

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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V. WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

www.moa.gov.cy/wdd

1. Introduction

The Water Development Department is responsible for implementing the water policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. The main objective of this policy is the management, conservation and development of the water resources of Cyprus. In this context, the responsibilities of the department cover a wide and diverse spectrum of activities, which includes:

- i. The collection, processing and classification of hydrological, hydrogeological, geotechnical and other data necessary for the study, maintenance and safety of water development works.
- ii. The study, design, construction, operation and maintenance of works, such as dams, ponds, irrigation, domestic water supply and sewerage schemes, water treatment works, sewage treatment and desalination plants.
- iii. Water conservation and protection of water resources from pollution.

2. Structure

The Water Development Department consists of the following eleven central divisions:

Water Resources, Hydrology, Planning, Design, Rural Projects Tenders and Contracts, Sewage and Reuse, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Government Water Supply Systems, Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems, Telemetry and the Electrical- Mechanical Services services.

The Department has four Regional Offices located in Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca –Famagusta.

3. Activities

The Government's water policy focuses on the sustainable development and management of surface water with the construction of surface water reservoirs, the production of desalinated sea water and the use of recycled water for irrigation and recharge purposes.

Furthermore, the Water Development Department promotes the harmonization of Cyprus' Laws with the European acquis regarding the protection, preservation and improvement of the water quality.

At the same time, measures are being taken, for promoting a water conservation and efficiency of water use, such as public awareness campaigns, weekly television and radio programs, school visits, distribution of information material, website offering information on water issues, use of tap and toilet water saving devices in public buildings, etc.

The water Development Department provides subsidies for saving potable water such as:

- Drilling of private boreholes in residential areas for garden with low grade water.
- Connection of private boreholes with toilet tanks.

- Installation of grey water recycling systems in houses, schools, play grounds, military camps and public, buildings.
- Installation of hot water circulating pumps in households for immediate supply of hot water.

The hydrological year of 2008 was extremely dry. In fact, it the second driest year since 1901 and the inflow to the reservoirs was only 15,7 million cubic metres of water, the lowest in a decade.

As a result of the severe drought and the limited amount of water in dams, in April 2008 the delivery of potable water from the government scheme was reduced by 30%. Exceptions have been made to hospitals, hotels, industrial areas and military camps.

Furthermore, in order to enhance domestic water supply and relieve the current crisis, water was tankered from Greece. By the end of the year 2008 five million cubic metres had been transferred.

Additional measures taken include:

- Increased capacity of the existing desalination plants of Dhekelia and Larnaca.
- Construction of new desalination plants in Limassol and Paphos.
- Use of new boreholes and purchase of water from private boreholes
- Treatment of the raw water of the Garyllis aquifer in Limassol for potable water.

During the year under review, the Water Development Department initiated the implementation of numerous projects and programs that are vital to the further development of others sector of the Cyprus economy.

Such works include the installation of 5,7 km of the central Conveyor of Annadiou Project and the completion of the Installation of 27.8 km of the Central Conveyor of Kannaviou Dam.

Feasibility studies and environmental impact studies were carried out for a number of projects for the recycling of treated waste water and other works.

Other activities included work on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60 EC, article 9 (Recovery of Costs for Water Services and Public Consultation) article 11 (Program of Measures) and article 13 (River Basin Management Plan) and the preparation of a Drought Management Plan.

It is worth noting that it has been decided to establish a new Directorate for Integrated Water Management, which is intended to manage the island's water resources within the framework of the national water policy.