



The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

in Cyprus



January 2015

"I am very pleased to see how the European Union contributes to reconciliation in Cyprus. The European Commission has been accompanying and supporting the bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage since the beginning of its work. This joint effort sets a remarkable example of collaboration between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, in close partnership with the European Union, to protect the island's unique cultural heritage, and contributing to a peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots."

Corina Crețu, Member of the European Commission.

"I commend the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus, and I am pleased that UNDP has been entrusted by both communities and by the European Commission to support the confidence building process in Cyprus. Through the projects illustrated in this booklet, the EU and UNDP have supported the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage to generate an enabling environment for a constructive and lasting dialogue. Together we can promote cultural heritage as an enabler of peace and sustainable development."

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator.





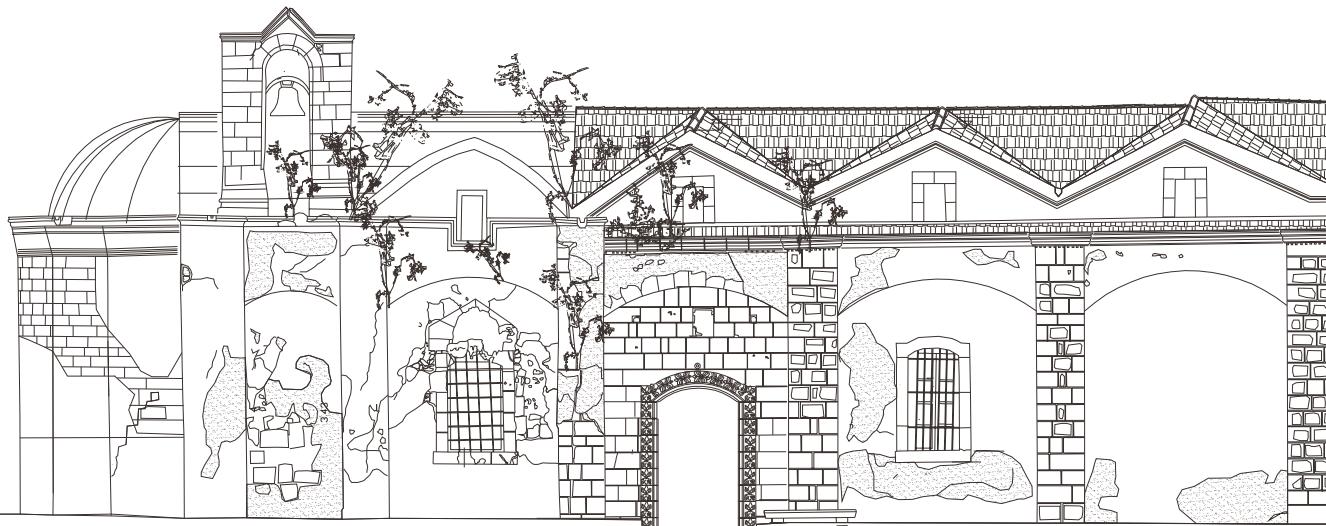
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"The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is working in a spirit of common understanding for the preservation of monuments with the conviction that culture forms a solid foundation for tomorrow's Cyprus".

Takis Hadjidemetriou, Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

"It is only through mutual acceptance and the respect of the two sides' values and cultural heritage that Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots can prosper in a peaceful environment".

Ali Tuncay, Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

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"Without a long running start in history, we shall not have the momentum needed in our own consciousness to take a sufficiently bold leap into the future."

Lewis Mumford

(1895-1990)

Architecture critic and urban planner.

The built cultural heritage is a reflection of the human spirit. It also establishes a link between the tangible and the intangible heritage. With this in mind, as members of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, we are aware that our work is not just about stones and buildings, but also, and more importantly, about the values they carry from the past and the role they can play in the future. The island of Cyprus is at the crossroads of different civilizations and the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island has stood witness to this past.



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The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

The Agreement of 21 March 2008 reached between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots under the auspices of the United Nations, paved the way, among others, to the establishment of **the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage** which is dedicated to the recognition, promotion and protection of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island.

The Committee is supported in its work by an advisory board composed of archaeologists, architects, art historians and town planners from both communities. All its programmatic decisions are taken in line with the agreed principles and the task attributed by the two leaders.

“The Cultural Heritage Technical Committee believes that it is the primary responsibility of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to protect the endangered cultural heritage of the island, and that it is important for these monuments to be preserved not only because they are important symbols for the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, and for humanity, but also because they have intrinsic values in themselves.” (Press Statement of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage 6 May 2009).

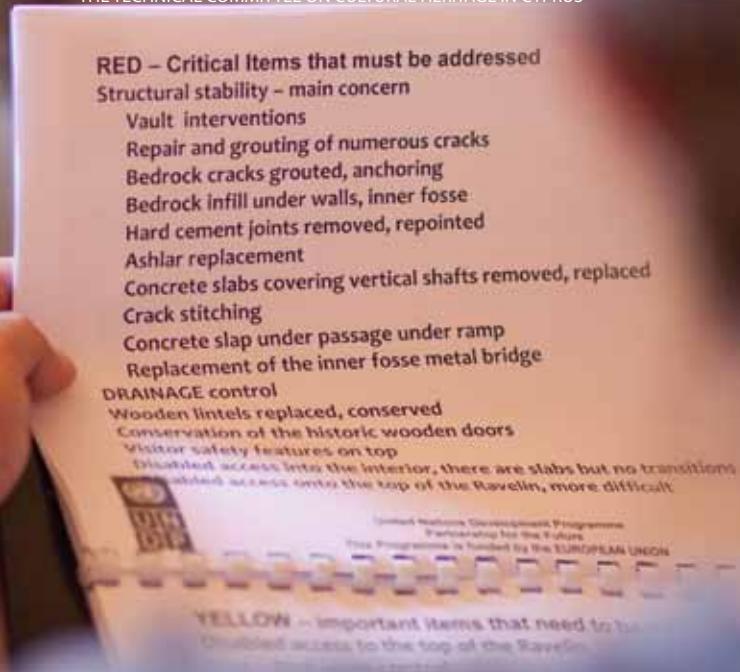
Our mandate – the preservation of the cultural heritage of Cyprus

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage works to provide a mutually acceptable mechanism for the implementation of practical measures for the proper preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus.

The Committee believes that protection of cultural heritage is an integral part of the ongoing process of broadening areas of cooperation between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots, which can only be achieved through joint efforts.

The protection of the cultural heritage also stimulates sustainable development and mutual understanding.

For this reason, we call on those interested in our work to continue supporting our efforts to preserve our heritage so that we can build our future on a culture of peace, tolerance, cooperation, dialogue and respect for differences.



How does the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage operate? Strategic objectives

Cultural heritage selection process

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage aims to achieve the best possible outcomes for the stability, survival, cultural and social value protection of selected monuments.

In doing this, we strongly **promote and apply a holistic and bi-communal approach when selecting the monuments to be protected**, taking into account the rich and diverse heritage of Cyprus.

An initial list of 40 sites in need of emergency care and conservation was approved by the leaders. Additional monuments of great historical value or notable size have been added to this list.

Particular attention is given to the **archaeological importance of the monuments** reflecting their uniqueness, historical significance and role in society as well as their future educational role.

Monitoring of emergency and conservation works

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage implements **three types of projects:**

- **Small project activities (SPA)** focus on minor interventions with fast results that both safeguard the cultural heritage and enhance community development.
- **Medium-sized projects** focus on conservation projects of moderate cost and high impact.
- **Mega projects** focus on large-scale monuments with great historical and social value, such as the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, the Othello Tower, the Famagusta Walls Complex, and the Agios Panteleimonas Monastery.

The middle-sized and mega projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage are implemented by the **United Nations Development Programme Partnership for the Future** (UNDP-PFF). This allows the Committee's technical teams to meet international restoration and cultural heritage preservation practitioners and discuss with them various conservation challenges. This contributes to strengthening the Committee's technical knowledge, capacity and awareness.

Monitoring visits to project sites and strict collaboration on aspects of the Committee's work also allow for increased exchange of experiences and the setting of a positive example of successful collaboration between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in the field of cultural heritage.

Funding

Since 2012 and up to date, €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 has also recently planned to allocate another €1.4 million for a new project cycle, making it the biggest supporter of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.

€2.5 million were donated respectively by the Evkaf Administration and the Church of Cyprus for the restoration of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery.

The project for the conservation of the Kyrenia shipwreck is supported by the Honor Frost Foundation.

All funds are channelled through the UNDP-PFF.

The value of the cultural heritage of the island is inestimable. Expanding the scope of work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage towards more partnerships and greater inclusiveness is fundamental if we are to preserve more of our precious heritage.

Our education programme

Education is central to the mission of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. The Committee actively works to create an interactive educational programme that gives the younger generation of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots the opportunity to learn about each other and the cultural heritage of the island.



Small Project Activities

The small project activities (SPA) focus on grass-roots, low-cost interventions on monuments requiring simple, small-scale works capable of producing early results. To date, 10 SPA projects have been implemented on 5 mosques and 5 churches island-wide. Currently, about 16 such projects (churches, mosques and awareness-raising activities) are planned through cooperation with diverse partners promoting local level actions that, it is hoped, will disseminate the mandate of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and improve awareness of the importance of cultural heritage.

Study of the cultural heritage of Cyprus

In 2009 the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage agreed to compile a study of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. This European Union-funded study was realised in 2010 with the support of the UNDP-PFF. The study resulted in the compilation of a list of more than 2,300 cultural heritage sites, the preparation of around 700 inventory charts, including historical background, pictures, topographical details and architectural sketches of each monument, and the carrying out of 121 technical assessments, analysing the current conditions of the monuments, and restoration costing needs.

The members of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage wish to acknowledge the support and facilitation provided to their work by the European Commission, the office and the staff of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Cyprus and the United Nations Development Programme Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF).

From decision making to implementation – our achievements and progress so far

To date 18 monuments have been structurally supported and physically protected or restored, or are currently undergoing restoration or are under study. Another 14 will benefit from similar interventions in the near future.

Work completed or under implementation	Under study and work to start soon	Planned for the near future
Apostolos Andreas Monastery (Church complex)	Ravelin (Land Gate) in Famagusta	Agios Philon Church in Rizokarpaso/Dipkarpaz
Agios Afksentios Church in Komi Kebir/Büyükkonuk	Martinengo Bastion in Famagusta	Agios Georgios in Afendrika Rizokarpaso/Dipkarpaz
Mustafa Pasha Mosque in Famagusta	Venetian Walls between the Arsenal and Othello Tower and Citadel in Famagusta	Afendrika archeological site in Rizokarpaso/Dipkarpaz
Othello Tower/Citadel in Famagusta	Millhouse/Aqueduct in Chrysochou/Hirsofu	Agia Triada Church in Rizokarpaso/Dipkarpaz
Paphos Hammam	Agios Panteleimonas Monastery in Myrtou/Çamlıbel	Agios Sergios in Neta/Taşlıca
Evretou/Evreto Mosque	Kyrenia shipwreck	Saint Anne Church in Famagusta
Panagia Melandrina Church in Kalograia/Bahçeli		Saint Marie Church in Famagusta
Panagia Church in Trachoni/Demirhan		Hasan Aga Bath in Paphos
Deneia/Denya Mosque		Minaret of the Grand Mosque in Paphos
Profitis Elias Church in Philia/Serhatköy		Ottoman watermills
Agios Nicolaos Church in Syrianochori/Yayla		Panagia Asha Church in Askeia/Paşaköy
Tserkezoi/Çerkez Mosque		Archangelos Michael Church in Lefkonoiko/Gecitkale
Karpasia/Karpaz Area Famagusta Area Paphos Area Kyrenia Area Mesaoria/Mesarya Area Morfou/Güzelyurt Area Limassol Area		Agios Andronikos Church in Kythrea/Değirmenlik Church of Agios Artemon (or Agios Georgios) in Afanteia-Ornithi/Gaziköy

Additionally at the initiative of the European Commission in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the Old Saint George Church in Kormakitis/Koruçam is being restored.

Our completed and ongoing projects

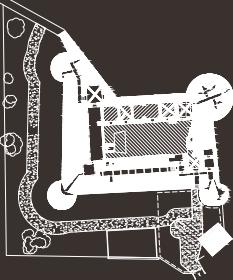


Agios Nicolaos Church in Syrianochori/Yayla

"It is with particular joy and emotion that we open today the Church of Agios Nicolaos. This occasion maintains inside us the hope for a better future of peace, cooperation and mutual understanding for all Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Today we stand in front of an old church which, thanks only to our common commitment, is still here for us to admire and reopening its doors to visitors. When we look at photos of how this church looked just a couple of years ago, when the technical assessment was conducted, we will all be proud of what we have accomplished. Dialogue is the basis of this success."

Ali Tuncay and Takis Hadjideimou,
Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, project completion ceremony, 15 October 2014.





Othello Tower/Citadel in Famagusta

The Othello Tower and Citadel is an important monument in the history of Famagusta, Cyprus and the Mediterranean. Its importance and a sense of age and mystery are evident when one walks through the portals of the citadel, with the Lion of Venice still presiding after hundreds of years.

The citadel consists of wall fortifications, connecting walls and four remaining towers (originally eight). Some of these elements are in various states of decay, whereas some walls and the rib vaulting are still complete. The monument is made up of two structures, one inside the other. The outer Venetian fortifications that date from 1492 were constructed around the earlier Lusignan fortification from the 14th century.

The Othello Tower and Citadel formed the key defensive position for the city of Famagusta at the apex of the city walls and worked as the protector between the port and the sea.

The Othello Tower was selected as part of the priority intervention projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage to benefit from emergency and conservation interventions. The next step is to reopen the monument for the community and visitors. Its history and the conservation process will be explained on information panels.



UNDP Photo/Olkhan Erguler

Venetian Walls between the Arsenal and Othello Tower/Citadel in Famagusta



UNDP Photo/Tecnalia

Ravelin (Land Gate) in Famagusta



UNDP Photo/Olkhan Erguler



UNDP Photo/Olkhan Erguler

Martinengo Bastion in Famagusta

"We return to all Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots yet another monument that belongs to our collective memory and heritage. Unlike other projects carried out with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage so far, which have provided emergency measures to avoid further deterioration or the collapse of different monuments island-wide, Panagia Church was the first cultural heritage site to undergo conservation works. We consider this an important step forward in the Committee's work to safeguard the tangible cultural heritage and ensure its accessibility to present and future generations."



Takis Hadjidemetriou and Ali Tuncay,
Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

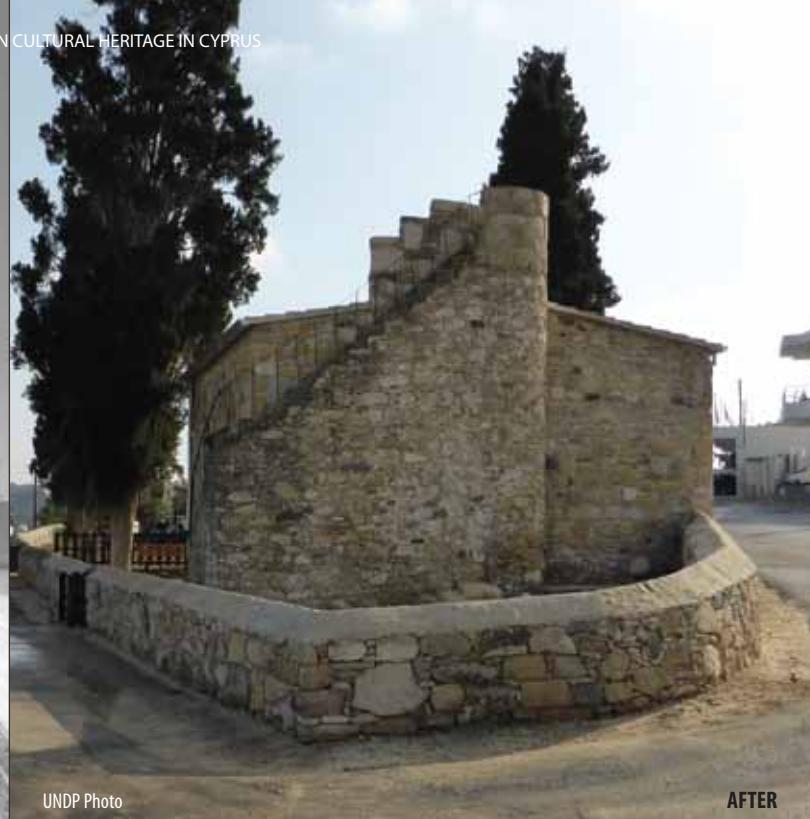
Panagia Church in Trachoni/Demirhan





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BEFORE



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AFTER

Mosque in Deneia/Denya

The Mosque in Deneia/Denya was the first cultural heritage site to benefit from emergency measures and marked the beginning of a very fruitful collaboration between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. The mosque, which can now be visited, adds to the attractiveness of the village and enhances people's appreciation of its heritage. Following the request of the residents, new works to provide the mosque with a roof were completed in 2014.



UNDP Photo



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AFTER

Panagia Melandrina Church and Monastery in Kalograia/Bahçeli

"The monastery of Panagia Melandrina was active until 1940. The church was most likely built during the 15th century, although archaeological remains around the monastery suggest the presence of an earlier settlement. Of the monastic complex, only the church remains today, preserved thanks our joint efforts within the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. Without these urgent emergency measures we were running the risk of losing the church as well."

Sophocles Hadjisavvas and İlkay Feridun,
Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.



Mustafa Pasha Mosque in Famagusta

"The work that we are carrying out within the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is contributing to the establishment of an atmosphere of cooperation between the two sides in Cyprus."

Mustafa Haşim Altan,
Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

Paphos Hammam, also known as the Medieval Turkish Bath was part of a larger complex built during the Medieval period and later modified and expanded during the Ottoman period.

"When we started the project, the walls and domes presented different levels of deterioration. Today, as the works are ongoing, the Hammam is already starting to regain its original appearance. This shows how much small emergency measures can do to preserve and safeguard cultural heritage sites island-wide. All the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots should feel very proud of these results."

Takis Hadjidemetriou and Ali Tuncay,
Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.



The emergency and protective works included removal of debris and vegetation, as well as restoration of the missing walls and vaults to reflect the original structure of the monument.

Hammam in Paphos





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Agios Afksentios Church in Komi Kebir/Büyükkonuk



UNDP Photo/Diomedes Myriantef



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Mosque in Evretou/Evretu

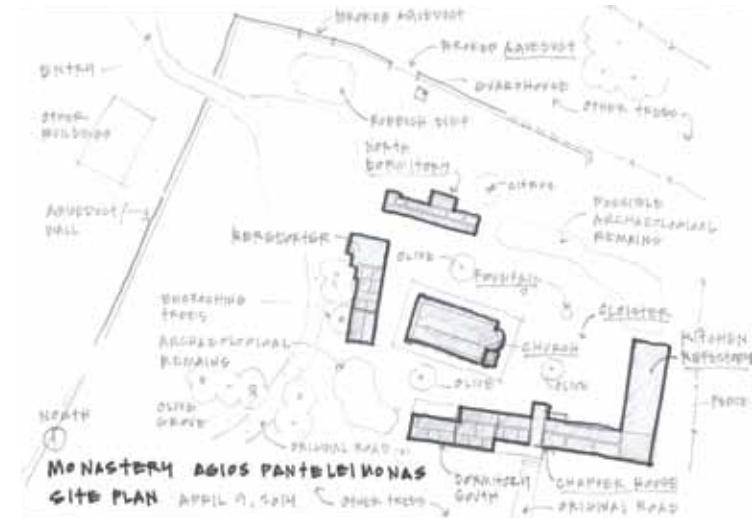


Mosque in Tserkezoi/Çerkez



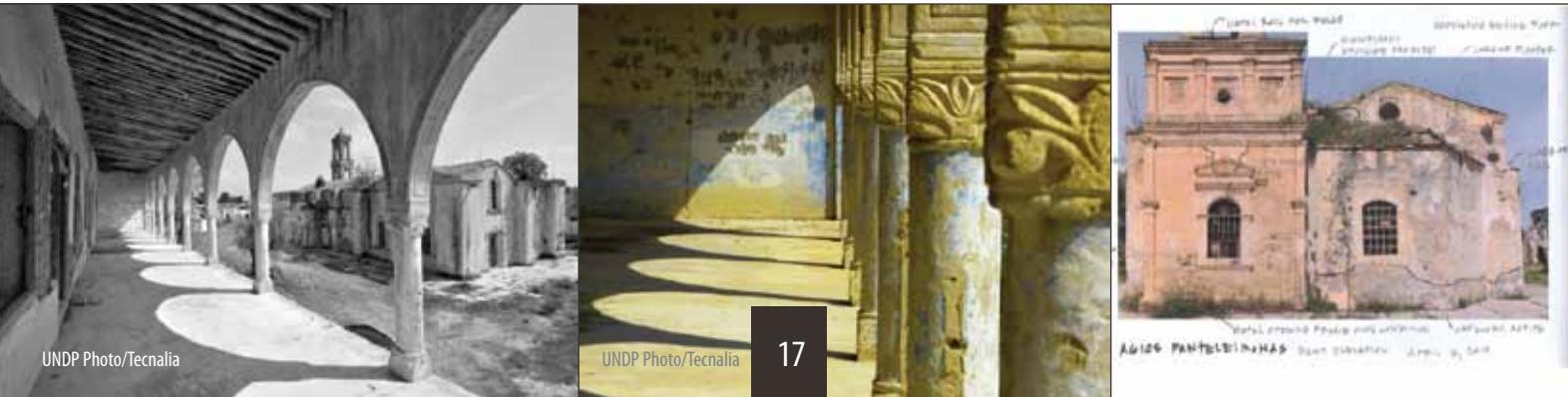
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Agios Panteleimonas Monastery in Myrtou/Çamlıbel



Agios Panteleimonas monastic complex can be considered in three main parts: the landscape features and archaeological remains, the surrounding monastic buildings and the main central church.

Between April and May 2014 surveys and investigations were conducted and structural consolidation interventions were suggested. Emergency consolidation works to the complex shall start in early 2015.

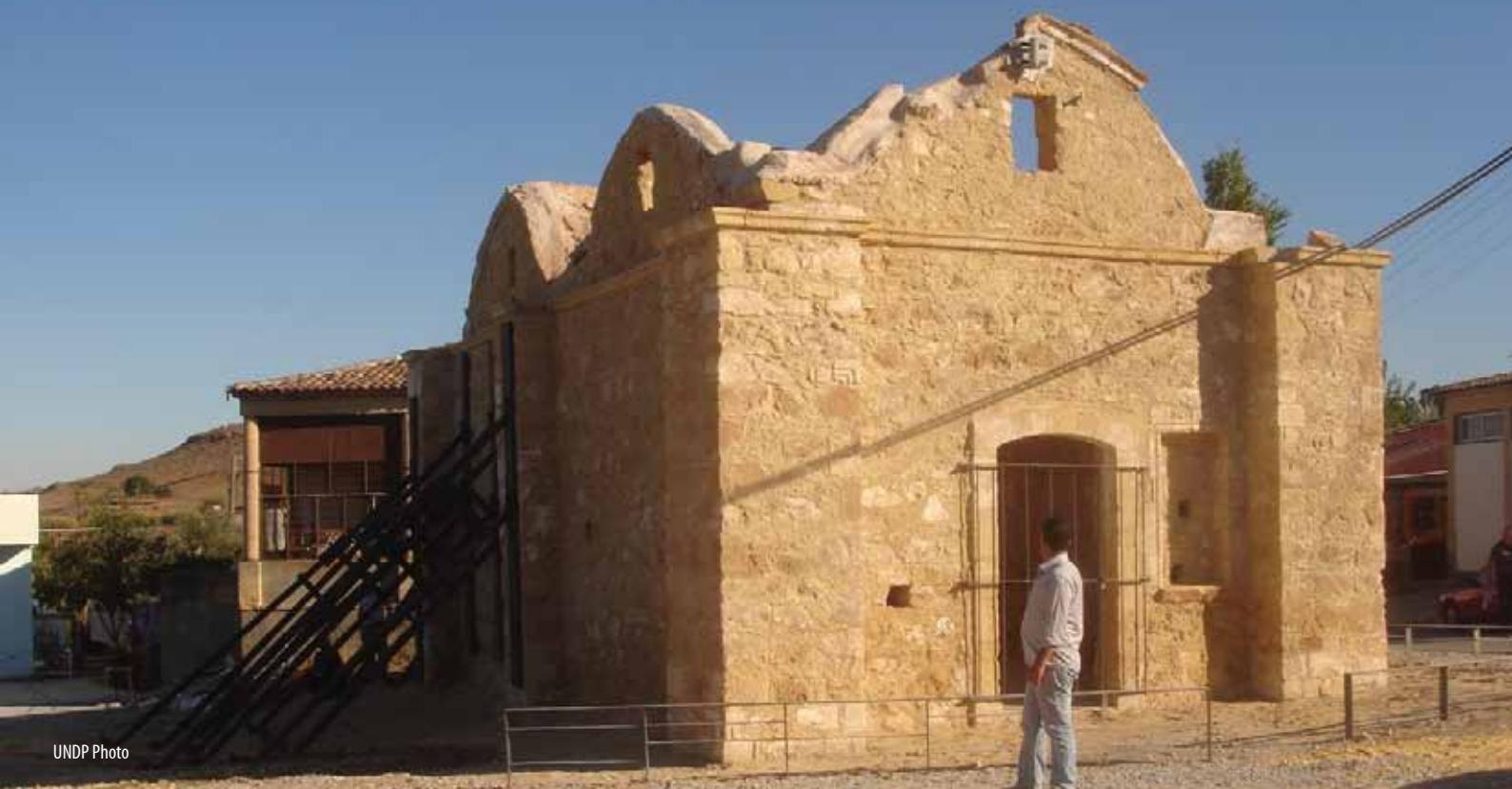




BEFORE



AFTER



Profitis Elias Church in Philia/Serhatköy



Millhouse/Aqueduct in Chrysochou/Hirsofu



Monastery of Apostolos Andreas

"By conserving and protecting together our common cultural heritage we are paving the road to a Cyprus of peace, acceptance and coexistence." Athina Papadopoulou, Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.





"We are not just restoring cultural heritage, we are also restoring our link with history."
Ali Kanli, Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

"Monuments, as buildings, belong to our past, to our history. In the perspective of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage they are a living opportunity, a challenge and an avenue for cooperation to build a common future."

Glafkos Constantinides, Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.



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