

April 29, 2024

## News and notes

Before going on to discuss the geology and geopolitics of [Cyprus](#), here are some news items I thought were interesting.

## Geopolitics

- How to start WW3: [Analysts Warn Hormuz Closure Would Cause Major Oil and Gas Price Spike](#).
- How to lose WW3: [A \\$250 Million War Game and Its Shocking Outcome](#).
- [Is China stockpiling oil and other resources in case of future war?: Peter Apps](#).
- [Watch "America and China fight for mineral monopoly" on YouTube](#).
- [Canada issues travel advisories to these popular destinations](#): Brazil, France, Paraguay, Sweden, United Kingdom.

## Research and News

- The Earth's Core: [Effect of discretization choices when modeling the thermo-chemical history of the accreting core](#).
- [Continental Crust Rejuvenation Across the Paleo-Mesoarchean Transition Resulted From Elevated Mantle Geotherms](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- Gondwana: [Primary microfossiliferous chert in the Aptian Barra Velha Formation](#).
- I was expecting an [earth-shattering kaboom: Kaş Bay: Evidence of a 20 km-diameter complex impact structure on the Turkey-Greece frontier](#).
- [Effect of Seismicity and Tectonic-Glacial Interactions on Submarine Megaslides](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- [The latest Jurassic–earliest Cretaceous climate and oceanographic changes in the Western Tethys: The Transdanubian Range \(Hungary\) perspective](#).
- [The pace of global river meandering influenced by fluvial sediment supply](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- [A Model for Thaw and Erosion of Permafrost Riverbanks](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- Geochemistry and lacustrine deposits: [Phosphorus dynamics in an ice-covered lake: Insights from geochemical gradients in water and sediments](#).

## Geophysics

- Geophysics and geological history: [Possible Eoarchean Records of the Geomagnetic Field Preserved in the Isua Supracrustal Belt, Southern West Greenland](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).

- [Comparison of Near-Surface Attenuation from Surface Array-Based Seismic Noise Data and Borehole Weak-Motion Recordings at the STIN Test Site in Northeastern Italy.](#)

## Paleontology

- [Ancient giant tortoise fossils found in Colombian Andes.](#)
- [Deinonychosaur trackways in southeastern China record a possible giant troodontid: NYT summary \[here\]\(#\).](#)
- [Exceptionally preserved shark fossils from Mexico elucidate the long-standing enigma of the Cretaceous elasmobranch \*Ptychodus\*; Live Science summary \[here\]\(#\).](#)
- [Evolution of bioluminescence in Anthozoa with emphasis on Octocorallia.](#)

## Mining and Energy

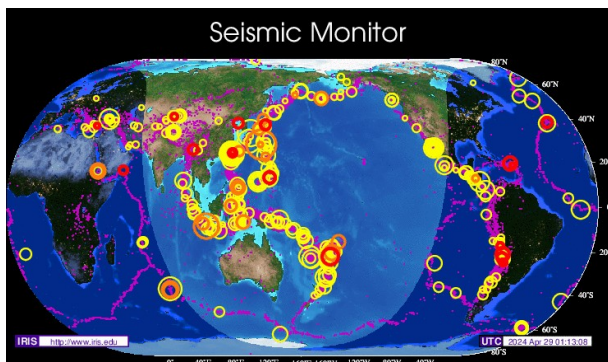
- [Panama completes process of mining concession cancellations.](#)
- [Teck copper output shoots up on QB mine, profit disappoints.](#)
- [Anglo American bullish on copper outlook, cuts diamond targets.](#)
- [Chile sees record copper production next year.](#)
- [Iron ore price rebounds to 6-week high on renewed China demand hopes, lower shipments.](#)
- A steal at \$184 million: [Diamond Leader De Beers Will Be Sold If BHP Acquires Anglo American.](#)
- [European firms, banks must boost investment in critical minerals, official says.](#)
- [Lithium in SK, Part 28: Hub City Lithium operating direct lithium extraction pilot in Estevan.](#)
- South Australia: [SA uranium miner Boss Energy announces first drum from Honeymoon project.](#)
- [Canadian uranium is strategic for French nuclear power plants.](#)
- [Refinery Fires Force Mexico to Reverse Its Plan to Cut Oil Exports.](#)
- [Namibia Racks Up Another Major Offshore Oil Discovery.](#)
- [Suriname's Resource Boom is Back on Track With First Oil Targeted for 2028.](#)
- Sodium ion batteries: [Low-crystallinity conductive multivalence iron sulfide-embedded S-doped anode and high-surface area O-doped cathode of 3D porous N-rich graphitic carbon frameworks for high-performance sodium-ion hybrid energy storages](#); mostly behind a paywall, Eureka Alert summary [here](#).
- [Donors provide \\$3M for Royal Roads research into geothermal energy.](#)

- Saskatchewan: [DEEP geothermal project gains a greenhouse, geothermal construction may begin this fall.](#)
- Geology of alternative energy: [Review of Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group reservoirs of Ireland and Great Britain and their future role in geoenergy applications.](#)
- [A high-density and high-confinement tokamak plasma regime for fusion energy.](#)

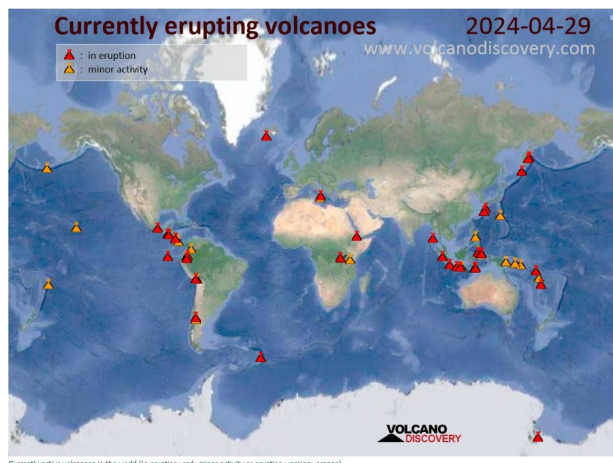
## Environmental Geology and Hydrogeology

- Be careful if you smoke weed: [Elemental Composition of Commercially Available Cannabis Rolling Papers](#): Phys.org summary [here](#); related story [here](#), spoiler alert, stoners are stupid.
- [Erosion-induced recovery CO<sub>2</sub> sink offset the horizontal soil organic carbon removal at the basin scale](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- [Negative correlation between soil salinity and soil organic carbon variability.](#)
- [New PFAS Designation Gives EPA Tools to Hammer Down on Polluters.](#)
- [Occurrence and mobility of thiolated arsenic in legacy mine tailings.](#)
- [Unstable nuclear-waste dams threaten fertile Central Asia heartland.](#)
- [In a first, California cracks down on farms guzzling groundwater.](#)
- Fluid flow changes: [Acceleration of Deep Subsurface Fluid Fluxes in the Anthropocene](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).
- [Global peak water limit of future groundwater withdrawals](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).

## Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Geohazards



[Seismic Monitor](#)



[Active Volcano Map](#)

- United States Geological Survey (USGS) Volcano Watch: [Introducing HVO's new online eruption map.](#)

- USGS Yellowstone Volcano Observatory: [Hydrothermal deposits record climate changes in Yellowstone](#).
- [Smithsonian / USGS Weekly Volcanic Activity Report](#).
- Iceland: [The crater's wall has risen since yesterday](#).
- Videos: [New Eruption Expected Next Days to Weeks! 5.3 Earthquake at Bárðarbunga Volcano Rocks Iceland!](#); [Apr 27, 2024: Grindavik Berm is Breached by Lava; Inflating Lava Field Pushes Older Lava Over Wall, Magma Continues Accumulating: Geologist Analysis](#).
- [Euro-Mediterranean Seismological Centre](#)
- [Earthquakes Monitoring Live Worldwide](#).
- Taiwan:
  - [Seismic swarm near southern tip of April 3 M7.4 in Taiwan](#); Taiwan Central Weather Administration summary [here](#); related video [here](#);
  - [Magnitude 6.1 quake rocks Taiwan](#), April 27; Taiwan Central Weather Administration Recent Earthquake Report [here](#).
- Opinion: [Quakes do not kill people, bad buildings do](#).
- Geohazard research: [Landslide topology uncovers failure movements](#); Phys.org summary [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

- If you are in Calgary, AB for the Stampede: [Bootleggin' Breakfast 2024](#), July 9 & 11, 2024.



[May 19-22, 2024](#)



[Goldschmidt is the foremost annual, international conference on geochemistry and related subjects, organized by the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry](#)

April 29, 2024

## Geology and the Fate of Societies – Cyprus



**Figure 1 – Cyprus**

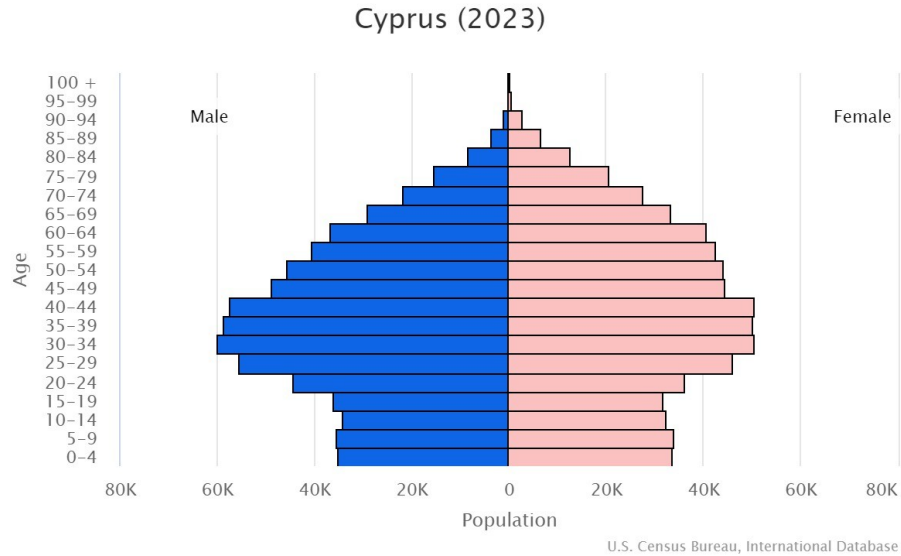
**Credit: [CIA World Factbook – Cyprus](#), public domain**

The Republic of [Cyprus](#) is an island in the Eastern [Mediterranean](#) Sea. Across the sea are: to the west is [Greece](#); to the south is [Egypt](#); to the north is [Turkey](#); and to the east are [Lebanon](#) and [Syria](#). The island is divided into two main jurisdictions: the area controlled by the Republic of Cyprus and the area controlled by Turkey, officially the [Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus](#) (TRNC), but de facto a province of Turkey (there is an occupying Turkish army). Further complicating things, the former colonial power, the [United Kingdom](#) retains two military bases at [Akrotiri](#) and [Dhekelia](#).

According to the American [Central Intelligence Agency](#) (CIA) [World Factbook on Cyprus](#); the island has a total area of 9,251 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>), of which 3,355 km<sup>2</sup> are in TRNC. There is 9,241 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 10 km<sup>2</sup> of water.

Also according to the CIA World Factbook, there are 1,308,120 people in Cyprus. Of those approximately 1 million people in the Republic, 98.8% of the people are ethnic [Greek Cypriots](#). Among the approximately 383,000 people in the TRNC, the vast majority are [Turkish Cypriots](#). Other ethnic groups in Cyprus, at less than 1% of the population, are [Armenian Cypriots](#), [Maronite Cypriots](#) and [Russians](#). Languages spoken in Cyprus are mostly [Greek](#) and [Turkish](#) although [English](#) and [Russian](#) are also common. Religions practised in Cyprus are [Greek Orthodox](#), among the Greek Cypriots, and [Sunni Islam](#), among the Turkish Cypriots. Other religions practised include [Roman Catholic](#), [Maronite Catholic](#), [Protestant/Anglican](#), and others.

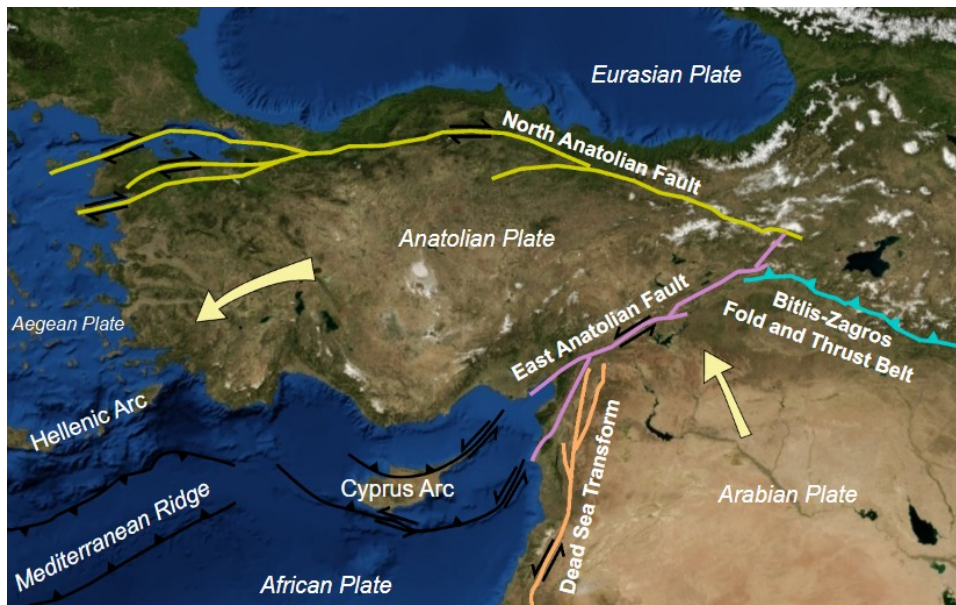
The [demographic profile of Cyprus](#) shows a middle aged population, where the median age for both sexes is 39.1 years. The fertility rate is 1.48 births per woman, less than the [replacement rate](#) of 2.1, and the average life expectancy for both sexes is 80.0 years.



**Figure 2 – Demographic Profile of Cyprus**  
**Credit: U.S. Census Bureau, International Database – Cyprus, public domain**

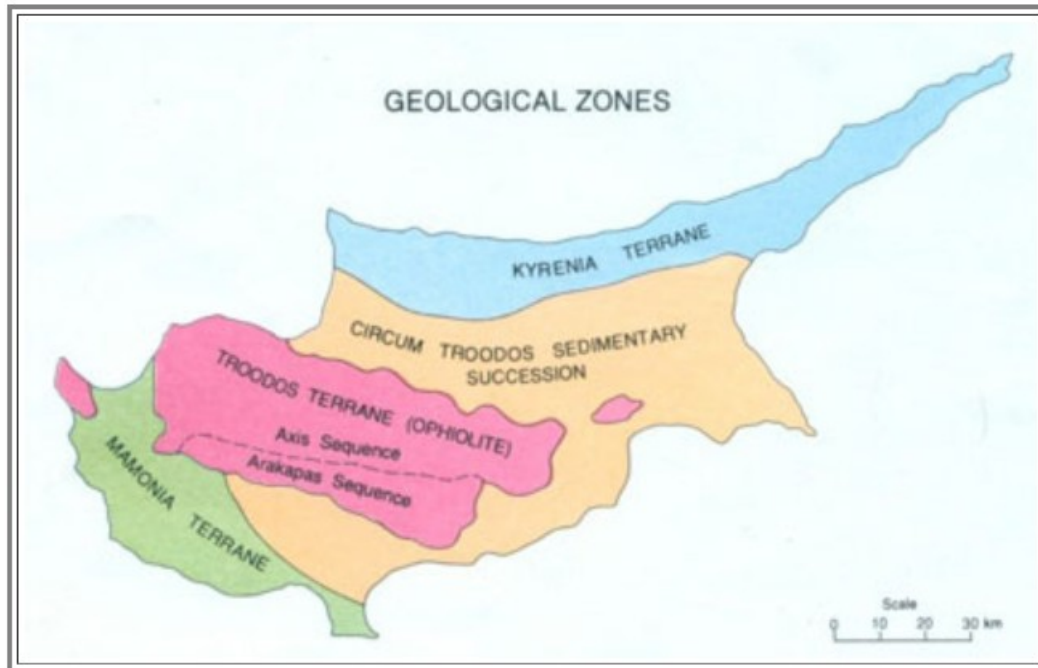
The government of the Republic of Cyprus is a [presidential republic](#); the President is [Nikos Christodoulides](#) and the office Vice President is currently vacant. The legislature is the [House of Representatives](#) whose [President](#) is [Annita Demetriou](#). The government of the TRNC is officially a [semi-presidential republic](#) whose President is [Ersin Tatar](#) and whose Prime Minister is [Ünal Üstel](#). The legislature is the [Assembly of the Republic](#) whose Speaker is [Zorlu Töre](#). The Capital, and largest city in Cyprus is [Nicosia](#) which is divided between North (Turkish) and South (Greek) municipalities. 55,014 people live in the southern Greek municipality and 61,378 live in the Turkish municipality.

## Geology



**Figure 2 – Tectonic Setting of Cyprus**  
**Credit: Roxy, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license**

Cyprus sits on the [Anatolian Plate](#) north of a [subduction zone](#) where the [African Plate](#) is moving under the Anatolian Plate. [Transform faults](#), [rift boundaries](#), and [convergent boundaries](#) separate the Anatolian Plate from the [Arabian Plate](#), to the east, and the [Aegean Plate](#), to the west. Cyprus is, in consequence, a tectonically active area with [many historically major earthquakes](#).



**Figure 4 – Geological Terranes of Cyprus**

**Credit:** Monoskolaggi, [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) license

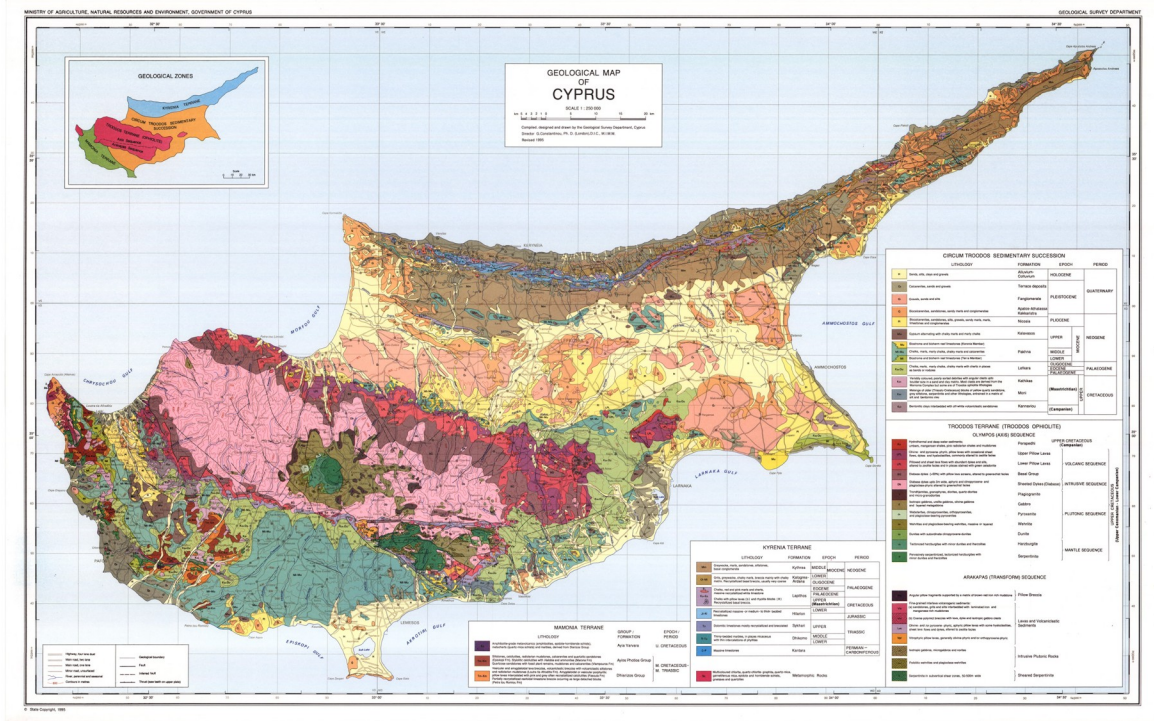
The complex [tectonic setting of Cyprus](#) results in the island having four distinct geological zones, from north to south: the [Kyrenia Terrane](#); the [Circum Troodos Sedimentary Succession](#); the [Troodos Ophiolite Terrane](#) (sometimes called Troodos); and the [Mamonia Terrane](#).

The Kyrenia Terrane is in the north of the island and stretches from [Cape Kormakitis](#) in the west to [Cape Andreas](#) in the east. It is made up of a sequence of sediments ranging in age from [Permian](#) to [Holocene](#).

The Circum Troodos Sedimentary Succession (CTSS) are [autochthonous](#) sediments that surround the Troodos Ophiolite Terrane. The CTSS deposits range in age from [Upper Cretaceous](#) to the [Pleistocene](#) and consist of older [carbonate](#) rocks overlain by younger [clastic sediments](#).

The Troodos Terrane consist of a slab of ancient [oceanic crust](#), originally part of the floor of the [Neotethys Ocean](#) from the Late Cretaceous, from about 90 million years ago. The Troodos Terrane shows complete [ophiolite sequences](#) that include: [peridotites](#), [sheeted dykes](#), and [pillow basalts](#) together with marine sediments such as [deep-water shales](#) and [radiolarite](#).

The Mamonia Terrane consists of an assemblage of volcanic, sedimentary and some metamorphic rocks in the southwestern part of Cyprus. The Mamonia Terrane rocks range in age from [Middle Triassic](#) to Upper Cretaceous and was originally part of an oceanic basin. The two main divisions of the Mamonia Terrane are the sedimentary rocks of the [Agios Photios Group](#) and the igneous rocks of the [Diarizos Group](#).



**Figure 5 – Geological Map of Cyprus**  
 Credit: [Geological Survey Department, Republic of Cyprus](#)

For further reading, check out the [Geological Survey Department](#) of the Republic of Cyprus as well as the links shown above.

## Resources

### Agriculture



**Figure 6 – Vineyard in Cyprus**  
 Credit: [Leonid Mamchenkov, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license](#)

According to the CIA World Factbook, agricultural uses 13.4% of the land in Cyprus (9.8% [arable land](#), 3.2% [permanent crops](#) and 0.4% [permanent pasture](#)). Forests cover 18.8% of the land and the remaining 67.8% has other, or no, use. A wide range of crops are grown on Cyprus including: [wheat](#), [barley](#), [legumes](#) as well as vegetables such as [carrots](#), [potatoes](#), and [tomatoes](#). Fruit and other tree crops include [almonds](#), [apples](#), [bananas](#), [carobs](#), citrus fruits ([grapefruit](#), [lemons](#), [oranges](#)), [melons](#), and [peaches](#). Also grown are those staples of the Mediterranean diet [grapes](#) and [olives](#) (for [wine](#) and [olive oil](#)). Many of the [United Nations peacekeepers in Cyprus](#) are enthusiastic consumers of Cypriot wine.

Livestock production in Cyprus includes [cattle](#), [pigs](#), [sheep](#), [goats](#), [chickens](#), [ducks](#), and [turkeys](#). At least one former UN peacekeeper has told me that he developed a liking of Cypriot goat meat during his tour of duty there.

Statistics on agriculture production in Cyprus, from the [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) can be found [here](#). Also according to the FAO, there is [very little food insecurity](#) in Cyprus.

### *Forestry*



**Figure 7 – Paphos Forest, Cyprus**

**Credit: [Sam Thomas](#), [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic](#) license**

As noted in the CIA World Factbook, forests cover 18.8% of the land in Cyprus. The [Mediterranean forest in Cyprus](#) is a significant resource for the country. Of the 1,750 native plant species on the island, 128 are [endemic](#), that is, only found in Cyprus. Two endemic trees species the [Cyprus cedar](#) (*Cedrus*

*brevifolia*) and the [golden oak](#) (*Quercus alnifolia*) are considered endangered and are only now found in the Troodos Mountains.

Forest harvests are managed and regulated by the [Cyprus Department of Forests](#). Statistics on production from the [FAO are found here](#). [In 2010, Cyprus had 75.5 kha of natural forest, extending over 16% of its land area. In 2023, it lost 48 ha of natural forest.](#)

### ***Mineral Resources***



**Figure 8 – Skoriotissa Mine, Cyprus, ca. 2006**

**Credit:** MeanStreets, [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#) license

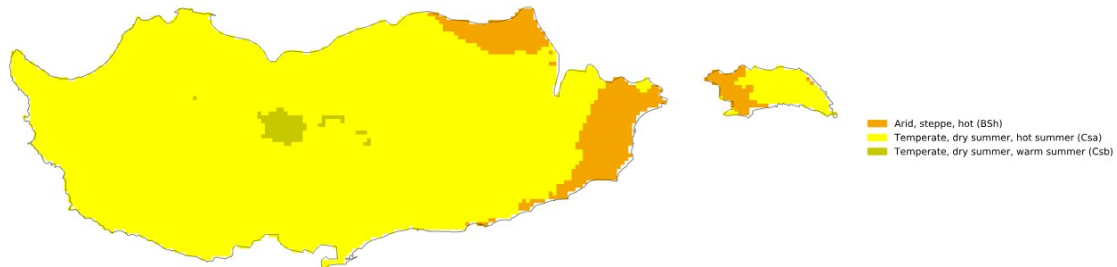
Historically, [copper mining was a major activity](#) in Cyprus. Today, however, [the mineral industry in Cyprus](#) makes up only a minor part of the island's economy. Major commodities mined on Cyprus include copper, gold and silver as well as industrial minerals such as aggregate, dimension stone, and gypsum.

The main producer of metallic minerals is the [Skoriotissa Mine](#) near Nicosia. The Skoriotissa Mine deposits are part of the [Apliki copper deposit](#) from which more than 1.65 million tons of copper ore have been extracted. [Pyrite](#), [marcasite](#) and [chalcopyrite](#) are the predominant ore minerals that are hosted within the sequence of Lower Pillow Lavas of the [Troodos ophiolite complex](#).

Statistics on mineral production in Cyprus from the USGS can be found [here](#).

## Climate

Köppen-Geiger climate classification map for Cyprus (1980-2016)



Source: Beck et al.: Present and future Köppen-Geiger climate classification maps at 1-km resolution. Scientific Data 5:180214, doi:10.1038/sdata.2018.214 (2018)

**Figure 9 – Köppen–Geiger Climate Classification Map for Cyprus**  
**Credit: [Beck et al, 2018](#), [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](#) license**

Figure 9 shows the Köppen–Geiger climate classifications for the part of Cyprus controlled by the Republic of Cyprus. There are three main climate zones: arid steppe ([BSh](#)); temperate dry hot summer ([Csa](#)); and temperate dry warm summer ([Csb](#)).



**Figure 10 – Sandy Beach at [Ayia Thekla](#), Sotira, Cyprus**  
**Credit: [Marek Ślusarczyk](#), [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported](#) license**

Cyprus is a [popular tourist destination](#), especially for sun deprived northerners in the winter. If you want to travel to Cyprus, consider these travel advisories [here](#) and [here](#). You might also want to check out [Climates to Travel](#) and [Lonely Planet](#).

## History and Geopolitics

### *History – Copper and Conquest*



**Figure 11 – Cypriot Dwarf Elephant, *Palaeoloxodon cypriotes***  
**Credit: [DinosaursRoar](#), CC-BY-SA**

The [earliest inhabitants of Cyprus arrived](#) during the [Late Pleistocene](#), around 12,000 years ago, apparently from Anatolia. Hunters/gatherers, among their food sources was the Cyprus dwarf elephant ([Palaeoloxodon cypriotes](#)) which was hunted to extinction soon after the arrival of the hunters. Later, during the Holocene, the genetic [evidence suggests](#) that these people began to adopt a farming lifestyle with the introduction of cereal crops and domesticated animals. By 9,000 years ago, the [Khirokitia Culture](#) had developed on the island.

[Neolithic](#) lifestyles [gradually evolved](#) into [Chalcolithic](#) lifestyles which lead to the [Bronze Age](#). Cyprus [during the Bronze Age](#) was a major trading hub, exporting copper throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. Known as [Alashiya](#), Cyprus prospered through trade with [Egypt](#), [Mycenaean Greece](#), the [Levant](#), and the [Hittite Empire](#). Cyprus became part of the Hittites Empire under [Tudḫaliya IV](#) and his son [Šuppiluliuma II](#) with the final defeat of the Alashiya kingdom in 1210 B.C. The Hittite empire, and indeed most of the polities in the Eastern Mediterranean, suffered a social catastrophe during the [Late Bronze Age Collapse](#). Eric Cline [dates the beginning of the Bronze Age Collapse to 1177 B.C.](#)

During the [Iron Age](#), the [Phoenicians](#), established a trading settlement at [Kition](#) around 11th century B.C. Later, the [Assyrians](#), having conquered nearby Anatolia, went on to temporarily conquer Cyprus in in 709 B.C. under their king [Sargon II](#). After that, the Egyptians, under Pharaoh [Amasis](#) took over. The island was then conquered by the [Persians](#) around 545 BC. [Alexander the Great's](#) successors in Egypt, the [Ptolemies](#), ruled Cyprus until the [Romans](#) took over in 58 BC. Cyprus remained part of the Roman Empire, and then as a [province](#) in the [Eastern Roman \(Byzantine\) Empire](#) well into the [Middle Ages](#).



Figure 12 – Map of Cyprus by [Francesco Berlinghieri](#), in [Geographia](#), 1482  
Credit: [Sailko](#), [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license](#)

The [Third Crusade](#) brought [West European adventurers](#) to Cyprus where they established the [Kingdom of Cyprus](#) under [Amalric I of Cyprus](#) and his successors, ignoring Byzantine claims to the island. The rulers gradually came under the influence of merchants from [Genoa](#) and the [Republic of Venice](#), who carried on trade in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Venetians and the Turks fought over ownership of the island in 1571 in the [War of Cyprus](#). The Turks won and [ruled Cyprus](#) until 1878, when after the [Russo-Turkish War](#), and as the result of the [Cyprus Convention](#), the [United Kingdom](#) acquired control of the island.



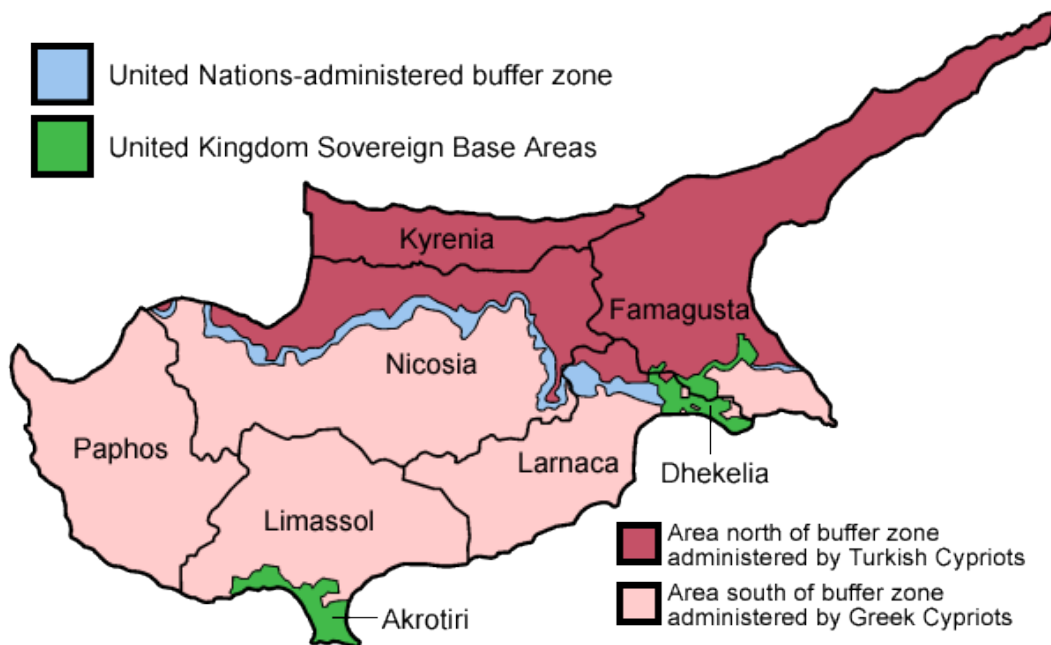
Figure 13 – Canadian Peacekeepers in Cyprus, ca. 1990  
Credit: [Canadian Department of Defence](#), [public domain](#)

The [history of modern Cyprus](#) begins with the British rule of the island, which lasted more or less peacefully from 1878 until the founding of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960. One of the on-going disputes that the British had to contend with was the desire of the Greek speaking people of Cyprus to become part of Greece, the [Enosis Movement](#) and the desire of the Turkish Cypriots to in no way be part of such a scheme. [Armed fighting broke out](#) between the Greeks and Turks on the island and the United Nations (UN) sent [peacekeeping forces](#), including [Canadians](#), to prevent further bloodshed in 1964.

Peacekeeping efforts were only of limited effectiveness, there has to be good will on both sides, and in the Cyprus this was sorely lacking. In 1974, a group of pro-Enosis military officers [staged a military coup d'état](#) and seized control of the Cypriot government. In response, the government of Turkey invaded Cyprus and seized control of the northern portion of the island under [Operation Attila](#). Keep in mind, that throughout this time both Greece and Turkey were officially allies within the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) (NATO) and remain so today.

After the dust settled, the UN peacekeepers re-established a buffer zone, the so-called [Green Line](#), between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 1993, the Canadian government withdrew most [Canadian troops from the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus](#) since there seemed no peace to keep. The issue of a divided Cyprus remains till this day.

### *Geopolitics – A Divided Island*



**Figure 14 – Administrative Sections of Cyprus**

**Credit:** [Golbez](#), [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license](#)

The geopolitics of Cyprus revolve around its [relationships](#) with quite a few polities, both within and outside of Cyprus. First there is the division between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. You would hope that the enforced separation of the two parties would allow the two sides to “cool off” and see that their interests might be better served by peaceful co-existence. This has not happened. In fact, things seem to [have gotten worse in the past few years](#). Negotiations for re-unification have reached a stalemate and [some fear that time is running out](#) for any such re-unification. These negotiations require good will on

both sides, and that seems to be lacking. This means that the island will likely [remain divided into two states](#) for quite a while.

Outside powers with an interest in Cyprus include Turkey, the United Kingdom, Greece, the [European Union](#), [Russia](#) and the [United States](#). The Cypriots also have an interest in the current troubles in Syria and [Israel/ Palestine](#).

Both Turkey and the United Kingdom maintain military forces on Cyprus. The Turks are interested in protecting the Turkish Cypriots from their Greek Cypriot neighbours. Given the [history of the two communities in Cyprus](#), the Turks have a point.

The United Kingdom maintains air force bases in Cyprus as part of their NATO deployment. They would probably be happy to see peace in Cyprus so that these bases are secure. The use of these bases for NATO projects has Cypriots unhappy that Cyprus is being [drawn into regional disputes](#).

The Greeks [have an interest in the fate of the Greek Cypriots](#) and some still fantasize about Enosis with the island. [Greek and Turkish tensions](#) also play a part. The Greeks and the Turks have a long [history of bad relations](#) and in any [further disputes](#), the issue of Cyprus is likely to come up. Unfortunately for the Greeks, the Turks have a [larger army](#) so a [dust-up](#) between the two countries is not likely to end well for Greece. In fact, [Turkey is on course to becoming the regional hegemon](#), and that will affect Cyprus.

Both Greece and the Greek part of [Cyprus are part of the European Union](#) (EU). The EU is unlikely to ever [accept a two-state solution](#) to the Cyprus question. Complicating things is the [Turkish desire to join the EU](#), a desire thwarted, in part, by the problems in Cyprus. Right now, the EU is mostly a trading block with little or no independent military power – NATO policy is [heavily influenced](#) by the large presence of [armed forces from the United States](#). However, [should the United States ever back out of NATO](#), the EU could create an [independent armed force](#), one that might end up getting involved in the Cyprus problem.

This brings us to the United States and Russia. The United States, through the NATO alliance and other connections, [makes use of the British bases on Cyprus](#) when convenient. The Americans have an interest in continuing to use the British bases and thus have an interest in a peaceful outcome to the Cyprus question.

Russia is in an interesting situation with regards to Cyprus. Russian troops are part of the [UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus](#). As well, the [Russian Orthodox Church](#) has historical links to the [Orthodox Greek Cypriot Church](#) and there is a [Russian community](#) on the island. Russian businessmen are [major investors](#) in the TRNC, the Turkish Zone on Cyprus. Also, the Greek part of the island has been trying to [distance themselves from Russian businesses](#) since the beginning of the current [Ukrainian War](#). Russia is also in a [complicated relationship](#) with Turkey, and that could affect what happens in Cyprus.

Finally, the Cypriots have an interest in the [current troubles in Syria](#) and the [war between Israel and Palestine in Gaza](#). So far, Cypriot interest in these disputes is watchful neutrality, although NATO forces have used the British bases to intervene in these conflicts, much to the annoyance of many Cypriots, as noted [above](#). Harbours in Cyprus have also been staging points for [sending aid by sea to Gaza](#).

So there you have it. The [Cyprus Question](#) is not going away anytime soon and may become part of some future regional or great power struggle. Follow up on the links if any of this interests you.

### **Standard Caveat**

The purpose of my weblog postings is to spark people's curiosity in geology. Don't entirely believe me until you've done your own research and checked the evidence. If I have sparked your curiosity in the subject of this posting, follow up with some of the links provided here. If you want to, go out into the field and examine some rocks on your own with the help of a good field guide. Follow the evidence and make up your own mind.

In science, the only authority is the evidence.