

TROODOS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (CYPRUS)



Walking the geo-trails 'Moutti tis Choras' and 'Teisia tis Madaris' in October 2016

Major achievements in 2016

- Organized a conference with title "Troodos Geopark: A monument of world geological heritage of Earth" which was held on 8 April, 2016 (Amiantos Village).

Contribution towards the work of the EGN and GGN

- Participation in the meetings of the EGN (Basque Coast UGG 16th - 19th March, 2016) and the GGN (English Riviera UGG 26th September, 2016) and the conference of the UGG (English Riviera UGG 27th – 30th September, 2016).
- Contribution to EGN magazine Issue 13 "*Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark: a very promising geotouristic destination*".
- Participation in the International Intensive Course on Geoparks, 20-30 June, 2016 (Lesvos).
- GSD and the Troodos Geopark co-organized with the IGCP-649 project leadership, the workshop with title "Probing the Oceanic Mantle: Troodos Ophiolite as a case study", which was held in Agros village (Cyprus), between 14th – 20th May, 2016.

Management structure and financial status

- The Geopark continues to be administrated and part funded under Troodos District Development Company with co-funding from the Geological Survey Department of Cyprus and funding of the Strategy (LEADER axis). <http://www.troodos-geo.org>
- Organized two meetings of the Troodos Geopark Coordinating Committee on 1st March and 30th November 2016, for the implementation of actions regarding the recommendations of the EGN and GGN networks.

- Singing a cooperation agreement between Troodos Development Company (TDC) and the Central Cooperative Bank of Cyprus for the purposes of operating 'Troodos Media', a new department of TDC, that in a large extent deals with the promotion and visibility of Troodos Geopark (November 2016).

Conservation (geoconservation) strategy

- During 2016, various guiding and informational signs for the geosites, the Geopark and the Visitor Centre within the area have been constructed and installed to increase the visibility of the Troodos UGG.

Strategic partnership

- The Troodos Unesco Global Geopark is participating at the meetings of the Greek Geoparks Forum.

Marketing and promotional activities

- Organized tours in the Troodos Geopark Visitors Center up to 1st March 2016 : Cyprus Tourism Organization Employees, American Academy, Journalists, Schools (from Cyprus and Abroad) and 21 various groups from Cyprus of about 30 people at a time.
- Presentation of the Troodos Geopark at LE FIGARO MAGAZINE (FRANCE) January 2016.
- Involvement of the Troodos Geopark with the Pancyprian Student Contest for Poster Design themed "Troodos Geopark", which is organized by the National Commission for UNESCO, February 2016.
- Lectures for Troodos Geopark to the Associated Schools Network of the National Commission for UNESCO, February – March 2016.
- Introduction of a new department in the Management Body :Troodos Media. The Department has the Responsibility of promoting the Geopark in Radio Stations, TV programs, the issue of the Newsletter, to print the Geopark's newspaper, to gather all the papers concerning the Elements of the Geopark (academic, culture, scientific, Geotourism, ecotourism etc).
- Updating the Strategy – Local Engagement to conduct the Geopark's Strategy – 12 workshops – thematic interests – Businesses, Community Councils, Students, Youth Clubs, Sport Clubs, Tourism Agents and others.
- Apply for the Funding of the Strategy (LEADER axis) for 4.5 milion – to be approved within April 2016.
- Meetings with the Businesses of the Geopark to further promote the Geopark's Agreement Pact.
- Presentation of the Geopark at 5 TV programs (1 Russian channel), and 3 Radio Stations.
- Presentation of the Geopark in Magazines and Newspapers 4 times (Cyprus Weekly, Phileleftheros).
- Presentation in Electronic Media (Online Newspapers) and Radio Spots.
- Preparation of 6 new funding schemes under INTERREG with 6 other Geoparks (to be submitted until 15th April 2016).
- Organized a thematic Workshop : Cooking with a famous Chef using Troodos' local products - Fusion Cuisine, in Symposio Tavern at Pelendri Village, with the support of the Geopark to promote local gastronomy with 15 participants and local chefs, January 2016.

- Participated in the fair “Journey” (Tourist Fair), April 2016, that took place in Lefkosia- Promotional material was distributed for the Troodos Geopark and the visitor centre.
- Placed paid advertising article in the German magazine “Wandermagazin” for the Troodos Geopark.
- A 40,000 copies brochure was printed and distributed the summer of 2016 throughout Cyprus for the uniqueness of Troodos region as a touristic destination, with special reference to the Geopark Visitors Centre.
- Online advertisement of the Troodos Geopark through the web page “My Cyprus Insider”.
- Implemented on 9th of May, 2016, a “Trooding Newsletter” in Greek with articles about: Unesco Global Geoparks, Unesco Global Troodos Geopark, Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre, the 39th National Conference of UNESCO Associated Schools on Troodos Geopark: "Geological, Natural and Cultural Heritage", that was held on 17-18th of March in Troodos area. Articles about the 37th meeting of European Geopark Network's Coordination committee and the visit of the President of Global Geoparks Network in Troodos Geopark on April, participating at the one day conference with title "Troodos Geopark: A monument of Geological, Natural and Cultural Heritage".
- Implemented on 27st of May, 2016, articles in the “Trooding Mountain Spirit”, 1st Issue newspaper in Greek, regarding the Troodos Geopark visitor center and an interview from Dr. Nikolas Zouros, President of the Global Geopark Network and member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau.
- Presented the Troodos Geopark on 28th of May, 2016, at the Troodos Development Company (TDC) General Assembly in the presence of the President of the Republic of Cyprus. During the General Assembly of TDC, the Strategy of the Company was presented for the next 15 years, based on the development and promotion of Troodos Global Geopark.
- Implemented during August, 2016, various articles in the “Trooding: Mountain Spirit”, 2nd Issue newspaper in Greek, regarding the Troodos Geological Heritage, the Traditional Architecture: The dialogue of man with geology, the Troodos Churches in the World Heritage List and geopark cycling race “Ascent Troodos Geopark: bike to the center of the earth” with geological description of the race.
- Implemented during 10th August, 2016 various articles in the “Trooding e-newspaper” in English, regarding the Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre, the Troodos Geological Heritage, the Traditional Architecture: the dialogue of man with geology, the Troodos Churches in the World Heritage List (<http://pub.lucidpress.com/3b0706eb-4a0e-4f4b-8701-8530155153f/?src=fb#Eh2IJtMi6srQ>)
- Implemented on 13th of August, 2016, the event “Artemis Geo-Trail by night”. The geo-Artemis trail is on the top of the Troodos mountain. It is a circular path, 7 kilometres in length. During the evening hiking the participants had the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the forest from another angle using only Astral light. The hiking event started at 8pm and finished at 12am, while 260 people participated coming from all over Cyprus.
- Implemented on 13th of August 2016, a Musical Concert in Agros village as part of the integration of the Troodos region in the Global Geoparks Network of UNESCO.
- Organized on 4-5th of June, 2016, a Hiking event: Secret waterfalls and Kannoures geo-trail, in collaboration with “Cyprus from air”. 218 people

participated from all over Cyprus. The first day included walking towards secret waterfalls & camping and the second day walking to the Kannoures trail.

- Organized on 26th of June, 2016, a Cycling Race with title "Ascent Troodos Geopark: bike to the centre of the earth" in collaboration with the Cycling Association of Nicosia. 120 cyclists were participated in the Cycling Race starting from the Katydata village near Skouriotissas Mine, passing by Kalopanayiotis and Moutoullas villages and finishing at Kykkos Monastery.
- Organized on 23rd-24th of July, 2016, a two day experiential workshop: Mountaineering Orientation at Troodos Geopark in collaboration with Cyprus Federation of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing. The action in addition to the parallel training of the athletes in Orienteering was held to familiarize the participants with the mountainous nature of Troodos under the project "Child and mountain".
- Organized on 14th August, 2016, a creative workshop for children on making musical instruments using natural materials from Troodos Geopark. The workshop was attended by 30 people (children and parents). As a result, the children had the opportunity to learn about improvised musical instruments based on simple materials, discussing the traditional use of natural materials in Cyprus (e.g. reeds for making 'pithkiavli') and get to know some of the Troodos plants which were not familiar with, like 'Pifanis', part of which was used in the workshop. The children had the opportunity to make and take away at least a small simple instrument.
- Contributing in the organization of the cycling ascent 'Troodos Hill Climb' by the 'Biking Cyprus' organization, under the Cyprus Cup of Cyprus Cycling Federation (September 2016).
- Establishing events (once a month) such as:
 1. Night walk on the geo-trail 'Teisia tis Madaris' in September 2016, where almost 130 people participated, in collaboration with 'Cyprus from air' (NGO).
 2. Walking the geo-trails 'Moutti tis Choras' and 'Teisia tis Madaris' in October 2016 where almost 130 people participated, in collaboration with 'Cyprus from air' (NGO).
 3. Walking the Kannoures geo-trail in December 2016 where almost 90 people participated, in collaboration with 'Cyprus from air' (NGO).
- Updated Troodos Geopark social media pages.
- Published 3rd issue of Troodos newspaper, by Troodos Development Company, with a four page tribute to Troodos Geopark in Greek language (updated on the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, articles about the Cypriot copper mines, UNESCO Monuments, local museums and Cypriot reptiles etc.) (October 2016).
- Organizing a small trekking event on Troodos Geopark Mountains in collaboration with Cyprus from air (NGO) and some journalists.
- Published 4th issue of Troodos newspaper by Troodos Development Company with a four page tribute to Troodos Geopark in Greek (UNESCO monuments, Cultural Heritage, local customs, article about the old Amiantos mine, article about the creation of Troodos mountain, article about Troodos Geopark bats etc.) (December 2016).
- Promotional printed material such as 'Troodos Geopark 2017 diary' (December 2016).

Sustainable economic development

- Co-ordination of the development of themed trails through the Geopark promoting Wine, Food, Activity, Crafts, Cultural Events and Accommodation.

Networking

- Participation in the Sitia Global Geopark Conference, 26-27th February 2016 (Crete, Greece).
- Participation in the event of the Hellenic National Commission of UNESCO of the Greek Ministry of Exterior for the new program of UNESCO, 9th March 2016.

Contacts:

Manager: Klelia Vasileiou k.vasiliou@anetroodos.com
Geoscientist: Dr. Efthymios Tsiolakis etsiolakis@gsd.moa.gov.cy