



# BirdLife Cyprus Strategy

2013-2020



Πτηνολογικός  
Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου

BirdLife  
Cyprus



  
BirdLife  
INTERNATIONAL

Partnership for  
nature and people

BirdLife Cyprus was formed in 2003 through the merger of two Cyprus Ornithological Societies. It is a non-governmental, non-profit, registered organisation (NGO) for nature conservation. It is the national Partner of BirdLife International, a global Partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide. It runs campaigns against illegal bird trapping and poaching, and for the designation and protection of Important Bird Areas as Special Protection Areas, as well as campaigns in the areas of agriculture, education and awareness-raising. BirdLife Cyprus participates in a plethora of other programmes, funded in part by the EU, together with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders. Our aim is to protect the wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats, and wider biodiversity, and maintain a healthy environment in which people on the island can prosper alongside nature.

To achieve this, BirdLife Cyprus has defined the following priorities for its work for the period 2013-2020, which fall in line with the pillars of the new BirdLife International Strategy:

### SAVING SPECIES

- Improve knowledge about bird distribution, trends, population and status in Cyprus.
- Improve conservation status of selected bird species in Cyprus.
- Significantly reduce illegal bird killing and make it socially unacceptable.

## Page 5

### ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY

- Engage in policy reform and implementation to benefit biodiversity.
- Work towards a CAP reform *sensu* BirdLife.
- Ensure biodiversity agri-environment (AE) schemes and Natura 2000 payments in Cyprus have increased efficiency and positive biodiversity impacts by 2020.
- Maintain High Nature Value farming in Cyprus.
- Ensure that significant area of forest in Cyprus is being managed for biodiversity.
- Ensure climate change adaptation strategy does not undermine biodiversity concerns and targets.

## Page 8

### CONSERVING SITES AND HABITATS

- Fully update IBA data in Cyprus by 2020, and monitor IBAs regularly.
- Improve status of the most threatened and/or most important IBAs by 2020.
- Increase public support for Natura 2000 by 2020.

## Page 7

### EMPOWERING PEOPLE

- Engage people, raise awareness about birds and biodiversity in Cyprus, and build volunteer capacity.
- Increase public and corporate support for BirdLife Cyprus' work and cause.

## Page 9



## Foreword

The rate of biodiversity loss today is unparalleled in history, occurring at 100 to 1000 times the natural rate of extinction, so much so that biodiversity loss today is considered the most critical environmental threat together with climate change. Species and habitats in Cyprus are in a similarly alarming state of decline, due to relentless land use change, urbanisation and tourism development, illegal bird trapping, disturbance and many other threats.

Recognising the severity of biodiversity loss, the EU has adopted a Biodiversity Strategy with targets for 2020, which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2020 and to restore them in so far as feasible, while also stepping up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

BirdLife has been an active supporter of the implementation of the EU Strategy for Biodiversity, and BirdLife Cyprus is committed to do its part in order to reach the above target.

Conserving the natural environment benefits not only birds and biodiversity, but also people, who need healthy ecosystems and a sustainable use of natural resources to have a good quality of life, secured food and water supplies, sustainable livelihoods and a pleasant environment to live in. Conservation of nature also creates jobs and is one of the fastest rising employment sectors. But apart from the economic and logical arguments in favour of conserving biodiversity and birds, nature also has an intrinsic value. Birds have inspired people for thousands of years, they are celebrated in culture and song, and the wonder of bird migration still awes people around the globe.

BirdLife Cyprus presents here its priorities for 2020. BirdLife Cyprus will work on four pillars: studying, monitoring and protecting species; conserving and restoring sites and habitats; influencing policy in favour of nature and biodiversity; and finally, growing its constituency through inspiring people to care for nature and birds, and to act responsibly.

BirdLife Cyprus could not do all this without the valuable support of some of its dedicated funders, like the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation and the RSPB, which it gratefully acknowledges, but over the next seven years it also aims to build relationships through projects with more funding institutions and corporates, in order to meet its objectives. We are also grateful to our members and volunteers, whose funding, time and support are invaluable to us.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of our work, or how to support us, please contact us (see back cover for details). We would be very pleased to talk to you about what we can achieve together.

Dr Claire Papazoglou  
Executive Director

Mr Melis Charalambides  
BirdLife Cyprus Council Chairman





## Our vision

An island with healthy ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, where people actively safeguard nature for a sustainable future



## Our mission

Protecting the wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats, and wider biodiversity, through monitoring, conservation and education, and by developing people's appreciation of nature



## Objectives of the Organisation

The main objectives of BirdLife Cyprus are to promote the study, research, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds in Cyprus, to assist in their protection and conservation, and to publish any information and results considered appropriate.

Furthermore to promote, encourage and support the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the habitats and sites of wild birds in Cyprus.

Additionally, the society aims at bringing all aspects of birds in Cyprus to the notice of the widest possible audience, and maintaining good relations with relevant organisations and government departments in Cyprus and abroad.

Finally, BirdLife Cyprus aims at providing expert evidence to assist the investigative agencies and the Courts in the enforcement of conservation legislation.

## Saving species



### Objective: To improve knowledge about bird distribution, trends, population and status in Cyprus

#### Top priorities:

- Completing Birds in Europe III assessment of Status of European Bird Species.
- Reporting on Article 12 of the Birds Directive (2013-2019).
- Developing national bird Atlas project from 2013.
- Producing national Red Data List for birds.
- Carrying out annual monitoring of various species.
- Implementing Common Bird Monitoring scheme annually.
- Managing ringing scheme and developing project to establish a ringing station/observatory in Cyprus.
- Encouraging bird recording and publishing results, through citizen science initiatives.
- Increasing collaboration with universities, to carry out more ecological studies of priority species.

### Objective: To improve conservation status of selected bird species in Cyprus

#### Top priorities:

- Continuation of Griffon Vulture restocking project.
- New project on Roller.
- New project on endemics (Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear).
- New project tracking Audouin's Gull - Marine IBAs.



### Objective: To significantly reduce illegal bird killing and make it socially unacceptable

The main objectives here are to reduce illegal trapping to less than 5% of the levels recorded in the 1990s (i.e. to <500,000 birds killed per year), to make illegal bird trapping a socially unacceptable practice through campaigning and awareness raising, to make penalties imposed by courts on offenders a significant disincentive, and to reduce significantly the area managed for illegal bird trapping (especially in Cape Pyla).

#### Top priorities:

- Implementing the Strategic Action Plan for illegal bird trapping, and promoting its implementation by other relevant stakeholders.
- Carrying out a nationwide, high impact awareness campaign, and putting in place a longer term awareness-raising programme for the general public.
- Implementing a long-term environmental education programme in schools around Cyprus.
- Re-evaluating, together with the RSPB, the methodology used by BirdLife Cyprus for field monitoring, and continuing the monitoring using the new methodology.
- Lobbying to keep relevant cross-compliance provisions in relevant regulation, so that cross compliance penalties can continue to be used to reduce the CAP subsidies of farmers who trap birds.
- Evaluating possibilities of cooperation with animal rights/animal welfare groups.
- Developing a project to manage large areas of habitat in the worst trapping area to a) decrease available habitat for trapping; b) serve as a deterrent; c) demonstrate alternative land use potential.



## Conserving sites & habitats



### Objective: To fully update IBA data in Cyprus by 2020, and monitor IBAs regularly

#### Top priorities:

- Finishing and publishing new IBA inventory.
- Producing Marine IBA report by 2020.
- Inserting all data into the World Bird Database (BirdLife International's online IBA Database), including the IBA monitoring data, and keeping it updated.
- Developing IBA monitoring framework.
- Establishing IBA caretakers network.

### Objective: To improve status of the most threatened and / or most important IBAs by 2020

#### Top priorities:

- Continuing to lobby on the Cyprus Priority Action Framework (PAFs) and financing Natura 2000 areas.
- Continuing to contribute to and monitor Appropriate Assessment and EIA processes affecting Natura 2000 areas.
- Pressing for increased participation in management committees.
- Completing two large scale site restoration projects on two IBAs/SPAs by 2020.
- Monitoring IBA/SPA site protection and threats, and lobbying for conservation.
- Aiming to have Cyprus 'IBAs in Danger' taken off the international list.

### Objective: To increase public support for Natura 2000 by 2020

#### Top priorities:

- Implementing a national communication campaign promoting Natura 2000 (using LIFE Oroklini project model and best practice) from 2014 onwards.
- Developing at least one project demonstrating Ecosystem Services.

# Encouraging sustainability

## Objective: To engage in policy reform and implementation to benefit biodiversity

### Top priorities:

- Continue involvement in policy reform and implementation processes, namely a) reviewing 2013-2014 River basin Plan and thereon, especially focusing on water for nature; b) reviewing Forest Policy in 2016-2017; c) reviewing Planning Policy.
- Using political opportunities to promote nature and biodiversity conservation (e.g. 2016 parliamentary elections, 2018 presidential elections, other): i) analysing party manifestos; ii) sending letter to candidates with political asks; iii) meeting new ministers/MEPs; iv) using media as appropriate.

## Objective: To work towards a CAP reform *sensu* BirdLife

### Top priorities:

- Continuing work on CAP reform as appropriate.

## Objective: To ensure biodiversity agri-environment (AE) schemes and Natura 2000 payments in Cyprus have increased efficiency and positive biodiversity impacts by 2020

### Top priorities:

- Designing and proposing new AE schemes.
- Influencing implementation of CAP in Cyprus.
- Influencing the design and promoting effective Natura 2000 payments.
- Participating actively in the implementation of AE schemes.
- Monitoring AE schemes.

## Objective: To maintain High Nature Value farming in Cyprus

### Top priorities:

- Developing a programme on High Nature Value (HNV) farming (including grazing).
- Lobbying for the promotion of HNV in Cyprus, continue engagement with relevant stakeholders.
- Establishing Cyprus Hope Farm type project (demonstration-pilot) as appropriate.

## Objective: To ensure that significant area of forest in Cyprus is being managed for biodiversity.

### Top priorities:

- Establishing involvement through participation in at least one project in Paphos forest (diversification and biodiversity).

## Objective: To ensure climate change adaptation strategy does not undermine biodiversity concerns and targets

### Top priorities:

- Continuing to contribute to climate change adaptation committee.
- Promoting research projects on climate change/climate envelopes and bird distribution.



# Empowering people

Conserving the natural environment benefits not only birds and biodiversity, but also people, who need healthy ecosystems and a sustainable use of natural resources to have a good quality of life. BirdLife strives to encourage an appreciation of birds and nature in people, so that they may act responsibly, support environmentally friendly policies, and help safeguard nature for the future.

## Objective: To engage people, raise awareness about birds and biodiversity in Cyprus, and build volunteer capacity



### Top priorities:

- Maintaining membership work programme and Society publications.
- Maintaining and increasing membership.
- Increasing number of active volunteers.
- Developing and maintaining an environmental education programme.



## Objective: To increase public and corporate support for BirdLife Cyprus' work and cause

### Top priorities:

- Developing programme of engagement with corporates.
- Maintaining and improving communications activities through planned project actions and/or membership communications actions.
- Developing increased media presence.



# BirdLife Cyprus Governance

**President:** A.P. Leventis

BirdLife Cyprus is governed by a nine-member Council, which is elected by BirdLife Cyprus members at the Annual General Meeting and has a 3-year term. The Council has the right to appoint up to two members, on the basis of their contribution and experience. The members of the Council are volunteers.

## BirdLife Cyprus Council for the period 2012-2015

**Chairman:** Melis Charalambides  
**Vice – Chairman and Ringing Officer:** Alan Crabtree  
**Secretary:** Stavros Christodoulides  
**Treasurer:** Chris Charalambides  
**Fundraising Officer:** Eugene Benjamin  
**Social Secretary:** Loria Phylakti  
**BirdLine Officer:** June Neal  
**Fieldtrips Officer:** John Stapley  
**Council Member:** Chris Stavrou  
**Co-opted Officer:** Dan Rhoads

**Bird Recorder:** Jane Stylianou

## BirdLife Cyprus staff

**Executive Director:** Dr Claire Papazoglou  
**Campaigns Manager:** Martin Hellicar  
**LIFE Oroklini Project Coordinator:** Melpo Apostolidou  
**Development Officer:** Maria Christodoulou  
**Natura 2000 Officer:** Vasiliki Anastasi  
**Illegal Bird Killing Campaigns Officer:** Tassos Shialis  
**Communications Officer:** Costas Charalambous  
**Scientific Project Officer:** Andy Simpkin  
**Office Administrator:** Anastasia Patsalis



# BirdLife Cyprus Main Donors

## BirdLife Cyprus' work has been supported by:

- The Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU-BirdLife Germany)
- The MAVA Foundation
- The LIFE-EU Programme
- The Cross Border Cooperation Greece-Cyprus 2007-2013 Programme
- The Lifelong Learning Programme
- The A.G. Leventis Foundation
- The Republic of Cyprus (Game and Fauna Service, Veterinary Services)



# BirdLife Cyprus is the Partner of BirdLife International in Cyprus

BirdLife Cyprus is the official partner of BirdLife International in Cyprus. BirdLife International is a unique global partnership of national conservation organisations present in 121 countries/territories, and is the world leader in bird conservation. The BirdLife Partnership works locally to deliver long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

Website: [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)



Partnership for  
nature and people



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**Registered Society number:** 4



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### IMAGE CREDITS:

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