

Component 4: Methodology Testing and Regional Action Plans

Action Plan

according to Component 4 general description

Project Partner	Larnaca District Development Agency
Intervention Area (if relevant)	Agios Nikandros Forest Park

PART 1: O V E R V I E W

Contact Details

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Objectives of the actions (including budget available)

Please provide several essential bullet points

Joint Involvement of institutional stakeholders and social actors

A management structure that promotes the participation of different departments and local councils, alongside a bottom-up approach guaranteeing involvement of local residents is considered to be of a great significance for the management of the Agios Nikandros Forest Park.

Monitoring and follow up

Environmental and territorial monitoring systems, is considered that will allow park managers to acquire and process data that can form the basis for decision making and influence the park management structure.

Environmental restoration within parks and restoration of overused natural areas

Promotion of environmental restoration within periurban parks including plantation of local species, reforestation or plant reintroduction through the creation of botanical gardens or restoration of habitats and animal species, including re-introduction of local species, made extinct as a result of the human activity is a key objective of the Agios Nikandros management body.

Volunteering

The presence of volunteers on a structured basis can allow park staff to plan numerous operations of maintenance and to maintain high quality green spaces and equipment. Specific activities such as mobilisation of volunteers to fight invasive species, removal of damaging trees and shrubs, or experimental programmes of animal and plant species reintroduction are very important activities



Providing basic transportation infrastructure to access the park

Lack of the basic transportation infrastructures leading to the park has to be addressed. Efforts ought to be made to ensure that different means of access are available for the visitors coming from the surrounding areas: on foot, by bike, by car, by bus, by lift, etc. Plans to connect periurban parks through traditional routes that have fallen into disuse, such as natural paths traditionally used for cattle herding should be discussed.

Innovative means of addressing construction conflicts

Besides talking with policy makers and town planners, park management structures can cooperate with economic actors in order to find innovative means of addressing construction conflicts. Where it proves impossible to block construction, agreements could be made to limit the impact. For example, the use of ecological compensation mechanisms can be adopted.

Promoting accessibility for people with diverse abilities

As regards people with mobility problems, the infrastructure deficiency has to be overcome. It is possible to further develop integral structures for people with handicaps.

Potential links to current regional activities

Please provide several essential bullet points

Although the Treaty of the European Union does not include a common forestry policy, various provisions relating to forests exist under other policies such as the environmental, the Common Agricultural Policy and Trade Policy.

Strategy and Objectives

The analysis and evaluation of the wider forestry sector has shown that management of Cyprus forests (Parks included) should be based on multiple use, to achieve various objectives. The indirect contribution of forests in **tourism and recreation**, in **nature and environment conservation**, production of good quality potable water and **soil and agriculture protection**, in financial terms, is much more important of the direct contribution from the production of timber and other forest products. Choosing the right strategy for the development and management of Cyprus forests based on the results of the above analysis and conclusions from the study of various alternative scenarios. Finally the strategy adopted as the most appropriate is the "Strategy for Agricultural Improvement and Upgrading »(Rural IBetterment Strategy) in the sense that the proposed development of the forestry sector aims in the general rural development. Under the new strategy, forest management is based on the principle of multiple objectives and a greater emphasis is given on the environmental effects on forest recreation and tourism. The production of wood at least for the next few years, is not a priority.

The main objectives of this strategy are:

- Protection and expansion of forest cover, protection of fauna and natural heritage and enhancement of the production of water in the state forests.
- Expansion of the forestation of chalitikon and other abandoned private lands and environment restoration



in deprived areas of the wider countryside.

- Protection and preservation, as national parks, nature reserves etc., special areas of exceptional ecological or scientific interest, exceptional beauty, great cultural significance and recreation and tourism development, where activities are compatible with protection objectives.
- Promote recreational and tourism development through local plans and in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Raising awareness on the importance of forests, flora and fauna they contain, using modern technology.

Priority will be given to schools, colleges, tourists.

Program projects and activities

In the ten-year plan (2001-2010) that was elaborated based on a strategy that was selected, the following proposed projects and activities.

- Reforestation and forestry
- Protection of forests from fires and other hazards
- Conservation of ecosystems, flora, fauna and natural Heritage
- Production of timber and other products
- Water production
- Development plans for revitalization of near forest villages and promotion of rural tourism
- Change of institutions, organizational structures and modernization of Forest Policy Statement.

The proposed new Forest Policy Statement replaced the existing Forest Policy adopted in 1950 and reaffirmed in 1960 with the establishment of the Republic. The new Forest Policy aims to sustainable management and development of wider forestry sector, including state and private forests, near forest villages etc. as opposed to the existing and limited targets mainly in state forests.

The declaration identifies the general and specific objectives of the Forest Policy as arising from the adopted strategy "Improving and upgrading rural areas" and specifies the use of forest resources to achieve the goals set in the National Forest Policy. Specific objectives are also defined by the implementation of each sub-program and the means of achieving the benefits for the Cypriot society. The forests of Cyprus are a valuable natural resource that contributes significantly to social and economic development, conservation and

protection of nature and the environment. The application of the National Forest Policy and achieving the objectives set out in this policy will benefit the society and particularly the rural population. The proposals made therein comply with the regulations of the European Union rural development and therefore believed to be financed through EU funds.

For the statement of forest policy – [press here](#)



-none-

Action Summary

Please provide a short overview of the actions, their objectives (including budget available) and methods deployed, potential links to current regional activities, actions already undertaken within thematic area as well as the flexibility to allow the integration of Good Practices

The main objectives of the Cypriot forest policy is development of tourism and recreation activities, nature and environment conservation, production of good quality potable water and soil and agriculture protection. Parks are one of the most effective ways to build a sense of community and improve quality of life. Parks can change the character and improve the image of a community. Park improvements are often quick and tangible actions for mayors and citizens and can work in conjunction with other programs such as creating cultural activities and sustainable development. Benefits of periurban parks are numerous and include restorative experience, physical health benefits and improving regional air quality.

According to these directions numerous action are proposed:

Parks provide places for people to connect and interact in a shared environment.

Parks create a sense of place by connecting residents to one another and to their larger environment. Periurban parks also provide residents with meaningful ways to express their concerns about the environment. They can physically reconnect communities to themselves by creating linkages or restoring historic connections broken by highways, sprawl, and poor planning decisions. Greenways, green streets, and linear parks are now widely used open space types.

Example 1: Bike paths, into one continuous system connecting all parts of the park with green infrastructure. Visitors can bike or jog around the edge of the park or inside the park on the greenway. Operation of bike rental service. This proposal is in directly connected with the Cyprus policy of the creation and management of forest paths in Cyprus.

Example 2: Camping Site - Design and operation of a **camping site** used for overnight stay in the outdoors. The area which will be selected will be divided into a number of pitches, where people can camp overnight using tents or camper vans or caravans (if possible). In general individuals, families and groups will have the opportunity to have low cost vacations near the nature.

See Link – [press here](#)

Parks can help restore childhood.

It is critical to think of the needs of children and teenagers in designing urban parks and open spaces. Parks can provide opportunities for children to become directly involved in the built and natural environment and help them experience childhood, a process often missing in modern urban life.

Example: Brings together a diverse number of cultural facilities into one place. Include a zoo, botanical garden, wetlands (if possible), and other public uses.

Community Participation - Management and ongoing participation is critical for success.

Parks can channel positive community participation by getting diverse people to work together toward a shared vision. The benefits of participation in the ongoing development of urban parks and open spaces include leading to a stronger sense of community and an increased sense of user or community control. There are also many low cost and effective methods of community



participation available including workshops, surveys, interviews, and observation.

Example: Volunteering - The presence of volunteers on a structured basis can allow park staff to plan numerous operations of maintenance and to maintain high quality green spaces and equipment. Specific activities such as mobilisation of volunteers to fight invasive species, removal of damaging trees and shrubs, or experimental programmes of animal and plant species reintroduction are very important activities for the Agios Nikandros National Park.

