

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1987.

INTRODUCTION - SUMMARY

GENERAL.

Progress in forestry 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 and other forest products, seeds and seedlings.
- Tending of forest crops.
- Rational management of the forests.
- Forest education.
- Preparation of management plans for the protection and development of natural environment.
- Forest research.
- Application of forest engineering with a view to:
 - Maintain, improve and expand the forest roads, the forest telecommunications and forest buildings.
 - To secure new machinery and equipment and to maintain the existing.
- Initiation of computerised methods in data recording and processing.
- Conservation and protection of nature in forest areas.
- Public recreation through the establishment, expansion and maintenance of picnic and camping sites.
- Establishment and maintenance of Nature Trails.
- Protection of flora and fauna.
- Conservation of Nature Monuments.
- Provision of employment to forest villages.

EXPENDITURE.

With a view to achieve the above targets £2,174,096.- and £1,435,500.- were approved in the Ordinary and Development

Budgets respectively. The total amount spent out of both Budgets was £3,490,105.- (i.e. about 97%).

REVENUE.

Apart from the indirect benefits of the forests, which cannot be calculated in terms of money, an amount of £982,250.- was collected by the Forestry Department as revenue in 1987. An additional amount of £170,863.- representing forest products sold on credit is still to be collected.

FOREST PROTECTION.

The protection of existing forests against fires, especially during the prolonged dry and hot summers, is the principal concern of the Forestry Service. The following fire protection measures were taken during the year under review:-

- a) The "Save our Forests Week" which was initiated in 1985 was celebrated again in 1987. In addition a "Save the Forests Day" was celebrated in all the schools of Cyprus, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education.
- b) 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.
- c) During the summer months eleven Fire Look-Out Stations, found on high peaks in the Forests were manned on a 24-hour basis, in order to detect and report forest fires.
- d) About 3.64 kms of forest roads were constructed and 29.60 kms were widened. In addition 8.39 kms of vehicle tracks and 21.40 kms of extraction roads were constructed, which serve also as fire traces.
- e) Two water tanks, one at Kambos Division and one at Adelphi Division were constructed during the year under review. Six new hydrants were 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.
- f) Daily mobile patrols in the forest, especially along the delimitation line, were carried out throughout the summer months, warning and advising villagers and others against forest fires.
- g) 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.

h) The mechanisation for the extinction of Forest fires, was successfully continued. At present the Department has at its disposal seven fire engines and 53 fire pumps of various types.

i) In spite of the measures taken in 1987, eighteen forest fires broke out and burnt a forest area of 96 ha. The volume burnt was 1,494 m³ R.O.B. All fires were put under control almost immediately after they broke out; the largest of them, in Paphos Forest, which burnt an area of 60 ha, started from private lands and due to favourable conditions expanded very rapidly.

The usual protection measures were taken against illicit grazing and other offences, which were limited.

Spraying from the air which was initiated in 1980, was continued during the year under review against the pine Prosessionary caterpillar, using Bacillus thuringiensis.

REFORESTATION.

An area of 620 ha was reforested, while an area of 136 ha which was cultivated will be sown or planted in 1988. The total amount spent on reforestation was £361,082.- Reforestation was not only carried out in Paphos, Troodos, Adelphi, Limassol and Macheras forests but also in other bare areas such as Randi, Orites, Aspromoutti, Vounari tou Athkiou II, Achna II, Sotira, Ormithia, Liopetri, Voroclini, Astrofegia I, III, V, Xylophagou, Moutti tou Ziou, Asgata, Scouros, Dypotamos, Stavrovouni and Athalassa.

Seventeen bulldozers were employed almost continuously for ground preparation, three of which were Menzi-Muck suitable for climbing and working on steep slopes and a big number of labourers were also employed for planting and sowing.

FOREST EXPANSION.

During 1987, the work of the Expansion Division was fruitfully continued. Thus an area of 21.1 ha found at Pera Orinis, Politico and Anafotia was declared as Main State Forest. Namely the following were declared as Main State Forests: Kato Vouno, Kafkalla and Anafotia I & II.

At the same time the procedure of bringing under forestry more lands, covering an approximate area of 1,972 ha found in Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia districts, is nearing completion. These areas are derelict and dry and will be afforested as soon as possible, for purposes inter alia of recreation, amenity and environmental amelioration. A further area of 220 ha is under study for declaration into Main State Forests.

TIMBER PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL.

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

A volume of 52,169 m³ R.O.B. of timber was 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. The revenue of the Department from timber sales was about £669,233.- In addition timber valued at £169,942.- was sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries Co. Ltd., on credit.

The Forestry Department issued 59 sawmill permits during 1987.

During the same year the net value of imported timber and timber products amounted to £24,536,060.- as against £25,092,318.- in 1986 i.e. a decrease of 2.22% was observed.

SILVICULTURE.

During the year under review, among other silvicultural treatments, attention was given to the watering of plants (572 ha), especially in the plains and most of the funds for silviculture were spent for this purpose. Additionally an area of about 450 ha was treated silviculturally (thinnings, cleanings etc).

The total amount spent was £77,333.-

Although the year under review was not a good seed year, the collection of the year with the stock of seed from last year, was adequate to cover the Departmental needs and requests for export. A quantity of about 1,247 kgs of seed was collected at a total cost of £8,196.- A quantity of 26.00 kgs exported at a revenue of £442.75 cents.

The production of seedlings in the Departmental nurseries was adequate. A number of 427,039 seedlings were raised compared to 481,398 in 1986. The seedlings produced in 1987 plus the stock of 1986 reached 804,518. Out of the total quantity 135,725 were used Departmentally, 239,971 were sold to the public or other Government Departments, and 70,386 were issued free of charge to schools, village authorities and other organizations and institutions for planting on public or communal lands. Also, 23,332 plants were issued free of charge to private individuals for forestation of privately owned properties.

FOREST MANAGEMENT.

a) A Provisional Management Plan was prepared for the protection and development of the Kavo Greco area.

The main aims of the plan are the protection of the environment, environmental education and public recreation.

b) The collection of the necessary field information which was initiated in 1986, for the preparation of a Management Plan and the edition of an information leaflet for the Tripylos Nature Reserve, was continued during 1987.

c) The Forestry Department, in close co-operation with other Government Departments and Services, took various necessary measures for the protection and preservation of vulture in Cyprus.

d) During 1987 a new section, the planning and Computerization, was established in order to undertake the Computerization in the Forestry Department. Another three computers were acquired, bringing the total to five.

e) During 1987 eight permanent sample plots, five at Troodos Forest and three at Macheras Forest, were reestablished in areas burnt, after the inventory of the Main State Forests in 1982.

f) During the year, 1,221 ha of forest land were leased for Agricultural and Animal husbandry purposes. One prospecting permit, ten quarry licences and two mining licences were issued in State Forests.

FORESTRY EDUCATION.

The Cyprus Forestry College completed in 1987 its 36th Academic year. Three Cypriot and seven foreign students, obtained their Diploma. A six-month Post-Diploma course was also organised and four candidates from abroad obtained the Higher Diploma in Forestry. The 37th Academic year began on the 2nd October, 1987 with a complement of 29 students out of whom 18 were Cypriots and 11 from other countries.

A group of students from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Crete (Greece) visited Cyprus Forests.

A number of officers of the Department participated at various international Conferences, Seminars etc.

FORESTRY RESEARCH.

Forest Research and Publicity were continued on the same lines as in past years, against an expenditure of £4,967.-

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

FOREST ENGINEERING.

a) Forest Roads.

The construction of new forest roads and the 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:

- 3.64 kms of forest road at a cost of £ 7,576.-
- 8.39 kms of vehicle tracks at a cost of £ 17,645.-
- 21.40 kms of extraction roads at a cost of £ 79,526.-
- 29.60 kms of road widening at a cost of £ 14,995.-

In addition 1,335 kms of roads, 630 kms of vehicle tracks and 556 kms of extraction roads, were maintained at a cost of £ 69,972.-

The total mileage of forest roads by the end of 1987 was 1,338.42 kms of forest roads, 637.94 kms of vehicle tracks and 577.81 kms of extraction roads.

b) Forest Telecommunications.

The Forestry Department maintains a well-organised telecommunication network for proper forest protection and management. An amount of £34,558.- was spent for its maintenance and an amount of £15,698.- was spent for its extension and improvement. This telecommunication system at the end of 1987 consisted of the following:-

- 410.32 kms of telephone lines
- 400 telephone instruments
- 9 telephone switch-boards
- 18 V.H.F. radio links
- 4 V.H.F. control stations
- 200 mobile radio telephones
- 190 portable radiotelephones
- 4 radiotelephone repeaters

c) Forest Buildings.

During 1987 was completed the work to convert the Platres Forest Station into two dwelling houses instead of one. Also during the year under review a new Fire Look-out Forest Station was erected at Tragonas (Kambos Division) as well as one store and one shed at Athalassa. Further more major improvements were carried out on Madhari (Adelphi Division) and Vouni (Panayia Division) Fire Look-out Forest Stations against a total expenditure of £19,809.-

Major improvements were carried out on two houses at Platania, one at Yefyri tis Panayias and one at Stavros tis Psokas Forest Stations as well as usual repairs to other forest buildings, at a cost of £19,877.- Equipment for various forest stations was purchased at a cost of £3,103.-

d) Machinery and Plant.

During 1987 minor machinery and equipment of a value of £4,911.- was purchased. For the running and maintenance of all Machinery and Vehicle (including fuel and lubricants but excluding the wages of drivers) an amount of £217,168.- was spent.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FOREST RECREATION.

The Department of Forests during 1987 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.

b) A comprehensive list of the endemic and endangered plant species of Cyprus was compiled and a systematic attempt for locating and identifying Cyprus flora was initiated in order to protect them.

c) The effective protection of the Cyprus moufflon (Ovis ammon orientalis Cyprius) continued and the animal is now on the increase.

d) An amount of £29,863.- was spent for creation, improvement and extension of the picnic and camping places. In addition £24,620.- were spent for the maintenance and cleaning of the picnic and camping places within the forests.

e) The Forestry Department established a new nature Trail at Stavros tis Psokas of a length of 2.60 kms at a total cost of £4,631.- The four Nature Trails at Troodos, the one at Akamas, the one at Kavo Greco, the two at Stavros tis Psokas and the one at Xyliatos Dam attract many walkers from both Cyprus and abroad.

PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT TO FOREST VILLAGES.

Under 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 61,360 work days against an expenditure of £1,048,787.- Besides the labourers employed directly by the Forestry Department, an additional number of woodcutters was self-employed through tenders or otherwise in felling and transport of raw-material from the forests to various forest industries, at a total of about 16,892 work days.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Warm thanks are expressed 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 Telecommunications Authority, the Boy-Scouts, the Girl Guides, the Cyprus Forestry Association, the Interministerial Youth Committee 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 Forestry Staff, 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 could have been achieved.