



# LIFE IP-Physis - Pandoteira: Managing the Natura 2000 network in Cyprus and shaping a sustainable future

LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006



## Project Objective

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 project will fill knowledge gaps for species and habitats, improve the governance of the network, exploit ecosystem services and implement action and management plans for species and habitats. It also aims to positively influence land users, owners, local population and other stakeholders in understanding the importance of the Natura 2000 network and embracing it.

## Project Scope

The project was designed in such a way as to see the Natura 2000 network in a holistic manner, with actions focusing in several directions, including:

- Filling the knowledge gaps for species and habitats.
- Improving the governance of the Natura 2000 network through the introduction of institutional changes, such as establishment of management structures and private land management in Natura 2000 sites and establishing interactive GIS tools through web-based platforms.
- Evaluating ecosystem services and further exploiting their socioeconomic dimension.
- Tackling the issue of Invasive Alien Species.
- Conducting and implementing action plans and management plans for species and habitats to improve their conservation status.
- Implementing capacity building actions to reinforce the knowledge base of the stakeholders of the Natura 2000 network.
- Implementing information and awareness actions, as well as campaigns so that the Natura 2000 network becomes known and well accepted among the citizens, in general, and the stakeholders, in particular, in the island.
- Monitoring the project's effectiveness towards achieving the objectives of the Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 network in Cyprus.

## Natura 2000 in Cyprus

Cyprus is among the top EU countries in terms of land area covered by the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network in Cyprus extends to 63 sites, both marine and terrestrial areas, and covers a total area of 10,145 Km<sup>2</sup>. The marine Natura 2000 network covers 6 coastal areas, protecting more than 130 Km<sup>2</sup> and 1 offshore area of 8,326 Km<sup>2</sup>, established mainly for the protection of marine mammals and of the migrating corridors of sea turtles (**Fig. 1**).

The Natura 2000 network in Cyprus is home to rare and endemic species of flora, fauna – including birds – and habitats. Among others, it is home to 21 mammals, 13 reptiles, 3 amphibians, 2 anthropods, 1 fish and 18 endemic plants. Among these keystone species, in the marine environment, the island is home to: 2 species of sea turtles that nest on the island (including in Natura 2000 sites), *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*, the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), as well as to the Common Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*).

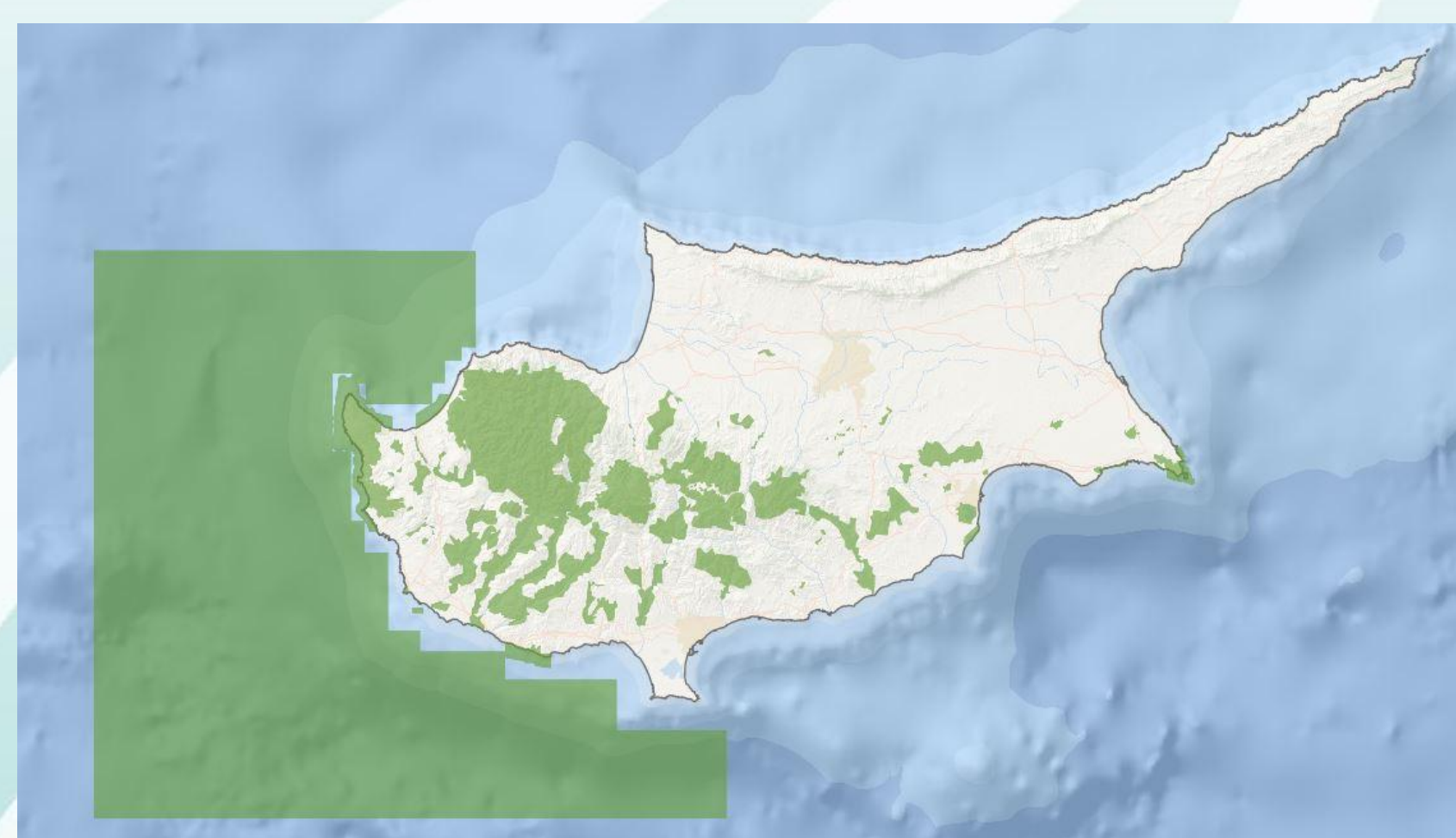


Figure 1. The Natura 2000 network in Cyprus.

## Project Partners

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** Department of the Environment, Cyprus  
**Associated Beneficiaries:** Dept. of Fisheries & Marine Research, Dept. of Forests, Game and Fauna Service, Terra Cypria Foundation, Birdlife Cyprus, Open University of Cyprus, Frederick University, Federation of Environmental Organisations of Cyprus, Atlantis Environment & Innovation, I.A.C.O. Environmental & Water Consultants Ltd, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Cyprus University of Technology

## The meaning of Pandoteira

Our ancestors worshiped nature. They obviously recognized 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!**

## Contact

Dr. Yianna Samuel  
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment  
Vithleem 101, 2033 Strovolos, Nicosia, CYPRUS  
[ysamuel@dfmr.moa.gov.cy](mailto:ysamuel@dfmr.moa.gov.cy) \* +357-22-807841  
[www.moa.gov.cy/dfmr](http://www.moa.gov.cy/dfmr)  
Project website: <https://pandoteira.cy/>



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