



CSTI Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative

Our Mission Statement: *“To contribute to the development of Sustainable tourism in Cyprus that conserves the environment, supports the local economy*

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Contact us:

Block A2, Office 206, 56 Stavrou Ave, 2035 Strovolos, Nicosia, Cyprus
Tel.: 22311623

Website: www.csti-cyprus.org
E-mail: info@csti-cyprus.org

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Environmental Trivia

Did you know?

Pollution

Plastic bags are difficult and costly to recycle and most end up on landfill sites where they take around 300 years to photo degrade. They contaminate the soil, waterways and enter the food chain where animals accidentally ingest them.

CSTI is affiliated to



News from the THOMAS COOK PLASTIC Project

Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative, together with the Travel Foundation UK charity and one of the leading tour operators in Europe Thomas Cook have joined forces in order to implement a Plastic Reduction Waste Project following last year's successful pilot programme.

Having taken seriously the environmental concerns that imply that more effort needs to be taken in that direction and the warm response from Hoteliers and Hotel guests participating as well as the much promising results last year's pilot project, a new Initiative commenced as of the 1st of June 2011.

Twenty eight (28) hotels are participating in the project, in the Ayia Napa, Protaras and Paphos areas, joining their efforts in order for Cyprus to become a sustainable destination.

Mr. Philippos Drousiotis, the chairman of Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative said: "The aim of the project is to minimize the use of plastic as well as to inform guests and hoteliers that sustainability can contribute to saving the environment and reducing hotel expenses as well".

Mr. Drousiotis also expressed his sincere thanks to Thomas Cook for funding the project.

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) promotes conservation and protection of the environment and the sensible use of natural resources so that the Cyprus of today can be enjoyed by the holidaymakers of tomorrow.

MAKING CYPRUS GREENER

Thomas Cook is working together with your hotel to reduce plastic waste and we would appreciate it if you could help us!

Some useful tips to help us... whilst you are on holiday:

- Minimise the use of plastic straws
- Take one plastic cup at a time
- Reuse your plastic cup?
- Put messy rubbish into the bathroom bin
- Reuse your shopping bag instead of taking a new one each time
- Get a glass of water instead of a bottled one
- If you can see more ways to help? Please feel free to contact any staff member or your representative so they can pass this on to the management.

You can play your part to help us to save plastic
Help us to protect our fragile environment

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING PART!

Cyprus is a small island – we don't have much room for rubbish



Hotels Participating

Paphos Region

Tsokkos Ascots, Kefalos Beach, Laura Hotel, Riu Cypria Maris, Riu Cypria Bay, Pafian Park Hotel, Pafian Sun Hotel, Helios Bay, Nereus Hotel, Queen's Bay, Aqua Sol, Akteon Hotel, Aloe Hotel

Project Coordinator: Nadia Moniatis

Ayia Napa / Protaras Region

Tsokkos Anastasia, Tsokkos Marilita, Tsokkos Gardens, Tsokkos Protaras, Odessa Hotel, Constantinos the Great, Vrissiana Hotel, Iliada Hotel, Sivler Sands, Antigoni Hotel, Dome Hotel, Tsokkos Paradise, Tsokkos, Annamaria Hotel, Nissi Beach Hotel, Olympic Lagoon Hotel

Project Coordinator: Dana Slavikova

Sustainable hotel gardens in Cyprus - Reducing water usage for landscaping and gardens

Over the last few years Cyprus has experienced a series of water shortages, particularly during the high tourist season. Annual demand now outstrips supply. There is an increasing reliance on desalination plants but they can provide only 45% of demand and their operation is energy intensive. Rationing measures in residential areas have been introduced in recent years and although, to date, hotels have largely been exempt from rationing, it is possible that these measures may be extended to the tourism industry in the future. This is likely to have a significant impact not only on the quality of the tourism experience but also on the consumers' decision to holiday in Cyprus.

SUSTAINABLE HOTEL GARDEN IN CYPRUS: reducing water usage for landscaping and gardens

Prepared by
msolutions and
Vita Verde



solutions
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION

**the travel
foundation**
CYPRUS TOURISM ORGANIZATION

**The co-operative
travel**
CSTI

The Travel Foundation and Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) run an initiative to reduce consumption of water in hotels and a demonstration project funded by Cooperative travel to reduce water consumption in the landscaping and gardens of a selection of hotels and apartment complexes in Cyprus.

This project aims to reduce water consumption in a selection of hotels and apartment complexes in Cyprus featured by The Cooperative Travel through the implementation of best practice measures relating to gardening. The other important aim of the project is to promote best practice in gardening to other hotels, tourism businesses and residents through the dissemination of best practice guidelines and showcases.

A workshop is scheduled after the final results in order to announce the best practice guidelines. The workshop will be opened to all kinds of business related to Tourism Industry, Municipality and Local Authorities, Professional Bodies and Hospitality students.

The project is implemented by Msolutions.

"New CSTI Members: We would like to welcome you to our sustainable family Lefkara Municipality

More projects to come...

Solid waste management – funded by Cyprus Tourism Organization (CTO), Travel Foundation and CSTI .

This study implemented by Price Water House Coopers Consulting, indicates the need for the commencement of a dialogue between the industry stakeholders, local authorities, CTO and all relevant governmental departments in order to utilise the industry's most promising change towards the environment.

Greening Cyprus Beaches – funded by Cyprus Tourism Organization, Travel Foundation, CSTI and undertaken by Pelagos Consulting this project aims to green Cyprus beaches. In September, with the help of TUI Discovery Program, volunteers from TUI UK, who collected more than 600 questionnaires helping to complete the first beach user survey.

The survey was conducted in four languages Greek, English, German and Russian.

Special thanks to Antje Papageorgiou General Manager of Aeolos and Dana Slavikova for helping with the German and Russian language questionnaires.



Lee Goodson,
TUI volunteer with the
first of the 600
questioners

Please renew your membership and contribute to the regeneration of Cyprus rural economy, the promotion of local culture and the conservation of the island's environment and natural resources

Meeting With Mrs. Praxoula Antoniadou Minister of Commerce and Tourism

On the 21st of October the chairman of Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) Mr. Philippos Drousiotis together with Industry Programs Manager of Travel Foundation Mrs. Julie Middleton, the Head of Programs of Travel Foundation Mrs. Sali Felton and CSTI member Mr. Christos Neocleous met with the new Minister of Commerce and Tourism Mrs. Praxoula Antoniadou.

During their meeting Mr. Drousiotis explained the aims of CSTI and informed the minister about the latest news and the projects undertaken by CSTI in cooperation with Cyprus Tourism Organization and the Travel Foundation.

Mrs. Antoniadou agreed with the importance of these projects and the initiatives and, expressed her willingness to support CSTI existing and future projects.

The second unofficial meeting with the Minister will take place during the World Travel Market (WTM) in London next November.



Christos Neocleous, Sali Felton, Julie Middleton, Minister Praxoula Antoniadou, Philippos Drousiotis at the Minister's Office in Nicosia

Exploring Akamas



Sue and Andrew Lockton enjoying a cup of tea in Caroline's herbal garden

Holidaymakers from the United Kingdom, Sue and Andrew Lockton spent two weeks of their vacation in a Sunvil Villa at Coral Bay.

CSTI escort Lockton's on a day trip that started from Coral Bay and passed through villages of Pegia, Katikas, Pano Akroudalia and Steni.

In Katikas they visited Sterna Winery where they had the opportunity to see the natural cave cellar and taste six different wines produced by the owners of the winery.

There was also a stop in Pano Akroudalia village to visit the herbal garden *Heaven On Earth*. Caroline Evans, owner and herbalist of the garden knows everything about cultivation of herbs and the various ways of using them. Guests can not only enjoy a cup of homemade herbal tea but also buy herbal extracts and oils.

After having a rest in the Herbal Garden, next stop was the Museum of Village Life in Steni. The museum was founded by the local community and it considers to be one of the best of its kind.

On the way to Coral Bay there are villages like Drousia, Inea, Arodes and many others that are also worth visiting. In Inea, for example, tourists can see one of the oldest handicrafts on Cyprus - basket weaving in the Weaving Museum.

Drouseia is a typical Cypriot village that is famous for the Monastery of Ayios Georgios Nikoxilitis built in the 17th century. The village Drouseia is surrounded by hills from which tourists can enjoy a picturesque view of the Akamas Peninsula and try a delicious traditional dinner.

In Arodes there is a small chapel Panayia Chrysospilotisa that is definitely worth visiting because of its reputation for healing eye elements. For Sue and Andrew this was the second trip to Cyprus, but as they mentioned there is always something new to see and discover.

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Travel Foundation and CSTI meetings with Stakeholders Of

The Hotel And Tourism Industry

On the **17th of October** a meeting with the Mayor of Ayia Napa Mr. Andonis Tsokkos took place in order update the local authorities for the Green Beach Project and start the a constructive discussion for the main aspects of this project. The aim of the meeting was also to find all the possible ways to help and support the project implementation.

Later, on the same day there was a meeting with the Manager of Alexander The Great Hotel Mr. Costas Stavrou. During the meeting, the environmental and sustainable practices that this hotel implements were discussed. Mr. Stavrou mentioned that the sustainability is all about simple things and everything starts from the moment management decides to change the culture among the staff members.

On the **19th of October** Mrs. Julie Middleton (TF) and Mr. Andreas Kassinos (CSTI) visited Tsokkos Askos Hotel in Coral Bay. Askos Hotel performed the best reduction of plastic for second year and is leading this process according to the Thomas Cook Plastic Project results.

The example of Tsokkos Askos Hotel proves that reduction of plastic consumption is not only important in terms of the environment protection but is also profitable for the hoteliers. One of the most important aspects of this project is guest's opinion for the reduction process.

The Operations Manager of Tsokkos Askos Hotel Mr. Chrysanthos Moniatis explained that the first step in this process is to inform guests about the project and its importance. As the result many customers are glad to take part in a project that preserves the environment and they even suggest different ways of how to reduce the usage of plastic.

CSTI would like to take this opportunity and thank Tsokkos Hotels and especially Mrs. Chryso Tsokkou for encouraging their hotels to participate in the project.

The following day (**20th of October**) CSTI and TF representatives met with Cyprus Tourism Organization (CTO) officers and with Mr. George Ioannou from Price Waterhouse Coopers Cyprus (P.W.C.). The main topic of the meeting was the Solid Waste Project and the next steps.

The second meeting of that day was also very important. It concerned the next steps of the Green Beaches Project. CTO Tourism Officer Mrs Koullitsa Demetriou, Aqua Tourism Officer Mr. Glafkos Kariolou the and Mrs Rodoulla Antoniou represented their organization to the meeting.

On the **21st of October** CSTI and the Travel Foundation met with the Director General of the Cyprus Hotel Association Mr. Zacharis Ionnides and informed him about it's current projects. Mr. Zacharis Ionnides agreed to help and advice hotels to participate in such projects.

Another meaningful meeting was between members of CSTI, Travel Foundation and the Secretary General of the Union of Municipalities, Mr. Yiannis Antoniadis. The main topics during this meeting were the next steps and the future implementation of the Solid Waste Project and the necessity of new legislation framework since this particular project is very important for Cyprus because of the great numbers of tourists that welcomes every year. Hoteliers and local authorities should be aware of the great advantages of this project and its important role in the preservation of the environment.

The last meeting of the week was with the Director of CTO Mr. Lefkos Fylactides. In this meeting all the lessons that have been learned within the first year of partnership between CTO, TF and CSTI were discussed as well as the next steps of future.

As a result of the meetings it is agreed that the implementation of all the environment protection projects requires collaboration between the hoteliers, local authorities, tourism organizations, the understanding of tourists and the local population itself.

CSTI would like to express sincere thanks to all the stakeholders for their efforts and time devoted to the issues of sustainable tourism.

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