

The Mediterranean Region

A state of the art report on the
situation of Mediterranean countries



Published by:
HELAND Project

Promoting socio-economic sustainable development through innovative technological actions for Mediterranean tourism-heritage and landscape protection clusters.

The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French (www.enpicbcmmed.eu).

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Design and Printing by Print Right Ltd. Qormi, Malta

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The Heland Partners





- The Project -

HELAND is a European framework project aiming to promote socio-economic sustainable development through innovative technological actions for Mediterranean tourism-heritage and landscapes protection clusters.

HELAND works with the participation of organizations from Malta, Spain, Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon dealing with tourism studies, regional development and innovative solutions, technological actions for Mediterranean tourism-heritage and landscapes protection clusters.

The **HELAND** Project is co-funded by the European Commission through ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) Programme, which is the financing instrument of the new European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) for the 2007-2013 period aiming at reinforcing cooperation between the European Union (EU) and partner countries placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

- Background -

It is a known fact that the Mediterranean regions are the cradle of some of the most important civilizations of the world and have left, without any doubt a cultural heritage that has continued to influence the entire world until today. These regions have also a diversity of landscapes that contribute to local and regional identity, reflecting the past and present relationship between the human being and the natural and built environment. Nowadays, however, increasing threats can be witnessed to cultural identity, heritage and landscape diversity of the region resulting from external (e.g. globalization) and internal factors (e.g. rapid urbanization with consequent impacts on traditional socio-economic structures). Now also, the Mediterranean is subject to increasing degradation of its environment, cultural heritage and landscapes.

Because of these realities it is necessary to encourage involved organisms and organizations, to strive for rational management of this space, with innovative and the most modern technologies taking due account of the imperatives of conservation and reinforcing the practice of a sustainable tourism that promotes low impact on the environment and the local cultures, while helping to generate income, employment, and the conservation of local ecosystems. Innovation, together with use and application of technologies to traditional and important sectors, such as Tourism in the Mediterranean countries, will be a key aspect in their future economic development.

- Main Objectives -

The goal of our project is to promote the socio-economic development and enhancement of territories by means of supporting innovation and research in the process of local development of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea Basin.

HELAND regards research and innovation activities as key factors in the process of the competitive development of territories through the tourism industry.

More specifically, **HELAND** will establish a common approach for sustainable tourism through the application of cutting-edge technologies at two important axes as heritage and landscapes protection, that will help us to achieve better management and tourism sustainability indicators and which leads to the enhancement of quality and economic indicators of tourism in the partners countries. With this project we will be able to modernize “mature” productive sectors like tourism, but based on sustainability criteria and natural/cultural specificities of territories, the international normative practices and on the know-how of the local actors, as well as responding to new demands mainly emerging in the service sector.

The diffusion of new procedures and innovative technologies will be promoted through the setting up of a cross-border network at basin level, among universities, research centres, professional societies, regional institutions, SME clusters, etc.

- The Partners -



University of Malta – Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture

Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit (FTZ) 

 **Geredis** GEREDIS

Larnaca District Development Agency (ANETEL)



Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)

Lebanese University – Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management



Shouf Biosphere Reserve

Jordan University of Science and Technology – Faculty of Architecture



The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)

- Country Profiles -



Cyprus

Malta

Egypt

State of Palestine

Greece

Portugal

Italy

Spain

Jordan

Syria

Lebanon

Tunisia

- CYPRUS -



Cyprus, officially called the Republic of Cyprus, is an island country in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, located east of Greece, south of Turkey, north of Egypt and west of Syria, Lebanon and Israel. It is the third most populated and the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and is a popular tourist destination.

The earliest known human activity on the island dates back to around the 10th millennium BCE. Archaeological remains from this period include the well-preserved Neolithic village of Khirokitia, which has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO with an 'enhanced protection' status in the event of armed conflict, along with the archaeological sites of Paphos and the Painted Churches of the Troodos Region.

Cyprus was settled by Mycenaean Greeks in two waves in the 2nd millennium BCE. As a strategic location in the Middle East, it was subsequently occupied by several major powers, including the Assyrians, Egyptians, and Persians. Alexander the Great seized the island from the latter in 333 BCE and subsequently it came under the rule of Ptolemaic Egypt, the Roman Empire and the Byzantines. After a short interlude under the Arab caliphates, it returned to the Byzantine Empire. The rule of the French Lusignan dynasty and later the Venetians, was followed by the Ottoman conquest in 1571. It remained under Ottoman control for over three centuries. Cyprus was placed under British administration in 1878 until it was granted independence in 1960, becoming a member of the Commonwealth in the following year.

Tensions between the Greek Cypriot majority and the Turkish Cypriot minority came to a head in December 1963, when violence broke out in the capital Nicosia. Despite the deployment of UN peacekeepers in 1964, sporadic communal strife continued, forcing most Turkish Cypriots into enclaves throughout the island. In 1974, the Greek military junta sponsored a military attempt to seize control of Cyprus and to unify the island with Greece (*enosis*). This, however, was met by an armed intervention from Turkey, which soon controlled more than a third of the island. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot-occupied area declared itself the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus', but it has been recognized only by Turkey. These events and the resulting political situation are matters of on-going dispute.

The election of a new Cypriot president in 2008 served as the impetus for the UN to both encourage the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to reopen unification negotiations. In September 2008, the leaders of the two communities began negotiations under UN auspices, aimed at reuniting the divided island: the talks are on-going and the leaders continue to meet regularly. The entire island entered the EU in 2004 and the Euro zone in 2008, although the EU *acquis* - the body of common rights and obligations - applies only to the areas under the internationally recognized government, and is suspended in the areas administered by Turkish Cypriots.

Note: Due to the current division of the Island of Cyprus into two political entities, this country profile will deal only with features related to the internationally-recognized Republic of Cyprus, which is part of the European Union, and not with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriot community administers what it calls the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) or (Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti or KKTC).

1. GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

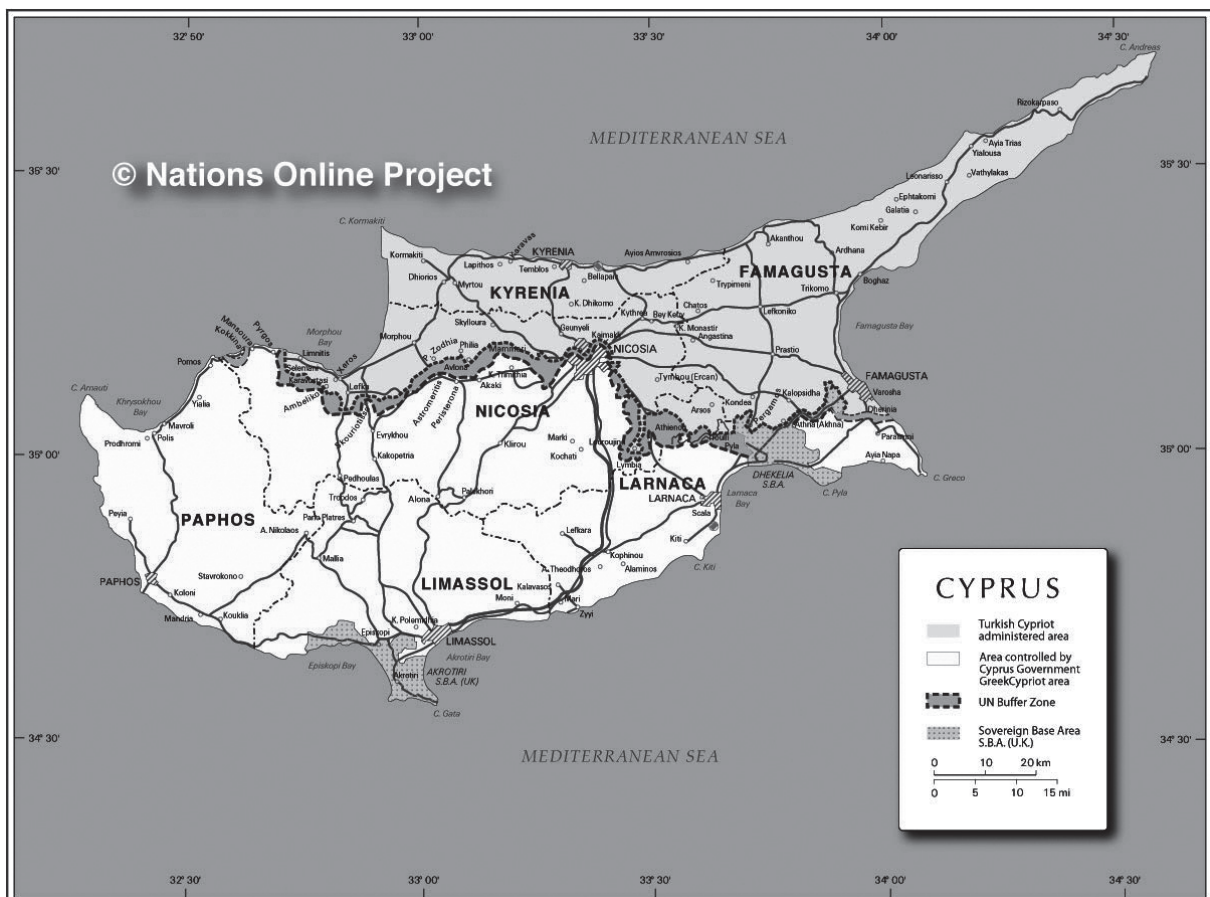
1.1 Geography

Cyprus is the third largest independent island in the Mediterranean, after Sicily and Sardinia and is located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, south of Turkey and North West of Israel. Although Cyprus is an island, without any land boundaries, it is nonetheless divided into a northern and a southern part, whereby the Turkish Cypriots live in the north and Greek Cypriots in the south. In 1974, there was a Turkish military invasion of the island, which occupied 37 per cent of Cyprus, an occupation which continues to this day regardless of numerous protests by the UN and the Security Council. The geography of Cyprus underlines the terrain and the climate of Cyprus. The island consists of two mountain ranges that divide the island from east to west. Between these two parallel mountain ranges lies the Central Plain that contains the agricultural area of Cyprus.¹

The total area of Cyprus measures 9,251 km² of which 3,355 km² are in north Cyprus. The island is 225 km from east to west and at most 97 km from north to south with a coastline of 648 km. It has a compact shape except for a long, tapering peninsula to the northeast.²

1.2 Climate

Cyprus has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters, although winter generally lasts for about 5 months per year. The island provides a perfect climate for summer holidays and is a very popular tourists destination. It is estimated that there are 300 days of sun each year. The temperature on the island



varies with elevation, in January however the average temperature is about 10 °C, while July and August measure about 35 °C. In the winter months, the temperature in the mountains reaches 5 to 6 °C and in summer 9 to 12 °C. Rainfall, occurring mainly in winter, rarely reaches more than 380mm (15 inches) in the lowlands, however it is generally higher in the mountains. Short, small streams drain the surface water but these are usually dry in the summer. The native vegetation is adapted to the climate and consists mainly of drought-resisting scrub and conifers (including eucalyptus, pine, acacia, and cypress).³

1.3 Elevation Extremes

The lowest point on the island is the Mediterranean Sea at 0m. The highest is in the Troodos mountain range which is located in the south of Cyprus – Mount Olympus, also known as Chionistra, measures 1,951 m.⁴

1.4 Terrain

There are two plains in Cyprus, the Central Plain and the Mesaoria Plain. There are two mountain masses, one in the north and one in the south. The north mountain range is named the Kyrenia Range and is mostly made up of limestone; the southern mountain range is called the Troodos Mountains, which cover most of the southern part of the island. They are mainly composed of volcanic rocks and the highest peak is 1953 meters (6,404ft). The Troodos Mountains stretch from Podos Point in the northwest almost to Larnaca Bay on the east. In the southwest, the mountains descend in a series of stepped foothills to the coastal plain. The Kyrenia mountain range peaks are significantly smaller than those of the Troodos, only measuring half of the height of the highest peak in Troodos.

In the centre of the island are the central lowlands, lying between the two mountain ranges. Along the entire coast are the coastal lowlands, varying in width.⁵

1.5 Hydrology

Most of Cyprus's rivers source from the Troodos Mountains and run to the sea. Cyprus has only small and short rivers due to the size of the island. With a length of 100 kilometres, the Pedieos River is the longest river in Cyprus and sources from the Troodos mountains, while it flows to the sea in the north of the island, near the town of Gazimagusa Famagusta.

The increase of water usage is due to a boom in tourism and traditional agricultural needs. Due to Cyprus's climate, availability of water has always been problematic and does not cover the domestic and agricultural demand. As surface water is only available from the months of November to April, groundwater was extracted to meet demand. Since independence in 1960, the number of dams has risen from 21 to 96. In 1960, most of the villages relied on communal water fountains, but since then 600 villages have had domestic water supplies installed and the other sources, such as groundwater, have been developed.⁶

1.6 Natural Resources

The State owns the forests in Cyprus and wood covers an area of 157,788 hectares, or 17.06 per cent of the territory. The responsible department is taking steps to protect



Paphos Castle



Agia Paraskevi Byzantine Church Geroskipou

private forestlands, which cover an area of 228,930 hectares or 24.7 per cent of Cyprus.

1.7 Water Resources

Until 1997, rainfall was the main source of water. Although Cyprus's average rainfall is 500 mm per year, the larger amount falls in the winter months, with an irregular and inadequate water supply being a consequence. Since the climate and land are quite arid, most of the rivers are dry in summer. Programmes for constructing dams and reservoirs were initiated during the colonial period, and by the time Cyprus had become independent the island had sixteen dams with a storage capacity of six million cubic meters. By 1990 storage capacity had reached 300 million cubic meters.

Cyprus has only five natural lakes, which are brackish or salt lakes. This island has 66 aquifers and twenty groundwater bodies – ten of these are connected to the sea. The river and coastal alluvial deposits are the main and most dynamic aquifers that are replenished by river flow and rainfall.⁷

1.8 Land Use

The land use in Cyprus can be divided into five categories: 40 per cent is arable land, 7 per cent has permanent crops, 10 per cent is meadows and pastures, 18 per cent holds forests and woodland and 25 per cent cover other land use.⁸

The map on page 8 shows the areas of woodland / forest, permanent crops, arable land, irrigated farming, grazing land and the urban or built up areas. The wooded areas are located in the northern and southern mountain ranges, with most of the arable land being on the central plains.⁹

1.9 Environmental issues

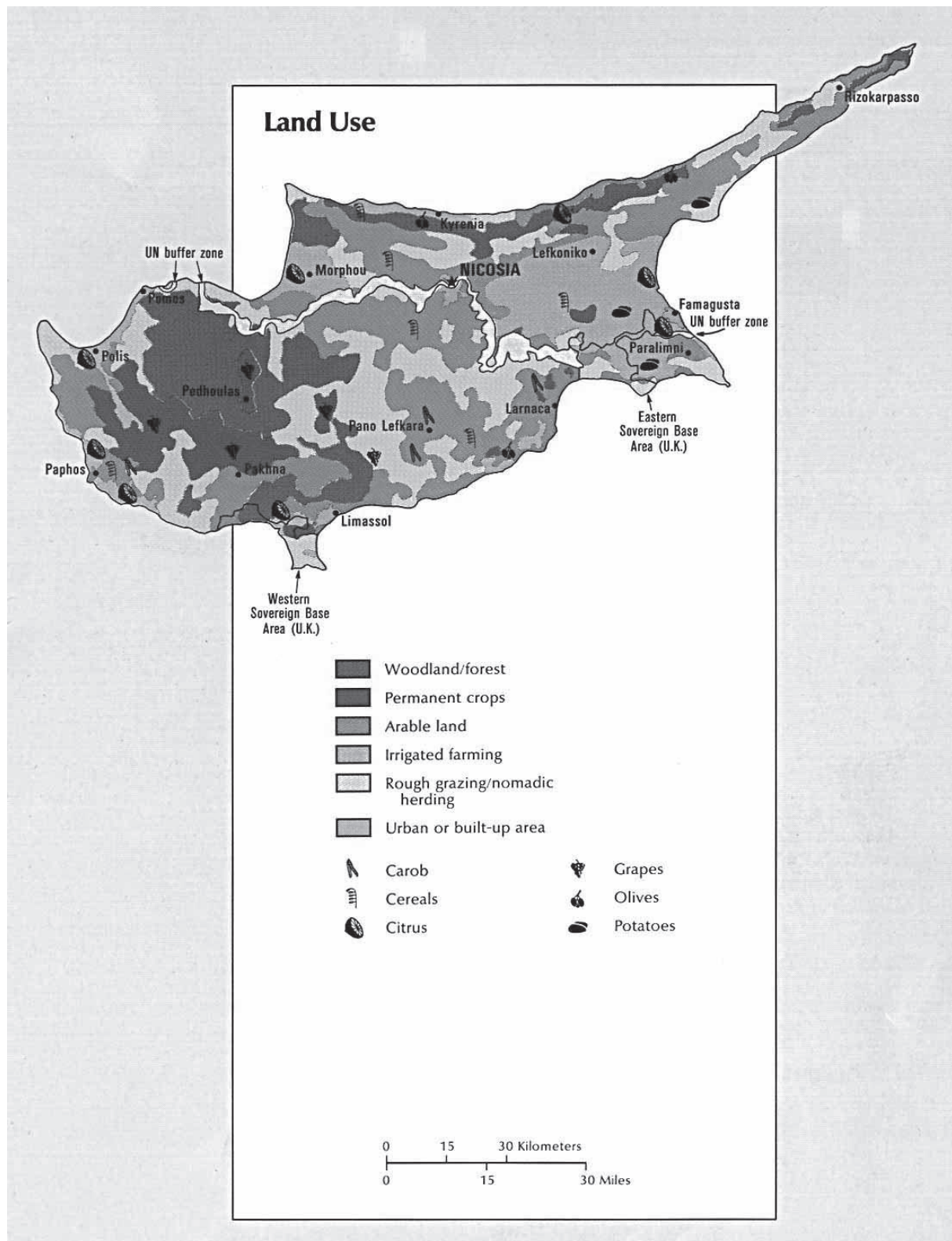
Cyprus's Department of Environment is a logical continuation of the Environment Service, which was originally created in 1981. The integration into the European Union has brought 250 European legislative acts, which, after having been harmonised into national laws, have greatly improved the environmental situation on the island. The department is also currently creating a solid foundation for an improved environmental status. The following paragraphs are examples of environmental obstacles

1.9.1 Waste Management

The main responsibility of the waste sector is to apply the environmentally rational management of waste produced in Cyprus. The priority target is the efficient management of natural resources and waste through a programme devoted to reduce the production of waste and its disposal to landfills.¹⁰

1.9.2 Water Management

Current and on-going issues, in Cyprus include water resource problems. This is due to the lack of natural reservoirs, water catchment areas and the absence of adequate rainfall throughout the year. Water pollution from sewage and industrial waste is also a common problem. Water saving measures are promoted throughout the year, encouraging the population to, among other things, check the plumbing installation for leaks, to fix a dripping tap immediately and to install plastic water bags in the toilet flush tanks. It is also encouraged to water the garden with a watering can early in the morning or in the evening when evaporation is limited.¹¹



1.9.3 Deforestation

Deforestation has destroyed areas of forest (through unsustainable forestry practices, agricultural and range land clearing, and the over exploitation of wood products for use as fuel) without planting new growth. Existing forests in Cyprus were mainly created during

British Colonial Rule, by planting mostly pine trees. However, in a later stage, the preservation of forests was unfortunately not a top priority and many fires destroyed areas of woodland. Deforestation took place for building new roads and limestone quarries increased surface erosion, while decreasing the amount of ground water.¹²

1.10 International agreements on environment – see Appendix I

2. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

2.1.1 Government type

Republic.¹³

2.1.2 Capital city

Nicosia (Lefkosa/Lefkosa)

2.1.3 Administrative divisions

Six districts: Famagusta, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol, Nicosia and Paphos. Note: The administrative divisions of the Turkish Cypriot area's include Kyrenia, nearly all of Famagusta, and small parts of Nicosia (Lefkosa) and Larnaca.

2.1.4 Independence Day

On 16th August 1960, Cyprus attained independence after the Zürich and London Agreement between the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey. The UK retained the two Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, while government posts and public offices were allocated by ethnic quotas, giving the minority Turkish Cypriots a permanent veto, 30 per cent in parliament and administration, and granting the three mother-states guarantor rights.¹⁴

2.1.5 National Holiday

Independence Day - 16th August 1960

2.1.5 Constitution

Drafted after the Country won its independence in 1959 from the United Kingdom, the Cypriot Constitution was enacted on 16 August 1960.

With independence, Cyprus's constitution called for a government divided into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, headed by a president, with strong guarantees for the Turkish Cypriot community. The constitution arranged for a Greek Cypriot president and Turkish Cypriot vice president, elected by their respective communities for five-year terms of office. Members of the other minorities (Armenians, Maronites and Roman Catholics) were given the option of joining one of the communities for voting purposes. The post of vice president, reserved to a Turkish Cypriot, is currently vacant due to the division of the country between the Greek and the Turkish communities; from December 1963 onwards, the Turkish Cypriots no longer participated in the government.¹⁵

2.1.6 Legal system

Mixed legal system of English common law and civil law with and influence of the Greek Orthodox religious law.

2.1.7 Suffrage

Eighteen years of age; universal.

2.1.8 Executive branch

According to the 1960 Constitution, the Republic of Cyprus is an independent and sovereign republic with a presidential system. The government should be led by a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice president, elected by their respective communities for five-year terms and each possessing a right of veto over certain types of legislation and executive decisions. Legislative power rests with the House of Representatives who are also elected on the basis of separate voters' rolls.¹⁶

2.1.9 Legislative branch

Cyprus has a unicameral legislative system; legislative power is exercised by the 80-seat House of Representatives. Members are elected by popular vote for a five-year term.

According to the 1960 Constitution the House is meant to be made up of 56 Greek-Cypriot members and 24 Turkish-Cypriot members. Since the withdrawal of the Turkish-Cypriot members from the Republic's institutions in 1965, the House of Representatives currently has only the 56 members elected by proportional representation by the Greek community, plus three non-voting observer members representing the Armenian, Latin (Roman Catholic) and Maronite minorities. Roma have neither representation nor observer status.¹⁷

2.1.10 Judicial branch

Cyprus was a British colony until 1960 and thus the established legal systems are based almost entirely on the English legal system. Legislation was thus passed on the basis of the principles of common law and equity. The courts of the Republic of Cyprus apply the following laws: 1) the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, 2) the laws retained by virtue of Article 188 of the Constitution, 3) the principles of common law and the principles of equity, 4) the laws passed by the House of Representatives, 5) following the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union in 2004, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus was amended so that European law has supremacy.

2.2 Participation in International Organisations

Australia Group, C, CD, CE, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EMU, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (with national committees), IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs (observer), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM, NSG, OAS (observer), OIF, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO.

2.3 Political Parties and Pressure Groups

2.3.1 Progressive Party of the Working People

The 'Progressive Party of the Working People' (AKEL) is a main party in Cyprus and, for the first time in the history of Cyprus, it managed to have one from its own, Demetris Christofias (2008 - 2013) elected as president of the country. While it is still a

declared communist party, its economic policies are closer to western social-democratic parties.¹⁸

2.3.2 The Democratic Rally

The 'Democratic Rally' (DISY) is a conservative and Christian-democratic political party in Cyprus. It advocates market economy with restricted state intervention and an increased state social role. It advocates the reunification of Cyprus on the basis of a bi-zonal federation.¹⁹

2.3.3 Democratic Party

The 'Democratic Party' (DIKO) was founded in 1976 by Spyros Kyprianou. It advocates the political philosophy of 'social centrism'.

2.3.4 Movement for Social Democracy

The 'Movement for Social Democracy' (EDEK) was founded, in its current status, in 2000. When it was originally founded by Dr Vasos Lyssaridis in 1969, it was called the United Democratic Union of the Centre and it was a socialist party. Since then it has gradually evolved into a social-democratic political party.

2.3.5 Cyprus Workers Confederation

The 'Cyprus Workers Confederation' (SEK) was established in 1944 and it is one of the most important social partners in Cyprus. Adopting a moderate and pro-West approach, it is affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Confederation.

2.3.6 Pan-Cyprian Labour Federation

The 'Pancyprian Federation of Labour' (PEO) is an umbrella organization for trade unions in Cyprus. It has always been closely related to AKEL. It is currently affiliated with the World Federation of Trade Unions.

2.4 Demographics, ethnic and/or religious groups

2.4.1 Demographics

According to a census conducted by the Republic of Cyprus Statistical Service at the end of 2011, the population of Cyprus is estimated at 952,100 inhabitants. These official figures do not include illegal settlers from Turkey, which can be estimated to be in the range of 160 to 170 thousand.

Out of this total, the estimated composition of the Cypriot population at the end of 2011 was: Greek Cypriot community: 684,000 (71.8%), Turkish Cypriot community: 90,100 (9.5%), Foreign residents: 178,000 (18.7%).

Ethnic and religious minorities, belonging to the Greek Cypriot community, are:²⁰ Armenians: 2,600 (0.4%), Maronites: 5,000 (0.7%), Latins: 800 (0.1%).

Growth rate: 1.571% (2012 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 15.9%, 15-64 years: 73.4%, 65 years and over: 10.7%

2.4.2 Languages

Greek (official), Turkish (official), English.²¹

2.4.3 Religions

Almost all Greek Cypriots are followers of the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus (78% of the total population), whereas most Turkish Cypriots are adherents of Sunni Islam (18% of the total population). Minorities (including Maronites and Armenian Apostolic) account for 4% of the total population.

3. NATURA 2000 SITES²² - see Appendix II

4. ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National bodies dealing with 'sustainable tourism'

4.1.1 Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI)

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) was established in 2006, with the aim of promoting the development of a sustainable approach to tourism in Cyprus through the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment, the sensible use of natural resources and the improvement of the social and economic conditions of marginalized rural communities in Cyprus. CSTI aims at promoting sustainable development in the tourism industry for the public benefit, through research into, and education of, the public and the tourism industry in the following areas:²³ the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources while reducing the carbon footprint related to tourism; improving the quality of life for socially and economically disadvantaged communities in view of tourism; and, the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

4.2 National bodies responsible for tourism, culture and environment

4.2.1 Tourism

4.2.1.1 Cyprus Tourism Organization

Cyprus Tourism Organization operates offices both in Cyprus and abroad. The Head Offices are based in Nicosia while there are Regional Offices in other cities and areas across the island. Moreover, Cyprus Tourism Organization has active offices in twenty-two major cities worldwide - London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Berlin, Paris, Stockholm, Helsinki, Athens, Milan, Zurich, Brussels, Amsterdam, Vienna, New York, Moscow, Tel Aviv, Budapest, Prague, Salonika, St Petersburg, Warsaw and Dubai.²⁴

4.2.1.2 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism is responsible for the formulation and implementation of Government policy on matters pertaining to trade, industry, tourism and, the consumer, in such a way that it will contribute positively towards the further development of the Cypriot economy and the well-being of the population of the island. The administration of the Ministry handles the general policy and directs and co-ordinates all the departments and services of the Ministry for its effective implementation.²⁵

4.2.1.2 The Cyprus Hoteliers Association

The Cyprus Hotel Association is the Hoteliers National Trade Union, comprehensive of the vast majority of all hotel establishments and other licensed tourist accommodation units, all over Cyprus.

4.2.1.3 Association of Cyprus Tourist Enterprises

The Association of Cyprus Tourist Enterprises (ACTE) was founded in June 1997 in order to foster the development of quality and sustainable tourism in Cyprus. The ACTE is composed of prominent top-quality hotels and tourist enterprises all over Cyprus.

4.2.1.4 Hotel Managers Association

The Cyprus Hotel Managers Association (Cy.Ho.MA) was founded in 1983 with the main objective of being a well-organized institution supporting the professionalism of the members and promoting the unionized protection of their best interests and the aims of Hotel Managers.

4.2.1.5 Tourist Guides Association

The Cyprus Tourist Guides Association was established in 1964. It is the only organization that exists in Cyprus for Tourist Guides and has 300 members from all over Cyprus. Its main aims are to improve professional standards, protect and support its members and enhance the image of the Tourist Guide. All Tourist Guides of Cyprus are licensed by the Cyprus Tourism Organization having followed an one-year course and successfully passed the relevant exams. The School of the Guides is organized by the Cyprus Tourism Organization in collaboration with the University of Cyprus.

4.2.2 Culture

4.2.2.1 Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture

The first service of the Ministry of Education and Culture exclusively responsible for Culture was created in 1965 under the name of Cultural Service, which in 1992, following its upgrading to a Department, was renamed Department of Cultural Services

The Cultural Services are responsible for the cultural policy of the state regarding contemporary culture. By being responsible for the development of the Letters and the Arts in Cyprus, informing the public about cultural events and their participation in them, and promoting the achievements of the cultural activities abroad, the Department plays a vital role in shaping the cultural image of the country.²⁶

4.2.2.2 Cyprus Cultural Foundation

The Cyprus Cultural Foundation was established in 2005 by a decision of the Council of Ministers and tasked with the creation of the Cyprus Cultural Centre in Nicosia, the capital of the Republic of Cyprus. The Board of Directors was appointed by the government in September 2005. The Cultural Centre is there to provide a focal point for the island's performing arts, showcasing national and international performances of music, dance, opera, musical theatre and the spoken word.²⁷

4.2.3 Environment

4.2.3.1 Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

The Department of Environment has developed from the former Environment Service which was originally created in 1981. The upgrading of the Environment Service to a Department took place in 2010. The challenge of the integration of Cyprus in the European Union has greatly improved the island's environmental legislation.²⁸

4.3 National bodies dealing with cultural and natural heritage

4.3.1 Centre of Cultural Heritage

The Centre of Cultural Heritage is a multi-dimensional service covering the areas of Archaeology, History of Art, Cultural and Natural Heritage. It also includes areas such as the recording and digital archiving of the artistic heritage of Cyprus, its restoration and conservation, its study and enhancement through the creation of museums, the organization of exhibitions and congresses, lectures and scientific programmes, as well as by means of publications.²⁹

4.3.2 Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

The Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation was established in 1984, in order to assist in the rescue of the island's cultural heritage after the partition of the country and to promote the Hellenic culture of Cyprus at a professional and scholarly level.

Thus, while the context of all projects undertaken by the Foundation is meant to be *Cyprological*, i.e. pertaining to Cyprus (art, history, literature, etc.), the philosophy and policy of the Foundation is to promote the Hellenic character of Cyprus, in as much as this is an island of the wider Hellenic world. This assessment does not by any means detract from the unique, historical development of Cyprus from antiquity to the present.

In February 2000, the Greek authorities granted permission for a branch of the Cultural Foundation to be opened in Greece. The branch will have its temporary premises at the administrative headquarters of the Bank of Cyprus in Athens.³⁰



Agios Lazaros Church - Larnaka

4.4 National policies, laws and regulations about (sustainable) tourism

4.4.1 Cyprus tourism policies from past to present

Tourism has been a major engine of growth for the Cyprus economy in the post-1974 period. The development of a tourism infrastructure in the difficult years after the invasion was instrumental in achieving the impressive economic turnaround of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The sector grew rapidly throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Revenues from tourism exceeded 20% of GDP throughout most of the latter decade (Clerides & Pashourtidou 2007: 51).

Richard Sharpley claims in his paper that 'sustainable tourism development is largely manifested in small-scale, localized projects which, though laudable in themselves, bear little relation to global requirements of sustainable development'.³¹

After gaining its independence from Britain, Cyprus's development has known two phases. The first one (up to 1974) has marked Cyprus's reputation as a major Mediterranean summer destination, and has contributed substantially to the island's economy.

At the beginning of the second phase (up to early 2000), Cyprus had to deal with the Turkish invasion in 1974, which had a negative influence on the economy, especially upon the tourism sector. But the island proved to have enough resources and resilience, and between 1976 and 1989 the annual arrivals increased by 700 per cent.

Cyprus's challenges are in terms of: arrivals, main markets, mode of travel, seasonality, accommodation trends, and social/environmental impact. The CTO is aware of the island's needs, but the implemented policies were not always adequate: when rebuilding the industry during the post-invasion period, the CTO had neither foreseen the infrastructural development issue, nor that of the environment's protection. Then, another policy focused on changing the target market, trying to attract tourists with more money, and therefore the CTO decided there would be a need for luxurious hotels, an element which was not exactly what the market needed at time, since the tour operators were increasingly selling cheaper travel in order to maintain a certain volume. The CTO made attempts to control the environmental impacts, but could not really succeed because of the large number of approved applications prior to the implementation of the policy.³²

Related to policies, Sharpley observes that the 'local political structures do not facilitate central control of the island. At the national level, formal structures for the implementation of policy do not exist; rather, there is a reliance on informal contact and agreement between political and industry leaders which, arguably, allows for political deals which circumvent official policy whilst also permitting conflicts of interest',³³ and affirms that the CTO itself enjoys little statutory authority,³⁴ letting political groups such as Cyprus Hotels Association gain strength.

Thanks to tourism, Cyprus enjoys full employment and there is virtually no poverty.³⁵ Due to the changes that the island underwent due of the need of building more hotels, CTO had to design new tourism policies, which should help in preserving nature, hence the 2000-10 strategy focuses on the issue of sustainability, i.e. quality development. Sharpley also argues that the policies should focus more on consolidating the mass tourism product since the tour operators cannot be fully controlled by the authorities,

the roads and facilities that Cyprus has to offer are not exactly qualitative, the island's cultural and archaeological sites are poorly maintained, and in reality the island cannot compete in terms of sites with other Mediterranean islands. Sharpley considers that there is a great probability for Cyprus to always remain only a summer destination, and subsequently this area of the tourism sector should be constantly improved:

In this way, tourism will continue to underpin economic growth and modernization, providing a sound platform upon which to build a more diverse and sustainable economy. In short, tourism policy should not be directed towards sustainable tourism development but towards sustained (mass) tourism as the foundation for the longer-term sustainable development of Cyprus (Sharpley 2003: 262).³⁶.

4.4.2 Regional strategies

Five Regional Companies for Tourism Development and Promotion of Lefkosa, Lemesos, Larnaka, Pafos and the Mountain Resorts, which are private non-profit entities, have been established. The establishment of the sixth one, namely the Ammohostos Regional Company, has been agreed upon and it is under way. These Companies have received guidance towards the setting up of their operations and the undertaking of initiatives towards the implementation of the regional Action Plans which were prepared for each area within the framework of the respective Regional Strategies. Such initiatives will cover the areas of product development, marketing, quality / value for money as included in the Strategies and Action Plans, as well as the organization of events.

4.4.3 The CTO activities towards the implementation of the strategy

The Organisation maintains a research co-operation with the Economic Research Centre of the University of Cyprus. This has been renewed for a further three-year period. Among other projects, as part of this research agreement, an annual sampling survey on the level of satisfaction of tourists and their evaluation of the Cyprus tourist product is being conducted.³⁷

The following products are being marketed and offered by the new tourism policies:

rural tourism	nautical tourism
casinos	cultural tourism
development of thematic packages	religious tourism
nature tourism	sports tourism
medical tourism and wellness	conference and incentives
weddings and honeymoons	language travel ³⁸

The main objectives of the new tourist policy in a nutshell:

- improvement and enrichment of the tourist product through the creation and construction of extensive general infrastructural works, such as golf courses, marinas, parks, nature trails, sports facilities and health centres
- restriction in the rate of creation of new bed capacity and encouragement of the up-grading of existing accommodation
- maintenance of the competitiveness of the Cyprus tourist product

- the development of agro-tourism: incentives for agro-tourism are provided through low interest loans for the renovation of village houses and the undertaking of schemes for the improvement of the tourist infrastructure
- agro-industry, handicrafts, a traditional winery, farming and self-employment schemes are also provided with funds
- increase in earnings from tourism.³⁹

However, attracting high-spending tourists while also focusing on the mass-tourism is not necessarily a solution according to Dimitri Ioannides and Briavel Holcomb, who say that:

The obvious contradiction of desiring quality tourism products to attract upscale tourists while also increasing the numbers of mass tourists reflects a case of policymakers wanting to have their cake and eat it too. This situation demonstrates the continued predominance of economic concerns over issues relating to the natural environment and social equity, a fact that acts as a stumbling block in the pursuit of balanced development.⁴⁰

There are also other negative aspects that include: the per capita water and energy demands of tourists in up-market luxury facilities which exceed those of mass-tourists, domestic visitors and local residents; an average golf course requires 2.3 million cubic meters of water daily; up-scale hotels are owned usually by foreign companies and tend to import all the goods and the food, which in the long run has a negative effect on the destination's economic stability and sustainability; luxury resorts require far more land, for instance the five-star Anassa Hotel in Cyprus was controversially built in a rural area just outside the proposed Akamas National Park.

4.4.3.3 Statistical data about tourism economy and its effect on society

a) Number of arrivals and percentage of global international tourism arrivals:

the number of arrivals in Cyprus was reported at 2,173,000 in 2010, according to the World Bank report published in 2012.⁴¹

b) International tourism receipt for the country, compared to the Mediterranean area:

the receipt in Cyprus was 1,809 EUR million (2011).⁴²

Country	Receipts (EUR million)		
	2001	2006	2011
Croatia		6,264	6,590
Cyprus	2,240	1,182	1,809
Greece	10,246	11,357	10,505
Italy	28,959	30,335	30,878
Malta	628	607	909
Portugal	6,125	6,672	8,146
Slovenia	1,102	1,555	1,945
Spain	34,222	40,715	43,026
Turkey	9,033	13,422	15,695



Agia Napa Sea Caves

c) Average expenditure of international tourists:

international tourism expenditures (US dollar) in Cyprus reached 868 EUR million.⁴³

d) Share of tourism employment, out of the total for the country:

according to a CTO survey, during the summer of 2008 about 22,400 people of various specializations were employed in the hotel industry and about 16,000 people were employed in entertainment establishments (CTO-Annual report 2008).

e) Partition of the tourism offer between seaside and non-seaside offer (number of beds) -83.000 beds (2011).⁴⁴

4.4.3.4 Most visited sites and locations

Locations: Ayia Napa-Protaras (34%), Paphos (32%), Limassol (13%), Larnaca (9%), Nicosia (6%).

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An ancient cruciform figure



Egypt is the world's 38th largest country; it covers an area of about one million km² and is located on the northeast corner of Africa with a strategic geographic position that connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Indian Ocean. Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the second-most populous on the African Continent. The majority of the population is concentrated mainly along the fertile valley of the Nile River, in an area of about 40,000 km². Egypt is famous for its ancient civilization and 7,000 year history along the Nile River with some of the world's most famous monuments, including the Giza pyramid complex and its Great Sphinx. This has made Egypt a master and pioneer of science, arts, culture, and architecture, as well as almost all fields of human knowledge. Egypt is widely regarded as an important political and cultural nation of the Middle East and the Arab world and is sometimes referred to as the 'Motherland of the World' and the 'Land of Civilizations'. The economy of Egypt is one of the most diversified in the Middle East, with sectors such as tourism, agriculture, industry and services at almost equal production levels.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Geographical location

Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of Africa between latitudes 21° and 31° North and longitudes 25° and 35° East with a total area of 1,001,450 km²; the country stretches 1,105 km from north to south and up to 1,129 km from east to west. It is bordered in the north by the Mediterranean Sea, in the east by the Gaza Strip, Israel and the Red Sea, in the south by Sudan, and in the west by Libya. Egypt includes the Sinai Peninsula (also known as Sinai), which is often considered part of Asia (FAO, 2011).

1.2 Topography, land cover and use

In terms of land cover, 99.4 per cent of Egypt's territory is covered by land (995,450 km²) and only 0.6 per cent is covered by water (6,000 km²). Over 95 per cent of Egypt's land is desert, and arid and semi-arid rangelands.

1.3. Climate and temperatures

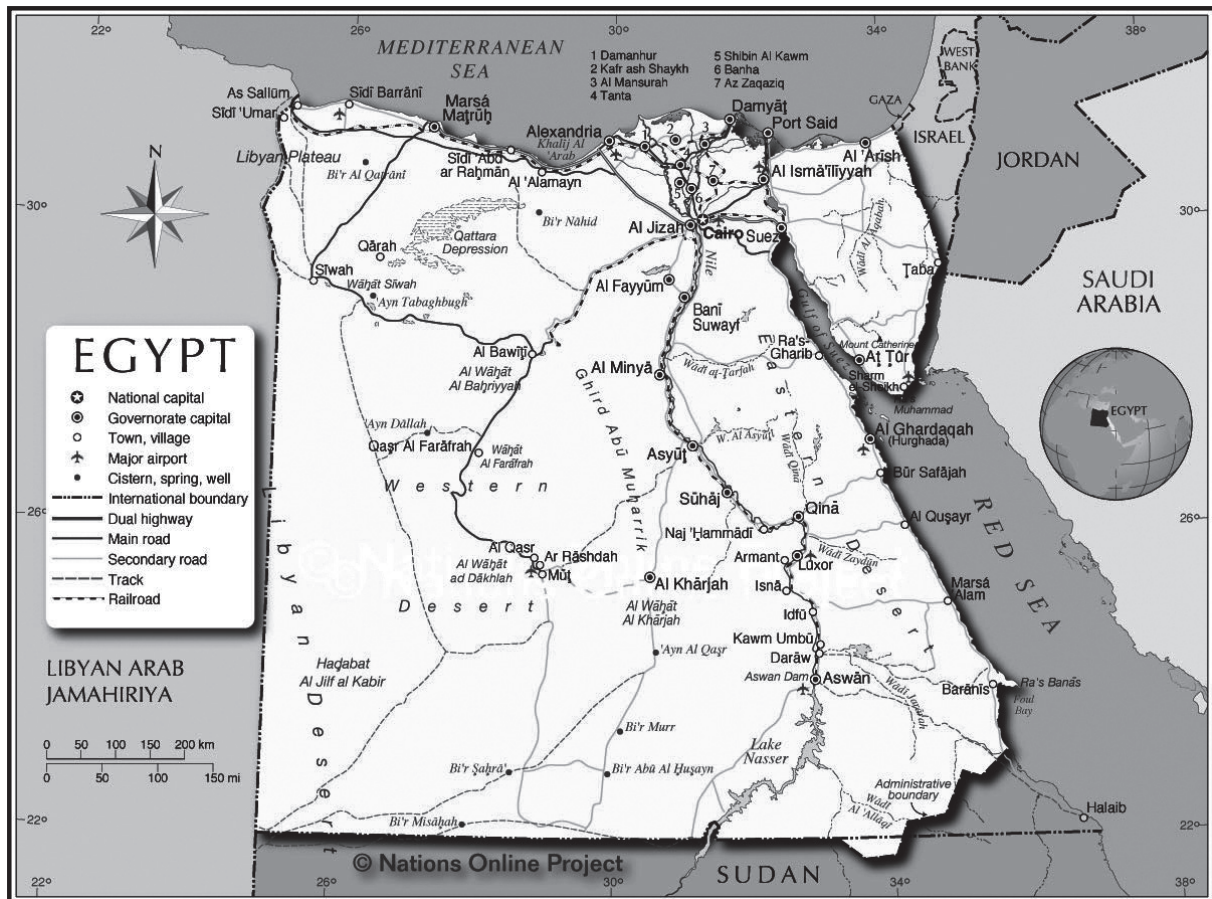
The Egyptian climate is influenced by the factors of location, topography, and general system for pressure and water surfaces. These aspects affect Egypt's climate dividing it into several regions. Egypt lies in the dry equatorial region except for its northern areas which are located within the moderate warm region with a climate similar to that of the Mediterranean area. It is warm and dry in summer and moderate with limited rainfall, increasing closer to the coast, in winter.

Throughout Egypt, days are commonly warm or hot, and nights are cool. Egypt has only two seasons: a mild winter from November to April and a hot summer from May to October.

2. THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 The political context

Egypt has undergone a dramatic political upheaval over the last few years. Long simmering grievances over the lack of economic opportunities and political inclusion



erupted into an eighteen-day revolt that led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak on February 11th, 2011. Following Mubarak's departure, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) assumed the administrative and legislative control of the country until mid-2012. A presidential election was completed in June 2012 with the election of President Mohamed Morsi. The latter was ousted in July 2013 during Egypt's second revolution in two years.

2.2 The economic context

The economy of Egypt depends mainly on agriculture, media, petroleum exports, tourism and cash remittances from Egyptians working abroad, mainly in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. Its main revenues, however, come from tourism and from traffic that passes through the Suez Canal. In the first years after the beginning of the 2011 Revolution, Egypt's economy suffered from a severe downturn and the government faced numerous challenges. The biggest challenge was how to restore growth and market confidence, and how to coax investors into financing projects again. Another challenge will be addressing the Egyptian population's high expectations, especially regarding youth employment. That is not an easy task, as the sharp economic downturn has translated into higher budget deficits.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 Major ecosystems

The major ecosystems of Egypt occur in five main regions: Eastern Desert, Western Desert, Sinai, Nile land and the delta, coastal and marine habitats. The natural ecosystems of Egypt provide valuable ecosystem services. These can be divided into

four categories:

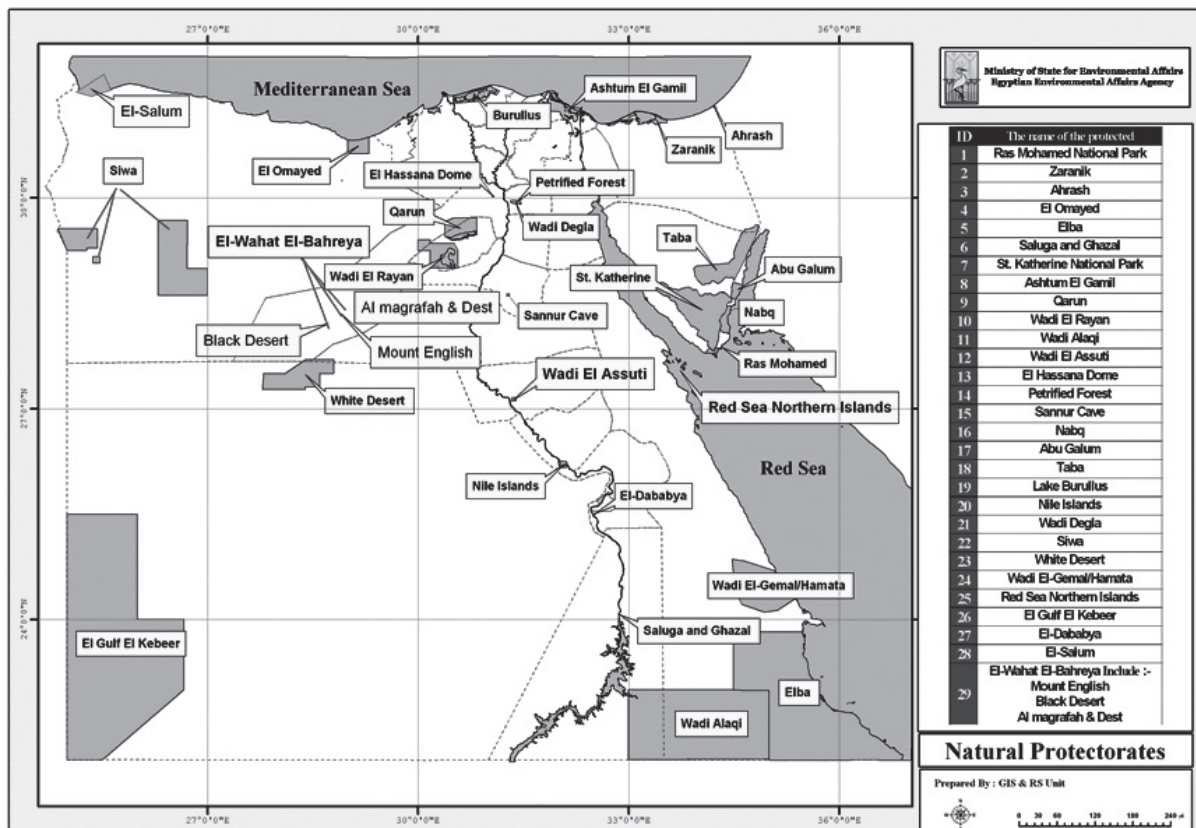
1. Provisioning (e.g. food, fibre, fuel, water);
2. Regulating (e.g. water quality, flood and erosion control);
3. Cultural (e.g. recreation, aesthetic and spiritual values); and
4. Supporting services (e.g. carbon sequestration, water, nutrient cycling).

Due to large-scale developmental activities, all of Egypt's ecosystems have been significantly changed in the last 50 years, where their capacity to provide services declined significantly. The major Egyptian landscape is formed of desert areas with the exception of the coastal area on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, and mainly seven oases: Baharia, Dakhla, Faiyum, Farafra, Qsar, Kharga and Siwa. The Qattara's Depression and the Sinai Peninsula are also considered as very important landscapes.

3.2 Natural Parks and Reserves

Egypt is rich in natural heritage; the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment developed a strategy and a national goal that implies the declaration of 40 protectorates by the year 2017, to cover about 17 per cent of the country area. Up to 2009, 27 protectorates were declared covering about 15 per cent of the total country area, which means that more than 88 per cent of the national target has been achieved and it is expected to reach the full national target before 2017. Protected areas play a crucial role in environmental protection and community development. However, some challenges face this activity, mainly on the administrative, managerial and financial level (UNDP, 2010).

3.3 Egypt UNESCO's World Heritage Sites



Egypt nature reserves (source: www.eea.gov.eg)

3.3.1 Landscape sites

- Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)(entered in 2005): Wadi Al-Hitan is a remote valley 150 km southwest of Cairo where hundreds of fossil whale skeletons are being exposed by the wind.

3.3.2 Built heritage

- Abu Mena (entered in 1979, in danger 2001 due to dramatic raise in water table): Abu Mena was a town, monastery complex and Christian pilgrimage centre in Late Antique Egypt.
- Ancient Thebes, including its necropolis (entered in 1979): Thebes was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. It began to figure in the recorded history of Egypt during the Old Kingdom (2575-2134 BC). Tombs dating from the 6th Dynasty (2323-2152 BC) of Egyptian kings have been discovered in the original necropolis, which is on the west side of the Nile. It was the city of the god Amon, with temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens.
- Historic Cairo (entered 1979): historic Cairo encompasses the historic centre on the eastern bank of the Nile, which includes no less than 600 classified monuments dating from the 7th to the 20th centuries. Among them are Islamic Cairo overlooked by the Cairo Citadel, Coptic Cairo and its many old churches, and ruins of Roman fortifications.
- Memphis and its necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (entered 1979): 'Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur' recognizes the universal admiration for the pyramids, their antiquity and the exceptional civilization they represent. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Memphis was the capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt, from its foundation (ca. 3100 BC) until 2200 BC. It is known chiefly for several pyramids, two of which are among the oldest, largest and best preserved in Egypt: the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid.
- Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae (entered 1979): The Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae consists of the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and the Sanctuary of Isis at Philae.
- St Catherine Area: The Orthodox Monastery of St Catherine stands at the foot of Mount Horeb of the Old Testament, where Moses received the Tablets of the Law. St Catherine's Monastery at the mouth of an inaccessible gorge at the foot of Mount Sinai is one of the oldest continuously functioning Christian monasteries.

4. ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National bodies dealing with sustainable tourism

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism (MOT) is the national body for tourism policy. The MOT is responsible for establishing a coherent legal and regulatory framework in the context of a sustainable tourism development strategy. Both the Egyptian Tourism Authority (ETA) and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) fall under



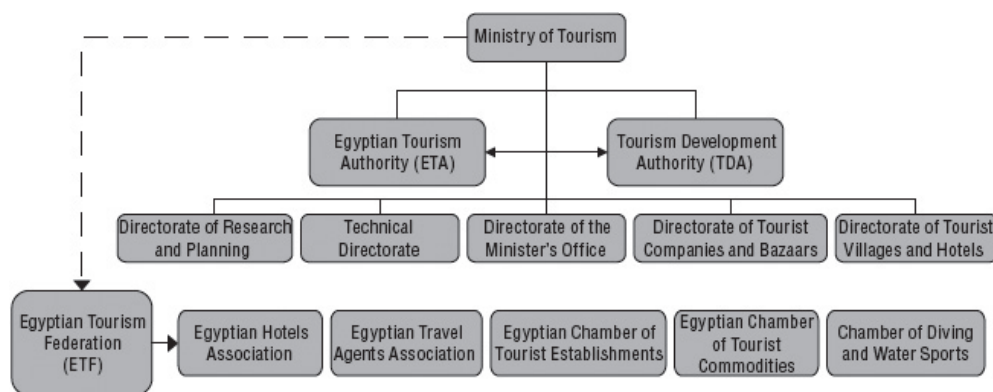
The pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx

the jurisdiction of the Ministry. The Ministry is assisted by five directorates working alongside the above-mentioned authorities under the administrative authority of the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF). The ministry is viewed as a regulator and facilitator of tourism activities as well as an advocate of 'good governance', especially in public-owned tourism establishments (OECD, 2012).

The Egyptian MOT is organized into four major directorates dealing with planning and development, regulation of tourist services, administration, and financial and legal affairs. Like most other ministries, MOT suffers from overstaffing and inadequate technical capability.

The Egyptian Tourism Development Authority was established in 1991. The TDA works primarily on setting and implementing regulations for tourism projects and investments by assisting with the provision of land and facilitating access to loans for developing infrastructure projects. Seeking to reduce administrative regulations, the TDA is adopting a one-stop shop system in the context of institutional and legislative form in the sector, and is developing a legal framework for guarantees and investment incentives. In order to ensure the best use of natural resources, achieve sustainability and protect the environment, the TDA is currently delivering the final outcomes of the second phase of the 'Green Sharm Initiative' project, as well as the 'Development of Religious Tourism in the Farma area of North Sinai' project, and completing the Strategic Plan for Tourism Development in the New Valley Governorate. The TDA's main objectives are:

- Relying on the mechanisms of the markets and their interaction in the tourism development process within a framework that meets the main objectives of the social and economic development of the state by supporting tourism business sectors that are considered the most suitable for the tourism industry;
- Enforcing the social and economic resources of the state by increasing tourism movement in Egypt, encouraging investments where there is strong tourism potential because of archeological and historical treasures, natural monuments and climatic conditions. In this field, TDA prepares comprehensive planning to provide the convenient elements to diversify the tourism product and encourage the establishment of new resorts;
- Avoiding any additional burdens on the state budget as investors bear the costs of providing the infrastructure of the new tourism regions by financing the land allocation facilitated with reasonable costs and easy conditions;
- Following an integrated indicative planning style for tourism areas which gives the investor the flexibility and freedom to invest in the places he deems suitable according to his studies and the type of project that achieves the best economical operation for such investments within the frame of the development regulations stated by TDA;
- Preserving the flexibility of the tourism investment policy and supporting it with a balanced promotion and marketing policy to encourage the private sector to invest more in establishing tourism villages, and recreational resorts in the new tourism areas outside the boundaries of the city.



Organizational chart of tourism bodies in Egypt

The Egyptian Tourism Authority was established in 1981 as an autonomous agency for marketing Egypt as a tourist destination for both the international and domestic markets. The ETA is responsible for promoting inbound and domestic tourism, and operating 32 domestic tourism information offices. It also manages the development and diversification of the tourism product, both regionally and internationally, through 21 international offices, and is working on creating a new Egypt Tourism Brand. In doing so, the ETA is seeking to capture and communicate the diversity of Egyptian tourism via global campaigns. ETA assists travel agents and tourism establishments by supplying them with marketing and technical themes related to tourism promotion. The ETA's publicity and promotional efforts include the following items:

- Working out strategies to attract new markets or weak markets;
- Preparing promotional tools, such as printed material and audio-visuals;
- Setting-up tourism information centres overseas and in Egypt ,and disseminating promotional material, such as brochures;
- Posting website information ;
- Publicizing Egypt via newspaper and TV ads in major markets ;
- Organizing familiarization tours for travel agent and the press;
- Maintaining a presence at vital international travel fairs in the main tourist generating markets (such as in ITB Berlin, WTM London, JATA Travel Trade Show Tokyo); and
- Organizing travel trade missions to existing, new or possible markets.

The Egyptian Tourism Federation is the union of elected industry members from the private sector, and is composed of five tourism industry business associations: the Egyptian Hotels Association, the Travel Agents' Association, the Chamber of Tourist Establishments, the Egyptian Chamber of Tourist Commodities and the Egyptian Chamber of Diving and Water Sports. It works closely with the Ministry of Tourism in areas related to tourism planning, and managing the Tourism Workforce Skills Development Project. To safeguard and advance the interests of the Egyptian tourism industry within the Ministry's global sustainable development strategy. According to law, the ETF's views must be considered before any legislative measures are presented for ratification by the Egyptian Parliament. The successful collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism and the ETF establishes a good model of public/private partnership (OECD, 2012).

4.2 National policies, laws and regulations about sustainable tourism

4.2.1 The TDA sustainable tourism strategy

Since 1990 sustainable tourism became an approach for many of the tourist establishments in Egypt, mainly for the TDA. The application of the concept of sustainable tourism depends on three important dimensions: economic, social, and environmental.

The MOT has been streamlined to strengthen its technical expertise in support of a private sector-led sustainable tourism development strategy, to be competitive with neighbouring countries and to protect the country's unique cultural and natural resources. The first step (in 1991) was the creation of the TDA, which draws principally on private sector expertise to assist MOT in guiding and promoting increased private sector investments in the sector. These changes were expected to provide the tourism sector with a stronger institutional framework for coherent, private sector-oriented and environmentally sound tourism development (Abdel Wahab 1997). To achieve its sustainability objectives the TDA works through a specific strategy based on the following axis and principles:

- Principle 1: changing the role of the general tourism sector and the enforcement of the private sector.
- Principle 2: developing the institutional and legal framework.
- Principle 3: supplying infrastructure for the development of regions.
- Principle 4: conserving the environment.
- Principle 5: defining comprehensive development priorities.

In addition to the works of the TDA, a number of local Egyptian NGOs have emerged since few years ago to work on raising awareness on sustainable tourism and environmental related issues and train tourism workers in ways how to preserve the natural capital on which their jobs depend.

4.2.2 Tourism in the National Economy

Tourism has been the fastest growing sector in Egypt's GDP. In 2010 tourism contributed almost 12.9 per cent of GDP including indirect effects, though many sources estimate its share to be around 15 per cent. Tourism is one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy, generating large numbers of jobs

4.2.3 Egyptian Tourism in the Global Tourism Market

According to Lanquar (2011) Egypt is ranked nineteenth as a world tourism destination. In terms of International tourist arrivals Egypt accounted for 18 per cent of the Med 11 region in 2010 and 3 per cent in the Mediterranean region in 2011.

Year	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2010
Egypt	2.4	2.8	5.5	8.6	11.9	14.7
Med11*	7	21.8	35.5	56.6	69.2	82.3

Evolution of international tourist arrivals in Egypt and Med11 region in Millions
(sources: UNWTO and WTTC)

Year	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2010
Egypt	2.6	3.8	3.4	6.4	10.4	12.5
Med 11*	12.9	18.6	25.7	42.9	49.9	49.8

Evolution of receipts by international visitors in Egypt and Med11 region
in Billion US Dollars (sources: UNWTO and WTTC)

* Med 11 region countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.



The castle of Umm-el dabadib

4.2.4 Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2020

Egypt's Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2020 targets 25 million international arrivals and a 30 per cent increase in tourism revenues. Currently, average tourism expenditure amounts to USD 85 per night. The sustainable tourism strategy aims at reaching USD 110 per night in 2020. This represents a growth rate of approximately 30 per cent. To reach this objective, the value of tourism to Egypt, as a consequence, will need to grow at a faster rate than its volume.



A traditional artistic tile

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Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, is a country in southeast Europe. Athens is the country's capital and largest city. According to the 2011 census, Greece's population is slightly less than eleven million. Greece has been a member of what is now the European Union since 1981 of the Eurozone since 2001. Greece joined NATO in 1952, and is a founding member of the United Nations.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Geography

Greece is located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa and has land borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the northeast. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of mainland Greece, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece has the eleventh longest coastline in the world at 13,676 km (8,498 mls) in length, featuring a vast number of islands (approximately 1,400, of which 227 are inhabited), including Crete, the Dodecanese, the Cyclades, and the Ionian Islands, among others. Eighty per cent of Greece consists of mountains, of which Mount Olympus is the highest at 2,917 m.



1.2 Climate

The climate in Greece is predominantly Mediterranean. However, due to the country's unique geography, Greece has a remarkable range of micro-climates and local variations. To the west of the Pindus mountain range, the climate is generally wetter and has some maritime features. The eastern area of the Pindus mountain range is generally drier and windier in summer. The northern areas of Greece have a transitional climate between the continental and the Mediterranean climate. There are mountainous areas that have an alpine climate. The annual precipitation is about 840 mm/year.

1.3 Terrain

Much of Greece there are mountainous and rocky terrain, with the occasional plain. The Pindus Mountains start in northern Greece and stretch south to the Gulf of Patras. In the southern part of Greece are the Peloponnesus Mountains. About twenty per cent of Greece is made up of islands. Crete is a large island located in the Mediterranean Sea.

1.4 Area and boundaries

1) Area:	2) Land boundaries:
total: 131,940 km ²	<i>total: 1,228km</i>
land: 130,752 km ²	<i>border countries: Albania 282 km, Bulgaria 494 km,</i>
water: 1,188 km ²	<i>Turkey 206 km, and the Republic of Macedonia 228 km</i>

1.5 Hydrology

Western Greece receives the majority of rainfall, more than 1500 mm/year, while Eastern Greece, along with the islands of Aegean and Crete, have considerably smaller rainfalls e.g. Attica's mean inter-annual precipitation is approximately 400 mm/year. The value of evapotranspiration is quite high, especially in the dry Eastern regions of the country. The shortage of water in these regions is also apparent from the distribution of runoff in Greece, which presents an uneven distribution proportional to the rainfall.

1.6 Land use

arable land: 20.45%
permanent crops: 8.59%
other: 70.96% (2005)

2. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

Greece is a parliamentary republic. The nominal head of state is the President of the Republic, who is elected by Parliament for a five-year term. The current Constitution was drawn up and adopted by the Fifth Revisionary Parliament of the Hellenes and entered into force in 1975 after the fall of the military junta of 1967–1974. The Constitution, which consists of 120 articles, provides for a separation of powers into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and grants extensive specific guarantees (further reinforced in 2001) of civil liberties and social rights.

2.1.1 Capital city

Athens is the capital and largest city of Greece. Athens dominates the Attica region and is one of the world's oldest cities, with its recorded history spanning around 3,400

years. The city of Athens has a population of 655,780 (796,442 back in 2004) within its administrative limits and a land area of 39 km². The urban area of Athens (Greater Athens and Greater Piraeus) extends beyond the administrative municipal city limits, with a population of 3,074,160 over an area of 412 km².

2.1.2 Administrative divisions

Greece consists of thirteen regions subdivided into a total of 325 municipalities. Seven decentralized administrations group one to three regions for administrative purposes on a regional basis. There is also one autonomous area, Mount Athos (Greek: Agio Oros, 'Holy Mountain'), which borders the region of Central Macedonia.

2.1.3 Constitution

The Constitution of Greece was created by the Fifth Provisional Parliament of the Hellenes and entered into force in 1975. It has since been revised three times, that is in 1986, in 2001 and in 2008. The Constitutional history of Greece goes back to the Greek War of Independence, during which the first three revolutionary Greek constitutions were adopted.

2.1.4 Legal system

The Judicial system of Greece is the constitutionally established system of courts. According to the Constitution there are three categories of courts: civil courts, penal courts and administrative courts.

2.2 Demographics

The official statistical body of Greece is the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). According to the ELSTAT, Greece's total population in 2011 was 10,815,197.

The birth rate in 2003 stood at 9.5 per 1,000 inhabitants (14.5 per 1,000 in 1981). At the same time the mortality rate increased slightly from 8.9 per 1,000 inhabitants in 1981 to 9.6 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2003. In 2001, 16.71 per cent of the population were 65 years and older, 68.12 per cent were between the ages of 15 and 64 years old, and 15.18 per cent were 14 years or younger.

The table below lists the largest cities in Greece, according to the population census of May 2011.

Rank	City name	Region	Pop.	Rank	City name	Region	Pop.
1	Athens	Attica	3,074,160	11	Agrinio	West Greece	93,930
2	Thessaloniki	C. Macedonia	790,824	12	Katerini	C. Macedonia	86,170
3	Patras	West Greece	214,580	13	Trikala	Thessaly	80,900
4	Heraklion	Crete	173,450	14	Serres	C. Macedonia	76,240
5	Larissa	Thessaly	163,380	15	Lamia	Central Greece	74,720
6	Volos	Thessaly	144,420	16	Alexandroupoli	E. Macedonia/Thrace	72,750
7	Rhodes	South Aegean	118,623	17	Kozani	W. Macedonia	70,420
8	Ioannina	Epirus	111,740	18	Kavala	E. Macedonia/Thrace	70,360
9	Chania	Crete	108,310	19	Kalamata	Peloponnese	70,130
10	Chalcis	Central Greece	102,420	20	Veria	C. Macedonia	66,630

2.3 Economy

The economy of Greece is the 34th or 42nd largest in the world at \$299 or \$304 billion by nominal gross domestic product or purchasing power parity (PPP) respectively, according to World Bank statistics for the year 2011. Additionally, Greece is the 15th largest economy in the 27-member European Union. In terms of per capita income, Greece is ranked 29th or 33rd in the world at \$27,875 and \$27,624 for nominal GDP and PPP respectively.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 The Architectural Heritage of Greece

3.1.1 Greek Temple

The refinement of form and the stylistic bravado bestowed upon the Greek temple establishes it as the architectural eye-candy of its time. Its endurance and proportional harmony rendered it a de facto architectural influence for the last two thousand years of western building tradition.

3.1.2 Greek Theatre

The Greek Theatre was a central place of formal gatherings in ancient Greece. Not only did the structure serve as the stage for Tragedies and Comedies, but it also provided a forum for poetry and musical events.

3.1.3 Greek Stadiums

Athletic events provided the opportunity for all the city-states of Greece to gather and to strengthen their common bonds through competition. Athletic events were a great spectacle in antiquity and for many a peasant the only form of grand entertainment. The Olympic Games were born in these stadiums, while wars and disputes among countries were put aside while the games were on.

3.1.4 Palaces

Most known are the palaces of Minoan Crete, the Mycenaean palaces of the Peloponnese, and the Macedonian Palaces of northern Greece. As Greek society developed to be democratic during Classical times, there was no need to build palaces for the leaders.

3.2 The Archaeological Heritage of Greece

3.2.1 Acropolis

The Acropolis with its rich history and archaeological significance has become the embodiment of all ancient Greek ideals. The archaeological finds of the Acropolis, its art and architecture, have influenced western culture for the past two millennia and even in a ruinous state, the temple continues to guide aesthetics and ideas acting as a cultural compass from the past.

3.2.2 Archaeological Sites of Crete

Crete is an island endowed with a rich historical heritage, spanning more than nine millennia. The fertile, secure, and strategically placed island has been inhabited since



the seventh millennium BCE. Different cultures have left ancient palaces, cities, villas, and a plethora of exquisite artefacts which date back to the Minoan era.

3.2.3 Minoan Crete

Knossos, Malia, Phaistos, Zakros, Palekastro

3.2.4 Classical and Hellenistic Crete

Itanos, Tripitos, Xerokampos

3.2.5 Delphi Archaeological Site

Delphi is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece. As a major religious centre under the protection of the god Apollo, its oracles influenced major political events of the ancient world. Its legacy lasted a millennium and has survived to the present day, embedded in hard stone. The sanctuary at the slopes of Mt. Parnassus is adorned with the ruins of ancient buildings like the Temple of Apollo, the theatre of Delphi, the stadium, and the Tholos among others. The Delphi museum on site exhibits a plethora of fine examples of ancient Greek Art which were unearthed during the last century of excavations.

3.3 Natural parks and reserves - see Appendix II

3.4 NATURA 2000 Sites

Greece included in its National List, 241 Sites of Community Importance (SCI) according to the EU Directive 92/43 and has declared 202 Special Protected Areas (SPA)

according to EU Directive 79/409. The Directive imposes on the state the responsibility for making an appropriate assessment of any plan and/or programme likely to cause a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the sites which it has or which will be designated in the future. To accomplish this goal the state is empowered to implement all necessary protection and management measures in regard to the conservation objectives pursued.

3.5 Areas of High Landscape Value

The volcanic eruption of Thira that put an end to the thriving Minoan civilization was so cataclysmic, that it may have spawned the legend of Atlantis. The explosion occurred around 3,600 years ago, scooping out the once-circular island's centre and west coast, and creating the sea-filled caldera and signature sheer cliffs where Santorini's townships teeter today. Since then, there have been perhaps a dozen major eruptions. The volcano is quiet today, though the nearby island of Nea Kameni in the centre of the caldera still emits puffs of steam. It is thanks to the caldera that towns like Oia boast such stunning sunsets, providing a low-lying, obstruction-free observation point as the sun sinks into the sea.

3.6 UNESCO WHC landscape sites

Cultural

- Acropolis, Athens (1987)
- Archaeological Site of Aigai (modern name Vergina) (1996)
- Archaeological Site of Delphi (1987)
- Archaeological Site of Mystras (1989)
- Archaeological Site of Olympia (1989)
- Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns (1999)
- Delos (1990)
- Historic Centre (Chorá) with the Monastery of Saint John (1999)



A ceremony evoking ancient Olympia

- Medieval City of Rhodes (1988)
- Monasteries of Daphni, Hosios Loukas and Nea Moni of Chios (1990)
- Old Town of Corfu (2007)
- Paleochristian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessalonika (1988)
- Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos (1992)
- Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus (1988)
- Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae (1986)

Mixed

- Meteora (1988)
- Mount Athos (1988)

4. ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National bodies dealing with sustainable tourism

The Greek National Tourism Organization, often abbreviated as GNTTO, is the governmental department for the promotion of tourism in Greece. It functions under the supervision of the Hellenic Republic's Ministry for Culture and Tourism

4.2 National policies, laws and regulations about sustainable tourism

4.2.1 Investment Incentives Law

The New Investment Law for supporting Private Investment for Economic Growth, Entrepreneurship, and Regional Cohesion, was voted on and passed by the Greek Parliament and is to be implemented following the relevant Presidential Decrees and Ministerial Decisions.

4.2.1 Public Private Partnership

Greece's newly implemented PPP (Public Private Partnership) scheme provides significant opportunities to investors to participate in new infrastructure projects, including marinas and thermal springs.

4.3 National Strategic Reference Framework

The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the years 2007-2013 establishes the broad priorities for EU Structural Funds Programmes in Greece. Greece's NSRF seeks to achieve a balanced development of the country, with 82 per cent of its budget focusing on regional projects. With a total budget of almost €40 billion, NSRF will advance projects directly and indirectly related to tourism development and will provide investors with ample opportunities to participate in a wide number of projects.

For tourism, NSRF provides significant financial support, with a budget of more than €500 million until 2013. A core NSRF objective is to increase demand and upgrade the quality of the tourist product and tourist services at all levels. NSRF support focuses on:

- prolonging the tourist period throughout Greece, and reducing seasonality
- promoting the country's international appeal as a safe and attractive tourist destination
- increasing the number of foreign visitors
- reinforcing domestic tourism.

Investment in the tourism sector will include the upgrade of marinas, the promotion of special forms of tourism, the creation of cultural pathways, the upgrade of winter tourism infrastructure, and the subsidizing of private investments, according to the new Incentives Law that was implemented in 2011.

4.4 Statistical data about tourism economy and its effect on society

In 2009, the country welcomed over 19.3 million tourists, a major increase from the 17.7 million tourists of 2008. The vast majority of tourists in the country are from within the European Union (12.7 million), followed by those from the Americas (0.56 million), Asia (0.52 million), Oceania (0.1 million) and Africa (0.06 million). In the year 2007, more British people visited the country than any other nationality, numbering 2.61 million, making up 15 per cent of the country's tourists for that year. Additionally, 2.3 million Germans, 1.8 million Albanians and 1.1 million Bulgarians visited the country that year. In 2007, 92.8 per cent of the total number of tourists in Greece were from countries in Europe. In the last years, there has been a significant increase in the number of tourists from Israel, because of the crisis between Israel and Turkey.

The most-visited region of Greece is that of Central Macedonia in northern Greece, with some of the most popular attractions in the country being Halkidiki, Mount Olympus, Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, and Greece's second-largest city, Thessaloniki. In 2009, Central Macedonia welcomed 3.6 million tourists, or 18 per cent of the total number of tourists that visited Greece that year, followed by Attica (2.6 million) and the Peloponnese (1.8 million). Northern Greece is the country's most-visited



Heraklion in the island of Crete

region, with 6.5 million tourists, while Central Greece comes second with 6.3 million. According to a survey conducted in China in 2005, Greece was voted as the Chinese people's number one choice as a tourist destination. In November 2006, Austria, like China, announced that Greece was the favourite tourist destination for its citizens. In line with these observations, Greece's former Minister of Tourism Aris Spiliotopoulos announced the opening of a Greek National Tourism Organization office in Shanghai by the end of 2010, and GNTTO currently operates two tourism offices in China, one in Shanghai and one in Beijing.

At the same time, tourism consumption increased considerably since the turn of the millennium, from US\$ 17.7 bn. in 2000 to US\$ 29.6 bn. in 2004. The number of jobs directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector were 659,719 and represented 16.5 per cent of the country's total employment for that year.

4.5 Most visited sites and locations

4.5.1 Athens

The capital of Greece is not only the most visited place in the country but also one of the most visited places in the world. The magical city is the birthplace of civilization; the place where democracy was born. The Acropolis of Athens is the most famous archeological edifice in the whole of Europe. It dates back to the fifth century BCE and although it has been through rises and declines, the place still shines under the Athenian sky.

4.5.2 Tinos

Tinos, a large island just northwest of Mykonos, is the most visited Greek Island. However, you do not bump into foreigners here, as 90 per cent of the visitors are Greek. The island is definitely tourist-oriented, but the focus is not on Europeans or Americans; it's on the Greeks. And since Greeks look for a real experience, even the most tourist friendly places retain a feeling of authenticity and visiting the island is a pleasant experience.

4.5.6 Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is the second largest Greek city. It once was the co-capital of the Byzantine Empire. Today it is considered more lively and more cosmopolitan than Athens. It is the place where younger tourists prefer to go to and where one may enjoy a more laid back atmosphere.

4.5.3 Crete

Crete is not only the largest of the Greek islands, but also one of the most popular holiday destinations in the country. Overall, more than two million tourists visited Crete in 2008 (and more than half of them arrived via Heraklion, the island's capital). Crete is renowned for its diverse landscape and beauty, as well as for its remarkable history. The ruins of the Minoan palace of Knossos, the beautiful Venetian fortress of Rethymno, the old Venetian port of Hania, the old mosques, and the Byzantine monasteries are just some of the places Crete is proud to let the tourists discover. The rugged mountains spill out to the sea and the sights from its beaches are absolutely amazing.

4.5.4 Santorini

Even the most skeptic tourist cannot help but be dazzled by the island's dramatic beauty. What remains from the old volcano creates incredible scenery, best enjoyed from a slow ferry arriving in the port.

4.5.5 Mykonos

Mykonos is mostly famous for its nightlife and cosmopolitan character. But the landmarks of Mykonos are the windmills and the beautiful 'Little Venice'. The settlement of Aleukantras (Little Venice) is located to the east side of the harbour and is considered to be one of the hidden surprises of the island.

4.5.7 Corfu

Located on the southeastern extremity of Greece, Corfu is one of the most popular Greek islands and most visited by Europeans. It is one of the Ionian Islands and is absolutely stunning. The attractive landscapes, beautifully decorated monasteries and churches, narrow streets and historical monuments, make Corfu an unforgettable experience. Gouvia Bay, located north of Corfu Town on the eastern coast, is a beautiful place where you can enjoy many water sports, including diving. Paleokastritsa, considered the most beautiful Greek town, is also a paradise for swimming and diving.



The death mask of Agamemnon



Italy, and its capital city Rome, has for centuries been a political and religious centre of Western civilisation as the capital of the Roman Empire and site of the Holy See. After the decline of the Roman Empire, Italy endured numerous invasions by foreign peoples, from Germanic tribes such as the Lombards and Ostrogoths, to the Byzantines and later, among others, the Normans. Centuries later, Italy became the birthplace of the Maritime Republics and the Renaissance.

Throughout much of its post-Roman history, Italy was fragmented into numerous city and regional states (such as the Republic of Venice and the Papal States), but was gradually unified from 1861, when the various states of the peninsula, along with Sardinia and Sicily, were progressively taken over by King Vittorio Emanuele II and placed under the rule of Piedmont.

An era of parliamentary government came to a close in the early 1920s when Benito Mussolini established a Fascist dictatorship. His alliance with Nazi Germany led to Italy's defeat in World War II. A democratic republic replaced the monarchy in 1946 and economic revival followed.

Italy was a signatory of the NATO Charter and the European Economic Community (EEC). It has been at the forefront of European economic and political unification, joining the Economic and Monetary Union in 1999. It is also a member state of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations. Italy has the world's ninth-largest defence budget and shares NATO's nuclear weapons.

It has been ranked as the world's 24th most-developed country and its Quality-of-life Index has been ranked as one of the world's top ten in 2005. Italy enjoys a very high standard of living, and has a high GDP per capita. It has the world's third-largest gold reserves, eighth-largest nominal GDP, tenth-highest GDP (PPP) and the sixth-highest government budget in the world.

Persistent problems include illegal immigration, organized crime, corruption, high unemployment, sluggish economic growth, and the low incomes and technical standards of southern Italy when compared with the prosperous north.¹

1. GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

1.1 Geography

The country is located in the southern part of Europe. Being a peninsula, Italy is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, rolling onto white sandy beaches. Towards the west are the islands of Sardinia and Sicily, also known for culture, nature and beaches. Italy borders France to the west, Switzerland and Austria to the north, and Slovenia to the east. The country also shares borders with two tiny independent states, San Marino and the Vatican, both of which are entirely surrounded by Italian territory. In the northern part of Italy lie the Alps, which form one of the great mountain range systems of Europe. The Alps stretch for approximately 1,200 km and the southern parts of this range is located in the northern regions of Italy. The Apennine mountain range



creates the backbone of the mainland, covering more than 75 per cent of the landscape.

Italy stretches over an area of approximately 301,230 km² (116,304 sq mls) and has a coastline measuring 7,600 km (4,722 mls), including the coastal areas of Sicily and Sardinia. The total area of land is 294,140 km² while 7,200s km² is covered by water. Italy is the second largest nation involved in the project, behind Egypt and ahead of Syria.²

1.2 Climate

The climate in Italy varies considerably from the north to the south, but is predominantly Mediterranean. In the far north the climate is Alpine, in the south it is hot and dry. The northern part of Italy has hot summers and cold winters and in the south they enjoy mild winters and long, dry hot summers. In the northern end, which is defined by the area between the Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, the climate is the harshest, with very cold winters and very hot, particularly humid, summers. In the centre of Italy, the climate is much milder and more comfortable, as there is little variation in temperature between the summer and winter months. They also have a shorter and less intense cold season in comparison to the northern areas - resulting in longer summers. In southern Italy and the islands, winters are never particularly harsh, while spring and autumn temperatures are similar to those reached in the summer in other areas of Italy.³

1.3 Elevation extremes

The highest point in Italy is Mont Blanc de Courmayer (a secondary peak of Mont Blanc) that stands tall at 4,748m and the lowest point is the Mediterranean Sea (0m) (CIA World Fact Book).⁴

1.4 Italian Terrain

The Italian terrain is mostly rugged and mountainous, with some plains and coastal lowland. Similar to the climate, the terrain changes from north to south.

Italian mountains cover over a third of the country and stretch over 700 km of land. The most popular mountain range are the Alps. There are three different groups, the Western Alps, the Central Alps and the Eastern Alps. The highest mountain completely within Italian borders is the Gran Paradiso, measuring 4,061 m. In the Central Alps this group includes Mont Blanc, with a summit if 4,807 m just over the border in France. The Eastern Alps have foothills that reach no higher than 2,500 m and lie between these three great ranges and the Po Valley.⁵

In the northern areas of Italy the land is largely made up of a vast plain, surrounded by the Alps in the north and drained by the Po River and its tributaries and part of Emilia-Romagna (which extends into central Italy). This part of Italy is the most affluent, with the best farmland. Its chief port is Genoa and the largest industrial centres are located in this area. Northern Italy also has a flourishing tourist trade along the Italian Riviera, in the Alps (including the Dolomites), on the shores of its beautiful lakes, and in Venice. Gran Paradiso (4,061 m/13,323 ft), the highest peak wholly situated within Italy, rises in Valle d'Aosta. The most popular northern lakes are Lago Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Garda, which are popular tourist destinations. They lie close to the Alps and offer great scenery and respite in the warm summer months.⁶

The Apulia and the South Eastern Plains are the land regions located at the heel of the boot of the Italian peninsula. This region has a many plateaus that end as cliffs, descending into the Mediterranean Sea. The area offers much space for farming, while fishing is important along this coastline.

The Western Uplands and Plains stretch along the Tyrrhenian Sea from La Spezia, a port city just south of Genoa, southward past Naples to Salerno. The northern portion of the region includes the rich hill country of Tuscany and Umbria. The southern half of the uplands and the plains has a warm climate, where vineyards are mostly found throughout the region.⁷

1.5 Hydrology

Italian rivers together measure 2,400 km. The rivers are used for commercial traffic, which has a limited overall value compared to road and rail transportation – which measures 7,200 km² in total.

There are three major rivers that flow through Italy: the Po, the Arno and the Tiber. Many of the other rivers in Italy are only small rivers. There are 1,500 lakes, the three most renowned are: Lake Garda, Lake Como and Lake Maggiore – all three are located in northern Italy.⁸

1.6 Natural resources

Although Italy imports more than 80 per cent of its energy and raw materials to meet industrial demands, it does have its own natural resources, including deposits of pumice, feldspar and marble. Italy also holds reserves of natural gas; the largest amounts are located in the Po Valley. The coastal waters of Italy are rich with fish, of which sardine, tuna, and anchovy have the greatest commercial importance. Freshwater fish include eel and trout.

Other natural resources include: coal, mercury, zinc, potash, barite, asbestos, fluorspar, pyrite (sulphur), crude oil reserves, and arable land. The amount of total renewable water resources is 175 cu km.⁹

1.7 Water Resources

The demand for water is always on the increase and is part of a more complex national situation. Italy is facing multiple problems regarding availability of potable water. Rainfall is extremely variable in the whole of Italy. The following table shows the national water balance and indicates that not all the water is available for civil use.

	Average volume (10 ⁹ m ³ /year)	%
Surface flow	155	52.3
Subsurface flow to the sea	12	4.1
Losses	129	43.6
Total flow	296	100

National Water Balance

Potential water availability has been estimated at about 110 bcm. However, including the current systems such as dams, reservoirs etc. the exploitable water resources in Italy are estimated at approximately 40bcm per year.¹⁰

	Volume (10 ⁹ m ³ /year)
Mean annual	155.0
Potential	110.0
Exploitable	40.0
Regulated	8.4

Available Water

1.8 Land use

- Arable land: 26.41%
- Permanent crops: 9.09%
- Other: 64.5% ¹¹

Irrigated land measures 39,500 km² that is artificially supplied with water.¹²

1.9 Natural Hazards

There are numerous natural hazards and risks that can be associated with different regions across Italy. Regional risks include landslides, mudflows, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding and land subsidence in Venice.

The hazard considered the most dangerous is volcanic activity. The most significant volcanic activity in Italy is Mount Etna, its peak reaching 3,330 m. Eruptions are a regular occurrence since 2010. Mount Etna is Europe's most active volcano and poses



A view of Mont Blanc from the Aosta Valley in Northern Italy

a threat to nearby settlements in Sicily. Mount Vesuvius, another volcano on the west coast of Italy, threatens millions of nearby residents in the Bay of Naples. Stromboli is a small island in the Tyrrhenian Sea, off the north coast of Sicily, containing the last of the three active volcanoes in Italy. It is one of the eight Aeolian Islands, a volcanic arc north of Sicily and has been continuously active with moderate activity.¹³

1.10 Environmental Hazards

There are a number of environmental hazards, the most common being air pollution from industrial emissions such as sulphur dioxide. This kind of pollution has the potential to contaminate coastal and inland rivers, although contamination can also be the consequence of agricultural practises. Acid rain contains harmful levels of sulphur dioxide or nitrogen oxide and can damage ecosystems in Italy, especially its lakes. There is also the issue of inadequate industrial waste treatment and disposal facilities, causing an increase of undesirable waste and potentially an increase of land and air pollution.¹⁴

1.11 International agreements on the environment - see Appendix I

2. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

2.1.1 Government type

Constitutional Republic

2.1.2 Capital

Rome (Lazio Region)

2.1.3 Administrative divisions

Twenty Regions:

Fifteen standard regions: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Piemonte, Puglia, Toscana, Umbria, Veneto. Five autonomous regions: Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Trentino-Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta.

2.1.4 Constitution

The national constitution was passed on 11th December 1947, effective from 1st January 1948; it has been amended many times. In 1946, together with the institutional referendum, the Italian people were called to elect the so-called 'Assemblea Costituente', which would draft the new Constitution and act as the legislative body until the approval of the new Constitution and the next round of general elections of spring 1948. The sessions were held between June 1946 and January 1948.

2.1.5 Legislative branch

Italy has a so-called 'Perfect Bicameralism', in which the functions of the two Chambers de facto overlap. The Parliament consists of the Senate (315 seats; members elected by proportional vote with the winning coalition in each region receiving 55 per cent of seats from that region; members to serve five-year terms; and up to 5 senators for life - appointed by the President of the Republic), and the Chamber of Deputies (630 seats;

members elected by popular vote with the winning national coalition receiving 54 per cent of chamber seats; members to serve five-year terms).

2.1.6 Executive branch

The Head of Government: in Italy is the prime minister, referred to as the 'President of the Council of Ministers'. The Head of Government is nominated by the Head of State after consultations with the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the President of the Senate and the leaders of the political parties standing in Parliament.

Cabinet: the Ministries are proposed by the Prime Minister and nominated by the President of the Republic.¹⁵

2.1.7 Independence

The Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed on 17th March 1861, but the country was wholly unified only in 1870, when the Papal States (occupying most of central Italy) were defeated and annexed to the rest of the country. Small, but significant additions to the national territory were included after World War One and World War Two.

2.1.8 National Holiday

Republic Day, 2 June: The day commemorates the institutional referendum held by universal suffrage in 1946, in which the Italian people were called to the polls to decide on the form of government, following the Second World War and the fall of Fascism. The Republic option won against the Monarchy option and the male descendants of the House of Savoy were sent into exile.¹⁶

2.1.9 Head of State

President of the Republic

2.2 Legal system

2.2.1 Civil law system

2.2.1.1 Suffrage

18 years of age for the Chamber of Deputies; 25 years of age for the Senate.

2.2.1.2 Judicial Branch

The Italian judicial system is based on Roman law, modified by the Napoleonic code and later statutes. In Italy there are two different types of jurisdiction: an ordinary one and a special one.

The ordinary jurisdiction covers civil and criminal matters. In the civil trial the dispute is between private actors while in the criminal trial the dispute is between the community, represented by the Public Minister, and the defendant.

There are three levels of courts: the Tribunal (the Court of Assize for the most serious cases), the Court of Appeal (the Court of Assize of Appeal for the most serious cases) and the Court of Cassation.

The special jurisdiction is divided into administrative, accounting, fiscal and military. The Administrative Jurisdiction resolves disputes which involve the Public Administration; the first instance is covered by the Regional Administrative Tribunal, while the second instance is covered by the State Council.

The Accounting Jurisdiction resolves disputes against public accounting and institutions financed by the State. The first instance is covered by a Regional Court of Auditors, while the second instance is covered by a central Court of Auditors.

The tax jurisdiction covers taxpayers' appeals against acts by the Financial Public Administration, while the military jurisdiction covers, during peacetime, crimes committed by military personnel and, during wartime, exercises the powers given by the Constitution.¹⁷

2.3 Participation to International Organization

ADB (non-regional member), AfDB (non-regional member), Australia Group, BIS, BSEC (observer), CBSS (observer), CD, CDB, CE, CEI, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-20, G-7, G-8, G-10, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, LAIA (observer), MIGA, MINURSO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), Schengen Convention, SELEC (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNMOGIP, UNRWA, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC.

2.4 Political and religious context

2.4.1 Political Parties

2.4.1.1 Partito Democratico

The Democratic Party is a centre-left party, founded in 2007. It is the result of from the merger of the Democratici di Sinistra (the moderate wing of the former Communist Party, which was dissolved in 1992) and the Margherita (the socialist wing of the former Democrazia Cristiana, which was dissolved in 1994), plus other minor political entities.

2.4.1.2 Movimento 5 Stelle

The 5 Stars Movement was founded in 2009 by the merger of previous grassroots political movements dating back to 2005 and is the only official and acknowledged political movement (active at national and local level) that can represent the views and ideas of the Italian former comedian and political activist Beppe Grillo.

2.4.1.3 Forza Italia

Forza Italia is a centre-right party founded in 2013 by Silvio Berlusconi. The majority of the exponents from the Popolo della Libertà joined this party after a division with the faction of Angelino Alfano. It takes the name and the symbol of the homonymous formation active from 1994 and 2009.

2.4.1.4 Nuovo Centro Destra

Nuovo Centro Destra (NCD) is a centre-right party led by Angelino Alfano. Founded on the 5th November 2013 by exponents from the Popolo della Libertà, who were also in favour of continuing to support Letta's government.

2.4.1.5 Sinistra Ecologia Libertà

Sinistra Ecologia Libertà (SEL) is a left wing party founded on the 20th December 2009 by the merging of four left wing movements.

2.4.1.6 Scelta Civica per l'Italia

Scelta Civica is a centrist and liberal political party in Italy founded by Mario Monti. The party was formed in the run-up to the 2013 general election to support outgoing Prime Minister Monti and continue his political agenda. Since April 2013 SC had been part of the grand coalition government led by Enrico Letta of the Democratic Party. In February 2014 after Letta's resignation, Civic Choice supported the new cabinet of Matteo Renzi.

2.4.1.7 Lega Nord

Although it could be positioned at the right of the political spectrum, the Northern League is a localist party, with a strong stance against centralism, bureaucracy, taxes and foreign immigration. It was founded by Umberto Bossi in 1989, by merging many regional autonomist movements in northern Italy, where the majority of its constituencies are located. Over the years it has lost its autonomist attitude, especially since in the last decades many of its members have held an office in the Government at the national level, and it has shifted towards a more moderate approach, which favours the application of a federal institutional structure to the country.

2.4.1.8 Fratelli d'Italia

Fratelli d'Italia is a national-conservative political party. The party was established on 21st December 2012 from the initiative by several exponents from the Popolo della Libertà. The party's main ideological trends are nationalism and conservatism, but its ideology includes also a Eurosceptic sentiment and economic liberalism.

2.4.1.9 Unione Centro

The Union of the Centrist Christian-Democrats was founded in 2002 by the merger of many political parties coming from the 'right' wing of the Democrazia Cristiana, representing a moderate political approach and not willing to forge an alliance with the former Communist Party after the collapse of the 'first republic'.

2.4.2 Pressure groups

Italy has many pressure groups, the most prominent are:

ABI¹⁸

ANCE¹⁹

APRE²⁰

CGIL-Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro

CISL- Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori

Coldiretti²¹
Confagricoltura²²
Confartigianato²³
Confcommercio²⁴
Confesercenti²⁵
Confindustria
Confcooperative²⁶
CNA²⁷
Legambiente²⁸
UIL- Unione Italiana Lavoratori

2.5 Demographics, ethnic and religious groups²⁹

- **Population:** 61,680,122 (July 2014 est.)
- **Density:** 204.69 persons/km²
- **Growth rate:** 0.3% (2014 est.)
- **Age structure:**
 - 0-14 years: 13.8% (male 4,340,943 / female 4,154,547)
 - 15-64 years: 65.2% (male 19,856,629 / female 20,376,263)
 - 65 years and over: 20.8% (male 5,548,047 / female 7,403,693) (2014 est.)
- **Religions:** Christian 80% (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, very small groups of Jehovah Witnesses and Protestants, Muslims NEGL (about 700,000 but growing), Atheists and Agnostics

According to the data of the Institute for the Italian Encyclopaedia Treccani, and Orioles³⁰ (2003), there are many ethnic minorities within the Italian borders:³¹

- Albanians in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia and Sicilia (100,000)



The Colosseum in Rome

- Catalans in Sardegna (15,000)
- Croatians in Molise (3,000)
- Francophones in Piemonte and Valle D'Aosta (20,000)
- Franco-Provençal in Piemonte, Puglia and Valle d'Aosta (from 50,000 to 70,000 persons)
- Friulani in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto (430,000)
- German-speaking people in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Piemonte, Trentino-Alto-Adige, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto (293,400)
- Greeks in Calabria and Puglia (12,000)
- Ladins in Trentino-Alto Adige and Veneto (30,000)
- Occitans in Calabria, Liguria and Piedmont (from 20,000 to 40,000)
- Slovenians in Friuli-Venezia Giulia (60,000)
- Gypsies (100,000)³²

3. Nature - see Appendix II

UNESCO WHC Landscape – Site - see Appendix II

BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURE - see Appendix II

UNESCO WHC sites - see Appendix II

4. NATIONAL BODIES DEALING WITH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

4.1 ISPRA - Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale

The superior Institute for the Protection and Research of the Environment (ISPRA) is a research centre formed in 2008, from the merger of three entities controlled by the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea: the Agency for the Protection of the Environment and the Technical Services, the Central Institute for Scientific and Technological Research applied to the Sea, and, the National Institute for Wildlife. The purpose of the merger was to rationalize and streamline their activity, to ensure more effectiveness in the protection of the environment, and also to save costs. The Ministry for Environment and Protection of Territory and Sea is in charge.

4.1.1 GELSO Project

The Project GELSO (acronym for Local Management for Environmental Sustainability) has developed a database on good practices for local sustainability, which is a working tool available to all those involved in the field of innovation for sustainable development (public administrations, environmental associations, technical people, consultants and citizens). The objectives for the 'Tourism' intervention sector can be found on their website.³³

4.2 ENEA - Agenzia Nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile

ENEA (National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development) carries out its activities in the following areas: energy efficiency, renewables sources, nuclear energy, environment and climate, health and safety, new technologies, electrical system research.³⁴

4.3 AITR - Associazione Italia Turismo Responsabile

AITR (Italian Association for Responsible Tourism) is an association that does not

pursue direct or indirect profit. It aims to promote, qualify, disseminate, search, update and protect cultural content, and the resulting practical actions, promoting the culture and the practice of 'responsible tourism' among members and the general public. The association promotes initiatives of solidarity and support for responsible, sustainable and ethical tourism, in order to raise people's awareness and for personal growth, for the promotion of a lifestyle and consumption patterns of solidarity.³⁵

4.4 National bodies responsible for tourism, culture and environment

4.4.1 TOURISM

4.4.1.1 Italia Turismo

Italia Turismo, a subsidiary of Invitalia (the National Agency for Investment Attraction and Business Development), is engaged in the development of the largest integrated tourism programme, with a total investment of over 200 million Euro.

The agency is specialized in the development and upgrading of tourist assets, with particular attention to regions of the Centre-South. In particular, Italy Tourism manages real estate of the highest tourist value located in Puglia, Calabria, Basilicata, Sicily and Sardinia: 8 resorts with about 6,000 beds and 3 new resorts being built comprising for an additional 3,000 beds.³⁶

4.4.1.2 ENIT - Agenzia Nazionale del Turismo

The National Agency of Tourism promotes the overall image of the national tourism offer and supports its marketing activities. ENIT, formerly a governmental entity, was transformed into a National Tourism Board and took on further institutional objectives



Castel Nuovo in Naples

to its already almost one hundred year old activity of promoting Italy as a tourist destination.³⁷

4.4.1.3 Department of Regional Affairs, Tourism and Sport

Since 2012 the Department for Regional Affairs, which had already acquired the Office of Sports, has been granted functions also in the field of tourism, to be exercised through the new Office for Tourism Policy. The Minister relies on the Office for Tourism Policy to perform the coordination of national policy on tourism promotion, communication of Italy's image, and development of Italian tourism enterprises.³⁸

4.4.1.4 ONT - Osservatorio Nazionale del Turismo

The ONT (National Observatory of Tourism) is based at the Department of Regional Affairs, Tourism and Sport of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The ONT studies, analyses and monitors the economic and social dynamics of tourist interest. Consistent with these purposes, the ONT carries out investigations on issues not adequately investigated by the official statistics and collects documents, researches and surveys produced by the most important national and international bodies, in order to assess the level of competitiveness.³⁹

4.4.2 CULTURE

4.4.2.1 MIBACT - Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo

The Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Environment was established in 1974, in order to have a specifically designed ministry exercising its competence on the management of cultural and environmental heritage, in order to ensure, at national and international levels, the comprehensive protection of the country's most important interests in the field of heritage. It acquired the authority and the functions of the Ministry of Education (Antiquities and Fine Arts Academies and Libraries), Ministry of the Interior (State Archives) and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (State Record Library, book publishing and dissemination of culture). In 1998 the Ministry was reorganized as the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities, taking care also of funding and promotion of cinema, theatre, dance, music and road shows. In 2009 the new regulations of the Ministry introduced significant innovations aimed at enhancing the protection, valorisation and fruition of the national cultural heritage and, at the same time, gave centrality to the preservation of landscape in the broader context of fine arts.⁴⁰

4.4.3 ENVIRONMENT

4.4.3.1 Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

The Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea was established in 1986, formerly known as the Italian Ministry for the Environment and the Territory and then renamed in 2006. Within its scope of competency lie responsibilities related to: sustainable development, protection of the territory, pollution and industrial risks, international protection of the environment, appraisal of environmental impact, nature conservation, waste and clean-up, and the protection of seas and inland waters. Each department administers different areas according to the different environmental areas.⁴¹

4.4.4 National bodies dealing with management of human and environmental heritage

4.4.4.1 FAI - Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano

The Fund for the Italian Environment (FAI) is a private non-profit foundation established in 1975, whose aim is the restoration and opening to the public of historic, artistic and naturalistic heritage received by donation, inheritance or loan. It currently operates 25 historic, artistic and naturalistic heritage sites in Italy. Many of the events organized by FAI are free of charge, while others are for members only (with registration subject to an annual fee).

For several years it has been organizing the 'FAI Spring Days', offering free visits and cultural itineraries to places and assets of the country normally inaccessible to the public. The 'FAI Spring Days' are sponsored by the Presidency of the Republic; the Ministry of Heritage and Culture; the Ministry of Education; University and Research; the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies; the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; the Department of Civil Protection; the Italian Regions; associations and private companies.⁴²

4.4.5 Statistical data about tourism economy and its effect on society

Number of international arrivals (in millions)⁴³

YEAR	ARRIVALS
2014 *	48.738
2013	50.263
2012	48.738
2011	47.461
2010	43.794
2009	41.125
2008	41.797
2007	42.873
2006	41.194

*January-October Provisional data

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Jordan is a land steeped in history. It has been home to some of mankind's earliest settlements and villages, and relics of many of the world's great civilizations can still be seen today. As the crossroads of the Middle East, the lands of Jordan and Palestine have served as a strategic nexus connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. Thus, since the dawn of civilization, Jordan's geography has given it an important role to play as a conduit for trade and communications, connecting east and west, north and south. Jordan continues to play this role today.

Historically, Jordan was founded on 31st March 1921 as a united state after the great Arab revolt in 1916 and World War I (1914-1918) and was called Emirate of Trans Jordan. Before that, Jordan was part of the so-called Belad Essham area that consisted of today's Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. It was not until 25th May 1946 that Jordan received its independence from the British protectorate, and the ensuing kingdom, led by King Abdullah the First Bin Al-Hussein (son of Al-Hussein), previously the Emir, was recognized.

Jordan has a population of approximately 6.8 million, on a total area of 89,213 km². It borders five countries: Saudi Arabia from the south and east, Iraq in the east, Syria in the north, and Israel and the occupied West Bank of Palestine in the west.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Geography

Jordan is a relatively small country situated at the junction of the Levantine and Arabian areas of the Middle East. It occupies an area of approximately 89,213 km², including the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. However, Jordan's diverse terrain and landscape belie its actual size, demonstrating a variety usually found only in large countries.

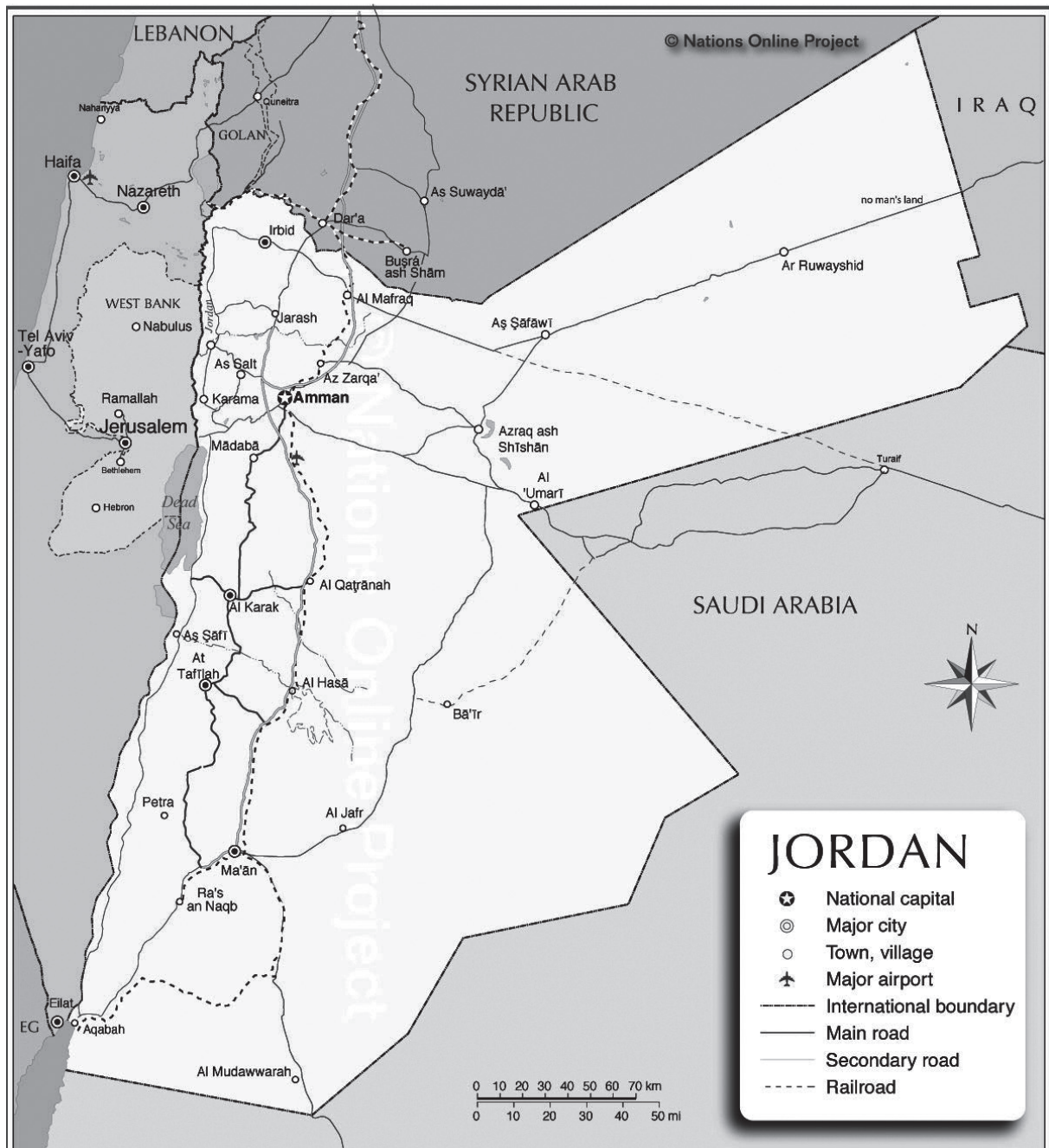
Jordan, consists mainly of three geographical and climatic regions or areas: the Jordan valley region, the desert in the eastern region or the Badia region, and in between, the mountain heights plateau region.

1.2 Climate

Climate in Jordan is conditioned partly by altitude, with the lowest areas such as the Jordan Valley and the Gulf of Aqaba suffering from the worst summer heat and humidity. The higher central and northern areas, in contrast, can be quite cold in winter (November to February).

Western Jordan has essentially a Mediterranean climate with a hot, dry summer, a cool, wet winter and two short transitional seasons. However, about 75 per cent of the country can be described as having a desert climate with less than 200 mm of rain annually and an average temperature in the mid 30°C (86°F) and relatively cold in winter averaging around 13°C (55°F).

The Jordan valley is a narrow strip of fertile land, extending from Lake Tiberius in the northwest to the Dead Sea to the south. The weather is hot all the year and agriculture is the main source of livelihood for local people.



1.3 Area and boundaries

- 1) Area:
total: 89,213 km²
land: 88,884 km²
water: 329 km²
- 2) Land boundaries:
total: 1,619 km
border countries: Iraq 181 km, Israel 238 km, Saudi Arabia 728 km, Syria 375 km, West Bank 97 km
- 3) Coastline: 26 km



The city of Petra

1.4 Hydrology

Jordan is an arid country with limited water resources. Conventional water resources in Jordan consist of groundwater and surface water. Countrywide, twelve groundwater basins have been identified. The major surface water sources are the Jordan River, the Yarmouk River and the Zarqa River.

1.5 Land use

Land use in Jordan can be generally divided into five categories. These include, non-cultivated rangelands (93.3 per cent), urban areas (1.89 per cent), forests and re-forestation (1.50 per cent), water surfaces (0.62 per cent), and agricultural lands (2.69 per cent). According to the Department of Statistics (2003), most of the country is dominated by non-cultivated areas, classified as rangeland.

2. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a constitutional monarchy with representative government. The reigning monarch is the head of state, the chief executive and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The king exercises his executive authority through the prime minister and the Council of Ministers, or cabinet. The cabinet,

meanwhile, is responsible before the elected House of Deputies which, along with the House of Notables (Senate), forms the legislative branch of the government. The judicial branch is an independent branch of the government.

2.2 Capital city

The capital city of Jordan is Amman, which is located in central Jordan, with a population of 2,842,629 estimated in the latest census (2010). The area of Amman is about 7,579 km².

2.3 Administrative divisions

Jordan is subdivided into 12 governorates; Ajlun, Aqaba, Irbid, Jerash, Balqa, Tafila, Kerak, Zarqa, Mafrq, Madaba and Ma'an.

2.4 Constitution

Jordan's current constitution was instituted on January 1, 1952 under the guidance of King Talal. It outlines the functions and powers of the state, the rights and duties of Jordanians, guidelines for interpretation of the Constitution and conditions for constitutional amendments. It mandates the separation of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, and outlines the regulation of the government's finances, as well as the enforcement and repeal of laws.

2.5 Legal system

Jordan's legal system is based on the French code law system via the Egyptian civil laws, while Islamic law is limited to civic status legislation for Muslims.

2.6 Demographics

Population: 6,508,887 (July 2011 EST.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 35.3% (male 1,180,595 / female 1,114,533)

15-64 years: 59.9% (male 1,977,075 / female 1,921,504)

65 years and over: 4.8% (male 153,918 / female 160,646) (2011 EST.)

Median age: 22.1 years

Population growth rate: -0.965% (2011 EST.)

Birth rate: 26.52 births / 1,000 population (2011 EST.)

Death rate: 2.74 deaths / 1,000 population (July 2011 EST.)

Net migration rate: -33.42 migrant(s) / 1,000 population (2011 est.)

Urbanization: urban population 79% of total population (2010)

Rate of urbanization: 1.6% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

2.7 Economy

Jordan's economy is among the smallest in the Middle East, with insufficient supplies of water, oil, and other natural resources, underlying the government's heavy reliance on foreign assistance. Other economic challenges for the government include chronic high rates of poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a large budget deficit. Jordan's financial sector has been relatively isolated from the international financial crisis because of its limited exposure to overseas capital markets. Jordan is currently exploring nuclear power generation to forestall energy shortfalls.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 The Architectural Heritage of Jordan

The architectural heritage of Jordan is divided into two categories. The first category consists of architecture built before 1750 CE, a heritage that includes ancient, deserted historic monuments and sites, or remains of sites, protected by Antiquities Law No.21 of 1988 and its amendments. This heritage, according to the Antiquities Law, is now called the Archaeological Heritage. The other category is architecture built after 1750 CE, a heritage of traditional styles that includes village and urban traditional architecture, often deserted individual and grouped old houses. These buildings are protected by the Law for the Protection of the Urban Architectural Heritage 2005.

3.1.1 The pre-1750 CE traditional architectural heritage

It is true that to walk in Jordan is to tread on history. Jordan has been a major location for civilisations throughout recorded time. Its many archaeological sites present the whole chronology of human life on earth, and archaeological surveys and excavations have shown that the land of Jordan has been occupied by many different civilisations; there is archaeological evidence of settlements dating back to the Palaeolithic period (1,500,000-8,500 BCE). The consequent human occupation of Jordan's area has resulted in many archaeological sites that represent all periods of history (Ibrahim 1990; Wright 1985).

During the Ottoman period (1516 – 1916 CE), much of the Arab world was part of in the Ottoman Empire. Jordan's importance was largely due to its position as a route for pilgrims heading for Mecca and Medina. This Empire was brought to an end during World War I, when the great Arab revolt occurred in 1916 (Musa 1972). However, the influence of Ottoman architecture on the traditional style of Jordan's local architecture is still seen today in numerous historic buildings and historic sites in Jordan's cities, e.g. Amman, Es-Salt, Karak, Ma'an, and Irbid (Mahadin *et al.* 1993).

3.1.2 The post-1750 CE traditional architectural heritage

The post-eighteenth century traditional architectural heritage of Jordan comprises of not only residential buildings such as residences, small buildings and villas, but also of small mosques, churches, schools, small shops and commercial buildings, found in many cities and villages.

This traditional architectural stock in Jordan is considered simple and austere compared with others in the Arab and Islamic world. This may be attributed to the economic, social and political conditions that prevailed during the later years of the Ottoman Empire, when the area of Jordan was almost ignored, and accordingly declined.

The traditional houses of Jordan can be sorted into two groups. The first consists of traditional village houses, from a period when agriculture was the main daily occupation of the population. Such village dwellings were simple, functional and influenced by local environmental and climatic conditions (Zo'ubi 1995).

The second group consists of traditional urban houses, where changes in lifestyles and urbanization led to a more regional style, influenced by trade and more frequent travelling. The style of these houses was more artistic, and included common architectural features imported from Syria and Lebanon. Examples of such small urban



Ajloun Castle



Aqaba

cities are Amman, Irbid, Salt, Ma'daba, Karak, and Jerash (Fathi and Rifai, 1993).

The construction of the Es-Saraya, the Ottoman governors' buildings, which still exist, exerted an Ottoman influence on many of these cities (Zo'ubi 1995). In addition, there are some school buildings that were built in the early twentieth century, which are still used as schools in many cities, e.g. Irbid school, Karak school, Salt school. The reason for their continuity as usable stock is that they are government owned. Continuous maintenance and care extends their usage.

Many old villages still survive as a cluster of traditional houses and these give a clear picture about their inhabitants' culture and history, e.g. Samad, Umm Qais, Taybeh, Yadoudeh, Iraq Al-Amir and Dana. However, people in these old villages have left their traditional houses to construct new, modern buildings, not far from their old villages; their old houses were used as stables for their animals, with a complete absence of maintenance. This created huge destruction and deterioration of the many deserted historic buildings in these villages.

The old houses were built with walls made of clay, roofs made of wooden beams covered with branches, and a mud layer on the top. The houses were purely functional and simple, consisting of a few small rooms with a small courtyard in front or at the side.

3.2 UNESCO WHC Heritage sites

Jordan has four sites on the World Heritage List - Petra, Quseir Amra, Um er-Rasas and Wadi Rum and a further sixteen sites on the Tentative List. UNESCO Amman works closely with the Department of Antiquities and several NGOs for the sustained protection and management of its World Heritage Sites, and also provides support for the preparation of nomination dossiers for sites on the Tentative List.

3.3 Natural parks and reserves

The following is a list of natural parks and reserves found in Jordan:

1) Dibe'en Forest Reserve, 2) Dana Reserve, 3) Azraq Reserve, 4) Shaumari reserve, 5) Mujib Reserve, 6) Ajloun Forest Reserve, 7) Wadi Rum Reserve, 8) Aqaba Marine Park.

Six more reserves are planned, and the total land area of the twelve reserves is covering four per cent of the country.

3.3 NATURA 2000 Sites

There are no Natura 2000 sites in Jordan.

3.4 Areas of High Landscape Value

A protected area is a relatively large area of land designated by law for the protection of its natural resources within its boundaries. As stated in the Jordan Biodiversity Nation Report, protected areas in Jordan currently include 23 forest or rangeland reserves, six wildlife reserves (and twelve proposed sites), one marine reserve in the Gulf of Aqaba and eight national parks. These areas represent different ecosystems and habitats of Jordan and include some archeological or historical sites (Biodiversity 2001).

3.5 National bodies dealing with human and natural heritage

The following is a list of national bodies responsible for the management of cultural and landscape heritage sites and assets:

- 1) The Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA)
- 2) Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA)
- 3) Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)
- 4) The Natural Resources Authority (NRA)
- 5) United Nations (UN)
- 6) The Commission of Baptism Site
- 7) Aqaba Special Economic Zone

4. ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National bodies dealing with sustainable tourism

4.1.1 The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

RSCN is one of the NGOs in the Middle East that provides a public service mandate. It is an independent society founded in 1966, devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural heritage. RSCN aims to conserve the biodiversity of Jordan and integrate this goal with socio-economic development projects.

4.1.2 Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF)

This is an NGO that works on different projects for local communities, one of which is the handicraft development. It supports handicraft production of Jordan design and a trade centre to promote handicraft work.

4.1.3 Jordan River Foundation (JRF)

Established in 1995, it is an NGO responsible for socio-economic projects for women's employment by enhancing their knowledge and skills in handicraft production and entrepreneurship.

4.2 National bodies responsible for tourism, culture and environment

4.2.1 Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA)

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) has embarked on a mission regarding sustaining tourism development and towards economic prosperity. It also has been working to promote Jordan's image as an attractive destination, increasing tourism contribution in the national economy, and involving local people by means of tourism projects through increasing local enterprise development projects, such as marketing local handicraft industries to tourists.

4.2.2 Jordan Tourism Board (JTB)

It was established in 1997 as a partnership between the private and public sectors, with the main objective to market Jordan's tourism potential worldwide, being part of its mission statement. JTB designs and implements a comprehensive plan to advertise Jordan through representation, trade fairs, workshops, exhibitions, and educational trips.

4.2.3 Department of Antiquities (DOA)

The Department of Antiquities of Jordan is currently attached to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The Department is responsible for:

1. executing the archaeological policy of the State;
2. estimating the archaeological value of movable antiquities and sites and evaluating the importance of each antiquity, defined as an object, whether movable or immovable, which has been constructed, shaped, inscribed, erected, excavated, or otherwise produced or modified by humankind earlier than 1700 CE.; administering antiquities in the Kingdom, supervising, protecting, maintaining, recording, beautifying the vicinities thereof and exhibiting them; propagating archaeological culture and establishing archaeological institutes and museums; excavating for antiquities in the Kingdom.
3. assisting in the organization of the various museums attached to governmental activities in the Kingdom, including historical, technical, and folklore museums; co-operating with local, Arab and foreign archaeological institutions for the service of national archaeological culture and consciousness; supervising the possession and disposition of such heritage (Shdeifat *et al.* 2006).

4.2.4 Jordan Tour Guide Association (JTGA)

The Association, which is in line with JNTS 2020, serves its members and visitors to stay up to date regarding the development in the tourism sector in Jordan; shares and provides necessary information and statistics about the sector; assists guides in organizing their trips and schedules (www.tourguides.com.jo, on 8th Dec. 2012). JTGA also has responsibilities to enhance tourist programmes and upgrade tourism legislation related to tour guiding.



Wadi Rum Rock Bridge

4.2.5 Ministry of Culture including the National Library Department

The Ministry is responsible to promote national heritage education in relation to literature and the arts through establishing centres and museums of culture, arts and folklore, also in relation to the collection of the official Jordanian national documents and archives.

4.2.6 The Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZA)

The Aqaba Special Economic Zone was inaugurated in 2001 as a bold and timely initiative by the government of Jordan to ensure that Aqaba's commercial and cultural prominence continues into the 21st century. With this transformation, Aqaba became ASEZ, using its historical role as a regional hub for trade, tourism, and culture.

4.2.7 Petra Development and Tourism Authority (PDTRA)

Founded in 2009, PDTRA is a legal, financial and administrative independent authority that aims to develop the region's tourism, economy, society, culture and community.

4.2.8 Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association (JITOA):

It is an official body and an independent, private sector-led organization, it represent the inbound tourism locally and internationally. JITOA comprises active tour operator members and associate members. JITOA is committed to raise the standards of the tourism industry as a whole through the spreading of Codes of Conduct, a Code of Ethics and by providing continuing education and advocacy.

4.2.9 Jordan Hotels Association (JHA)

It is a non-profit association representing over 400 hotels (Classified and Unclassified) .

4.2.10 The Royal Scientific Society

It is a national institution that conducts research and provides services in different technical and business fields; it has both state and private funding. One of its achievements related to tourism is the work conducted on the architectural heritage of the city of Salt, which consists of a great documentation project aimed at collecting and saving information regarding this heritage site, especially in relation to the huge urbanization movement witnessed in the country.

4.2.11 The Natural Resources Authority (NRA)

This authority is a department that belongs to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. It has conducted highly technical and geotechnical studies and geological mapping at different locations, such as Petra and Kerak. This authority has signed a cooperation agreement with the Department of Antiquities for such purposes.

4.2.12 The Friends of Archaeology

This is a non-governmental organization and a pressure group that aims to build awareness regarding the significance of antiquities for educational and tourism purposes in Jordan. At present, it has over 400 members.

4.2.13 Jordan Environment Society (JES)

This is an NGO with over 2,000 members and over 60 institutions / companies that are



Roman Theatre in Amman

organized into sixteen local branches. This society is responsible for environmental education and public awareness.

4.2.14 Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development

A non-profit, non-governmental society, established in May 1990, specialized in studies and research related to desertification phenomena and the suggested solutions for the growth and development of Badia.

4.2.15 The Jordan Society for Sustainable Development (JSSD)

This is an environmental non-governmental organization established in Amman, Jordan, in 1997. Through ongoing research, public awareness campaigns, international and public policy recommendations, JSSD hopes to ensure Jordan's socio-economic development within a framework of protecting its rich natural, cultural, and economic resources for future generations.

4.3 National policies, laws and regulations about sustainable tourism

1. Tourism Law no. 20 of 1988 and its amendments: as a result of implementation of this Law, the Tourism Authority was replaced by the Ministry of Tourism.
2. Antiquity Law No. 21 of 1988 of Antiquities and Archaeology and its amendment; provides for substantial elements of the cultural heritage, however, the cultural heritage beyond antiquities is not provided for in Jordanian legislation.
3. Antiquities Laws No. 12 (1976)
4. Antiquities Laws No. 14 (1988)
5. Antiquities Laws No. 23 (2002)
6. Antiquities Laws No. 55 (2008)
7. Interim Law no. 49/2003 for the Protection of Urban and Architectural Heritage: the purpose of this Law is to protect, preserve and maintain Jordan's heritage sites (MOTA, 2005).

4.4 Most visited sites and locations

No. of Tourists	No. of Tourist Nights	Average Length of Stay	Place Of Stay
157,854	416,844	2.64	Amman
98,751	175,910	1.78	Petra
56,723	170,403	3.00	Aqaba
40,578	127,340	3.14	Dead Sea
21,621	27,170	1.26	Wadi Rum
6,324	17,621	2.79	Madaba
495	670	1.35	Karak
1,550	2,415	1.56	Tafeleh
947	2,271	2.40	Ma'an Spa
167	197	1.18	Jarash
89	153	1.72	Irbid
6	6	1.00	Mount Nebou
88	98	1.11	Azraq
166	209	1.26	Ajlun
5	5	1.00	Umm Qies
7	7	1.00	AL- Shobaq
24	45	1.88	Maan
1,516	2,866	1.89	Others

Jan - Sept 2012 (MOTA, 2012)

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Lebanon is a country in the East Mediterranean, bordered by Syria to the north and east and Palestine to the south. Lebanon's location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterland has dictated its rich history and shaped a cultural identity of religious and ethnic diversity. Lebanon's mountainous terrain, proximity to the sea, and strategic location at a crossroads of the world were decisive factors in shaping its past. The political, economic, and religious movements, either originating in the region or crossing through, all left an imprint upon the Lebanese society and give form to its history.

The earliest evidence of civilization in Lebanon dates back more than seven thousand years, predating recorded history. Lebanon was the home of the Phoenicians whom flourished for over a thousand years (c.1550–539 BCE). The region then came under the rule of the Roman Empire, and a leading centre of Christianity which resulted to the establishment of the Maronite Church. As the Arab Muslims conquered the region, the Maronites held onto their religion and identity. A new religious group, the Druze, a religious divide that would last for centuries, also established themselves on Mount Lebanon (Ministry of Tourism, 2010, 2011).

For centuries, the Ottoman Empire ruled. Following WWI, the Empire collapsed and the five provinces that constitute modern Lebanon were mandated to France. The French expanded the borders of Mount Lebanon, which was mostly populated by Maronites and Druze, to include more Muslims. Lebanon gained independence in 1943, establishing a unique political system known as *confessionalism*, i.e. a power-sharing mechanism based on religious communities.

Before the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990), the country experienced a period of relative calm and prosperity, driven by tourism, agriculture, and banking. At the end of the war, there were extensive efforts to revive the economy and rebuild national infrastructure (Lebanon Country Profile Ministry of Finance, 2011).

The population in July 2011 was estimated to be 4,143,101 with a growth rate of 0.244 per cent (World Factbook); the population of Beirut, the capital city, was 1.9 million in 2009 (Asmar, 2009).

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Lebanon is located in Western Asia between latitudes 33° and 35° N, and longitudes 35° and 37° E. The country's surface area is 10,452 km² (4,036 sq mi) of which 10,230 km² (3,950 sq mls) is land. Lebanon has a western coastline and border of 225 km (140 mls) looking on the Mediterranean Sea, a 375 km (233 mls) border shared with Syria to the north and east and a 79 km (49 mls) long border with Palestine to the south. The border with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights is disputed by Lebanon in a small area called Shebaa Farms. Lebanon is divided into four distinct physiographic regions: the coastal plain, the Lebanon mountain range, the Beqaa valley and the Anti-Lebanon mountains.



1.1 Topography

Lebanon has a complex geomorphology with a narrow coastal strip bordered by steep hills and mountains and is characterized by the abrupt change in elevation within a distance of less than 20 km between sea level and 1,750 m above mean sea level (amsl) and by the presence of two mountain chains. The highest peaks of the western mountain chain 'Mount Lebanon' reach 3,088 m amsl. The 'Anti-Lebanon' mountain

chain borders Syria and slightly exceeds 2,800 m amsl. Accordingly, Lebanon can be divided into four topographic components. Lebanon is divided into five ribbon-like topographical areas stretching mainly in a north-south direction.

Lebanon's geomorphology consists of:

- the long shoreline, rocky in the north and sandy in the south, including several bays and islands
- the narrow coastal plain, approximately 3 km (1.86 mls) wide
- the western Mount Lebanon range
- the Beqaa Valley
- the eastern Anti-Lebanon mountains

Forests and woodlands play an important social role with the rise of ecotourism and environmental concerns. Although uncontrolled urban expansion has destroyed many landscapes, the concern for the social and aesthetic values of the forests is gaining importance. The implications of the combined phenomena of climate change and forest and other wooded lands degradation and loss pose serious threats primarily to Lebanon's food and water security. Forests, other wooded lands and most of the remaining vegetation formations, have always been used as grazing lands, providing a wide variety of species distributed over the different ecosystems and altitudes (Walley, 1998).

1.2 Climate

Lebanon has a moderate Mediterranean climate. In coastal areas, winters are generally cool and rainy whilst summers are hot and humid. In more elevated areas, temperatures usually drop below freezing point during the winter with heavy snow cover that remains until early summer on the higher mountain tops (Lebanon Profile Country, 2011).



Beqaa

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 Political Context

Three laws have governed the constitutional system of the Lebanese parliamentary democracy. The first was promulgated in 1926, the second in 1943 and the third in 1990, following the Taif Accords. The Constitution of September 21, 1990 (the '*Constitution*') amended the 1926 Constitution and reiterates the principle that the Republic is an independent, united and internationally acknowledged sovereign state. It also confirms the Republic's Arab identity and involvement in both the Arab League and the United Nations, as a founding and active member. Furthermore, the Constitution emphasizes the respect for freedom of speech and belief, and the Republic's commitment to human rights, parliamentary democracy, private ownership, free market economics and balanced regional development, and emphasizes the firm support for peaceful cohabitation of the various religious communities. The Republic's political system is based on the separation of executive, legislative and judicial powers and a system of checks and balances. The Government determines overall policy, appoints senior administrators and submits proposed legislation to Parliament. Parliament, which is elected every four years, proposes and adopts laws and supervises government policy. Judicial power is fully vested in the courts and is autonomous (Lebanon Country Profile, 2011).

There are more than 30 political parties and groups in Lebanon reflecting different ethnic backgrounds and political beliefs.

Lebanon is a parliamentary democracy, which implements a special system known as *confessionalism*. Lebanon's national legislature is the unicameral Parliament of Lebanon. Its 128 seats are divided equally between Christians and Muslims, proportionately between the eighteen different denominations and proportionately between its 26 regions.

2.1.1 Palestinian and Syrian refugees:

402,582 descendants of Palestinian refugees were registered in Lebanon with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in March 2005, almost all refugees or descendants of refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

Recently, from 2013, the country received over a million Syrian refugees as a consequence of the current political turmoil in Syria.

2.2 Economic Context

The economy of Lebanon is a developing economy, with a private sector that contributes up to 75 per cent of aggregate demand, and a large banking sector that supports this demand. The IMF forecast a growth of 7 per cent for Lebanon's real GDP in 2010 and 2011, following 9 per cent growth in 2009 and 8.5 per cent in 2008. It has 54th richest GDP per capita in the world and it is forecasted that Lebanon's per capita will reach 19,100 by 2015 which makes it one of the strongest in the region (FMI, 2011).

The major industrial sectors include metal products, banking, agriculture, chemicals, and transport equipment. Lebanon has a competitive and free market regime and a

strong *laissez-faire* commercial tradition. The Lebanese economy is service-oriented; main growth sectors include banking and tourism. There are no restrictions on foreign exchange or capital movement.

Given the frequent security turmoil it has faced, the Lebanese banking system has adopted a conservative approach, with strict regulations imposed by the central bank to protect the economy from political instability. These regulations have generally left Lebanese banks unscathed by the financial crisis of 2007–2010. Lebanese banks remain, under the current circumstances, high on liquidity and reputed for their security (BBC News Report 2010).

The World Bank expected continued growth as the global economy improved in 2010.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 Major Ecosystem

Lebanon is a small country with a surface area of 10,452 km² (approximately 160 miles long and 20 to 50 miles wide). It is located on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea (33°50' North and 35°50' East) and is very mountainous. Its 225 km-long (140 mls) coast is bordered by a narrow plain that disappears in some places¹. The Mount Lebanon range runs almost north and south forming a central backbone in the country. From the west it rises from the coastal plain, and is separated from the Anti-Lebanon Range to the east by the fertile Bekaa Valley. The mountains are rugged and are mostly made up of Jurassic and Cretaceous limestone and sandstone. The limestone also gives rise to the substantial karst formations (with their sinkholes, underground streams and caves) that cover two-thirds of Lebanon's surface area. These are found primarily on the Mount Lebanon range between 300 and 1,800 meters above sea level (World Vision Lebanon 2009).

Lebanon has five distinct geomorphological regions. These are:

the coastal zone, including the shoreline and continental shelf, the coastal plain, the foothills of Mount Lebanon that rise to 250 meters – 13 percent of the country;

the Mount Lebanon range (or chain), including middle- and high-elevation zones, rises from Akkar in the north and extends south to the hills of JabalAmel. The highest peak is Qornet el-Sawda (3,087 meters or 9,409 feet), and Mount Sannine (2,624 meters or 7,998 feet) is the second highest peak in the region – 47 percent of the country;

The Bekaa Valley, a fertile land corridor separating the Mount Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges, is drained to the north by the Aassi River and to the south by the Litani River;

The Anti-Lebanon chain, which extends across the Lebanese-Syrian borders along the eastern part of the country and includes, at its southern terminus, Jabal el Cheikh (Mt. Hermon, 2,814 meters or 8,577 feet), which distributes rainfall and snowmelt into at least three main watersheds across Lebanon, Syria and Palestine; 19 percent of the country.

¹ www.worldvision.org.lb.

South Lebanon, an elevated plateau that extends a short distance inland from the western shores of South Lebanon to the Mount Hermon foothills in the East.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variability and variety of living systems at several levels, including the diversity of ecosystems, of species within ecosystems, and of genes within species. Lebanon's ecosystem diversity results from the country's dramatic topographic and altitudinal diversity, combined with its location at the far eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea.

The biological diversity of the Mediterranean Eco-region, of which Lebanon is part, has been influenced more by humans than by any of the other 24 eco-regions selected as biodiversity hotspots by Conservation International (CI). Human influence in the region dates back 8,000 years when the first significant deforestation began. Since that time landscapes have been influenced as much by people as they have by nature ,and today Lebanon's mosaic of overgrazed grasslands, agricultural lands, evergreen woodlands, and brush land is evidence of this.

3.2 Forests

Based on the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (2005), forests cover 13.2 per cent of the country's territory. Other wooded land (OWL) adds an additional 11.3 per cent, yielding a total of 24.5per cent.

From a habitat standpoint, the extent of forest cover in an unfragmented state probably figures most prominently in its importance to biodiversity. An examination of the forest cover map shows the fragility of these forest systems to fragmentation. Lebanon's rugged topography, which is a major factor in the country's forest bioclimatic zones, also contributes to the overall fragility of habitats FAO 2005.



Sculpture on a rock face in Cana

3.3 Marine and Coastal Areas

The marine and coastal flora of Lebanon is considered to be Mediterranean with some subtropical elements. Most marine organisms and ecosystems are typically Mediterranean, some are of Indo-Pacific origin and their development is due to the opening of the Suez Canal. There are a few invasive species from the Red Sea, which have settled and formed stable communities (MoA, 1996).

Sea depths are relatively deep even close to shore, allowing a variety of deeper dwelling marine organisms to occur in Lebanese waters. Several marine habitats are found along the coast and in neritic and oceanic waters, where varying biocenoses develop according to geological and physical/chemical conditions of the sea environment (METAP 1995).

3.4 Natural Areas, Habitats of Particular Importance and 'Hotspots'

Relative to its size, Lebanon boasts one of the highest densities of floral diversity in the Mediterranean basin, which in turn is one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world (Médail and Quézel 1997). Floral species distribution by habitat is 81 per cent terrestrial, twelve per cent marine, and 7 per cent fresh water. The relative number of animal species by habitat varies. Forty-six percent of Lebanon's faunal species are found in terrestrial areas, thirty-eight percent are marine and sixteen percent are in fresh water (MoA, 1996).

Lebanon has established eight reserve areas to protect its high endemism and the value of its forests and biodiversity. Internationally, UNESCO-MAB has identified three sites as biosphere reserves and the UNESCO World Heritage lists the Valley of Qannoubine as a cultural landscape including the Arz el Rab cedar forest. Birdlife International has listed fifteen sites as Important Bird Areas and there are four recognized Ramsar sites in the country. Another area in the north is listed in the National Land Use Master Plan of Lebanon (approved by the Council for Ministers in 2009) as a possible new national park. Additional sites (river streams, sinkholes, forests, etc.) are declared as natural sites and landscapes under the protection of the Ministry of Environment and/or Agriculture.

3.5 Natural Parks and Reserves

In the last few years, several National Parks and Reserves have been established in Lebanon to protect significant areas. Lebanese environmental groups played an important role in convincing the government to set aside these areas to be forever protected from development, an action that was long overdue. The National Parks and Reserves are:

- **Benta'ael:** this park in the mountains above Jubail, established during the war, was Lebanon's first.
- **HorshEhden:** this mountainous area north of Ehden contains a large forest of Cedar of Lebanon that is less well-known than the one above Bsharri.
- **Palm Islands:** these small islands off Tripoli were set aside as a Reserve in 1992 to protect their unique terrestrial flora.
- **Barouk Cedars:** the three Cedar of Lebanon groves of the Shouf area were threatened during the war, and a few trees were cut.



Mount lebanon



Sidon

3.6 Lebanon Heritage Sites

Despite its small size, Lebanon has an abundance of historical, religious and cultural heritage sites. Every inch of this land has a story to tell, every hill the scene of a battle, and every stone a monument or a tomb. One cannot understand the geography of Lebanon without knowing its history and vice versa.

- **Anjar:** inscribed as a world heritage site in 1984, Anjar was a commercial centre for Levantine trade routes.
- **Baalbeck:** inscribed as a world heritage site in 1984.
- **Byblos:** inscribed as a world heritage site in 1984.
- **Qadisha Valley and Cedars Forest:** inscribed as a world heritage site in 1998, the Qadisha Valley and Cedars Forest (also known as the Forest of the Cedars of God) are considered to be of remarkable standing and significance.
- **Tyre:** inscribed as a world heritage site in 1984. It was the birthplace of the purple dye known as Tyrian purple.

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National Bodies Dealing with Human and Natural Heritage

- The Ministry of Health is involved in the control and management of medical waste. It is also involved in management of water and food quality, wastewater and solid waste, pest control, etc;
- The Ministry of Industry, which is concerned with hazardous waste and industrial pollution control and management, environmental standards, natural resources and industrial safety and zoning;
- The Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for environmental management in the use of agrochemicals and protection of nature and biodiversity;
- The Ministry of the Interior, which is involved in environmental law enforcement;
- The Ministry of Transport, which is concerned with environmental aspects of traffic and infrastructure;
- The Ministry of Education also has a specific role through environmental education and awareness building. In addition there are several authorities with environment-related mandates and functions. These include the Lebanese Water Department;
- There are also numerous environment-related NGOs in the Occupied Lebanese Territories, many of which have played an important role in contributing information and experience to the preparation and review of laws and decision-making processes.

4.2 Statistical Data about Tourism Economy and its Effect on Society

Tourism was once a very important contributor to Lebanon's economy, accounting for almost 20 per cent of the GDP in the two decades before the start of the civil war. Since the end of the war, the sector has managed to revive somewhat, but tourism has yet to return to its pre-war levels. Tourism in 1999 accounted for 9 per cent of the GDP. In 2001, the tourism sector was one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, with the number of tourists visiting Lebanon between 1996 and 2000 growing at the rate of 14 per cent annually. In 2003 the tourism industry contributed \$ 6.374 billion to the Lebanese economy and in 2005 the receipts per capita reached \$ 1,433. In 2006, the

Ministry of Tourism counted 373,037 admissions to the country's main ministry run touristic sites. In 2009, Lebanon hosted about two million tourists, a record number, passing the previous 1974 record of 1.4 million tourists. The number of tourists grew by 39 per cent over the previous year, the largest increase in any country according to the World Tourism Organization. Most of the increase is due to heightened political stability and security. Lebanon was also featured by several international media outlets, including the New York Times, CNN, and Paris Match, as a top tourist destination at the beginning of 2009. Lebanon's annual income from tourism reached \$7 billion, about 20 per cent of gross domestic product, according to the Minister of Tourism.

Despite the recent surge in popularity as a tourist destination, the U.S. State Department continues to 'urge U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to Lebanon due to current safety and security concerns'.



Roman Theatre in Amman

Year	International Tourist Arrivals	Market share in the Middle East
1995	450,000	
2000	472,000	3.1%
2003	1,016,000	
2004	1,278,000	
2005	1,140,000	2.9%
2010	2,351,081	
2011	2,001,811	

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Publications (1995-2012)

4.3 Lebanese National Tourism Strategy

Tourism plays a major source of revenue for Lebanon. The tourism industry has been historically important to the local economy before the Lebanese Civil War.

Lebanon's diverse atmosphere and ancient history make it an important destination which is slowly rebuilding itself after continued turmoil. Lebanon offers plenty: from ancient Roman ruins, to well preserved castles, limestone caves, historic churches and mosques, beautiful beaches nestled in the Mediterranean Sea, world renowned Lebanese cuisine, nonstop nightlife and discothèques, to mountainous ski resorts.

Significant private investment is currently being made in the modernization and expansion of this sector and international hotel companies have returned to Lebanon. 'Casino du Liban', which historically constituted a major tourist destination, reopened in 1996. Lebanon is the only country in the Arab world that offers skiing and related winter sports activities. The largest ski resort in the country has been expanded and modernized. The Government believes that, because of the return of peace and stability to the country and with the development of the necessary infrastructure, tourism will again contribute significantly to Lebanon's economy. Lebanon's tourism industry also relies on the large number of Lebanese living abroad, who return regularly to the country during the summer season.

In recent decades, the Lebanese industry has shown sustained growth in both revenues and number of tourists. The Ministry of Tourism has elaborated a strategic plan to develop the activity in this sector. The main steps are:

- Identify the profile of tourist targets. The plan classifies two large segments:
 - The Diaspora (Lebanese immigrant in all countries)
 - The Arab Residents (especially from Arab Gulf Countries)
- Elaborate new tourist products and services
- Raise the quality of tourist services
- Define new criteria to classify the hotels and restaurants related to international standards
- Stress the safety measures regarding tourism
- Elaborate new cooperation contract with some regional countries
- Give more attention to domestic tourism with a new strategy

- Do advertising and promotion campaigns in immigration countries
- Provide training sessions for the labour tourist force
- More contribution with private sector
- Spread awareness of sustainable tourism

4.4 Alternative Tourism

Lebanon's nature and geography, which are unique to the Middle East region, allow the practice of outdoor activities mainly during the summer season as a form of alternative tourism. Nowadays, these activities are gaining more interest from nature lovers and are becoming better equipped for the specific requirements needed. Major outdoor activities include: winter sports, leisure, Lebanese crafts, Lebanese festivals, and ecotourism.

4.5 Challenges facing the Lebanese Tourism Industry

The problems facing tourism (in general) and the development of the tourism industry (in particular) are diverse. However, these problems can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of inherent tourism potential (natural, historical, cultural, etc.)
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of the positive economic and strategic significance of the tourism industry
- Lack of technical know-how and weak promotional activity (strategy)
- Lack of tourism-related infrastructures
- Lack of tourism investments
- Lack of consistent tourism strategies and policies
- Lack of tourism diversification
- Lack of tourism safety

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Malta is a Southern European country consisting of an archipelago situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, south of Sicily, east of Tunisia and north of Libya. Malta covers just over 316 km² (122 sq mls) in land area, making it one of the world's smallest states, and it is also one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

The capital city of Malta is Valletta. The main island comprises many towns, which together form one Larger Urban Zone with a population in 2014 reaching 424,204 inhabitants.

The country has two official languages, Maltese (the national language) and English. Throughout history, Malta's location has given it great strategic importance, and a succession of powers ruled over the archipelago – Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Angevins, Aragonese, Order of St John, French and British.

Great Britain formally acquired Malta in 1814. The island staunchly supported Britain through both world wars and remained in the Commonwealth when it gained political independence in 1964. In this same year it was admitted to the United Nations, while in 1974 Malta became a republic. In 2004 it joined the European Union. Malta is also a signatory to the Schengen Agreement and since 2008 it forms part of the Eurozone, when it adopted the Euro as its official currency.

Malta has a long Christian legacy and is an Apostolic See. According to the New Testament (Acts 27 and 28), St. Paul was shipwrecked on *Melite* (as the Greeks called the island) and ministered there for some months. Catholicism is the official religion in Malta as declared by the Maltese constitution, but religious freedom is also guaranteed.

Malta is internationally renowned as a tourist destination, and offers numerous recreational opportunities and historical monuments, including seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, most prominently the Megalithic Temples of Ġgantija, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, which are some of the oldest freestanding structures in the world.¹ The capital city, Valletta, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

1.1 Location

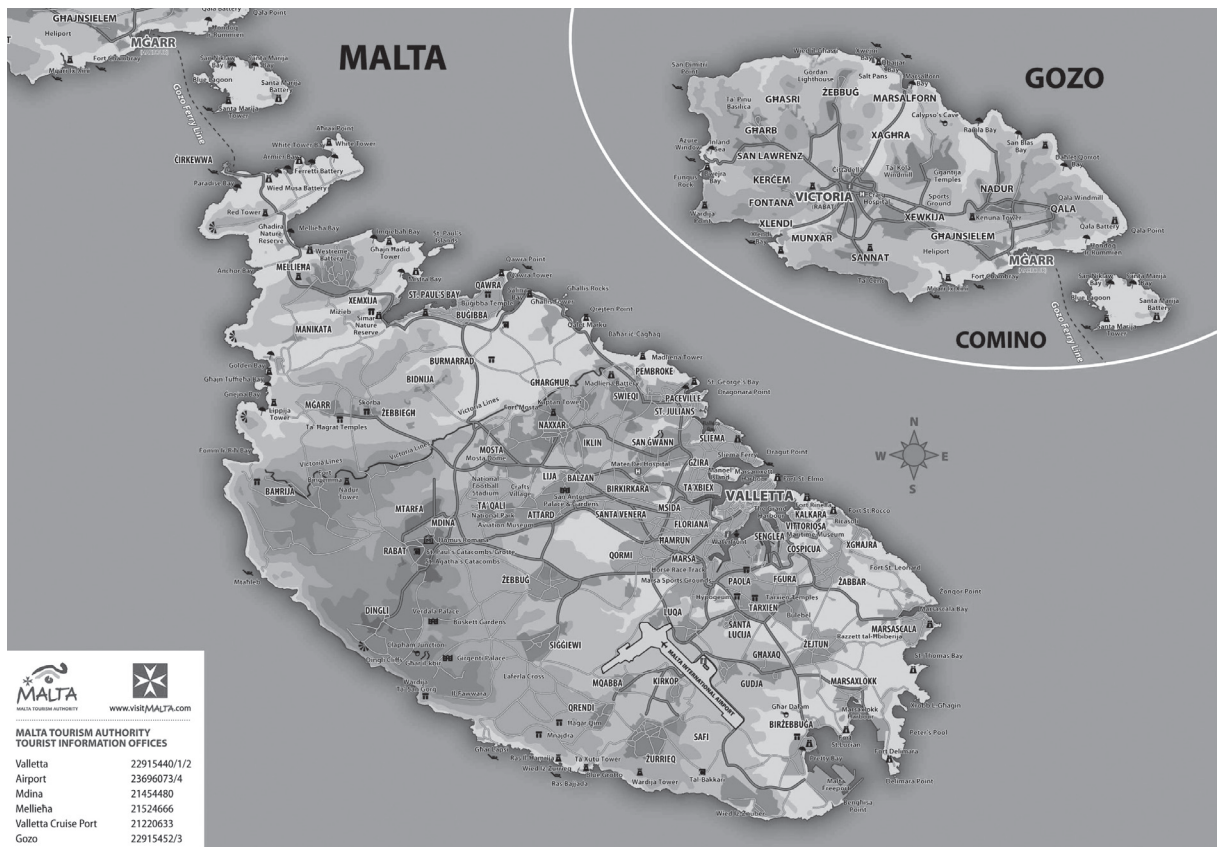
The island nation of Malta is an archipelago located in the centre of the Mediterranean. The three main islands are Malta, Gozo, and Comino. Though it has no land boundaries, Malta's nearest neighbour is Italy – it is 93 km to the south of Sicily while the archipelago is about 300km to the north of Libya.

1.2 Area

Malta is one of the smallest countries in the world (208th in size ranking) covering a total land area of 316km² (122 sq mls).

1.3 Climate

Malta has a Subtropical–Mediterranean climate (Köppen climate classification Csa), with mild winters and warm to hot summers. Rain occurs mainly in winter, with summer being generally dry.



1.4 Elevation extremes

The highest point in Malta is Ta' Dmejrek at a height of 253 m (830 ft) above sea level and located on Dingli Cliffs on the Western Coast of the island of Malta. The lowest point is the Mediterranean Sea, at 0 m.

1.5 Terrain

The landscape consists mostly of low plains and terraced fields for agriculture.

1.6 Hydrogeology

Although there are some small ephemeral rivers occurring in times of high rainfall, there are no permanent rivers or lakes on Malta. However, there are some watercourses that have running fresh water all the year round located at Bahrija, Imtahleb and San Martin, and at Lunzjata Valley in Gozo. The total renewable water resources (such as streams and rivers etc.) are approximately 113 m of available fresh water.

1.7 Natural resources

The available resources in Malta, which occur naturally, are limestone, salt and arable land for use in agriculture.

1.8 Land use

In Malta, 31.25 per cent of the available land is used for agriculture; only 3.13 per cent is used for crops of a permanent nature, while 65.62 per cent is used for other purposes.

Irrigation is applied to 22.22 per cent of the land used for agriculture, while the rest relies on rainfall (when available).

1.9 Natural Hazards

There are no measurable naturally occurring hazards in Malta, due to the lack of water courses and generally low lying land, as well as relative distance from major fault lines or plate boundaries.

1.10 Environmental issues

The major issue facing Malta of an environmental concern regards the limited availability of natural freshwater resources, due to the lack of permanent water courses; this has led to an increased reliance on desalination to provide enough water for the population of the islands. This process is very expensive since it requires large amounts of energy (oil). Nonetheless, the process is not dependant on rainwater and therefore is especially useful in Malta with its long dry summers.²

1.11 International agreements on environment - see Appendix I

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

2.1.1 Government type

Republic

2.1.2 Capital city

Valletta

2.1.3 Administrative divisions (local government)

There are 68 Local Councils – 54 in Malta and 14 in Gozo:

Attard, Balzan, Birgu, Birkirkara, Birżebbuġa, Bormla, Dingli, Fgura, Floriana, Fontana, Għajnsielem, Għarb, Għargħur, Għasri, Għaxaq, Gudja, Gżira, Hamrun, Iklin, Isla, Kalkara, Kerċem, Kirkop, Lija, Luqa, Marsa, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Mdina, Mellieħa, Mgarr, Mosta, Mqabba, Msida, Mtarfa, Munxar, Nadur, Naxxar, Paola, Pembroke, Pietà, Qala, Qormi, Qrendi, Rabat (Malta), Rabat (Gozo), Safi, San Ġiljan, San Ġwann, San Lawrenz, Sannat, San Pawl il-Baħar, Santa Luċija, Santa Venera, Siggiewi, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex, Tarxien, Valletta, Xagħra, Xewkija, Xgħajra, Żabbar, Żebbuġ (Malta), Żebbuġ (Gozo), Żejtun, Żurrieq.

2.1.4 National Holidays

21th September 1964, Independence Day – political independence from the United Kingdom

31st March 1979, Freedom Day – the British Forces left and Malta stopped serving as a military base

7th June (*Sette Giugno*) – a revolt by the Maltese people against the British government which ended with four Maltese dying after the British forces opened fire on the crowd

8th September, Victory Day – marks the victory of the Maltese in 1565 against the Ottoman Turks in the Great Siege of Malta, and the victory over the Axis during World War Two

13th December, Republic Day – Malta becomes a republic

2.1.5 Constitution

The current Constitution of Malta was adopted on 21st September 1964, although it has been amended many times since then. Under its 1964 constitution, Malta became a parliamentary democracy within the British Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II was sovereign of Malta and a governor-general exercised executive authority on her behalf, while the actual government was in the hands of the cabinet under the leadership of a Maltese prime minister. On 13th December 1974, the constitution was revised and Malta became a republic within the Commonwealth, with executive authority vested in a Maltese president.

2.1.6 Legal system

Mixed legal system of English common law and civil law (based on the Roman and Napoleonic civil codes).

2.1.7 Suffrage

For national elections and referenda – eighteen years of age, universal; for local council (local government system) elections – sixteen years of age, universal.

2.2 Executive branch

Malta is a parliamentary representative democracy, whereby the President of Malta is the constitutional Head of State.



Valletta the capital city

Executive Authority is vested in the President of Malta with the general direction and control of the Government of Malta remaining with the Prime Minister of Malta, who is the head of government and the cabinet.

The president is elected by a resolution of the House of Representatives for a five-year term, while the leader of the majority party (or leader of a majority coalition) is usually appointed as prime minister by the president for a five-year term following legislative elections.³

2.3 Legislative branch

Malta has a unicameral House of Representatives: members are elected by popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve five-year terms.

The House of Representatives normally has 65 seats, but parliament can have more seats in particular circumstances as specified by the constitution. When the political party winning an absolute majority of first-count votes (or a plurality of first-count votes in an election where only two parties are represented in parliament) does not win an absolute majority of seats, the constitution provides for the winning party to be awarded additional seats in parliament to guarantee it enjoys an absolute majority; in the event that more than two parties are represented in parliament, with none acquiring the absolute majority of votes, the party winning the majority of seats prevails.⁴

2.4 Judicial branch

The Maltese judicial system is a two-tier system comprising a court of first instance, presided over by a judge or magistrate, and a court of appeal.

The Court of Appeal, in its Superior Jurisdiction, is composed of three judges and hears appeals from a court of first instance presided over by a judge. The Court of Appeal in its Inferior Jurisdiction is presided over by a single judge and hears appeals from a court of first instance presided over by a magistrate. There are also various tribunals which deal with specific areas of law and have varying degrees of competence. The majority of appeals from decisions awarded by any of these Tribunals are heard by the Court of Appeal in its Inferior Jurisdiction whereas others are heard by the Court of Appeal in its Superior Jurisdiction.⁵

2.5 Participation in International Organisations

Australia Group, C, CE, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EMU, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NSG, OAS (observer), OPCW, OSCE, PCA, PFP, Schengen Convention, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina (observer), UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

2.6 Political and religious context

Political Parties

There are currently two main political parties in Malta: the Nationalist Party (Centre-Right) and the Labour Party (Centre-Left).

2.6.1 Labour Party (Partit Laburista)

The Maltese Labour Party, was founded in 1921 under the title of Camera del Lavoro and was mainly an offshoot of a dockyard union – the Imperial Government Workers

Union. In 2008 former MEP Joseph Muscat was elected as the Labour Party leader, and became Prime Minister in 2013 after his party won the general election of that year.⁶

2.6.2 Nationalist Party (Partit Nazzjonalista)

The Nationalist Party was founded in 1926, by the merger of the *Unione Politica Maltese* and the *Partito Democratico Nazionalista*, as the heir of the Anti-Reformist Party, which had been founded in 1880. In 2013 former MEP Simon Busuttil became the current PN leader and Leader of the Opposition.⁷

2.6.3 Pressure groups

2.6.3.1 GWU - General Workers' Union

The General Workers' Union was officially founded in 1943. It is the largest trade union in Malta and its foundation date is celebrated until today as Union Day. The GWU's strength lies in its diverse membership coming from all the sectors of the Maltese economy and amounts to around 54 per cent of the organised labour force.⁸

2.6.3.2 UHM - Union Haddiema Magħqudin

The Malta Workers' Union was founded in 1966, under the name Malta Government Clerical Union (MGCU), and changed its name in 1978 to UHM. The union has members in both the private and public sectors, and emphasizes its political independence. The UHM is affiliated with the Confederation of Malta Trade Unions (CMTU).⁹

2.6.3.3 CMTU - Confederation of Malta Trade Unions

The Confederation of Malta Trade Unions (CMTU) is a trade union confederation, founded in 1959, and embraces within its fold several independent trade unions, including UHM, Malta's second largest union. It has a membership of around 30,000 and it has no political affiliations. It is a member of the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Confederation.¹⁰

2.6.3.4 FORUM - Forum Unions Maltin

Set up in 2004 on the initiative of the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses (MUMN), the Forum Unions Maltin is a loose association of independent trade unions. It consisted of eleven unions, with a total of around 12,000 members.¹¹

2.6.3.5 Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry

The Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise was established as a voluntary constituted body and officially recognised in 1848. Its objective is to seek to "influence the formation of policy at national and European level towards the development of an enterprise culture, the creation of favourable economic conditions to the advantage of Members and the interests of the wider community." Globalisation and Malta's accession to the European Union in 2004, and the corresponding transformations in Malta's economic and commercial environment, promoted a merger between the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Malta Federation of Industry.¹²

2.6.3.6 Malta Chamber of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

The Association of General Retailers and Traders (GRTU) is Malta's national organisation of independent private businesses. Established in 1948 originally as a shop-owners union, it today represents the widest cross section of proprietor managed enterprises in Malta. Its policies are geared towards encouraging and supporting



Ġgantija megalithic temple complex



St. Paul's Cathedral, Mdina

small and medium-sized enterprises within the framework of a functioning advanced market economy.¹³

2.6.3.7 Malta Employers' Association

The Malta Employers' Association was founded in 1965 from the merger of the Union of Employers with the Malta Employers' Confederation. The MEA brings together employers from all sectors of industry and commerce in Malta.¹⁴

2.7 Demographics, ethnic and/or religious groups

2.7.1 Population

Population: 416,055 (July 2012 est.) Density: 1,320/km² (2011)¹⁵ Growth rate: 0.359% (2012 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 15.4%, 15-64 years: 68.1%, 65 years and over: 16.5%¹⁶

The study by Capelli *et al* has clustered the Maltese genetic markers with those of Sicilians and Calabrians, and has shown that there is little genetic input from North Africa and the Middle East.¹⁷ According to a 2011 Census by the National Statistical Office, 4.8 per cent of the total population is made up of non-Maltese nationalities: an increase over 2005, when the number of non-Maltese nationals stood at 3 per cent of the total population.¹⁸

2.7.2 Religion

Malta is a Roman Catholic country: 98 per cent of the total population is of Roman Catholic background; the remaining 2 per cent is made of Protestants, Eastern Orthodox, Muslims and Jews.¹⁹

2.7.3 Languages

Malta has two official languages - Maltese (a Semitic language derived from Siculo-Arabic and heavily influenced by Sicilian and Italian) and English. They are spoken by 90 per cent of the population. Both languages are compulsory subjects in Maltese primary and secondary schools. A large portion of the population is also fluent in Italian, which till World War Two was a dominant language in Malta.²⁰

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 UNESCO World Heritage List sites

3.1.1 Built Heritage

3.1.1.1 City of Valletta

The capital of Malta is Valletta a fortified city sited on a peninsula on the western coast and flanked by two natural harbours. Valletta was built by the Order of St John after the Great Siege of 1565. It is one of the most concentrated historical areas in the world and measures just 56 ha. It was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1980.

3.1.1.2 Mdina, the former capital (on the UNESCO tentative list)

Mdina was the principal town of Malta in the past, a function it had acquired from

Phoenician times. Mdina lies on a high plateau, overlooking three-quarters of the island of Malta. As a fortification, it has existed since the Bronze Age, c. 4,500 years ago. The town was formerly called Malat (Phoenician period), Melita (Roman period), Medina (Arabic period), Città Notabile (during the era of the Knights of St John) and Città Vecchia (after Valletta was built in 1566). Malta's nobility, originally from Spanish and Italian origin, had settled there since the thirteenth century. The city lost its political power after Charles V of Spain gave the island as a perpetual fief to the Order of St John whose power centre was first in Birgu (later called Vittoriosa) and then in Valletta.

Mdina has been designated an Urban Conservation Area due to its historical and architectural character. This conforms with Structure Plan policy UCO 1 which seeks to protect and enhance the most important areas of townscape value.²¹

3.1.1.3 Megalithic Temples of Malta

Within the Archipelago of Malta, seven clusters of megalithic temples exist, of which one is Ġgantija, in Gozo, Malta's sister island. On the island of Malta, the temples of Haġar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien are each unique architectural masterpieces, while the Ta' Haġrat and Skorba complexes show how the tradition of temple-building started and was passed on over many generations. Malta's Temple period lasted roughly from 4100 to 2500 BCE.

All these temples are considered to be among the oldest free standing structures in the world, and are considered unique to Malta. Also of note regarding the temples is that – although built with the same design philosophies and architectural style – each one is not a copy of the others.²² A large subterranean structure, dating from around 3300 BCE, the Hypogeum, is a necropolis (ancient burial site) of Malta's Neolithic period. Often referred to as a 'labyrinth', the site consists of three levels, with a series of elliptical chambers excavated from the limestone rock mass.²³



The Neolithic Hypogeum



Valletta Waterfront



Ghadira Nature Reserve

3.1.1.4 National Parks and Reserves

There is only one National Park in Malta; the Ta' Qali National Park which is located in central Malta. The park itself features an amphitheatre where many international concerts have been performed, and the overall area features the National Football Stadium, the Maltese Aviation Museum and a Crafts Village.²⁴

There are however a good number of smaller gardens and other parks, which make good for their small size with their historical and cultural significance: San Anton Gardens, the two Barrakka Gardens, Buskett Forest, Sa Maison Gardens, Argotti Gardens, St Philip Garden, Hastings Garden, The Chinese Garden of Serenity, Foresta 2000, Għadira Nature Reserve, Kennedy Grove, Majjistral Nature and History Park (www.visitmalta.com).

3.1.1.5 Environmental Heritage

There are no locations in Malta that have been classified as an area of environmental heritage by the UNESCO WHC.

3.2 MALTA - Natura 2000 Sites - see Appendix II

The following are the sites that make up Natura 2000: Buskett - Girgenti Area; Dwejra - Qawra Area, including Hagret il-Ġeneral; Filfla; Għajn Barrani Area; Għar Dalam; Iċ-Ċittadella; Il-Ballut (l/o Marsaxlokk); Il-Ballut tal-Wardiya (l/o San Pawl il-Baħar); Il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl / Selmunett; Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar (l/o Marsaskala); Il-Maqluba (l/o Qrendi); Il-Qortin tal-Maġun and il-Qortin il-Kbir; Ir-Ramla Area; Is-Salini; Is-Simar (l/o San Pawl il-Baħar); Ix-Xagħra tal-Kortin; Kemmuna, Kemmunett, il-Hagriet ta' Bejn il-Kmiemen and l-Iskoll ta' Taħt il-Mazz; L-Għadira Area; L-Għadira s-Safra, L-Għar tal-Iburdan; L-Imġiebaħ / Tal-Mignuna Area; Ta' Ċenċ Area; Pembroke Area; Ramla tat-Torri / Rdum tal-Madonna Area; Rdumijiet ta' Għawdex: Ta' Ċenċ, Id-Dawra tas-Sanap to tal-Hajt, Il-Ponta ta' Harrux to Il-Bajja tax-Xlendi, Il-Ponta ta' San Dimitri to Il-Ponta ta' Harrux; Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa to l-Ponta ta' Bengħisa, Ix-Xaqqa to Wied Moqbol, Ras il-Pellegrin to x-Xaqqa, Wied Moqbol to l-Ponta ta' Bengħisa; Xlendi - Wied tal-Kantra Area; Wied il-Mizieb; the Sea between Rdum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb; the Sea of the Għar Lapsi Area and the Filfla Area, the Sea of the Dwejra (Għawdex) Area, the Sea of the Mgarr ix-Xini (Għawdex) Area, the Sea on the NE of Malta.²⁵⁴

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES DEALING WITH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

4.1 Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit (TSDU)

The Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit (TSDU) structure is responsible for EU affairs relating to tourism, environment, sustainable development and policy development in these areas. The TSDU continues to offer guidance to the Malta Tourism Authority in EU related matters which cover both legislative proposals and funding opportunities. It also runs an EU co-financed scheme for sustainable tourism projects by enterprises, and acts as the focal point for the LIFE EU environment programme.²⁶

4.2 National bodies responsible for tourism, culture and environment

4.2.1 Malta Tourism Authority (MTA)

The Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) focusses on the creation and fostering of

relationships. The MTA is the tourism industry's regulator and motivator, its business partner, the country's brand promoter, and its remit is to form, maintain and manage meaningful partnerships with all tourism stakeholders. Therefore the MTA primarily talks to visitors and works closely with the stakeholders. Importantly, the MTA seeks to help strengthen the industry's human resources, ensure the highest standards and quality of Malta's tourism product, and foster relations with local and international media.

The Authority was formally set up by the Malta Travel and Tourism Service Act (1999). This clearly defines its role – extending it beyond that of international marketing to include a domestic, motivating, directional, and coordinating role.²⁷

4.2.2 Tourism and Economic Development Directorate – Ministry for Gozo

The Tourism and Economic Development Directorate (TEDD) was established in August 2010 and its remit comprises the promotion of Gozo as a distinct tourism destination reflecting the island's regional dimension. Its goal is to promote Gozo as an all year round tourism destination. The TEDD helps the Tourism Industry to take advantage of the various indigenous comparative strengths across the different seasons and to link across other local economies. An improvement in the areas of beach cleaning and public cleansing services is another goal, together with an on-going promotion and organization of cultural activities. Further, it aims to promote and enable investment and employment opportunities in Gozo.²⁸

4.2.3 Malta Council for Culture and the Arts (MCCA)

The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts (MCCA) was established to promote Maltese culture through all forms of creative expression, increase the accessibility of the public to the arts, and enhance Malta's cultural heritage locally and abroad. MCCA is the cultural advisor to Government and works on Cultural Policy and Strategies for the Arts, while also setting the scene for Malta's turn at being European Capital of Culture in 2018. MCCA administers the Malta Arts Fund (MAF), which provides a stimulus for investment in local artists and their work. The MAF contributes towards the strengthening of artistic practice and cultural development both in Malta and internationally.²⁹

4.2.4 The Cultural Contact Point

The Malta Cultural Contact Point provides step-by-step assistance to Maltese applicants under the Culture Programme. The Culture Programme (2007-2013) is the main EU financial tool to celebrate Europe's common cultural heritage through cooperation initiatives among organizations active in the field of culture.³⁰

4.2.5 The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)

MEPA is the national agency responsible for land use planning and environmental regulation. Established under the mandate of the Environment Protection Act (2001) and the Development Planning Act (1992) of the Laws of Malta, MEPA is also responsible for the implementation of around 200 Directives, Decisions and Regulations under the EU Environmental Acquis.³¹

4.3 National bodies and NGOs dealing with cultural and natural heritage

4.3.1 Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

The mission of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is to fulfil the duties of the State

in ensuring the protection and accessibility of Malta's cultural heritage. The Cultural Heritage Act 2002 has defined a new cultural heritage framework for Malta. The main objective of this framework is to ensure that Malta's cultural heritage is adequately protected, conserved and promoted. Members of staff include specialists in various aspects of cultural heritage, as well as assisting technical staff and administrative officers.³²

4.3.2 Heritage Malta

Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. Created by the Cultural Heritage Act which was enacted in 2002, the national agency replaced the former Museums Department. Originally Heritage Malta was entrusted with the management of museums, sites and their collections. However in 2005, the agency's responsibilities increased further when it took over the former Malta Centre for Restoration to also become the national agency responsible for conservation.³³

4.3.3 Cultural Heritage Fund

The Cultural Heritage Fund is a body corporate with a separate legal personality, which receives and manages monies paid to it under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act, as well as other assets that may be donated by non-governmental sources. These are used for research, conservation or restoration of cultural heritage. The Committee of Guarantee administers the Fund.³⁴

4.3.4 Din l-Art Helwa

Din l-Art Helwa, National Trust of Malta, is an NGO, founded in 1965 to safeguard the historic, artistic and natural heritage of Malta. Since its foundation, Din l-Art Helwa



The Grand Harbour

has preserved, conserved, restored and managed numerous cultural sites of immense historic and environmental importance, such as historic buildings, monuments, the character of towns and villages, places of natural beauty and the flora and fauna, especially in relation to the problems arising from modern urban development.³⁵

4.3.5 Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, the Malta Heritage Trust, is an NGO active in the field of heritage preservation. One of its principal objectives is to create awareness to encourage the better understanding and preservation of the cultural heritage of the Maltese islands. For this reason, over the years, FWA undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of various cultural properties.³⁶

4.3.6 Flimkien għal Ambjent Aħjar

Flimkien għal Ambjent Aħjar (FAA) is an NGO, committed to preserve Malta's and Gozo's architectural and rural heritage as well as to ensure a healthy quality of life. It is also an agent of social regeneration in less privileged areas.

4.4 National policies, laws and regulations about sustainable tourism

The main goals in the policy 2007-2011 documents were to re-invigorate the tourism industry and boost Malta's accessibility by improving the tourism product through securing more effective marketing efforts. The review of the VISA procedures, development of tourism zones, the reformation of the transport system and investment in opening up new routes, were all efforts to encourage the growth of the tourism industry. As a positive result of this, Malta's tourism industry has become more diverse, less seasonal and renders over a billion Euro in expenditure.

The goal for the Tourism Policy 2012-2016 is to ensure that tourism remains a driver for sustainable development. The country needs to continually adapt and be responsive to the changing nature of the tourism industry and sustain a competitive edge with a higher added value for tourism.³⁷

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The floor of the Roman Domus in Rabat, Malta



Palestine is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea and comprises two non-contiguous areas, Gaza and the West Bank. While Gaza lies on the Mediterranean, the West Bank is entirely landlocked. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with an estimated population of 1.5 million. The West Bank lies west of Jordan and is bordered by Israel to the north, west and south. It has an estimated population of 2.5 million. East Jerusalem remains under Israeli administration, and the Palestinian Authority (PA) is denied any access.

In 1994, the PA was established with a state-like apparatus of executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It constitutes a transitional body until the peace process is concluded and a Palestinian state is declared. Due to its status and to the continuous intrusions by the state of Israel, the PA has only limited autonomy and lacks the capacity and resources to act as a proper government. Its legal and political jurisdiction is fragmented within the Palestinian Territory, due to the geographical and political divide between Gaza controlled by Hamas political movement, and the West Bank controlled by Fatah political movement.

Palestine has considerable economic potential, but the conflict with Israel for over 50 years has severely constrained its development. The period following the Oslo Accords brought relative peace and prosperity. But these did not last; a cycle of violence and armed conflicts, and Israeli control and closures, has almost destroyed the Palestinian economy and led to a dramatic increase in poverty.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Palestine has a unique geographic location at the intersection of three continents; Africa, Asia and Europe. At present Palestinian territories are divided into two geographical areas: the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The total area of the West Bank covers 5,820 km² while the Gaza Strip extends on 365 km², which makes the total land area of Palestine about 6,245 km².

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The West Bank and Gaza Strip (Palestinian territories) though being two geographically separated areas, they are however geo-politically an integrated unit. The two territories border Israel from almost all directions except for the West Bank, which borders Jordan on the east and the Gaza Strip borders the Mediterranean Sea on the west and Egypt (the Sinai peninsula) on the South.

1.1 Topography

The West Bank has a varied topography consisting of central highlands – where most of the population lives – semi-arid rocky slopes, an arid rift valley and rich plains in the north and west. The West Bank is mostly composed of limestone hills that are between 700 to 900 m high. The lowest point of the area is the Dead Sea at 410 m below sea level, and the highest the Tall Asur at 1,022 m above sea level. In all, about 12 per cent of the land is desert, eroded or saline. Gaza is a narrow, low-lying stretch of sand dunes along the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It forms a foreshore plain that slopes gently up to an elevation of 90 m. (UNEP, 2003).





Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem



The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

1.2 Climate

The climate of Palestine as a whole, and the West Bank in particular, is of Mediterranean type, marked by a mild and rainy winter and a prolonged dry and hot summer.

2 THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 The Political Context

Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire until the end of the First World War, when it became part of the British Mandate in 1922. In November 1917, Sir Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, had stated Britain's support for the creation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. This opened the door to massive Jewish immigration to the territory, provoking opposition and resistance from the native Palestinian population. In 1947, unable to deal with the ongoing conflict, the British Government turned to the United Nations (UN), which proposed partitioning Palestine, with the larger part of the land going to the Jewish people. The Palestinians and the Arab states rejected this with the consequence that war ensued. As a result, 700,000 Palestinians fled their homes, most never to return. In 1948, Israel unilaterally proclaimed its independence in areas beyond the limits set by the partition plan. The West Bank was placed under the administration of Transjordan (now Jordan), and the Gaza Strip under the administration of Egypt. In July 1980, Israel declared Jerusalem the 'eternal and indivisible' capital of Israel, which was rejected by the UN Security Council. In the years that followed, Palestinians lived under military law characterized by violent repression, land confiscations for settlements, and the appropriation of water and other natural resources.

The first Intifada erupted in 1987 with mass civil disobedience, including strikes and demonstrations. In 1993, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel signed the Oslo accords. A Palestinian interim self-governing authority was created, the PA for a period not exceeding five years. During this time, Israeli forces were to be gradually withdrawn from parts of the West Bank and Gaza, and a permanent agreement on the 'final status issues' of water, refugees, borders, settlements and East Jerusalem was to be reached. The PA was granted full civil and security control of most of the Gaza Strip, whereas the West Bank was divided into three Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C'. East Jerusalem was excluded from the accords. Area A consists of approximately 17.2 per cent of the West Bank, divided into thirteen separate, non-contiguous areas, in which the vast majority of the Palestinian population live. The PA had responsibility for internal security and wide civil powers. Israeli checkpoints surround each of these areas. Area B is where the remainder of the Palestinian population live, and consists of 23.8 per cent of the West Bank. The PA had civil control over the area, but overall security control rested with Israel. Area C is under the total control of Israel, which consists of 59 per cent of the Occupied West Bank, and over which Israel has increased its hold. Israel has full security and civil responsibility over these areas.

The first legislative and presidential elections were held in 1996. Yasser Arafat was elected president of the PA and Fatah won the majority of seats in the first Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), a unicameral legislature of 132 members. It constitutes a transitional body until the peace process is concluded and a Palestinian state is declared. In September 2000, the second Intifada broke out, marked by high levels of violence. Israeli forces reinvaded the West Bank in 2002, resulting in heavy civilian casualties. Israel began constructing a wall barrier in the West Bank, ostensibly to make it more difficult for attackers to enter Israel, but also consolidating Israeli control over agricultural lands and water resources. In 2004, Yasser Arafat died and, a year later,

Israel withdrew from its illegal settlements in Gaza, albeit retaining effective control of the area.

In January 2006, parliamentary elections were held, with Hamas winning the majority of seats in the PLC. This provoked a funding and diplomatic boycott led by Israel and the international community. Violence broke out between Hamas and Fatah, with Hamas gaining full control of Gaza in June 2007. Israel declared Gaza a 'hostile entity' in September 2007 and imposed a blockade characterized by severe restrictions on the entry of goods, and the virtual halt of export and the movement of people in and out of the territory. Gaza has also seen regular Israeli military incursions and several large-scale offensives since 2005. Currently, President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad head the executive, along with the Cabinet. Due to the conflict between Hamas and Fatah and the arrest of many of its representatives by Israel, however, the PLC has not met for five years. Meanwhile, Hamas in Gaza governs a duplicate PA structure led by Ismail Hanieh as prime minister. While a reconciliation deal calling for new elections in 2011 was signed between Hamas and Fatah, little progress has been made at implementing the deal. The PA has only limited autonomy and lacks the capacity and resources to act as a proper government. Its legal and political jurisdiction is fragmented, due to the geographical and political divide between Gaza and the West Bank, the distinct levels of control afforded to Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C', and the fact that East Jerusalem is under the de facto administration of Israel, with the PA denied nearly all access.

2.2 The Economic Context

The Paris Protocol formalised the Palestinian-Israeli economic relationship. Israel kept control of the levers of the Palestinian economy: control of borders and ports of entry; power of veto over certain imports; regulation of the movement of labour; and the ability to withhold disbursement of taxes due to the PA. The strength of the Israeli economy led to its total domination in conditions of open market between the two economies. After Oslo and before the renewal of the conflict, Palestine imported from Israel four times as much as it exported to Israel. Israel set restrictions on the type of product that could be imported. The customs union with Israel and the dependency on remittances from Palestinians working in Israel, coupled with the lack of control of the PA's borders and, with it, trade, has made the Palestinian economy vulnerable to Israeli constraints, for example the withholding of tax revenues, collected by Israel on the PA's behalf. The driving forces of the Palestinian economy are services, agriculture, and industry; 12 per cent of the population in Gaza works in agriculture, 5 per cent in industry, and 83 per cent in services. In the West Bank, 5 per cent of the population works in agriculture, 14 per cent in industry, and 81 per cent in services. The industrial sector is primarily based on textiles and food processing. In turn, the agricultural sector produces olives, fruit, vegetables, flowers, beef and dairy products. Nonetheless, the sectors of industry, agriculture and tourism are underdeveloped, and cannot be fully exploited due to Israel's restrictions on land and natural resources.

The collapse of the Palestinian economy has been the major cause of Palestinian suffering. Only donor support has prevented a humanitarian disaster. The closures, which have largely been responsible for economic collapse, have been justified as security measures, but in reality they have been a mechanism to put pressure on the Palestinians by crippling the economy. If Israel's objective were the complete strangulation of the Palestinian economy it could be achieved. But Israel seems to have adopted a calibrated approach, using the Palestinian economy as a lever through which it can exert pressure on the Palestinians.



Nablus

The economy of Palestine deteriorated precipitously after the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000. The downturn was largely due to Israeli restrictions on the movement and access of people and goods through physical obstacles such as checkpoints, gates, and roadblocks. The construction of the Wall in the West Bank has led to a significant economic loss, including the loss of Palestinian land, the destruction of key agricultural assets including water resources, and a lack of access by farmers to their land and natural resources. The blockade of Gaza, since the June 2007 Hamas takeover, has led to food, power and water shortages, the degradation of public infrastructure and utilities, and a general decline in the quality of vital public services. Territorial fragmentation, dependence on foreign aid and the lack of access to natural and economic resources are all factors that contribute to the low performance of the Palestinian economy.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 Major ecosystems

The ecosystem in the West Bank, which has scarcely changed during the last million years, is divided into four longitudinal belts, namely Semi Coast, Central Highlands, Eastern Slopes, and Jordan Valley. These belts are well marked by differences in geomorphologic features, climatic and soil conditions, and plant life. The main ecosystem of Gaza Strip, on the other hand, is the Coastal plain (Ghattas *et al.* 2006).

Palestine, as part of the Eastern Mediterranean region is rich in environmental heritage. It is the meeting ground for plant species originating from wide-flung world regions, as far apart as Western Europe, Central Asia and Eastern Africa. It is characterized by a large variety of wildlife resources and represents a rich base of flora and fauna where the natural biota comprises an estimated 2,483 species of plants, 470 species of birds, 95 species of mammals, seven species of amphibians, and 93 species of reptile that inhabit Palestine (Ghattas *et al.* 2006).

3.2 Natural parks and reserves

There are 36 nature reserves in the West Bank designated by Israel, 83 per cent of which lie in the area classified as C, where total control continues to be under the Israeli occupation. Only 9 per cent of the nature reserves are located in area A, which was handed over to the Palestinians. The area of the nature reserves in area A constitutes only 10 per cent of the total area designated as nature reserves in the West Bank. In these areas, the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture manages the reserves. The following map and table show the distribution of nature reserves in the West Bank.¹

3.1.1 Nature Reserves and the Segregation Wall

The Segregation Wall is imposing extra stress on the status and management of the nature reserves. The Wall is causing degradation to the water, agricultural and natural resources and biodiversity in the West Bank including: water resources, natural pasture land, forests, nature reserves and the agricultural areas, thus endangering the sustainability of the natural resources in the West Bank. The Segregation Wall, being constructed at the western part of the West Bank, is creating a segregation zone to the west of it, a zone restricted to the Palestinians who own these lands, unless they obtain special permits from the Israelis (which are very hard to obtain). The Israelis are maintaining another segregation zone at the eastern part of the West Bank, parallel to Jordan River and the western shores of the Dead Sea, but without physical barriers. The segregation is maintained by blocking the Palestinian movement to the zone by imposing checkpoints and road barriers. More than 23 nature reserves are included in the Israeli Segregation Zones (Eastern and Western). The area of nature reserves that are isolated between the western Segregation Wall and the Green line is approximately 32.2 km², while the area of the nature reserves located in the eastern segregation zone is 376.6 km². Thus, the total area of the nature reserves segregated constitutes 71 per cent of the area of the nature reserves in the West Bank. This action will threaten the existence of the unique flora and fauna by confining several species to isolated habitats and reducing the population size below the minimum viable population.²

There are no nature reserves designated by Israel in Gaza, but the Palestinian Authority established the Wadi Gaza nature reserve in June 2000. Wadi Gaza was mentioned earlier in the context of protected areas in the Palestinian Territories, notably as an area only recently designated for protection status by the Palestinian Authority. Although Wadi Gaza, by that name, only traverses seven kilometres of the Gaza Strip, it is part of a large catchment that reaches to the Hebron (Al Khalil) Mountains, and covers 3,500 km² of the Negev Desert. Historically, the *wadi* (valley) is reputed to have been an area rich in biodiversity, and it is still important as a stopover point for birds on the Africa-Eurasia migratory route. However, its most recent status is that of a wasteland, and as an effluent channel for the raw sewage from refugee camps adjacent to the watercourse, estimated at 6,000- 8,000 m³ per day (Anon, 2002). On the Israeli side, the wadi reportedly has a weir or levee across it that prevents most of the natural water flow from reaching Gaza, although flooding occurs during high winter rainfall events. The Coastal and Marine Environmental Action Plan recommended the permanent opening of the mouth of the Wadi Gaza to alleviate shoreline stability problems and to revitalize the wadi as a natural system. The channel has been opened and, during the UNEP mission, water was flowing to the sea. These and other activities have been supported by projects implemented by the United Nations Development Programme under the name of Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/ PAPP). The largest is the 'Emergency Employment Generation Programme (EEGP)

¹ www.poica.org

² www.poica.org

on the Development of the Wadi Gaza' with funds of US\$ 3.8 million provided by the Global Environment Facility and USAID, and in collaboration with the 'MedWet' Initiative of the Ramsar Convention (GMCG, 2002). The project is highly ambitious in scope. It aims to rehabilitate the Wadi Gaza to re-establish its biodiversity values, protect and promote archaeological sites, develop recreational and tourist activities, and deliver socio-economic benefits to the 10,000 people living adjacent to the wadi in Bedouin settlements, refugee camps and in the town of Al Zahra. However, 'on-the-ground' progress to date appears to be limited. The Wadi Gaza does indeed have great potential as an intensively managed, semi-natural landscape feature, but unless current project activities can address urgent issues more adequately, environmental quality will continue to decline. While the Wadi Gaza project has an important role in the short-term generation of local income alone, it will not solve the key issues that are causing the degradation (UNEP, 2003).

Increasing human population and the need for economic development mean that semi-natural landscapes are under significant pressure, regardless of the additional impacts of continuous conflict. Such pressure increases the significance of protected areas but also increases the risk that such sites will become ecological 'islands' or 'museums', isolated from surrounding fragmented and degraded areas. Furthermore, in many cases, the protected areas established thus far are too small to maintain their ecological integrity and long-term viability (UNEP, 2003).

3.3 Palestine UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

Despite its small size, Palestine has an abundance of historical, religious and cultural heritage sites. Every inch of this land has a story to tell, every hill the scene of a battle, and every stone a monument or a tomb. One cannot understand the geography of Palestine without knowing its history and one cannot understand its history without understanding its geography.



Church at Shepherds Fields, Bethlehem

The West Bank and Gaza are rich in historical, cultural, and religious sites and contain a number of extraordinary geological features, the majority of which remain unexploited. UNESCO has identified twenty outstanding sites that reflect this rich heritage; sixteen sites are located in the West Bank and four in Gaza. However, Palestinians have not been able to translate this resource into a competitive tourism sector.

On 31st October 2011, the General Conference of UNESCO voted to admit Palestine as the Organization's 195th member. The Palestinian flag was raised for the first time at the Paris Headquarters in December at a ceremony attended by PA President Mahmoud Abbas.

From a purely tourism perspective, this will give Palestinians the right to nominate key historic or ancient sites for inclusion on the world heritage register. Recently, a campaign has been launched to place the city of Bethlehem on the World Heritage List, seeking to protect and preserve the area's landmarks. In parallel, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is working on the preparation of another nomination file for Hebron, which was to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2012.³

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National Bodies Dealing with Sustainable Tourism

The Palestinian Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (DACH) has been in existence since August 1994. The inauguration of the DACH, under the Palestinian National Authority, was a momentous event and represents the revival of the Department of Antiquities established in 1920 under the British Mandate and terminated with the political events of 1948, when Israel was established. Subsequently, Jordan assumed those responsibilities for the West Bank, and Egypt for the Gaza strip. When the DACH was established it possessed no archaeological records or finds from excavations undertaken previously.

Moreover, because of inadequate opportunities for field training, the Department inherited a serious shortage of qualified personnel. The new situation gives Palestinians an independent role to explore the history of Palestine from its primary material sources, a task reserved until recently for foreign archaeologists. This situation had often led to the political and ideological use of this material and interpretation without objective scientific controls.

The establishment of the DACH marks the beginning of the local field school of archaeology. The perspective on which the Department is basing its efforts in research, education, preservation, and legislation is basically that of contemporary, internationally accepted, standards. It is the modern humanistic understanding that views the integral role of Palestinian culture within Archaeology in Palestine's human culture, making archaeology in Palestine a scientific enterprise within the setting of international scientific endeavour. The old antiquities law of 1929 was grounded in the conventional concept of archaeology.

4.2 National Bodies Dealing with Human and Natural Heritage

After the peace treaty with Israel, the Palestinian Authority started to address the issue of heritage conservation. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) launched an Emergency Natural Resources Protection Plan through which endangered cultural heritage sites in the West Bank began to be inventoried. The objective is to protect and conserve such sites during future massive development in

³ www.travelpalestine.files.wordpress.com



Gaza City

the West Bank and Gaza (Barakar and Daher 2000).

The Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is responsible for the protection and management of the cultural heritage tourism sites. The responsibility for environmental management is shared by several authorities, ministries and municipalities as well as by the private sector in the Palestinian territories. Until May 1995, the Israeli Administration held all environmental responsibilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They were administered through the Environmental Health Department under the Israeli Ministry of Health and limited mainly to inspections. In October 1994, an Environmental Planning Directorate (EPD) was established in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) to handle environmental protection matters in terms of planning, management and implementation. In December 1996, a Palestinian Environmental Authority (PEA) was established and the EPD mandate and responsibilities were transferred to it. In December 1998, a Minister of State for Environmental Affairs was appointed by Presidential Decree No. 2. As a result of administrative reforms, Presidential Decree No. 6 in June 2002 established the Environmental Quality Authority as the successor to the Ministry of Environmental Affairs. The Environmental Quality Authority has its own budget and is responsible to the Cabinet of Ministers. All the functions, responsibilities and authorities of the former ministry were thus transferred to the Environmental Quality Authority including all property and employees. Although there continues to be no overall written mandate for the Environmental Quality Authority, its primary responsibilities are clearly set out in the Palestinian Environmental Strategy and the Palestinian Environmental Law (AbouAuda and Shahin 2005).

In addition to the EQA, many other ministries and authorities, as well as one

international organization, have environment-related tasks. Among those there are:

- The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Higher Planning Council are responsible for land use and planning, and hence development of emergency natural resources protection plans and regional development plans;
- The Ministry of Local Government deals with solid waste management and is therefore involved in the operation and financing of solid waste collection and disposal. Municipalities and village councils focus on collection, transport and disposal of municipal wastes. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), on the other hand, is responsible for these services in the refugee camps;
- The Ministry of Health, via its Department of Environmental Health, is involved in the control and management of medical waste. It is also involved in management of water and food quality, wastewater and solid waste, pest control, etc;
- The Ministry of Industry is concerned with hazardous waste and industrial pollution control and management, environmental standards, natural resources and industrial safety and zoning;
- The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for environmental management in the use of agrochemicals and protection of nature and biodiversity;
- The Ministry of the Environment is involved in environmental law enforcement;
- The Ministry of Transport is concerned with environmental aspects of traffic and infrastructure;
- The Ministry of Education also has a specific role through environmental education and awareness building. In addition there are several authorities with environment-related mandates and functions. These include the Palestinian Water Authority, and the Palestinian Energy Authority;
- There are also numerous environment-related NGOs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, many of which have played an important role in contributing information and experience to the preparation and review of laws and decision-making processes.

4.3 Tourism in Palestine: Strategy and Challenges

Throughout its turbulent history, the Palestinian tourism industry has been facing many obstacles and hurdles that hindered its growth and development. Since the Israeli occupation of 1967, the Israeli tourism industry has flourished, in many cases through the exploitation of Palestinian sites, while the Palestinian sector has been faced with unfair competition and an oppressive military occupation. Nevertheless, between 1994 and 2000, an estimated USD 700 million was invested into the sector to develop infrastructure (hotels, restaurants etc.) and preserve heritage sites across Palestine. Following a near-collapse of the industry during the second intifada (2000-2005), the sector gradually recovered, again demonstrating the resilience of the private sector through an influx of fresh investment.

Despite the proactive investment in tourism across Palestine, the sector remains strangled by the loss of land, lack of control over borders and restrictions on movement. These obstacles make long term planning impossible. More than simply marginalizing the Palestinian tourist industry, Israeli colonization policies, including the illegal Wall and settlement regime, have all but completely severed the Holy and historic cities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem from one another

The strategic Pillars of the Palestinian National Tourism Strategy are:

Pillar I: Product / Offer Development

Pillar II: Policy Reform and Industry Regulations

Pillar III: Private Sector Support and Capacity Building

Pillar IV: Marketing and Promotion: *Palestine as a tourism destination*

The main Challenges Facing the Palestinian Tourism industry are:

- Restriction of movement
- Limited control over tourism resources
- Sizeable leakages of tourism revenues
- High unemployment and 'brain drain'
- The Christians of the Holy Land as a disappearing community

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Portugal is located in southwestern Europe, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and Spain. The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were the golden age of Portugal, during which Portuguese navigators explored the globe and founded colonies in South America, Africa, and the Far East. Portugal lost much of its wealth and status with the destruction of Lisbon in the earthquake of 1755, its occupation during the Napoleonic Wars and the independence of its wealthiest colony, Brazil, in 1822. The revolution of 1910 deposed the monarchy, and for most of the next six decades, repressive governments ran the country. Portugal moved from authoritarian rule to parliamentary democracy following the 1974 military coup that overthrew Marcelo Caetano, the successor of the long-running dictatorship of Antonio Salazar. During the next two years, almost all Portuguese colonies gained independence. Portugal joined the European Community (now the European Union) in 1986 and has since moved toward greater political and economic integration with Europe. It adopted the euro as its national currency in 2002.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Land

Portugal is a coastal nation located at the western end of the Iberian Peninsula, bordering Spain on its northern and eastern frontiers: a total of 1,214 km (754 mls). Portuguese territory also includes a series of archipelagoes in the Atlantic Ocean (the Azores and Madeira), which are strategic islands along the western sea approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea. In total, the country occupies an area of 92,090 km² (35,560 sq mls) of which 91,470 km² (35,320 sq mls) is land and 620 km² (240 sq mls) water.

1.2 Rivers

Three large rivers cross the country, the Minho, the Douro and the Tejo, all originating in Spain and empty into the Atlantic. These rivers therefore divide the country into three geographic areas. The Minho River, part of the northern boundary, cuts through a mountainous area that extends south close to the Douro River. South of the Douro, the mountains slope towards the plains around the Tejo River. The third division is the southern one, that of Alentejo.

1.3 Islands

The Azores stretch over 547 km (340 mls) in the Atlantic and consist of nine islands with a total area of 2,335 km² (902 sq mls). Madeira, consisting of two inhabited islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, and two groups of uninhabited islands, lie in the Atlantic about 861 km (535 mls) southwest of Lisbon.

1.4 Climate

Most of Portugal has a Mediterranean climate according to the Köppen climate classification: Csa in the area south of Tagus River, inland of the Douro Valley in the north and at Madeira Islands. The Csb pattern can be found north of Tagus River, Costa Vicentina in coastal southern Portugal, and the eastern group of the Azores islands. Most of the Azores have an Oceanic climate or Cfb, while a small region in inland Alentejo has Bsk or semi-arid climate. The Savage Islands, belonging to the Madeira archipelago, also have an arid climate with an annual average rainfall of around 150 mm (5.9 in). The sea surface temperatures in these archipelagos vary from 16-18 °C



(60.8-64.4 °F) in winter to 23-24 °C (73.4-75.2 °F) in the summer, occasionally reaching 26 °C (78.8 °F).

The annual average temperature in mainland Portugal varies from 12-13 °C (53.6-55.4 °F) in the mountainous interior in the north to 17-18 °C (62.6-64.4 °F) in the south (in general the south is warmer and drier than the north). The Madeira and Azores archipelagos have a narrower temperature range with the annual average temperature sometimes exceeding 20 °C (68 °F) in the south coast of Madeira Island.

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL CONTEXT

Portugal's membership in the European Union (EU) contributed to stable economic growth, largely through increased trade and inflow of EU funds for infrastructural improvements. Until 2001, average annual growth rates consistently exceeded those of the EU average. Due to slow economic growth, Portugal has lost ground relative to the rest of the EU since 2002. Portugal's per capita GDP dropped from 80 per cent of the EU-25 average in 2001 to 71 per cent in 2006, causing the country to drop three places, to the eighteenth position, in purchasing power parity, behind Greece, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia.

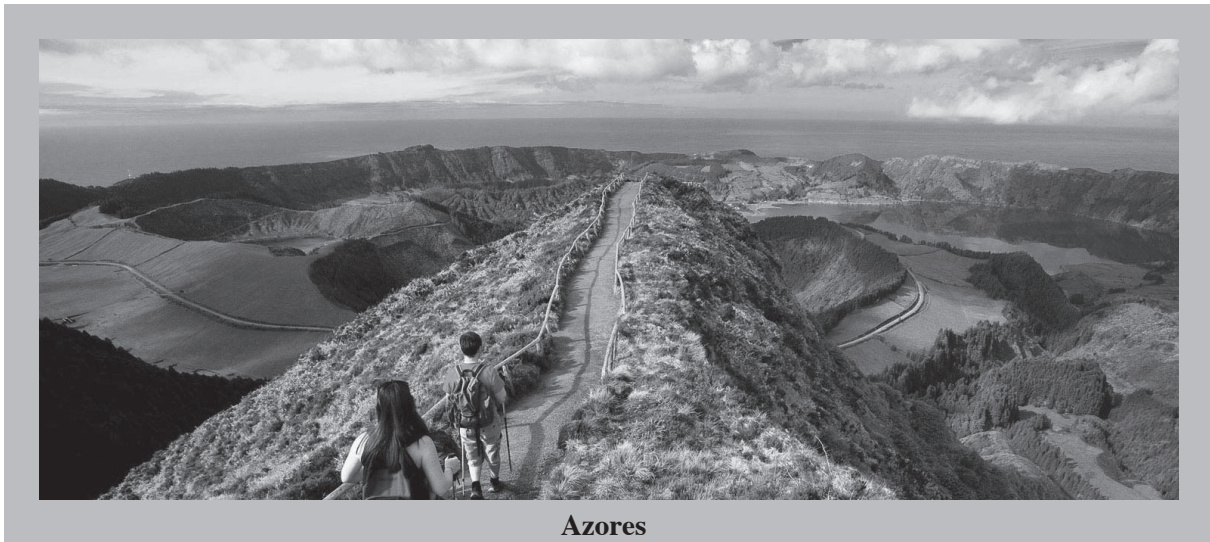
Portugal's economy is based on traditional industries, such as textiles, clothing, footwear, cork and wood products, beverages (wine), porcelain, earthenware, glass and glassware. Portugal is also a very export-dependent economy. The most important export products include agricultural products, textiles, shoes, cars, timber, cork, chemicals, minerals and rubber and plastic products. The leading export target countries in 2009 were Spain, Germany, France, Angola and Great Britain. Historically, the country's imports have almost always exceeded its exports, and in 2010 its import was approximately 1.5 times larger than its export. The most important import products in 2009 were broadly the same as the export products. The essential import countries were Spain, Germany, France, Italy and Holland. In addition, the country has increased its role in Europe's automotive sector and has a world-class mold-making industry. Services, particularly tourism, are playing an increasingly important role. Portugal's EU funding was cut by 10 per cent, to 22.5 billion Euros, during the 2007-2013 period. EU expansion into Eastern Europe has erased Portugal's historic competitive advantage and relative low labour costs. The government is working to change Portugal's economic development model from one based on public consumption and public investment to one focused on exports, private investment, and development of the high-tech sector. There has been no bubble in the Portuguese housing market, although the prices of city apartments have risen during the past few years.

The state of Portugal was driven to a political crisis when the prime minister resigned on 24th March 2011, after the parliament had rejected the austerity measures suggested by the government. The political instability made the poor economic outlook even worse. After the resignation of the prime minister and the government, the rates of Portugal's loans rose record-high, and consequently the Portuguese state and its banks have been downgraded several levels by international rating agencies.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 Nature

In continental Portugal, there are over 3,000 species of vascular plants, around 400 species of vertebrates and an unknown number of invertebrates. In Madeira and the Azores, there are more than 1,700 unique endemic species.



Azores

3.1.1 Vertebrates

In 2005, the revision of the Red List of vertebrates was concluded for Portugal, in accordance with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) system for evaluation and classification of species. Of the evaluations conducted for the whole territory, 47 per cent were considered to be 'of least concern', 12 per cent were data deficient and 41 per cent were included in the remaining categories of threatened species. In Portugal there are nineteen vertebrate species considered regionally extinct – the sturgeon, the grizzly bear – and seventeen rare species of bird. In general, the main threats are human-induced habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation and the introduction of exotic species. Between 2002 and 2006, the Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ICNB) developed a LIFE nature project dedicated to the conservation of eight of the most endangered species of Portuguese flora. All the actions necessary to ensure the conservation of these species have also been incorporated into the Natura 2000 Sector Plan.

3.1.2 Forests

With regard to forests, 'Mediterranean' Portugal, south of the Mondego River, is dominated by broad-leaved forest, namely cork oak, Holm oak, stone pine and laurel, together with olive, fig and almond trees. 'Atlantic' Portugal, which is more similar to central Europe, is dominated by deciduous trees like the chestnut, the Portuguese oak, elm and ash. The eucalyptus, an exotic species which was introduced in the 1950s, is widespread all over the country. Due to its rapid growth, it is much in demand for the paper pulp industry, which is one of the main reasons for its rapid expansion.

Nature protected areas are regulated by Decree-Law 142/2008 (24th July 2008), and can be classified by the national authority, or even by public or private institutions. The applicant is analyzed by the Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (Nature and Forest Conservancy Institute), while regional or local classifications can be completed by municipalities or groups of municipalities, under the terms of Article 15.

The typical classifications that exist in Portugal are: national park, nature reserve, protected landscapes or natural monuments. Except for the national park designation, local or regional classifications can adopt whichever designation is appropriate, as long as they are accompanied by the 'regional' or "local" qualifiers ("regional" when they involve more than one municipality and "local" when they only include one

local authority. Decree-Law 142/2008 (24th July 2008), also allows for the creation of *Áreas Protegidas de estatuto privado* (APP) (Private Protected Areas), based on the application of respective property-owners. A proposing candidate is governed by the ICNF, and regulated by ordinance 1181/2009 (7th October 2009). National protected areas (APs) and Private protected areas automatically pertain to the Rede Nacional de *Áreas Protegidas* (National Network of Protected Areas); in the case of regional or local APs, their integration within this network are dependent on the evaluation of the national authority.

Scattered across the country, are various areas defined due to their European ecological interest, and have been classified within the context of the Natura 2000 network. Meanwhile, other areas fall within international nature conservation networks, such as Biogenetic Reserves (Council of Europe), Ramsar Sites (Ramsar Convention), Biosphere Reserves (MAB/UNESCO) and sites covered by the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO).

Areas classified as national parks encompass regions that represent natural regional characteristics that demonstrate a biodiversity of natural and human landscapes, as well as geo-sites with scientific, ecological or educational value. The classification of an area as a national park is influenced by the region's natural value, conserving the ecological integrity of the ecosystem, its constituent elements and ecological processes within that territory, and prevents intensive exploitation by adopting compatible measures for the region's conservancy.

3.2 Monumental Heritage

Although there are numerous monuments from various periods which are regarded as monumental heritage, some would have a special value due to their historical, architectural, artistic and cultural importance. These monuments are classified and protected by the Instituto de Gestão do Património Arquitectónico e Arqueológico (IGESPAR) (Institute for the Management of Architectural and Archaeological Heritage), which classifies national treasures in terms of several general criteria: historic and cultural, aesthetic and social, technical and scientific, but also includes issues of integrity, authenticity and exemplary importance.

Owing to its relative value and importance, the cultural property may be listed as or national, public or municipal interest. In addition, these definitions are also defined in terms of being monuments, groups of buildings or sites, based on existing international conventions. IGESPAR regularly proposes the listing of new assets based on its mission to safeguard national heritage. As time goes by, a wide variety of new buildings and groups of structures of varying typologies have been added to the national register of monuments, such as modernist architecture, vernacular landscapes, archaeological sites, monastic buildings/structures, historical gardens, and more recently human-built business and industrial establishments.

The listing process follows a strict procedure defined by Decree-Law no. 309/2009 (23rd October 2009), which entered into force in January 2010.

IGESPAR also monitors and participates in the UNESCO registry of World Heritage Sites as a member state: there are thirteen UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the territory of Portugal. Similarly, eleven assets in the UNESCO world heritage list of 878 sites were former Portuguese possessions at one time, spread across three continents (Africa, America and Asia) associated with the period of Portuguese Discoveries.



Torre Belém, Lisbon

Some of the most important UNESCO sites in Portugal are:

3.2.1 Mosteiro dos Jerónimos

This monument started out as a small and simple chapel, where sailors used to pray upon their departure and their return home from their travels. But fate, and history, would change it into something of a different order altogether.

3.2.2 Torre de Belém

It is not only true that this monument was built in the fifteenth century, on the Tagus River, in order to protect Lisbon, it is also true that at that time the Portuguese were already citizens of the world. History tells us that in 1514 King Modofar, who ruled over Diu in India, denied the request made by Afonso de Albuquerque, the governor of Portuguese India, to build a fortress in his territory.

3.2.3 Mosteiro da Batalha

The profusely ornate Monastery of Batalha is a vast building that comprises a church in the shape of a Latin cross, with three naves and five apsidal chapels, as well as the abbey's rooms, bedrooms, cloisters and what became known as the Unfinished Chapels, because they remain unfinished to this day. There are also spaces to store food, a library, a registry, and a pharmacy or infirmary.

3.2.4 Convento de Cristo

It's imposing presence can be viewed from the entire surrounding area. When the order was suppressed in the rest of Europe, it converted to the Order of the Knights of Christ in Portugal and would become pivotal for Prince Henry the Navigator in providing support for his voyages of exploration in Africa and the Atlantic.

3.2.5 Mosteiro de Alcobaça

King Afonso Henriques gave Bernard of Clairvaux 44,000 hectares of land to build a Cistercian abbey, to commemorate his victory in the Battle of Santarém against the Moors.

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES

Over the last years the economic crisis was the predominant challenge of Portugal. Looking beyond the crisis, the main sustainability issues facing Portuguese tourism are the sector's traditional challenges.

4.1 Seasonality

Seasonality is a core issue. Portuguese tourism continues to be highly seasonal, primarily concentrated during the summer holidays – but the infrastructures of tourism agencies, hotels, tourism entertainment companies, amongst others, are maintained throughout the year. The main challenge is to design sustainable strategies in order to foster an all-year-round demand for the offer. The Portuguese tourism offer goes well beyond the 'sun and beach' product, although this continues to be a prime source of tourism demand in Portugal. Growth and improvement of other products, such as *City Breaks* and Nature Tourism, are vital in order to enable different operators to maximize revenue from their infrastructures and allow Portuguese people to become more acquainted with their own country and thus contribute to more harmonious development.

4.2 Rising level of professionalism

Another aspect to be emphasized, is the sector's rising level of professionalism. It is important that Portugal continues the work for increasing its professionalism in various fields. Specialist areas provide a specific contribution to the Portuguese tourism industry. A rising number of specialist companies, in various fields, are required in the sector. It is also important that the tourism sector seeks assistance from such specialists, to become more efficient and use the country's natural potential on a sustainable basis. It is expected that the sector will be increasingly proactive and effective in its effort to attract clients for the overall tourism offer.

4.3 Climate change

It has also to consider the question of climate change that is now an integral part of our agenda. The annual cycle is becoming less and less predictable, as demonstrated by the high rainfall levels in 2010, and it is now subject to more irregular and adverse meteorological conditions. The tourism sector must be prepared for the ensuing circumstances and ensure flexibility in this field.

4.4 Changing demand patterns

Demand patterns may alter – causing widespread consequences for the sector. There is a justified need to diversify the Portuguese tourism product, to improve quality

and to increase *know-how* in the provision of services, all in order to adjust to new requirements.

Above all it must continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring that strategic priorities are reflected in the incentive systems. Public money should be plied in conformity with the Government's strategic priorities. The sector is clearly defined and has its own specificities and should have an incentive system which is coherent with the underlying strategic plan. It cannot apply transversal rules from general industry and commerce to the tourism sector. The main strategic priorities of tourism should be safeguarded and concretized within the Tourism 2015 - Competitiveness and Technology Pole.

4.5 Key priorities

Over the last years Turismo de Portugal has earned the respect of various economic agents, not only due to its scale and economic capacity, but also due to its intervention capacity. Turismo de Portugal has been asked to coordinate specific policies and place its seal of approval on codes of good practices, thus standing at the forefront of new measures and ensuring that the sector advances towards a higher level of achievement in various sustainability fields. Turismo de Portugal is fully integrated within the tourism trade, but has the obligation to act as a leader and promote good practices, using a language that can easily be understood by the sector's operators and professionals.

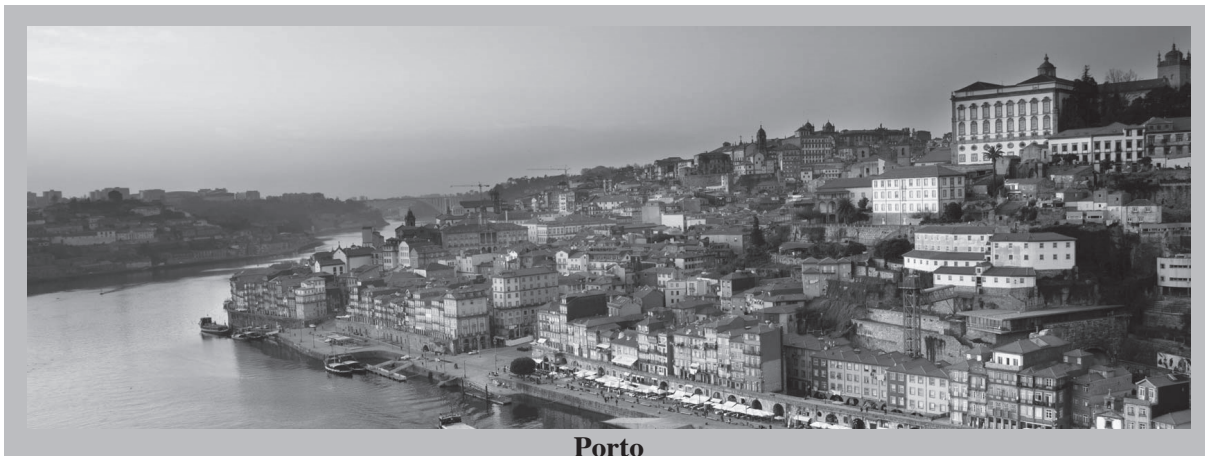
4.6 Protected areas

Over twenty per cent of the Portuguese national territory is classified as protected areas. It is important to ensure that Portuguese people and foreign visitors, especially Spanish tourists, discover these zones. It is important that people understand that it is well worth visiting Portugal for its natural parks and protected areas, amongst others. Turismo de Portugal is working intensely with the Institute of Nature Conservation and Bio-diversity, which has demonstrated growing interest in creating new reasons for visiting protected areas.

4.7 Enhancement of natural heritage

Protected areas are not always viewed as beneficial by local population, who often view them as an obstacle, preventing locals from reaping the benefits that would otherwise be available. Indeed, both historically and globally, conservation interests and use of natural heritage have always been uneasy bedfellows.

The gradual abandonment of conservation protected areas is therefore one of the



main challenges faced by Turismo de Portugal which, together with the ICNB, has reinforced its commitment to investment and maintenance in these zones: signposting of footpaths, safety (control of canines), cleaning and infrastructures. The range of support structures includes interpretation centers that enable tourists to become familiar with the protected zone without necessarily having to enter, thereby avoiding mass access to sensitive areas.

A series of initiatives undertaken by the private sector and associations have also been implemented in Portugal, aimed at enhancing natural heritage sites, including the Geoparque Arouca Association. This association has made it possible to enhance the natural heritage of the Serra da Freita zone, attracting tourism and fostering the creation of small local companies. This park has a valuable and inventoried Geological Heritage, covering a total of 41 geo-sites. It houses important archaeological, ecological and historical features, forming a high-quality tourist attraction, based on the natural and cultural values of the site.

4.8 Territorial management and planning

Unconstrained construction growth may undermine a region's identity and make it less attractive for tourism. The main impacts of such growth include risks associated to water drainage in soils, which may have major consequences in extreme climatic situations. Territorial management plans have served as an essential tool for development of new projects, in order to guarantee that tourism infrastructures grow in an orderly way within a framework of sustainability.

4.9 Biodiversity impact reduction

The different tourism products depend on existing natural landscapes and biodiversity. However excessive exploitation of such resources or destruction of the habitats of certain species may lead to their extinction. The sector has made a firm commitment to nature tourism, intimately connected to biodiversity, in an attempt to attenuate the burden of tourism accommodation capacity in special protection zones, due to excess consumption of resources, and also limit the construction of new infrastructures and other pressure on vegetation, fauna, flora, mountain and marine environments. With the new legislation being implemented, the concept of 'Nature Tourism' has been redefined. The Institute of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ICNB) and the Code of Conduct (to be adopted by recognized companies and operators) have also published additional legislation, which defines the conditions for recognition of nature tourism real-estate developments.

4.10 Fostering local development and managing impact on local communities

The tourism trade is a powerful tool for local economic development, creating jobs and stimulating the business community. As with any other activity, it has an impact on the quality of life of local communities. Tourism fosters the sharing of ideas, promotes enhancement of traditional products and generates revenues that can then be invested in the improvement of infrastructures, conservation of cultural and historical heritage and general improvement of the quality of life for the local population.

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Spain is located at the crossroads of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, Europe and Africa. Its history and culture include a rich mix of diverse elements. Through exploration and conquest, Spain became a world power in the 16th century, and it maintained a vast overseas empire until the early 19th century. Spain's modern history is marked by the bitterly fought Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, and the ensuing 36-year dictatorship of General Francisco Franco. After Franco's death in 1975, Spain made the transition to a democratic state and built a successful economy, with King Juan Carlos as head of state.

The constitution of 1978 enshrines respect for linguistic and cultural diversity within a united Spain. The country is divided into 17 regions which all have their own directly elected authorities. The level of autonomy afforded to each region is far from uniform. For example, Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia have special status with their own language and other rights.

The recession of the first decades of the 21st century prompted secessionist sentiment in Catalonia. Spain was hit hard in the 2008 to 2009 global economic crises, and had to undertake painful austerity measures.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Most of Spain's area is located in south-western Europe with the mainland of the country being south of France and the Pyrenees Mountains and east of Portugal. However it also has territory in Morocco, the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, islands off the coast of Morocco as well as the Canary Islands in the Atlantic and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. All of this land area makes Spain the second largest country in Europe behind France.

Most of the topography of Spain consists of flat plains that are surrounded by rugged, undeveloped hills. The northern part of the country however is dominated by the Pyrenees Mountains. The highest point in Spain is located in the Canary Islands with Pico de Teide at 3,718 m (12,198 feet).

Peninsular Spain experiences three climatic types: continental, maritime, and Mediterranean. The locally generated continental climate covers the majority of peninsular Spain, influencing the Meseta Central, the adjoining mountains to the east and the south, and the Ebro Basin. A continental climate is characterized by wide diurnal and seasonal variations in temperature and by low, irregular rainfall with high rates of evaporation that leave the land arid. Annual rainfall generally is 30 to 64 cm; most of the Meseta region receives about 50 cm. The northern Meseta, the Sistema Central, and the Ebro Basin have two rainy seasons, one in spring (April-June) and the other in autumn (October/November), with late spring being the wettest time of the year. In the southern Meseta, also, the wet seasons are spring and autumn, but the spring one is earlier (March), and autumn is the wetter season. Even during the wet seasons, rain is irregular and unreliable. Continental winters are cold, with strong winds and high humidity, despite the low precipitation. Except for mountain areas, the northern foothills of the Sistema Iberico are the coldest area, and frost is common. Summers are warm and cloudless, producing average daytime temperatures that reach 21° C in the northern Meseta and 24° to 27° C in the southern Meseta; nighttime temperatures range from 7° to 10° C. The Ebro Basin, at a lower altitude, is extremely



hot during the summer, and temperatures can exceed 43° C. Summer's humidity is low in the Meseta Central and in the Ebro Basin, except right along the shores of the Rio Ebro where humidity is high.

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL CONTEXT

Spain's economic freedom score is 67.2, making its economy the 49th freest in the 2014 Index. Its score was 0.8 point lower than previous year due to decline in the management of government spending, business freedom, and labour freedom that outweighed small improvements in trade freedom and freedom from corruption. Spain was ranked 22nd out of 43 countries in the Europe region.

The burst of a housing-market bubble in 2008 meant that the global economic crisis hit Spain hard. Actions taken by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, then in power, made the economic situation worse. The conservative Popular Party, won the November 2011 election and introduced the largest budget deficit-reduction plan in Spain's history. Good progress was made toward the EU standard of 3 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product), although the targets were not reached. In 2012, Spain received a €41 billion loan from the EU to bail out its banking sector. Because of high unemployment, emigration is also a long-term problem. In 2013, Spain appeared to have pulled out of its double-dip recession, but growth remained low. Spain's steadily increasing unemployment rate stood at 27 per cent, and youth unemployment stood at an estimated 55 per cent in the first years of the 2000s.

The top individual income tax rate is 52 per cent, and the top corporate tax rate is 30 per cent. Other taxes include a value-added tax (VAT) and a capital gains tax. The overall tax burden amounts to 31.6 per cent of the domestic economy. Public expenditures are 45 per cent of gross domestic income. Government debt reached over 80 per cent of GDP. Public finances continued to feel pressure from the bailouts of the financial sector and high unemployment.

There are also tensions among regions and the central government. Andalucia, Navarre, Valencia and the Canaries in turn have more extensive powers than some other regions. Asturias and Aragon have taken steps to consolidate language rights. In 2006 a Catalan referendum backed by the central government gave the region greater autonomy. The region's parliament gained extra powers in taxation and judicial matters, although the deepening recession and Catalonia's high indebtedness has spurred calls for independence from Spain. The country's regional picture is a complex and evolving one.

One of Spain's most serious domestic issues has been tension in the northern Basque region. A violent campaign by the Basque terrorist group Eta has led to nearly 850 deaths over the past four decades. In 2012 it announced that it was ready to disband.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

3.1 ICT

The need of providing highly competitive tourist services spreads and forces the national tourism system to seek new mechanisms to foster innovation. In this area, both knowledge and new technologies, especially those related to information and communication technologies (ICT) are the basis for changes that add value in the market.

However, there are some difficulties in the tourism sector to show their innovative potential. Although the intermediation subsector has a high level of ICT use, this is not a general rule providing tourist services.

In this context, this measure aims to establish appropriate mechanisms for the rapid incorporation of innovations with the concept of Smart Destinations in alignment with the trends of creating Smart Cities.

The State Agency for the Management of Innovation and Tourist Technologies, SEGITTUR, will establish the methodology that considers the basis and minimum requirements to qualify a tourist destination as 'Smart Destination'.

This qualification will serve as a basis for improving the quality and sustainability in the management of destinations through the efficient incorporation of ICT in service delivery. The direct users are managers of tourist destinations, especially those in mature destinations. These will be provided with the necessary tools to carry out the rating process and implementation to be distinguished as Smart Destinations.

In the definition of the methodology will participate universities, business schools and prestigious research institutions which have experience or are researching on this type of projects. Other entities, public and private, that can provide technological solutions related to economic development, mobility, environment, providing services to tourists, etc. are also included.

This experience, unique in its nature at European level, will allow Spain to lead a comprehensive application process innovation in tourist destinations that will provide Spain with a greater visibility, as well as improve its position as a global tourist destination.

It will be defined a new model of tourist information on destinations, which facilitates standardization and implementation by the autonomous regions and localities: 'The XXI Century Tourism Office'. That office, not only should provide information and promote the destination, but will also help marketing, segmenting the territory products according to visitor preferences. It will be an innovative space that will be established as the meeting point of reference between the territory and the visitor, using new technologies and advanced applications. This project, with high technological content, multicultural and multilingual approach will allow visitor to interact with the destination and those less known. The destination will also collect and analyse large amounts of information provided by tourists about their destinations.

This plan will contribute to the coordination and technology transfer between the Autonomous Regions that will result in optimization and rationalization of the economic resources of each one and an improvement of the competitiveness of all destinations. To do this, SEGITTUR will create a technology platform that will allow Regions to share information, best practices, knowledge, technological developments and tourism products. This platform will be configured as a collaborative space where they can implement together innovative projects that contribute to improving the competitiveness and sustainability of the Regions.



The Aqueduct of Segovia

3.2 Enhancement of cultural and natural heritage and landscapes

Spain has a rich cultural and natural offer which is an important differentiator and offers a basis for territorial and market diversification.

While this is a precondition for meeting the objective of diversification, tourism enhancement is the key to becoming a competitive player. Despite all these available resources, for various reasons the Spanish offer is poorly positioned in international markets, so it is essential to develop actions to boost the demand for this type of tourism in Spain.

The tangible and intangible heritage is mostly under public management, but this field will be the main object of activity of the plan. To do this, Turespaña, will give support to the public managers of heritage: for all their knowledge and capacity for dialogue to increase attraction; to improve tourism management; to work with the private tourism sector and help towards their financial sustainability by attracting tourists. This plan, develops actions whose main objective is to attract potential tourists through active promotion throughout the year.

3.3 Exploiting Cultural Heritage

In cooperation with the Autonomous Regions, the Ministry of the Presidency (National Heritage) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, will implement various activities to promote cultural tourism in their calendars including musical events, exhibitions and other activities that will foster the Spanish Heritage offer.



The Mosque in Cordoba

3.4 Exploiting Natural Heritage

Effective competition in sustainable tourism cannot be obtained only by offering a competitive price, but has also to seek the modernization of the existing tourism infrastructure in order to minimize the effects of tourism on the environment and the new tourism strategy for the future which aims at developing the hinterland, in addition to the coastal areas and cultural and natural heritage sites. The environmental sustainability of tourism should be seen as a tool that can be applied horizontally to destinations and tourist resources. The actions that have been carried out by the government and the tourism sector have especially emphasized the energy efficiency of tourism resources. The message 'cost savings through energy efficiency' is being taken up and more private investments in this area are on the increase.

Moreover, there is a growing demand by certain segments in the source markets, which is placing greater importance for the choice of their destination on attributes connected to the environment, such as 'eco-smart' or 'LOHAS15'; it is thus critical that the offer meets their demands and the brand reliably satisfies this requirement.

The Ministry of Tourism, through Turespaña, will design a set of measures that affect the environmentally sustainable offer. Additionally, since the Plan is assessed, there is the need for involved operators to take steps to reduce waste generation in accordance with the provisions of Law 22/2011 of July 28, about waste and contaminated soils. Hence it is essential to undertake measures to promote the conservation of the natural heritage in the development of employment and sustainable regional economy.

Ecotourism in Spain is based on a selection of the best protected areas and best prepared companies. Both introduce voluntary accreditation schemes for sustainable tourism recognized at European level. The selected destinations are national and natural parks accredited with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, protected areas and Natura 2000 marine reserves. They must have a sufficient degree of active management and international recognition, when promoting nature tourism. The aim is to ensure tourists that Spain has a certified nature tourism offer, for attracting tourists interested in contributing with their holidays to sustainable tourism and the development of the protected areas they visit. The Ministry has worked with 30 protected areas and 610 tourism companies located in these spaces and has trained them to sell this product.

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, the following strategies have been agreed:

- the promotion of Ecotourism in National Parks Network.
- the harmonization of tourism demand for the sustainability of National Parks.
- a training programme for sustainable ecotourism businesses.
- promotion of an ecotourism product in Paradores Nacionales.
- the promotion of ornithological tourism in cooperation with the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO).
- the promotion of nature tourism on the web Spain.info
- the creation of a pilot ecotourism offer in the tourism marketing platform SEGITTUR.
- Nature and Biodiversity Tourist Plan Development.
- the promotion of tourist use of natural trails and non-motorized routes (1,700 km of roads enabled, 71 greenways local management bodies) as a formula for a leisurely sightseeing tourism across the Spanish landscape using rural accommodation.
- the development of an interpretation plan of coastal heritage for tourist use. The plan's objective is the enhancement of shoreline public domain resources in sun and



Basílica de Santiago de Compostela

sand destinations, improving tourist use of the coastline and its image as relevant cultural and natural heritage through private and self-guided interpretive tourism services.

- the development of the tourism sector nature plan referred to in RD 1274/2011 Strategic Plan of the natural heritage and biodiversity 2011-2017 pursuant to Act 42/2007. This plan aims to promote sustainable tourism in nature and will be developed in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment.

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES

4.1 Tourism

Spain regards tourism as a macro-economic sector: tourism corresponds to 10 per cent of total GDP and a major part of employment. In 2011 its tourism revenue was more than 67 billion USD and it was the fourth most visited country with 57 million tourists. The Spanish government is responsible for the marketing of Spain and its tourism as an international brand. The main targets are the Nordic countries, Britain, Germany; they do not want to pay for sustainability but do not want to visit places if there is no sustainability, either.

4.2 Sustainability

Sustainability is a challenging issue in the face of major competitors: the entire Mediterranean basin is an important competitor, among which Turkey is becoming an increasingly serious challenger. Spain cannot compete on the price but can do so on quality. In orienting towards quality competition, Spanish tourism recently had to deal with other challenges related to tourism infrastructure like environmental pollution, and road quality. Spain had to modernize the tourism infrastructure and the Ministry markets tourism with the Privilege Spain brand, trying to develop quality standards. By investing in technology, it became easier to improve sustainability: The Government prepared Plan Renove (renovation of existing hotel facilities in order to make them energy-efficient) and Plan Futura (2020 tourism strategy plan).

4.3 Seasonality

Seasonality is another challenge which Spanish tourism has to face. The Mediterranean and the southern shores are very popular. The main destinations are Catalonia, the Canary Islands and Valencia. So the Ministry tried to emphasize the hinterland. While working to improve the infrastructure, there is also the need to present this territory to the international market. A public institution called Paradores Turismo tries to develop hinterland tourism. Besides, there are also rural tourism initiatives, which actually began in the 1980s. Spain seeks to form clusters to take part in the international market.

4.4 Autonomous regions and local tourism

Autonomous Regions are responsible for the development of local tourism, but Spain has National, Regional, Provincial and Urban levels and coordination is very difficult, not only between different levels but also among different departments. In each case, there can be different political interests, especially when they are from different political parties. In that case, technicians, have to rely on informal relations and share the knowledge at hand transparently.

4.5 Tourism product diversification

Spanish demand for the sun-sea-sand product has been consolidated, and a policy of diversification in the tourist sector has been carried out, by including new tendencies



Alcazar of Toledo

for more frequent, shorter, holidays and different modes of transport, in an effort to ease seasonal effects of the tourist industry. The Spanish tourism sector was considered as an experienced sector which knew how to grow, develop by making large investments to improve quality to meet global demands, and to perform better in difficult situations, demonstrating its capacity in terms of quality and competitiveness. Hence the touristic sector represents an important mainstay for the Spanish economy; consequently, the sustainable management of tourism has been addressed as a strategic objective for Spain. This concern has been reflected across Spanish tourism legislation, which varies across the different Spanish regions due to the fact that each region is responsible for tourism legislation in its territory. Due to this, there is a lack of homogeneity on Spanish tourism legislation, which induces negative impacts on tourism in general, and on rural tourism in particular. Nonetheless, one common denominator among the legislations of different Spanish regions is the inclusion of the touristic sector within their Sustainable Development Plans, (SDP). These plans have been defined by different Spanish regions, to assist the economic progress of the local communities in rural areas, many of them placed in the influence zone of protected areas. While reviewing these SDPs, it emerges that some of them establish the convenience of joining the Charter For Sustainable Tourism (ECST) for the tourist development of the area referred to the plan, hence the Charter has proved to be a valuable tool for implementing sustainable tourism in protected areas.

4.6 Parks

Apart from the advisable adhesion to the Charter, found in the Spanish SDP, there are some other documents dealing with experiences on the Charter adhesion process and its implementation. These are bench-marketing studies developed by EUROPARC aimed to evaluate the experiences of the Charter areas. The only Spanish Charter area referred in all of them is La Garrotxa volcanic zone Natural Park, found in Catalonia, in the north of Spain. This success is explained as a result of the high degree of involvement of key partners. Other relevant factors are its staff and the funding by European Programmes, such as ADAPT, LEADER II, LEADER PLUS, and Footpath Network Project

4.7 Analysis of the tourism product

Spain has been a leading country for beach holidays, and the second largest destination after France for international tourism (WTO). However, Spain could not develop alternative tourism, because its tourism markets were outdated. Its deficient public system infrastructure could not cope with the needs of the high volume of tourists. It had a large urbanized landscape, noise and water pollution which were projecting a negative tourism image. Arguably, Spain could not compete with new tourist destinations, and hence, was not able to offer more modern tourist products, which could also be more suitable for the new tendencies in demand. In the initial stage in the development of the alternative source of tourism, Spain had to diagnose and analyse its tourism situation:

- 1) The declaration of The Competition Framework with eight action areas of improvement, which were: i. Co-ordination; ii. Quality; iii. Technical Development; iv. Destinations; v. International Cooperation; vi. Training, vii. New Products, viii. Statistical and Economical Analysis of Tourism.

- 2) Restrictions on urban and tourist development; planning control in popular tourist areas, the investment efforts in public infrastructure (i.e. transportation network: air, roads, railways), treatment of supply and wastewater, and the recovery of the coastline.

3) The Comprehensive Plan for Quality in Spanish Tourism. The plan was prepared with the efforts of both the private and the public sectors, and was intended to respond to the challenges that Spain Tourism could face in the coming years. This plan consisted of the creation of demand for new products, ranging from complementary activities to complete holidays, as well as renovating the existing offer and generating public investment in infrastructure. In other words, the aim of the Plan was to keep Spain as a leading tourist destination with alternative tourist activities shaped by global tourism trends, and complementary activities in the coastal region serving for sustainability, even-out seasonality, products and markets diversification and profitability.

As a result of the above developments, the quality factor has been handled in certain programmes in the following ways: i. Quality in tourist destinations, ii. Quality in tourist products; iii. Quality in tourist services; iv. Quality training; v. Technological innovation and development; vi. Globalization of Spanish tourist industry; vii). International co-operation; viii. Statistical information and economic analysis, ix. Promotion; and, x. Support in marketing.

The main objective of such aims was for Spain to ensure that the concept of a quality holiday could be the factor that differentiates Spain from other destinations on the international markets. Therefore, special attention had been given to the programme for quality in tourist products, by promoting activities that could contribute to diversification and to reduce seasonality in Spanish tourism.

For the diversification of tourism activities and prolongation of the tourist season, the focus was on developing sports holidays; especially, nautical and adventure sports, cultural tourism, business tourism, health tourism, and rural tourism and holiday homes. But mostly, Spain focused on golf and skiing despite Spain not having the technical quality and the suitable infrastructure to contribute to the quality of the Spanish tourism programme.

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A traditional paella dish



Syria is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and occupies a sensitive geopolitical region that has traditionally been a crossroads between Asia, Africa, and Europe. Its capital, Damascus, is regarded as the oldest inhabited city in the world. Modern-day Syria was once part of a larger geographical territory, known as Greater Syria, or the Levant, that encompassed the coastal and inland areas along the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Historically, Syria was ruled by different civilizations. It formed part of the Roman Empire, and was inhabited by Aramaic and Arab Christians who cooperated with neighbouring Muslim Arabs to liberate the territory from the Romans. Later on Syria was part of the Ottoman Empire. The country was then ruled at different periods by civil and military governments until 1970 when the present Ba'ath Party took over.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Geography

The Syrian Arab Republic has an area of 185,180 km². Turkey lies to the north, Iraq to the east and south-east (a border of 605 km), is to the south and Israel and Lebanon. Syria has four distinguished geographical regions:

- 1) the coast
- 2) the mountains
- 3) the hinterland region situated to the east of the mountainous region – it comprises the plains of Damascus, Hama, Homs, Aleppo, al-Hassaka and Daraa.
- 4) the desert (Badia) situated on the south-eastern part of the borders with Jordan and Iraq

1.2 Climate

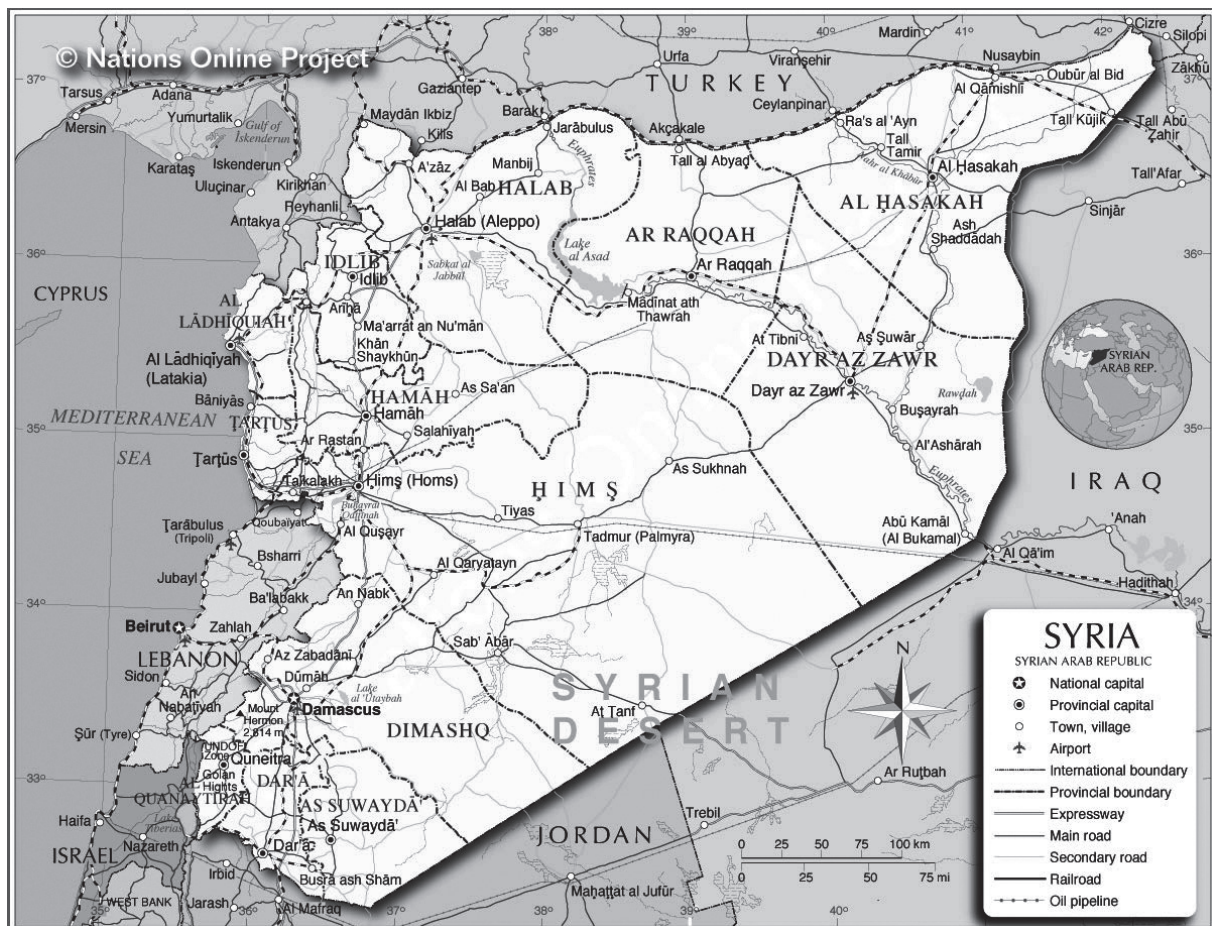
When it comes to climate, the most striking feature is the contrast of sea and desert. The annual mean temperatures range from 7.2° C in January to 26.6° C in August.

1.3 Terrain

Syria's topography demonstrates significant diversity from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the Syrian Desert in the southeast. A narrow coastal plain and two major mountain chains characterize the western region of the country. The expansive eastern region largely consists of steppe or desert plateau interspersed with river basins, low elevation mountain ranges, and an occasional oasis.

1.4 History

Three geographical factors have played major parts in determining the history of Syria: its location on the trade and military routes, its varied topography, and the encroaching desert. Syria has always been an object of conquest, and it has been held by foreign powers during much of its history. Recent archaeological finds trace the history of civilization in Syria back to the tenth millennium BCE, which has earned it the name 'The Cradle of Civilization'. It is believed that some of the earliest tribes that converted from hunting and gathering to agricultural settlements established themselves in the modern-day region of Syria around 9,000 BCE.



1.5 Land use

About one third of the surface consists of fertile land (32 per cent) while forests cover only 3 per cent. Pastures form 45 per cent of the land, where there is extensive cattle breeding. From the 18.5 million hectares of the total land of the Syrian Arab Republic, cultivated land extends over an area of 5,484,000 hectares, of which 1,213,000 consist of irrigated lands (22 per cent), 3,655,000 hectares are rain-fed land (67 per cent) while 616,000 hectares are fallow land (11 per cent) (FAO-MAAR 2001).

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

2.1 Institutions and government

The Syrian Arab Republic (Al Jumhuriyah al Arabiyah as Suriyah) is an authoritarian, military-dominated regime, which allows its citizens to vote for the presidency and the members of parliament, but they are not allowed to change the government; the president, for example, is not actually elected but, rather, confirmed by unopposed popular referenda. Parliament may assess and sometimes modify laws proposed by the executive branch, but it may not initiate laws. The president and his senior aides make most decisions in the political, economic, and security sectors, with a very limited degree of public accountability (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005).

2.1.1 Capital city

Damascus is the capital and the second largest city of Syria after Aleppo, located in southwestern Syria. Damascus is the centre of a large metropolitan area of 2,527 million (2009). The area of Damascus is about 573 km² (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005).

2.1.2 Administrative divisions

Syria has fourteen provinces (muhafazat; pl., muhafazah): Halab, Dimashq, Dar'a, Rif Dimashq, Dayr az Zawr, Hamah, Al Hasakah, Hims, Idlib, Al Ladhiqiyah, Al Qunaytirah (includes the Golan Heights), Ar Raqqa, As Suwayda, and Tartus (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005).

2.1.3 Constitution

Syria's Permanent Constitution of 13 March, 1973, provides for a republican form of government described as 'a democratic, popular, socialist, and sovereign state'. (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005)

2.1.4 Legal system

Syria's legal system is a mix of Ottoman- and French-based civil law, as well as Islamic law. The constitution requires that Islamic jurisprudence be a main source of legislation. (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005)

2.2 Political and religious context

2.2.1 Political parties and leaders

Syria is essentially a one-party state, dominated by the Arab Socialist Resurrection (Baath) Party (hereafter referred to as the Baath Party). Every four years, each party branch elects representatives to the Party Congress, which then elects the members of the party institutions; the Central Committee has 90 members, and the Regional Command has 21 members. The presidential candidate must gain the approval of the Regional Command before being nominated to run for office. The party is headed by a secretary general. (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005).

2.2.1 Demographics

Population: 22,530,746 (July 2012 EST.).

Population growth rate: -0.797% (2011 EST.).

Rate of urbanization: 2.5% annual rate of change (2010-15 EST.).

Major cities - population

Damascus (capital) 2,527 million, Aleppo 2,985 million, Homos 1,276 million; Hamah 854,000 (2009).

Ethnic groups: Arab 90.3%, Kurds, Armenians, and other 9.7%

Religions: Sunni Muslim (Islam - official) 74%, other Muslim (includes Alawite, Druze) 16%, Christian (various denominations) 10%, Jewish (tiny communities in Damascus, Al Qamishli, and Aleppo).

Languages: Arabic (official), Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian (widely understood); French, English (somewhat understood).

2.2.2 Economy

Syria had a relatively well-developed agricultural and industrial base on independence in 1946, but following independence, the economy underwent widespread structural change. When the Baath Party became the major political force in the 1960s, Syria's economic orientation and development strategy were transformed. Unlike many of



Krak des chevaliers

its Arab neighbours, Syria has a diversified economy that is not overly dependent on oil. New investment laws have encouraged private-sector growth by gradually expanding the list of goods that the private sector may produce or import and have permitted private competition with the government in some areas, such as textile and pharmaceutical manufacturing (CONGRESS, Library of, 2005).

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE – see Appendix II

3.1 Natural parks and reserves – see Appendix II

3.2 Areas of High Landscape Value

The system of protected areas in Syria is complex and reflects the responsibilities shared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) and the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE). It consists of Nature Protected Areas, Protected State Forests, Hunting Reserves, Game Management Areas and other protected areas.

There are 26 protected areas, including five wetlands, one wildlife, a special Bald Ibis protected area, three coastal and marine protected areas and sixteen forest areas. In addition to these, there are over 60 rangeland protected areas. The national biodiversity strategy (NBSAP) recommends the establishment of a network of national protected areas covering all ecosystems in the country. Many of the protected areas are not fully implemented. Their legislation and administration are still early in their stages and would need further development. Most protected areas do not have local staff and thus exist only on the paper.

3.3 UNESCO WHC Built Heritage sites

Syria has six sites on the World Heritage List and a further 12 sites on the Tentative List.

3.3.1 Ancient City of Aleppo:

Year Designated: 1986

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

Located at the crossroads of several trade routes from the second millennium BCE,

Aleppo was successively ruled by the Hittites, Assyrians, Arabs, Mongols, Mamelukes and Ottomans. The thirteenth century citadel, twelfth century Great Mosque and various seventeenth century madrasas, palaces, caravanserais and hammams all form part of the city's cohesive, unique urban fabric, now threatened by overpopulation.

3.3.2 Ancient City of Bosra:

Year Designated: 1980

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (i)(iii)(vi)

Bosra, once the capital of the Roman province of Arabia, was an important stopover on the ancient caravan route to Mecca. A magnificent 2nd century Roman theatre, early Christian ruins and several mosques are found within its great walls. The incorporation of the exceptionally intact Roman theatre, complete with its upper gallery, into later fortifications to create a strong citadel guarding the road to Damascus represents a unique architectural achievement.

3.3.3 Ancient City of Damascus:

Year Designated: 1979

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

The city exhibits outstanding evidence of the civilizations which created it – Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic. In particular, the Umayyad caliphate created Damascus as its capital, setting the scene for the city's ongoing development as a living Muslim, Arab city, upon which each succeeding dynasty has left and continues to leave its mark. In spite of Islam's prevailing influence, traces of earlier cultures, particularly the Roman and Byzantine, continue to be seen in the city. Thus the city today is based on a Roman plan and maintains the aspect and the orientation of the Greek city, in that all its streets are oriented north-south or east-west and is a key example of urban planning.

3.3.4 Ancient Villages of Northern Syria

Year Designated: 2011

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (iii)(iv)(v)

Some 40 villages grouped in eight parks situated in north-western Syria provide remarkable testimony to rural life in late Antiquity and during the Byzantine period. Abandoned in the eighth to tenth centuries, the villages, which date from the first to the seventh centuries, feature a remarkably well preserved landscape and the architectural remains of dwellings, pagan temples, churches, cisterns, bathhouses etc.

3.3.5 Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din

Year Designated: 2006

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (ii)(iv)

These two castles represent the most significant examples illustrating the exchange of influences and documenting the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East during the time of the Crusades (eleventh to thirteenth century). The Crac des

Chevaliers was built by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem between 1142 and 1271. With further construction by the Mamluks in the late thirteenth century, it ranks among the best-preserved examples of the Crusader castles. The Qal'at Salah El-Din (Fortress of Saladin), even though partly in ruins, represents an outstanding example of this type of fortification, both in terms of the quality of construction and the survival of historical stratigraphy.

3.3.5 Site of Palmyra

Year Designated: 1980

Category: Cultural

Criteria: (i)(ii)(iv)

An oasis in the Syrian Desert, northeast of Damascus, Palmyra contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world. From the first to the second century, the art and architecture of Palmyra, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, married Graeco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences. The splendour of the ruins of Palmyra, rising out of the Syrian Desert northeast of Damascus is testament to the unique aesthetic achievement of a wealthy caravan oasis intermittently under the rule of Rome.

4 ACTORS AND POLICIES IN TOURISM

4.1 National bodies dealing with sustainable tourism

- Directorate of Revival and Promotion of Arab Heritage – responsible for Arab manuscripts of historical, literary and scientific value and promoting Arabic
- General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums – responsible for World Heritage
- Directorate of Popular Heritage, responsible for popular heritage, which includes intangible heritage (as defined in the UNESCO Convention), as well as language
- The Association of Revival of Popular Heritage (MEDLIHER, 2010)

4.2 National bodies responsible for tourism, culture and environment

- The CBS (Economic Statistics Directorate) for International Flows (Inbound-Outbound), Business-related statistics, and Tourism-Generated Employment
- The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) for Capacity of hotels, Guest flows in collective tourist accommodation, International flows (Inbound-Outbound), and Tourism-Generated Employment
- The Home Office, Department of Immigration, for Immigration cards
- The Central Bank of Syria, for Balance of Payments Statistics (Tourism Exports and Imports)
- The Museum General Directorate for visits to museums.
- General Commission for Environmental Affairs (GCEA)
- The Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Housing and Construction, Irrigation, Electricity, Transport, Oil, Tourism, and Industry
- The Damascus sewage company
- Governorates, in particular the Damascus Governorate
- The Marine Institute

- The Meteorological Centre
- The General Remote Sensing Organisation (MEDSTAT, 2009)

4.3 National bodies dealing with human & natural heritage

- The Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM)
- International Committee of the Blue Shield statement on Syria
- The Danish Institute of Damascus (DID) (www.icomos.org/en, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.4 National policies, laws and regulations about sustainable tourism

- The Law of Antiquities (no.222 of 1963)
- Legislative Decree # 296 of 2/12/1969
- Legislative Decree # 333 of 23/12/1969
- Law #7 of 1/1/1974
- Legislative Decree # 52 of 10/8/1977
- Legislative Decree # 296 of 2/12/1969
- Law # 1 of 28/2/1999 (published in issue # 11 of 24/3/1999, p.377 and is in force as of 5/4/1999 (UNESCO, 2000)



Former Ottoman caravanserai of Qalaat al-Moudiq with the fortress in the background

4.5 Statistical data about tourism economy and its effect on society

a) Number of arrivals and percentage of global international tourism arrivals

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
International tourism, number of arrivals	3,571,000	4,231,000	4,158,000	5,430,000	6,092,000	8,546,000

Table 4.1: No. International Arrivals (2005-2011), from Central Bank of Syria Data

b) International tourism receipts for the country, compared to the Mediterranean area

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
International tourism, receipts (current US\$)	2,035,000,000	2,113,000,000	2,972,000,000	3,176,000,000	3,781,000,000	6,308,000,000
International tourism, receipts (% of total exports)	17.67720639	16.04550149	19.0305239	16.0815703	24.11058827	32.17416736

Table 4.2: No. International tourism receipts for Syria (2005-2010), from Central Bank of Syria Data

c) Average expenditure of international tourists

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
International tourism, expenditures (current US\$)	584,000,000	585,000,000	710,000,000	912,000,000	980,000,000	159,800,000
International tourism, expenditures (% of total imports)	5.260787316	4.924656958	4.6437691	4.730682355	5.87996102	8.233380322

Table 4.3: Average expenditure of international tourists (2005-2010), from Central Bank of Syria Data

4.6 Most visited sites and locations

4.6.1 Ancient City of Bosra

Syria is famous all over the world for the ancient city of Bosra – the capital of the Roman province in ancient times (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12th Jan, 2013).

4.6.2 Apamea

Apamea is another interesting city in Syria, famous for the remains of the Roman culture (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.6.3 Hama Water Wheels

They were constructed in ancient Byzantine times, in order to move water to aqueducts, but only 17 of the wheels are preserved today (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.6.4 Palmyra

Being once one of the most important towns, Palmyra is the place where the Roman and Greek influences met with the local culture and a new style was born. This oasis in the desert was one of the most flourishing cities (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.6.5 Umayyad Mosque, Damascus

The Umayyad Mosque, or the Great Mosque of Damascus, is a building worth being called 'the Great', since it is one of the most ancient and grandiose mosques in the world and is considered to be the fourth holiest place in the world for the Muslims (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.5.6 Sarouj village

Sarouj village is one of the most amazing places in the world! This is definitely one of the most attractive destinations in Syria, famous with the typical "Beehive houses", that can be found only there and nowhere else! The houses are unique, because they are constructed with mud bricks, and have high ceilings in order to keep cool in summer and warm in winter (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.5.7 Krak des Chevaliers

This is a Crusaders castle in Syria, which should not be missed in a tour around the country. This medieval castle is in a perfect condition, unlike most of the other castles dating from the same period. The fact that Krak des Chevaliers is in such a good condition makes it an attraction for all tourists travelling in Syria (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.5.8 The Citadel of Salah Ed-Din

One of the most famous castles in Syria is the Citadel of Salah Ed-Din, or as it is widely known, Saladin Castle. Surrounded by forests, this beautiful Citadel is still in good condition. Allowing tourists to come and enjoy the ancient architecture (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).



Temple of Bel in Palmyra

4.5.9 Ruins of Ugarit

The ruins of Ugarit are a site of great scientific interest for historians and archaeologists, because of the city that once existed there. It is known that the city was inhabited and flourishing about 6000 BCE; it was surrounded by a wall for protection. The city was destroyed at the end of the Bronze Age by the so called 'Sea people' - this was a union of sea sailing people, who aimed to take control of Egypt and caused damage and destruction in many Mediterranean countries (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

4.5.10 Aleppo Citadel

In the northern part of Syria there is one of the most ancient fortifications in the world – Aleppo Citadel. The citadel is a great tourist attraction, because of its interesting structure and great architecture. The Citadel was enlisted as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and it definitely deserves this honour, because there could hardly be found a more gorgeous castle in the world (www.vacationhomes.net, accessed on 12 Jan, 2013).

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A cup from the XIII century



Tunisia became part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the late 1500s, and was a French protectorate from 1881 until independence in 1956. The country's first president, Bourguiba, established a strict one-party state. In November 1987, President Bourguiba was removed from office and replaced by Ben Ali in a bloodless coup.

Winning a fifth term in office in multi-party elections in 2009, President Ben Ali was in power from 1987 to 2011. Tunisia was relatively stable and prosperous under the leadership of President Ben Ali, but progress toward full democracy has been slow. The citizens of Tunisia did not enjoy political freedom, with government imposing restrictions on freedom of association and speech.

A popular uprising in Tunisia against unemployment, inflation, corruption and political repression by the government led to violent clashes, and a rising death toll in 2011. Despite earlier promises of new leadership to come in three years, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali ultimately fled the country in mid-January 2011, leaving behind a mixture of hope and anxiety regarding the future of a country once viewed as one of the most stable in North Africa.

1 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Tunisia covers 163,610 km², and is one of the smallest countries of the Maghreb. It has a relief, relatively which changes according to the areas, and a significant maritime front (1,298 km) mainly on the east. The principal mountain chain, the Tunisian Dorsal, is the eastern end of the Atlas Mountains and crosses the country in a northeasterly direction on its way to Cap Bon in the northeast. Between the mountains of this area, there are fertile valleys and plains. Its highest peak is Djebel Chambi (1,544 m) and the average altitude is 700m. The Sahara, in the south of the country, covers approximately 40 per cent of the territory. Only one river runs continuously, the Medjerda, which flows into the Gulf of Tunis. Its principal natural resources are oil, phosphates, iron ore, lead, zinc, salt and arable soils.

Mediterranean and Saharan forces influence the climate of Tunisia. The country is divided into seven bioclimatic areas, favourable to a great diversity in husbandry. The greatest difference between the northern part and the rest of the country is due to the Tunisian Dorsal, which separates the areas influenced by the Mediterranean climate from those influenced by the arid climate engendered by the Sahara.

Annual rainfall varies according to areas:

- about 1,000 mm in the north
- about 380 mm in the centre
- about 300 mm in the south

The summer season is marked by a significant aridity, characterised by heat and dryness, partly also caused by the sirocco winds. The temperatures vary because of the latitude, and the distances to the Mediterranean Sea. The average temperatures for the whole country are 12°C in December and 30°C in July. The country also profits from a rate of significant sunshine (exceeding 3,000 hours a year). Temperature may be a few degrees below 0 in winter in the mountains of Kroumirie, and in summer it can sometimes be around 50°C in the shade in the desert areas.

1.1 Principal Towns

Tunisia's urbanisation reaches about 64,9 per cent (2005) and has an annual urbanization



rate of 3,6 per cent. The urban network is located on the Eastern littoral strip, between the areas of Tunis and Gabès passing by the Sahel and Sfax (eastern centre of the country), which has the greatest economic infrastructures and comprises more than 80 per cent of the urban population.

The principal towns are:

Tunis : 728,453 inhabitants (2,083,000 including Greater Tunis)

Sfax : 265,131 inhabitants (500,000 including Greater Sfax)

Sousse : 173,047 habitants (400,000 including Greater Sousse)

Kairouan : 117,903 inhabitants

Gabès : 116,323 inhabitants (170,000 including Greater Gabès)

Bizerte : 114,371 inhabitants (150,000 including Greater Bizerte)

2 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The political environment in Tunisia has been marked with political uncertainty especially since the assassination of opposition leader Mohammed Brahmi in July 2013 which was followed by a series of attacks across the country and an unprecedented security operation against terrorist groups operating in Tunisia. Major opposition parties called for the resignation of the government and the dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly (ANC), which was scheduled to vote on the constitution and finalize the composition of the electoral authority and pass an electoral law.

While public opinion polls have shown that social and economic issues remain at the core of Tunisian concerns, there is an increasing demand for government to limit policymaking to the passage of the new constitution and electoral law. The politicization of the constitution writing process, and the expansion of the ANC's legislative responsibilities, led to delays in the drafting of the constitution beyond the one-year commitment. This led the Troika, the ruling coalition made up of Ennahda, Ettakatol, and the Congress for the Republic to abandon its commitment to complete the constitution in one year. Once the one-year mark passed in October 2012, opposition parties began a series of protests to push for the completion of the process and elections by end December 2013.

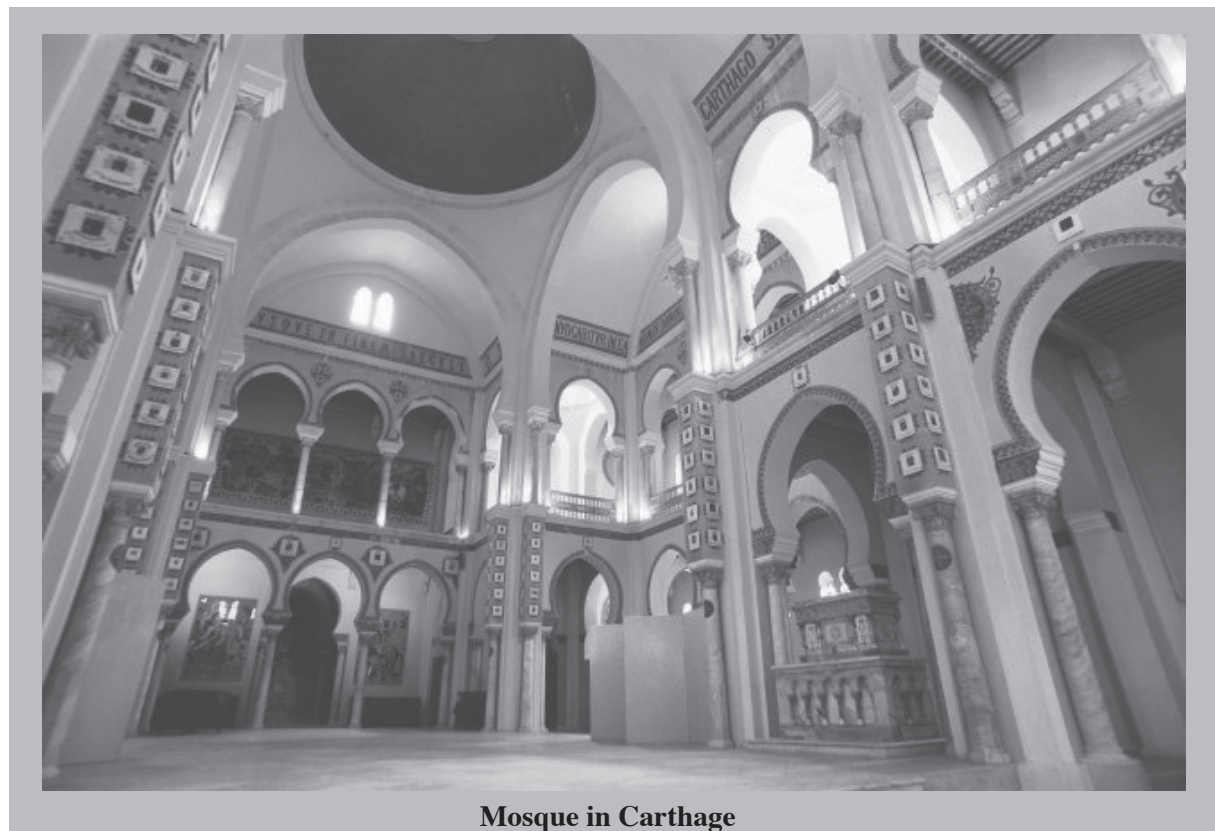
Tunisia's economic recovery slowed down in 2013. Security concerns and weak economic performance in the European Union and Libya have dampened growth. GDP growth was only 2.7 per cent in Quarter (Q) 1, 2013, and 3.2 per cent in Q2, 2013. The average for 2013 was expected to be around 3.2 per cent against 3.6 per cent in 2012. Inflation had steadily increased, due to high food prices, since 2012 to peak at 6.5 per cent in March 2013. It later stabilized responding to tighter monetary policy by the Central Bank.

The government has maintained the same expansionary fiscal policy adopted since the revolution, but policy buffers have now been exhausted. To limit the growing fiscal impact of international oil prices on subsidies, the government increased domestic fuel prices in September 2012 and March 2013. While additional increases are unlikely in the current political context, short-term measures will be needed to contain the budget deficit. This increase in public spending combined with high commodity prices and sluggish manufacturing exports have kept the pressure on external accounts. The current account deficit was expected to remain high at an estimated 8.1 per cent of the GDP (same as 2012). Foreign Direct Investment and other net external financing inflows were not thought to suffice to prevent a run-down in foreign exchange reserves. Given the mounting strains on the fiscal and external balances, adjustments were necessary in 2014.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND BUILT HERITAGE

Tunisia's desert ecosystems contain unique plant, animal and human communities that have adapted to survive in these extreme and fragile environments. They are home to a rich biodiversity of unique and highly adapted species of global significance, especially in PAs. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, such species include the sand cat (*Felis margarita*) (near threatened), Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) (vulnerable), scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*) (extinct in the wild), Dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) (vulnerable), Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) (endangered) and Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) (vulnerable). In an agro-ecological context native species possess valuable drought and heat resistant properties, such as *Tamarix*, *Thymelia hirsuta*, and *Retama raetam*. Due to human actions, biodiversity in Tunisia's desert ecosystems is increasingly under threat from habitat encroachment, poaching and illegal gathering, and desert lands are being degraded through unsustainable practices, namely the overexploitation of resources.

Tunisia's desert ecosystems have a high potential for addressing rural economic diversification and employment creation needs through an ecotourism model linked with biodiversity protection in managed PAs. Tunisia's arid ecosystems provide an opportunity for sustainable tourism that is specific to deserts, taking into account their special characteristics, their fragility, and their diversity of natural, human, and cultural resources. In its 2009 Study on the Strategic Development of Ecotourism in Tunisia, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) mapped out potential ecotourism 'circuits' built around PAs and linking together the rich cultural and historical sites of desert areas. The vulnerability of desert biodiversity and ecosystems to anthropogenic pressures cannot be emphasized enough, and so the creation of an ecotourism model emphasizing low volume but high value tourists combined with the development of ecotourism activities for the local population would represent an optimal fit for the sustainable development of these areas, with associated biodiversity conservation benefits.



Mosque in Carthage

The Tunisian cultural and monumental heritage is a product of more than three thousand years of history and an important multi-ethnic influx. Ancient Tunisia was a major civilization crossing through history; different cultures, civilizations and multiple successive dynasties contributed to the culture of the country over centuries with varying degrees of influence.

Among these cultures were the Carthaginian, their native civilisation, Roman, Vandal, Jewish, Christian, Arab, Islamic, Turkish, and French, in addition to native Berbers. This unique mixture of cultures made Tunisia, with its strategic geographical location in the Mediterranean, the core of some great civilizations of Mare Nostrum.

The history of Tunisia reveals this rich past where different successive Mediterranean cultures had a strong presence. After the Carthaginian Republic, the Roman Empire came and left a lasting effect on the land with various monuments and cities such as the El-Jem Amphitheater and the archaeological site of the ancient city of Carthage, which is classified as a world heritage site. El Jem is just one of seven world heritage sites found in Tunisia.

After a few centuries of the presence of Christianity, represented by the Church of Africa, the Arab Islamic conquest transformed the whole country and founded a new city called Al-Qayrawan, which became a renowned centre for religious and intellectual pursuits.

With the annexation of Tunisia by the Ottoman Empire, the centre of power shifted from Tunis to Istanbul. This shift in power allowed the local government of the new Ottoman Province to gain more independence, which was maintained until the institution of the French Protectorate (which was later seen as occupation). The protectorate introduced elements of Western-French culture.

The important elements of Tunisian monuments are diverse and represent a unique, mixed heritage. This heritage can be experienced first-hand in: museums such as the Bardo Museum, the contrast and diversity of city architecture such as Sidi Bou Said or the medina of Tunis, cuisine such as cheeses and French croissants, music reflecting Andalusian and Ottoman influences, literature, cinema, religion, the arts, and sports and other areas of Tunisian culture.

4 SELECTION OF MONUMENTAL HERITAGE SITES

4.1 Carthage

The name Carthage is derived from the Phoenician Kart-Hadast meaning 'New City', written without vowels as with all Semitic languages as QRT HDST, represented in the Latin script as *Carthago*). Cathage was an old city in North Africa, on the eastern shore of Tunis, currently situated in what is now a suburb beyond modern Tunis in Tunisia. The spoken language of the Carthaginians was the Punic, one of the ancient Semitic languages which originated from the Phoenician language.

4.2 The catacombs of Sousse

The early Christian catacombs are very much worth a visit. A small section, its restoration hampered by a lack of funds, is open to the public. Another section, of some 6000 graves, deep inside a mile of tunnels, lies ruined by savage excavations. A marble plaque at the entrance, placed in 1907, states that its inhabitants *dormiunt in pace* (sleep in peace), but that may be far from the truth. The only real bones left

in the whole place, are several dry old fragments within the first room on the left, opposite the welcome desk. Sousse's catacombs date from the second to the fourth centuries, and were rediscovered by the French in 1888. There are better examples, for the discerning visitor, at Salakta and at Lamta. The catacombs at Sousse show two or sometimes three levels of tombs dug out along the gallery walls. Niches were carved into the rock to hold oil lamps. After burial, the tomb would be covered with either tiles or marble slabs, on which dedications were etched.

4.3 Dougga

This UNESCO World Heritage Website is one of North Africa's best-preserved ancient ruins. Although the majority of the surviving monuments here are from the Roman period, Dougga's history stretches back to the sixth century BCE. Dougga is among Tunisia's most photogenic sites due to its dramatic hilltop position and ample monumental buildings and temples.

4.4 El-Jem

For many visitors the UNESCO World Heritage-listed El-Jem Colosseum is Tunisia's greatest historical highlight. Built in the third century CE, this mammoth structure once held crowds as large as 35,000 and at present towers over the modern surrounding town. The biggest coliseum built in North Africa, El-Jem is recognized by archaeologists to be one of the finest monuments of their type in the world. The sight of this ruined amphitheatre is definitely an impressive one, standing proud from the backdrop of the dusty, small village of El Jem, known to the Romans as Thysdrus. It is believed to be one of the greatest amphitheatres of the Roman world, similar in status to the great Coliseum in Rome. Dating back the early third century CE, what is perhaps most amazing, is its complex architectural construction, with many underground passageways for the movement of animals and gladiators, which was built without



Kairouan Mosque

any foundations. The monument was made a world Heritage Site in 1979 and was subsequently used throughout the filming of 'Gladiator' in 1999, starring Russell Crowe.

4.5 Kasbah Mosque

Located in the Medina area, the Kasbah Mosque is definitely a historic building and is also listed as a Historical Monument. Allegedly built in 1230 CE, the monument justifies a visit for its beautiful architectural and artworks. Although the French destroyed the mosque in 1883, its remains can nonetheless still be enjoyed, such as a minaret built by the Hafsids in a Moroccan style. The Mosque is on the waiting list for restoration, but nonetheless it may be worth a visit to experience this ancient architectural wonder.

5 ACTORS AND POLICIES

5.1 Mass seaside tourism

The 'mass seaside tourism' approach required the establishment to create an complex tourism infrastructure in a relatively short period of time. From the 1960s onwards, and especially in the 1980s and 1990s, Tunisia witnessed a boom in hotel construction. It purposely built its resorts and hotels to cater for the European market, and focused on the one-week or two-week package tourists. The expansion was spectacular, making this country one of the fastest-growing tourist destination economies in the world. From just a 4,000 bed capacity in 1962, the industry has grown to a capacity of more than 238,400 beds in 2008.

This market-driven strategy of seaside tourism has worked well in expanding investment and hotel capacity, but it also created an image of 'low-cost tourism' in the country that was hard to revise, despite government efforts to overcome this problem.



A house in Sidi Bou Said

In the early years of tourism development, the government was responsible for 40 of the accommodation facilities constructed between 1960 and 1965, but thereafter the development of the tourism sector was taken over by private investors, both domestic and foreign, who were responsible for almost all new construction since the late 1970s.

Tourism continues to be a central pillar of the government's export-oriented strategy for economic development, and government-led efforts continue to expand, promote and diversify the Tunisian tourism products (tourism in the desert, cultural and heritage tourism, golf and 'thalassotherapy' and health tourism). In terms of exports, the ratio of international tourism receipts to GDP has been substantial over the whole period and inbound tourism receipts have played an important role in the economy since the early 1970s. They constitute the largest service export and have ranked consistently in the top two or three largest sources of foreign exchange. The significance of this export activity is highlighted by the fact that tourism exports cover on average between 12.5 and 20 per cent of imports of goods.

Tunisia's tourism development relied on a standard sun, sand and sea leisure product which was not highly differentiated from the products of its Mediterranean competitors (Greece, Turkey, Spain). This strategy, chosen by Tunisia's policy makers, for low-cost tourism (which depends heavily on international tour operators and a small number of tourist-generating countries) could well be responsible for its weak impact on long-term economic growth. Nowak *et al* (2007) show in a neoclassical growth framework that the ability of tourism to promote long-term economic growth depends on the degree of its product differentiation: the less the tourism exports are differentiated, the lower is the country's power monopoly in trade and the weaker is the TKIG mechanism. Although the above estimates cannot be generalized for other developing countries, these findings nevertheless suggest that tourism development associated with the proverbial sun, sea and sand is not always adequate for the economic growth of host countries.

Thus, the validity of the two channels on the impact of tourism exports on growth (improvement of the efficiency of productive resources, that is, the TLG hypothesis, and increase in the quantity of productive resources, that is, the TKIG hypothesis) is uncertain, especially in the context of a seasonal mass seaside tourism destination that faces stiff price competition. This is a very valuable argument for developing countries that are in the exploratory stage of tourism development. For destination managers and planners of these countries, seeking to utilize tourism as a mechanism for economic growth, the development of an appropriate 'niche tourism' strategy could offer greater opportunity for economic growth. This kind of strategy requires careful coordination and cooperation of all decision makers, and in both the public and private sectors, in order to carry out an economic development that will remain sustainable over time.

Tunisia exemplifies a fast-growing, export-oriented economy that relies on the promotion of 'mass beach tourism package tours' as an important component of a development strategy. Based on a more robust specification than previous studies, this study depicts a rather complex picture of the relationship between tourism exports and economic growth in this country. It also reveals that officials have overstated the contribution of inbound tourism to the Tunisian economy. This empirical investigation brings out several facts that should be considered by scholars and tourism planners who are interested in the long-term relationship between inbound tourism and economic growth in developing countries. First, results clearly show that foreign exchange earnings from inbound tourism in Tunisia have contributed significantly towards financing the country's imports of capital goods. This result tends to confirm

the importance usually accorded by scholars and policy makers to tourism as a means of providing foreign currency earnings to finance imports of capital goods, even if tourism is often criticized for its high import content and the induced foreign exchange leakages.

Mass beach tourism in Tunisia should not be seen as an effective engine of growth in this country. By taking into account the nature of the Tunisian tourism product, the stiff price competition among identical mass beach tourism destinations and the dependence on international tour operators, we find that this result is not surprising. Tourism policies as a means of economic development may not be fully effective of economic development in the context of a host country that relies on low-differentiated, mass market-oriented resort hotels dominated by a few European major tour operators.

There is a risk that too much emphasis on the establishment of more tourism and hospitality facilities (hotels, large coastal resorts, etc.), driven by quick profit returns, can lead in the long run to the reduction of the quality of the country's tourism product and its tourism earnings per capita in real terms. It is therefore imperative that government institutions, tourism planners and investors recognize the implications of their actions in the overall interest of the long term economic sustainability of the tourism sector. The success of a strategy of tourism development ought not to be measured just in terms of increasing tourist number or revenues. Tourism should also be assessed according to its role in the broader development goals of the host country. In this context, the Tunisian government was advised not to support the construction of a new superstructure, such as hotels and restaurants, through monetary and fiscal policy incentives. Rather, they should encourage private and public bodies to improve the current tourism infrastructure and the image of the country in order to achieve higher room rates. The reduction of their dependence on international tour operators and few tourist-generating countries could be achieved through a quality enhancement policy for upgrading hotels, product differentiation, diversification of distribution channels and new market segments.

Tourism, representing 6.5 per cent of the country's GDP and accounting for 450,000 jobs, is a key driver of the economy in Tunisia and plays a critical role in its socio-economic stability and future development. In 2010, Tunisia received nearly 7 million international tourist arrivals, generating US\$ 2.7 billion in export revenues. During the first months of 2011, international tourist arrivals decreased by 44 per cent and receipts by 43 per cent due to the Arab Spring Events, but later on with a new democratic Government, UNWTO Secretary-General was of the view that Tunisia was, and would continue to be, a leading tourism destination. According to the opinion of the UNWTO Secretary-General, tourism was not in crisis in Tunisia, rather it was living the natural impact of the significant changes that had occurred in the country, and it was thus the time to show that Tunisia was ready to receive its visitors. Furthermore, he warned against the temptation of short term recovery measures based on lower prices and stressed that medium and long term prospects for the tourism sector in Tunisia were even more positive than before as the new environment could create new open and transparent conditions for investment in tourism, namely foreign investment, and unlock significant local business potential.

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Bizerte

APPENDIX I

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

CYPRUS GREECE ITALY JORDAN MALTA SYRIA

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is one of the central means for protecting our environment. It has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.

The aim of the Convention is that Parties shall endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution. Parties develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring.

The history of the Convention can be traced back to the 1960s, when scientists demonstrated the interrelationship between sulphur emissions in continental Europe and the acidification of Scandinavian lakes. The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm signalled the start for active international cooperation to combat acidification. Between 1972 and 1977 several studies confirmed the hypothesis that air pollutants could travel several thousands of kilometres before deposition and damage occurred. This also implied that cooperation at the international level was necessary to solve problems such as acidification.

In response to these acute problems, a High-level Meeting within the Framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on the Protection of the Environment was held at ministerial level in November 1979 in Geneva. It resulted in the signature of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution by 34 Governments and the European Community (EC). The Convention was the first international legally binding instrument to deal with problems of air pollution on a broad regional basis. Besides laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement, the Convention sets up an institutional framework bringing together research and policy. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution entered into force in 1983. It has been extended by eight specific protocols.¹

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY JORDAN LEBANON MALTA SYRIA

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Earth's biological resources are vital to humanity's economic and social development. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations. At the same time, the threat to species and ecosystems has never been so great as it is

today. Species extinction caused by human activities continues at an alarming rate.

In response, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in November 1988 to explore the need for an international convention on biological diversity. Soon after, in May 1989, it established the Ad Hoc Working Group of Technical and Legal Experts to prepare an international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The experts were to take into account 'the need to share costs and benefits between developed and developing countries' as well as 'ways and means to support innovation by local people'.

By February 1991, the Ad Hoc Working Group had become known as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Its work culminated on 22 May 1992 with the Nairobi Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio 'Earth Summit'). It remained open for signature until 4 June 1993, by which time it had received 168 signatures. The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993, which was 90 days after the 30th ratification. The first session of the Conference of the Parties was scheduled for 28 November – 9 December 1994 in the Bahamas.

The Convention on Biological Diversity was inspired by the world community's growing commitment to sustainable development. It represents a dramatic step forward in the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.²

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY MALTA SYRIA

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

In 1992, countries joined an international treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable. By 1995, countries realized that emission reductions provisions in the Convention were inadequate. They launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol legally binds developed countries to emission reduction targets. The Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ends in 2012. At COP17 in Durban, governments of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol decided that a second commitment period, from 2013 onwards, would seamlessly follow the end of the first commitment period. The length of the second commitment period is to be determined: it will be either five or eight years long.

There are now 195 Parties to the Convention. The UNFCCC secretariat supports all institutions involved in the international climate change negotiations, particularly the Conference of the Parties (COP), the subsidiary bodies (which advise the COP),

and the COP Bureau (which deals mainly with procedural and organizational issues arising from the COP and also has technical functions). For a brief depiction of how these various bodies are related to one another, please see Bodies.

After four years of negotiations, the question of what happens beyond 2020 was also answered at Durban. Climate change is a complex problem, which, although environmental in nature, has consequences for all spheres of existence on our planet. It either impacts on-- or is impacted by - global issues, including poverty, economic development, population growth, sustainable development and resource management. It is not surprising, then, that solutions come from all disciplines and fields of research and development. At the very heart of the response to climate change, however, lies the need to reduce emissions. In 2010, governments agreed that emissions need to be reduced so that global temperature increases are limited to below 2 °C.³

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY LEBANON MALTA SYRIA

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

In the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018) that was adopted in 2007, Parties to the Convention further specified their goals: ‘to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability’.

The Convention’s 195 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in dry lands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought. The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation. The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.

As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.⁴

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY MALTA SYRIA

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure

that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington DC., United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. The original of the Convention was deposited with the Depositary Government in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic.

For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with now 176 Parties.⁵

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY SYRIA

ENMOD The Environmental Modification Convention, formerly the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

Also referred to as the Environmental Modification Convention, the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques entered into force on 5 October 1978.

Preparatory work on the Convention was conducted at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) in 1974, following a joint proposal of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. A draft convention, prepared by a Working Group set up within the CCD, was submitted, in 1976, to the General Assembly. In that same year, the First Committee of the General Assembly decided to send the text of the draft Convention to the General Assembly, which adopted resolution 31/72 on 10 December 1976, with the text of the Convention attached as an annex thereto. The Convention was opened for signature and ratification on 18 May 1977.

The Convention consists of ten articles which, inter alia, prohibit the States Parties from engaging in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury to any other State Party (article I), and require States Parties to undertake to consult one another and to co-operate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objectives of, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention.⁶

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad. Awakening environmental awareness and corresponding tightening of environmental regulations in the industrialized world in the 1970s and 1980s had led to increasing public resistance to the disposal of hazardous wastes – in accordance with what became known as the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome – and to an escalation of disposal costs. This in turn led some operators to seek cheap disposal options for hazardous wastes in Eastern Europe and the developing world, where environmental awareness was much less developed and regulations and enforcement mechanisms were lacking. It was against this background that the Basel Convention was negotiated in the late 1980s, and its thrust at the time of its adoption was to combat the ‘toxic trade’, as it was termed. The Convention entered into force in 1992. The provisions of the Convention centre around the following principal aims:

- the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, wherever the place of disposal;
- the restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management;
- a regulatory system applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible.⁷

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world’s oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole.

The Convention was opened for signature on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. This marked the culmination of more than 14 years of work involving participation by more than 150 countries representing all regions of the world, all legal and political systems and the spectrum of socio/economic development. At the time of its adoption, the Convention embodied in one instrument traditional rules for the uses of the oceans and at the same time introduced new legal concepts and regimes and addressed new concerns. The Convention also provided the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea.

The Convention entered into force in accordance with its article 308 on 16 November 1994, 12 months after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession. Today, it is the globally recognized regime dealing with all matters relating to the law of the sea.

The Convention (full text) comprises 320 articles and nine annexes, governing all

aspects of ocean space, such as delimitation, environmental control, marine scientific research, economic and commercial activities, transfer of technology and the settlement of disputes relating to ocean matters.⁸

CYPRUS GREECE ITALY JORDAN MALTA

**Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution
by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter**

The Inter-Governmental Conference on the Convention on the Dumping of Wastes at Sea, which met in London in November 1972 at the invitation of the United Kingdom, adopted this instrument, generally known as the London Convention. The London Convention, one of the first international conventions for the protection of the marine environment from human activities, came into force on 30th August 1975. Since 1977, it has been administered by IMO.

The London Convention contributes to the international control and prevention of marine pollution by prohibiting the dumping of certain hazardous materials. In addition, a special permit is required prior to dumping of a number of other identified materials and a general permit for other wastes or matter. 'Dumping' has been defined as the deliberate disposal at sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures, as well as the deliberate disposal of these vessels or platforms themselves. Annexes list wastes which cannot be dumped and others for which a special dumping permit is required. Amendments adopted in 1993 (which entered into force in 1994) banned the dumping into sea of low-level radioactive wastes. In addition, the amendments phased out the dumping of industrial wastes by 31 December 1995 and banned the incineration at sea of industrial wastes. In 1996, Parties adopted a Protocol to the Convention (known as the London Protocol) which entered into force in 2006. The Protocol, which is meant to eventually replace the 1972 Convention, represents a major change of approach to the question of how to regulate the use of the sea as a depository for waste materials. Rather than stating which materials may not be dumped, it prohibits all dumping, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called 'reverse list', contained in an annex to the Protocol.⁹

CYPRUS GREECE ITALY JORDAN MALTA SYRIA

**Vienna Convention for the Protection
of the Ozone Layer (and Montreal Protocol)**

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is often called a framework convention, because it served as a framework for efforts to protect the globe's ozone layer. The Vienna Convention was adopted in 1985 and entered into force on 22 Sep 1988. In 2009, the Vienna Convention became the first Convention of any kind to achieve universal ratification. The objectives of the Convention were for Parties to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer.

The Vienna Convention did not require countries to take concrete actions to control ozone depleting substances. Instead, in accordance with the provisions of the

Convention, the countries of the world agreed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer under the Convention to advance that goal.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The original Montreal Protocol was agreed on 16 September 1987 and entered into force on 1 January 1989.

The Montreal Protocol includes a unique adjustment provision that enables the Parties to the Protocol to respond quickly to new scientific information and agree to accelerate the reductions required on chemicals already covered by the Protocol. In addition to adjusting the Protocol, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol have amended the Protocol to enable, among other things, the control of new chemicals and the creation of a financial mechanism to enable developing countries to comply.

The Parties to the Vienna Convention meet once every three years, back to back with the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, in order to take decisions designed to administer the Convention.¹⁰

CYPRUS GREECE ITALY JORDAN MALTA SYRIA

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977. As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument entered into force on 2 October 1983. In 1997, a Protocol was adopted to amend the Convention and a new Annex VI was added which entered into force on 19 May 2005. MARPOL has been updated by amendments through the years.

The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes six technical Annexes. Special Areas with strict controls on operational discharges are included in most Annexes.¹¹

CYPRUS GREECE EGYPT ITALY JORDAN LEBANON MALTA SYRIA

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the RAMSAR Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Negotiated through the 1960s by countries and non-governmental organizations that were concerned at the increasing loss and degradation of wetland habitat for migratory water birds, the treaty was adopted in the Iranian city of RAMSAR in 1971 and came into force in 1975. It is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem, and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet.

The Convention's mission is 'the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world'.

The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peat lands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.¹²

GREECE ITALY

Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, also known as the Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, or the Madrid Protocol, is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. It provides for comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

The Protocol was agreed in 1991 and came into force in 1998, once it had been ratified by all 26 (now 28) Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCPs).¹³

GREECE ITALY

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources is an international treaty that was adopted at the Conference on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources which met at Canberra, Australia, 7–20 May 1980.

It is a multilateral response to concerns that unregulated increases in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could be detrimental for Antarctic marine ecosystems particularly for seabirds, seals, whales and fish that depend on krill for food.

The CAMLR Convention applies to all Antarctic populations of finfish, molluscs, crustacean and sea birds found south of the Antarctic Convergence (the Convention Area). The marine resources managed by CCAMLR specifically exclude whales and

seals, which are the subject of other conventions – namely, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals.¹⁴

ITALY

Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals

Following the 1964 Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora (which entered into force in 1982), the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals is part of the Antarctic Treaty System.

Signed at the conclusion of a multilateral conference in London in 1972, and abbreviated as the ‘Antarctic Seals’ agreement, the convention had the objective to promote and achieve the protection, scientific study, and rational use of Antarctic seals, and to maintain a satisfactory balance within the ecological system of Antarctica. The Agreement was limited to the Antarctic Treaty Area and entered into force in 1978.¹⁵

GREECE ITALY

Antarctic Treaty

The Antarctic Treaty came into force in 1961 after ratification by the twelve countries then active in Antarctic science. Its objectives are:

to demilitarize Antarctica, to establish it as a zone free of nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste, and to ensure that it is used for peaceful purposes only;

to promote international scientific cooperation in Antarctica;

to set aside disputes over territorial sovereignty.

The treaty remains in force indefinitely. The success of the treaty has been the growth in membership. Forty-six countries, comprising around 80% of the world’s population, have acceded to it. Consultative (voting) status is open to all countries which have demonstrated their commitment to the Antarctic by conducting significant research.¹⁶

JORDAN

The Jordan – U.S. FTA: Free Trade and the Environment 12/17/2001

The Free Trade Agreement represents the growth of U.S.-Jordanian collaboration in economic relations. Affirming their beliefs in sustainable developments, for the first time in the body of a free trade agreement, the US-Jordan FTA included a separate set of provisions about the environment. With support from EPA, both countries agreed to enhance enforcements and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (International Programs, 2012). With emphasis on increasing public awareness of environmental challenges and solutions, The United States and Jordan also agreed on an environmental cooperation initiative, which establishes a Joint Forum on

Environmental Technical Cooperation for on-going discussion of environmental priorities and related issues (International Programs, 2012).

JORDAN

The Canada-Jordan Environment Agreement 6/28/2009

The Canada-Jordan Environment Agreement was signed parallel to the Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. Reinforcing the notion, that trade and environmental protection are mutually supportive (Canada-Jordan Environment Agreement, 2012), this Agreement will obligate both countries to guarantee high levels of domestic environmental protection, fostering good environmental governance and promoting transparency and public participation.

JORDAN

Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

JORDAN

International Plant Protection Convention

JORDAN

Convention of the International Maritime Organization

JORDAN

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

JORDAN

**Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

JORDAN

**Amendment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora**

JORDAN

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

LEBANON

Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (1994)

LEBANON

African Eurasian Water Bird Agreement (2002)

LEBANON

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2008)

SYRIA

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water (10/10/1963)

The objective of the treaty is to obtain an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations; to put an end to the armaments race and eliminate incentives for the production and testing of all kinds of weapons, including nuclear weapons.

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APPENDIX II

NATURA 2000 SITES AND BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURE UNESCO WHC SITES

CYPRUS

SITE NAME	DESIGNATION TYPE
ETHNIKO DASIKO PARKO TROODOUS	n/a
ALYKES LARNAKAS	n/a
DASOS STAVROVOUNIOU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
POTAMOS PERISTERONAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
DASOS LEMESOU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
THALASSIA PERIOCHI NISIA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
FOUNTOUKODASI PITSILIAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
ETHNIKO DASIKO PARKO RIZOELIAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
THALASSIA PERIOCHI MOULIA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
ALYKOS POTAMOS - AGIOS SOZOMENOS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI AGIATIS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI POLIS - GIALIA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI MITSEROU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KOILADA KARGOTI	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KOILADA DIARIZOU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
AKROTIRIO ASPRO - PETRA ROMIOU	n/a
PERIOCHI DRYMOU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KOILADA KEDRON - KAMPOS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KAVO GKREKO	n/a
CHA-POTAMI	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KOILADA LIMNATI	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI KRITOU MAROTTOU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
DASOS MACHAIRA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI LYMPION - AGIAS ANNAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
MADARI - PAPOUTSA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
DASOS PAFOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)

PERIOCHI ASGATAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
MAMMARI - DENEIA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI SKOULLI	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI LEFKARON	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
FAROS KATO PAFOU	n/a
VOUNI PANAGIAS	n/a
MAVROKOLYMPOS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
EPISKOPI MOROU NEROU	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
PERIOCHI PLATY	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
KOILADA POTAMOU MAROULLENAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
XEROS POTAMOS	n/a
PERIOCHI STAYROS TIS PSOKAS – KARKAVAS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
POTAMOS PANAGIAS STAZOUSAS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
LIMNI PARALIMNIOU	n/a
POTAMOS PENTASCHINOS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
ZONI EIDIKIS PROSTASIAS CHA-POTAMI	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
ZONI EIDIKIS PROSTASIAS KOILADAS SARAMA	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
ZONI EIDIKIS PROSTASIAS LIMNI OROKLINIS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
KREMMOI EZOUSAS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
FRAGMA ACHNAS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
EKBOLES POTAMON EZOUSAS, XEROU, KAI DIARIZOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
ZONI EIDIKIS PROSTASIAS KOILADAS DIARIZOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
FARANGIA AGIAS AIKATERINIS - AGIAS PARASKEVIS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
PERIOCHI KOILADAS XYLOURIKOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
KOILADA EZOUSAS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
PERIOCHI AGIAS THEKLAS - LIOPETRI	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
PERIOCHI KOSIIS - PALLOUROKAMPOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
VOUNOKORFES MADARIS-PAPOUTSAS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
PERIOCHI ATSA - AGIOSTHEODOROS	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
CHERSONISOS AKAMA	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)

GKREMOI CHANOUTARI	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
LIMNI OROKLINIS	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
POTAMOS PARAMALIOU	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
ZONI EIDIKIS PROSTASIAS CHERSONISOS AKAMA	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
TZIONIA	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)

EGYPT

UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

Landscape sites

Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) (entered in 2005): Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) is a remote valley 150 km southwest of Cairo where hundreds of fossil whale skeletons are being exposed by the wind. They lie trapped in a sandstone formation that represents an ancient sea bed. Wadi Al-Hitan is the most important site in the world to demonstrate the evolution of the whales from land animals to a marine existence. According to the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature): "It exceeds the values of other comparable sites in terms of the number, concentration and quality of its fossils, and their accessibility and setting in an attractive and protected landscape." The fossil whales were first discovered during the winter of 1902-03.

Built heritage

Abu Mena (entered in 1979, in danger 2001 due to dramatic raise in water table): Abu Mena was a town, monastery complex and Christian pilgrimage center in Late Antique Egypt. It was built in remembrance of the martyr Menas of Alexandria, who died in 296 A.D. It is said that he chose his burial place by instructing his followers to tie his body to two camels, which wandered until they reached the site in the Mariut Desert. This archaeological site is located about 45 km southwest of Alexandria.

Ancient Thebes, including its Necropolis (entered in 1979): Thebes was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. It began to figure in the recorded history of Egypt during the Old Kingdom (2575-2134 BC). Tombs dating from the 6th Dynasty (2323-2152 BC) of Egyptian kings have been discovered in the original necropolis, which is on the west side of the Nile. It was the city of the god Amon, with temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens.

Historic Cairo (entered 1979): historic Cairo encompasses the historic centre on the eastern bank of the Nile, which includes no less than 600 classified monuments dating from the 7th to 20th centuries. Among them are Islamic Cairo, overlooked by the Cairo Citadel, Coptic Cairo and its many old churches and ruins of Roman fortifications.

Memphis and its Necropolis-the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (entered 1979): "Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur" recognizes the universal admiration for the Pyramids, their antiquity and the exceptional civilization they represent. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of

the World. Memphis was the capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt, from its foundation (ca. 3100 BC) until 2200 BC. The ruins of Memphis are 19 Km south of Cairo, on the west bank of the Nile. There are some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. Giza is a complex of ancient monuments including the three pyramid complexes known as the Great Pyramids, the massive sculpture known as the Great Sphinx, several cemeteries, a workers' village and an industrial complex. It is located ca. 25 Km southwest of Cairo center. Dahshur is a royal necropolis located in the desert on the west bank of the Nile approximately 40 Km south of Cairo. It is known chiefly for several pyramids, two of which are among the oldest, largest and best preserved in Egypt: the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid.

Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae (entered 1979): The Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae consists of the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and the Sanctuary of Isis at Philae. Abu Simbel is an archaeological site comprising two massive rock temples in southern Egypt on the western bank of Lake Nasser about 290 Km southwest of Aswan. The twin temples were originally carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II in the 13th century BC, as a lasting monument to himself and his queen Nefertari, to commemorate his alleged victory at the Battle of Kadesh, and to intimidate his Nubian neighbors. However, the complex was relocated in its entirety in the 1960s, on an artificial hill made from a domed structure, high above the Aswan dam reservoir. The relocation of the temples was necessary to avoid being submerged during the creation of Lake Nasser, the massive artificial water reservoir formed after the building of the Aswan dam on the Nile River.

Saint Catherine Area: The Orthodox Monastery of St Catherine stands at the foot of the Mount Horeb of the Old Testament, where Moses received the Tablets of the Law. Saint Catherine's Monastery at the mouth of an inaccessible gorge at the foot of Mount Sinai is one of the oldest continuously functioning Christian monasteries.

The monastery was built by order of Emperor Justinian I between 527 and 565, enclosing the Chapel of the Burning Bush ordered built by Helena, the mother of Constantine I, at the site where Moses is supposed to have seen the burning bush; the living bush on the grounds is purportedly the original. The site is sacred to three major world religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

GREECE

Protected Area	Management type	Size in hectares	IUCN Category	Creation date
Oiti	National Park - Peripheral zone	4200	III	
Kolpos Lagana Zakynthou	Nature reserve area	442	IV	1/1/1984
Vikos-Aoos	National Park - Peripheral zone	9200	III	
To dasos oxyas sto Pefkoto Pellas	Natural Monuments and landmarks (protected as strict nature reserve)	3	IV	1/1/1977
To dasos aeifyllon platyfyllon sto nisi Sapientza Messinias	Natural Monuments and landmarks (protected as strict nature reserve)	24	IV	1/1/1987
Fysikodasos kyparisiou ston Embona Rodou	Natural Monuments and landmarks (protected as strict nature reserve)	135	V	1/1/1974

Systada dryos kai fraxou stis Mouries Kilkis	Natural Monuments and landmarks (protected as strict nature reserve)	9	IV	1/1/1993
Ossa Larisas	Controlled hunting area	26337	VI	1/1/1992
Sounio	National Park - Peripheral zone	2750	IV	1/1/1985
Kirkis Alexandroupolis	Game Breeding Station	500	VI	1/1/1986
Atalantonisi Atalantis	Controlled hunting area	185	V	1/1/1974
Mikro and Megalo Seitani Samou	Absolute Nature Reserve area	9	III	
Voreion Sporadon Skopelou	Controlled hunting area	5464	III	
Vrachonisides Voreiou Dodekanisou	Protected area not yet classified	401	III	
Nisides Kythiron	Protected area not yet classified	60	III	
Ammothines Lardou stin Rodo kai paraktia periochi	Marine Park	243	III	
Limnothalassa Kotychi	Protected area not yet classified	1661	III	
Limnes Volvi kai Langada	Protected area not yet classified	16388	III	
Ygrotopoi Alfeiou kai Piniou stin Ilia	Protected area not yet classified	4412	III	
Techniti limni Kerkini	Protected area not yet classified	10996		
Dasi Thimon Chelonitou ston kolpo Ilias	Protected area not yet classified	1620	III	
Delta Evrou	Protected area not yet classified	9267		
Amvrakikos Kolpos, delta Lourou kai Arachthou	Protected area not yet classified	23649	IV	1/1/1990
Ygrotopoi Samou (Alyki, Glyfada, Kampos Choras)	Protected significant natural formations	6	V	1/1/1974
Dryodasos Kouri Magnisias	Aesthetic Forest	100	V	1/1/1967
Dasos Kaisarianis Attikis	Aesthetic Forest	640	III	
Dryodasos Mongostou Korinthias	Aesthetic Forest	520	III	
Dasos Stenis Evoias	Aesthetic Forest	674	III	
Dasos lofon Kastrou kai Ailia Trikalon	Aesthetic Forest	28	IV	1/1/1985
Limni laonninon	Nature reserve area	12	III	
Alonissos-Vories	Others	220000	III	

Sporades	Core zone in National Park	3393	III	
Pindos	Aesthetic Forest	1762	III	
Koilada Tempon Larissas	Core zone in National Park	3998	III	
Olympos	Core zone in National Park	4850		
Samaria	Aesthetic Forest	1750		
Dasos ethnikis anexartisias Kalavryton Achaïas	Aesthetic Forest	1850		1/1/1945
Daos chimarron Selemnou kai charadrou	Core zone in National Park	3513	III	
Parnassos	Aesthetic Forest	2216		1/1/1942
Dasi Amygdaleona Kavalas	Natural Monuments and landmarks (protected as strict nature reserve)	15000	III	1/1/1994
To apolithomeno dasos tis Lesvou	Aesthetic Forest	3000	VI	1/1/1988
Dasi nisou Skiathou Magnisias	Game refuge	1000	VI	1/1/1985
Gioura Island	Aesthetic Forest	16900	IV	1/1/1985
Dasika symplegma Ossas Larissas	Aesthetic Forest	2380	III	1/1/1994
Stena Nestou Kavalas - Xanthis	Controlled hunting area	1250	UA	
Dias Irakleïou	Core zone in National Park	3912	UA	1/1/1988
Parnitha	Core zone in National Park	2862	III	
Ainos	Protected area not yet classified	7200		
Dadia-Lefkimi kai dasos Soufli	Core zone in National Park	4900	III	
Prespes				

ITALY

Natural parks and reserves

Park	Location	Area	Highest Point	Elevation
Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise	Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise	506.83 km ²	Monte Petroso	2.249m
Alta Murgia	Puglia	677.39 km ²	Desperate Tower	686 m
Lucan Apennines - Val d'Agri - Lagonegrese	Basilicata	689.96 km ²	Upstream of the Pope	2.005 m
Tuscan-Emilian Apennines	Emilia-Romagne, Tuscany.	227.92 km ²	Monte Cusna	2.121m
Archipelago of La Maddalena	Sardegna (Sardinia)	201.46 km ²	Punta Tejalone, Caprera	212 m
Tuscan Archipelago	Tuscany	746.53 km ²	Mountain Huts on Elba in the Tuscan Archipelago	1.018 m
Asinara	Sardegna (Sardinia)	269.60 km ²	Punta Excommunication	408 m
Aspromonte	Calabria	Calabria	Montalto	1.955 m
Cilento and Vallo di Diano	Campania	1,810.48 km ²	Cervati	1.898 m
Cinque Terre	Liguria	38.60 km ²	Monte Pertuso	820 m
Circeo	Lazio	84.40 km ²	Monte Circeo	541 m
Belluno Dolomites	Veneto	315.12 km ²	Monte Pavione	2.335 m
Casentino Forests, Mount Falterona, Campigna	Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany	364.00 km ²	Monte Falterona	1.645 m
Gargano	Puglia (Apulia)	1,211.18 km ²	Bald Mountain	1.065 m
Gennargentu	Sardegna (Sardinia)	730.00 km ²	Punta La Marmora	1.834 m
Gran Paradiso	Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont	700.00 km ²	Gran Paradiso	4.061 m
Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga	Marche, Abruzzo, Lazio	1,413.31 km ²	Big Horn	2.912 m
Majella	Abruzzo	628.38 km ²	Monte Amaro	2.793 m
Monti Sibillini	Marche, Umbria	697.22 km ²	Mount Carrier	2.476 m
Pollino	Basilicata, Calabria	1,711.32 km ²	Sierra Dolcedorme	2.267 m
Sila	Calabria	736.95 km ²	Monte Botte Donato	1.928 m
Stelvio	Lombardy, Trentino-Alto Adige / Südtirol	1,307.00 km ²	Top Ortles	3.905 m
Val Grande	Piedmont	145.98 km ²	Monte Togano	2.295 m
Vesuvius	Campania	72.59 km ²	Great Cone	1.281 m

Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise

The park was first established in 1922 as a private initiative becoming a state institution by law a year later. Originally it measured a size of 500 hectares and grew to its current size of 50,000 ha, with around 80,000 ha of surrounding buffer zone. There are four rivers which flow through the area and eight lakes spread throughout and a total of eight peaks. The area has a population of 24,000 with 24 municipalities having territories within the designated area of the park. The park territory is divided in four different zones:

Zone A - Integral Reserve (strict protection area): In this zone access is allowed only with a permit, mainly for scientific research purposes. Tourists must stay on the tracks, and visitor numbers are generally limited.

Zone B - General Reserve: This area consists mainly of forest, mostly beech, and meadows. In this zone the park allows the continuation of traditional activities, such as collecting wood for fuel and crafts, collecting truffles and other wild mushrooms.

Zone C - Protected Landscape: This area is formed mainly by farmland along the flat alluvial area of the valleys, and is still managed in traditional ways.

Zone D Development zone: This is the area where the villages are located.
Park rangers: the park has its own Rangers Corps formed by 42 rangers.

Education and volunteers: In the park the volunteers are linked to the educational service, and during their stay they will have the assistance of the park's staff. The educational department organises and coordinates guided tours and facilities at the park area with its own staff, but also for local organisations outside the park.¹

Alta Murgia

The park was established in 2004 and covers an area of 125,889 ha, after an extension of 68,077 ha. The area is divided into three zones:

Zone 1 - of great naturalistic interest, landscape and cultural history, characterized by predominant landscape 'steppe' and rupicolo;

Zone 2 - value of nature, landscape and cultural history, characterized by predominantly agricultural landscape;

Zone 3 - ecological connection and promotion of economic activities compatible with the purposes of the park. In this area includes the areas affected by the program agreements, in accordance with regional standards in this area.²

Appennino Lucano - Val d'Agri – Lagonegrese

The park was established in 2007, covers an area of 68,996 ha and is located at the edge of the Apennine Mountains. The National Park has a wide range of protected areas entirely within the territory of Basilicata. The park has a varied geology and geomorphology with tectono-karsic basins, temporary lakes, sinkholes, caves, springs, areas rich in fossils and geological structures. The great diversity explains the presence of such a characteristic landscape, consisting of sharp peaks and steep, typical of carbonates and some formations and rolling hills mainly of sandy-clayey material. There are several lakes situated in the park called Lake Pertusillo, Lake Laudemio and Lake Sirino.

Only one major project is currently in progress, apart from a scheme regarding combatting fire in the area, known as 'Future in our park... 2010/2011' which involved to promote knowledge of the park as an institution and the characteristics of the protected area. The project involved 26 schools (with a total of about 1500 students.) The park is also home to important aspects of cultural heritage, including historical routes (such as the one taken by Hannibal on his march to Rome).³

Appennino Tosco-Emiliano

The park was established in 1988 and covers a total area of 23,000 ha. Situated in the Apennine mountain range the peaks in the park are: Alpe di Succiso, Mt. Prado, and Mt. Cusna.

The park territory is the result of centuries of history shaped by the mountains of Appennino Tosco-Emiliano. Many important historical events in time have left their mark on the territory and the landscape, marks that are there to remember who they were and where they come from. Integrated in a natural context of great value, these marks contribute to the importance of the park.

Archaeological traces dating back to the Roman period, the ruins of Matilda's fortresses and the rich palaces of medieval lords have been found. The former trails of the merchants and their mules, and the trails that enabled the Partisans to move across the forests without being observed, pass through the region.⁴

Arcipelago della Maddalena

The park consists of the entire La Maddalena Archipelago, situated in the north-east of Sardinia, near the Strait of Bonifacio, and consists of a multitude of islands, islets, and rocks shaped by the strong northwest wind and by the current of the Strait. Established in 1994, the park covers a total of 5,134Ha of land, as well as 15,046Ha of ocean.⁵

Arcipelago Toscano

The Tuscan Archipelago was given National park status in 1989 and covers a total area of 17,887 ha of land and 56,776 ha of ocean. Located in the provinces of Grosseto and Livorno in Tuscany, it contains the municipalities of Campo nell'Elba, Capoliveri, Capraia Isola, Isola del Giglio, Livorno, Marciana, Marciana Marina, Porto Azzurro, Portoferraio, Rio Marina, Rio nell'Elba. The overall area of the park includes the terrestrial areas of the seven islands of Archipelago Toscano: Elba, Giglio, Capraia, Montecristo, Pianosa, Giannutri, Gorgona, and the marine area surrounding the smaller islands. These islands have a very different geological formation: Capraia is a volcanic island, while Giglio and Elba are mainly granitic islands.

Asinara

Established as a park in 1997, the Asinara park covers 5,200 ha of the Sassari province of Sardinia. Asinara, the second largest island of Sardinia, has a narrow shape, elongated in the north-south trend of a very rugged coastline, indicating a wide variety of habitats. The Island has a historical situation, environmental and legal extremely unique. Although the first remains of human presence date back to Neolithic times, nature has been successfully preserved thanks to a series of events that acquired the unattractive name of Devil's Island: it was a quarantine station, a prison camp in World War II and one of the main Italian super-prisons, both during the period of terrorism of the 1970s and in the fight against organized crime, until the establishment of the park.

This isolation, which lasted for more than a century, caused on the one hand the birth of the charm and mystery of the island and on the other the indirect preservation of some virgin areas, making it a unique and priceless site on international level.⁶

Aspromonte

The Aspromonte National Park was established in 1989 and covers a total area of 64,599.64 ha in the Southern part of the Apennine mountains in Calabria, and it comprises, in whole or in part, the municipalities of Africo, Antonimina, Bagaladi, Bova, Bruzzano Zeffirio, Canolo, Cardeto, Careri, Ciminà, Cinquefrondi, Cittanova, Condofuri, Cosoleto, Delianuova, Gerace, Mammola, Molochio, Oppido Mamertina, Palizzi, Platì, Reggio Calabria, Roccaforte del Greco, Roghudi, Samo, San Giorgio Morgeto, San Lorenzo, San Luca, San Roberto, Sant'Agata del Bianco, Sant'Eufemia d'Aspromonte, Santa Cristina d'Aspromonte, Santo Stefano in Aspromonte, Scido, Scilla, Sinopoli, Staiti and Varapodio.

Cilento and Vallo di Diano

The second largest park in Italy, the Cilento and Vallo di Diano in the Campania region of the Salerno province, was established in 1991 and measures 181,048 ha. Within the park are the Alburni Mountains, the peaks of Mt. Cervati and Mt. Gelbison, the coastal buttresses of Mt. Bulgheria and Mt. Stella. The objectives of the park are to:

- achieve integration between humans and the natural environment, including through the protection anthropological, archaeological, historical and architectural and agro-forestry-pastoral and traditional.
- promote education activities, training and scientific research, and compatible recreational activities.
- promote and enhance the productive activities compatible.

Cinque Terre

Established as a national park in 1999, Cinque Terre covers a total area of 3,860 ha in the Liguria Region of the La Spezia province. The Marine area however was established in 1997 and includes the municipalities of Riomaggiore, Vernazza, Monterosso and partly that of Levanto.

Circeo

The Parco Nazionale del Circeo was established in 1934 and covers an area of 8,484 ha of the Lazio region of the Latina province.

Any current projects in the park always have the goal to protect the environment as a resource owned by the community, because the territory is and should be seen as an opportunity for development, and not as a constraint.⁷

Belluno Dolomites

Located in the Belluno province of the Veneto region and covers a total area of 31,034 ha. The park consists of different environments and cultures. There are many differences between the country wards situated on the slopes looking over the Valley of the Piave (in the areas of Feltre and Belluno) and the villages lying in the valleys of Agordo and Zoldo, since they are situated on slopes with completely different climatic and

geological features.⁸

Parco Nazionale delle Foreste Casentinesi, Monte Falterona e Campigna

This park covers 36,426 ha of land and includes one of the largest and best preserved woodland areas in Italy. The springs of the Arno River gush out from the southern slopes of Mount Falterona, which is the highest mountain of the park together with Mount Falco. The Foreste Demaniali Casentinesi, a very old woodland area extraordinarily rich in flora and fauna, covers the heart of this park.

The higher parts of the park are characterised by meadows and a compact presence of bilberry moors, the wolf has found in this park a suitable habitat and is now regarded as permanently settled. The park has a high volume of birds, most of which populate the woodland areas. It also plays host to birds of prey such as the sparrow hawk, kestrel, buzzard, honey buzzard, eagle, goshawk and eagle owl. Many paths go through the area, including former pilgrimage routes from Germany to Rome and the Vatican, as well as several Cathedrals and the birthplace of the Camaldolese Monastic order founded by Saint Romuald.⁹

Gargano

The Gargano National park was established in 1991 and covers an area of 121,118 ha of the Foggia province in the Puglia region of Eastern Italy. The park preserves an extraordinary concentration of different habitats: rocky coasts, the big and hot southern valleys rich in rare flower and wildlife species, the central beech woodlands situated at low altitudes and rich in centuries-old specimens, Mediterranean pine forests with Aleppo pines, with specimens more than 500 years old.

One of the main reasons for the establishment of the park is the presence of important wetlands, including the lagoons in Lesina and Varano, the marshes in Frattarolo and Daunia Risi, the mouth of the river Fortore, the lake area of Sant'Egidio, and the marsh of Sfinale. The wetlands of Gargano and Capitanata have always raised the interest of scientists and tourists for the different environments they offer and for being situated in a strategic position on the migratory routes of aquatic birds between Africa and central-eastern Europe.¹⁰

Gennargentu

The National Park has an area of 73,935 ha and contains upland and coastal areas. The park takes its name from is the largest mountain complex of Sardinia. The encouragement of farming methods for the park compatible with the environment will only benefit the basic resources on which it feeds agriculture itself: earth, air and water. This will make products more competitive in the park on the European market. The National Park encourages sustainable farming and provides incentives for agro-pastoral farming methods in line with EAGGF Regulation 2081 / 93. In relation to forest management traditional production is practised for guaranteed collection of wood for heating or other domestic purposes throughout the territory of the park.

For these limitations the park is obliged to compensate the owners of public and private land with one-off compensation or to enter into regular rents. The public use, in the Park of Abruzzo, of gathering wood in the forest for residents is regularly practised with cuts organized by the municipalities in accordance with the Board of Management of the park. The reforestation is undoubtedly part of the environmental

restoration. Regional laws as well as national laws prohibit hunting in the parks.

In a park that includes human settlements it is required that ordinary and extraordinary maintenance, restoration and modification of buildings comply with the building types typical of areas. New construction, however, may be authorized under the Municipal Town Plan and any other instrument of planning.¹¹

Gran Paradiso

Established in 1922, the park covers a total area of 71,043 ha and was declared Italy's first national park, located in the Aosta and Torino provinces of the Valle d'Aosta and Piemonte regions. The territory of the park is located in a mainly Alpine environment. The mountains of the Gran Paradiso group have been in the past carved and shaped by great glaciers and by streams, which led to the formation of the current valleys. Ascending along the slopes, the trees are replaced by wide alpine pastures, which are rich in flowers in the late spring. Ascending further, the landscape is characterized by rocks and glaciers. Shepherds have enjoyed a sustainable livelihood throughout history in the mountains.

One of the aims of the park is to highlight the importance of the cultural heritage of the mountain and to promote its sustainable economic development. The events of the park are strictly linked to the protection of the wild goat. The symbol of the park is the wild goat (*Capra ibex*). The park holds a number of mammals including the Marmot, The Bearded Vulture, The Golden Eagle and the Larch to name a few.

The Scientific Research and Healthcare Service is working on numerous research projects, aimed at increasing knowledge on biodiversity and eco-ethology of protected species in the park. Below are the main research activities currently carried out in the Gran Paradiso National Park:¹²

- Monitoring biodiversity
- Population dynamics, life history and ethology - of the Alpine Ibex (*Capra ibex*)
- Eco-ethology of the Alpine Marmot (*Marmota marmota*)
- Impact of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) on high level lake ecosystem
- Reproductive ecology and habitat selection of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga

The park, located in the heart of the Apennines, covering the territory of three regions: the Abruzzo, the Lazio and Marche. The area is also an important land link between the euro-Siberian region and the Mediterranean, which locates the highest mountain of the Apennines which includes the only glacier in southern Europe. Due to the parks geographical position it determines an extraordinary wealth of plant and animal species as well as a variety of ecosystems and unique landscapes.

The most precious floral features are linked to the highest summits, where the so-called 'glacial relicts' still survive: they are endemic species like *Androsace Mathildae*, *Adonis distorta*, the violet of the Majella, the edelweiss of the Apennines, *Artemisia petrosa*, and many species of saxifrages. The animal which is also the park symbol is the Abruzzi chamois that became extinct. However after 100 years and a reintroduction project they have returned to the mountains of Gran Sasso and 500 Abruzzi chamois now have settled there. The park also includes other large herbivores like Red Deer and Roe Deer, as well as their main predator, the Wolf of the Apennines.

Some of the most successful environmental policies of the Park Gran Sasso - Laga are linked to the EU's LIFE program. The EU Directives 'Birds' and 'Habitats' contribute to the implementation and development of Community environmental policy and environmental legislation.¹³

Majella

Established in 1991, the park covers an area of 74,095 ha of the Abruzzo region of Italy. Majella National Park is characterised by a territory dominated by mountains: 55 per cent of it is over the 2,000 meters. It includes wide lands with particular wilderness aspects, the rarest and most precious part of the biodiversity national heritage. It is estimated that 78 per cent of the species of mammals (except Cetaceans) are living in Abruzzi, and over 45 per cent of the Italian species.

The flora of Majella National Park has a wide range of species that amount to more than 2,100 and of various endemism's that amount to 142 species. The action of men caused the extinction of wild herbivores in Majella however thanks to the environmental conservation topic and to the remarkable efforts made by the National Forest Rangers, the National Park of Abruzzo, the WWF Italy, the Italian Alpine Club (CAI and thanks to the park safeguard activities, many species have been reintroduced or helped to return to more stable numbers.

The Park offers three classes of values to safeguard and manage:

1. Animals and plants - the most precious natural priorities for which the Park is second to none in Italy;
2. Mountain Landscape - large, difficult, made of high peaks for the mountain climbers, of caves for the speleologists, huge forests and snow available for a responsible practice of winter sports, crossing pathways and access roads;
3. Human presence and its historical evidences, also through some commercial activities still alive and completely fitted with environmental conservation.

The Majella National Park has the above management tasks to encourage sustainability development. There other tasks are:

- to protect natural areas in Italy, maintaining and preserving them as much as possible in order to ensure balance and biological diversity.
- to manage the park for educational, cultural and recreational purposes, and to respect the ecological, geomorphological and cultural features preserved.¹⁴

Monti Sibillini

Given status as a park in 1993, Monte Sibilline National park covers an area of 70,000 ha within the Marche and Umbria regions; there are ten peaks above the 2,000m of altitude. From the Sibillini spring the rivers Aso, Tenna, Ambro, and Nera are formed. In the park there is also the artificial Lake of Fiastra, and under the peak of Mt. Vettore, the Lake of Pilato.

There are 1,800 floral species in the park and 50 species of mammals for example the wolf, the porcupine, the wild cat, the rare marten, the snow vole, and the roe deer which has been recently reintroduced. The otter has extinguished. There are 150 kinds

of birds, such as the golden eagle, the peregrine, the eagle owl, the goshawk and the sparrow hawk to name a few. Over twenty kinds of reptiles and invertebrates can be found, such as the Orsini viper and *Chirocephalus Marchesonii*, a small crustacean living exclusively in the Lake of Pilato.¹⁵

Pollino

The National Park of Pollino is at a size of 192,565 ha and is one of the largest in Italy. The park was established in 1993 and its role of preservation and safeguarding is symbolised in its logo, which is the Bosnian Pine. It covers the regions of Cosenza, Matera and Potenza provinces of the Basilicata and Calabria.

The Golden Eagle can be seen among the Dolomitic peaks along with endangered animals like the Apennine Wolf, Black Woodpecker, Eagle Owl and Raven. In the highest areas there is a relict population of the last glaciation: the rare *Pinus leucodermis*, the symbol of the park. The open spaces of the land thrive with beech tree, chestnut trees, mushrooms, fruits and aromatic herbs. In the valleys the water descends to fill the gorges of Raganello, Lao and Rosa. The fields are bursting with hollies, blackberry bushes, flowers, poppies and orchids.

The park is also one of the oldest prehistoric sites in Europe with many well preserved human remains of short stature with evidence of various rituals that show the relationship of man with his Mountain.

There are currently three on-going projects in the park: Robinwood Plus, A Laboratory natural learning in the park and the green patriarchs of the Pollino National Park.¹⁶

Sila

The Sila National Park was established in 1997 and spreads across 73,695 ha in the Catanzaro, Cosenza and Crotona provinces of the Calabria region. Sila National Park Authority manages some of the most beautiful and wild areas of the Region with large and wonderful. The highest mountains are Mt. Botte Donato (1,928m), in Sila Grande, and Mt. Gariglione (1,764m) in Sila Piccola; there are several torrential rivers, with clear and fresh waters, and artificial lakes used for various purposes. The wildlife, resident and migratory, is rich and varied and the mammals found are wolves, wild boar deer and polecats, birds such as Black woodpeckers, wrynauts, spider catchers and various species of owls. The cultural heritage in the rural and tourist villages are very rich and are a main attraction for tourists.¹⁷

Stelvio

The park was established in 1935 in the Bolzano, Brescia, Sondrio and Trento provinces. Stelvio National Park is one of the largest parks in Italy at a size of 130,728 ha, and sits in the entire alpine range and extends into the heart of the Central Alps. Within this area, the different alpine environments are present from glaciers to mountain pastures and agricultural terraces down to the valley bottom. The park plays host to large areas of woodland, agriculturally-used land, high-lying hay barns that are inhabited all the year round.

The park is also recognised by a mix of near-natural landscapes and land that has been cultivated for centuries. Where glacial lakes and lively mountain streams meet, the hydrogeological conditions create particular landmarks. Due to its wide altitudinal

range and the morphological variety of the territory, the park contains vast ecosystems that are rich in vegetation and wildlife. Extensive glaciers and everlasting snow mostly cover the central area of Stelvio National Park, this huge mass of water is used as a water reserve.

The aim of the park is to guarantee the park's sustainable development - by maintaining the quality and regenerative capacities of natural resources, ecosystem integrity and biological diversity, and by ensuring well-being, as well as economic, social and cultural opportunities.

Stelvio National Park is populated by numerous alpine animal species such as Red deer and roe deer. There are sound populations of fox, marmot and stoat, large numbers of squirrels and hares; badger and weasel are rarer. There are also kestrel, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, buzzard and sparrow hawk; among nocturnal birds of prey we find eagle owl, Tengmalm's and pygmy owl. At least twenty-six pairs of golden eagle and the bearded vulture have been spotted in the skies of the park.¹⁸

Val Grande

The Val Grande national park was established in 1991 and is a total size of 15,000 ha in the Piemonte region and is the largest wilderness area in Italy. It lies at less than 100 km from Milan and at 150 km from Turin. The unique valley is dominated by silence, and left completely to nature. The park consists of harsh, rocky mountains.

The richness of the vegetation and the variety of the flowers in bloom are one of the main attractions of the park. Since it usually rains a lot in the area the beech is the most common species above all on the wet and shady slopes, but also on the southern slopes. Increasing in altitude the widespread woodlands are replaced by alpine grassland and shrubs. Mammals such as Roe deer, deer, badgers, hedgehogs and squirrels can be found with micro mammals like, the vole, the wild mouse and shrew which are an important part in the food chain in the area. With many of the natural parks in Italy the golden eagle can also be spotted.

The trout lives in its ideal habitat thanks to the clearness of the water and there are also amphibians, among which the common frog and the salamander, and the main reptile of the park are vipers.

There are three categories in which the rocks can be divided: magmatic rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks: the latter can be found in Val Grande.¹⁹

Vesuvius

The Vesuvius National Park was founded in 1995 in order to preserve animal and vegetable species, vegetable and forest associations, geological peculiarities, paleontological formations, biological communities, biotopes, scenic and panoramic values, natural processes, ecological balances. The park covers a total area of 8,482 ha of the Napoli province of Campania.

There are 906 different plant species and a large number of orchids (23) can be found. Other species include: *Genista tinctoria*, *Genista aetnensis*; the last one was imported from Etna in 1906 and today it is widespread on the entire Vesuvian territory. Mammals include the 'oaken mouse', which is rare in other parts of Italy, along with beech-marten, foxes, wild rabbit and hare. Hundred or more species of bird settle or migrate

for winter and breeding. Birds found are buzzards, kestrel, woodpigeon, rock thrush and raven. The green lizard the western whip snake and Turkish Gecko are reptiles found in the park.

Mt. Vesuvius is undoubtedly a very famous volcano; it dominates the Bay of Naples with its characteristic cone. It is a typical example of a volcano in a volcano made by an outer broken cone, Mt. Somma (1,133 metres) with a crater belt - most of which is destroyed. In it there is a smaller cone, the actual Mt. Vesuvius (1,281 metres). The high embankments provide precious and very fertile soil for vegetation and rich in silicon and potassium.²⁰

UNESCO WHC Landscape Sites

Aeolian Islands

The Aeolian Islands are an example of volcanic island building and destruction and continuous volcanic activity. The islands are interesting sites for scientists and geologists studying types of volcanic eruptions, at present the sites continue to enrich the field of volcanology. The Aeolian Islands are located off the northern coast of Sicily, and consists of seven and five small islets the islands cover a total area of 1,216km². The faunas current species are found to of originated from continental Europe reaching the southern limit of their distribution. Approximately 40 bird species have been recorded including 10 under the Sicilian Red List of threatened bird species. The islands are also important for migrant bird species and an Important Bird Area for species identified by Birdlife International. Mammals include one endemic subspecies, *Eliomys quercinus leparensis* (a species of dormouse), and seven species of bat have been reported. Seven species of reptile are present and Invertebrate fauna seems relatively well known, with over fifteen endemic species described.

Monte San Giorgio

This is a pyramid-shaped, wooded mountain of Monte San Giorgio, it is located alongside Lake Lugano. It is recognised as the best fossil record of marine life from the Triassic Period (245–230 million years ago). It became recognised as a UNESCO landscape site in 2003 and the extension of the park in 2010. The park plays host to land-based fossils of reptiles, insects and plants, resulting in an extremely rich source of fossils. Although it is primarily of geological significance, Monte San Giorgio also displays cultural relationships between the geology and the life of the local community. Important features include dry meadows on limestone sub-soils that are home to plant populations not found elsewhere in Switzerland or in the entire southern Alpine zone of Italy. The site is rich in fungi and has 37 of the modern vertebrate species on the national Red List, 21 of which are protected under the Berne Convention.

The Dolomites

The Dolomites site is identified with a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps that was eighteen peaks and cover an area of 141,903 ha. It contains some of the most breathtakingly beautiful mountain scenes and landscapes, with vertical walls, sheer cliffs and a high density of narrow, deep and long valleys. The site also represents glacial landforms and is characterised by the most dynamic processes including landslides, floods and avalanches. Fossil records have been found in the Mesozoic carbonate platforms.

BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURE

UNESCO WHC sites

Rock Drawings in Valcamonica

The rock engravings found in Valcamonica are over 8,000 years old and document prehistoric customs and beliefs. These formations have contributed to the greater understanding and interpretation of prehistory, sociology and ethnology. Valcamonica is home to the largest complex of rock drawings in subalpine Italy and there are approximately 250,000 petroglyphs drawn on hundreds of exposed rocks depicting scenes of agriculture, navigation, war and magic. The area where the rock carvings were most plentiful was in the lowest section of the valley between the peaks of Concarena and Pizzo Badile Camuno.

Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie

The church is located in the province of Milano and was given World Heritage status in 1980. The work on this architectural complex piece of work began in 1463. On the North wall in the church is the Last Supper which is thought to have been 1495 and 1497 by Leonardo da Vinci, whose work is internationally recognised in the history of art. Leonardo's work broke with the traditional representation of the past, upsetting some ideas.

Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura

This world heritage site was acknowledged in 1980 and was extended to what it is now in 1990. It is located in the province of Rome, the Vatican City, and was thought to have been founded according to history in 753BCE. Rome became very important as it was the centre for the Roman Republic, Roman Empire and now stands as the capital of the Christian world since the fourth century. The extension of the Heritage site now includes some of the major monuments of antiquity such as the Forums, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Hadrian, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column and the Column of Marcus Aurelius along with some of the most important public and religious buildings of Papal Rome.

Historic Centre of Florence

Florence was founded in 59 BCE as a Roman colony known as Florentia and was inscripted as a World Heritage Site in 1982. Originally it was built over the Roman city and is recognised as a paradise of extraordinary works of art and architecture. Florence is recognised as the symbol of the Renaissance and in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries saw it rise in economic and cultural status under the Medici family.

The focus of the city is the thirteenth century Cathedral Piazza of Santa Maria del Fiore, with Giotto's campanile on one side and the Baptistry of St John in front, with the Gates of Paradise by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Michelangelo's work can be found inside St Lawrence's Basilica by Brunelleschi. Its 600 years of extraordinary artistic work by great artistic masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo can all be seen in the cathedral

The republican government was abolished and the Medici took over in the fifteenth century, until they disappeared in 1737. Control on Florence was passed to the Lorraine

family who held power until 1859. Florence became the political capital of Italy for some time and in addition between 1865 and 1870 was known as the cultural capital.

Piazza del Duomo, Pisa

Located in the city and province of Pisa, Tuscany it was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1987. The site contains four famous monuments a prime example of medieval architecture. These include: the cathedral, the baptistery, the campanile (the 'Leaning Tower') and the cemetery. The 'Leaning Tower' is one of the main tourist attractions in Italy. The monuments had a great influence on Italian art from the eleventh to the fourteenth century.

Venice and its Lagoon

Often referred to as the floating city, Venice is built on 118 small islands which makes it appear to be floating on the lagoon. Venice had a large influencing factor on the world's development of architecture and arts and presents Venice as a unique artistic achievement. The whole city is an exceptional example of the history of art and examples of this can be found even in the smallest buildings in the works of Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese and others. In the Lagoon, nature and history have been very closely linked since the fifth century CE when Venetian populations found refuge on the sandy islands to escape from the barbarian raids. The refugees stayed there then developed into what they are today.

San Gimignano delle belle Torri

San Gimignano delle belle Torri is in Tuscany, 56 km south of Florence. When founded, the town grew around two principal squares the Piazza della Cisterna and the Piazza del Duomo, and served as an important relay point for pilgrims travelling to or from Rome on the Via Francigena road. The patrician families who controlled the town built around 72 tower-houses (some as high as 50 m) as symbols of their wealth and power. Although only fourteen have survived to the present day, San Gimignano has retained its feudal atmosphere and appearance. The town also has several masterpieces of fourteenth and fifteenth century Italian art.

The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrine Churches of Matera

Located in the City and Province of Matera, Region of Basilicata the site was recognised as a WORLD Heritage Site in 1993. The park is an outstanding example of a rock-cut settlement which naturally adapted perfectly to its geomorphological setting. The site represents a fantastic example of a traditional settlement and land use showing the development of culture and the close relationship with the natural environment. The Matera region in Italy has seen permanent settlers since the Palaeolithic period. Deforestation of the area had led to dangerous erosion rates and as a result created problem for water management. Due to its geological setting it was successfully developed from agriculture to pastoral farming and settlement areas were easy to increase. A belt of soft tufa is located between 350 m and 400 m above the valley bed, and this also contains two natural depressions as a consequence settlement areas were easy to develop.

City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto

Located in the Provinces of Padua, Rovigo, Treviso, Venice, Verona and Vicenza, Veneto

Region and were listed in 1994. The city of Vicenza was founded in the second century BCE in northern Italy, the city prospered under Venetian rule from fifteenth century to the eighteenth century. The merit of the unique appearance of the city goes to the work by Andrea Palladio (1508-80) based on an in-depth study of classical Roman architecture. Palladio's urban buildings and villas are scattered throughout the Veneto region and have had a profound influence on the development of architecture. Through its architecture, the city has exerted exceptional influence on architectural and urban design in most European countries and throughout the world.

Crespi d'Adda

Crespi d'Adda lies in the Province of Bergamo, Lombardy, and was established as a World Heritage Site in 1995. It is classed as an exceptional example of nineteenth and early twentieth century 'company towns' which were developed to cater for the needs of their industrial work force. These were developed in Europe and North America, which was a significant development in industrialists treating their workforce better. The site is remarkably still intact and one part is still in use, however, the shift in economic and social conditions are putting the survival of the site in danger. The site is divided into two parts with the factory to the right and to left is the bank of the Adda, which contains the offices, designed by an architect Ernesto Pirovana. Opposite the main road are the houses which nowadays are still inhabited. There is considerable variation in the styles of house, which makes for a pleasing diversity in the townscape.

Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta

Established as a world heritage site in 1995, the Ferrara is an example of an organised Renaissance city whose urban fabric has been sustained. It is situated around the River Po, and is an artistic centre point that attracted the greatest minds of the Italian Renaissance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The birth of modern town planning was influenced by the work of Biagio Rosseti whose 'ideal city' concept came to life in 1492 and onwards. The brilliant Este Court attracted a constellation of artists, poets and philosophers during the two seminal centuries of the Renaissance. The Po Delta is an outstanding planned cultural landscape which retains its original form to a remarkable extent. This focal point, which links the modern and Renaissance city with the medieval, is underlined by four palaces: Palazzo Prosperi-Sacratì, Palazzo Bevilacqua, Palazzo Turchi-Di Bagno and Palazzo dei Diamanti.

Historic Centre of Naples

Naples is one of the most ancient cities in Europe which was founded by Greek settlers in 470 BCE. Naples has retained the successive cultures and has emerged in Europe and Mediterranean basins and has influenced many parts of Europe and beyond. It is a unique site, with a wealth of different monuments such as the Church of Santa Chiara and the Castel Nuovo. Naples has seen a long and eventful history which is shown in the street patterns, wealth and structure of historic buildings from over different periods and is set on the Bay of Naples giving it a universal value. The urban fabric of the town has been developed and touched by over 25 different centuries. Important archaeological discoveries have been made in excavations since the end of the Second World War. Three sections of the original town walls of this period are visible in the northwest. The surviving Roman remains are more substantial, notably the large theatre, cemeteries and catacombs. The street layout in the earliest parts of the city owes much to its classical origins.

Historic Centre of Siena

The city of Siena was classified as a World Heritage site in 1995. Siena is the embodiment of a medieval city and is devised as a work of art that blends into the surrounding landscape. The inhabitants of the city had rivalry with the Florence area over urban planning. Between the 12th and the 15th century, the work of Duccio, the Lorenzetti brothers and Simone Martini were to influence the course of Italian and, more broadly, European art. There are bastions and towers which are pierced by gates. The walls surrounding the city have been extended on several occasions; also include a network of galleries and the bottino which evacuate the spring waters distributed by the public fountains. The main fountains were constructed in 13th century like Gothic porticoes.

Castel del Monte

One may find the Castle in the Puglia Region of Italy. The Emperor Frederick II built the castle near Bari in the thirteenth century. It is classed as a unique piece of military architecture. The castle is situated 29 km south of Barletta on a rocky peak that dominates the surrounding landscape. The castle contains symbolic significance as reflected in its location and its regular shape. In its formal perfection and blending of cultural elements from northern Europe, the Muslim world, and classical antiquity, Castel del Monte is a unique masterpiece of medieval military architecture, reflecting the humanism of its founder, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen. The walls of the castle are built from huge dressed blocks of limestone.

Each room has a marble bench at the base of the columns and a decorative marble cornice. Of special interest is the unique hydraulic installation for bath and toilet facilities, clearly oriental in origin.

Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna

The Ravenna has an early Christian collection of mosaics and monuments dating from fifth and sixth centuries. In the fifth century Ravenna was the seat of the Roman Empire and then Byzantine took charge as of eighth century. The site has eight historic buildings being: the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Neonian Baptistery, the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, the Arian Baptistery, the Archiepiscopal Chapel, the Mausoleum of Theodoric, the Church of San Vitale and the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe. They uncover great artistic skill, including a wonderful blend of Graeco-Roman tradition, Christian iconography and oriental and Western styles. The sites provide a great understanding of the supremacy of art of the mosaic in these times and hold evidence of artistic and religious relationships as well as understanding European cultural history.

Historic Centre of the City of Pienza

Located in the province of Siena, Tuscany the site was awarded world heritage in 1996. Its historic centre represents the first instalment of the Renaissance humanist interpretation of urban design. It was also an influencing factor of the idea of the planned 'ideal town', thus it played an important role in developing Italy and further afield. It was in this Tuscan town that Renaissance town-planning concepts were first put into practice after Pope Pius II decided, in 1459, to transform the look of his birthplace. He chose the architect Bernardo Rossellino he created a new vision of urban space and the square known as Piazza Pio II.

The Trulli of Alberobello

The Trulli are limestone dwellings located in the region of Puglia are fascinating and interesting examples of drywall construction. Currently the prehistoric building technique is still in use in this region and the limestone is collected from neighbouring fields. Pyramidal, domed or conical are a popular site which are attached to the roofs of the dwellings. These structures are some of the best preserved in urban areas of this type in Europe. The rooms are a rectangular shape with the walls being doubled but contain rubber cores and pierced holes for windows and the fireplaces and ovens were traditionally recessed into the thickness of the walls. The structures are grey thanks to the limestone slabs used however the roofs terminate in a decorative pinnacle.

Eighteenth Century Royal Palace at Caserta with the Park, the Aqueduct of Vanvitelli, and the San Leucio Complex

Included in 1997, this world heritage site is in the Provinces of Caserta and Benevento, Campania. With influences and styles similar to others in the eighteenth century royal establishments, it offers a broad state of design while incorporating an imposing palace and park. Created by the Bourbon king Charles III in the mid-eighteenth century it is an excellent piece of evidence that brings together a palace, park and gardens, natural woodland and hunting lodges. It integrates all those into its natural setting.

The Royal Palace is rectangular in plan, with four large interior courtyards intersecting at right angles. It covers a total area of 45,000 m² and rises to a height of 36 m in five storeys and the building contains 1,200 rooms and 34 staircases. The monumental main staircase gives access to the royal apartments, which are decorated and furnished in eighteenth century style. The chapel, inspired by that at Versailles, opens out of the lower vestibule.

Archaeological Area of Agrigento

This site is located in the Province of Agrigento, Sicily and was established as a world heritage site in 1997. The site was founded as a Greek colony in the sixth century BCE during this time Agrigento became one of the leading most important cities in the Mediterranean world. The site contains remains of the Doric temples that shape the ancient town. Areas of interest like the town of Hellenistic and burial practices of early Christian inhabitants help us understand the early settlements.

The Valley of the Temples covers most of the built-up part of the ancient city and its public monuments. The area has a sacred location and historic temples; the sacred area was created in the second half of the sixth century BCE. However the most impressive temples are said to of been built during the reign of Thero and after to Herakles, Olympian Zeus, Hera Lacinia, Vulcan and Concord. The so-called Temple of Concord is the most impressive surviving Doric temple in the Greek world after the Parthenon in Athens. It has survived to a remarkable degree owing to its having been adapted for use as a church in the sixth century CE. It is built on a four-level stylobate and is surrounded by 34 columns.

Archaeological Areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata

Located in the province of Naples, Campania and the listing date was in 1997. The eruption of Vesuvius volcano in 79 CE buried and preserved two Roman towns called Pompeii and Herculaneum. Due to the dust and lava settling and burying the

towns they have been well preserved and are tourist areas for the public since the mid-eighteenth century. They flourish with history with the remains of the holiday town Herculaneum, giving an insight into the aspects of contemporary holidays. The wall paintings of the Villa Oplontis at Torre Annunziata give valuable insight into the lifestyle enjoyed by the wealthier citizens of the Early Roman Empire.

Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua

Located in the City and Province of Padova, Veneto Region the garden was considered to be the first botanical garden and was created in 1535. The garden has been preserved to its original layout – a circular central plot, symbolizing the world, surrounded by a ring of water. However other features were introduced like architectural and practical work. To this day the gardens are still in use and an area for scientific research. The Botanical Garden also has two other important features apart from the garden itself, one being the library which contains over 50,000 volumes and manuscripts of immense historical and bibliographic importance. The garden's herbarium is the second most extensive in Italy.

Cathedral, Torre Civica and Piazza Grande, Modena

Situated in the City and Province of Modena, Emilia-Romagna Region the breath-taking twelfth century cathedral at Modena which is the work of two great artists (Lanfranco and Wiligelmus), is a supreme example of early Romanesque art. The powerful Canossa dynasty commissioned it and the builders show true faith to the features and development with its magnificent piazza and soaring tower.

Costiera Amalfitana

Located in the province of Salerno, Campania was an established World Heritage site in 1997. The area covers 11,231 ha in the Salerno Province and has seen settlers since the early Middle Ages. Costiera Amalfitana is of great physical beauty and natural diversity. The towns located here reveal significant architectural and artistic works representing different time periods. The rural areas however show versatility of the inhabitants in adapting their use of land to the natural terrain. The outstanding landscape for the site is breath-taking with diverse land ranging from vineyards and orchards to lower slopes up to wide upland pastures. The land maintains cultural and natural values with examples of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic materials, as well as villas dating back to the Romans. However, it was not intensively settled until the early Middle Ages, when the Gothic War made it a place of refuge. Amalfi was founded in the fourth century CE.

Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)

Measuring 4,689 ha across the Province of La Spezia, Liguria Region, this cultural site sustains outstanding value. It is an example of interaction between man and nature that produced a successful landscape and develops a traditional way of life that existed for 1,000 years, and still plays an important socio-economic role in the community. The layout of the small towns and the shaping of the surrounding landscape show an example of how to overcome the disadvantages of a steep, uneven terrain, encapsulate the continuous history of human settlement in this region over the past millennium. The communities developed compact settlements situated on top of the rock together with winding streets to tackle the problem of reduced space.

Residences of the Royal House of Savoy

The residence is located in the province of Torino, Piedmont Region and the date of Inscription was 1997. When the Duke of Savoy in 1562 moved his capital to Turin, he began a vast programme of planning projects to demonstrate the power of the ruling House. The exceptional and complex buildings of the Savoy were designed by popular architects and artists, with beautiful embellishments. The style radiates out into the surrounding countryside including country residences and hunting lodges. The construction of these buildings involves a town planning system that provides links between one palace and another and between the palaces and the villas, at the same time giving an architectural unity and solemnity to the areas that house the seats of power.

Su Nuraxi di Barumini

Located in Sardinia this is the finest and most complete example of a remarkable form of prehistoric architecture. In the Bronze Age a special defensive structure was built called Nuraghi (for which no parallel exists anywhere else in the world) on the island of Sardinia. The defensive structures contain circular towers built of dressed stone with internal chambers. The structures at Barumini are the best example of these. The principal (and earliest) feature of Su Nuraxi is a massive central tower or keep, built from large dressed stones in a dry stone configuration, consisting of three chambers, one upon the other and linked by a spiral staircase. The structure was originally thought to have reached a height of 18.5 m, the four towers which are assumed to have been added later are linked by a massive stone curtain wall.

Villa Romana del Casale

Villa Romana del Casale in Sicily is a symbol of Roman exploitation of the countryside. The villa is said to be the most luxurious of its kind that contains the finest mosaics found anywhere in the Roman world. Each room is high in richness and quality with each mosaic pattern. The building itself, which fits the definition of 'palace' rather than villa, is designed in the tradition of the Roman villa but to a greater scale and to a level of luxury with no parallels in the Roman Empire. The area that has been excavated which is only part of the full establishment covers about 4,000 m².

Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

Aquileia (in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia), one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the Early Roman Empire, was destroyed by Attila in the mid-fifth century. A large part of the site has not been excavated and still lies beneath the fields; it is currently the greatest archaeological reserve of its kind. It has an exceptional mosaic pavement which influenced the development of art in the central Europe regions. Aquileia was founded as a Latin colony in 181 BCE by the Romans in the northeastern corner of the Po plain as an outpost against barbarians. History tells us that the site quickly became a major trading centre, linking central Europe with the Mediterranean. Excavation has uncovered part of the forum and its Roman basilica, the Republican macellum (covered market), one of the sets of baths, and two luxurious residential complexes along with impressive funerary monuments.

Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park with the Archaeological Sites of Paestum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula

The Cilento is an example of an outstanding natural park of cultural landscape. The

dramatic groups of sanctuaries and settlements show the area's evolution through history. It was an established major route for trade and interaction or cultural and political movements through the prehistoric and medieval periods. The use of the mountain chains spreading from east to west developed a cultural landscape of outstanding significance between the Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian Sea. The Clinto was the boundary between Greek colonies and the indigenous Etruscan and Lucanian peoples.

The most noteworthy archaeological site is that of Paestum, the Greek city of Poseidonia. A number of public buildings have been uncovered with the most outstanding being the great temples of Hera (which is the oldest, dating back to mid-fifth century BCE), Ceres and Poseidon. The remains of the Roman forum built over the Greek agora have been excavated and are on view. This large open space is surrounded by public buildings, identified as the bouleuterion (council chamber), the curia (courthouse), and the macellum (covered market).

Historic Centre of Urbino

Settled in the province of Pesaro, Marche Region the area spreads over 3,609 ha. The small town of Urbino culturally flourished in the fifteenth century. This attracted artists and scholars from all over Italy and Europe. Owing to its economic and cultural stagnation from the sixteenth century onwards, it has preserved its Renaissance appearance to a remarkable extent, however major restoration efforts were enforced in the 1700s. The site was initially built by Romans in the third and second century BCE and was expanded in the eleventh century CE. The palace became the focus of the urban fabric with a design in the Renaissance style, the cathedral (Duomo) was rebuilt in the late eighteenth century and contain some important works of art.

Villa Adriana (Tivoli)

The villa which is located near Rome is a complex example of classical buildings by the Emperor Hadrian in the second century CE. The combination of elements from Rome, Greece and Egyptian architectural heritage formed what is known as the 'ideal city'. The villa is 120 ha and is situated in the Tiburtine Hills and was a symbol of power. After Hadrian's death, the villa was not used as a permanent residence by subsequent emperors, but continued to be enlarged and further embellished nonetheless.

Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco and other Franciscan Sites

Assisi, a medieval city built on a hill, is the birthplace of St Francis, closely associated with the work of the Franciscan Order. It is a great example of medieval art masterpieces such as the Basilica of San Francesco and paintings by Cimabue, Pietro Lorenzetti, Simone Martini and Giotto, who strongly influenced the developments of Italian and European art and architecture. The bishop's citadel was built close to the ancient cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore, and San Rufino became the new cathedral in the eleventh century, being rebuilt in the thirteenth century. The walled area was enlarged in 1260 and 1316, showing an increase in population.

City of Verona

The historic city of Verona was founded in the first century BCE. Under the rule of the Scaliger family, during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the city flourished. Monuments from antiquity, medieval and Renaissance periods represent outstanding

examples of a military stronghold. It was a city that developed over 2,000 years and is one of the richest areas in Northern Italy for Roman remains. Some of these features are: city gate, Roman theatre and the amphitheatre arena. There are also numerous buildings that date from the Renaissance in the centre of Verona: the churches of Santi Nazaro e Celso, Santa Maria in Organo, San Giorgio, San Tomaso, San Bernardino, and Sant'Eufemia.

Villa d'Este, Tivoli

The Villa d'Este in Tivoli, Rome, boasts an extraordinary palace and garden and is recognised as one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture. Its complex design along with the architectural components in the garden such as the fountains, ornamental basins, and so on, make this a unique example of an Italian sixteenth century garden. This is a prime example of an early model for the development of European gardens and had a profound influence on the development of gardens during the time.

Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto (South-Eastern Sicily)

This group of towns in southeastern Sicily represents Baroque art in Europe. The towns were all in existence in medieval times, characteristically around a castle and with monastic foundations. The quality of the art is exceptional, however the art and architecture in the Val di Noto was changing during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and was then affected by the earthquake in 1693. It consists of eight towns on the Sicilian southeastern coast which were all rebuilt after the earthquake. They also represent the urban and town planning schemes with a high level of artistic achievement.

Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy

The nine Sacri Monti (Sacred Mountains) of northern Italy are groups of chapels and other architectural features created in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These mountains situated in the regions of Piedmont and Lombardy are in a natural landscape of great beauty. They were connected to a critical period in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. They hold amazing hills, forests and lakes. They are also home to important artistic material in the form of wall paintings and statues alongside the spiritual Christian meaning.

Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia

Located in the provinces of Rome and Viterbo, Region of Latium, it covers 4,932 ha. The Necropolises are two large Etruscan cemeteries that show differences in the burial styles between the ninth and first centuries BCE. Some of the tombs are monumental with many feature carvings on the walls and others have wall paintings. The quality of the work is of a very high standard. The site near Cerveteri contains thousands of tombs organized in a city-like plan, with streets, small squares and neighbourhoods. The site also contains various types of tombs: trenches cut in rock; tumuli; and some, shaped like huts or houses with a wealth of structural details. This location provides the only surviving evidence of Etruscan residential architecture. The necropolis of Tarquinia contains 6,000 graves cut in the rock. The main reason for its fame is the presence of 200 painted tombs, the earliest of which date from the seventh century BCE.

Val d'Orcia

The landscape of Val d'Orcia is situated in the province of Siena, Tuscany, and is part of the agricultural hinterland to reflect the practise of good governance and to create an aesthetically pleasing landscape. The distinctive aesthetics of the region were the inspiration of many artists, and stands as an example of the beauty of Renaissance land management. The landscape's original beautiful features: flat chalk plains out of which rise almost conical hills with fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. The inscription of the site was accepted in 2004 and covers: an agrarian and pastoral landscape reflecting innovative land-management systems; towns and villages; farmhouses; and the Roman Via Francigena and its associated abbeys, inns, shrines, bridges, etc.

Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica

This site is located in the city and Province of Syracuse, Sicily, situated on the southeastern side and covers an area of 5,519 ha. It is split into two parts. The first is the Necropolis of Pantalica containing over 5,000 tombs cut into the rock near open stone quarries, most of them dating from the thirteenth to seventh centuries BCE. There are also remains in the area, notably the foundations of the Anaktoron (Prince's Palace), which are a token of cultural interest. The other part of the property which was influenced by the Greeks, includes the nucleus of the city's foundation of Ortygia by Greeks from Corinth in the eighth century BCE. The site contains a temple which later was transformed to serve as a cathedral, a Greek theatre, a fort and more. Historic Syracuse offers a unique testimony to the development of Mediterranean civilization over three millennia. The site combines together two different elements dating back to Greek and Roman times.

Genoa: Le Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli

This site can be found in the Liguria Region of the Genoa Province, the centre of Genoa, date back to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. At this time Genoa was at the height of its financial and seafaring power. The site is the oldest example of public lodging within private residences. The site has a collection of Renaissance and Baroque Palaces along an area known as 'the new streets' (Strade Nuova) and are adapted to the unique characteristics of the site. It was built to reach the requirements of the particular social and economic organisation. Finally, the site is also significant for being an original example of a public network of private residences designated for hosting state visits.

Mantua and Sabbioneta

The towns of Mantua and Sabbioneta located in the Po Valley in Northern Italy represent two aspects of Renaissance town planning: Mantua shows the renewal and extension of an existing city, while Sabbioneta (located 30 km away) shows the implementation of the period's theories about planning the 'ideal city'. The two towns lead an important role in the circulation of Renaissance culture. The ideals of the Renaissance, fostered by the Gonzaga family, are present in the towns' morphology and architecture. Mantua has an irregular layout, with ordered areas showing the newer sections built in different periods since Roman times. Sabbioneta is described as a 'single period city' and is in a right-angled street layout.

Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes

Situated on the border between Italy and Switzerland, this landscape became a world

heritage site in 2008, covering an area of 109,386 ha. It combines two historic alpine railway lines in order to make the remote areas on the Alps more accessible in the early twentieth century. This had a positive and great impact on the socio-economic development of people living on the mountains. The railway line is considered an outstanding technical, architectural and environmental achievement and embodies architectural and civil engineering in harmony with the landscapes through which it passes.

Longobards in Italy, Places of Power (568-774 A.D.)

Running throughout the Italian Peninsula, the Longobards, Places of Power, are a group of seven important buildings which include fortresses, churches and monasteries. They testify to the success of the Lombards, who migrated from Northern Europe who developed their own culture in Italy which was established in many areas from the sixth to the eighth century. The architectural styles by the Lombards give historians an insight of the change from Antiquity to the European Middle Ages. The features touch the heritage of Ancient Rome, Christian spiritually, Byzantine influence and Germanic northern Europe. The Places of Power give evidence of the Lombards having a major role in the spiritual and cultural development in the Medieval European Christianity.

Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps

This serial property of 111 small individual sites encompasses the remains of prehistoric pile-dwelling (or stilt house) settlements in and around the Alps built from around 5000 to 500 BCE these can be found on the edges of lakes, rivers or wetlands. Some sites contain evidence to show how during the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Alpine Europe, communities interacted with their environment. Settlements are situated in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland. The settlements are a unique group of exceptionally well-preserved and culturally rich archaeological sites, which constitute one of the most important sources for the study of early agrarian societies in the region.

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MALTA

Is-Simar (l/o San Pawl il-Bahar)	n/a
Ramla tat-Torri / Rdum tal-Madonna Area	n/a
L-Ghadira Area	n/a
Filfla	n/a
Kemmuna, Kemmunett, il-Hagriet ta' Bejn il-Kmiemen u l-Iskoll ta' Taht il-Mazz	n/a
Buskett - Girgenti Area	n/a
Iċ-Ċittadella	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Wied il-Mizieb	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Ghawdex: Id-Dawra tas-Sanap sa Tal-Hajt	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
Il-Bahar bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Il-Maqluba (l/o Qrendi)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
L-Ghar tal-Iburdan	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Is-Salini	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Il-Magħluq tal-Bahar (l/o Marsaskala)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Ix-Xaghra tal-Kortin	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
L-Imġiebah / Tal-Miġnuna Area	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Il-Ballut (l/o Marsaxlokk)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Ghawdex: Il-Ponta ta' San Dimitri sa Il-Ponta ta' Harrux	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
Il-Ballut tal-Wardija (l/o San Pawl il-Bahar)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa sa Il-Ponta ta' Benghisa	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl / Selmunett	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)

Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ix-Xaqqa sa Wied Moqbol	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
Pembroke Area	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
L-Ghadira s-Safra	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Xlendi - Wied tal-Kantra Area	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ras il-Pellegrin sa Ix-Xaqqa	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
Dwejra - Qawra Area, inkluż Haġret il-Ġeneral	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Ghajn Barrani Area	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Il-Qortin tal-Magun u l-Qortin il-Kbir	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Ghar Dalam	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Ghawdex: Ta' Ċenċ	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
Ir-Ramla Area	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Ghawdex: Il-Ponta ta' Harrux sa Il-Bajja tax-Xlendi	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)
L-Inhawi ta' Ta' Ċenċ	Special Area of Conservation (SAC, EC Habitats Directive)
Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Wied Moqbol sal-Ponta ta' Benghisa	Special Protected Area (SPA, EC Birds Directive)

SYRIA

Natural parks and reserves

According to the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, the following is a classification of protected areas including natural parks and reserves found in Syria:

Protected Area	Number	Area		IUCN
		Km2	%	
Marine Reserve	1	3.5	0.002%	I
Managed Reserve	5	928.5	0.501%	IV
National Park	3	7.2	0.004%	II
Precautionary Reserve	2	175.4	0.095%	VI
Wildlife Reserve	20	1,352.8	0.731%	
Designated Reserves	31	2,467.4	1.332%	
Importance Specific Reserve	2	300.0	0.162%	
Biosphere Reserve	1	20.0	0.011%	
Special Reserves	3	320.0	0.173%	
Pastoral Reserves	76	9,258.6	5.000%	
Grand Total	110	12,046.0		6.505%
Assitionally:				
1) Al Jabboul Lake Wetland Reserve				
2) AL-Talila Reserve				
3) The Lajat Biosphere Reserve				

Environment and Built Heritage

Name	Governorate	Area	Year	Main Habitats
Damnet Al-Souida	Al-Souida	653	2001	Degraded <i>Quercus</i> Forest
Jubbat Al-khashab	Al-Qunaitera	133	2005	Forest
Dair Mar Mousa	Rural Damascus		2004	Heritage site
Allazab	Homs-Damascus	19,000	2006	Degraded <i>Pistacia</i> Forest
Dair Atiya	Rural Damascus		2005	Degraded land
Abu Kobeis	Hama	11,000	1999	Evergreen Forest
Al Sha'ara-East	Tartous	1,000	1998	Evergreen Forest
Cedar – Fir	Latakia	1,350	1996	<i>Cedar-Abies</i> Forest
Ra'as Ibn Han	Latakia	1,000	2000	Marine Ecosystem
Um Al-Toyour	Latakia	1,000	1999	Pine Forest & Marine Environment
Ras Al-Bassit	Latakia	3,000	1999	Brutia Pine Forest
Ferunluk	Latakia	1,500	2000	Oak-Pine Forest
Al-Bassel Forest	Idleb	2,000	2005	Forest
Sabkhat Al-Jabboul	Aleppo	10,000	1972	Wetland
Al-Thawra Island	Raqqa	590	1994	Wetland

Jabal Abdul Aziz	Deir ez-Zor	49,000	2002	Degraded <i>Pistacia atlantica</i> Forest
Huwaijet Ayaash	Deir ez-Zor		2005	Forest and wetlands
Huwaijet Abu Hardoub	Deir ez-Zor	450	2005	Forest and wetlands
Jabal Al-Bala'as	Hama	34,365	2008	Degraded <i>Pistacia atlantica</i> Forest
Jabal Abou Rojmen	Homs	60,000	2002	Pistacia/Mountain
Bald Ibis Special Protected Area	Homs	1,000	2003	Reproduction habitat of Bald Ibis
Talila	Homs	22,000	1991	Desert habitat
Al-Mouh Lake	Homs		2006	Wetland
Allajat	Al-Sweida	2,000	2008	Degraded land
Kherbt Solas	Latakia	7,760	2009	Forest
Alokaiba	Aleppo	500	2009	Plants Garden