

MANAGEMENT OF THE AKAMAS PENINSULA (CYPRUS)

Major issues incorporated in the proposal Submitted to the Council of Ministers Regarding the Management of the Akamas Peninsula

as presented to the Meeting of the Bern Convention November 2005 by the representative of the Cyprus Government. (No formal decision of the Council of Ministers has yet been issued.)

A. Management Arrangements

1. Establishment of a co-ordinating committee for the implementation of the measures, with participation from representatives of the civil service, local communities, the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus, and the Federation of Environment and Ecological Organisations.
2. Preparation of a programme for the international promotion of the area.

B. Financing / Investments

1. The development expenditure to be covered from the Government Budget for the 2006-2014 period, excluding any land compensations, are estimated at CY 16.360.000:

Action Planned	Expenditure £ CP
International promotion of the area	200.000
Removal of illegal activities. Establishment of picnic areas / hygiene facilities. Clean-up of the area.	650.000
By-pass road of Neo Chorio village. By-pass roads of Arodes and Drousia – Prodromos communities. Forest roads; other roads and connecting roads between the local communities and Lara.	5.180.000
Study for the restoration of the Androlikou settlement.	80.000
Study for the preservation of cultural places.	50.000
Community project at the southern bay of Lara.	200.000
Restoration of houses, building of new ones.	10.000.000
Total	16.360.000

2. In addition, co-financing from European Community Funds can be made for tourism development, infrastructure improvements, various centres, agro-tourism, refurbishment and extension of infrastructure, business infrastructure, agro-industries, processing and marketing of agriculture produce, adoption of environmentally friendly agriculture methods, conservation of the ‘nature’ value of the agricultural environment, etc.

C. General Measures

1. The effective implementation of previous decisions inadequately implemented so far, such as the protection of the forest from overgrazing, the restoration of the area where military exercises used to be carried out and the removal of illegal interventions.
2. Exchange of the property owned by the Church and other major private properties with state-owned property of poor environmental value, in other parts of Cyprus. Various criteria will be adopted in order to make the exchange fair. The state properties will be included in appropriate

development zones. This measure will also cover smaller land owners as well as owners of land enclaved in the national forest.

3. Maintaining the option for small properties acquisition, with the payment of fair compensation, in cases where this is deemed as socially justified.

D. Development Measures

1. Building a Community project at the south bay of Lara, to be managed by the Community of Inia, for providing basic services to visitors. The project will follow appropriate design and operation terms.
2. Provision of incentives, primarily to locals, for small hotels, services, traditional vocations, handicrafts, new dwellings and restoration of existing houses. This measure will cover hotels of 60-120 beds, In-type units, restoration of 500 houses, and the building of 250 new houses.
3. Provision of incentives of wineries, cheese-dairy units, model husbandry units. Adoption of a standardised label and place of origin name. Promotion of agro-environmental support plans. Study of the potential for extending irrigation by transporting water from elsewhere.
4. Investments for the improvement of the infrastructure of settlements (public squares, services).
5. Establishment of: International Youth Centre at Neo Chorio; Handicraft Centre at Arodes; Environmental Information Centre at Inia; Education Centre at Drousia; Traditional Architecture Centre at Kathikas.
6. Restoration of the Androlikou settlement.

E. Movement

1. Regulation of the movement of large and heavy vehicles in sensitive areas.
2. Improvement of the connecting roads of Kathikas, Arodes, Inia and Drousia Communities, as well as with the major road of Pafos – Polis Chrysochous.
3. Re-design (where required) of roads and their surfacing with the appropriate materials. New roads for forest protection; closure of inaccessible roads or roads that effect environmentally sensitive areas.
4. Re-design (for its more appropriate ‘blending’ with the landscape) of the main road connecting the Communities with the coastal area. Development along this road will be prohibited.

F. Land Use Measures

1. Amendment of the development zones of each settlement, without waiting for a holistic solution.
2. Revision of the Residential and Tourist zones around the settlements taking into consideration the needs of the Communities.
3. Designation of a Tourist zone within the administrative boundaries of Inia, adjacent to the settlement, for the encouragement of mild development.

4. Maintaining the policy for single dwellings on the basis of the Policy Statement for the Countryside for the area east of the settlements, with the exception of specific locations of particular environmental significance. The Policy will not apply to the area west of the settlements, which is characterised by particular environmental sensitivity. In the case of the abolition of part of the Livestock Zones west of the settlements (if this is justified) and their conversion to agricultural zones, the above-mentioned arrangement concerning the policy for isolated dwellings will also apply.
5. Reduction of the development intensity in the Tourist zone in Asprokremmos (Neo Chorio), for plots that have not been granted and planning permit of for which such permits will expire. Reduction will include the decrease in the building coefficient, height restrictions, prohibiting hotel erection and the avoidance of the creation of a ‘wall’ of buildings along the coast.
6. Re-assessment of the policy regarding the Tourist Zone at Agios Georgios Pegias.
7. Examination of the forest protection zones in order to identify potentials for their reduction, without decreasing the necessary degree of protection. Study of the possibility of compensation of people affected by the zoning arrangements.
8. Maintenance of the restrictive policy for development in the coastal zone.
9. Preparation of land-use plans for all development areas, including principles of architectural design.

G. Other Measures

1. Establishment of recreation areas and hygiene facilities at appropriate places.
2. Regulation of hunting in sensitive areas.
3. Preparation and implementation of a plan to promote archaeological and other cultural elements.

1st of November, 2005