

The EURASIA CENTER

Cyprus: Environmental Overview

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Confronting Environmental Challenges

Cyprus became an independent nation in 1960 after gaining independence from Great Britain. Three years later, tensions erupted between the Greek majority and the Turkish minority on the island. In 1974, a Greek sponsored attempt to gain complete control of Cyprus was denied by a Turkish sponsored defense. This led to 1/3 of the island being called as the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". The TRNC is only recognized and funded by Turkey. In 2004 Greek Cypriots denied an agreement that would allow for the reunification of the island. In the same year, the island entered the EU although only the area under direct government control is part of the EU. Some environmental concerns are earthquake activity, sea water intrusion, and water pollution.

Demographics:

- Cyprus boasts a population of only 788,457 where 77% of the people are Greek and 18% are Turkish.¹
- In terms of religion, an overwhelming percent of the population follows religion of the Greek Orthodox (78%). Another 18% of the population is considered to be Muslim.²
- Life expectancy at birth is 75.6 years for males and 80.49 for females. The population is increasing, with a population growth of 0.527%.³
- The median age for a person in Cyprus is at 35.1. The age composition of the population is as follows: 0-14 years: 19.9%, 15-64 years: 68.3%, and 65 years and over: 11.8%.⁴



The nation of Cyprus is clearly separated in regions as seen on this picture taken from satellite.

Picture Above: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Cyprus.arp.750pix.jpg>

¹ "Cyprus" 2007 CIA Factbook.

² Ibid

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid

Education

- The school system offers both private as well as public schools.
- Since 75% of a student's final grade is assigned by the teacher, grades tend to be inflated. This has caused high school diplomas to be partially accepted by certain European countries.
- Another flaw in the country's public education system is the fact that classes end at 12pm which does not help those students who are in need of more tutoring.
- Many students go to Europe or America to study opposed to studying in Cyprus or Turkey.⁵

Geography/Natural Resources:

- Located in the Mediterranean Sea, Cyprus does not share any land border with any nation due to the fact that it is an island nation.
- It is the world's 81st largest island and the third largest in the Mediterranean Sea.⁶
- Cyprus maintains a size of 9,251 square kilometers which is about the same size as the American state of Connecticut.
- The terrain is considered to be full of mountain ranges in the north and south with plains in the middle. The climate is including dry summers and wet winters.⁷
- Cyprus has plentiful natural resources including marble, copper, pyrites, asbestos, gypsums, timber, salt, and clay earth pigment.⁸
- Ukraine is estimated to not have any barrels of oil reserves. It relies heavily on oil imports.⁹
- The country under government control produces about 300 barrels a day and consumes 53,000 barrels a day.¹⁰



The castle of Paphos stands majestically in the evening. It was originally built in by the Byzantines and then rebuilt after an earthquake.

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Pafos_castle.jpg

Agriculture

⁵“Cyprus” [Wikipedia](#).

⁶ “Geography of Cyprus” [Wikipedia](#).

⁷ “Cyprus” [US Department of State](#).

⁸ “Geography of Cyprus” [Wikipedia](#).

⁹ “Cyprus Energy Data, Statistics and Analysis.” [U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Information Administration](#)

¹⁰ “Cyprus.” [2007 CIA World Factbook](#)

- Agriculture employs over 24% of the workforce, and accounts for 18.7% of Ukrainian GDP. ¹¹
- Permanent crops compose 4.32% of the land and arable land accounts for over 10.81%. ¹²
- Key crops include: citrus, vegetables, barley, grapes, and olives. ¹³
- In 2004, Cyprus exported over 36.7 million dollars worth of cigarettes and 34 million dollars of potatoes. Cheese rounded out the top 3 with 20 million dollars worth of exports. ¹⁴

Relevant Environmental Laws and Regulations:

Kyoto Protocol

- An international agreement in which adherents voluntarily sign up to limit their carbon emissions in an effort to reduce global warming. Additionally, nations can buy and sell emission credits in order to fulfill their pledge.
- Cyprus and Malta will become EU members after the signature of the Kyoto protocol. They have not changed their status to become annex I/II/B states and which therefore allows them to not have a commitment for emissions reduction. ¹⁵

The Washington Convention on trade in endangered species (CITES)

- Adopted in 2000.
- Its primary goal is to control the trade (internationally) of endangered species and products involving them. ¹⁶

Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter

- First enacted in 1972.
- This act is also known as the "London Convention" or "LC72". It is an agreement to control the pollution of the sea and encourages regional agreements to supplement this agreement.
- As of 2005 there were 81 nations that have signed this agreement. ¹⁷



The city of Larnaca is has a great history with the first ruins dating back to the 13th century BC. The aqueduct here was built in a Roman style in 1745.

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Aqueduct_Larnaca.jpg

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Ukraine: Key Statistics of Food and Agriculture External Trade." [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations](http://www.fao.org/es/ess/toptrade/trade.asp) <<http://www.fao.org/es/ess/toptrade/trade.asp>>

¹⁵ "List of Kyoto Protocol signatories" [Wikipedia](#).

¹⁶ <http://www.environment.gov.za/ProjProg/Cites/WhatCites.htm>

¹⁷ "Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter" [Wikipedia](#).

Current Funding Projects:

Management and Assessment of the Ecology of Cyprus' Artificial Wetlands (MACAW)

- The goal of the project is to show the value of artificial wetlands in the country and to improve their management. The aim was to increase public awareness for the issue.
- The UNDP was a partner in this project. They completed a survey of the flora and fauna. They also produced literature on the subject that was to be sent to the public. ¹⁸

Acknowledgements:

Research and Data Development Provided by: Ankit Sheth, Research Assistant

Under the Supervision and Coordination of: Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, CM, Executive Director

¹⁸ [http://europeandcis.undp.org/WaterWiki/index.php/Cyprus_-_Management_and_Assessment_of_the_Ecology_of_Cyprus%E2%80%99_Artificial_Wetlands_\(MACAW\)#Basic_Project_Information](http://europeandcis.undp.org/WaterWiki/index.php/Cyprus_-_Management_and_Assessment_of_the_Ecology_of_Cyprus%E2%80%99_Artificial_Wetlands_(MACAW)#Basic_Project_Information)