

CYPRUS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION





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The natural beauty of Cyprus has been in my heart since childhood so joining CEF's Steering Committee was an obvious fit. The Foundation will not perform miracles but through selected strategic partnerships with benefactors, local specialists and passionate volunteers, it will make a real difference on the ground. I urge you to join us on this exciting journey.

PETER DRUSSIOTIS, CHAIR, CYPRUS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

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OUR VISION

The Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF) aims to protect and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and ecosystems of our beloved island of Cyprus.

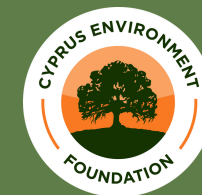
The CEF was established in 2021 to help the communities of Cyprus become leaders in the transition towards long-term resilience, biodiversity conservation, land regeneration, and general sustainability. We believe environmental sustainability and economic renewal can go hand in hand.

By protecting and growing the natural capital of Cyprus, we strive for a healthy, abundant and resilient natural environment where the local communities can live in prosperity.

OUR STRATEGY

We facilitate our vision and achieve our goals by:

- Raising funds from people and businesses with strong connections to Cyprus to support the best local initiatives working to sustain the diverse natural assets of the island.
- Supporting projects that benefit the local communities and which can be scaled up and replicated across the region.
- Building a strong network of people across Cyprus, united in boosting the work of local environmental champions.



CONSERVATION
COLLECTIVE

The Cyprus Environment Foundation is a member of Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations funding effective grass-roots conservation initiatives to protect the environment, restore nature and safeguard against climate change

"Cyprus is home to some unique landscapes and species. Our mission at CEF is to conserve and regenerate the unparalleled beauty of our island for current and future generations to thrive in."

SOFIA MATSI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sofia has been active in environmental work since 2013, taking part in local grassroots organizations, teaching and designing based on Permaculture principles and currently pursuing her PhD in Ecology and Biodiversity with a focus in regenerative agriculture.

Impact Snapshot



Projects



Partners throughout the island



Global donors & supporters

Funding summary since launch

€86,777
for Biodiversity Conservation

€55,120
for Sustainable Waste Management

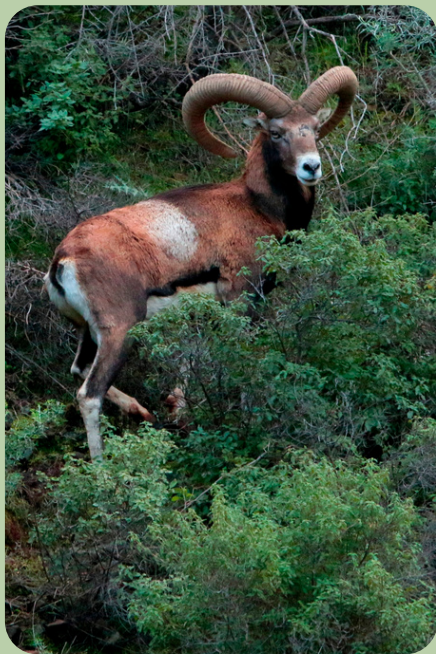
€6,804
for Regenerative Land Use



AREAS OF INTEREST

1 Biodiversity Conservation

There is an urgent need for more biodiversity conservation projects on the island. Cyprus currently lacks important data on its marine, freshwater and terrestrial species. The pressures threatening all types of habitats are mounting, alongside challenges in monitoring and evaluating established protected areas.



2 Regenerative Land Use

Extensive urban development, massive ground sealing, constant expansion of road networks and degenerative farming methods, are leading to the unsustainable use of the island's land. Regenerative farming methods and sustainable urban design can lead Cyprus to a more resilient future and better safeguard against climate change.



3 Sustainable Waste Management

Each resident of Cyprus produces an average of 106 kg of plastic waste per year (2021), a value 63% higher than the overall Mediterranean average. Moreover, Cyprus generates exceptionally high volumes of municipal solid waste with 609 kg produced every year per capita (2020), one of the highest in the EU.



4 Sustainable Resource Management

Cyprus has been lagging behind its targets towards decarbonisation of the energy sector which result in considerable annual fines imposed by the European Commission. The island is also categorized as one of the 6 most water-stressed countries in the world (2023). Decarbonization of the transport sector, faster roll out of renewables and improved resilience of water systems are fields needing urgent attention.



OUR WORK

Protecting & Restoring Natural Habitats - Helping Native Species to Thrive

1 All-island Wetland Monitoring

This bicommunal project lead by KUŞKOR and BirdLife Cyprus, established a Cyprus-wide wetland monitoring scheme. The project identified volunteers, trained them and provided the necessary optical equipment to enable consistent and high quality data collection for waterbird monitoring and conservation.

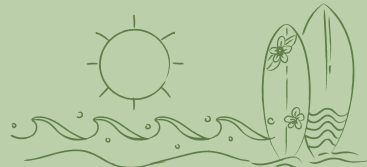


2 Fish the Alien

The biodiversity of the Eastern Mediterranean is under threat by alien invasive species. This thrilling project by the Marine and Environmental Research Lab engaged chefs, fishers and the wider public, educating them about the ecological and gastronomic benefits of removing these species from our seas and placing them on our plates.

3 Plastic Free Beach Initiative

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative in collaboration with the TUI Care Foundation have created a set of criteria and proposed facilities that provide beach visitors of Cyprus with a plastic-free experience. CEF has been supporting key actions that promote the "Plastic Free Beach" initiative concept helping further reduce plastic waste on our sand and seas.



4 Increasing Marine Environmental Awareness through the Creative Arts



The intensive and ever-increasing human exploitation of the coastal and marine environments of the island is quickly degrading important habitats and species of the region. To help raise awareness, the skilled team at Enalia Physis Environmental Research Center has been employing interactive and state of the art pedagogical methods educating children across Cyprus on the crucial challenges our marine ecosystems are facing and how they can become part of the solution.



They achieved:

Official recognition from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth and the European Commission, under the Mission Charter Actions.

5 GREENING CYPRUS IN THE FIRE-AFFECTED AREAS

Laona Foundation

Regenerative Land Use

During the dry summer months, wildfires are a great threat to both human lives and Cyprus' forests. The primary cause of wildfires in Cyprus are human activities, with one of the worst fires of the last decades breaking out during the summer of 2021, burning over 50 square kilometres of native forest and agricultural plots.

To demonstrate how restoration of recently burnt areas can be successfully accelerated, Laona Foundation in collaboration with the 300,000 Trees in Limassol with the support of CEF, they ran a project where the necessary soil restoration took place prior to any replanting efforts. The project took place in Eptagonia, Cyprus. Five drystone wall workshops were organized during which 38 competent volunteers were trained in this ancient technique. Together, they managed to restore more than 150 metres of degraded drywall terrace walls to prevent soil erosion and flooding in the agricultural plot.

Additionally, with the help of 200 volunteers, 300 native trees and shrubs were planted in the area to fast-track nature's recovery. Nature-based solutions backed by scientific evidence such as beneficial microbes, natural minerals, biochar and mulching, were applied during the tree-planting sessions, further facilitating the establishment of the newly planted trees and shrubs.

Throughout these actions the local community and the surrounding schools were engaged and were encouraged to participate in monitoring the area and learning the significance of the applied techniques in the acceleration of nature's gradual recovery.



Winner of the Collective Awards 2023 in the category:

Protecting Preserving and Regenerating Natural Habitats

OUR TEAM

CEF's local team consists of one local Executive Director and one Operations Manager in charge of day-to-day management and coordination on the ground, assisted by scientific and technical advisors and the Steering Committee.



Sofia Matsi
Executive Director



Michaelangelo Pontikis
Operations Manager

Steering Committee

Peter Droussiotis (Chair)
Miria Kyprianou
Ara Khederian
Kyriakos Kyrlitsias
Ben Goldsmith
Jade Brudenell

Advisory Board

Andreas Angeli - Circular economy, Sustainable mobility
Athanasia Mandoulaki - Regenerative agroecosystems
Dr Brendan Godley - Marine biology and conservation
Dr Claire Papazoglou - Ornithology, Sustainability policy
Dr Constantinos Kounnamas - Plant ecology and conservation
Dr Dimitrios Sarris - Dendroecology, Agroforestry
Evagoras Isaïas - Marine biology, Blue economy
Dr Maia Fourt - Marine biology and ecology
Dr Michael Loizides - Sustainable waste management, Biofuels
Dr Nestor Fylaktos - Energy strategies and modelling
Dr Savvas Zotos - Herpetology, Ecology and conservation
Dr Vasilis Litskas - Sustainable and organic farming

Supporters





Everywhere you look there are brilliant, passionate people working to create positive environmental change. Small amounts of funding, strategically directed, can supercharge this work.

**BEN GOLDSMITH, CO-FOUNDER & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER,
CYPRUS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

WHAT'S NEXT

Our priority is to increase the amount of funding available for local, tangible, nature-based solutions by inspiring more people and organisations to get involved.

We aim to encourage more grassroots regenerative and conservation projects to start-up or scale-up, by providing mentoring, expertise, connections, and vital financial support.

Your support would enable us to seed even more nature-based solutions; while showcasing project successes that ignite hope and wider action, and accelerate systemic change.

Support us with a donation!



THANK YOU

to all our donors and supporters. We couldn't have done it without your generous support.

Photo credits

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Pages 2, 4, 6, 7, 14, 16 - Michaelangelo Pontikis

Page 8 left - Aktürk Pilancı

Page 9 right - Dr Periklis Kleitou, Marine Environmental Research Lab

Page 10 - KUŞKOR: The Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature

Page 11 - Enalia Physis Environmental Research Center

Page 13 top left & bottom left - Michalis Papacharalambous

Page 13 top right - Alexis Hadjinicolaou

Learn more!



www.cyprusenvironment.org