

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2000 & 2012 /2016



Impressive new findings of giant fossil tree trunks founded during the rescue excavations at the Acrochiras Wind Farm

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 38 staffs (6 Permanent, 32 Temporary contract) including 10 geoscientists (3 Permanent, 7 Temporary contract)

Number of visitors: The people visited Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark facilities (Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Mytilene Information Center, Petrified Forest Park, Sigri Park, Plaka Park, Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park), the exhibition “GAIA MEMORIES: UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece – Cyprus” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens, Nicosia Cyprus, Heraklion, Rethymno and Sitia Crete, the exhibition “Deinotherium and Sequoias from the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, climate change indicators in the Aegean” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens and the exhibition “The Deinotherium of Lesvos” in Mytilene, Sigri and Petra Lesvos were 80.250.

Number of Geopark events: 62 events held by management body and cooperative organisations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 71 school classes realised educational programmes

Number of Geopark press releases: 103 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Impressive new findings of giant fossil tree trunks come into light during the realisation of the important excavation and conservation programme in Acrochiras Wind Farm area
- Impressive new findings of fossil tree trunks come into light during the realisation of the excavation and conservation programme in the new road Kalloni - Sigri area
- The Greek Minister of Culture visited the protected area of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos - Presentation of the new fossil findings

- Presentation of the travelling exhibition “GAIA MEMORIES: UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece – Cyprus” in four different cities in Greece and in Cyprus
- Presentation of the travelling exhibition “Deinotherium and Sequoias from the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, climate change indicators in the Aegean” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens
- Presentation of the travelling exhibition “The Deinotherium of Lesvos” in three different areas in Lesvos
- Implementation of educational programmes for school students, university students and refugees

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in UNESCO Mentoring Programme for Aspiring Geoparks – Training staff from “The Great Rift Valley” Aspiring Geopark, Kenya
- Organizing the 11th INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE COURSE OF GEOPARKS 2019 «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Natural Hazards – Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction »
- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Printing of the European Geoparks Network Magazine - Issue 16/2019
- Participation in Fitur Madrid - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network
- Participation in ITB Berlin - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network
- Participation in the 6th APGN International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks organized by Rinjani - Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia
- Participation in the 43rd Meeting of the European Geoparks Network organized by Swabian Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany
- Participation in the 15th European Geoparks Network Conference organized by Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain
- Participation in the 44th Meeting of the European Geoparks Network organized by Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain
- Receiving field guides delegation from Hong Kong, China
- Receiving delegation from Huangshan UGGp China
- Receiving delegation from Shehong, China
- Receiving school students and teachers from Villuercas Ibores Jara UGGp, Spain
- Receiving school students and teachers from San'in Kaigan UGGp, Japan

Management and Financial Status

No remarkable changes related to management and financial status.

Geoconservation

- Realisation of the conservation programme “Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos – “Kyria Apolithomeni”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Realisation of the conservation programme “Construction of the new road Kalloni - Sigrí” in collaboration with Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation
- Realisation of the conservation programme at Akroxeiras Wind Farm area
- Realisation of the annual conservation programme at Sigrí Park, Plaka Park and Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Implementation of the geotouristic activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat at Marine Nissiopi Petrified Forest Parks
- Organising the “GREEN CULTURAL ROOTS 2019” – Special geotour in areas of archaeological, cultural, ecological and geological interest jointly organized by the Antiquities Ephorate of Lesvos and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest under the aegis of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture
- Implementation in collaboration with the Geopark partners of the various alternative tourism activities (birdwatching, sailing, hiking, running etc)

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- New thematic educational programmes dedicated to climate change, the deinotherium of Lesvos and geoconservation of the new excavation fossil sites
- Upgraded the educational programme “Climate Change: Learning about the consequences by observing the Lesvos Petrified Forest”
- Printing of new educational material
- Organising of educational seminars for teachers from Athens
- Implementation in collaboration with the Environmental Education Centre of Evergetoulas the National Thematic School Network “UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece” (under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Education)

Strategic partnership

- Collaboration with Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, China – Conservation program of the dinosaur ichno- fossils
- Collaboration with Shehong UNESCO Global Geopark, China – Conservation program of the dinosaur ichno- fossils
- Implementation of the European project “GEO-IN / Geotourism in insular Geoparks”, INTERREG V-A «Greece – Cyprus 2014-2020» with three other insular Geoparks from Greece and Cyprus. Organization and presentation in Athens of a common exhibition on insular Geoparks. Implementation of a new strategy to support the development of athletic events in the Lesvos Geopark (Mountain trail running, Mountain bike races).
- Implementation of the EU project “RURITAGE – Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies” with several partners including UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Beijing – Implementation of educational field classes

Promotional activities

- Promotion of Lesvos Geopark in Athens organized by all Lesvos Associations in Athens
- Promotion of Lesvos Geopark by the Region of North Aegean through the organization of targeted visits of journalist, high profile writers and bloggers
- Numerous radio-TV and newspapers interviews and articles on the Geopark’s activities in the national, regional and local media – also in TV shows.
- Organisation of various athletics activities and cultural events

4. CONTACTS

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