



Cami-I Kebir Minaret in Paphos

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Study Start Date: **November 2015**

End Date: **February 2016**

Type of proposed intervention: **Conservation works**

Works will start within **2017**

The original building of the mosque at the Mouttalos area of Ktima-Paphos, had been a Christian Orthodox Church and it is still referred to as the church of Agia Sofia. In the 16th century part of the church had been destroyed. The central aisle of the church was later rebuilt. This is one of Paphos's most important Byzantine monuments, estimated to have been built in the 15th century as a three-aisled, cross-in-square, domed church, which was converted into a mosque in the years of Ottoman period (1571-1878). In 1894 the minaret had been struck by lightning, which rendered its condition dangerous. In 1900, it was demolished and rebuilt. Further repairs became necessary after the earthquake of 1953 and were undertaken during the years 1954 to 1956. During the years 2009-2012, preservation works have been conducted on the monument.

A study & condition assessment was commissioned by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage through UNDP between November 2015 and February 2016.

Proposed interventions for this monument comprise, among others:

- Structural consolidation of the Minaret and its base
- Approximately 35-40 stones which are in quite poor condition are to be removed and replaced throughout the entire surface of the Minaret base.
- Repair eroded stairs of the Minaret, where rendered necessary.
- The core of the stone staircase will be repaired
- Rubble and mortar joints from the balcony until the metallic cone the minaret will be repaired.
- Repair of the balcony
- All joints of the balcony floor stones will be cleaned and repointed
- Repointing and rejoining will be applied.
- All cement jointing and all plaster will be removed and replaced.
- The metal cone at the top of the Minaret will be repaired or replaced. Lightning Protection on the top of the Minaret will be installed.
- Regular monitoring of the Minaret's inclination

Conservation works are planned to start and to be completed within 2017. The project is fully funded by the **European Union**.

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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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 - 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 of European Union funds** have been provided by the European Commission 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 biggest supporter of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.