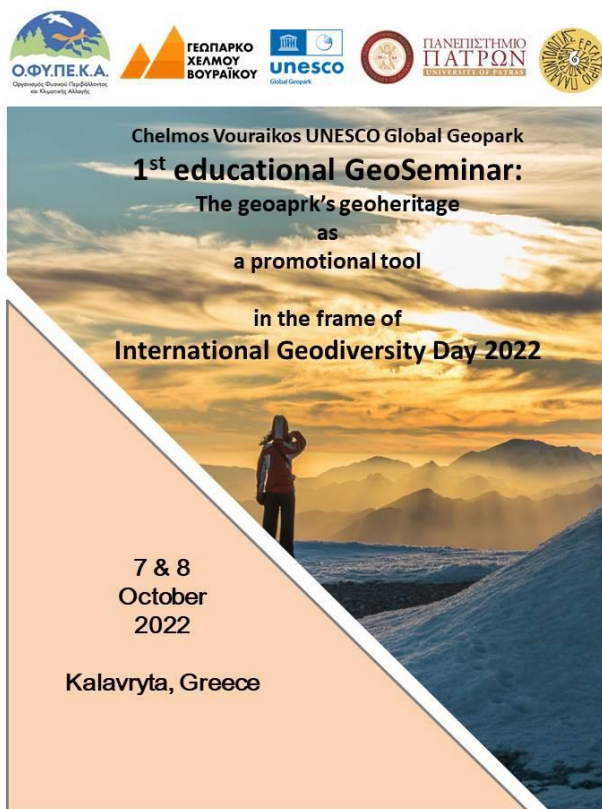


GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: CHELMOS VOURAIKOS UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009 / 2019



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 11 staffs including 2 geoscientist and 1 external research assistant/Geoscientis

Number of visitors: For 2022 the estimated number of visitors is more than 254.270.

Number of Geopark events:

- Article about Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp uploaded in Wikipedia- Action by the German UNESCO Committee volunteers
- Hellenic Geoparks Forum Meeting
- Presenattion in local TV channel for the biodiversity of the Park
- Participation with presentation in the Digital event: UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus: fields of education for sustainability- In the frame of Gaias Memories Exhibition held in Thessaloniki
- Grand opening of the International Exhibition Gaias Memories- The exhibition was hosted

by the University of Patras and the Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp. It regarded the geoparks of Greece and Cyprus and lasted 3 months

- Participation in the GGN Fb campaign :Discover Earth's Hidden treasures
- Cleaning of Mavri Limna geosite- Cleaning of Mavri Limna Geosite in the frame of Mother Earth Day in cooperation with conglomeratica volunteer team and Kastria cultural group
- EGN Springmeeting 2022- Participation of 2 members
- Event "30 years NATURA network"- Organization of an one-day conference in the frame of the International Biodiversity Day
- 42nd Panhellenic Crossing of the Vouraikos River Gorge- In the frame of the International Biodiversity Day
- Climbing, biodiversity and geodiversity: a close relationship- In the frame of the International Exhibition Gais Memories held in Patras by the University of Patras and the Chelmos Vouraikos Geopark regarding climbing and especially climbing in the geopark area and ethics
- Release of stamps dedicated to the Greek UNESCO Global Geoparks- In the frame of the International Environment Day
- 3rd International Conference of Greece-Cyprus UNESCO Global Geoparks entitled "UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS OF GREECE-CYPRUS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", 5 Presentations
- Presentation of a local product in a TV show- Presentation of the mountain tea liqueur from a collaborating business (AITHRA Premium Organic Spirits) in a TV show ERT (National channel)
- Europarc Federation revalidation days
- Meeting: The UNESCO Programs that are transforming modern societies: education, culture and sustainable development THAT ARE TRANSFORMING MODERN SOCIETIES- The meeting was organized in the nearby Patras city by the Hellenic UNESCO Office, Presentation of the geopark
- View of an interview regarding Lake Tsivlou geosite- View of the interview of the director of the Management Unit in SKAI 100.3 channel (national range) regarding Lake Tsivlou
- Presentation about Chelmos Vouraikos from Unesco cooperating schools- Digital event: Presentation of educational programs of schools of the UNESCO Collaborating Schools Network (ASPnet) on the topic of Greek UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Article about Chelmos Vouraikos- Tribute to the Greek UNESCO Global Geoparks in the tourism magazine Holidays (BHMA Sunday newspaper)
- Release on Fb of the "Chelmos Vouraikos Cook Book"- Production of a small book with local recipes matched with the respective geosites in cooperation with the conglomeratica volunteer group
- Visit at the cave of the lakes from scientists occupied with the bats- In the frame of the project

"Visitor management evaluation of Cave of the Lakes" implemented by the Management Unit

- Guided tour at the Ano Lousoi-Kato Lousoi-Mavri Limna-Kastria trail- Hiking and guided tour in cooperation with conglomeratica volunteer team and the cultural groups of Kastria and Soudena villages
- 18th Speleology conference, France, Presentation for the Cave of the Lakes geosite- Presentation: 3D- mapping of the Cave of the Lakes
- Organization and participation in the Oinoxenia celebrations- Regional wine tasting, presentation of the geopark
- Visit of members of the geopark to the UNESCO Global Geopark Thüringen Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen- visit at the geopark. Sampling in caves
- Participation in the Geocaching game- Placement of geocaches in 6 geosites by the UNESCO volunteers
- Participation in the GGN Fb campaign :Geodiversity wonders in Geoparks
- 16th EGN conference/Poster Presentation- Participation of 2 members, Poster title: THE GEOMORPHOSITES OF CHELMOS – VOURAIKOS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE GEOHERITAGE!

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 66 school classes.

Number of Geopark press release: 2 newsletters, frequent announcements on fb and Instagram pages

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- increase in the staff since a new geologist was hired
- Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp along with its partners UNESCO Global Geopark Thüringen Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen participates in the PROGRAMME FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE EXCHANGE AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN GREECE AND GERMANY IKYDA 2022 entitled: Cave ostracoda from Greece and Germany: a pilot study for (palaeo)ecological and biogeographical collaboration.
- "Chelmos Vouraikos Cook Book"- Production of a small book with local recipes matched with the respective geosites in cooperation with the conglomeratica volunteer group

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- GGN Publication in the frame of International Geodiversity Day 2022- Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark: The rocks, the mountains and the myths..!
- Participation in the GGN Fb campaign :Geodiversity wonders in Geoparks
- Participation in the GGN Fb campaign :Discover Earth's Hidden treasures

Management and Financial Status

The Management Unit of Chelmos - Vouraikos National Park and Protected areas of Northern Peloponnese is the Administrator of the Geopark. The Management Body occupies four-member scientific personnel with the specialties of Environmentalist, Geologist, Biologist and Forester, six Forest Rangers, a Secretary, an assistant of Accountant, as well as exterior collaborators with duties of Accountant, Legal Advisor, a geologist and a Scientific Advisor on matters of Geology.

According to the law (Law 4685/2020) the Management Units receive annual funding through the regular budget of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The budget that corresponds to the geopark's management unit has been increased comparatively to the previous situation (before 2020).

Geoconservation

- The formation of the National Catalog of geosites where six geosites of national importance of the Chelmos-Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark are included, is a great success for geosites conservation. This catalog is still under construction.
- The integration of new geosites to the geosite list of the Geopark is considered a main aim for the conservation of the geoheritage. Currently the number of sites conserved has risen to 43 and several other sites are under evaluation.
- A major success is considered the postponing of a construction of a wind mill on the geosite of Palaeochori lignites and the negative decision on the construction of limestone mine in Lousoi polje geosite.
- The gathering and sharing of knowledge for the geology of the region is continuous and greatly contributes to the conservation of geoheritage.
- Daily and systematic patrols record problems within the protected area and the continuous cooperation of the MB with the municipal and regional authorities, results in restricting the illegal activities and preventing their continuation within the limits of the Geopark.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

The Management Body has compiled a Strategy and Action Plan for the Chelmos Vouraikos National Park and Geopark which identifies and determines the mission, vision and goals of the Body and defines target markets, guiding principles, indicators and key strategic objectives. The Strategy and Action Plan have been updated in 2018 and they will be valid until 2026 when it will be renewed. The main components of the Strategy and Action Plan are described in summary to the accompanying documentation.

It contains specific goals for Tourism-Geotourism. More specifically, Tourism-Geotourism is a major objective of the MB's management plan. The specific targets are:

- Development, support, promotion and strengthening of tourist activities compatible with responsible tourism, to strengthen the local economy, employment and sustainable development

- Organization and promotion of tourist and cultural events

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

- Educational card game which combines rocks, plants and animals from the geopark
- Educational program: We learn about floods
- Educational program: Rocks in our daily life and their role in sustainable development
- Interactive game: The geosite of the Chelmos Vouraikos geopark
- Chelmos Rocks: Presentation about the geosites of Chelmos mountain, the climatic threats and the problems that caused by humans, at the mountains generally and more specifically in Chelmos. By the ending of the presentation, students are called to write Haiku (a type of short form poetry originally from Japan) using key words related to the mountain.

Strategic partnership

- The Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark has signed official partnership agreements with the Vikos-Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark, Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark, Kefalonia Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark and UNESCO Global Geopark Thüringen Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen.
- Our Geopark is an official member of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network, a member of Europark and an INHERITURA site

Promotional activities

- Participation in the GGN Fb campaign :Geodiversity wonders in Geoparks
- Participation in the Geocaching game- Placement of geocaches in 6 geosites by the UNESCO volunteers
- Organization and participation in the Oinoxenia celebrations- Regional wine tasting, presentation of the geopark
- 18th Speleology conference, France, Presentation for the Cave of the Lakes geosite
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- View of the interview of the director of the Management Unit in SKAI 100.3 channel (national range) regarding Lake Tsivlou
- Meeting: The UNESCO Programs that are transforming modern societies: education, culture and sustainable development THAT ARE TRANSFORMING MODERN SOCIETIES
- Presentation of a local product in a TV show
- Release of stamps dedicated to the Greek UNESCO Global Geoparks

- 42nd Panhellenic Crossing of the Vouraikos River Gorge
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- Presenattion in local TV channel for the biodiversity of the Park
- Article about Chelmos Vouraikos UGGp uploaded in Wikipedia

4. CONTACTS

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