



Agios Panteleimonas Monastery

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



The monastery is an important site given its history and significance. It is a physical testament to the history of the region and Cyprus. Tradition says that construction of the monastic complex started around 1600. It can be considered composed by three main parts: the landscape features and **archaeological remains**, the **surrounding monastic buildings** and the main central **church**. All of it functioned originally together as the Monastery was a self-sufficient complex, school, community and religious centre. It consisted of the church, the refectory building at the East (with kitchen and dining areas), the South dorter, the north dorter (which is said it was the bishopric) and the reredorter at West (the building with washing and toilet facilities).

Within the framework of the EU funded and UNDP implemented "[Support to cultural heritage monuments of great importance for Cyprus](#)" project, a study "Survey, Investigations, Assessment and Project Design" was carried out between April and May 2014.

The aim of the Study, was first to identify the critical problems, research and understand the entire complex, and then create the designs for:

- Stabilizing the church building.
- Protecting the elements in the monastic buildings that are at most risk while observing internationally recognised conservation standards.
- Improving rain water management of the site.
- Creating a safe environment for the community and visitors.
- Accommodating persons with disabilities by an access path.



The completed works composed by three main parts: the landscape, the main central church and the surrounding monastic buildings:

Conservation Works at the Church include:

- Cleaning of the lime wash on the interior surfaces and consolidation of the interior original plaster.
- Conservation of the frescoes.
- Cleaning of the surfaces and light consolidation of walls. Some walls remain with the stone work exposed and some are plastered.
- Cleaning of the roof, removing unnecessary burden, consolidation of the vaults, conservation of old mortars, realizing a new light weight roof and maintain the rain water disposal system.
- Rebuilding the gallery and strengthening its arches with tie rods.
- Repairing the floor and the doors and windows.

Emergency Measure Works at the Monastic buildings include:

- Cleaning of the vegetation from building elements, removing concrete roof slabs, removing cracked and detached plaster.
- Repairing severe cracks, rebuilding stone built walls important for the buildings' stability, repairing damaged adobe walls.
- Supporting floors, lintels and arches, changing rotten wooden beams to hold the walls together at the ceiling over ground floor level.
- Construction of protective roof covering.
- Providing confinement, buttresses and tied rods to hold deformed walls and pillars.
- Installation of wooden ring beams, new rafters and sheathing on the roof, including water insulation for the protection of the buildings from rainwater.
- Construction of new timber walls, where old walls collapsed aiming to tie the external walls together and provide support for the roof.
- Securing openings (doors and windows) to prevent access.

External Landscape works include:

- Control and drainage of water around for the entire site.
- Site vegetation and rubbish cleaning.
- Repair works on the fountain.
- Closing off unsafe buildings.
- Installation of fenced areas to represent the outline of the cloister – this is also serving as a safety feature.
- Installation of didactic informational materials.
- Visitors management plan including provision of access for persons with disabilities.

The total cost of the Project (works, design and supervision) was approx. 870,000.00 Euro funded by the European Union with a contribution from the Leventis Foundation.

This is a collaborative work and an effort between United Nations Development Programme – Partnership for the Future Office, the Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage of Cyprus and local and international architects, engineers, conservators and researchers. **Support to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is a cornerstone of the European Union's support to reconciliation and confidence building measures through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.**

More information on on-going projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage can be found here: <http://www.cy.undp.org/content/cyprus/en/home/operations/projects/partnershipforthefuture/support-to-cultural-heritage-monuments-of-great-importance-for-c.html>

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More resources: www.cy.undp.org

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage - The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, established by the decision of the two Leaders, works in line and within the mutually agreed framework for the preservation of the island's common heritage. The Committee upholds and promotes the view that the protection of cultural heritage is an integral part of the ongoing process of broadening the area of cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, which can only be achieved through joint efforts. Through its work the Committee aims to achieve the best possible results for the stability, survival, cultural and social value and protection of selected Monuments. For this purpose the Committee set up the Advisory Board to act as its executive body to pursue actions for the actual implementation of designs for selected monuments, including research, study, survey and conservation. This framework allows for the practical aspects of preservation to be considered in a non-political manner so that practical measures can be taken to improve the situation on the ground.

United Nations Development Programme – Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF) - The Agreement on the establishment of the Advisory Board for the Preservation, Physical Protection and Restoration of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of Cyprus recognizes a special role to **UNDP in Cyprus** as a **politically accepted implementation body** by both communities. For this reason, UNDP-PFF was requested by the European Commission to become the lead coordinator under which the project would be implemented fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

European Union - Since 2012 approximately **€11.7 Million** have been provided by the European Union through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the preservation of the island-wide cultural heritage in Cyprus. **The European Union** is the largest contributor to the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus. For more information on the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community click [here](#): or visit the [EU Infopoint](#) on Facebook.