

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

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



International meeting on "Promotion of geological monuments of Lesvos protected areas".

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 61 staffs (5 Permanent, 56 Temporary contract) including 11 geoscientists (3 Permanent, 8 Temporary contract)

Number of visitors: 42.738 people visited Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark facilities (tickets)

Number of Geopark events: 99 events held by management body and cooperative organisations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 86 school classes realised educational programmes

Number of Geopark press releases: 111 press release and articles

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Impressive new findings of fossil tree trunks and leaves come into light during the realisation of the excavation and conservation programme in the new Kalloni - Sigri road.
- International Meeting of the members of Global Geoparks Network Executive Board at the Lesvos Geopark
- Successfully completed the programme "Research and fossil works" of the project "Construction - Upgrading of the new road axis of Kalloni - Sigrios Lesvos"
- Successfully completed the conservation programme "Conservation and promotion of the

Petrified Forest of Lesvos – “Kyria Apolithomeni”, “NSRF 2014-2020”

- Implementation of the programme «Completion of Museum’s storage for the retention of petrified findings through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Implementation of the “Promotion and utilization of petrified trunks position, through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Implementation of digital programmes for the promotion of Lesvos Geopark geosites, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest and Lemnos Island geosites.
- Implementation of the “Awareness activities for NATURA 2000 SITES, with emphasis at Lesvos wetlands”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Implementation of the programme “Excavation, protection and promotion of fossilized tree trunks in the Petrified Forest of Kerasia in Evia
- Financing of the programme “Study for the completion of the Visiting Center at Sigrí”
- 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 schoolteachers

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Printing of the poster “UNESCO Global Geoparks – Global Geoparks Network”
- Printing of the European Geoparks Network Magazine – Issue 20/2023
- Participating in the 47th Coordination Committee Meeting of EGN (27-30 March 2023), Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark
- Participating in the Geopark Evaluator’s Course(26 & 27 April 2023)
- Participating in the 4th Conference of Greece - Cyprus UNESCO Global Geoparks (25 - 27 May 2023)
- Participating in the “European Geoparks Week” (22 May - 5th June 2023)
- Supporting organization and participation in the digital event “Welcome event for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks” (6 June 2023)
- Participating in the 10th International Conference in UNESCO Global Geoparks, M’goun UNESCO Global Geopark (7-11 September 2023)
- Participating in the 7th International Training in the Management & Development of UNESCO Global Geoparks (8-13 October 2023)
- Participating in the Digital Coordination Committee Meeting of EGN (8-9 November 2023)

Management and Financial Status

No remarkable changes related to management and financial status.

Geoconservation

- Promotion of conservation activities
- 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 - Sigrí” in collaboration with Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation
- Realisation of the “Promotion and utilization of petrified trunks position, through implementation of major public activities in Petrified Forest site”, “NSRF 2014-2020”
- Realisation of the annual conservation programme at Sigrí Park, Plaka Park and Nissiopi Marine Petrified Forest Park
- Realisation of the conservation programme “Excavation, protection and promotion of fossilized tree trunks in the Petrified Forest of Kerasia in Evia

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)

Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Organising digital educational events for students and teachers.
- Organising educational programmes for 86 school units
- Organising daily educational programmes at summer period
- Organising field activities for undergraduate and postgraduate students from 6 different universities
- Organising educational programmes for Impaired Visually people And Disabled
- Organising of hybrid event “Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark and others UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece” with collaboration of UNESCO Associated Schools Network of Greece (ASPnet)
- Organising of educational activities for the international museums day 2023
- Organising of educational activities for the international day for disaster risk reduction 2023
- 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

- Collaboration with Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A.) and of Greece.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark Karawanken/Karavanke of Austria/Slovenia, within the exhibition “Understanding Climate Change through Lesvos petrified Forest”.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald of Germany.
- Collaboration with UNESCO Global Geopark San’ In Kaigan
- Collaboration with China University of Geosciences Beijing.
- Collaboration with University of Patras
- Collaboration with Aegean University

Promotional activities

- Implementation of a programme for the digital promotion of Lesvos Geopark
- Promotion of Lesvos Geopark in Greece and abroad
- 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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