

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece – Crete (E.G.N.)

Year of inscription : 2015

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3 staffs including 1 geoscientist

Number of Visitors: at Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark, the estimate of visitors who visited in 2017, amounts to 3500. This results from the visitors of the Geopark Information Centre and the Natural history museum of Geopark , in digital museum and water-power museum that manages the Sitia Geopark.

Number of Geopark events: at Sitia UNESCO Geopark ,carried 15 events of these four co-organized with local organizations, environmental associations, educators and university institutes

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: The Sitia UNESCO Geopark in cooperation with the Center for Environmental Education Lasithi and Anogia, the local primary and secondary schools participated in 8 educational programs Sitia Geopark .Visited the Sitia Geopark 18 schools from Sitia and the region of Crete.

Number of Geopark press release : 22 publications in regional media and Social Media aimed at informing of citizens

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017: the Sitia Geopark organized a series of events and activities both in the context of the European Geoparks Week, but also for the whole year, aiming at promoting the Geopark to local residents and visitors.

1.Geo- actions for everyone in the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark . In collaboration with the Naturalist Sitia Mountaineering Association will be organized various games in nature. The aim is the promotion of sustainable and alternatively tourism.

2.Actions weekend in the "Geopark of Sitia" Speleological explorations and games to rock. In climbing Kato Zakros at the entrance to the Canyon of the Dead for climbing and actions in the rock. The events will include musical performances and events.

3.2o Photography contest in Sitia Gopark . The aim is the acquaintance of the geopark and the view through the artistic look of amateur and professional photographers but also of students will participate. The photos will be exhibited in a photo exhibition

4. Painting - photography and documentaries exhibition of students who participated in the action "I live and I discover my place, my landscapes: The Geopark Sitia"

5. The concert of the Earth. Every year in an important Geosite organized a concert with music by local tradition and modern musical ensembles

6. Meeting on the subject the role of UNESCO Global Geoparks in the development of sustainable tourism and their contribution to the economy of local communities

7. Educational activities with elementary school students on the geology, caving and biodiversity in the Sitia Geopark

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation: 1. Participation in 39 th Coordination Committee Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark 23 th – 24 th March, 2017, 2. Participation in 14th European Geoparks Conference, in 7th – 9th, September 2017 at Azores UNESCO Global Geopark

Management and Financial status: The Sitia Geopark is managed by the Social & Cultural Development Organization of Sitia Municipality (DOKAS) and the Management Committee. Revenue and expenditure of the Geopark was within the budget for 2016

Geoconservation: 1. Recording and mapping of new geological points of interest and new geotrails inside the limits of the Sitia Geopark, 2. 14. Cleaning and signage of new and old geo- routes with the voluntary support local Cultural Associations

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): Palaeontology and Geotourism. The paleontological findings in Sitia Geopark. Their role in sustainable tourism development in the region, August 2017

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction: Organizing new educational programs in collaboration with the "Center for Environmental Education" for biodiversity and geology of the Geopark.

Strategic Partnership: The Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark is actively participates in all the actions and initiatives of the European and Global Geoparks Network

Promotional activities : The Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark as a lever of development". Workshop with cultural and agricultural organizations about participatory planning and promotion of our cultural and productive identity ", July 2017

4. Contacts:

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