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**CONSULTATION ON THE DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS
WITHIN THE WESTERN SOVEREIGN BASE AREA**

Dear stakeholder

Exercising my powers under Sections 6 and 7 of the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004 in my capacity as the Chief Officer of the Sovereign Base Areas, and having regard to written opinion from the SBAA Senior Environmental Officer, I intend to prescribe three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Sovereign Base Area of Akrotiri.

The purpose of these designations is to support the conservation of internationally important bird populations and these sites will support the existing network of SPAs across Europe. As a result there will be legal obligations for those involved in the management of these areas. The legal obligations are prescribed under the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004.

The provisional boundaries and the extent of these areas ('Akrotiri Cliffs', 'Episkopi Cliffs' and 'Akrotiri Wetlands') are shown on the map attached at Annex A. More detailed cadastral maps of specific sections of the boundaries can be made available upon request.

The formal citation explaining what each site is and the criteria under which it qualifies for designation is attached as Annex B.

Annex C includes a short guide to the implications of the designation in the form of answers to frequently asked questions.

A list of stakeholders being consulted as part of this process is at Annex D. If you know of any other stakeholders who should be consulted, please let me know or ask them to get in touch. Also, if you are the Head of an organisation/department please inform any interested parties within your establishment. I would also ask the Chairmen of Community Councils to inform all interested land owners/users within their respective communities.

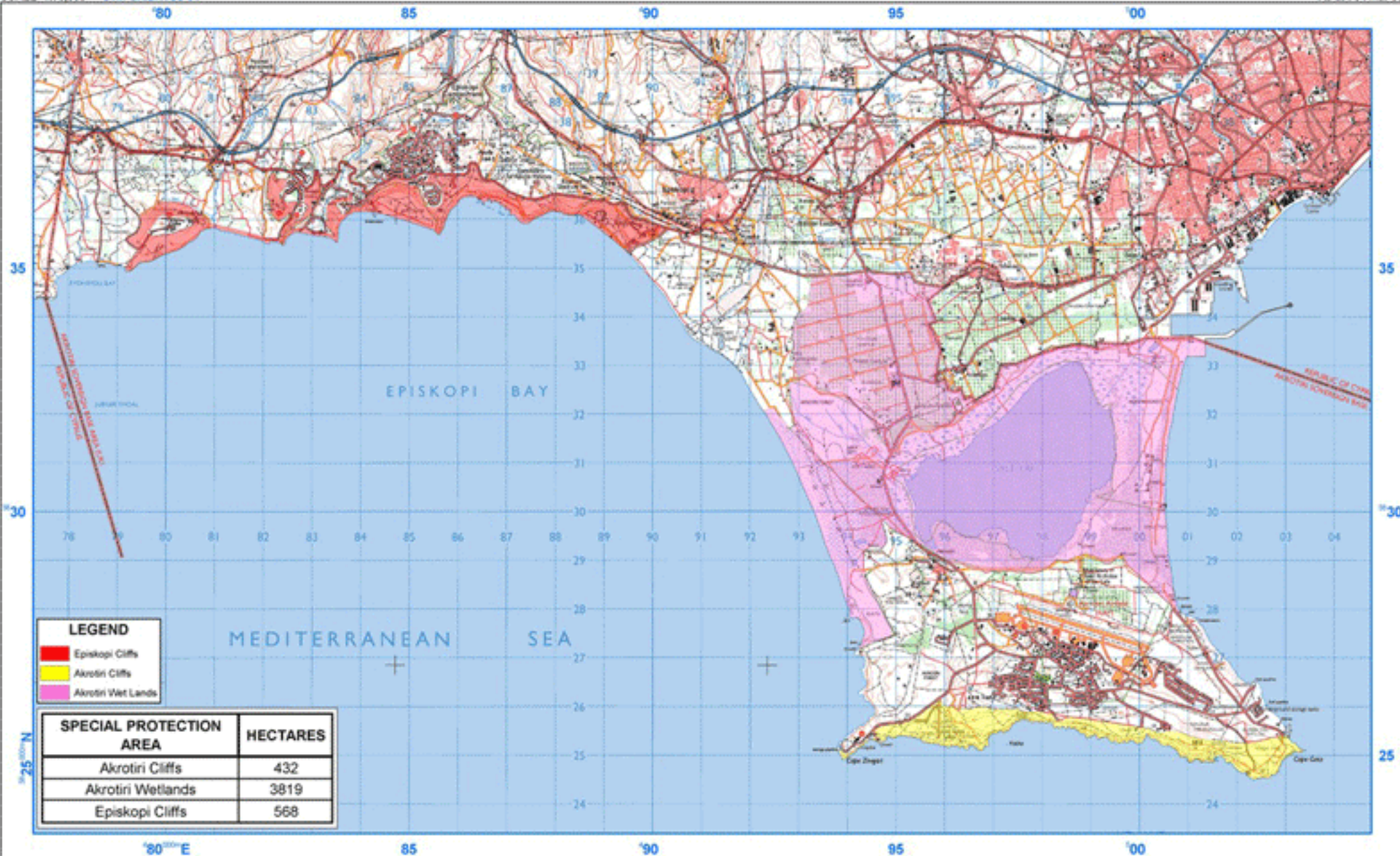
Any comments or questions, on the proposals may be directed to me c/o SO1 SHE, HQ SBAA Episkopi, BFPO 53. We will need to know your views on the proposals no later than 7th April 2008, if they are to be taken into account in the final decision making. I should like to clarify that only representations based on scientific data will be considered in this process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

WSBA CONSULTATION MAP - SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

SCALE 1:70,000 UTM GRID/WGS 84

As at : 04 Mar 08



LEGEND

- Episkopi Cliffs
- Akrotiri Cliffs
- Akrotiri Wet Lands

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA	HECTARES
Akrotiri Cliffs	432
Akrotiri Wetlands	3819
Episkopi Cliffs	568

SCALE 1:70,000



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**DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS IN
THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS**

1. Site Name:

Akrotiri Cliffs

2. Site Administration:

Sovereign Base Areas Administration

3. Site Description and Importance

The Akrotiri Cliffs are situated at the southern end of the Akrotiri Peninsula. Formed in the pleistocene geological period, the cliffs provide a combination of habitats including submerged and partially submerged sea caves and vegetated sea cliffs, adjacent to garigue and maquis habitats. The combination of these habitats and the relatively undisturbed location within a military Base provides important breeding sites for the migrant breeder Eleonora's Falcon (average nesting pairs over the last five years: 32), and the resident breeder European (Mediterranean) Shag.

4. Site holds the following birds qualifying under Directive 79/409/EEC on the Protection of Wild Birds as mirrored by the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance.

4. 1. Site holds at least 1% of a flyway or EU population of a threatened species at the EU level

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon

Migrant breeder

4.2 Site is one of the five most important in Cyprus for a species or subspecies considered threatened in the EU.

Scientific Name	Common name
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	European (Mediterranean) Shag resident breeder
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon (migrant breeder)
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon (resident breeder)

**DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS
IN THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS**

1. Site Name:

Akrotiri Wetlands

2. Site Administration:

Sovereign Base Areas Administration

3. Site Description and Importance

Akrotiri Wetlands site comprises the Salt Lake and other coastal lagoons and pools, halophytic wetlands, the Phassouri Marsh (reedbeds and sedgebeds) and surrounding marshes and halophilus scrubs, eucalyptus plantations and adjacent farmland.

The Salt Lake, the Phassouri Marsh and the surrounding wetlands support the largest number of water birds in Cyprus. Eighty nine species of migratory water birds use the area for wintering, roosting and foraging. Thousands of Flamingos use the Salt Lake every year for wintering (peak number over the last five years: 10,000). Hundreds of Demoiselle Cranes use the Salt Lake and the surrounding marshes in August and September for roosting (365 birds recorded in 2007). Large numbers of White storks and Common Cranes also concentrate at the wetlands (between late September and late October more than 10,000 cranes have been recorded over-flying the Akrotiri Peninsula). The wetlands are used by sandpipers of 20 species (especially Ruff and Little Stint) numbering in their thousands as a staging ground during spring migration. Akrotiri salt lake is also one of the two most important nesting sites for the Black-winged Stilt (up to 54 pairs nested there during spring 2005).

The area, and especially the eucalyptus forest and the fruit plantations, is an important site for migratory raptors. Large numbers of Red-footed Falcons (up to 830), Honey Buzzards (up to 5,000), Marsh Harriers (up to 600), Lesser Kestrels (up to 137) , and many other species of raptors pass through the area (autumn migration raptor count from 2004 - 2007 identified 25 species of raptors with a total annual population of up to 7000 birds).

The Spur-winged Plover uses the Phassouri marsh area regularly for breeding. This marsh is also the only nesting site for the globally endangered Ferruginous Duck that colonized the site since 2005, and also one of the two nesting sites for the Black-headed Yellow Wagtail on the island. Significant numbers of Shelducks overwinter at the salt lake, while large numbers of Slender-billed Gulls and Bee-eaters are passage migrants. It is one of the two nesting sites for the Kentish Plover on the island.

4. Site holds the following birds qualifying under Directive 79/409/EEC on the Protection of Wild Birds as mirrored by the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance.

4. 1. Site holds at least 1% of a flyway or EU population of a threatened species at the EU level

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Greater Flamingo
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey Buzzard
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier
<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Pallid Harrier
<i>Falco vesperinus</i>	Red-footed Falcon
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon
<i>Grus grus</i>	Crane
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Collared Pratincole
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover
<i>Larus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull
<i>Sterna(Gelochelidon) nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron

4.2 Site holds at least 1% of flyway of migratory species not considered threatened at the EU level.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Shelduck
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater sand Plover
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater

4.3 Site is one of the five most important in Cyprus for a species or subspecies considered threatened in the EU.

Scientific Name	Common name
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt (migrant breeder)
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover (resident breeder)
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Spur-winged Plover (migrant breeder)
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck (migrant breeder)

4.4 Site holds 3,900- 7,300 raptors and 1,000- 6,000 cranes.

4.5 Site holds between 30,000- 40,000 waterbirds annually.

**DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS
IN THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS**

1. Site Name:

Episkopi Cliffs

2. Site Administration:

Sovereign Base Areas Administration

3. Site Description and Importance

The Episkopi Cliffs and associated natural habitats such as juniper maquis, phrygana, olea and ceratonia forests form some of the most important nesting sites for the qualifying bird species in Cyprus. Many of the nesting areas fall inside Episkopi Garrison which provides a degree of isolation and restrictions on disturbing activities. The cliffs are the most important breeding site for the resident griffon vulture whose overall numbers are in decline in Cyprus and do not exceed fifteen individuals. The peregrine, an uncommon breeding resident in Cyprus, also breeds at the cliffs. Surveys undertaken over the last five years indicate that an average of 37 breeding pairs of Eleonora's falcons use the cliffs.

4. Site holds the following birds qualifying under Directive 79/409/EEC on the Protection of Wild Birds as mirrored by the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance.

4. 1. Site holds at least 1% of a flyway or EU population of a threatened species at the EU level

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Falco Eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon

4.2 Site is one of the five most important in Cyprus for a species or subspecies considered threatened in the EU.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	European (Mediterranean) Shag

Guide to the implications of Special Protection Area designation

Introduction

This note aims to provide stakeholders with brief summary information on the effects of having land designated as a Special Protection Area.

What is a Special Protection Area?

Special Protection Areas are areas designated in order to preserve, maintain or re-establish habitats of sufficient diversity and size to support protected wild birds listed in Schedule I of the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004 or migratory species of wild birds not included in the same schedule.

These three sites are the first to be designated within the Sovereign Base Areas. The Government of Cyprus has so far designated 19 sites within the Republic of Cyprus.

How are Special Protection Areas selected?

The three proposed Special Protection Areas have been selected based on a combination of international best practice (criteria set out by the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the criteria and information contained in the Proposed Important Bird Areas in Cyprus prepared by Birdlife Cyprus as well as data from the Game Fund). Additionally ground surveys were undertaken to select areas which support important roosting, nesting and feeding habitat for the qualifying birds.

How are Special Protection Areas protected?

In addition to the general protection of wild birds provided under the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004, Special Protection Areas are managed and protected through legal measures for the protection and conservation of habitats both within the designated site and its surrounding area. Examples of such measures include the prohibition or the required undertaking of certain activities or operations, the taking of conservation measures and the establishment of a management plan. Also, the conservation objectives of Special Protection Areas need to be taken into account in the process of environmental assessment of plans or projects.

What is the role of the Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA)?

The SBAA is responsible for identifying the sites that qualify for designation based on available scientific information. It is also responsible for the designation of the sites and the prescription of appropriate protection and conservation measures. The SBAA will work closely with all stakeholders in ensuring the protection and appropriate management of these sites.

What happens next and what you need to do

We are currently consulting all stakeholders of the sites proposed for designation.

If you are happy with the proposed designation then there is nothing further you need to do, although we would be pleased to register your support. If, however, you object to the designation you should write to the SBAA, specifically setting out your reasons for objecting together with any evidence you have, by 7th April 2008. If necessary, following receipt of written objections, we may contact you directly for further clarifications.

Final decisions about the designations will be made only after we have properly considered any objections received.

How will the designation affect you?

The designation requires us to carefully consider projects, plans or activities that could potentially damage the conservation objectives for which each site has been designated. This requirement applies both within the sites themselves and the surrounding areas. Although specific development restrictions are expected in different areas, it is likely that many of the current lawful land management activities will remain unaffected and in some circumstances they may be necessary to maintain the conservation interest.

To assist the management of these sites, we will in the near future be issuing lists of potentially damaging activities for each site, which will require prior consultation and approval from the authorities.

Where to find out more

If, having read all the enclosures, you are in any way unclear or uncertain about the implications for you, or the next step, please contact us at the Headquarters in Episkopi. We would be pleased to discuss the designation process.

If you wish to find out more about Special Protection Areas then you can refer to:

- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_birds/index_en.htm
- www.jncc.gov.uk/page-162

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Environment Service
Game Fund
Department of Forests
Antiquities Department
Fisheries and Marine Research Department
Water Development Department
Department of Geological Surveys
Department of Town Planning and Housing
Limassol District Office
Mayor of Limassol
Water Board of Limassol
Land Consolidation Department
Department of Agriculture,
Agricultural Research Institute
Veterinary Services
Sewerage Board of Limassol- Amathus
Cyprus Ports Authority
Electricity Authority of Cyprus
Cyprus Telecommunications Authority
Cyprus Tourism Organisation

Birdlife Cyprus
Terra Cypria
CYMEPA
Akrotiri Environmental Club
Cyprus Federation for Hunting and Wildlife Conservation
Cyprus Wildlife Society
Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations of Cyprus
Turtlewatch Episkopi
Turtlewatch Akrotiri
Aeroclub Limassol
Pancyprian Union of Foresters
Association of Professional Foresters
Cyprus Automobile Association
Cyprus Federation of Race Cars
Limassol Federation of Cars
Limassol Motorist Federation
Malcom Cat Protection Society
POVEK

Akrotiri Community Council
Asomatos Community Council
Zakaki Comunity Council
Cherkez Community Council
Kollosi Community Council
Episkopi Community Council

Sotira Community Council
Paramali Community Council
Avdimou Community Council

Akrotiri Merra Committee
Zakaki Merra Committee

Bishopric of Limassol
Bishopric of Kition

Bern Convention
Ramsar Convention

Amalthia Trading
Captain's Cabin Restaurant
Glaros Restaurant
Golden Beach Restaurant
Oasis Stephanos Fish Tavern
Sophoklis Restaurant
Lanitis Farm
Cyprus Fassouri Plantations Ltd
Amagio Enterprises Ltd