

Cyprus Environment Foundation

Scoping Report - Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF) is a new charitable entity aimed at raising funds from people and businesses with a strong connection to Cyprus, to protect and restore the environment of Cyprus on land and at sea.

CEF's goals include protection for Cyprus' diverse marine environments and unique species, protection for the vital biodiversity of the Island, enabling sustainable resource and waste management, and tackling issues of land use and air quality. Funds will be distributed by way of grants to the best grassroots conservation initiatives. Where possible, economic, and social revival will be closely tied to environmental renewal. The founders are the Conservation Collective, the MAVA Foundation, and a group of individuals with a strong connection to Cyprus.

The Conservation Collective is a global network of local foundations rooted in their communities working to:

- Preserve, protect, and regenerate biodiverse ecosystems on land and below water.
- Support local natural environments to prevent, slow down, and adapt to climate change.

The model is built on the central belief that people care deeply about protecting and restoring places they know and love. Currently there are six other Mediterranean members in the Conservation Collective network, from Ibiza and the Cyclades to Tuscany. The Conservation Collective believes in the power of communities to identify local solutions to globally shared challenges. Member foundations work with community champions to identify and overcome the most important obstacles to change, provide a vehicle for collective action, and bring new funding for local environmental causes.

The CEF will follow the Conservation Collective's proven model of environmental grant-giving that is locally focused, nimble, non-bureaucratic, and highly effective. The global Conservation Collective movement supports foundations in several ways, from knowledge sharing and financial support, to promoting best practice.

Scoping report

This is the executive summary of full scoping report, commissioned by Ben Goldsmith (Conservation Collective chair and founder) and undertaken by Sofia Matsi (a local environmentalist and activist) between June and September 2021. The aim of the report was to highlight key environmental threats and opportunities facing the island of Cyprus today and outline active environmental organizations in Cyprus, their ongoing initiatives, and potential projects CEF could possibly help fund.

To read the full version please [contact us](#).



2. Why Cyprus?

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean featuring a diversity of landscapes and habitats, with five terrestrial habitat types being endemic to the island.

Out of 1649 indigenous flora taxa recorded on the island, 8.5 percent are endemics – meaning they can only be found in Cyprus. Such high levels of endemism can be attributed to the unique geological history of the island which formed the terrain of Cyprus millions of years ago, as well as the prevailing climatic conditions.

The island is an important bird migratory corridor between Europe and Africa and is considered a unique spot when it comes to endemic bird species.

Among all EU members, Cyprus has one of the highest proportions of nature protected areas, with over 28 percent of its total surface designated as Natura 2000 network areas. Despite the established protection

areas and conservation schemes in effect, there are many urgent challenges facing the natural environment of Cyprus.

- Climate change, with Cyprus being in a hot spot of global climatic changes.
- Unsustainable resource exploitation, such as the depletion of precious groundwater sources and lack of renewable energy sources.
- Inefficient waste-management mechanisms.
- Excessive and not-sufficiently regulated land take for purposes of urban development.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices and inadequate schemes for the monitoring, conservation, and restoration of local biodiversity.



3. How will the CEF work?

There are many excellent grass-roots initiatives led by a plethora of regional institutions and environmental groups, however they often lack the critical funds and guidance to achieve and sustain their long-term goals. There is huge potential to boost these initiatives and contribute to amplifying their impact. A little funding can go a very long way to help these groups realize their goals, often enabling them to expand or share best practice to replicate their success in neighboring areas.

The aim of the CEF is to identify and support the best local solutions to the most pressing environmental threats facing Cyprus. Where capacity doesn't exist, it will look to develop and facilitate new initiatives that bring long-term net benefits to Cyprus' environment and biodiversity.

Drawing on the enormous passion for the Cyprus environment from both the national and international communities, the aim is to raise a minimum of €100,000 from a group of founding donors, giving €5-25k each. CEF will look to build upon this annually, bringing in local businesses and corporate partners, as well as larger trusts and foundations to scale and replicate successful projects, and increase its impact.

A local executive director will lead the organization on a full-time basis. Projects will be screened by way of an independent scientific advisory board and then selected by a donor-advised steering committee.

100% of the funds will be spent on supporting and protecting Cyprus' environment.

Initially the CEF will be a branch of the UK charity, the Conservation Collective. The intention is that it will spin out into its own independent Cyprus registered charity within three years.



4. What will it support?

CEF will actively seek projects and initiatives in three broad areas of interest: **Biodiversity Conservation**, **Regenerative Land Use** and **Sustainable Resources Management (Water, Energy, Waste)**. Examples include:

Biodiversity Conservation:

- The establishment of a PAN-Cyprus conservation initiative through the creation of a *Cyprus biodiversity map* and *app* evaluating specific stressors and managing appropriate interventions.
- Monitoring of marine biodiversity and habitats through the creation of Cyprus marine atlases.
- Implementation of citizen-science tools for the efficient management of invasive alien species (IAS).
- Establishment of more, and more effective, marine protected areas (MPAs), with enforcement and evaluation measures in place.
- Promotion and establishment of sustainable fishing practices sites.

Landscape protection and local produce:

- Promotion of awareness and advocacy campaigns on regenerative agricultural systems, e.g., agroecology, agroforestry, permaculture, biodynamic agriculture, organic farming.
- Supporting the implementation of more efficient *Farm to Fork* initiatives.

Sustainable Water Management:

- Promotion of small and localized rainwater harvesting for urban spaces e.g., rain tanks, grey water systems etc.
- Enhancement of farms resiliency to climate change through sustainable water management techniques e.g., individual, or communal farm rainwater harvesting dams and ponds, cover crops, mulching and organic matter increase.

Sustainable Energy Management:

- Promotion of renewable energy methods through schools and community programs, e.g. small wind turbine systems.
- Encouragement of greener transport options.

Sustainable Waste Management:

- Enhancement of organic waste separation and collection schemes.
- Promotion of more efficient municipal and private composting facilities.

Key factors for success in these initiatives will be harnessing the enthusiasm of young generations, increasing science-based support, providing successful examples of tangible direct action, directing citizen participation on the ground and reconnecting citizens with natural processes and patterns along the way.

Join us! Contact:

Jade Brudenell, Executive Director, Conservation Collective

jade@conservation-collective.org

www.conservation-collective.org

