

Presentation of the candidate

Each of the six Districts of Cyprus is headed by a District Governor/District Officer, a senior civil servant operating under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior. District Officers are appointed by the Government as its official representatives at the local level, serving as key coordinators and strategic liaisons for the activities of all Ministries within their respective jurisdictions.

In addition to the institutional responsibilities assigned to them under the Communities Law of 1999, District Offices assume a central role in the coordination, oversight, and implementation of development initiatives across local communities. Through the civil servants serving within these Offices, the Government ensures the provision of comprehensive administrative and technical support to the majority of Community Councils and Community Council Clusters.

Overall, District Offices—through their broad, multidimensional, and cross-sectoral mandate—aim to serve the public by delivering routine administrative services in accordance with legal and regulatory frameworks, while simultaneously advancing rural development policies and projects. These interventions contribute not only to the sustainable revitalization of rural areas, but also to the wider social, cultural, and economic development of Cyprus.

The Paphos District Offices currently employs a workforce of 60 civil servants. As highlighted above, a principal component of its mission is the promotion and execution of development projects throughout the communities of the Paphos District. A fundamental priority of these projects is to foster the sustainable development of local communities through initiatives that reinforce their traditional identity, safeguard their cultural and historical assets, and enhance the protection and promotion of the natural environment.

With respect to the recent project, *“Aphrodite Thematic Route in the Community of Inia, Paphos District,”* its implementation was undertaken by the Technical Department Services of the Paphos District Office, which acted as the executing authority. The project was carried out in close cooperation with the Project Engineers assigned responsibility for its design.

The project was financed under the Recovery and Resilience Plan – *“Cyprus_Tomorrow”* within Policy Axis “Measure No. 78 – C3.1I0a: Enrichment of the Tourism Product in Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas – Aphrodite Thematic Route – Inia.” It was implemented during the period 2021–2023, with a final total cost of €1,955,748.85 including VAT. Its objective was to promote the Route of Aphrodite by establishing a dedicated 2-kilometre thematic pathway connecting key historical, religious, and environmental landmarks—such as nature trails—in order to enhance environmental awareness, support biodiversity, and reinforce the touristic and cultural value of the region.

Over the past decade, a wide range of significant and thematically related projects have been implemented throughout the Paphos countryside, aiming to showcase the natural environment and provide educational and interpretive resources for both residents and visitors. These include, among others:

1. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core and surrounding areas of the Community of Kathikas
2. Establishment of the Regional Centre for the Promotion of the Flora and Fauna of the Akamas Region

3. Creation of the Regional Educational and Environmental Centre “Akamas” in the Community of Kathikas
4. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Community of Pano Arodes
5. Development of walking and cycling routes in the Community of Pano Arodes
6. Establishment of the Regional Centre for Paleontology and Geology of the Akamas Region in the Community of Pano Arodes
7. Creation of the Regional Turtle Education Centre of the Akamas Region in the Community of Inia
8. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Inia Community
9. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core and façades of the Drousia Community
10. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Peristerona Community
11. Enhancement and promotion of the Natural Rock landmark in the Episkopi Community
12. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Lysos Community
13. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core and façades of the Panagia Community
14. Establishment of the Akamas Herpetological Centre in the Community of Neo Chorio
15. Creation of a Museum and Exhibition Space for the Natural History of Cyprus in the Community of Pomos
16. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Argaka Community
17. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Nikoklia Community and restoration of a traditional watermill
18. Establishment of an Environmental Centre in the Community of Trachypedoula
19. Landscaping and rehabilitation of the core of the Trachypedoula Community and construction of student hostels to support environmental education programmes
20. Construction of multiple parks and scenic viewpoints across various communities of the Paphos District (including Statos–Agios Fotios, Kelokedara, Lasa, Agios Dimitrianos, Kritou Marottou, Galataria, among others)