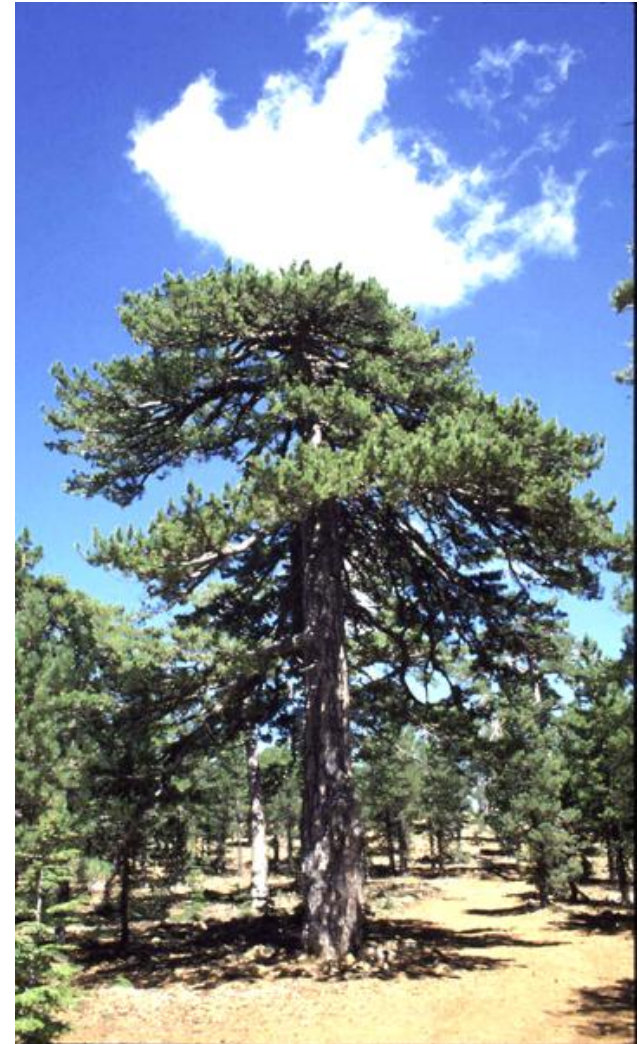




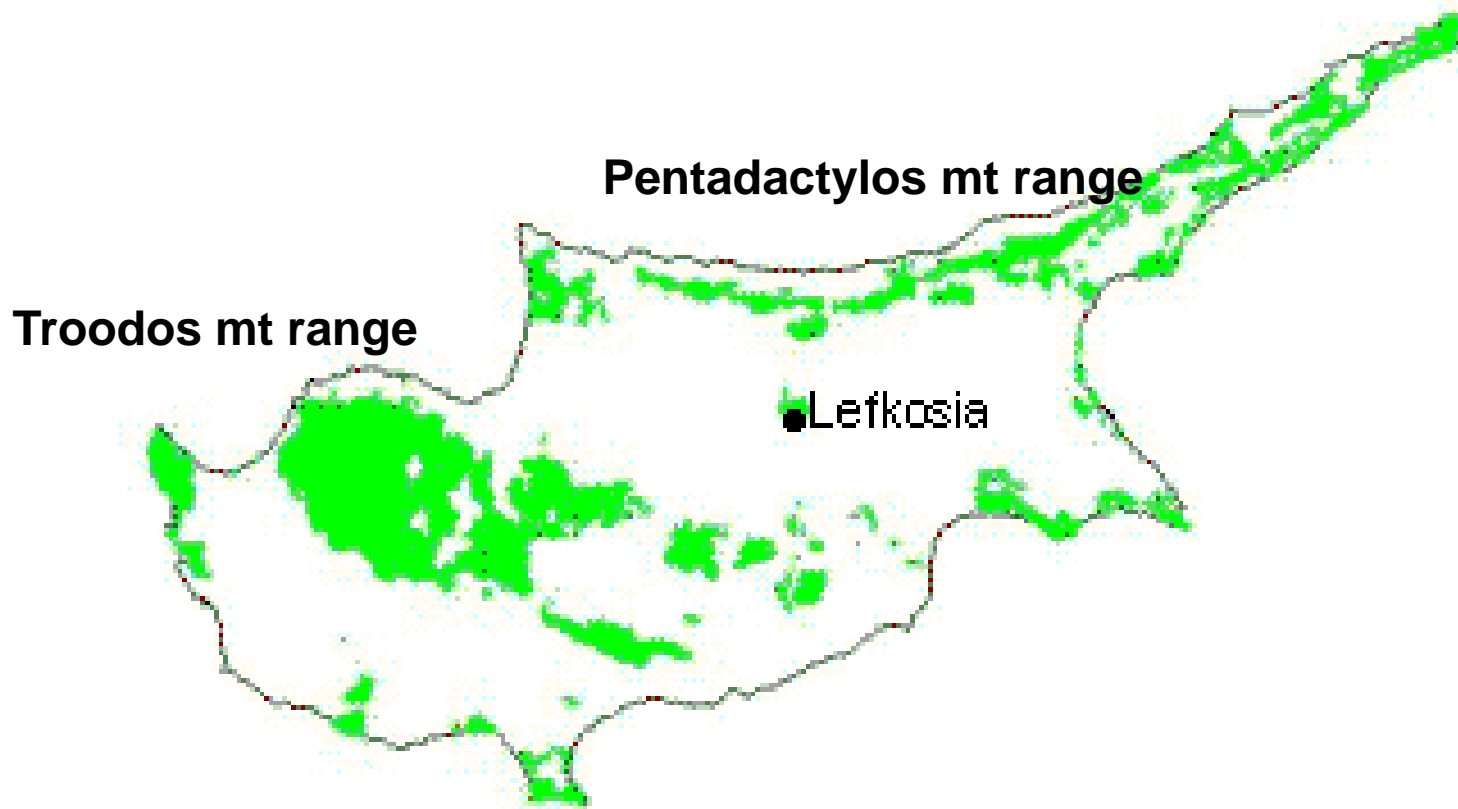
FORESTS IN CYPRUS

General information

- Forests are restricted mainly to the Troodos and Pentadactylos mountain ranges, with smaller plots at the foot of the mountains or in the plains and hilly regions.
- State forests cover an area of 157,788 hectares or 17.1% of the total area of the island. Privately owned forests cover an area of 228,930 hectares or 24.7% of the area of Cyprus.



Forest distribution in Cyprus



Natural Vegetation Types

Vegetation Type	State Forests		Private and Government Land		Total	
	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
High Forest	105.801	11,44	65.814	7,11	171.615	18,55
Bushes	35.771	3,87	90.319	9,76	126.090	13,63
Low plants	14.969	1,62	72.800	7,87	87.769	9,49
Other uses	6.033	0,65			6.033	0,65
Total	162.574	17,58	228.933	24,74	391.507	42,32

Categories of forests

Natural pine forests



Reforestation /
afforestations, mainly with
Calabrian pines



Tree species

- **Conifers**

- Calabrian Pine (*Pinus brutia*)
- Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*)
- Cyprus Cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*)
- Cypress Tree (*Cupressus sempervirens*)
- Juniper (*Juniperus foetidissima*)



- **Broadleaves**

- Plane (*Platanus orientalis*)
- Alder (*Alnus orientalis*)
- Oak (*Quercus infectoria*)
- Cyprus Oak (*Quercus Alnifolia*)

Regulation of forest policy

- The body responsible for the management of forests is the Department of Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.
- Its mission is to promote sustainable forest management and protection of state and privately owned forests and other wooded land in Cyprus, by implementing the government Forests Policy and the Forests Legislation.

Regulation of forest policy (2)

- ***Forests Legislation:*** Contains provisions regulating the relations between the citizens and the forest, as well as fire-lighting activities within 2 km from the state forests.
- ***State Forest Policy:*** Promotes forest development through sustainable management, through a system of multiple use, conservation of the biodiversity and upgrading and promotion / utilization of all functions of forest ecosystems, aiming at providing a longer and better quality life to modern society while preserving the forests for future generations.

Main Challenges

- Climate change (esp. droughts)



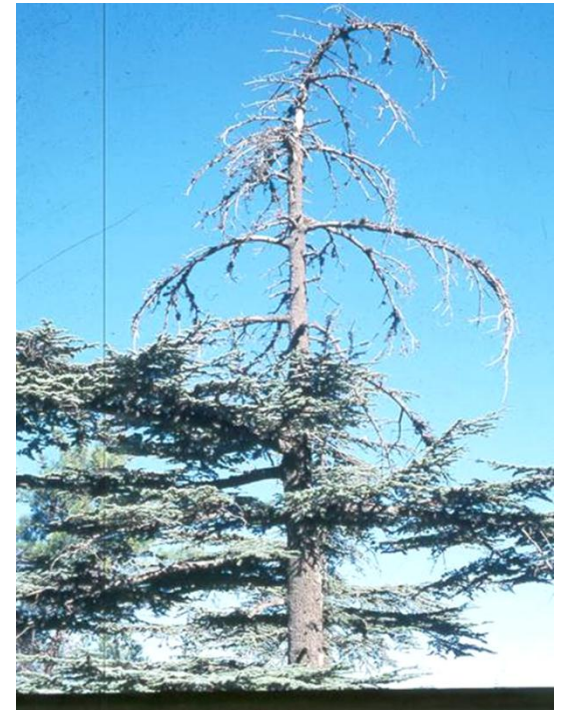
- Forest fires



Climate change

Degradation due to reduced rainfall and prolonged droughts, causing

- drying of large numbers of trees
- secondary insect infestations
- adverse effects on forest fauna due to declining stocks of food and water.



Climate change (2)

Mitigation measures:

- Short-term measures taken to deal with the consequences of the drought of 2005-2008.
- Developing of a 10-year action plan regarding the adaptation of Cyprus forests to climate change - expected to be completed in 2013.

Forest fires (1)

- Fires cause enormous and irreparable damage to forest ecosystems and in some cases threaten residential regions.
- High temperatures and prolonged drought periods, strong winds, ground configuration and extremely flammable vegetation contribute to an increased fire risk in Cyprus.
- The accumulation of biomass due to the abandonment of rural areas and the increasing tourism in forested areas, are also important factors increasing fire risk, especially during summer months.

Forest fires (2)

Preventive and mitigating measures:

- Fire prevention measures (law enforcement, information campaigns, operating picnic and camping sites, patrolling and fire danger mapping).
- Pre-suppression measures (fire breaks to interrupt the continuity of fuels, forest roads, forest telecommunications, silvicultural treatments - pruning, thinning and clearing of vegetation along forest and intercity roads).

Challenges to sustainable forests in Cyprus – Forest fires (3)

- Measures aiding the detection and reporting of forest fires (fire lookout stations, automatic fire detection system in Akamas forest, fire reporting phone line).
- Suppression measures (forest fire fighting task force, stand-by of forest officers, fire engines, fire protection systems, water tanks and hydrants, aerial means).

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, several large, mature pine trees with dense green needles are visible, some framing the view. The middle ground shows a vast valley with rolling hills and mountains covered in a mix of green and brown vegetation, suggesting a forest with some dry patches. In the background, more mountain ranges are visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font.

THANK YOU