

From: Dr Philip Rushbrook



Chief Officer, Sovereign Base Areas
Headquarters
Sovereign Base Areas Administration
Episkopi
British Forces Post Office 53

Tel : +357 2596 3755 (Mil 94120 3755)
Fax : +357 2596 3993 (Mil 94120 3993)
E-mail: SBAA-HQGmailbox@mod.uk

HQ/SBAA/02/02/01/01

29th May 2015

Dear Stakeholder,

CONSULTATION ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF AREAS OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST WITHIN THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS – SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

Attachments:

Annex A: List of areas of European Environmental Interest

Annex B: Provisional Boundaries

Annex C: Standard Data Forms

Annex D: Form for submitting representations

Annex E: FAQs¹ and Answers

The SBAA² has been working on the formal designation of the cSACs³ in the SBAs⁴ since 2007. The preparation by scientific specialists of the information necessary to identify sensitive habitats and species of flora and fauna has been underway for a number of years. Outline proposals were presented separately to all local Communities during the Public Consultation on NMD⁵ in July 2014. At the time, the SBAA explained the proposed designation will support the conservation of internationally important natural habitats and species of fauna and flora within the SBAs, and that the proposed designation will not prevent future development being considered.

The obligation to take forward consultation on the designation arises under the provisions of the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance 2007, which satisfies the SBAA commitment to the Bern Convention. There is already similar legislation in use in the Republic of Cyprus. The Republican Law implements Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, known as the Habitats Directive, under which the EU meets its obligations under the Bern Convention. Although the SBAs are not technically in the European Union, the SBAA has accepted the need to adopt legislation similar to that in the Republic of Cyprus.

¹ Frequently Asked Questions

² Sovereign Base Areas Administration

³ Candidate Special Areas of Conservation

⁴ Sovereign Base Areas

⁵ Non Military Development

Now that various expert studies have been completed, I am publishing a list of areas identified as being of European Environmental Interest within the SBAs (attached as Annex A).

The consultation commencing today on the cSAC sites will end on Friday 3 July 2015. Following the completion of this consultation and an examination of any representations received, a final list of areas will be designated as SACs⁶. The proposed boundaries and the extent of the areas included in the list are shown on the map attached as Annex B. A Standard Data Form containing detailed information on the habitat types and species of flora and fauna qualifying for SAC designation (identified by the scientific specialists) is attached as Annex C.

During the consultation commencing today, (29 May 2015), a person may make representations in relation to the proposal to designate the areas described in the list. The forms for making representations are attached as Annex D. It must be clarified that any representations must be reasoned and based on scientific evidence that justify the opinion of the stakeholder that the specific area or part of it does not qualify to be an area of European environmental interest. Please make any representations you may have to the relevant Area Office at:

Area Office Akrotiri
SBA Administration
Akrotiri SBA
BFPO 53 Tel: (+357) 25 96 7295

Or

Area Office Dhekelia
SBA Administration
Dhekelia SBA
BFPO 58 Tel: (+357) 24 74 4558

I would be grateful if you would inform all interested land owners, users or other interested stakeholders within your community of the publication in the SBA Gazette and make available to them the map and forms containing the relevant information on the areas included in the list. I also attach at Annex E a list of Questions and Answers that provide further information on the designations and their implications.

After the consultation and consideration of representations, the designation of an SAC is intended to safeguard sensitive habitats and species of flora and fauna. However, it is recognised that land developments may be proposed too. Therefore, applications for development would be considered in the same way as for other locations, with an additional consideration on environment impacts, if any.

If you require further information please contact Environmental Administration Assistant, on Tel: 25963763, E-mail: SBAA-Env-AdminAsst@mod.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Rushbrook

⁶ Special Areas of Conservation

Copy to:

Area Officers
Environmental Policy – David Reynolds