reinforce compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU

Infoview Data (DG Regio)

LIFE+ 2007 Call for Proposals – DG Environment

LIFE expenditure 2000-2006 – DG Environment

A5. To substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes

[A5.1.2](#)

MS questionnaire

Miller, C., Kettunen, M. & Shine, C. 2006. Scope options for EU action on invasive alien species (IAS) Final report for the European Commission. Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), Brussels, Belgium.

[A5.1.2 & 5.1.3](#)

European Commission Report on the Implementation of National Measures on the Coexistence of Genetically Modified Crops with Conventional and Organic Farming

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/coexistence/index_en.htm

National legislation and information

<http://www.cyprus.gov.cy>

B6: To substantially strengthen effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services

[B.6](#)

<http://www.cbd.int/convention/parties/contributions.shtml?tab=2&yr=2007>

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.pdf>

http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_12_e.htm

http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/32_stc_meeting/French/Doc_09_Fonds_Affectation_avec_Annexes.pdf

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/31COM/documents/>

http://www.unep.org/rmu/en/Financing_of_UNEP/Environment_Fund/Table_2007/index.asp

B7. To substantially strengthen support for biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU external assistance

[B7.1.3 & 7.1.6:](#)

<http://www.mfa.gov.cy/>

B8. To substantially reduce the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services

[B.8](#)

<http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/reports/biennial.shtml>

<http://www.cites.org/common/resources/reports/pab/03-04Cyprus.pdf>

<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-07-1.pdf>

C9: To support biodiversity adaptation to climate change

[C9.1.1](#)

EC (2007) Communication from the Commission. Progress towards achieving the Kyoto objectives.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/gge_progress.htm

C9.4.1 & 9.4.3

Third National Report to CBD (2005)

<http://www.cbd.int/reports/>

D10. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally

D10.1

MS Questionnaire

http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/moa/Agriculture.nsf/environment_en/environment_en?OpenDocument

E1. Ensuring adequate financing

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/countries/cy/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/countries/cy/index_en.htm

Annual report for the year 2005 - department of fisheries and marine research of Cyprus

http://www.imbc.gr/whats_new/ecology_biodiversity_projects.html

http://www.smaponline.net/img/Toolkit/files/int_coa_reg_pro_project2.pdf

E2. Strengthening EU decision-making

E2.1

MS Questionnaire

E2.2

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.pdf>

<http://www.cbd.int/countries/profile.shtml?country=cy#thematic>

E2.5

http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/cyprus/nsds_2007en.pdf

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.pdf>

E3. Building partnerships

E3.1

MS Questionnaire

E4. Building public education, awareness and participation

E4.1

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cy/cy-nr-03-en.pdf>

F1-4. Monitoring, evaluation and review

C

<http://eumon.ckff.si/>