

Summary of the Forest Department Annual Report
of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural
Resources for the year 1980.

The main targets and objectives of the Forest Department during 1980 were the following:-

1. Protection of the Forest against fires.
2. Reforestation of burnt and bare areas.
3. (i) Production of timber and other forest products.
(ii) Production of forest and ornamental plants.
4. Silvicultural treatment of stands.
5. Management of forests and forest lands.
6. Training of Cypriot and overseas foresters.
7. Continuation and expansion of forest Research.
8. Application of Forest Engineering aiming at the:-
 - (i) Improvement and extension of forest roads.
 - (ii) Maintenance and improvement of forest telecommunications.
 - (iii) Construction and maintenance of forest buildings.
 - (iv) Purchase and maintenance of machinery.
9. Protection of the forest environment, establishment, extension and maintenance of picnic places.
10. Securing employment to the inhabitants of forest villages.

For the achievement of the above targets and objectives, an amount of £980,890.000 mils under the Ordinary Budget and £1,200,179.000 mils under the Development Budget were approved. Out of the above Budgets the sum of £943,958.000 mils and £1,097,764.000 mils were spent respectively. The total expenditure was £2,041,722.000 mils.

I. Forest Protection.

Trial Spraying against the Processionary caterpillar attacking pine, using Bacillus thurigiensis, was carried out for the first time by air along tourist roads and popular forest areas. The results were very encouraging, mortality being practically 100%. As with such biological control of the pest no environmental pollution is caused, similar and more extensive dustings by air are planned for the future.

But forest fires are the biggest and most serious enemy of our forests due to the dry and prolonged summer. The following measures were taken for the prevention and suppression of forest fires:-

- (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 0.87 km of forest roads were constructed and 4.25 km were widened. In addition 9.33 km of vehicle tracks and 33.14 km of Extraction Roads were constructed which serve also as fire traces. A bridge was also constructed at Dhiorizos Felling Series, locality Diplopotama.
- (iv) Two water tanks of 20,000 gallons each, one at Akamas (Paphos Forest) and one at Palevros (Adelphi Forest) were constructed. A cover for the existing reservoir at Kapoura (Adelphi Forest) was constructed during the year under review. Seventeen sluice valves and thirty nine hydrants were also installed on pipes which pass through the forests 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, was also continued during the current year. Thus four fire pumps were purchased bringing the total to twenty two.

In spite of the measures taken in 1980, twenty three forest fires broke out and burnt a forest area of 97 hectares. It should, however, be mentioned that the year under review was one of the best three years with the smallest area burnt, during the last 20 years. As a result of the above 23 fires, forest trees of a total volume of 2,537 cu.m. R.O.B. were killed. Twenty two of these fires were put under control almost immediately after they started. But one, which was the biggest, broke out on the 31st August, 1980, at Peravasa (Papho- Forest) and burnt an area of about 87 hectares. This

fire which was started through the carelessness of a farmer, caused also severe burns to a Forester who was trying with self-sacrifice to put it out.

The Forest Department takes all precautionary measures against forest fires, and puts in all possible efforts, to eliminate or reduce them, to an absolute minimum, but this is not possible without public co-operation and help. Most of the fires started from private lands where the owners unfortunately do not take all precautionary measures and the necessary permit to burn the stubble, weeds or other material found in their fields near the forest. The farmer who started Peravassa fire tried to burn bramble found in his private land, inspite of previous warnings to him by Forest officials. He was prosecuted and convicted to a fine of £200. Hence our efforts to enlighten the public in general and especially the Forest villagers and picknickers and to prosecute the offenders continued with intensity.

Reforestation.

The reforestation of the burnt areas of Papho forest continued at a high speed. During the year under review the area which was reforested was rather reduced in comparison to that of the previous year. This was due to the fact that the reforestation funds and hence the machinery used were reduced and the wage-rates and costs in general were increased considerably, so an area of 1618 hectares (12,093 donums) were reforested and/or cultivated, against an expenditure of £400,113.762 mils. Thirty four tractors were employed continuously for ground preparation as well as a big number of labourers for sowing and planting. Extensive reforestation was not only carried out in the burnt areas of Papho forest, where about two thirds of the year's funds were spent, but also in other bare areas such as Athalassa forest, Stavrovouni, Limassol, Adelphi, Troodos, Megali Moutti, (near Larnaca) Sotira (near Ayia Napa), Randi (near Petra tou Romiou), Xylophagou forest (near Liopetri river) Frenaros, Larnaca Airport forest(B) Kalon Chorion, Pipis, Misiscopos, Rousamoutti, Kakoskala etc.

During 1980, the work of the newly established Expansion Division was continued. Thus an area of 35.98 hectares (269 donums) found near Larnaca area (Aradippou/Goshi) and Nicosia area (Nisou, Dhali, Alambra) was declared as Main State Forest.

Various other areas of Hali-land amounting to 1884 hectares (14,082 donums) are in their final stage of declaration into Main State Forests. Another area of about 0.33 hectares (2.5 donums) of private land at Aradippou village was purchased against £300,000 mils for incorporations into Rizoelia forest.

3. Timber production and disposal.

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

59,395 cu.m. 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. In the above amount 8,213 cu.m. R.O.B. of branchwood for the construction of chipboard is also included. Thus the total quantity of timber felled in 1980 was 51,182 cu.m. R.O.B. The revenue derived from the sales of timber and fuel was about £530,748, including £42,622 being value of timber sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries in previous year; in addition timber valued at £84,745.- was sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries on credit.

During 1980 the operation of Platania Sawmill continued and 92 cu.m. of sawn timber were produced. Part of this timber was used by the Department mainly for construction of wooden forest buildings and the rest was disposed of to other Government Departments and Services.

62 saw-mill permits were issued during the year under review.

During the same year the value of imported timber and timber products amounted to £31,256,919.- as against £26,255,876.- in 1979. The difference of £5,000,000.- in excess of the year 1979 is rather due to the increased prices of purchased items than their increased quantities.

4. 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 923 hectares (6900 donums) was treated silviculturally at a total cost of £37,748.-

Seed collection from the forest and ornamental trees, destined for reforestation and export, was very low, due to a very poor production. A quantity of about 1290 kgs of seed was collected at a total cost of £5,813.- A small quantity of

19.17 kgs of seed was exported against a revenue of £557.150 mils. The production of seedlings in the Departmental nurseries was efficient but inadequate due to limited funds. 540,987 seedlings were raised; the seedlings produced in 1980, plus the stock from previous years production reached 1,002,312. Out of this number 205,665 seedlings were used Departmentally, 257,287 were sold to the public or other Government Departments and 47,943 were given free of charge to schools village authorities and other organizations and institutions for planting on public or communal lands.

5. Forest Management.

The classification of the Main State Forests into Permanent Forest Reserves, Nature Reserves and National Forest Parks continued during the year under review and is nearing completion. The stratification of Troodos, Adelphi and Machera forests for enumeration purposes was completed. Only Papho forest is still outstanding. New standing volume tables for Paphos and Adelphi Forests for assessment of the volume of trees marked for felling were prepared: One of one entry and the other one of a double entry. Twenty five permanent sample plots in young plantations have been re-measured for growth studies. A Felling Plan for the years 1981-1982 was prepared. In co-operation with the Department of Data Processing Services computer programmes for solving mathematical equations required for Forest Management were prepared. Marking of trees for demonstrational purposes ^{was carried out} in Paphos and Adelphi Forests by a Committee of Senior Officers under the Chairmanship of the Management Officer which was subsequently used for a field Seminar. During 1980, 1,300 hectares (9,718 donums) of forest land were leased against a revenue of £15,157. 25 prospecting permits, 11 quarry licences and 2 mining licences were issued or renewed in State Forests.

6. Forest Education.

The Cyprus Forestry College completed in 1980 its 29th Academic year. Ten Cypriot students, two from Libya and one from Jordan obtained their diploma. The 30th Academic year began in October 1980 with a complement of 41 students out of whom 29 were Cypriots and 12 from other countries. During the year under review 4 Foresters (University graduates) were sent abroad on Scholarships. Two were sent to the U.K. under British Technical Aid, one to Australia under Australian Aid, and one to France under Aid by the Federal Republic of Germany. One Forester (Graduate of the Cyprus Forestry College)

was sent to Holland under Dutch Aid. One Forester who was a scholar of the Federal Republic of Germany returned to Cyprus after completion of his post-graduate studies in West Germany.

Forest Research.

Forest Research and Publicity were continued on the same lines as in the past and intensified, against an expenditure of £3,985.- Analytically Research dealt with problems of enriching the Cyprus flora through introduction of & trial of exotics, forest genetics for production of good quality seed through the establishment of Seed Orchards, Tree Banks and Arbereta, and forest protection against insects and fungi, Forest Bee-keeping was continued during the year under review with very satisfactory results.

8. 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) 0.87 km of forest road at a cost of £4,928.-
- (b) 3.33 km of Vehicle tracks at a cost of £10,869.-
- (c) 33.14 km of extraction roads at a cost of £68,103.-
- (d) 1.85 km of road widening at a cost of £1,981.-
- (e) Construction of a bridge at Platys (Papho forest) at a cost of £3,000.-

In addition the Department undertook the following in forest areas on behalf of other Government Departments:-

- (a) 6 km of road was constructed in the College Forest (Yerakies - Xeros Potamos) for the Water Development Department at a cost of £15,284.-
- (b) 2.4 km of Lagouthera-Xyliatos road was improved (i.e. surfacing, rolling, widening of curves etc) for the Public Works at a cost of £16,867.-
- (c) 2.4 km of Lagouthera - Xyliatos road was widened for the Public Works at a cost of £43,714.-
- (d) Construction of various bridges at Lagouthera - Xyliatos road at a cost of £6,144.- for the Public Works Department.

In addition 1322 km of roads and 920 km of vehicle tracks were maintained at a cost of £34,057.-

(ii) Forest Telecommunications.

The Forest Department maintains a well organised telecommunication network for proper forest protection and management. An amount of £16,898.- was spent for its maintenance.

The telecommunication system in the free part of Cyprus by the end of 1980 consisted of the following:-

- (a) 413 km of telephone lines
- (b) 359 telephone instruments
- (c) 9 telephone switch boards
- (d) 6 V.H.F. radio links (12 sets)
- (e) 4 V.H.F. Control Stations
- (f) 133 mobile radio telephones
- (g) 86 portable radio telephones
- (h) 10 loud speakers (fixed on vehicles)
- (i) 7 loud hailers (portable)

(iii) Forest Buildings.

During the year under review new wooden forest offices were constructed at Athelassa for the Divisional Forest Officer Nicosia at a cost of £7,496.- Improvements to various forest stations were also carried out at a cost of £9,596.190 mils. Equipment for various forest stations was purchased at a cost of £1,290.-

(iv) Machinery and Plant.

During 1980 the number of vehicles was increased with the donation of two mini-buses valued at £15,000.- by the Federal Republic of Germany. These replaced the two Forestry College buses which became too old for transportation of students. For the operation and maintenance of all machinery and vehicles an amount of £214,552.- was spent.

9. Nature Conservation and Forest Recreation.

The Department of Forests during 1980 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 organization 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 Mouflon (Ovis ammon Cyprius) continued and the animal is now on the increase.
- (b) An amount of £10,212.- was spent for the improvement and extension of (a) Limni camping site, Komitidji and Pareklisoudhi picnic places, and (b) the maintenance of Mandra tou Kambiou, Stavros tis Psokas, Ayia, Trooditissa, Cedar Valley, Marathos, Platania and Xerokolymbos picnic places.

10. Provision of employment to the inhabitants of Forest villages.

Within 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 596,000 working hours against an expenditure of £513,280. Besides the labourers employed directly by the forest Department, an additional number of wood cutters was also self-employed through tenders or otherwise in felling and transport of raw-material from the forests to various forest industries.

II. Revenue.

In 1980 apart from the so many indirect benefits of the forests, which cannot be expressed in terms of money, an amount of £652,827.- was collected. An additional amount of £84,745.- representing forest products on credit is still to be collected.

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