

Cyprus Mouflon Conservation and Community Development in Four Village Communities in the Paphos State Forest Area:

Preliminary Qualitative Inquiry



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A preliminary inquiry was carried out in the summer of 2000 in four village communities located within and adjacent to the Paphos State Forest in the island of Cyprus. This inquiry is part of doctoral research taking place at Cornell University of the United States, which concerns the conservation of the Cyprus mouflon and the sustainable development of several village communities at the Paphos State Forest area. The Paphos State Forest is of great ecological significance because it is rich in plant diversity and it provides habitat for the only population of Cyprus mouflon (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), an endangered subspecies of wild sheep, endemic to Cyprus. In recent years mouflon have expanded their range outside the forest, causing agricultural damages to several village communities. Agricultural damages are only one of many problems facing these small rural communities. Other issues are lack of employment and education opportunities which result in young people seeking such opportunities elsewhere. Given the endangered status of the Cyprus mouflon, the agricultural damages it causes, and the overall decline of small-scale agriculture, a conflict situation may be developing between the long-term conservation of the forest and mouflon and the long-term survival of the rural communities. Policy makers may find themselves in the difficult situation where they would have to choose between the conservation of mouflon and the welfare of the local people.

The main purposes of the preliminary qualitative inquiry were to understand the range of beliefs, attitudes, and concerns that different stakeholders have about their communities, the Paphos Forest, and the Cyprus mouflon, and to provide insight for the development of additional research. It is hoped that this research will promote dialogue and collaboration between local people and government officials.

During the preliminary qualitative inquiry two methods were used: individual interviews and focus groups. Two groups of people participated in the inquiry: local villagers who reside permanently in the villages ("local people") and people whose ancestry is from these villages but who now reside elsewhere ("non-residents"). Fifty-three people had input in the preliminary phase of this study.

The qualitative inquiry revealed that *the three most important concerns of local people are the agricultural damages caused by mouflon, the uncertainty about the future of their villages, and the lack of government programs and policies to address these issues*. The research also revealed some opportunities or positive elements in local people's attitudes that could help address these concerns. *Despite the agricultural damages, the majority of local people appreciate the mouflon in some way and support the long-term survival of the species. Also, all local people expressed an overwhelming interest in collaborating with the government and participating in natural resource management programs*. The biggest concern among the non-resident group is how to sustain the villages into the future. Agricultural damages are seen as a problem by most non-residents because they contribute to the decline of the village communities. The responses are analyzed and grouped under five general themes useful to understanding the situation. People's main concerns appear under more than one theme.

Benefits and costs derived from the forest and mouflon

Local people identified both material and non-material benefits derived from the forest. Many mentioned that the forest provides them with employment opportunities and it also attracts tourists to the area. Some of the non-material benefits that were mentioned were "clean air" and "health." The agricultural damages caused by mouflon are perceived as a major cost by the village residents and this concern overshadows all of the perceived benefits derived from mouflon. Most of the people advocated that mouflon do not provide them with any material benefits at all. Some people identified some non-material benefits, such as the aesthetic benefit of seeing the animals, but even these people talked about the agricultural damages to a great extent.

Non-residents also identified many benefits derived from the forest, such as the employment opportunities it provides for local people, its ecological value and the sense of relaxation and peace it brings to them when they visit the area. All non-residents were aware of the agricultural damages that mouflon cause, but interviewees' perception of the severity of the problem varied.

Values and attitudes about the forest and mouflon

Local people highly value the forest and support forest conservation. Many people expressed a great appreciation for the benefits the forest has been providing them, especially during difficult times. Others emphasized that they "respect" the forest and always try to "protect" it. Despite the anger many people feel about the agricultural damages and the fact that they do not receive any material benefits from mouflon, the majority of local people still appreciate mouflon in some way and support the long-term survival of the species. While people's initial responses varied and both positive and negative beliefs and attitudes were expressed, the negative feelings seemed to be directly connected to the agricultural damages. Often, even people who initially expressed negative feelings for mouflon later counterbalanced these sentiments with statements that showed some appreciation for mouflon. Many people directly expressed positive feelings, mentioning the aesthetic value of mouflon and the "sense of pride" they feel for them.

Non-residents value both the forest and the mouflon and support their conservation. Many people emphasized the aesthetic value of mouflon. People differed, however, with regard to how strongly "protectionist" conservation policies should be for mouflon.

Attitudes about government policies relating to mouflon

Local perceptions about the responsiveness of the government to their needs are mainly related to the way the government has dealt with agricultural damages. Most people feel that the compensation currently provided is low and some measures taken to keep mouflon inside the forest are generally considered ineffective. The majority of people said that the government should help them fence their agricultural lands. While people agreed with government efforts to prevent mouflon from becoming extinct, there was a common sentiment that government

policies have placed a large emphasis on the conservation of mouflon and too little emphasis on the welfare of the people.

Most non-residents said that the government should be providing more support for small-scale agriculture and be more responsive to the problem of agricultural damages caused by mouflon. A few non-residents, however, questioned whether the severity of the problem of agricultural damages warranted major government response.

Community participation in natural resources management programs

Residents of villages in and near Paphos State Forest expressed an overwhelming interest and desire in collaborating with the government and participating in natural resources management programs. Many people said that such a collaboration would interest them because it would benefit both the mouflon and themselves. Some benefits people hoped to gain were the protection of their crops and increased tourism in the area. The local villagers reported never having participated in the planning of any kind of natural resources management program in the past. Many expressed their disappointment that their input was rarely sought. A few people said that government officials sometimes visit the villages and ask people questions regarding the agricultural damages but have still not taken the "correct measures."

Beliefs and attitudes about the future of the villages

The local people are very concerned about the future of their villages. Most people cited the lack of employment and education opportunities as the principal factors forcing people to leave. Some people also stated that the damages caused by mouflon are contributing to the decline of agriculture, leading people to abandon their cultivations and move out of the villages. Most people feel that the government should take more measures to keep the people in the rural areas. People's disappointment with the way the government has dealt with agricultural damages seems to be tied to the insecurity they feel about the future of their villages.

Non-residents have great interest in sustaining the villages. All of them expressed a concern about the future of the villages. Lack of employment opportunities was considered the biggest factor forcing people to leave the area. Most of the non-residents also said that more measures should be taken by the government to make the area more appealing economically, reducing the necessity for people to seek employment elsewhere.

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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Μια προκαταρκτική έρευνα πραγματοποιήθηκε το καλοκαίρι του 2000 σε τέσσερα χωριά μέσα και γύρω από το Κρατικό Δάσος Πάφου στην Κύπρο. Η έρευνα αυτή αποτελεί μέρος διδακτορικής διατριβής που διεξάγεται στο πανεπιστήμιο Cornell των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών και αφορά τη διατήρηση του Κυπριακού αγρινού σε συνδυασμό με την αειφόρο ανάπτυξη των χωριών του Δάσους Πάφου. Το Κρατικό Δάσος Πάφου είναι πολύ σημαντικό οικολογικά γιατί έχει ψηλή βιοποικιλότητα χλωρίδας και παρέχει το βιότοπο για το μοναδικό πληθυσμό του Κυπριακού Αγρινού (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), που είναι ένα απειλούμενο ενδημικό είδος αγριοπροβάτου. Τα τελευταία χρόνια τα αγρινά επέκτειναν το χώρο διαβίωσής τους και έξω από το δάσος με αποτέλεσμα να προκαλούν αγροτικές ζημιές στις παρακείμενες κοινότητες. Οι αγροτικές ζημιές είναι μόνο ένα από τα πολλά προβλήματα που αντιμετωπίζουν οι κοινότητες αυτές. Μερικά άλλα προβλήματα είναι η έλλειψη ευκαιριών μόρφωσης και εργασίας που ωθεί τους νέους να εγκαταλείψουν τα χωριά. Έχοντας υπόψη ότι το Κυπριακό Αγρινό είναι απειλούμενο είδος αλλά ταυτόχρονα προκαλεί αγροτικές ζημιές, ενώ γενικά οι μικροκαλλιέργειες στην περιοχή φθίνουν, στον μέλλον είναι πιθανό να συγκρουστούν οι προσπάθειες για διατήρηση του δάσους και του αγρινού με τη μακροπρόθεσμη επιβίωση των κοινοτήτων της περιοχής. Οι αρμόδιες υπηρεσίες του κράτους μπορεί να βρεθούν στη δύσκολη θέση να επιλέξουν ανάμεσα στη διατήρηση του αγρινού και την ευημερία των κατοίκων της περιοχής.

Ο κύριος σκοπός της προκαταρκτικής αυτής έρευνας ήταν η διερεύνηση και κατανόηση των αξιών, πεπιθήσεων και ανησυχιών όλων των ενδιαφερομένων σχετικά με τις κοινότητές τους, το Δάσος Πάφου και το Κυπριακό Αγρινό και η ανάπτυξη υπόθεσης εργασίας για περετέρω έρευνα. Μέσα από την έρευνα αυτή προσδοκάται να προωθηθεί ο διάλογος και η συνεργασία ανάμεσα στους κατοίκους των χωριών και τις αρμόδιες κυβερνητικές υπηρεσίες.

Κατά τη διάρκεια της έρευνας χρησιμοποιήθηκαν δύο μεθοδολογίες: προσωπικές συνεντεύξεις και ομαδικές συνεντεύξεις. Στην έρευνα έλαβαν μέρος συνολικά πενήντα άτομα, μόνιμοι κάτοικοι των χωριών καθώς και απόδημοι.

Η προκαταρκτική έρευνα αποκάλυψε ότι οι τρεις κυριότερες ανησυχίες που έχουν οι κάτοικοι της περιοχής είναι οι αγροτικές ζημιές που προκαλούν τα αγρινά, η ανασφάλεια για το μέλλον των χωριών τους και η έλλειψη κυβερνητικών προγραμμάτων για την αντιμετώπιση των προβλημάτων αυτών. Η έρευνα αποκάλυψε επίσης θετικά στοιχεία στη στάση των κατοίκων, τα οποία θα μπορούσαν να συμβάλουν στην αντιμετώπιση πολλών προβλημάτων. Παρά τις αγροτικές ζημιές, η πλειονότητα των κατοίκων εκτιμούν τα αγρινά και υποστηρίζουν τη μακροχρόνια διατήρηση του είδους. Επίσης, όλοι οι κάτοικοι εξέφρασαν θερμό ενδιαφέρον για την προοπτική συνεργασίας με την κυβέρνηση καθώς και επιθυμία να συμμετέχουν σε προγράμματα διαχείρισης φυσικών πόρων. Η μεγαλύτερη ανησυχία που εξέφρασαν οι απόδημοι αφορούσε τη μακροχρόνια διατήρηση των χωριών τους. Οι περισσότεροι απόδημοι θεωρούν τις αγροτικές ζημιές μεγάλο πρόβλημα, αφού συμβάλλουν στην παρακμή των αγροτικών κοινοτήτων. Οι απαντήσεις που λήφθηκαν αναλύθηκαν και εντάχθηκαν στις πιο κάτω πέντε θεματικές ενότητες, έτσι ώστε να γίνει καλύτερα αντιληπτή η όλη κατάσταση. Οι κύριες ανησυχίες των κατοίκων της περιοχής εμφανίζονται σε περισσότερες από μία θεματικές ενότητες.

Οφέλη και ζημιές απο το δάσος και το αγρινό

Οι κάτοικοι των χωριών αναγνώρισαν ότι το δάσος τους προσφέρει πολλά υλικά και μη υλικά αγαθά. Πολλοί ανέφεραν ότι το δάσος παρέχει ευκαιρίες εργασίας και προσελκύει τουρισμό στην περιοχή. Μερικά απο τα μη υλικά αγαθά που αναφέρθηκαν ήταν ο «καθαρός αέρας» και η «υγεία» που προσφέρει το δάσος. Οι αγροτικές ζημιές που προκαλεί το αγρινό θεωρούνται μεγάλο πρόβλημα απο τους κατοίκους των κοινοτήτων και επισκιάζουν όλα τα οφέλη που προσφέρουν τα αγρινά. Οι περισσότεροι κάτοικοι μίλησαν μόνο για τις αγροτικές ζημιές, αναφέροντας ότι τα αγρινά δεν τους παρέχουν κανένα υλικό όφελος. Μερικοί κάτοικοι αναγνώρισαν μερικά μη υλικά οφέλη όπως την αισθητική αξία του αγρινού, αλλά ακόμα και αυτοί οι κάτοικοι θεωρούν τις αγροτικές ζημιές ως μεγάλο πρόβλημα.

Οι απόδημοι επίσης αναγνώρισαν πολλά οφέλη που προσφέρει το δάσος, όπως οι ευκαιρίες εργασίας, η ξεκούραση και η αίσθηση γαλήνης. Όλοι οι απόδημοι είναι ενήμεροι για τις αγροτικές ζημιές που προκαλούν τα αγρινά στους γεωργούς της περιοχής, αλλά μερικοί θεωρούν το πρόβλημα λιγότερο σοβαρό απο άλλους.

Ανθρώπινες αξίες σχετικά με το δάσος και το αγρινό

Οι κάτοικοι των χωριών εκτιμούν το δάσος και υποστηρίζουν τη διατήρησή του. Πολλοί εξέφρασαν μεγάλη εκτίμηση για τα οφέλη που τους παρέχει, ειδικά σε δύσκολες περιόδους. Άλλοι τόνισαν ότι «σέβονται» το δάσος και πάντα το «προστατεύουν.» Παρά το θυμό που πολλοί κάτοικοι νιώθουν για τις αγροτικές ζημιές και το γεγονός ότι τα αγρινά δεν τους παρέχουν κανένα υλικό όφελος, η πλειονότητά τους εκτιμούν και υπολογίζουν τα αγρινά και υποστηρίζουν τη μακροχρόνια διατήρηση του είδους. Ενώ οι αρχικές αντιδράσεις των κατοίκων διέφεραν, καθώς εκφράστηκαν και αρνητικά και θετικά συναισθήματα, τα αρνητικά συναισθήματα ήταν ευθέως συνδεδεμένα με τις αγροτικές ζημιές. Πολλές φορές άνθρωποι που αρχικά μίλησαν αρνητικά για το αγρινό, αργότερα ισοζύγισαν τα αρνητικά τους σχόλια με δηλώσεις που έδειχναν κάποια εκτίμηση για το αγρινό. Άλλοι μίλησαν θετικά απο την αρχή για το αγρινό, αναφέροντας την αισθητική του αξία και το «καμάρι» που νιώθουν για αυτό.

Οι απόδημοι εκτιμούν το δάσος και το αγρινό και υποστηρίζουν τη διατήρησή του. Πολλοί τόνισαν την αισθητική αξία του αγρινού. Διαφορετικές απόψεις παρατηρήθηκαν ως προς το πόσο αυστηρά πρέπει να προστατεύεται το αγρινό.

Απόψεις σχετικά με τα κυβερνητικά προγράμματα που αφορούν το αγρινό

Οι απόψεις των κατοίκων των χωριών σχετικά με τη στάση της κυβέρνησης σχετίζονται ευθέως με τον τρόπο που η κυβέρνηση χειρίζεται το θέμα των αγροτικών ζημιών. Οι περισσότεροι κάτοικοι νιώθουν ότι η αποζημίωση που παραχωρεί η κυβέρνηση είναι χαμηλή ενώ παράλληλα μερικά μέτρα που έχουν ληφθεί απο την κυβέρνηση για να παραμείνουν τα αγρινά μέσα στο δάσος θεωρούνται μη αποτελεσματικά. Η πλειονότητα των κατοίκων ανέφεραν ότι η κυβέρνηση θα έπρεπε να τους βοηθήσει να περιφράξουν τις καλλιέργειές τους. Ενώ οι κάτοικοι συμφωνούν με τις προσπάθειες της κυβέρνησης να εμποδίσει την εξαφάνιση

του αγρινού, μια κοινή άποψη ήταν ότι τα κυβερνητικά προγράμματα έχουν δώσει μεγάλη έμφαση στην προστασία του αγρινού και πολύ λίγη έμφαση στην «προστασία των ανθρώπων.»

Οι περισσότεροι απόδημοι είπαν ότι η κυβέρνηση θα έπρεπε να παρέχει μεγαλύτερη υποστήριξη στη μικρής κλίμακας γεωργία της περιοχής και να ανταποκρίνεται καλύτερα στο πρόβλημα των αγροτικών ζημιών. Μικρός αριθμός αποδήμων είπαν ότι το πρόβλημα των αγροτικών ζημιών δεν είναι καθοριστικό για τη διαβίωση των κατοίκων στα χωριά, αφού θεωρούν ότι αυτή δεν εξαρτάται απόλυτα από τη γεωργία.

Συμμετοχή κοινοτήτων σε προγράμματα διαχείρισης φυσικών πόρων

Οι κάτοικοι των χωριών εξέφρασαν θερμό ενδιαφέρον για το ενδεχόμενο συνεργασίας με την κυβέρνηση στα πλαίσια προγραμμάτων διαχείρισης φυσικών πόρων. Πολλοί είπαν ότι μια τέτοια συνεργασία θα τους ενδιέφερε γιατί θα ήταν επωφελής τόσο για τα αγρινά όσο και για τους ίδιους. Μερικά οφέλη που ελπίζουν να αποκομίσουν απο μια τέτοια συνεργασία είναι η προστασία των καλλιεργειών τους και η αύξηση του τουρισμού στην περιοχή. Οι κάτοικοι ανέφεραν ότι ποτέ στο παρελθόν δε συμμετείχαν στη διαχείριση φυσικών πόρων και πολλοί εξέφρασαν την απογοήτευσή τους για το γεγονός ότι οι απόψεις τους σπάνια λαμβάνονται υπόψη. Μερικοί κάτοικοι είπαν ότι κυβερνητικοί υπαλλήλοι επισκέπτονται κάποτε τα χωριά και υποβάλλουν ερωτήσεις σχετικά με τις ζημιές, αλλά ακόμα δεν έχουν λάβει τα «σωστά μέτρα..»

Απόψεις σχετικά με το μέλλον των χωριών

Οι μόνιμοι κάτοικοι ανησυχούν πολύ για το μέλλον των κοινοτήτων τους. Οι περισσότεροι επεσήμαναν ότι η έλλειψη ευκαιριών εργασίας και μόρφωσης είναι οι κυριότεροι παράγοντες που ωθούν τους νέους στον εξαστισμό. Μερικοί δήλωσαν ότι οι αγροτικές ζημιές που προκαλούν τα αγρινά συμβάλλουν στην παρακμή της γεωργίας, οδηγώντας τους ανθρώπους να εγκαταλείψουν τις καλλιέργειές τους. Οι περισσότεροι κάτοικοι νιώθουν ότι η κυβέρνηση θα έπρεπε να λάβει περισσότερα μέτρα για να κρατήσει τον κόσμο στην ύπαιθρο. Η απογοήτευση του κόσμου σχετικά με τον τρόπο που η κυβέρνηση χειρίζεται το πρόβλημα των ζημιών φαίνεται να είναι συνδεδεμένη με την ανασφάλεια που νιώθουν για το μέλλον των χωριών τους.

Οι απόδημοι επέδειξαν μεγάλο ενδιαφέρον για τη μακροπρόθεσμη διατήρηση των χωριών τους, εκφράζοντας παράλληλα μεγάλη ανησυχία για το μέλλον των χωριών αυτών. Η έλλειψη ευκαιριών εργασίας θεωρείται ο κυριότερος παράγοντας που ωθεί τον κόσμο να εγκαταλείψει την περιοχή. Οι περισσότεροι απόδημοι είπαν ότι η κυβέρνηση θα έπρεπε να λάβει περισσότερα μέτρα για να κάνει την περιοχή πιο ελκυστική οικονομικά, έτσι ώστε ο κόσμος να μην αναγκάζεται να αναζητήσει εργοδότηση αλλού.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΕΙΕΣ

Θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τα ακόλουθα πρόσωπα από την κυβέρνηση της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας για την προθυμία τους να συναντηθούν μαζί μας και να μας παρέχουν κάθε χρήσιμη πληροφορία: τον κ. Χαράλαμπο Βακανά στο Τμήμα Γεωργίας, τον κ. Σάββα Ιεζεκιήλ στο Τμήμα Δασών, τον κ. Νίκο Κασίνη στο Ταμείο Θήρας και τον Δρα Ελευθέριο Χατζηστερκώτη στο Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών. Θα θέλαμε επίσης να ευχαριστήσουμε τους κυρίους Πέτρο Γεωργίου, Ερρίκο Κέλβερη, Χαράλαμπο Πίγκερτο και Στάυρο Στυλιανού, κοινατάρχες στα χωριά Μυλικούρι, Κάμπο, Τσακίστρα και Γερακιές, αντίστοιχα, για τη μεγάλη βοήθεια και υποστήριξη που μας παρείχαν καθώς και για το ότι με μεγάλη προθυμία έλαβαν μέρος στην έρευνα. Είμαστε ιδιαίτερα ευγνώμονες σε όλους τους ανθρώπους απο τον Κάμπο, Τσακίστρα, Μυλικούρι και Γερακιές, για το χρόνο που αφιέρωσαν για να μοιραστούν μαζί μας τις εμπειρίες και πεπιθήσεις τους, καθώς και για την απεριόριστη φιλοξενία τους. Θέλουμε ακόμα να ευχαριστήσουμε την Ιερά Μονή Κύκκου και τους μοναχούς της Μονής για τη βοήθεια και φιλοξενία που μας παρείχαν. Τέλος, θα θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Tommy L. Brown και την Tania M. Schusler, μέλη της ερευνητικής μονάδας «Human Dimensions» στο Τμήμα Φυσικών Πόρων του Πανεπιστημίου Cornell, για τις εισηγήσεις τους σχετικά με την έκθεση αυτή.

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INTRODUCTION

The Paphos State Forest, a mountainous area of about 620 square kilometers, is located in the western part of the island of Cyprus. The forest is surrounded by small village communities and agricultural land. Three communities are located inside the forest boundary and some agricultural activity takes place around these villages. The Paphos State Forest is of great ecological significance. Mediterranean forests in general have high plant diversity, containing almost twice as many woody species as forests of Europe (Quézel et al. 1999). At the same time, forests in the Mediterranean Basin have been vanishing at an alarming rate of 1.2 percent a year, higher than the 0.8 rate of tropical forest clearance (Malagnoux and Lanly 1999). Besides being rich in biological diversity, the Paphos State Forest is also significant because it provides habitat to the only population of Cyprus mouflon (*Ovis gmelini ophion*), an endangered subspecies of wild sheep endemic to Cyprus (Hadjisterkotis and Bider 1997). In the last few years the mouflon have expanded their range and enter agricultural lands owned by local villagers, causing substantial damages, mainly to vineyards and fruit trees (Hadjisterkotis and Vakanas 1996). Agricultural damages are only one of many problems facing these small rural communities. Other issues are the lack of employment and education opportunities, which causes the young people to seek such opportunities elsewhere in Cyprus.

While a considerable amount of research has examined the biology, pathology and genetics of the Cyprus mouflon, absent are studies of the human dimensions of the conservation and management of this species and the conservation of the forest in general. No studies have ever examined the values and attitudes of local people about the forest and mouflon or their willingness and capacity to be involved in natural resources management programs. Given the endangered status of the Cyprus mouflon, the agricultural damages it causes, and the overall decline of small-scale agriculture, a conflict situation may be developing between the long-term conservation of the forest and mouflon and the long-term survival of the rural communities. Policy makers may find themselves in the difficult situation where they would have to choose between the conservation of the mouflon and the welfare of the local people.

The purpose of this research is to examine what problems and opportunities exist in the Paphos State Forest and surrounding communities and explore the potential for integrating mouflon conservation and community development in a way that one will enhance the other. The research aims to identify the suite of concerns that local people have on these issues and to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between local communities and government officials.

PHASE I QUALITATIVE INQUIRY

Purpose

A qualitative inquiry consisting of semi-structured, open-ended interviews and focus groups was conducted during June and July 2000. The main purposes of the qualitative inquiry were to understand the range of beliefs, attitudes, and concerns that different stakeholders have about their communities, the Paphos Forest, and the Cyprus mouflon, and provide insight for the development of additional research into these areas. It is hoped that this research will facilitate dialogue and collaboration between local communities and government officials.

Two groups of people participated in the inquiry. The first group consisted of local people who reside permanently in the villages in and adjacent to the Paphos State Forest. This group constituted the main population for this inquiry. The second group consisted of people whose ancestry is from the villages but who now reside elsewhere.

- More specifically, the qualitative inquiry was undertaken to provide insight into the following general themes:
- I. Perceptions about the benefits or costs derived from the forest and mouflon.
 - II. Values and attitudes about the forest and mouflon.
 - III. Attitudes about current government policies regarding agricultural damages caused by mouflon and the government’s long-term plan for mouflon conservation and management.
 - IV. The willingness of local people to participate in natural resources management programs and the extent of community experience participating in such programs.
 - V. Beliefs and attitudes about the future of the villages (cultural sustainability).

Methods

Sampling Rationale

The qualitative inquiry was carried out in the villages of Kampos, Tsakistra, Mylikouri, and Gerakies. The selection of these four villages was based on their location and the amount of agricultural damages caused by mouflon. The villages of Kampos, Tsakistra, and Mylikouri are the only three villages located inside the Paphos State Forest. Gerakies is located adjacent to the forest and was selected for comparison purposes. These four villages (and the village of Kaminaria, which was not included in the inquiry) have the greatest reported agricultural damages (Hadjisterkotis and Vakanas 1996).

As mentioned above, two groups of people were included in the qualitative inquiry. The first group, which constituted the main part of the research, consisted of people who reside permanently in these villages. This group will be referred to as the “local people.” The second group consisted of people whose ancestry is from these villages but who now reside elsewhere. For convenience, this group will be referred to as “non-residents.” People of the “non-resident” group often have property in the villages and visit the area frequently. The intent of including

this group in the inquiry was to examine how their beliefs and attitudes compare to those held by the permanent residents of the villages.

For the permanent residents, two qualitative methods were used: individual interviews and focus groups. The elected community leaders of each village were interviewed first and were asked to identify other key informants. During following interviews, the key informants were asked to suggest additional informants, who were subsequently either interviewed individually or asked to participate in focus groups. Forty-two people were included in the qualitative inquiry. Twenty-five people were interviewed individually while 17 people participated in three focus groups of six, six and five people. The sample of local villagers that participated in the qualitative inquiry included 13 women and 29 men. Table 1 shows the villages of the local people who participated in the interviews and the focus groups:

Table 1

Village	Number of village residents interviewed	Number of village residents in focus groups
Gerakies	6	0
Kampos	9	11 (6 and 5)
Mylikouri	4	0
Tsakistra	6	6
Total	25	17

For the non-resident group, only individual interviews were used and a similar process was followed for selecting the interviewees. During interactions with the first group, local people were asked to identify key informants who were from the villages but did not reside there permanently. Eleven people were interviewed during their weekend visits to the villages. Table 2 shows the villages of origin of the people who were interviewed:

Table 2

Village	Number of non-residents interviewed
Kampos	9
Tsakistra	2
Total	11

Data Collection

A question guide (Appendix A) was used both during the interviews and focus groups. The questions were designed to provide insight into the general themes described above. The question guide was slightly altered for the non-resident group (Appendix B), but the questions focused on the same themes. During each interview, all questions were generally covered, but flexibility in both time and subject matter were allowed to ensure that issues considered important by the interviewee were covered. Interviews varied in time, ranging from 30 to 60

minutes. The question guide was also used during the focus groups to stimulate discussion around these themes. Focus groups lasted longer than interviews, ranging from 60 to 90 minutes. Some interviews (mainly for the women interviewees) were conducted at the interviewees' homes but most interviews and focus groups took place at local "coffee shops," which are common gathering places for many members of the village communities, though usually men. The interviews and focus groups were conducted in Greek, the people's native language. Notes were taken during the interviews and the focus groups.

Data Analysis

Upon the completion of the inquiry, people's responses were grouped together under the five common themes mentioned above. The question guides provided a framework for describing and analyzing the responses.

Results

Village residents

All village residents who were asked to participate in the research did so without any hesitation and were more than willing to share their beliefs, attitudes and concerns. The inquiry revealed many concerns that local people have and some opportunities for addressing these concerns. The three most important concerns that emerged are the agricultural damages caused by mouflon, the uncertainty about the future of their villages and the lack of government programs and policies to address these issues. The research also revealed some opportunities or positive elements that could help address these concerns. Despite the agricultural damages the majority of local people appreciate the mouflon in some way and support the long-term survival of the species. Local people also greatly value the forest and support its conservation. Finally, every local person expressed an overwhelming interest in collaborating with the government and participating in natural resource management programs with the hope that such a collaboration would benefit both the mouflon and their communities.

In the results below, local people's beliefs and attitudes are described based on the underlying themes. People's main concerns and opportunities for addressing them emerge throughout the discussion and may appear under several themes. An effort was made to elicit the full range of beliefs and attitudes held by all participants, even in the cases where certain views were held by only one or two individuals. Throughout the results section many quotes are used to provide vivid examples of how certain values and attitudes were communicated during the inquiry. The quotes help bring people's concerns to life by illustrating the emotions with which many of them expressed their views.

Theme I: Perceptions about the benefits and costs derived from the forest and mouflon.

Local people spoke with great reverence about the forest and identified many benefits derived from it. People mentioned both material and non-material benefits. Some non-material benefits included the "clean air" provided by the forest and "health." "I have a weak heart..."

one person said, "but the forest has helped me get better." People also emphasized that the forest supports many people's livelihoods. "The forest is our life," one person simply stated. Another person from the village of Tsakistra mentioned that about 70% of people in the area "live from the forest." Forestry and charcoaling were jobs mentioned throughout the inquiry. A couple of people also mentioned that the forest brings tourists to the area.

In contrast to the forest, the agricultural damages caused by mouflon are perceived as a major cost by the people living in the villages and overshadow all of the perceived benefits derived from the animals. Most people focused their discussion on the damages, advocating that mouflon do not provide them with any material benefits. Some people asserted that mouflon do not attract a significant number of tourists in the area. Every person asserted that mouflon have increased in number during the last 10 years and the nature and extent of the damages has become more severe. Most people emphasized that while previously mouflon mainly damaged the vineyards, they now eat many fruit and nut trees. Below is a sample of responses:

"The mouflon are a complete destruction. They eat everything!"

"We have no benefits from the mouflon. They cause huge damages."

"Before they ate only the vineyards, but now they began eating trees as well. Whatever they bite becomes dry and dies..."

"I had three vineyards and the mouflon ate the two. Before Mylikouri was famous for wine and soutzouko [a local sweet made of grapes], but not anymore. Now even I have to buy wine because the mouflon eat the vineyards."

Some people mentioned certain benefits, such as the aesthetic benefit of seeing mouflon. Even many of these people, however, talked about the agricultural damages to a great extent.

"The only benefit from mouflon is that we can look at them. They are beautiful animals."

"It is a lovable animal when you see it. But there is a lot of indignation for the damages it causes."

If the problem of agricultural damages were dealt with, people would most probably perceive that the benefits derived from mouflon (even if these benefits are mainly non-material) outweigh the costs.

Theme II: Values and attitudes about the forest and mouflon.

"The people love the forest. The majority of people make a living from the forest and everyone here respects the forest." This statement by one community leader is representative of many statements made throughout the inquiry. People highly value the forest and wish to see the forest sustained into the future. "The people work in the forest and they protect it," another villager said. It often became evident that people consider the forest to be connected to their

culture and history in many respects. Some people expressed a great appreciation for the benefits the forest has been providing them throughout history and especially during hard times. One person stated with pride, "The people of Kampos were never hungry in any fight or war. We lived from the forest." Another elderly person recalled, "It has not always been this way... Times were hard before. There was great poverty. People could not afford to buy meat but the forest provided us that."

Despite the anger many people feel about the agricultural damages and the fact that mouflon do not provide any material benefits to them, the majority of local people showed that they nevertheless appreciate mouflon in some way and support the long-term survival of the species. While people's initial responses varied, and both positive and negative beliefs and attitudes were expressed, the negative feelings seemed to be directly connected to the agricultural damages:

"Mouflon became people's enemy. They destroy our orchards."

"The people see mouflon negatively because the destruction is big and the compensation is not enough."

When agricultural damages were separated from the issue, many of the people who had initially expressed negative feelings later counterbalanced those feelings with statements that showed some appreciation for mouflon. Some people mentioned that mouflon is something special for Cyprus and it should be conserved in the long-term. "There just needs to be more appropriate compensation," one person said, "It would be a shame to kill the mouflon. Why should one destroy it? It's the wealth of Cyprus."

Many people directly expressed positive feelings, showing some affection for mouflon. Some mentioned the aesthetic value of the animals and the "sense of pride" they feel for mouflon. A few people also indicated that mouflon have cultural value, as they are part of their way of life. The majority of these people, however, still made reference to the agricultural damages in one way or another:

"People love the mouflon. It's the jewel of our country."

"We love the mouflon but a way must be found to deal with the damages. If we didn't love them, they wouldn't exist in our orchards."

"Even though they cause damages, people like mouflon. If they didn't exist the place would be lifeless...It's nice to feel their company in the forest."

Many people's feelings seemed to lie in a delicate balance: feelings of anger about the damages mouflon are causing on the one hand, and feelings of appreciation and affection for mouflon on the other. Mixed feelings like "We want them but when they cause damages we don't want them," were often expressed. "The people are indignant," was a common phrase throughout the inquiry, showing that people want the situation to change. It is possible that if

some measures to deal with the damages are not taken, some of the negative feelings might become more intense while people's appreciation for mouflon might decrease. "If nothing happens, the people will become more hostile," one person stated.

Although people were never asked directly how they felt about killing mouflon, this issue often came up in the conversation and people's attitudes varied somewhat. One person argued that mouflon near the villages should be decreased, and a few others said that people should at least be allowed to kill the ones that come in their orchards and vineyards. "The solution would be to decrease the number of mouflon. In the valley of Kampos there are about 500 mouflon. They should be decreased to 100." Another person mentioned that mouflon would have more value if they could be consumed. There were yet many others who stated their opposition to killing mouflon under any circumstances and expressed a concern that if hunting was ever allowed, mouflon would be in great danger. Many people stated with pride that despite the damages, most villagers are not involved in poaching and that poaching originates from people who come from outside the area, especially the cities.

"If they give licenses to kill them, there will not be one mouflon left."

"For me, those who kill the mouflon are pathetic people."

"Most people in these villages don't harm the mouflon. It's the people from the cities who harm them, those with connections."

Theme III: Attitudes about current government policies regarding agricultural damages caused by mouflon and the government's long-term plan for mouflon conservation and management.

Local perceptions about the response of the government to concerns about mouflon seem to be directly related to the way the government has dealt with the compensation for and mitigation of agricultural damages and the ability of the government to keep the mouflon in the interior of the forest. Most people, with some exceptions, felt that the government has not been responsive to their needs. They argued that the compensation is very low and they felt that the government should help them fence their agricultural lands. Some of the government's efforts to maintain the mouflon inside the forest were generally considered ineffective. A few people believed that the government has shown interest in their plight, but has simply not found a solution to the problem.

"There is no interest from the state. The people don't feel right. The compensation is really nothing. They just give us £10 - £20 for all the damages."

"When the vineyard is eaten for one or two years it gets completely destroyed. £10 or £20 is nothing."

"The people are disappointed. We've had this problem for 15 years."

"The government shows some interest but they have not taken the appropriate measures. They take hay in the forest for the mouflon – it doesn't help."

"Government sometimes tries to help but the money is too little."

There was a common sentiment that the government's long-term mouflon conservation policies have placed too much emphasis on the conservation of mouflon and too little emphasis on the welfare of the people. Although no objections to mouflon conservation were voiced and everyone seemed to agree with the government efforts to prevent mouflon from becoming extinct, most of the people felt that there should be some parallel policies for the "protection" of the people. A handful of people were unaware that there was any long-term mouflon conservation plan at all.

"We love the mouflon, but the government should also love the people."

"There are game guards who protect the mouflon, but not the people..."

"It's good that the government protects the mouflon, but a solution must be found."

"We are in favor of mouflon conservation, even that they increase. But measures should be taken to protect the people."

"There is no long-term plan for the mouflon...People's conscience and the law protect the mouflon."

Most people, with a few exceptions, said that even if compensation were increased, they would still not be satisfied. The majority of people emphasized that what they want is to protect their crops, and the government should help them fence their orchards and vineyards. Some villagers mentioned that they have tried to fence their orchards and vineyards themselves, but the cost of acquiring and maintaining the fences is very high. Many expressed their disappointment that the provision of fences has been promised to them in the past but has never been carried out.

"There are people who live from their orchards and they want to protect them. They don't want any compensation."

"The people complain and they have asked for fences but there is no help from the government."

Theme IV: The willingness of local people to participate in natural resources management programs and the extent of community experience participating in such programs.

Residents of villages in and near the Paphos State Forest expressed an overwhelming interest and desire in collaborating with the government and participating in natural resources management programs. Some people believed that mouflon conservation would be enhanced if local communities participated in their conservation and management. The majority of people

also hoped that the collaboration would also benefit them in certain ways. "The collaboration should benefit both: the mouflon and the people." It is therefore likely that people's willingness to participate in natural resources management programs would increase if they felt that there would be some direct benefits for them. Two of the most cited benefits people hoped to gain were the protection of their crops and increased tourism in the area.

"Of course we would be interested in collaborating with the government – there isn't anyone who would want the destruction of mouflon."

"Yes, people would be interested in collaborating for the conservation of mouflon. Despite the damages, people would be interested."

"Certainly, the people would be interested for the benefit of mouflon and the benefit of our properties."

"Yes, the people would be willing to collaborate. Perhaps this would bring tourism to the area."

The local villagers reported never having participated in the planning of any kind of natural resources management program in the past. Many expressed their disappointment that their input was rarely sought and that certain officials only visit the villages during elections and soon "forget their promises." A few people mentioned that certain government officials occasionally visit the villages and ask people questions about the agricultural damages, but the government still has not taken the "correct measures."

"No, the people have never taken part in any government programs. Only when some people attempt to kill mouflon do they come in contact with the government."

"Government has asked for our input maybe once or twice. The minister of agriculture came and talked about a plan for mouflon. It's been 10 years that all the ministers talk about a plan. Where is the plan?"

Local people have a considerable amount of knowledge about the forest and mouflon, which would facilitate their participation in natural resources management. People were generally aware that the Cyprus mouflon is endemic to Cyprus. Many described some of the ecological features of the mouflon, such as its food habits, breeding period and social behavior in general. People often mentioned where mouflon can be found and at what times during the day. This knowledge, as people explained, stems from the time they spend in the forest either for work or pleasure. Many aspects of this ecological knowledge have also been transferred from generation to generation. The following are some examples of references to the forest and mouflon.

"Mouflon do not exist anywhere else in the world."

"The springs in the forest have dried and mouflon find food and water near the villages."

“When visitors come and ask where they can see mouflon, we often take them inside the forest at places where many of them can be found. It’s easier to find them early in the morning or early in the evening. If you want to see them, I’ll take you there right now!”

Theme V: Beliefs and attitudes about the future of the villages (cultural sustainability).

The local people are greatly concerned about the future of their villages. Lack of employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labor was considered the biggest problem and the number one reason for why people leave. Lack of education opportunities was also considered a major concern, raised mainly by the women. Many feared that there was no future for the villages at all, as most young people move to the cities. “These villages will become nursery homes for the elderly,” one person said. This fear was greater for the villages of Tsakistra, Mylikouri, and Gerakies, and less for the village of Kampos, where there are more young people. However, even many people of Kampos expressed a concern that many young people are forced to move away due to lack of employment opportunities.

“Before the people lived from their vineyards and their animals. Now the educated and the young all leave.”

“There are no factories, how can the people stay here?”

“There is only an elementary school in Kampos. If there were more schools more people would stay here.”

Most people felt that the government should have provided more opportunities to help sustain the people in the countryside. Many argued that the government should have built factories in the area and some thought there should also be more government offices located in these villages so the educated people were not forced to move away to seek employment elsewhere. A general sentiment was that Kykkos monastery has done more to help the villages than the government. There were a couple of people, however, who said that the government has tried to help. One young woman also mentioned that there are low-interest loans for young people who want to build a house in the villages, but there are no jobs for people to stay there.

“The government says that they will help the rural areas, but nothing. The people of the countryside are neglected. Ministers and members of the parliament come to the village and promise many things, but they soon forget their promises.”

“There is no government program to encourage people to stay in these villages. Kykkos, on the other hand, does a lot: builds new offices, restaurants, coffee shops and employs many people.”

“The government could have built a fruit factory, for example, so people can stay here...”

“There are no programs to keep people in the countryside. But what can the government do?”

“There are some efforts from the government – they funded 9/10 of the expenses for an irrigation project near Tsakistra, while the village took responsibility for 1/10 of the expenses.”

Some people also felt that the agricultural damages caused by mouflon were contributing to the decline of their villages both for economic and social reasons. “There is no future for agriculture here. Agriculture is in the hands of mouflon.” It seems that the disappointment people feel about the way the government has dealt with the agricultural damages is related to the insecurity they feel about the future of their villages. People want to protect their crops, not only for the income, but because they feel that the future of agriculture is tied to the future of their communities. Many people also feel powerless to deal with the problem on their own and they feel they need help from the government.

“If they don’t help my vineyard I better leave. Why should I fight for the vineyards if I have no help? There is no protection. This is one reason forcing people to go away.”

“People don’t plant so many crops anymore because mouflon will destroy them.”

Non-residents

All non-residents who were asked to participate in the research were also willing to share their attitudes and concerns with no hesitation. The biggest concern that emerged among the non-resident group is how to sustain the villages into the future. Agricultural damages were perceived as a problem by most non-residents because they contribute to the decline of the village communities. Non-residents’ beliefs and attitudes are described based on the underlying themes mentioned above. Again, an effort was made to elicit the full range of beliefs and attitudes held by all participants, even in the cases where certain views were held by only one or two individuals.

Theme I: Perceptions about the benefits and costs derived from the forest and mouflon.

Non-residents described many benefits derived from the forest. Many mentioned that the forest provides employment to the local people in the area, while others focused mainly on non-material benefits, such as the beauty of the landscape, the relaxation and the sense of peace it brings.

“I feel so relaxed when I come here. It gives me strength and I can return to the city more refreshed.”

“The forest is essential to people’s mental and physical health.”

Most interviewees mentioned both benefits and costs derived from mouflon. The main benefit mentioned was the enjoyment they get from seeing mouflon. A few interviewees also mentioned the enjoyment of taking their young children to see mouflon.

“It’s a beautiful animal and it brings much joy to look at.”

Every interviewee was aware of the agricultural damages caused by mouflon. However, responses varied on how severe people considered this phenomenon to be. Some thought it was a significant problem for the people in the area, while others felt it was not a huge problem since the majority of local people do not exclusively depend on their crops for their livelihoods. Many recognized that even though local people do not exclusively depend on their crops, they are still saddened by the damages.

“There may soon be complete destruction of the agricultural cultivations because of the mouflon – especially the vineyards.”

“The local people don’t receive high incomes from their agricultural lands, but still, when they see their vineyards destroyed they feel embittered.”

“Mouflon cause damages to some villagers. People here have vineyards but they don’t depend on them to make a living.”

Theme II: Beliefs and attitudes about the forest and mouflon.

All interviewees highly valued the forest. Most people emphasized its beauty but some also mentioned its ecological value, such as the provision of oxygen, the prevention of landslides, and the fact that it provides habitat for mouflon.

“This is heaven! The most beautiful place in Cyprus.”

“This forest is the wealth of Cyprus. It gives oxygen and it’s also important because it’s the habitat of the mouflon.”

Non-residents also value the mouflon and would support its conservation. Many people mentioned that they are beautiful animals and it is a great enjoyment to look at them. A few people, however, mentioned that seeing mouflon is not something unusual for them. Their attitudes about the extent of “protectionist” attributes in conservation policies for mouflon varied. Some people felt that strict anti-poaching laws are necessary, while a couple of others felt that perhaps limited hunting should be allowed.

“It’s a beautiful animal, it makes the entire area more beautiful.”

“I love mouflon. I would never do anything to harm them. They should not be driven to extinction.”

“If hunting licenses were given, it would lead to the extinction of the mouflon in one month.”

“For others, mouflon are something unusual, but we encounter them very often.”

“I don’t have strong opinions about mouflon. Maybe if they allowed hunting to some it would be one way to bring people to this area.”

Theme IV: Attitudes about current government policies regarding agricultural damages caused by mouflon and the government’s long-term plan for mouflon conservation and management.

Most non-residents felt that the government should be providing more support for small-scale agriculture and be more responsive to the problem of agricultural damages caused by mouflon. Some non-residents, however, expressed their hesitation as to what could actually be done and a couple others felt that the problem may not be as great as some may think.

“The government does not handle the problem right. They should somehow find a solution.”

“It’s hard to think how the government could deal with this problem. It would take years before they could fence all the vineyards.”

“Some people’s indignation is justifiable but others’ is not. Most people don’t live from these crops and they sometimes exaggerate.”

Every interviewee supported the efforts of the government to prevent mouflon from becoming extinct. Most of them, however, said they were unaware of particular long-term management and conservation plans, other than anti-poaching patrols.

Theme IV: Willingness to participate in natural resource management programs.

Most non-residents expressed a willingness to collaborate with the government and participate in natural resources management programs. “We would be interested because we love both the village and the place,” one person said. Many were unsure of how this would work since they are in the area only for short periods of time. “I come here every weekend,” one person said, “but I know others who are only here for one or two weeks in the summer. I don’t know how this collaboration would work.” There were also a couple of interviewees who did not seem enthusiastic about this idea. “I could give suggestions and thoughts, but I’m not sure how much time I would like to put into this kind of collaboration.”

Theme V: Beliefs and attitudes about the future of the villages (cultural sustainability).

The non-residents have a great interest in sustaining the villages into the future. All of them expressed a concern about the actual future of the villages and the lack of employment opportunities was considered the biggest factor forcing people to leave the area. Some expressed

a sense of pride for the villages of their ancestry and others gave specific examples of steps they have taken to maintain the character of the villages.

Most non-residents also said that more measures should have been taken by the government to prevent the people from leaving. A couple of people, however, doubted whether there was anything the government could do. Cultural sustainability seemed to be the biggest concern for the non-residents and they would probably have a vested interest in advocating and participating in policies that would help sustain these villages.

“I come here every fifteen days because I love this place. If I could find a job here I probably would have stayed.”

“The people who left want to conserve the old style of the village. Keep the village the way it was.”

“We left our house here the way it was. Why should we destroy it and build a new one? That’s the whole beauty of it.”

“The government does not make any efforts to keep the people here. Only Kykkos helps.”

“The government should have done something to keep the people in the village. Bring industries...”

“There’s nothing the government can do. That’s the situation here. There’s lack of opportunities for young people. Young people want to study, not deal with the vineyards.”

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This inquiry provided background information about the values, attitudes, and concerns of the people living in four villages within and adjacent to the Paphos State Forest in Cyprus. It also provided insight to the attitudes and concerns held by people whose ancestry is from these villages but now reside elsewhere.

The three most important concerns that village residents have are the agricultural damages caused by mouflon, the uncertainty about the future of the villages, and the lack of government programs and policies to address these issues. The research also revealed some opportunities or positive elements that could help address these concerns. Despite the agricultural damages and the fact local villagers do not receive any material benefits from mouflon, the majority of people appreciate the mouflon in some way and support the long-term survival of the species. Local people also greatly value the forest and support its conservation. Finally, every local person expressed an overwhelming interest in collaborating with the government and participating in natural resource management programs with the hope that such a collaboration would benefit both the mouflon and their communities. The biggest concern that emerged among the non-resident group is how to sustain the villages in to the future. Agricultural

damages were seen as a problem by most non-residents because they contribute to the decline of the village communities.

This background information will guide additional research on Cypriots’ interactions with mouflon and the natural environment. Additional research will explore general values and attitudes regarding mouflon and mouflon habitat, the level of participation in natural resources management that is desired by villagers and non-residents, the capacity of local villagers to be involved in natural resources management, the potential for ecotourism focused on mouflon, and the potential for enhancing cultural sustainability without compromising the long-term conservation of mouflon.

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Appendix A Interview Guide for Village Residents

Introduction

Explain the purpose of the inquiry, ensure confidentiality.

Perceptions of the number of mouflon

Are there many mouflon in this area?

- Have they been increasing or decreasing in number over the last 10 years?

Values

How do people generally value the mouflon?

- Negatively (Nuisance/pest)
- Positively (Asset)
- Aesthetic value
- Cultural value

Benefits/Costs

Do the local people benefit from living close to the mouflon and close/within the Paphos forest?

Do the local people incur any costs from living close to the mouflon and close/within the Paphos Forest?

Perceptions of government programs and policies

How do people feel about the government's program to deal with mouflon problems?

- Concept
- Implementation

How do people feel about the government's program for long-term mouflon conservation?

- Concept
- Implementation

Community participation

Has the village been involved in mouflon management and conservation programs and policies by the government of Cyprus?

Has the government ever sought local input regarding the management and conservation of the Cyprus mouflon?

Would local people be interested in working with the government to develop long-term mouflon management and conservation plans? Why would they be interested?

Appendix A (cont.)

Environmental knowledge

How knowledgeable are local people regarding the Cyprus mouflon and the Paphos Forest?

- “Folk” knowledge
- “Scientific” knowledge

Cultural sustainability

What do people feel the future of their villages is?

- Is there future here for young people?

Are there any government programs to encourage people to stay in the villages?

Do local people show an interest in sustaining their villages / way of life?

Do people who have moved away show an interest in sustaining their villages / way of life?

Other concerns

Are there any other concerns people have about living in this area?

Anything else?

Thank you for you time.

**Appendix B
Interview Guide for Non-residents**

Introduction

Explain the purpose of the inquiry, ensure confidentiality.

General information

Where were you born? How often do you visit this area?

Perceptions of the number of mouflon

Are there many mouflon is this area?

- Have they been increasing or decreasing in number over the last 10 years?

Values

How do non-residents generally value the mouflon?

- Negatively (Nuisance/pest)
- Positively (Asset)
- Aesthetic value
- Culural value

Benefits/Costs

Do the non-residents benefit from the mouflon and the Paphos Forest?

Do the non-residents incur any costs from the mouflon and the Paphos Forest?

Are you aware whether the local people receive any benefits from living close to the mouflon and close/within the Paphos Forest?

Are you aware whether the local people incur any costs from living close to the mouflon and close/within the Paphos Forest?

Perceptions of government programs and policies

How do non-residents feel about the government’s program to deal with mouflon problems?

- Concept
- Implementation

How do non-residents feel about the government’s program for long-term mouflon conservation?

- Concept
- Implementation

Community participation

Have non-residents ever been involved in mouflon management and conservation programs and policies by the government of Cyprus?

Appendix B (cont.)

Would non-residents be interested in working with the government to develop long-term mouflon management and conservation plans? Why would they be interested?

Environmental knowledge

How knowledgeable are non-residents regarding the Cyprus mouflon and the Paphos Forest?

- "Folk" knowledge
- "Scientific" knowledge

Cultural sustainability

What do non-residents feel the future of their villages is?

- Is there future here for young people?

Are there any government programs to encourage people to stay in the villages?

Do non-residents show an interest in sustaining their villages / way of life?

Other concerns

Are there any other concerns for non-residents?

Anything else?

Thank you for you time.