



Profitis Elias Church

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



PROJECT OVERVIEW

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Start Date:</i> | April 2013 |
| <i>End Date:</i> | July 2015 |
| <i>Type of intervention:</i> | Conservation works |
| <i>Total Cost: Approx.</i> | 128,400 Euro |

The Church of Profitis Elias, a church of basilical plan, dates to the second half of the 19th c. or the early 20th c. It is covered by a series of two cross-vaults and consists of rubble masonry and limited use of porous stone, mostly on the door frames and the shrine of the external west wall. Externally, the walls are reinforced by a series of three buttresses on the north and south sides. The apse of the bema on the east is semi-circular, both internally and externally. The chapel contains architectural members (some with sculpted decoration) of secondary use.

During the extended conservation works conducted between 2013-15, the west cross-vault, that had collapsed, was restored.

Profitis Elias Church was selected as part of the priority intervention emergency projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and later on elevated to a full conservation project.

The interventions carried out for this monument comprised:

- Emergency measures to protect, restore and preserve the stonework and architectural features in their present state (stabilization of the ruin) and
- Measures to secure the site as well as upgrading of the surrounding area (fencing and landscaping of the site).
- Enhancement & Conservation works to ensure sustainability to the project



Emergency interventions were carried out between June and November 2013 and included the following:

- Removal of debris and vegetation
- Temporary structural supports to reinforce the structural stability of the building
- Protection of the building's foundation and walls from rising damp and water infiltration
- Consolidation of deteriorated masonry in order to prevent it from further collapse as well as reinforce its load bearing ability.
- Repair of inclined walls and displaced elements, such as the vault front walls and the decorative cornice, which are in danger of collapsing.
- Provision of temporary metal fencing to doors and window
- Provision of metal low fencing around the church

In March 2014 the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage agreed to elevate the project from emergency measures to conservation and the following works were carried out during the second phase of the project (March – July 2015).

- Wall works: repointing of internal walls and roof, replacing of missing or deteriorating or cracked stones, injections/grouting of the walls.
- Roof works: Construction of a new roof with similar materials and methods
- Wood works: construction and provision of wooden doors and windows.
- Floor works: installation of village marble.
- Internal plastering and painting
- Construction of a drainage trench around the perimeter of the Church to solve a problem of rising damp.
- Planting of olive trees

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (Phase 1 & 2) approx. **128,400 Euro**.

Greening Our Heritage

Profitis Elias "Olive Grove for Peace" is part of the "Greening our Heritage" Initiative. Trees are planted to offset CO2 emissions produced during the implementation of the project.

Greening our heritage is an initiative of the UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and the European Commission.

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 works in line with the mutually agreed mechanism for the preservation of the island's common heritage. In 2009 the Advisory Board was set up by a decision of the two leaders as the executive body of the Committee. The aim of the Board is to protect, preserve and facilitate the preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. This mechanism 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 **€6.7 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.