



Project Details:

Title: Managing the NATURA 2000 network in Cyprus and Shaping a sustainable future

Acronym: LIFE IP Physis

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<https://pandoteira.cy>

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



πανδώρα

NATURA2000 • Η ΦΥΣΗ ΜΑΣ ΖΕΙ

**MANAGING THE
NATURA 2000
NETWORK IN CYPRUS**



With the financial contribution of the
EU's LIFE Programme

Cyprus is among the top EU countries in terms of land area covered by the Natura 2000 network. The island is home to rare and endemic species of flora, fauna - including birds - and habitats. By endemic we mean those that can only be found in Cyprus and nowhere else in the world.

The primary objective of Pandoteira project is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for important species and habitat types in Cyprus, through actions in the whole Natura 2000 network.



The meaning of Pandoteira

Our ancestors worshiped nature. They obviously recognised that nature was their source of existence. Nature was the divine power that offered them all that they needed in order to exist.

Hence Pandoteira stands for the all-giver, the bestower of everything. Nature!

What is Natura 2000

The “Natura 2000” European Ecological Network is a wide European network of protected natural areas for species of flora, fauna, birds and habitats; it is in fact the biggest network of ecological areas in the world!

Natura 2000 is the cornerstone of EU policy for the protection of the environment and biodiversity and aims to protect and manage vulnerable species and habitats in all their natural area stretching across Europe, regardless of the national or political boundaries.

Governed by the philosophy that man must coexist with nature, the Natura 2000 network does not prohibit any activities within its boundaries. Projects and activities taking place in these areas, however, must ensure the safeguarding of rare species and habitats.

The value of the Natura 2000 network

Apart from protecting nature and biodiversity, the Natura 2000 network also provides numerous benefits to people, which include:

- 1 Climate change mitigation**
Natura 2000 areas include wetlands, grasslands and forests, which are preserved and contribute to climate change mitigation.
- 2 Security from natural disasters**
Natura 2000 acts as a tool for security, reducing the damages caused by natural disasters, such as droughts, floods and landslides.
- 3 Food security**
It is estimated that 84% of EU crops and 80% of wildflowers rely on insect pollination (bees, butterflies, beetles and other species). The Natura 2000 network plays a vital role in EU efforts of halting and reversing the losses of honeybee and other pollinator populations.
- 4 Water**
Natural ecosystems, including protected areas such as Natura 2000, offer us purified water.
- 5 Tourism**
Each year a significant number of visitors enjoy Natura 2000's recreational activities while contributing to the support of their surrounding regional economies.
- 6 Jobs**
Natura 2000 supports between 4,5 and 8 million full time jobs across Europe.