

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

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 & 2012/2021



Preservation of fossilized mammal bones, at the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest's laboratory.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 58 staffs (5 Permanent, 53 Temporary contract) including 10 geoscientists (3 Permanent, 7 Temporary contract)

Number of visitors: 23.602 people visited Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark facilities due to COVID-19 restrictions

Number of Geopark events: 86 events held by management body and cooperative organisations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 17 school classes realised educational programmes in the field and 9 online educational programmes due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of Geopark press releases: 119 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- 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
- Two million years fossilized bones of mammals come into light at the excavation of Thermi site of East Lesvos
- Implementation of the GREEN MUSEUM project, energy upgrade of the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest's facilities using solar panels.
- Implementation of new digital programmes for the promotion of Lesvos Geopark geosites, the Petrified Forest, the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and Lemnos Island geosites.
- Implementation of the conservation programme "Conservation and promotion of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos – "Kyria Apolithomeni", "NSRF 2014-2020"

- Implementation of the programme “Construction – Improvement of the new Kalloni - Sigri road”, sub-project “Fossils studies and work”
- Implementation of program “Promotion activities for protected areas of Lesvos”
- Implementation of the «RURITAGE – Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies» Horizon 2020.
- Study of the programme “Study for the completion of the Visiting Center at Sigri”
- Implementation of the programme “The Olive tree in Lesvos| Representation of timeless olive oil production techniques using Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality technologies”
- Implementation of the Erasmus+ programme “Geology for Impaired Visually people And Disabled”
- 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 2021 «UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability» (7– 20 June 2021)
- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Supporting organization and participation in the 2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM (23-24 February 2021)
- Supporting organization and participation in the digital event “Welcome event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks” (22 April 2021)
- Participating in the «European Geoparks Week» (22 May – 6 June 2021)
- Participating in the 3rd EGN Digital Forum (26 January 2021)
- Participating in the 4th EGN Digital Forum (13 April 2021)
- Participating in the 5th EGN Digital Forum (1 & 2 September 2021)
- Supporting organization and participation in the 3rd DIGITAL FOLLOW UP COURSE «UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability»
- Participating in the 1st Global Geopark Network Film Festival (December 2021)
- Participating in the 9th Digital International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (11-17 December 2021), Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark

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 “Enhancement of Lesvos Protected Areas”
- Realisation of the conservation programme “Excavation research during the new road Kalloni - Sigri” in collaboration with Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation
- Realisation of conservation activities for new findings that came into light during the realisation of the excavation and conservation programme in the new Kalloni - Sigri road
- Realisation of excavation and conservation to fossilized animals bones that came into light during excavation at Thermi Area of eastern Lesvos.
- Realisation of the annual conservation programme at Sigri Park, Plaka Park and Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Implementation of summer events and activities with title “Earth’s festivities”
- 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 students and teachers
- Organising educational programmes for 26 school units
- Organising field activities for undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Organising 25 educational summer activities
- Organising of educational activities for the international day for disaster risk reduction
- Organising of digital event “Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark” with collaboration of UNESCO Associated Schools Network of Greece (ASPnet)
- 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 EU project “RURITAGE – Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies” with several partners including UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Beijing
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Nanjing
- Collaboration with University of Patras

Promotional activities

- Implementation of a programme for the digital promotion of Lesvos Geopark
- 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

Manager: Nickolas Zouros nzour@aegean.gr

Geologist: Ilias Valiakos, Konstantina Bentana lesvospf@otenet.gr