

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1986.

INTRODUCTION - SUMMARY  
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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; 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; conservation of nature in forest areas; establishment, expansion and maintenance of picnic sites; provision of employment to forest villages.

Expenditure.

With a view to achieve the above targets £2,124,283.00 and £1,170,982.00 were approved in the Ordinary and Development Budgets respectively. The total amount spent out of both Budgets was £3,093,711.00 (i.e. about 94%).

REVENUE.

Apart from the indirect benefits of the forests, which cannot be calculated in terms of money, an amount of £947,079.00 was collected by the Forestry Department as revenue in 1986. An additional amount of £157,313.00 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 1986. 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 ten 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 2.15 kms of forest roads were constructed and 32.27 kms were widened. In addition 2.68 kms of vehicle tracks and 21.86 kms of extraction roads were constructed, which serve also as fire traces.
- e) Two water tanks, one at Limassol Division and one at Stavros Division were constructed during the year under review.  
Three 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 which was initiated in 1978 with the acquisition of fire fighting vehicles and fire

pumps for the extinction of Forest fires, proved very successful. At present the Department has at its disposal seven fire engines and 46 fire pumps of various types.

- i) In spite of the measures taken in 1986, twenty-one forest fires broke out and burnt a forest area of 467 ha. The volume burnt was 11,730 m<sup>3</sup> R.O.B. All fires were put under control almost immediately after they broke out; the two largest of them, in Macheras and Troodos Forests, which burnt an area of 401 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 Baccillus thuringiensis.

#### REFORESTATION.

An area of 584 ha was reforested, while an area of 99 ha which was cultivated will be sown or planted in 1987. The total amount spent on reforestation was £270,466.-

Reforestation was not only carried out in Paphos, Troodos, Adelphi, Limassol and Macheras forests but also in other bare areas such as Randi, Aspromoutti, Larnaca Airport C, Achna, Larnaca Salt Lake, Ayii Saranta, Astrofegia I, III, Xylophagou, Moutti tou Ziou, Karris V, X, Scouros, Alambra, Ayii Vavatsinias, Kakoradjia A and Athalassa.

Fourteen 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 1986, the work of the Expansion Division was fruitfully continued. Thus an area of 105.9 ha found at Ayii Vavatsinias, Tersefanou, Asgata, Yeri and Klircu was declared as Main State Forest. Namely the following were declared as Main State Forests: Ayii Vavatsinias, Pente Petres, Asgata, Lourca I & II and Lithero.

At the same time the procedure of bringing under forestry more lands, covering an approximate area of 1,671 ha in the village boundaries of Kokkinotrimithia, Prastio Kellakiou, Anafotia, Tersefanou, Alethrico, Klavdia, Kivisily, Ora, Psematismenos, Ayia Anna, Aglisides, P. Lakatamia, K. Dheftera, P. Dheftera, Anayia, Ergates, Aredhiou, Malounta, Pera Orinis, Aradippou, Afdellero and Koshi 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 589 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 56,301 m<sup>3</sup> 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 £680,988.- In addition timber valued at £157,313.- was sold to the Cyprus Forest Industries Co. Ltd., on credit.

The Forestry Department issued 60 sawmill permits during 1986.

During the same year the net value of imported timber and timber products amounted to £25,092,318.- as against £24,064,691.- in 1985 i.e. an increase of 4.27% 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 for silviculture were spent for this purpose. Additionally an area of about 792 ha was treated silviculturally (thinnings, cleanings etc). The total amount spent was £51,270.

The year under review was a very 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 7,662 kgs of seed was collected at a total cost of £19,391.- A quantity of 22.70 kgs was exported at a revenue of £441.00 cents.

The production of seedlings in the Departmental nurseries was adequate. A number of 481,398 seedlings were raised compared to 387,551 in 1985. The seedlings produced in 1986 plus the stock of 1985 reached 825,293. Out of the total quantity 133,717 were used Departmentally, 253,151 were sold to the public or other Government Departments, and 37,376 were issued free of charge to schools, village authorities and other organizations and institutions for planting on public or communal lands. Also, 23,810 plants were issued free of charge to private individuals for forestation of privately owned properties.

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT.

- a) During 1986, 26 permanent sample plots in young plantations of Pinus brutia found at Adelphi Forest were re-measured for growth studies. With the help of a computer the total volume both R.U.B. and R.O.B. of each sample plot, the mean diameter, the mean height etc were estimated.
- b) A Provisional Management Plan was prepared for the protection and development of the Akamas Forest. The main aims of the plan are the protection of the environment, environmental education and public recreation.
- c) The collection of the necessary field information was initiated for the preparation of a Management Plan and the edition of an information leaflet for the Tripylos Nature Reserve.
- d) During 1986 the Forestry Department acquired two computers for the initiation of computerised methods in data recording and processing.

- e) During the year, 1,216 ha of forest land were leased for Agricultural and Animal husbandry purposes. One prospecting permit, fourteen quarry licences and two mining licences were issued in State Forests.

### FORESTRY EDUCATION.

The Cyprus Forestry College completed in 1986 its 35th Academic year. Eight Cypriot and six foreign students, two from Gambia, one from Somalia, one from Dominica, one from Ethiopia, and one from Guyana, obtained their Diploma. Two six-month Post-Diploma courses were also organised and six candidates from abroad obtained the Higher Diploma in Forestry. The 36th Academic year began on the 2nd October, 1986 with a complement of 23 students out of whom 11 were Cypriots and 12 from other countries.

A two weeks educational tour to Greece was organized in June, 1986 for the Cyprus Forestry College students.

A group of students from Bochum-Ruhr University (West Germany) visited Cyprus and were given lectures on Forestry for one day at the Forestry College.

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 £3,987.-

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 by the Forestry Department:

- 2.15 kms of forest road at a cost of £5,946.-
- 2.58 kms of Vehicle tracks at a cost of £6,000.-
- 21.86 kms of extraction roads at a cost of £68,797.-
- 32.27 kms of road widening at a cost of £7,137.-
- Construction of one bridge at Xyliatos Dam at a cost of £4,124.-

In addition the Department undertook the construction of 1.10 kms road at Ayios Mercourios on behalf of the Water Development Department at a cost of £4,069.-

In addition 1,333 kms of roads, 627 kms of vehicle tracks and 535 kms of extraction roads, were maintained at a cost of £58,464.-

The total mileage of forest roads by the end of 1986 was 1,334.78 kms of forest roads, 629.55 kms of vehicle tracks and 556.41 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 £31,832.- was spent for its maintenance and an amount of £5,589.- was spent for its extension and improvement. This telecommunication system at the end of 1986 consisted of the following:-

- 409.44 kms of telephone lines
- 396 telephone instruments
- 9 telephone switch-boards
- 18 V.H.F. radio links
- 4 V.H.F. control stations
- 170 mobile radio telephones
- 146 portable radiotelephones
- 3 radiotelephone repeaters

**c) Forest Buildings.**

During 1986 major improvements and additions were started at Platres Forest Station to convert the Station

into two dwelling houses instead of one. Also improvement works were carried out on two houses at Yialia Forest Station against a total expenditure of £4,008.-

Further, the Forestry Department undertook and built on behalf of the Game and Fauna Service, a Game Rearing Station and offices at Stavrovouni at a total cost of £19,590.-

Major improvements were carried out at Ayios Theodoros and Kakomallis Forest Stations and at Athalassa store as well as usual repairs to other forest buildings, at a cost of £16,147.- Equipment for various forest stations was purchased at a cost of £2,571.-

d) Machinery and Plant.

During 1986 minor machinery and equipment of a value of £2,644.- 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 £208,652.- was spent.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FOREST RECREATION.

The Department of Forests during 1986 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 effective protection of the Cyprus moufflon (*Ovis ammon orientalis Cyprius*) continued and the animal is now on the increase.
- c) One of the three fallow deer (two female and one male) which were donated to the Forestry Department by the Swiss Government in 1983 and are kept at Stavros Forest Station, next to the moufflon enclosure gave birth to one male. The total number of fallow deer in Cyprus is now seven (four female and three male).



- d) An amount of £20,537.- was spent for creation, improvement and extension of the picnic places. In addition £21,877.- were spent for the maintenance and cleaning of the picnic places within the forests.
- e) The Forestry Department established a Nature Trail at Stavros tis Psokas of a length of 2.00 kms; another Nature Trail was established round Xyliatos Dam of a length of 1.83 kms at a total cost of £8,300.- The four Nature Trails at Troodos the one at Akamas, the one at Kavo Greco as well as the two new trails 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 56,940 work days against an expenditure of £898,792.- 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 18,250 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.

