



currently existing in the European Union.

- Is the sole Natura 2000 site in Europe where the habitat 9590* grows.
- The E4 European long distance path (or E4 path) exists the site: the path starts from Gibraltar and ends in Cyprus, crossing nine EU countries.
- It covers an area of ~ 18.258 ha, where the visitor can observe unique elements of nature that are endemic in Cyprus:

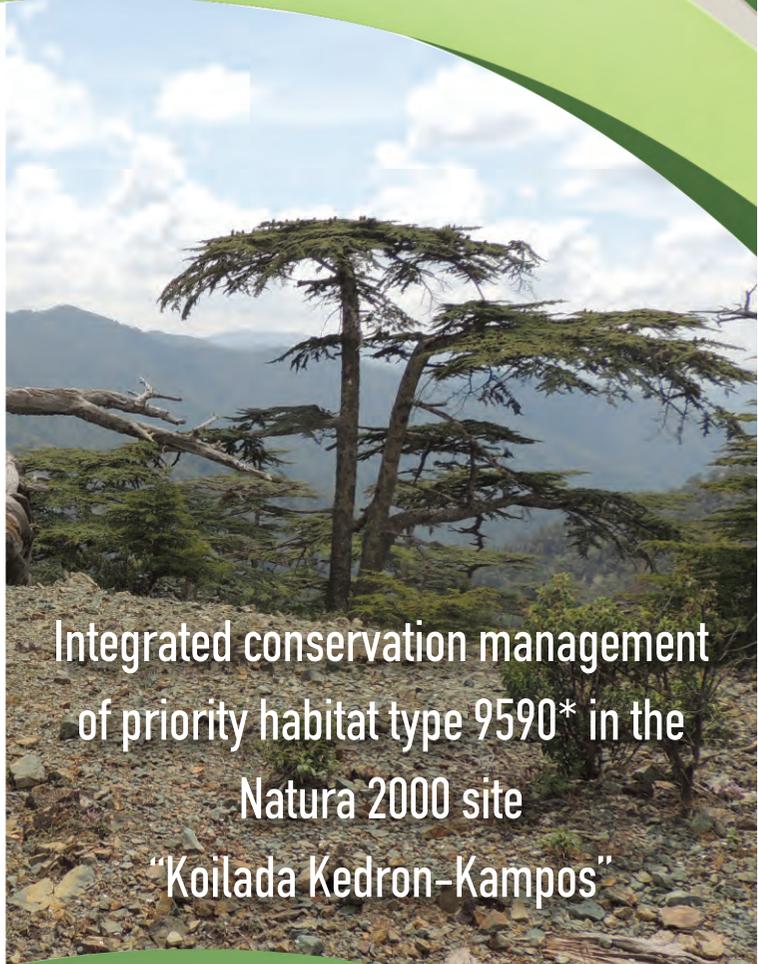
13 different habitat types (incl. the two endemic types in Cyprus: 9590* *Cedrus brevifolia* forests & 9390* Scrub and low forest vegetation with *Quercus alnifolia*).

Numerous plants, with 36 of these being endemic plants in Cyprus (e.g. **Arabis kennedyae*, *Arabis cypria*, *Ranunculus kykkoensis*, *Erysimum kykkoticum*).

Significant number of bird fauna: a total of 97 bird species, of which 22 are included in Annex I of Directive 2009/147/EC. It also hosts the endemic species of wild sheep (*Ovis orientalis ophion*) and the endemic Cyprus snake (*Hierophis cypriensis*), while both species are included in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC.



Back-page photos:
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Integrated conservation management
of priority habitat type 9590* in the
Natura 2000 site
“Koilada Kedron-Kampos”



Habitat 9590* does not possess natural adaptation mechanisms for regeneration after fire. Its protection against forest fire is in your own hands!

IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 1407 OR 112



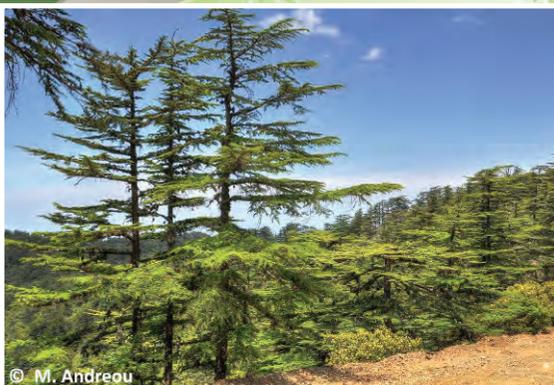
Partners:



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LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850



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The LIFE-KEDROS project aims to ensure the medium- and long-term preservation of the priority **habitat type 9590* *Cedrus brevifolia* forests (*Cedrosetum brevifoliae*)** in good conservation status. This purpose will be achieved through the adoption of specific conservation actions, both within (*in situ*) and outside (*ex situ*) its natural range, through the:

- i) Reduction of the possibility of habitat loss or even the habitat's complete destruction due to a forest fire incident.
- ii) Enhancement of the habitat's resilience and adaptation capacity to climate change and competition by other forest trees and shrubs.
- iii) Restoration and expansion of the habitat within the project's site and enhancement of the natural regeneration capacity of cedar stands.
- iv) Improvement of other biotic and abiotic factors which are important for the health and vigorousness of cedar stands/trees and the stability of local ecosystems.
- v) Preservation of the genetic material for the core species of habitat 9590*, *Cedrus brevifolia*, through the implementation of *ex situ* conservation measures, including storage of seeds in a seed bank and creating a new cedar population outside its natural environment.
- vi) Implementation of public awareness activities and dissemination of the project's results to local and overseas managers and scientists.

The conservation status of the targeted habitat is classified as "*favourable*" (based on Directive 92/43/EEC). However, through the monitoring of the habitat 9590*, specific threats and pressures have been identified as having negative impact on the long-term conservation of this habitat. These threats and pressures led to the definition of the project's actions.

The project started in September 2016, its duration is 48 months and is implemented within the framework of the LIFE program of the European Union (EU).

Project innovation:

The LIFE-KEDROS is characterised as a best-practice and demonstration project because it interferes and implements, for the first time within a designated *Nature Reserve* such as the area of habitat 9590*, actions and integrated management measures. The project's activities are inspired by nature and correspond to the ecological requirements of the targeted habitat. These include controlled grazing for reducing fire risk, carefully designed silvicultural measures focusing on the specific needs of the habitat, use of fauna and other abiotic factors to improve the stability and resilience of the habitat, establishment of a new *ex situ* population of the protected tree species and well-planned collection and storage of seed lots in a seed bank.

The habitat type 9590* *Cedrus brevifolia* forests (*Cedrosetum brevifolia*)

- The 9590* is an endemic habitat type of Cyprus, since it occurs only in Cyprus and nowhere else in the world.
- It is included in the Annex I of the European Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC), where it is characterised as a *priority* habitat type, which means that sustainable management practices need to be implemented in order to improve its conservation status due to its narrow distribution.
- The habitat 9590* occupies an area of 290 ha (2.9 Km²) in an altitudinal range of 900-1362 m, where its distribution is not uniform (fragmented habitat).



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The species of *Cedrus brevifolia*, the core species of habitat 9590*:

- It is one of the four cedar species that nowadays occur in the world and its common name is Cyprus cedar.
- The presence of *Cedrus brevifolia* in Cyprus has been known to ancient authors; the father of botany (Theophrastus, 371-287 B.C.), was the first to report the existence of the species on the island, in his book "Historia Plantarum".
- A recent molecular genetic study estimated the time of divergence between *C. libani* and *C. brevifolia* (molecular clock) at ~6.56 million years.
- It is included in the "Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus", where it is classified as "*vulnerable*".

The Natura 2000 site of "Koilada Kedron-Kampos" (CY2000008):

- Is one of the ~27.400 sites of the Natura 2000 network

