

# **Bibliographic Index on Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity, and Nature Conservation in Cyprus**

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Right circle Alevkaya Campion *Silene fraudatrix*.

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This publication represents a first attempt to collect citations of published papers, books, reports, theses, chapters in books and reports, articles in newsletters, bulletins and magazines, and conference proceedings which communicate research on the flora, fauna, biodiversity, and nature conservation conducted in Cyprus and the surrounding waters. It was made possible through the work of various people to whom we are extremely grateful.

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## **PREFACE by the United Nations Development Programme Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT)**

There are generally four possible relationships between environment and conflict: environment can be a politically sensitive method for building cooperation and trust in post-conflict situations, but it can also itself be a source of conflict, as well as the victim of conflict. Finally, sensitive habitats can sometimes be unintentionally preserved through a prolonged reduction in human activity in certain post-conflict areas. In Cyprus, it seems all four possibilities have manifested themselves.

UNDP in Cyprus has long focussed on the first and last relationships by supporting environmental confidence-building initiatives and facilitating bi-communal research into the biodiversity of the buffer zone. Indeed, UNDP's support for bi-communal environmental projects in Cyprus goes back to 1998, because it was realised early on that all communities on this small island shared the same environmental priorities, and were unable to resolve their common environmental problems alone.

It was also realised that environmental scientists are generally most open to cooperation because science is a language common to all of humanity, a form of intellectual inquiry which transcends barriers of gender, religion and race.

Cyprus is a small island with an extreme Mediterranean climate facing rapid habitat loss and desertification. Such conditions can also be a cause of tension, but can also be an incentive for common action. Biodiversity is an obvious starting point, since there is a mutual interest in protecting a shared natural heritage, and since biodiversity experts have for years been leading efforts to share knowledge and information across the divide.

In order to support these efforts, the current publication aims, for the first time in decades, to facilitate access to the wealth of publications about flora and fauna island-wide. It is to be hoped that this publication can be not only an invaluable scientific resource, but an inspiration to academics around the world who believe science has no boundaries.

Nicolas Jarraud, Programme Analyst, UNDP-ACT



**PREFACE by the Unit of Environmental Studies of the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, affiliated with the University of Nicosia (UES/CCEIA)**

This Bibliographic Index is the product of a long and meticulous process carried out by a team of experts under the guidance of Dr. Iris Charalambidou and Dr. Salih Gücel. It is an impressive piece of work as for the first time a publication, and accompanying online database, bring together a catalogue of publications on the flora, fauna, biodiversity, and nature conservation for the whole island of Cyprus. Personally I was amazed to discover, reading through the text, the extent, depth and breadth of the respective literature on these issues.

This publication and the accompanying online database (available at <http://www.cyef.net>) are part of a larger, ambitious project to set the foundations for a Pan-Cyprian network of nature conservation organizations which was made possible by a generous grant by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under its peace building project in Cyprus, Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT). It was co-sponsored by the Unit of Environmental Studies of the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, a non-profit making institution affiliated with the University of Nicosia. The Unit of Environmental Studies is firmly committed in continuing its work along similar lines with partners in the field from both communities and all stakeholders. This particular work was carried out in collaboration with the Environmental Sciences Institute, the Turkish-Cypriot Biologists Association and the Green Action Group. These partners have successfully collaborated on other projects as well.

The overall project fell within the framework of the Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum (CESF), a unique bi-communal platform for environmental advocacy supported by UNDP-ACT, the Union of the Chambers of Cyprus Turkish Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB) and the Cyprus Technical Chamber (E TEK). To a large extent the undertaking of this project mirrored the Sisyphean task of finding a lasting solution to the Cyprus Problem.

Nevertheless, we are bound by a shared and unavoidable responsibility to bequeath to our children and the future generations a democratic, united, prosperous, environmentally sound and healthy Cyprus. It is a debt of honour that our generation owes to those that follow a sustainable and viable solution, and on this; there is no room for failure

Therefore the message has to be repeated as many times as needed so that it becomes ingrained in people's minds and internalised. We must persist in building bridges, communication and professional relations despite the barbed wire and across the buffer zone. It is an important parameter in bringing the two major communities in Cyprus together and eventually reuniting the island. Cyprus is too small to be divided by the force of arms, lack of trust, outside influence and the absence of a common vision for what the future could bring for all the people. A reunited Cyprus, in the context of the European Union, can provide the stability, safety and prosperity that all people on the island deserve which for a long time has been denied to them.

Kyriakos E. Georgiou, Project Supervisor, UES/CCEIA  
1 October 2009

## INTRODUCTION

### **Setting the foundations for a Pan-Cyprian network of nature conservation organisations**

The bibliographic index presented in the current publication, and an accompanying online database (available at <http://www.cyef.net>), were developed as part of a project to set the foundations for an island-wide network of nature conservation organisations. The project was led by the Unit of Environmental Studies of the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, affiliated with the University of Nicosia, and was carried out in collaboration with the Environmental Sciences Institute, the Turkish-Cypriot Biologists Association and the Green Action Group, with support from the United Nations Development Programme's Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT). The project fell within the framework of the Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum (CESF), a bi-communal platform for environmental advocacy supported by UNDP-ACT, the Union of the Chambers of Cyprus Turkish Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB) and the Cyprus Technical Chamber (ETEK).

The aim of the project was to develop reference resources of interest to environmental stakeholders and to raise awareness about the extensive biodiversity research and nature conservation work focussing on Cyprus. The majority of work carried out by individuals, civil society organisations and public and private bodies remains largely unknown, mainly due until recently to the absence of a common framework connecting environmental stakeholders island-wide.

The creation of the CESF, in 2007, has acted as a catalyst for change. Under this framework, the project partnership has developed a package of reference resources that are hosted on the CESF website (<http://www.cyef.net>). This package includes, *inter alia*, two open-access online databases: (i) a list of published and unpublished work on the flora, fauna, biodiversity, and nature conservation in Cyprus, which is presented in the current publication; (ii) and a 'Who's Who in nature conservation in Cyprus' directory. Moreover, two other resources are available online, which include a section on environmental funding, and a section on environmental career orientation.

We would like to stress that most of the more than 800 citations presented in the current publication were collected through internet searches. By no means do they represent all work conducted so far on the flora, fauna, biodiversity, and nature conservation in Cyprus. We are aware that a huge amount of interesting and relevant work has been carried out that cannot be accessed through the internet and is located primarily in the grey literature, in particular in unpublished reports. Therefore, we urge authors to submit this information online for inclusion in the database that will be updated on a regular basis.

**Environmental Publications Database**

The database represents a first attempt to collect citations of published papers, books, reports, theses, chapters in books and reports, articles in newsletters, bulletins and magazines and conference proceedings which communicate research on the flora, fauna, biodiversity and general nature conservation conducted on Cyprus and the surrounding waters.

It is a reference database that has been developed by the project partnership and will be maintained by the CESF. It is envisaged to provide a unique and centralized access to the expertise and resources available in Cyprus in the field of research on and conservation of the flora, fauna, biodiversity, and nature conservation of the island. Accurate and up-to-date information on projects and studies related to Cyprus are freely retrieved through the database query tools. The content of the database is maintained and updated directly through a secured access. We anticipate that the database will evolve to include other environmental fields in the future.

**Disclaimer**

We would like to specify that the criteria used in selecting publications for inclusion in the current publication and online database do not include the legal status or origin of the entity producing the work, but strictly rely on the geographical object of the investigations, which is Cyprus. Any references to legal or any other status that may be perceived from the inclusion of these citations in the current publication and online database do not imply the expression of a position or opinion on these topics but rather the desire to accommodate researchers and promote science and knowledge. In addition, we are not responsible for the contents or reliability of any of these citations and do not necessarily endorse the views expressed within them.

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