

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark, CREECE, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2019

Representative photo with caption A) 1st Summer School of Environmental Education of the Sitia UGG B) 5nd Sitia Geopark Trail

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staffs including 1 geoscientist

Number of visitors: 20.000

Number of Geopark events: 11 events held by management body and 4 cooperative organization

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: Due to the epidemic, a limited number of schools (4) visited the Geopark and participated in the educational programs

Number of Geopark press release: More than 25 press releases were published and published announcements about the events of the Geopark, the educational actions, presentation and promotion of the Sitia UGGp, etc

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- The organization of the, 1st Summer School of Environmental Education for Geo-places and Sustainability entitled: "Geo-routes in the footsteps of the Dinosaur of Sitia!" on 12-15 July 2021 for primary and secondary school teachers, with the participation of 50 educators from all over Greece.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

The Sitia Geopark participated in all the digital meetings of the EGN and GGN ,and the Greek forum.

- 3rd EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK DIGITAL FORUM 26th JANUARY 2021
- 2nd GGN DIGITAL FORUM 23- 24 FEBRUARY 2021
- 4th EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK DIGITAL FORUM 13th APRIL 2021
- 5th EUROPEAN GEOPARKS NETWORK DIGITAL FORUM PAPUK 1-2 SEMPTEMBER 2021
- 9TH DIGITAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK SHELD IN JEJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FROM DECEMBER 12TH TO 16TH, 2021.

- PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021 Monday, 13 September 2021

Management and Financial Status

- Expansion of the management committee of Sitia Geopark with the participation of more partners from the local community
- The Management and financial Status it was in line with the year's budget without any problem

Geoconservation

- Maintenance and renewal of signage and interpretation signs in geo sites
- Recording and mapping of new geological points of interest geotrails
- Geodiversity information and protection actions
- INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY 2021 participation in the INTERNET CONFERENCE "UNESCO World Geoparks - Climate Change Actions"
- World Mountain Day December 11, 2021 «We plant Trees in our Mountains and not Wind Turbines» Action for the protection of mountainous geo sites , in cooperation with local bodies and organizations

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Participation through digital meetings in the Greek Laboratory of Alternative Tourism, which included B2B meetings with tour operators and offices, 3-day B2B workshop on alternative tourism in Greece - Germany, from 17 to 19 March 2021, United Kingdom 22-24 March 2021, France, from 13 to 15 April 2021.
- Organization of the 5nd UNESCO World Championship Sitia Geopark Trail 17, October 2021
- Organization the "Sitia Geopark Road Race ", 12 December 2021
- Internet presentations for world tourism day, world day of birds, wetlands etc.

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

- The 1st Summer School of Environmental Education for Geo-places and Sustainability entitled: "Geo-routes in the footsteps of the Dinosaur of Sitia!" on 12-15 July 2021 for primary and secondary school teachers, with the participation of 50 educators from all over Greece.
- Placeholder text We collaborate on the National Thematic Network of the Center for Environmental Education of Anogeia entitled: Unravelling Earth's Memory through Geo-diversity, Geoparks and Anthropogenic Activities "
- Educational activities and training program in collaboration with primary and secondary schools

- Thursday 9-9- 2021 Informative meeting with primary education teachers on: «Sitia Geopark educational programs. Skills in the modern school».

Strategic partnership

- Signing of a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Energy, and the regions of Greece that have been recognized as UNESCO World Geoparks!
- Participation in the "Joint Working Group" in the framework of the European project INTERREG ADRIAN "IMPRECO" – Common strategies and best practices to Improve the transnational Protection of Ecosystem integrity and services
- "Branding of UNESCO sites in Crete". The project is part of a network of actions of the Region of Crete for the UNESCO areas of the island (White Mountains-Samaria, Biosphere Reserve, Psiloritis and Sitia as a UG Geoparks)
- Cooperation with Sitia Archaeological Museum, Natural History Museum of Crete ,Historical and Religious Museum of Monastery Toplou
- University of Crete, University of Patras, Greek Mediterranean University
- Local outdoor travel agencies, Regional Travel office
- Hosting volunteers in collaboration with Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission e.V. / German Commission for UNESCO and the Greek Forum Geoparks

Promotional activities

- German journalists visit the Sitia Geopark On 28, 29 & 30 June, on behalf of the German tourist guide Automobile
- View of Sitia Geopark Heidi Fuller-love, freelance travel journalist, BBC contributor, The Times, Independent, Deutsche Welle, The Guardian, The Telegraph, etc.
- Publications in local media and promotion of the Geopark through social media.
- Organization of informative events in the context of the European Geoparks Week, initially digitally and in August 2021 with the participation of visitors and residents of the Geopark
- Presentation of the local products and the local quality pact of the Geopark and information on the gastronomic tourism. Tuesday 7 September 2021

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Evangelos Perakis perakisv@sitia.gr

Geologist: Christoforos Kontogiogarakis kukis24@hotmail.com