

Nature Conservation in Northern Cyprus



The Karpaz Peninsula



Seminar contribution to the module "Terrestrial Ecosystems" (2101-230)
Institute of Botany (210a) · University of Hohenheim · Stuttgart
presented by Marleen Krämer on January 23, 2019

Structure

Introduction

Protective Measures in Northern Cyprus

National Parks

Natura 2000

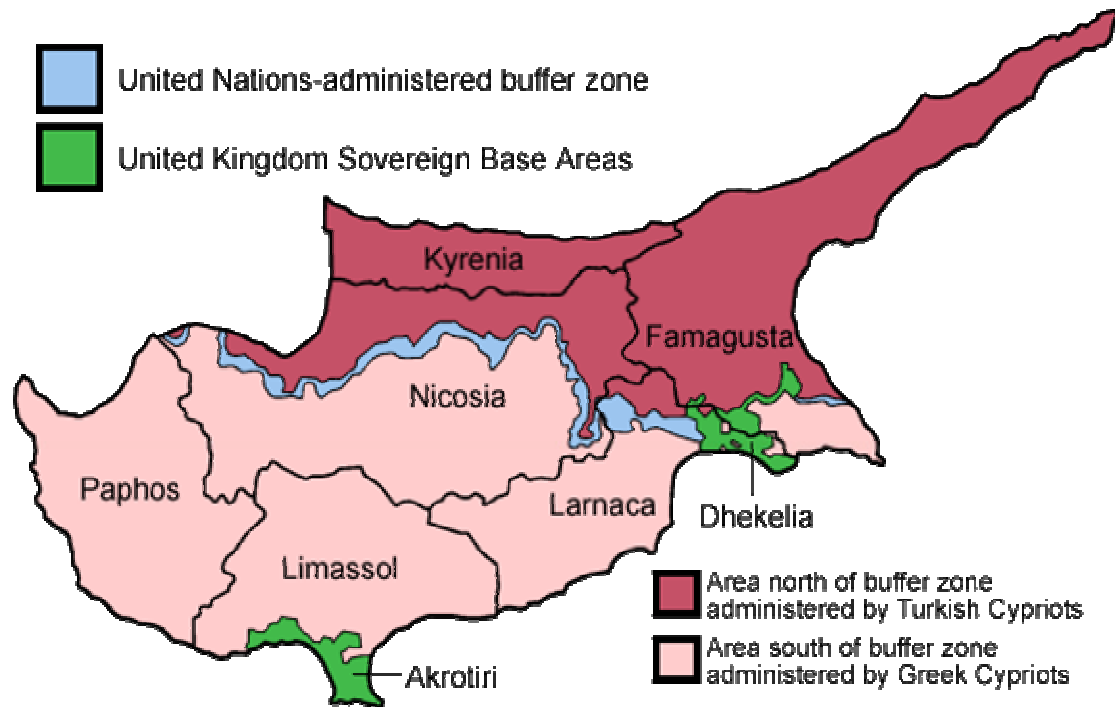
The Karpaz Peninsula

Sea Turtle Conservation Project

Future Prospects

Introduction

Since 1974 the island is divided along the "Green Line".



Map of Cyprus after 1974: The "Republic of Cyprus" in the south is marked in rose, the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is marked in red [2].

Introduction

Republic of Cyprus

International accepted, foreign investments.

Mass tourism and economic boom.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Accepted only by the Republic of Turkey.

Political isolation caused slow development, small number of attendances.

→ Extensive agriculture and few tourism preserved large areas in North Cyprus in their original state.

Protective Measures – National Parks

1977: First initiative by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.

1983: Several national park areas were determined.

2004: Boundaries of the "Karpaz National Park" were defined.

9486 ha park area,

included the "Natural and Archaeological Site" and the "Ancient Carpasia Archaeological Site".

insufficient legal base, non-specific responsibilities, lacking plans and organisation.

→ the area is not treated as a national park.

Protective Measures – Natura 2000

Network of protected areas stretching across all EU member states.

Established in 1992 by the EU.

Conserves endangered and/or typical species and habitats.

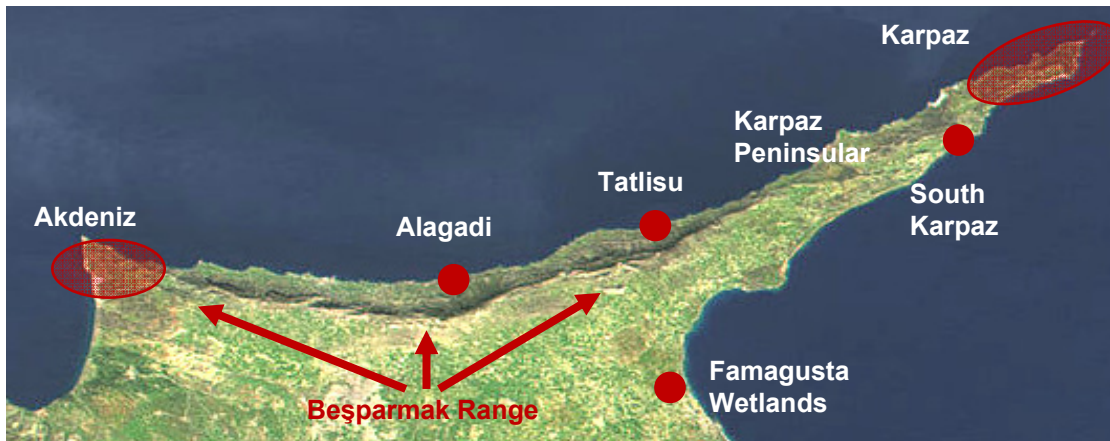
Consists of protection areas of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Site designation does not cause expropriation of land owners and the end of all economic activities in the area.

Natura 2000 in Northern Cyprus

Proposed areas in North Cyprus cannot be designated and thereby not financially supported by the network Natura 2000. Natura 2000 is limited to countries of the EU. There are seven potential sites for Natura 2000 network in North Cyprus.

Proposed areas remain as Special Environmental Protected Areas (SEPA).



The nature conservation sites in Northern Cyprus, designated as potential Natura 2000 areas [3].

Karpaz Peninsula



Northern Cyprus with the Karpaz Peninsula, marked in red [4].

Karpaz Peninsula

Large number of diverse habitats on rather small space.

Cultural and historical heritage.

26 inhabitants per km² (average North Cyprus 78 per km²).

Population lives on extensive agriculture and fishing.

since 2009: LEADER project funded by the EU,

includes local stakeholders, communities and a "Rural Development Support Team",

improve living conditions while protecting natural and cultural heritage.

Sponsorship for traditional agriculture.

Promotion of environmentally compatible economic growth.

Karpaz Peninsula – SEPAs

Three SEPAs designated: Tatlisu, Karpaz und South Karpaz.

Land ownership consists of both privately and publicly owned properties.

SEPAs shall protect, preserve and enhance the natural values of the Karpaz Peninsula and raise awareness of both inhabitants and visitors.

Although areas are included in the Karpaz Ordinance (which limits developments and activities), human activities are not restricted completely.

All SEPAs are negatively affected either by agricultural activities or tourism.

Pressure from the construction sector and local people to lift the restrictions.

SEPA Karpaz

Covers the tip of the peninsula.

Largest SEPA: 19 230 ha (9 645 terrestrial and 9 485 ha marine).

Includes the territory of the projected Karpaz National Park.

Most important natural resource in northern Cyprus.

National and international important sea turtle rookery.



The Golden Beach, one important sea turtle rookery on the Karpaz Peninsula [5].

SEPA Karpaz – Fauna

Green (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtle nest on nine beaches.

Residential monk seals (*Monachus monachus*).

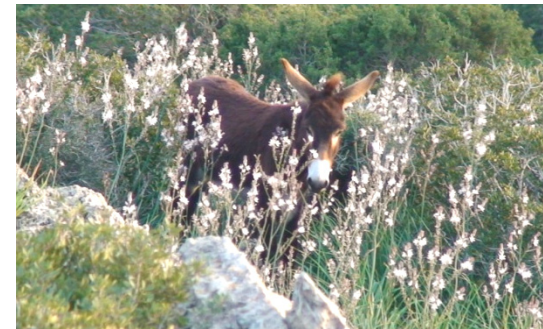
Annex listed bat species: Egyptian Fruit Bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) and the Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*).

Endemic butterflies: Cyprus Meadow Brown (*Maniola cypricola*) and Paphos Blue (*Glaucopsyche paphos*).

Large population of feral donkeys (*Equus asinus asinus*).



Glaucopsyche paphos [6].



Equus asinus asinus [7].



Rousettus aegyptiacus [8].

SEPA Karpaz – Avifauna

Important nesting colonies for both Cyprus' bird endemits: Cyprus Wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanthorax*).

Nesting colonies for the Audouin's Gulls (*Larus audouinii*), Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*), Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and the Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*).

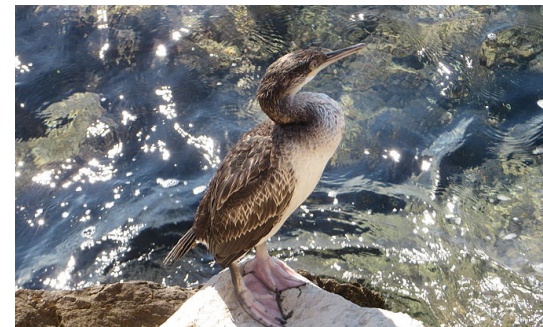
Some EU Annex listed faunal species pass through the area while spring and autumn migration.



Sylvia melanthorax [9].



Oenanthe cypriaca, male [10].



Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii [11].

SEPA Karpaz – Flora

22 endemic plant species, of which one is Annex II listed (*Ophrys kotschyi*).

Five species which are rare for the island:

Euphorbia paralias (Endangered)

Juncus maritimus (Vulnerable)

Salsola soda (Vulnerable)

Valantia muralis (Endangered)

Ophrys kotschyi (Vulnerable)



Ophrys kotschyi [12].

SEPA Karpaz – Habitats

17 different habitat types of the Habitats Directive.

Three priority 1 habitats: coastal lagoones

Posidonia beds

coastal dunes with *Juniperus* species



Posidonia beds [13].



Coastal dunes with *Juniperus* species [14].

Sea Turtle conservation project

Protection of the highly endangered species *Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*.

Several local groups and research projects of universities are involved .

Cooperation with the "Department of Environmental Protection".

Direct protection by volunteers: observation of the beaches, marking and covering of nests, barring beaches during hatching season.

Educational work on inhabitants and tourists.

Monitoring programm: collect data and mark individuals.



Caretta caretta [15].



Chelonia mydas [16].



Hatchling of *C. mydas* [17].

Future Prospects

"Solely the political conflict protects the sea turtle rookeries in northern Cyprus."

Julian Schophoff, DIE ZEIT 2012

Political conflict prevents mass tourism.

With accession to the EU Natura 2000 programme would come into charge.

By a solution of the conflict Greek Cypriots would return to their properties in Northern Cyprus and the establishment of national parks could be discussed once again on a legal base.

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Illustrations

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All accessed on 9th of January 2019.