

This leaflet contains useful information on the Pafos Forest and provides the opportunity to the visitor to appreciate its value, to enjoy its natural beauty and the recreational facilities provided.

Geographical Position.

The Pafos State Forest occupies mainly the northwestern slopes of the Troodos Range. It covers an area of about 700 km² or 70000 hectares, and extends from the districts of Limassol, Nicosia and Pafos at sea level, to the Tripilos mount at 1352 m altitude. To the north, it reaches up to the villages of Pomos, Pigainia, Kato Pyrgos tis Tillyrias, and the occupied village of Varisia. To the East, it extends up to the village of Gerakies, Lemythou, Treis Elies, Kaminaria and Fini, to the south up to the village of Agios Nicolaos, Panagia and Kannaviou and to the west up to the villages of Lysos, Kinousa, Argaka and Gialia.

Management-Administration

The management/administration of the forests comes under the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. The headquarters of the Pafos Forest Division are at the Stavros tis Psokas Forest Station. There are also smaller Forest Stations at the villages of Kambos, Panagia, Gialia, Miliouri, Agios Nikolaos, Geroskipou, Kannaviou, Lysos, Pomos, Kato Pyrgos and at the Kykkos monastery. For the effective management of the Forest Resources, the Pafos forest is divided administratively into four(4) sub-divisions covering eleven (11) felling series/valleys: the valleys of Dhiorizos(Platis), Roudhias, Agia, Stavros Psokas, Agios Merkourios, Gialia, Livadi, Flegia, Limnitis, Kambos and Xeros. The main forest activities are forest protection, planning, improvement and maintenance of picnic and camping sites, nature trails and forest roads, management and care of forest stands and biotopes, the reforestation of bare and burnt forest areas, the production of forest seedlings, establishment and maintenance of roadside plantations and greening lands, the maintenance and protection of wildlife, etc.



Headquarters of the Pafos Forest Division at Stavros tis Psoka

Flora

The Pafos Forest is mostly a natural forest, regenerating itself. The dominant species found all over the area of the Pafos Forest is the Brutia pine (*Pinus brutia*), the common wild pine.

Smaller trees and shrubs occupy specific biotopes of the forest ecosystem, depending on the local climatic and edafological conditions. The main shrubs are the endemic golden oak (*Quercus alnifolia*), the strawberry tree (*Arbutus andrachne*), the wild olive tree (*Olea europaea*), the cistus spp (*Cistus creticus*), the thorny broom (*Calycotome villosa*), the alaternus (*Ramnus alaternus*), the kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*) and other shrubs creating an important phyto-society with special ecological value.

The riverine vegetation, which can be found at all elevations, includes mainly broadleaves such as the plane-tree (*Platanus orientalis*), the alnus tree (*Alnus orientalis*), the laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), the myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) and the bramble (*Rubus sanctus*), giving to the vegetation a unique combination of colours.

In the lowland, high trees become sparse and the small shrubs, phrygana as well as mossy and grassy plants, make up a very rich and dense vegetation of high ecological and aesthetical value.

Special place in the Flora of Pafos Forest is held by the Cyprus cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*). It is the only endemic tree of the Cyprus Forests and forms the unique natural forest of the Tripilos slopes and the world famous Cedar Valley. The Cyprus Cedar grows and forms pure and mixed stands with the wild pine at 600m up to 1,352m altitude. The presence of the Cyprus cedar gives a distinct and unique character to the forest ecosystem.

Tripilos area and Cedar Valley covering an area of 823 hectares was declared by the Council of Ministers in 1984 a Nature Reserve for the protection of the flora and fauna according to the provisions of the Forest Law.

The number of different plant species, found in the Pafos Forest, has been estimated to exceed 600. Fifty (50) species are endemic to Cyprus, out of which four (4) species are included in the Vern's Convention and eleven (11) are included in the List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (I.U.C.N.).

The existence of a large number of orchids such as *Limodorum abortivum*, *Orchis sancta*, *Ophrys levantina* and *Serapias vomeracea* and other plant species found only in Pafos Forest such as *Origanum cordifolium*, *Ranunculus kykkoensis*,



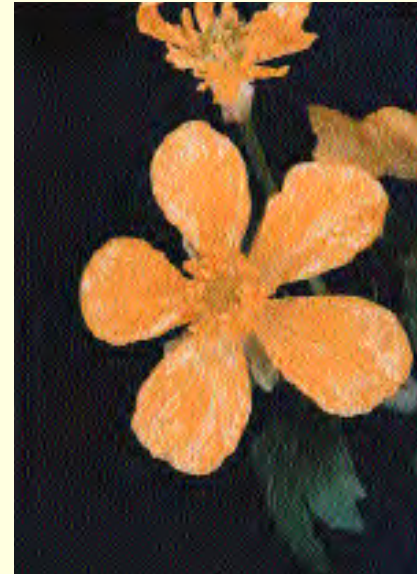
Orchis italica



Asphodelus aestivus



Trifolium campestre. ssp. paphium



Ranunculus kykkoensis

Onosma mitis, *Erysimum kykkoticum* and *Arum tupicola* make the Pafos Forest an important biotope of Mediterranean flora.

Fauna

The Pafos Forest was declared a Permanent Game Reserve in 1938 and since then it constitutes a perfect shelter for wildlife. The Cyprus Moufflon (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), the largest endemic mammal of the island, lives and reproduces in special biotopes of Pafos Forest. The presence of the fox (*Vulpes vulpes indutus*), the hare (*Lepus*

europaeus cyprius), the hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus* spp. *dorotheae*) and many important bird species such as the rare and protected eagles (*Aquila heliaca*, *Hieratus fasciatus*), the griffon vulture (*Cyps fulvus*), the night ingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*), the barn owl (*Tyto alba*), the Cyprus scops owl (*Otus scops cyprius*), many other species of owl, the partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), the wood-pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and the turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) along with different species of snakes and lizards, and rare butterflies compose a rich fauna of immense ecological value and importance for Cyprus.

Geology

The geological substrate of the Pafos Forest is part of the famous Troodos ophiolite complex. It includes mainly venous



Geological formation (calcareous rocks)

rocks characterised by steep slopes, deep valleys and gorges. Important geological formations found in the Pafos Forest are the Kannaviou complex formed by a series of bendonite marls with intrusions of volcanoclastic silt-stone, radiolarite and manganese mud-stone (estimated 75-70 million years old) and the Mamonia complex which dates back 210-95 million years and is formed by a series of explosive-generated and sedimentary rocks. The mixture of the overlayers of carbonic rocks and the ophiolite rocks of the Troodos range with explosive-generated and sedimentary rocks of the above complexes have created a huge variety of ecotopes.

Hydrology

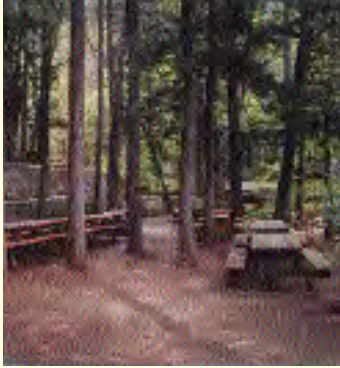
The hydrographic network of the Pafos Forest has been the result of the rainfall distribution, of the geomorphological conditions and of the existing rocks. It can be characterised as radial with the rivers beginning from the highest mount, the Tripilos, to the periphery. The most important rivers are Dhiazos, Roudhias, Agia, Stavros Psokas, Agios Merkourios, Flegia, Limnitis and Xeros. Dhiazos along with Roudhias provide water all around the year and enrich the underground water-carriers of their valleys. The existence of very rich underground water-carriers give the Pafos Forest great hydrological value. An important number of springs provide water to 47 country villages. The main hydrological projects such as the dams of Asprogremmos, Evretou, Agia Marina Chrysochous, Pomos, Kato Pyrgos Tillyrias of a total capacity of 77 million cubic meters of water, are supplied with water mainly from the Pafos Forest Watersheds.



Pomos River

Recreation

The visitor of Pafos Forest has the opportunity to enjoy and admire the natural and unique beauties of forest ecosystems, to feel young again and relax within the forest environment, to read, to be inspired and to exercise by following the nature trails, to have fun and enjoy a picnic, to escape from the monotony and stress of everyday activities and to spend time in an absolutely pollution free environment. Coming into contact with the forest environment gives the visitor memorable experiences. Year by year the number of visitors to the Pafos Forest is increasing. For this reason the Forestry Department in cooperation with other Departments has set up and continues to set up picnic and camping sites and nature trails. The Stavros tis Psokas rest house and restaurant provides accommodation to visitors wishing to stay overnight and enjoy the forest.



Recreation Site at Stavros tis Psokas

Recreation Sites in the Pafos Forest

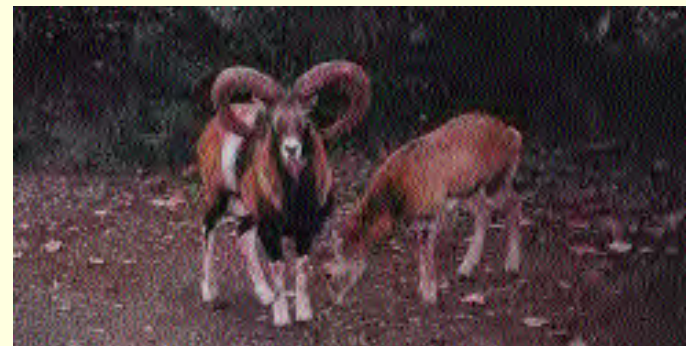
Picnic sites			
Name	Capacity	Elevation	Locality
Stavros Psokas	600	850m	Stavros Psokas
Agios Merkourios	350	400m	8 Km from Argaka
Mavralis	420	0m	Argaka shore
Gefyri tou Leivadiou	400	250m	8 Km from
Pomos Monashillaka	600	900 m	2 Km from
Panagia Xystarouda	250	1000m	6 Km from Iera Moni Kykkou to Lefkosia
Komititzi	400	700m	6 km from Milikouri (Platis)
Agia Kannaviou	250	700m	11 Km from
Pera Vasa	200	650m	4 Km from
Arminou Camping sites			
Stavros Psokas	60	850m	Stavros Psokas
Nature trails			
Name	Length	Passing time	Locality
Horteris(cicular)	5,0km	3,0hr	Stavros Psokas
Selladi Stavrou (circular)	2,5km	1,5hr	Stavros Psokas

Cyprus Moufflon (*Ovis gmelini ophion*)

The Cyprus Moufflon is the largest animal of Cyprus's wild fauna and is found only in the Pafos Forest. It is considered to be the gem and glory of the Pafos Forest. The Cyprus moufflon is very shy and curious, but it is very difficult for human beings to approach it. The male moufflon has heavy horns 55-60 cm long, and at the age of 3-4 years, it is a strong, well-built and beautiful animal. The male weighs around 35 kilos and its height is around one meter. The female is hornless, weighs around 25 kilos and is smaller.

Changing its fur during April and May and during September and October, the Cyprus moufflon adjusts itself to the changes of its environment. The spring fur is short and smooth with a uniform brown colour and white on the under part of its body. The winter fur is thick and plentiful with light brown colour, light grey on the back and an elongated black patch round the neck. The Cyprus moufflon is polygamous. It mates during October-November and gives birth during April-May usually to one, and rarely two young ones. It feeds on shrub leaves, wild-grass, acorns, mushrooms, etc.

Historical evidence (mosaics, literature, documents, etc) support that the hunting of moufflon was very popular until the last century and was hunted with dogs or cheetahs. Due to the danger of extinction, the hunting of moufflon was banned and the Cyprus moufflon became a protected species. Today its numbers are estimated at about 2,000 in the Pafos Forest.



Ovis gmelini ophion

Information

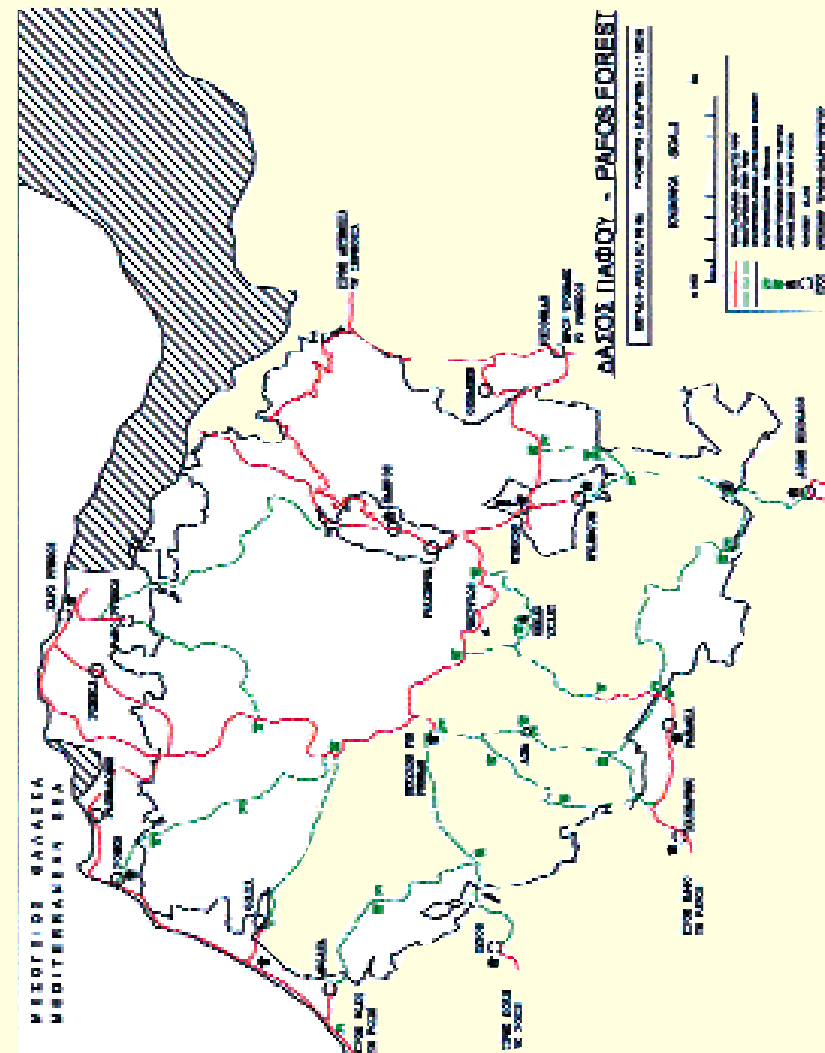
For additional information or observations and suggestions please contact the Stavros tis Psokas Forest Station, tel. 26999144, 26942746, and 26352324, or the Headquarters of Forestry Department in Nicosia, tel 22819466/67/68.

VISITORS' DO'S AND DON'T'S

Lighting of a fire at any point, within or near the forest, is prohibited by law, even along roads, bare ground or forest clearings.

- ▶ The ignition of a fire is only permitted for the cooking of food in the hearths of picnic sites.
- ▶ Before leaving the picnic site make sure that you have put out completely the fire you may have lit in the hearth.
- ▶ During your picnic take care so that children do not play with anything that can start a fire and avoid throwing away lighted cigarette stubs or matches.

- ▶ Do not litter the forest. After your picnic, thoroughly collect all the rubbish you may have and put it in the litter-bins provided. If no bins are available or if they are full, take your litter with you. Do not leave it in bags outside the bins.
- ▶ Do not disturb the animal and plant life of the forest. Avoid cutting branches or shoots of plants and uprooting plants. Carving tree barks is also prohibited because it can cause damage to the tree.
- ▶ Avoid damaging the facilities and constructions in the forest.
- ▶ Avoid unnecessary or undue noises and respect other visitors' need for enjoying a quiet environment.
- ▶ Do not smoke or eat during your walk along nature trails.



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