



“aphrodite”

thematic (environmental & cultural) route
in Ineia, Paphos District, Cyprus

The Employer’s wish was to upgrade the road leading from the village of Ineia to Akamas National Park (an area within the “European Ecological Network Natura 2000”), while simultaneously connecting existing points of archaeological, cultural, and environmental interest (springs, chapels, geomorphological formations, etc.). The entire process took approximately 8 years (2013–2021), as the study had to be approved not only by the Department of Town Planning and Housing, but also by other bodies and services such as the Department of Antiquities, the Department of Environment, the Game and Fauna Service, etc.

One of the biggest challenges of the study was to ensure that the road/trail would serve both vehicles and hikers, while preserving the existing relations of the route with the topography and the landscape. The project, combined with the previously completed “Turtle Museum,” has significantly increased the number of visitors to the settlement.

Project Objectives

The project aims to protect, enhance, and sustainably manage the landscape by valuing its cultural and environmental richness. It emphasizes sensitive, small-scale design that respects local character, balances natural and built elements, reduces artificial surfaces, and improves green spaces. Community participation is a key principle, along with infrastructure improvements such as burying overhead power lines to reduce visual impact.

Contribution to the European Landscape Convention

The project embodies the Convention’s principles through practical actions that preserve heritage, promote sustainability, and engage the public. It enhances quality of life by integrating human activity with the natural environment, serves as a tool for environmental education, and raises awareness of the landscape’s inherent value.

Public Participation

The project actively involved the local community from the early planning stages. Through presentations and open dialogue, the design team explained the project’s goals, gathered feedback, and incorporated community suggestions into the final design.

