

INTRODUCTION - SUMMARY

1983

General

Progress in forest development continued at a high rate during the year under review. All the targets set for the year, the main of which were the following were achieved:

Protection of the forest, especially against fires; reforestation of burnt and other bare areas; production of timber, other forest products, seeds and seedlings; tending of forest crops; management of forests; forest education; forest research; application of Forest Engineering with a view to (a) maintain, improve and expand the forest roads, forest telecommunications and forest buildings and (b) secure new machinery and equipment and maintain the existing ones; conservation of nature in forest areas, establishment, expansion and maintenance of picnic sites; provision of employment to forest villagers.

Expenditure.

With a view to achieve the above targets £1,692,613.000 mils and £1,201,911.000 mils were approved in the Ordinary and Development Budgets respectively. The total amount spent out of both Budgets was £2,654,274.000 mils.

Revenue.

Apart from the indirect benefits of the forests, which cannot be calculated in terms of money, an amount of £724,814.000 mils was collected by the Forest Department as revenue in 1983. An additional amount of £184,580.000 mils representing forest products on credit is still to be collected.

Forest Protection

As emphasised in the Annual Reports of recent years, the protection of existing forest against fires, especially during the prolonged dry and hot summers, is the principal concern of the Forest Service. The following preventive and fighting measures were taken against forest fires during the year under review:

- (i) A Fire Fighting Task Force consisting of 58 members was in operation. Its members were employed on various forest operations at strategic points in the forest being at the same time on call at any time through radio telephone.
- (ii) During the summer months 10 Fire Look-Out Stations, found on various high peaks in the Forest were manned on a 24-hour basis, in order to detect and report forest fires.
- (iii) About 1,770 kms of forest roads were constructed and 3,210 kms were widened. In addition 7,825 kms of vehicle tracks and 33,940 kms of extraction roads were constructed, which serve also as fire traces.
- (iv) Two water tanks of 20,000 gallons each, one at Finokli (Paphos Forest) and one at Katsarapis (Adelphi Forest), were constructed during the year under review. Seven hydrants one at Finokli (Paphos Forest), one at Dhamalaes, one at Katsarapis and one at Xyliatos (Adelphi Forest), one at Orkontas (College Forest), and two at Kato Amiandos (Troodos Forest) have been installed on pipes which pass through the Forest and on Water tanks, to supply water in the event of a fire, to the Departmental fire engines.
- (v) Daily mobile patrols in the forest, but especially along the delimitation line, warning and advising villagers and others not to start a fire, were carried out throughout the summer months.
- (vi) Lectures on the prevention and suppression of forest fires were given to the National Guard, the Police and the public. Also extensive publicity was made through the various mass media.
- (vii) The mechanisation which was initiated in 1978 with the acquisition of fire vehicles and fire pumps for the extinction of Forest fires, proved very successful, efficient and encouraging. At present the Department has at its disposal for fire fighting 6 fire engine lorries and 35 fire pumps.

(viii) Foam was used on a trial basis for the third time against forest fires. The results were very encouraging and similar trials are therefore planned on a bigger scale. In spite of the measures taken in 1983, 22 forest fires broke out and burnt a forest area of 16 hectares (120 dons) part of which was bearing no forest trees. The volume burnt was 654 m³ R.O.B. It's worth mentioning that the year under review was the 2nd best year with the smallest area burnt since records are kept, i.e. 1885. All fires were put under control almost immediately after they broke out; the largest of them, which burnt an area of 9.0 hectares (67 dons), was put maliciously by an oldman who was taken to court.

The offender admitted his offence without giving reasons for his action and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Usual protection measures were taken against illicit grazing and other offences which were rather limited.

An aeroplane was used for a fourth time for spraying against the Prosessionary caterpillar attacking pine, using Baccillus thurigiensis, along tourist roads and popular forest areas. The results were very encouraging, mortality being practically 100%. It is important to be mentioned that with such biological control of the pest no environmental pollution is caused.

Reforestation

An area of 5618 donums (752 hectares) was reforested, while an area of 607 donums (81 hectares) which was cultivated will be sown or planted in 1984. The total amount spent on reforestation was £337,948 and it was less than that of the previous year by £7052.- Reforestation was not only carried out in Paphos, Troodos, Adelphi, Limassol and Macheras forests but also in other bare areas such as Randi, Mavralides, Frenaros, Megali Moutti, Ay. Nikandros I, Ay. Napa, Xylophagou,

Tafi ton Oiedon, Kofinarka, Achnarka, Kannes A + G, Rousamoutti A, Kakoradjia A + B and Neolina.

Seventeen tractors were employed almost continuously for ground preparation, three of which were special ones (Menzi Muck) suitable for climbing and working on steep slopes. A big number of labourers were also employed for planting and sowing. Small catastrips were also constructed with the above mentioned special tractors; these small catastrips were done where the use of bulldozers was impossible or not indicated.

Forest Expansion.

During 1983, the work of the Expansion Division was fruitfully continued. Thus an area of 317.43 hectares (2,373 donums) found at Kelodedara, Alambra, Shia, Mosphiloti, Mari, Hirokitia, Pyrgos (Limassol) was declared as Main State Forest. Namely the following were declared as Main State Forests: Ziripilli, Karis (I-XVII) Psoumadhes I & II, Hji Lazarides and Choraferi.

At the same time the procedure of bringing under forestry more lands covering an approximate area of 643 ha (4,808 donums) especially in the vicinity of Asgata, Klirou, Ay. Napa, Aradippou, Avdellero, Koshi, Yermasoyia, Akrounda, Finikarka, Pano and Kato Polemidhia, Palekhori, Pano Lefkara, Lythrodhontas, Pera Orinis is nearing completion. These areas are derelict and dry and will be afforested as soon as possible, for purposes inter alia of recreation and amenity. Furthermore an area of 630 (ha) 4713 donums is under study by various authorities to be declared as State Forests.

Timber Production and Disposal.

During the year under review timber extraction and supply to local wood-working industries continued in a very satisfactory way.

52,143 m³ R.O.B. of green timber were extracted from various State Forests and sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries Co. Ltd., and to private individuals, for the production of constructional timber, chipboard, box-shooks etc. An amount of 6,668 m³ R.O.B. of branchwood, delivered to C.F.I. for particle board is included in the above figure. The revenue of the Department from timber sales was about £545,693.- In addition timber valued at £184,580.- was sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries Co. Ltd., on credit.

During 1983 the operation of Platania Sawmill continued and 40 m³ of sawn timber were produced. Part of the sawn timber was used Departmentally for the construction and maintenance of Forest buildings and part was sold or given free of charge to various Departments.

The Department issued 57 sawmill permits during 1983.

During the same year the value of imported timber and timber products amounted to £29,712,243.- as against £28,353,915.- in 1982 i.e. an increase of 4.79% was observed.

Silviculture.

During the year under review, among other silvicultural treatments, attention was given to the watering of plants especially in the plains and most of the funds were spent for this purpose. An area of about 1224 hectares (9,150 donums) was treated silviculturally at a cost of £54,267.-

The Selection System has been replaced in certain forest areas and under certain conditions as described in the main text.

Although the year under review was not a good seed year, the stock of seed from last year was adequate to cover the Departmental needs and requests for export. A quantity of about 3,092.15 kgs of seed was collected at a total cost of £7,921.- A quantity of 50.90 kgs was exported at a revenue of £1005.450, mils.

The production of seedlings in the Departmental nurseries was adequate. 594,928 seedlings were raised compared to 357,426 in 1982, the seedlings produced in 1983 plus the stock of previous years' production reached 915,354 including 885 seedlings (hohcpa) taken over from the Agricultural Department for experimental purposes. Out of this quantity 138,229 were used Departmentally, 267,978 were sold to the public or other Government Departments and 56,275 were given free of charge to schools, village authorities and other organizations and institutions for planting on public or communal lands.

Forest Management.

The results of the new Inventory of the Main State Forests which was initiated in 1981, was successfully completed in 1983 with the following results:-

1. Growing Stock 3,130,000 m³ R.O.B.
2. Periodic Increment for the last 10 years 585,000 m³ R.O.B. (i.e. 58,500 m³ R.O.B. Annual Increment).
3. Annual Yield for the next 10 years 1982-1991 has been fixed to be 57,000 m³ R.O.B.

During the year under review a new forest Inventory for Golden oak (Quercus alnifolia) in Machera, Adelphi and Troodos forests was completed and work started in p Paphos forest.

The area covered with Golden oak is estimated 23,700 hectares. Due to the great demand of this species for both production of Charcoal and heating purposes, it was necessary to adopt a new forest Inventory to estimate both the Increment and Yield of this species. With the help of a computer 500 temporary sample-plots of 0.2(ha²) each were selected as follows:- 33 temporary sample plots for Machera forest, 48 for Adelphi forest, 143 for Troodos forest and 276 for Papho -forest.

During 1983, 1,257 hectares (9,397 dons) of forest land were leased for Agricultural and Animal husbandry purposes. Prospecting permits, quarry licences and mining licences were as usual issued or renewed in State Forests.

Forest Education.

The Cyprus Forestry College completed in 1983 its 32nd Academic year. Ten Cypriot students, one from Belize one from Seychelles, one from Zambia and one from Fiji island obtained their diploma. The 33rd Academic year began on the 3rd October, 1983 with a complement of 40 students out of whom 29 were Cypriots and 11 from other countries.

Nineteen M.Sc. students with three University Lecturers from the University of Oxford, Department of Agriculture and Forest Sciences visited the Cyprus forests and other natural resources of Cyprus from the 12th March to the 26th March, 1983. Accommodation and other facilities were offered to them for part of the above period at the College and elsewhere.

Certain officers participated at various international Conferences, Seminars etc.

Forest Research.

Forest Research and Publicity were continued on the same lines as in past years and intensified, against an expenditure of £4,196.-

Analytically Research dealt with problems of enriching the Cyprus flora through introduction and trial of exotics, forest genetics for production of good quality seed through the establishment of Seed Orchards, Tree Banks and Arboreta and forest protection against insects and fungi.

Forest Engineering.

(i) Forest Roads.

The construction of new forest roads and improvement of existing ones, constitutes an important aspect of the work of the Department, as roads serve on the one hand forest protection, tending and exploitation and on the other hand tourism and communication between forest villages.

During the year under review the following work was carried out by the Forest Department:

- (a) 1.770 kms of forest road at a cost of £5,988.-
- (b) 7,825 kms of Vehicle tracks at a cost of £16,878.-
- (c) 33,940 kms of extraction roads at a cost of £84,493.-
- (d) 3.210 kms of road widening at a cost of £6,460.- out of which £3,460.- was financed by the District Officer Nicosia.
- (e) Construction of two pipe culverts at Ayia Erini-Kyperounda road at a cost of £1,540.-

In addition the Department undertook the following work on behalf of other Authorities who also defrayed the expenditure involved:

- (a) Construction of 1.410 kms of vehicle track at Dikefalos-Vasilikos near Layia village on behalf of the Water Development Department at a cost of £3,000.-
- (b) Furthermore the Department constructed 1.325 kms of vehicle track at Apotheri near Kakopetria village on behalf of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus at a cost of £2,440.-

In addition 1,328 kms of roads, 603 kms of vehicle tracks and 458 kms of extraction roads, were maintained at a cost of £50,648.-

The total mileage of forest roads by the end of 1983 was 1,329.61 kms of forest roads, 611,27 kms of vehicle tracks and 491.89 kms of extraction roads.

(ii) Forest Telecommunications.

The Forest Department maintains a well-organised telecommunication network for proper forest protection and management. An amount of £25,671.- was spent for its maintenance and an amount of £8,450.- was spent for its extension and improvement. The telecommunication system in the free part of Cyprus by the end of 1983 consisted of the following:-

- (a) 406.6 kms of telephone lines
- (b) 384 telephone instruments
- (c) 9 telephone switch-boards
- (d) 7 V.H.F. radio links (14 sets)
- (e) 4 V.H.F. control stations
- (f) 143 mobile radio telephones
- (g) 116 portable radiotelephones
- (h) 12 loudspeakers (fixed on vehicles)
- (i) 7 loud hailers (portable)
- (j) 3 radiotelephone repeaters

(iii) Forest Buildings

A new Forest building was erected at Xerargaka against an expenditure of £4,781.- This amount was defrayed by the P.W.D. who demolished the existing Forest Station because of the need for widening a nearby public road.

Four pit-latrines were built one at Xerargaka picnic site, one at Platania, one at Ay. Paraskevi and one at Chionistra, for the sum of £3,200.- financed by the C.T.O. Major improvements were carried out at Yialia and Kambos forest stations at a cost of £4,870.- Equipment for various forest stations was purchased at a cost of £3,169.-

(iv) Machinery and Plant.

During 1983 minor machinery and equipment of a value of £2,993.- was purchased. For the running and Maintenance of all Machinery and Vehicles (including fuel and lubricants but excluding the wages of drivers) an amount of £262,935.- was spent.

Nature Conservation and Forest Recreation.

The Department of Forest during 1983 contributed greatly towards the effort undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources for Nature Conservation, through various activities, the main ones being the following:

- (a) The Department intensified its efforts through the organisation of lectures, voluntary work, ceremonies and speeches through radio and T.V. for expansion of tree planting and protection of Nature. The effective protection of the Cyprus moufflon (ovis ammon Cyprius) continued and the animal is now on the increase. The fallow deer (dama-dama) introduced by this Department in 1981 which are still kept in captivity at Platania Forest Stations have not unfortunately so far given birth to any young ones. Another three fallow deer (Dama-dama) two female and one male which were donated to the Forest Department by the Swiss Government are kept in captivity at Stavros Forest Station, next to the moufflon's enclosure.
- (b) An amount of £6,098.- was spent for improvement and/or extension of the picnic places at Xerargaka, Trooditissa, Ayia Paraskevi, Kionia, Profitis Elias, Komitidji and Xystaroudha. In addition to this amount £9,756.- was spent for the maintenance of Mandra tou Kambiou, Stavros tis Psokas, Ayia, Trooditissa, Cedar Valley, Kambin tou Kaloyirou, Prodomos dam, Marathos, Xerargaka, Platania, Pashia Livadhi, Mesopotamos, Kornos, Profitis Elias, Kionia, and Xerokolymbos picnic places. The Forest Department established a Nature Trail at Troodos, round Chionistra of a length of 1.3 kms. The cost which was £1,750.- was defrayed by the Cyprus Tourist Organisation.
- (c) An amount of £16,730.- was issued to EME for electricity supply to Ay. Napa camping site. The amount spent up to the end of the year was £16,007.-

Provision of employment to the inhabitants of forest villages.

With the socio-economic policy of the Government, which is expressed also through the Department of Forests, employment was provided to the inhabitants of forest villages. The total employment offered to both casual and regular employees was 472,160 working hours against an expenditure of £684,521.- Besides the labourers employed directly by the Forest Department, an additional number of woodcutters was also self-employed through tenders or otherwise in felling and transport of raw-material from the forests to various forest industries.

Acknowledgement

Warm thanks are expressed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources for its significant and effective help in the execution of the work of the Department. Thanks are also due to all Ministries and Government Departments for their close co-operation and to the Police, The National Guard, The U.N. Force in Cyprus, the British Bases, the Cyprus Telecommunication Authority, the BoyScouts, the Girl Guides, The Cyprus Forestry Association and to all other Organisations and individuals for their kind assistance to the Department of Forests. Last but not least, warm thanks are expressed to all the Forest Staff, senior and junior, for their hard-work, zeal and devotion to duty and for their close co-operation without which none of the targets and objectives of the Department would have been achieved.

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