

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

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 trunk founded during the rescue excavations at Kalloni – Sigri new road

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 44 staffs (5 Permanent, 39 Temporary contract) including 9 geoscientists (3 Permanent, 6 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, Kalloni Environmental Center), the exhibition “GAIA MEMORIES: UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece – Cyprus” at Sigri, the exhibition “Deinotherium and Sequoias from the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, climate change indicators in the Aegean” at Evgenides Foundation in Athens and the photography exhibition of Amil Ali “Lesvos with my eyes” in Mytilene.

All sites had been closed for 5 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently visiting is possible accordance with the health protocols and limited visitors.

Number of Geopark events: 114 events held by management body and cooperative organisations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 14 school classes realised educational programmes

Number of Geopark press releases: 230 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Impressive new findings of fossil tree trunks come into light during the realisation of the excavation and conservation programme in the new Kalloni - Sigri road
- Implementation of the GREEN MUSEUM project

- Implementation of new digital programmes for the promotion of Lesvos Geopark geosites, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and Lemnos Island geosites.
- Successfully completed the conservation programme “Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos – “Kyria Apolithomeni”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- 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
- Implementation of various digital educational programmes for school students and organisation of webinars for school teachers

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Organizing of the INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL COURSE OF UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS 2020 «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of resilience » (10 – 26 June 2020)
- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Printing of the European Geoparks Network Magazine – Issue 18/2020
- Participation in Fitur Madrid - In collaboration with Global Geoparks Network and European Geoparks Network (22 – 26 January 2020)
- Participating in the «European Geoparks Week» (24 May – 7 July 2020)
- Participating in the 1st EGN Digital Meeting (5 June 2020)
- Organizing of the digital event “Welcome event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks” (16 July 2020)
- Participating in the 2nd EGN Digital Meeting (15 September 2020)
- Organizing of the 2nd DIGITAL FOLLOW UP COURSE «UNESCO Global Geoparks: Territories of resilience» (2 November 2020)
- Organizing of the 1st GGN DIGITAL FORUM (17-18 November 2020)
- Participating in the webinars organized by UNESCO Secretariat and the UNESCO Global Geoparks dedicated to Africa (11 & 14 December 2020)

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 - Sigri” 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 Sigri Park, Plaka Park and Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park and at Akroxeiras Wind Farm area

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Implementation of the geotouristic activity: Daily guided boat tours with a glass bottom boat at Marine Nissiopi Petrified Forest Parks
- Implementation in collaboration with the Geopark partners of the various alternative tourism activities (birdwatching, cycling, hiking, running etc)

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

- New digital educational programmes for school students
- Printing of new educational material
- Organising of digital educational seminars for teachers
- 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

- 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

Promotional activities

- Implementation of a programme for the digital promotion of Lesvos Geopark
- Organisation of a fam trip with the participation of 10 journalists from national media (26 - 28 June 2020)
- Promotion of Lesvos Geopark in Greece and abroad
- 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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