

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark, Turkey (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 04/09/2013 / 10/06/2020

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Planting saplings in the villages within the borders of the geopark as part of the World Environment Day activities in cooperation with the local people and the geopark.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 staffs including 4 geoscientist (s)

Number of visitors: If total number of the visitors to the geopark is difficult to estimate, show the number of the visitors to the major geosite (s), museum or visitor center. 78.220 visitors.

Number of Geopark events: Clarify the events held by management body and cooperative organization: 47

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 9

Training activities were carried out in 9 different branches. Some of these activities were conducted as online, while some carried out face-to-face in accordance with the pandemic conditions. The main topics of these trainings were; 11 December World Mountains Day, Geopark Tourist Guide Education, 13th October World Disaster Risk Reduction Day, The importance of the Water, World Environment Day, Geoparks and Environment, Geoparks for sustainability.

Number of Geopark press release: 63

Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark has been the topic of local press for 60 times and 3 times in the international press during 2021. In addition, 2 promotional brochures and 8 cycling route brochures were prepared. We attended a radio and a television program as a guest for the promotion of our Geopark.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- With the financial support from a regional development agency (ZKA), the construction of a new Visitor Center was started with a budget of 4,500,000 Turkish currency.
- In order to provide train middle and high school students about geoparks, the importance of water, and natural disasters, a joint protocol was signed between the jeopark management unit and the Kula and Salihli Directorates of National Education Authorities in 2022.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- The Coordinator for Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark attended the 9th International UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference and made a presentation here. (13-16 December 2021)
- A sistership agreement has been made between Yangan Tau UNESCO Global Gepark (Russia) and Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Cooperation agreements have been made with other aspiring geoparks (Kitab Aspiring Geopark, Uzbekistan and Batken Aspiring Geopark, Kirgizstan) and geopark projects in Central Asia
- S Cooperation agreement has been made with Kapadokya (Cappadocia) Aspiring Geopark, Turkey.
- Geopark Vice Coordinators Prof. Dr. Tuncer Demir and Dr Ahmet Serdar Aytaç have attended in an international meeting and field work held in Uzbekistan by Kitab Aspiring Geopark.

Management and Financial Status

- There has been no change in the management body of the geopark but the budget of the geopark has been increased by 3 million TL.
- In addition to the existing ones two more rangers have been employed to do maintenance work on infrastructure in the field and also to patrol the Geopark.
- In order to increase the awareness of the geopark, garbage collection activity was organized with collaboration of some non-governmental organizations.
- Damaged signboards and direction boards have been replaced with the new ones..

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The local people were educated about geopark and conservation for sustainable tourism.
- Support was provided to local people, associations and cooperatives who wanting to generate income in the area.
- In some schools, online training programs were organized about the "importance of geoparks for sustainable development".

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

- Two online and two face-to-face trainings were given to primary and secondary school students on the importance of water and geo-protection.
- Online trainings on environment and geoparks were held on 11 December World Mountains Day, 13 October Disaster Risk Reduction Day and 22 May - 7 June Geoparks Week.
- Coordinator Dr. A Serdar Aytaç gave an online presentation entitled “ Geoparks as a device of Sustainable Development and the place of Geographers in the Geopark”.

Strategic partnership

- An event on the importance of geoparks in terms of international relations was held in Kula and Salihli districts with the participation of visitors from Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Spain and Romania within the scope of the Geopark Ambassadors ESASMUS Project. This event lasted for 1 week and within the scope of the event, important geosites were visited and information about our geopark was also given.
- Within the concept of a project themed "Our Yunus-Famous Turkish Thinker" around 100 students visited the Geopark and they were given introductory information about our geopark, UNESCO geoparks and also geo-protection, sustainability environments etc.
- Within the scope of the "Achieving World Climate Heritage" project, visitors from Italy, North Macedonia, Poland and Romania were both informed about our geopark and toured the important geosites of our geopark.

- People working to establish geoparks in Kastamonu Denizli, Nevşehir and Balıkesir provinces have visited our geopark at different times. These people were shown the important locations of our geopark and they were given technical and theoretical support about the establishment of the geoparks and the application processes.
- Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark and Manisa Bicycle Spor Club organized a joint bicycle festival for two days. 50 participants joined the festival and Kula Mayor and District Governor also accompanied them in the geopark.

Promotional activities

- Geopark Coordinators Prof Tuncer Demir and Dr Ahmet Serdar Aytaç attended in an international meeting held by Batken University in Kazakistan.
- Public online trainings were given on different subjects (geoparks, natural hazards, geo-conservation).
- In order to promote and increase visibility of the Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark at home and abroad, photo and video shoots were produced. These short promotional videos were then published on social media and at different platforms.
- Interviews were given to some national TV channels, which contributed to the promotion of the geopark.
- In order to show the importance of nature and to act as an example for sustainability environment, approximately 300 different types of trees were planted within the boundaries of the geopark.
- Support was given to the "Lavender Harvest Event", in which the Women's Cooperative, one of the important partners of our geopark, and Kula Municipality were involved, and a geopark trip was organized for the guests who came for the harvest.
- Various field and indoor-activities were organized for tourists and people of all ages visiting our geopark at different times about geoparks and their importance in terms of nature protection.

4. CONTACTS

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