

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1988.

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 £2,414,834 and £1,485,140 were approved in the Ordinary and Development Budgets respectively. The total amount spent out of both Budgets was £3,713,270 (i.e. about 95%).

REVENUE.

Apart from the indirect benefits of the forests, which cannot be calculated in terms of money, an amount of £348,216 was collected by the Forestry Department as revenue in 1988. An additional amount of £154,616 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 1988. 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 80 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 thirteen 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 4.02 kms of forest roads were constructed and 39.00 kms were widened. In addition 6.95 kms of vehicle tracks and 19.10 kms of extraction roads were constructed, which serve also as fire traces.

e) Two water tanks, one at Yialia Division and one at Troodos Division were constructed during the year under review.

Five 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 59 fire pumps of various types.

i) In spite of the measures taken in 1988, twenty-six forest fires broke out and burnt a forest area of 750 ha. The volume burnt was 10,773 m³ R.O.B. All fires were put under control almost immediately after they broke out, except two. The first fire which burnt an area of 640 ha, started from the occupied area of Petra village and due to favourable conditions (strong wind and high temperature) expanded very rapidly to the forest area which is under the control of the Government of Cyprus. The other one started during military exercises of the British troops at Akamas and burnt an area of 53 ha.

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 processionary caterpillar, using Bacillus thurigiensis.

REFORESTATION.

An area of 600 ha was reforested, while an area of 256 ha which was cultivated will be sown or planted in 1989. The total amount spent on reforestation was £335,643. Reforestation was not only carried out in Paphos, Troodos, Adelphi, Limassol and Macheras forests but also in other bare areas such as Orites, Vouyias, Achna I,II, Sotira, Ormithia, Voroclini, Lourka I,II, Xylophagou, Moutti tou Ziou, Asgata, Dypotamos, Stavrovouni, Athalassa, Paedagogical Academy Forest, Kakoradjia A, Kato Vouno, Kafkalla and Lithero.

Eighteen 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 1988, the work of the Expansion Division was continued.

The procedure of bringing under forestry more lands, covering an approximate area of 1,896 ha found in Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos 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 1,128 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 44,745 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. An amount of 1,315 m³ R.O.B. of branchwood transported to C.F.I., is included. The revenue of the Department from timber sales was about £606,781. In addition timber valued at £154,561 was sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries Co. Ltd., on credit.

The Forestry Department issued 60 sawmill permits during 1988.

SILVICULTURE.

During the year under review, among other silvicultural treatments, attention was given to the watering of plants (196 ha), especially in the plains and most of the funds for silviculture were spent for this purpose. Additionally an area of about 551 ha was treated silviculturally (thinnings, cleanings etc).

The total amount spent was £75,289.

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 2,053 kgs of seed was collected at a total cost of £8,900. A quantity of 32.00 kgs exported at a revenue of £669.

The production of seedlings in the Departmental nurseries was adequate. A number of 440,188 seedlings were raised compared to 427,039 in 1987. The seedlings produced in 1988 plus the stock of 1987 reached 774,606. Out of the total quantity 165,726 were used Departmentally, 214,857 were sold to the public or other Government Departments, and 41,413 were issued free of charge to schools, village authorities and other organizations and institutions for planting on public or communal lands. Also, 27,435 plants were issued free of charge to private individuals for forestation of privately owned properties.

FOREST MANAGEMENT.

a) In accordance with the new national needs and requirements, during 1988 a preparatory work has been done for the revision of the classification of the Main State Forests. Special attention was given to Nature Conservation and Forest Amenity; the area of the National Forest Parks and Nature Reserves was increased considerably. As a

consequence of this revision it is estimated that the sustained yield will be decreased from 57,000 to 45,000 m³ R.O.B.

b) The programme of Technical Co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for the computerization of Forest Management has been completed. The result of the application of this programme was the supply of a sufficient number of hardware and software to the Forestry Department which are used very effectively. The Department has at its disposal five computers.

c) During the year, 1,123 ha of forest land were leased for Agricultural and Animal husbandry purposes. One prospecting permit, eleven quarry licences and three mining licences were issued in State Forests.

FORESTRY EDUCATION.

The Cyprus Forestry College completed in 1988 its 37th Academic year. Five Cypriot and five foreign students, obtained their Diploma. Two six-month Post-Diploma courses were also organised and nine candidates from abroad obtained the Higher Diploma in Forestry. The 38th Academic year began on the 2nd October, 1988 with a complement of 26 students out of whom 19 were Cypriots and 7 from other countries.

A two weeks educational tour to Greece was organized in June, 1988 for the Cyprus Forestry College students.

A group of students from the Merrist Wood College (England) visited Cyprus Forests between 12.5.1988 and 21.5.1988 on a study tour. Also in March 1988 eleven students from Amman Baccaloureate School (Jordan) visited the Cyprus Forestry College and they were informed on the College's activities.

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 £7,626.

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:

- 4.02 kms of forest road at a cost of £14,127
- 6.95 kms of vehicle tracks at a cost of £17,970.
- 19.10 kms of extraction roads at a cost of £79,585.
- 39.00 kms of road widening at a cost of £13,894.

In addition 1,338 kms of roads, 638 kms of vehicle tracks and 578 kms of extraction roads, were maintained at a cost of £ 63,666.

The total mileage of forest roads by the end of 1988 was 1,342.44 kms of forest roads, 644.89 kms of vehicle tracks and 596.91 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 £35,570 was spent for its maintenance and an amount of £20,310 was spent for its extension and improvement. This telecommunication system at the end of 1988 consisted of the following:-

- 409.83 kms of telephone lines
- 406 telephone instruments
- 9 telephone switch-boards
- 18 V.H.F. radio links
- 4 V.H.F. control stations
- 213 mobile radio telephones
- 231 portable radiotelephones
- 4 radiotelephone repeaters

c) Forest Buildings.

During the year under review a new Fire Look-out Station was erected at Moni (Adelphi Division). Also, major improvements were carried out on the canteen of Platania and one house at Stavros tis Psokas Forest Stations against a total expenditure of £18,108.

Major improvements were carried out on Platres, Amiantos and Kapoura Forest Stations, on the office of Forest Engineer and the canteen at Athalassa as well as usual repairs to other forest buildings, at a cost of £20,143. Equipment for various forest stations was purchased at a cost of £3,535.

d) Machinery and Plant.

During 1988 minor machinery and equipment of a value of £14,101 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 £223,407 was spent.

NATURE CONSERVATION .

The Department of Forests during 1988 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) The Forestry Department contributed to the preparation of the "Local Plan" for the Akamas Peninsula, as a member of the "Special Interdepartmental Committee" which was formed for this purpose.

c) It also undertook the finalization of the Provisional Management Plan for the Cavo Greco area, which was prepared in 1987, through consultations with all other interested Government Departments and Services.

d) The efforts to spot and protect Tree Monuments were intensified. The year under review a giant oak tree at Lania village was acquired.

e) The attempt for locating and identifying Cyprus flora which was initiated in 1987 in order to protect them was continued. Also during the year initiated the creation in the Department of a new botanical collection.

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

g) The Forestry Department, in close co-operation with other Government Departments and Services, continued the application of various necessary measures for the protection and preservation of the Vulture (Gyps fulvus) in Cyprus.

FOREST RECREATION.

a) An amount of £29,831 was spent for creation, improvement and extension of the picnic and camping places. In addition £23,831 were spent for the maintenance and cleaning of the picnic and camping places within the forests.

b) The Forestry Department established a new nature Trail at Akamas Forest; the existing one was also extended. The total length of both (extension and new) is 4.00 kms. The cost of the above was £6,246 and financed by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. The four Nature Trails at Troodos, the two 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 62,660 work days against an expenditure of £1,144,118. 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 14,539 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.