

Nicosia's Green Line — a divided city's buffer zone turned de facto wildlife corridor

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Cyprus

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Cyprus's UN-patrolled buffer zone bisecting Nicosia, off-limits to construction since 1974, has become an unplanned wildlife refuge: a 2007 UNDP-backed survey recorded 358 plant, 100+ bird and 18 mammal species, and it now shelters up to 3,000 Cyprus mouflon.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-03

[UN Development Programme \(UNDP\) Cyprus](#) — accessed 2026-09-03

[Satoyama Initiative case study — The Cyprus Buffer Zone as a Socio-Ecological Landscape](#) — accessed 2026-09-03

[Daily Sabah — Wildlife finds refuge on Green Line, helps bridge Cypriot divide](#) — accessed 2026-09-03

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