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Akrotiri Peninsula Environmental Management Plan
Results of the consultation workshop held at Akrotiri Village on 11th May 2006

The workshop was attended by forty people, representing thirty-one stakeholder parties as shown on the attendance list attached. It lasted for about three and a half hours and consisted of two parts. In the first part each stakeholder was asked to offer views and comments on the contents of the stakeholder consultation proposal by emphasising any of the identified issues or proposing additional ones. The second part offered an opportunity for further views and comments as well as clarifications. The following is a summary of the input from each stakeholder.

1. Opening statement by Mr John Stainton, Administrative Secretary of the Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA)
 - Everyone's interest and contribution to the workshop and the management process in general is appreciated and is considered to be very important. Every effort will be made to accommodate in the management plan as many of the views and interests as possible.
 - The policy of the UK Ministry of Defence is to satisfy the defence needs with sensitivity to the environment.
 - The SBAs in their effort to fulfil their environmental commitments are restructuring their environmental departments and are allocating further resources, namely a full time post in Defence Estates and a new post for a locally employed civilian at SBAA.
2. First Part: stakeholder views
 - a. George Christou, Chairman of Akrotiri Community Council
 - The community supports the plan and wants to play a vital role in it, but is concerned that this could impose further restrictions to the development of the village.
 - The community is very pleased with the operation of the Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre (AEEIC). It looks forward to its extension and the creation of related infrastructure such as nature trails and bird-watching facilities which would provide more employment opportunities to the village.
 - Cultural aspects including archaeology need to be promoted further.

- Traditional activities such as basketry and grazing need to be supported and subsidised.
 - The ongoing flooding of the Akrotiri Marsh causes environmental and other damage.
 - There is information that the Bishopric of Limassol has been causing environmental damage within their farm including damage to habitat and caves of archaeological interest.
 - The problem of fly-tipping needs to be addressed immediately.
 - The problem of the operation of the communal rubbish tip/collection area is being addressed and will be resolved soon.
- b. Mr Theodoros Charlis, Sovereign Base Areas Police (SBAP)
- SBAP includes the environment in its strategic aims and objectives and will help the management plan in terms of law enforcement such as for poaching and fly-tipping.
- c. Mr Christakis Sergides, Town Planning and Housing Department
- Town Planning supports the management plan but has queries about the legal framework for its implementation and the accountability of the various stakeholders.
 - There is a need to mirror the Town Planning Law of the Republic within the Bases, with a view to designate appropriate development zones.
 - The Bases need to mirror the environmental legislation and the related schemes and programmes of the Republic.
 - There is a need to extend to the Bases environmental conventions such as the Rome Convention on the protection of landscape.
 - The military projects and activities will need to comply with environmental protection and conservation needs.
- d. Mrs Eleni Prokopiou, Antiquities Department
- The Antiquities Department supports the management plan.
 - There is a need for a vision regarding the long-term natural destination of the area, for example as an archaeological and environmental park.
 - All structures should be designed to be compliant with the local environment and the above destination.
 - The caves in Limassol Bishopric's farm referred to by the Chairman of the Akrotiri Community Council were inspected and no archaeological interest was identified. Similar claims should be reported immediately to the department and not retrospectively.
- e. Mr Nicos Kassinis, Game and Fauna Service
- The Game and Fauna Service stresses the environmental importance of the area and the need for a management plan.
 - Immediate measures will need to be implemented, simultaneously with the preparation of the plan, such as:
 - The antennae bird studies

- Joint anti-poaching campaigns with SBAP, as poaching has increased a lot in the last 2 years.
 - Enforcement of the Dog's Ordinance.
 - There needs to be an extension of the Ramsar boundary to include areas of Akrotiri Merra, parts of the Church land, Lady's Mile etc.
- f. Mr Minas Papadopoulos, Forestry Department and Professional Foresters Association
- The Forestry Department is discontent with the inclusion of forestry activities in the factors that influence conservation features.
 - Fly-tipped rubbish needs to be removed from the peninsula and further dumping prevented.
 - Poaching needs to be controlled.
 - The number of aerials after the Pluto installations, has been increasing instead of decreasing.
 - The Ramsar boundary needs to be extended.
 - The peninsula needs to be included in the Natura 2000 scheme.
 - Levelling works at Lady's Mile have been causing damage to sand dunes.
 - The flooding of Akrotiri Marsh has reduced or even made extinct populations of rare plant species included in the Cyprus Red Book for plants.
 - *The Forestry Department sent the following written views by a letter dated 4th July 2006:*
 - *Discontent about the inclusion of forestry activities as negative factors in the management plan.*
 - *Erection of new antennae west of the main road instead of reduction of the number of antennae after the erection of Pluto I and II.*
 - *Flooding of the Akrotiri Marsh after the erection of Pluto I and II resulting in local extinction or immediate threat for local extinction of rare indigenous species of flora.*
 - *The need for absolute protection of rare endemic species of flora in the wider area of Akrotiri.*
 - *Destruction of important populations of the plant *Pancreatium maritimum* at Lady's Mile due to recent ground works carried out by the local beach restaurants.*
 - *A need for designation of the whole area as a Ramsar site and inclusion into Natura 2000 or an equivalent scheme to assist sustainable management of the area.*
 - *A need for better policing to stop illegal/inappropriate activities which now compromise the local ecological features.*
 - *The delayed studies for the impact of the antennae on birds.*
- g. Mr Martin Hellicar, Birdlife Cyprus
- The site needs to be designated as *the equivalent of* a Special Protected Area before the management plan, in order to assist the plan preparation and implementation.
 - The management of the area needs to follow the same philosophy as the Natura 2000 scheme: there cannot be conservation without development *or* development without conservation. Development should not stop completely but needs to be

sustainable and *consistent with biodiversity management*. A good example of such development is agro-tourism.

- The designation and management should extend to the cliffs of Episkopi which are very important for birds as well.
- Akrotiri Peninsula is the most important bird area on island.

h. Mr Dafnis Panagides, Bishopric of Limassol and Cyprus Environmental Research and Education Centre

- The Bishopric commends the initiative for the workshop and the management plan, but notes that there needs to be a defined timeframe for the preparation and implementation of the plan.
- The Bishopric should be included in all future consultations.
- The consultation proposal is quite detailed and a lot of work must have been put into it.
- There will be a written response in a few days with particular comments on a few points in the proposal.
- The operation of the Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre is welcomed and there will be co-operation from the Bishopric on the future development of the Centre.
- Stakeholders should be educated so that that they can understand and appreciated environmental management related issues. Local residents will thus be convinced that the management of the area will benefit rather than damage their interests.
- Access to Aetokremnos Site within RAF Station should be facilitated, bearing in mind military requirements.
- Would like to explain to the Chairman of Akrotiri Village Commission what has really happened with the alleged damage to caves within the Bishopric's farm.
- The track to St Nicholas Monastery will need to be improved.
- There is a lot of poaching and little control in the area.
- All are invited to a beach cleaning campaign at Lady's Mile on 26/5/06 at 10.00.

i. Christakis Evelthontos, Akrotiri Environmental Association

- The Association commends the management plan which was actually on of its own demands during the Pluto discussions.
- Certain military projects are carried out without any assessment or consultation such as the recent installation of two antennae in the Merra area, the improvement of the parking area at the antennae site and the levelling of a big area of natural habitat within RAF Akrotiri. The management plan will need to address such issues.
- The association will send its views in writing.
- *The Association sent their written views by a letter dated 11 May 2006 addressing the following issues and asking relevant questions:*
 - *The reasons for water-flow restriction at Akrotiri Marsh and the negative impact on local hydrology and the wider ecosystem.*
 - *Construction of the new parking area at the aerial site and installation of two new antennae and whether a relevant environmental study had been carried out.*

- *The progress with the Pluto bird studies.*
 - *Stripping of vegetation last year for the purpose of constructing buildings and roads within RAF Station and whether an environmental study had been carried out.*
 - *The need to mitigate the aircraft noise problem.*
 - *Environmental impact of the installation of the Pluto antennae (birds, visual impact, human health etc) and conflicting objectives of the management plan.*
 - *The relationship between the management plan and the Natura scheme.*
 - *Appropriate operation and control of the turtle watch groups.*
 - *The plans for creating golf courses north of the salt lake.*
 - *The plans for creating a fish-farm and a boat-repair unit at Lady's Mile.*
 - *The operation of animal farms in the area and their impact on ecotourism.*
 - *The need to use local experts for commissioning environmental studies.*
 - *The need for strict implementation of the law for fly-tipping, especially at Akrotiri Merra area.*
- j. Mr Pantelis Metaxas, Cyprus Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations
- Paragraphs 3.1 and 8.6.1 in the consultation proposal are in conflict as sustainability and the military interests are not compatible.
 - There is no need for military bases after the fall of the eastern block.
- k. Mr Andreas Fedonos, Waterboard Limassol
- The local aquifer has strategic importance for the city of Limassol and needs to be protected. Measures should include replenishment with water by the Water Development Department, restriction on abstraction from boreholes etc.
 - The restaurants at Lady's Mile need to be supplied with potable water.
- l. Mrs Roulla Afami, Limassol-Amathus Sewerage Board
The issues relating to the Board include:
- The Miltonos storm sewer project.
 - The planned storm sewer storage pool which will overflow to the Salt Lake.
 - The potential sewerage system for Akrotiri Village.
- m. Mr Christis Vassiliou, Limassol Aeroclub
- The club has been using an area southeast of the salt lake for flying model aircraft for many decades and is concerned that the plan may have an impact on their activities.
- n. Mr Costas Manoli, Limassol District Administration, Akrotiri Merra Committee, Zakaki Merra Committee
- There needs to be anthropocentric consideration of environmental issues with focus on health, prosperity and employment.
 - The restrictions on development of the Akrotiri Merra Land are excessive.
- o. Mr Nicodemos Nicodemou, Water Development Department

- There is a need for appropriate hydrological management of the area, as there have been adverse changes to the hydrological regime and the quality and quantity of water.
 - There needs to be strict control on the abstraction of water from the local aquifer.
- p. Mr George Constantinou, Akrotiri Cultural Association
- Akrotiri Marsh has become a lake due to continuous flooding, leading to the reduction or even local extinction of plants, some of which are used for basketry.
- q. Mr Panicos Constantinou, Zakaki Co-ordinating Committee
- Rubbish is piling up in sensitive areas as a result of inadequate control by the Base authorities.
 - The area close to Zakaki Pool and Lady's Mile is illegally used for trailer parking.
 - Management should be anthropocentric.
 - There is a need for landscape improvement at the Zakaki Merra
 - There needs to be a special committee for the management of the Zakaki area.
 - Access to Lady's Mile should be improved.
 - It is not clear what is the collection pool referred to by the Limassol-Amathus Sewerage Board. Storm water from the Miltonos project is supposed to be going to the sea and not to Zakaki Pool or the salt lake.
- r. Mr Adonis Giasemides, Cyprus Electricity Authority
- The environment is a priority for the authority which will contribute to the management plan in due course.
- s. Mrs Marina Argyrou, Fisheries and Marine Research Department
- The department will continue to co-operate with the Base authorities on all issues such as the control of illegal fishing.
 - The area needs to be included in the Natura 2000 scheme.
- t. Mr Iacovos Economides, Blue Fisheries Ltd
- The company is concerned with coastal erosion and the effect on its facilities.
- u. Mr Georgios Georgiou, Foresters' Association – Graduates of the Cyprus Forestry College
- The Association welcomes the initiative.
 - The military activities and projects should comply with the environmental interest.
 - The area needs to be included in the Natura 2000 scheme.
- v. Handicraft Service
- The written views of the service are:
- The service in an effort to preserve local basketry has developed the following programmes and activities at Akrotiri:
- Promotion of the production and marketing of local basketry artefacts.
 - Educational programmes at the AEEIC for younger local people.

w. Terra Cypria

Terra Cypria sent the following views and comments by e-mail on 10 July 2006:

- *Satisfaction about the views of the Bishopric of Limassol for co-operation of the two centres.*
- *Acknowledgment of strong support for the extension of the Ramsar boundary and protection of Episkopi cliffs.*
- *Acknowledgment of strong concerns about the illegal dumping of refuse.*
- *Concern about the comments for the extinction of rare species due to the flooding of Akrotiri Marsh.*
- *Concerns about the reported disposal of liquid waste by SWS into Akrotiri wetlands.*
- *Interest in the continuation of the Pluto bird studies.*

3. Second Part: Further views, comments and clarifications

a. Mr Pantelis Charilaou, SBAA

- The consultation proposal is based on extensive further work that has already been prepared for the management plan, but the current intention is to prepare and implement the plan in a participatory manner. Consultations with all stakeholders will be continuous and the plan will be dynamic and flexible.
- There may have been certain misperceptions about the boundaries of the plan. The area of the peninsula which has been surveyed by the Republic of Cyprus departments under the Natura 2000 study is the area that includes important conservation characteristics. However, the plan itself should include wider areas, in so far as these contain sources of impact to the important characteristics on the peninsula. An example of such a distant source is the Kourris Dam.
- The agreement on the design and operation of the Miltonos Storm Sewer was that storm water would indeed go to the sea at Lady's Mile, with an option to divert appropriate quantities of appropriate quality to Zakaki Pool and the salt lake under the management plan.

b. Mr George Christou, Akrotiri Community Council

- The village is concerned with the proposed extension of the Akrotiri Ramsar Site, the wider boundaries of the management plan, as well as the zoning proposed by Town Planning. All these are likely to restrict the community's aspirations for development, including in the Akrotiri Merra. The Ramsar designation could restrict development once the relevant SBA development restrictions are relaxed.
- The proposed Ramsar boundary extension should be submitted to Akrotiri Merra Committee.

c. Mr Pantelis Metaxas, Cyprus Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations

- MP does not intend to frustrate development plans but promotes sustainable development. Eco-tourism is key for the future of Akrotiri village.

- The Federation thinks that all management measures should be based on appropriate consideration including scientific studies, assessments etc.
 - The community should be informed about the benefits from the Ramsar designation, the management plan and sustainable development.
- d. Mr Christakis Evelthontos, Akrotiri Environmental Association
- The community has had obvious benefits from the Ramsar designation and the establishment and operation of the Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre.
 - Only a minority within the community is concerned about the extension of the Ramsar boundary.
 - The restrictions to development derive from the policy of the Bases and not from the Ramsar designation.
- e. Mr George Christou, Akrotiri Community Council
- The Ramsar designation will be an obstacle to development once the Base restrictions are lifted.
 - The proposed extension of the Ramsar Boundary into Merra Land should be put for consideration to the Merra Committee.
- f. Mr Panicos Constantinou, Zakaki Co-ordinating Committee
- The SWS canning industry is disposing of liquid waste into the Zakaki Pool which is within the Ramsar designated area.
 - The committee is against extension of the Ramsar boundary.
- g. Mr Georgios Georgiou, Foresters' Association – Graduates of the Cyprus Forestry College
- Sustainable development can contribute to the local economy and should not be seen as an obstacle to development.
 - The Agricultural Development Plan includes many agro-environmental measures such as subsidies for eco-friendly development of the areas.
- h. Mrs Eleni Prokopiou, Antiquities Department
- The management plan should include the areas of Kourion and Apollo Sanctuary, and the whole area should be included in the Natura 2000 scheme.
- i. Mr George Pavlides, Free-diving Association
- The association has produced much underwater video footage from various areas especially Akrotiri, which is offering to be used for the purposes of the management plan including the creation of marine reserve areas, a matter already discussed with the Fisheries Department.
4. Closing statement by Mr John Stainton, Administrative Secretary of the Sovereign Base Areas Administration

- There has been a frank and open discussion of issues and a big step forward. It was good to see such a wide range of interested parties present. SBAA is very grateful for this and thanks everyone for coming and for their contributions.
- There has been some confusion about certain issues, which has hopefully been clarified.
- There have been some conflict of interests but also agreement on many more areas, on which much can be built.
- Six particularly issues have been noted:
 1. The flooding of Akrotiri Marsh.
A hydrological study has been undertaken the first stage of which has been completed. The results will be analysed and shared with all stakeholders.
 2. Rubbish
Indeed a big problem which will be addressed soon.
 3. Accountability of the Bases to the provisions of the plan
The SBAA give a public assurance that where the Plan places obligations upon the SBAA these will be honoured and fully implemented. It is hoped that the other stakeholders will agree to act similarly.
 4. Extension of the Ramsar boundary and implementation of the Natura 2000 scheme.
The Ramsar boundary extension will be given due consideration. Even if the Natura 2000 scheme cannot be implemented within the Bases, a similar status will be afforded to all appropriate areas. All designations will take into account the interest and the views of the local population.
 5. Boundaries of the plan
The focus so far has been on Akrotiri Peninsula because of the Ramsar designation and obligations to the Berne Convention. However the Bases will look at the wider interest, such as the bird interest on Episkopi cliffs and the antiquities at Episkopi.
 6. Environmental Protection and development
The need for environmental protection and conservation is not incompatible with and does not impose absolute restrictions on development. What needs to be done is to assess the consequences of development on the environment and take it into account in the decision-making process.

Note: Corrections, views and comments made after the workshop are printed in italics.

Sovereign Base Areas Administration
17 July 2006

Akrotiri Peninsula Environmental Management Plan
Stakeholder consultation workshop held at Akrotiri Village on 11th May 2006
Attendance list

s/n	Stakeholder invited	Attendance
1.	Aeroclub Limassol	Mr Christis Vasiliou Mr Vakis Yiangou
2.	AEZ Football Team	---
3.	Agricultural Department	---
4.	Agricultural Research Institute	---
5.	Akrotiri Community Council	Mr George Christou
6.	Akrotiri Cultural Club	Mr George Constantinou
7.	Akrotiri Environmental Club	Mr Christakis Evelthontos
8.	Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre	Mr Thomas Hadjikyriacou
9.	Akrotiri Merra Committee	Mr Costas Manoli
10.	Akrotiri Primary School	---
11.	Amalthia Trading Ltd	---
12.	Antiquities Department	Mrs Eleni Prokopiou
13.	APZ Aquarium	---
14.	Asomatos Community Council	---
15.	Asomatos Primary School	---
16.	Association of Professional Foresters	Mr Minas Papadopoulos
17.	Birdlife Cyprus	Mr Martin Hellicar Mr Michalis Miltiadous

18.	Bishopric of Kition	---
19.	Bishopric of Limassol	Mr Dafnis Panayides
20.	Blue Fisheries Ltd	Mr Giannos Economides
21.	Captain's Cabin Restaurant	---
22.	Cherkez Chiftlik Community Council	---
23.	CYMEPA	---
24.	Cyprus Athletics Organisation	---
25.	Cyprus Car Association	---
26.	Cyprus Electricity Authority	Mr Adonis Giasemides Mr Andreas Kyprianou
27.	Cyprus Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations	Mr Pantelis Metaxas
28.	Cyprus Federation of Race Cars	---
29.	Cyprus Free-diving Association	Mr George Pavlides
30.	Cyprus Handicraft Service	Written Views
31.	Cyprus Hunting Federation and Wildlife Conservation	---
32.	Cyprus Pedagogical Institute	---
33.	Cyprus Ports Authority	---
34.	Cyprus Tourism Organisation	Mr Gregoris Panayiotou
35.	CYTA	---
36.	District Administration Limassol	Mr Costas Manoli
37.	Environment Service	---
38.	Episkopi Community Council	---
39.	Erimi Community Council	---
40.	ETEK	---
41.	Fisheries Department	Mrs Marina Argyrou
42.	Fishermen's Association	---
43.	Foresters' Association – Graduates of the Cyprus Forestry College	Mr George Georgiou
44.	Forestry Department	Mr Minas Papadopoulos
45.	Game and Fauna Fund	Mr Nicos Kassinis
46.	Geological Department	---
47.	Glaros Restaurant	---
48.	Goldern Beach Restaurant	---
49.	Hawaii Farm	---
50.	Kato Polemidhia Municipality	---
51.	Kolossi Community Council	---
52.	Lady's Mile Restaurant	---
53.	Lands and Surveys Department	Mr Avgoustinos Frangiskou
54.	Lanitis Farm	Mr Michalis Mitsingas
55.	Limassol Amathus Sewerage Board	Mrs Roulla Afami
56.	Limassol Federation of Cars	---
57.	Limassol Motorist Federation	---
58.	Limassol Municipality	---

59.	Malcolm Cat Protection Society	Mrs Yvonne Trimble
60.	Mr Andreas Demetropoulos	---
61.	Mr Christodouls Makris	---
62.	Mr Giannis Christofides	---
63.	Mr George Hadjikyriacou	---
64.	Naftilos Club	---
65.	Ninos Sports Ltd	---
66.	Oasis Stephanos Fish Tavern	---
67.	POVEK	---
68.	SBA's	Mr John Stainton Mr Kypros Mattheou Mr Andre Leverton Mr Theodors Charlis Mr Pantelis Charilaou Mr Doug Marsh Mr Chris Routledge Mr David Raynolds Mr Antonis Antoniadis Mrs Celia Protopapa
69.	Sophoklis Restaurant	---
70.	St Nicholas Convent	---
71.	SWS	---
72.	Terra Cypria	Mrs Maria Louvari
73.	The Cyprus Fassouri Plantations Ltd	---
74.	Town Planning and Housing Department	Mr Christakis Sergides
75.	Trakhoni Community Council	---
76.	University of Cyprus	---
77.	Veterinary Department	---
78.	Water Development Department	Mr Nicodemos Nicodemou
79.	Waterboard Limassol	Mr Andreas Faidonos
80.	Ypsonas Community Council	---
81.	Zakaki Community Council	---
82.	Zakaki Co-ordinating Committee	Mr Andreas Alexandrou Mr Panicos Constantinou
83.	Zakaki Merra Committee	---
84.	Zakaki Primary School	Mrs Chrysanthi Kadji - Beltran